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View on

Fallingbrook



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October 2009

EcoEnergy Retrofit in Full Swing!

Although ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes runs until March 31, 2011, the Deputy Director, Housing Division, Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) reports that it's already "very, very successful". More than 390,000 Canadians have signed up and have up to 18 months to complete energy-efficiency projects. Of these, almost 133,000 have already completed their energy retrofits.

The federal program, with provincial counterparts, encourages energy-efficiency improvements which may also increase property value or sale ability. As energy costs and inflation increase, lower heating and cooling costs will be a real bonus for homeowners. Complete renovations under the grant program this year and you may also be eligible for the federal \$1,350.00 tax credit.

New eligible retrofits include the replacement of cooling equipment



with ENERGY STAR qualified models, the installation of solar hot water heaters, water-saving toilets, grey water heat-recovery systems and more. Each improvement is eligible for a specific grant amount.

To qualify for grants, you must first hire an NRCAN-certified energy advisor to conduct the pre-retrofit portion of the detailed, on-site evaluation of your home's energy use from the attic to the foundation - The Energy Audit. The resulting personalized report includes a checklist of recommended retrofits which will improve energy efficiency and, in some cases, reduce water consumption, of your home. If you want specific improvements made, discuss these with the energy advisor before the audit.

When you're spending your money and want to qualify for a grant, tax credit or other benefit, be skeptical

of what you are told - verify details - and make sure everything agreed to is in writing. It's essential to apply the same care required for successfully contracting with installers, builders, renovators and trades people under any circumstances.

For further information, visit <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/> and click on the ecoEnergy Retrofit - Home icon.

Best Selling September on Record In the Durham Region!

The Durham Region Association of REALTORS (DRAR) reported 825 sales in September 2009, down .5% from August '09 but up 9% from the 752 recorded in September 2008.

Average selling prices were up 1.4% (\$282,308) in September 2009 from August 2009 and up 5.5% from the \$267,478 reported in September 2008.

"Durham's fall market is starting stronger than ever," said Debbie Dawson, DRAR President. "With the reported 825 sales this September, it is the best selling September on record!"

"This year's real estate market has been a rollercoaster ride," commented Dawson. "With a weakened economy Durham's first quarter started off rocky. Government incentive kicked the second quarter into gear. In the first quarter we never would've anticipated setting any records, but with both June and September in the record books, the first quarter pessimism has come and gone with the changing of the season."

IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Currently For Sale: 3

Avg. List Price: \$403,033

Low: \$364,900

High: \$424,700

Sold in 2009: 41

Avg Sale Price: \$337,656

Low: \$199,900

High: \$470,000

Avg. % of List: 97.32

Fallingbrook Subdivision Stats as of October 1, 2009

Keep your houseplants healthy all winter long

Each season comes with its own set of charms and challenges for plants - perhaps more for houseplants over winter. Houseplants typically originate from a climate that's hot and humid year-round, meaning they're unaccustomed to winter's short days and the dry heated air of Canadian homes. The good news, though, is that by tweaking your usual care routine, houseplants can make it through the heating season with flying colours.

Pre-winter prep

Pull off dead, yellowed or damaged leaves and trim away weak growth. Then give plants a shower to remove dust and dirt; this lets more light onto the leaf's surface - greatly appreciated by plants in the dark, dull days of winter.

If plants seem to dry out as fast as you can water them, re-pot into slightly larger quarters. Cut off any dead roots, and, only if several smaller roots are present, those thick taproots that run around the insides of pots. These taproots help anchor plants in the ground outdoors but are useless in a pot. By removing them, you encourage the growth of small roots, which are much better at absorbing water and nutrients.



Drier than the Sahara

Heated air is dry air. During winter, the relative humidity in the average home plummets to about 15 per cent. Compare that with the Sahara Desert, where it's about 25 per cent. In practical terms, this means houseplants will release vapours through transpiration as fast as they can absorb water, sometimes even faster resulting in leaves that are wilted,

curled under or have brown tips. And flower buds may dry up before you even see them, partly explaining the lack of blooms during winter months. You've got to either raise the humidity level or grow plants that cope well with dry air, such as cacti and succulents.

Consider acquiring a room or home humidifier to raise the humidity level to a comfortable 50 per cent or so, which is also beneficial for people and wooden furniture. Some plants prefer a higher level of humidity, similar to what they experience in summer. But since too much moisture can lead to condensation, create instead an extra-humid microclimate for the neediest plants, the ones with thin leaves. Group plants together, placing those with thin leaves in the centre. Several plants transpiring together can create considerable humidity. If that doesn't work you can build a humidity tray. Fill a waterproof tray with gravel, pour water into the bottom and set plants on top. Refill the tray frequently but lightly, making sure you're not leaving a pool of water above the gravel. Plants left sitting in water may develop root rot.

Keep in mind that most houseplants are happy with the warm air temperatures during the day and lower ones at night. For plants that prefer cool winter conditions, (i.e. gardenias, cyclamen, and cacti). find a room that you keep cooler than others but still above freezing - a spare bedroom, possibly. Keep all plants out of cold drafts and blasts of heat.

<http://www.canadiangardening.com/plants/indoor-plants/keep-your-houseplants-healthy-all-winter-long/a/1288>

It's Bazaar Time!

Many churches, senior's residences, and schools will be hosting their annual Christmas bazaars beginning next month. Church bazaars are a great way to find unique Christmas gifts and also support your local community.

Nov. 7th **Whitby Senior's Activity Centre**

Nov. 7th **Holy Family Church**

91 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby
Games for kids, baked goods,
crafts, & penny social

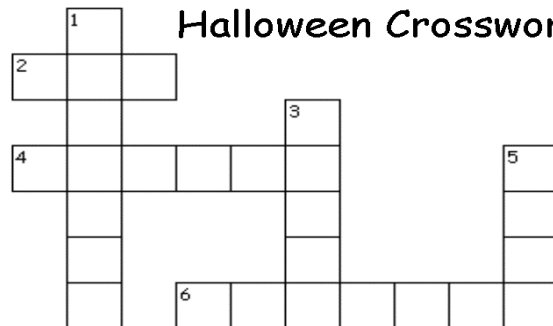
Nov. 14th **All Saints Anglican Church**

300 Dundas St. W., Whitby, 8:30 -2:30
Hand made preserves & baked
goods, silent auction, activities for
kids, great tea room for lunch

Nov. 28th **Immanuel Christian School**

848 Rossland Road West, Oshawa
11:00 a.m.
Harvest Bazaar and Auction

Halloween Crossword



Across



Down

