

Real Estate Monthly

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Royal LePage honoured with prestigious philanthropy award

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation has received the 2018 Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Corporation from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Toronto Chapter. Presented to a corporation or its charitable foundation, this award celebrates the contribution of time, leadership and financial support of a special group of Canadians who set new benchmarks of excellence in the acts of giving and volunteering.

"We are honoured to have been nominated by our partner, Canadian Women's Foundation, and to be recognized as philanthropic leaders," said Phil Soper, president and CEO, Royal LePage. "This award reflects the tireless and passionate efforts of our national network of REALTORS® and broker-owners who support the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation and its mission to promote safer homes and communities."

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation has raised more than \$29 million in its 20 year history and helps local women's shelters provide a safe haven and new beginnings for more than 50,000 women and children every year. It is the largest public foundation in Canada dedicated exclusively to supporting women's shelters and domestic violence prevention programs. Royal LePage offices are partnered with a



women's shelter in their community and agents make donations from their sales commissions, organize fundraising events and provide in-kind contributions.'

"I am so grateful to Royal LePage agents, brokers and employees for their unwavering determination to help women and children lead safer, happier and more hopeful lives. I am thrilled that their efforts are being recognized with the 2018 Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Corporation," said Shanane Spencer-Brown, executive director, Royal LePage Shelter Foundation.

Royal LePage is the only major real estate company with its own charity. The company pays all of the Foundation's administrative costs allowing the total amount raised to remain in local communities. Learn more at www.royallepage.ca/shelter.

DRAR REALTORS® REPORT FEBRUARY STATISTICS

Durham Region Association of REALTORS® (DRAR) President Tina Sorichetti reported 585 residential transactions in February 2019 this represents a 15.16 per cent increase on a month-over-month basis. Residential transactions in February 2019 decreased from the same time last year by 3.15 per cent.

"The OSFI mandated stress test has forced potential buyers out of the market or to the sidelines as many struggle to qualify for the home type they want," said Sorichetti. "The stress test should be reviewed and policy changes should be considered to support homeownership in Ontario. Home sales have a significant impact on the Canadian economy, and with the federal budget and election on the horizon we hope to see measures put in place to support home ownership affordability."

The number of new listings reached 1,140 in February, a 5.16 per cent decrease from February 2018. The number of new listings decreased by 3.47 per cent from the same time last month. The average selling price in Durham for the month of February was \$580,743 this is a moderate increase from January 2019. The average selling price for all home types decreased 1.8 per cent on a year-over-year basis.

DRAR was proud to support Durham MPP Lindsey Park as she introduced her first private members bill the Golden Girls Act, 2019. In 2016, four senior single women renovated a home in downtown Port Perry that met all of the anticipated needs of seniors as they aged. The Golden Girls, as they were labeled, faced several obstacles as the Township of Scugog attempted to use their By-Laws to prevent this type of housing. The Human Rights Commissioner of Ontario ultimately had to weigh in to stop the Council from preventing this. MPP Park introduced this bill to ensure other seniors do not face similar hurdles at the municipal level.

"With an aging population in Durham and a housing supply shortage, a new innovative approach to housing for seniors such as the one taken by the Golden Girls of Port Perry needs to be supported by all levels of Government," said Sorichetti. "Thank you MPP Lindsey Park for introducing this bill and supporting innovative housing solutions. The bill has been officially passed for Second Reading."

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Your Spring maintenance checklist

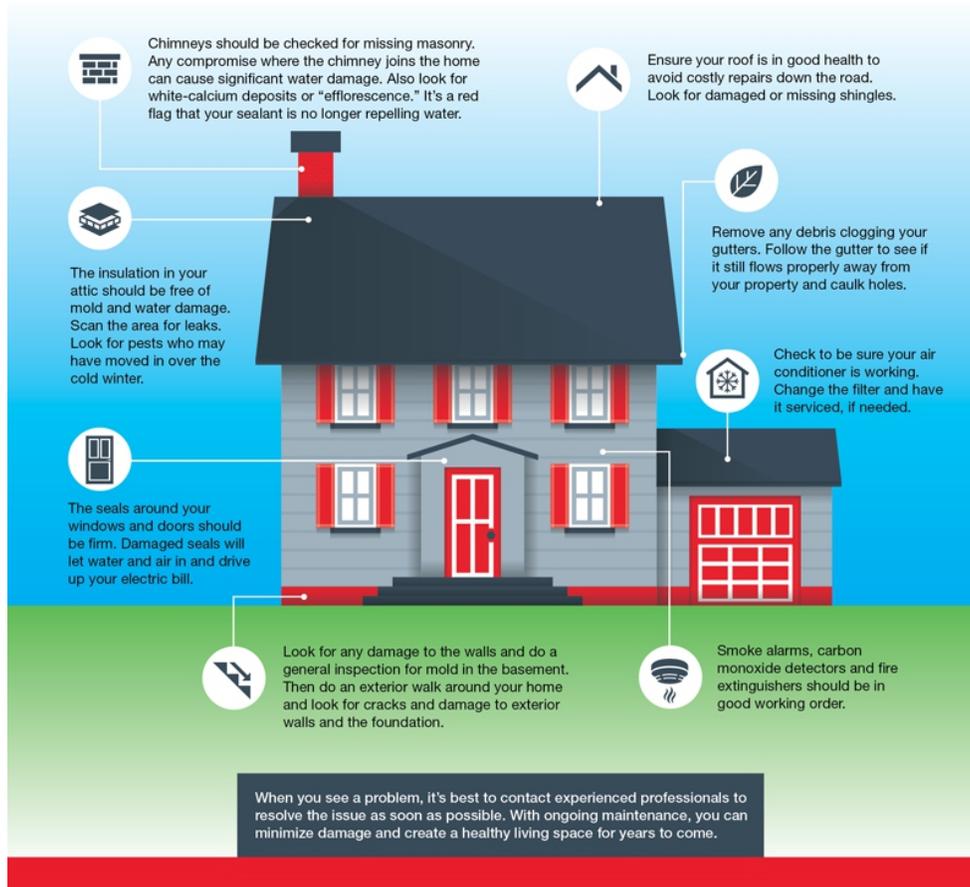
Maintaining your home is crucial in preserving its value. By taking small actions throughout the year, you can save money by catching problems early, or even prevent them, before significant damage takes place. As soon as the snow thaws it's the best time to do the rounds, both inside and outside your home, to make sure everything is working the way it should.

Create a stress-free kitchen

No matter its size, most people feel like there is never enough space in their kitchen. While ample space is key for a great kitchen, organizing it properly can save time too. After all, it is the most used room of a home. Here are some helpful tips to create a functional and stress-free kitchen. Give each cabinet a purpose. The first step is to group items and give each group a designated space. Not only will this allow you to find every item easily, you are less likely to use the space for items that don't belong there. Limit bottom cabinets to cleaning supplies, large pots or appliances and items that are rarely used.

Put items you need the most in easy to grab spots. Measuring spoons, oven mitts and your go-to saucepan should be quickly accessible for stress-free, day-to-day use. Also, by keeping items close to where they are most used, you will find everything is exactly where you need it.

Increase visibility in your fridge and pantry. Clear containers and additional shelving will allow you to quickly locate items in your fridge. As for your pantry, consider using clear stackable bins, adjusting your shelves and work in levels. Adding a little light will go a long way!



Think outside the kitchen. Fancy dishes, large appliances that haven't been used in months and unread cookbooks are great examples of items that do not need to be stored in your kitchen. Finding new homes for less-used items outside the kitchen is one of our favourite space-saving ideas.

Go for it! Paint your front door

A vibrant red, bright turquoise, regal blue or even mustard yellow. Bold colour choices can make your home stand

out. With warm sunny days around the corner, it's the perfect time to plan an exterior paint project. Here is some advice to get you started.

Don't only look for an exterior paint, make sure the paint you choose is right for the door's material (wood, metal). Be sure to remember if you choose an oil-base or latex paint, as you can't switch back and forth, for the inevitable future touch-ups.

Tape your colour swatch to the door and see how the colour looks at different times during the day.

Pick a warm, dry day and get started early! Before painting, you will need to remove your door and the hardware from its surface.

Thoroughly clean the door so dirt does not get trapped in the paint.

Don't forget to use a primer coat. It's the best way to get the most out of your new colour.