

Thanksgiving: A Festive Tradition with Canadian Roots

The origin of Thanksgiving is often associated with early pilgrims living in Massachusetts, but what many do not know is that the holiday's first North American iteration actually took place two centuries prior, in the part of Canada nowknown as Newfoundland.

The year was 1578, and English-born naval explorer Martin Frobisher decided to organize a religious gathering of thanks for not only his crew, but also an assortment of early Canadian settlers. This early, formal observance was in the tradition of European harvest feasts, but in both its location and its menu - salt beefwith crackers and peas – it was a distinctly Canadian affair. During the early 1600s, Samuel de Champlain was also known to enjoy an annual harvest feast in modern-day Quebec.

The tradition was brought to Nova Scotia in the 1750s, and subsequently spread outto other parts of the country, where it was celebrated during the autumn season with no specific date. In 1879, Thanksgiving became an official Canadian holiday, and in 1957, it was granted an official date: the second Monday of every October.

Taking place nearly a full month before American Thanksgiving, the Canadian date was selected in order to prevent any conflict with our nation's annual RemembranceDay observations on November 11th.





Over the centuries, Canadian Thanksgiving has transformed to reflect our country's increasingly diverse blend of cultures. That process has been largely helped by initiatives such as Share Thanksgiving, a Toronto-founded program that matches new Canadians with host familiess to experience an authentic North American Thanksgiving celebration.

Thanksgiving in the City of Markham: A Guide for 2014

For any family, the perfect Thanksgiving dinner is a result of plenty of preparation – from sourcing fresh produce and seasonal decorations, to keeping the kids busy while they work up an appetite for the big dinner. Luckily, the City of Markham has plenty of October events and attractions to help you cross off each item on the list! Here are a few of our suggestions for October:

Whittamore's Farm, east of Steeles Avenue East and Reesor Road, offers two special attractions that run daily between 10 AM and 5 PM, from mid-September to Halloween. The seasonally-decorated Farm Shop sells Thanksgiving-friendly offerings like apple cider and baked goods, while outside, kids can enjoy the "Pumpkinland" autumn amusement park featuring wagon rides, a corn maze, and even a Jumbo Pumpkin Jumper.

The Stiver Mill Farmer's Market, held Sundays during the fall, will be doing its last market of 2014 on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12. The market is centrally located right on Main Street Unionville, and starts at 10:00 AM – giving you an opportunity to grab those last-minute fresh produce items you might need for the big dinner.

No matter how you're celebrating Thanksgiving this year, please accept our best wishes for the season. We hope all of our readers' upcoming long weekend is safe, relaxing and enjoyable!

Article by Christopher Cooper, Web Content Developer, Living Realty Inc., Brokerage

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Real Estate Market Watch: What They Got





Location: Times Avenue (Bayview and Highway 7) **Asking Price:** \$328,000 **Sold Price:** \$311,000 **Approx. Size:** 1,000-1,200 sq.ft.

Bedroom: 2 Washroom: 2

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Location: Staglin Court

(Woodbine and Major Mackenzie)

Asking Price: \$818,000 **Sold Price:** \$808,000 Approx. Size: 1,860 sq.ft. **Bedroom:** 3

Washroom: 4

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Location: Edward Jeffreys Avenue (16th and McCowan) **Asking Price:** \$659,900 **Sold Price:** \$682,800 Approx. Size: 1,850 sq.ft.

Bedroom: 3 + 1 Washroom: 3

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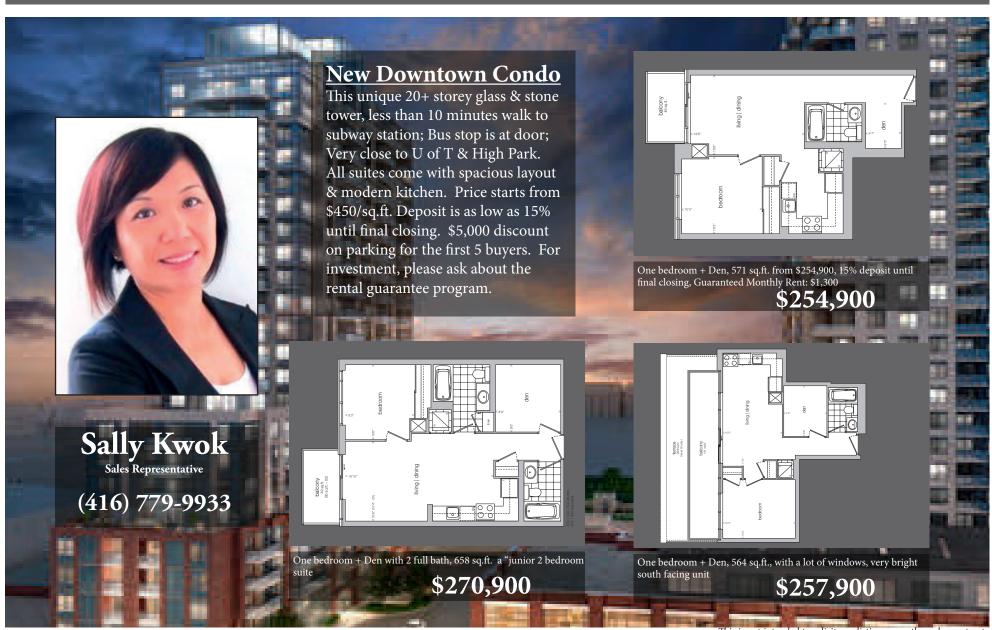
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Living Realty Moves to New Head Office at 8 Steelcase Road West

Por more than 30 years Living Realty Inc., Brokerage's head office operations, as well as its Woodbine and I.C.I. branches, have all been headquartered at a central GTA location in the City of Markham.

Living Realty's accessible location right beside one of the city's busiest intersections – where Woodbine Avenue meets Steeles Avenue, just off of Highway 404 – has helped the brokerage provide efficient, convenient service to our clients since our head office first moved into the third floor of 7030 Woodbine Avenue during the early 1980s.

As the brokerage's growth continued into the 21st century, it became clear that Living Realty would soon need a permanent head office "home" to call its own. This year, we're proud to announce that we've finally made the move – into a brand new, state-of-the-art head office location just a short distance away, on Steelcase Road West.

The new headquarters is located immediately west of Woodbine Avenue,

right across from LiVante Developments – a trusted local developer that oversaw the new headquarters' development from the planning stage, right through to completion in July 2014. Living Realty took occupancy on the weekend of July 20th, along with its fellow Living Group of Companies members: Living Properties Inc. and the International Home Marketing Group.

The new head office location boasts a huge array of features and design touches, which will allow Living Realty to provide an even higher level of client service for decades to come:

- An accessible ground-level entrance leads into a bright, spacious reception area for clients and visitors complete with comfortable seating, natural light, and nearby private meeting rooms for your convenience.
- Brand new, state-of-the-art office technology from heavy duty scanners and copiers, to an upgraded agent computer lab will allow Living Realty to offer better value and faster service to clients as well as members of our growing sales team.

- A newly-installed high-tech surveillance system will allow us to monitor and safeguard each point of entry, ensuring that confidential data is always in safe hands.
- Dedicated parking area will be reserved solely for the use of the Living Group of Companies' staff, clients, and visitors.

"This is a move that doesn't happen very often, and it's a very exciting step for the brokerage and other companies within the group," said the Living Group of Companies' President, Mr. William Lau.

"Our successful relocation was all made possible due to extensive planning, as well as the hard work of our Move Supervisory Group and head office staff."

While the phone numbers for the head office have not changed, we encourage our Living in Mississauga readers to take note of its new mailing address:

8 Steelcase Road West Markham, Ontario L3R 1B2

We also encourage you to come see us at the new office and take a look for yourself! To get there from Highway 404, proceed north on Woodbine and keep going until you have passed the Steelcase Building on your left. Take a quick left turn, and you'll be able to see our one-story building on the right.

For all of your City of Markham property needs, our North Markham Branch is always ready to provide Buyers and Sellers with an even better real estate experience – give us a call any time at (905) 888-8188 to speak directly with a member of our team and find out more about how we can help



Article by Christopher Cooper, Web Content Developer, Living Realty Inc., Brokerage



Victor Lai Sales Rep. (416) 930-0387 vyklai@hotmail.com



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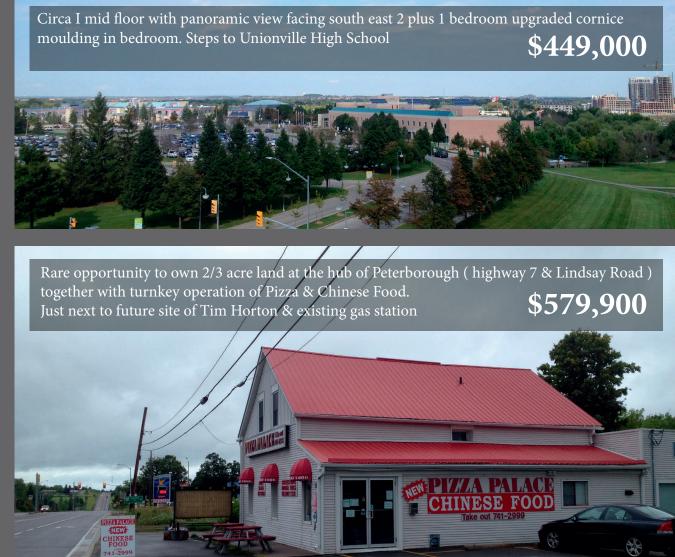
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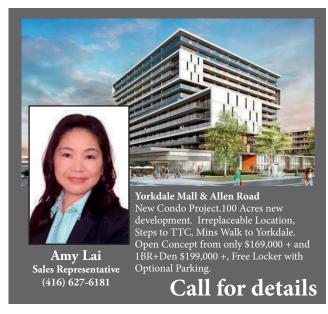
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\$269,000



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