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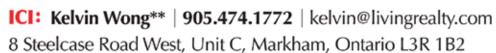
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#### "Where homes and owners connect"



# Living 2 in Markham The Real Estate Market Watch

# First Steps for Sellers: What to Do Before Listing Your Home

n a competitive real estate market like ours here in Markham, home sellers always have lots of work to do after selecting and hiring a real estate agent - from open houses and showings, to scouring the market for the new property of their dreams.

What many would-be sellers may not know, however, is that there are many ways to get the ball rolling before you actually list your property for sale, and even before choosing a realtor.

1. Start with "Curb Appeal." Since you'll never get a second chance to make a great first impression, the first thing you need to do is make sure that the exterior of your property is clean, healthy, and safe. To-do list items could potentially include:

- Making sure that trees and bushes are neatly trimmed
- Removing natural or other debris from the lawn (e.g. leaves, pine cones,
- dead trees or plants; • Removing leaves and other build-up
- from your eavestroughs • Checking the lawn to make sure that it is freshly-cut, weed-free, and healthy throughout.

For a professional touch, consider hiring a landscaping company and/ or yard care provider. If you're conspections for sellers are fairly common (and your real estate sales represent-

sidering listing during the winter -- according to the web site for the ative) to determine a fair asking price months, make sure you have an armajor North American inspection for the property. If the report is positive, it can also be made accessible to your driveway and walkway free of spections for sellers represent about buyers and their agents after the propsnow and ice, in order to prevent slips 35 per cent of the total jobs the comerty is listed.

**2. Consider hiring a property** By identifying hidden trouble spots

fore you list. In fact, pre-listing in- a pre-listing inspection can help you

within your home - or, possibly,

# 3. Upgrade to Eco-Friendly Appliances and Fixtures More than ever, buvers across the GTA

There is no shame in having an in- finding it to be in better condition are focusing on energy efficiency and spection done on your property be- than you thought - the report from eco-friendliness as major factors when







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considering a potential new home. To removing personal effects, to renting that end, there are a few low-cost in- temporary furniture and arranging it vestments you can make that can help in the most eye-catching fashion. your home look more attractive, while reducing its demands for energy and

• Replace your analog thermostat mizing any flaws," says Kit Lee, cowith a newer one (e.g. Nest) that can founder of 2 Sisters Homestyling, a be programmed remotely from smart staging company based in Markham.

your bathrooms a more stylish edge. • If you haven't already, consider rethe buyer." placing your lightbulbs with LED models, which usually offer lower energy costs and improved light quality throughout the home.

#### 4. Consider seeking a

professional staging company. Staging" refers to making your home's interior clean, attractive, and with listing your current home as well appealing to potential buyers. When it comes to staging, getting an couple of good places to start: early start before you list is always a

home is open-house-ready as soon as signs in the area. After all, the best way it's on the market. Staging, however, is a bit more dif-

"Home staging creates a lasting first impression, and highlights the best features of the home, while mini-"A home staging expert will address • Think about installing low-flow necessary updates and improvements showerheads - this cost-effective in advance - elevating property conchange has the extra benefit of lending ditions, and reducing the chances of a costly price reduction requested by

### 5. Begin the search for a knowledgeable, licensed real estate agent.

While you're focusing on getting your home ready to list, you might also find the time to start looking for a great real estate agent, who can help as searching for a new one. There are a

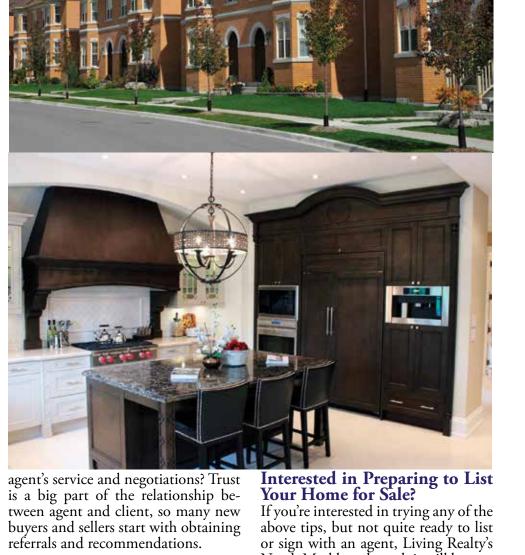
great idea, as it helps ensure that your • Look around at the "FOR SALE" to ensure that your sales representative really knows your neighbourhood is to select one who is already active in buying and selling there.

ficult than simply cleaning up your • Ask your friends and family who live house or condo. Depending on the nearby. Who did they work with durhome itself and the seller's budget, the ing their last home search/sale? Were process can involves many steps - from they satisfied with the quality of their

> After you have written down a couple help you get started. Please feel free of names, it's time to do some home- to give us a call at (905) 888-8188, work. Based on their current listings, or email us at northmarkham@livindo they specialize in the type of home grealty.com. One of our sales repreyou're looking for? How long has the sentatives will be happy to answer agent been in business? You will also your questions - regardless of which want to ensure that the agent's broker- step of the process you're currently in. age conveys a professional image, and makes sure all of its sales representatives' licenses are up-to-date.

North Markham branch is still here to

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

















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