



Davis Realty News

January 2005

Changes

As the New Year begins many people start to think about making changes in their lives. While we can't always change a lot of things about our lives we can and do change our immediate surroundings with increasing frequency. Home renovations are at an all time high and there is no shortage of "projects" to complete. So, let's begin with a few basics.

There are projects that fall very clearly into repair and maintenance. These are items that as a homeowner, you should put at the top of your "to do" list. All too often, people neglect to look after routine maintenance and once enough things need to be repaired or replaced, a major renovation is required!

Doing a renovation because your home is "dated" and you want to be surrounded by a new decor is a different matter altogether. It can be the source of a lot of personal satisfaction. You can start small with new paint for a fresh look or you can go all out and have new flooring, doors and architectural mouldings. If the basic structure of your home is sound, this kind of reno can add a lot of value to your property which is a very good thing. However, if you are doing renovations or decorating you should always remember that eventually you will want to sell at some time in the future. Be cautious with extremes and if in doubt, get a professional opinion before you proceed.

If you are contemplating selling in this year, *call us before* you do any work. We will advise you about what you should spend money on doing so that you can avoid expensive renovations that won't add to the value of your property.

Did you know that there is a great source for project materials at amazing prices right here in Victoria?

A Money Saving Source for Home Repair and Decorating....

Do you know about the Habitat ReStore? ReStores are not-for-profit enterprises of Habitat for Humanity, selling quality donated and recycled building supplies to the public at a fraction of retail prices.

The ReStore is located at 2100 Douglas Street at Pembroke and is full to the brim with all kinds of donated goods from corporate sponsors such as Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Cloverdale Paints, J&L Designs to name a few and private individuals who are doing renovations on their properties. This helps keep usable materials out of the landfill. The Victoria store carries a variety of goods including flooring, paint, lighting of every description, kitchen and bathroom cabinets, tools, lumber, roofing materials, sinks, bathtubs, toilets, interior/exterior doors, windows and hardware. The stock changes constantly.

Revenues raised are used to fund the construction of affordable housing in the Capital Region for lower income families. Every \$60,000 raised by the Victoria ReStore will provide a family of 4 with a home of their own. Further information about the local Habitat for Humanity building program can be found at their website www.habitatvictoria.com and you can call 386-7867 to discuss donating any excess materials you may have or support them by buying your building

From Carolyn's Kitchen... Savoury Italian Bake

1 box of chicken Rice-a-Roni
1lb. Italian Sausage (mild or hot)
1/2 c chopped onion
3 sm. zucchini - 1/4 inch slices
1 clove of garlic minced
2 1/2 c spaghetti sauce
1/2 tsp. basil
2 c shredded mozzarella

Make rice according to pkg. directions. Skin sausage and fry with onion until brown and crumbled. Remove meat from pan and add zucchini slices and garlic. Stir fry 2 min. In a casserole dish combine rice mixture , sausage, basil and 1 1/2 c. of the sauce. Top with zucchini, and layer remaining sauce and cheese on top. Bake @ 350 for 25-30 minutes.

Jack's Famous Night Out....

And last but not least... This month's winners of *Jack's Famous Night Out* are Mick & Tracey Egan, they will enjoy a night out at the movies! If you would like your name in the next draw, just call Jack to say hi! He likes talking to his clients.... anytime.



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