



▶ WELCOME..... 1



▶ SPRING CLEANING - NATURALLY 3



▶ FEDERAL BUDGET 2009 – SUPPORT FOR HOME OWNERS 3



▶ UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS 3

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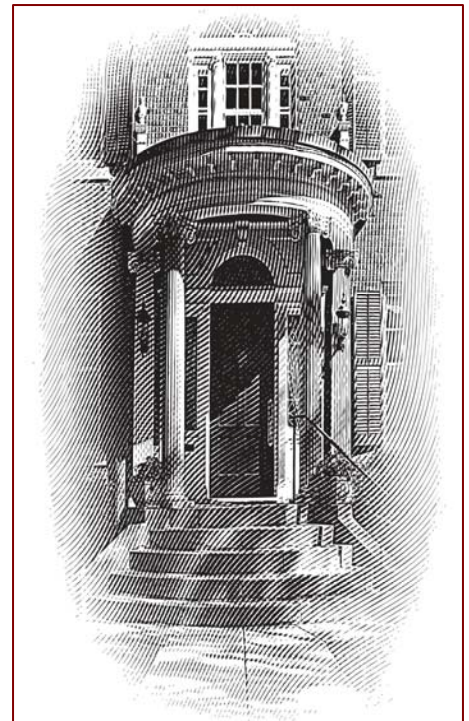
Our mission is to provide meaningful service for every client and help them to securely achieve their home ownership dreams.

Welcome to the first edition of the Homes 4 Living Well Newsletter! The newsletter has been designed to provide you with current, relevant real estate information helping you to make more knowledgeable decisions towards your home ownership dreams.

In this first release you'll find eco-friendly, low cost solutions to help you with spring cleaning, highlights of the Federal Budget 2009 for homeowners and announcements for our upcoming events.

Like our website, this newsletter has been designed for you. If you would like to see an article on a topic of interest or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please click here and fill in the feedback form. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Welcome to Homes 4 Living Well!!



Spring Cleaning... Naturally

Freshen up your home naturally with products that won't harm your family or the environment. Simple, natural products like baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, soap, water, and a bit of elbow grease will cover most of your cleaning needs.

In the Kitchen

- If you have a vase or glass that is too narrow to clean by hand, throw in some rice and white vinegar, cover the top with your hand and shake vigorously

- Get rid of stains on your countertops by letting lemon juice sit on them for a few minutes, then scrub the area with baking soda and wipe with a damp cloth

Bathroom Tips

- To clean your glass shower door, apply pure lemon juice onto the glass, spray it with warm water and wipe it off with a clean cloth

- For black mold, combine salt, vinegar and liquid dish detergent. Apply it with a toothbrush, let it set for a couple of hours, and then wipe it with a clean cloth

Laundry Room Basics

- Vinegar is a natural fabric softener. Add half a cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle for soft, static-free clothes

- Need a natural stain fighter? Mix 6 tablespoons of baking soda with half a cup of warm water and apply to stains before washing

All-Purpose Ideas

- For an all-purpose cleaning spray, combine baking soda with white vinegar, a few drops of antibacterial tea tree oil, and water. Shake it up in a spray bottle

- Use baking soda to control odours around your home. Sprinkle some in the garbage can before you insert the liner, keep a box where you store shoes and sports gear, and of course, it works wonders in the fridge

If you're looking for more ideas or would like to find out about other eco-friendly cleaning products, your local natural health store is a great resource.

**SPRING INTO
ACTION NATURALLY**



Federal Budget 2009 - Support for Home Ownership and the Housing Sector

- Implementing a temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit that will provide up to \$1,350 in tax relief, at any time between January 27, 2009 and February 1, 2010. The credit will only be available for the 2009 tax year and applies to eligible expenditures of more than \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, resulting in a maximum credit of \$1,350 (\$9,000 x 15%). For more information on the Home Renovation Tax Credit, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's Web site at cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc or call 1-800-959-8281 (TTY 1-800-665-0354)
- As part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program has been expanded to help 200,000 more homeowners cover the cost of making energy-efficiency retrofits to their homes. For more information regarding the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes grant, please visit the Web site at www.ecoaction.gc.ca/homes or call 1 800 O CANADA (1-800-622-6232) or TTY 1-800-926-9105. Additional information is available on the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan Site at actionplan.gc.ca.

Federal Budget 2009 - Support for Home Ownership and the Housing Sector Cont'd.

- Providing first-time home buyers with additional access to their Registered Retirement Savings Plan savings to purchase or build a home by increasing the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) withdrawal limit to \$25,000 from \$20,000. The HBP is a program that allows you to withdraw up to \$25,000 in a calendar year from your registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) to buy or build a qualifying home.
- The home can be for you, or it can be for a related person with a disability. If the home is acquired by a person with a disability or for a related person with a disability, one of the following should apply:
 - It is more accessible to that person than his or her current home; or
 - It is better suited to that person's needs.

For more information regarding the Home Buyer's Plan, please visit the HBP Web site at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/rrsp-reer/hbp-rap/menu-eng.html>

- The costs associated with purchasing a home, such as legal fees, disbursements and land transfer taxes, can be a particular burden for first-time homebuyers who must pay these costs, as well as save money for a down payment. To assist first-time homebuyers with the costs associated with the purchase of a home, the Government of Canada introduced a Home Buyer's Tax Credit (HBTC) in 2009 — a \$5,000 non-refundable income tax credit amount on a qualifying home acquired after January 27, 2009. For an eligible individual, the credit will provide up to \$750 in federal tax relief starting in 2009. For more information regarding the Home Buyer's tax Credit, please visit the HBTYC website at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2009/fqhbtc-eng.html#q1>



Upcoming Events

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| May 1, 2 and 3 | Join all of your alumni at the Bradford District High School 150 th Anniversary Celebration. Go to www.bdhs150.com for more details. See you there!! |
| May 23, 2009 | Join Homes 4 Living Well, Royal LePage RCR, in Beeton, for the first annual across Canada garage sale for the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation. Details will be posted closer to the date. |
| May 23, 2009 | Have fun at the Alliston Annual PLANT SALE – Join the Alliston Horticultural Society and the High School Horticultural Students behind Banting Memorial High School at the Greenhouses, 204 Victoria St. E., follow the signs - 8:00 am– 11:00 am |