

4 Home Staging Tips for Selling your Home

There's something fresh and energetic about this time of year. After another long, cold winter, spring season has finally settled in. Perhaps, like many other Canadian homeowners, you are ready to get your house prepared for a sale. It's not easy to see the home you've nested in for all these years from an outside perspective, but it's absolutely necessary in order to make your selling process smoother and more profitable. Whether you're looking to list in two weeks or two months and still want to hit the spring market, there are four tasks every single home can benefit from from a sales perspective. Many studies demonstrate the benefits of home staging, like an increase in your home's value and its desirability to potential buyers.

1. Say goodbye to clutter

Paring down is the cheapest and most effective activity you can do. The more floor space you can open up, the bigger your home will feel and the greater perceived value you create.

When you think of buyers coming to view your home, there may be two or three people plus the real estate agent walking from room to room. You don't want buyers to have to squeeze past or detour around excess furniture because that sends a subliminal message that your home is tight and awkward, no matter the actual square footage.

On the flip side, empty rooms can hurt you just as much. These rooms do not photograph well because there's no sense of scale or anything interesting to look at. In person, most buyers judge an empty room to be smaller than it is. This hurts the perceived value of your home because buyers think your home "feels" smaller than it might state on paper. So repurpose, borrow or rent furniture to ensure each room is furnished.

Renting a storage space is often ideal so you can get rid of extra items without actually throwing them away. But, if this isn't possible, ask friends and family if they have some garage space you can borrow. If this won't work, then it's ok

Inside this Issue

	Page
4 Home Staging Tips	2
Community Sponsorship	3
6 Tips for Successful Spring Cleaning	4

Cont'd on page 2

Port Hope

17 Queen St., Port Hope, ON L1A 2Y8
 T: 905.885.8134 F: 905.885.8298

Cobourg

57 Albert St., Cobourg, ON K9A 2P8
 T: 905.885.8134 F: 905.372.0238

Peterborough

823 Park St.S., Peterborough, ON K9J 3T9
 T: 905.885.8134 F: 705.750.1071



Cont'd from page 1

to sacrifice your own basement or garage to use as storage. Nothing is more important than the first impression of your main living space, because the feeling that buyers get about it can make or break their desire for your home. So keep packing away until you know that first impression is spot-on.

2. Freshen up the room with paint

Now that you've cleared out any excess items, it will be much easier to paint. If you haven't painted your walls and baseboards in the last couple of years, they could likely use a fresh coat. No matter the age of your home, buyers always want a home that feels new and extremely well maintained. Paint is this magical liquid that achieves both of these goals. There is nothing like pristine baseboards, doors and walls to erase all the history of your ownership on the home. For some colour inspiration, check out the trendiest paint colours for spring.

3. Update your fixtures: lighting, handles and faucets

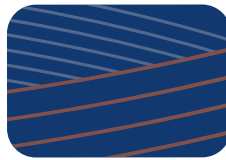
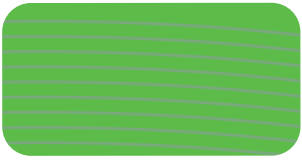
Take a good look at your kitchen handles, your hallway and dining lights and your bathroom faucets. Are any of them looking tired, basic or dated? Individually, no one item has any grand significance but if all of your faucets, handles and lights are creating an outdated vibe, it might be worth addressing.

4. Step up your curb appeal

No matter the season, you can always flank your front door with two planters full of greenery or flowers. You want to put as much attention to the front door as possible, especially if you have large, dominating garage doors. It helps focus the buyer on a pretty vignette.

Spring is the perfect time to spruce up your yard. Add a few bags of fresh mulch and your beds will look crisp and attractive. You can also put some colourful annuals in pots and bring them inside on cooler nights.

Even if it's just for photo day, set up your patio furniture, outdoor rugs and cushions to create an outdoor living room. Put some boxwood or greenery in pots to add life and vitality to the area. While other homes might not have outdoor photos, or bland, grey photos of a muddy backyard, you can show off that ideal outdoor living space we Canadians long for after a cold winter. Although the term "staging" means a wide variety of things depending on who you ask, some take away notes are to keep things simple by focusing on decluttering, painting, upgrading fixtures and improving curb appeal. If you ensure your home feels loved and well-maintained, you will be in great shape for a spring sale.



Holiday Closures

We will be closed for the following days:

Good Friday
April 19

Civic Holiday
August 6

Victoria Day
May 20

Labour Day
September 2

Canada Day
July 1



New Service Fees

Coming into effect May 1st, 2019

Visit ganaraskacu.com or your branch for more information



Community Sponsorship

Northumberland Hospice



GFCU staff Beth, Mabel, Lauri, Jennifer, Lisa, Dodi, Patty, Lori and Board Member Lynda Kay meet with Northumberland Hospice's Co-Chair Patti Ley (2nd from left) to present \$4000 sponsorship for this quarter. We are proud to be a part to be a part of the effort to support The Northumberland Hospice Care Centre, "will touch each and every one of us and will contribute to a more efficient and cost effective healthcare delivery in Northumberland County" said Patti Ley.

Northumberland Navy League



Heather Grundy, Branch President stands with Madison Birks, Chief and Colby Birks to receive our Community sponsorship donation of \$1500. Port Hope branch staff (l-r) Dodi Cane, Ian Green and Rhonda Bisset.

Coldest Night of the Year 2019



Vicky Sluyk, Kelly Winslow and Justin Henderson from the Peterborough branch, walked in support of the Coldest Night of the Year campaign this year. Together with thousands of Canadians across the country, GFCU walked in Port Hope and Peterborough to raise much-needed funds which supports and serves the hungry, homeless, and hurting. With the staff and members of our 3 three branches, we collected \$800 for the cause.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake



Fat Cat makes an appearance at this year's Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake event and poses with his biggest fans. We raised \$2090 for the cause, thanks to our staff and our members.



6 Tips for Successful Spring Cleaning

The flowers are blooming, the birds are serenading, and our house still feels like it's stuck with winter blues. Spring cleaning is a tradition that allows us to freshen up our homes and get a head start on the hectic seasons of spring and summer.

Clean Room-By-Room

Approaching your house room-by-room is the most effective way to deep-clean your home at any time of the year, but especially in spring. Use room checklists as a springboard for deep-cleaning the areas of your home that really need extra attention. Feel free to skip items that have recently been cleaned and focus on the parts of your home that have been neglected all winter long.

Organize and Clear the Clutter

One of the biggest parts of spring cleaning is getting rid of clutter that you don't need. Now is a good time to advantage of the natural spring urge to get rid of items that are weighing you down and begin fresh with a more streamlined lifestyle. A systematic four-step approach to identifying problems, analyzing reasons, determining solutions, and implementing remedies can be extremely productive at this time of year. Sorting your belongings into four categories—trash, give-away, store, or put-away—can also be effective as you begin the spring-cleaning process.

Now is a great time to plan a garage sale or to donate items to good causes. Cleaning will be a lot easier when the clutter is gone.

Get the Family Involved

If you need a little help in your cleaning endeavors, get your family involved. Even the most unwilling helper can make a big difference in the workload. Don't worry: There are ways to deal with even the most reluctant helpers. This is actually a great time of year to get the entire family to work together. Try throwing on some music or establishing a family reward as an incentive to get the work done.

Tackle the Seasonal Chores

There are some special chores that need to be done seasonally. We ignore them for most of the fall and winter, but now it is time to bite the bullet and get these things clean. Even though these chores only need to be done

once or twice a year, they will help your home run look better and run smoothly. Outdoor chores like cleaning grills, patios, and windows can be a little intimidating, but there are some simple tricks that can keep the jobs manageable.

Keep Cleaning Products to a Minimum

The cleaning aisles of our stores are stocked full of commercial products to help you clean, but the variety can be overwhelming. And dozens of cleaning products means dozens of cleaning products to clutter up your cabinets and closets.

Resist the temptation to buy all these cleaning supplies; the real champions of spring cleaning are more basic supplies, such as a good all-purpose cleaner and microfiber cloths. There are even home-made cleaners you can make that will save you money while protecting the environment.

Establish New Cleaning Habits

A good, thorough spring cleaning that includes the whole house is a great time to establish new on-going cleaning habits, and it can also make the next spring cleaning a good deal easier. Simple 15-minute cleanup routines practiced every few days, each including a series of 1- to 2-minute chores, can make it remarkably easy to keep your home clean and tidy all year long.

Consolidation Loan
4.99% APR
Ganaraska Financial Credit Union

APPLY ONLINE NOW

Terms & conditions apply.

