



MARK STEVENS

Just Call Mark! 604-306-5478
DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



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HOW TO HAVE A GREEN CHRISTMAS EVEN IF IT SNOWS! *(made you shiver in fear, didn't I?!)*

While researching topics for this month's newsletter articles, I discovered a fabulous article by the Recycling Council of BC with tons of tips on how to make your Christmas a "green" one.

The following are just some of the many ideas that their article provides; to read it in full, check out the following website: www.rcbc.bc.ca/files/u6/xmas09_greenxmas.pdf.

THE 3R'S OF WRAPPING

- ★ *Reduce* the amount of wrapping you use by placing a bow on oversized gifts rather than using rolls of wrapping on them.
- ★ Make the wrapping part of the gift. Use tea towels, baskets, tins, bandanas, or other such items that can then be *re-used*.
- ★ If you have to use wrapping paper, buy the type that can later be *recycled*. **Metallic/foil wrap and any with a wax-coating cannot be recycled.**



HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

- ★ When it's time to head out shopping, remember to take a reusable shopping bag.
- ★ If you forget your reusable bag, put as many items as possible in the first plastic bag that you're given.
- ★ Decline tissue paper & boxes when offered with your purchases. **Tissue paper is not accepted in municipal recycling programs.**



LIGHT FOR LESS

- ★ By using a timer for your Christmas tree lights you can reduce your energy consumption by 30 -50%
- ★ If you haven't already, switch out your old lights for LED lights; they last 7 times longer and use one-tenth the energy of standard incandescent lights.
- ★ Use rechargeable batteries rather than disposable batteries. They can be used many times and are collected by various stores for recycling.



HOLIDAY HUMOUR

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Santa-Claustrophobic



Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can ho-ho-ho

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Because he had low elf esteem



What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Snowflakes

What do you get when your cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite



What do you get if Santa comes down your chimney when the fire is ablaze?

Crisp Kringle



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*"I wanted to say thanks for the great service selling both houses.
I will be happy to refer you to my friends." Joel DeYoung*

HOMEOWNER HINTS

KEEPING THE HEAT IN YOUR HOUSE

(where it belongs!)

- Install a ceiling fan in rooms with vaulted or cathedral ceilings to push the warm air down
- Close the drapes as soon as the sun goes down to reduce heat loss
- Ensure that weather-stripping is in place around all exterior doors & that windows are caulked
- Use door socks in front of exterior doors to repel drafts
- Close the damper in your fireplace and insert a draft-stopper up against the damper
- Put foam covers on all exterior wall outlets, under the cover plates

Source: www.housesmartcentre.com

WEATHER-PROOFING YOUR GARAGE

(an often-overlooked area!)

- Put weather-stripping on garage doors especially if the garage is under any living spaces (as cold air coming in from the garage door cools the hot air ducts that run within the floor joists causing discomfort on the floors of the rooms above)
- Use garage door weather-stripping on the wood frame around the door's perimeter & use convex rubber-stripping on the bottom of the door
- Vent moisture out of the garage by installing two 8 x 8 wall vents on opposing walls
- Insulate wood or single-skinned steel doors by using a foil-type of insulation, keeping the garage warmer in the winter & cooler in the summer

Source: www.housesmartcentre.com

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Source: Kappa SUDOKU Puzzles

FROM OUR MORTGAGE SPECIALIST:

BARB McCAUGHERTY



Whether you're buying your first home or have a mortgage you'd like to "Switch In" to RBC Royal Bank, our special rate offers allow you to take advantage of low rates and provide security for the long term. We have great sale rates on 6 month, 4, 5, 7 and 10-year terms!

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For more information about these and other mortgage options, contact Barb at: **604-761-7565**
barbara.mccaugherty@rbc.com

Mark Stevens - RE/MAX Results Realty

20842 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2R3

Cell: 604-306-5478 | Direct: 604-463-1972 | Office: 604-467-0811

Fax: 604-466-8353 E-mail: mark.tmst@shaw.ca Website: www.themarkstevenssteam.com