



Joseph's Update

on Real Estate

By **Joseph Barry Martin**

Happy Easter!



April 3, 2007

HARMONIOUS HOUSES

In creating an appealing, aesthetic and harmonious interior for your home, there are many aspects to consider. All members of your family need to come together and communicate, suggest, and try out various possibilities of décor for the entire feel of the house, as well as for each particular room. For instance in the living room, the fireplace must match in colour, style and textured feel with the paint colours, art, carpeting, lighting, area rugs, and floor. The lines of the furniture (whether straight, curved or angled) must work with the lines of the room, fireplace, doorways and windows. Various elements such as wood, metal, glass and stone create a balanced and pleasing ambiance.

For the exterior, colours and texture make the best first impressions and will attract buyers when you are ready to sell your house. For outdoor planting, add various hardy, local shrubs, and annuals and perennials that will grow in profusion, taking the eye away from fences. Rockeries and rock walls are popular as they add solidity, contrast, texture and colour to the eye when in the garden. Vary the height of trees, flowering shrubs, and plants. Be careful not to crowd them so that all plants can grow within the space. Make sure that you have proper cattle, sheep or horse manure and balance good soil with the right nutrients of nitrogen and phosphorus. Harmonious garden design would do well to blend with your neighbour's plantings.

THE HEALING POWER OF DOGS

I always carry dog cookies with me in my car as a Realtor. Mostly because I love dogs and many of my clients and new acquaintances have a pet hungry for a healthy, tasty tidbit. It's also a great way to bond with folks; if a pet likes you, you're part of the family within minutes.

It's been known that dogs help sick children heal and improve the emotional life of us all, especially the elderly. Perhaps this is because dogs are loyal, trustworthy, and our best friends. They create play, fun and relaxation in our lives. Dogs take us for walks, avoiding couch potato syndrome.

The University of Maryland evaluated the importance of pet ownership for patients with severe coronary artery disease compared to having friends, belonging to a church, engaging in social activities and living in friendly neighbourhoods. The results were shocking. Only 3 of 53 patients with pets died compared to 11 out of 39 patients without pets.

Apart from the love, understanding and joy dogs give us, they help us make friends with others out walking their dogs. There are many special human relationships that have arisen from these doggie social occasions. If you want others to love you, have your picture taken with a dog.

HUMOUR FOR THE MONTH



An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing. A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing?"

The eagle answered: "Sure, why not."

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story: To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Lamplify: turning on (or up) the lights within a room.

Mandals: sandals for men.

Nagivator: someone who constantly assists with driving directions in an overly critical manner.

Obliment: an obligatory compliment.

Pestarriffic: adjective describing a particularly pesty person.

Qcumbersome: a salad that contains too many cucumbers.

Ramdumbtious: a rowdy, energetic person who's not too bright.

Sanktuary: a graveyard for ships.

Testimoney: fees paid to expert witnesses.

Unbrella: an umbrella that the wind has turned inside-out.

Vehiculized: you own a vehicle.

Wackajacky: very messed up.

Xerocks: two identical pieces of stone.

Yawnese: the language of someone trying to speak while yawning.

Zingle: a single person with a lot of pep in his or her step.

LIVING WITH NATURE - EVERYBODY OUTSIDE

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I always love reading Briony Penn's comments on various topics. They often hit close to my heart and the latest one on playing outdoors struck a deep chord.

I had three childhood forts in the forests north of Toronto, along the Don River where I swam daily: one underground fort, with two tunnels and separate entrances, another in dense bush on ground level that was invisible to outside eyes, and a third in a 350-year-old maple that had three levels with curtains, beds, kitchen, lookout and spots to feed birds and squirrels.

And in my bedroom, I typically had toads, frogs, bats, robins, snails, groundhogs, skunks, snakes and insects, all of whom would 'visit' me for a few hours and then go back to the arms of Mother Earth.

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