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Opening The Door To Your Next Home

Spring 2019

4 Ways to Get Your Garden Ready for Spring

Clean Up: Throughout the fall and winter, your garden can be exposed to the elements and what's left behind from storms. "You want to first start by clearing all of your garden beds and lawn of broken branches, leaves, and other debris that have collected," says Chris Lambton professional landscaper and host of DIY Network's Yard Crashers. "It's important to start these chores quickly, as your spring bulbs and plants should be popping out of the ground any day now. The sooner you clean out the beds, the less chance you have of stepping on the growing plants and damaging them."



The same cleanup method applies for your trees and bushes. "To prep for spring, trim off any broken or dead branches," he says. "Now is a good time to prune and shape the tree."

Prep Your Garden Tools: Pull out those tools that have been sitting around all winter. "It's almost time to use your tools again, so you want to make sure they are ready for the job," says Lambton. "Clean off the tools with soap and water, and use mineral spirits on wood handles. The mineral spirits will help prevent the wood from splintering. I clean my tools every spring and fall, or if they are especially dirty."



Give Your Soil Some TLC: Make sure your soil is ready for planting. "To start, turn the soil over with a pitchfork and rake it out, clearing any weeds that may have grown," he says. "I then add fresh compost from my compost bin—if you don't have one, use store-bought compost or manure to add nutrients to the soil." You'll want to add compost or manure a couple of weeks before planting something, so it has time to mix well with your soil and won't burn the roots of your new plants.

And Don't Forget to Maintain It: Upkeep during the whole season is key. "Once your flowers start blooming you will have to deadhead to promote more flowers (depending on the species), and it's a good time to plant annuals to supplement your perennial flowers," says Lambton. "The late spring is also a good time to put down a nice layer of mulch on the garden," he says. "This will help hold down weeds while keeping in water for those long hot summer days ahead. It also will break down over the fall and winter and help add nutrients to the soil."

Full Article: www.RealSimple.com

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Market Statistics

Toronto Real Estate Board President Garry Bhaura announced that Greater Toronto Area REALTORS® reported 7,187 residential sales through TREB's MLS® System in March 2019. This result was inline with 7,188 sales reported in March 2018. For the first quarter of 2019, sales were down by 1% compared to Q1 2018.

"The OSFI stress test continues to impact home buyers' ability to qualify for a mortgage. TREB is still arguing that the stress test provisions and mortgage lending guidelines generally, including allowable amortization periods for insured mortgages, should be reviewed. The supply of listings in the GTA also remains a problem. Bringing a greater diversity of ownership and rental housing online, including 'missing middle' home types, should be a priority of all levels of government. TREB is happy to be taking part in the City of Toronto's consultations for the Housing TO – 2020-2030 Action Plan, and will certainly be raising the supply issue during these discussions," said Mr. Bhaura.

"While the City of Toronto's recently announced Housing TO – 2020-2030 Action Plan is exciting and commendable and TREB looks forward to contributing solutions as a Member of the External Advisory Committee, the recently proposed increase to the Municipal Land Transfer Tax on higher priced properties is problematic. As the recent City budget process showed, the MLTT is not a sustainable revenue source from which to fund municipal programs. On top of this, additional MLTT on higher priced homes could have a trickle-down effect on the supply of homes throughout the housing price continuum," said TREB CEO John Di Michele.

"Market conditions have remained tight enough to support a moderate pace of price growth. Despite sales being markedly lower than the record levels of 2016 and early 2017, the supply of listings has also receded. This means that in many neighbourhoods throughout the GTA, we continue to see competition between buyers for available listings, which provides a level of support for home prices," said Jason Mercer, TREB's Chief Market Analyst.

Summary of Home Transactions in Durham Region				
	New Listings	Active Listings	Avg. Sold Price	Avg. Days on Market
Durham Region	1,617	1,746	99%	21
Ajax	257	219	99%	18
Brock	31	64	95%	44
Clarington	284	318	99%	18
Oshawa	436	435	99%	20
Pickering	208	227	99%	18
Scugog	37	74	97%	48
Uxbridge	50	106	95%	41
Whitby	314	303	99%	22

Recipe of the Month — *Whole-Family Pasta with Broccoli and Cauliflower*

Many children, especially picky eaters, love pasta loaded with plain butter—a dish that clearly earns low marks on the health scale. This great alternative adds fiber and protein with beans, which kids actually love!

Ingredients:

- 12 ounces penne or fusilli pasta
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cups broccoli florets
- 2 cups cauliflower florets
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup low-sodium vegetable or Chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 (15 ounce) can no-salt-added cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese



Directions:

- Cook pasta in a large pot of salted boiling water 2 minutes less than directed on package. Drain.
- Meanwhile, cook garlic in oil in a large lidded pot over medium heat until golden, 3 to 4 minutes. Add broccoli and cauliflower and cook 1 minute. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon salt, and cook, covered, 3 minutes. Add broth, butter, beans, pepper, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt, and cook until beans are warm and sauce thickens slightly, about 5 minutes.
- Add pasta and cook, stirring, until heated through, about 1 minute. Sprinkle with cheese.

Compliments of Jackie Nixon RE/MAX Rouge 905-623-6000

Source: allrecipes.com

RE/MAX Rouge River Realty Ltd, Brokerage, with offices in Toronto, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Colborne