



# Craig Watson

Sales Representative



**'Helping You,  
Your Family,  
Your Friends'**

905 **545.1188** [www.craigwatson.ca](http://www.craigwatson.ca)



May ~  
June  
2015

*My business continues to grow because of clients like you.*

*The referral of your family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers is important to me and I appreciate it.*

*Thank You for your trust and continued support.*

*Craig*

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter, please call to be removed from our mailing list

## Moving?

**Moving can often be one of life's most stressful events. Here's some advice to help you streamline packing, save money, and take some of the stress out of your next move.**

### **Make a Plan.**

Try to put together a schedule at least two months before your move. The more prepared you are, the lower your moving costs will be, and you'll significantly lower the stress level for both you and your family.

### **Hiring Help.**

May through August is peak moving season - and prices rise to meet demand. If you book truck/trailer rentals and other moving services Monday through Thursday during these months you may be able to negotiate better rates.

### **Pare Down.**

Purging and organizing are important chores to perform before a move - so its never too early to start! Why pack, transport, then unpack, clothing, toys, games, decorations etc. that you or a family member have not used in years?! If you start the purge, sort, and organize chore early, you'll have time to plan a garage sale - or alternatively, schedule a pick up of all your unwanted items by a local charity who will put them to good use.

### **Get Packing.**

Packing cartons yourself is the easiest way to save money. Begin with non-essentials, like holiday decorations, seasonal clothing,

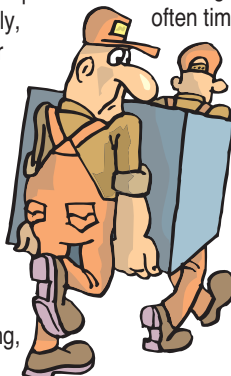
footwear and sports gear, seldom used dishes, flatware, linens etc. Label each box as you pack - you need not itemize the contents of each carton, simply label by room ie: 'Kitchen', 'Master Bedroom', 'Rec room' etc. This labelling method can really help at the 'unloading' stage...as each carton can be unloaded - and stacked - in the appropriate room(s). For rooms like the kitchen, where there will most likely be many, many cartons, you might also include another descriptive word like; 'pantry', 'pots', 'dishes' on the label.

An effective method to help identify those cartons that require special handling 'think breakable' - purchase a roll of labels (they're usually bright red) with the word 'FRAGILE' printed on them. Use these labels on any carton which contains breakable and/or fragile items; dishes, stemware, photo frames, electronics, mirrors etc.

And, remember to affix labels to the **sides** of the boxes, where they will be visible when the cartons are stacked.

### **Make the first day/night in your new home easier.**

Moving day is usually busy, tiring and often times chaotic. Take some of the stress out of the day by carefully packing up an 'essentials' carton (or 2) for each member of your family - as well as for those important areas that everyone will use - like the kitchen and bathroom.



*Continues on Inside Page*

*Whether you're thinking of making a move, or are just curious about Real Estate trends in the area or neighbourhood, please feel free to contact me anytime...*

**Craig Watson**  
Sales Representative

**"The Elementary Choice"**

**905.545.1188**  
[craig@rmxemail.com](mailto:craig@rmxemail.com)

Please recycle this Newsletter by passing it along to a friend, family member or neighbour!

**RE/MAX**  
**Escarpment Realty Inc.**  
Brokerage  
Independently Owned and Operated

860 Queenston Road  
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 4A8

## *Got Questions?*

**Your Realtor is your partner in selling what is likely your largest asset. Whether you need advice about getting your home ready to sell or have questions about current buying and selling trends - call on your Realtor who is available to assist you, every step of the way.**



# Clutter Patrol

Are your closets crowded, drawers jumbled, shelves overflowing? If the car won't fit in the garage - and you've been thinking about adding a shed in the backyard for extra storage space - here are a few tips and ideas to help declutter your home!

Keep in mind, decluttering isn't about perfection - it's about clearing up areas in your home that inhibit proper functioning; areas that make you feel bad when you look at them or areas that simply don't work! Remember to start with whatever irritates you the most, organizing the most annoying clutter zone will be motivating!

**Do one job at a time.** It's easy to get pulled from one clutter zone to another and the first area you tackle will be the most difficult. Stay focused on the one area until you've completed it.

**Set time limits** for decluttering - and start small. Initially work in '1 hour' bouts, even if this means you'll need 2, 3 or even more sessions to complete an area (like the kitchen, garage or entranceway closet).

**Sort** as you go. Use 4 plastic laundry hampers - (they're easy to carry and see into, best of all, they're reuseable) label them; **Keep in this room, Store elsewhere, Garage Sale/Donate, Not sure.**

Organize what you plan to keep in this area/room and distribute the rest into the area or rooms where they should be. Choose an area in the basement or garage to store your 'Garage Sale' items. Let no box go unmarked. Use masking tape, a label maker, or a marker to label any box of items 'to-be-stored' - 'garage sale' - 'donation' etc.

▶ Get everyone in your household involved! Make a 10 minute 'pickup' on the way to bed part of everyone's daily routine.

▶ Assign each person in your family a room, or area, that they are responsible for keeping clutter-free and organized.

▶ Establish a specific place for the things you use every day - hooks for keys, purses & backpacks, a basket for mail etc.

▶ Centralize your paper clutter instead of spreading it around. This will help you be relentless in tossing out papers - newspapers, magazines, junk mail etc.

▶ Make it a rule; something new comes into the house, something old goes out!

▶ Adopt the attitude; if you aren't using it, get rid of it!

▶ Create a 'reluctant-to-part-with' box, store it in an easily accessible spot - when its full you'll have to part with something!

▶ Don't overbuy baskets or containers - too tempting to spread them out and fill them all! Purchase a basket or container only if, and when, you have a use for it.

▶ Concentrate on creating vertical storage; shelving, bookcases, stackable bins wherever possible.

▶ Incorporate storage into your decor - choose furniture that 'doubles' as storage, ie: benches with flip-up lid type storage or a shelf underneath for boots & shoes, small dressers, armoire-style cupboards, a coffee table with storage inside, or underneath. The same for side-tables...think boxes, baskets, small dressers, blanket boxes or trunks instead of tables.

▶ Shallow plastic containers for under beds are ideal for storing seasonal items; clothing, decorations and sports gear.

▶ Put hooks on the backs of doors; closet, cupboard and cabinet doors.

▶ Assign a basket/bin/container for each member of your household to store the things that come out of their pockets!

▶ Regularly deal with the garbage gremlins; grocery bags, soap shards, rubber bands, dried-up pens, chipped glasses/dishes, loose screws etc.

## Develop an organizing system that works for you...and stick with it!

**Always** put things back in the same place.

Children's papers belong in a basket in a central location. Bicycles and sports gear go in the designated rack or spot in the garage. Coats belong on a coat tree or in the entranceway closet. Toys and games - in a chest or bin every night.

**Place** tools you use often (screwdriver or hammer) at arm's reach on a pegboard, or in a drawer in the kitchen or laundry room - where they're both - readily at hand, and quickly put away.

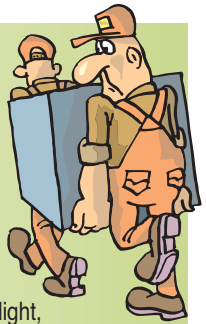
**Hang** clothes you wear to work front and center. Dresser drawers should be organized from the top - most frequently used items in the top drawers.



# Moving?

Continues from Front Page

Here are some ideas to help you put together Essentials Kits for your move...



**General** - coffee maker/kettle, coffee/tea, an assortment of cups, glasses, dishes & utensils, scissors, aspirin, first aid kit, note pad & pen, flashlight, extension cord, screwdriver, cell phone charger, can opener, pet supplies, sunglasses, non-perishable snacks, toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels...

**Each Family Member** - bed linen, towel and face cloth, pajamas, tooth brush and toiletries, book/game/magazine, medication, night light. Suggest that each member of your family put together their own kit - it can be pretty tough to determine what is 'essential' to a 15 year old.

## Moving Tips



### Packing it up

Remember to pack things into other things - fill your washer and dryer with soft stuff, like pillows and cushions. Wrap breakables in towels, and clothing (don't use newspaper or you'll have to wash everything before putting it away). Keep clothes on the hangers, just bundle several together and secure the hooks together with packing tape. Protect the clothes with garbage bags - tie the open end together at the neck of the hanger (don't waste a bag by poking a hole in it). Garbage cans and recycling bins are great for garden tools and sports equipment.



### Pack that in the car

How much you can transport in your vehicle will depend on numerous factors, how many vehicles are making the trip, the distance to your new home, are just two considerations.

A few of the items you'll want to pack into your vehicle; valuables like jewelry and coin collections, as well as important documents like passports and birth certificates.

### Insurance

Check your homeowner insurance policy - or with your insurance agent - are your possessions covered?...and for what - while in transit.

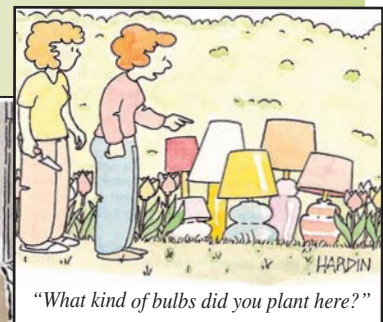
### Recycled Boxes

If you are picking up boxes from local grocery stores, skip the produce boxes, which could possibly contain bugs or larvae.

# Chuckles



"Where's the Louvre? Ask your mother, she's the one who puts everything away!"



"What kind of bulbs did you plant here?"



# Greener Cleaning

## Scuff marks on flooring

### Wood?

Use a dry microfiber cloth; its specially designed threads act like hooks that will pull up dirt without scratching the floor - even if it has been sealed with polyurethane, which many are.

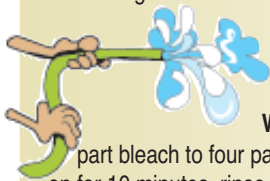
### Tile?

Try an art gum or pencil eraser. A smooth tile's surface is like a sheet of paper, and the rubbing action 'erases' the marks.

### Laminate?

You want something that will provide a bit of friction but won't harm the coating. Use the netted side of a dry sponge and rub gently until the spots are gone. Don't wet the sponge - otherwise, moisture may seep through the planks' edges, where they are joined.

**Works on all 3!** Try a dry paper towel...the slight roughness of the towel against a smooth floor takes residue right off!



## Outdoor Furniture Removing mildew or mold

**White Furniture:** Apply a solution of one part bleach to four parts water, mix in a clean sprayer. Leave on for 10 minutes, rinse with a garden hose, and allow to dry in full sun. This will clean furniture, not remove stains.

**Colored Furniture:** Apply a solution of 60mL (1/4 cup) white vinegar to 1 litre (1 quart) water, mix in a clean sprayer. Leave on for 10 to 15 minutes then rinse thoroughly with a garden hose. Allow to air dry in full sun. Again, this will clean furniture, not remove stains.

### Restoring the Shine:

Apply a coat of automotive paste wax to the surface. Allow the wax to dry for a few minutes. Wipe off any residue with a clean cloth.

### Natural Wood Furniture

#### Cleaning Redwood, Cedar, Pine

With a soft bristled brush, scrub using a mixture of 60mL (1/4 cup) ammonia and 15mL (2 tablespoons) white vinegar in 1 litre (1 quart) of water. Rinse thoroughly with a garden hose and allow to air dry in full sun.



# House Plants

## Last minute reminder

If you have house plants needing to be transplanted - now is the time to do it. The best time to repot indoor plants is from February through May. Your plants should be transplanted into a 'slightly' larger, and deeper, container if roots are; stretching out of the drainage holes, or, taking up more than 3/4 of the container.

### Here's how to Repot.

▶ Cover the drainage hole(s) on the 'outside' of the new planter with a piece of tape. Fill the pot with enough potting soil so that the top of the root ball of your plant will sit appx 2.5cm (one inch) below the rim of the planter.

▶ Remove the plant from its original pot and centre it in the new container. Fill in around it with more potting soil - but be sure not to cover the top of the root ball with the new soil. Gently work the soil in

around the sides of the plant in order to loosen any clumps of soil and remove air pockets, but don't compact or try to pack down the soil.

▶ Remove the tape and water the plant thoroughly - until excess begins seeping out of the drainage hole(s).

▶ Before putting away your potting soil, check the soil level in your new container, watering will likely have caused the soil to settle, if so, top it up with a bit more.



## Tip

Consider reducing the size of your lawn. Vast amounts of time, money and natural resources are allocated to maintaining lawns. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides leach into local waterways, compromising water quality and promoting algae growth. Gas-operated lawnmowers are noise and air polluters. Think about converting some of your lawn expanse into a garden using indigenous plants - they're hardy and drought-tolerant which translates into less maintenance and lower water consumption.

## Turning Lookers ...into Buyers



Once you've made the decision to sell your home, a top priority will be to make your home as attractive as possible to potential purchasers. Here are a few tips, if you'd like more advice, talk with your realtor who can discuss the specifics of your home.

- 1 The Basics.** Every area in your home; both inside and out, should be squeaky clean. Interior rooms, including the basement and garage, should be neat, tidy and uncluttered.
- 2 Minor Repairs.** Missing trim, cracked switchplate covers, derailed closet doors, loose doorknobs or hardware, dripping faucets, scuffed walls, creaking doors ....to the eye of a buyer, all these small problems add up. Take a room by room tour of your home, make a list of all the repairs needed - then fix them!
- 3 Brighten up.** Be sure that all areas of your home are well lit. Consider replacing light bulbs in all fixtures to the maximum wattage allowable for each fixture. Natural light is the most appealing, be sure your home is bathed in as much natural light as possible...windows - squeaky clean...window treatments - minimal. Be sure to open all blinds and curtains before a viewing.
- 4 Put away Personal items.** Photos, mementos, trophies should all be packed away (you'll be moving soon anyway). Your goal is to make every room in your home look like an attractive furniture store display. Think 'impersonal but inviting'.
- 5 Give your home the 'sniff' test.** Are there any unpleasant or bad odours? If so, identify the source(s) and take measures to eliminate them. Don't attempt to mask bad odours with air fresheners or other fragranced products.

# Tidbits...



## Doggie Breath

Tips for fresher doggie kisses.

**Assess the stench.** Somewhat smelly breath is a given for most dogs. But, if your pet is noticeably worse than usual, schedule a visit to the vet. Halitosis often indicates periodontal disease, which if left untreated, can cause an infection of the heart valves or liver, as well as other organ problems.

**Brushing.** Daily brushing is the best way to freshen canine breath - if you choose to go this route, the trick is to use a paste in a flavour your dog likes....like bacon- or poultry-flavoured toothpaste.

**Never** use human toothpaste for your pet - it's toxic to animals!

**Chewing.** There are many toys and edible products that can help scrape tartar and plaque from your dog's teeth. These products also stimulate the gums, aiding in general oral health.



## Backyard Birds

To encourage birds to nest in your yard this spring, be sure to make nest building materials like string, yarn, and fluff from your dryer screen available. Since birds will defend their nesting territories, put materials out in more than one location. Keep nesting materials available all summer, since some birds build more than one nest during breeding season.

## Cleaning Grout

Grout is one of the hardest surfaces to clean in a home. Try this method. Sprinkle or spread a thick coat of baking soda over dirty grout, then pour some peroxide into an old plastic mustard bottle - the kind that squirts (or some similar type of bottle). Wet the baking soda with the peroxide, then using a scrub brush, scrub it vigorously for a few seconds. Let the mixture sit for about half an hour, wipe off the solution with a damp cloth, then rinse with clear water. The combination of baking soda, peroxide, and scrubbing should make grout look brand new!

## Salt

Inexpensive and always on hand, salt is gritty and abrasive but won't scratch. Mix it with dish soap to scrub soil off hands, to clean sinks and stainless steel pots. Salt is also a great weed killer and it won't harm kids or dogs because it is nontoxic (it will also kill grass so exercise caution!).

# Home

A man travels the world over in search of what he needs, and returns home to find it.

— George Moore

Home is a place you grow up wanting to leave, and grow old wanting to get back to.

— John ed Pearce

Home is where you can say anything you like cause nobody listens to you anyway.

— Author Unknown

There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort.

— Jane Austen

We do not develop habits of genuine love automatically. We learn by watching effective role models — most specifically by observing how our parents express love for each other day in and day out.

— Josh McDowell

Home is where you are loved the most and act the worst.

— Marjorie Pay Hinckley

Your  
Neighbourhood  
Real Estate  
Resource Center



Craig Watson

Sales Representative

"The Elementary Choice"

905.545.1188

craig@rmxemail.com

www.craigwatson.ca

Extending a Helping Hand every step of the way!

1 Helping  
BUYERS  
HOT SHEETS

- Receive **HOT NEW Listings** by email, tailored to **YOUR** needs
- Never miss the 'Right One'!
- Shop on **YOUR** time & terms while I search for you!

Simply Call, Email or Contact me through my website with your **WANTS** and **NEEDS** and I'll take care of the rest!

**Please don't keep me a secret!**

"If you know of a friend, family member or neighbour who could use the same level of help I provide, call me immediately and we can talk about how you can introduce me to them. I'm *never* too busy for any of your referrals"

2 Helping  
SELLERS

Call or Email me today to receive **FREE INFORMATION** on how to prepare and sell your home **QUICKLY** and for **TOP DOLLAR!!**

3 Helping with  
RENOVATIONS

Being a **SMART RENOVATOR** is protecting your investment! Consider the impact of your renovations on the re-sale value of your home. Call or Email me today for **FREE INFORMATION** on how different renovations stack up relative to one another



Anything less is second best!