



Craig Watson

Sales Representative



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

905 **545.1188** www.craigwatson.ca



November ~
December
2016

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

HOME FIRE DRILLS

Suppose you've just heard a smoke alarm...*what would you do? What would your children do?* From the time the smoke alarm sounds until the fire is out of control you may have only minutes, or seconds, to get out. Many people make poor decisions when fire breaks out. They may be affected by smoke, disoriented by being awakened abruptly, and frightened. But, more often, poor decisions occur because people have not planned or practised what to do in the case of a fire. **Be Safe...be prepared.**

You can survive a Fire if you...

- have working smoke alarms
- make and practise an escape plan
- stay out when you get out

Create an Escape Plan - and Practise

- Review two possible exits - and how to use them - from each room in the house. Walk through the primary and alternative escape routes, making sure all exits are accessible to all members of your household.

Keep these exits in mind as you decorate your home for the holiday season.



- In the case of a fire, everyone must be prepared to move quickly, carefully and calmly. Don't let your drills

become a race; make sure everyone knows exactly what to do. Don't run.

- Figure out how to use each window as an exit (is there a garage roof or other surface below? A tree nearby? Do you need an escape ladder?).

- Determine which family members might need help escaping.

- Ensure that everyone knows to use the second exits when the first ones cannot be used. During your 'practise' fire drills, vary your route, pretend that some escape routes are blocked - which could very well be the case during the holiday season.

- Since many fatal home fires start when people are asleep, practise your escape plan having each member of your family wait in his or her sleeping area for the sound of the alarm. Start by coaching your children, but remember, your goal is to teach them to escape *without* your help.

- Practise your escape plan with everyone in the house; in daylight and after dark. Practise your escape plan at least twice a year. And, it's a good idea to have an extra practise once you've decorated for the holiday season - perhaps furniture has been repositioned, or an exit blocked?

- As things change in your home, ensure that they are factored into your escape plan.

- Establish an outside meeting place - is it the same place winter and summer?
- Call 911 from a neighbours. During a fire, *do not* go back into your home to attempt to rescue people or pets.

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

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

Smoke Alarms

Most fatal fires occur at night. A smoke alarm might be the only thing to rouse your family in time to escape. An alarm is needed on every storey of your home as well as outside bedroom areas. Establish a regular monthly routine for testing smoke alarms. Remember, smoke alarms do wear out, plan to replace them after 10 years. ■

This n That

Ever wonder why water in fire hydrants doesn't freeze during the winter?



It would... if the wrong type of fire hydrant were used. In most regions throughout Canada, where winter temperatures fall well below the freezing point, fire departments use 'dry barrel hydrants'. These hydrants have operating valves located below the freezing level of the ground, the fire hydrant itself does not contain any water until the valve is opened.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon is the most common baking spice used in North American kitchens.

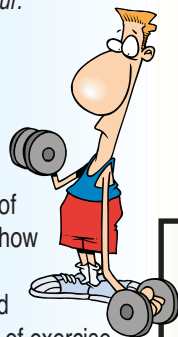
True cinnamon is the bark of a type of laurel tree native only to Sri Lanka. Most mass-market cinnamon sold here is actually cassia, a look - and taste-alike from a slightly different tree. True ground-cinnamon is tan-coloured, and has a sweeter, warmer flavour than cassia. As well, true cinnamon sticks curl in only one direction, while cassia sticks curl in from both sides.

Tip Add ground cinnamon to liquids either before or after they boil. If you add it during boiling, the liquid may become stringy and the cinnamon will lose its flavour.

Energy Booster!

If you're feeling tired, will exercise make matters worse, or will it perk you up?

It depends on your physical and emotional state, of course, and on what kind of exercise you do and how much...If your fatigue has no medical cause, exercise may give you a boost. In fact, being tired may actually be caused, at least in part, by a lack of exercise - what experts call 'sedentary inertia' or 'exercise deficiency' - in which case exercise is the best antidote!



Desk Jockey

If you're one of the increasing number of people who spend hours on end parked at a desk - here are a few ideas for you...

- Always opt for the stairs.
- Always include an activity in your day; for example, write '20 minute walk' in your dayplanner or on your daily 'To Do' list. *If it's on the list, you'll feel compelled to do it!*
- Try desk exercises. For example, after working for a stretch at a computer, push your chair back, clasp your hands together, twist them and push them out in front for a full arm stretch.
- Stand up at least once an hour and stretch. If you can't move away from your desk, just stand and do a couple of minutes of exercises, use your chair for balance.
- Try to take an exercise break between 2 and 3pm. Our body clocks naturally wind down at this time of day. An activity will help head off the sleepiness that can result from lower body temperature.



Cookies

Plan a Yummy Cookie Exchange

Start by determining how many people you can include comfortably and without confusion. Six friends may be enough if you're a novice at organizing this kind of gathering. For a greater assortment of cookies, you might want to include as many as 20 people. Keep in mind that the more you invite, the more organized you'll have to be! Try to schedule the exchange early in the season to give participants time to bake well before the holiday rush starts!

Ask each participant to:

- Bring 6 to 8 dozen of the cookie they would like to bake plus 1 dozen for 'taste sampling'.
- Label the container(s) with the name of the cookie and his/her name (bottom & lid)
- Share the recipe! Bring a copy of the recipe for each participant.
- Bring an empty container(s) to take home cookies, also labelled with his/her name (bottom & lid).

- ★ Set aside a long table or counter where the containers can be placed as guests arrive. As well, have several plates or cookie dishes ready for the dozen 'tasting samples' each guest has brought along.
- ★ When all the guests have arrived, divide the number of cookies available by the number of guests. Note beside each container how many of this cookie each guest may take, then start a round robin, with each filling her empty container.
- ★ Exchanges may be set up in conjunction with a potluck meal or as a dessert party.

Words

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

JOHN ED PEARCE

When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points or it would be impossible to endure them.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Holiday Gatherings

Holiday gatherings can often bring out the worst in relationships....many popular movies attest to this!

Here are a few tips for taking some of the angst out of your family gatherings.



- **Plan your budget.** Food costs have increased and hosting a family dinner can often be straining on your family's grocery budget. Don't hesitate to ask other's attending to share the load. If you want to keep it simple, make a list of all the 'extras' you'll want to have on hand; drinks; wine, juices, pop, perhaps a selection of desserts; pies, cakes, squares, or snacks; finger foods like veggies & dip, cheese & crackers, fruits, nuts. Then ask others attending to bring along a something or two from your list!
- **Be clear about the timing** of the function. Be specific with the details. We've all had visitors who stay too late or for too many days, so, set some boundaries.
- **Delegate.** If you want to do it all, by all means do just that. But, if you'd like help, ask for it. Try to be specific with what you'd like help with. It could be any variety of things; from preparing and bringing along a main course dish or dessert, coming early to help with food prep or setting the table, or asking someone to take care of serving; drinks or finger foods & snacks - another to clear or load the dishwasher etc.
- * **Plan some activities.** A variety of activities to do both inside and outside can help breathe life into an occasion.



Mudrooms

The biggest challenges in this area of the house...

- ✓ General clutter, from mail to mismatched mittens
- ✓ Wet jackets, shoes and boots that need a place to dry
- ✓ Tracked-in mud, leaves, slush, sand and salt

Control the mess.

Easier said than done you're thinking... and yes, ultimately you may want, or need to, reorganize this room/area. But, start with - removing all shoes that don't really need to be in the entranceway... ask yourself... *'at this time of year does anything other than winter boots and indoor shoes/slippers to change into need to be here?'* Use the same rule for outerwear, sports gear and other items currently stored in this area.

Use hooks mounted on the walls so coats, backpacks, keys, purses, dog leashes etc., all have a place to hang... and, outerwear can air dry while it hangs!

A bench is ideal. It can serve as a spot to sit while putting footwear on and off, a spot for what you have in hand as you come through the door (mail, groceries, purse), and boots/shoes can be stored underneath.

Use baskets, plastic totes or bins. One for each family member, to store

stuff. If you have the space, a wall-mounted shelf above the hooks can be an ideal way to keep floor space clear. Or you could try hanging pocket-type organizers. Small bins can be used to sort and organize incoming and outgoing mail, keys, cell phones etc. Larger containers for pet toys, umbrellas, sports gear, walking sticks... whatever works - and suits - your family's needs.

Doormats. Don't go with the usual small, pretty doormat. Put down a carpet runner the length of the room or a small area rug (preferably washable). A larger landing pad means muddy feet (and paws), dripping coats and umbrellas won't muck up the floor. A larger rug will also serve you well because Fido will have a spot to lay down and dry off a bit before proceeding into the house.

Walls. If you're considering repainting, be sure to choose a durable, scrubbable paint finish (like a semi-gloss or even a high-gloss) for this high-traffic area.

TIP Talk

ENERGY SAVER

When was the last time you cleaned your thermostat coil?

If you're thinking, 'what in the world is a thermostat coil?'...

its probably time to do it!

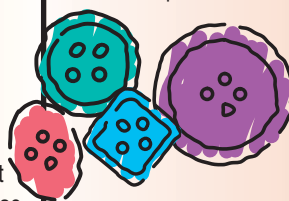
A thermostat regulates your home's heating and cooling system.

When the coil inside the thermostat cover is dirty or dusty it won't give an accurate reading. The dust interferes with the coil's ability to sense temperature changes. Room temperature changes make the coil curl and uncurl, this activates your heating or cooling unit to turn on or off.

Here's how to easily clean your thermostat coil. Simply remove the thermostat cover and clean the coil by blowing away the dust or wiping it away gently with a Qtip. If you have a programmable thermostat, make sure to replace, or recharge, the batteries twice a year.

Spare Buttons

If you're always misplacing one earring or its back, take a moment to pair them through the holes of an old button. They'll look cute! - and be easier to find in your jewellery box.

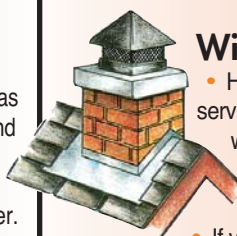


Locate a stud

When you can't find (or don't have) your stud finder - start at a corner where there is always a stud or remove the cover plate of an electrical outlet and find out on which side it is mounted to the stud. Since studs are normally placed at 16" intervals, you can easily measure from there in either direction to find a stud.

Repair a hammer mark on trim

If the mark is on a finished surface, poke the area numerous times with a needle. Then put a few drops of water on it. Cover with a damp rag and iron it on the 'cotton' setting. The evaporating water will expand the crushed wood cells. To focus the heat on just a small area, use an upside down bottle cap to put the iron on.



Winter is almost here...

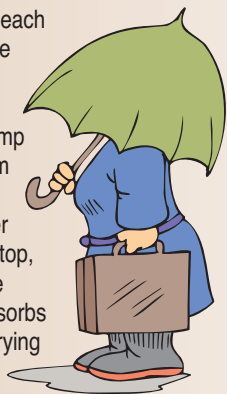
- Have you had your furnace or heating system serviced yet? What about the woodstove or wood-burning insert?...If you burn wood or wood pellets, it is also important to have your chimney checked and cleaned of creosote.
- If you haven't already, check, clean or replace your furnace filters. If you replace furnace filters - check your inventory, do you have enough on hand to change them once a month throughout the winter?
 - If you have electric baseboard heaters - vacuum to remove dust. Remove the grilles on forced-air systems and vacuum inside the ducts.
 - Check and clean the humidifier (this should be done 2 or 3 times every winter).
 - Check and clean out all eavestroughs and gutters (once all the leaves are down). And, while you've got the ladder out you may want to consider putting up your Christmas lights!
 - Check all outdoor electrical outlets to ensure they are clear of debris and operational. Check and clean all outdoor light fixtures.
 - Remember...its time to reverse the direction on all ceiling fans.

Here's how to freshen Smelly Wellies

When Wet

Right after wearing the boots, crumple up some newspaper and stuff it tightly into the foot of each wellie to absorb any moisture and odours.

Wipe off mud and dirt from the boots' exterior with a damp paper towel or rag. Put them in a cool place to dry. If the interiors are soaked by water that has seeped in from the top, you may need to replace the paper once or twice as it absorbs the moisture (don't bother trying to blow-dry the lining; it'll take forever - and the smell will get worse).



Rain boots are great...they keep the wet out - but, they also keep the sweat in.

Once Dry

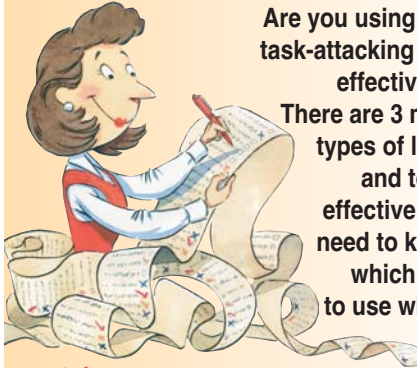
The day after the newspaper has done its job, remove it, and generously sprinkle in some odour-absorbing baking soda or foot powder.

With your hands (you'll want to wash them when you're done with this part!) work it into the lining of the boots. Leave the baking soda in for several hours or overnight. Take the wellies outside, turn them upside down, bang them together to shake out excess powder. It doesn't hurt to leave some powder behind - it'll just keep on working.

Make it easier next time...

Keep boots fresh between rainy days by slipping in soft cedar shoe inserts (they're basically cotton sachets filled with cedar chips) to absorb odour.

The Lowdown on LISTS



Are you using this task-attacking tool effectively? There are 3 main types of lists, and to be effective you need to know which one to use when.

1 A Master List

A Master List notes all of those to-do's that aren't scheduled yet. What might be on a master list? Anything you're not going to get to today, but don't want to forget about - ie; household seasonal chores, books or research info. to read, calling to set up appointments, upcoming Birthdays, Anniversaries, special events, or deadlines, seasonal household maintenance appointments to schedule.

2 A Checklist

A checklist is a sheet containing information you'll use over and over again. The checklists you and your family use will be somewhat dependent on your personal situation and lifestyle, but most households can benefit from a variety of checklists. Grocery staples, baby-sitting basics, packing essentials, heading to the cottage or on vacation... are just a few examples. Its a good idea to store checklists in your computer for easy updating.

3 A Daily List

A daily list - or today's To Do list, should include only what you can complete in the next 24 hours. Each entry should be specific and manageable. In the case of long-term projects, each entry should bring you to the next step.

Organizing and managing your time is one of the best things you can do to make your life easier. Your well-being depends on it, because it's an essential way to reduce stress. Effective use of lists helps you think about time in a positive way - it enables you to set guidelines, recognize your limits and take control over events.

THE POPPY



The poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by Canadian military physician John McCrae, was a great inspiration in adopting the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance in Canada, France, the US, Britain and other Commonwealth countries. Remembrance Day was first held in 1919, and marks the armistice to end the First World War, which came into effect at 11am on November 11th a year earlier.

Today the volunteer donations from the distribution of millions of poppies is an important source of revenue for the Royal Canadian Legion. Funds provide ex-servicemen and women with programs which include; food, shelter and medical attention.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lieutenant Colonel
John Alexander McCrae
1872 - 1918

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!