# YOUR HOUSE YOUR HOUSE YOUR

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO CENTRAL ALBERTA REAL ESTATE JULY 27, 2018



Central Alberta's OPEN HOUSE

**ISTINGS** inside

REA

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY HOME! 4 beds, 4 baths and 2231 sq. ft. of living space on two levels plus a fully finished 1206 sq. ft. basement! \$479,900

For further info on this multiple listing service home, see page 2 or contact a member of the Red Deer Real Estate Board.

View our complete publication ONLINE at www.yourhouseyourhome.com

A2 Friday, July 27, 2018



## Network Realty Corp. 403-346-8900 3608-50 Ave www.networkrealtycorp.ca





Burega



5816 65 STREET #14 This 1 hedroom undated condo is located in Highland Green. New flooring and paint. Main floor unit offers a patio up front and out back. Call Alex



15 Min to Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Private acreage! Almost 3 acres, walk out, fully finished home with triple garage. Custom built with loads of great features! Call Alex

96 OAKWOOD CLOSE REDUCED! Stunning two story home backing onto a green space, walking trails plus a treed reserve. Totally modern design is enhanced with rustic hardwood

291 OVERIAND DR NOW 111ST \$199 0001 Awesome starter half duplex in Oriole Park, Front parking and fenced yard. Basement is

partially developed. Call Alex

JUI Y 28. **184 TIMRERSTONE WAY** 

Fabulous fully fin 5 hdrm home located in the new Timberstone subdivision of Red Deer, Upper floor incl. great kitchen with stainless steel appliances & much more! Call Alex!



14'x40' tandem garage.

and granite.

pine floors, huge sunroom and wraparound deck. Workshop & 403.350.6023 bunkie. Very cute!

and shingles. Gas fp, double garage, newer deck too!

# Covered decks, bunkie,

tile & laminate flooring. Large master has 5 pc. ensuite & w/i closet. Vinyl fence, deck. River valley trails at your door.

Backing onto the water! Stunning w/o bungalow, absolutely loaded with quality. Custom cabinetry & woodwork, granite throughout. Deluxe ensuite & w/i closet. Views over the lake & park from the deck or patio. Heated triple garage and much more

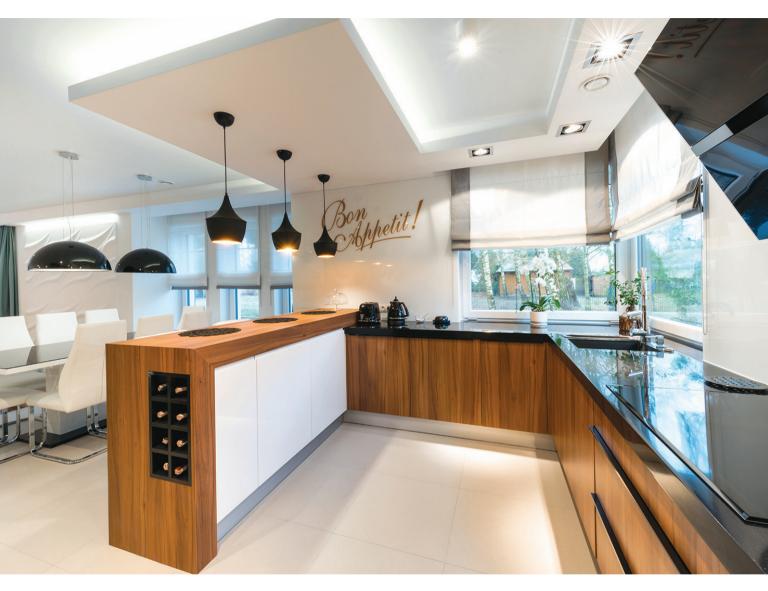
Gorgeous Acreage + Huge Shop - Country living in this family home. Jack & Jill bathroom upstairs for the kids + upper loft. Master + den on the main floor. Heated 38'x68' shop for dad.





ww.yourhouseyourhome.com

# Top three ways to increase the resale value of your home



If you're planning on selling your home, it's wise to consider making a few strategic upgrades. A fresh coat of paint is a great place to start, but if you have the budget, certain renovations can raise the value of your property and accelerate its sale. Wondering which projects to tackle? Consider the following.

#### An extra bathroom

Putting in an extra bathroom isn't cheap, but you'll make a profit in the long run. You don't want to eat up too much usable space, but if you have a rarely used closet or perhaps a room under the stairs, then go ahead and put in that call to your contractor. Existing bathrooms can also be updated for a decent return on investment.

#### The kitchen

If you can only update one room in your house, make it the kitchen. Modern cabinetry, granite countertops, recessed cabinet lighting and new appliances will add real value to your home — as much as seven per cent, in fact.

#### An income suite

Nothing entices buyers quite like the possibility of offsetting mortgage costs with rental income. Whether it's in your basement or another part of your home, an income suite is guaranteed to increase the value of your property.





You're no doubt familiar with standard vinyl flooring sold by the square foot. However, did you know that this type of flooring, which is both affordable and practical, has undergone a significant upgrade in recent years?

Available in the form of multi-coloured, interlocking slabs, luxury vinyl tiles come with many advantages. For example, they're:

- Waterproof
- · Easy to install on almost every surface
- Similar in style to other materials (wood, stone, concrete, etc.)

- Scratch-resistant
- Low-maintenance

Thanks to their remarkable durability and versatile design, luxury vinyl tiles are becoming an increasingly popular choice for both commercial and residential spaces. Like traditional vinyl, the luxury version remains an excellent option for rooms prone to high levels of humidity, like your basement or bathroom.

If you plan on renovating this summer, consider luxury vinyl flooring!





BRAND NEW Fully finished 3bdrm/2 full bathrooms, all 6 appliances, fully landscaped, vinyl fencing, NO CÓNDO FEES! \$249,900 CALL BRAD 342-7700.



REDUCED

1111

**IMMEDIATE POSSESSION** Brand new 3bdrm/3bath with stainless appliances, laminate flooring, upstairs laundry, 10 yr warranty Penhold \$366,900 CALL BRAD 342-7700.



LEGAL UP/DOWN DUPLEX IN INGLEWOOD Main floor, 3 bed, 2 bath. Bsmt suite 2 bed, 1 bath. \$394,900

LAREDO July possession Brand new 3bdrm/3 bath 2 storey with bonus room, upper floor laundry, quartz countertops, vinyl plank flooring, 4 stainless appliances, undeveloped basement 10

PARADISE IN THE CITY! 80x150 lot w/extensive landscaping, upgraded 4 bdrm/3 bath bilevel. 342-7700.

2 GARAGES & RV PARKING HUGE PIE LOT on this quiet close, sits this Beautiful 2 \$689,900 CALL NICOLE 342-7700.

32X46 SHOP on pie lot with 5bdrm/3bath walkout bilevel. Total pkg great location in Anders \$759,900 CALL JENNIFER 342-7700.

**NEW PRICE** location location! 80 acres 5 mins south of Red Deer, 1893 sq ft Bungalow + loft 3bdrms/3baths. Detached shop, mountain view \$1,399,900

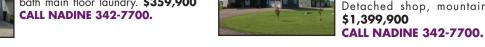
TO \$379,000 CALL NICOLE 342-7700.

CALL JENNIFER 342-7700.

year new home warranty \$549,900 CALL BRAD 342-7700.

Lacombe. **\$484,900 CALL NADINE** 

storey, 4 bdrms, 4 bath Executive home, w/ tons of upgrades & huge yard for all your Toys!



For more info on our listings, check out www.rcrrealestate.com



Cute fully finished home w/3 bdrms on main, 2 full baths, fireplace, large yard & 22x24 detached garage. Perfect place to start **\$259,900 CALL NICOLE 342-7700.** 

**MORRISROE BUNGALOW** 



BRAND NEW 1540 sq ft 3 bdrm/3bathroom 2 storey with room to build garage on extra long 132 ft lot in Blackfalds. \$309,900 CALL JENNIFER AT 342-7700.



IMMEDIATE POSSESSION Fully finished bright open floor plan 3bedroom/2 bath bilevel with sunroom on large lot in Deer Park. \$314,900 **CALL NADINE 342-7700.** 



PERFECT FAMILY HOME Be the 1st to live in this 3 bdrm, 3 bath 2 storey, built by Asset Builders. South facing backyard \$314,900 **CALL NICOLE 342-7700** 



BRAND NEW 4bdrm/3 bath w/ partial basement development, separate entrance plus a 23x23 detached garage. \$329,900 CALL BRAD 342-7700.



**BRAND NEW** 2 bdrm/2 bath bilevel with front attached garage comes with all appliances \$349,900 CALL BRAD 342-7700.



**SYLVAN LAKE** Bungalow backs onto park, updated fully finished 3bdrm/3 bath main floor laundry. \$359,900





REDUCED

REDUCED

REDUCED



#### A6 Friday, July 27, 2018

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# Top remodelling trends of 2018



Come summer, the desire for change tends to make an appearance, and the warm weather is perfect for tackling big projects. If you yearn for a more beautiful yard or would like to enhance your home's exterior, get inspired by these timely trends. Ready to get your hands dirty?

#### Roofing

Need to replace your roof? These days, building material manufacturers have all kinds of durable, great-looking and eco-friendly options to choose from. Among the greenest solutions are steel, cedar, composite (made from recycled tires) and EPDM (a white membrane that counters the urban heat island effect). If you have the right type of structure, you could even set up a green roof.

#### **Driveway paving**

There's no doubt about it: a well maintained yard is a good indicator that the rest of the property is in tiptop shape. Is your driveway looking a bit worse for wear? This summer, have it repaved to restore its lustre and durability. Imitation stone is a trendy choice, but whether you go with concrete, asphalt or paving stones, trust a local paving contractor with the job for guaranteed great results.

#### Windows and doors

Whether made of fibreglass, wood or steel, your front door should also include lots of glass to let in as much natural light as possible. Along the same lines, oversized windows are great for bringing the sun into contemporary interiors. In 2018, the focus is on quality, timelessness and simplicity—think dark frames and clean lines. Visit your local retailers to find the right windows and doors to make your house shine.

#### Deck

The trendiest decks of 2018 feature a combination of materials. Mix and match metal, wood, marble, glass and cement to give your outdoor space a magnificent modern touch. For an atmosphere inspired by Scandinavian lounges, create a cozy seating area with long chairs, booths and lots of cushions.

#### **Exterior cladding**

Redoing your home's cladding involves a significant investment. Choose your material wisely. Siding, for example, is available in vinyl, engineered wood, polymer, fibre cement and stucco, to name just a few, and those options come in a wide variety of colours, sizes and finishes. This year, rustic and natural materials are at the top of the trend list.

#### Landscaping

Over in the garden, structured shrubs and perfectly spaced flowerbeds are making way for a wilder, more natural layout. Want the trendiest landscaping on the block? Plant flowers that feature Pantone's 2018 Color of the Year, Ultra Violet. Furthermore, you could use outdoor lighting to create a magical atmosphere in your yard come sundown. Bright and romantic!

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#### **ONTRACK REALTY** UNIT G, 2085-50<sup>TH</sup> AVE, RED DEER www.coldwellbankerreddeer.ca 343-3344

### coldwell BANKER G **OnTrack Realty**



#### 403.872.3350 Peggy Lane Associate Broker



#### 103, 3501-49 AVE

Check it out!!! Simply One of the Best in Condo Living. 40+ building. 2bdrm, 2bath, loaded with all the bells & whistles from upgraded dark-Walnut engineered hardwood plus Ceramic flooring, gas fireplace and air conditioning!



#### **196 CEDAR SQUARE**

Meticulous 2 Bdrm. Bi-Level complete with a Monster Cave Garage 24 X 30, perfect for the man of the home. Located in the Fine Community of Cottonwood, Blackfalds.

### **CALL PEGGY LANE AT 403-872-3350**







#### PICTURE PERFECT \$39.900 - DELBURNE 4 bdrms, 4 baths, open

concept for living, dining and kitchen, new condition, double lot. exterior entrance for base. Huge 24x30 ga-Marcaret rage, 10 ft. doors, call today! Fully finished!



#### **FIRST CLASS CONDO! BARGAIN \$299,000**

2 spacious bdrms, 2 full baths, open kitchen with island counter, numerous windows, 2 large balconies, fireplace, formal dining, amenities, new condition! (fees: \$487.44/month, includes water/heat)



#### **BRIGHT AS THE MORNING SUN** \$364,900

Bi-level, 3 LRG. Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, Large Country Kitchen, Living Room, Spacious family room with Gas Fireplace & office area, Lower Level Laundry, Large Dbl Garage and shed for toys{14x20} RV Parking; Extra street parking.



#### **CONSTANT INCOME** PRODUCER \$139.000

Bank rate for savings .5%. 3 bed, 4 pc bath, open living room, kitchen & dining, 2 decks, fenced, immediate possession. Income was \$1,000/mo. Bank rate .5% on \$138,000 = \$43.00 per mo, interest



#### ACREAGE \$339.000 -**BLACKFALDS**

Great revenue property, 3 bed, 2 baths, 980 sq. ft. plus additions 1401 sq. ft. Zoned as AG, small business & residential, room for a shop, 3 kms east on 597.



**YOU QUALITY** SERVICE AND A VERY COMPETITIVE COMMISSION RATE



FULLY DEVELOPED

#### **80 DEMPSEY STREET**

This fully developed bi-level features 4 bdrms and 3 baths, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, Irg kitchen with loads of cabinet space and pantry, with large dining area. Basement finished has a large family room, 2 bdrms, 4 pce bath and underslab heat. 24 x26 heated garage with 10' ceiling.

#### **UPPER LEVEL CONDO UNIT** IN SUNNYBROOK!!



#### #1 **0 - 7 STANTON STREET** Immediate possession for this 2 bdrm condo unit. Has a large walk-in closet off

### the master, spacious living room, laminate flooring thru-out, upgraded kitchen cabinets, all appliances included, & in-suite laundry. East facing balcony.

## **PAVEMENT WITH** A PRIVATE SETTING \$529,900 2.73 acres with

SCENIC ACREAGE ON

a 1320 sq ft 3 bdrm 2 bath

upgraded and remodelled bungalow. Has a 24x24 garage and a 40x50 shop. 24 min to RD, 8 min to Bowden, 14 min to Innisfail. Directions: 8 miles East of Bowden on Highway 587.





# How to choose the right paintbrush

Do you have a painting project in mind? Before you get started, make sure you have the right paintbrush for the job. Here's what to consider.

#### **1.The bristles**

Paintbrushes can have either synthetic or natural bristles. The latter are especially resistant to solvents and are thus the better choice for applying oilbased or alkyd paint. If



you plan on using water-based paint — acrylic or latex, for example — opt for a brush with synthetic bristles, which won't expand when wet, to ensure an even application. Synthetic bristles are more durable and easier to clean than natural ones.

#### 2. The shape

Paintbrushes come in different shapes, such as flat, angled and tapered. To make the right

choice, consider the task at hand. For trim and other types of precision work, opt for an angled paintbrush designed for tracing fine lines. To cover larger surfaces, go with a flat-tipped brush, and use a paintbrush with tapered bristles to paint uneven surfaces (pipes, furniture, grills, etc.).

#### 3. The size

As a general rule, the

bigger the surface you intend to paint, the bigger your paintbrush should be. Choose a brush that's at least 10 centimetres (4 inches) wide for painting walls, floors and ceilings. To paint doors, cabinets and wide mouldings, use a brush that's around 7 centimetres (3 inches) wide. Finally, brushes that are 5 centimetres (2 inches) wide or less are perfect for trim and smaller mouldings.

# **OPEN HOUSE**

## **CENTRAL ALBERTA'S OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS**

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 28**

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#### **SATURDAY, JULY 28**

27240 TWP Rd 392 #30612:00 - 2:00 pm.... Asha Chimiuk...... CENTURY 21 ADVANTAGE...... \$724,900....... \$724,900....... Red Deer County 

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 29**

80 Dempsey Street <b>1:30 – 4:00 pm</b> Dale Stuart 88 Andrews Close <b>2:00 – 4:00 pm</b> Doug Wagar		•
114 Rowell Close <b>2:00 – 4:00 pm</b> Ivan Busenius		
2333 Danielle Drive	REALTY EXECUTIVES	<b>348-3339</b> \$139,900 Davenport Place
52 Durand Crescent 10:30 – 12:30 Jay McDouall	CENTURY 21 ADVANTAGE	<b>396-7355</b> \$224,900 Davenport
57 Austin Drive	RE/MAX	<b>350-9227</b> \$814,900 Anders South
33 Selkirk Boulevard 1:00 – 3:00 pm Marina Kooman	RE/MAX	<b>341-0004</b> \$449,900 Sunnybrook
10 Greenway Street <b>1:00 – 3:00 pm</b> Rick Burega	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK	<b>350-6023</b> \$479,900 Garden Heights
19 Voisin Close <b>1:00 – 3:00 pm</b> Gerald Doré	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK	<b>872-4505</b> \$679,900 Vanier East

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 29**

100 Lakeway Blvd #107. <b>2:00 – 4:00 pm</b> Jay McDouall	CENTURY 21 ADVANTAGE	<b>396-7355</b> \$229,900 Sylvan Lake
#208 28126 TWP Rd 411 <b>11:30 – 1:30 pm</b> Mitzi Billard	RE/MAX	<b>396-4005</b> \$329,900 Lacombe County
#152 28126 TWP Rd 411 <b>2:00 – 4:00 pm</b> Mitzi Billard	RE/MAX	<b>396-4005</b> \$650,000 Lacombe County
6 Mackenzie Ranch Way <b>2:00 – 5:00 pm</b> Nita Jensen	RED KEY REALTY	<b>350-9878</b> \$349,900 Lacombe
4603 Stanley Street 1:00 – 3:00 pm Marcella Barthel	RE/MAX	<b>597-5563</b> \$259,900 Blackfalds
203 28342 TWP Rd 384., <b>12:00 – 2:00 pm</b> , Al Sim	RE/MAX	<b>391-1771</b> \$599.900 Red Deer County

## Find your dream house this weekend!

View our complete publication ONLINE at www.yourhouseyourhome.com

#### **OUT OF TOWN**

#### **RED DEER**

**RED DEER** 

#### **OUT OF TOWN**



A10 Friday, July 27, 2018



For details - call or text BOB WING today! (403)391-3583

## Five steps to a successful real estate flip

What's a flip? Buy cheap, renovate and resell for a profit. Are you thinking about embarking on a real estate flip? Whatever you do, don't go into it blindly. Take the time to plan your project and learn about this type of real estate transaction in order to avoid making rookie mistakes. Here are the most important steps to follow to turn your project into a resounding success.

#### 1. Find the perfect property

The first step is to find a suitable property to flip. The challenge is to find a good deal, wherein you acquire a property that might require some major renovations but that has great potential to be resold at a decent price. It is also essential that the property is located in a desirable neighbourhood. In other words, you need to know the market in order to identify what constitutes a good selling price. After all, the purchase price largely determines the achievable profit on resale, which is generally about 10 to 15 per cent. You're going to be looking for the lowest possible prices, so start your search with properties that owners want to sell quickly.

#### 2. Do your calculations

Before you buy, you should evaluate all project expenses, including the costs of purchase (purchase price, inspection, lawyer fees, transfer taxes), possession (mortgage, property taxes, utilities, insurance, snow removal) and selling. Don't assume that you'll be able to sell the property without a real estate agent.

Obviously, you should also evaluate the costs of the renovations. To do this properly, ask a general contractor to visit the property with you. He or she will estimate the work required and the associated costs. However, bear in mind that renovations usually involve a few surprises, so leave some leeway in your budget for unforeseen expenses. Also, be careful not to do too much in the way of renovations; if you want to recover your investment when you sell, don't exceed the potential value of the property. A licensed appraiser and a real estate broker can help you evaluate the resale value of the property once it has been renovated.

#### 3. Find financing

Contact a mortgage broker to determine your borrowing capacity. Do you have the required down payment? Can you get a loan to finance the renovations? Are you eligible for some subsidies? Are you thinking of going into a partnership for this project?

## 4. Ask about current regulations and get insurance

Make sure that the work you want to undertake will be accepted by the municipality concerned. Ask about the necessary permits, and make sure you understand the impact of the flip on your taxes. Insure your investment and check that the professionals with whom you are dealing have all the necessary permits.

## 5. Do as much work as you can, then delegate

Of course, your project will be more profitable if you do as much of the work yourself as possible. However, you must be able to acknowledge your limitations and find competent professionals for tasks requiring special expertise, such as electricity or plumbing.

Real estate flips are demanding and stressful, with the possibility of overloaded credit cards, water supply cut offs and the risk of selling at a loss. Are you mentally prepared for the challenge? If so, dive in!



born condo situated on the 2nd winter right from your back yard! floor facing South. Beautifully Enjoy panoramic lake views in renovated & freshly painted a home that you going to build throughout, is ready to move here! Perfect for outdoor living, in! Squeaky clean building, relaxing and watching sunsets is a pleasure to show. Close over the lake! Lot includes a distance to downtown makes gravel driveway & concrete this a desirable building. 20x24 parking pad - perfect for Elevator and parking space on future garage!

and consists of 60 × 100 × 100 × 100 m and manufacturing area c/w 24' ceilings, (4) 16x16 «sunshine» overhead door c/w electric openers, in floor heat in the shop floor, wash bay, 400 Amp electrical service, metal roof & interior finish. In addition there is an efficience of the come 1000 addition there is an office (aprox. 1800 sq.ft.) separate from the shop, consisting washrooms ( one with shower), Kitchen, furnace/ utility rm, AC. & a multi-purpose storage room

granite counter tops & stylish for details!

#### #49 Spruce Lane Acres

Convenient ACREAGE! location just minutes from Check out this condo in the perfect Red Deer! Beautiful walk out downtown location! 2 bdrms, 2 bungalow on 1 are lot with baths, your own laundry room in-mature trees is a dream! suite, large front entry, walk in closet, Gorgeous landscape and & a west-facing balcony! Upgrades perennials will wow you in the include: AC, under ground parking, summer months! Private patio comes with hot tub and comes sq.ft.) separate from the shop, consisting finishings- perfect for a professional with all the privacy you need. of an open reception area, (3) offices, 2 working at the hospital! Call Today Admire wild life right from your two decks! Safe and family friendly neighbourhood.



bedrooms and 3 bathrooms Call for more details Today!



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# Ask Charles

I want to buy a resale condominium, but I'm worried about rising fees and possible assessments. How can I ensure the condominium is a good one?

Condominiums can be a great housing option, and with some due diligence, you can find one that is well suited to your needs, and a financially sound purchase.

Condominium refers to a type of ownership that includes the individual ownership of a unit and shared ownership of common property with other unit owners. Condominiums can be apartment-style, townhouses, attached, or detached.

Condominium owners typically pay monthly condominium fees to cover their share of expenses for the common property, and some of this payment goes into the condominium corporation's reserve fund.

The reserve fund is used to pay for major capital repairs and replacements. All condominium corporations must have a reserve fund. As a buyer, you want a condominium corporation that has a healthy reserve fund because it reduces the likelihood of a special assessment. Special assessments occur when a condominium corporation has major work to do and there isn't enough money in the reserve fund. The corporation assesses an amount owing to the owner of each unit.

So how can you find out if the corporation you're thinking of buying into is a healthy one? A good place to start is a condo-



minium document review.

Condominium documents relate to the operation of the condominium corporation, which you want to ensure is financially stable and well managed. Condominium documents include but are not limited to:

- current reserve fund study (5 years old or less) and 25-year
- reserve fund plan
- current operating budget
- and fee schedule
- current balance sheet
- registered bylaws

When buying a condominium, you can hire a professional to review your condominium documents. They can provide you with a summary of the documents, and identify areas about which you might have concerns. Reviewing condominium documents can uncover financial difficulties, bylaws you find unacceptable (for example, restrictions as to size, number, or type of pet), upcoming necessary maintenance, or even discussion in Board meet-

ing minutes about water issues.

Even a healthy reserve fund and a review of condominium documents can't guarantee you won't have a special assessment or that your fees won't go up. In fact, you should expect your fees to go up a small amount each year, from factors such as inflation or rising utility costs. However, reviewing the condominium documents will give you a good idea of the health of your condominium, and if it's the right one for you.

"Ask Charles" is a question and answer column by Charles Stevenson. Director of Professional Standards with the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), www. reca.ca. RECA is the independent, non-government agency responsible for the regulation of Alberta's real estate industry. We license, govern, and set the standards of practice for all real estate, mortgage brokerage, and real estate appraisal professionals in Alberta. To submit a question, email askcharles@ reca.ca.

#### A14 Friday, July 27, 2018

Mitzi

Billard

Associate

403.396.4005

mitzibillard@remax.net

real estate central alberta

4440 - 49 ave., red deer

403.343.3020



SUN JULY 29 11

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION! Lovely character home on

a quiet lot in McLauren Beach at Gull Lake!. 2-bed, 2 bath bungalow

with wood fireplace, beautiful yard with mature trees, single attached and double detached garages. \$329,900

#### **17 ALDERWOOD CLOSE, BLACKFALDS**



#### **IDEAL LOCATION** 5 bedroom 3 bath bilevel with attached 22x24 garage. Open concept with 7 appliances, pantry & eat-up bar in kitchen.

Master includes 3 pc ensuite & walk-in closet. Fully finished basement with in-floor heat, 2 bed & 4 pc bath. \$369,900. SELLER MOTIVATEDI

#### #152, 28126 TWP 411

VIEW OF GULL LAKE Mclaurin beach 4 B/R

walkout bungalow; year round living. 2 Garages. Open concept Kitchen

has granite island & maple cabinets. Deck extends width of home facing lake. Bsmt 75% complete. \$650,000



#### STUNNING RUSTIC WALKOUT

4 bed, 3 bath bungalow backing onto pond & trees. Granite hardwood handrubbed maple cabinets.

wood burning F/P, 5pc ensuite in M/B, basement wet bar. So many upgrades!! \$899,900

EN HOUSE SUN, JULY 29 2-4 PM

## Give Mitzi Billard a call to set up a personal viewing of these properties



# How to save money with a professional inspection

You've visited the property a few times; you know a bit about construction and nothing abnormal has caught your eye. The house is practically new, so why waste a few hundred dollars having it inspected?

But consider this scenario: you've just moved into your new home, and a bout of heavy rain goes on for a while. You're shocked to see water dripping through your bedroom ceiling. There was no indication such a problem existed; no stains or traces of mould. Even the roof, which you had inspected from ground level, seemed in perfect condition.

A home inspector might have detected a problem in the attic or roof before you bought the home. And even if he or she hadn't seen anything apparent, the simple fact of having used his services allows you to demonstrate that you took all necessary precautions before buying. In this case, the seller could be held

liable to pay for all the repair work.

By insisting on an inspection that makes the purchase conditional to your satisfaction, you give yourself some flexibility and open the door to negotiations. Are there cracks in the basement foundations? Some windows aren't sealed properly? The heating system is defective? All necessary repair work can be used to negotiate the selling price, especially if they were spotted by a certified inspector and you have his report to prove it.

A professional home inspection is the best way to protect yourself against hidden defects and other surprises that can occur when you least expect them. And in addition to giving you peace of mind, a professional inspection could help you to acquire the home of your dreams for less money. Why pass that up?

#### www.yourhouseyourhome.ca

#### Friday, July 27, 2018 A15



## How to re-caulk your bathtub in five simple steps

Is the caulk around your bathtub crumbling or showing signs of unsightly mould? If so, it's time to re-caulk! While it's always recommended to entrust any plumbing work to a professional, repairing the caulk around your tub is a relatively simple task that you can easily do yourself. Just follow these five foolproof steps.

#### 1. Remove worn-out caulk

With the help of a utility knife, make an incision in the middle of the damaged caulk to make it easier to remove. Next, use a scraper or flat-head screwdriver to scrape the remaining sealant free, if necessary.

#### 2. Clean the surface

Wash the area you just finished scraping with a sponge soaked in white vinegar. Make sure to remove all traces of dirt and mould, and then use



a cloth or rag to wipe down the surface. This last step is particularly important to ensure the new caulk adheres properly.

3. Get your duct tape handy

Border off the area where you'll apply the new caulk with duct tape, much like when you trim a room for painting. It might take a few extra

minutes, but the final result will be much cleaner.

#### 4. Apply the new caulk

Apply the caulk with a caulking gun, ideally in a single stroke while maintaining constant pressure. Next, dip your thumb in soapy water and go over the new caulk to make it nice and watertight.

#### 5. Remove the duct tape

Wait at least 24 hours before removing the duct tape and taking a bath. If the caulk overflowed, carefully cut away the excess with a utility knife.

