YOUR HOUSE YOUR LOOK TO THE STATE OF THE STA

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO CENTRAL ALBERTA HOMES

MARCH 8, 2019

Central Alberta's

OPEN HOUSE
LISTINGS
inside

72 REYNOLDS RD, SYLVAN LAKE

STUNNING NEW HOME!

2 level home with 3 beds and 3 baths. Mix of modern and country style/design! **\$439,900**

Red Deer HOME SHOW



Kevin Durling 403-755-4853



ROYAL LEPAGE
Network Realty

See page 3 for more details

The VALUE of REMODELING A6

Real Estate Council Alberta

ASK CHARLES A12

VIEW OUR E-EDITION ONLINE AT www.yourhouseyourhome.ca



Network Realty Corp. 403-346-8900

3608-50 Ave www.networkrealtycorp.ca





130 acres. Ideal property for various types of industries requring rail service.



Everything is new! 5 bedroom Bungalow in Morrisroe! A must see home!



Superb location on Gaetz Ave. Very high traffic area. Store includes bakery and meat counter. Very long standing profitable business.





206 - 28470 HWY 592 Fabulous updated acreage just minutes to Red Deer on pavement! 4 bdrms, 4 baths with double attached garage

situated on 1.6 acres. **Call Alex to view!**



120 HENDERSON CRES PENHOLD!

less appliances! Call Alex



23 STEWART STREET 4812 56 AVE. INNISFAIL

Location is fabulous for this Over 2100 sq ft fully de-Awesome 3 bdrm fully fin. & fully finished Sunnybrook veloped up & down with 4 Main floor for easy access! updated townhome. Yard is home just steps to the local bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Here is a cute little one bedfully fenced with 2 car parking school and parks. Home Huge Double Detached Ga- room main floor unit, ready to pad. Upgraded flooring & stain- comes with detached double rage. Call Alex! garage!



14 - 5816 65 STREET

JUST LISTED!

move in. Call Alex to view!





features a family room, bedroom & play area & opens onto a deck with back yard fenced and finished! Don't miss this immaculate home!



Fully Finished with Walk Out Basement. Immaculate and upgraded bi-level! 2 Gorgeous open concept kitchen living bdrms (3 up). You will love this splashy dining area. 3 beds up and a 4th on the kitchen with upgraded fixtures and lower level. Master suite is spacious with appliances! Kitchen opens onto a west walk in closet and full bath. Downstairs facing deck (22 x 14) complete with a gazebo and a BBQ canopy. Generous family room with custom bar and ample room for entertaining. Many upgrades! Call Carol for your personal tour.



Family Home Near Schools! Over 2300 Square feet finished! 3 bdrms up, 3 baths.Major upgrades! New Windows throughout - 2018, new rear fence -2018, The furnace, hot water tank and air conditioner new in 2012, shingles 2008, Hardwood flooring and RV parking! Don't miss out on this one!!



JUST \$324,500!

Anders Half Duplex. 3 bdrms, Rosedale close location. Two beds space. Huge master bdrm with his & hers closets. West facing deck off the eating area is 20' x 12'. New fireplace in 2015, New Shingles 2018. Att. single garage Immaculate home



3 baths. Completely finished. up & 2 down with 2 baths, fireplace open concept kitchen & living and fenced yard! Quick access to public transportation. Don't miss this opportunity! \$234,000. Call for your private viewing today!



Doug Wagar 403.304.2747



IMMACULATE! 3 bed, 2 bath duplex. Dbl, fully finished garage. Drive a little, save a lot. \$255,500



WONDERFUL **LOCATION** Fully developed 2 storey, 5 beds, 4 baths! \$425,000



JUST LISTED! Adult (45+) fully dev. bungalow, 3 beds, 3 baths. Double garage! Excellent complex! \$359,900



ACREAGE! On pavement, 5 mins to Red Deer! 1655 sq. ft. fully dev. home. Triple car garage. \$695,000



BOWER BUNGALOW! Double garage! Central air, fireplace, fully developed! \$319,900

ALUATION MARKET 403.304





Stunning 2 storey, overlooks Dodd's Lake. MLS #CA0149555. \$669,900



3 bed home on 3 lots. Low property taxes, close to Red Deer. MLS #CA0145640. \$189,900



Spacious mobile, recently renovated! MLS #CA0151471. \$72,500



Modern mobile with lot. Priced reduced! MLS #CA0148937. \$155,500



Great starter home or revenue property. Recently renovated! MLS #CA0153982. \$120,000

Call Michael at 403.350.5579 | michaelholmes@royallepage.ca



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\$259,900 OR TRADE

- LIBERTY LANDING, GASOLINE ALLEY, RED DEER COUNTY

 Brand new 2 storey townhouse, Latoria Court
 1177 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths
 Modern amenities throughout
 Gorgeous laminet Booring on main floor
 Kitchen feat, modern obinetry, tile bocksplash & island
 Landscaped, partially frened yard, poved alley,
 backing anto walking path/green space
 NO condo fees



\$404,900 OR TRADE

BLACKFALDS

- Fully finished 1393 sq foot bilevel Vaulted ceilings,hardwood, upgraded throughout
- Walk out, fully landscaped
- 5 bedroom 3 bath



\$129,900 OR TRADE

RED DEER

- Great opportunity for first time buyer or investor
- Updated in recent years
- 2 hed 1 bath
- Exterior updated with siding and shingles and extra attic insulation
- Stainless appliances



\$449,900 OR TRADE

- Beautiful 1.5 storey one owner home 1882 sq. f., 3 bedrooms, 4 baths
- Open concept main floor with main flr den
- 2 massive bedrooms on upper floor with their own bathrooms
- A/C, wine cellar, media room, lots of storage On quiet close, fully fenced & landscaped



TEXT CODE TO 555-0000 FOR PHOTOS & DETAILS



Kevin Durling Agent



Jamie Berg Deanna Zunti Agent Agent



Debby Wells Office Administrator

ROYAL LEPAGE Network Realty 403-755-4853

\$239,900 OR TRADE

SYLVAN LAKE

- Brand new 3 bed 3 bath Modern finishing throughout
- Gorgeous laminate flooring in main level Kitchen features dark stained cabinetry ,
- tile backsplash & island
- Landscapes , partially fenced yard, paved alley

\$439,900 OR TRADE

SYLVAN LAKE

- Stunning new 2 storey, close to parks & walking paths
- Mix of modern & country style & design Gorgeous veranda with side door leading to large foyer
- Open concept floor plan with sliding glass patio door to west facing back yard



YOUR HOUSE YOUR

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO CENTRAL ALBERTA REAL ESTATE

To advertise call Stephanie at 403-309-5451





OPEN



YOUR HOUSE YOUR

Make sure to check out the Open House Directory in the centre of the magazine and go see your new home!

Call Stephanie at 403-309-5451

Use renovations to create healthier homes

Home renovation projects are done for several different reasons, whether to update styles, repair damaged or broken items or to achieve more living space. More than ever before, homeowners are choosing improvement projects geared toward making their homes healthier.

Establishing a healthy home means different things to different people. For example, to an environmentalist, a healthy home may incorporate eco-friendly or green products. To those with young children or mobility-impaired seniors, a healthy home may be one free from potential hazards. Others may view a healthy home as one that alleviates allergies.

The World Health Organizations says inadequate housing conditions, such as poor ventilation, radon, urban pollution, and moisture issues, can contribute to many preventable diseases and injuries — especially respiratory problems, nervous system disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks indoor air quality as a top five environmental risk to public health. EPA studies have found that indoor air pollution levels were roughly two to five times greater than outdoor pollution levels.

People interested in making their homes healthier can embrace these renovations and lifestyle changes.

- **Be aware of furniture materials.** Toxic PBDEs, which are chemicals used as flame retardants on furniture fabrics produced prior to 2006, can send toxins into the air. Some manufacturers may still use these flame retardants in new forms, but with similar risks. Before purchasing furniture, ask if a product is treated, and select naturally fire-resistant materials like wool and cotton.
- **Lighten up.** Lighting is often underappreciated but can have a dramatic impact on whether a home feels inviting, warm and/or uplifting. Experiment with different types of bulbs and lighting





fixtures to turn drab and dreary environments into brighter places. Lighting may improve mood and productivity.

- Let the sun shine in. Modify window treatments to let more sunlight into the house. There is evidence that the sun, particularly UV light, is a potent bactericide. The Sunlight Institute advises that there's no harm in letting natural sunlight do its work, as bacteria within eight feet of low-intensity UV light can be killed in 10 minutes.
- Inspect and service wood-burning appliances. A study published in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology has found regular inhalation of wood smoke limits immune activity and function, and anyone who burns wood indoors should be aware of these potential health risks. Ensuring proper ventilation of smoke and routinely cleaning the chimney can help cut down on particulate matter.
- Turn to nontoxic cleaning products, pesticides and insecticides. Always opt for nontoxic, natural products when cleaning in and around the house.
- **Declutter the home.** A cluttered, hectic space can affect emotions and mental state, never mind attracting dust and making a home harder to clean. Spending time in spaces that do not elicit stressful feelings is healthier and can help residents to rest and recharge.

Making a home healthier can be on the list of this year's renovation plans.





Gerald Doré 403.872.4505 geralddore.ca

RED DEER HOME SHOW ROYAL LEPAGE
Network Realty
Corp.
403-346-8900

Janice Mercer 403.598.3338 ijmercer.ca



Stop by and visit us at booth 174 and see what's happening in the Real Estate Market!



Chelsie Anderson to speak at Home Show

Regular CBC Radio "The Home Stretch" contributor, Chelsie understands gardens from a lifetime of hands-on experience. She has been the owner and operator of her gardening business "Garden SOILutions" for over a decade where she passionately tends to existing gardens and installs new ones with inspiration. In addition to her CBC appearances, Chelsie is frequently in the media; on CTV News, Global News, and gets many a mention in the Calgary Herald. She also sells red wiggler worms and their poop, known as castings, to gardeners who love the soil as much as she does. Beautiful plants start from the ground up.

REMAX real estate central alberta

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The value of remodeling

Each year, Remodeling magazine publishes its "Cost vs. Value" report to give homeowners a greater understanding of how much popular home projects will cost across the nation, as well as which renovations will offer the greatest return on investment. According to their research, these projects improved in value between 2017 and 2018 and can be smart choices for homeowners looking to add popular features to their properties. Below are the popular projects and the average cost of the renovations.

- Midrange bathroom addition: \$44,717
- · Midrange bathroom remodel: \$19,134
- Midrange deck addition (wood): \$10,950
- Midrange entry door replacement (steel): \$1,471



- Upscale garage door replacement: \$3,470
- Midrange manufactured stone veneer: \$8,221
- Midrange minor kitchen remodel: \$21,198
- Midrange siding replacement: \$15,072
- Midrange universal design bathroom: \$16,393
- Upscale window replacement (vinyl): \$15,955



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#36 369 INGLEWOOD DRIVE \$244,900







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Did you know?

Investing in a home renovation project not only requires money, but also time and patience. While contractors, architects and designers can estimate how long a project may take, it is impossible to anticipate all of the scenarios that can affect that estimated timeline. Information from the real estate firm Keller Williams indicates an average kitchen remodel involving installation of new countertops, cabinets, appliances, and floors can take three

to six months. But if ductwork, plumbing or wiring must be addressed, the job may take longer. A midline bathroom remodel may take two to three months. Adding a room to a house can take a month or two. The home improvement resource Renovation Junkies offers similar estimates, with the average home renovation taking between four and eight months. Homeowners need to consider time when planning their home projects.



A8 Friday, March 8, 2019 www.yourhouseyourhome.ca





8o Kentwood Drive

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Fully developed, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, Vaulted ceilings, fully fenced in a great area!

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27 Dolan Close

OPEN HOUSE: Friday March 8h

Friday, March 8h 4:00 - 6:00 pm

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Kristin Freundl

REALTOR®
Coldwell Banker OnTrack Realty

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OPEN HOUSE

CENTRAL ALBERTA'S OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 RED DEER

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

RED DEER

80 Kentwood Drive 1:00 - 3:00 pm Kristin Freund
187 Lougheed Close1:00 - 3:00 pm \$419,900 Lancaster Green
56 Valentine Crescent 2:00 - 4:00 pm Kim FoxREMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 506-7552 \$685,000 Vanier Woods
#47 939 Ramage Cres 1:00 - 3:00 pm Debra KerrREMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 597-9134 \$315,000 Rosedale Meadows
185 Jennings Crescent 1:00 - 3:00 pm 11m Maley REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 550-3533 \$239,500 Johnstone Park
31 Sage Link
#36 73 Austin Drive1:00 - 3:00 pm Gerald Doré ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK REALTY 872-4505 \$574,900 Anders on the Lake
23 Jenner Crescent1:00 - 3:00 pmRick BuregaROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK REALTY 350-6023\$409,900Johnstone Crossing
4610 47th Avenue 2:00 - 4:00 pm Tracy ThodyROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK REALTY 346-8900\$175,000 \$100.000000000000000000000000
36 Neal Close 1:00 - 3:00 pm Ed Katchur
27 Irving Crescent2:00 - 4:00 pmMitzi BillardREMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 396-4005 \$555,000 Inglewood
#731 700 Ramage Close 2:00 - 4:00 pm Mitzi BillardREMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 396-4005 \$429,900 Rosedale Meadows
62 Kidd Close 2:00 - 4:00 pm Milena Toncheva CENTURY 21 ADVANTAGE 304-5265 \$298,000 Kentwood

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

OUT OF TOWN

59 Palmer Circle1:00 - 3:00 pm	Roxann Klepper	REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL AL	BERTA 872-4546	\$288,900	Blackfalds
20 Heron Court2:00 - 4:00 pm	Doug Wagar	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK RE	ALTY 346-8900	\$255,500	Penhold
120 Henderson Cres 2:00 - 4:00 pm	Alex Wilkinson	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK RE	ALTY 318-3627	\$239,900	Penhold
45 Piper Close2:00 - 4:00 pm	John Cloke	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK RE	ALTY 741-4222	\$293,900	Blackfalds
30 Aurora Heights Rlvd 2:00 - 4:00 nm	Steve Cormack	ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK RE	ALTY 391-1672	\$329 900	Rlackfalds

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

RED DEER

24 Lundberg Crescent 1:00 - 5:00 pm Nadine Marchand RCR ROYAL CARPET REALTY 358-0546 \$559,00 Laredo
524 Wedgewood Ave 12:00 -3:00 pm Ivan Busenius REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 350-8102 \$99,900 Waskasoo Estates
98 Drummond Close 1:00 - 3:00 pm Debra Kerr REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 597-9134 \$274,900 Davenport
14-6815 65 Street2:00 - 4:00 pm \$119,000 ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK REALTY 318-3627 \$119,000 Red Deer
112 Daniel Crescent 1:00 - 3:00 pm \$337,500 Perpark
#418 4805 45 Street 1:00 - 3:00 pm Gerald Doré ROYAL LEPAGE NETWORK REALTY 872-4505 \$419,900 Red Deer
#804 339 Viscount Drive 2:00 - 4:00 pm Mitzi Billard
167 Wiley Crescent2:00 - 4:00 pm \$328,000 REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 396-4005 \$328,000 Westlake
136 Lamont Close 1:00 - 3:00 pm Rarb McIntyre REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALRERTA 350-0375 \$374 900 Lancaster

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

OUT OF TOWN

22 Petticoat Lane1:00 - 3:00 pmRoxann Klepper REMAX REAL ESTATE CENTRAL ALBERTA 872-4546 \$350,000 Lacombe
#72 26540 Hwy 112:00 - 4:00 pmKim Lindstrand MAXWELL REAL ESTATE SOLUTIONS 318-7178 \$599,900 Red Deer County
76 Chinook Street2:00 - 4:00 pmJohn Cloke
99 Mitchell Crescent 1:00 - 3:00 pm Danielle Perry CENTURY 21 ADVANTAGE 505-9596 \$361,900 Blackfalds



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Red Deer Office

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56 COSGROVE CLOSE FULLY FINISHED, ADULT BUNGALOW: CLEARVIEW A 2 + 1 bedroom, 2 bath, end unit in clean condition that features a nat. gas fireplace and vaulted ceilings in the living room, oak kitchen, finished basement, garage, and a covered deck with a view of the park!



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MILENA TONCHEVA 403-304-5265 Покупаете или продаете недвижимость?

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62 KIDD CLOSE Move-in Ready on a Quiet Close Fully finished in immaculate condition, offering 4 beds and 2 baths, fenced yard and a large lot.

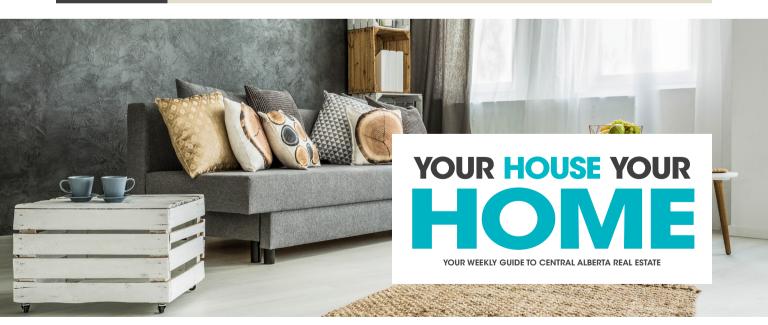
OPEN HOUSE: SAT 2-4 PM



6834 59 AVENUE #818 This Affordable and Fully Renovated Home has much to offer for the price. 2 bed + a den, large bathroom and 2 sheds. Impressive renos, Great Price!



56 LISTER CRESCENT Fully Developeed Bungalow in Impressive Condition and all the major renovations are complete! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and 24x24 insulated garage.



CALL 403-314-4357 OR EMAIL sales@yourhouseyourhome.ca FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR ADS.

www.yourhouseyourhome.ca Friday, March 8, 2019 A11



Many homeowners wish they had more storage space, and kitchens are one area where people seemingly can always use more storage.

Despite a desire for more kitchen space, until recently, kitchen pantries fell out of favor. Builders and architects may have thought that close proximity to supermarkets as well as multi-use cabinets in kitchens would offset the need for pantries. But according to a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders, a kitchen pantry is the most desirable kitchen feature for buyers in the market for a new home.

According to a 2016 survey from ReportLinker, 98 percent of Americans say cooking at home is their preferred way to prepare a meal. And despite the wide array of restaurants, prepared meals and fast food options nearby, more than one-third of people cook at home daily, with nearly 50 percent cooking between three and six days a week.

In order to accommodate for spending more time in the kitchen, homeowners are directing additional attention to kitchen preparation and storage features. In fact, one recent trend in kitchen renovations is creating custom-designed pantries.

Locate the appropriate space

Ideally, pantries should be in or adjacent to the kitchen. But not every home layout allows for this setup. Some homeowners need to move storage pantries into the garage, the basement or a mud/laundry room.

Various factors should be considered before placing a pantry outside a kitchen. What is the climate? Will food spoil? Is there a possibility that vermin or insects can infiltrate the room and access food? These factors will dictate whether to have closed cabinets, air-tight bins or open shelves or if other modifications must be made to the room prior to building.

Choose the type of pantry

Accessibility is essential in a pantry. Everything should be easily reached and grabbed as needed without having to move too many things. Ideally, foods should be arranged in a single layer so that all items can be viewed at a glance. Shelves of various depths and heights can accommodate items of different sizes. Adjustable shelves are ideal because they can be modified as foods change. Sliding drawers can improve reach in cabinets.

In smaller spaces, French door-style reach-in cabinets are convenient and flexible. In complete kitchen remodels or new constructions, walk-in pantries offer the most space and flexibility.

Must-have features

Pantries serve different functions in different homes. For the bulk shopper, a pantry with plenty of room for large items will be needed.

Lighting can be beneficial in all pantries. Lights can improve visibility when trying to locate items. Others prefer an outlet for charging hand-held vacuums or other small appliances. Counter space in the pantry enables homeowners to unload groceries directly onto pantry shelves.

For pantries located outside of the kitchen, builtin freezers can maximize storage possibilities, especially for those who freeze-and-eat after bulk shopping ventures.

Pantries are popular features that homeowners can customize depending on their storage needs and the amount of time they spend in their kitchens.



I'm selling my home, and the potential buyers also want to use my real estate professional to represent them. Is that allowed?

Yes, that's allowed. The situation you're referring to is called transaction brokerage. Transaction brokerage is a service option when your real estate professional represents a buyer client interested in purchasing the property in which you are the seller client. The reverse is also true – transaction brokerage is a service option when you're interested in buying a property and the property's seller is also represented by your real estate professional.

When a real estate professional works on behalf of only one client in a transaction – the buyer or the seller – they have legal responsibilities, which include:

- undivided loyalty to their client
- acting in their client's best interest at all times
- the duty to avoid conflicts of interest
- the duty to disclose conflicts of interest when they arrive

Transaction brokerage changes the services your real estate professional is able to provide to you and to the other party in the transaction. A real estate professional who is working with both the buyer and the seller in a transaction cannot fulfill all of their legal responsibilities because there is a conflict between the best interests of the buyer and those of the seller. The buyer wants to pay as little as possible for the property, while the seller wants to sell their property for the highest possible price. It is impossible for a real estate professional to advocate for and represent the best interests of a buyer client

AND seller client in the same transaction.

This is when and why transaction brokerage becomes an option. In transaction brokerage, the real estate professional will provide facilitation services to you and the other party. These services include:

- helping the buyer and seller negotiate an agreement
- giving the buyer and seller property statistics and information, including comparative information from listing services and local databases
- providing and preparing agreements of purchase and sale, and other relevant documents according to the buyer and seller's instructions

A transaction facilitator has to treat both parties in an even-handed, objective, and impartial manner. They must remain neutral, not advocate for either you or the buyer, and they cannot provide confidential advice.

Before a real estate professional proceeds with transaction brokerage, both the buyer and the seller need to provide their informed consent by signing an Agreement to Represent both Buyer and Seller. Informed consent means each client understands the facts, implications, and future consequences of providing their consent. You do not have to consent to transaction brokerage. If you don't consent to it, or the other party doesn't, there are other options available to you such as seeking representation from a different real estate professional.

"Ask Charles" is a monthly 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.

TOP TEN THINGS

your Realtors® will do for you in March!

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#8. We will bring a sign for your lawn, take amazing pictures, measure & list your property on realtor.ca®

#7. We will advertise your home on multiple websites, social media platforms, create a custom full color brochure & listing information sheets to hand out to potential buyers + will schedule the first Open House.

#6. We will carefully discuss with you your Wants/Needs list, budget, & potential neighborhoods for your next home. We will explain the construction process if you are interested in a new build & what to expect when we start viewing potential properties.

#5. We will take you to see houses within your budget & preferred neighbourhoods. We will answer any potential questions you may have about any homes we see...& if we don't have the answer immediately, we find out asap.

#4. We will continually keep you updated on feedback from showings on your home, market changes for your purchase or for your sale & potential competition. We will discuss any unexpected costs that may arise + keep you CALM and have FUN!

#3. We will bring you an offer & help you negotiate the best deal for you!

#2. We will provide you with quality referrals for lawyers, property inspectors, mortgage brokers & continue to guide you through the process, answering any questions that you may have.

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Royal Carpet Realty Ltd. 403.342.7700 Nicole Dushanek Associate, Nadine Marchand Associate & Brad Granlund Broker **A14** Friday, March 8, 2019 www.yourhouseyourhome.ca

Must-haves

for an amazing kitchen remodel

Kitchen remodels are among the most popular home renovation projects, whether they consist of swapping out cabinet hardware or doing major demolition.

Due to the sheer amount of time families spend in the kitchen, not to mention the number of tasks performed in this space, it is easy to see why Remodeling maaazine consistently ranks kitchen renovations as projects that will enable homeowners to recoup a high percentage of their investments. In the magazine's 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report, midrange major kitchen remodels costing an average of \$63,829 recouped 59 percent of that investment.

When investing in a kitchen project, it is important to incorporate items that are coveted.

- Deep, double sinks: Having a double sink enables you to soak dishes in one side and then wash on the other. It also makes it easy to wash and prep produce for meals.
- Kitchen island and bar stools: Even though many meals are enjoyed around the table, there's something to be said for the convenience of a kitchen island and some well-placed bar stools for quick breakfasts or snacks.
- Smart kitchen storage:



Work with a contractor to include storage solutions built into cabinetry and the pantry. Slideout shelving, nooks for a paper towel roll and custom-designed areas to store stand mixers and other necessities can make kitchens more functional.

- Outdoor access: If possible, design a kitchen so it is easy to access the backyard via sliding doors. This can make outdoor entertaining or even coffee on the deck much easier.
- Under-cabinet lighting: Fixtures installed under cabinets provide both ambient lighting and task lighting. Such lighting makes it easier to see what you're working on as well, as even well-

placed overhead lighting can

fail to illuminate dark corners and spots on the counters.

- Convenient warming drawer: This appliance provides backup to the oven. It's a slide-out drawer that can keep prepared foods out of the way and warm until they are ready to be served. This is particularly handy for holidays and other entertaining.
- **Beverage station:** Designate one area of the kitchen to beverages, such as coffee and tea. Or make the area an informal bar. This can limit traffic in the kitchen to a single area.

Kitchen remodels are exciting to envision, and several choices can make these high-traffic spaces even more coveted.

Laundry room renovation ideas



To former apartment dwellers or those who have never enjoyed the benefit of a dedicated laundry area, even the smallest washer and dryer space can seem like a luxury.

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound. However, disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits. Depending on the needs and preferences of each homeowner, laundry room designs can be customized for convenience.

Employ vertical space

Floor space may be at a premium in a laundry room, especially for those who want to devote as much space as possible to bulk-size washer and dryer units. Therefore, utilizing wall space is key. Use shelving, wire racks, hooks, and other organizational tools to store items on the wall. Shelves can be tucked into just about any space, and there are different options that can fit into corners or shallow areas. These are a great option for keeping detergent or other laundry essentials nearby.

Clean designs reduce clutter

Simple, clean designs can be an asset in a laundry room. If budget and space permits, cabinetry built into the design will help keep items out of sight in the laundry room. Cabinets hung directly above the appliances can store detergent, bleach and fabric softener. Use cabinets elsewhere in the room as catch-alls for cleaning supplies used in various other rooms around the house.

Incorporate a sink in the design

Some older laundry room setups have a slop

sink to drain discharged water from the washing machine. However, newer homes may have plumbing installed directly through the floor or walls. It is still a worthwhile idea to have a sink in the laundry room for rinsing out stains, handwashing items and having a go-to sink for messier cleanup.

Utilize a tension rod

A rod installed between two cabinets or across a narrow width of space in the laundry room is a handy spot to hang shirts or pants to prevent wrinkling. Repurposing a ladder and suspending it from the ceiling also creates a spot to hang clothes.

Consider laundry room flooring

It's important to select flooring materials that will not be damaged by contact with moisture or spills. Vinyl, tile and some composite products often make good laundry room floor materials. Resilient flooring that mimics the look of hardwood may add a classy touch, and give the appearance of wood without having to worry about damage. To alleviate fatigue while spending long moments in the laundry room, invest in a memory foam mat that can be placed underfoot.

Keep lighting in mind

Lighting can be important in the laundry room. Rely on task lighting, under-cabinet strip lighting and overhead lights as needed for efficiency.

Laundry room design can maximize the space available and make it more convenient to launder and sort clothes.



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