

Working and Living in Durham

Darlene Breault



Maximize Storage in Seemingly Modest Spaces

You likely have high hopes for your home, regardless of size—especially for its capacity to hold everything you own. It may feel like all your household problems would be solved if only you had another cabinet, closet, or built-in. Even if you constantly yearn for bigger, sometimes all you really need is better.

This is where you get to stretch your creativity instead of your square footage by making what's already in place feel new and improved. There are countless tricks to make the most of your home's storage potential. Start by editing your current belongings to ensure what remains is truly useful or meaningful to you.

Kitchen Magician. There is an organizing gadget for every cabinet and drawer, so there is no need to splurge on custom storage. Space savers include everything from spice racks and extra shelving, to cup hooks and utensil trays. Start with a few of these little helpers to find out what works best for you. Decorative items such as bread tins and fruit bowls make for a pretty and practical presentation on your countertops. Select a uniform color for a more cohesive look.

Bathroom Savvy. Pedestal sinks may be aesthetically pleasing, but they leave a lot to be desired in the storage department. Unfortunately, a medicine cabinet will only get you so far. Consider utility carts that create easy access to your toiletries. Or, you might add a narrow ledge along the wall for glass jars filled with cotton balls and Q-tips. A small trunk can be used to hold towels and rolls of toilet tissue.

Family Friendly. A family room or den has the potential to get messy in no time. Invest in multipurpose pieces, such as a coffee table with several levels and drawers for your remotes, whenever possible. Storage ottomans provide extra seating and surface space. Employ a contemporary media cabinet that is compact and ideal for television and stereo equipment.

Bedroom Stretch. If a spacious closet isn't part of your daily reality, there are other alternatives. For instance, a coat rack or hall tree works wonders in a bedroom without taking up too much floor space. The same can be said for decorative hooks that hold purses, hats, and jewelry. Wall-mounted magazine racks can be used to stash your reading materials. Occasional tables, stools, and light-weight chairs are easy to move around to suit your evolving needs.

A Warm Welcome. Wherever you enter your home, whether through a side door, main entrance, or the garage, it's essential to have a convenient and easy-to-find place to drop your belongings. If your hallway is too tight for the average bench, opt for a slim console table instead; top it with a tray to hold keys, mail, and other essentials, and tuck some baskets beneath for scarves and shoes.

Back to Basics. Invest in key pieces that will stand the test of time, such as sturdy shelving, wicker baskets, decorative trays, storage trunks, and more. Not only will they house stacks of magazines and surplus office supplies, they can be switched from one spot to another at a moment's notice. Over-the-door organizers are another great option.

A New Purpose. Think outside of the box and utilize utilitarian items like wine crates and tomato paste cans; these items corral clutter while adding character to your rooms. Think about using a treasured coffee mug from your travels to hold makeup brushes. Consider employing a cookie tin to stash receipts on your desk or a trifle bowl to hold soaps and lotions in a powder room.

Fool the Eye. Try to achieve the right balance between open and closed storage. Too many visible items read as clutter, even when they are neat and tidy. Give the impression of more space by grouping like-items together. For instance, a tiered food stand can hold towels and toiletries on your tub deck—just be sure to fill it with plates that can't break.

No matter the size of your home, you don't have to gain actual space to live large. An organized home gives the illusion of more room while making it easier to find everything in a pinch.

Source: www.yourhomeandlifestyle.com



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Contact Darlene @ 905-723-5944 or Darlene@ListedByDarlene.ca



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Market Statistics –

- August 2, 2013 -- Greater Toronto Area REALTORS® reported 8,544 residential sales through the Toronto MLS system in July 2013. Total sales were up by 16% compared to July 2012.
- "We are forecasting continued average price growth for the remainder of 2013 and through 2014 as well. Months of inventory for low-rise homes remains near record lows, suggesting that sellers' market conditions will remain in place in the second half of 2013. An increase in listings in 2014 would lead to more balanced market conditions and a slower pace of price growth next year, albeit still above the rate of inflation," said Jason Mercer, TREB's Senior Manager of Market Analysis.

Summary of Existing Home Transactions in Durham Region

	New Listings	Active Listings	Avg. Sold Price	Avg. Days on Market
Durham Region	1,418	1,699	98%	24
Ajax	250	239	99%	20
Brock	34	126	94%	74
Clarington	216	273	99%	21
Oshawa	357	321	98%	21
Pickering	192	213	98%	25
Scugog	54	111	97%	50
Uxbridge	50	146	96%	35
Whitby	265	270	98%	24

Full Market Watch Report is available at www.ListedByDarlene.ca

Community Events

Peterborough Musicfest

When: August 14, 2013, 8-10pm
Where: Del Cray Park, George Street,

Reuse Days

When: August 17, 2013, 9am -1pm
Where: Waste Management Centre, 4600 Garrard Road

Victorian Tea in the Garden

When: August 22, 2013, 11:30am-1:30pm
Where: Oshawa Community Museum, 1450 Simcoe Street S

Farmer's Market

When: August 23, 2013 8:30am-4Pm
Where: Oshawa Centre - South East Parking Lot

North Oshawa Farmers' Market

When: August 24, 2013, 8am-1pm
Location: Legends Centre Parking Lot, 1661 Harmony Road North



Sudoku

Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9 .

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		4	7					3
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			5			3	9	

For solution visit www.ListedByDarlene.ca



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