

# **Tips for the Perfect Winter Open House**

During the winter months, it may be hard to ready your home for an open house, but these tips can help buyers see past the snow and dream big.

- 1. Access to your front door must be easy. Clear all snow and ice from the driveway, front walk, porch and any paths around the house and backyard.
- 2. Decide how to manage coats and boots so as not to distract from your entryway's first impression. Put out a freshly washed or new rug and keep a spare tucked away, as a backup.
- 3. Fill your home with bright and warm light, creating a cozy contrast to the cold outside.
- 4. Find the perfect temperature. Keep in mind the door is going to open and close throughout the day.

- 5. Showcase summer photos. If you have a photo of your backyard in full bloom, blow up a copy and display it by the backdoor.
- 6. Create a welcoming and relaxing first impression with light aromas. Brew coffee, warm a pie in the oven or light a mildscented candle. The rule is to keep fragrances very light to not overwhelm scent-sensitive buyers.

For full article go to www.rlpnetwork.com



# Is Your Entryway Winter-Ready?

Winter boots, coats, hats and mittens can create chaos when you first walk through the door, but with the right design plan, this area can be clutter-free. Not only will the space look tidy, you will save time and reduce stress when everything is dry and at your fingertips.

### Less Water Inside Starts Outside:

Leave a rough mat outside to brush off snow and another mat inside where boots can dry.

# **Air Circulation:**

While it's tempting to create storage with doors to hide bulky coats, you need air flow to dry garments and boots. Hooks are much more effective than cramming coats into a closet.

# Well-designed and Sturdy Hardware:

Heavy coats that stay up the first time require a good hook. Since hooks are relatively inexpensive, don't worry about saving a few dollars.

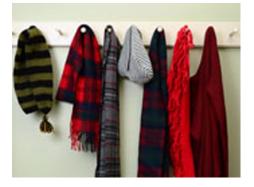
### A Place for Everything:

No matter the size of your space, everything should fit neatly. If you have children in your family, assign each person a space. Extra winter gear can be passed along or donated.

### **Protect Your Floors:**

It's inevitable that even the best mat will leak or overflow. If you are putting in new flooring, you might want to consider waterproof materials such as tiles. Another option is to use a large rug that covers most of the space and fits nicely under the mat.

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# Home Sales Off To a Strong Start in 2019

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) announced 525 homes\* were sold in January, up 17.4% over January 2018. The number of home resales was higher than the 10-year average, with the second highest number of units sold in January since 2010. "We're starting to observe signs of movement towards more balance in the marketplace, based on the sales-to-new listings ratio," said 2019 LSTAR President. "In January, the ratio was 60.9% across LSTAR's jurisdiction. The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) says a ratio between 40% and 60% is generally consistent with a balanced market." Bucking the trend was St. Thomas, who saw a sales-to-new listing ratio of 80.3% in January, which CREA says represents conditions in the marketplace that favour sellers. St. Thomas also achieved a new high in



the last 10 years with its average home sales price.

Year-to-date	January 2019	January 2018
Sales Activity	525	17.4
Dollar Volume	\$201,490,108	34.0
New Listings	862	36.8
Active Listings	1,175	12.2
Sales to New Listings Ratio	60.9	71.0
Months of Inventory	2.2	2.3
Average Price	\$383,791	14.1

Economic Impacts of MLS® System Home Sales and Purchases in Canada and the Provinces, Altus Group Consulting, 2013.

#### Print Your Own Valentine Cards Museum London February 10th - 10 a.m. nlondon.ca/Events/Print-Your-Own-Valentine-cards-at-Museum-London

Women's Rivalry Series - Team Canada vs. Team U.S.A. **Budweiser Gardens** February 12th -Team-Canada-vs-Team-USA

#### Maggie and Pierre

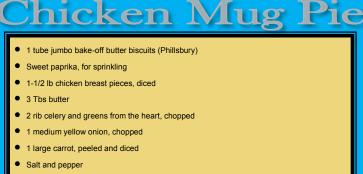
The Grand Theatre February 12th to February 23rd I-Pierre-at-The-Grand-Theatre

#### Out on the Town Tour 2019

London Music Hall February 13th - 7 p.m. nts/Aaron-Pritchett-with-Kira-Isabella-and-David-James

#### The Hunchback of Notre Dame February 14th to 24th

Palace Theatre ww.londontourism.ca/Events/The-Hunchback-of-Notre-Dame



- 2 tsp poultry seasoning
- 3 Tbs all-purpose flour
- 1 c shredded potatoes, ready to cook hash browns

1 pint half-and-half or cream

- . 1 guart chicken stock
- 1/4 tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 c frozen green peas



# London & Area Events

Little Big Town **Budweiser Gardens** February 14th - 7:30 p.m. ownlondon.ca/Events/Little-Big-Town-at-Budweiser-Gardens

Type London CMA (includes St. Thomas & Surrounding Area)

City of London

London North

London East

London South

Middlesex County

Elgin County

St. Thomas

Strathroy

#### Supersized Games! London Children's Museum

February 17th to 19th

#### Brett Kissel

London Music Hall February 18th - 7:30 p.m.

#### Family Day at Eldon House

February 18th - 1 pm. to 4 p.m. vents/Family-Day-at-Eldon-House

#### **Family Day Snowshoe**

-amilu February 19th - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven according to package directions and arrange 1 biscuits on cookie sheet. You will have 4 extra biscuits. Save them for ham and cheese or egg and cheese breakfast sandwiches the next morning. Sprinkle biscuits with a little paprika and bake for 10 to 12 minutes
- In a medium pot over medium to medium high heat, cook 2. chicken in butter 2 minutes then add veggies and season with salt and pepper and poultry seasoning. Cook 5 minutes more, add flour cook another minute. Add potatoes, then whisk in halfand-half or cream and chicken stock. Add nutmeg. Bring soup to a boil by raising heat, then turn heat back to simmer and cook soup another 10 minutes. Adjust seasonings. Add peas. Stir in to warm them through a minute.
- Serve mugs of soup with biscuits on top to cap the mug: chicken 3. mug pies!

The vibrant colours and tastes of this recipe are sure to brighten your dinner table. If there is any other way I can help brighten or simplify your life, please let me know. I'm happy to assist you, and those you refer to me, any way I can.

February 4, 2019 - London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®

January 2018

174

18.2

18.8

24.5

12.1

44.1

0.0

-2.7

-2.6

**Breakdown of January Residential Sales** January 2019

525

338

101

117

120

49

19

36

38