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 mild-scented candle. The rule is to keep fragrances very light to not overwhelm scent-sensitive buyers.

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year-to-date</th>
<th>January 2019</th>
<th>January 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales Activity</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>17.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollar Volume</td>
<td>$201,490,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Listings</td>
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<td>Active Listings</td>
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<td>Sales to New Listings Ratio</td>
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<td>Months of Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Price</td>
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</tbody>
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London & Area Events

Print Your Own Valentine Cards

London Museum
February 10th - 10 a.m.

Women’s Rivalry Series - Team Canada vs. Team U.S.A.

Budweiser Gardens
February 12th
https://www.londontourism.ca/Events/Womens-Rivalry-Series-Team-Canada-vs-Team-USA

Maggie and Pierre

The Grand Theatre
February 12th to February 23rd
http://www.downtownlondon.ca/Events/Maggie-and-Pierre-at-The-Grand-Theatre

Out on the Town Tour 2019

London Music Hall
February 13th - 7 p.m.
https://www.londontourism.ca/Events/Aaron-Pritchett-with-Kira-Isabell-and-David-James

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

February 14th to 24th
Palace Theatre
https://www.londontourism.ca/Events/The-Hunchback-of-Notre-Dame

Little Big Town

Budweiser Gardens
February 14th - 7:30 p.m.
http://www.downtownlondon.ca/Events/Little-Big-Town-at-Budweiser-Gardens

Supersized Games!

London Children’s Museum
February 17th to 19th
https://www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca/calendar/events/family-day-weekend-supersized-games

Brett Kissel

London Music Hall
February 18th - 7:30 p.m.
https://londonmusichall.com/events/brett-kissel/

Family Day at Eldon House

February 18th - 1 pm. to 4 p.m.
https://www.londontourism.ca/Events/Family-Day-at-Eldon-House

Family Day Snowshoe

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

Directions:

1. Preheat oven according to package directions and arrange 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

2. In a medium pot over medium to medium high heat, cook 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 half-and-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.

3. Serve mugs of soup with biscuits on top to cap the mug: chicken 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.