

home *and* COMMUNITY

community news, home & garden tips and more, *brought to you by John Smith*

don't miss...

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN GORE PARK TREE LIGHTING FESTIVITIES

A partnership between the City of Hamilton, CHML/Y108 and the Downtown Hamilton BIA, Christmas in Gore Park starting Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.
www.hamilton.ca



The perfect guest room this holiday season

Bedding - Buy cotton or linen sheets and make up the bed, as you would expect it to be prepared at a nice hotel. Always include four sleeping pillows. Don't forget to offer an extra blanket for those chilly nights.

Storage Space - Leave a couple of drawers in the dresser empty so your guests don't have to live out of their suitcases. Offer some room and several empty hangers in the bedroom closet.

Bathroom Amenities - Each guest should be given a set of fresh towels. Offer a plush bathrobe and a new pair of slippers. Put some of those fancy hotel toiletries you've collected up over the years to good use and arrange soap, shampoo, conditioner, cream, toothpaste and mouthwash in a decorative basket. Place the basket and the towels on the guest bed so that it's clear that these items are for their use.

November home sales in Hamilton up

Over the past year, the average sale price in Hamilton-Burlington climbed by double digits, 11.9 per cent to be exact, compared to the prices fetched in October 2011. In dollars that translates to an average price of \$328,490 for a home in 2011, compared to the average of \$367,490 in 2012.

But there were fewer residential listings in 2012, at 1,485 while a year ago 1,516 were listed. That's a two per cent drop.

The number of homes that sold in October this year also dipped slightly by 0.8 per cent with 1,054 sold, down just eight homes from 1,062.

On the upside, homes listed were selling faster than last year, by a week, from 52 days down to just 45 days.

"The steady increase in residential prices over last year continues," said RAHB President Cameron Nolan. "We are also seeing less of a difference between numbers of new listings this year compared to last. Those listings are still being sold faster than last year, with the average number of days on market at 45 days."

Average sale prices for all types of properties, single detached homes, freeholds and condominiums was \$338,797 last year, while in 2012 they went up by 12.7 per cent, to \$381,874.

Curiously, it cost more money to buy a freehold home this year than it did to buy a single detached home. Freehold properties sold for, on average, \$398,873, a 14.8 per cent hike over last year's average of \$347,467. Condo sales saw a 2.5 per cent drop in prices over the year, down to \$249,876 this year, from 256,275 in 2011.

Hamilton's holiday events and festivals

Hamilton's strong sense of community and culturalism is reflected through the countless events and festivals happening throughout the city all year long, especially during the holiday season.

There is no better way to start the holiday season than by attending the annual Christmas in Gore Park tree lighting festivities. A partnership between the City of Hamilton, CHML/Y108 and the Downtown Hamilton BIA, Christmas in Gore Park starting Dec. 6 at 6 p.m., Y108's Ben and Kerry will be broadcasting live from Gore Park for their 24 in the Gore collecting new unwrapped toys for the CHML/Y108 Children's Fund 'Operation Santa Claus.'

Festivities continue on Friday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. including the opening of free miniature train and carousel rides that will be operating daily, plus the mayor will officially light up downtown Hamilton's Christmas

decorations including the Christmas Tree of Hope followed by a free concert by the Kevin MacLean Band. On Saturday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. when Santa will be available for free pictures. The whole family will have a great time sipping free hot chocolate, enjoying caroling and Christmas entertainment throughout the park.

The city has numerous events to bring families together to experience the warmth, welcome and simplicity of an early 19th century Christmas. Battlefield House Museum & Park, Dundurn National Historic Site and Whitehern Historic House and Garden are all featuring events set back in the 19th century, including Christmas in the Pioneer Spirit (Nov. 27 to Dec. 30), Christmas Evening Tours (Weekends from Dec. 7 to Dec. 23) and Christmas Family Sunday (Dec. 16 and 23), respectively.

Visit hamilton.ca for more information.



Bringing you home and community news every month!

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