

New tool will help homeowners

BY ANN HANNAH

It's a rite of spring throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Each year as the snow recedes, an abundant variety of "For Sale" signs pop up on front lawns like crocuses, daffodils and tulips. Last month alone, 4,375 homes changed hands in the GTA, and as we move closer to spring that number will very likely increase.

If you're one of the thousands of Torontonians looking to find a home that is more suited to your needs in the coming months, you have probably already set the wheels in motion – cleaning, packing, and planning all of the administrative details that go into a successful move.

To lighten the load with respect to one of those details, Toronto Hydro recently announced the launch of My TorontoHydro, a new online tool to help you manage your accounts. It offers secure access to bills, payment history, and account details anytime, from anywhere.

Through My TorontoHydro, you can move your account to your new address,

arrange for automatic payments and review your energy consumption history, a particularly useful feature for landlords as well, offering access to information on individual rental units. This new tool also represents an opportunity for greater efficiency for our city's energy provider, which in 2011 received more than 200,000 move requests primarily by phone, fax and mail.

My TorontoHydro is one of several useful services you can learn about in a new Homeowners Kit available on the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) website, the result of a collaborative effort between Toronto Hydro and TREB. The kit supplies a wealth of information that can translate into money in your wallet. From annual coupons, to heating and cooling incentives, to details on the fridge and freezer pick-up program, it's packed with bonuses that will save you money and help you do your part for the environment.

As an association that serves the needs of Realtors throughout the GTA, TREB works to continuously identify opportunities that help Greater Toronto

Realtors offer you the very best service. Our cooperative effort with Toronto Hydro represents one of TREB's many innovative approaches to fostering a valuable relationship between you and your Realtor.

Whether you're planning a move this spring or if you're just interested in running your household more efficiently, I encourage you to take a look at the Homeowners Kit. It's a convenient, cost-saving resource that can help us all be a little more environmentally conscious as well.

To take advantage of all that the kit has to offer, visit TorontoRealEstateBoard.com (under hot consumer topics/homeownership) or torontohydro.com



Ann Hannah is the President of the Toronto Real Estate Board, a professional association that represents 34,000 Realtors in the Greater Toronto Area.