



Knowing all the local options

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TREB PRESIDENT'S COLUMN AS IT APPEARS IN THE TORONTO SUN

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It has been said that real estate is a local business and in a city as large as the Greater Toronto Area, where there are numerous neighbourhoods and municipalities that have their own distinct real estate markets, this certainly is the case.

To help you navigate through all of your choices the GTA has more than 29,000 REALTORS®, all of whom have unique assets as diverse as the region itself.

In downtown Toronto's C01 district for example, a REALTOR® may specialize in condominium apartments or commercial properties. Real estate professionals who work in this area can advise you on the specific amenities available in downtown condominium communities, maintenance fees and parking spaces. By contrast, a REALTOR® who practices in the far north part of the GTA, in towns like Alliston, can advise you on the specifics associated with rural properties such as septic systems and well water.

A huge amount of property spans the area between Toronto and rural Alliston and accordingly, the REALTORS® throughout the north 905 districts may offer advice on everything from buying a condominium apartment in Thornhill to a horse farm in Whitchurch Stouffville. From enclaves located in wooded settings to homes overlooking golf courses, your REALTOR® can guide you through the north 905 districts' many beautiful options.

One example of all that is great about the GTA is the City of Mississauga, with its diversity of cultures, employment options and housing types. In this city within a city you'll find REALTORS® who have experience in everything from 905 condominium living near Square One to executive waterfront properties in Oakville/Burlington to lovely starter homes near the escarpment in Milton.

Many beautiful areas are also located throughout the east districts like Pickering's Frenchman's Bay, homes in Whitby that are within minutes of ski slopes and a community built around a marina in Newcastle. Countless options are available in the wonderful communities and rural properties east of Toronto and you can rely on a REALTOR® to advise you on the many specifics, from zoning allowances to school ratings to varying municipal property tax rates.

In all three of the regions that comprise the picturesque 905 districts, where rolling hills are dotted with small lakes, newly constructed homes are abundant and your REALTOR® can advise you on your numerous options in this regard as well.

Regardless of the housing type that appeals to you, you can depend on your Greater Toronto REALTOR® to help you consider your many options in our great city and to identify a home that is ideally suited to your lifestyle.

For more information on the many available options visit www.TorontoRealEstateBoard.com where you'll find GTA listings, plain language real estate forms, mortgage and land transfer tax calculators and more.

Tom Lebour is President of the Toronto Real Estate Board, a professional association that represents 28,000 REALTORS® in the Greater Toronto Area.