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WELCOME IN, SPRING!

This March we welcomed in spring! After settling into the start of the busy year that 2026 has revealed itself to be, springtime welcomes in a moment to take a breather, get the spring cleaning and organising done to prepare for the rest of the wonderful year ahead.



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- Fraud Awareness: Essential Info for Today's Digital World
- Home Décor Trends to Elevate Your Space this Spring

With March being fraud awareness month and to help get you ready for the season ahead, I have included some detailed information on what you can do to avoid scams and keep yourself safe. As well as some home decor trends to go in hand with your spring cleaning!





FRAUD AWARENESS: ESSENTIAL INFO FOR TODAY'S DIGITAL WORLD

March is fraud awareness month, a great reminder that no matter who you are, scams are lurking right around the corner (or in the next email, call or post!). 2026 will undoubtedly throw more sneaky, compelling, and downright dastardly scams than ever. So, we're going to look at how and why fraud scams work, spotlight the techniques scammers use, give you tips on how to recognize a scam, and teach you what you can do to protect yourself.

Why do scams work?

Here are the 4 E's of an effective scam:

Ego

Some people think they are too smart to fall prey. Their overconfidence says they don't need to be cautious and that exposes them to unnecessary risk.

Evolution

Scams are diverse and sophisticated – it's not a Nigerian Prince asking you to share his millions anymore! New technology, makes it harder to spot a fake.

Education

A lack of awareness means you're a step behind a fraudster, and you're unlikely to recognise the newest plots.

Exposure

We're online a LOT, constantly seeing fake ads, sharing our email addresses to get discount codes – you name it. We constantly expose ourselves to fraudulent predators.

Red Flags

Here are some common themes to watch out for:

Urgency – including limited time offers or requests to act now.

Threats – like an account will be closed, you'll be arrested, or a fine is forthcoming.

Uncommon payment forms – like wanting gift cards, cryptocurrency, or Venmo transfers.

Secrecy – warning you not to tell friends or family or alert law enforcement.


Poor quality – like spelling errors, weird links, or other telltale signs AI has been hard at work.

Reciprocity – as in you get hired but you pay for your own training, or you won a prize but you have to pay to receive it.

How to Avoid Falling for Scams

If you don't want to be blindsided by a scam, the first step is to know that scams exist. Be skeptical about almost everything online! Installing ScamShield, call blocking or anti-virus software can help prevent a scam artist from contacting you. Multi-factor authentication is a great way to stop scammers from accessing your online accounts.

If you get faced with a scam, take a step back and think about the legitimacy of the situation. Call a trusted friend or loved one and run the situation by them. Just hearing it out loud might make you come to your senses! Practice saying no. Disconnect from the situation and reach out to the company independently (like the CRA, bank, cell phone company or store) to confirm the request or offer is real. Finally, monitor your accounts for any unauthorized activity if you think you might have given away too much information.

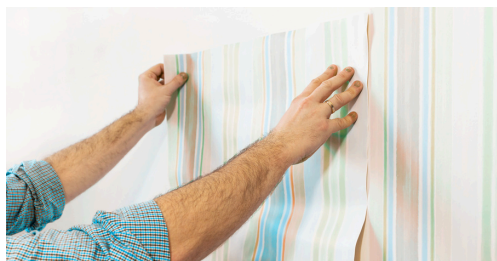
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HOME DÉCOR TRENDS TO ELEVATE YOUR SPACE THIS SPRING



In 2026 we've started adding more colour, vibrancy, new features and personality galore into our homes.

Here are the biggest trends you can keep your eyes (and budget) set on this year:

Grandma Chic: Lamp shades, antique clocks, China cabinets and anything else you saw in your grandma's house is back in style. Your entire house doesn't need grandma's approval, but it's time to proudly and stylishly display any heirlooms she may have passed down.

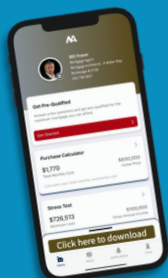
Dark Design: Terracotta, dark green, chocolate brown, darker woods... the stylish home has plenty of these colours in 2026. Try adding a chair or couch in a moody shade, or even choosing an area rug that does double duty in style and function.

Feeling Blue: Any shade will do, from icy to electric. It's super easy to add to your home with things like furniture, dishes, artwork, rugs, or even knickknacks (those are back too... keep reading).

Walls Are the Art: Wallpaper is back, baby! There are infinite cool patterns and colours to choose from. And don't forget the fifth wall to every room – the ceiling! Paint it or wallpaper it too, adding drama, interest, and even heights to the space.

Personal Storytelling: Display your travel souvenirs, favourite knickknacks, unique furniture and thrifted gems and enjoy sharing a memory or telling an origin story of your favourite treasures to your guests.

I'd love to hear what interior decorating styles and trends you have going on! If your home needs a bigger upgrade than just some new design elements, I can always help you sort through the financing options. Book a call or email me anytime!



MORTGAGE TOOLS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Download my mortgage toolbox in 2 easy steps:

1. Download the app
2. Create an account



And that's it for March! Have a great month and I look forward to seeing you back here in April.