

CHOOSING A NEIGHBOURHOOD

You're not just buying a home - you're buying a location. Even the most perfect house won't feel right if it is located in the wrong neighbourhood. Educate yourself about the area so you'll choose wisely - and end up being happy with your decision.

Are you close to shopping and recreation? Being close to stores, parks, recreational facilities, a post office and dry cleaners will save you time.

Do people in the area take care of their homes? Explore the neighbourhood, keeping an eye out for signs of neglect (overgrown lawns, houses in need of paint, trash and junked appliances littering yards). A run-down neighbourhood can drive down your property value.

Are there schools nearby? If you have children, the proximity and quality of schools is key. Some schools will provide data (i.e. average test scores) that can determine quality. Talking to neighbours with children can be helpful, too.

Is there good access to a bus route?

Is it safe? Check with the local police department - they may be able to provide statistics about break-ins or other crimes.

Will the home increase in value over time? Homes in some neighbourhoods appreciate faster than others. Research the selling prices of homes in over the past decade or so to predict future trends. Your agent may be able to provide helpful data.

Is it quiet? Listen for traffic noise, barking dogs, airplanes and any other noises that might bother you. Return to the neighbourhood at different times of the day to get an accurate impression.



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