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Winter Activities To Do In London

Winter Indoor Farmer's Market - Covent Garden Market

January 16th to March 19th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

www.coventmarket.com/outdoor-farmers-market/

She Loves Me - February 6th to 14th

The Grand Theatre - McManus Studio Theatre

www.grandtheatre.com/index.php/mcmanus-theatre/rental-companies/she-loves-me/

42nd Street - February 14th

Budweiser Gardens

www.broadwainlondon.com/

Family Day at Storybook Gardens - February 15th

Storybook Gardens - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

www.storybook.london.ca/

Family Day at Fleetway - February 15th

Fleetway - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

www.fleetwavfun.com/

Family Day Skating - February 15th

Kinsmen Arena - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Stronach Arena - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Argyle Arena - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

www.london.ca/residents/Recreation/Arenas-Skating/Pages/Skating-Guide-Fees-and-General-Information.aspx

Family Fun Day - The Museum of Ontario Archaeology

February 15th - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

http://archaeologymuseum.ca/family-day-2016/



Family Day at London Children's Museum

February 15th - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca/calendar/events/family-day-festivities

Family Day at the Kinsmen Fanshawe Sugar Bush

February 15th - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

home.primus.ca/~greaterlondonkinsmenclub/

Holistic Wellness & Lifestyle Expo

February 21st - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.facebook.com/events/900535250064295/



Market Holds Steady

455 homes exchanged hands in the first month of 2016, this presented only - 0.8% less for Detached and down - 17.9% for Condo's for a total of - 4.2% over the previous January. "You have to keep in mind that last January was the 2nd best January Sales since 2007 so this month's stat's show our market is steady" says the president of London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®. 1,053 properties were listed in January, down 11.6% and Active Listings End of Period - or inventory - was also down 16.0%. "Our market continues to be balanced," says the President of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®. "However, if you're thinking of selling, it might be an idea to list ahead of the spring rush." Feb 1, 2016 - London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®.



Breakdown of January Residential Sales

Table with 3 columns: Type, Units Sold, Average Price. Rows include 2 Storey, Bungalow, Ranch, Townhouse Condo, High Rise Apt. Condo.

2015 Average Prices (YTD)

Table with 3 columns: Type, Average Price, Increase from 2015. Rows include Detached, Condo, Total Residential.

January was a slow month for real estate in St. Thomas, with sales totaling 23. The average price of a home in St. Thomas so far in 2016 stands at \$197,792 down 5.7%.

"Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart."

~Author Unknown

Happy Valentine's Day!

If I can be of any assistance, please let me put my expertise to work for you.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

Helping you is what we do.



# Basement Basics to Elevate Your Home

Finishing an underutilized basement makes financial sense in certain situations, and may add to your home's resale value. For a family who has outgrown their current space and wants to avoid buying a more expensive, larger home, finishing the basement can be worthwhile. Yet, there are considerations to ensure your project will be worth the time, effort and expense.

Follow these guidelines to determine if your basement is a good candidate for a renovation and will deliver an adequate return on your investment:

## Is there enough headroom?

A finished floor-to-ceiling height of at least 7.5 feet is required. Include in your calculation 2.5 inches for flooring and ceiling finishing materials. If you own an older home with insufficient floor-to-ceiling space, you may need to consider additional costs to lower and underpin the foundation to create sufficient headroom.

## Is your basement wet?

You'll want to address any moisture problems before you begin. In older homes, moisture issues can be severe. In

some cases, you'll need to waterproof the foundation from the outside. Waterproofing can add substantially to the cost as excavation, waterproofing, weeping tile and backfill may be required.



## Are your windows adequate?

The outside bottom edges of all basement windows should be at least six inches above the soil. Consider the size and condition of the windows. Are any large enough for fire escape? Are they operable, damage-free, airtight and energy-efficient? Be sure to calculate the cost of any needed window upgrades when estimating your costs.

Finished basements provide a myriad of possibilities including guest rooms, nanny suites, play rooms and home theatres. Whether you're looking to increase the value of your home, or enhance your living space, do your research to ensure a successful project.

[www.rlpnetwork.com](http://www.rlpnetwork.com)

# Lasagna Soup

### Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1 lg yellow onion, diced (2 c)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 c low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (14.5 oz) crushed tomatoes
- 2 1/2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 3/4 tsp dried basil
- 3/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, plus more for garnish
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 8 lasagna noodles, broken into bite size pieces
- 1 1/4 c shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 c finely shredded parmesan cheese
- 8 oz ricotta cheese



### Directions:

1. Heat one tablespoon olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Once hot, crumble beef into pot, season with salt and pepper to taste and cook, stirring occasionally until browned. Drain majority of fat from beef and set aside. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil in pot, add chopped yellow onion and saute until it begins to soften, about 3 minutes. Add in garlic and saute 30 seconds longer. Add in broth, diced tomatoes, crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, basil, oregano, rosemary, fennel seeds, thyme, sugar, parsley, the cooked ground beef and season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring just to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer at least 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, prepare lasagna noodles, reducing cooking time by two minutes from the directions listed on package and reserving 1 cup pasta water before draining pasta.
3. Add cooked pasta to soup along with 1/2 cup - 1 cup pasta water as desired.
4. In a mixing bowl, using a fork, stir together mozzarella, parmesan and ricotta.
5. Ladle soup into bowls, dollop with a large scoop of the cheese mixture and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

<http://www.platingsandpairings.com/lasagna-soup/>

Need warming up after the cooling market? Are you questioning the Real Estate Market? I have the knowledge required to make certain we find the best solution to fit your needs, now and in the future. Give me a call, and I'll put my experience to work for you.

**FOR FREE HELPFUL REAL ESTATE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES CONNECT WITH JANE:**

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