

professional inspired results

# *dress this house*

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## *Merry Christmas—Open House?*

In the September/October 2008 issue, one of the options if away for the holidays was to call Valley Home Check and leave it to them to keep your home in top shape and ready for potential buyers. If your house is on the market over Christmas and you plan to stay home for the holidays, careful planning for holiday festivities will make viewings much less stressful.

**Strategy #1 – Plan early.** The more prepared you are for the season, the more relaxed you'll be when juggling selling responsibilities and holiday celebrations. Potential buyers will expect some seasonal decorations, but the same staging principles apply. (See March/April 2008 Newsletter for the list.) Christmas clutter is still clutter. Trust that old "Murphy" to throw in a viewing exactly when you're the most harried! Plan to keep things simple and stick to it.

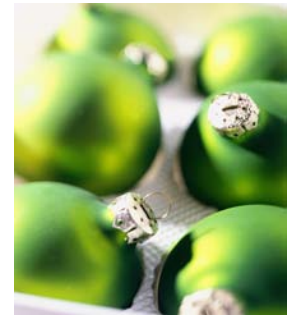
**Strategy #2 – Streamline your routine.** One of the benefits of staging with DTH is that the home owner is given strategies for keeping their house in top shape. There are quick, simple ways to disappear everyday toiletries and appliances. Twice a day clean sweeps through the house keep it in show ready condition.

**Strategy #3 – Keep it simple.** When decorating for the holidays, less is more.



A curly hawthorn branch found in a back alley was the inspiration for this quick and easy festive display. The bronze "apples" are sequins wrapped around a foam core. When selling, you CAN opt to go with simpler decorations and still enjoy the special ambience of Christmas.

**Strategy #4 – Refocus elsewhere.** Refocus the majority of Christmas activities outside your home this year. Enjoy the many musical and art events in this very artistic community. Have Christmas get-togethers in your friends' or family's homes instead of yours. You'll never know if your niece or nephew were champing at the bit to host the family's Christmas party or dinner. Refocus on a "cause" this Christmas. Many people take this time of year to "balance" the hype with community service such as Coast Realty's Christmas Hampers for needy families. The Anderton Therapeutic Garden Society raises funds through their Christmas Tour of homes decorated by local talent. It's a great way to do a little décor dreaming for your new home.



**A Dress This House publication devoted to information about dressing your house to maximize its selling potential!**

### **DTH QUOTE:**

There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.

Bill McKibben

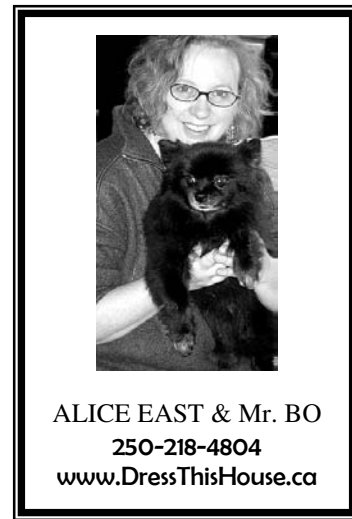
**View more BEFORE & AFTER pictures at**  
[www.DressThisHouse.ca](http://www.DressThisHouse.ca)



Dress This House is owned and operated by Alice East. Alice is no stranger to moving and staging. Her varied background and experience has prepared her well for her career in home presentation.

The pictures (left) are taken from Alice's many staging projects. Details pull the look together to create that appealing WOW factor for the buyer.

Call Dress This House for a consultation or to discuss a staging project.



*If you enjoyed this bi-monthly publication and would like to subscribe, email [DressThisHouse@telus.net](mailto:DressThisHouse@telus.net) and type "DTH Newsletter" in the subject bar, or click on Newsletter Icon at [www.DressThisHouse.ca](http://www.DressThisHouse.ca).*

## The Back Page

## Pets and Moving= PET STRESS!

Selling your house and moving can be a very stressful process for everyone involved including your pets.

Some of the strategies that have worked well for pet-owners are very simple. Keep your pets' routines, such as feedings and walks, as normal as possible. Dogs and cats might exhibit behavioral changes or even become ill when stressed. Treat them with the same level of attention you would ordinarily give them. Taking care of yourself in your move will also help your pet.

If you're moving to another town or city, take your pet to the vet a couple weeks before moving. Request a copy of veterinary records, a rabies vaccination certificate, and a health certificate. Be sure your pets are up to date with their shots. Can your vet recommend another in your new location?

When the "big" stuff is taking place such as furniture moving, renovation, or painting, I recommend using a pet sitter. If your pet has not been to a pet sitter before your move, start with just a few hours, picking the same time and day each week. If this is not possible, allocate one room as the "pet" room. Relocate your pets' chew toys, litter box, food and water and their traveling carriers to this room and keep the door closed!

Another strategy that can offer a gentle way for your pet to overcome stress, anxiety and fear is using The Bach Flower Remedies. As the remedies are prepared from flowers and trees, they provide a harmless, non-habit forming system of healing. Animals will often react quickly and well to the remedies.

Examples of remedies that may help with a move for your pet, AND yourself are:

**Honeysuckle** – for homesickness – *adjust to new home/environment*

**Mimulus** – known fear – *enjoy life without fear*

**Walnut** – for periods of change – *adapting to change*

**Rescue Remedy** – stress/shock/trauma – *immediate calming effect*

The remedy drops can be added to water, mixed with food, put on pet treats, or directly onto pads, paws, nose or ears so they will be absorbed through the skin or licked off.

For more information on the Bach Flower remedies and pets, see: <http://www.bachflowerscanada.com/pets.htm> or, <http://www.bachflower.com/Article-Pets.htm>

Information regarding The Bach Flower Remedies supplied by:

Sarah Brune, BFRP  
Inner Harmony Healing  
250 331 3228  
[info@bachflowerscanada.com](mailto:info@bachflowerscanada.com)