

CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" NOVEMBER 2006

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A "MOVER"

When you've lived in a home for several years, it isn't easy to move, as I discovered recently. Not only have you accumulated a lot of junk, you've grown quite attached to it. So what if the old TV doesn't work anymore -- it still serves an important purpose: covering the stain on the carpet.

Deciding what to do with everything is a major challenge, especially if you're a married man. It would have been simpler, of course, to let the wife make all the decisions. All her things would have gone into a box labeled "collectibles." All my things would have gone into a box labeled "Salvation Army."

Value Village, as you probably know, is a chain of thrift stores across Canada, US and Australia. I shop there occasionally, but I never buy secondhand stuff, only pre-owned goods in mint condition. Yes, my standards are high, which may explain why my wife would want to donate my stuff to Value Village. She knows it would sell well.

Value Villagel receives tons of donations every day. Some of the donors are moving like us, some are merely trying to create a path through their homes and some are getting rid of items in a desperate effort to find their lost children. The folks at Value Village sort through the donations very carefully, keeping all the good stuff and returning anything that says, "I want my mommy."

Our home was never so cluttered that our child went missing, at least not for more than a week or two. Even so, one thing was clear: We needed to downsize considerably, otherwise we'd have to rent a moving truck the size of Toronto.

Getting my wife to downsize is like getting a 12-year-old to stop reading Harry Potter. It might happen, but not without an act of Parliament. And even then, there'd be a lot of kicking and screaming.

In the weeks before our move, my wife bought several books and other items, forcing me to spend a few minutes explaining the meaning of the word "downsize."

Me: "Downsize means to reduce in number or size."

My wife: "So if I got rid of you, would that be downsizing?"

Me: "Uh ... well those are some really good books you bought, dear. I'm sure we can find space for them."

My wife did eventually decide to downsize, thanks partly to the resolution in Parliament. She organized a moving sale and was a storekeeper for a couple of weeks, dealing with various customers, including a few who were still trying to

master English.

Customer: "We might come again tomorrow. Where is sale going to be?"

My wife: "Right here. Same place. Why do you ask?"

Customer: "Well, it is moving sale. I thought it is going to move somewhere."

My wife: "Actually, it's called a moving sale because I want everything to move. Especially my husband's stuff."

Some of the customers insisted on bargaining with my wife, despite the low prices.

Customer: "How much for this picture?"

My wife: "Two dollars."

Customer: "Hmmm ... will you take two dollars?"

My wife: "Sure."

Customer: "Hmmm ... will you take one dollar?"

My wife: "Sure."

Customer: "Hmmm ... how much will you pay me to take it away?"

FIVE STEPS TO SELECTING A MOVING COMPANY

One of the important decisions when relocating is selecting a mover. Consider using a reputable, mover to ensure your move goes smoothly. Go here to get a quote: <http://relocatecanada.com/moversquote.php4>

Step 1: Get a Ballpark Price of how much your move will cost. Costs are dependent on 2 key criteria: the weight of your household goods and the distance it travels.

Step 2: Request Estimates from up to 3 reputable, movers. Plan in advance, movers get very busy as it gets closer to the summer months.

Step 3: Someone from the moving companies will contact you to answer questions, verify information and schedule an appointment. For small moves, they may quote a price over the phone, but typically a moving professional needs to visit your home to give you an accurate estimate.

Step 4: Get your estimates, learn about the moving companies, and find out about any specific features/services they provide, then book your move.

Step 5: Move to your new home!

SELECTING A REAL ESTATE AGENT

in the Area You Are Moving To Who Is Experienced in Relocation. You can always get in touch with a Realtor by going here: <http://relocatecanada.com/easyrealtor.html>

Top notch relocation real estate agents understand the complexities of the relocation process. Here are 6 important questions to ask a real estate agent in the area you are moving to before you hire them:

1. Do you specialize in the town I am moving to?
2. How many homes have you sold in my new town within the last 12 months?
3. Can you e-mail instant notification of new listings that match what I'm looking for?
4. What types of homes do you typically deal with? Are these similar to what I am buying in style and price?
5. Do you specialize in exclusive Buyer Agency? (a relationship where the Realtor's primary fiduciary duty is to you exclusively, not the Seller)
6. Do you offer written satisfaction/cancellation and performance guarantees?

Do Your Community Research Before You Arrive

Visit our website <http://relocatecanada.com> to get a good start on knowing more about the town you're moving that will help you get acclimated quicker upon your arrival.

Relocating your family is never easy even under the best of circumstances. Having a plan and sticking to it is a great way to relocate your family with the least amount of stress and worry. Follow these 5 strategies to relocating your family and you'll be so popular with your family that even the family dog will jump up and give you a kiss!

Copyright 2006, Canadian Relocation Systems, <http://relocatecanada.com>