



# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Just for the kiddies

**OUTDOOR TOYS** • It's easy to tempt the smaller set to spend time outside when toys like the Little Tikes Fold Away Play-ground are waiting. The toy company has launched a line of multi-functional toys, and the Playground is no exception — it unfolds into a climbing wall, slide, adjustable basketball hoop and a soccer/hockey net, ideally suited to kids aged 18 months to five years old (it's \$129.99 at Toys "R" Us, Wal-Mart and Sears).

The rest of the products are equally versatile, with a 6-in-1 Town Centre Playhouse, Sand & Water Fun Factory and Island Adventure Water Table.

For age suitabilities and prices, check Toys "R" Us (which is carrying the full line) or littletikes.com.

— Calgary Herald

### A sorted affair: Cleaning up your clutter

**TIPS** • Clutter, like some invasive weed, seems to constantly grow and multiply. But fear not, it can be controlled. Woman's Day has your biggest organizing problems solved, room by room, with ideas that you can stick to. Among them are:

#### Bedroom

■ **The mess:** Molehill-like heaps of clothing on the verge of becoming mountains scattered across the floor on furniture.

■ **Clean it up:** Having a 'Clothing Chair,' a spot where you toss the not-quite-dirty but not-quite clean pair of jeans or shirt is perfectly acceptable, and better than the floor. Also, install an over-the-door valet hook, which is handy for hanging dry cleaning before you get time to put it away.

#### Family room

■ **The mess:** Abandoned car rallies and Barbie tea parties strewn haphazardly across the floor.

■ **Clean it up:** Instead of piling toys in a chest, which kids have to dig through, divide them up by type among open bins on low shelves. And because cardboard game boxes get broken and their pieces lost, put small items like dice and cards in clearly labelled resealable bags along with the directions and a cut out picture of the game from the box.

#### Kitchen

■ **The mess:** Countertops with a blanket of papers, the contents of everyone's pockets and who-knows-what-else.

■ **Clean it up:** Manage the daily influx of what your family drags in by creating homes for the items that pile up. Keep labelled folders in a metal file sorter on the counter to use for mail, takeout menus, children's schoolwork, etc. Keep a relatively small attractive bowl or basket on the counter for odds and ends like sunglasses and keys.

— Calgary Herald

# Sustainable community to rise near Okotoks

HGTV star Mike Holmes launches eco-friendly home designs in Alberta

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

Mike Holmes has a hankering for life as it used to be. And life as it could be.

"I'm sick and tired of six-foot fences and the homeowners not wanting to talk to each other," says the host of Holmes on Homes, the HGTV show that introduced the tell-it-like-is contractor to millions of viewers. "I want to bring life back to the old school, to neighbourhoods that you can walk around, where the people are happy to talk to each other — just better living."

It sounds impossibly perfect, but it gets better.

"We can build a home that's fireproof, that's mould-proof, that's energy-efficient and environmentally friendly," he says, adding the technology exists to do exactly that — for a premium of about 15 per cent over a conventional house's cost. "And that extra cost is nowhere near close to the payback that you'll get in terms of health and the environment."

#### The vision

Holmes has been talking about this for years — about the right way to build, and choosing the least toxic and most sustainable products — hoping that someone would start making wholesale changes to the

way we build our homes.

Well, he's tired of waiting, and the result is a quarter-section of land immediately south of Okotoks where he wants to build the first Holmes Homes. The designs aren't finalized, but he's thinking bungalows with flat roofs that will offer living and growing space. Stacked apartments, single- and multi-family dwellings and those that combine retail or work and living space are all under discussion.

Inside the homes, solar thermal technology will pre-heat hot water, while rainwater will flush toilets, wash laundry and water plants.

The Holmes on Homes "Lien on Me" special this season highlighted the large project that helped formulate the designs. But that took two years — Holmes isn't taking so long with the community he's proposing for the Municipal District of Foothills: The first homes could be available in spring 2009, and he's sticking to three sizes, from 1,450 to 2,000 square feet, to focus on better rather than bigger homes.

"All we have to do is go back to simple technology. If we were to build with simple cinder blocks and slab floors and ceilings, you're reducing structural costs and you could take the money you're saving and put it towards the greener features," he explains.

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Courtesy, Mike Holmes

Mike Holmes plans to build an environmentally friendly housing project on land near Okotoks.



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#### Springbank Hill, \$459,000

42 Spring Crescent, SW - 1118 SF 3 bedroom bungalow with main floor master, hardwood floors & large rear deck. Kitchen with classic white cabinetry & large, bright dining nook. Close to bird sanctuary, Griffiths Woods, West Side Rec. Centre & minutes to DIT.

#### Discovery, \$499,000

#302, 10 Discovery Ridge Hill SW - Stylish, spacious townhouse, double garage, 1700+ SF of luxurious living space, kit w/ granite counters, 3 bedrooms/2 baths, convenient location steps to coffee shop, wine & convenience stores, but siding onto tranquil greenbelt.

#### West Springs - \$565,000

9033 Wenworth Avenue, SW - 2002 SqFt, 5 level split backing ravine in desirable Wenworth! Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath feat. 2 storey great room with dramatic window-wall & centre fireplace, hardwood floors, granite counters & stainless steel appliances.

#### Strathcona, \$749,000

1634 Strathcona Drive, SW - Wonderful location, backing directly onto a large park area! Bungalow with developed walk-out basement, over 2700 SF of living space, 2+2 bedrooms, soaring ceilings, hardwood, granite counters, beautifully landscaped south backyard!

#### Crescent Heights, \$875,000

1412 - 2A Street NW - Walk to work! Exceptional heritage-inspired newer home on quiet street, almost 2900 SF incl. bsmt, dbl garage, 3 bdrms, den, huge vaulted master suite (22 x 20), hardwood & slate floors, granite counters, custom kitchen, river-rock f/p.

#### Strathcona, \$895,000

39 Strathridge Gardens, SW - On the ravine! Ideal location-quiet crescent with south backyard! Bungalow with developed walkout, 1782 + 1407 sf, 1+2 bedroom bungalow with soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, granite, den with Murphy bed.

#### Bridgeland, \$899,000

228 - 6A Street NE - Large home on a 44-ft lot, in an excellent location facing onto a park with wonderful city views from both levels, 3040 sf + dev'd bsmt, 5 bedrooms upstairs, renovated kitchen & baths, granite counters, steam shower, jetted tub.

#### Richmond Hill, \$995,000

119 Sierra Morena Court, SW - Over 10,600 SF pie lot - one of the best in Richmond Hill! Over 3600 SF featuring incredible mountain views, hardwood floors, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, & developed walk-out! Absolutely amazing!

#### Montreux - \$995,000

160 Tremblant Way, SW - Huge 9900 sf lot, wonderful views of mountains & Glenmore reservoir, 2509 SF, + walkout bsmt, open plan, soaring ceilings and high windows to enjoy the views, maple kitchen, cherry hardwood, master with sitting room.

#### Patterson, \$1,050,000

198 Patterson Boulevard, SW - 2021 + 1663 SF, 4 bedroom bungalow with STUNNING VIEWS & developed walk-out! Granite counters, 3-sided fireplace in nook/great room. Master suite w/ fireplace, gorgeous view of river, His & Her walk-in closets & 5pc jet-tub ensuite.

#### West Springs, \$1,295,000

11 Westpark Crescent, SW - 3200 SF new home with developed basement, almost 4500 SF of living space with 3 + 2 bedrooms, main floor den, huge island & walk-thru pantry in kitchen. Master w/ 6 pc ensuite, jet tub, steam shower & large dressing room, open bonus room.

#### Coulee Park - \$1,295,000

32 Coulee Park, SW - 2585 SF home with developed walkout basement, stunning river valley views, backing a park. Quality built-ins, granite counters, 3 bedroom + nanny suite developed down includes a 4th bedroom with jet tub ensuite.

#### Parkdale, \$1,295,000

111 - 34A Street, SW - Custom-home steps from the Bow River on a prime 60' lot! Wrap-around windows, vaulted ceilings, chic granite counters, 6 element gas range & stove, built-in wine rack & hardwood floors. Master retreat w/ large walk-in closet & huge 5pc ensuite!

#### Discovery Ridge, \$1,495,000

30 Discovery Vista Point, SW - Panoramic views! Griffiths Woods & the Rockies can be seen from nearly every room of this stunning 4 bdrm home situated atop the ridge in Discovery. Granite counters, stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, huge master & walk-out basement!

#### Heritage Pointe, \$1,695,000

184 Heritage Isle - 3404 + 1518 SF, 5 bedroom estate home with beautifully developed walk-out, backing a ravine in the prestigious community "The Lake at Heritage Pointe". Granite counters, hardwood floors, 9' ceilings, walk-in closets in all bedrooms, wine cellar & much more!