

# FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT PAGE

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## Time to Renovate & Redecorate is NOW!

By Sandi Poystila

It's true that most of us are feeling the effects of a slower economy these days, so why is this fall the best time to do a home renovation project?

Typically, when we experience a recession, it means that most retail stores, home supply and building stores will offer discounts and deals to keep the merchandise flowing. This is a great reason to check

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out the deals offered at our local building supply stores, Windsor Plywood and Slegg Lumber.

Another excellent reason to get your renovation started now is to take advantage of the Home Renovation Tax Credit that the government is offering everyone who has a renovation done between January 2009 and February 2010. There is only four months left to take advantage of the 15% non-refundable tax credit, which can be claimed on eligible expenditures of more than \$1,000 but not more than \$10,000. The maximum tax credit that can be claimed to reduce your federal income tax is \$1,350.

From our own recent experience of renovating our workshop into an office/music studio, we have discovered that these "quick little jobs" actually end up taking more time and more money than we originally budgeted for. This is true in almost every renovation project, so get started now!

If you are planning a kitchen renovation, Carl Borgstrom of Mouat's Trading advises that the design, order and install process for cabinets and countertops can take 6 to 8 weeks. Call Carl and let his cabinetry expertise help make those plans and dreams into a beautiful new kitchen reality, just in time to start your Christmas baking!

Examples of eligible expenses

for the new tax credit include: renovating a kitchen, bathroom, or basement; installing new windows, doors, or flooring; building an addition, garage, deck, shed, or fence; installing new furnace, woodstove, fireplace, water softener, or water heater; a new driveway or resurfacing a driveway, re-shingling a roof or painting of a house; landscaping - new sod, perennial shrubs and flowers, trees, etc.; Swimming pools (permanent - in-ground and above-ground); fixtures - blinds, shades, shutters, awnings, lights, fans, etc.; associated costs such as permits, professional services, equipment rentals, and incidental expenses.

Examples of non-eligible expenses include furniture, appliances, tools, and audio and visual electronics; routine repairs, maintenance and cleaning (e.g., furnace cleaning, snow removal, lawn care, pool cleaning, house cleaning) and financing costs.

For more information on the Home Renovation Tax Credit, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/hrtc](http://www.cra.gc.ca/hrtc) or call 1-877-959-1-CRA.

No matter what type of project you decide on there is nothing more enjoyable than having a new, fresh space to live or work in.

You don't have to spend a fortune to create a new look for your home. It can be as easy as applying a new coat of paint, steam cleaning your carpets and changing your



Carl Borgstrom of Mouat's Kitchen & Bath centre offers excellent professional skills and advice for custom cabinetry installations,

furniture arrangement and wall hangings.

Ask Kevin at Paint Plus about his special on Para's Samples of Style paints. With over 2000 colours to choose from, and a coupon offer, you can't go wrong.

Taking care of our appliances and furnishings with regular maintenance will also save you lots of money this fall.

Count on Peter Andress of the Right Hand Man for all of your appliance repairs. With a quick estimate and friendly service he can offer you the advice and price to keep your much needed appliances running smoothly through the winter months and beyond.

Reynolds Carpet Cleaning, in business since 1964, is a trusted local company that will help keep your carpets and furnishings looking fresh and bright. With the rainy season soon upon us, it is good to

know that their business has expanded to include full service flood and water damage restoration including 24hr emergency service and complete water damage repairs. Whether it's drying a carpet and laying it back down, or replacing flooring, insulation, drywall and painting. Proud to be family owned and live where they work, call them for a free estimate any time.

Now is also a great time to think about your landscaping. Get that last bit of mowing done before the ground freezes and plant some fall perennial bulbs for next Spring's garden (it's included in the tax credit too!).

Mid Island Marine has lots of great Husqvarna equipment to help keep your lawn cared for.

And if it isn't worth fixing, call Dave's Blasting for a quick (and explosive) solution!!!

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