



Doreen's Realty Post



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JANUARY 2012

Parents stay connected to home and children with family friendly tech



(NC)—Parents once relied on children to keep them educated on how to use technology and stay up-to-date on what's new. But a lot has happened since the last time Dad needed the kids to help him set the timer on the VCR. More and more, parents are taking advantage of new technologies, especially when it comes to staying connected to home and family life.

"Canadian parents are busier than ever and they are looking for technology that will help simplify their lives," says Ian Pattinson, vice-president of Rogers' Smart Home Monitoring. "There are many new options out that allow parents to manage the busy household, save time and keep the family connected."

The smartphone, for example, has been a boon to multi-tasking parents. Mothers on the go no longer spend hours scheduling carpools and balancing chequebooks. Everything happens in a flurry of IMs and text messages, or with the help of productivity apps.

Smartphones savvy parents may want to consider a home security system that will work with their mobile device. One example is Smart Home Monitoring from Rogers is a new system that lets parents monitor who is coming and going when they are out of the house. This system also offers a 'smart home camera' that allows you to view live video of what's going on inside your home via the web or your smartphone.

There are also a number of advantages to giving responsible children their own smartphones. Not only can parents stay in touch, there are apps to provide GPS tracking and apps that will store information for caretakers in case of an emergency.

"Next generation technology helps parents to manage and protect their families," says Pattinson. "It allows families to stay connected to their home and each other, which gives everyone peace of mind"



Protect yourself from fraud while online shopping

(NC)—Avoiding crowded malls and icy temperatures, Canadians are increasingly turning to the web to do their holiday shopping from the comfort and convenience of their own homes. Canadians can shop and browse online with confidence if they take simple precautions to protect themselves and their money.

Justin Hwang, Associate Vice President, Fraud Management, TD Canada Trust, provides his top tips for protecting yourself against online fraud these holidays:

1. Only shop online with trusted brands—A website with an address that begins with "https://" usually indicates you're connected to a secure website. Make sure any online shopping sites you use are protected in this way.
2. Protect personal information: Guard your usernames, passwords and login information—they're the keys that let you into your accounts. Never disclose information online unless you know who is collecting this information, why they're collecting it and how they plan on protecting it.
3. Monitor your account activity regularly: Be sure to keep track of all online purchases and read your credit card and bank statements carefully as soon as they arrive. If you notice a purchase you don't recall making, call your bank or credit card issuer as soon as possible to verify the transaction.

For more information on fraud prevention from TD Canada Trust please visit: http://www.td.com/privacyandsecurity/protect_yourself.jsp