

Being a Mother

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too, and she would love to spend sometime with you."

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my **MOTHER**, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's."I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Halfway through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed. "How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

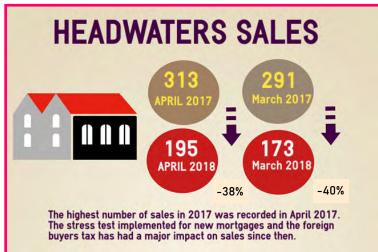
At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. These things cannot be put off till "some other time."





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Headwaters Real Estate Recap: APRIL 2018

The grass is looking greener, the trees are sprouting buds, and it looks like spring is finally here, along with the spring market. Sales in the *Headwaters region of* Erin, Caledon, Dufferin and Orangeville were up 13% from March to April with 195 sales occurring in April. The *Orangeville* market remained the same March to April with 54 Sales occurring in both months. The market so far is nothing like we saw in the spring months of last year. April was the most active month for sales in 2017, with 313 sales occurring in the *Headwaters* region. So sales are down in April of last year compared to this year by 38%. 2018 average sale prices in *Orangeville* and **Caledon** are down only slightly compared to the year end in 2017 (less than 1%). 2018 average sale prices in *Erin* are down 3% and down 7% in *Dufferin* which includes **Shelburne**. Buyers have more selection and the sense of urgency to purchase in a market with little inventory is gone. The new mortgage rules, and the foreign buyers tax legislation has cooled the major metropolitan markets, which in turn ripples to the smaller markets. We will see if the market picks up steam after a winter which seemed to last forever!

Happy Spring!

~ Dave

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