

SUMMER MOVES:

Plan ahead ... and keep your cool

Many families consider the summer months to be the best time to relocate to avoid disrupting their children's education. As a result, the summer is the period of peak demand for moving companies.

If you are thinking of moving during the summer, be prepared to compete for reputable services and to pay premium rates during this busiest time of the year for the moving industry.

Here are a few tips that will help to ensure your summer move goes smoothly:

AVOID PEAK TIMES

Rates will generally be lower if you move off peak times, that is, during the fall, winter or spring, and in the middle of a month. The last few days of June and August are the busiest moving days of the year. If you must move during the summer, try to move mid-month and mid-week.

ANTICIPATE HOT WEATHER

On hot days in the summer, asphalt driveways may become too soft for a heavy moving van. Special shuttling

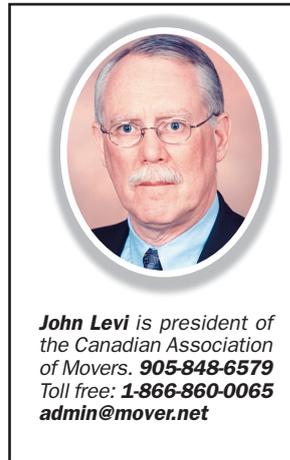
from the house to the van or vice versa to avoid soft asphalt will prevent damage to the driveway, but will add time and cost. Keep water, pop or sports drinks (in the very hottest weather) on hand for you and the moving crew. Advise the driver and crew which restroom you want them to use. The crew will be working hard handling your most important possessions and a cool drink is a nice gesture and will be appreciated.

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

There are basic steps to prepare for moving day, at any time of the year. Some steps are specific to moving in warmer weather. For example, don't forget to drain hoses and oil or gas from power equipment, like lawn mowers, about one week before moving day. Gather together items from the shed, the balcony and the garden into one place. Have a garage sale to help reduce how much you move or store, and therefore your cost. Use up perishable food stocks, as these may not travel well in warm weather. Make sure all windows and screens are closed and secured before you leave the property.

REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS

Make it safe and easy for movers to get into and out of your house by removing obstacles. Move potted plants and planters from the front porch, walkways and driveways. Remove doormats and rugs. Remove low-hanging items such as wind chimes and hanging plants. Disconnect the spring on the screen door so that it stays open dur-



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making it difficult for kids to make new friends immediately. Find out about summer programs in the new community and try to make arrangements for kids well before the move.

CONSIDER THE PETS

Arrange care for your pets on moving day. If you are travelling with a pet by car, plan stops for exercise and water at regular intervals. In warmer weather, stops should be more frequent. Small animals, like birds or hamsters, can travel by car in their cages, but ensure the cage is properly ventilated. Covering the cage will often help to keep your pet calm. If you have to leave the vehicle, leave the windows slightly open and, if it is warm, park in the shade. Never leave an animal in an enclosed, locked car! Even in moderately warm weather, the temperature inside a car can reach 120 degrees in just a few minutes. Check your pet regularly.

ing the loading process. Warn the mover of low hanging branches from trees, large plants and shrubs so these can be avoided by the moving van.

ATTEND TO KIDS' NEEDS

Moving can be a major upheaval for children. Involving children in the move can help to calm their fears. Make sure young children understand where their belongings are going. Contact the prospective schools in the new community and discuss plans with the kids. Have children pack a box of their "special" items. Point this box out to the driver so it's one of the first to be unloaded. Consider arranging for someone to take care of the kids while the movers are packing and loading your items.

When you arrive in your new community, you're likely to find that organized summer activities are already under way, and it may be too late for your children to participate.

Neighbourhood kids may be away on vacation or at camp,

PLAN EARLY

Avoid the rush and start planning for your move well in advance. Contact CAM for a list of reputable moving and storage companies. Contact several movers and get at least three estimates. Book early to reserve your preferred company, and periodically contact the mover to ensure that your move is still on schedule.

Our basic "To Do" list for moving day was published in an earlier issue of this magazine. Look for it again in a future issue, or on our website at www.mover.net.

Please tell them you saw it in 24 hours Find-A-Rental

Be prepared to compete for reputable services and pay premium rates during busy season