

# KC NEWS

Boutique Top Floor | Kid Cents | KC Estate Services

## So much to share!

We hope you're learning a lot from our newsletters - and we welcome your questions or ideas for future issues at [info@kidcents.ca](mailto:info@kidcents.ca) :)

## What does "Estate Planning" mean to...

### The dictionary?

Tasks that manage an individual's assets in the event of death.

### Investment Specialists?

They consider it to be planning your retirement and money for your estate - your home, taxes, children, and grandchildren.

### Estate Lawyers?

Wills: What happens with your possessions when you die.

### Us ?

It's broad! We include everything from moving, downsizing, minimalizing - from the family home, an apartment, senior's home or retirement home.



## Estate Planning

As we travel through life, we all gather "stuff" that makes us happy. These treasures are connected with memories and stories, and when we are going to part with them, we often expect others will appreciate them as much as we do. However, this isn't always the case. Somehow we all gathered similar treasures - more and more of the same things are hitting the secondary market! How did this happen? I can guess, based on my parents' story and my experience with many estates, and you may see echoes of your own family's stories here:

*My parents were born in 1923 and 1924 - and lived through interesting and difficult times in our Canadian history. They had very little, and when they were married at City Hall they used their savings to put a down payment on a cemetery plot - yes, this was a thing that was done at the time!*

*After the war, the choice of furniture available was just this sofa or that sofa, solid heavy ones with fabric that wore like iron. I can't tell*

## What still has value?

- Items that weren't mass produced, like Moorcroft, Lalique, handcrafted smaller pieces of furniture, quality retro, midcentury modern, some Victorian, Canadian made, sterling and gold.

- Older Waterford and Stuart is still desirable just not at the price point it was purchased at.

Heavy furniture is difficult to move and not popular now that we're such a mobile society.



## We're Proud!

Kid Cents is entering its 25<sup>th</sup> year and are still putting the consignor first. We are here for the long term.

In Pam's training as a CPPA it was determined that after all expenses an average estate is worth approximately \$1,000. We at Kid Cents - Boutique Top Floor - KC Estates have found this to be a low figure. We are proud we do better for our consignors!

*you how many of those style of sofas I see in my travels! My mom got her first stuffed bear after Dad graduated from university. [Can you believe how many stuffed animals we had or our children and grandchildren have?!]*

*Life was different and difficult. They worked hard and saved every penny possible to buy a home and furnishings, put food on the table and raise a family. They built memories and save the best of the best for their children.*

What changed? The next generation isn't interested in this type of treasures because we all have choices beyond our imagination. It's simple supply and demand and the market is saturated with baby boomers downsizing and floods of cheap items from overseas.

## Consignment of your furnishings

In the past, auctions were the best way to dispose of family treasures, however the higher cost of labour, transportation and auctioneer fees has decreased the value of a one-home estate at auction.

It's upsetting to see your years of collecting reduced to just "stuff" - our discerning shoppers will value your treasures. We understand it takes time to reach the person who's searching for that special piece and realize the typical time frame for consignment (60-65 days) is not long enough. So... Kid Cents - Boutique Top Floor - KC Estates **extended this to 180 days!** We think we're the only consignment store in Southwestern Ontario that works towards clearing the estate in this manner, to help maximize the return back to the family.

When faced with the enormous challenge of clearing a loved one's estate you may find yourself overwhelmed. What is good for resale and what is not? This is where a professional - a Certified Personal Property Appraiser - can educate you on how to clear a home. You might want it to be so easy - with a twinkle of the nose it disappears - but this can make you an easy target. A business may offer you pennies for everything, saying they'll dispose of the unwanted items for you (charging you for "junk" removal), and in turn selling your things for ten times what they paid you.

At a time when you've had a major personal loss, it is essential that the treasures gathered through a lifetime be treated with the respect they deserve, not as junk!