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News Release

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Local Real Estate Associations integrate MLS® Databases

Linda Coldham, President of the Tillsonburg District Real Estate Board, and Richard Thyssen, President of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®, recently signed an agreement paving the way towards a total integration of their two MLS® databases by the end of 2010. The MLS® or Multiple Listing Service® is a co-operative marketing system designed to ensure that for-sale properties receive maximum exposure.

“LSTAR and TDREB have worked closely together since April 1998,” explains Coldham. “Integrating our MLS® databases is the next logical step. Our two Associations have overlapping jurisdictions and, as it stands now, Members have to search shared areas twice. It’s very cumbersome. Integration will remove that extra step and streamlines the process considerably. A further advantage to the integration is that our Touchbase system and that of LSTAR will be virtually seamless.” Touchbase Real Estate is an internet-based communications and showing management system designed specifically for the realty field. It enables REALTORS® to contact one another through their MLS® system as well as through any computer or wireless device with an internet connection.

As a result of the database integration, TDREB will become a partner in the **Connect** Project, a joint venture of LSTAR, the Toronto Real Estate Board, the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington, and the Ottawa Real Estate Board. “Connect offers Members of participating boards the ability to search and view each other’s active listings and recent sales history without the complexities of actual data exchange,” says Thyssen. “It is our both hope and our objective that all Ontario Boards will soon be Connect Partners.”

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) is one of Canada’s fifteen largest real estate associations, representing 1,500 REALTORS® working in Middlesex and Elgin Counties, a trading area of 500,000 residents. The Tillsonburg District Real Estate Board (TDREB) represents 92 REALTORS® working in Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin Counties, a trading population area of 100,000 residents. The Members of both associations may use the REALTOR® trademark, which identifies them as real estate professionals who subscribe to a strict code of ethics. Advertisements of local MLS® property listings and information about the services provided by a REALTOR® can be found at www.REALTOR.ca. More information about LSTAR is available at www.lstar.ca. More information about TDREB is available at www.tbureb.ca

