

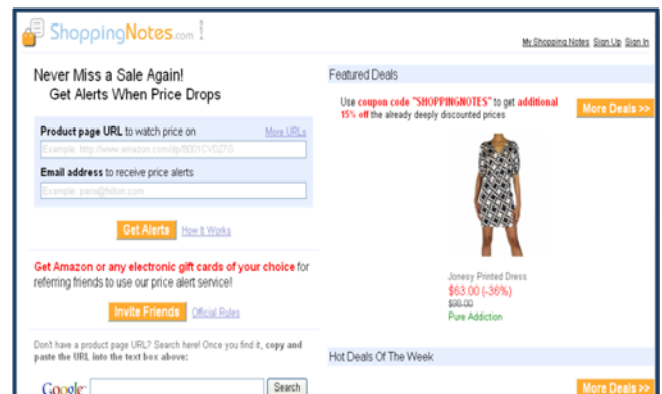
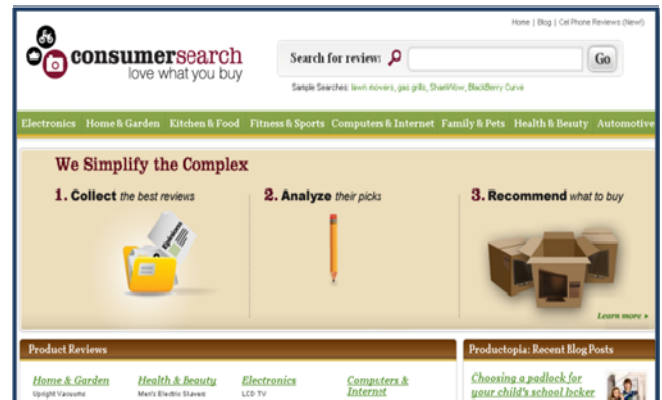
Smart Shopping Online

www.library.elgin-county.on.ca

Shopping online has many advantages. You can literally shop the world to find whatever your heart desires. The latest gadgets, a replacement for a favourite pair of shoes, the perfect one-of-a-kind gift and more are all online, usually at lower prices and often with free shipping.

Online shopping is ideal for people who want to shop quickly and conveniently, or prefer to take time to research before buying. At many websites you can even contact sales staff by phone or chat for more information before making your purchase.

- ConsumerReports.org can't be beat for impartial, in-depth testing and analysis. Many of their reports are free online, but they charge a fee for full access. However, the library has a copy of their annual compilation of reports. ConsumerSearch takes a different approach, consolidating reviews to 'reduce the time it takes to make an intelligent purchase.' Buzzillions is a community site, 'providing access to reviews by people like you'.
- If the price isn't right, you can use ShoppingNotes to keep an eye on changes. Enter the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the webpage for your item, add an email address to receive notifications and ShoppingNotes will send you a message when the price changes. You can also sign up for a free account to add some conditions to your alerts (i.e. you may not want to know if the price goes down \$5), and add a button to your browser toolbar for easy access.
- It's also worth checking to see if there are any coupons that might help with your purchase. SmartCanucks.ca, Save.ca and RedFlagDeals.com let you search for coupons. Most are intended to be printed and taken to a store for redemption but sometimes there are codes for online purchases.



This set of guides is a pilot project by the Elgin County, Oxford County and St. Thomas Public Libraries through funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture

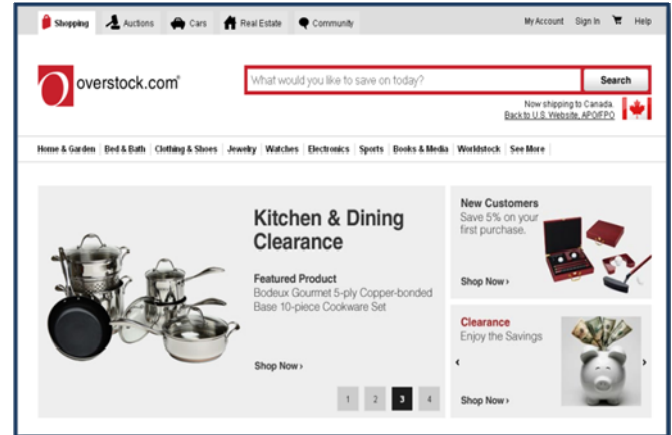
Suggestions for another in the series? Got a favourite website? We'd love to hear from you at reference@elgin-county.on.ca

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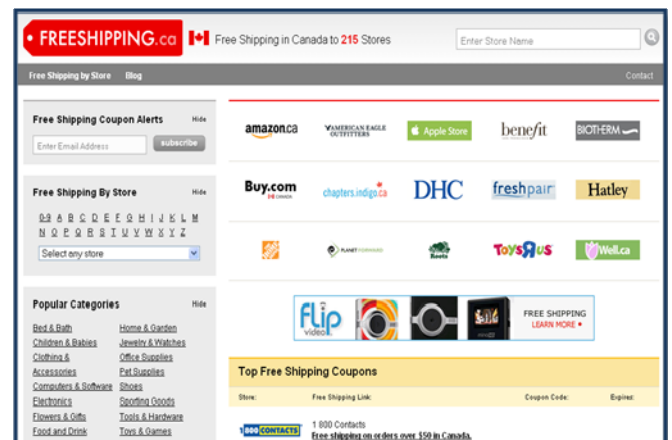
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- Both Overstock.ca and TigerDirect.ca offer clearance items at greatly reduced prices. These two companies have built their business on deep discounting and still provide a good level of service and support. Many other retailers have added clearance sections to their websites where you can usually find the best deals. Watch for special terms and conditions; the deals can be exceptional if you already have a good idea of what you're getting.



- One of online shopping's challenges is shipping costs. A great price can sometimes be offset by the cost of actually getting the item delivered. Most merchants offer free shipping at different times throughout the year. However, FreeShipping.ca is a terrifically useful list of over 200 leading retailers and their free shipping policies. The list of merchants covers the big names and may introduce you to some stores that you don't know. If you're shopping anywhere else, TheFinalCost can calculate shipping and duties for delivery to Canada.



- Perhaps the ultimate Canadian shopping tool, Wishabi.ca will help you decide whether to buy now or wait and if it's a better deal to buy from the United States or Canadian website. Wishabi has an incredible set of tools; it calculates shipping and duties payable, and has a deal analysis that compares the listing's price to the lowest one on the market. Finally, it lets you compare the best Canadian and United States deal, with 20 other prices to help you shop with confidence.



Happy Shopping!

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