

## Bunk bed for cars costs \$

15,000; [FIN Edition]

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### Document Text

Bunk beds have often saved growing families the expense of building an addition on the home.

And now that the kids are grown up, but still at home, their cars can sleep in bunk beds and eliminate the need to expand the garage.

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That's one of the innovative features house builder Tony Guglietti is offering purchasers of new homes built by Town-Wood Homes.

For \$15,000 he can turn a single-car garage into a double garage without any changes to the house structure. Or he can convert a two- car garage to park four cars by installing the ParkLift.

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Guglietti, who builds homes ranging in price from \$150,000 to \$750,000, said adding a car width to a garage costs a minimum of \$30,000.

"You need at least 10 feet and residential land prices in the Metro area are \$3,000 a linear foot. And then there are construction costs on top of that," said Guglietti, president of Town-Wood Homes.

The ParkLift is a hydraulic elevator that lowers one car into the five-foot-deep basement of the garage, leaving room for a second car to park in the garage at ground level.

The garage needs a ceiling clearance of at least 13 feet because the ParkLift system will lift both cars simultaneously so a driver can scoot away in the lower car without disturbing the car in the top bunk.

Town-Wood is the first home builder in Canada to offer the parking system as an option to buyers.

ParkLift is manufactured in West Germany. Klaus Parking Systems Canada Ltd. has the marketing and manufacturing rights for North America.

Manfred Heidinger, vice-president of marketing at Klaus, said thousands of the parking ramps have been installed in homes throughout Europe in the past 30 years and in Japan over the past five years.

"Land prices are extremely high in Europe and Japan because they have so little undeveloped land and these parking systems are very popular. The Metro area is starting to face the same problem and we feel there'll be a big demand for the system here too," said Heidinger.

He said three years ago his company installed a dozen ParkLifts in the basement of an office building at Yonge and Adelaide Sts. for a multinational company that needed more executive parking but didn't want to buy more downtown space.

Guglietti said the hydraulic lift requires a 240-volt service. "That's the same as the stove in your kitchen and it uses electricity for only 30 seconds."

He has offered it as an option on \$150,000 townhouses he's selling in Newmarket with single-car garages, but says there have been no takers.

"Those buyers are using every cent they can put together to buy the house and they can't afford this option, but I am thinking I'll rough it in free anyway because they'll likely want it in three years time."

Guglietti expects the ParkLift option to sell well at Bayview Hunt Club and Bayview Hill, two luxury home projects he's starting near Steeles and Bayview Aves.

"Those buyers often have more than two cars, but four or five garages detract from the look of the home, so this way they can park four cars in their two-car garages, or six cars in their three-car garages," said Guglietti.

**[Illustration]**

Caption: Star photo (Brennan): hydraulic device which lifts cars in garage

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