

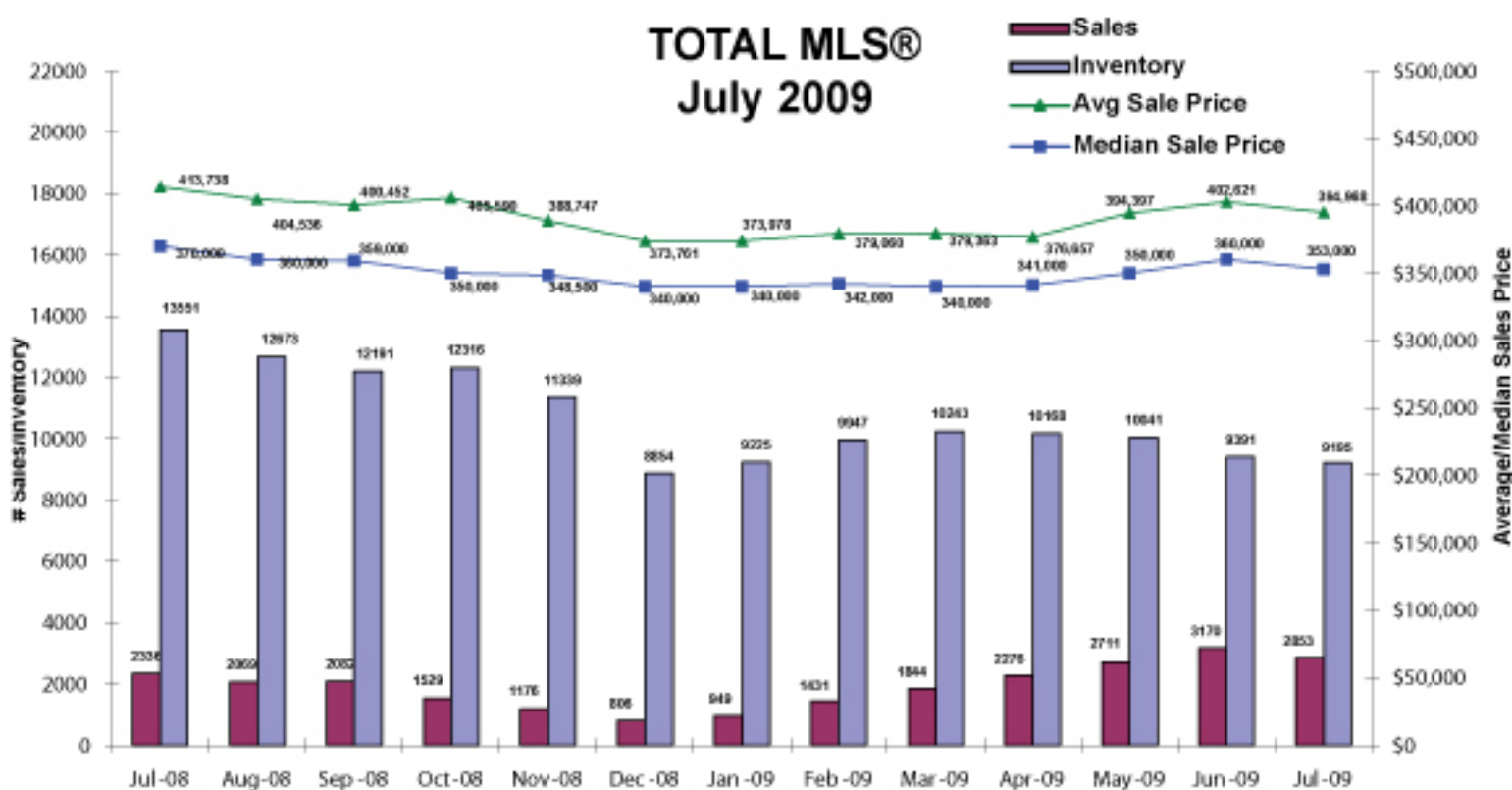
## CALGARY METRO HOME SALES SHOW SIGNS OF STRENGTH

**Calgary, August 4, 2009 - The number of single family homes and condos sold in July in Calgary metro are both up from the same time a year ago according to figures released by the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB®).**

MLS® sales activity of single family Calgary metro homes was 1,585 in the month of July 2009, showing an increase of 21 per cent from July 2008, when single family home sales were 1,313. This is a decrease of 14 per cent from 1,837 sales in June of this year. The number of condominium sales for the month of July 2009 was 702, an increase of 31 per cent from July 2008 when 535 condominiums changed hands. This was a decrease of 5 per cent from the 738 condominium transactions recorded last month.

"We are continuing to see market improvement in Calgary home sales," says Bonnie Wegerich, President of the Calgary Real Estate Board. "These are healthy sales numbers in a month when we typically expect a summer slowdown." "Confidence has definitely returned to the housing market," noted Wegerich. "Buyers' moods have been buoyed by news that an economic recovery, albeit gradual, seems to be underway."

The average price of a single family Calgary metro home in July 2009 was \$436,782, showing a decrease of 2 per cent from June 2009, when the average price was \$447,142, and showing a decrease of 4 per cent from July 2008, when the average price was \$456,380. The average price of a Calgary metro condominium was \$285,032 showing no significant change from June 2009, when the average price was \$285,595 and a decrease of 4 per cent over last year, when the average price was \$296,338. Average price information can be useful in establishing trends over time, but does not indicate actual prices in centres comprised of widely divergent neighbourhoods, or account for price differentials between geographical areas.



## COOL DRINKS FOR HOT DAYS

### YUMMY STRAWBERRY LEMONADE!!

#### Ingredients

##### Serves 2 (per 8 oz. serving)

- 2 cups frozen (or fresh) strawberries (about 24)
- 1/2 cup crushed ice (or smallest cubes possible)
- 1/2 cup lemon juice (fresh or bottled)
- 3 packets of sugar substitute or 2 Tablespoons of sugar (or to taste)
- 3/4 cup water

##### Optional

- 1/4 lemon, sliced, for garnish
- 1 Tablespoon of ginger, fresh or dried
- A few mint leaves

#### Directions

1. Combine lemon juice, strawberries, sugar substitute or sugar, crushed ice and water in blender jar. If blades get stuck, add more water.
2. Blend on high with lid tightly secured until smooth and thick.
3. Pour into glasses and serve immediately. Garnish with a slice of lemon, if desired.

Tangy, with just a hint of sweetness.



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# Landscape DESIGN PLANS

By Eric Morris

Landscape design plans help you visualize the end result of any landscaping project. Landscape design plans can be drawn using paper and pencil, design-planning software, or through a landscape design professional. One must be very clear about what is needed to be able to draw an aesthetically pleasing and practically viable plan.

The first and foremost task is to measure the land area that needs to be landscaped. After conducting a survey of the land, draw what features already exist on the land and decide if you would like to retain them. Take into consideration natural factors and features of the land, its slope, elevation, soil characteristics and climatic conditions. Then comes the designing part. Study all shapes, styles and themes that are of interest to you, and then choose what you like best. The whole land area can be divided into four main

sections: open spaces, plant areas, paths and features. Incorporate the selected shapes, styles and themes in each of these areas. For example, if you are planning a circular landscape, are you going to have circular ponds, flower beds and pathways as well? Be aware of water inlet and outlet points on your land since you will need to install irrigation systems. Now draw these drainage, irrigation and lighting systems on the layout. Since it is difficult to visualize the design so easily, you can get help from software or draw it on paper.

Once the design is finalized, it is better to list what materials are required and the cost of each item. Then plan how much time you can devote for creating this landscape. In case you plan to get it done by professionals, this plan can serve as a base to start work. Since you know your needs the best, it is advisable that you plan the landscape design personally.

## SUMMER ISN'T OVER YET!

Bring the Fresh Look of Summer Into Your Home From Coral Nafie

Lighten Up Your Home and Your Spirits!

When the days are long and the air is warm, you want to throw open your windows and **enjoy the days of summer**. Bring the fresh look of summer into your home with some quick and easy additions (or removals) of color, style, and accessories.

Not everyone has the luxury of moving to the lake or mountains to enjoy the "lazy days of summer." But most everyone can **bring the look of summer into the home they do have**.

It's not necessary to change every room or throw out all the old furniture, but there are lots of ways to **lighten up and freshen up** your home for a wonderful summer seasonal change. You may even feel like you've moved away for the summer.

Why not try some of these simple, easy changes to "summerize" your home?

### • Restyle

Take out any dark accessories like velvet pillows, wool throws, and even that dark leather club chair and ottoman. Don't worry! You can bring them back in when the weather changes.

### • Repaint

It won't take long to put a fresh coat of summery paint on a hallway or on a wall of a drab room. Choose a fresh color scheme of lemon yellow, apple green, or sky blue.

### • Revive

Toss out leggy, brown plants that you're trying to nurse. Bring in fresh, flowering new ones and welcome summer!

For more summer tips, flip over!



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