



march 2008

your Realty News

Brought to you by RE/MAX Realty Professionals

MLS® RESALE MARKET PICKS UP MOMENTUM IN FEBRUARY 2008

Calgary, March 3, 2008 – Calgary's MLS® Sales for the month of February show signs of increased market pace, according to figures released by the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB®).

Single family Calgary metro properties changing hands in February 2008 were 1,252, an increase of 15.6 per cent over the 1,083 sales reported in January 2008 but showing a decrease of 35.5 from the same period last year, when the sales were 1,942.

Single family Calgary metro new listings added for the month of February totaled, 2,981, a decrease of 1.4 per cent from January's new listing of 3,023 and an increase of 35.1 per cent over the 2,206 new listings added in February 2007.

"It appears as though things are picking up, as we move into the final month of the first quarter. I don't anticipate we'll see the blistering market that we experienced in the early parts of 2006 and 2007, but I do anticipate stability in this now corrected market," remarked CREB® President, Ed Jensen.

Calgary is a very desirable place to live at the moment, with our strong economy, low unemployment rates, strength in the oil and gas industry; people are still moving here and that's great for real estate.

For more information, visit www.creb.com

Fun Facts about Easter

The word Easter comes from Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of love and fertility, also known as Astarte. Astarte became the Anglo-Saxon Ostara, goddess of fertility, spring, and dawn. Easter gradually came to absorb various pagan springtime celebrations and symbols.

The largest Easter egg ever made was constructed in Vegreville, AB. It weighs in at an astonishing 5,000 pounds, and is 25.7 feet long.

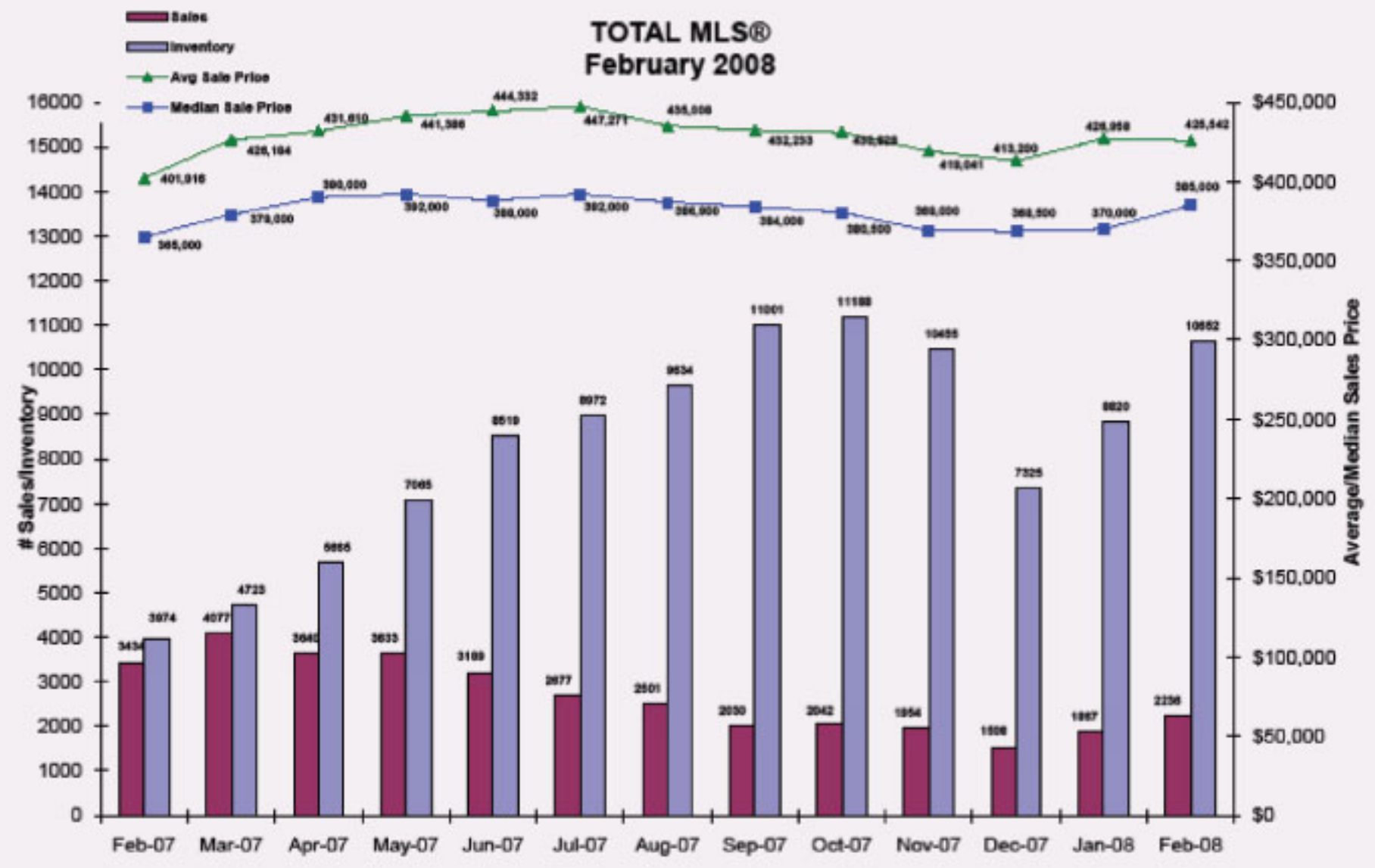
Eggs have long been a symbol of rebirth in many cultures. The exchange of eggs is a custom that long predates Easter.

15 billion jellybeans will be made. That's enough to circle the world three times if you lined them up end-to-end.

The first edible Easter bunnies -- made of pastry and sugar -- were also produced in Germany during the early 1800s. German settlers later brought the custom to North America.

Creating Easter baskets arose from the Catholic custom of bringing Easter dinner food to mass to be blessed. This custom may also be related to ancient agrarian customs of bringing first crops to the temple.

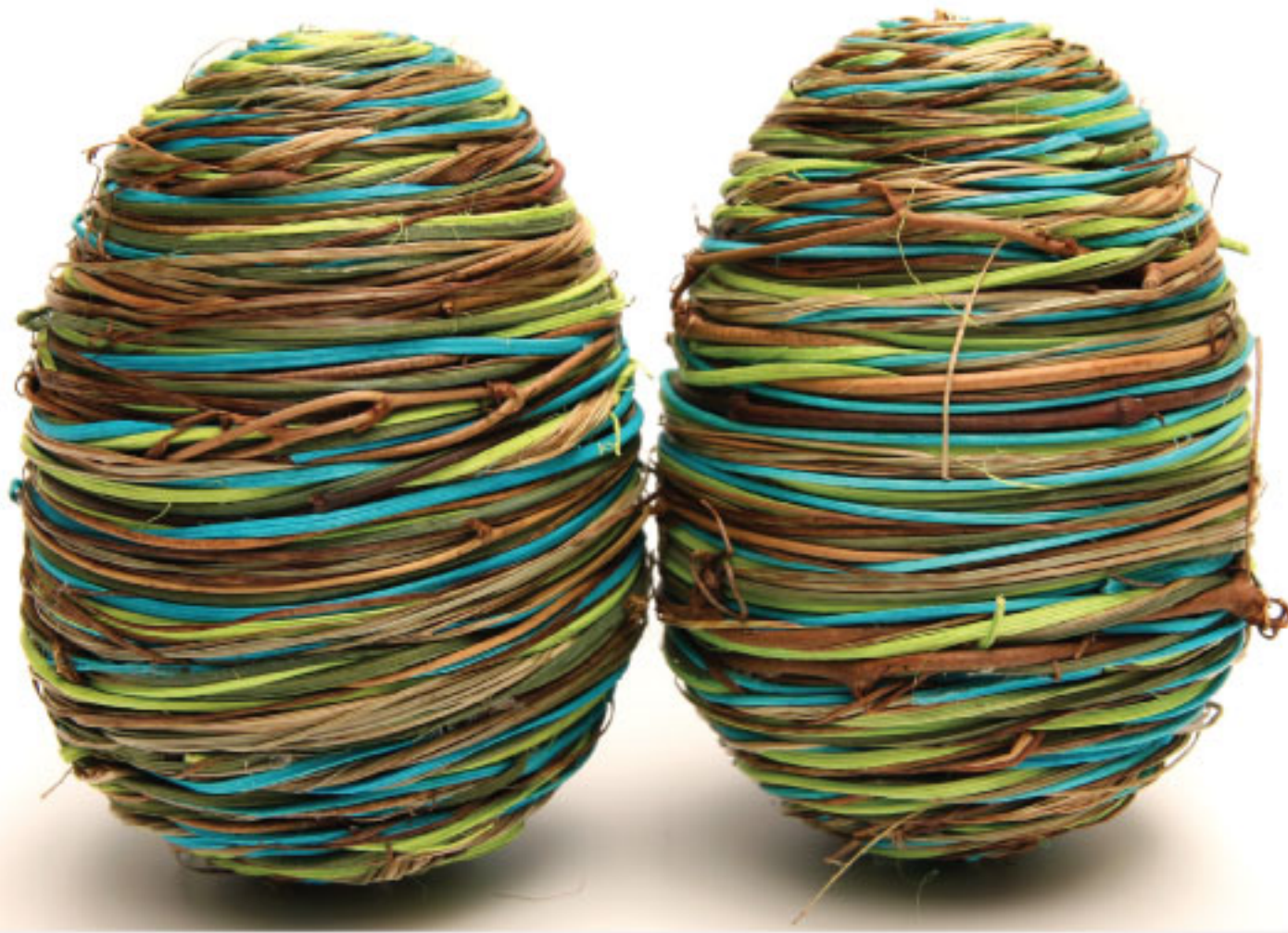
What is the modern day meaning of Easter? A commemoration of the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion



Ellyn Mendham & Tom Westcott
403-259-4141
RE/MAX REALTY PROFESSIONALS



REALTORS®



SPRING FEVER IN CALGARY

Spring fever has arrived but vacation time is still down the road, so why not put this in between time to good use and brighten up your home.

Spring is a good time to clean up the kitchen. To start off, get a low down on what is in your cabinets and pantries and then roll up your sleeves and get down to work. To eliminate excess clutter, throw out jars and bottles you never use as well as old pots and pans and cracked china and then treat yourself to a brand new set of china.

As you go through each drawer and shelf, check for duplications and get rid of all the excess. Do you really need three can openers, for example? Are you storing things in their respective places?

A simple and practical guideline to follow, is to place items where they are most likely to be used and the frequency of their use. Keep toasters, mixers and other small appliances within easy reach. If you store them away, it becomes a chore to get them out when needed.

In most kitchens there are three basic workstations, 1) for food preparation and clean up (the sink area), 2) one for refrigeration and storage and 3) a cooking area. Depending on how and where you store kitchen equipment, you may be saving or repeatedly retracing steps.

Keep your dishes near the sink so that cleaning and storage after daily use is convenient. Spices and cooking utensils should be handy to the stove or cooking centre.

A baking centre can be added to suit your individual needs. If you bake a lot, then this can be very handy. You will be able to organize all your baking items in one location for easy access.

A desk area near the telephone is an ideal place to take messages, copy recipes, store cookbooks and pay bills.

Decorated shelf liners in bright colours perk up cabinet and drawer interiors.

Go to your local home centre and investigate all the inexpensive organizers that may be useful in the kitchen. Plastic organizers, cutlery trays and turntables are instant drawer organizers that help keep your utensils from ending up in other areas, which saves you from hunting them out when they're needed. Having organizers also make clean-ups a breeze since they enable you to easily remove the contents of a drawer or cabinet.

Once you get one area under control, discipline yourself into returning objects to their appropriate places after use. Your home will stay neat and you will discover that ordinary chores suddenly are not as time consuming. And, thanks to organization accessories, spring clean-up is remarkably easy.

Buying or just bought a new home? Here are some helpful hints for new and prospective homeowners. This is in no way an inclusive list.

For information on building decks, fences, and garages or sheds, phone our Planning Services Support Centre at (403) 268-5311.

If you're planning to build a deck, fence, garage, etc., Call Before You Dig. <<http://www.alberta1call.com/>> Alberta One Call will locate and mark all underground utilities on your property free of charge. Phone 1-800-242-3447 or visit their Web site.

Before you apply for a building permit to build or alter the exterior of your new home, check your Land Title for any easements, restrictive covenants, architectural guidelines, etc. Also check your survey or Real Property Report to determine the location of your property lines to ensure you're building within your property boundaries.

Ask the builder/developer to see building permit paperwork for any unresolved issues (ie, final inspection, deficiencies).

If your new home is in a new community, you may come across issues that the developer will deal with and some may be handled by The City. Things like the initial construction and repair of sidewalks, parks, curbs, lanes, etc., are generally the developer's responsibility for a two year period. During this two year period, The City will provide snow and ice control on major roads. When in doubt, contact your developer or The City of Calgary Urban Development at (403) 268-5777.

In addition, the Calgary Online Store offers a complete set of reports specifically designed for the individual home buyer.



the **Above the Crowd!**[®]



Ellyn Mendham & Tom Westcott

403-259-4141

RE/MAX REALTY PROFESSIONALS

