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CALGARY HOUSING MARKET REBOUND CONTINUES HOME PRICES EDGE UPWARDS AS DEMAND HOLDS STEADY

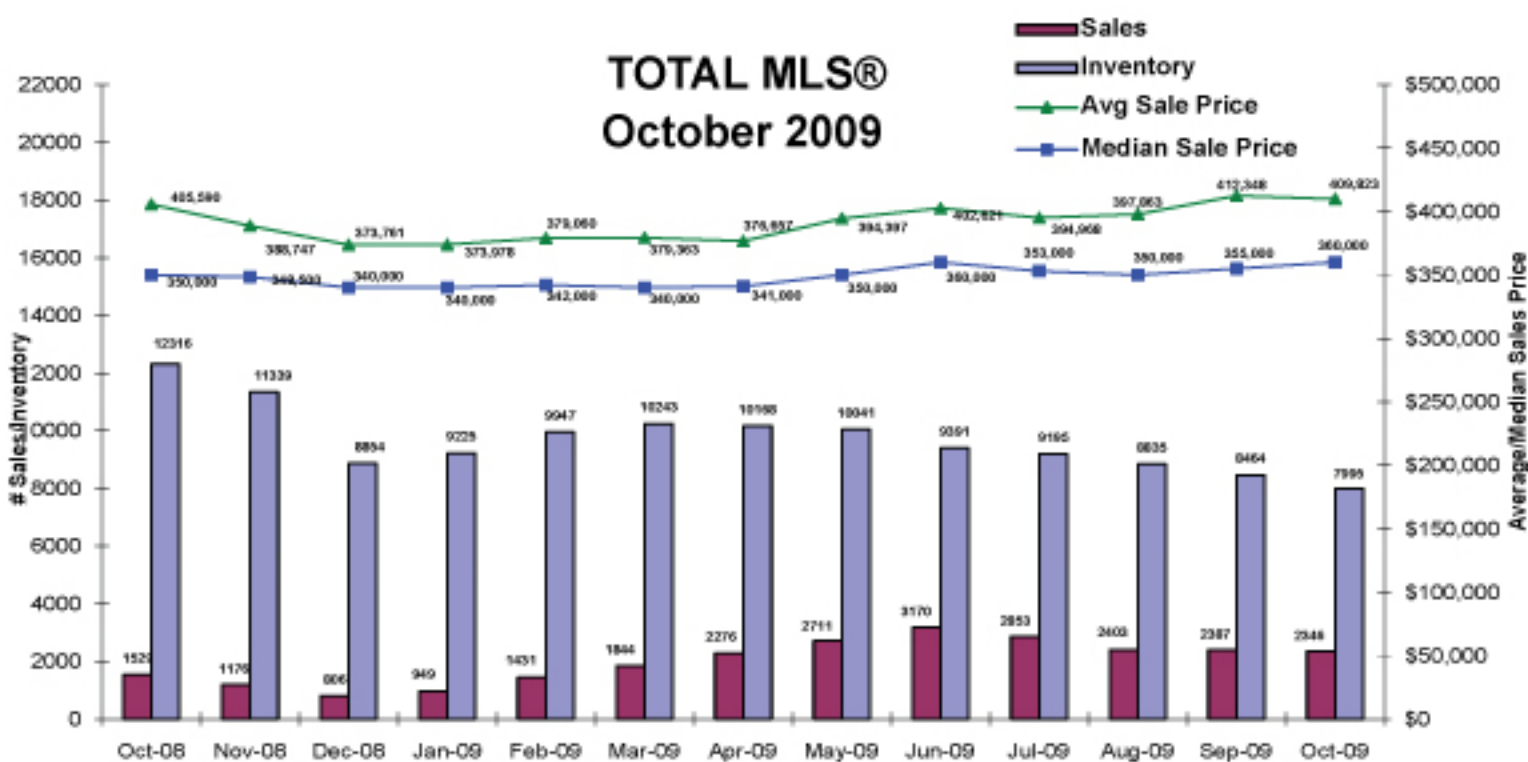
Calgary, November 2, 2009 – The Calgary housing market continued to rebound in October, according to figures released by the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB®).

"Calgary's housing market has clearly turned a corner," says Bonnie Wegerich, president of CREB®. "We expect there to be a few bumps on this road to recovery but we believe the worst is over. Home prices have held firm and edged upwards in some markets over the past months.

This has helped buoy up the confidence of both buyers and sellers." The average price of a single family Calgary metro home in October 2009 was \$462,465, showing an increase of 1 per cent from September 2009, when the average price was \$459,085, and showing an increase of 3 per cent from October 2008, when the average price was \$449,100. The average price of a Calgary metro condominium was \$289,155, showing no significant change from September 2009, when the average price was \$290,253, and no significant change over last year, when the average price was \$289,148.

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. "Move-up buyers have clearly entered the market," says Wegerich. "This is reflected in the average price for a single family home cresting just above \$462,000—historically the highest it has ever been in the month of October. Nonetheless, our median price is \$410,000, indicating affordability still remains in the market. We expect upwards pressure on prices will ease as more listings come on to the market."

The number of single family homes and condos sold in October 2009 in Calgary metro are also both up from the same time a year ago. October saw 1,285 single family homes sold in Calgary metro. This is an increase of 57 per cent from October 2008, when single family home sales were 820. This is an increase of 2 per cent from 1,257 sales in September of this year. The number of condominium sales for the month of October 2009 was 601, an increase of 51 per cent from October 2008 when 399 condominiums changed hands. This was an increase of 4 per cent from the 580 condominium transactions recorded last month.



For more information, visit www.creb.com

12 Hot Toys for 2009 Christmas Season

1. Bakugan Battle Pack, Spin Master
2. Battle Strikers starter Set, Mega Brands
3. Ben 10 Alien Force Kevins DX Action Cruiser, Bandai
4. Bendaroos Mega Pack, Spin Master
5. GO GO Pets Hamsters, Character Options
6. GX Racers Tightrope Terror, Flair
7. Kidizoom Multimedia Digital Camera, V-Tech
8. LEGO Games Minotaurus, Lego
9. Monopoly City, Hasbro
10. Princess Peppa's Palace, Character Options
11. Sylvanian Families Caravan, Flair
12. Transformers Movie 2 Voyagers Figures, Hasbro

Girls will also enjoy: Kai-Lan, Dora, Hello Kitty, Holiday Barbie and Mr Potato Head. For the Boys, other ideas include: Halo, Transformers, Star Wars and Harry Potter Clue.



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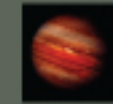
RANDOM FACTS



Tarsier The Smallest Monkey

Who Knew?

Do you know the smallest monkey spends its entire life on trees? Yes! It's true. Tarsier, an unusual mammal, just keeps clinging to the trunk of the trees, even while sleeping and giving birth to the young ones. Isn't it amazing? This nocturnal animal has large eyes, a long tail and ears with almost no hair. It is a carnivores animal and can move its ears to determine the location of the prey. The most unusual thing about this animal is its flexible neck that it can turn up to 360 degrees. Tarsier is about the size of squirrel but it has long tail. Since they can't walk, they hop when they on ground and mark their trees with their urine. Interesting fact is that Tarsier is neither a monkey nor a primate. It is something in between. Philippines tarsiers are smallest of all tarsiers and their eyes are as big as their brain.



Facts About Jupiter

Named after the Roman God known as Zeus in Germany, the planet Jupiter technically has no surface as it is entirely made out of gas. Jupiter can be seen without a telescope because of its huge size. The gravitational pull of the planet is so high that anything and everything that passes the planets gets pulled towards it. Jupiter has 63 moons and one of them is volcanically active and it is the only moon in the entire solar system to be in such a state. The fastest spinning planet of all, Jupiter has clouds that are up to 50 km thick and the average day on Jupiter lasts around 10 hours. After Venus, Jupiter is the second brightest planet in the Solar System (Venus reflects 70% of sunlight). Mars outshines Jupiter only when approached very close to the Earth. Interesting Fact is that Jupiter emits weird sounds or so called "electromagnetic voices" recorded by NASA-Voyager.



Twitter Facts

Twitter is a micro-blogging social network service which allows users to share not-so-important things in their life by answering a simple question: "What are you doing?" Answers to this question are organized in a short messages called Tweets, length is limited to 140 characters. The good thing about Twitter, there is no "noise" created by boring people since "friendships" are not mutual - you can "follow" interesting people while they don't have to follow you. In February 2009, Twitter had a monthly growth (of users) of over 1300 percent - several times more than Facebook. Twitter made huge success from the mobile device users (in 2009 there was 735,000 unique mobile visitors).

Condominium or House: Which is Right for You?

For some people, a condominium lifestyle is the only way to live—no lawn maintenance, a pool and tennis court, and extra security features you might not have in a single-family home. Other people simply can't breathe in a condo because the neighbours are too close for comfort. Consider the pros and cons and your specific needs and desires before deciding to buy a condo.

Because of all of the advantages of home ownership in comparison to renting, many of you will soon be reaching a point where you want to buy a home. However, you may not be sure whether you should actually buy a house or if you should look in to buying a condo instead. This is especially true for younger home buyers who might want the benefits of living in a more communal situation in a condo environment. Should you join the condo club or go for a more traditional home ownership? Consider your lifestyle and weigh the pros and cons of each before deciding which to buy.

A condo is probably the right choice for you if:

- You don't have a lot of money to spend but still want to invest in home ownership.
- You are interested in being part of a small community living in the same complex.
- You are comfortable living in close proximity to your neighbours.
- You are a single individual or a couple that is looking for a small home rather than a large property.
- You don't mind having certain aspects of your home ownership regulated by a committee (a home owner's association made up of some of the tenants who live in the other condos).
- You live in an urban area where condos are common (such as Toronto or Vancouver).
- You run a busy lifestyle and prefer to enjoy amenities like a pool or a shaded grounds area but aren't able to maintain such amenities yourself either because of the time that it takes or the cost.

A house is more likely to be a better choice for you if:

- You have (or plan to have) a large family.
- You are a very private person who does not like living close to your neighbours, or having your home choices regulated by an association.
- You are investing in home ownership primarily for the purpose of resale of the home in the future (since property values are usually higher than condo values).
- You are seeking to purchase a large home and/or you need outdoor areas for things like large pets.
- You enjoy maintaining your own yard or garden.
- You live in a rural area or in a location where there are not many condos on the market.

Although there are always exceptions, condo purchases are usually best for single individuals who have neither the money to invest in a house nor the time to maintain the upkeep of a house. These tend to be young people who don't mind apartment-style living in close quarters with their neighbours, who are comfortable having some regulation by the home owner's association and who enjoy sharing common areas with others. Often, condo buyers are first time home buyers. If, in contrast, you are an older adult who has (or may soon have) a family and would like the freedom and privacy of a home with its own property, then a house is probably the right choice for you.

Regardless of whether you buy a house or a condo, it's important to do your homework and consider the future of the neighbourhood you're buying into. The old saying of "location, location, location" remains true for both. Each is a significant investment, and you need to find a safe and vibrant neighbourhood capable of nurturing your investment into the future.



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