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JANUARY 2010

The Jungmans Yak

Family Happenings

Happy 2010! "O"7, "O"8, "O"9 and, now what? Just "10"? Oh, the things we can spend time thinking about while on vacation... Actually, the Jungmans' Christmas and New Years celebrations sped by at such an alarming rate it feels like we should still be preparing.

We had a house full of relatives and children this Christmas and with that always comes lots of



food, giggles and noise! It was a great chance for all the

cousins to spend some time together for a couple weeks and the adults to try and stay sane. Matt and his two grown brothers, plus his dad and all three grandsons were given fully-automatic Nerf dart guns so our basement was quickly transformed into an all-out battlefield complete with shelters and obstacles. Lots of fun for the "little boys" (the 6' tall little boys, that is). Five little girls in the house also produced its fair share of dress up performances, fashion shows and Christmas crafts.

For New Years, we made a quick dash up to the Okanagan and spent some time with friends doing a little sledding and ATVing in the snow. It was a real treat for the kids and always a good time.



Our season of family j u s t continues on as we had a chance to head over to

the mainland last week for a couple days and spent some time with my side of the family. My dad is one of 12 children spread all over the globe; across Canada, Germany and the US. It doesn't happen very often, but last week, all but one, gathered together in Abbotsford and it was great to find out what's happening in everyone's lives. We are truly blessed!

I hope you, and all of yours, had a wonderful holiday season and start 2010 with great optimism. I'd love to hear your crazy stories too!

Hot New Listings!

205-821 Goldstream
JUST LISTED



2 BR/2 Baths
Private South Deck
Open Floor Plan
Granite Counter Tops
\$272,900

Building Lot
MLS #267957



Family neighborhood
Quiet Street
Fully Serviced
Bare Land Strata
\$189,900

3409 Karger Terrace
Coming Soon!



Architecturally Designed
Sweeping Views!
Mortgage Helper
4 BR/6 Bath s
\$748,000

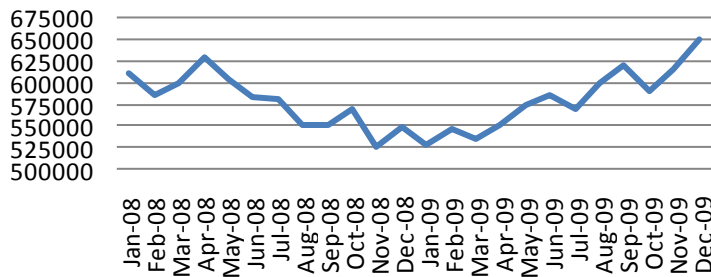


2009— A Year of Recovery for Victoria Area Real Estate Market

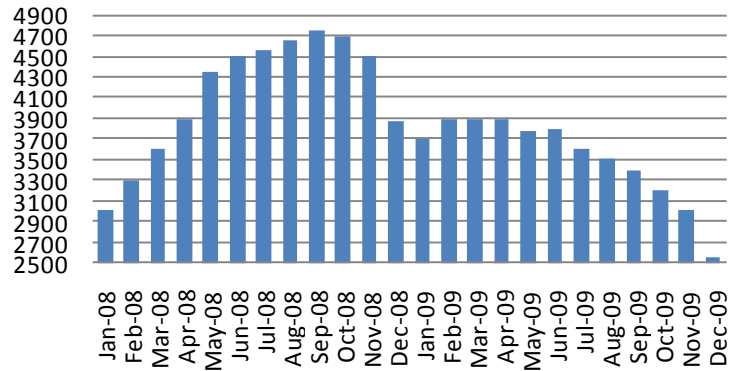
— VREB January 2010

Last year was marked by a surprising and strong recovery for the Victoria area real estate market following the slowdown in 2008 and the early part of 2009. Total sales of homes and other properties rose

Single Family Homes (Greater Victoria Only)



Total Active MLS® Listings



by 24 per cent compared to 2008 while the value of all property transactions through the Victoria Real Estate Board's Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system rose over 20 per cent to nearly \$3.8 billion.

Victoria Real Estate Board President, Randi Masters, says the strength of the recovery came as a welcome surprise, "Given the significant world-wide economic down-turn we were very pleased to see the real estate

market recover so quickly. With the interest rates expected to remain low in the coming months, we are anticipating a strong and balanced market in the coming year." Masters noted that while sales rebounded strongly last year, overall average prices showed little change compared to 2008. The overall average price for single family homes declined by less than one per cent, condominium prices declined by less than three per cent and the average townhome price remained essentially unchanged.

Masters added that December saw the normal decrease in sales compared to November with some minor fluctuations in prices. Masters noted that there has been a substantial decline in the number of properties available for sale, "As of the end of December, there was 2,557 properties available for sale— down 33 per cent from a year earlier."

Consumer Awareness: Greenwashing

Greenwashing is a fairly new term (derived from "whitewashing") to describe the activities of a company claiming environmentally-friendly initiatives or policies, despite involvement in activities that are significantly more detrimental to the environment. This practice, sometimes called "green sheen", can be misleading to individual consumers who prefer buying from companies that minimize their environmental impact.

Homeowners, of course, are constantly faced with product choices that can affect their long term living conditions and community environment. So, it can be beneficial for them to know which products live up to their claims, and are worthy of customer loyalty. On the other hand, it is also useful to know about the companies that may spend more on merely communicating good intentions, rather than acting on them.

To find out about companies that are good corporate citizens—and those that may be greenwashing—ask a national or local consumer action group. By shopping smartly and rewarding those that deserve your support, you'll be sending a positive message about what you want for your community.

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... for your Referrals !