

# MARCH

## Buying Opportunities Have Not Been This Strong in Years

Calgary, March 2, 2009 – MLS® sales activity of single family Calgary metro homes was 825 in the month of February 2009 showing an increase of 50% from 550 sales in January 2009, according to figures released by the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB®). This was a decrease of 34% from February 2008 when single family home sales were 1,252. The number of condominium sales for the month of February 2009 was 343, an increase of 52% from the 225 condominium transactions recorded in January 2009 and a decrease of 39% from February 2008 when 562 condominiums changed hands.

"Undoubtedly the global economic downturn has battered consumer confidence. But there are promising signs we are moving towards a more balanced and stable market," said Calgary Real Estate Board President, Bonnie Wegerich. "Sales are making some modest gains this month, prices are stabilizing and our inventory absorption rate is improving."

"Affordability is the silver-lining in this market. With low interest rates, broad selection and improved affordability, buying opportunities have not been this strong in years, and this is good news particularly for first-time homebuyers who may have felt pushed out of the market. First time homebuyers can take advantage of improved affordability along with the federal government's First-Time Home Buyers Tax Credit and new increases to the Home Buyers' Plan," adds Wegerich.

The Calgary Real Estate Board is a professional body of 5,209 licensed brokers and registered associates, representing 252 member offices.

### Single Family:

	JAN	FEB
New Listings	2,068	2,057
Sales	550	825
Avg. Price	413,049	415,568
Avg. Price '08	455,297	471,696

### Condominiums:

	JAN	FEB
New Listings	941	892
Sales	225	343
Avg. Price	270,940	268,971
Avg. Price '08	311,232	311,812

### Country Residential:

	JAN	FEB
New Listings	189	198
Sales	14	32
Avg. Price	1,009,571	748,516
Avg. Price '08	1,114,111	816,982



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## Calgary Events You Don't Want To Miss This Month

### **Feast With The Beasts**

3/14/09 - 3/14/09

Calgary Zoo

The Zoo is hosting the ultimate evening for adults only!

### **The Auto Show**

3/11/09 - 3/15/09

Roundup Centre, Corral, Stampede Park

### **Calgary International Auto and Truck Show**

3/11/09 - 3/15/09

Roundup Center, Hall C, Stampede Park, Calgary

### **Downtown Calgary Dining Week**

3/9/09 - 3/15/09

Indulge in a succulent showcase of the city's finest culinary offerings during Dine Out Calgary 2009.

### **The Irish Descendants**

3/17/09 - 3/17/09

COWBOYS

Calgary's Biggest St. Patty's Day Party

### **Calgary Pet Expo**

3/21/09 - 3/22/09

Lower Level Big 4 Building, Calgary Stampede Grounds

### **Night at the Races**

3/26/09 - 3/26/09

Hotel Arts 119-12 Ave Sw

6:30pm. Hosted by The Coach of LITE 96.

### **Family-A-Fair**

3/27/09 - 3/28/09

Roundup Center Hall A, Stampede Grounds, Calgary

### **PGA of Alberta Golf Show**

3/28/09 - 3/29/09

Roundup Centre Halls C-D

### **Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show**

3/27/09 - 3/29/09

Round-up Center, Stampede Park

## Facts about St. Patrick's Day Holiday

\* St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD.

\* In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.

\* Many cities have a St. Patrick's Day parade. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has a huge St. Patrick's Day festival from March 15-19, that features a parade, family carnivals, treasure hunt, dance, theatre and more. In North America, parades are often held on the Sunday before March 17. Some paint the yellow street lines green for the day! In Chicago, the Chicago River is dyed green with a special dye that only lasts a few hours. There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston, Massachusetts since 1737. Montreal is home to Canada's longest running St. Patrick's Day parade, which began in 1824.

**Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something: the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck.**