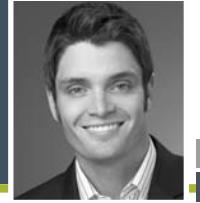




SUSTAINABILITY NEIGHBOURHOOD ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY

Ryan Roberts

real estate newsletter



Q2 TORONTO MARKET UPDATE

Most people observing the real-estate market in 2009 would agree that it has been an interesting year so far. At the beginning, the prices of properties were still relatively low (worth about 5-10% less than in 2008), and fewer people than expected cashed in on these lower prices and the lower interest rates on mortgages. But by about mid-February the level of activity began to increase. When the media drew attention to this fact, it seemed to further motivate buyers and sellers. At present, I'm seeing both multiple offers and well-priced properties being sold in just days, or even hours! I wouldn't be surprised if soon sellers begin refusing offers until "offer night" to allow more potential buyers to view the homes before they sell, a tactic in wide use before the real-estate market slowed down. As well, the Bank of Canada has recently dropped the lending rates yet again.

My projection is that the market's level of activity will continue to increase. And so will the prices of properties, as first-time buyers push other buyers up into the higher purchasing brackets. This is certainly an exciting time to buy a home, especially given the unbelievably low interest rates on borrowed money. In some cases, buying a home with the low variable mortgage rates is more economical than renting. It is a very unique situation!

GREEN TIPS FOR SPRING CLEANING

Yes, it is that time of year again.

1. Open the windows! Think about how long it has been since you were able to do that.
2. Avoid air fresheners. Instead, try using an open box of baking soda, cedar blocks, or flowers. Natural fragrances can go a long way.
3. Avoid chemicals. Use vegetable based cleaning products.
4. Use vinegar to clean just about anything in your house, including carpets. It's not just good on fish and chips.
5. Baking soda is extremely versatile.
6. Avoid bleach. Try using an herbal-based sanitizer, or the old soap and water trick.



COMPUTER RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Do you have an old computer just sitting around? I have two of them. I thought I would be able to sell them, but I've noticed that as time goes by these machines become even more obsolete. So go figure. Fortunately, I have come across some computer recycling services. You won't receive money, but you may receive a tax receipt. At the very least, by recycling your unwanted hardware, you will have done your part for the world. Here are a few links:

[Free Recycling](#)

[Little Geeks](#)

[Computers for Schools](#)



REAL ESTATE BLOGGING

I began a *[real estate blog](#)* back in November. I started off with a post every couple of weeks. Now I'm up to about 4 a week. It has been a lot of fun! I also added a *[Twitter](#)* account a couple of months ago. I have many helpful tips and insights for people looking to educate themselves about neighbourhoods and buy or sell a home in Toronto. Have a look and let me know what you think.

* Please click on *[words in italic](#)* to open link

If I can be of any assistance to you, a friend, family member or work colleague please let me know. I respect referrals as a key to my current and future success in the real estate business. Feel free to contact me with any real estate related questions you have. Whether you need a contact to repair a household item or another service provider I will do my best to suggest quality contacts. I can be reached by clicking the email address or the telephone number provided below.

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