



## Market Watch

### GTA REALTORS® Report Mid-Month Resale Housing Figures

TORONTO, September 16, 2010 - Greater Toronto REALTORS® reported 2,623 sales through the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) during the first two weeks of September 2010. This represented a 22 per cent decrease compared to the 3,361 sales recorded during the same period in 2009. Year-to-date sales amounted to 65,455, representing a six per cent increase compared to 2009.

“Sales remain below the record pace we experienced in the second half of 2009. The prospect of higher interest rates and new mortgage lending guidelines resulted in higher than normal sales in the first few months of the year. To balance this out, the pace of sales has slowed in the second half,” said Toronto Real Estate Board President Bill Johnston.

“It is important to note that year-to-date sales remain above the number reported through the same period last year,” added Johnston.

The average price for September mid-month transactions was \$412,367 – up five per cent compared to the average of \$393,818 recorded during the first 14 days of September 2009.

“Under current lending standards, the average selling price is affordable for a household earning the average income in the GTA. The annual price growth we have been experiencing has been justified by this positive affordability picture,” said Jason Mercer, TREB’s Senior Manager of Market Analysis.

Source: TREB

## Labour Day



### September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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## 10 Ways to Get Your Home Ready for Fall

by Michele Miao

Summer's come to an end. The kids are back in school and the days are filled with work and sports practices and other errands. Take some time to get your home ready now and you won't be caught unprepared when the temperatures begin to cool. Start looking ahead with these easy home organizing and decorating ideas.

### In the Garden

Prepare the lawn or garden for falling temperatures. Remove weeds, seed and fertilize the lawn and plant any spring-blooming bulbs. In areas where the ground freezes, consider mulching flower beds. The mulch will protect plants from the weather gets cold. Container gardens also should be moved indoors or protected from falling temperatures with a burlap wrap.

### On the Patio

Clean outdoor furniture and equipment with a mild soap solution and water. If possible, bring it indoors for the winter. No room to store all that gear in the house or garage? Wrap it tightly with a tarp or other cover that will protect it from strong weather and the rays of the sun.

### In the Garage or Closet

Store beach and camping gear away in the back of the garage or closet, since it won't be needed until next year. Move fall sporting and yard equipment such as footballs, soccer gear, rakes & leaf blowers to accessible areas, go they're easy to grab on the way out to sports practices or when you need to rake the leaves.

### In the Entryway

Cooler temperatures mean warmer jackets and heavier shoes. Don't let these items clutter the entryway. Carve out a space near the doorway to store them. If you don't have a coat closet, consider hanging coat hooks at and setting out baskets for shoes.

Continued on page 4...

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### In the Clothes Closet

Comb through your family's closets. Store summer dresses and tops to make room for fall wardrobes. Make sure school clothes are organized and ready for the children to grab on mornings when they're hurrying to school.

### In the Kitchen

Back-to-school means busy days. Stock cabinets and pantries with healthy afternoon snacks and ingredients for easy meals so that you can quickly make dinners that are good for your family.

### In the Home Office

Set up a work station for both you and your children. Create a quiet, organized area where you can all work together. While they're busy finishing homework, you'll be able to do work of your own or pay bills. Plus, you'll be easily accessible if they have questions.

### In the Living Room

Give the living room a quick and affordable makeover for fall with just a few simple touches. Pillows, throws and slipcovers in a rich fall fabric or color are easy ways to give the room a new look, while an arrangement of autumn flowers brings the seasonal changes indoors.

### In the Bedroom

Falling temperatures also mean cool autumn nights. It's time to pull out the blankets that you stored away in the spring. Give your bed a new look with a throw in an autumnal color or rich fabric.

### In the Bathroom

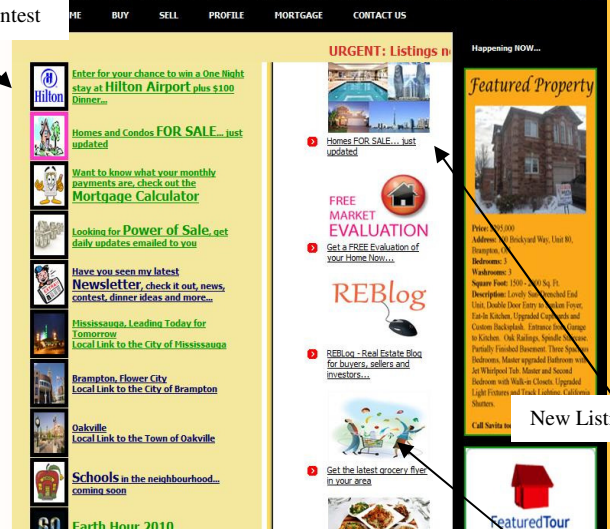
The bathroom is the busiest room in the house most mornings as everyone rushes to school and work. Streamline the process by assigning everyone a shelf or drawer when they can store their morning essentials. No more hunting around for the hairbrush, everything they need is in one place and easy to reach.

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