



Myrna Higgs' Market Report

Helping you is what we do.™

Office: 403-252-5900
Email: myrnahiggs@royallepage.ca
Website: www.MyrnaHiggs.com

16, 11625 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, AB
T2W 1G8



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Cold-Weather Fun for the Kids

“I’m bored!” No matter how many movies, video games or toys the kids have, you’re going to hear those two words sooner or later. So what do you need to keep your kids happy when they’re stuck indoors? All it takes is a little imagination!

Bottle-bowling. Find a soft-textured ball to use as a bowling ball. Place some pillows against the wall at the end of a hallway. Line up some empty plastic water or pop bottles a metre in front of the pillows and you have an instant bowling alley. Letting the kids keep score can be great practice for counting too.

Camping trip, anyone? Ask the kids if they’d like to go on a camping trip without leaving home. You’ll need some grass (a green blanket or towels), a tent (a sheet or blanket placed over two chairs), and a few pieces of bristol board for the kids to cut out trees, flowers, or a campfire. A few stuffed animals placed around the campsite will help set the scene.

Little bakers. Mix up some gingerbread dough and let the little ones use different shaped cookie cutters to make cookies. Once cooled, they could decorate them with colourful icing and candies (messy but fun and yummy).

Shadow-drawing. Get a roll of plain brown paper and have each child lie on it, and then trace their outline. Once cut out, they’ll enjoy drawing in their own features, or creating a funny character that will have them chuckling.

Make your own book. Ask the kids to make up a story that they have to write down and illustrate with paint or markers. Use binders to keep all their stories together so you can enjoy reading them in years to come. A great keepsake.

Future film-makers. Pull out some dress-up clothes, charge up the video camera and get the kids to make a movie. They can act out scenes from their favourite movies, or just run with their own ideas. Next stop, Hollywood!

Storytime. Having everyone curl up with a cup of hot chocolate and marshmallows to listen to a story is one of the coziest of winter pastimes – and best of all, no batteries required!

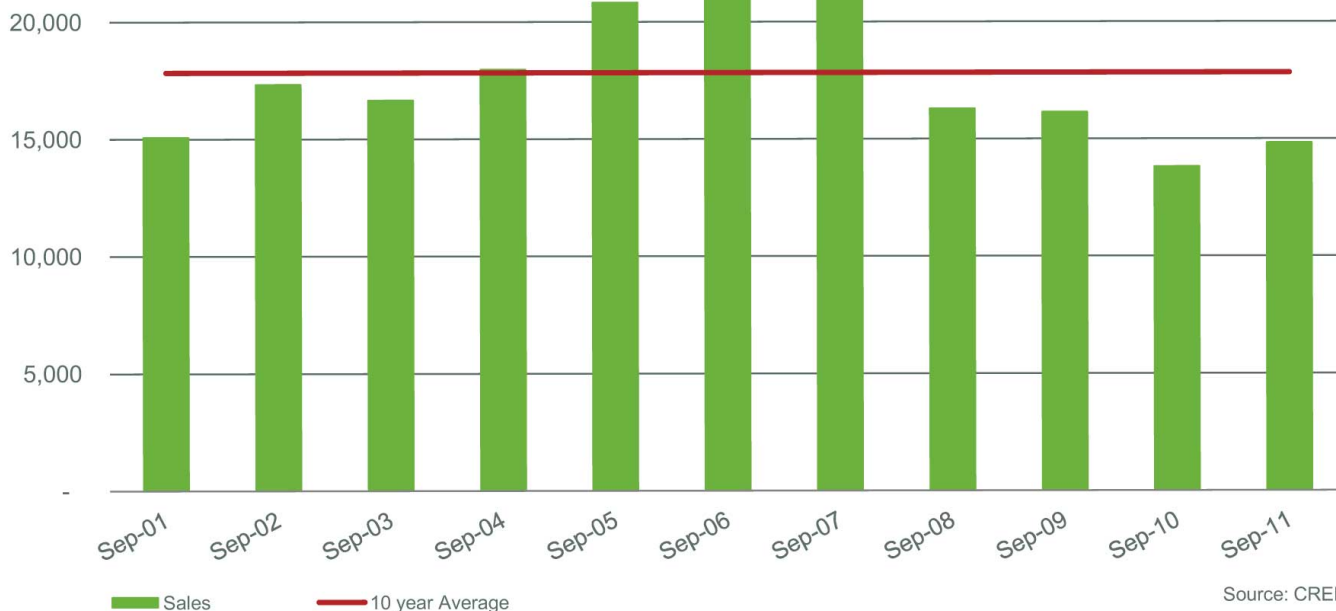
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CITY OF CALGARY SINGLE FAMILY AND CONDOMINIUM SALES YEAR TO DATE



HOMEBUYERS' CONFIDENCE HOLDS STEADY DESPITE GLOBAL TURMOIL

Sales gain momentum in the first three quarters of 2011

Calgary, October 3, 2011 – According to figures released by CREB®, residential sales continued to gain momentum in Calgary this year, totaling 14,832 after the first three quarters, a seven per cent per cent rise over last year.

Despite recent turmoil in the global economy, Calgarians are showing confidence in the long term prospects for the city and are taking advantage of affordable and stable home prices.

Undoubtedly, there are a lot of unknowns in the world's current financial situation, but Calgary and Alberta may be relatively safe havens amidst this uncertainty. Granted, gains in the housing market have been very gradual, but we are seeing signs of improvements. Our province's growth is expected to outperform the national average, and this will help buoy consumer confidence in Calgary and Alberta.

Single family home sales totaled 1,036 for the month of September, 2011, an eight per cent increase over last September. Year-to-date sales totaled 10,518 units a 10 per cent increase over last year. Monthly gains in listings brings inventory to 4,753 units, a level still lower than the previous year.

Clearly there is a market for well priced listings. In particular, we are seeing strength in detached single family home sales. Relative affordability in this market has meant these homes are selling faster than condominiums and townhouses.

After the first three quarters of this year, condominium sales totaled 4,314, a two per cent rise over the same period last year. While the increase is modest, it is a move in the right direction, adding that a boost in condominium sales, along with a lower number of listings is helping to tighten this market. At the end of September, 2011, condominium inventories totaled 2,008 units compared to 2,204 units recorded in September 2010.

Average condominium prices reached \$299,508 in September, 2011, appearing to record a significant increase. However, the increase in price is not caused by a general price rise, but has been pushed up by a \$4 million plus sale. In fact, both the median price of \$260,000 and the year-to-date figures continue to trend lower than figures recorded last year.

Calgary continues to add full-time jobs to the economy, and migration is moving in the right direction. These are positive factors that will give momentum to our housing market and give wind to the sails of Calgary's economy.

Source: CREB

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