

# neighbourhood Snapshot

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

OLIVER AND ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE INC.

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## Beat the Heat

### HELP YOUR GARDEN BEAT THE HEAT

With much of the country in the midst of a heat wave many gardeners are trying to figure out how best to help their gardens cope with the extreme temperatures. Heat stress is a very real problem, both for people and for plants.

There are several things you can do in your garden to keep it healthy and productive. Keep in mind that no matter what you do, vegetable production for crops like tomatoes will slow a bit until temperatures cool down. Lettuces and other salad greens will bolt after a couple of days of high temps. Fruit and blossom drop is common, as is leaf scorch from too much hot sun. You can't avoid these particular problems, but you can make sure that your plants come through the heat with their health intact, ready to start producing again once it cools down.

As far as heat stress and the gardener: try to work in the garden in the morning, before it gets too hot out. Drink plenty of water and stop gardening if you feel light-headed or dizzy. Gardening is fun, and things need to be done, but sometimes sitting down in the shade is the very best way to spend time in your garden.

Source: By Colleen Vanderlinden, About.com Guide

### HELP YOUR CAT BEAT THE HEAT

If you stay in the sun too long you may become dizzy, have heart palpitations, and increased internal temperature, all signs of impending heat exhaustion. Consider this: before you ever reach that point, your cat may also be showing signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Although heat stroke is more commonly discussed in dogs, because of people's propensity to leave them in parked cars, cats can be affected too. Cats can't always tell you they're not feeling up to par, but they sure can show you. Early symptoms of heat stroke and the accompanying dehydration are:

- Panting
- Anxiety, possibly demonstrated by pacing
- Increased heartbeat
- Respiratory distress or hyperventilation
- Dark red gums
- Lethargy
- Increased internal body temperature

The sun is a powerful giver of life and still worshipped by people all over the world, but it is not always your cat's best friend.

Source: By Franny Syufy, About.com Guide

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# Did you know?

A typical household spends about 20 percent of its energy bills on cooling. By improving energy efficiency, you can save energy, save money and help fight climate change.

- Program your thermostat to work around your family's summer schedule -- With proper use, programmable thermostats can save you about \$180 a year in energy costs.
- Check your HVAC system's air filter every month. If the filter looks dirty, change it, but change the filter at least every three months.
- Run your ceiling fan to create a cool breeze. If you raise your thermostat by only two degrees and use your ceiling fan, you can lower cooling costs by up to 14 percent.
- Pull the curtains and shades closed before you leave your home to keep the sun's rays from overheating the interior of your home.
- Seal your air ducts. As much as 20 percent of the air moving through your home's duct system is lost due to leaks and poor connections.
- Swap out incandescent bulbs with more energy-efficient lighting choices. Energy Star qualified lighting not only uses less energy, it also produces about 75 percent less heat.
- If your central air conditioning unit is more than 12 years old, replacing it with a model that has earned EPA's Energy Star could cut your cooling costs by 30 percent.

Source: Marc Lallanilla, About.com Guide



# Market Slows In June

A total of 816 homes sold in June of 2010, more in line with June of 2002 and 2003 than with recent years. "We are very satisfied with these numbers," says Richard Thyssen, President of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®. "2003 and 2004 were strong years and recent events have shown that an up market (or a market that goes nowhere but up) is unsustainable over the long term. Besides, you have to look at the big picture. We're down a bit in June, but year to date we're 14.9% ahead of 2009."

## FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2010

TYPE	UNITS SOLD	AVG. PRICE
2 Storey	187	\$316,591
Bungalow	157	\$177,225
Ranches	94	\$266,394
Townhouse Condo	79	\$150,545

*"We are very satisfied with these numbers."*

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## AVERAGE PRICES YEAR TO DATE

TYPE	UNITS SOLD	AVG. PRICE	% CHANGE FROM 2009
Total Detached	660	\$240,083	3.4%
Total Condo	156	\$162,350	8.6%
Total Residential	816	\$225,222	4%

Source: London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®



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