

# neighbourhood Snapshot

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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## Home & Garden

### DO YOU HAVE AN APP FOR GARDENING?

If you read this and thought I was abbreviating appetite, you're not alone. I'm talking, of course, about application software that runs on phones and other small electronic devices. Now that we have no excuse for getting lost or matching wines with food, we're branching out into niche areas. I'm one of those dinosaurs who only uses her cell phone on rare occasions. I hate the idea of being on call 24/7 and I already spend too many hours staring at a screen. So my phone has never been used in the garden. But there are some intriguing new apps that claim to be as indispensable in the garden as a pair of pruners. iGarden USA - Gardening Helper, by NanoSoft LLC, has planting dates and helps you keep track of what's in your garden. Master Gardener, by MobileWorks LLC, has a database of 40,000 plants and iPlant, tells you the culinary and medicinal uses of plants.

Have you dabbled in cellular gardening? If so, which gardening apps would you recommend?

Source: By Marie Iannotti, About.com Guide

### PREPARE YOUR LAWN BEFORE YOU GO ON VACATION

Since you probably won't have too many friends and neighbours volunteering to take care of your lawn while you're gone, here's a few things you can do to ensure it will still be there when you get back.

- Mow your lawn just before you leave. It might be a good idea to lower the height a little bit so it's not too shaggy when you get back.
- Water heavily after mowing. If you don't have automatic sprinklers, try to give the lawn a good soaking before you leave to prevent browning out while you're gone.
- Spot spray weeds. Spot spraying with a selective herbicide before you leave will spare you a weed infested jungle upon returning from your trip.
- Don't fertilize before you leave. A flush of growth is not what you want to be happening to your lawn while you're gone.

Source: By Kelly Burke, About.com Guide

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# Did you know?

Canadian home owners sell and move, on average, every five to seven years. Why do home owners move? People who have lived in the same home for the past 30 years have a hard time understanding this phenomena. They are shocked that people move so often, but I know one thing for certain: Their day to sell and move will come as well.

Here are the top 15 reasons why people sell and move:

- 1) **Home is too small:** Family size is the main reason home owners need a larger home.
- 2) **Upgrade:** People often long for a bigger, more expensive and grander, upscale home.
- 3) **Fix purchase error:** For example, thought they could do without a large backyard.
- 4) **Job transfer:** Relocation makes it necessary for many to pull up roots and move.
- 5) **Personal Relationships:** Moving in with a partner or getting married.
- 6) **Neighborhood changes:** Economically, socially or physically.
- 7) **Empty nest:** The kids have grown up and moved out.
- 8) **See family more often:** Parents want to be near children .
- 9) **See family less often:** Keep harmony within the family.
- 10) **Retirement:** Active-adult communities are attracting many buyers over the age of 55.
- 11) **Health problems:** Physical ailments make it difficult to climb stairs.
- 12) **Deferred maintenance:** Get out before everything goes haywire.
- 13) **Home improvement perfection:** Spending time, money and effort on remodeling.
- 14) **Cash in equity:** They want that money in their pocket.
- 15) **Lifestyle change:** Simply tired of owning a home.

Source: Elizabeth Weintraub, About.com Guide



# Best April Ever

Strong April sales continued to fuel the market rebound that began in October of 2009. 835 detached homes and 182 condos exchanged hands last month, up 25.4% and 31.9% respectively. All in all, residential sales were up 26.5% over last. "It's not just sales that are up," adds LSTAR President Richard Thyssen. "Listings are up 22% over last year. That points to an uptick in consumer confidence."

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## FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2010

TYPE	UNITS SOLD	AVG. PRICE
2 Storey	254	\$322,212
Bungalow	155	\$174,628
Ranches	128	\$268,830
Townhouse Condo	93	\$161,233

## AVERAGE PRICES YEAR TO DATE

TYPE	UNITS SOLD	AVG. PRICE	% CHANGE FROM 2009
Total Detached	835	\$248,570	13.1%
Total Condo	182	\$175,811	13.1%
Total Residential	1017	\$235,548	12.8%

Source: London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®



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