



Musing in Paradise

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Houses, condos, townhouses, trailers, duplexes and even tents, at one time or another are places we may call home. We are all so different and therefore so are all of our spaces. Our homes are where we are comfortable, contented, cozy, happy, and sad. They sometimes drive us crazy, but they are our refuge.

When we begin the process of looking for a home, we have all our desires written down and we know that if all the boxes are checked by each desire stated, the house we go to see, will be the one. How often is this true? Almost never. Even if its affordable there are things we want to change and things we want to add. Also, we have certain other things we need to accomodate like 3 kids, a dog and Grandma's grand piano.

Still, it never ceases to amaze me just how soon the list can go out the window when someone walks into a home and feels that thing in their soul, their eyes light up and their face takes on a glow. After that happens, then we fit the 3 kids in and the dog and put grandma's piano in the garage and make the garage a studio and "Oh my gosh I love this house, I just love this house"!! This, beyond a doubt, is the most enjoyable part of my job. This is why I sell real estate.

Have a great July and wish my husband and I luck as, this week, we suffer through having a new roof put on the home we have lived in for nearly 28 years, a home which is and always has been my "I love this house!"

email your thoughts to me at: diane.allan@shaw.ca

Comparing June 2009 to June 2010

	2009	2010
Net Unconditional Sales	946	625
New Listings	1436	1503
Active Listings	3794	4730

It's July and the dreaded HST has come. Real Estate sales trail last year. Listings, however, are well ahead of last year. It's a fine time for buyers and for sellers too, if the deal can be made. Whether buying or selling, give me a call.

Remember, if you refer a client to me, upon completion of a sale, I will pay you a referral fee of \$500

Instead of a book this month, I thought I would talk about a new local magazine called Y.A.M. You and Me : Living Smart. It is about Victoria and what is going on here, the advertising is local as well. As the Editor, Carolyn Camiller says, "Y.A.M. celebrates life here, recognizing that the way it is in Victoria is not the way it is



anywhere else in Canada." I find it to be a smart, well put together magazine. In this issue there is a neat article entitled, Escape the City in 2 hours or less. It gives several suggestions on where to go for a mini getaway right here at home. If you get a chance to pick up YAM. Please do. If not you can read it online at:

<http://www.pageonepublishing.ca/publications/YAM-JulyAug2010/index.html>

Tried and True Kitchen Favourites

Freda's Taco Dip



- 1 small pkg Philly Cream Cheese at room temperature
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise (or Miracle Whip)
- Few drops Worcestershire and Tabasco to taste.

Mix above ingredients and spread in serving dish. Chill until firm. Pour 1/2 bottle of salsa or chili sauce to cover mixture. Sprinkle crab or shrimp over top (or not). Chop Tomato and green onion and sprinkle over mixture Grate Cheese on top. I make the base up and refrigerate. It will keep for some time.

Sherri's Crumb Muffins



- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup margarine
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1 cup sour milk

Crumb the flour, sugar, baking soda and margarine. Put a 1/2 cup aside for topping. Into the remaining mixture drop unbeaten egg, sour milk, vanilla and chocolate chips. Mix. Fill muffin tins and add crumb mixture on top. Bake 20 minutes in 350 degree oven.



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