



Volume 1 Number 3

March 2010

March is here. This is the month where one day it is snowing or raining and the next we are digging out our sandals and wondering where we can get a pedicure as soon as possible. Speaking of pedicures, I have found a lovely spa in Matticks Farm called Pure Day Spa. Locally owned and operated, this is the place. They also have a wonderful email service that enables you to book those last minute appointments. In the late afternoon/evening they send out an e-mail with any openings for the next day so you know what is available. Phone the spa and leave a message and they will contact you in the morning and book you in! 250-590-7873. Believe me, if you need an hour or two to unwind and enjoy being pampered, I highly recommend Pure Day Spa.

email your thoughts to me at: [diane.allan@shaw.ca](mailto:diane.allan@shaw.ca)

### Changes To Mortgage Insurance Rules

Before we start, remember this is about **qualifying** for **mortgage insurance** not about the mortgage itself.

Let's try to make some sense out of changes that come into force on April 19. First, to qualify, everyone may have to meet the requirements for a five-year fixed rate mortgage no matter what option they choose. Beyond that, there will be no changes regarding down payments or amortization periods for those of you buying a home to live in.

In refinancing a mortgage the new limit becomes 90 per cent of the value of the property instead of the present 95. The biggest change effects those buying revenue properties. Here, the minimum down payment rises to 20% in order to qualify.

The following excerpt comes directly from a Canadian Government news release.

#### **Housing Market Remains Strong**

*"Canada's housing market remains healthy and stable. According to the International Monetary Fund, our housing market is fully supported by sound economic factors, such as low interest rates, rising incomes and a growing population. Moreover, mortgage arrears—overdue mortgage payments—have also remained low."*

#### **Comparing February 2009 to February 2010**

|                         | 2009 | 2010 |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| Net Unconditional Sales | 403  | 621  |
| New Listings            | 1081 | 1460 |
| Active Listings         | 3844 | 3280 |

Going into March, sales are bouyant. If you wish to buy or sell before the HST, now is the time. There are deals out there. Let me know if I can help in any way.



### Pender Island Getaway

Our friends are selling their beautiful Pender Island home. If you or anyone you know is searching for a home on the islands, please let me know. There is more information on my website. The home is listed through Pender Island Realty.

### Sue's Campbell's Salad Dressing



A good friend gave me her salad dressing recipe some time ago after I was drooling over her salad and asking for more. One thing I like about this dressing is it is all made in a blender (my kind of easy). This dressing is

delicious on any salad and it makes up enough for about a week. Be careful with the red onion as too much can give it an edge. Taste as you blend.

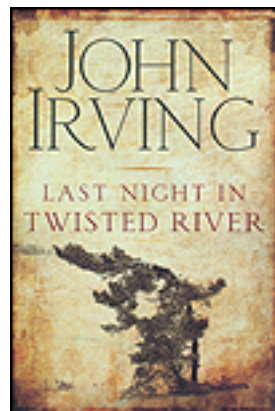
- 1/4 cup vinegar (rice wine vinegar)
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 red onion chopped or less (keep tasting)
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- Mix all in a Blender

### HST Hints

Remember the HST will only apply to new construction and the BC government will offer an HST Rebate on new construction.

### John Irving

I am a great fan of John Irving and have been for many years since I read *The World According to Garp*. He has just released another novel entitled *Last Night In Twisted River*. My youngest son bought me this book for Christmas as he is also an avid John Irving reader. From what I've read, it could be fascinating, and I would love to dig in and have a good read to the end. But, I have yet to find the time. I know I will eventually persevere. Forgive me John. If any of you have read it. Let me know what you think.



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

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