



*SPRING is definitely in the air in Ottawa! The snow is finally gone and the sun is gracing us with longer days in which to play and enjoy all this city has to offer.*

*The family was VERY busy this winter. Jacob, Dan and I spent every moment we could on the ski slopes. We had some great weekends at Camp Fortune and a couple of trips to Mont Blanc in the Laurentians. Jake certainly appeared to be channelling Evel Knievel on some of those jumps! Dan and I now have a hard time keeping up with Jake, who has taken to skiing like a fish takes to water.*

*Now that spring is here, the family is gearing up for soccer and some time on the Big Rideau.*

*On other family fronts, my Brother's twins are doing very well. Born 3 months premature, they have blossomed into chubby, happy little babies and we are all thrilled for the family after months of struggle and uncertainty.*

*I want to take a quick moment to thank ALL of you for continuing to trust me with your real estate needs, and for the ongoing referral of my services to your friends, family and colleagues. I am deeply grateful to, and for, each and every one of my clients.*

*I hope you enjoy the newsletter and would love to hear from you, even if it's just to say "Hi".*



## HOW IS THE OTTAWA MARKET YOU ASK?

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Members of the Ottawa Real Estate Board sold 1,536 residential properties in April through the Board's Multiple Listing Service® system compared with 1,814 in April 2010, a decrease of 15.3 per cent. The five-year average for home sales in April is 1,612.

Of those sales, 316 were in the condominium property class, while 1,220 were in the residential property class.

"Sales in April 2010 soared well above average in advance of the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax in Ontario last July. Normally in Ottawa, we see a brisker sales period beginning at the end of April or early May, but last year's spring market started earlier by about three months due to the HST. That surge in sales pushed April's five-year average up significantly; it's not out of the ordinary for about 1,500 homes to be sold in April in our market," said Board

President Joanne Tibbles.

"Home prices still continued to rise at the usual moderate rate last month, demonstrating a solid demand for resale homes in Ottawa. Re-sale housing inventory is up 17.2 per cent from this time last year, indicating that Ottawa is clearly in a healthy, balanced market," Tibbles added.

The average sale price of residential properties, including condominiums, sold in April in the Ottawa area was \$351,226, an increase of 5.4 per cent over April 2010. The average sale price for a condominium-class property was \$255,232, an increase of 2.1 per cent over April 2010. The average sale price of a residential-class property was \$376,090, an increase of 5.4 per cent over April 2010.

*A great REALTOR® is also there for you AFTER the sale. My mental "vault" is filled with all types of professionals you may need, from plumbers and contractors to accountants and dentists. No matter the question, just give me a call. I would love to hear from you!*

## Sweet BBQ Chicken Kabobs



With BBQ season quickly approaching, I thought I would share one of our quick and easy dinners. Easily a favourite through the spring and summer!

### What You Need

1 lb. (450 g) boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-1/2-inch pieces  
2 cups fresh pineapple chunks (1-1/2 inch)  
1 each red and green pepper, cut into 1-1/2-inch chunks  
1/2 cup *Kraft* Original BarBQ Sauce  
3 Tbsp. frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed

**HEAT** barbecue to medium-high heat.

**THREAD** chicken alternately with pineapple and peppers onto 8 long wooden skewers, using 2 skewers placed side-by-side for each kabob.

**MIX** barbecue sauce and juice concentrate; brush half evenly onto kabobs.

**GRILL** 8 to 10 min. or until chicken is done, turning and brushing occasionally with remaining sauce.

### Kitchens tips

Soak wooden skewers in water 30 min. before using. Wrap ends with foil before grilling to prevent them from burning.

Shortcut - If using metal skewers, use just 1 metal skewer when assembling each kabob.



## SPRING HOME CHECKLIST

- Have fireplace or wood stove and chimney cleaned and serviced as needed.
- Shut down, drain and clean furnace humidifier, and close the furnace humidifier damper on units with central air conditioning.
- Switch on power to air conditioning and check system. Have it serviced every two or three years.
- Clean or replace air-conditioning filter, if applicable.
- Check dehumidifier and drain — clean if necessary.
- Check smoke, carbon monoxide and security alarms, and replace batteries.
- Clean windows, screens and hardware, and replace storm windows with screens. Check screens first and repair or replace if needed.
- Open valve to outside hose connection after all danger of frost has passed.
- Examine the foundation walls for cracks, leaks or signs of moisture, and repair as required.
- Re-level any exterior steps or decks that moved as a result of frost or settling.
- Check for and seal off any holes in exterior cladding that could be an entry point for small pests, such as bats and squirrels.
- Check eavestroughs and downspouts for loose joints and secure attachment to your home, clear any obstructions, and ensure water flows away from your foundation.
- Repair and paint fences as necessary — allow wood fences to dry adequately before tackling this task.

## Ottawa Festivals



[Ottawa International Writers Festival, Spring Edition](#)

April 28, 2011 to May 3, 2011



[Canadian Tulip Festival](#)

May 6, 2011 to May 23, 2011



[Victoria Day Festival](#)

May 13, 2011 to May 23, 2011



[Ottawa Race Weekend –](#)

[Ottawa Marathon](#)

May 28, 2011 to May 29, 2011



[Ottawa International](#)

[Children's Festival](#)

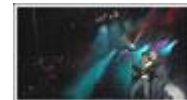
June 1, 2011 to June 5, 2011



[Italian Week of](#)

[Ottawa/Settimana Italiana di Ottawa](#)

June 9, 2011 to June 19, 2011



[Festival Franco Ontarien](#)

June 16, 2011 to June 18, 2011



[TD Canada Trust Ottawa](#)

[International Jazz Festival](#)

June 23, 2011 to July 3, 2011



[Canada Day](#)

July 1, 2011



[Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest](#)

July 5, 2011 to July 17, 2011