News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 brought improved housing affordability to Greater Vancouver

VANCOUVER, B.C. – January 5, 2009 – The record-breaking real estate market cycle in Greater Vancouver, longer than normal at seven consecutive years, ended in 2008 amidst global economic challenges. The change brought relief from rising prices that saw benchmark prices escalate from \$357,770 for a single family detached home in December 2001 to \$648,421 by December 2008.

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver (REBGV) reports that sales of detached, attached and apartment properties decreased 35.3 per cent in 2008 to 24,626 sales compared to 38,050 sales in 2007. Property listings for the year increased 13.9 per cent to 62,561 compared to 2007 when 54,945 new properties were listed.

"Trends in the latter half of 2008 showed a consistent month-over-month decrease in residential housing prices, a departure from the rising home prices and record-breaking sales that were experienced in Greater Vancouver for much of this decade," said REBGV president, Dave Watt.

"It's also important to note that our December statistics show a third consecutive month of a decrease in active property listings in Greater Vancouver. That means supply is coming down," Watt said. "Last month was also the first time in 27 years that Greater Vancouver homes sales for December were higher than November."

Residential benchmark prices, as calculated by the MLSLink Housing Price Index®, declined 10.9 per cent between Decembers 2007 and 2008. Since May 2008, the overall residential benchmark price has declined 14.8 per cent in Greater Vancouver to \$484,211 from \$568,411.

"For buyers, lower prices haven't been a concern as much as the perception that prices are falling. It's difficult to identify the 'bottom' of the market. The reality is that people tend to buy when prices are going up, not when they're going down," Watt said.

In December 2008, sales of detached, attached and apartment properties totalled 924, a decrease of 51.3 per cent compared to the 1,897 sales in December 2007.

New listings for detached, attached and apartment properties declined 8.6 per cent to 1,550 in December 2008 compared to December 2007 when 1,695 new units were listed. Total listings in December declined 17.2 per cent to 15,193 from the 18,348 total active listings in Greater Vancouver in November 2008.

Sales of detached properties in December 2008 declined 48.7 per cent to 348 from the 679 units sold during the same period in 2007. The benchmark price for detached properties declined 11.2 per cent from \$730,399 in December 2007 to \$648,421 in December 2008. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for a detached property in Greater Vancouver has declined 15.9 per cent.

Sales of apartment properties declined 53.7 per cent last month to 417 compared to 901 sales in December 2007. The benchmark price of an apartment property declined 11.7 per cent from \$377,579 in December 2007 to \$333,275 in December 2008. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for an apartment property in Greater Vancouver has declined 14.5 per cent.

Attached property sales in December 2008 decreased 49.8 per cent to 159, compared with the 317 sales in December 2007. The benchmark price of an attached unit declined 7.4 per cent from \$456,941 in December 2007 to \$423,338 in December 2008. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for an attached property in Greater Vancouver has declined 11.6 per cent.

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The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver is an association representing more than 9,500 REALTORS®. The Real Estate Board provides a variety of membership services, including the Multiple Listing Service®. For more information on real estate, statistics, and buying or selling a home, contact a local REALTOR® or visit www.rebgv.org.



Preliminary Report

MLSLINK HOUSING PRICE INDEX



December 2008

PROPERTY		BENCHMARK	PRICE	3 MONTH AVG	PRICE	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR
TYPE	AREA	PRICE	RANGE	BENCHMARK	INDEX	CHANGE	CHANGE	CHANGE
			(+/-)	PRICE		%	%	%
Residential	Greater Vancouver	\$484,211	0.8%	\$499,528	204.51	-10.9	16.4	54.7
Detached	Greater Vancouver	\$648,421	1.5%	\$670,303	191.5	-11.2	14.3	50.0
	Burnaby	\$641,439	3.6%	\$660,607	188.8	-13.9	15.2	47.5
	Coquitlam	\$582,100	5.9%	\$608,053	204.8	-5.2	14.9	47.2
	South Delta	\$567,563	5.6%	\$571,171	185.5	-13.3	12.6	49.4
	Maple Ridge	\$394,893	4.7%	\$415,233	180.1	-9.7	5.6	30.9
	New Westminster	\$498,931	8.4%	\$527,084	205.6	-10.4	9.0	58.9
	North Vancouver	\$728,600	4.6%	\$760,022	182.0	-16.4	5.4	36.1
	Pitt Meadows	\$439,395	8.7%	\$465,867	180.3	-6.0	19.4	49.7
	Port Coquitlam	\$524,960	5.5%	\$523,122	221.9	-4.8	28.3	63.8
	Port Moody	\$550,284	15.8%	\$557,092	165.4	-11.3	-2.6	17.0
	Richmond	\$687,392	2.8%	\$703,519	202.9	-4.8	24.7	57.7
	Squamish							
	Sunshine Coast	\$395,126	12.9%	\$415,430	224.8	-2.7	15.0	66.5
	Vancouver East	\$579,761	2.9%	\$607,663	196.4	-14.5	10.9	49.9
	Vancouver West	\$1,165,007	3.7%	\$1,186,934	193.3	-16.6	22.0	64.0
	West Vancouver	\$1,168,852	8.0%	\$1,197,981	172.2	-12.8	8.6	39.1
Attached	Greater Vancouver	\$423,338	1.3%	\$432,593	205.3	-7.4	20.3	62.1
	Burnaby	\$411,555	2.2%	\$430,561	206.2	-7.3	21.9	56.9
	Coquitlam	\$382,121	4.9%	\$392,328	206.1	-6.4	15.5	57.7
	South Delta	\$396,914	9.3%	\$422,148	212.5	-7.4	26.6	61.5
	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows	\$300,497	4.8%	\$302,709	208.4	-3.0	25.2	65.6
	North Vancouver	\$506,158	4.1%	\$541,653	198.1	-12.4	10.0	47.3
	Port Coquitlam	\$355,802	3.2%	\$363,155	195.7	-6.4	13.7	51.2
	Port Moody	\$374,957	4.2%	\$380,870	223.8	-8.0	27.4	72.8
	Richmond	\$424,692	2.5%	\$429,034	204.8	-5.2	23.5	53.5
	Vancouver East	\$463,802	3.9%	\$474,745	216.9	-6.3	28.9	84.5
	Vancouver West	\$609,623	3.9%	\$603,436	217.5	-12.6	14.9	68.5
Apartment	Greater Vancouver	\$333,275	0.9%	\$344,650	216.8	-11.7	18.1	62.5
	Burnaby	\$296,615	1.9%	\$310,552	221.7	-11.5	17.7	65.0
	Coquitlam	\$243,371	3.1%	\$261,616	207.5	-17.8	15.2	59.3
	South Delta	\$324,009	6.1%	\$336,304	211.0	-5.9	21.1	63.6
	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows	\$220,481	4.7%	\$231,176	234.1	-13.0	18.7	77.7
	New Westminster	\$259,430	3.1%	\$266,895	210.7	-11.5	20.6	73.1
	North Vancouver	\$333,122	3.7%	\$342,579	212.0	-16.2	13.9	53.7
	Port Coquitlam	\$222,128	2.6%	\$230,913	260.2	-11.8	16.7	79.5
	Port Moody	\$279,115	4.5%	\$277,321	238.2	-7.2	14.6	68.5
	Richmond	\$279,121	1.9%	\$290,900	226.9	-9.3	22.3	70.8
	Vancouver East	\$287,832	2.3%	\$302,995	235.6	-9.7	24.8	83.9
	Vancouver West	\$424,509	1.7%	\$433,895	215.9	-11.6	16.6	54.0
	West Vancouver	\$575,736	11.7%	\$564,452	206.6	-8.7	13.9	60.3

HOW TO READ THE TABLE:

BENCHMARK PRICE: Estimated sale price of a benchmark property. Benchmarks represent a typical property within each market.

PRICE RANGE: Expresed as a + or - percentage of the benchmark price, there is a 90% probability the sale price of a benchmark house is within the interval.

PRICE INDEX: Index numbers estimate the percentage change in price on typical and constant quality properties over time. All figures are based on past sales.

In Year 2001, the indexes are averaged to 100

Key: * = Sales sample too small; Price information not reported.

MLS® SALES Facts

REAL EST OF GREATE		BOAI					t Meada	er	95		Carra	5						rton	
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2008		Burnaby	Coquitlam	Delta - South	Islands - Gulf	Maple Ridge/Pitt Mead	New Westminster	North Vancouver	Port Coquitlam	Port Moody/Belcarra	Richmond	Squamish	Sunshine C	Vancouver	Vancouver West	West Vancouver/House	Whistler/Pemberton	70TALS	
	Number	Detached	30	34	12	1	27	6	37	17	4	38	0	9	60	56	13	4	348
	of	Attached	22	10	2	0	6	2	13	12	8	26	2	3	18	28	0	7	159
December	Sales	Apartment	44	23	7	0	11	28	24	13	10	56	3	1	69	121	6	1	417
2008	Median	Detached	\$650,000	\$612,450	n/a	n/a	\$413,850	n/a	\$690,000	n/a	n/a	\$666,500	n/a	n/a	\$583,500	\$1,350,000	n/a	n/a	- /-
	Selling Price	Attached Apartment	\$442,900	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$424,000	n/a	n/a	n/a \$305.000	\$630,000 \$404.000	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Number	Detached	\$287,250 23	\$235,000 40	n/a 13	n/a 0	n/a 32	\$262,500 11	\$327,500 32	n/a 18	n/a 7	\$278,000 27	n/a 4	n/a 25	\$305,000 44	\$404,000 25	n/a 20	n/a 1	322
	of	Attached	25	7	2	0	13	2	15	6	9	23	2	1	10	14	4	9	142
November	Sales	Apartment	61	17	8	0	13	42	30	10	10	34	1	3	38	131	5	7	410
2008	Median	Detached	\$635,000	\$613,950	n/a	n/a	\$443,000	n/a	\$749,000	n/a	n/a	\$620,000	n/a	\$475,000	\$625,000	\$1,289,000	\$1,400,000	n/a	
	Selling	Attached	\$421,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$385,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Price	Apartment	\$310,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$275,000	\$285,000	n/a	n/a	\$283,000	n/a	n/a	\$307,500	\$390,000	n/a	n/a	
	Number	Detached	58	70	28	1	82	12	47	26	11	107	9	41	98	56	27	6	679
	of Sales	Attached	58	27	5	0	30	7	21	11	13	52	11	5	22	41	4	10	317
December	Sales	Apartment	114	52	7	0	25	63	66	24	23	118	9	3	107	275	8	7	901
2007	Median Selling	Detached Attached	\$675,000	\$583,000	\$677,500	n/a	\$480,000	n/a	\$866,000	\$520,000	n/a	\$685,000	n/a	\$365,000	\$658,500	\$1,444,000	\$1,450,000	n/a	-1-
	Price	Apartment	\$438,250 \$321,000	\$444,000 \$296,000	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	\$310,500 \$240,000	n/a \$295,000	\$609,000 \$420,000	n/a \$228,350	n/a \$299,000	\$450,500 \$296,000	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	\$506,500 \$305,000	\$677,500 \$468,000	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a
	Number	Detached	755	824	412	32	992	215	828	374	189	1,122	159	460	1,295	1,033	460	87	9,237
	of	Attached	668	304	73	1	371	127	308	265	224	829	116	73	313	512	49	167	4,400
Jan	Sales	Apartment	1,372	592	151	0	294	769	728	350	299	1,435	94	49	1,127	3,498	135	96	10,989
Dec. 2008	Median	Detached	\$720,000	\$633,000	\$611,500	\$424,750	\$486,000	\$549,000	\$875,000	\$520,000	\$691,000	\$715,000	\$492,000	\$398,950	\$670,000	\$1,460,000	\$1,464,500	\$849,000	
Year-to-date	Selling	Attached	\$437,000	\$422,950	\$429,900	n/a	\$314,900	\$393,000	\$585,000	\$381,000	\$420,000	\$455,000	\$388,000	\$286,000	\$515,000	\$709,000	\$920,000	\$611,000	n/a
rear-to-date	Price	Apartment	\$327,500	\$275,000	\$318,000	n/a	\$233,500	\$285,000	\$365,000	\$242,000	\$323,000	\$310,920	\$285,000	\$212,000	\$315,000	\$435,000	\$715,000	\$300,000	
	Number	Detached	1,332	1,335	599	68	1,568	332	1,142	585	267	1,798	265	723	2,159	1,745	745	132	14,795
Jan	of Sales	Attached Apartment	1,055	419	122	0	612	118	453	333	365	1,495	190	82	471	814	62	208	6,799 16.456
Dec. 2007	Median	Detached	2,017 \$685,000	881 \$592,500	185 \$591,000	0 \$397,000	389 \$465,000	996 \$539,900	1,145 \$805,000	485 \$490,000	408 \$698,000	2,056 \$660,000	\$470,500	51 \$376,750	1,641 \$638,900	5,605 \$1,365,600	205 \$1,400,000	168 \$1,059,500	16,456
200. 200.	Selling	Attached	\$412,000	\$395,000	\$377,500	n/a	\$297,500	\$374,500	\$563,500	\$367,000	\$428,000	\$423,950	\$389,900	\$259,500	\$483,750	\$672,500	\$1,400,000	\$560,000	n/a
Year-to-date	Price	Apartment	\$314,895	\$260,000	\$300,000	n/a	\$226,800	\$268,250	\$345,000	\$234,800	\$315,950	\$286,700	\$295,000	\$240,000	\$290,000	\$420,000	\$676,000	\$327,000	
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Note: Median Selling Prices are not reported for areas with less than 20 sales or for the Gulf Islands

MLS® LISTINGS Facts

REAL EST OF GREATE		3OAI					100	SMOD										Punos	
December 2008		Burnaby	Coquitlam	Delta - South	Islands - Gulf	Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadon	New Westminster	North Vancouver	Port Coquitlam	Port Moody/Belcarra	Richmond	Squamish	Sunshine Coast	Vancouver East	Vancouver West	West Vancouver/House	Whistler/Pemberton	TOTALS	
	Number	Detached	62	68	22	6	77	12	31	31	9	74	18	26	72	74	24	14	620
December	of Listings	Attached Apartment	31 93	17 38	4	0	18 35	4 55	13 35	12 20	4 33	32 109	5 2	2	13 63	37 201	2 10	19 16	213 717
2008	% Sales to	Detached Attached Apartment	48% 71%	50% 59%	55% 50%	17% n/a	35% 33%	50% 50%	119% 100%	55% 100%	44% 200%	51% 81%	0% 40%	35% 150%	83% 138%	76% 76%	54% 0%	29% 37%	n/a
	Number	Detached	47% 70	61% 102	175% 43	n/a 18	31% 123	51% 20	69% 75	65% 52	30%	51% 107	150% 20	33% 47	110% 137	60% 128	60% 78	6% 14	1,067
November	of Listings	Attached Apartment	93 156	35 88	7 17	4	33 40	11 80	38 77	25 48	25 46	83 177	9	4 2	45 118	67 518	2 20	31 27	512 1,433
2008	% Sales to	Detached Attached	33% 27%	39% 20%	30% 29%	0% 0%	26% 39%	55% 18%	43% 39%	35% 24%	21% 36%	25% 28%	20% 22%	53% 25%	32% 22%	20% 21%	26% 200%	7% 29%	n/a
		Apartment	39%	19%	47%	n/a	33%	53%	39%	21%	22%	19%	5%	150%	32%	25%	25%	26%	500
December	Number of Listings	Attached Anathropi	60 46	46 19	28 6	0	77 20	10 5	19 6	19 14	12 9	72 51	18 24	20 5	107 21	50 38	25 3	16 14	580 281
2007		Apartment Detached	71 97%	40 152%	4 100%	100%	19 106%	59 120%	34 247%	18 137%	23 92%	107 149%	8 50%	205%	87 92%	329 112%	11 108%	22 38%	834
	% Sales to Listings	Attached Apartment	126% 161%	142% 130%	83% 175%	n/a n/a	150% 132%	140% 107%	350% 194%	79% 133%	144% 100%	102% 110%	46% 113%	100% 150%	105% 123%	108% 84%	133% 73%	71% 32%	n/a
Jan	Number of Listings	Detached Attached Apartment	2,224 1,569	2,525 716	950 144	164 6	2,530 794	513 261	1,878 684	971 589	561 473	3,002 1,786	453 254	1,169 128	3,426 782	3,135 1,566	1,498 133	317 427	25,316 10,312 26,933
Dec. 2008	% Sales to	Detached	3,251 34%	1,659 33%	242 43%	20%	732 39%	1,795 42%	1,687 44%	824 39%	889 34%	3,354 37%	223 35%	104 39%	2,522 38%	8,899 33%	361 31%	391 27%	·
Year-to-date*	Listings	Attached Apartment	43% 42%	42% 36%	51% 62%	17% n/a	47% 40%	49% 43%	45% 43%	45% 42%	47% 34%	46% 43%	46% 42%	57% 47%	40% 45%	33% 39%	37% 37%	39% 25%	n/a
	Number of	Detached Attached	2,089 1,382	2,158 559	819 146	140 1	2,295 810	505 199	1,516 553	873 466	449 468	2,641 1,881	376 239	1,194 118	3,255 660	2,491 1,223	1,239 127	265 305	22,305 9,137
Jan Dec. 2007	Listings % Sales to	Apartment Detached	2,860 64%	1,261 62%	249 73%	0 49%	661 68%	1,512 66%	1,543 75%	684 67%	671 59%	2,988 68%	321 70%	104 61%	2,225 66%	7,750 70%	342 60%	332 50%	23,503
Year-to-date*	Listings	Attached Apartment	76% 71%	75% 70%	84% 74%	0% n/a	76% 59%	59% 66%	82% 74%	71% 71%	78% 61%	79% 69%	79% 70%	69% 49%	71% 74%	67% 72%	49% 60%	68% 51%	n/a
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^{*} Year-to-date listings represent a cumulative total of listings rather than total active listings.

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver

Listing & Sales Activity Summary

	1 Dec 2007	List 2 Nov 2008	ings 3 Dec 2008	Col. 2 & 3 Percentage Variance	5 Dec 2007	6 Nov 2008	7 Dec 2008	Sales Col. 6 & 7 Percentage Variance	9 Oct 2007 - Dec 2007	10 Oct 2008 - Dec 2008	Col. 9 & 10 Percentage Variance
BURNABY DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	60 46 71	70 93 156	62 31 93	% -11.4 -66.7 -40.4	58 58 114	23 25 61	30 22 44	% 30.4 -12.0 -27.9	268 201 442	94 83 186	% -64.9 -58.7 -57.9
COQUITLAM DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	46	102	68	-33.3	70	40	34	-15.0	286	132	-53.8
	19	35	17	-51.4	27	7	10	42.9	102	36	-64.7
	40	88	38	-56.8	52	17	23	35.3	202	84	-58.4
DELTA DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	28	43	22	-48.8	28	13	12	-7.7	107	50	-53.3
	6	7	4	-42.9	5	2	2	0.0	22	8	-63.6
	4	17	4	-76.5	7	8	7	-12.5	26	25	-3.8
MAPLE RIDGE/PITT MEADOWS DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	77	123	77	-37.4	82	32	27	-15.6	317	105	-66.9
	20	33	18	-45.5	30	13	6	-53.8	124	39	-68.5
	19	40	35	-12.5	25	13	11	-15.4	98	35	-64.3
NORTH VANCOUVER	10	75	24	50.7	47	22	27	45.0	247	424	42.0
DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	19	75	31	-58.7	47	32	37	15.6	217	124	-42.9
	6	38	13	-65.8	21	15	13	-13.3	97	41	-57.7
NEW WESTMINSTER DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	34 10 5 59	20 11 80	35 12 4 55	-54.5 -40.0 -63.6 -31.3	12 7 63	30 11 2 42	6 2 28	-20.0 -45.5 0.0 -33.3	256 64 30 235	26 9 113	-60.5 -59.4 -70.0 -51.9
PORT MOODY/BELCARRA DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	12	33	9	-72.7	11	7	4	-42.9	52	21	-59.6
	9	25	4	-84.0	13	9	8	-11.1	77	27	-64.9
	23	46	33	-28.3	23	10	10	0.0	78	38	-51.3
PORT COQUITLAM DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	19	52	31	-40.4	26	18	17	-5.6	119	53	-55.5
	14	25	12	-52.0	11	6	12	100.0	72	39	-45.8
	18	48	20	-58.3	24	10	13	30.0	90	55	-38.9
RICHMOND DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	72	107	74	-30.8	107	27	38	40.7	351	114	-67.5
	51	83	32	-61.4	52	23	26	13.0	264	83	-68.6
	107	177	109	-38.4	118	34	56	64.7	452	181	-60.0
SUNSHINE COAST DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	20	47	26	-44.7	41	25	9	-64.0	139	56	-59.7
	5	4	2	-50.0	5	1	3	200.0	19	5	-73.7
	2	2	3	50.0	3	3	1	-66.7	22	8	-63.6
SQUAMISH DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	18	20	18	-10.0	9	4	0	-100.0	54	13	-75.9
	24	9	5	-44.4	11	2	2	0.0	47	7	-85.1
	8	19	2	-89.5	9	1	3	200.0	59	8	-86.4
VANCOUVER EAST DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	107	137	72	-47.4	98	44	60	36.4	411	177	-56.9
	21	45	13	-71.1	22	10	18	80.0	102	49	-52.0
	87	118	63	-46.6	107	38	69	81.6	316	146	-53.8
VANCOUVER WEST DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	50	128	74	-42.2	56	25	56	124.0	327	133	-59.3
	38	67	37	-44.8	41	14	28	100.0	159	63	-60.4
	329	518	201	-61.2	275	131	121	-7.6	1187	451	-62.0
WHISTLER DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	16	14	14	0.0	6	1	4	300.0	25	12	-52.0
	14	31	19	-38.7	10	9	7	-22.2	53	33	-37.7
	22	27	16	-40.7	7	7	1	-85.7	38	21	-44.7
WEST VANCOUVER/HOWE SOUND	25	78	24	-69.2	27	20	10	-35.0	134	52	-61.2
ATTACHED	3	2	2	0.0	27 4	4	13 0	-100.0	15	3	-80.0
GRAND TOTALS DETACHED	579	1049	614	-50.0 -41.5	678	322	347	7.8	2871	1162	-50.0 -59.5
ATTACHED	281 924	508	213	-58.1 50.0	317 004	142	159 447	12.0	1384	525	-62.1

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver Average Price Graph January 1977 to December 2008

DETACHED ----- CONDOMINIUM ——ATTACHED ——APARTMENTS

IN THOUSANDS (\$) 1000 \$829,508 900 800 700 \$483,970 600 500 400 \$357,105 300 200 100

1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008