

## Market Trends

In the Greater Vancouver area, home sales in June saw a 10-year low. There were 2,362 residential properties sold in June, which indicates a 27.6 per cent decline over the same period in 2011 and a 17.2 per cent decline since May 2012.

“Overall conditions have trended in favour of buyers in our market- place in recent month,” says REBGV president Eugen Klein. “This means buyers are facing less competition and have more selection to choose from compared to earlier in the year.”

“Today, our sales-to-active-listings ratio sits at 13 per cent, which puts us in the lower end of a balanced market. This ratio has been declining in our market since March when it was 19 per cent,” explains Klein.



### Peace of Mind for Your Summer Vacation

Are you going away for summer vacation? Maybe you're spending a few uninterrupted weeks of bliss at the cottage? Or, maybe you're going on an adventure overseas? Whatever your plans for this summer, when you are away from your home for any length of time, it's important to ensure you do what you can to deter any would-be thief.



Nothing can curtail your relaxed vacation mood quicker than coming back to a ransacked home.

Below are some dos and don'ts to help make your home one thieves won't want to target.

#### DO

- Install timers on lights, TVs and/or radios, program the timers for several lights to turn on and off at different times. This may be a bit old school but if a would-be thief is uncertain about the house being unoccupied, chances are he/she will move on.
- Keep outside areas well lit by using motion detector lights and install them high enough so they are not within reach of being shattered.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your place while away, and to collect and hold your mail; be sure to reciprocate.

#### DON'T

- Don't put a “we're away” message on your answering machine—maybe even unplug it, and **do** turn the ringer off on your phone.
- Don't leave valuables visible from windows; **do** close the doors of your entertain units, put laptops and other portable electronics away, hide jewellery boxes in closets, etc.

For a complete list visit:

<http://www.bcaa.com/learning-centre/home/burglary-theft/how-to-burglar-proof-your-home>

Sources: REBGV, BCAA.com

*If you would like a free, no-obligation market evaluation, please call me.*

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