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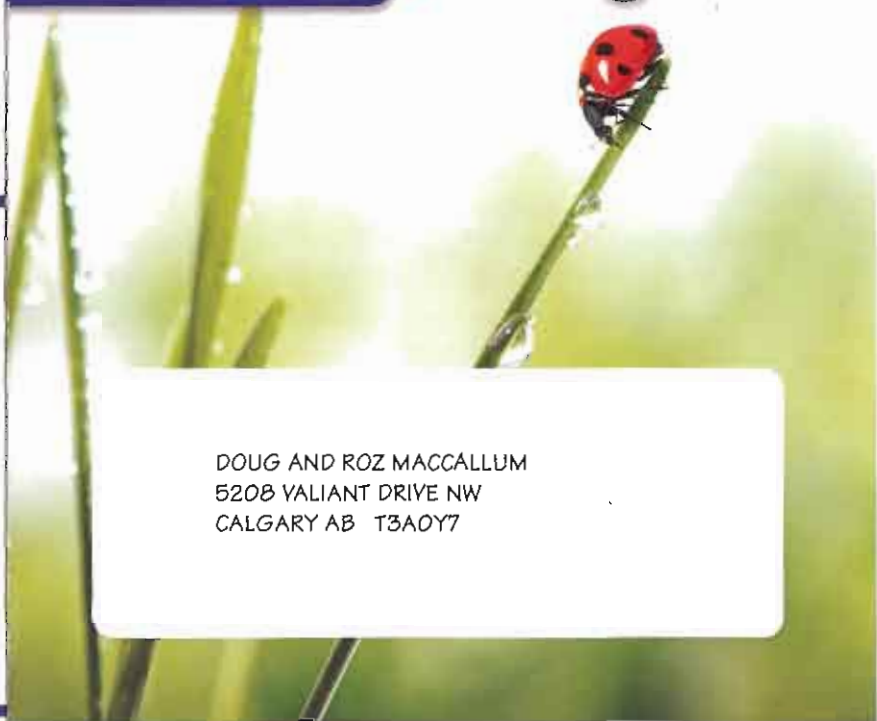
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Realty *in*sights  
May 2010



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## Canada In A Global Economic Context

Looking at the decline in real GDP from start to bottom of the recession, we see Canada suffered a less severe recession than other major economies.

Even with the latest economic numbers showing fragile growth, economists agree that Canada is on the right path. And the strength of our dollar confirms that the world sees it too.



Two points are keeping the economic wizards from cheering the economic rebound.

- 1) Our economy is heavily dependent on international trade. In large part, our recovery depends on the success of measures taken elsewhere.
- 2) Much of the improvement is the result of government stimulus initiatives.

The "new" news - the troubles in Europe. The uncertainty overseas has led to intense stock market volatility. And with these new events, economists at every level are predicting that our recovery may likely be affected.

## Home Design Tops The Poles

*Looking for a home that makes a narrow splash? Whatever your lifestyle goal, count on us to keep you current on the hottest trends in real estate.*



## Refinish Hardwood Floors

### Without The Dust

Until recently, reviving hardwood floors meant sanding, smell and waiting. Now there's a revolutionary way to refinish hardwood floors without the smell or the mess.

Using a chemical wash and abrasive process, the existing finish is cleaned and loose finish is removed. Then a water-based acrylic seals the floor. It all happens in a day, and best of all, no days of dusting after.

Environmentally-friendly and pet safe, it's the quick and easy way to add new life to worn hardwoods.

To find out more about the process, check out [www.mrsandless.com](http://www.mrsandless.com) or [www.restorationhardwood.ca](http://www.restorationhardwood.ca).

### Corn Gluten – Natural Weed Control

As more municipalities pass bylaws against using chemical fertilizers, there's been a push for environmentally-friendly solutions to weed control.

Corn gluten may be the answer as it prevents weed seeds from germinating. The downside is that it also prevents grass seeds from germinating. Spring isn't really the best time for grass seed, anyways. Fall is much better.

Corn gluten does not technically affect root weeds like dandelion and clover but it does stop their spread. And corn gluten's natural slow-release nitrogen helps grass grow strong roots that crowd weeds out. Strong grass can beat the worst weeds.

Finding corn gluten "weed & feed" is easy – both CIL and Scotts brands are easily available.

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# Doug & Roz – Your Real Estate Connection



## Premium Location!

Varsity Estates N.W. 10 minute walk to the LRT. This home overlooks a 10 Acre Park. Over 2700 Sq/Ft above grade. Details and Photos at [www.dougmaccallum.com/listings.html](http://www.dougmaccallum.com/listings.html) Priced to sell at \$839,000



## New Listing

Downtown City Center and a short walk to LRT Transit from this 2 bedroom 1425 Sq/ft Condo located in the Waterfords. Recent upgrades include Granite, New Ensuite Bathroom and main level Flooring.



## Major-Price Reduction

\$299,900! Come on the market a little over a month ago for \$334,900. This 3 bedroom townhouse with a double garage is next to a park in Beddington N.W. Very clean unit!



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## Dear Doug and Roz,

Whenever we're doing business in the area, we're reminded of your place. This certainly is an interesting neighbourhood and at this time of year, with the changing weather, we're sure you're enjoying it.

It was a real pleasure helping with your real estate needs. As we continue to read the real estate headlines, please remember that anytime you have questions about the real estate market, the surrounding neighbourhood, or even when you want to know more about the place that's up for sale around the corner, you know we're always here for you.

There are many views about this spring's housing activity and ongoing market trends. When a colleague, friend or someone in the family has plans which include buying or selling, we hope you'll encourage them to call us.

With our broad knowledge, we'll help find the ideal fit. And with our negotiating savvy, we'll help get the "right deal."

Best regards,

*Doug & Roz*

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*Value = Knowledge + Experience = Advice*

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## Rates Up? Rates Hold? Surprise?

In April of 2009, the Bank of Canada lowered the Bank Rate to .5 per cent and Mark Carney, Governor of the BOC, committed to holding rates low 'til at least June 2010. So where's the surprise that the BOC is now leaning toward a rate hike? If the Bank Rate doesn't go up, there will be talk that the economy isn't healthy. However, if the rate is moved up, there's a positive sign that the economy is getting stranger... and "good news" can help drive positive events.

The real surprise was the "Big Banks." Since mid-March the rate for a 5-year mortgage has climbed a full percentage point. It's had a noticeable effect on the real estate market, accelerating some purchases and limiting others. These long-term rates will likely settle down over the next few weeks.

On the positive side, if the Bank Rate does rise, outlook is for a slow climb and not a leap, as inflation isn't a factor on the horizon.

## Call Before You Dig – And Eliminate Service Cuts

Putting up a fence? Planting a tree? Planning a pool, deck or a new addition? Spring is the busiest "digging season." It's pretty crowded underground - gas pipelines, electrical services, telephone and cable TV as well as water and sewer connections. And it's not just your connections, there could be distribution networks for utilities that serve your neighbours as well.

It's not only the loss of service, damage caused by digging could cause injury. Imagine hitting a gas pipe or an electrical line.

Even if you've hired a contractor and they say it's OK, make the call. It's your property. Your responsibility. And if you break it... or cut it... as well as safety, there's a repair bill to consider.

At least a week before you dig, contact Alberta One Call utility notification service: 1-800-474-6886. For more information, check out the website: <http://www.alberta1call.com/>