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## Local Market Update

\* Statistics from London St. Thomas Real Estate Board

### Units Sold

(2 storey, bungalow, ranch, townhouse)

Aug 1059 Sept 965 Oct 893

### Average List Price – Single Family Homes

August \$289,761

September \$302,040

October \$297,737

*We have consistently seen a high number of sales over the past several months. We imagine many of you are curious about your homes values. If so, please contact us, as we would love to update you on the market in your neighbourhood/area.*

## We are Passionate about OUR community

### Upcoming London Events

Dec 1-4	Annual Christmas Craft Festival - Western Fair District
Dec 5	Cirque Dreams Holiday - Bud Garden
Dec 13-18	A Christmas Carol - McManus Studio Theatre
Dec 31	Red White and New Years - Convention Centre
Jan 7-8	London Bridal Expo - Western Fair District
Jan 12	Tim Hicks - Bud Garden
Jan 27-29	Lifestyle Home Show - Western Fair District
Jan 29	Dierks Bentley & Cole Swindle - Bud Garden

## The Best Gift we Can Give

By Sarah Vander Vloet

It is said that the holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year but for many of our friends, family and neighbours it can be a time of sadness when many are without loved ones or dealing with emotional or financial hardship. It is so easy to get caught up in the commercialism of the season and become overwhelmed by the pressure to buy gifts, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, attend endless functions and cook huge meals. Let us pause, and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas and think about the ways we can make the world a better place. Here's a list of things you may want to consider doing this holiday season and you might just discover it's the best gift we can give.

### Operation Christmas Child

Secret Santa to a neighbour

### Adopt a family

Volunteer at a local Salvation Army, Soup Kitchen or Meal on Wheels program

### Donate toys to a toy drive

Pay for someone behind you at the drive-thru

### Drop off thank you notes for neighbours who took time to decorate their homes

Leave a thank you note in your mailbox for the carrier

### Donate food personally or do a food drive at your office/workplace

Let someone go ahead of you in a line



## Gingerbread Cookies

*Gingerbread cookies are the perfect festive treat. Try this award winning recipe to enjoy and to share with friends, family and neighbours this holiday season.*

2¼ cups flour 2 teaspoons ground ginger 1 teaspoon baking soda 1 teaspoon cinnamon ½ teaspoon ground cloves ¼ teaspoon salt ¾ cup butter, softened 1 cup white sugar 1 egg 1 tablespoon orange juice ¼ cup molasses ¼ cup sugar



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Sift together the dry ingredients. Cream the butter and 1-cup sugar. Add the egg and beat until fully incorporated. Add the orange juice and molasses until combined. Add in the dry ingredients in small batches until just combined. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours, if you can't at least put it in the freezer for a half an hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In about 2 tablespoon balls, roll into the sugar and flatten so it looks like the thickness of a double stuff Oreo. Bake for 9-11 minutes.

*Happy Holidays!*

*Wishing you and your family a wonderful new year ahead!*

*~ Mike & Sarah  
Vander Vloet*

## Leading London's Featured Listing

177 Queen St, Ailsa Craig  
MLS 593867 Asking \$249,900

Welcome to 177 Queen St, a 3+1 Bedroom Brick Bungalow with sunroom addition and a 27.2 X 24.8 double attached garage with a bonus 15.2 X 22.9 single garage on a double lot! Main level offers a bright living room, country size eat in kitchen with pantry and 4 appliances, 3 bedrooms, a renovated 4pc washroom and a awesome sunroom looking out onto a deck and landscaped fully fenced backyard.



Basement layout offers loads of potential and includes a 3pc washroom, large laundry room, recreations room and the homes 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom. You will LOVE the semi circle laneway and the hard to come by storage offered with the garage space of this great home.

## Holiday Ideas You Will Want to Do Today

**#1** Here's a confession! Last year, we didn't get

around to creatively displaying our holiday cards like we have in the past... they remained on our coffee table in a stack. When I came across this idea, I just had to share it! Paint a shutter in your favourite holiday colour and ta-da... the perfect place to store all your cards from your loved ones. The best thing is, you can use it year after year.



**#2** Yes, there are many nice ideas for place cards but when I came across this rosemary wreath idea... I fell in love! These simple and aromatic placeholders are easy to make and will be sure to impress your guests this holiday season.

**#3** A great way to get

into the holiday spirit is to have a count down. Why not make a framed chalkboard to count down to Christmas! Keep it neutral and you can use it to count down other holidays and events as well.

