



Good Will Report

Will Chen's Monthly Newsletter
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Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays!

It seems that a year has come and gone, so quickly. As December comes by, we will be concluding a decade and going into the 2010s.

Of course, as one year ends, another comes to a beginning. How was your 2009, and what has stayed the same, or changed for you? For me, I have not achieved many of my goals this year, and I realize that I have not been keeping myself accountable. For example, although I participated in and completed a half marathon, I did not go through with the training necessary to do my best.

As this year comes to a conclusion, I will be participating in a Buddhist meditation process in Richmond BC. Although I am not religious, I look forward to participating in a new experience, and perhaps taking the time listening inward to my heart and my body and recharging my self of motivation and excitement for achieving my goals.

And as your year comes to a perfect end, how are you celebrating in review, and how will you create another great year? I am certain 2010 will be a good one!



A Visit to Edmonton

While the temperature dropped below freezing in the West Coast, Julie and I decided to go on a vacation to beautifully white Edmonton. There we enjoyed wonderful foods, some sun and snow in -30°C/-20°F weather. The purpose of the trip, of course, was to visit real estate properties in Edmonton.

During the time when oil prices reached over \$120 per barrel, Edmonton had an extraordinary real estate boom cycle when the monthly appreciation of an average property is in the double digits. Now, two years later with the economic downturn, while the real estate prices have dropped from the peak, it has stabilized even in the cold of winter.



Aside from having the chance to visit some properties for sale as well as my own properties, Julie and I had a chance to visit the oil upgraders as well as see some of the infrastructural work, for example, the ongoing construction with workers on-site 24-7 of Anthony Henday Drive, which is the new ring-road highway which goes around Edmonton and reduces commute time from Fort Saskatchewan, where the upgraders are to the airport. Billions of dollars are still being invested in Edmonton by both the government and private companies, and it was truly exciting to be there to see all that is happening.

Stop, and Listen to the Music

Recently I have received a few forwarded emails of companies running social experiments which I find both fascinating and revealing, and I would like to share them with you here. This story was forwarded to me by a friend, and it made me think.

Pearls Before Breakfast (Washington Post)

It was a cold, January morning at 7:51 in 2007. Near the entrance of a Washington D.C. metro station, a young man in jeans, a long-sleeved T-shirt, and a baseball cap positioned himself against the wall. From a small case he produced a brownish-yellow violin, and left the case in front of him, remembering to throw in a few dollars and cents, as seed money, then he began to play 43 minutes of classical music.



He played Bach, Schubert, some of the most intricate pieces of music ever composed. His bow weaved through the strings as if dancing, producing emotional, lyrical lines of melodies and harmonies. Yet, the long crowds of commuters and people getting their morning coffee or a lottery ticket don't seem to mind, and rarely notice his presence. Minutes passed, he received his first dollar after some time. He ended pieces of music to thunderous silence. All in all, over a thousand people walked by, many ignoring or pretending to ignore him and his music.

Joshua Bell is an internationally acclaimed violinist, who has played in Carnegie Hall and won a Grammy award in 1993. He played at a sold-out performance in Boston, each ticket went for over \$100; three days later for his incognito performance at the Washington Metro station, he received \$32.17 in donations. This performance was arranged by the Washington Post as a social experiment. I encourage you to read the full article [on their Web site!](#)

Has there ever been a time when there is something wonderful and beautiful happening, and you chose not to stop and enjoy the moment?

To close this month's *Good Will Report* and 2009, I'd like to share a quote from Napoleon Hill, the author of *Think and Grow Rich*. Plan for another great year!

"Edison failed 10,000 times before he made the electric light. Do not be discouraged if you fail a few times." -- Napoleon Hill