**STARTING AT THE 1:08 MARK**

Linda: Why did you decide to move to Victoria?

Mark: My wife and I both lived in Vancouver for 15 years and we always had a dream of owning a house. That dream never came true. We ended up being a typical Vancouver condo owner, that’s pretty much all we could afford. My wife and I are combined salary in the five figures, actually low five digits (I assume he means “6”) and all we could afford is a 2 bedroom condo! Owning a house was, impossible, for us.

Linda: So when did you get the idea, ‘Hmmm, maybe Victoria might be a good option?’

Mark: As a Vancouverite I visited Vancouver Island frequently, and to me Victoria is probably THE most beautiful city in this country. You know when you put everything together in terms of amenities, attractions, weather, climate, the whole works. Vancouver is definitely a beautiful city but I think Victoria has a slight edge on it. It’s also a lot smaller, more comfortable, and it’s kinda like the city I grew up in, ‘cause I’m from Ottawa originally.

Linda: You ended up getting a pretty good price, more than you thought, for your place here, in Vancouver, is that right?

Mark: Oh it was crazy. We got well over $100,000 more on our condo than we were expecting.

Linda: So that’s a lot of money. And then you made the move to Victoria, so how much further does your money go there?

Mark: Oh it’s almost a night and day difference. And I should point out that Victoria in the last 12 months has seen a 20% increase in single detached home prices. So the prices are climbing like crazy here too, but for essentially the same price as a 1000sq ft, 2 bedroom condo in a nice neighbourhood in Vancouver like Kitsilano or something like that, you can buy 1500-2000sq ft home in a VERY nice neighbourhood in Victoria.

Linda: Wow. And you’re seeing the pressure from other people, you’re not the only one who’s going over there thinking, ‘This makes more sense’.

Mark: No, there’s a little joke over here, we’ve met various people that have done the exact same thing we have, we’re talking about starting our own club, LOL, basically ex-Vancouverites.

Linda: What are the negatives? Are there any negatives about moving to Victoria?

Mark: Well for me personally, a negative, I’m a big Whitecaps/Lions fan, so you know, no more major league sports unless I pay a fortune to go deal with the ferries and have to pay money to deal with staying in Vancouver.

Drex: You could just buy a 70” television and watch it in your house.

Mark: That is true Drex.

Drex: In HD.

Linda: Sports aside..

Mark: We miss things like Ikea, of which there is no Ikea over here, there’s no Apple store. You know Victoria is literally one tenth the size of Vancouver.

Linda: Now on the upside ‘cause you’re a big coffee lover, are there awesome coffee places and restaurants in Victoria?

Mark: Oh absolutely. The one thing that leaned in my favour for moving over to Victoria is that the food scene here is fantastic! In some ways it’s even better than Vancouver because being island-locked, a lot of the local restaurants really work to source local, high-quality foods. I notice it more even here than I did in Vancouver.

Drex: Oh yeah, lots of organic farms over there.

Mark: Absolutely. And another thing I’ve noticed is the coffee scene here is quite good. I actually think that Victoria probably has the third or fourth best coffee scene in Canada.

Linda: Really?

Drex: And that’s the thing too. I’ve lived in small town BC, I’ve lived in Castlegar for a couple years and while you may give up some of those modern conveniences like access to go see the big concerts and the big sporting things, a lack of an Ikea, what you do is make up in the fact that you live in a beautiful part of the country, you can afford to live there, you have more space, you can plant a vegetable garden if you want ‘cause you have space to do so!

Mark: Absolutely! I mean, we’re sitting on 6000sq feet of property we own!

Linda: 6000 square feet… and you said another perk is parking?

Mark: Oh yah! Lol Again if you’re someone who drives occasionally, moving from Vancouver to Victoria is almost like a vacation for parking because here there is no charge for parking after 6pm and it’s still free on evenings, weekends and holidays. So you don’t have to fret about finding parking if you go see a movie downtown.

Linda: So you’ve been there for how long now?

Mark: We moved in November.

Linda: ANY regrets at all?

Mark: Um no, absolutely no regrets whatsoever. People are friendlier, everyone’s friendlier here, even the police are friendlier! It’s crazy! Like if you have a minor incident at your house, the police actually COME to do the report! You don’t have to go downtown to do it!

Linda: Wow. Okay you’re making a pretty good case for people to just cash out and move to the island.

Drex: Here’s the think Mark, ‘cause Linda and her husband are in the market right now looking for a new place, maybe you could sway them to move to Victoria! That could be interesting.

Mark: Linda you should. Lol

Linda: Little too small for me. Maybe, you know, 10 years from now, I dunno. So it’s not, what do they call it now, the newly wed, nearly dead, it’s not like that anymore?

Mark: No I mean there still is that, there is a lot of young and then a lot of old people, that is why a lot of properties are coming up. The one thing about Victoria’s market is, unlike Vancouver, most of the housing is still the old housing and we don’t have Vancouver specials here, which I love too BTW.

(joking about Vancouver specials)

Mark: The houses here are all like from the 20s/30s/40s/50s and because the old population haven’t really renovated, that’s another reason why the houses are cheaper here.

(Chatter about I miss you, thanks for the chat, etc, Mark leaves.)

Drex: I got to tell you, his list of pros and cons, the pros outweigh the cons of living in Victoria, I say.

Linda: Ah man, it makes me want to move to Victoria! So maybe people from Vancouver saying ‘the heck with this, it’s too expensive, it’s too stressful, I’m checking out, I’m cashing in my money, I’m heading to Victoria’.

Drex: And your buddy Mark who was just on the phone went through pretty much the list of pros and cons. More space, more square footage, no Ikea though, which for some people is a big thing, for me it’s a big thing, free parking, the fact that you can’t watch the Whitecaps all the time… I think the pros outweigh the cons on his list, wouldn’t you say?

Linda: I know, so we want to know, have you been thinking about cashing in, moving from Vancouver to Victoria?

Drex: Vince in West Van welcome to “Steele and Drex”.

Vince: Hey guys, I am so done with this place, I’m moving over to the island.

Linda: Why? Why are you done with it?

Vince: Well, you know, it’s just seems like the congestion, the facelessness of the city… it’s just blown up! It seems to have lost the character that I enjoyed growing up here, and I go over to Victoria and I get that right back.

Linda: You feel like you can breathe. Would you like to buy a home there?

Vince: I will be able to buy a home there AND buy an apartment here AND be mortgage free.

Linda: No way!

Vince: Yah.

Linda: Are you cashing in a house here?

Vince: Yes I’m cashing in a house here. I’m a teacher here, I can’t port my whole career over, but part of it I can. If I’m working part-time over there, I don’t care.

Linda: Wow, that sounds wonderful, thanks for calling.

Drex: Ah Marie says she ditched YVR to the island. Marie, where on the island are you?

Marie: I’m not on the island anymore.

Drex: You came back?

Marie: I couldn’t wait to get back to Vancouver.

Linda: How come?

Marie: The island is, you get island fever, or at least I did. And I just love the vibe of Vancouver, all the people, the activity, I just felt more alive back here.

Linda: Little too slow in Victoria for you. Thanks for that Marie.

Drex: Steve in Victoria this afternoon. Steve welcome to “Steele and Drex”.

Steve: As much as we love you guys, we don’t want you.

Linda: You don’t want us to move to Victoria!

Drex: Why?

Steve: What’s happening is, a lot of people are cashing out in Vancouver, you’re right, and coming over here. It’s driving the home prices up here so people here can’t afford homes!

Linda: Oh those rotten Vancouverites.

Steve: You guys are doing like, you got all upset about people coming from outside of Vancouver, doing here, you’re now doing to us (the same thing).

Drex: Oh.

Linda: Alright, well maybe this was a BAD conversation to have, lol.

Drex: This is a terrible idea. ‘preciate it Steve. Enrico in Burnaby! Welcome to “Steele and Drex”.

Enrico: I’ve got to compare, not Victoria, but Nanaimo. I lived in Nanaimo for 9 years and I was working construction and it was okay for 4-5 years and then it pretty much came to a screeching halt and then I had to drive down to Victoria and up the north island and coming over to help my brother doing tile work so we came back about 17 years ago, and I love it, and there’s just more industry, different things, not just either logging or tourism (like) in Nanaimo so unless you have a government job, absolutely you cannot get far.

Linda: Alright thanks for the call. So I guess it’s not for everyone, but it does sound pretty good!

Drex: It does sound pretty good.