

# HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

For young families like the Baileys,  
Cornwall gets a passing grade  
as a city to live in and raise a family



*"The waterfront  
trail along the  
St. Lawrence is  
awesome."*

**I**t's funny how sometimes the important things in life become crystal clear.

For Greg and Josée Bailey, it's family, a healthy lifestyle and a community that provides what they need to succeed. But finding the answers wasn't straightforward... like most young couples, Greg and Josée had a world of options open to them, and they were not afraid of exploring those options before choosing to settle down in Cornwall. Both Greg and Josée are teachers. Greg teaches grades 7-8 at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Cornwall, and Josée teaches the same grade levels at St. Andrews School. Together they have a beautiful young daughter, Cloe. They live in the east end of Cornwall, although Greg is always on the lookout for the next "perfect" house.

"There are a number of great neighbourhoods in Cornwall," he notes. "We haven't set a timeline to move, but if the right house comes along, we could use a little more space."

Greg grew up in Cornwall, the son of a school teacher and an industrial insulator. The call to carry on in his mother's footsteps was a strong one.



*Josée and Greg Bailey*

When he finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Ottawa, he pursued his education degree at the University of Sydney in Australia. A year “down under” gave him a great taste of how big our world really is, but rather than sparking a desire to do more travelling, he felt an urge to return home.

“I had an opportunity to stay in New South Wales, but a year is a long time to be away from family and friends,” he says.

“I missed Cornwall, so I came back to consider my options.”

Josée was making some similar decisions at the same time. Her family moved from Vankleek Hill to Hawkesbury when she was young, and after graduating from teacher’s college at Brock University in St. Catharines, she returned to Ottawa to look for work.

“Ottawa was a good choice because it was large enough to offer

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*“We love living in Cornwall. It has everything we need.”*

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employment opportunities, and had some great amenities. I was comfortable there after having completed my undergraduate studies at University of Ottawa.”

Both young teachers quickly found work at Mother Theresa School in Russell, a fast growing satellite community about 25 minutes from Ottawa. The two became friends and

eventually car pooled during the commute back and forth from Ottawa. They married in 2003. “We loved living in Ottawa, but simply could not afford to buy a house,” remembers Greg.

The pair looked at buying a home in Russell, or in the nearby countryside. But even in Russell the house prices were staggeringly high.

“We did not want to give up the coffee shops and amenities of a big city,” said Greg. “We needed to find another solution, and on a trip back to visit family in Cornwall, we took some time to take another look at the city.”

The very first discovery Greg and Josée made was that living in Cornwall was a lot more affordable than the Ottawa area. They attended an open house for a new subdivision and were amazed to discover that the model home could be built for \$160,000. ▶

“A similar home in Ottawa would easily have cost over \$250,000,” notes Greg.

The couple was also impressed at the changes occurring in Cornwall. New restaurants and coffee shops were opening up, the city had just built the Aquatic Centre and the local public library was vibrant.

“A date night for us is dinner and a movie,” said Greg. “We have the same choices as Kanata or Orleans when it comes to restaurants, and the top movies are always playing at Galaxy Cinemas.”

The couple made the decision to move in 2005 and quickly immersed themselves in the community. Greg and Josée discovered that while Cornwall has the amenities of a big city, it still very much retains the atmosphere and attitude of a small town.

“People are very friendly here. You quickly form acquaintances with the people you meet, whether it is at Tim Hortons or even the gas

station,” says Greg. “Living in Ottawa teaches you to adapt to the fast-paced life in a big city”, notes Josée. “It’s a good lifestyle, but you do not connect with your neighbours as easily. I am still quietly amazed every time somebody holds the door open for me in Cornwall. There is always a sense of welcome here.”

With Cloe in day care in Cornwall, the two were finding the commute to their school in Russell to be very tiresome. They each applied to transfer to schools in Cornwall and soon both were happily ensconced in new positions locally.

Working in Cornwall meant more time to enjoy family time and the community’s amenities. “We are both very active and love to run outdoors,” explains Josée. “The waterfront trail along the St. Lawrence is awesome.”

“When the weather isn’t great we have the choice of two excellent gyms,” adds Greg.

The couple ventures frequently down to Lake Placid and the Adirondacks to hike many of the 46 peaks in the region. They love to ski at Whiteface and in the summer Greg is willing to chase a golf ball around at the local golf courses.

“Where else can you have the choice between so many excellent golf courses within a few minutes drive – and where a full membership is only about \$2000?”

In 2007, Josée was putting away fruits and vegetables from the local grocery store when she had an idea. She was currently teaching her students about environmental stewardship and the little plastic bags used for produce didn’t seem to make much sense. After a year of research, and she came up with the idea of a reusable bag made up of organic cotton netting.

“It takes a lot of work to get a small business off the ground,” says Josée. “We had a lot of support from our friends, family and local businesses. Cornwall is a good place to grow a business.”

Steward Bags started small, but sales of their unique produce bags have grown every year. The bags have made their way to consumers from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and as far away as England and Australia. They are receiving interest from retailers via their website ([www.stewardbags.ca](http://www.stewardbags.ca)) and the future of their small business seems bright.

“We never would have been able to start our business if we lived in a big city like Ottawa,” says Greg.

“When we hear friends voice their frustrations about the high cost of living in a big city or the pains of commuting, we raise our eyebrows and smile, knowing that we’ve chosen the best location for our family’s lifestyle,” adds Josée.

“We have a growing list of friends who have discovered the same secret – Cornwall is a great place to live!” **CL**



## Average Housing Prices

<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>\$154,434</b>
Canada	\$339,177
Ontario	\$345,932
Ottawa	\$328,359
Toronto	\$431,131
Montreal	\$281,829

Average sale price as of April 2010

# cornwall

LIVING

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