

## RELEASE

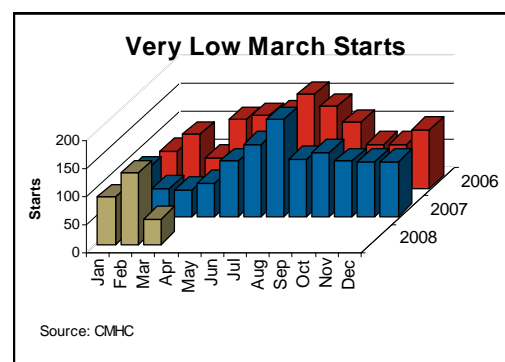
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEAK HOME STARTS IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA<sup>1</sup>

**TORONTO, APRIL 8, 2008** – Preliminary housing starts data for March 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) show a small decrease of 4% from the same month last year to 46 units. This is the lowest level since March 2000 and the third lowest since January 1996. Starts of new single-detached homes decreased by 26% to 34 homes.

However, total starts for the first three months in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA over the respective period of 2007 were up by a strong 43%. While construction of new single-detached homes declined by 9% to 116 homes, gains were seen in all three types of multiple-family home starts (semi-detached homes, rowhouses and apartments). They more than doubled to 143 units against 53 units a year before. A new 72-unit condominium-apartment building in Welland, started in February, contributed significantly to first quarter total apartment starts.

“Buyers preferences seem to be shifting from single-detached homes to condominium apartments and freehold rowhouses,” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “Despite a weak March, St.Catharines continued to be one of the most active new residential construction markets in the first quarter, along with Niagara Falls and Welland”.



<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada defines a census metropolitan area (CMA) as one or more adjacent municipalities integrated with an urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country. For more information, visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1 800 668-2642.

**TABLE 1: MONTH OF MARCH**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie Town	8	7	-13%	2	2	0%	0	0	*	0	0	*	10	9	-10%
Lincoln Town	3	4	33%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	4	33%
Niagara Falls	13	8	-38%	0	0	*	0	3	*	0	0	*	13	11	-15%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	5	0	-100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	5	0	-100%
Pelham Town	5	3	-40%	0	0	*	0	4	*	0	0	*	5	7	40%
Port Colborne City	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
St.Catharines City	8	1	-88%	0	0	*	0	3	*	0	0	*	8	4	-50%
Thorold City	1	3	200%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	3	200%
Wainfleet Twp	1	0	-100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	0	-100%
Welland City	2	8	300%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	8	300%
<b>St. Cath.-Nia. CMA</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>-4%</b>

**TABLE 2: YEAR-TO-DATE (JANUARY-MARCH)**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie Town	24	19	-21%	4	4	0%	0	0	*	0	0	*	28	23	-18%
Lincoln Town	12	12	0%	0	0	*	11	4	-64%	0	0	*	23	16	-30%
Niagara Falls	24	26	8%	2	2	0%	5	7	40%	0	0	*	31	35	13%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	18	13	-28%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	18	13	-28%
Pelham Town	14	10	-29%	0	0	*	12	14	17%	0	0	*	26	24	-8%
Port Colborne City	2	4	100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	4	100%
St.Catharines City	12	10	-17%	2	4	100%	17	28	65%	0	0	*	31	42	35%
Thorold City	8	7	-13%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	3	*	8	10	25%
Wainfleet Twp	1	2	100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	2	100%
Welland City	13	13	0%	0	0	*	0	5	*	0	72	*	13	90	592%
<b>St. Cath.-Nia. CMA</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>43%</b>

Source: CMHC

\*Not Applicable

\*\*Year-over-Year change greater than 1000 per cent

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