

## RELEASE

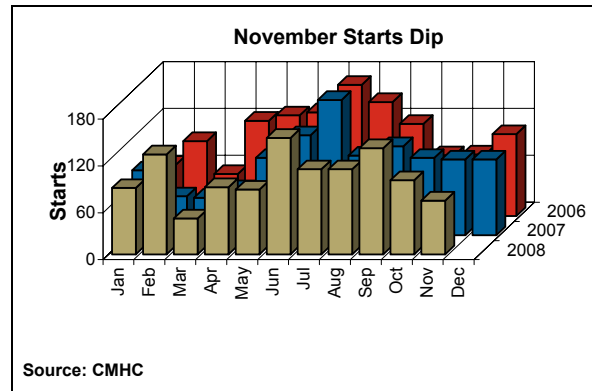
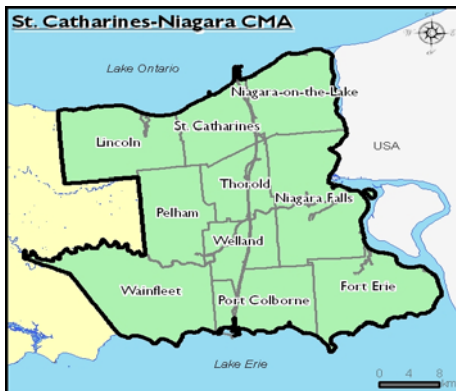
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NOVEMBER STARTS EASED IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA

**TORONTO, DECEMBER 8, 2008** – Preliminary housing starts data for November 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup> (CMA) report a 29 per cent decline from the same month last year to 69 units. All of the decline occurred in the volatile multiple segment.

Total starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA for January-November 2008 were up four per cent over the same period a year ago. Starts of single-detached homes on a year-to-date basis declined 10 per cent to 641 homes, but the drop was offset by a higher number of starts in all other housing types – semi-detached homes (12 per cent), townhouses (37 per cent) and apartments (41 per cent).

“Both employment and starts are easing after a very strong performance early in the year” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “Although starts were down in November, the number of homes under construction remained high, reflecting the rising proportion of apartments and townhouses in the new home market. Moreover, starts are still on track to reach the current forecast for 2008 of 1,140 units.”



<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.

As Canada's national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes — homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

For more information, visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1-800-668-2642.

**TABLE 1: MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie, Town	11	7	-36%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	11	7	-36%
Port Colborne, City	2	2	0%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	2	0%
Wainfleet, Township	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
Pelham, Town	4	7	75%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	7	75%
Welland, City	7	16	129%	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	7	18	157%
Thorold, City	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	0	*
Niagara Falls, City	9	13	44%	2	2	0%	0	0	*	20	0	*	31	15	-52%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	3	11	267%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	11	267%
St.Catharines, City	11	4	-64%	0	0	*	22	0	*	0	0	*	33	4	-88%
Lincoln, Town	2	5	150%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	5	25%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>-29%</b>

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

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie, Town	123	102	-17%	6	10	67%	12	25	108%	0	0	*	141	137	-3%
Port Colborne, City	19	10	-47%	0	0	*	0	8	*	0	0	*	19	18	-5%
Wainfleet, Township	15	12	-20%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	15	12	-20%
Pelham, Town	67	57	-15%	2	0	*	30	21	-30%	0	0	*	99	78	-21%
Welland, City	67	77	15%	8	4	-50%	11	13	18%	0	72	*	86	166	93%
Thorold, City	35	21	-40%	0	2	*	0	0	*	4	3	-25%	39	26	-33%
Niagara Falls, City	162	155	-4%	10	12	20%	17	51	200%	77	39	-49%	266	257	-3%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	77	68	-12%	0	4	*	33	0	*	0	0	*	110	72	-35%
St.Catharines, City	80	65	-19%	10	24	140%	93	125	34%	0	0	*	183	214	17%
Lincoln, Town	69	74	7%	14	0	*	11	41	273%	0	0	*	94	115	22%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>4%</b>

Source: CMHC

\*Not Applicable

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

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