

## RELEASE

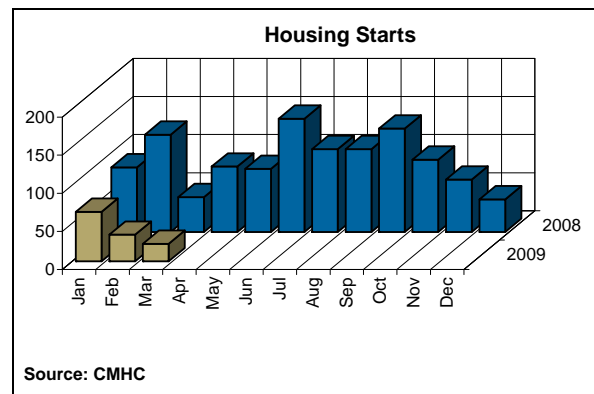
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MARCH HOME STARTS LOWER IN CATHARINES-NIAGARA

**TORONTO, APRIL 8, 2009** – Preliminary housing starts data for March 2009 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup> (CMA) report a decline from the same month last year to 23 units.

Total starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA for January-March 2009 were down from relatively high levels recorded the same period a year ago, mostly because there were fewer starts of single-detached homes and apartments. Starts of townhouses continue to post gains on a year-to-date basis. Total starts were higher in Lincoln and Niagara-on-the-Lake, having been driven up by strong townhouse construction.

“As in most other areas across Ontario and Canada, new home construction in St. Catharines-Niagara is below last year’s levels” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “It is interesting to see a pick-up in the intensification of housing development in the form of infill new home construction in more densely populated areas, such as the city of St. Catharines.”



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<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, please 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		
	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%
Fort Erie, Town	7	4	-43%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	9	4	-56%
Port Colborne, City	0	1	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	1	*
Wainfleet, Township	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
Pelham, Town	3	0	*	0	0	*	4	0	*	0	0	*	7	0	*
Welland, City	8	1	-88%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	8	1	-88%
Thorold, City	3	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	0	*
Niagara Falls, City	8	3	-63%	0	0	*	3	0	*	0	0	*	11	3	-73%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
St.Catharines, City	1	1	0%	0	0	*	3	5	67%	0	0	*	4	6	50%
Lincoln, Town	4	4	0%	0	0	*	0	4	*	0	0	*	4	8	100%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-59%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-50%</b>

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

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%
Fort Erie, Town	19	14	-26%	4	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	23	14	-39%
Port Colborne, City	4	2	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	2	-50%
Wainfleet, Township	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	0	*
Pelham, Town	10	2	-80%	0	0	*	14	0	*	0	0	*	24	2	-92%
Welland, City	13	5	-62%	0	0	*	5	10	100%	72	0	*	90	15	-83%
Thorold, City	7	1	-86%	0	2	*	0	0	*	3	0	*	10	3	-70%
Niagara Falls, City	26	11	-58%	2	0	*	7	0	*	0	0	*	35	11	-69%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	13	2	-85%	0	0	*	0	18	*	0	0	*	13	20	54%
St.Catharines, City	10	6	-40%	4	2	-50%	28	25	-11%	0	0	*	42	33	-21%
Lincoln, Town	12	9	-25%	0	0	*	4	14	250%	0	0	*	16	23	44%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-55%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>-53%</b>

Source: CMHC

\*Not Applicable

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

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