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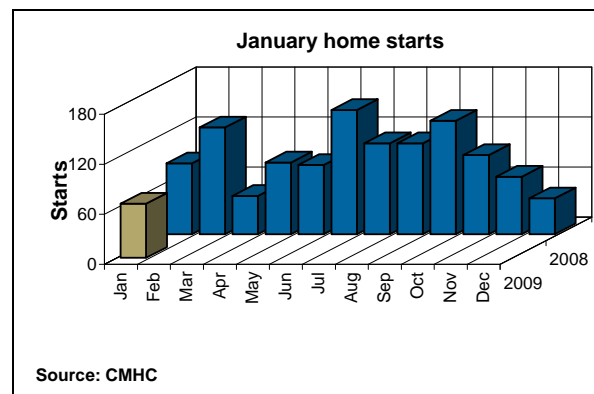
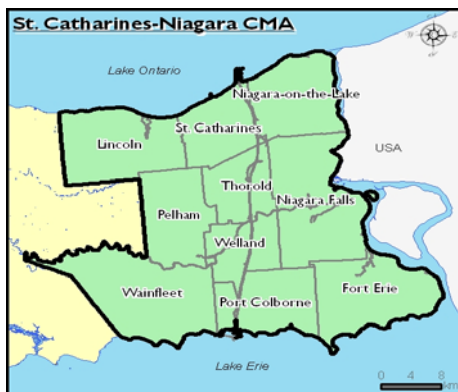
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY HOME STARTS DECREASE IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 9, 2009 – Preliminary housing starts data for January 2009 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area¹ (CMA) report a decline from the same month last year to 65 units.

In January 2009, construction began on 21 single-detached homes while starts of townhouses were relatively strong, increasing to 42 units. While overall starts moderated, home construction was higher in Welland, Lincoln and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“January is traditionally a slow month for housing construction. This year a slowing economy has weighed on home starts activity.” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “The downward trend in new home construction activity is in line with CMHC’s current forecast for St. Catharines-Niagara.”



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¹ 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 or call 1-800-668-2642.

TABLE 1: MONTH OF JANUARY

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%	2008	2009	%
Fort Erie, Town	8	6	-25%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	10	6	-40%
Port Colborne, City	3	1	-67%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	1	-67%
Wainfleet, Township	1	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	0	*
Pelham, Town	3	1	-67%	0	0	*	7	0	*	0	0	*	10	1	-90%
Welland, City	1	3	200%	0	0	*	5	5	0%	0	0	*	6	8	33%
Thorold, City	2	1	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	1	-50%
Niagara Falls, City	6	3	-50%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	8	3	-63%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	10	0	*	0	0	*	0	18	*	0	0	*	10	18	80%
St.Catharines, City	7	4	-43%	2	2	0%	21	9	-57%	0	0	*	30	15	-50%
Lincoln, Town	1	2	100%	0	0	*	4	10	150%	0	0	*	5	12	140%
St.Catharines-Niagara CMA	42	21	-50%	6	2	-67%	37	42	14%	0	0	*	85	65	-24%

Source: CMHC

*Not Applicable

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

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For additional information please contact / Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec:

Local: Ashot Karapetyan, (416) 250-3234 or akarapet@cmhc.ca

En français: David Lan, (519) 873-2426 ou dlan@cmhc.ca

Ontario: Ted Tsiakopoulos, (416) 218-3407 or ttsiakop@cmhc.ca

Canada: Julie Girard, (613) 748-4684, Cell: (613) 295-6330 or jagirard@cmhc-schl.gc.ca