

onthemarket

The top five selling builder's year to date are: Mattamy Homes, Fernbrook Homes, Great Gulf Homes, Laurier Homes and Treasure Hill Homes.

The new home market is experiencing growth in communities such as Elora, Ayr, Beeton, Brooklin, Barrie and Innisfil. Largely due to affordability, homebuyers are valuing space outside of the city.

Mid-sized lots with frontages around the 35' to 45' range are selling the fastest while bigger frontages at 50-100' are also in high demand.

The shift to private individual appointments due to the pandemic is proving highly acceptable to new home purchasers.

Subscribe to Trimart's monthly housing report for sales updates on new communities such as Eagles Rest Estates in Barrie by Fernbrook Homes and South River in Elora by Granite and Gemini Homes.



Aurora

Royal Hill

Lindvest and Dormer Homes

Prices range from \$2,185,000 to \$3,075,000 for 3,124 sq. ft. to 5,073 sq. ft.

Detached homes on 40', 50', 60' and 90' lots

<http://royalhill.com>



Kleinburg

McMichael Estates

Treasure Hill Homes

Prices range from \$2,489,900 to \$3,979,900 for 4,107 sq. ft. to 7,199 sq. ft.

Detached homes on 60', 70' and 90' lots

www.treasurehill.com



Oakville

Kingscrest Estates

Fernbrook Homes

Prices range from \$3,480,000 to \$4,030,000 for 5,336 sq. ft. to 6,581 sq. ft.

Detached homes on 100' lots

<http://kingscrestestates.com>



Whitby

Fresh Urban Towns

Esquire Homes

Prices range from \$809,990 to \$870,990 for 1,614 sq. ft. to 1,698 sq. ft.

Townhomes

<https://freshurbantowns.ca>



Whitby

Highbury Gardens

Stafford Homes

Prices range from \$919,990 to \$959,990 for 2,031 sq. ft. to 2,316 sq. ft.

Townhomes

www.highburygardenshomes.com

Renovate for energy efficiency and comfort



DAVE WILKES
BILD

The pandemic has meant people are spending more time at home, and many have decided to renovate. If you are one of them — whether you are in need of additional space for a home office or a larger kitchen to spend more time with family — this is an opportunity to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Features like energy-efficient windows, insulation, heating and air conditioning will make your home more comfortable while increasing its value. You'll also reduce your energy use, lower your energy bills and cut emissions that contribute to climate change.

Though the benefits of an energy efficient home are often less noticeable, you'll be able to see and feel the improvements in other ways. Your home will be more comfortable year-round, and you'll save on energy — good for your pocket book, but also

the environment.

Before you begin your renovation, schedule an EnerGuide energy efficiency home evaluation with a registered energy advisor. They'll assess your home from top to bottom, identifying opportunities to improve your home's energy efficiency while providing you with a current home EnerGuide rating. They'll also tell you about any rebates and incentives available to you from utility companies.

The City of Toronto's BetterHomesTO website is a one-stop shop for Toronto residents looking to make their homes more energy efficient and climate friendly. It lists rebates, incentives, subsidies and low-interest financing available.

These programs include the Eco-Roof Incentive, Enbridge's Home Efficiency Rebate Program, Enbridge's Winterproofing Program, and the Ontario Energy Board's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. Contact the City of Toronto by email at BetterHomesTO@toronto.ca for further details.

Once your renovation is finished, schedule an EnerGuide assessment to find out how your home is performing and to obtain a new EnerGuide rating. The advisor will also complete any forms required to receive applicable rebates from the utility companies.

To find a renovator who can help make your home more energy efficient, visit www.renomark.ca and search for RenoMark renovators in your area. RenoMark is a BetterHomesTO partner.

RenoMark members follow a Code of Conduct that gives homeowners peace of mind. The Code of Conduct requires renovators to participate in continuing education so they can keep up with the latest building code changes, materials and energy efficient products.

RenoMark renovators must also provide clients with a written contract, offer a minimum one-year warranty on all work, carry a minimum of \$2 million in liability insurance, must be covered by WSIB, and must return client calls within two business days.

Dave Wilkes is President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). For the latest industry news and new home data, follow BILD on Twitter, @bildgta, or visit www.bildgta.ca.

Protecting the well-being of our workers



RICHARD LYALL
RESCON

COVID-19 has tested the mettle of Ontarians and the construction industry, but it's been especially tough for those who suffer from mental health or substance use challenges.

Just recently, we learned from a new report that nearly 2,500 people in our province died of opioid-related overdoses in 2020, up 60 per cent from the year before.

Construction is not immune. In fact, ours is the industry most impacted. Disturbingly, the report found that roughly 30 per cent of the deaths among employed people came from the construction industry.

Mental health and substance-use issues have been on RESCON's radar for some time now. We realized a while back that they were matters that needed to be addressed and we've taken action.

Our health and safety committee identified mental health and addictions as a strategic priority three years ago and hosted a symposium on mental health in construction. Since then, we've sought to shine a light on the issue via webinars and symposiums and are planning another one in November.

In addition to the human cost, there is compelling evidence that mental health and substance-use issues are a drain on our economy.

A report on the Australian construction industry done by PwC indicated that the sector loses \$1.5 billion annually due to fatal and non-fatal suicidal behaviour. It indicated that a "perfect storm" of circumstances — such as lack of job security, long work hours and tough conditions — can build up in construction to create a force strong enough to knock anyone down.

On a positive note, the report found that the damage is drastically minimized when companies adopt strategies that protect the wellbeing of

their workers.

We can learn from the Australian experience. For example, the report notes that businesses get a return of \$2.50 for every dollar they spend on mental health initiatives.

As we know, construction workers don't like to reach out for help. However, we must encourage them to speak up if they're feeling stressed, pressured, depressed or intimidated. We also must provide the necessary resources to help them and build a culture where all workers are valued and respected.

Workers can and do recover from mental health and substance use challenges, but it takes time and is different for everyone. We will continue to engage with our partners in government and labour to keep the issue on the radar. The recent figures indicate we need to do better. And we will.

Richard Lyall, president of RESCON, has represented the building industry in Ontario since 1991. Contact him at media@rescon.com.