

onthemarket

The month of February is experiencing robust sales with many builders selling over 100 homes. This includes Fernbrook, National and Mattamy Homes. (See Trimart's February 2021 Housing Report for specific sales results).

Greater inventory supply has come just in time with the market at risk of overheating with a severe supply shortage. New inventory must continuously be released to meet demand in areas such as Burlington, Milton, Kleinburg and Whitby which are experiencing continuous strong new home sales growth.

Urban Townhomes are making up a significant portion of overall sales plus the high-end market is also gaining positive results.

Low interest rates are certainly aiding new sales and the banks must be careful as rates start to slowly rise. With the economy rebounding from the pandemic and the government's gradual reopening plan, 2021 is shaping up to be an excellent year for new home sales.



Aurora
Allegro
Geranium Homes

Prices range from \$1,974,900 to \$2,109,900 for 3,447 sq. ft. to 3,828 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 61' lots
www.geranium.com



Kleinburg
Urban Green Kleinburg
Pine Valley Estates

Prices range from \$979,900 to \$1,219,900 for 1,813 sq. ft. to 2,804 sq. ft.
Townhomes
www.urbangreentowns.com



Richmond Hill
Uplands of Swan Lake
Caliber Homes

Prices range from \$999,990 to \$1,489,990 for 1,960 sq. ft. to 2,830 sq. ft.
Townhomes
www.caliberhomes.ca



Toronto
Field House Ecourban Towns
Daniels

Prices range from \$1,308,900 to \$1,440,900 for 1,528 sq. ft. to 1,714 sq. ft.
Townhomes
<https://fieldhousetowns.com>



Whitby
Highbury Gardens
Stafford Homes

Prices range from \$919,990 to \$1,359,990 for 2,031 sq. ft. to 3,078 sq. ft.
Townhomes and detached homes
<https://highbury-gardens.ca>

Construction sector fares relatively well but not out of the woods yet



RICHARD LYALL
RESCON

The construction industry has fared relatively well during COVID-19, in large part due to the collaboration that occurred at the onset with the Ontario government to develop sector-specific guidelines.

Employers, labour and government all worked in unison. We acted quickly when the pandemic struck and came up with protocols to keep the industry open and ensure construction workers were safe. Our industry had the ideas and government provided the leadership that enabled us to keep working.

Ontario Labour, Training and Skills Development Minister Monte McNaughton addressed the issue recently at RESCON's annual general meeting. He said that some people had called for the construction industry to be shut down, but the sector worked with government to keep things rolling.

Instead of putting 500,000 people out of work, he noted the government and industry decided to partner and do something different. The government reached out to industry partners like RESCON, contractors and labour leaders, and joined forces to produce health and safety guidelines.

"It's been a success story,"

McNaughton told the meeting. "I think as Canadians we can be proud of the Ontario construction sector during COVID-19."

The number of COVID-related claims approved by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board for construction in Ontario was 139 as of Jan. Feb. 26 – a fraction of the 17,333 total claims for all industries.

Our industry has improved communication with workers, implemented enhanced screening and sanitizing and ensured compliance with regulations and best practices. We are also making use of, and promoting, the COVID Alert app to track and trace any cases of COVID-19 on an off jobsites.

These simple measures have kept construction working. However, vaccines are truly the strongest line of defence and the best way to end the pandemic. To that end, we have called on the federal government to take steps to keep workers safe by getting more vaccines and at a faster rate.

Our request was laid out in a federal pre-budget submission made to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland. We noted that the government must also continue to maintain PPE supply chains so there is ample supply for all Canadians, including construction workers.

It is critical to keep construction working as the industry represents six per

cent of the country's GDP. To keep the ball rolling, we must have the necessary vaccines and enough PPE. Vaccines are key to reopening the economy. Israel is the leading country for vaccine roll-out and is starting to open-up broadly. But Canada is not even among the OECD countries when it comes to roll-out. This is not an impressive metric for an advanced economy like ours.

The message is clear. We need to quickly pick up our game. Uninterrupted residential construction work is vital to supporting our housing supply. The industry must also continue to do its part. While construction has escaped relatively unscathed, we are not out of the woods yet. This is not the time to become complacent. We must remain vigilant.

Employers and workers must continue to take precautions which includes maintaining physical distancing, sanitizing, wearing masks when around other workers, hand-washing and staggering shifts.

New variants of the virus are much more easily transmitted than the original strain so employers and workers must continue taking precautions. Our health, and the recovery of the economy, depends on it.

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

Nine-year-old wins IKEA soft toy competition

MARTIN SLOFSTRA

A Canadian winner has been selected in IKEA's annual SAGOSKATT Soft Toy Drawing Competition. The young designer is 9-year-old Audrey from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan whose design called "Sandwich Friends" represents best friends who live in Canada.

"Peanut butter is soft, and jelly is sweet which together they make a wonderful treat," says Audrey who wants to spread the message of kindness and "to ensure we

always stay and take care of each other."

This year, IKEA received 66,000 entries globally and five unique drawings were selected to be turned into soft toys. In addition to Canada, winners were selected from Lithuania, Poland, Russia and the U.S.

The arrival of the SAGOSKATT soft toys is a much-anticipated annual event.

Audrey's creation will be available in IKEA Canada stores from coast to coast and IKEA.ca this fall.



Nine-year-old Audrey's winning design will be turned into a soft toy this fall. IKEA.ca

Information provided by Trimart Research Corporation. Prices and features subject to change. For more information or to list a new site opening, contact Trimart Corporation at admin@trimart.ca.

