

on the market

New homes achieved 2072 sales for October 2020 which represents the highest total of the year. The number of new homes sold in the Total Market Area is up 21% compared to the previous month and up 68% compared to the same month last year. Inventory decreased by 58% compared to October 2019.

Trimart's Top Ten Builders are: 1. Mattamy Homes; 2. Treasure Hill Homes; 3. Kingsmen Homes; 4. Rosehaven Homes; 5. Great Gulf Homes; 6. Minto Homes; 7. Paradise Developments; 8. Pratt Homes; 9. Pace Developments; 10. Townwood Homes.

The 2020 low-rise sales totals have now surpassed 2019 totals and there's room for further growth with many new openings from Fernbrook, Zancor, Opus, Deco, Poetry Living, Primont Homes, Lindvest Homes, Remington Group Homes, Treasure Hill Homes and Mattamy Homes plus many new homes from existing sites.

For the full list of sites please contact Trimart at 905-820-6711.



Bradford
Horizon
Lormel Homes

Prices range from \$803,990 to \$928,990 for 2,030 sq. ft. to 3,240 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 30' and 38' lots
www.lormelhomes.com



Markham
Victory Green
Remington Group Homes

Prices range from \$1,300,990 to \$1,830,990 for 1,781 sq. ft. to 3,557 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 36' and 41' lots
www.remingtongroupinc.com



Mt. Albert
Village Green in Mount Albert
Averton Homes

Prices range from \$627,900 to \$699,900 for 1,333 sq. ft. to 1,992 sq. ft.
Townhomes
www.averton.ca



Oshawa
Breeze Phase 3
Midhaven Homes

Prices range from \$704,900 to \$834,900 for 1,290 sq. ft. to 2,228 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 30' and 40' lots
www.midhavenhomes.com



Aurora
Glen Ridge Estates
Opus Homes

Prices range from \$2,149,900 to \$2,449,900 for 4,399 sq. ft. to 4,892 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 50', 59' and 66' lots
www.opushomes.com

World is changing, so too must government services

Fully digitized e-permitting process is a lofty goal but worth achieving



RICHARD LYALL
RESCON

Government services — and hopefully the development approvals process — will be much more efficient in future, thanks to a significant infusion of funds that were announced recently by the province.

Over four years, roughly \$500 million is earmarked for projects to cut red tape, simplify policies and make services more digitally accessible.

Peter Bethlenfalvy, president of the Treasury Board and minister responsible for digital and data transformation, deserves credit for leading the provincial charge for digitization and modernization.

The money was set aside in the 2020 budget and will flow through the Ontario Onwards Acceleration Fund. It builds on work that the Treasury Board has been doing on digitization.

About \$60 million is earmarked for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Specific projects will be chosen by the Future State Modernization Committee and approved by the Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet.

This is certainly very welcome news from RESCON's perspective as the money will help with projects that emphasize digital-first and lean methods to ensure effective delivery of services. It will also provide seed funding to set up pilot projects that test-drive new initiatives that show promise.

Projects eligible for funding must have a strong return on investment and deliver immediate benefits to the people and businesses of Ontario, focus on the outcomes and needs of Ontarians, and have clear governance to ensure accountability and support the tracking and reporting of results.

The residential construction industry has long been plagued by a stilted and duplicative approvals process that is fragmented and stymies development, so it is refreshing to see government moving in this direction.

The vision here is to make Ontario the most digitally advanced jurisdiction in the world. A lofty goal, perhaps, but one that is certainly worth striving to achieve.

As Minister Bethlenfalvy has rightly noted, the world has changed, and government must change with it. RESCON has been leading the charge for more efficiency, given the lack of accountability and transparency in a development approvals process that can involve up to 45 different government bodies. Research has shown that this problem is getting progressively worse and driving up housing costs.

The province has already acted to streamlin-

ing development processes through the More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 and other measures, including Ministerial Zoning Orders to cut through stalled projects. We see this new funding commitment is another positive step forward in that process.

Earlier this year, RESCON joined an initiative called One Ontario that is seeking to develop guidelines for a fully digitized and harmonized e-permitting process that would help speed-up approvals.

About half of Ontario's 444 municipalities have a population of 5,000 or fewer, which makes it a challenge for them to implement any kind of large-scale digital strategy of their own. They need help.

Investing in digital technology and government modernization is a vital part of our response to the pandemic and eventual recovery.

The One Ontario initiative will enable the creation of standards for data exchange, information sharing and e-permitting. Such a system would improve regulatory compliance and, importantly, reduce regulatory delays and increase government tax revenues as a result of projects moving along quicker.

A report by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis indicates that an additional 33,100 homes could be built in Ontario over the next five years if the development approval processes were reduced by six months. A six-month reduction in the approval processes could also result in an additional contribution of \$4.5 billion to Ontario's economy annually by 2025 and support 40,500 jobs.

Investing in digital technology and government modernization is a vital part of our response to the pandemic and eventual recovery. This bold action by the government is a wise investment in our future.

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

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.

