

onthemarket

The low-rise new home market is largely being driven by location and affordability. Growth communities are being sought after by new home buyers in municipalities like Fergus, Guelph, Milton, Aurora, Barrie, Whitby and Bowmanville.

More mid-sized townhomes and smaller detached homes are being brought to market as the average family size is now 2.6 people.

Modernism in home design is being widely adopted as builders are opening models as an aid to the home buying experience. Many home sales are also taking place online with virtual tours/appointments.

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

Examples of notable sites are: Jade Gardens Cornell in Markham by Primont Homes; Twelve Oaks in Richmond Hill by Green City Developments; Thornhill Trails in Thornhill by Remington Homes; Jasper Village in Milton by Conservatory Group; and, Aurora Hills by Sorbara and Canvas Developments.



Markham
Jade Gardens Cornell
Primont Homes

Prices range from \$829,900 to \$1,199,900 for 1,571 sq. ft. to 3,197 sq. ft.
Townhomes



www.primonthomes.com
Richmond Hill
Twelve Oaks
Green City Developments

Prices range from \$789,900 to \$1,069,900 for 1,306 sq. ft. to 2,132 sq. ft.
Townhomes
<http://twelveoakstowns.com>



Thornhill
Thornhill Trails
Remington Homes

Prices range from \$1,050,390 to \$1,111,990 for 2,009 sq. ft. to 2,068 sq. ft.
Townhomes
www.remingtongroupinc.com



Milton
Jasper Village
Conservatory Group

Prices range from \$827,990 to \$1,034,990 for 2,322 sq. ft. to 3,705 sq. ft.
Semi-detached and detached homes on 36' lots
<https://conservatorygroup.ca>



Aurora
Aurora Hills
Sorbara and Canvas Developments

Prices range from \$1,225,990 to \$1,409,990 for 2,374 sq. ft. to 3,614 sq. ft.
Detached homes on 40' lots
<http://sorbara.com>

Pandemic update: 'We must keep our guard up'



RICHARD LYALL
RESCON

The numbers on COVID-19 inspections have been surging once again. Modelling shows that Ontario could record up to 1,000 new cases per day if we're not careful.

Our province has been doing so well and hospitalization and ICU rates have not repeated what happened in the spring. The Ontario government has taken appropriate action to curb the situation from getting worse.

So how does all this affect the construction industry? As an essential service, the work of our industry can continue. However, we must not get complacent. We can't let our guard down. We must do everything in our power to keep the focus on health and safety during these difficult times.

Contractors must ensure that strict protocols remain in place. Although much of the work we do takes place outside, as cases continue to rise, construction workers must follow best practices, regulations, and public health guidelines.

We dealt with a surge of COVID-19 earlier this year and can do it again. Since the start of the pandemic, the construction sector has been a leader.

We were the first industry to develop COVID-specific protocols for residential construction sites, which was a crucial element in most of the sector being designated as an essential workplace. We've worked closely with government and our partners in the sector to ensure they have the information they need to keep workers safe.

RESCON has recommended that builders continue to use screening tools at all workplaces, including on-site and off-site sales and other offices.

The rules state that a person who is responsible for a business or organization that is open shall operate it in compliance with the advice, recommendations, and instructions of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening.

What this means is that contractors should screen all workers and essential visitors entering a work environment. Part of that screening

involves asking workers a series of questions about their health.

We are encouraging workers to comply with on-site safe practices and follow personal hygiene protocols such as washing their hands and clothes when they return home. On the contractor side, employers are required to post their COVID-19 policies and communicate them to all employees and trades.

To encourage social distancing, employers are encouraged to continue staggering start times, breaks and lunches of workers and look at site movement and pinch points such as hoists and site trailers.

Limiting unnecessary contact between workers, and also between workers and outside service providers, is also important, as is making sure employees have access to soap and water to properly clean their hands and looking at ways to sanitize commonly touched surfaces like truck door handles.

RESCON is also encouraging construction workers to download the COVID Alert exposure notification app released by the federal and provincial governments.

The smartphone app will enable a worker to receive a notification if it turns out they've been near someone who has tested positive. The only way to control this virus is to break the chain of transmission and the app will help.

The industry has been able to continue operating thanks in large part to a decision by the provincial government to extend working hours for construction. This has enabled contractors to build essential infrastructure while keeping social distancing measures in place. The extended hours have enabled contractors to stagger shifts of workers so there are not as many on site at the same time.



We were the first industry to develop COVID-specific protocols for residential construction sites, which was a crucial element in most of the sector being designated as an essential workplace.

As the number of COVID-19 cases increases, we must keep our guard up. Construction is a major employer and we can not afford to shut the industry down. There is also much pent-up demand for housing across Ontario. People are relying on our industry to build their homes and condos.

I am confident that as long as the industry remains vigilant and everybody does their part, the indefatigable spirit that carried us through the early part of this pandemic will help us through this new normal.

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

POSTMEDIA



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