



Housing starts in Clarington continue to outpace last years totals, according to statistics released by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Clarington saw a 20.9 percent increase in starts for May of this year compared to the same month last year. While the number of single family homes actually fell from 43 in May, 2009 to 32 during May of this year, construction starts for townhouses increased from 0 in May, 2009 to 20 this May.

According to the CMHC, construction began on a total of 160 homes in May in the Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which includes Clarington as well as Oshawa and Whitby. Housing starts nearly doubled the level recorded in the same month last year, yet were below the historical May average. The strongest increase in new housing construction occurred in Whitby and Oshawa City.

Single-detached homes continue to be the dominant form of new construction in the Oshawa CMA. However, the more volatile multiple-family sector (which includes semi-detached homes, townhouses and apartments) registered an increase in share of total housing starts last month.

"For the past few months new home sales in the area have been slowing due to a limited inventory of pre-construction projects and a growing supply of resale homes. Expect to see new housing starts grow at a more moderate pace in the second half of this year," said Inna Breidburg, CMHC's Market Analyst.