

OHBA NEWS

- END OF THE 40-YEAR MORTGAGE
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOUSING STOCK
- PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL FISCAL SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW
- FULL HEIGHT BASEMENT INSULATION
- RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

EVENTS

- OHBA Low Rise Green Housing Tour: Thursday, August 14
- OHBA Executive Committee: September 2
- OHBA Board of Directors: September 3
- OHBA Annual Conference: September 21 – 23
- Halloween Housing Tour: October 30



END OF THE 40-YEAR MORTGAGE

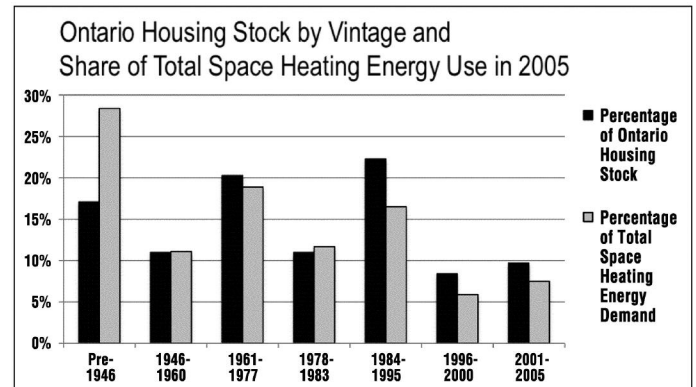
The federal government announced changes to the rules for government guaranteed mortgages aimed at protecting and strengthening the Canadian housing market. The changes take effect October 15, 2008.

New Measures Include:

- Fixing the maximum amortization period to 35 years
- Requiring a minimum down payment of five per cent for new government-backed mortgages
- Establishing a consistent minimum credit score requirement

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOUSING STOCK

As part of the requirements under the Kyoto Protocol, Natural Resources Canada prepares a national inventory of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions from sources. The statistics are very encouraging for home builders as we are among very few industries in Canada that actually is meeting and surpassing goals set out under Kyoto. At right is a chart comparing energy use in homes throughout Ontario.



Source: CEUD 2005, NRCan 2008

PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL FISCAL SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW

The results of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review is expected to be released prior to the AMO Conference, August 24 -27. It is anticipated that the report will lay groundwork for the potential uploading of social services and funding for municipal infrastructure. The report may also include recommendations for legislative changes to the Development Charges Act. OHBA has voiced support for the uploading of provincially mandated social services and has expressed opposition to any legislative review of the Development Charges Act at this time. For more information visit: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page181.aspx>

FULL HEIGHT BASEMENT INSULATION

As part of the 2006 changes to the Ontario Building Code, homes constructed based on permits applied for after December 31, 2008 must include near full-height insulated foundation walls. A new Best Practices Guide for the Installation of Near-full Height basement insulation has been produced with input from the OHBA. For an electronic copy please visit: <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/Asset842.aspx>.

RECORD ENTRIES FOR AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

OHBA has received a record number of entries to the Awards of Distinction! Finalists will be announced in mid-August and Awards will be presented Tuesday, September 23, 2008. Get your tickets online at: www.ohba.ca