

OHBA **ACTIVITY** SUMMARY

This monthly Association summary is distributed to the OHBA Board of Directors as well as all local Presidents and Executive Officers



June 2007

HOT TOPICS

- Ontario Government Update
- Housing Market Update
- Annual Conference / Awards of Distinction
- OHBA Waterfront Housing Tour
- IBE Presents Gord Cooke
- Health and Safety Bulletin
- Tarion Delayed Closings

DATES TO NOTE

- Tarion Board of Directors: June 4 & 5
- Executive Officers Council: June 12
- OHBA Waterfront Housing Tour: June 14
- GTHBA/UDI Dinner: June 14
- Illegal Building Roundtable: June 18
- IBE - Energy Efficiency Seminar: June 26
- OHBA Executive Committee: July 3
- OHBA Board of Directors: July 4

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The Ontario Legislative Assembly is currently in session. The Second Session of the 38th Parliament resumed on March 19 and is scheduled to dissolve on June 28 (the date is subject to change). All outstanding bills will die on the order paper when the house rises for the summer. The Ontario provincial election is scheduled for October 10.

Over the past month OHBA has met with both the Liberal and the Progressive Conservative Parties to discuss the upcoming election campaign platforms. The intent of the meetings was to ensure both campaigns are cognizant of residential construction industry positions during the advanced stages of policy development. Additional information is available in the new monthly OHBA newsletter – Election Watch.

ONTARIO HOUSING MARKET UPDATE

Ontario new home starts will moderate but remain at historical averages. CMHC has forecasted 68,000 units this year and 64,000 in 2008, while OHBA has revised its 2007 forecast down to 67,000 units. Demand for more expensive single detached homes will cool while construction of modestly priced multi-family homes will remain on par with activity in recent years. Higher new home prices, more choice in the existing home market and supply constraints are some factors dampening overall starts activity.

Ontario's existing home market will lead the housing market, continuing to capture a growing share of total home sales, thanks to improved homeownership conditions in recent quarters and market choice. Sales through the MLS will pull back modestly from an all-time record in 2004 reaching 196,000 units in 2007, on par with levels last year. Rising costs will pull existing home sales lower to 185,000 units in 2008.

OHBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE / AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

In 2007 OHBA will be headed to an all new destination in Collingwood for the 2007 Annual Conference in partnership with the Greater Barrie Home Builders' Association. The OHBA Annual Conference will be held September 25, 26 and 27, 2007. To register for the conference visit www.ohba.ca and click on the conference logo.

The OHBA Awards of Distinction entry deadline is Wednesday, June 27, 2007. The awards entry brochure was mailed to all member companies and is available on the OHBA website at www.ohba.ca. The Awards will be presented on Thursday, September 27 at the 2007 OHBA Annual Conference.

OHBA WATERFRONT HOUSING TOUR

Don't miss the exciting Waterfront Housing Tour scheduled for June 14th. The OHBA Waterfront Housing tour hosted by OHBA and HHHBA Past President Danny Gabriele will visit a number of spectacular new housing projects on and nearby the waterfront in the West GTA and Hamilton area. To register please contact Michael Collins-Williams at the OHBA (mikecw@ohba.ca or 1-800-387-0109).

INSTITUTE OF BUILDERS EXCELLENCE PRESENTS: GORD COOKE

The Institute of Builders Excellence presents *Everything is Green, What Does it Mean* with Gord Cooke on June 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. The seminar will focus on building for the future: But which one? There are numerous 'green' programs for home builders that are often confusing to both industry representatives and new home buyers. Gord Cooke of Air Solutions will discuss a number of programs and ratings systems including: R2000, Energy Star, Energuide 80, LEED Certified, LEED Silver and Gold and Build Green. This seminar will help you understand the pros and cons of some of the more than 50 green building programs available in Canada and the United States. To register or learn more about the upcoming seminar please contact OHBA at 1-800-387-0109.

NEW OHBA HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

The OHBA Health and Safety Committee has introduced a Health and Safety Bulletin available to any OHBA member. The Health and Safety Bulletin is your source for emerging health and safety issues, Ministry of Labour news, WSIB information, news regarding inspections as well as health and safety tips. To register for an e-subscription please contact the new OHBA Health and Safety e-mail at healthandsafety@ohba.ca

TARION DELAYED CLOSING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Final Report of Tarion's Special Committee on delayed closings has been posted the Tarion web-site. Lengthy mandatory addendums remain a part of the new delayed closing rules, as does up-front disclosure of the estimated date of commencement of construction and formal notice to the purchaser within ten days of the commencement of construction.

The new rules introduce the concept of "tentative" and "firm" closing dates. Where the original report proposed only one 120-day extension with 90 days notice, the final report allows for two 120-day extensions, subject to 90 days notice. Once a final closing date has been set, any delay will result in compensation to the purchaser of \$150/day to a maximum of \$7,500. Minor delays with less than ten days notice will be subject to compensation of \$150 for each day of delay plus ten days less the number of days notice given. The new framework is not expected to be implemented prior to January 1, 2008.

SALES MASTERS

OHBA is providing sales, training and certification courses which earn up to 14 RECO CEU credits on June 14 & 15; September 13, & 14 and October 11 & 12. Please contact Sajida Jiwani for more information at 1-800-387-0109 or sjiwani@ohba.ca.

REMINDERS / AVAILABLE FROM OHBA

- ✓ Awards of Distinction Entry Package
- ✓ 2007 OHBA Conference Registration
- ✓ OHB Magazine – Trends and Solutions
- ✓ Ontario Housing Issues Report: March 2007
- ✓ OHBA Waterfront Tour Registration
- ✓ Engine That Drives The Economy
- ✓ WSIB Mandatory Coverage Submission
- ✓ Summary of Building Code changes (Part 9)



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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