



OHBA Monthly Activity Summary

MAY 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

- OHBA Land Development Committee: May 13
- OHBA Technical Committee: May 13
- OHBA Carol Smith Seminar: May 26
- CHBA Spring Meetings: May 28 – 30
- CHBA Board of Directors: May 31
- OHBA Tarion Liaison Committee: June 9
- OHBA Harmonization Seminar: June 11

HARMONIZATION UPDATE

OHBA is working with local associations and dedicated volunteers across the province to address potential negative consequences that arise as a result of a harmonized sales tax. OHBA is contacting all MPPs to explain the drastic consequences of a harmonized sales tax. We believe that this measure will only encourage further sprawl, may decrease energy efficiency in new homes and will seriously impede affordability for young families, as well as renters and seniors in newly constructed buildings. A second phase of the grassroots campaign with Federal MPs is now underway.

- OHBA and BILD are participating in ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Finance to develop HST transition rules as well as discussing the structure of the new tax.
- OHBA will hold a harmonization seminar on June 11 to register visit www.ohba.ca

GREEN ENERGY ACT

On February 23, 2009 the *Ontario Green Energy Act* passed second reading and is before the Standing Committee on General Government. OHBA met with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, George Smitherman in early April to discuss the legislation's impact on new residential construction and renovation. OHBA has made a deputation at the committee in Toronto. In addition, the London Home Builders' Association and the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association made deputations. OHBA is supportive in principal of the fundamental concepts established in the proposed legislation. In particular, OHBA is supportive of the concept of full disclosure and transparency for consumers of new and resale homes.

Visit www.ontario.ca/gea for more information.

TARION MSD WARRANTY CHANGES

Following several costly major structural defect (MSD) claims paid out over the last couple of years, the Tarion Warranty Corporation is looking to revise the MSD warranty coverage in the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act and Regulations. The proposed change would turn responsibility for the full 7 years from Tarion over to the builder. An exception would be made for builders who could demonstrate unusual or extraordinary circumstances. While the Tarion Board of Directors has already approved the change in principle, they may consider alternate solutions proposed over the summer. Tarion has advised that they will not implement the change to MSD warranty until January 1, 2010 and they will be supplying claims-related data so builders can understand the impact



METROLINX REFORMS

The *Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Transit Implementation Act, 2009* (Bill 163) is Ontario's proposal for enhancing transportation across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The proposed legislation brings together the strategy and planning expertise of Metrolinx and the Regional Transportation Plan it developed with GO Transit managing and developing GO bus and rail networks.

- To lead the transition phase, Robert Prichard has been named transition advisor for the merger. A transition advisory board, including Metrolinx Chair Rob MacIsaac and GO Transit Chair Peter Smith, will help move the province's transit plan to its next phase. The new Metrolinx Board will be made up of 15 members drawing on private sector experience and expertise.
- On April 1, 2009 the province announced \$9 billion in funding for several Metrolinx projects:
 - Dedicated bus lanes, new buses and stations for York VIVA Bus Rapid Transit;
 - Upgrading and extending the Scarborough Rapid Transit Line;
 - A new 31km rapid transit line on Eglinton Avenue from Kennedy Station to Pearson Airport with a 13km underground section;
 - A new rapid transit line for Finch West from the Yonge Subway Line to Highway #27 and Humber College, and east to Don Mills Station;
 - A feasibility study for Hamilton Rapid Transit.

OHBA MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS

The Housing Issues Status Report Spring 2009 is now available. Please visit www.ohba.ca to download a copy or contact OHBA to obtain a hard copy. An updated version of the 'Engine That Drives' is also available from OHBA which details our industry's contribution to the provincial economy. Finally, the OHBA 2009 Membership Directory will be mailed to all OHBA member companies this spring.

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

Look out for the Awards of Distinction submission package, which is now available on the OHBA website. The awards will be presented on September 22nd at the OHBA Annual Conference at Fallsview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls.

OHBA SEMINARS

Carol Smith will be delivering a seminar for OHBA on Tuesday May 26, 2009 at the Westin Prince Hotel. The two topics are "Warranty Service – Necessary Evil or Extraordinary Marketing Tool?" and "From Feedback to Referrals – Put Your Reputation in the Bank". Carol Smith will also be presenting in London on May 27. Visit www.ohba.ca to register

OHBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

Mark Your Calendar! The 2009 OHBA Conference will be hosted by the Niagara Home Builders' Association, at the Niagara Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls September 20-22, 2009. Registration will be on the OHBA website soon!

Ontario Home Builders' Association

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