



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- February 26: Builders Council and Renovators Council
- February 26-28: Builder and Renovator Forum

FEBRUARY 2014

ONE MONTH AWAY: OHBA/ENERQUALITY 2014 BUILDER AND RENOVATOR FORUM IN NIAGARA FALLS

Join us **February 26 – 28th** at the spectacular Hilton Hotel and Suites Niagara Falls for the [2014 Builder and Renovator Forum](#) – your premiere conference on building innovation and technical excellence. OHBA is partnering with EnerQuality to provide a relevant program designed to help your business grow and evolve with the new regulatory changes.

The program will include round table discussions, engaging industry speakers, a trade exhibit and EnerQuality's Awards of Excellence gala. Topics include:

- January 1, 2014 Ontario Building Code Update by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Understanding Mid-rise Wood Frame Construction, presented by the Ontario and BC Wood WORKS!
- Discovery Homes from the Optimum Home Program and Savings by Design
- Renovator Roundtable: Selecting the Right Marketing Strategies for your Business
- Tax-related Issues for Builders and Renovators

But it is not all work and no play - lace up your skates at our charity 'Fun on the Ice' event celebrating OHBA's 50 Good Deeds initiative, featuring hockey legends Steve Ludzig, Marcel Dionne, and Rick Vaive. This is your opportunity to rub elbows with some of the hockey legends while raising money for the Steve Ludzik Centre for Parkinson's Rehab.



Visit www.builderrenovatorforum.com and sign-up before space fills up – preferred hotel pricing ends **February 6, 2014!**

OHBA DC AND PLANNING SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

On January 10th, OHBA submitted two comprehensive submissions on the public consultations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- OHBA Submission: [Land-Use Planning and Appeals System in Ontario](#)
- OHBA Submission: [Review of the Development Charges System in Ontario](#)

OHBA has engaged members of its 31 local home building associations through a series of sessions and also thanks BILD, WRHBA, HHHBA, LHBA and the GOHBA for hosting these important meetings as well as to the BILD Executive and staff for their extensive involvement in the writing of the submissions. OHBA would also like to thank Leith Moore and Neil Rodgers, Co-Chairs of the OHBA Committee for the Land-Use Planning and Appeal System consultation as well as Lyn Townsend, Chair of the OHBA Committee for the Development Charges consultation.

Since the submissions were made, OHBA has had a number of constructive meetings with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and will continue to advocate for greater fairness, transparency and accountability in both Ontario's land-use planning and appeals system as well as Ontario's development charges and infrastructure financing system. OHBA anticipates that some initial components of the consultation review could be included in the upcoming 2014 provincial budget bill and in potential legislation that may be tabled this spring. OHBA will continue to engage with the provincial government and provide members with regular updates.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR: NEW REGULATIONS ACTIVE FOR SUMMER 2014

The Ministry has introduced three new regulations:

The Ministry of Labour has created a [new training standard for Working at Heights](#). The standard is currently voluntary but is expected to become mandatory by the summer of 2014 and will later be expanded to all sectors. OHBA is requesting the Ministry allow for transition provisions, so workers that have already taken previous training do not have to do redundant training.

[Mandatory health and safety awareness training](#) for all workers has been introduced by the Ministry of Labour. This focuses on safety rights and responsibilities and serves as a general introduction to workplace health and safety. Workers can use free online training as one way to meet the minimum training required by the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training regulation.

[Supervisor Health and Safety Awareness](#) training introduces supervisors to the occupational health and safety act. Program can be completed by using the workbook or the e-Learning module. The online module takes 45-60 minutes to complete. You must save or print the certificate as the ministry will not maintain records.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2014

The upcoming Ontario Budget will likely be an “election ready” budget potentially setting the stage for a spring election. Ontario’s home builders, land developers and professional renovators continue to generate economic growth and create jobs with CMHC forecasting 60,800 housing starts in 2013 and 60,300 housing starts in 2014.

The OHBA pre-budget submission is available at www.ohba.ca and delivered a number of key messages and priorities to the Provincial Government:

- OHBA Fiscal Recommendations for the 2014 Provincial Budget:
 - Implement permanent Home Renovation Tax Credit to combat underground economy
 - Review HST New Housing Threshold at least every five years
 - Continue to invest in “core” infrastructure
- Other Issues we Highlighted:
 - Support Six-Storey Wood Frame Construction – Amend Building Code
 - Highlighted our Land-Use Planning & Appeals Submission
 - Highlighted our Development Charges Submission

OHBA also appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs at Queen’s Park on January 16th to present our recommendations to the government on the upcoming budget. OHBA would like to thank the Waterloo Region HBA, the Durham Region HBA and the Kingston HBA for also making presentations to the Standing Committee as it traveled across Ontario for the pre-budget consultations. Copies of the OHBA Pre-Budget submission have been sent to all MPPs and to the Ministry of Finance.

OHBA INSTITUTE OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE – UPCOMING COURSES AND EXAM DATES!

Looking for current information on ever-evolving building practices, code changes or legal issues? Or do you want to improve your expertise around financial management or sales and marketing? OHBA’s Institute of Building Excellence (IBE) can help.

The Institute provides web-based, online learning that focuses on best practices in business management, building and renovation technologies, building codes, legal issues and many other topics. OHBA has several courses available online and course review and exam dates are being offered across the province. February exam dates include:

- Building Science for Renovators: February 21, 2014 - London
- Marketing and Project Sales: February 26, 2014, Niagara
- Building Science for Renovators: February 26, 2014 – Niagara
- Project Management and Site Supervision: February 26, 2014 – Niagara

For more information and to view [upcoming course/exam dates](#), visit the [Institute of Building Excellence](#) section on the OHBA website or call or email [MJ Whitemarsh](#), the IBE Registrar toll-free at 1-855-818-0449.

OHBA’S 2014 INDUSTRY LEADERS DINNER

On Monday, January 27th, OHBA hosted its annual Industry Leaders’ Dinner with keynote speaker, Steve Paikin from the Agenda with Steve Paikin. Well-received by attendees and an engaging and informative presentation, Mr. Paikin spoke to guests about his new book and experiences as a political journalist. The OHBA Industry Leaders’ Dinner is an opportunity for OHBA to celebrate leaders and innovation within the industry.

The evening also honoured Harry Herskowitz, retiring chair of the Tarion Board of Directors for his hard work and dedication. For photos from the event please visit our [Facebook page](#).



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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