



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- April 11: OHBA Sales & Marketing Committee Meeting
- April 26: OHBA Technical Committee Meeting
- May 8: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- TBA: OHBA/EnerQuality Green Housing Tour

APRIL 2013

OHBA AT QUEEN'S PARK

OHBA continues its work at Queen's Park bringing forward issues of concern to our industry and actively meeting and engaging in discussions with new Ministers. On February 11, 2013 OHBA was invited and attended Premier Wynne's swearing in ceremony at the Legislative Assembly in conjunction with the swearing in of the new cabinet. Following this, OHBA returned back to the Legislative Assembly to attend the Throne Speech on February 19, 2013.

In the six weeks following the swearing in of the cabinet, OHBA has met with four ministers whose portfolios directly impact the residential construction and renovation industry. On February 28th, OHBA 1st Vice President Eric DenOuden and Bruce Bolduc, Chair of OHBA's Health and Safety Committee and President of Simcoe County HBA, met with the Minister of Labour, Hon. Yasir Naqvi, to discuss issues pertaining to new mandatory WSIB coverage. On March 18th, OHBA Executive Presidential Appointee, Rick Martins, along with OHBA volunteer Chuck McShane and OHBA staff, met with Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and discussed the College of Trades and OHBA's concerns with the College. On March 21st, OHBA President Leith Moore and COO Joe Vaccaro met with Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to discuss Growth Plan related items, transit and transportation investment and the vital role the OMB plays in the development approval process. OHBA met with Hon. Linda Jeffrey of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on March 26th on a variety of issues, including: the OMB, the Development Charges Act, bringing six-storey wood structure construction to Ontario as well as other industry related concerns.

OHBA will continue to engage, educate and inform Ministers on issues pertaining to the industry and will continue to work with the government to build a stronger economy, improve infrastructure and transportation throughout the province and make Ontario a healthier place to work, live and play.

JOURNEYPerson TO APPRENTICESHIP RATIOS

PC MPP Garfield Dunlop introduced a private members bill "[Helping Ontarians Enter the Skilled Trades Act, 2013](#)" in early March. MPP Dunlop's legislation would have changed all journeyperson to apprentice ratios in Ontario to 1:1, which is consistent with the majority of other provinces. Unfortunately, the legislation did not pass second reading with NDP and Liberal MPPs voting against. OHBA believes that moving to a 1:1 ratio would increase apprenticeship rates, provide more opportunities for young people and help address the skilled trades shortage.

OHBA continues to make deputations at the College of Trades Ratio Review Panels to advocate for 1:1 journeyperson to apprenticeship ratios for residential construction. To date, the College of Trades Panels have made rulings on nine trades: four trades have seen reductions in the apprenticeship ratio, four have remained the same, and one trade has increased the ratio. For more details on the decisions, visit: www.collegeoftrades.com or contact Stephen Hamilton shamilton@ohba.ca.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL: OMB

A Private Member's Bill regarding the jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) within the City of Toronto was tabled on March 7th in the Ontario Legislative Assembly by NDP MPP Rosario Marchese.

OHBA and BILD are working closely together to manage this critical issue and OHBA will be working to advocate, inform and educate provincial decision-makers on the important role of the OMB plays in the planning process. To that end, OHBA COO Joe Vaccaro and OHBA Director of Policy Mike Collins-Williams made a deputation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs during pre-budget consultations to outline the industry position on the OMB (the private members bill was referred to the same committee that is currently conducting pre-budget hearings). OHBA noted that in our current public planning system, an appeal to an independent, non-political, unbiased decision-maker is essential to ensure that any municipality, community, ratepayer association and non-profit agency, along with the landowner, has an opportunity to present and test the merits of an application against sound planning principles. OHBA further noted that the OMB provides an impartial, independent, adjudicative tribunal that is removed from local political pressures, and renders decisions in accordance with the *Planning Act*. OHBA will continue to communicate and update members on the progress of this [Private Member's Bill](#) and defend the critical role of the OMB in the public planning process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has embarked upon a modernization initiative to transform key parts of its legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines with a view to streamline permitting processes and requirements. MNR has proposed industry specific transition regulations ([Environmental Registry 011-7696](#)) for projects that have obtained Draft Plan of Subdivision approval as well as streamlining a number of permitting processes through standardized conditional approaches. OHBA has strongly advocated for the province to implement appropriate transition measures for new species at risk listings that respect previously earned approvals while also acknowledging species specific conditions may be necessary. OHBA [provided recommendations in a submission](#) to the Ministry generally supporting the proposals with a number of recommended improvements.

These regulatory proposals now require cabinet approval to come into effect prior to 65 new species receiving general habitat protection on June 30th. OHBA strongly recommends that member companies determine which of these 65 new species receiving habitat protection under the *Endangered Species Act* may have the potential to occur based on your location and current land use. [Dillon Consulting](#) has prepared the [attached information](#) for members and local associations regarding the new species that will receive habitat protection on June 30th.

ENERGY STAR FOR NEW HOMES

OHBA congratulates Sloat Construction Ltd. and Geranium Homes on being among the first in the industry to build homes under the new ENERGY STAR for New Homes (ESNH) standard. Media events will be held for Sloat Construction Ltd. on April 5th and Geranium on April 12th to showcase these achievements in building. Representatives from OHBA, EnerQuality and our local Associations will be in attendance offering industry support for these initiatives.

Developed by Natural Resources Canada (NRC), the ESNH program will assist homebuyers in determining the energy efficiency of their homes. An ENERGY STAR qualified home is approximately 20 per cent more energy efficient than those built to the minimum Building Code standard and produces fewer Greenhouse Gas emissions. Each ENERGY STAR home is verified by Certified Energy Evaluators and labelled by EnerQuality. To find out more about this program, please visit <http://www.esnewhomes.ca/>.



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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