



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## August 2015

### DATES TO NOTE

- August 17 : OHBA Awards of Distinction Finalists are Announced
- August 18-28: [OHBA's People's Choice Award Voting Opens Online](#)
- September 1: OHBA Conference Early Bird Pricing Ends
- September 27-29: [OHBA's Annual Conference and Awards of Distinction](#)

### OHBA 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - DEERHURST

The much anticipated OHBA Annual Conference and Awards of Distinction are just around the corner and you don't want to miss out! This year we will be returning to the beautiful and recently upgraded Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, from September 27-29, 2015 for three days of interactive activities, informative sessions and dazzling evening celebrations. This year, based on popular demand, OHBA is bringing back the Trade Show! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate successes, share ideas and stories, learn about new programs and products, and network with your industry colleagues from across the province – all from Ontario's premiere vacation destination, Huntsville! This year, space is extremely limited so act fast and get your registration in today – these are three days you don't want to miss! Register early for reduced rates (ends on September 1, 2015) - [ohbaconference.ca](#)



### Highlights for this year's conference:

1. **Business Sessions:** Expect insightful, interesting and engaging business sessions including: Fire Safety for Six-Storey Wood-Frame Residential Construction with Surrey Fire Chief Garis, The Builders' Den, A Tarion Update, a WSIB Rate Frame Review, Building Leadership with Lisa Von Massow from Sandler Training and much more! Sessions are constantly evolving so visit the website frequently to see new programming as it is added.
2. **Haliburton County for All Seasons!** Our host, the Haliburton County HBA, has planned an exciting opening reception where we will get to experience the thrill of Canada's changing seasons in one evening! Come dressed in theme to your favourite season – winter, spring, summer or fall (and everything in-between) - and remember, hunting is a season!
3. **Awards of Distinction 2015:** The much anticipated Awards of Distinction will be held the evening of **Monday, September 28th**. OHBA is bringing back the coveted People's Choice Award this year for best project – **voting begins on August 18th** on the Awards website [ohbaood.ca](#). Space is limited, so register for the conference today and join our host, Dave Hemstad from CBC's *The Debaters* for a fun celebratory dinner to help cheer on the winners!
4. **President's Gala:** The conference will conclude with the President's Gala where OHBA will formally welcome our new president John Meinen from the Stratford & Area Builders' Association (SABA).
5. **Additional Activities:** OHBA has organized several additional activities for Monday, September 28th to help make your stay in cottage country all the more enjoyable! Conference delegates can enjoy OHBA's Annual Golf Tournament at Deerhurst Highlands Golf Course – register for your chance to [win a trip for two to the Dominican Republic](#), Taste of Haliburton County – a bus tour exploring the culinary and brewery/winery culture in the region, a spa day at Shizen, a Horseback Trail Ride or a Hike through Algonquin. Delegates also have the option to have a free afternoon with a lunch voucher to Steamers.



### AMM RESOLUTIONS

OHBA has produced a [2014-2015 Resolutions Update](#) package that is a status report of the resolutions approved at the September 22, 2014 OHBA Annual Meeting of Members in Ottawa. OHBA invites and encourages local associations to submit resolutions to the **2015 OHBA Annual Meeting of Members at 9:00 a.m. on Monday September 28th at the Deerhurst Resort**. Please submit resolutions to OHBA by Friday, August 28th, this will enable us to circulate the material to all local associations for their review in early September, prior to the OHBA AMM. Our 31 local associations have a voice in the policies and priorities of our organization. Please provide us with your input.

### MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is currently reviewing four pieces of municipal legislation: the *Municipal Act*, the *City of Toronto Act*, the *Municipal Conflicts of Interest Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act*. This review process will integrate the reviews of the *Municipal Act*, *City of Toronto Act*, and *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* to examine key, cross-cutting issues of interest to the government, municipalities, and Ontarians. The Ministry's [discussion guide](#) for the integrated review provides key themes and questions to help identify priority areas and opportunities for exploring change during the consultation. OHBA is seeking feedback from members through the review process. Please provide any comments on the consultation questions or any other issues/recommendations related to the aforementioned Acts to [Mike Collins-Williams](#) at. Members can also submit comments directly to the ministry by e-mailing them to [municipalreview@ontario.ca](#). The consultation period has been extended from mid-August to October 31st.

### PROVINCIAL UPDATE TO LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has wrapped up public consultations to support a renewed *Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy* to ensure that the document supports the Province's goals of improving outcomes for people and ending homelessness. As referenced in the *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, the Province is aiming to end homelessness by making investments in homelessness prevention, expanding access to supportive housing, and investing in more affordable housing. OHBA previously participated in consultations for the original Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2009 and OHBA submitted new/updated recommendations in our [July 2015 submission](#).

### WETLAND CONSERVATION IN ONTARIO: A DISCUSSION PAPER

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has posted a discussion paper on *Wetland Conservation in Ontario* (EBR posting number 012-4464). The purpose of the Discussion Paper is to stimulate ideas that will help inform the development of a strategic plan for Ontario's wetlands. The public review extends until October 30, 2015 – OHBA is seeking feedback from members please submit comments to [mikecw@ohba.ca](#).

## **REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT**

The provincial government has initiated a review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. A discussion paper has been posted on the environmental registry (012-4509) until October 19, 2015 to identify opportunities to improve the existing legislative, regulatory and policy framework that currently governs Conservation Authorities and the programs and services they. OHBA in conjunction with the HHHBA and BILD have been involved in Conservation Authority issues with the provincial government through the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (CALC). The two key outcomes for the association of our work at CALC included:

- A Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting released in spring 2010 that facilitated streamlining of the CA permit review processes through: the establishment of complete application requirements; decision-making timelines; granting applicants the right to appeal a non-decision of a CA.
- Amendments to O.Reg 97/04 to enable delegation of a positive permit decision to CA staff and extending the maximum validity period of a permit from 24 to 60 months.

The purpose of the discussion paper is to seek feedback in the following three areas:

1. Governance – the processes, structures, and accountability frameworks within the Act which direct Conservation Authority decision-making and operations;
2. Funding Mechanisms – the mechanisms put in place by the Act to fund conservation authorities; and
3. Roles and Responsibilities – the roles and associated responsibilities that the Act enables Conservation Authorities to undertake.

Comments can be sent directly to the Ministry at [mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca](mailto:mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca) or by submitting answers to the Ministry to the questions outlined in the [discussion paper](#). OHBA is seeking input from members and location associations – if you have comments, questions, recommendations or would like to volunteer to be involved in the review and OHBA submission – please direct them to [mikecw@ohba.ca](mailto:mikecw@ohba.ca)

## **OHBA CLA REVIEW GROUP**

The [Construction Lien Act Review consultation website](#) is now active with all documents posted, including the ‘information package’, which provides stakeholders an extensive list of issues to review. Some of the key themes that will be of interest to our sector include: issues related to the holdback and substantial performance; preservation, perfection and expiry of liens; and prompt payment. The information package follows a government commitment in the election platform to review the Construction Lien Act and appointment of Bruce Reynolds as Counsel to conduct the review. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by December 2015 and will involve extensive consultation with the construction industry followed by a report to the Province. The report will include the results of the consultation process, the expert advice of Mr. Reynolds and his recommendations for changes, if necessary. Please contact [Stephen Hamilton](#) if you are interested in participating in the review or have comments on the information package.

## **SMART GROWTH FOR OUR COMMUNITIES ACT**

The *Smart Growth For Our Communities Act* introduced this spring proposes to amend both the *Planning Act* and the *Development Charges Act*. OHBA is supportive of proposed amendments to enhance municipal accountability and transparency with respect to development charges, parkland dedication and Section 37 agreements. OHBA is also supportive of proposed amendments to the cash-in-lieu of parkland formula. OHBA is however very concerned by proposed limitations to appeals and minor variance applications and potentially significant taxation increases. The OHBA submission and recommendations to improve the *Smart Growth For Our Communities Act* (EBR 012-3651) is available [here](#). Both OHBA and BILD have had volunteer members appointed to a *Planning Act* stakeholders working group and to the *Development Charges Act* Steering Committee as well as three technical sub-groups. OHBA appreciates the hard work and dedication of these committee members throughout the process. Following the conclusion of the working group process, the Minister will consider regulations to support the implementation of an amended *Planning Act* and *Development Charges Act* (following the anticipated passage of the *Smart Growth For Our Communities Act* in late 2015 or early 2016).

## **CO-ORDINATED REVIEWS: GREENBELT, GROWTH PLAN, OAK RIDGES MORAINES, NIAGARA ESCARPMENT**

In February, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the launch of a co-ordinated review of the Greenbelt and the Growth Plan. An expert panel chaired by former Toronto Mayor David Crombie and including Leith Moore – Past OHBA and BILD President, will be responsible for a report to the government at the end of the phase one process. OHBA and a number of our locals met with the expert panel in June to present our recommendations to improve and enhance the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. OHBA and our resource group have continued to meet with key officials and support research throughout the summer in anticipation of the launch of phase two of the review process this fall. OHBA has [made a submission](#) to the provincial government as part of the first phase of the Co-ordinated Review.

## **MINISTRY OF LABOUR RELEASES ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION SECTOR PLAN**

The Ministry of Labour continues to maintain a high level of inspection and enforcement activities in the construction sector issuing 63,859 orders and 20,197 field inspections. Future Ministry of Labour enforcement blitz’s will include trenching hazards from July-August 2015 and heavy equipment operation from October–November 2015. The Ministry recently established an advisory group to assist the government in developing and implementing a [Construction Health and Safety Action](#). The advisory group is made up of four employer and four labour representatives along with a renovator. OHBA is pleased that three OHBA members on the nine person panel are Dave McLean from Mattamy Homes, Tom McLaughlin from Thomasfield Homes based in Guelph, and Samuel Lupidus from Keystone Ridge Developments, a BILD RenoMark Renovator. Residential representation on Ministry of Labour committees is important for government to create solutions that recognize the unique challenges in our sector especially as it relates to the underground economy for renovators.

## **2015 CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE CHANGE REQUEST: ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIS)**

Earlier this year, the CSA Group published the [2015 Canadian Electrical Code \(CEC\)](#), which expanded the requirements for arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) in housing. CHBA submitted a code change request to remove the new CEC requirement for AFCIs in May 2015. In response to this request, CSA launched a public review for the code change to remove the AFCI requirement. OHBA submitted comments supporting the CHBA code change request with the intent of removing the expanded provisions for arc-fault protection added to the 2015 CEC. If left unchanged, the 2015 CEC provisions for AFCIs would be adopted by the Ontario Electrical Safety Code in May 2016. A cost-benefit study by Altus Group on the incremental cost of adopting the new 2015 CEC on a set of archetype houses was also provided to the Committee on the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1.



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