



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- February 6-7: PMA Salesmaster Program Training
- February 20: Builders Council and Renovators Council
- February 20-22: Builder and Renovator Forum
- February 27: Join OHBA/BILD Land Development Committee with MNR

FEBRUARY 2013

OHBA IS READY TO WORK WITH PREMIER WYNNE

OHBA is looking forward to working with Premier Wynne, to build a stronger economy, improve infrastructure throughout the province and deliver necessary transit to Ontario. OHBA is focused on improving housing affordability and choice for Ontarians, exploring further opportunities to improve the land-use planning system and bringing issues like the College of Trades and the underground economy to the forefront of discussion with the Premier.

OHBA has a long and productive history with Premier Wynne. In her various roles as a Minister, the new Premier has made an effort to meet and discuss issues of concern with the association and has participated as a speaker at several events ([Ontario HomeBuilder, pg.9](#)). Premier Wynne and her cabinet will be sworn in to government on February 11th and the legislative assembly will return on February 19th.



Left to Right: Leith Moore (President, OHBA), Kathleen Wynne (Premier of Ontario), Steve Upton (Chair, BILD) and Paul Golini (Past Chair, BILD)

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has embarked upon a modernization initiative to transform key parts of its legislation, regulations, and policies to streamline a variety of processes. OHBA has been very involved by supporting the modernization initiative in the provincial budget, participating on the Bobolink Roundtable and subsequently supporting Bobolink & Eastern Meadowlark transition provisions as well as making a number of submissions to various Environmental Registry postings.

OHBA recently participated on an Endangered Species Act (ESA) Panel, established by MNR, to seek recommendations on improving the implementation of the ESA. The panel presented its final recommendations in a report to the Minister on January 18th and their report has been posted on the [Environmental Registry \(011-7980\)](#). The panel made recommendations in several key areas including: habitat protection, transition, permit streamlining, linkages with other legislation, monitoring and reporting, and innovation.

Subsequent to the release of the ESA Panel Report, the Ministry of Natural Resources has proposed [transition regulations](#) for projects that have obtained draft plan of subdivision approval. OHBA has strongly advocated for the province to implement appropriate transition measures for new species at risk listings that respect previous approvals and land designations while also acknowledging species specific conditions may be necessary. OHBA will continue to work with MNR with respect to the ongoing implementation of the ESA with MNR making a presentation at the next Land Development Committee meeting, to be held jointly with BILD on February 27th at 2:00 p.m (RSVP with [Mike Collins-Williams](#)).

ESA – RECOVERY STRATEGIES FOR 11 SPECIES AT RISK

The province has completed 11 recovery strategies for species at risk which triggers the requirement for the government to publish government response statements summarizing and prioritizing the actions it intends to take. The 11 species are: Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander and Northern Dusky Salamander, American Water-willow, Cherry Birch, Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus, Hine's Emerald, Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle, Nodding Pogonia, Pygmy Snaketail, Red Mulberry and Wild Hyacinth. A notice is posted on the [Environmental Registry website](#).

OHBA suggests that local associations circulate this information to developers, builders and environmental consultants to determine if any of the recovery strategies may have an impact on the local home building and development industry and requests local HBAs to advise OHBA of any concerns members may have.

DRAFT PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Provincial Government is in the process of reviewing and updating the PPS and has released [draft statements for public consultation](#). OHBA has been involved in the consultation process through working groups and submitted [industry recommendations](#) supporting significant changes to the draft policies to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at the end of November. OHBA is very concerned that the draft statements, as written, will constrain opportunities for economic growth and job creation.

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELEASES GROWTH PLAN FORECAST TO 2041

OHBA has strongly advocated for the Ministry of Infrastructure to provide additional certainty to the industry and our municipal partners, by releasing draft population and employment forecast numbers to 2041 for the Growth Plan. The Growth Plan's horizon currently extends to 2031, but it is clear that the region's population and economy will continue to grow beyond that timeframe.

OHBA was consulted extensively on the Growth Plan population and employment forecast methodology and is supportive of the release of the new draft *Schedule 3* population and employment forecasts for further consultation. OHBA recently met with the Ontario Growth Secretariat and will be providing industry input regarding the 2041 forecasts and potential transition regulations to the Ministry of Infrastructure. The Ministry is accepting comments until February 8th – please share any feedback with OHBA Director of Policy, [Mike Collins-Williams](#), as OHBA gathers information to prepare our submission.

For more information on the *Proposed Amendment 2*, please visit the [Places to Grow website](#).

CONDO ACT PHASE ONE COMPLETE

The Ministry of Consumer Services committed to a [review of the Condominium Act](#) last summer. The review is broken into three stages and is scheduled to conclude early 2014. An independent consulting firm, the Public Policy Forum is leading the consultation and has completed their report on Stage One.

The [Stage One Findings Report](#) attempts to incorporate feedback the consultant heard in the Stakeholder Panel, Residents Panel and Ministry roundtables.

OHBA submitted a [Draft Submission](#) to the Ministry of Consumer Services and the consultant which outlines our general position. The submission is intended to be an evolving document and OHBA will be submitting a report responding to Phase One's findings in early March. Please contact [Stephen Hamilton](#) if you have any suggestions or comments on the OHBA Draft Submission.

OHBA'S 2013 INDUSTRY LEADERS DINNER



Left to Right: Jake Nelson (Past EO, Quinte HBA),
Donna Donaldson (Past EO, Durham Region HBA)
and Leith Moore (President, OHBA)

On Monday, January 28th, OHBA hosted its annual Industry Leaders' Dinner with keynote speaker, Christine Sinclair, Captain of the Canadian Women's Olympic Soccer Team and Winner, bronze medal winner at the 2012 London Olympic Games and winner of the Lou Marsh Award as Canada's Top Athlete in 2012. The theme for the evening was 'Leadership under Adversity' and focused on overcoming obstacles the industry has faced over the past couple of years and utilizing the resources available to build a stronger business.

The evening also honoured two long-serving Executive Officers, Donna Donaldson of Durham Region HBA and Jake Nelson of Quinte HBA for their hard work and dedication to the association. For photos from the event please visit our [Facebook page](#).

**BUILDER RENOVATOR
FORUM 2013**

Be sure to join us February 20-22nd for OHBA's and EnerQuality's [Builder & Renovator Forum](#) at Blue Mountain Resort. The Builder & Renovator Forum will provide cutting-edge information designed to improve your company's bottom line, plus provide exceptional networking opportunities for sharing ideas and solutions - all in an atmosphere of collective fun and learning. Don't wait - space is limited! Register today to ensure your participation at this year's forum.



Ontario Home Builders' Association

20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, Ontario M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free:800-387-0109 Fax:(416) 443-9982 info@ohba.ca