



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- June 5: Green Housing Tour
- June 11: Executive Meeting
- June 12: Board Meeting
- June 19: Awards of Distinction Submissions Close Online
- June 25: OHBA Development Charges Seminar
- July 23: Stacked Townhouse Tour
- September 22-24: OHBA Annual Conference

JUNE 2013

OHBA AT PARLIAMENT HILL

On May 29th OHBA joined with fellow provincial Home Builder Associations to organize a national new housing and renovation advocacy day on Parliament Hill. OHBA, supported by our local associations, organized meetings with MPs in an effort to inform, educate and engage on federal issues.

OHBA began its day with a lunch hosted by MP Phil McColeman, the 1992-93 OHBA past president, and with several Ontario MPs, to participate in a lunch'n'learn event discussing top Ontario priorities, including: six-storey wood framing, renovations and the underground economy as well as changes to mortgage rules. OHBA set up additional meetings with industry specific individuals and MPs with mandates that directly affect the industry. Meetings were organized with: Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, MP Mike Sullivan, MP John McCallum, MP Judy Sgro and MP Ted Hsu. The day culminated in a reception hosted by the provincial associations and was well attended by Ministers, MPs, Parliament Hill staff and home builder representatives.



OHBA will be providing more information on these meetings in the coming weeks.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is undergoing a modernization initiative to transform key parts of its legislation and policies to streamline permitting processes and requirements. OHBA has been very involved in this process and supports the modernization initiative. The Government of Ontario has passed [new rules supported by OHBA](#) for species at risk protection in advance of 65 additional Species at Risk (SAR) receiving general habitat protection on June 30th. The simplified rules include industry specific transition provisions and rules in regulation approach, which includes registering with MNR that applies a risk-based approach to move away from the detailed review and approval of site specific activities.

Specifically the new rules:

- For the 65 species receiving general habitat protection in June 2013, projects that have obtained Draft Plan of Subdivision approval and commence construction by July 1, 2015 will be transitioned with conditions to minimize adverse effects and will be required to develop a mitigation plan. These transitioned projects will not have to obtain an overall benefit permit.
- An additional transition window will apply for new SAR added to the list after Jan 1, 2013. This transition applies for species listed up to two years before the Draft Plan approval and for all species listed after the approval, provided that the construction activity commences before the 5th anniversary of the draft approval was granted.
- A number of standardized conditional approaches (rules in regulation) will apply:
 - Rules in regulation for two scenarios;
 - Rules in regulation with registration for twelve scenarios.
- The rules in regulation with registration approach includes common elements: registration (name, location, species, activity, regulatory provision), conditions to minimize adverse effects and a mitigation plan kept on record for five years. High-risk activities may be excluded.
- The rules in regulation with registration includes standard approached to benefit species at risk (SAR) for: Butternut, specific aquatic species, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and for built structures (Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow).
- Clarification of previously transitioned projects with respect to Redside Dace.
- New online species at risk reference manual & other guidance materials.

THE FUTURE OF SIX-STOREY WOOD



On May 22, 2013 representatives from OHBA, BILD, RESCON and The Canadian Wood Council came together for a media event promoting the use of six-storey wood framing in Ontario. Currently, the Ontario Building Code (OBC) limits wood frame construction to four storeys. The building industry is advocating for a change to the Code, through the appropriate OBC process, to allow for up to six-storey wood frame construction.

With the inclusion of six-storey wood frame, Ontario can expect more affordable housing options for new homebuyers, a minimized carbon footprint in the construction of these buildings, increased job creation and increased tax revenue from the addition of new residences. The changes to the Ontario Building Code would be similar to changes made to the British Columbia Building Code in 2009, which had an immediate impact on the local economy.

To find out more, please [click here](#).

METROLINX INVESTMENT STRATEGY

On May 27, Metrolinx released its [Investment Strategy](#) to fund transit expansion in the GTA & Hamilton. The four major revenue tools include:

- Regional Fuel and Gasoline Tax – 5 cents per litre
- Business Parking Levy
- Amendments to the Development Charges Act to collect an additional \$100 million (15 per cent on existing DCs)
- HST increase by 1 per cent

OHBA had provided Metrolinx and the Provincial Government with [recommendations](#) on an *Investment Strategy* regarding OHBA's opposition to revenue tools that specifically target the new housing, development and professional renovation industry as well as providing recommendations for planning tools that would support intensification around transit stations and transit corridors. OHBA [responded with disappointment](#) that the Metrolinx Investment Strategy as it would burden new home buyers and new employers with additional taxes and fees.

The proposed new revenue tools will require provincial approval and legislation prior to implementation. OHBA will continue to oppose tools that will increase the cost of housing and discourage transit oriented development.



OHBA AWARDS OF DISTINCTION



Time is running out! The OHBA Awards of Distinction online submissions closing date is just over two weeks away! Hurry and get your submissions in before the **June 19th** deadline to be considered for these prestigious awards.

The award winners will be announced at OHBA's annual Conference taking place **September 22-24** at the **Niagara Fallsview Casino and Resort**.

To send in your submission, please visit: www.ohbaod.ca.

OHBA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OHBA's Annual Conference is quickly approaching so get your registration in early! Register today to qualify for the early bird special and be a part of one of the biggest association events of the year! The 2013 conference marks OHBA's 50th Anniversary so you can look forward to this being an amazing celebration that will pay tribute to all the work, dedication and wins that the Association has experienced over the years. All the work OHBA does is on behalf of our members and local associations – this is one event you don't want to miss!



To register for the conference, please visit: www.ohbaconference.ca.



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