



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## **DATES TO NOTE**

- March 7: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- March 8: OHBA Land Development Committee
- March 14-16: CHBA Conference Meetings
- April 25: Green Housing Tour

## **MARCH 2012**

### **HEALTHY HOMES RENOVATION TAX CREDIT**

The proposed *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit* would be a permanent, refundable income tax credit that would assist with the cost of modifications that improve accessibility or help a senior be more functional or mobile at home.

The Credit would be worth up to \$1,500 each year, calculated as 15 per cent of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses per year. The legislation has passed second reading with the support of the NDP and Liberal Party and has been referred to by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

Although the Credit is not yet law, the Ministry of Finance has created outlined the eligible expenses for contractors and consumers.

Eligible expenses include:

- renovations to permit a first-floor occupancy or secondary suite for a senior;
- grab bars and related reinforcements around the toilet, tub and shower;
- hand rails in corridors;
- wheelchair ramps, stair/wheelchair lifts and elevators;
- walk-in bathtubs;
- wheel-in showers;
- widening passage doors

OHBA is fully supportive of the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit and continues to advocate to both provincial and federal governments for a more broad-based permanent tax credit that would encourage consumers to collect receipts and utilize the services of legitimate renovators.

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – BOBOLINK & EASTERN MEADOWLARK**

An OHBA subcommittee with BILD & GOHBA members is engaged with Ministry of Natural Resources regarding Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark with two objectives:

- Working towards appropriate, fair and balanced transition provisions;
- The permitting process is still unclear and seems to be inconsistently applied across MNR district offices. The development industry requires a simplified and streamlined process that establishes a rational approach to the *Overall Benefit Permitting* process for both Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

The Ministry of Natural Resources held a consultation with the Greater Ottawa HBA regarding *Overall Benefit Permitting* requirements for the alteration of Bobolink habitat, and a second consultation with the OHBA Land Development Committee is scheduled on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Hamilton – the meeting is open to OHBA members – for an agenda click [here](#) and to RSVP please e-mail Mike Collins-Williams [mikecw@ohba.ca](mailto:mikecw@ohba.ca)

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – OVERALL BENEFIT POLICY**

The Ministry of Natural Resources has released new guidance documents regarding the implementation of the ESA for two key policies- *Damage & Destroy* and the *Overall Benefit Policy*. The first is aimed at providing policy guidance on the application of habitat protection, while the second provides proponents with policy and process information on *Overall Benefit Permits* under the ESA. Both finalized policies can be viewed on the Environmental Registry [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca) (#011-2841 and #011-2842) or on the MNR website at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/index.html>

### **ONTARIO BUILDING CODE – ONLINE RESOURCES**

Ontario's Building Code has been updated to include enhanced energy efficiency requirements for houses and large buildings and provides alternative compliance paths for achieving these benchmarks.

The following voice-over slideshows have been developed by the Ministry's Building and Development Branch and are based on the presentation given by the Ministry at the 2011 OBOA "Annual Meeting and Training Sessions."

The presentations are intended to provide highlights of the energy efficiency compliance alternatives, as set out in Supplementary Standards SB-10 and SB-12 of the Building Code. You can complete these modules at your own pace and, if you wish, pause and repeat any section.

The presentations are provided for information purposes only. Code users, and other interested parties, are advised to refer to the Building Code Act, 1992 and its regulation (the Building Code) for official documentation of these standards. Additional questions or concerns can be discussed with your local Building Official.

Visit: <http://www.oboa.on.ca/cgi-bin/video/> to learn more.

### **REMINDERS / AVAILABLE FROM OHBA**

- ✓ Engine That Drives Ontario's Economy
- ✓ Ontario Housing Issues Status Report: Fall 2011
- ✓ OHBA Magazine Winter Issue
- ✓ OHBA Endangered Species Act Submission
- ✓ OHBA 2011 Membership Directory
- ✓ YOUR VOICE – How OHBA Works For You
- ✓ OHBA Pre-Budget Submission



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