



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- May 7: OHBA Executive Committee Meeting
- May 8: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- May 14: OHBA Renovator Committee Meeting
- May 13: OHBA Awards of Distinction Online Submissions Open
- May 29: OHBA at Parliament Hill

MAY 2013

OHBA OPPOSITION DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK

April 10, 2013, OHBA and industry representatives from BILD, Quinte, Brantford, Hamilton-Halton, Grey-Bruce, Niagara, Simcoe County, Waterloo, Peterborough, Haldimand-Norfolk and Guelph joined MPP Garfield Dunlop in support of his [Opposition Day Motion](#) to abolish the College of Trades. OHBA has consistently opposed the College of Trades since its creation in 2009 and believes that the College of Trades will not solve the growing skills trade gap in Ontario. OHBA has recommended an



across-the-board 1:1 journeyman-to-apprenticeship ratio as a practical solution to Ontario's skilled-trades gap. Unfortunately, the vote was 35-48 against the motion to abolish the College. OHBA has been [active on this file](#) from the beginning and will continue to work with all Members of Provincial Parliament to improve the College of Trades and to build Ontario's skilled-trades workforce.

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD

OHBA supports the role for the OMB to uphold the provincial interest in the planning review process. Without a strong and independent OMB, provincial policies and objectives outlined in the *Provincial Policy Statement* and the *Places to Grow* plan could be compromised. The right of appeal of a municipal council decision, or where no decision has been made, is an important counterbalance to the political pressure created by local residents on their councils. The OMB provides a venue for sober second thought on planning decisions.

Two private members bills have recently been introduced that, if passed, could significantly restrict the role of the OMB.

NDP Private Members Bill (sponsor MPP Rosario Marchese, Trinity-Spadina)

- Respect for Municipalities Act (City of Toronto), 2013 ([Bill 20](#));
- Status: Passed second reading and referred to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs;
- A Private Member's Bill regarding removing the jurisdiction of the OMB within the City of Toronto.

PC Private Members Bill (sponsor MPP Frank Klees, Newmarket-Aurora)

- The Preserving Existing Communities Act, 2013 ([Bill 41](#));
- Status: Passed second reading and referred to Standing Committee on General Government;
- The proposed Bill 41 would allow municipalities to have the final say on developments proposed for stable residential areas and open spaces if that municipality has an Official Plan that conforms to the Provincial Growth Plan.

OHBA is managing this critical issue and will be working to advocate and educate provincial decision-makers on the important role of the OMB in the planning process. To that end, OHBA made a [deputation to the Standing Committee](#) on Finance and Economic Affairs to outline the industry position on the OMB. OHBA is also engaged with both the Premier's Office and with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the role of the OMB. Furthermore, OHBA continues to meet with Cabinet Ministers and caucus members from all parties on the important function of the OMB to provide an impartial, independent, adjudicative tribunal that is removed from local political pressures, and renders decisions in accordance with *the Planning Act*.

OHBA SUBMISSION ON METROLINX INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Metrolinx launched its \$50 billion 25 year Regional Transportation Plan "[The Big Move](#)" for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas in 2008. While a first wave of projects, including GO Transit expansion and the Eglinton LRT Crosstown project, are currently under construction, the second wave of projects will require new revenue tools to fund approximately \$2 billion in annual transit infrastructure investment. Metrolinx is consulting with the public and stakeholders on an Investment Strategy that will include a number of revenue tools to fund the *Big Move*. OHBA has provided Metrolinx and the Provincial Government with [recommendations on the 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.

CANADA POST: COMMUNITY MAILBOX FEE

The Canadian and Ontario Home Builders' Associations continue to oppose the introduction of a Community Mailbox Fee of \$200 per address to be collected during the subdivision process. OHBA does not believe Canada Post has the legal authority to implement the fee and has [provided local home builders' associations with letters](#) to send to local municipalities that request the respective municipalities to not entertain any requests from Canada Post to honour this additional tax on the new home buyer.

OHBA continues to work closely with CHBA and our network of 30 local associations on this matter. OHBA and BILD along with a number of other locals have met with and communicated to Canada Post our opposition to this initiative. While reminding Canada Post that we oppose the CMB fee, OHBA and BILD are currently in discussions with Canada Post officials in an attempt to provide context and education around the planning and development approval system.

ONTARIO BUDGET: MAY 2ND

On Thursday May 2nd Finance Minister Charles Sousa will be tabling his first provincial budget and the first under the guidance of the new Premier Kathleen Wynne. OHBA has provided the Minister of Finance and all MPPs from all political parties industry recommendations for the 2013 provincial budget. OHBA also provided [recommendations in a deputation](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in March. The [OHBA pre-budget submission](#) included a number of key recommendations:

- OHBA recommends that both the provincial and federal governments implement a broad based permanent renovation tax credit to encourage consumers to utilize legitimate contractors and to create a paper trail to limit underground economic activity;
- Over the long-term OHBA believes the HST threshold for the new housing rebate (\$400,000) is too low and should be reviewed on a regular basis to reflect inevitable increases in average new home prices;
- OHBA supports core infrastructure funding for roads, transit, water and waste-water facilities to ensure that the province remains economically competitive. It is critical the budget and the long-term capital infrastructure plan focus on targeted core infrastructure investments in support of economic growth and improving productivity as priority investments.

GREEN HOUSING TOUR: JUNE 5TH

OHBA is excited to announce our first housing tour in 2013. OHBA Technical Committee Chair Andy Oding ([Building Knowledge Canada](#)) will be hosting the tour through Kitchener and Guelph on Wednesday June 5th. The tour will include lunch and visit four sites with a number of innovative green technologies:

- Sloop Construction - Hales Manor II, Guelph
- Reid's Heritage Homes - Westminster Woods 9, Guelph
- Eastforest Homes Ltd. - Doon South, Kitchener
- Terra View Homes - Edgewater Estates, Kitchener

Be sure to [register for the tour](#) to secure a seat on the bus and cross your fingers for a beautiful sunny day!

TWO OHBA EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

It is that time of year again – the [OHBA 2013 Awards of Distinction](#) online submission opens on **Monday May 13, 2013!** This is a great opportunity to showcase your company's ingenuity, creativity and hard work throughout the past year. The award winners will be announced at OHBA's annual Conference taking place **September 22-24** at the **Niagara Fallsview Casino and Resort**. This year's conference also 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 – these are two events you don't want to miss!



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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