



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- October 9: OHBA/TARION Liaison Committee
- October 18: OHBA/EnerQuality Technical Committee
- October 25-28: CHBA Fall Meetings
- November 1: IHSA Low Rise Residential Health & Safety Seminar

OCTOBER 2012

OHBA 2012-13 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Leith Moore	BILD
1st Vice President	Eric DenOuden	Quinte
2nd Vice President	Vince Molinaro	Hamilton-Halton
2nd Vice President	John Meinen	Stratford & Area
Treasurer	Neil Rodgers	Durham Region
Secretary	Diane Murray	Hamilton-Halton
Past President	Doug Tarry	St. Thomas-Elgin
President's Appointment	Rick Martins	Brantford
President's Appointment	Michael Pozzebon	BILD
President's Appointment	Christopher Tanzola	BILD

OHBA AWARD WINNERS

Ontario Home Builder of the Year <u>The Minto Group</u> – Ottawa/Toronto	Project of the Year - Low Rise <u>Aspen Ridge Homes</u> for: "King Oaks" – King City	Project of the Year - High or Mid-Rise <u>Linvest Properties Ltd.</u> for: "B.street Condos" – Toronto
Member of the Year: Paul Golini (BILD)	Local Association of the Year: Waterloo Region Home Builders	Roftopper of the Year: John Meinen (Stratford)

2012 OHBA RESOLUTIONS

Five resolutions passed at our Annual Meeting of Members held at our Annual Conference. Member engagement through Annual Resolutions process is important as the resolutions establish policy which helps guide the governance objectives of the association.

1. OHBA By-Law Review
2. Canadian Home Builders' Association Organizational Review
3. Incorporation of OHBA's 30th Local Home Builders' Association: Blue Water Builders' Association
4. National Transit Strategy (Capital Expansion)
5. OHBA Strategic Plan - One Year's Operating Budget in the Contingency Fund

HEALTHY HOMES RENOVATION TAX CREDIT

OHBA is pleased the legislature has passed Bill 2, the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit*. The Tax Credit is a permanent, refundable income tax credit that will assist with the cost of modifications that improve accessibility or help a senior be more functional or mobile at home. The credit is worth up to \$1500 each year, calculated as 15 [per cent of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses per year. The government's legislation that OHBA supported has passed with support from the NDP.

PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT: DRAFT STATEMENTS

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is the statement of the government's policies on land use planning. The Provincial Government is in the process of reviewing and updating the PPS. OHBA has been very involved in this process and has participated on two Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing working groups as well as providing a written submission of recommendations.

The Provincial Government has subsequently released draft policy statements for additional consultation. OHBA will be providing the government with a new submission of industry recommendations by November 23, 2012. The draft policy document is available from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - OHBA is seeking input from members and local associations to incorporate into the OHBA submission – feedback from members to support OHBA's advocacy efforts would be most appreciated. Please send comments to OHBA Director of Policy, Mike Collins-Williams mikecw@ohba.ca

OHBA encourages members to attend upcoming PPS Review workshops – Windsor – Oct 10; London – Oct 11; Kingston – Oct 16; Ottawa – Oct 17; Sudbury – Oct 22; Orillia – Oct 23; Thunder Bay – Nov 1; Toronto – Nov 6; Mississauga – Nov 7 please RSVP at PPSReview@ontario.ca

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: DRAFT RECOVERY STRATEGIES

Draft recovery strategies for the Allegany Mountain and Northern Dusky Salamanders, American Water-willow, Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus, Hine's Emerald, Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle, Nodding Pogonia, Pygmy Snaketail, Red Mulberry and Wild Hyacinth were posted on Ontario's Environmental Registry. Recovery strategies provide science-based recommendations for the Minister of Natural Resources and other interested parties on the protection and recovery of endangered and threatened species.

If any of these species are anticipated to impact land development and/or home building in your local area please contact OHBA Director of Policy, Mike Collins-Williams and OHBA will advise the Provincial Government of any industry concerns. To view the notice, please visit Ontario's Environmental Registry. and enter 011-7073 in the search. Draft recovery strategies are available on MNR's species at risk website.

PROVINCE IDENTIFIES RENOMARK, OHBA NETWORK AS SOURCE FOR RENOVATION CONTRACTORS

OHBA is pleased that the Ministry of Consumer Services identified OHBA's local association network and RenoMark renovators as the source for consumers looking to renovate.

OHBA continues to advocate for the government to provide more information to consumers on the downside of hiring contractors that accept cash through a media campaigns targeting consumers. The release stated that: Last year, the residential renovation sector contributed over \$23 billion to Ontario's economy and supported 211,000 jobs. Renovations and repairs shouldn't be left to chance. Families can get the best return for their hard-earned dollars by following these tips:

- *Choose a reputable contractor. Ask for recommendations, check websites like RenoMark, or call your local homebuilder's association. Reputable contractors will be bonded, will make sure their workers are insured against workplace injuries and will charge HST.*
- *The lowest quote may not be the best. Have three contractors view the job and give a written estimate. Then check references and consumer sources like the Ministry of Consumer Services' Consumer Beware List.*

PROVINCE TO LAUNCH CONSULTATIONS ON CREATING STANDARDS FOR HOME INSPECTORS

As part of a broader consumer protection initiative, the province will consult with home inspector associations, consumers, representatives from the real estate sector and other industry stakeholders on mandatory minimum qualifications for home inspectors.

Currently, anyone can offer home inspection services in Ontario, but only registered members of the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors can call themselves a registered home inspector. The province has announced it will work with industry partners to explore minimum qualifications that would aim to:

- Increase transparency of the profession
- Ensure a minimum standard of training
- Improve consistency in home inspections
- Enhance consumer protection.



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