



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

***MEDIA* RELEASE**

ONTARIO HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2013 ANNUAL AWARDS

September 24, 2013 Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) presented the **Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association (HHHBA)** with its **2013 OHBA Local Association of the Year Award** at the association's Annual Conference at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Conference Centre in Niagara Falls.

Prominent among a list of outstanding achievements was HHHBA's strong growth in membership, innovative communications and awareness campaigns, as well as comprehensive government relations and advocacy efforts. Most notably, HHHBA successfully reached a settlement with their municipality regarding Development Charges that were inaccurately collected over a period of almost two years, ensuring that home owners who were overcharged would get a refund. Heavily involved in encouraging youth to pursue careers within the industry, HHHBA has also supported and donated to several charitable causes including Habitat for Humanity and Citykidz. "HHHBA are active participants on government advocacy work on behalf of the entire province," said OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro, who noted, "Their membership is not only growing, but highly engaged and enthusiastically supportive of the work of OHBA."

Lyn Townsend, of Townsend and Associates was named **2013 OHBA Member of the Year**. Townsend, a member of the GTA-based Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) was recognized for her hard work and dedication providing legal assistance and advice on countless development and planning issues that affect the association and its members. Her expertise has provided members with the knowledge and tools needed in order to forge ahead with community development and growth. "Lyn has been a true leader and advocate for the industry," said Vaccaro, who added, "She has lent her invaluable talents to several local associations in addition to BILD and OHBA, helping them navigate sometimes complex and complicated legal processes". Townsend will serve as chair of an OHBA committee formed to address government consultations on Development Charges in the coming year.

Aggie Tose, Executive Officer of Haliburton County Home Builders' Association was awarded the **David Horton Leadership Award** recognizing her outstanding contributions to the industry and her fellow association professionals. Tose is Chair of OHBA's Executive Officers' Council and is respected and admired by her peers for providing exceptional support and assistance to fellow EOs in Ontario and across the country. "Aggie is a seasoned professional who is always ready, willing and able to help her colleagues," said Vaccaro, who added, "She represents what this award is all about – integrity, dedication and

commitment to the industry and her profession.” The award honours the memory of David Horton who served as Executive Director of OHBA for more than 25 years before his death in May, 2011.

This year, in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources, OHBA awarded its first **Environmental Stewardship Award** to recognize outstanding efforts to ensure the environmental sustainability of a community and its lands. This year’s award was presented to six companies within the Mount Pleasant Landowners Group that showed tremendous ingenuity and environmental care in the development of the ‘**Mount Pleasant, Block 1, Brampton**’ project created by: **Paradise Homes, Mattamy Homes, Rosehaven Homes, Townwood Homes, Primont Homes and Stanford Homes**. For the past eight years, the Mount Pleasant Landowners’ Group has been working cooperatively with several public agencies, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, the City of Brampton, and Credit Valley Conservation to come up with a plan to establish a 4-and a-half kilometre natural heritage system, through 845 hectares of land within the Mount Pleasant Secondary Plan area. “OHBA and MNR want to commend the Mount Pleasant Landowners Group”, said Vaccaro.” It took regular open communication, a lot of meetings, and a common end goal and during the process, they have forged a positive relationship between private and public interests.”

OHBA also awarded **Jim Andrews** of **Fieldgate Homes** with the **2013 OHBA Rooftopper of the Year Award** for his strong recruitment and retention of members at the local and provincial level. “Jim has been one of the association’s top recruiters for close to a decade,” said Vaccaro who continued, “Jim’s hard work throughout the GTA over the past 10 years has led to the growth of BILD, our largest local association. He has worked diligently on behalf of the association and is very much deserving of this award.”

Ashley Neville of **Cogeco** and **Chuck McShane** of **Burnstein Brick** were honoured for their contributions to their local association, the **Niagara Home Builders’ Association** who were hosts of this year’s conference. **Susan Clinesmith** of **Enbridge Gas** received a special recognition award for her years of leadership in the industry and her role as a strong supporter of energy efficiency in new home construction. “Susan is highly respected in the industry by builders, developers and green organizations,” said Vaccaro

The Ontario Home Builders’ Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$42 billion to Ontario’s economy, employing more than 325,000 people across the province.

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For further information contact Kathryn Segal at (416)443-1545 ext. 223 or by email at ksegal@ohba.ca .

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