



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

MEDIA RELEASE

ONTARIO HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2018 ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

(Ottawa) September 24, 2018 The Ontario Home Builders' Association's (OHBA) President's Gala welcomed 2018-2019 President Rick Martins and awarded outstanding OHBA members and local associations for their dedicated commitment to the association.

OHBA presented the **Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA)** with the **2018 Local Association of the Year Award**. This award is bestowed upon a local association who excels in advocacy work, membership engagement, and community contribution. WRHBA has represented local members for more than 70 years. As a strategic and collaborative local HBA, WRHBA took measures to address Development Charge by-law amendments related to transit and waste. Known to be the "first test case" in Ontario since changes to the DC Act came into effect, this local recognized the need to ensure the by-law conformed to the new Act. Furthermore, this local established a Steering Committee comprised of five Municipal Liaison Committees, and together this resulted in strong advocacy that led to a favourable outcome to DC charges. This collaboration with the Region also sets a precedent to design a consultation process where WRHBA can provide input in the planning and financing of growth-related infrastructure and the region's Master Plans.

"Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association leads by example, with a clear vision of what local members' concerns are, coupled with tangible plans to address them," said Rick Martins, President of OHBA. "The success of this local's work has spilled over into the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo, leading to DC outcomes that are more balanced, equitable and better reflects the needs of each community. WRHBA understands the value of meaningful and effective partnership."

Garnet Northey, President of Spotlight Home & Lifestyle Inc. was honoured as the **2018 OHBA Member of the Year**, an award presented to an association member who has made a significant contribution to the residential construction industry, the provincial association and to their local association. Garnet quickly identifies ways to contribute to both the association and industry, and also joined Peterborough and the Kawarthas' Home Builders' Association Board of Directors in 2009 and 2010 in the capacity of Chair to the Renovators' Council, before being elected as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President. While serving on the board, Garnet was instrumental in major, strategic changes to allow the local association to better serve its members. "Garnet not only talks the talk, he walks the walk," said Martins, "Whether speaking to local media on industry issues of the day, conducting successful delegations to City and County Councils, or actively participating at the provincial and national association levels, Garnet is a trailblazer for the industry."

Suzanne Mammel, Executive Officer of the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association (HHHBA) was awarded the **2018 David Horton Leadership Award**, honouring the legacy of David Horton who served as Executive Director of OHBA for more than 25 years. Since 2014, Suzanne helped HHBA grow its membership and increase membership engagement. She also lends her expertise to the provincial and national associations by serving as Chair of the Canadian Home Builders' Association Executive Officers' Council, and regularly provides input to provincial industry issues. "With her focus and dedication, Suzanne is an amazing asset to our association," said Martins, who continued, "She is always ready to engage with OHBA advocacy and also fosters meaningful relationships with industry stakeholders in the community, including HHHBA's U40 Young Professionals Group, and numerous charity events."

Rob Dewar of Hy-Mark Mechanical Ltd. and the Guelph & District Home Builders' Association received the 2018 Rooftopper of the Year Award, recognizing an association member who played a significant role in growing membership. Since joining the association in 2016, Rob successfully recruited many new members and effectively conveys the value of membership to others.

Jon Whyte, Development Industry Consultant, Planning and Development Services at Niagara Region is a two-time recipient of a special recognition award during the 2017 and 2018 Conferences. Most recently, lending his passion and expertise in the development process, OHBA honours him as retiring Chair of the OHBA Land Development Committee, and former President of the Niagara Home Builders' Association where he spent countless hours working with members, OHBA staff and provincial government officials on issues ranging from the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt, Excess Soils, Conservation Authorities and much more. Jon is a #homebeliever who strongly believes in the great Canadian dream of home ownership, and has always been a strong advocate for our industry and, most importantly, for consumers in Niagara Region and across Ontario.

Natalie Armstrong of Enbridge Gas Distribution and host local Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA), was also honoured with a special recognition award for her invaluable help in the planning and execution of the 2018 Conference. She is a volunteer with a smile and is always willing to lend a hand with GOHBA initiatives throughout the year, including ensuring that members receive updates on sustainable and energy-efficient building practices, and participating on GOHBA committees to deliver education sessions.

Local associations from Brantford, Chatham-Kent, Durham Region, Hamilton-Halton, Kingston, Greater Ottawa, London, Niagara, Peterborough and the Kawarthas, Simcoe County, Stratford & Area, Sudbury, Windsor-Essex, and Waterloo Region were recognized for outstanding participation in the #homebeliever campaign – 2018 is the year of the #homebeliever and local members and Executive Officers truly championed the need for more housing choice and supply to local politicians and their respective communities.

About OHBA: The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the building, land development and professional renovation industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 29 local associations across the province. Our members have built over 700,000 homes in the last ten years in over 500 Ontario communities. In 2016, the industry contributes over \$56 billion to Ontario's economy, generating \$19.8 billion in wages and employing more than 336,000 people across the province.

For media inquiries, please contact Valerie Lam-Bentley 416-443-1545 ext. 223 or by email valerie@ohba.ca



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