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March 2021



Important Dates:

- Wednesday, March 17th, 9:00 - 11:00 AM - OHBA Builder Panel Discussion
 - Register [HERE!](#)

For the latest updates, please follow our social media [@OntarioHBA](#).

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OHBA's Response to the Province's Greenbelt Study Area Proposal

The Ontario Home Builders' Association, with the support of our impacted network association members BILD, Brantford, Durham Region, Guelph & District, Haldimand – Norfolk, West End, Niagara, and Waterloo Region HBAs, are asking that the Ontario government stay focused on the proposed Greenbelt expansion study areas announced for consultation. Any expansion of the Greenbelt must be done in consideration with the required community and infrastructure planning of the Provincial Growth Plan and the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*.

Premier Doug Ford has clearly stated his commitment to the ongoing protection of the Greenbelt, and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark has made it very clear that the existing borders are not up for change. “We expect the government to remain focused on the study areas they have identified and not turn this into a political mapping exercise that ignores the ongoing community planning and real infrastructure needed for the three million more people joining the Greater Golden Horseshoe region in the next 20 years,” said Joe Vaccaro, OHBA CEO.

The industry is calling for a robust and comprehensive consultation on the proposed study areas with all impacted and involved parties, including landowners, residents, businesses, industry, and stakeholders. “The government has proposed a focused approach to Greenbelt expansion, and we expect that the necessary research and ground-truthing will happen before any mapping is confirmed for both the Urban River Valleys and the Paris Galt Moraine,” noted Vaccaro. According to the population forecast in the province’s most recent Growth Plan, the communities around the Paris Galt Moraine will see more than 500,000 new residents join their neighbourhoods by 2041.

Bill 245, Accelerating Access to Justice Act

Through the [Accelerating Access to Justice Act, Bill 245](#), the province is proposing to consolidate Ontario's Land Tribunals by merging the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, Environmental Review Tribunal, Board of Negotiation, Conservation Review Board, and the Mining and Lands Tribunal into a new single tribunal called the Ontario Land Tribunal. The new Ontario Land Tribunal proposes to make the land dispute resolution process more efficient by creating a single forum to resolve disputes faster by eliminating unnecessary overlap between cases.

In a [provincial news release](#) on February 16th, Marie Hubbard, Executive Chair, Ontario Land Tribunals, stated: “Attorney General Downey continues to take decisive action to speed up and improve the experience Ontarians can expect when resolving land planning disputes in

Bill 245 also includes changes to the Expropriations Act with a proposed change interest provision in the Act from 6% to a prescribed rate.

OHBA is interested in hearing member feedback on Bill 245. Please direct any feedback, inquiries or questions to [OHBA Manager of Government Relations, Alex Piccini](#).

Builder Set Up & Commissioning Verification Process Training

There has been a recent change to the Enbridge Gas connection and furnace process which has resulted in some confusion and “B tags” being issued automatically on furnaces.

OHBA has raised a number of issues with Enbridge and they have made some important changes to this process and are working with OHBA and Building Knowledge to update the builders on the new process.

Please read the following [Newsletter](#) and circulate to your builder and renovator members.

Home Construction Regulatory Authority Launch

On February 1st, 2021 the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA) became the new regulator for home builders in the province. Up until the launch, OHBA has been actively working with HCRA, Tarion, and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to ensure that the transition is as seamless, and straightforward as possible, and we will continue to advocate for a process that ensures business continuity for members. If members have questions about the new regulator, they can reach out to HCRA by [email](#) or through their [website](#).

OHBA New Training Providers



Training Ontario



OHBA has partnered with two new training providers - Training Ontario and buildABILITY for our members to access approved educational courses. Learn your way, online or virtually, from anywhere!

[Training Ontario](#) is the leader in education and training for Ontario's new home building industry in collaboration with [Blue House Energy](#) and the Professional Home Builders Institute, Canada's premium provider of homebuilder education and an approved provider for Ontario Home Builders' Association members. Fulfill your licensing requirements with Training Ontario's [Home Construction Regulatory Authority](#) approved courses and professional development courses to sharpen your skills.

buildABILITY and OHBA have partnered to bring you the live training that Ontario builders need and have requested. buildABILITY is proud to present our full suite of builder workshops and HCRA-approved training to members of OHBA. At buildABILITY, we have served the housing industry for over 30 years. Our company offers training to builders, designers, and building officials. We also offer a variety of industry workshops to further your professional development and skill.

Please click [here](#) for more information on OHBA Training Providers.

Wetlands

In early February, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) completed the work Wetland Technical Advisory Group (WTAG) that OHBA was represented on by Senior Director of Policy & Planning, Mike Collins-Williams. The advisory group to MNRF provided advice to inform considerations for a more balanced and effective approach to wetland management including innovative recommendations to inform the development of a wetland policy framework with a focus on implementation and delivery.

The WTAG worked with MNRF to develop a wetland management framework that affords the flexibility to enable growth and development while effectively safeguarding wetlands. The foundation of the framework is based on the conceptual approach of considering a

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avoided. OHBA anticipates the provincial government to release further information for public consultation shortly as the Ministry continues to engage on developing a modern wetland management framework for Ontario.

EnerQuality Upcoming Workshops



ENERGY STAR for New Homes

March 3rd & 4th, 12:30-4:00pm EST - FREE for Ontario Home Builders

CHBA Net Zero Builder Training

March 9th & 10th, 12:30-4:00pm EST

March 30th & 31st, 12:30-4:00pm EST

Housing Innovator Series: Reliance Smart Home Solution

March 25th, 11:00am-12:00pm EST - FREE for Ontario Home Builders

For more information on our workshops or to reserve your spots in the ESNH workshop, please email adrian@enerquality.ca or visit enerquality.ca/education.

[View the archive](#) of **OHBA Government Relations newsletter, Activity Summary.**



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