



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

MARCH 2013

DATES TO NOTE

- March 7: CHBA Annual Meeting of Members
- March 7-9: CHBA Conference
- March 12: [OHBA Economic Review Panel in Niagara](#)
- September 22-24: OHBA 2013 Conference

COLLEGE OF TRADES COMPLETES MORE RATIO REVIEWS

The College of Trades Ratio Review Panel has completed rulings addressing the journey person-to-apprentice ratio for the [Roofer](#) and [Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Setter](#) Trades. OHBA presented the Ratio Review Panel with written and oral submissions for both trades advocating for an across-the-board 1:1 journey person to apprenticeship ratio. The Panel's findings are as follows:

TRADE	Current Journey person-to-Apprentice Ratio	Review Panel Finding
Roofer	1:1, 3:1	1:1, 2:1
Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Setter	1:1, 3:1	1:1, 2:1

While OHBA believes that the proposed change is a positive step, we continue to believe that Ontario should move to a 1:1 ratio which is in place in most provinces and would provide more apprenticeship opportunities for young people entering the trades. OHBA will continue to make deputations for all trades that impact residential construction.

PROPOSED APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has embarked upon a modernization initiative to transform key parts of its legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines with a view to streamline permitting processes and requirements. OHBA has been very involved in this process by supporting the modernization initiative in the provincial budget, participating on the Bobolink Roundtable and subsequently supporting Bobolink & Eastern Meadowlark transition provisions for the residential construction industry as well as making a number of submissions to various Environmental Registry postings.

OHBA recently participated on an *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) Panel, established by MNR, to seek recommendations on improving the implementation of the ESA. The panel presented its [final recommendations in a report](#) to the Minister in January and the report was posted as an information notice on the Environmental Registry (011-7980). The panel made recommendations in several key areas including: habitat protection, transition, permit streamlining, linkages with other legislation, monitoring and reporting, and innovation.

Subsequent to the release of the ESA Panel Report, MNR proposed industry specific transition regulations ([Environmental Registry 011-7696](#)) for projects that have obtained Draft Plan of Subdivision approval. OHBA has strongly advocated for the province to implement appropriate transition measures for new species at risk listings that respect previously earned approvals while also acknowledging species specific conditions may be necessary. Furthermore, a number of standardized conditional approaches (rules in regulation) have been proposed for a number of species. OHBA [provided recommendations in a submission](#) to the Ministry generally supporting the proposals with a number of recommended improvements.

FIGHTING MANDATORY WSIB COVERAGE - BILL 119 POLITICAL ACTION

On February 28, OHBA continued its ongoing opposition to Bill 119 by joining PC MPP Randy Hillier at his day of political action at Queen's Park to protest mandatory WSIB coverage for independent operators and executive officers in the construction industry. MPP Hillier has been a longstanding vocal critic of Bill 119 and has tabled legislation which would rescind the policies that came into effect January 1, 2013. OHBA COO, Joe Vaccaro, addressed the 300 contractors protesting on the steps of Queen's Park, committing to continue to fight the legislation on behalf of OHBA members. [Click here](#) to learn more. MPP Hillier has incorporated the [OHBA 2009 resolution](#) into a petition that you can support by visiting: www.randyhilliermpp.com.



OHBA met with the Minister of Labour, Hon. Yasir Naqvi, later that day to engage, educate, and inform the minister that mandatory WSIB coverage will not make construction sites safer but will increase the cost of construction for consumers and could drive many legitimate contractors into the underground economy.

AMENDMENT OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REGULATIONS

The Ministry of Natural Resources has recently made amendments to conservation authority regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* based on the advice and recommendations of the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (OHBA, BILD & HHHBA were represented on the 'CALC'). The amendments, which should help streamline the permitting process, came into effect on February 8, 2013.

Conservation Authorities may now delegate certain permit approvals from the authority board to designated staff which should reduce wait times for straightforward permit applications. Decision-making authority for more complex permits (e.g. applications requiring approvals beyond the current 24-month permit period) or applications where a refusal is recommended by staff, or the applicant does not agree with the conditions placed on a permit, will remain with the Conservation Authority board.

The amendments also introduce two time-bounded types of permits ('up to 24-month' "normal" permit and a '25 - 60 month' "complex" permit). The existing or "normal" permit is valid 'up to and including 24 months'. The "normal" type of permit is anticipated to apply to the majority of permit applications. The '25 - 60 month permit' for "complex" proposals (e.g. municipal infrastructure, large scale residential developments) as per the regulation would require multiple approvals and construction that would span over 24 months. The longer validity period should result in better service delivery (i.e. time and money savings).

The amendments were the result of the government's *Open for Business* initiative and the input and advice of the members of the CALC (including OHBA, BILD & HHHBA). [Please click here](#) for a copy of the initial OHBA submission supporting amendments to the 'generic' regulation (O. Reg. 97/04) and subsequently the 36 individual Conservation Authority regulations.

OHBA-ENERQUALITY 2013 BUILDER & RENOVATOR FORUM

On February 20 and 21, OHBA and EnerQuality hosted their annual Builder & Renovator Forum at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood. The successful event was an opportunity for industry professionals from across the province to come together in an atmosphere of collective learning and networking as work continues to build a better Ontario.

Attended by over 200 participants, the forum focus was on "Building Excellence from Regulation to Implementation" and consisted of industry-related information sessions and training opportunities. Some of the featured presentations included: a WSIB update, the 2012 Ontario Building Code update from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Inspection Insights from the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA), the Future of ENERGY STAR, OHBA's Institute of Building Excellence, building with six-storey wood, a Tarion update and a sales and marketing component on effectively engaging the consumer. For more information and to view these presentations, [click here](#).

The forum culminated in the EnerQuality Awards of Excellence which also honoured the late Stephen Dupuis, former President and CEO of BILD, with the EnerQuality Hall of Fame Award.

Winners at this year's awards included:

- **The Minto Group** – 2012 Leader of the Year Award and OHBA's Green Builder of the Year Award
- **Empire Communities** – Building Innovation and Excellence Award
- **Eastforest Homes** – ENERGY STAR for New Home Builder of the Year (large volume builder)
- **Doug Tarry Homes** – ENERGY STAR for New Home Builder of the Year (small- mid volume builder)
- **Gary Botelho** – ENERGY STAR for New Homes Champion of the Year Award
- **Steve Snider Construction** – R-2000 Builder of the Year Award
- **Owens Corning Canada** – Industry Partner of the Year Award
- **John Harris** – Evaluator of the Year Award



For photos from the 2013 Builder & Renovator Forum, please visit OHBA on [Facebook](#).



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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