



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

JULY 2011

DATES TO NOTE

- September 22: Annual General Meeting
- September 22: OHBA Awards of Distinction



**OHBA
HUMANITARIAN
BUILD**
OHBA Conference
Dominican Republic
November 22 - 29, 2011

www.humanitarianbuild.com

NEW TRANSITION REGULATIONS FOR THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

OHBA provided comments in a submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources in early April as part of the input towards the prescription of habitat for three species at risk under the *Endangered Species Act* (Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Ogden’s Pondweed and Redside Dace). OHBA noted that habitat regulation should work with existing legislation and there should be greater integration and a coordinated approach to approvals in terms of the review process and approval agency decisions being made around the issuance of a permit.

The Government of Ontario has subsequently posted a transition regulation specific to Redside Dace Habitat. OHBA has been involved in extensive consultations with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the development of this transition regulation. Home builders take species protection seriously and support the Ontario government’s commitment to species protection. By recognizing the work the building and development industry already undertakes to protect habitat, this regulation creates business certainty and will help us move forward with vital and necessary infrastructure to complete communities. We support the government’s commitment to make the Endangered Species Act work for Ontario home builders.

2012 WSIB PREMIUM RATES

The WSIB has announced the Premium Rates for 2012. The employer rate groups will increase by 2 per cent next year across **all** rate groups, including construction. The WSIB is citing the unfunded liability as the main reason for the increase to ensure that employers “contribute towards the financial stability of the workplace insurance system”. Below are the relevant rate groups for our industry:

Rate Group	Description	2012 Premium Rate (\$)	2011 Premium Rate (\$)
723	Industrial, Commercial & Institutional	4.44	4.35
728	Roofing	14.44	14.16
732	Heavy Civil Construction	6.86	6.73
737	Millwrighting and Welding	6.73	6.60
741	Masonry	12.39	12.15
748	Form Work and Demolition	17.86	17.51
751	Siding and Outside Finishing	10.00	9.80
764	Homebuilding	8.88	8.71

For more information on rate groups and the WSIB’s methodology for calculating premium rates, visit www.wsib.ca

PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT - 5 YEAR REVIEW

The province is conducting a review of the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2005* (PPS). OHBA provided the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with a written submission in late 2010 (available at www.ohba.ca) outlining a number of recommendations to improve and streamline the PPS. OHBA believes the PPS should be a more strategic document to protect provincial interest while setting broad planning parameters, goals and objectives.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has established two working groups as a component of the PPS Review. One will provide input on a broad range of policy areas covered by the PPS and the other will focus on northern and rural issues. OHBA is represented on both working groups and the Thunder Bay HBA, Stratford & Area HBA and the Sudbury & District HBA have been invited to participate on the northern and rural working group with BILD being invited to participate in the broader group.

OHBA ELECTION ADVOCACY MATERIALS

OHBA has produced political advocacy materials in support of Local Association's efforts to reach out to candidates for all political parties as we look forward to the upcoming Ontario general election on October 6th. Provincial policies, legislation and regulations have a tremendous impact on the residential construction industry and it is important that candidates have a foundation of understanding about our industry and a few key issues our members are facing in these times of economic uncertainty.

OHBA's five key communications hand-outs that can be shared with candidates to assist in outlining priority issues and industry proposed solutions.

- Infrastructure Investment
- Tools To Support Intensification
- Improving Housing Affordability: HST Threshold Review
- Renovations and the Underground Economy
- College of Trades

OHBA HUMANITARIAN BUILD

OHBA is pleased to announce the following sponsors to the Humanitarian Build and Conference:

- Lafarge Canada Inc. – major corporate partner
- Federated Insurance – corporate sponsor
- Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association – house sponsor
- CHBA Simcoe County – house sponsor
- Brantford Home Builders' Association – house sponsor
- Heathwood Homes & Mikey – house sponsor

OHBA members will be building a total of 6 houses in four days. Four houses have already been sponsored; that only leaves 2 more that are still available. If your company or your local association would like to sign on to sponsor one of the last 2 houses and be recognized, please email Dave Henderson at dhenderson@ohba.ca for more information. For more information on the OHBA Humanitarian Build and Conference, please visit: www.humanitarianbuild.com

REMINDERS / AVAILABLE FROM OHBA

- ✓ OHBA Growth Plan Amendment Submission (Simcoe County)
- ✓ Ontario Housing Issues Status Report: Spring 2011
- ✓ OHBA Magazine Trends Issue
- ✓ OHBA Endangered Species Act Submission
- ✓ OHBA 2011 Membership Directory
- ✓ YOUR VOICE – How OHBA Works For You
- ✓ OHBA 10-Year Capital Plan Submission
- ✓ OHBA/BILD Joint 2011 Brownfields Submission



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