



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## DATES TO NOTE

- October 14: [Guidelines for Designing Wood-Frame Mid-Rise Buildings](#)
- October 21: OHBA Queen's Park Day
- October 26: Biodiversity Offsetting Workshop
- October 26-29: CHBA Fall Meetings - Ottawa
- November 4: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- November 18: OHBA Housing Technology Tour – SAVE THE DATE!

## OHBA CONFERENCE, AWARDS OF DISTINCTION AND PRESIDENT'S GALA – A HUGE SUCCESS!

Last week, OHBA and member delegates from across Ontario made their way to Ontario's premier summer destination, Huntsville, for the annual three-day conference. Held at Deerhurst Resort, the conference was an opportunity for members to meet the incoming OHBA Executive Committee for 2015/16, mix and mingle and celebrate two exciting events – the 2015 Awards of Distinction and the President's Gala.

The OHBA Annual Meeting of Members also took place at the conference and members voted on a number of resolutions for 2015/16. To see the 2015 OHBA Resolutions, [click here](#).

The conference is an opportunity to pay tribute to, not only, our [Awards of Distinction winners](#) but also our [association champions](#). Top honours at the Awards of Distinction this year went to Marz Homes Holdings Inc. (People's Choice Award), Amsted Design-Build (Renovator of the Year) and Empire Communities (Home Builder of the Year).



The OHBA President's Gala was an opportunity to welcome the 2015/16 president, John Meinen, owner of Pinnacle Quality Homes and a member of the Stratford & Area Builders' Association (SABA), and to honour those in the industry that have gone above and beyond for the association. Honours went to Doug Tarry who won the OHBA Member of the Year, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) who one Local Association of the Year and to Lois Langdon who received the David Horton Leadership Award. Please visit the [OHBA Facebook page](#) to see photos from the conference. Next year's conference will be held September 18-20, 2016 in

Collingwood. See you there!

## October 2015



## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT REVIEW

The provincial government has initiated a review of the Conservation Authorities Act. [A discussion paper](#) has been posted on the [environmental registry \(012-4509\)](#) until October 19, 2015 to identify opportunities to improve the existing legislative, regulatory and policy framework that currently governs Conservation Authorities and the programs and services they provide. Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry OHBA has facilitated two consultations for members in September and one additional consultation is scheduled:

- A Joint OHBA Land Development Committee / BILD Land Council meeting on Tuesday, October 6th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Prince Hotel (900 York Mills Road) in which OHBA and BILD will be co-hosting the Ministry for a presentation and consultation with our members. Please RSVP to [mikecw@ohba.ca](mailto:mikecw@ohba.ca)

OHBA is seeking input from members and location associations – if you have comments, questions, recommendations to support the OHBA submission – please direct them to OHBA Director of Policy, Mike Collins-Williams [mikecw@ohba.ca](mailto:mikecw@ohba.ca).

## WETLAND CONSERVATION IN ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is working on a strategic plan for Ontario's wetlands and [OHBA has submitted a joint letter](#) in response to the initial discussion paper with a number of other organizations including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario Waterpower Association, Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, Canadian Wind Energy Association, Canadian Solar Industries Association and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The government's strategic plan will identify a provincial vision, goals and objectives for wetlands and in the joint submission the organizations have put forward some key principles that will assist in creating a framework to improve wetland conservation. The principles include supporting wetlands that assist in flood control, climate change mitigation and adaption, as well as water quality improvement and recreation. The group also supports the use of higher quality information, knowledge and mapping and critical tools that allow better decision-making.

The organizations state in the letter that a successful wetlands conservation strategy takes a strong implementation plan and buy-in from stakeholders. The group has committed to working with the government to develop a clear, straightforward and simple framework to implement. OHBA is seeking additional feedback from members as we prepare an OHBA submission prior to the public review and comment period deadline on October 30, 2015 – please send comments to [mikecw@ohba.ca](mailto:mikecw@ohba.ca)

## HOME ENERGY RATING AND DISCLOSURE (HER&D)

Under OHBA's 2015 Resolution #5, Mandatory Home Energy Rating and Disclosure on Resale, OHBA prepared an initial submission to the Ministry of Energy on its proposed Home Energy Rating & Disclosure (HER&D) policy initiative, which expressed our continued support for mandatory home energy audits prior to listing an existing home. The Ministry is intending to phase-in HER&D over a five-year timeframe, with province-wide adoption in 2019. OHBA will continue to participate in consultation opportunities and keep our members informed about the initiative.

## **BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING WORKSHOP - OCT 26<sup>TH</sup>**

OHBA is pleased to be sponsoring an [Ontario Nature and Ducks Unlimited Canada workshop](#) on wetlands and biodiversity offsetting. At the workshop Ontario Nature and Ducks Unlimited Canada will share information and perspectives about policy gaps and policy options in light of the Province's proposed development of a Strategic Plan for Ontario Wetlands (EBR Registry Number: 012-4464).

The workshop will focus in particular on the mitigation hierarchy and on the key issues that should be addressed in developing wetlands offsetting policy. It will feature speakers representing diverse interests who will offer their insights on the policy outcomes needed to reverse the trend of ongoing wetland loss in Ontario.

**Date and Time:** Monday, October 26, 2015. Registration and refreshments will start at 8:30 a.m. and the workshop will end at 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Toronto

**Registration:** Registration can be accessed by following this link: [ontarionature.org/wetlandsworkshop](http://ontarionature.org/wetlandsworkshop)

Registration is \$60 and includes lunch and refreshments. Space is limited. Please register by **Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## **SMART GROWTH FOR OUR COMMUNITIES ACT**

The Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, introduced this spring, received Second Reading at the end of September. The Act proposes to amend both the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act. The OHBA submission and recommendations to improve the Smart Growth for Our Communities Act (EBR 012-3651) is [available here](#). Both OHBA and BILD have had volunteer members appointed to a Planning Act stakeholders working group and to the Development Charges Act Steering Committee as well as three technical DC sub-groups that met regularly throughout the summer. Following the conclusion of the working group process, the Minister will consider regulations to support the implementation of an amended Planning Act and Development Charges Act. OHBA met formally with Premier Wynne on August 25th to discuss key aspects of the Smart Growth for Our Communities Act as well as with Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Ted McMeekin on August 31st to discuss proposed development charges changes. The legislation has been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – no dates have been set yet, but OHBA will work with local associations to prepare deputations once the committee schedule is posted.

## **SEEKING BUILDERS FOR ONTARIO NEW HOMES RADON SURVEY**

OHBA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada to conduct voluntary radon testing on 200 new homes across Ontario. As recommended by Health Canada, a long-term test (for 90-100 days) will be conducted during the upcoming heating season to give a better indication of the annual average radon concentration. Builders who are interested in participating in the radon survey should contact Pauline Lip ([plip@ohba.ca](mailto:plip@ohba.ca)). To maintain privacy, participating builders and their homes will not be disclosed as part of the survey.

## **GET IT IN WRITING! CONTRACT SEMINAR**

CHBA's Get it in Writing! contractor seminar helps member renovators and trade contractors deal more effectively with competition from underground "cash" operators. This one-hour, high-energy session provides members with actionable information and effective sales tactics to help communicate the value they offer homeowners. It supports CHBA's focus on professionalism, and the value for consumers of dealing with a pro when they build or renovate their home.

Upcoming seminars are being hosted by local HBAs:

- BILD: October 13, 2015, BILD Awards Hall, 20 Upjohn Road, North York, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Register online at [http://www.bildgta.ca/events\\_meetings.asp](http://www.bildgta.ca/events_meetings.asp))
- Guelph & District Home Builders' Association: October 20, 2015, Springfield Golf & Country Club, Guelph, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. (RSVP to [guelph.homebuilders@gmail.com](mailto:guelph.homebuilders@gmail.com))
- London Home Builders' Association: November 19, 2015, 9 a.m. (RSVP to [newhomes@lhba.on.ca](mailto:newhomes@lhba.on.ca))

## **TARION'S REPAIR WARRANTY CONSULTATION**

In preparation for Tarion's consultation with builder members on repair warranty, scheduled from October – December 2015, OHBA has drafted an industry response on repair warranty that identifies OHBA's key challenges and top ten recommendations. Please stay tuned for a final copy of OHBA's repair warranty paper. For more information, please contact Pauline Lip ([plip@ohba.ca](mailto:plip@ohba.ca)).

## **SAVE THE DATE: OHBA HOUSING TECHNOLOGY TOUR – NET ZERO EDITION, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

OHBA is excited to announce our Housing Technology Tour featuring Net Zero Energy homes on Wednesday, November 18, 2015! Hosted by Andy Oding, past chair of the OHBA-EnerQuality Technical Committee and chair of CHBA's Net Zero Energy Housing Council, this exciting tour will take participants to several technologically-advanced sites in the Guelph region and will include a gourmet lunch sponsored by JELD-WEN Windows & Doors.



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The following award-winning builders will be showcasing their Net Zero homes (both completed and under construction):

- Reid's Heritage Homes;
- Slood Construction; and
- Wrighthaven Homes.

Registration and early-bird pricing begins soon. For more information, please contact Pauline Lip ([plip@ohba.ca](mailto:plip@ohba.ca)) or Kathryn Segal ([ksegal@ohba.ca](mailto:ksegal@ohba.ca))



**Ontario** Home Builders' Association

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