

OHBA HOUSING TOUR

Innovation takes centre stage at housing tour

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Special to QMI Agency

New home buyers today may be surprised to find out that some

of the most advanced technologies in their homes are not contained in their smartphones or flat-screen TVs, but are hiding behind their walls and under their floors.

Today's new homes are packed full of modern technology, developed over decades of innovation and advancements in building science. The Ontario Homes

Builders' Association's (OHBA) recent Housing Technology tour showcased what some award-winning builders are doing to push the envelope and build the next gener-

ation of high-tech energy efficient housing.

Industry innovators and leaders gathered together this spring as OHBA, in conjunction with their partners at

the EnerQuality Corporation, conducted a Housing Technology Tour through Kitchener and Guelph.

Tour participants came from all over Ontario to participate in the tour hosted by the Chair of the OHBA's Technical Committee, Andy Oding (Building Knowledge Canada).

The tour visited a variety of high-tech green housing projects and provided valuable education on different green housing marketing strategies and technical opportunities to enhance energy and water efficiency for home builders.

The tour commenced at Hales Manor II where Sloop Construction president and the president of the Guelph and District Home Builders' Association John Sloop, welcomed the group and discussed advanced methods to insulate a home and his pilot to construct a Net Zero home.

The second stop of the day included a spectacular EnergyStar model home at Westminster Woods in Guelph by Reid's Heritage Homes. Following a delicious lunch at the historic Aberfoyle Mill, Eastforest Homes Vice-President Rick Martins was on hand to showcase a collection of EnergyStar model homes at their Doon South community in Kitchener.

The tour concluded with a stop at Terraview Homes LEED Platinum Edgewater Estates project. Terraview president Dave Brix, showcased a number of advanced technological features in the model homes including solar thermal and photovoltaic cell installations.

The Housing Technology Tour demonstrated green building products and homes to better educate industry professionals as to how they can incorporate energy efficiency, water efficiency and other green technologies into today's new homes.

— *Michael Collins-Williams is a Registered Professional Planner and Director of Policy at the Ontario Home Builders' Association.*



Terraview Homes president Dave Brix and his team at the Edgewater Estates in Kitchener.



OHBA / EnerQuality Housing Technology Tour participants at the historic Aberfoyle Mill.

Tour sites

- SLOOP CONSTRUCTION – Hales Manor II - Guelph
- REID'S HERITAGE HOMES – Westminster Woods - Guelph
- EASTFOREST HOMES – Doon South - Kitchener
- TERRAVIEW HOMES – Edgewater Estates - Kitchener



Tour organizers Amina Lang-Bismillah, EnerQuality; Andy Oding, Building Knowledge Canada, Pauline Lip, EnerQuality and Mike Collins-Williams, Ontario Home Builders' Association.



photos by Kathryn Segal

Ashley Ferraro and Reid's Heritage Home president Scott Reid at Westminster Woods in Guelph