

October 2009

BuildersVoice

A PUBLICATION OF THE MANITOBA HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

Official Opening Fall Parade of Homes 2009



Friday, September 18 marked the Official Opening of the 2009 Fall Parade of Homes. The Parade opened at 123 Bridlewood in Bridgwater Forest and was hosted by Manitoba Housing. On a clear, warm, sunny day approximately 250 persons attended.

This year's Parade features 100 new homes built by 33 different builders in 28 separate subdivisions. Manitoba's Parade of Homes is the longest running and largest of its kind in Canada; over three times larger than any other major centre.

From Left to Right: Darrell Jones; Gordon Mackintosh; Justin Swandel; Mike Moore and Dwayne Rewniak.



Mike Moore, President of the Manitoba Home Builder's Association, emceed this event and welcomed everyone. The Honorable Gordon Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services & Housing brought greetings from the Province, while Deputy Mayor Justin Swandel spoke on behalf of the City of Winnipeg. Darrell Jones spoke on behalf of Manitoba Housing while Dwayne Rewniak asked all speakers to participate in a key ceremony. Following the formal ceremonies, lunch was served and attendees were invited to visit the show homes in the area.

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Welcome New Members

Home Renovation Masters
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Winnipeg, MB R3B 0C4
Phone: 953-3002 Fax: 953-2983
dave@hrmasters.com
www.homeandrenomasters.ca

I.R.I.S. Contracting
Contact: Lisa MacDonell
Renovator
A2-940 Erin Street
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0A1
Phone: 788-4747 Fax: 775-3730
lisa@irishomeservices.com
www.irishomeservices

Message from the President



The 2009 Fall Parade of Homes has been a resounding success to date. Visitor numbers remain consistent with last year but there appears to be more serious buyers this year. Obviously, the economy has a much better forecast than it did a year ago. All of Canada went into a spending freeze in October of 2008 and most sectors have still not recovered. All economists are projecting a much better winter this year and consumers are feeling more confident. The immediate post-Parade months will be a telling source for our industry.

However, consumer buying patterns go much deeper than that. Mortgage rates remain incredibly low; but people wonder how long this can last. New home designs, colours and features continue to attract people. Manitoba continues to lead the country in new home energy efficiency. All indicators point to an improved late fall buying season.

The Manitoba Home Builders Association has been extremely busy on the political front during the summer and fall. The NDP leadership candidates were all fully informed of the perils associated with the Harmonized Sales Tax. Meetings were held with federal Conservative Members of Parliament regarding current legislation going forward and the HST. City of Winnipeg elected officials have been made aware of costs and delays associated with permits and inspections. Sincere thanks go out to Guy Hobman and John Daniels who have been vigilant in getting our message across to politicians in all levels of government.

Despite these tremendous efforts, there is still much to do. It took eight months for the federal government to finally approve the Home Renovation Tax Credit. The benefits given to first time home buyers should be expanded upon and extended to new home buyers. There is a very real possibility that the Provincial Government may take Ottawa's money and accept a Harmonized Sales Tax. If they do, we must ensure that it is revenue neutral for new homes. Building codes are being reviewed with recommended energy efficiency changes. Manitoba is already #1 in Canada; how much higher can we go before it becomes completely cost prohibitive? Manitoba's Land Transfer Taxes are the second highest in Canada. Permit wait times from the City of Winnipeg are getting longer, not shorter. Inspections have an even longer time problem. There has to be a better way and it is up to us to help suggest, find and implement that way; no matter what the problem.

The Manitoba Home Builders Association is your voice in government and in the media. Your input and participation is encouraged, welcomed and appreciated.

Workplace Safety Training Seminar Schedule

Principles of Safety Management – 8 hours

November 26, December 17

Owner or Senior Management must complete this course to receive a Safety Program Registration number.

Leadership for Safety Excellence – 16hours

November 16 & 23; December 7 & 14

Safety Auditor Training -8 hours

October 5, November 3, December 9

Note – Principles of Safety Management or Simplified Safety is a pre-requisite for the course.

WHMIS/Train the Trainer – 8 hours

October 14, November 5, December 1

Simplified Safety – 8 hours

Owner must complete this course to receive a Safety Program Registration number

October 28, December 3

For further information regarding courses and dates visit www.constructionsafety.ca/courses/TrainSeminarSched.htm or contact Jamin Braun at 925-2564 or jbraun@homebuilders.mb.ca

2009 Housing Forum & Trade Show

The 2009 Housing Forum & Building Trade Show will take place at the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Avenue, November 5 & 6.

Our Forum will open on Thursday, November 5 with Breakfast, a Trade Show and our annual meeting, followed by the Manitoba & Winnipeg Housing Outlook address by Jeff Powell of CMHC.

The four streams will be Safety, Leadership, Marketing and the Master Builder/Master Renovator program. The Safety stream will take members through the Audit Process of being COR/SECOR certified. Attendees will also hear a presentation on Fire Safety, Hiring and Keeping Young Workers in the workplace; and Loss Prevention on the job site.

The Leadership module will host speakers on **Going Green in Manitoba; Coping with Change; Workplace Motivation**; and the very latest developments from **Centreport**.

Glenn Tinley of Studio Publications will address **Social Marketing** – the 2009 use of computers, web-sites, even Facebook, while CMHC will discuss **Air Quality**. **Going Forward** will be an address you won't want to miss as we move out of "tough times" into the future.

Following classes on Thursday, the MHBA will host a **wine and cheese reception**. We hope to have a dynamic speaker on hand for that event. Stay tuned!

Plan to attend these informative sessions and visit our exhibitors in their booths.

For further information, please contact Janet Constable at 925-2578 or jconstable@homebuilders.mb.ca



Upcoming Events

October 16
Fall Parade of Homes Gala
Winnipeg Convention Centre

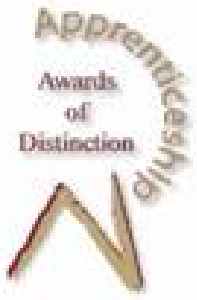
October 30
Renovation Awards
Niakwa Country Club

November 5 & 6
Housing Forum & Trade Show
Caboto Centre

November 25
Chairman's Reception
Niakwa Country Club

January 22–24
Kitchen, Bath & Renovation Show
Winnipeg Convention Centre

Making a Difference



This past July CBC Television news The National featured a story about one of our MHBA members – *Inner City Renovations*.

In 2008, Marty Donkervoort, general manager of the renovation company, won the employer of the year award by the Manitoba Apprenticeship Council, beating out Manitoba Public Insurance. The company started as an experiment in self-sustenance in 2002; many believed it could not last, but it has become an award-winning enterprise.

Recently, ICR has been working on a \$1.5 million conversion of an old convent beside St. Edwards Church on Arlington Street into a social services centre. They have also built the last two Assiniboine Credit Union branches and have done a conversion of a former bank on Main Street. ICR's mandate is to help alleviate poverty in the inner city through creating quality jobs for low-income residents.

Donkervoort has been invited to make a presentation at the Social Enterprise World Forum in Melbourne, Australia in October. His company employs about 20 people, virtually all of whom reside in the inner city, and about half are aboriginal. He says, "We do go out of our way to create opportunities for people who might otherwise not be employed".

Dennis Lewycky, Chairman of the ICR board says "We're trying to make money, which is realistic. We're trying to help people, which is idealistic, and we're trying to do it on a self-sustaining, independent basis, which some people say is naïve". An executive with Winnipeg Realtors' Association acknowledges ICR's important work. Not only is the quality of their work up to standards, but the work has inspired other homeowners to do upgrades.

Congratulations to Marty and his employees!

Master Builder/Renovator Course

The MHBA's certification program consists of two separate designations: one, the Certified Registered Professional (CHP), is granted to an individual, and two, the Certified Builder/Renovator, is granted to a business. With the granting of both designations, the issue of ethics, experience, education, business practices and consumer protection can be effectively addressed.

The course work consists of eight sessions of eight hours each. This in-class training beginning on October 22 & 23, November 5 & 6 (Housing Forum), November 16 & 17 and December 2 & 3. All courses will take place at the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Avenue. To maintain one's status, the individual must take eight hours of professional development each year.

If you have not already done so, and would like further information or to register for this course, please contact Janet Constable at 925-2578 or jconstable@homebuilders.mb.ca.



Membership Renewal Notice

It's membership renewal notice time! Have you sent in your forms? Ensure your company name gets into our 2010 Directory. Send your renewal in now. If you require information regarding your membership please contact Janet Constable at 925-2578 or jconstable@homebuilders.mb.ca



Association canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations