

Barrie Construction Association Year End Report 2011

In addition to our regular program of communications with our membership, which includes our weekly Plans on Display email, daily updates of news and events on the [BCA website](#), [on line plans room](#) – updated live, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and the [BCA News](#), we are pleased to bring additional association information to you in this Year End Report.

Long Range Planning

The Board of Directors has been involved in long range planning to ensure that the focus of growth at the BCA remains constant. Recently, Construction Associations across Canada officially announced the launch of Link2Build - Canada's newest construction-only bid opportunity website.

Consolidating project data from almost all of Canada's local construction associations from east to west, Link2Build is the place for buyers and bidders to turn when searching for or publicizing construction bid opportunities. The site provides access to more than 20,000 projects annually and is visited regularly by thousands of qualified general and trade contractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

<http://www.link2build.ca/>

Link2Build had a prominent presence at this year's Construct Canada show, promoting the service to buyers of construction.

In November, the BCA entered into an alliance, along with nine other local construction associations, with REED Construction Data ([Daily Commercial News](#)). This alliance will ensure that the BCA has access to the most current pre-bid information and an expanded revenue stream as REED will be sharing revenue from their membership sales of the Connect Plus product.

COCA CONFERENCE

The Barrie Construction Association is hosting the inaugural Council of Ontario Construction Associations Conference. This idea was born out of the need to see all Construction Associations working together for the betterment of all of our members and thus the construction industry itself.

“Innovate to Motivate” is the theme for this three day event that will see the coming together of Associations from across Ontario to learn, to share and to grow. It will be an opportunity to discover new and innovative ideas, share our knowledge and learn from key speakers about the ongoing issues facing our industry.

We have a very exciting conference planned! It will begin on Sunday June 10, 2012 with a Team Building Experience and Off-Site Dinner that will give everyone a chance to relax and meet new and old friends alike. Monday will be the “official” beginning of the conference with two business sessions planned, an afternoon of golf and meet and greets for all Construction Associations Board of Directors and Staff. The day will finish off with a cocktail reception and an Awards Dinner, where associations will be recognized for their hard work. Tuesday concludes our conference with two more business sessions, lunch and closing ceremonies.

[Innovate to Motivate](#)

Doing Business with the City of Barrie

The Barrie Construction Association Board of Directors will continue to work with City of Barrie Purchasing Staff to ensure that as many opportunities as possible are made available to the BCA membership. A new partnership with City staff will see all City of Barrie projects uploaded electronically to the BCA.

Construction Lien Act Reform

Throughout the year COCA continued to advance the need for reform to the Construction Lien Act. We were heartened late last year by the Attorney General's commitment to a consultation on our proposed reforms to the Act, chief among them being the timely release of holdback funds for completed work and/or the assurance of lien rights for such funds. However, the exercise amounted to little more than government efforts to "run-out" the legislative clock in advance of the provincial election. However, despite these less than fruitful efforts with government, COCA was able to also pique the interest of the opposition conservative caucus. Holding its own fact-finding hearings on the issue opposition MPPs had the opportunity to ask their own questions of the broader construction industry. While these discussions did not advance our reform efforts for the law in the Legislature, the determined, reasoned and well-executed efforts of our members shed much-needed understanding on a relatively unknown and complex industry issue among legislators and their staff. The full impact of our efforts was not fully realized until after the fall election and the reaffirmation of support for our cause by government and opposition MPPs alike for the new parliamentary session.

Prompt Payment

This past year COCA was also actively building among its members an understanding for and consensus around the need for prompt payment legislation. Attempting to resolve the problem of timely payment for completed work from the contract side of industry efforts, the issue created more controversy than anticipated among general and trade contractors and suppliers. COCA has however, been able to arrive at a broad consensus on this issue among its members and has committed to work to resolve the need for prompt payment legislation in Ontario through a partnership with the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada.

Occupational Health & Safety – WSIB

On the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) front, COCA has had an especially busy and arguably successful year. We have maintained our focus of working to improve these systems so as they produce sustainable and progressive results for both employers and injured workers. Our time has been dedicated chiefly to the government's review of the occupational health and safety prevention and enforcement system overseen by Tony Dean, the WSIB funding review led by Professor Harry Arthurs, refining the finer points of Mandatory Coverage legislation, (Bill 119), providing continued input on the agency's new Work Reintegration policies, the ongoing rollout of the WSIB's new service delivery model involving more e-services such as clearance certificates, consultation on the development and targeting of the agency's new policy review framework and the ongoing efforts to bring under control the agency's unfunded liability.

Government Relations

In June 2011, BCA Members attended the seminar “Doing Business with the Government”. Federal, Provincial and Municipal representatives gave critical information required to begin the process of registering for and working on Government Projects.

[City of Barrie Presentation](#)

[Government of Ontario Presentation](#)

[Government of Canada Presentation](#)

In August the BCA hosted a seminar providing an overview of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act - ADOA, with an update on new standards (Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation) and progress of the Build Environment Standard.

[ADOA.pdf](#)

As BCA Members attended the November Construction Lien Seminar in record numbers, this furthered the Board’s commitment to working with the Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA) on this key issue.

COCA hosted a Post-Election seminar outlining the key roles assumed by the new minority government.

[Post-Election.pdf](#)

COCA hosted a Construction Day at Queen’s Park in November; the BCA Board of Directors both sponsored and attended this event which gave them the opportunity to strengthen previous relationships with incumbent MPP’s and to forge new relationships with those recently appointed.

[Construction Day](#)

Community Involvement

The BCA members love to give back to their community and the Board of Directors is committed to being the conduit that makes this happen. Out of respect for Canada’s Armed Forces personnel, BCA Members assisted (through donations of time and materials) with a major capital project to restore a new cenotaph at Georgian College.

In October, the BCA joined forces with the Canadian Home Builders Association – Simcoe County to once again host the annual Base Borden Run in support of Operation Hero. This year’s event was a resounding success – over twice the number of participants and over \$27 000 raised.

[Base Borden Run](#)

In August, local high school students traveled to Kenya with the goal of helping to build new schools while establishing social and cultural bridges with the people they meet. The BCA supported this effort by donating funds and BCA shirts.

Social Events

BCA continued to give the membership opportunities to get together at numerous social and sporting functions. The annual member appreciation BBQ held in September is always a crowd favourite. The sun seems to always be shining for the event and this year was no exception. The Board and Staff were delighted to provide lunch for so many members.

[Member Appreciation BBQ](#)

The annual Fall Golf tournament at Horseshoe Resort’s Valley Course was wet and wild but members had a great day on the links. We were pleased to have Mayor Jeff Lehman on the President’s Team and congratulations go to Barrie Rent-All on the lowest score of the day.

[Fall Golf](#)

This year's Christmas Gala was held once again at Tangle Creek and we joined the Home Builders for a wonderful evening of celebration. In lieu of Ladies Gifts, a donation was made to the Barrie Chapter of the Food Bank.

[Christmas Gala](#)

The Staff of the BCA transformed the offices for the annual BCA Christmas Wine & Cheese. Thanks to Tracey, Bryony and Sue for all of their efforts, the members certainly enjoyed the evening's ambiance.

[Wine & Cheese](#)

[Safety](#)

Safety is at the top of our member's lists and so must also be our highest priority. The Barrie Construction Association is the local sponsor for the WSIB Safety Group. Members network to pool resources and share best practices to help each other develop and manage effective health and safety programs.

The BCA also holds a position on the Regional Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee. This year the committee presented a Mock Coroner's Inquest which recreated the inquest held after the death of a young worker from a fall. Participants included the original Coroner, Coroner's Counsel and family. All who attended were moved by the gripping details of this tragic event.

[Mock Coroner's Inquest](#)