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# Joining industry professionals at the table

# what's happening

## Sherway Gardens kicks off chair fundraiser



PAUL GOLINI  
**BILD**

Earlier this week, BILD was invited by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to take part in an industry roundtable discussing the housing market in the GTA and it was a great opportunity to share knowledge and listen to our colleagues from other sectors.

My regular readers know that BILD is the voice for the home building, land development and professional renovation industry in the GTA — and when we are called to the table, we are also the voice of our consumers and the future residents of the region as well.

Around this particular table, I have to say that consumers were well-represented.

I had asked a few BILD board members to join me, so Boaz Feiner of Geranium Homes, our 2012 Builder of the Year, Steve Deveaux of Tribute Communities and Kenzie Campbell of Royal Home Improvements were in attendance. BILD President and CEO Bryan Tuckey was also there.

Rounding out the discussion were CMHC economists, some municipal representatives, a few representatives from the rental sector, some financial experts and a few realtors. It was a real cross-section of the industry.

One thing we could all agree on was that we have to be careful about yelling 'fire' in a crowded theatre. Recent headlines about our industry have been sensationalizing what is actually happening on the ground — and from the discussion around the table, I gather that it's a better story than what's being told.

Here are a few good news headlines you may have missed.

The U.S. economy and the housing market are showing signs of recovery. Consumer spending is picking up and housing prices in major cities like Phoenix and Miami have slightly increased.

A recent gauge of Ontario's economy and job growth also showed increases and the housing sector is one of the strongest contributors to those indicators in this province.

The sales of new low-rise and high-rise homes have been normalizing and hit pretty close to the historical average over the last decade with more than 8,100 units sold in the first three months of this year — and we know that a large number of the condominium units, once built, will serve the rental market as evident right now.

Now, I don't want to get carried away and say that everything's positive. We know that the European economy is unstable and that the Bank of Canada may eventually increase interest rates. We also know that Ontario carries a hefty deficit and that here in the GTA, there are infrastructure gaps that are seriously holding us back.

Despite all of that, the housing industry remains robust and disciplined in its delivery of complete communities across the GTA. Now that's a headline I'd like to see.

*Paul Golini Jr. is Chair of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and can be found on Twitter ([twitter.com/bildgta](https://twitter.com/bildgta)), Facebook ([facebook.com/bildgta](https://facebook.com/bildgta)), Youtube ([youtube.com/bildgta](https://youtube.com/bildgta)) and BILD's official online blog ([bildblogs.ca](http://bildblogs.ca)).*



Residents of Toronto are encouraged to visit Sherway Gardens' (Hwy 427 & the QEW) for the Twelfth Annual Garden Art Silent Auction for a chance to bid on an original piece of art.

Local Canadian artists have transformed 30 folding white pine

Muskoka chairs and two children's chairs into original works of art in support of the Neilson Park Creative Centre.

The chairs will be on display in Sherway Square during regular mall hours from Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 17. For more information call 416-621-1070 or visit [www.sherwaygardens.ca](http://www.sherwaygardens.ca).

"Local artists create original hand

Painted masterpieces for our Annual Garden Art Silent Auction fundraiser for Neilson Park Creative Centre," says Lisa Resnic, senior marketing director, Sherway Gardens. "Come and bid on these magnificent chairs and help support this thriving arts community."

The local artists include designers, painters, printmakers, quilters, handweavers, calligraphers, sculptors, cartoonists, instructors, many of whom run their own full-time studios, as well as representatives of arts organizations.

Chairs are available for silent bidding during regular mall hours.

There will also be a "buy it now" feature — allowing customers to take the item off the bidding sheet by paying an asking price. All items will remain on display until Sunday, June 17.

Neilson Park Creative Centre is a creative arts facility built in Etobicoke in 1992 and operated in co-operation with the City of Toronto as a non-profit corporation.

## GTA home inspection network launched

Contract Settlement Services (Contract), one of Canada's largest appraisal management company, has announced the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) launch of The Home Inspection Network, a network of experienced, professional and highly qualified home inspectors.

"We have been very successful in appraisal management and we were excited to use this expertise to expand and set-up our new network of home inspectors," said Phil West, president of Contract.

"Our entry into this market came as a result of seeing demand for high quality and convenient inspection services in an industry that is largely unregulated," he adds.

The Home Inspection Network meets the needs of real estate brokers, agents and consumers by doing the due diligence necessary to assemble a network of fully-trained, field-tested and professional home inspectors that real estate professionals and consumers can trust, said the company.

The network also uses Contract's

best practices in customer service and operations.

Real estate agents and consumers can order inspections online via the website and immediately confirm the inspector's availability.

The Home Inspection Network officially launched in the GTA on Tuesday, May 29 and Contract plans to roll-out its network nationally over the remainder of the year.

For more information, visit [www.HomeInspectionNetwork.ca](http://www.HomeInspectionNetwork.ca) or call 1.855.232.9778.



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