

## NEW PRESIDENT FOR DRHBA: VICTOR FIUME



*Victor Fiume thanks outgoing President Jennifer Hurd for her year of service at the President's Ball on Nov. 15 at Deer Creek Golf & Country Club.*

Durham Region Home Builders' Association welcomes our new President, Victor Fiume, of Fiume Brothers Custom Homes Ltd.

A gala event on Nov. 15, ushered in the new President Victor Fiume, who will voluntarily serve as President of the non-profit association of companies in the building industry for a year and lead them to a more powerful voice for all of the new home buyers of Durham Region. The intimate evening was filled with live jazz music expertly performed by the Faith Amour Band, a vast amount and variety of exquisitely prepared food by Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility, and a broad range of fascinating guests.

Fiume is the association's 61<sup>st</sup> President, he was also their 48<sup>th</sup> President in 2002, and he has served as the Ontario Home Builders' Association President and the Canadian Home Builders' Association President. So why serve Durham Region again?

"Because everything happens at the local level," said Fiume as he addressed the 130 guests who are all in the local residential construction industry. Fiume has been working in the building industry in Durham most of his career, and he knows all too well how local factors affect the home building industry. "Everything that happens in Durham Region affects us all."

Advocacy for the home building industry, which has been heavily regulated over the years, is the key to keeping the cost of housing affordable, submitted the new President, who has already begun meeting with local politicians.

“When the average person can’t afford the average house there is a problem,” stated Fiume referring to the fact that although construction costs have only risen with inflation, government charges, taxes and fees have increased drastically, “they are now 20% of the price of a house!”

Victor Fiume thanked Jennifer Hurd for the year of service she gave to DRHBA.

In Hurd’s term \$17 million in excessive development charges were found and new home buyers were saved from paying them, as well as a number of other government fees, such as extra winter maintenance fees, that would have made the costs of homes even higher were curtailed through the work of the association.

Hurd thanked her outgoing board which consisted of Past President Emidio DiPalo, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Victor Fiume, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Heidi Stephenson; and Directors: Danielle Bleau, Steve DeBoer, Mike DiPalo, Dave Henderson, Rick Parsons, Stephen Snider, Kevin Stewart, Marianne Tracey, Gord Wallace, Rob Wannack and Andrew Watson; as well as Presidential appointees Wayne Clarke, Drew Dowling, Joe Messina, Ken Russell and Frank MacPhee.

Presidential Star Awards were given to Danielle Bleau and Drew Dowling for the exceptional time and effort they gave to enhancing the association’s goals.



***Danielle Bleau is awarded the President’s Star Award for her excellent work for DRHBA.***



***Drew Dowling is Awarded the President's Star Award for his many contributions to DRHBA, especially for his recent work on the new by-laws.***

The new board will be comprised of President Victor Fiume, Past-President Jennifer Hurd, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Heidi Stephenson, and Directors: Dave Henderson, Danielle Bleau, Aaron DeRosse, Manuel DeSousa, Mike DiPalo, Stephen Snider, Marianne Tracey; and Presidential Appointees: Drew Dowling, Wayne Clarke, Ken Russell and Peter Saturno.

Masters of Ceremonies for the evening were Benny Caringi and Enza Tiberi-Checchia, who accepted a donation to their charity Hats On For Awareness an organization dedicated to raising awareness, understanding and widespread acceptance of mental illness and addiction with the goal of eradicating the stigma associated with mental health and addiction.



***A donation was made to Hats On for Awareness in honour of MC's Benny Caringi (left) and Enza Tiberi-Checchia (right), by Past-President Jennifer Hurd and new President Victor Fiume.***