



## **Canadian Farm Builders Association Highlights of 2016 - Report**

This is the 37<sup>th</sup> year that the Canadian Farm Builders Association members will be meeting at an Annual Conference. We have a loyal group of supportive builders/contractors, suppliers, and others who are representative of this unique sector of the construction industry. It is this distinction - the designing and constructing of farm buildings - that is our identity. We are the leaders in this sector. With this knowledge, we share a responsibility to help our members be the best they can be in serving their customers. Over the years we have provided educational programs and resources to help our members meet the demands and respond to the issues that impact our industry. We have represented our members in confronting these issues and continue to be their voice. In recent years the CFBA has made increased efforts to become involved in advocacy by being a direct influence and speaking to and advising government Ministers and law makers on behalf of the farm building sector. We are making written submissions to specific government reviews and policy development. Our voice is listened to and sought out BEFORE new laws, regulations and codes become law.

The CFBA has built strong relationships for its members and with the government agencies, manufacturers and suppliers needed in our industry. We foster the framework for relationship building between many builders, manufacturers and suppliers in our farm-building sector and have developed very positive relationships with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, and the Ontario Building Officials Association over the years.

This year's gathering continues the tradition and complements the many achievements by the CFBA this past year.

In addition to successfully hosting the two main events of the year; the Golf Tournament and the Annual Conference, which includes the Awards program and the Annual General Meeting, we have the following highlights to report:



1. A significant **upgrade of our web site**. This is our primary communication vehicle with our members during the year. The decision was made to include industry wide issues with continuous updating of news items, fact sheets, government regulation changes, safety training resources, WSIB rates & information, OMAFRA bulletins, legal requirements for contractors, and so on. Please visit the CFBA website and see for yourself the value of the recent upgrades: [www.cfba.ca](http://www.cfba.ca) .
2. The very demanding work of being an active member on the **Joint Task Force for the National Farm Building Code revisions** continues. This is perhaps the most important single issue the CFBA has been involved with since the Association was formed in 1980. It is beyond our ability to sufficiently thank Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers for his professional contribution to this Committee. We also sincerely thank Gary van Bolderen as a 'Builder Member' sitting on the Joint Task Force Review committee providing 'practical experience' and back up to Will's technical expertise. It is a well-earned tribute to the CFBA's reputation that we were invited to be part of this Task Force. The CFBA is helping write the new National Farm Building Code. This is certainly more than the founders of the CFBA ever envisioned!
3. The CFBA takes the incidence of **barn fires** very seriously and the association and our members are involved in a number of initiatives that are helping to reduce the incidence of these occurrences. These initiatives include promoting the education of our members and the farming community and the addition of new technology that is being explored and implemented by our members and their clients to help reduce the risk. The CFBA is currently involved in assisting OMAFRA with a review and update of the widely distributed 'Reduce the Risk of Fire on Your Farm' publication that contains valuable information for a farm owner/manager in effectively maintaining their farm buildings.
4. We have kept our **spending in check and increased our revenues**. Thanks to the vigilance of our General Manager and our Board, we have found ways to do things better and generate income. This is not easy for a small Association. **The retention of our membership** list is also a notable achievement which confirms the value added benefit for our



members. The Board has been focused on service for our members and our industry.

5. In the spring of 2016, we partnered with a Truss Plate Manufacturer - **MiTek Canada** to provide an educational seminar to our members. This was held as a Lunch and Learn for CFBA members on the topic of **Truss Plate Corrosion** and included a discussion of mitigating factors and design to minimize and reduce the effects of corrosion on truss plates. We sincerely thank MiTek Canada for providing our members with this opportunity. An information fact sheet on this seminar is available on the CFBA website.

6. The CFBA has continued to go into new territory by being invited by the **City of Hamilton Building Department to present an in-house seminar** to their staff. The CFBA again partnered with MiTek Canada and they generously provided their time to present 2 seminars to 75 staff members from the City of Hamilton Building Department on the topic of Truss Plate Corrosion, Design and Bracing. This was well received by the City of Hamilton. We are pleased with this positive interaction between building officials and the CFBA and believe we should be promoting good building design and job site communications with inspectors.

7. The CFBA continues to be a member of the **Council of Ontario Construction Associations**. This federation of 28 construction Associations is the Voice of Construction in Ontario. Through this relationship the CFBA has been a significant participant in the review of the Construction Lien Act, Prompt Payment, and the Ontario College of Trades. This includes one on one meetings with Ministers and officials who mould and shape new regulations and legislation. In the past two years the CFBA representative, Gary van Bolderen, has been the Chair of COCA, and has been asked to serve in that position for another year.

COCA is the main advocate for the construction industry in Ontario for all construction sectors except for residential. **This relationship with COCA is our most effective way to have direct access to government.**



8. The CFBA is also represented at the **Canadian Construction Association** as the Vice Chair for Ontario. This is another window into the industry that allows the CFBA to connect to federal level issues that may affect our members. In this venue we learn and also make our concerns heard by others in the construction industry and government.

9. The CFBA made **charitable donations to support community needs** in 2016. We showed support for the citizens of Fort McMurray & area and provided a donation to the Canadian Red Cross - Alberta Fires Emergency Relief to assist those who lost their homes due to the fire. The CFBA paid tribute to Mike Parker, our former General Manager, who passed away during 2016 – with a donation to Stratford Rotary Hospice as per the family’s request, and the Canadian Cancer Society – Stratford was the recipient of the 50/50 Charity Hole donation at the 2016 Golf Tournament.

10. The CFBA responded to the Ministry of Energy’s request for feedback on the **‘Ontario Large Building Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking’** initiative, with the CFBA in support of NOT including agricultural buildings in this new benchmarking initiative.

The work done by the CFBA, through the leadership of our President, Dan Reymer, and a very active Board of Directors, continues the 37 year history of our Association. We pay tribute to Mike Parker, the CFBA’s former General Manager who passed away in September 2016, and to Bryan Hernandez, a former CFBA President who passed away in November 2015. The next year will present new opportunities and challenges. These will need our members to become active participants, as so many have done in the past. With your help, we can make the future even better than our amazing accomplishments of the past. We need you to volunteer, to be part of the Association’s work, and to make our industry a great one in which to make a living.

Board of Directors

Canadian Farm Builders Association