



CFBA Committee Reports: 2020

Executive

The Executive Committee provided direction and back-up to other CFBA committees throughout the year. A strategic planning meeting was held for Board members on August 21st and a number of areas of importance for the CFBA were reviewed including; delivering value to members, revenue generation, new projects, and areas of focus. Committee members were actively involved with CFBA communications regarding COVID-19 throughout 2020. We worked closely with the Finance Committee to support CFBA efforts to secure subsidies to offset the impacts of COVID-19.

Finance

The Finance Committee is responsible for the CFBA's budget and for performing a thorough review and reconciliation of CFBA financial transactions on a monthly basis. The General Manager works with the bookkeeper to ensure the financial transactions are accurately posted to the CFBA's accounting software, and performs a monthly reconciliation, prior to review by the CFBA Vice President. The Board of Directors review financial reports that provide an overview, at each Board meeting. With the cancellation of the golf event, the Finance committee was focused on revenue in 2020 and applied for (and received) CEBA monies (Canada Emergency Business Account), CEWS monies (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy), and the three month 10% temporary wage subsidy. An application for CEBA expansion is pending. The Board proposed a resolution for a 0% increase in annual membership fee in 2021, subject to approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting / Special General Meeting (AGM / SGM).

Governance

- While we have had a reduction in the number of board members in 2020, we have added some new directors this year to our roster. We are very pleased to have Neil, Parry, and Jay. They really stepped up when we needed the Director roles filled and we thank them very much for all their efforts.
- Ken left the board for a small period of time and we are happy to have him back this year again. Thanks Ken for your continued hard work with the CFBA.



- We are looking for more Directors to join the Board. We encourage anyone interested in developing a role as a director to reach out and let us know you are interested.
- The GM has made all the proper amendments to our list of Directors with Corporations Canada for removing and adding the Directors in 2020.
- We assisted the Farm Building Code Advisory Group in preparing a letter to the National Research Council Canada regarding the National Building Code of Canada and the current gap of that remains on how to design small farm buildings.
- The Governance committee assisted in review and amendments to the By-Laws.
- We assisted in preparation of the 2021 Virtual AGM along with the GM and the Executive Committee.
- We are working with the Communication committee to establish protocols for use of Google Drive to store and share CFBA documents.

Conference / Education

On February 28, 2020 we were able to host the annual conference and general meeting even though a massive snow storm came through and some scheduled guests and attendees were unable to attend. We continued on, however! A highlight of the event was the celebration of the CFBA's 40th anniversary, where there was plenty of time to reminisce and view videos that included past board members and staff of the association. In addition, long-time CFBA Board member and supporter, Gary van Bolderen, released a collection of his CFBA memories '*Harvesting the Experience - 40: Years 1980- 2020*', that was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all. A copy is available on the CFBA website if you would like to view, or we may have a few hard copies. Please ask.

A new feature of the conference was the CFBA partnering with a student from a Conestoga College media and communications program. We worked together to video interviews with former staff and board members who had supported the CFBA within the past 40 years. It proved to be a successful venture and we had hoped to collaborate again in 2021, however due to COVID-19, we were unable to proceed. Once the conference is reinstated, we will work with a Conestoga student once again, and special projects may include; notable member moments, member anniversaries, and spotlight on members.

2020 proved to be a year of cancelled events throughout the country so educational lunch and learns did not happen nor in-person board meetings.



As we hope you can all understand, the 2021 Conference and Annual General Meeting is not being held at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford due to the pandemic. The Annual General Meeting is still being held via zoom. We hope to be able to offer virtual education in 2021 and are working on some possible events. A tentative date for the 2022 Conference and Annual General Meeting is April 8, 2022.

Awards Steering

It has been necessary for the Awards Steering Committee to re-direct much of its effort to other priorities during 2020, principally due to the virus crisis, but also because there are several critical, time-dependent tasks such as the Small Farm Buildings Code that required the immediate attention of our already strained CFBA Committees.

However, thanks largely to the solid efforts of Kate, we were able to advance significantly. The restructuring proposal for the Builder Awards program has been completed (this work began in 2019, and was the result of input from several members from other Committees.)

With respect to new awards, Kate has noted the following: “There has been previous feedback that non-builder members (suppliers) would like to enter the contest. The only way that I can see that working is that the project would have to have been built by a CFBA Builder Member. Otherwise, I think it would get out of hand - we should be showcasing our CFBA Builder members work, not non-member’s work.” The Steering Committee supports this proposed criterion unequivocally and will continue its work accordingly before presenting final proposals to the Board and membership.

The other development work relates to building a formal Awards Program that would comprise permanent awards of recognition. The *Gary van Bolderen Award* provided us with an excellent starting point; and going forward the Committee will continue its work on the Awards Program. Next tasks include:

1. Explore and identify alternative/candidate awards, e.g., lifetime achievement, research and development achievements, exemplary contribution to the farm building industry, leadership award. The Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership on this.
2. Develop operational and selection criteria (guidelines/rubric) for the proposed permanent awards and the Awards Committee.



3. Establish/structure the Awards Committee that would evaluate and select recipients.
4. Create a permanent awards archive/registry so that the achievements of the recipients may be noted and referred to, thereby providing continuity, institutional memory, and guidance for those who follow us.

Our GM has prepared an Awards Registry for the Builder Awards – going back to 2015. This is a good beginning for that component of the Program.

While artificial electronic communication arguably works acceptably for administration and project execution, it is not a very good vehicle for creativity, innovation, and ideas. The Committee looks forward to the day that we may resume real meetings and engage in real-time communication that doesn't entail digital delay and distortion.

Farm Building Code Advisory Group

- The CFBA established a task group in January 2020 to review and respond to the proposed farm building code updates, developed by Codes Canada.
- The proposed updates became available for public review and comment for the period January 13th to March 13th, 2020. The CFBA distributed information regarding the proposed updates to numerous construction and agricultural organizations across the country.
- The CFBA task group reviewed and evaluated the proposed farm code information and determined necessary feedback; preparing and submitting 45 responses to the proposed amendments.
- The submitted stakeholder comments (including CFBA's) were reviewed by the Joint Task Group on Farm Buildings and the relevant Standing Committees, and based on the recommendations from these groups, the new regulations were approved by the Codes Canada Executive Committee and subsequently will be adopted in the National Building Code.
- We await these results. Once the updated regulations have been approved at the national level, the updates will be forwarded to Canadian provinces and territories for the same review, potential amendment, and adoption. This is a process that may take a period of years. The CFBA will continue to be involved in and follow this process.



Communication

Communication committee held its first committee meeting in the last quarter of 2020 where we reviewed current communication strategy of the CFBA with discussion around what, who and where we are communicating as an organization. In 2021 we are looking for ways to bring value to the membership through CFBA website, monthly emails and other potential avenues of promoting the active and supplier members. In addition, the communication committee:

- Provides support to the association by maintaining the website and approving content, especially during COVID-19
- Supported the development of a webpage dedicated to a report on the CFBA's 2020 Conference and 40th Anniversary
- Supported the use of zoom for CFBA meetings
- Implemented user friendly 'COVID-19' button for CFBA communications related to COVID-19 and farm building / construction
- Supported the writing of a historical overview of the CFBA's involvement with and leadership on the Farm Code update of the National Building Code

OMAFRA Liaison Summary

Outside of usual business, the OMAFRA Liaison to the CFBA was able to provide some assistance during the year with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and the progression of updated building code provisions for farm buildings.

There was a significant amount of confusion in the early days of the pandemic across Ontario. Unfortunately, it was unclear from the official documentation if farm builders were considered essential services. The CFBA advocated for their membership by requesting this clarification, and the OMAFRA Liaison was able to assist with navigating the appropriate channels to resolve this. In addition, 2020 saw a number of changes and opportunities for various training, regulatory emergency measures, business funding to adjust to the pandemic that the Liaison was able to bring to the Association's attention.

As the membership is likely aware, the National Building Code provisions for Large Farm Buildings were approved by Codes Canada last summer and publication of the 2020 National Building Code is expected in late 2021. For the 2020-2025 Code Cycle, CFBA is advocating for a continuation of this great work to address provisions for Small Farm Buildings. As a member of a Codes Canada Standing Committee, the OMAFRA Liaison was able to advise on the appropriate timing of such critical advocacy for the industry and a letter of support from the



CFBA was delivered and acknowledged at Codes Canada. A decision by Codes Canada to move forward with this important work is expected later this year.

Membership

The membership committee launched a “Membership Campaign” in the 4th quarter of 2020, offering **new** members (up to) 3 months at no additional fee for a 2021 membership. Kudos go out to CFBA Builder Member *Cavalry Contracting* for their terrific work in promoting this initiative and the CFBA gained 8 new members (5 Supplier members and 3 Affiliate members) due to this.

In total, the CFBA welcomed **14 new members in 2020**, including:

- **Fawn Group Construction**
- **Tecon Farm Structures**
- **Farm Mutual Re**
- **Quinis Equestrian**
- **Hubble & Son Agcom Ltd.**
- **MR Engineering**
- **Flowers Canada Growers Inc.**
- **Wawanesa Insurance**
- **Waddell Engineering**
- **Delta Power Equipment**
- **Chicken Farmers of Ontario**
- **Easy Building Products**
- **Sunbelt Rentals Inc.**
- **Canadian Horticultural Council**

The board approved a resolution whereby the 2% increase in annual membership fee will not be applied in 2021, due to potential hardship that members may be experiencing during the pandemic. This is subject to approval by the members at the Special General Meeting on March 26th.

As you may recall, member’s email addresses were removed from their profiles on the CFBA website due to two occurrences of emails being used for the spam purposes. Moving forward, members will have the choice (to opt in our out) for their email address to accompany their profile on the CFBA website’s Member Directory.

The invoice date (for annual fees) will be April 30th in 2021.

We thank members for their support as we move into 2021!



Golf

- The Board of Directors made the difficult decision not to hold the CFBA golf event in 2020 due to COVID-19
- Many of the features that contribute to a successful and enjoyable golf event would have been eliminated due to required COVID-19 protocols
- The CFBA golf event has always been an excellent opportunity for camaraderie and networking and we intend to reinstate it when safe to do so as members enjoy participating, in addition to the event being a source of revenue that was lost in 2020
- the date set for 2021 is September 22nd, and the Board will be reviewing this in coming months to determine feasibility of holding this event in 2021
- We hope to see you on the links!

Council of Construction Associations (C.O.C.A.)

The Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA) is a federation of construction associations, the largest and most representative group of Industrial, Commercial Institutional (ICI) and heavy civil construction employers in the province. They bring the concerns of their members to the attention of Queen's Park and are committed to working with the government to ensure that Ontario's legislative landscape is one in which our industry can grow and prosper.

COCA's members have a powerful conduit to directly influence decisions that impact the construction industry in Ontario. On their members behalf COCA builds and fosters influence and relationships with decision makers.

Members have a forum to exchange information, ideas and best practices on construction industry issues in Ontario. This enables COCA's members to inform and protect their members and to provide leadership for their associations.

They are a strong voice for Ontario's construction industry. COCA provides its members with the resources, credibility, relationships and expertise to increase the influence of their organizations.

COCA's **2020 Year in Review 'Keeping Our Members Productive and Safe'** is available to view on the [CFBA website](https://www.cfba.on.ca/). You may also copy and paste the following into your browser:

https://www.coca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/COCA_AR2020_Spreads_Final.pdf