



Brian Campbell,
WRHBA President 2012-13

Fall is a great time to renovate

For many of us summer has ended and we're back into routine – perhaps we had such a great summer we've neglected some of the items we wanted to do around the house – well, fall is a great time to renovate. As we prepare our homes for the coming winter we should also be thinking about how we'll enjoy our homes next year. There's nothing worse than having to deal with the rush of securing a renovator to get your renovation project completed next spring. While the experiences of summer around your home are still fresh in your mind, start planning how next summer's experiences will be so much better with your renovations complete.

The first thing you have to do is think of that small or large renovation as an opportunity to repair and rejuvenate your home. Maybe you've been putting off updating that powder room or waiting for the weather to turn to talk about a new

backyard deck. Whatever the project, the added bonus is that your property will be spruced up and its value maintained, if not improved, for years to come.

In a recent survey by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the majority of renovations involved interior jobs like remodelling of rooms, flooring and plumbing, and exterior jobs like fencing, driveways and major landscaping. In the survey, homeowners were also asked if they contacted a contractor for information about the renovations and three-quarters said they did.

It's always my advice to visit the Renomark™ website (www.renomark.ca/waterloo) as a first step. It is a great starting point and you can have confidence that the contractors listed as Renomark™ renovators are held to a higher standard.

The program is nation-wide and is now offered by more than 30 different Home Builders' Associations to assist homeowners in finding a professional renovator who has agreed to our industry's Code of Ethics, as well as a renovation-specific Code of Conduct. Specific commitments include offering a minimum two-year warranty on all work, providing a detailed written contract and carrying a minimum of \$2 million liability insurance.

Once you've got a list of professional renovators, you're ready to get started!

Established in 1946, the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) is the official voice of the residential construction industry in Waterloo Region. WRHBA is actively involved in all facets of the new home construction and residential renovation industries. As a voluntary association with over 250 member companies, WRHBA's network of professionals effectively manage industry issues across the region including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich. WRHBA's primary goals are to promote housing affordability and choice; and to build vibrant, prosperous and healthy communities through encouraging innovations and excellence in the planning and building of sustainable communities and in the redevelopment and renovation of existing communities. WRHBA works with and regularly facilitates discussions between the industry and the federal, provincial, regional, and

Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association

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local governments to establish fair and effective policies that affect development, building, and home ownership in Waterloo Region.

For further information contact Marie Schroeder, Executive Officer - Marie-Schroeder@wrhba.com

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