



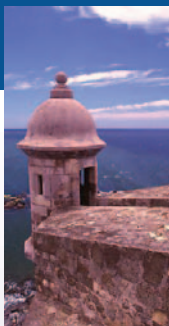
CCA and Ontario Home Builders *Going For Gold*

The Canadian Construction Association and the Ontario Home Builders Association have agreed in principle to explore the expansion of CCA's Gold Seal program to cover residential construction managers. "This is about professional development for the sector as a whole" notes Alfonso Argento, Chair of CCA. "Gold Seal certifies the experience and education of project managers, superintendents, estimators and safety coordinators – we're very excited that professionals in the home building sector could come on board to join the program."



Brian Johnston, President of OHBA, shares that enthusiasm. "OHBA members account for over 80% of all residential construction in Ontario. Gold Seal has a strong reputation in the ICI sector, so we see this as an opportunity to provide OHBA members with a well respected accreditation that reflects the skills and knowledge needed to be a residential builder.

This does seem like a great match." The two associations will meet over the coming months to work out the details.

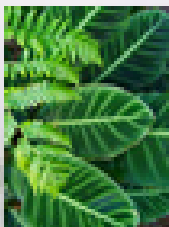


Puerto Rico: Your CCA Harbour for Success

In less than a month, CCA will be holding its 89th annual conference in Puerto Rico. What can be expected? Close to 700 delegates are registered, a near record attendance. In addition, you can expect lots of sunshine and fun, great networking opportunities, and tons of valuable information to take back home.

NOTICE TO REGISTERED DELEGATES: CCA has been fielding inquiries from delegates on the fact that the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort has been charging a two-night deposit amount on their credit cards. Rest assured that this is not a mistake. The hotel should have mentioned this when they confirmed your reservation. For those who booked their room on the hotel website, you were made aware of this when going through the five-step online reservation process.

As a reminder, don't forget your jungle/safari outfit for the theme night as there will be a prize handed out for the best costume.



Hasta Luego in Puerto Rico!



National Design-Build Conference: Partnering for Progress

Vancouver, BC

May 3–4, 2007



With the rapid pace and sheer volume of infrastructure, energy and building opportunities currently evident across Canada, design-build continues to be identified by various stakeholders in both private and public sectors as a preferred and viable project delivery method to achieve quality projects in a timely and cost effective manner.

The "Partnering for Progress" conference will be of interest to owners, builders, consultants, trade contractors and allied professionals who recognize that the success of any project is largely dependent on the initial partnerships developed and the means by which such partnerships function during a project's lifecycle. Specific project case studies and presentations from experienced design-build professionals will offer the audience a broad range of viewpoints and opinions on how design-build has been used and can continue to be effective for all project participants. This conference will also provide a terrific opportunity for networking while enjoying the excitement in Vancouver as it readies itself for the Winter Olympics in 2010.

For the full conference program and registration please visit <http://cdbi.org/events/index.html>

Export Development Canada (EDC)

EXPORT FORECAST OVERVIEW

Global Export Forecast – Bubbles... and Beyond

The current economic environment has analysts scouring the thesaurus for synonyms of slowdown. Conditions have changed very rapidly, and the tenor of economic reports has soured noticeably. In such circumstances, overreaction is inevitable. However, the obvious nervousness is not uncommon at this stage in the economic cycle. Why the rapid about-face? Four successive years of hot economic growth gradually brought the world economy to a boil. And like every pot on the boil, the world economy has generated bubbles – pockets of excessive activity that have little fundamental support.

The trouble with bubbles is that they don't deflate – they burst, and very rapidly. Of key concern is the number and size of bubbles in the marketplace at present. Clearly, some have burst already, and others seem poised to burst. Of greater concern is the fallout from bursting bubbles: will they leave mere dimples on the economic landscape, or giant craters?

For the full version of the Global Export Forecast visit: www.edc.ca/english/docs/ereports/gef/country_information_EFindex.htm