



OBEC President  
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# Message from the President

## Working Together: Diversity, Vitality, Growth

As the 2018 construction season begins to wind down, you may have noticed a change in the Ontario Building Envelope Council's (OBEC) look. We've recently undertaken a review of our branding and decided to refresh OBEC's logo and colours to reflect our changing and growing community. Your board of directors feels that the new imaging better represents the diversity and vitality of our organization, and we hope you do, too.

Of course, rebranding isn't the only thing we've been working on. We're just finishing up another successful year of supporting education in the building envelope design and construction community. We hosted dinner seminars with presentations from some of the industry's top representatives on topics including fire safety, high-performance glazing, and the wind's effects on the façade. We also hosted a great half-day seminar on Passive House, which appears set to become a very important standard in building enclosure design.

As we work toward spreading our outreach beyond the greater Toronto area, OBEC recently hosted a dinner meeting in Waterloo Region in October. We had presentations from faculty at two of the region's post-secondary institutions informing our members of the new ways young people are learning about building

science. It was also a great opportunity for networking between students in these programs and some of their potential future employers.

Speaking of students, by the time this issue is published, we'll be getting set to award our scholarships for the second time to deserving students in undergraduate and graduate programs focusing on building envelope design, construction, and repair. In addition to wanting to give back to the community, we hope these scholarships will encourage young people to join what we all see as a fantastic growing field. As scientists develop amazing, new building construction materials and techniques, and as our buildings get more complicated in their design, detailed involvement of professionals in building envelope design and construction is becoming more and more important every day. To keep up with new developments in building envelope design and construction, we need the brightest minds to join us in bettering our profession.

This November, as with many years in the past, OBEC is also sponsoring the Buildings Show (formerly Construct Canada), which will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The show will feature many fine speakers from our industry, and they will be sharing their knowledge on all topics related to

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# OBEC is your organization, and we want you to be involved. There are many ways you can participate.

building science and building enclosure design, construction, and repair.

As 2018 winds down, your board of directors, and most notably the members of OBEC's events committee, are working hard to line up our seminars for 2019 as well. We have a number of wonderful speakers and topics tentatively coordinated, and we're really looking forward to another great year. OBEC also plans to continue holding some of our meetings outside the greater Toronto area to better accommodate our members, wherever they are. But this isn't the only way for those who happen to be outside of Toronto to participate in our association's activities. Our dinner seminars are typically accompanied by a webcast, which can be viewed online from anywhere in the world. We've had a great response to these sessions, and some of our web viewers have had some great questions answered by our presenters as well.

Something else I want to make note of is that OBEC is your organization, and we want you to be involved. There are many ways you can participate. In addition to the board of directors, we have committees assisting the board, and these committees are dedicated to events, membership, codes and standards, communications, and awards and scholarships. Beyond our committees, we're always looking for great speakers for our

seminars and authors for informative articles in this very publication, *Pushing the Envelope Canada*. In addition, part of our scholarship prizes includes mentorship from a professional in our field. If you want to get involved, I would encourage you to do so by reaching out to us at [info@obec.on.ca](mailto:info@obec.on.ca).

I also want to extend thanks to those who are serving OBEC presently, as directors, committee members, speakers, and authors. We wouldn't be where we are without you, so thank you!

In this issue of *Pushing the Envelope Canada*, we have some interesting and informative articles. On page 15, David Stanton, RDH Building Science Inc., and Kim Pressnail, University of Toronto, explore using air flow modelling software to predict airtightness improvements in high-rise residential buildings, as airtightness is becoming more and more important now that we're gaining a greater understanding of building envelope performance and energy efficiency in buildings.

Speaking of leaks, turn to page 21, where you can read about a dream lakehouse that quickly became a nightmare. In this feature, Kim Pressnail, University of Toronto, discusses driving rain penetration, the importance of a proper rain screen, and why you absolutely need a vented airspace and the best air barrier.

On page 30, Julia Purdy and Anil Parekh, Natural Resources Canada, highlight building envelope thermal and air leakage characteristics of Canadian housing using data gathered from NRCan's new and retrofit housing programs including field evaluations and produced an excellent database of close to one million homes, representing about six per cent of low-rise residential dwelling stock in Canada.

Rounding this issue out, Barbara Ross, The Research in Architecture Studio, provides intelligent insight for our Architect's Approach column. On page 39, Ross takes a closer look a recent study that found water damage to the building enclosure to be the leading trigger of professional liability claims against Ontario architects.

From all of us here at OBEC, we hope you enjoy this issue! ■



**OBEC RISING STAR AWARD**

**SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE STARS!**

The Ontario Building Envelope Council (OBEC) is excited about a new award that will honour industry professionals who set their sights on the stars!

The OBEC Rising Star Award will be given out biennially to recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional knowledge of the design, construction, and performance of the building envelope.

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2019 RISING STAR AWARD WILL OPEN IN SPRING 2019.**

**CHECK [WWW.OBEC.ON.CA](http://WWW.OBEC.ON.CA) FOR DETAILS.**



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