



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11 No. 4 SUMMER 2001

IMPORTANT DATES

- **MHA of BC BOARD of DIRECTORS**
Wednesday, September 12th, 2001
The Bedford Regency, Victoria, B.C.
- **2001 I.P.E. - INTERIOR PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION**
Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 29th - Sept. 3rd
Fairgrounds, Armstrong, B.C.
- **UBCM 'Municipal Marketplace'**
Wednesday-Thursday, Sept. 26th-27th, 2001
Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre,
Vancouver, B.C.
- **CMHI Annual Meeting**
Sunday, February 24th, 2002
The Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

New Era for B.C. Outlined in Speech from Throne

The B.C. Legislature convened on July 24th, as the new B.C. Liberal Government led by Premier Gordon Campbell continued to act on its 90-day agenda. [Day 1 - June 5th]

A copy of the Speech from the Throne is enclosed for the information of all Members.

The Association has also taken a subscription to Votes & Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, so that it can track, on a timely basis, the initiatives of the Campbell led government.

MHABC OFFICES MOVED

Please ignore the use of old Newsletter stock. The new contacts for the Association are:

Manufactured Housing Assoc. of B.C.
P.O. Box 31661, Pitt Meadows, B.C.
Canada V3Y 2H1
Phone: 604-465-5119, Fax: 604-465-8655
E-mail: mhabc@telus.net

102nd I.P.E. Fair DISPLAY HOME

When the 102nd Interior Provincial Exhibition & Stampede opens on Wednesday, August 29th an MHABC Member Show Home will be among the feature attractions. MHABC Manufacturer Member Harbour Homes of Penticton will present an offset, two-section, mobile home with a 6/12 roof.

Dealer Member Accent Homes of Kelowna will join with Harbour Homes in staffing the show home at the Armstrong fair, which regularly draws 80-100,000 visitors.

2001 marks the fourth year that MHABC Members have participated with show homes at the I.P.E. fair in Armstrong, B.C. In past years, as many as three manufacturers have placed homes in the annual Armstrong fair.

The Harbour/Accent Show Home also marks the 10th consecutive year of MHABC Show Homes at highly attended public events.

Celebrating 10 Consecutive Years of Show Homes:
1992 and 1993 Tradex Centre, Abbotsford,
1994 Woodgrove Mall, Nanaimo,
1995 Aberdeen Mall, Kamloops,
1996 Pine Centre Mall, Prince George,
1997 Woodgrove Mall, Nanaimo,
1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001 IPE Armstrong.

The 1994 - 1997 Shows were organized and funded by the Association and its Members. More than 15,000 people saw the Prince George Show Homes.

Manufactured Housing Association of British Columbia

#302, 32463 Simon Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada V2T 5E3 Phone: (604) 850-1353 · Fax: (604) 850-6762
Email: mhabc@uniserve.com

B.C. CORPORATE TAXES GET AXE TOO

While payroll cheques will now be showing the first phase of B.C.'s 25% reduction in personal income taxes, Finance Minister Garry Collins has announced the first reductions in B.C. corporate taxes.

B.C. will lower the corporate income tax rate from 16.5% to 13.5% effective January 1, 2002.

The sales tax on machinery and equipment was eliminated immediately. B.C. was the last province in Canada to levy such a tax. As an offset, it will remove the 3% investment tax credit, which was introduced just last year by the former NDP government.

B.C. will also eliminate the Corporate Capital Tax for non-financial institutions. First introduced by the Barrett NDP government more than 25 years ago, the capital tax has been assessed against capital assets, without regard to income generation or losses over time. It will be cut in half September 1st and removed September 1st, 2002.

Fuel taxes for ships and planes are also being eliminated or reduced.

FINANCE MINISTER OPTIMISTIC

Finance Minister Gary Collins is optimistic that the combined effect of the early tax cuts for individuals and businesses will lead to a resurgence of the B.C. economy.

Collins forecasts economic growth of 2.7% this year and 3.8% next. In return for such anticipated future growth, Collins was willing to table a revised budget projecting a \$1.5 Billion deficit, the second largest in B.C. history.

CAMPBELL GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO GETTING B.C. ON TRACK

In spite of cautionary words, the Premier Campbell led B.C. government is moving fast across a broad range of activities and issues to rejuvenate the province.

Support is offered for the Vancouver-Whistler Winter Olympic bid, offshore oil/gas potential is back on the table for potential exploration, and a review of government operations and programs is intended to identify core activities.

Some commentators, who have recognized and supported the benefits of tax reduction, caution that benefits might flow a little later rather than sooner. Much of the 'debate' about when growth will be seen will be linked to B.C.'s export markets and their economic growth.

CORE REVIEW HOLDS NOTHING SACRED

Liberal M.L.A. Val Roddick is Chair of the Core Review and Deregulation Task Force. Roddick has been quoted as saying, "We are getting government back to its core, which is exactly what we said in our New Era document."

Premier Campbell has said that public suggestions are welcome on what to keep, what to modify and what to jettison. But there will be no public hearings and cuts may be made without prior notification.

During a recent series of meetings in Victoria, Executive Director Rick Higgs found that some reshuffling of responsibilities had occurred. Whether a government activity generated 'profit' was apparently a significant criterion.

2001/02 NEW HOME SHIPMENTS STILL UP...JUST

New home shipments by MHABC Member Manufacturers in the period March-June 2001 reached 191 versus 177 in 2000. B.C. shipments were up 18.7% year to date, while shipments into B.C. were down 32.6% year to date.

(See tables and charts overleaf)

MHR STATISTICS DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR B.C. HOMES

The Manufactured Home Registry statistics from Victoria show that 284 new homes have been registered in the first six months of 2001. Homes originating in B.C. are down 15 to 243 (MHABC shipments 260) versus 258 (MHABC shipments 269) last year because of lower registrations in January and February this year.

New homes built out-of-province are down almost 50% in the first 6 months with 41 registered this year versus 80 in 2000.

WIDE HOME LOADS DOWN IN PEACE RIVER

Wide home load (up to 5 m/16'5" wide) shipments are down again to date in 2001. Through June 30th, only 18 such loads had been moved versus 31 in the first half of 2000 and 41 in the first half of both 1999 and 1998.

B.C. TRANSPORTATION DIMENSIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN VICTORIA BY BOARD and ICBC

One of the key meetings to be held by the Board of Directors, during its September sessions in Victoria, will be

the discussion of load dimensions for home section movement in B.C.

The Board will meet with senior ICBC personnel to discuss the variety of issues of interest to Members. As Members are aware, consideration is currently being given by ICBC to the possibility of a general increase in permitted height towards 15 feet.

Some specific clearance limits need to be physically measured such as the Red Rock BCR overpass on Hwy. 97 north of Quesnel and the rail overpass on Hwy. 3, at Yahk in the East Kootenay. Thereafter, discussions about clearances on B.C. Ferry moves to Vancouver Island will be held.

The Board also looks forward to discussing possible width increases; primarily to allow greater design options for roof structures.

It may be that resolution will necessitate different approaches for manufactured homes that are "mobile" and building code homes to be affixed to property. More than 2,000 homes have been relocated in each of the last few years, whereas permanently sited dwellings rarely move.

ICBC has previously permitted movement of over-height and over-width loads for export to the United States. This has benefited B.C. manufacturers, their employees and suppliers.

COMPETITIVENESS OF B.C. WOOD BASED VALUE- ADDED MANUFACTURING

Wood based manufacturing in B.C. has been given a boost by the recently announced B.C. tax cuts. And, it is to identify precisely such specific measures, both by regulators and business operators, that the Forest Renewal funded study by Peter

Woodbridge & Associates is being conducted.

The output of the Woodbridge study is also to suggest areas where business owners and managers can make changes to make a difference.

DRAFT MODEL STANDARDS OF MAINTENANCE BYLAW

Comments are still timely on the Draft Model Standards of Maintenance Bylaw for Manufactured Home Parks. The Housing Branch (Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services) is soliciting comments on the document.

Members interested in reviewing the 12-page document may phone, fax or e-mail the MHABC office for a copy. The draft model bylaw was developed by Kennedy Consulting, which prepared the Manufactured Housing Study (1992).

2001 UBCM CONVENTION

The MHABC booth will be prominently located in the 'MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE' at the UBCM Convention in the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre at Canada Place. The 'Municipal Marketplace' will be open to UBCM delegates on September 26th & 27th, 2001.

This will be the 10th UBCM meeting in which the association has participated since 1991, when a home was displayed at the Crystal Garden site in downtown Victoria.

In conjunction with the convention, MHABC is conducting a third Survey on the Acceptance of Manufactured Housing by B.C. Local Governments. The first such survey was conducted in 1994, in preparing the 'Yellow Binder' on bylaw options.

CSA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Peter Aitchison of Triple M Housing Ltd. will serve as the new Chair of the CSA Technical Committee on Factory-built Houses. He succeeds Cliff Youdale, who has stepped down.

Within the Technical Committee membership, Hank Starno of MHCanada has become a voting member. He had participated as a non-voting associate member.

NATIONAL SHIPMENTS OFF

CMHI reports that Canadian industry shipments were down 13.6% in the period January-June 2001 compared to last year. In the first half of 2001, 1,896 new homes were shipped versus 2,311 in 2000.

The percentage declines were in double digits everywhere except in New Brunswick, which shipped just 3 fewer homes.

Only Manitoba, where 38 more homes were shipped than last year, and the Territories, where 7 more homes were shipped, recorded increases in Canadian shipments during the first six months.

Multiple-section homes led an estimated 10% increase in exports to the United States in the first six months.

Domestically, new single-section home shipments were down nearly 20% and multiple-section shipments were down nearly 14%.

B.C.'s share of Canadian shipments was more than the nominal 12.5%, when the differences in the two reporting bases are considered.

What would you deregulate?

Email to info@mhabc.com

MHABC WEB SITE UPDATES

The new MHABC Website - www.mhabc.com - is regularly updated as Members provide new or additional information, to post Newsletters, which may be printed by Members, and to post the statistical information on MHABC new home shipments and MHR registrations.

Members are reminded to send prompt updates and new photos, as they deem appropriate.

NEW MEMBER CONTACTS

Please note the following new contact information:

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Accent Homes

#94 - 1525 Westside Road,
Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3Y3

NEW WEBSITE and EMAIL ADDRESSES

South Country Mobile Home Sales Ltd.

www.southcountrymobiles.com

and

info@southcountrymobiles.com

MHC PROGRAM READY THIS FALL

CMHI is putting the finishing touches on the Manufactured Housing Consultant (MHC)TM program, which will be ready for delivery this Fall.

When the training manual, and reference material is available, MHABC will pursue funding to develop the specific materials for implementation in B.C.

WINALTA SHELTERS is preparing a new plant, off Hwy. 16 near Edmonton, to replace the one destroyed by fire.

What would you like to see at the 2002 AGM?

The Board of Directors invites your suggestions for the LOCATION, the PROGRAM and the ACTIVITIES to be planned for the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Should the AGM be in Victoria, with the new government or elsewhere?

Should there be a combined AGM and Home Show?

Members who have suggestions about program elements and location may fax or e-mail their ideas to the MHABC office.

At AGM 2002 would you like...

MORE training opportunities?

MORE social activities?

MORE educational workshops?

What topics/subjects/activities interest you the most: _____

_____?

FAX ideas to: 604 465-8655

EMAIL ideas to: info@mhabc.com

USE B.C. GOVERNMENT WEBSITE TO STAY ON TOP

Members can get all the details on B.C.'s new M.L.A.s and Premier Campbell's Cabinet appointments and instructions to Ministers at:

www.gov.bc.ca

Premier Campbell is to be complimented on the openness shown.