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WRHBA President 2011-12

## Residential Construction industry offers up a FREE Renovation Seminar!

Across the country, the Canadian Home Builder's Association will be promoting October as Renovation Month and our region will be supporting it as well. The Waterloo Region Home Builder's Association (WRHBA) represents the professional renovation industry locally through its RenoMark program. WRHBA, in conjunction with Home Hardware Building Centre, the Waterloo Region Record and RenoMark members, is pleased to present an upcoming free renovation seminar entitled Ask the Experts - Your Home Deserves A Pro.

The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Region Record - Canada Room located at 160 King Street East in Kitchener.

Homeowners will gain knowledge and information on how to have a successful renovation and will have the opportunity to get their questions answered in person. A new benefit for homeowners this year will be the presentation of feature renovations by a number of RenoMark members. Homeowners will see and hear about some incredible home renovations completed right here in Waterloo Region as the presenters walk through the renovation process and display the final outcome. Actually seeing and hearing about completed renovations is a great way for homeowners to jumpstart some of their own creative thoughts. Refreshments and prizes are also available.

RenoMark is a voluntary program for renovator companies wishing to adhere to a higher set of standards such as a code of conduct, warranties and liability insurance. These companies understand and highly value customer service and satisfaction both during and following the renovation, and are constantly exposed to information on current trends, the latest materials and new regulations. The RenoMark™ program was developed to provide homeowners with a benchmark to evaluate professional standards of renovation, bring credibility to member renovators within the industry, and provide a website for homeowners renovation needs. Learn more at [www.renomark.ca/waterloo](http://www.renomark.ca/waterloo)

If you are thinking about taking on a home renovation project, here are the top 3 questions to ask yourself:

### **Do I need a professional renovator?**

Yes, you will need someone with experience and skill, like a professional RenoMark member. With a professional, they are equipped with all the business tools to protect your interests such as a written contract, insurance, and workers' compensation.

You can save money by completing the work yourself; however, unless you have some home renovation/builder skill set behind you this may not be case. The contractor is the one responsible for managing the project from start to finish and completing in a timely manner. A professional will always recommend getting all the necessary permits and inspections and will usually look after this on your behalf. On resale, potential buyers may want to know about the renovations on your house, including whether you did have permits. What a professional renovator

### **Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association**

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or designer brings is a wealth of experience and knowledge and can offer you ideas and suggestions, large and small, adding extra value and living enjoyment to your home.

**Will a professional renovator be able to give me a good idea of a price right away?**

For a simple project, the renovator may well be able to provide a 'ball park' estimate. However, for a more complex job, where structural issues may be involved, the total costs will depend on material, permits and the finishing choice you have yet to make. Being prepared with a more detailed plan in advance will help to make the quotations more realistic.

**Should I get at least three bids?**

Getting a large number of bids provides no assurance that things will work out the way you want them to. Who you get bids from is far more important than how many you collect. When interviewing professional renovators take into account their experience and qualifications that best match your project as well as the personal fit between you and the renovator. Then decide who to ask for detailed quotes. Extra costs are usually due to extra work that was not included in the original quote. Always be ready for the unexpected, add 10-15% contingency fund to the budget, just in case plans change.

When the work is done well and professionally, you can look forward to low-maintenance living. Remember to arrange for annual check-ups, service calls, and seasonal upkeep. With your home being one of your biggest investments, it makes sense to protect it.

To learn more about the free renovation seminar and the RenoMark program including a listing of local area participating renovation companies visit [www.renomark.ca/waterloo](http://www.renomark.ca/waterloo) or [www.wrhba.com](http://www.wrhba.com).

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

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