



## Homes-Extra



PAUL GOLINI  
**BILD**

## Pedal for humanity

I have tremendous respect for athletes who dedicate their entire lives toward putting themselves through physical and mental endurance tests.

On Sunday, September 25, I witnessed a group of athletes who gained not only my respect, but my admiration. There were more than 120 of them and they conquered the 50- and 100-kilometre routes set out to challenge them that morning.

These were BILD members who bonded together in support of our community partner, Habitat for Humanity Toronto, and in memory of a dear friend and colleague who could not be there with us that day.

to be quintessential Stephen – full of fun, energy and, most importantly, purpose.”

BILD is extremely proud of its community partnership with Habitat for Humanity, which was championed by Stephen eight years ago.

He would always say that we are in the same business of putting a roof over people's heads. Through a variety of fundraisers, BILD members donate \$85,000 to Habitat for Humanity Toronto every year. We also build a Habitat home every year with number eight scheduled to be completed sometime this December.

### MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

I would like to thank everyone involved in this year's Ride for Humanity, starting with the riders themselves, the BILD staff members that volunteered their time early on Sunday morning, and the steering committee that helped make it all possible — Darren Steedman of Metrus Development, Frank Ciccolini of Masters Insurance, Peter Di Biasio of H & R Developments, Mike Laskis of Dearie Contractors and Peter Gilgan of Mattamy Homes.

Thank you as well to Joe Vaccaro of the Ontario Home Builders' Association for stepping in to donate his time and effort when his local association needed it most.

If you would like to learn more about the event, please visit BILD's official blog at [bildblogs.ca](http://bildblogs.ca) or check out photos and video by searching 'bildgta' on Facebook and Youtube.

*Paul Golini Jr. is Chair of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and can be found on Twitter ([twitter.com/bildgta](http://twitter.com/bildgta)), Facebook ([facebook.com/bildgta](http://facebook.com/bildgta)), Youtube ([youtube.com/bildgta](http://youtube.com/bildgta)) and BILD's official online blog ([bildblogs.ca](http://bildblogs.ca)).*

### IN HONOUR OF A LEGACY

This inaugural event, which was the brainchild of the late BILD President and CEO Stephen Dupuis and I, raised over \$25,000 to help low-income families achieve the dream of homeownership.

It was called the Ride for Humanity and despite the tragic loss of Stephen just days before the ride, it was carried out in his honour as a tribute to the legacy he has built throughout his years at BILD.

Stephen's enthusiasm and dedication to the Ride for Humanity was what made this event such a tremendous success.

### NEW ANNUAL EVENT

Who else could take an industry where the only form of "riding" is done on a golf cart and get over a hundred people, myself included, to endure a long-distance cycling challenge? I hope to continue on his great work and ensure that this event become an annual BILD tradition in Stephen's memory.

To quote Neil Hetherington, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Toronto, "For months, as BILD planned the first annual Ride for Humanity, it was clear that this event was going

# what's happening

## Toronto leads way in going green

The world is going green, and Toronto might have been the greenest place in the world when 22,000 international delegates descended on the city this week to attend Greenbuild, the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green buildings.

"Toronto was picked because of its greenness and this is an opportunity for the whole city to be recognized that we are special," says Catherine Marshall, vice-president, Greenbilt Homes and a participant at the event.

Toronto was selected as the first location outside the U.S. for this conference due to the city's reputation for green leadership.

Greenbilt Homes of Oakville currently has a project underway that represents a totally different concept of building homes and that will be among the most energy efficient in the country, says Marshall.



The home, being built in Willowdale and scheduled to be ready by early 2012, was designed by architect Paul Dowsett and was featured at the four-day conference.

"Behind the stylish, modern facade will be a concrete bunker with all the latest energy-saving technologies available – everything from solar to

geothermal to a drought resistant landscape," says Marshall.

Earlier this year, Greenbilt Homes won acclaim for its GreenHouse-certified home at 2305 Belyea Street, Oakville, which was named Custom Home of the Year in the inaugural Home Sweet Home awards gala held in April in Toronto.

## Lack of listings pushes up prices

A lack of inventory coupled with low interest rates continues to lead to higher house prices, according to a survey just released by Royal LePage.

The House Price Survey shows strong year-over-year gains for all housing types surveyed in Toronto. Detached bungalows witnessed the largest year-over-year price increase at 9.4% to \$518,433. Prices for standard two-storey homes rose 7.6% year-over-year to \$620,862, while standard condominiums increased 6.0% to \$351,600.

"Although the number of unit sales is only slightly up in Toronto, inventory in the third quarter could not keep up with demand, which put upward pressure on home prices," said Gino Romanese, senior vice president, Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd.

"A healthy supply of new construction in the condominium market meant more competition for resale units. This resulted in less price appreciation compared to traditional housing types such as the detached bungalow, which is becoming

increasingly rare in Toronto as they are sought after by developers."

According to Romanese, multiple offers are still commonplace, but correlate to the move-in condition of the property. Also, although more affordable homes often command the most multiple offers, some homes selling for over a million dollars are still also seeing multiple bids.

Nationally, the average price of a home in Canada increased between 5.7 and 7.8% in the third quarter of 2011, compared to the previous year.



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