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calls for blue skies

stated. "Prices are just getting back to where they were before the economic crisis," he added.

Andersen also offered a very interesting perspective on the renovation market.

Where the conventional wisdom says that market may go down due to all the activity brought forward by the Home Renovation Tax Credit, he thinks that activity just primed the pump and now that homeowners have caught the renovation bug, they will just move onto the next project. Sounds plausible to me.

SHOUT-OUTS

The good news is that Ontario builders were part of a British Columbia/Ontario sweep of the recent Canadian Home Builders' Association Sales & Marketing (SAM) awards.

The bad news is that of the eight awards taken by Ontario builders, only two winners hailed from the GTA, but they are both deserving of a shout-out, so hats off to Empire Communities who got the award for Best Brochure/Kit for Fly Condos, besting builders from Victoria, Calgary, Ottawa and Hamilton.

A big tip of the hat to Bachly Construction of Bolton, Ont. who captured the award for Best Single Detached Home (over 4,000 sq. ft.) against heavy competition from Vancouver, Kamloops and Delta, B.C., as well as a place called Quispamiss, N.B.

The Bachly house is well worth checking out at www.bachly.com (click on featured home).

Last but not least, BILD congratulates former local president Joe Valela of Valemont Homes on his election to the CHBA Executive Board, and Mike Cochren of Oakville-based Cochren Homes (and a RenoMark contractor) on his appointment to that board.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at

what's happening

Healthy home makes its debut

A Healthy Home at Downsview Park officially opened its doors to the public. The exhibit, a fresh redesign of popular attraction The Sustainable Condo, showcases eco-friendly technologies available to consumers. It's an example of the modern urban home planned for Downsview Park, where former military and industrial lands are being transformed into a park surrounded by a sustainable community, organizers say.

"We're very excited to partner with industry leaders in sustainability to host the Healthy Home exhibit," said Tony Genco, president and CEO of Downsview Park. "This exhibit provides a unique glimpse into innovative technologies, practices and lifestyle choices that will help raise environmental awareness while contributing to Downsview Park's green future."

A Healthy Home inspires consumers with real-life examples to save energy, limit waste, reduce utility bills, improve indoor air quality and, ultimately, help the environment.

"From energy-efficient home heating equipment to stylish sustainable furniture, this exhibit showcases ways to save money and the environment," said Mark Salerno, District Manager Greater Toronto Area, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Prior to the redesign, more than 175,000 people toured the model home. Now, with enhanced products, additional partners and a new high-traffic



location at Downsview Park's Hangar hosting 750,000 guests per year, the number of visits to the revamped home is anticipated to significantly increase.

Designed by NIKKA DESIGN and built by Greening Homes Ltd., A Healthy Home will be on display until Dec. 31, 2010. Public tours are available Monday to Friday 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon - 3 p.m.

Flower fans to gather at Sherway

The Toronto Gesneriad Society celebrates their 33rd anniversary with *Ebony and Ivory: Gesneriads in Perfect Harmony*, their annual judged gesneriad flower show, at Sherway Gardens.

"The annual judged show of the Toronto Gesneriad Society, *Ebony and Ivory: Gesneriads in Perfect Harmony* provides a great opportunity for people to see some rare and exotic gesneriads that are seldom seen in florist shops or garden centres, and only available from other

eties," says Beverley Williams, Entries Chairman, Toronto Gesneriad Society.

Toronto Gesneriad Society members will be at Sherway Gardens to answer questions about growing gesneriads. Plants that have been propagated and grown by members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society will also be on sale.

The annual Toronto Gesneriad Show at Sherway Gardens, is the largest judged gesneriad show in Canada and the second largest in the world. The Gesne-

ferred to as "miracle houseplants" — thrive in a variety of growing conditions and come in many sizes, shapes, flowers and colours. Most of them are of a manageable size and are known to the home growers as African Violet, Florist Gloxinia, Lipstick Plant, Goldfish Plant, Cape Primrose and Flame Violet (*Episcia*).

Hours and days are Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28 from 11 a.m.—6 p.m. in Sherway Square. Please visit www.sherwaygardens.com for more info.