

HAVAN 50

Ron's Remarks for Event

Looking back over the past 50 years, it's been enormously gratifying to see how significantly our association has evolved and helped to shape Metro Vancouver's building industry. Persistence and grit have paid off. Where once we had to fight for a place at the table in government consultations - now we're being invited to the table. It reflects on the industry as a whole with a higher level of credibility and relevance.

We have active charter members—people who've been with the association since it began in 1974—and there are many with 30- or 40-year memberships. We're now also attracting increasing numbers of younger and smaller builders – which keeps things fresh and provides all members an opportunity to expand their network.

My own connection to our association goes back 20 years to when I joined GVHBA in 2004 as a builder, and 2014 when I served as Board chair. Membership was less than 400 at that time—about a third of what it is today. The principal events were monthly dinner meetings on the first Wednesday of every month and these were opportunities for members to get together and trade information or stories.

While fun we discontinued generic meetings and now every event is focused — whether it's political, marketing, educational or industry achievements. It's all focused on finding new ways to build the HAVAN brand and reinforce the many contributions members make to industry, to the community, and toward the provision housing. We are focused on the three pillars of Advocacy, Education and Networking and these guide much of our work!

I can't think of anyone in this industry or amongst our members who isn't passionate about housing. Our members come from all kinds of backgrounds and from all walks of life—tradespeople, architects, designers, accountants, lawyers, even people who used to sell HiFi equipment. But we all share an entrepreneurial spirit as well as a deep commitment to building homes we can be proud of, homes that contribute to a strong housing legacy.

Members have also made strong commitments to HAVAN and our brand with strong committees and great representation on the Board – we used to have to strong arm people to sit on the Board and tempt them with Peter Simpson's famous line "... don't worry it's only a couple of hours a month..." Now we have many members looking to serve and standby by for some substantive changes in the governance model moving forward.

In many ways, our industry is in the dream business—we deliver on the dream of homeownership. There is no better feeling than when you hand a consumer, especially a first-time buyer, the keys to their new home and see the delight on their faces.

Over the past 50 years, HAVAN has laid a solid foundation for growth. Our team is a tight-knit, dedicated group of professionals who are passionate about the industry. We've also been fortunate that the NDP government has become significantly invested in the housing file and we have seen more housing policy in the last 18 months than in the last 20 years.

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We are extraordinarily lucky to be living where we do. Look at all the natural world that surrounds us—mountains, oceans, lakes—and the world class urban environment that offers cultural opportunities, global cuisines, and art that's equal to anything else in the world. Yes, it's different because it's our culture, a culture that is extremely high quality and unique.

I am very sorry that I cannot join you all this evening as I have been knocked down by pneumonia. Peter Simpson had to drop out due to other health concerns, and Bob De Wit has suffered a loss in his family, and we pass on our condolences, Neil Moody has Covid as does Randy Chin – it is a testament to the challenges of this position that it exacts such a high toll on the CEO's

Everyone have a great time tonight and the team put together a great event – enjoy tonight and the next fifty years!! HAVAN is proud to be a part of providing housing to those who wish to make this region their home. Here's to the next 50 years.