

Advocacy and Outreach the Focus of the Newly Installed 2018 BDAR Board of Directors

The Barrie & District Association of REALTOS® (BDAR) installed the 2018 Board of Directors at its General Members meeting in December. The focus for this Board will be increasing BDAR's advocacy role and community outreach.

The 2018 BDAR Board of Directors is:

Geoff Halford - *President*
Tania Artenosi - *President-Elect*
Rob Alexander - *Past President*

Directors

Bill Forsyth
Robin Jones
Finn Madsen
Mike Montague
Lindsay Percy
Brian Turner



“As an Association, we are focused on issues that affect homeowners and accessible home ownership,” says Geoff Halford, 2018 BDAR President. “This includes fully understanding new government regulations and their potential impact, as well as having a place in the discussion about matters in these areas.”

As part of this, BDAR will be making stronger community connections with local and regional change-makers. In 2017, BDAR started this process through the first *Housing Hack: Housing for Everyone*, held the weekend of Oct. 20. This event brought out innovation and exploration as teams worked on finding housing availability and affordability solutions. It was held in partnership with The City of Barrie.

“The Housing Hack helped us identify housing issues and potential solutions to explore as we move into 2018,” adds Halford. “This is just one example of how we can look at housing issues in our region, and source local and regional experts to help us formulate possible answers or influence policy changes to help address these issues.”

Local Matters

The importance of using a local, professional BDAR Realtor® member will be highlighted during 2018.

“Your local Realtor® has an in-depth knowledge that will benefit you with all your real estate transactions – buying or selling,” Halford says. “Using a local Realtor® will not only get you the most value, but will be an active partner during the entire process. Real estate is a legal transaction, and having a professional work with you is in your best interest.”

Community Outreach

At the General Members Meeting in December 2017, BDAR presented five community organizations with donations totaling \$16,000 through the REALTORS Care Foundation® and the Association. The following donations were made:

- The Door Youth Centre, Angus
- Barrie Out of the Cold
- David Busby Centre
- Gilda's Club
- Redwood Park Communities

“As we move into 2018, we will be forging stronger community connections through local groups who have a sharp interest in housing and making the Greater Barrie & Simcoe County region a stronger place to live,” Halford says. “We are looking forward to making an even larger impact on our communities as we move into this new year.”

About BDAR

The Barrie & District Association of REALTORS® (BDAR) represents almost 1,000 REALTORS® in the Barrie and Simcoe County region. BDAR provides its members leadership opportunities, professional development, and other tools and services to help them deliver a high-standard of services to their clients. BDAR is community-focused, and believes that community prosperity is largely based on shelter and home ownership. The Association has a strong focus on affordable housing and helping first-time buyers understand how to get on the housing ladder.

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