



Shown here at the end of the scuffle are, from left: **Cam Watson, Watson & Associates**; debate moderator **Leith Moore, BILD Chair**; **Randy Grimes, IBI Group**; and **Peter Norman, Altus Group**.

Embattled builders find time for a good laugh

Home builders, condo developers and other companies involved in the residential development industry have been hit hard recently — and the hits just keep on coming, the latest being the announcement of a harmonized PST and GST that will substantially increase the price of all new homes.

“Just as builders were starting to see signs of life in sales offices in the early spring selling season, the province announced plans to increase the costs of new homes with harmonized sales tax” said Frank Giannone, President of the Ontario Home Builders’ Association. “I just don’t understand why we are spending billions in taxpayer dollars to bail out the auto industry, while destabilizing the residential construction industry with massive tax hikes that will eliminate tens of thousands of jobs.”

That message was reinforced in a Newsletter from BILD (the Building Industry and Land Development Association). “We can’t think of anything that would be more harmful to homebuyers and homeowners, not to mention home builders and professional renovators, than harmonization of the GST and PST at this or any other time,” the Newsletter stated.

Despite all frustrations, however, BILD members are steadfastly maintaining a “stay positive” attitude — and even having a little fun at the same time. For a seminar about another troublesome government-caused problem, the ever-increasing Development Charges levied by municipalities, BILD held an unusual debate — staging the event as a “Cage Match,” complete with wire barriers and championship wrestling belts.

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A gala fundraising reception with the theme, “Hats Off For Awareness,” was presented by members of the GTA housing industry for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Canada’s largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital.

Enza Checchia, of Decorezza, and Benny Caringi, of Sun-Brite Draperies, were Co-Chairs of the event.



Shown here are, from left: **Loretta Nowalkoski, Taymor Industries**; **Enza Checchia, Decorezza**; **Kathryn MacFarlane, Alliance Homes**; and **Michael Rosset, HOMES Publishing Group**.



Event Co-Chair **Benny Caringi** with **Christine Valentine**, left, and **Franca Alfano**, both with CAMH.