



**DARRYL SQUIRES, CEO**  
*Modbox*

**What was the highlight in 2017 for Modbox?** In the first half of the year we received final zoning and heritage approval for our St. Charles Market project on Beechwood Avenue, a smart collection of horizontal homes and townhomes wrapping around the original church structure that was St. Charles Church for more than a century. Sales launched with a really strong reception.

**What projects are you looking forward to in 2018?** We are currently pinning down the details for breaking ground on the St. Charles Market project and moving ahead with sales on our Mechanicsville project of lofts inspired by the true (hard) lofts of Manhattan and some of the contemporary (soft) lofts in Toronto and Montreal. Our lofts offer a unique, industrial take on contemporary luxury. All the elements of true hard lofts combine with the comforts and efficiencies of well-built, modern dwellings in an entirely new build.

**Any resolutions, personal or business, for the coming year?** I am not really a resolutions person, but building our team and integrating the operations of Modbox more closely with our construction and project management company (TLPI) are major ongoing initiatives.



**ROY NANDRAM, PRESIDENT**  
*RND Construction*

**What was the highlight in 2017 for RND Construction?** This year, our company completed five R-2000 homes, which are all 53-60 per cent more efficient than the current building code. Among these homes, one has been labelled the first Net Zero Ready custom home in Ottawa, which means that, with the installation of solar panels, it will produce as much energy as it consumes. We also launched Farmside Green, a 10-home R-2000 development at the Experimental Farm. But our point of pride is winning four 2017 Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association awards, including Green Custom Home of the Year. We've won two national housing awards, one for Production Home and one

for Custom Home – and we've also won two provincial awards, for Custom Home and for Renovation.

**What projects are you looking forward to in 2018?** We're really excited about starting construction on Farmside Green. And several custom homes and renovations are in the works.

**Any resolutions, personal or business, for the coming year?** We'll continue to improve our offering in production and custom homes and in renovations. The homes we build are generally unique compared to what is available from other builders. However, the pool of buyers for these types of homes is pretty small so we hope to find new customers whose vision aligns with ours.

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# BUILDING PAST AND PRESENT

Coming off a year where the weather didn't do anyone any favours, these local builders reflect on past accomplishments and look ahead to 2018.

STORY **DIANE SAWCHUK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JEFF FRANCOEUR**



## KIRK HOPPNER

FOUNDER AND CEO  
Nautical Lands Group

**What was the highlight in 2017 for your company?** After 27 years of building award-winning retirement communities throughout Ontario, we launched our adult lifestyle community concept, known as the Wellings, in Ottawa. This award-winning vibrant community for adults 55-plus opens December 2018 on Hazeldean Road and Huntmar Drive in Stittsville. We are well over 50 per cent leased.

**What projects are you looking forward to in 2018?** We have started working on four additional markets in and out of the province of Ontario. We are wholly committed to bringing the affordable Wellings concept to many more markets in Canada. Our Wellings concepts have been globally awarded for design, affordability and management since we started introducing the concept and opened the first community in 2012.

**Any resolutions, personal or business, for the coming year?** My team at Nautical Lands Group is an excellent group of caring people who all understand we will always design, build and manage communities that we would be proud to live in ourselves and that foster a better way of life for seniors. In fact, I look forward to moving my mother into the Wellings of Stittsville this coming year.



## JIMMY ORPHANOS & JEFF ORPHANOS, OWNERS

Omega Homes

**What was the highlight in 2017 for your company?** It wasn't so much of a highlight as it was a challenge, but we managed to overcome all the hurdles that the weather brought over the spring and summer and we got everyone closing on time. We build custom homes, which take more time than tract homes, and the almost continual rain didn't do us any favours. But our team pulled together, made a tremendous effort and it paid off in being able to satisfy our clients.

**What projects are you looking forward to in 2018?** We're already on track to be building 25 per cent more homes than we did in 2017. We're happy because as a company, you want to grow and not stagnate. Growth produces an energy that results in exciting looks and fresh ideas and that's what our customers look to us for.

**Any resolutions, personal or business, for the coming year?** It's exciting to meet new clients and work with them to make their dream home a reality. But it's all about balance, right? And one of our resolutions is to remember to create that balance and to set aside time to spend with our own families. **OH**

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