



*Community Builders – Building Communities*



## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

In this issue (click for direct link)

[CARE Awards](#)

[New Members and Applicants](#)

[General Meeting and Board Election](#)

[FortisBC New Home Rebate Program Changes](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Greater Victoria Housing Starts](#)

[VRBA Hockey](#)

[Preferred Rates at Accent Inn and Hotel Zed](#)

[BCCA Employee Benefit Trust](#)

[Builders Council – Sept 12](#)

[Education & Training](#)

## 2024 CARE AWARDS

The 2024 CARE Awards Finalists have been announced – visit [www.careawards.ca](http://www.careawards.ca) for a full list. The People's Choice Award Contest display will be at Hillside Centre Sept 2 to 15 with promotions in the Times Colonist & CFAX1070. The CARE Awards gala is at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on Friday, September 27. Thank you BC Housing (Gold), BCCA Employee Benefit Trust, (Gold) Built Green Canada (Gold), FortisBC (Gold), Hourigan's Flooring (Gold), McLaren Properties (Gold), Slegg Building Materials (Gold), Trail Appliances (Gold), Travelers Insurance Company of Canada (Gold), Victoria Real Estate Board (Gold), Coast Capital Savings (Silver), Centra Windows (Bronze) and Mike Geric Construction (Bronze), Times Colonist (Media), CFAX1070/CTV (Media) Yellow Sheet Construction Data (Media) for sponsoring in 2024! There is still time, take a moment to consider sponsoring the industry's premier housing awards! The popular and industry-leading CARE Awards magazine featuring Gold winners will be distributed by the Times Colonist. *Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards!*

### Gold Sponsors



Silver

Bronze

Media



TIMES COLONIST

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new VRBA members:

Yes Healthy Home Property Inspection Ltd. – Eric Walker

Innov8 Group Construction Inc. – Mark Pavesic and Norm Verbrugge

## VRBA GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION – WED., SEPT 11

VRBA will hold our General Meeting/Election Lunch, Wednesday, September 11 at the Gorge Vale Golf Club, 1005 Craigflower Rd. FREE PARKING!

Our speaker is Wendy Jones, Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Labour on preliminary WorkSafeBC rates for 2025, updates and advice for industry employers.

### Agenda

11:30 am – Registration

11:45 am – Welcome

11:50 am - Election

12:00 noon - Roundtable Introductions & Lunch

12:30 pm – Speaker: Wendy Jones, Employers' Advisers Office

1:30 pm – Adjourn

Members: \$65 + GST incl lunch

Non-members: \$95 + GST incl lunch

To reserve your seat, fill out the attached registration form and submit to Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

## FORTISBC REBATE FOR DUAL FUEL SYSTEMS

FortisBC is introducing a new rebate of \$10,000 or more for eligible customers who replace their home's older gas heating system with an electric heat pump and high-efficiency gas furnace. These dual fuel systems can operate at more than 100 per cent efficiency under certain conditions, offering a promising way forward for customers who want to lower the costs and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their energy use while maintaining access to both the gas and electricity systems for reliable year-round heating and cooling. For more information attend VRBA's Builders Council Meeting ([admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca) to register), Thursday, Sept 12 from 12 noon to 1 pm on Zoom.

Or contact:

Spencer Evans

Energy Solutions Manager, New Construction

Direct: 250-380-5780

[www.FortisBC.com](http://www.FortisBC.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 4 to May 28 - VRBA duffer hockey [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

Sept 2 to 15 - People's Choice Award display at Hillside Centre & online voting [www.careawards.ca](http://www.careawards.ca)

Sept 11 - VRBA Lunch Meeting and Election at Gorge Vale Golf Club [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

Sept 12 – Builders Council – FortisBC Dual Fuel System Webinar [Pre-register](#)

Sept 21 to 24 - [2024 Convention | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](#) (VRBA office will be closed.)

Sept 27 – 2024 CARE Awards Gala, Fairmont Empress Hotel: order tickets [here](#) (almost sold out)

## GREATER VICTORIA HOUSING STARTS DOWN 1%

Greater Victoria's year-to-date housing starts are down 1% according to CMHC. From January to July, housing starts were 2,259 vs 2,273 during the same period last year.

The numbers were up 20% from January to May, but declined to a 5% increase from January to June. The City of Victoria posted 365 starts (January to July 2024) vs 376 last year, mostly big multis. There is a decline despite their claims they are exceeding the province's housing targets unless the target is less than last year.

Read "[Measure Housing Starts for Supply Targets.](#)"

In Greater Victoria, there are 1,904 units from large multi-family projects, 167 single family and 188 townhomes, duplexes, etc. There has been a big shift to large multis due to high construction costs, government fees, taxes and regulations, and high interest rates. Monthly housing data will be skewed based on the timing/appearance of these large projects.

Most of the new housing is in Langford (924), representing 41% of all new housing in our region. They are followed by Saanich (399), Colwood (371), Sooke (80), View Royal (69), Esquimalt (18). Oak Bay has 15, Sidney 10, North Saanich 6. Sidney has seen a sharp decline since the new council was elected in 2022. Also doing poorly are the municipalities posting zero starts – Central Saanich, Highlands, and Metchosin.

Some municipalities are ratcheting up regulations and fees to obstruct the province's legislation enabling up to 6 units on single family lots. Oak Bay recently approved a bylaw increasing the site setbacks and reducing the building height of missing middle housing vs the recommendations in the province's site standards manual. This manual should be mandatory, not optional.

## VRBA HOCKEY

There are still a couple of spots available for VRBA hockey which runs from Sept 4 to May 28, Wednesdays 9:15 pm to 10:30 pm at Oak Bay Recreation. The cost is \$650 for 39 games. This is non-contact, fun hockey and we don't keep score. It's a great work-out! If you are interested, contact Casey or Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca).



## PREFERRED GOLD CORPORATE RATES FOR VRBA MEMBERS AT ACCENT INNS AND HOTEL ZED

VRBA members get Preferred Gold corporate rates at [accentinns.com/](http://accentinns.com/) & Hotel Zed [hotelzed.com/](http://hotelzed.com/)  
Attached are the hotel rates from Sept 2 – Oct 12, 2024. For the promo code, contact Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

## JOIN BCCA EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST

Does your company need a benefits program? VRBA partners with BCCA Employee Benefit Trust, to take advantage of a great flexible package designed for the construction industry. Plans are affordable and easy to set up. Contact Laura Bonney at [info@bccabenefits.ca](mailto:info@bccabenefits.ca)

## BUILDERS COUNCIL – THURS, SEPT 12

VRBA's next Builders Council webinar on Zoom is Thursday Sept 12 from 12 noon to 1 pm. Spencer Evans, FortisBC will provide a presentation on dual fuel systems, energy efficiency benefits and their new rebate.

All VRBA members are encouraged to attend. RSVP Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

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## EDUCATION & TRAINING



**Licensing & Consumer Services Branch of BC Housing** [approved offerings](#) for CPD builder licensing.

**Murray Frank's Building It Right Courses** [buildingitright.com](http://buildingitright.com) 65 CPD points available online! Also have a look at Course in a Box for 20 CPD points [buildingitright.com/course-in-a-box.html](http://buildingitright.com/course-in-a-box.html)

**Murray** has a new Fall course coming called The Phoenix – Designing and Rebuilding Our House of Tomorrow

On August 17th, 2023, the House of Tomorrow Net Zero Demonstration Home on the Ashnola River was completely consumed by the Crater Lake forest fire. The rebuilding project is called The Phoenix. This series follows the process from the design to the final reveal, including lessons learned from building the original home, through to the construction and the final tally of 'How Long & How Much'. Register here [Phoenix via ThunderTix](#)  
Also book a cruise with their CPD at Sea! [buildingitright.com/featured-cruise.html](http://buildingitright.com/featured-cruise.html)

**Professional Home Builders Institute: Online courses for BC Builder Licensing are available at the Professional Home Builders Institute** [here](#). VRBA is now recognized as an exam proctor for the Professional Home Builders Institute. Members are able to take exams that qualify for CPD and BC Builder Licencing at our office. There is no charge for this service – it is another benefit of VRBA membership.

**ICBA:** A wide selection of online courses, many CPD approved, from the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association including Construction Law, Drawings, Profitable Contracting, Construction Management, Employment Standards, etc. Visit [Upcoming Courses & Events - Independent Contractors and Businesses Association \(arlo.co\)](#)

**VICA:** A wide selection of courses from the Vancouver Island Construction Association.

**VRBA members can now use the **PROMO code VRBA\$100** at checkout to save \$100 off of the public registration fee on all eligible training.** For all courses and dates, and to register [visit the VICA website](#).

