



Community Builders – Building Communities



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

In this issue (click for direct link)

- [CARE Awards](#)
- [New Members / Applicants](#)
- [VRBA new office location](#)
- [VRBA General Meeting luncheon – Sept 9](#)
- [Renew your VRBA Membership](#)
- [AGM – Nov 12](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [VRBA Presentation to Committee on Finance and Govt Services](#)
- [VRBA / ICBA Benefit Plan](#)
- [Corporate Rates](#)
- [Education and Training](#)

CARE AWARDS

The 2026 CARE Awards Finalists have been announced – visit www.careawards.ca for the full list! For tickets, contact Debra at admin@vrba.ca The People's Choice Award Contest display at Hillside Centre is Aug 31 to Sept 13 with promotions in the Times Colonist and CFAX 1070. The **CARE Awards gala** is at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on **Friday, Sept 25**. Thank you sponsors - Built Green Canada (**Gold**), Cantu | Kartners (**Gold**), FortisBC (**Gold**), Hourigan's Flooring (**Gold**), ICBA (**Gold**), Ply Gem Canada (**Gold**), Slegg Building Materials (**Gold**), Trail Appliances (**Gold**), Travelers Insurance Company of Canada (**Gold**), Victoria Real Estate Board (**Gold**), Coast Capital Savings (**Bronze**), Path Developments (**Bronze**), Westeck Windows and Doors (**Bronze**), Times Colonist (**Media**), Yellow Sheet Construction Data (**Media**). 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!

2026 CARE Awards Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors



Bronze



Media



NEW MEMBERS / APPLICANTS

Please welcome new VRBA members:

- 3308 Construction Inc. – Tod Larkin
- Suncraft Construction – Curtis Stretch
- Victoria Design Group – Nick Salvador and Cathy Dunn
- Impact Home Design – Taylor Simpson-Bisson
- Kowalyk Industries Ltd. – Kory Kowalyk
- Qualis Builders – Todd Preston
- Halladay & Co Interiors – Samantha Ritchie
- Central Construction Materials Langford Ltd. 2024 – Steve Johnson

New Member Applicant:

- Seawolf Builders Inc. – Kieran de Turberville

VRBA'S NEW OFFICE LOCATION

The VRBA office is now located at Uptown – 301-3450 Uptown Blvd. Please update your records.

Drop by if you are in the neighbourhood!

VRBA GENERAL MEETING – WED SEPT 9

VRBA will hold our General Meeting/Election Lunch, Wednesday, September 9 at the Gorge Vale Golf Club, 1005 Craigflower Rd. FREE PARKING!

Our speaker is Jock Finlayson, Chief Economist, ICBA and Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute. Jock will discuss the economic conditions for new housing in BC.
Also attending and saying a few words about housing is Rishi Sharma running for Saanich Mayor in the Oct 17 election.

- Agenda
- 11:30 am – Registration
 - 11:45 am – Welcome
 - 11:50 am - Election
 - 12:00 noon - Roundtable Introductions & Lunch
 - 12:30 pm – Speaker: Jock Finlayson, Chief Economist, ICBA
 - 1:15 pm – Speaker Rishi Sharma, Mayoral Candidate, Saanich
 - 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

Sponsored by:



RENEW YOUR VRBA MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time to renew your VRBA membership!

- Here is a list of some of the benefits:
- Housing’s premier awards program – Annual CARE Awards at careawards.ca;
 - New home and renovation projects sent directly to VRBA builders;
 - Free construction contracts for builders;
 - Free education webinars offering CPD credits required for builder licensing;
 - Comprehensive VRBA/ICBA benefits program;
 - 15% discount on courses from the Professional Home Builders Institute;
 - 10% discount on purchases at Mark’s;
 - Networking meetings including our Annual Crystal Ball Housing Forecast;
 - Leading advocacy and support.

We hope you will continue offering your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

VRBA AGM – NOV 12

VRBA’s AGM is Thursday, November 12 at the Gorge Vale Golf Club with speakers Murray Frank, Building It Right and Jun’ichi Jensen, Director, Codes and Standards, BC Housing & Municipal Affairs. Don’t miss this lunch covering building affordable homes and proposed code changes to the BC Building Code.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 9 – VRBA Lunch Meeting & Election admin@vrba.ca
- Aug 31 to Sept 13 – People’s Choice Award Contest at Hillside Centre & careawards.ca admin@vrba.ca
- Sept 14 to 18 – UBCM Convention, Vancouver
- Sept 25 – CARE Awards Gala at Fairmont Empress Hotel – tickets: admin@vrba.ca
- Oct 17 – BC Municipal Election Day
- Oct 21 – Builders Council admin@vrba.ca
- Nov 12 - VRBA AGM at Gorge Vale Golf Club with speakers Murray Frank, Building It Right & Jun’ichi Jensen, Director, Codes and Standards, BC Housing and Municipal Affairs admin@vrba.ca
- Nov TBA – Builders Council with Ryan Edgar Butler, Carfra Lawton LLP

VRBA PRESENTATION TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVT SERVICES

On June 1, VRBA did a presentation at the legislature to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Our recommendations:

1. The provincial govt should establish reasonable DCCs based on responsible analysis of housing supply and affordability.

The BC govt has expressed concerns about rising Development Cost Charges (DCCs) on new housing. And yet the costs continue to rise. The City of Victoria recently boosted DCCs up to 258%. DCCs were originally intended to upgrade

sewer and water, sidewalks, etc adjacent to new developments. Now they include new fire and police stations, highways and solid waste facilities. This year the CRD Board added up to \$9,044 per new home for a proposed upstream water supply project. It is time for the province to step in and establish reasonable DCCs based on responsible analysis of housing supply and affordability.

- 2. Require mandatory housing development education for new municipal councils.

Following up on our first recommendation, new municipal councils should be required to attend education seminars on housing development including rezoning and costs of construction. Now is the time, prior to municipal elections on October 17, to make housing development education mandatory for new councils.

- 3. Enable skilled trade electives for university students.

We have vast numbers of university students choosing electives in the humanities and sciences. Many would enjoy practical electives in framing, welding, and other skills. This provides employable skills during the summer and immediately after graduation. Construction represents good-paying jobs in every community across BC. It's time for a more flexible education system promoting the skilled trades, boosting youth employment, and accommodating our changing economy.

VRBA / ICBA BENEFITS PLAN

VRBA has partnered with the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association ICBA to launch our own group benefit plan providing competitive rates and great service in group health, dental, retirement and other benefits.

The VRBA Benefits Plan is powered by ICBA Benefits, a company specializing in benefits for the construction industry, with customized options to meet your company's needs.

Need a plan? We can help you find a cost-effective option. Already have a plan? We can review the performance of your current benefit plan to find opportunities for improvement and cost savings. Email sales@icbabenefits.ca to learn about next steps.

MARK'S DISCOUNT CARD – 10% OFF

Download the attached discount card from Mark's offering 10% off purchases.
Another benefit of VRBA membership!



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

VRBA members get Preferred Gold corporate rates at accentinns.com/ & Hotel Zed hotelzed.com/.
For the promo code, contact Debra at admin@vrba.ca.



EDUCATION & TRAINING



Murray Frank's Building It Right Courses 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
Murray's latest new course is called "Building Affordable Homes" A comprehensive series exploring 20 opportunities to succeed with designing and building affordable and attainable homes within Part 9 of the Building Code.
[Also book a cruise with their CPD at Sea!](#)

Professional Home Builders Institute: [Online courses](#) and core competencies approved for BC Builder Licensing are available at the Professional Home Builders Institute. **VRBA members get a 15% discount!**

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](#)

Victoria Residential Builders Association
301 – 3450 Uptown Blvd., Victoria, BC V8Z 0B9
Phone: 250.383.5044 Fax: 250.383.9423 email: admin@vrba.ca
Websites: www.vrba.ca and www.careawards.ca
Visit us on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter): [@vicbuilders](#) has over 5,000 Followers!