



Community Builders – Building Communities



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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CARE AWARDS

We are already planning for the 2021 CARE Awards starting with sponsorship partners! Thank you **FortisBC (Gold)** and **Coast Capital Savings (Silver)** for confirming their early commitment to sponsorship. *Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards!* We will announce more sponsors in the coming weeks. Through their support, the CARE Awards is the premier industry awards showcasing Canada's leaders in sustainable West Coast design and construction.

2020 Gold Sponsors



Bronze



Media



CRYSTAL BALL HOUSING FORECAST

VRBA's Annual Crystal Ball Housing Forecast was held Wednesday, January 13 with presentations by:

- David Langlois, President-Elect, Victoria Real Estate Board
- Brendon Ogmundson, Chief Economist, British Columbia Real Estate Association
- Hemesh Parbhu, Senior Manager & Pershing Sun, Senior Analyst, Economics, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp

Interest rates will remain low for some time as the economy recovers, especially with the vaccine roll-out. The housing industry has been driven by pent-up demand partly due to COVID-19 and low interest rates. Demand for single family homes increased as there has been greater emphasis on work-from-home. There is a record shortage of housing inventory which is boosting prices. Westshore communities such as Langford and Colwood are leading in housing starts adding to both rental and home ownership.

BCREA provided 5 reasons for optimism:

1. Vaccines – more availability and distribution
2. Consumption set to take off - due to unprecedented household savings from the pandemic
3. Strong Trade and immigration – global trade returning & Ottawa plans to boost immigration
4. Major capital projects – infrastructure projects predicted to boost GDP growth by 5%
5. Interest rates – historically low interest rates will continue to enable economic recovery

Housing prices will continue to increase in 2021 due to limited supply.

CMHC predicts population growth of 2,500+ in the Westshore each year over the next 5 years. There is moderate market overvaluation in Greater Victoria due to demand, lack of supply and decoupling between the local economy (incomes) and home prices.

In 2020, housing starts from January to November were 2,868. The December starts and year-end total were not yet completed but a reasonable expectation would be about 3,000+. Very good numbers during a pandemic, considering the average new housing number is 2,276 over the past several decades.

Thank you all for another great housing forecast event!

VRBA MEMBERS #1 AT FESTIVAL OF TREES

Congratulations members - VRBA placed 1st in the “Spirit of Giving” category at the Festival of Trees fundraiser for the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation. We raised \$7,125 to assist children receiving critical care. This is the 6th time VRBA has been a leading contributor at the Festival of Trees. In other years, we are usually in the top 3. VRBA also donated to CFA Santa’s Anonymous, Habitat for Humanity, TC Christmas Fund, Threshold Housing Society and Goldstream Chums. Giving back to the community is an important part of our association. Thank you for support!



Abstract Developments
Ardmore Construction
BTH Construction
EnViroTec General Contracting
FloForm Countertops
Genco Construction
Goodison Construction
Highline Construction
Integral Design
James’ Joinery
Jenny Martin Design
KB Design
K2 Stone
Limona Construction
MacMinn Contracting
McLaren Properties
Mike Geric Construction
Oak Bay Construction
Patriot Homes
Piluso Construction
R. Parsons Construction
Ron Egli Construction & Design
Seba Construction
Slegg Building Materials
Sorensen Trilogy Engineering
Spaciz Design Company
Splinters Millworks
Tidman Construction
Travelers Insurance
Verity Construction



NEW MEMBERS & APPLICANTS

New Members:

J. McKendry Developments Ltd. – Joel McKendry
Khataw Development – Mohammed Medhi Khataw

WHEN TRAVEL PERMITTED - PREFERRED GOLD CORPORATE RATES FOR VRBA MEMBERS AT ACCENT INNS AND HOTEL ZED

Non-essential travel is not recommended as per orders by Dr Bonnie Henry, BC's Public Health Officer in the battle against COVID-19. However, if travel is necessary for medical reasons or when travel again opens up, we have secured Preferred Gold corporate rates for VRBA members at [accentinns.com/](https://www.accentinns.com/) & Hotel Zed [hotelzed.com/](https://www.hotelzed.com/)

Members that have renewed their membership for 2020/21 receive a Promo Code and Rate Sheet for rooms valid from now through to February 28, 2020.

Stay in Kelowna for as low as \$70 per night and Tofino for as low as \$129 per night! More on Hotel Zed in Tofino here <https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/travel/hotel-zed-tofino-bc-open-2695565>

For the promo code & rate sheet contact Debra at admin@vrba.ca



VRBA BUILDERS COUNCIL MEETING: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17

The next Builders Council meeting is Wednesday, February 17 at 12 noon.
Speaker TBA.
Pizza and pop will be served at the meeting at no charge.

RSVP 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.

BUILDING SMART FOR BASEMENT FLOOD PREVENTION

BC Housing is hosting a webinar called *Building Smart for Basement Flood Prevention*, very timely considering all the recent rain. This virtual workshop will focus on cost-effective home flood prevention for Part 9 buildings and offer an introduction to BC Housing's new Builder Guide to Site and Foundation Drainage. The presenter is Karen Savage, P.Eng., FEC, President, Horizon Engineering

Date: Tuesday, January 26

Time: 9 am to 12 pm

Cost: \$80

More info and Register at <https://www.bchousing.org/building-smart-for-basement-flood-prevention&filterType=All%20Categories>

Other webinars by BC Housing in partnership with WoodWorksBC include *Building Smart with Pre-Fab Construction* on February 24. For more info visit <https://bcbec.com/events-calendar/category/vancouver-island/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 19 – Building the House of Tomorrow <https://constructivehomesolutions.thundertix.com/events/182933>

Jan 26 – Building Smart for Basement Flood Prevention <https://www.bchousing.org/building-smart-for-basement-flood-prevention&filterType=All%20Categories>

Feb 3 – VRBA Board Meeting

Feb 17 – Builders Council admin@vrba.ca

EDUCATION & TRAINING



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

Murray Frank's Building It Right Courses www.buildingitright.com 65 CPD points available online! Also have a look at Course in a Box for 20 CPD points <https://buildingitright.com/course-in-a-box.html>

Building It Right has a wide range of courses including **Building the House of Tomorrow** at <https://buildingitright.com/houseoftomorrow.html>

Here is their course schedule for 2021 - <https://buildingitright.com/schedule.html>

Professional Home Builders Institute: Online courses for BC Builder Licensing are available at the Professional Home Builders Institute at <https://www.phbi.ca/bc/programs-and-courses/builder-core-competency/#?browseby=346241cb-1a6e-ea11-a811-000d3af33756> 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 Licensing at our office. There is no charge for this service – it is another benefit of VRBA membership.

VICA: A wide selection of Builder Education Courses is available from the Vancouver Island Construction Association. To get the VRBA member discount contact: Chenelle Falconer, Education Coordinator, Ph: 250-388-6471 education@vicabc.ca The course list is below and at <https://www.vicabc.ca/training/2020-2021-course-listing/>

JANUARY

MASTERING CHANGE ORDER MANAGEMENT | January 18 & 19 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

LEAD TO SUCCEED w. 1-1 COACHING | January 19, 21, 26, 28 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

READ THE CONTRACT: CCDC 2 DEEP DIVE | January 20 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS 101 | January 21 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

BIDCENTRAL: HOW TO FIND & WIN OPPORTUNITIES | January 21 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

PLANNING FOR FOREPERSONS AND CREW SUPERS | January 26 & 27 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

NON-STANDARD CONTRACT CLAUSES | January 27 - 29 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

FREE INTRO LEAN WEBINAR | January 28 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

FEBRUARY

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT | February 2 & 3 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION 101 | February 2, 3, 4 & 5 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

SUPERVISORY & MANAGEMENT SKILLS | February 08 - 11 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS | February 09 - 11 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

MANAGING SHOP DRAWINGS & SUBMITTALS | February 10 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | February 11 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT PLANNING FOR SUCCESS | February 11 - 12 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ETHICS | February 18 - 19 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PLANNING FOR FOREPERSONS & CREW SUPERS | February 23 - 24 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS & MEETING MINUTES | February 25 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

MARCH

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING: ROLE OF AN ESTIMATOR | March 1,3,8,10,15,17,22 & 24 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CM-LEAN PROGRAM | March 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION 101 | March 2 - 5 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | March 11 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS & MEETING MINUTES | March 22 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT | March 23 & 24 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

RESPONDING TO AN RFP | March 25, 26 & 29 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING | March 29 - 31 & April 01 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

MASTERING CHANGE ORDER MANAGEMENT | March 30 - 31 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

SPRING 2021

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | April 08 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION 101 | April 13, 14,15 &16 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

LEAD TO SUCCEED w. 1-1 COACHING | April 13, 15, 20 & 22 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

EFFECTING MEETINGS & MEETING MINUTES | April 15 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT PLANNING FOR SUCCESS | April 19 - 20 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT ACCOUNT & COST CONTROL | April 26 & 27 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PLANNING FOR FOREPERSONS & CREW SUPERS | April 27 & 28 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

MASTERING CHANGE ORDER MANAGEMENT | April 28 & 29 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

EFFECTING MEETINGS & MEETING MINUTES | May 3 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT | May 3 - 6 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT PLANNING FOR SUCCESS | May 04 & 05 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | May 13 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

PLANNING FOR FOREPERSONS & CREW SUPERVISORS | May 18 & 19 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT | May 26 & 27 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS MANAGEMENT | May 31 & June 1 - 3 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

SUMMER 2021

CONSTRUCTION 101 | June 1 - 4 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

TRADE CONTRACTS | June 9 & 10 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | June 10 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT | June 14 & 15 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

CONSTRUCTION LAW | June 14 - 17 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

RESPONDING TO AN RFP | June 17, 18 & 21 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

TRADE CONTRACTS | June 9 - 10 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

MASTERING CHANGE ORDER MANAGEMENT | June 23 - 24 | LIVE-ONLINE | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | July 08 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | August 12 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | September 09 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

GOLD SEAL INFO SESSION | October 14 | WEBINAR | [INFO & REG](#)

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