



Community Builders – Building Communities



JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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CARE AWARDS

We are working on the 2026 CARE Awards sponsorship package and Call for Entry. Thank you to all of the 2025 sponsors and we hope you will join us for 2026! 2025 Sponsors: Built Green Canada (**Gold**), Cantu Bathrooms & Hardware | Phylrich (**Gold**), FortisBC (**Gold**), Hourigan's Flooring (**Gold**), ICBA (**Gold**), McLaren Properties (**Gold**), Slegg Building Materials (**Gold**), Trail Appliances (**Gold**), Travelers Insurance Company of Canada (**Gold**), Victoria Real Estate Board (**Gold**), Centra Windows (**Silver**), Coast Capital Savings (**Silver**), Ply Gem Canada (**Silver**), Professional Home Builders Institute (**Silver**), Westeck Windows and Doors (**Silver**), Times Colonist (**Media**), Yellow Sheet Construction Data (**Media**). Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards! Read more about the 2025 CARE Awards winners in the Times Colonist [here](#) and [here](#).

Gold Sponsors



PHYL RICH
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Silver



Media

TIMES COLONIST



NEW MEMBERS / APPLICANTS

Please welcome new VRBA members:

Impressions Painting Victoria – David Blair and Tracy Banin

Cascara Construction Ltd. – Rob Duncan

Canada Outdoor Kitchens – Alex Cook

Membership Applicants:

Atlas Junk Removal & Bin Rental – Aaron Lawson

Dolby Brothers Roofing Ltd. – Farrin Dolby

3308 Construction Inc. – Tod Larkin

Ply Gem Canada – Aaron Melnyk

VRBA CRYSTAL BALL HOUSING FORECAST

VRBA held our Crystal Ball Housing Forecast on Wednesday, January 14 at the Gorge Vale Golf Club, attended by 80 builders, designers trades and suppliers.

Presentations by:

- Fergus Kyne, Chair, Victoria Real Estate Board
- Brendon Ogmundson, Chief Economist, British Columbia Real Estate Association
- Casey Edge, Executive Director, VRBA

Total housing starts in Greater Victoria increased 16% from 4,185 in 2024 to 4,859 in 2025. Despite the increase, housing starts were declining in the latter part of the year and this is expected to continue.

Unsold new inventory is at a 35 year high, an opportunity for new homebuyers.

Last year's interest rate cuts improved housing sales, however recent employment and inflation data indicate further cuts are unlikely. Five-year fixed rates hover around 4% to 5%.

In 2025, there were 6,918 properties sold, a 0.36% increase over 2024. The benchmark price for a single-family home in the Victoria Core in December 2025 was \$1,255,000, a decrease of 4.7% from \$1,316,700 last year.

There were 2,544 active listings for sale on the Victoria Real Estate Board Multiple Listing Service® at the end of December 2025, an 11.1% increase from the 2,290 active listings at the end of last year.

Ninety-one per cent of Victoria homebuyers are from BC, and 7% are from other parts of Canada. Approximately 1.6% are from outside Canada and 26% of all purchases were by first-time buyers.

The province's housing targets have little impact in some municipalities including View Royal, North Saanich, Sidney and Central Saanich. Forty-one per cent of all new housing continues to be in two West Shore municipalities – Langford and Colwood.

Bill 44 creating small multistories in single-family zones increased missing-middle housing (duplexes, townhomes, etc) however the increase represents only 4.7% of total housing starts. Single family housing starts have declined 55% since 2020.

BC's economic growth over the past two years has been driven by provincial government spending, resulting in record deficits and debt levels.

Trump's tariffs have not severely impacted housing, however the issue has not been resolved and may cause future challenges.

Other challenges include the CRD water commission's decision to add up to \$9,040 DCCs per new home despite a study showing the fees would undermine new housing supply and affordability.

Municipal elections are October 17th this year and knowledgeable people in the building industry are encouraged to run to address rising municipal fees and obstructive regulations.

The event was covered by the [Victoria News](#) and [Canadian Contractor Magazine](#).

Sponsored by



NEW ONLINE CPD BY BUILDING IT RIGHT: DEMYSTIFYING THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN HOME CONSTRUCTION

Murray Frank, Building It Right presents a new CPD at Sea for September 2027. Hawaii to Sydney with stops in Tahiti as well as 3 stops in New Zealand. More info and pricing to be announced in the next few days.

**Demystifying the Future of Canadian Home Construction:
A Survival Guide to Building Affordable Homes for Energy Step/Tier Code 3, 4 and 5**

This series takes the learner through the design process of a market, single-family home and examines options that work with the evolving Code expectations for Energy Efficiency, Seismic & Wind Resiliency, Heat Dome Cooling Requirements, Carbon Accountability, Radon Gas Provisions, and more.

- Module 1 - Demystifying the Future of Canadian Home Construction
- Module 2 - From the Ground Up: Opportunities and challenges of high-performance foundations
- Module 3 - Framing the Home: Exploring options beyond stick frame.
- Module 4 - Putting a Lid On It: There is more to a roof than shingles.
- Module 5 - Comfort: The Building Code requires it.
- Module 6 - Earthquakes, Wind, and Engineering: How to build a safe home with and without professionals.
- Module 7 - Puritanical Mechanical: Do the math or face the wrath.
- Module 8 - Unintentional Greatness: Under the roar of change emerges quiet excellence.

Each Module is 2.5 CPD for a total of 20 CPD

For more info, visit <https://buildingitright.com/contact-us.html>

VRBA ANNUAL FUN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date – Thursday, May 28th at Olympic View Golf Club

Registration and Sponsorship information coming soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

April 16 – VRBA/FortisBC Dual Fuel Combi System Workshop, Olympic View Golf Club- including breakfast & lunch – no charge! Watch your email. admin@vrba.ca
May 28 – VRBA Annual Fun Golf Tournament, Olympic View. Watch your email. admin@vrba.ca

VRBA PLACES 1ST FOR FUNDRAISING AT FESTIVAL OF TREES

VRBA placed 1st for Fundraising at the Annual Festival of Trees supporting the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation at The Bay Centre! Thank you all for supporting the kids in critical care!

- White Wolf Homes
- FloForm Countertops
- KB Design
- Verity Construction
- Seba Construction
- Limona Construction
- Splinters Millworks
- TEKloch Homes
- Piluso Construction
- Chris & Cheryl Neal
- K2 Stone
- Coast Capital Savings – Builder Finance
- Island Energy
- Birch Bark Builders
- Kimberly Lewis-Manning Design
- Interactive Construction
- Jenny Martin Design
- Terry Johal Developments
- EnerTech Solutions
- McLaren Properties
- Stillwater Design Build



Cancer can be beaten! Your membership in VRBA helps support a variety of important causes including Threshold Housing Society, BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, CFA Santa’s Anonymous, TC Christmas Fund, Habitat for Humanity Gingerbread Christmas Showcase. You help make our community a better place for all!

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.

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 "Demystifying the Future of Canadian Home Construction: A Survival Guide to Building Affordable Homes for Energy Step/Tier Code 3, 4 and 5." Register here: <https://constructivehomesolutions.thundertix.com/events/249785> 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](#)

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