



Community Builders – Building Communities



JULY/AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

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2022 CARE AWARDS

The 2022 CARE Awards Finalists will be announced in August followed by the People's Choice Award display at Hillside Centre Aug 29 to Sept 11. The CARE Awards gala is set for Friday, Sept 23 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Visit [here](#) for more info. Thank you 2022 sponsors! *Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards* - the premier industry event showcasing Canada's leaders in sustainable West Coast design and construction.

Gold Sponsors



HOTEL GRAND PACIFIC - VRBA GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION – SEPTEMBER 15

VRBA will hold our General Meeting/Board Election Lunch at the Hotel Grand Pacific on Thursday September 15th. Gorge Vale Gold Club is unavailable at this time. This is the first in-person lunch meeting since the start of the pandemic, so we hope to get a great turn-out!

Agenda

11:45 am - Board Election

12:00 noon – Speaker: TBA

1:00 pm – Adjourn

Members: \$45 + GST

Non-members: \$75 + GST

To reserve your seat, contact Debra at admin@vrba.ca

VRBA MEMBER SPENCER EVANS RUNS FOR SAANICH COUNCIL

VRBA member Spencer Evans, Energy Solutions Manager for New Construction, FortisBC has announced his candidacy for Saanich Council in the Oct 15 election. Spencer's news release says:

Spencer Evans Announces Candidacy for Saanich Council

Saanich resident Spencer Evans today announced his candidacy for Saanich Council in the upcoming Municipal Election on October 15, 2022.

A husband, father, and businessman, Spencer believes in hard work, fiscal responsibility, and community engagement.

Running on a platform of “A Balanced Approach,” Spencer is keen to offer solutions for the many issues faced today including attainable housing and climate change.

“Affordability and climate change are complex problems but there are solutions. My 30 years of experience in the energy sector, which includes 20 years in renewable energy, gives me a unique understanding when addressing these significant issues,” says Spencer.

To learn more about Spencer Evans and his platform visit www.electspencerevans.ca

CMHC HOUSING STARTS FOR MAY

According to CMHC, there were 1,480 new homes from January to May vs 1,525 units in 2021. We are experiencing a 3% decline so far, but last year was also a record. May 2022 has posted 330 starts vs 193 in May 2021, a 71% increase.

However, new multi-family housing for young families continues to be missing in many municipalities.

The CMHC data show semi-detached and row housing (duplexes, townhomes) also called “missing middle” totals zero in many municipalities. Year-to-date there are zero new units Central Saanich, View Royal, Saanich, Oak Bay, North Saanich, Metchosin, and Highlands.

New “missing middle housing” can be found in Langford – 100 units; Sooke – 37; Victoria – 26; Colwood – 22; Esquimalt – 12; Sidney – 10. That's only 207 new homes for families out of 1,480 units.

Rezoning for “missing middle” housing is being considered by Victoria Council, after being postponed for a review. More municipalities need to step up and encourage this housing through efficient rezoning and permit approvals to assist supply and affordability.

VICTORIA DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW

City of Victoria Reps have advised VRBA that the \$19,500 deposit fee for the Deconstruction Bylaw has been postponed until September 2023 resulting from the feedback at our webinar. The Deconstruction Bylaw takes effect this year, but the fees will be postponed until 2023. VRBA has been advocating for changes to the bylaw in the interests of housing affordability. Here is our TC column <https://www.vrba.ca/wp-content/uploads/Incentivize-Deconstruction-Not-More-Housing-Costs.pdf> and an interview on CFAX radio <https://www.iheartradio.ca/cfax-1070/audio/adam-stirling-hour-2-june-24-2022-1.18071857>

SAANICH / CADBORO BAY HOUSING SURVEY

A short survey for new housing options in Saanich/Cadboro Bay is available at <https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=12d12acb-bd5a-4762-a83b-d00dc7bdf1d2>

VRBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – JULY 1

VRBA members, thank you for your support, especially during the pandemic, which continues to challenge all businesses, ranging from staffing to materials. Our mission is to be Effective, Efficient and Affordable, as we continue to promote membership value through housing advocacy, education, CARE Awards marketing, Expression of Interest projects and more. Thank you again for your support!

BC HOUSING EDUCATION

BC Housing has announced new education requirements for the mandatory Step Code 3 being planned throughout the province by the end of 2022.

BC Housing is compiling a list of education equivalencies which may be available at the end of August.

Exemptions are here: [General Contractors and the BC Energy Step Code | BC Housing](#)

Exemptions

Licensees who can demonstrate they have previously built energy efficient homes or have taken equivalent training may be exempt from taking BC Energy Step Code training.

- **Previously built energy efficient homes:** to be granted this exemption, you must demonstrate that you have built a minimum of three Part 9 buildings that meet Step 3 or higher of the BC Energy Step Code within the last five years. You will need to provide the energy compliance report for the home to verify you've achieved this standard. If the home is not registered under your licence, you will need to provide evidence to demonstrate you were the general contractor.
- **Equivalent training:** to be granted this exemption, you must provide completion certificates for courses that BC Housing has reviewed and determined is equivalent to the eight training modules. We are working with education providers who offer relevant training to review existing courses that may satisfy the BC Energy Step Code training modules. Please note that some courses may only cover a few modules but not all eight. In that circumstance, you may be eligible to a partial exemption and would only be expected to take training in the modules you haven't covered. A list of equivalent courses and the modules they cover will be posted to the website shortly.

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

We have secured Preferred Gold corporate rates for VRBA members at accentinns.com/ & Hotel Zed hotelzed.com/. Attached are the hotel rates from June 17 to Sept 10, 2022. For the promo code, contact Debra at 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1 – VRBA Membership Renewal admin@vrba.ca
Aug 29 to Sept 11 – Peoples Choice Award Display at Hillside Centre
Sept 15 – VRBA General Meeting and Election (Lunch at Hotel Grand Pacific) admin@vrba.ca
Sept 23 – CARE Awards Gala admin@vrba.ca



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

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

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

Also book a cruise with their CPD at Sea! 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 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. 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](#).

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Websites: www.vrba.ca and www.careawards.ca

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