



Community Builders – Building Communities



MARCH / APRIL NEWSLETTER

In this issue (click for direct link)

- CARE Awards
New Members / Applicants
Early Bird Discount - VRBA Annual Golf Tournament
BC Budget Boosts Taxes on Housing
VRBA Member Spotlight
Gala of Lights
Upcoming Events
CRD Board Passes DCC Bylaw
Watch for E-transfer Interceptions
VRBA / ICBA Benefit Plan
Corporate Rates
Education and Training

CARE AWARDS

The 2026 CARE Awards sponsorship package is out this week! Contact us if you want all of the promotion and marketing for your company! Thank you to the early 2026 sponsors so far - Built Green Canada (Gold), Cantu Bathrooms & Hardware (Gold), FortisBC (Gold), Hourigan's Flooring (Gold), Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) (Gold), Slegg Building Materials (Gold), Coast Capital Savings (Bronze), Path Developments (Bronze), Westeck Windows and Doors (Bronze), Times Colonist (Media). More to come! Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards! Read more about the 2025 CARE Awards winners in the Times Colonist here and here.

2025 CARE Awards Sponsors:

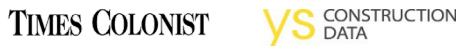
Gold Sponsors



Silver



Media



NEW MEMBERS / APPLICANTS

Please welcome new VRBA members:

Ply Gem Canada – Aaron Melnyk and Chris Hall

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT FOR VRBA ANNUAL FUN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join us on Thursday, May 28 for our Annual Fun Golf Tournament at Olympic View! (www.OlympicViewGolf.com) Mark your calendars, enjoy a day on the links and network with VRBA's contractors, designers, trades & suppliers! Registration info coming soon.



BC BUDGET BOOSTS TAXES ON HOUSING

The BC Budget included new taxes on engineering, architectural and bookkeeping services, and more adding to the cost of housing.

[The Times Colonist reported,](#)

“We’re faced with a development sector that is really going to slow down, largely because we’re facing a cost-of-delivery crisis’ said Brendon Ogmundson, chief economist with the B.C. Real Estate Association. Ogmundson said there is already a lot of standing inventory, most of it in Vancouver, that’s causing other projects to be delayed or cancelled. Despite that, Ogmundson said, the province appears to have ‘doubled down with taxes on housing.’”

The “Victoria Residential Builders’ Association can’t understand why Finance Minister Brenda Bailey would note in her budget speech that the housing market has cooled, and still increase the speculation and vacancy tax and the school tax on homes. ‘The speculation tax is not about creating housing — it’s about compensating for record government deficits and a lack of fiscal restraint,” said Edge, adding the tax measures will only serve to further cool the industry.”

“Ogmundson said the speculation and vacancy tax has never been shown to have any positive impact on affordability.”

VRBA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are launching a daily spotlight on VRBA members on Twitter, Linked-In and Facebook to promote your company to thousands of our followers. We will also include spotlights in our newsletter.

If you have an interest in being featured, send text no more than 280 characters (Twitter max), a link to your company, and a photo if desired to admin@vrba.ca.

We reserve the right to edit the material. There is no charge for this promotion.

Please see attached Member Spotlights for March/April.

GALA OF LIGHTS SUPPORTING WOMEN IN TRADES PROGRAM – MARCH 7

VRBA members get 10% off tickets when attending the [Gala of Lights event](#) in support of Camosun College’s Women in Trades program. The event is at the Victoria International Marina on Saturday, March 7. Enjoy exceptional cuisine by Collective Catering, sommelier-curated wines, live music, a live auction, and inspiring stories from graduates whose lives have been transformed.

Tickets: \$175 General Admission
\$300 VIP Experience
Includes \$100 tax receipt • 19+ event

Use promo code **VRBA10** for 10% off tickets.

For more info, visit www.galaoflights.com

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

March 7 – [Gala of Lights](#)

March 18 - Builders Council Speaker TBA admin@vrba.ca

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 1 – VRBA Moving Day! Relocating the VRBA office from Carey Rd to 344, 3450 Uptown Blvd, V8Z 0B8

May 28 – VRBA Annual Fun Golf Tournament, Olympic View. Watch your email. admin@vrba.ca

Sept 9 – VRBA Lunch Meeting & Election admin@vrba.ca

CRD BOARD PASSES DCC BYLAW – INDUSTRY RECOMMENDS REJECTION BY MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The CRD Board passed the DCC bylaw adding significant costs to new housing, despite presentations by VRBA, UDI, Abstract Developments, and others opposing the bylaw.

VRBA UDI, WSDA and Sooke Builders Association commissioned reports on the CRD’s Water Supply Plan and the reports say the plan lacks adequate technical and financial due diligence. Local taxpayers will want to avoid a repeat of the North Shore Wastewater project boosting costs from \$700 million to \$3.8 billion.

A former CRD manager of water services says the project is based on questionable assumptions, and alternatives get scant attention. Another report says most new housing is not viable under current market conditions and the DCCs would further reduce viability.

This is due diligence that should have been done by the CRD before the DCCs were proposed. The Local Government Act says “In setting DCC’s, a local government must consider if the charges deter development and discourage the construction of reasonably priced housing.”

CMHC says new housing will trend lower this year due to weak supply and demand. The DCCs will only exacerbate a delay in a recovery.

Last year, Victoria boosted DCCs 258%, and a few years ago in Saanich 180%, Central Saanich 100%, Sooke 98%.

DCCs were intended for local upgrades adjacent to a development. Now they have become a cash machine by including costs for upstream infrastructure that should be paid by all taxpayers and senior levels of government, not new homebuyers.

The DCC Best Practices Guide says the Ministry of Municipal Affairs may refuse approval of a bylaw if the DCCs are excessive.

Our analysis shows they are excessive and we recommend the ministry refuse the bylaw. The industry has requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs reject the bylaw based on the BC government’s own DCC Best Practices Guide and Local Government Act.

WARNING - WATCH FOR E-TRANSFER INTERCEPTIONS

If you use e-transfers to make or receive payments, please ensure you and your trades/suppliers, etc. have activated auto-deposit.

One of our members lost \$20,000 through an e-transfer that was intercepted and rerouted.

Contact your bank about other options. E.g. PAD (Pre-authorized debit) and setting up Payees. This may take some time to set up, but it will be worth it.

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](#)

Victoria Residential Builders Association
#1 – 3690 Carey Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 4C2
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!