



Community Builders – Building Communities



## MARCH / APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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## 2022 CARE AWARDS

The 2022 CARE Awards Call for Entry is underway! The entry deadline is Monday, June 20! The CARE Awards gala is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Sept 23 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Visit [here](#) for more info. Thank you 2021 sponsors returning for the 2022 CARE Awards! *Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards - the premier industry event showcasing Canada's leaders in sustainable West Coast design and construction.*

### Gold Sponsors



## NEW VRBA MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS

### New member:

**Gondal Developments** – Shamile Gondal

### New Applicants:

**PJF Construction** – Peter J Forbes

**Habitat for Humanity Victoria** – Colin Doyle and David J Gregory

**Taymor Industries** – Nicola Berton

## SIDNEY OCP CONSULTATION

Feedback for Sidney's draft Official Community Plan takes place from March 3 to April 11. Click [here](#) for info. For specific concerns, contact Corey Newcomb, Senior Manager, Long Range Planning, 250-655-5428, [ocp@sidney.ca](mailto:ocp@sidney.ca)

## NEW NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

The new National Building Code is now available online at no charge. The code includes tiered energy performance including 9.36.8. Tiered Energy Performance Compliance: Prescriptive Path. So far, a prescriptive path is not available in the BC Building Code, despite BC's agreement to harmonize with the National Code. Last week, the Union of BC Municipalities released a report on housing noting:

“Rural, remote and northern regions for instance face barriers to successful implementation of the Energy Step Code that include a lack of local training opportunities and lack of qualified energy advisors.”

The link to the new code is [here](#).

Also, at this [link](#).

## HOUSING STARTS UP 87%

CMHC reports housing starts in Greater Victoria are up 87% year-to-date from 373 in 2021 to 699 in 2022. The boost is mostly from condos/apartments leaping from 139 to 516 units in a few municipalities. Despite record low housing inventory for sale causing high prices, a number of municipalities haven't contributed to the strong starts. Year-to-date, Sidney – 0; View Royal – 2; North Saanich – 1; Oak Bay – 4; Metchosin – 1; Highlands – 1; Central Saanich – 5.

## BUILDERS COUNCIL – WED APRIL 20

Builders Council will feature a presentation on “How to Enter the CARE Awards” by Debra. The information in this presentation is critical for understanding the key components of successful CARE Awards entries. The meeting is Wednesday, April 20 from 12 noon to 1 pm and has been submitted to BC Housing, Licensing and Consumer Services for approval of 1 hour of CPD. To attend, please contact Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca) for the Zoom link.

## NEW VRBA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

VRBA's 2022 Membership Directories are now being distributed to members and retailers. Thank you to all the advertisers! We look forward to distributing the directory at Hillside Centre for the People's Choice Award contest during the CARE Awards promotion.

## SAANICH FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2021 Saanich posted \$3,740,700 revenue from inspections. Expenses were \$1,749,500 for a surplus of \$1,991,200. This was more than double the projected budget surplus of \$965,700, and despite 40% fewer homes built than 2017. VRBA continues to oppose inspection fees based on “cost of construction” which continues rising significantly due to shortages of materials and labour.

## BC EXPANDING SPECULATION TAX

Despite the Speculation Tax's failure to improve housing supply and improve affordability, the government plans to expand the tax in 2022. They are removing the exemption for units that cannot be rented due to strata bylaw restrictions. Even if stratas don't permit rentals, British Columbians will be charged the tax. The tax has generated \$281 million since being introduced in 2018. We address this in our weekly Time Colonist column on Wednesday March 23.

## 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/](http://accentinns.com/) & Hotel Zed [hotelzed.com/](http://hotelzed.com/)  
Attached are the hotel rates from Jan 1 to April 30, 2022. Also rates for May 1 to June 16, 2022. For the promo code, contact Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto: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](mailto:info@bccabenefits.ca).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20 – Builders Council [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)  
May 18 – Builders Council [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)  
June 20 – CARE Awards Entry Deadline <https://careawards.ca/2022-care-awards/>  
July 1 – VRBA Membership Renewal [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)  
Sept 14 – VRBA General Meeting (Lunch) [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)  
Sept 23 – CARE Awards Gala (Tentative) [admin@vrba.ca](mailto: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** [buildingitright.com](http://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](http://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](http://buildingitright.com/houseoftomorrow.html)

Also book a cruise with their CPD at Sea! [buildingitright.com/featured-cruise.html](http://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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Visit us on Facebook and Twitter: [@vicbuilders](#) has over 5,000 Followers!