



Community Builders – Building Communities



MAY 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



Silver



Bronze



Media



NEW VRBA MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS

New members:

PJF Construction – Peter J Forbes

Habitat for Humanity Victoria – Colin Doylend and David J Gregory

Formwell Homes Ltd. – Kyle Ryan

McGeachy Media Inc. – Amy McGeachy

Ivyhouse Design – Elisia Nanos and Bryn Milward

New Applicants:

Westcoast Premium Builders Inc. – Kevin Kipot and Adam Muir

VRBA GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION – SEPTEMBER

VRBA will hold our General Meeting and Board Election with lunch at the Gorge Vale Golf Club on Wednesday September 14. This is the first in-person lunch meeting since the start of the pandemic, so we hope to get a great turnout!

Agenda

11:45 am - Board Election

12:00 noon – Speaker: TBA

1:00 pm – Adjourn

Members: \$40 + GST

Non-members: \$60 + GST

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

CRD PRESENTATION ON ACCELERATING BC STEP CODE – JUNE 2

The CRD is holding a webinar presentation on accelerating the Step Code for Part 9 at 8:30 am on June 2. Also included are the City of Victoria, the District of Saanich, and the District of Central Saanich. To register, visit the Zoom link [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

CMHC HOUSING STARTS FOR APRIL

[CMHC reports](#) housing starts in Greater Victoria declined 16% (January to March) to 1,150 in 2022 from 1,332 in 2021. There were 330 starts in April this year vs 358 in April 2021, a decline of 8%.

Most housing is constructed in Langford and Victoria. Municipalities posting very low starts in a housing affordability crisis, year-to-date, are View Royal – 2, Metchosin – 2, Highlands – 3, North Saanich – 6, Central Saanich – 10, Sidney – 11, Esquimalt – 12, Oak Bay – 16.

WEBINAR: VICTORIA DEMOLITION AND DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW - THURSDAY MAY 26

A webinar on the proposed Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw going to Victoria council next month will be held Thursday, May 26 from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Representing the City of Victoria are Christine Woodhouse and Rory Tooke. They are finalizing the Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw to present for Council's consideration in the next month. To attend the webinar, contact Debra at admin@vrba.ca for a Zoom link.

NEW VRBA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

VRBA's new membership Directories have been distributed to various retail locations and will be available at our CARE Awards – People's Choice voting display in September at Hillside Centre.

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. VRBA membership renewal letters will be mailed out this week and we hope you will continue your support of our association on July 1 – Canada Day! 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!

CARST RADON CONFERENCE

VRBA attended the radon conference held by the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technicians. The following update was provided:

- Radon is site-specific and every home should be tested. Contrary to BC's radon map, there are no "safe regions" for radon.
- New homes should be tested right after construction and again two years later due to concrete settling and shrinkage.
- Radon levels double in retrofits with the greatest impact from double-glazed windows.
- In addition to lung cancer, radon is linked to lymphoma, myeloma and leukemia. Leukemia is the type of cancer most often found in children.
- Canada's radon maximum of 200 bq is likely unsafe over the long-term, especially for children. The World Health Organization's maximum is 100 bq.
- A recent test in our region was over 100 bq & a Salt Spring Island test was 1,400 bq.
- Even low radon areas add to lung cancer risk when homes are occupied by smokers.
- Very air-tight homes lacking sufficient ventilation are showing higher radon levels.

BC HEAT DOME RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT LACK OF HOME COOLING IN NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

Overheating in buildings has been identified as a risk that is not currently addressed in the National Building Code. This issue has been raised in the context of energy efficient construction using high solar heat gain windows. Also of concern is the fatal impact of the 2021 "heat dome" in BC mostly impacting the elderly, with 96% of the heat-related deaths occurring inside a residence. As a result there may be a review re: creating mandatory cooling requirements in the code.

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 May 1 to June 16, 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

May 26 – Webinar on Demolition and Deconstruction admin@vrba.ca
June 2 – CRD Presentation on accelerating the BC Step Code
June 15 – Builders Council
June 20 – CARE Awards Entry Deadline <https://careawards.ca/2022-care-awards/>
July 1 – VRBA Membership Renewal admin@vrba.ca
Sept 14 – VRBA General Meeting and Election (Lunch at Gorge vale Golf Club) admin@vrba.ca
Sept 23 – CARE Awards Gala (Tentative) 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 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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