



Community Builders – Building Communities



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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2024 CARE AWARDS

The 2024 CARE Awards gala was held Friday, September 27 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel attended by 280 VRBA builders, designers, trades and suppliers. Visit careawards.ca for the media release. Thank you to all of the entrants, finalists, and sponsors for making this event possible. On Thursday, Oct 24, we were featured on the front page of the Times Colonist with a four-page wrap, and the CARE Awards magazine highlighting the Gold winners will be distributed in the TC on Saturday, Nov 2 and online at careawards.ca. Thank you for supporting Canada's leaders in West Coast residential design and construction! Here are a few photos from the event:





Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards!

Gold Sponsors



Silver **coastcapital**

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NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new VRBA member applicant:

Coastal Heat Pumps – Ashley Gulevich and Jordan Caton

VRBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WED NOV 13

VRBA will hold our Annual General Meeting / Lunch at Gorge Vale Golf Club, Wednesday, November 13 at 1005 Craigflower Road. Our guest speaker is Ben Mycroft, Senior Development Manager, Gablecraft Homes and UDI President with an update on the CRD's proposed Water Supply Plan and DCCs. VRBA is working with other industry organizations to challenge the CRD's plan to add up to \$9,044 per new home.

Agenda:

11:30- am – Reception

11:45 am - Welcome and Review 2023/24 Financial Report & Proposed 2% Annual Fee Increase

12:00 - Round Table Intros & Lunch

12:30 pm - President's Awards; Swear-In Board of Directors

12:40 pm – Speaker Ben Mycroft

1:30 pm – Adjourn

Members: \$65 + GST incl lunch

Non-members: \$95 + GST incl lunch

Limited availability

To reserve your seat, fill out the attached registration form and submit to Debra at admin@vrba.ca

FORTISBC SEMINAR – NOV 6

FortisBC will be hosting another morning builder seminar. This free seminar will be discussing tips and strategies to reaching the higher builder Step Codes, meeting Zero Carbon Step Codes with natural gas appliances and FortisBC's New Home Dual Fuel Rebates of over \$15,000 per door.

Date: November 6, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Location: FortisBC, Langford Operations Training Room, 1027 Langford Parkway

Speakers: Jeffrey Robinson, Enertech Energy Solution and Spencer Evans, FortisBC Energy Inc.

Registration: Email spencer.evans@fortisbc.com. Space is limited to 50 attendees.

CPD Approved: 1.5 points

Agenda

8:00 AM Welcome and safety orientation

8:05 AM Jeffrey Robinson will discuss tips, strategies, and recipes to economically reach Step Code 4 when building single family homes and townhomes. Jeffrey will also speak on incorporating integrated dual fuel systems in the home while meeting Zero Carbon Step Code Emissions Level 4.

9:00 AM Spencer Evans will discuss the FortisBC New Home Rebates which are designed to aid builders in reaching Step Code 4 and 5. These New Home rebates start at \$15,000.00 per door. In addition, Spencer will review the Integrated Design Process rebate program.

9:20 AM Q & A

Space is limited to 50 people. To register please email Spencer.Evans@fortisbc.com.

Spencer Evans

Energy Solutions Manager, Capital Regional District

1027 Langford Pkwy | Victoria BC V9B 0A5

Direct: 250-380-5780

www.FortisBC.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 2 – CARE Awards magazine in the Times Colonist

Nov 6 – FortisBC Seminar Spencer.Evans@fortisbc.com.

Nov 13 - VRBA AGM/Lunch at Gorge Vale Golf Club admin@vrba.ca

Nov 20 - Builders Council on Zoom admin@vrba.ca

GREATER VICTORIA HOUSING STARTS DOWN 3%

Greater Victoria's year-to-date housing starts are down 3% according to CMHC. From January to September, housing starts were 3,066 vs 3,153 during the same period last year.

The decline in British Columbia is 8% at 29,585 new homes this year vs 32,054 last year. This is despite provincially established housing targets. The reality is City of Victoria housing starts have declined 27% from 549 last year to 400 this year.

Many other municipalities are also declining: Oak Bay 17%; Sidney 53%; North Saanich 57%; View Royal 69%; Esquimalt 94%, Central Saanich at a 79%.

BC govt and municipal officials claim housing is improving despite evidence to the contrary. Obstruction and high costs continue.

Fifty-four per cent of all new housing in the CRD is in two West Shore municipalities – Langford at 1,235 up 35%; and Colwood – 428, an increase of 242%.

The BC govt's housing targets appear to be having no impact in most municipalities. Some municipalities are ratcheting up regulations and fees to obstruct the province's legislation enabling up to 6 units on single family lots.

Oak Bay recently approved a bylaw increasing the site setbacks and reducing the building height of missing middle housing vs the recommendations in the province's site standards manual. This manual should be mandatory, not optional.

BUILDERS COUNCIL

Builders Council on Oct 16 featured a presentation by Murray Frank, Building It Right on his Phoenix rebuild after his Net Zero Demonstration Home on the Ashnola River was completely consumed by the Crater Lake forest fire. Murray is offering a CPD series including lessons learned from building the original home, through to the construction and the final tally of 'How Long & How Much'. Register here [Phoenix via ThunderTix](#)

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/
Attached are the hotel rates from Oct 13 – Dec 31, 2024. 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

EDUCATION & TRAINING



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

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 has a new Fall course coming called The Phoenix – Designing and Rebuilding Our House of Tomorrow

On August 17th, 2023, the House of Tomorrow Net Zero Demonstration Home on the Ashnola River was completely consumed by the Crater Lake forest fire. The rebuilding project is called The Phoenix. This series follows the process from the design to the final reveal, including lessons learned from building the original home, through to the construction and the final tally of 'How Long & How Much'. Register here [Phoenix via ThunderTix](#)
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 Licencing at our office. There is no charge for this service – it is another benefit of VRBA membership.

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 \(arlo.co\)](http://arलो.co)

VICA: A wide selection of courses 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!