

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIREB NAMES ITS 2014 REALTOR® OF THE YEAR AND NEWEST HONORARY MEMBER

NANAIMO, BC – The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) recently named its 2014 REALTOR® of the Year, as well as its newest honorary member.

Since 1976, VIREB has bestowed its annual REALTOR® of the Year Award on a member whose dedication to excellence has had a profound influence on the professional image of REALTORS®. Recipients exemplify characteristics such as leadership, industry stakeholder participation, and active community involvement.

Ray Francis of Coast Realty Group in Cumberland is this year's recipient of the prestigious award. Francis has been successfully connecting buyers and sellers of residential real estate since 1987, the year he obtained his real estate license. Francis sat on numerous VIREB committees and task forces throughout the years, in addition to serving as VIREB president in 2009. Despite the countless hours dedicated to board service, Francis has consistently managed to remain among the top five per cent of producers during his 11 years with Coast Realty Group.

"Ray is an exemplary example of a real estate professional and a very deserving recipient of this award," said VIREB Executive Officer Bill Benoit. "Working with him over the years, I've developed immense respect for the integrity he brings to the business."



PHOTO: Ray Francis, REALTOR® of the Year
PHOTO CREDIT: Artez Photography

VIREB also announced its newest honorary member, Barry Clark. Licensed since 1965, Clark's list of accomplishments in the realm of organized real estate is long. In management roles since 1978, Clark served two terms as VIREB president, even finding time to initiate Realty Watch. He has worked with the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA), Real Estate Errors & Omissions Insurance Corporation, and Real Estate Council of BC. He was also VIREB's REALTOR® of the Year in 1985.

However, Barry's achievements and activities range far beyond real estate. Since 1965, he has been actively involved with the Nanaimo Bathtub Races as a supporter, volunteer, and participant. He also dabbled in the theatrical world, including working with Hollywood great Myrna Loy on a film produced in Qualicum Beach.

VIREB Executive Officer Bill Benoit has known Barry for many years, calling him an industry icon.

"We don't bestow honorary member status often, but Barry's accomplishments and dedication to professionalism fulfill every requirement," said Benoit. "He possesses a wealth of industry knowledge and brings a tremendous skill set to the table. His friendly demeanor also wins people over, turning strangers into friends."

VIREB honoured both REALTORS® at an awards luncheon held on February 27 at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo.



PHOTO: Barry Clark, Newest Honorary Member
PHOTO CREDIT: Artez Photography

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VIREB represents approximately 940 REALTOR® members in nearly 90 member offices on Vancouver Island, from the Malahat in the south to the northern tip.

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