

# The list

British Columbia's

20

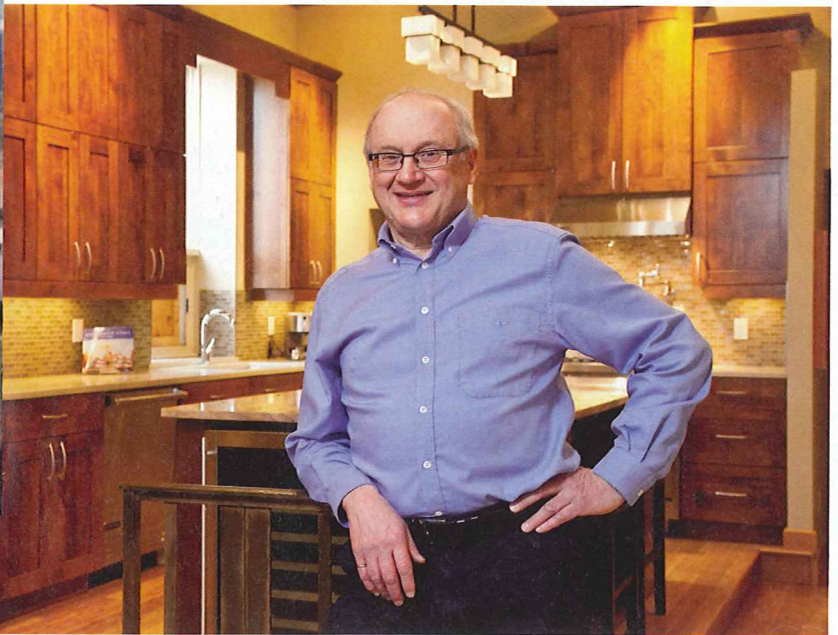
Most Influential People  
in Residential Construction

By Margaret Jetelina

**N**ot everyone expected the housing market in B.C. to reaffirm itself so swiftly and strongly after the recession. While housing starts have seen their ups and downs, sales and prices have remained sound. It is, in part, a result and reflection of the many exceptional leaders in the province's residential construction industry. While it's difficult to limit such a list, our British Columbia's 20 Most Influential People in Residential Construction of 2011 counts some of the most interesting and

impactful leaders of recent challenging times.

A committee of industry insiders, chaired by past winner and architect/developer Michael Geller, developed this year's list of finalists from a variety of categories, with a focus on looking for those who have not been on the list recently — or ever before. Combined with all the notable winners of past years, this proves just how many outstanding people there are who help make B.C.'s housing industry the best and most innovative in Canada.



**BOB RANSFORD (above), MICHAEL DELICH (right)**

## **BOB RANSFORD** More than talk

This year marks the 10th year that Bob Ransford has been writing a regular biweekly column in the *Vancouver Sun*, addressing issues related to housing, urban development and urban design. "Over the past year, I have tried to focus my commentary on those issues that are impacting housing supply and I have attempted to illuminate the very real connections between those forces that impact housing supply and the effect that constraints on housing supply have," says Ransford.

He is more than just a pundit, however. Ransford is not only a senior consultant with Counterpoint Communications, but also a former developer and an urban designer, dealing with complicated urban development and land-use challenges.

"I have been involved in my consulting practice directly playing a role in residential development. I am proud to have assisted one developer over the past year in planning, obtaining approvals and launching construction of an 80-unit purpose-built market rental apartment building in Richmond," he says.

He has also been involved with two other multi-family condominium projects, one of which is now under construction in North

Vancouver and another to-be approved project in East Vancouver.

But in his role as commentator, Ransford's hope is to continue to provoke a public discussion about those issues that are most important to the future of our region. "I want to spend some time focusing on the need for better planning — especially long-term planning that reconciles all of the forces and realities we face ... I hope to illuminate the fact that housing diversity will be the key to preserving our current quality of life and housing supply can temper the affordability challenges today and in the future."

## **MICHAEL DELICH** Rocky mountain man

During the day, Michael Delich is president of Fernie Vacation Properties, but in his spare time, he has dedicated loads of energy on behalf of fellow builders in the Kootenays. In 2010, he was a leader of an independent builders group known as the Fernie Area Builders and Developers Association. "It was an organization that actively participated in informing and educating government, communities and businesses on the importance on the housing industry in the local economy," says Delich.

Recognizing the need to further strengthen the position of builders in the Rocky Mountain region, Delich was instrumental

in marshalling the organization to move under the CHBA banner.

Recently ratified, the new CHBA Rocky Mountains association represents builders in the Kootenay region (south of Fairmont Hot Springs) in the communities of Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fernie and Sparwood.

Delich, a professional engineer with an MBA from the Ivey School of Business, quickly recognized the benefits industry members in eastern B.C. would reap if they made the move to the CHBA family. Delich, the chapter president, is certainly no stranger to good business sense — in 2010, he celebrated 20 years of business in Fernie and area, focusing on building visionary properties at the Fernie Alpine Resort.

He sees the secondary home market as a continuing vital sector of the economy in his region. "And it will strengthen as the commodity economy strengthens locally and in adjacent provinces." His company has approved plans for townhomes and slope side ski cabins projects, as well as plans for a new 60 multi-family project in Fernie.

In addition to his business reputation in the ski and resort industries, his dedication to giving back to his local industry has earmarked Delich as a true leader in the Kootenays. "As a business, [we must] be a corporate leader for the industry by participating in our community."