



Find out what **industry representatives** are doing to **fight the HST**, and how a **former B.C. premier** hopes to bring about a **referendum** to let British Columbians vote on the issue » **p.2**



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New LOCAL Home.com

Farmhouse style: rich in history

From our agricultural roots to today's new homes, country is in

KOLBY SOLINSKY

Farmhouse architecture is an intriguing style. Rather, it is a combination of several. It exists as an anomaly; its sole reason for being is that it is meant to oppose the ideas of "style" or "architecture" altogether. It's the

ultimate underdog that has become a major player.

In fact, farmhouses first originated in the 1700s because homeowners refused to pay architects for their work, opting to build houses by hand instead.

They understood, before most, that time was as valuable as money.

That's not to say that farmhouses aren't stylish. While the famous lines and designs of Colonial, Victorian, Neomodern, and Craftsman architecture continue to attract

home owners because of their adherence to a certain time or look, farmhouses serve a purpose and a location – practicality and the land beneath them.

And, they attract buyers by fusing a humble character with clean lines, timeless design and a combination of features from all other styles listed above.

From its early inception in Europe (in the vast fields of Germany and Scandinavia) to

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Interested homebuyers queue up at Polygon's Luma in Burnaby. *Elise Lowes photo*

Buyers line up for homes

Reports from various agencies have been telling us for months that the real estate market is rebounding in Metro Vancouver.

The latest release from the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver reports that September brought in the second-highest number of residential sales ever recorded for the month of September.

Perhaps the most significant indicator that the housing market is healthy in the region is the opening weekend that Polygon Homes experienced at its Burnaby development, a tower entitled Luma.

Polygon vice-president of marketing Ben Smith notes the lineup started Friday at 3 p.m. for the Saturday noon opening.

In total, 135 out of Luma's 180 homes (75 per cent) were sold on the weekend, in the mid-\$400s per square foot.

The two-bedroom, two-bathroom homes range in size from 744 square feet to 1,176 sq. ft.; completion is slated for May 2011.

"This is very exciting news for us, but also for the market. It means that presales are viable again and you don't have to be in the downtown (Vancouver) core," Smith says.

When completed, the sleek tower will offer sophisticated homes in the centre of Burnaby's bustling core, with Metrotown Centre nearby.

Polygon Homes president and CEO Neil Chrystal was pleased with the weekend's results.

"There were several factors that made Luma such a success," says Chrystal. "Metrotown is a sought-after location with limited selection available right now. Interest rates are still historically low, and we're offering some very attractive value."



architecture

farmhouse

Pacific Rim Property Developments president Anthony Miachika enjoys the country and equestrian lifestyle at High Point Estates in Langley.

Rob Newell photo

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