

Electoral Areas Community Update

May 2025
Issue 13

Welcome to the Spring 2025 Electoral Area Directors' Newsletter

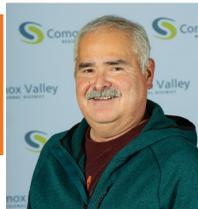
Learn more about initiatives and projects underway in the Comox Valley Regional District. If you have any questions about these updates, or other CVRD work, please email communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca.

Who's Listening



**Electoral Area
A Director
Daniel Arbour**

**Baynes Sound – Denman/
Hornby Islands** includes
Royston, Union Bay, Fanny
Bay and Denman Island and
Hornby Island.



**Electoral Area
B Director
Richard Hardy**

Lazo North includes the
Comox Peninsula, Little River,
Balmoral Beach Area, Point
Holmes, Bates Beach, Huband
Road and the Tsolum regions.



**Electoral Area
C Director
Edwin Grieve**

Puntledge - Black Creek includes
Merville, Black Creek, Dove Creek,
Saratoga Beach, Arden (west of
Cumberland Road), Powerhouse,
Lake Trail, Marsden and Plateau
Road as well as Mount Washington.
The northern boundary of Electoral
Area C is the Oyster River.

Key CVRD Services Moving Forward

Key CVRD initiatives to address housing affordability, homelessness, and enhance recreational and emergency services infrastructure are moving forward after a Unified Alternative Approval Process (AAP) concluded in February. These initiatives included service changes and borrowing of funds to finance construction.



Housing Supports: Affordability and homelessness are the most significant housing issues facing the Comox Valley. The CVRD is advancing new actions to accelerate the creation of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income households, strengthen existing supports to local non-profit housing organizations and unlock new development opportunities.



Artificial Turf: Staff are finalizing the design and cost estimates for a new artificial turf field, expected to be built this fall. The field will be located on the upper grass field at G.P. Vanier Secondary School to support various sports primarily for baseball, soccer, and field lacrosse.

Follow along for the latest updates: comoxvalleyrd.ca

Email communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca | Phone **250-334-6000**



Property Taxes: Key Facts

For electoral areas (outside of municipal boundaries) property tax notices are issued from the Province's Surveyor of Taxes office. Notices go out at the end of May and are due by the first business day of July.

In March, the CVRD board adopted its 2025-2029 financial plan. The budget represents important investments within the community – including new fire halls, support for a new search and rescue facility, as well as new and ongoing infrastructure, affordable housing, recreation, and greenspace protection.

As each electoral area participates in a different mix of services, the tax impact varies. You can find a breakdown of how funds are allocated for your area at comoxvalleyrd.ca/propertytaxes

Details about payment options are available on the back of your tax notice – along with the Home Owner Grant Program, administered by the Province.

Join the Conversation!

Join us at engagecomoxvalley.ca to stay informed about projects and initiatives, ask questions, provide feedback and sign up for the latest updates. Our online engagement platform is ready 24 hours a day, providing opportunities to weigh in when the time is right for you.



What's On The Go Electoral Area A



Union Bay Firehall Construction Starts this Fall

This time next year, construction of Union Bay's new \$6.3 million firehall should be well on its way.

The new hall, to be built north of Washer Road along Highway 19A, features larger truck bays, improved tool and equipment storage, a small fitness room, a display area for Union Bay's first fire engine, and safer visitor parking.

Construction on the site is expected to start in late summer or early fall this year with completion expected in winter 2026.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/unionbayfire



Shingle Spit, Cross Island Trail Work Underway

The CVRD is working to improve services on Denman and Hornby Islands.

- On Hornby Island, a planned replacement to the Shingle Spit boat ramp will support recreational boaters and ensure the boat ramp is available for emergency evacuations. Learn more at

comoxvalleyrd.ca/shinglespit

- On Denman Island, construction of the Denman Cross Island Trail between Owl Crescent and the Gravelly Bay ferry terminal will add 3.5 kilometres of new trail and improve pedestrian safety. Learn more at

comoxvalleyrd.ca/denmanCIT

Both projects are expected to be completed this summer.



Heading to the Beach?

Beach fires are permitted within designated areas of the CVRD, unless a fire ban is in place.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/beachfires

What's On The Go Electoral Area B

Dyke Road Park Wins National Award

The Dyke Road Park Coastal Resiliency Project is being recognized for its nature-based approach to climate adaptation.

The project took home a 2024 Sustainable Communities Award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in January. The collaborative project with K'ómoks First Nation and the Stewardship Centre of BC and others better protects the coastline and improves the visitor experience.

So far, teams have been busy:

- Removing the old lookout and concrete platform
- Creating new estuarine habitat and a tidal fish channel
- Building a viewing boardwalk
- Removing harmful invasive plants
- Protecting important historical sites

Construction on the park will continue through 2025.

For updates, visit

comoxvalleyrd.ca/dykeroadpark

Lazo Road Trail Work Continues

Work on the Lazo Road Trail resumes with irrigation, new plants and asphalt in place this spring.

The trail runs along Lazo Road from Butchers Road to Sand Pines Drive and includes dedicated bike lanes from Simba Road to Sand Pines.

Construction timing has been scheduled to align with the Sewer Conveyance Project and work is expected to be complete this summer.

The trail is in partnership with the Town of Comox, Government of Canada and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

For project updates, visit:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/LazoMUP

What's On The Go Electoral Area C

Mount Washington Firehall on Track for Fall 2026

Plans are underway to transform the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre into a fire response unit at Mount Washington.

The CVRD took possession of the building in February to improve emergency response for residents and visitors. The Centre will serve as a fire administrative and indoor training facility, with a separate building for fire trucks and equipment to be built nearby. The CVRD is now refining the design, with construction expected to be completed by fall 2026. Current user groups, like the Strathcona Nordic Ski Club, will continue to have access.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/mwfire

Saratoga Survey Now Live

Have you completed the Saratoga Survey yet? The survey is part of the public engagement on a new local area plan to guide decisions on future development, services, and amenities in the area.

Saratoga is a settlement area in the Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy.

The survey is open until May 12 and is available at engagecomoxvalley.ca/saratogalap

Water Restrictions Now in Place

Starting May 1, water restrictions are in place for the Black Creek-Oyster Bay, Comox Valley, Royston, and Union Bay water systems. Even-numbered addresses can use sprinklers on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; odd-numbered addresses on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Watering is allowed from 5-8 am and 7-10 pm.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions



How to Take Care of Your Septic System

Are your pipes gurgling or draining too slowly? It may be a sign that your septic system is struggling.

Regular maintenance and proper care can have a significant impact on how well your system works and how long it lasts.

The CVRD offers webinars, tips, guides and factsheets to help an estimated 9,000 Comox Valley homeowners care for their septic system and protect the health of their families and the environment.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/septic



Celebrating an Historic Moment

The CVRD and local governments in the Comox Valley congratulate the K'ómoks First Nation on the ratification of their treaty and constitution in March.

The K'ómoks First Nation is an active partner in the local economy with strong relationships with local governments. The CVRD are committed to working alongside K'ómoks First Nation and supporting the transition to self-government, while the provincial and federal government ratification process takes place over the coming years.

The treaty and constitution will impact generations of K'ómoks people and bring positive economic opportunities for the entire region. We look forward to working in collaboration with the Nation to support those initiatives that respect the treaty's self-determination goals. This includes maintaining strong partnerships and bringing sewer and water services to the K'ómoks Southlands.



Be Ready for Emergencies

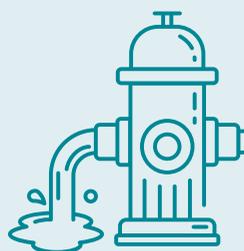
Emergencies can happen anytime, and help might take a while to arrive. That's why Comox Valley Emergency Management encourages everyone to be prepared to take care of themselves for up to seven days. Here's how you can start today:

Stay Informed: Sign up for local emergency notifications with Get Notified.

Get Your Plan Together: Create a Home Emergency Plan and prepare an Emergency Kit and a Grab-and-Go Bag for each family member.

Team Up with Your Neighbours: Join the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) to work together as a community. Visit comoxvalleyrd.ca/nepp to connect with a NEPP facilitator and access helpful resources.

Start now—because neighbourhoods that prepare for disaster, recover faster!



Watermain Flushing

Starting this past April, watermain flushing has been underway in Union Bay, Comox Valley, Royston and Black Creek areas.

Learn more at comoxvalleyrd.ca/maintenance