

# Electoral Areas Community Update

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Issue 15

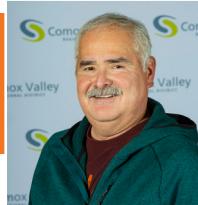
## Welcome to the Winter Electoral Area Directors' Newsletter

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](mailto:communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

### Who's Listening



**Electoral Area  
A Director**  
Daniel Arbour



**Electoral Area  
B Director**  
Richard Hardy



**Electoral Area  
C Director**  
Edwin Grieve

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

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

**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.



### Have Your Say on the CVRD 2026 Budget

Each year the CVRD updates budgets for nearly 100 services – each with its own budget and five-year financial plan. Starting in early February, CVRD committees will begin hearing budget presentations from staff.

Understanding the services you pay for and providing input early can help shape decisions before the Annual Budget Bylaw is presented for adoption in March. There are plenty of ways to learn more or get involved:

- Watch live or recorded meetings at [comoxvalleyrd.ca/livestream](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/livestream)
- Request to speak as a delegation to the Board or a committee
- Contact your Electoral Area Director

Share your feedback or ask questions at:  
[engagecomoxvalley.ca/budget](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/budget)



### CVRD Moves Forward with Housing Authority

Housing affordability is one of the most significant challenges facing the Comox Valley, affecting urban and rural residents.

While the impacts are being felt widely, the crisis more directly affects low- and moderate-income households, who cannot afford rents based on the current market prices.

To support this growing need, the CVRD is moving ahead with the new Comox Valley Housing Authority to support the creation of more non-market housing. This type of housing is generally built by non-profit housing organizations with rents based on costs, not profit. In December 2025, the CVRD Board formally approved its creation and work is underway to launch the initiative. This is an important step toward improving long-term affordable housing for residents across the region.

Learn more:  
[comoxvalleyrd.ca/affordablehousing](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/affordablehousing)



### Timeline Extended for Saratoga Local Area Plan

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback on the Saratoga Local Area Plan. Your input, including the need to protect the rural setting and natural environment, is guiding our next steps. To respond to what we heard, the timeline has been extended so additional studies can be completed before drafting the plan. A revised timeline will be posted once work begins, and the CVRD will return in 2026 to share the study results.

Learn more at  
[engagecomoxvalley.ca/SaratogaLAP](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/SaratogaLAP)



### What's On The Go Electoral Area A

#### Union Bay Firehall Construction Begins

Construction of the new Union Bay Fire Hall has been awarded to Knappett Industries. Work is expected to begin this winter with completion planned for winter 2026. The hall will provide a modern, reliable space to support effective emergency response in and around Union Bay. It replaces an aging building which cannot fit modern fire trucks, lacks proper storage, parking, training areas, and basic firefighter facilities such as showers and laundry.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/unionbayfire](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/unionbayfire)



#### New Shingle Spit Boat Launch

The Shingle Spit Boat Launch has been upgraded with one design modification yet to be completed on the ramp. Designed with guidance from the community, the project included demolition of the old ramp and installation of new pilings, precast concrete deck tiles, and a floating dock. The improved ramp will provide reliable access for recreational boaters and strengthens emergency response and evacuation capabilities, ensuring this community amenity is ready for decades of use. Future ramp modifications will involve community guidance.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/shinglespit](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/shinglespit)



#### CVRD Supports Fanny Bay Hall

In November 2025, the Fanny Bay Community Association (FBCA) received a report identifying risks to the Fanny Bay Hall roof under heavy snow loads. With closure possible, the CVRD and FBCA worked in record time to secure funding and upgrades began in late November with minimal program disruption. The CVRD values our many partnerships with rural community organizations and thanks the FBCA's proactive efforts.



## What's On The Go Electoral Area B

### Climate Work at Pélxwikw/Goose Spit

The Pélxwikw/Goose Spit Climate Resiliency Project is advancing under the leadership of the CVRD and Kómoks First Nation. A fall kickoff meeting brought together local, provincial, and federal partners, and a smaller roundtable will now be guiding engineering, ecological, and archaeological studies. Recent storms and high water levels highlight rising flood risks and the need for climate-resilience work in the region. The project is funded through the provincial Disaster Resilience and Innovation Fund.

Learn more:

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/goosespitclimate](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/goosespitclimate)

### Lazo Greenway Officially Open

The Lazo Greenway Multi-Use Path is now open. The 2.5-km trail between Butchers Road and Sand Pines Drive in Area B offers a safe, accessible link for walkers and cyclists, with asphalt and gravel surfaces, crossings, benches, a drinking fountain, and amphibian-friendly design. Final paving near Butchers and Beckton occurred in December alongside sewer works. The project was delivered by the CVRD in partnership with the Town of Comox, Government of Canada, and BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/LazoMUP](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/LazoMUP)

### Dyke Road Park To Include Resilient, Restored Shoreline

Dyke Road Park is planning to reopen in summer 2026 with a new boardwalk, viewing platform, and fish channel. In partnership with the Kómoks First Nation, the Stewardship Centre for BC and many other community groups, the project used a nature-based approach to revitalize the site while improving ecological values and the visitor experience.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/dykeroadpark](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/dykeroadpark)



## What's On The Go Electoral Area C

### Fire Hall Construction Begins This Spring

Construction of the converted Mount Washington Fire Hall begins this spring, creating a dedicated emergency response station with new truck bays, equipment storage, and training space for urgently needed volunteer firefighters.

Since acquiring the former Mountain Centre in 2025, the site has supported training, recreation, and community events, with existing users—including the Strathcona Nordic Ski Club—continuing to have access.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/mwfire](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/mwfire)

### Planning Spike Road Park's Next Chapter

The future of Spike Road Park is taking shape. Feedback from 2025 surveys and open houses will guide a draft management plan. The 190-acre Area C park protects sensitive wetlands and supports the One Spot Trail. Since acquisition, staff have completed environmental, cultural, and agricultural assessments and removed unsafe structures. The park will open once planning and associated development are complete.

Learn more: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/spike](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/spike)

### More Recycling Options Planned for Oyster River

Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) acquired the Oyster River Recycling Depot in August 2025, to ensure it stays a community asset. Planned improvements include building upgrades and expanded parking. CSWM is working with Recycle BC to explore adding glass, foam, and flexible plastic recycling. The depot now accepts paper, hard plastics, and metal cans. Stay tuned for more details in 2026.

Learn more: [cswm.ca/orrecycling](http://cswm.ca/orrecycling)



## Roadwork Wraps Up; Conveyance Project Moves Ahead

With major roadwork on Comox Avenue and Comox Road now complete, we want to thank residents living along the Dyke Road and the public for your patience during construction. This milestone signals the end of most of the road closures for this important project, which helps protect the Comox Estuary, Point Holmes, Goose Spit, and Baynes Sound by replacing aging sewer pipes and pump stations.

The remaining work includes pump station upgrades in Comox, at K'ómoks First Nation, and a new Courtenay station beside Kus Kus Sum, to be finished in the spring. The project remains on schedule and on budget.

Learn more: [engagecomoxvalley.ca/conveyanceproject](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/conveyanceproject)



## Are We Ready for a Winter Emergency?

Comox Valley Emergency Management helps the community respond when disaster strikes, working year-round with local municipalities and the K'ómoks First Nation to prepare for emergencies. In a major winter event with snow, ice, flooding, or power outages, however, help may take 72 hours or more to arrive. You can be ready by:

- Creating an emergency plan
- Learning when to safely shut off water, power, and gas
- Signing up for local emergency alerts ("Get Notified" system)
- Preparing emergency kits and grab-and-go bags for household members and pets
- Staying connected to trusted sources such as EmergencyInfoBC, and DriveBC for road updates and weather alerts

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness sessions cover FireSmart™, support services, radio communications, and how to prepare for floods, extreme weather, and winter storms.

Learn more:  
[comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergencymanagement](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergencymanagement)

### CVRD General Briefs

#### Need To Speak With A Building Inspector or Planner?

Book your appointment online today.  
[comoxvalleyrd.ca/bookappointment](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/bookappointment)

#### Weigh In On Waste

Our thanks to everyone who provided input on the Solid Waste Management Plan this fall. The "What We Heard" report is now available.

[engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp)

#### Stay Connected

Want the latest on important CVRD projects? Sign up for the free monthly e-newsletter.  
[comoxvalleyrd.ca/subscribe](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/subscribe)

#### Dog Licences

If you have a dog over 6-months old and live in an Electoral Area (excluding Hornby/Denman islands), you need a dog licence!

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/doglicence](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/doglicence)

#### Receive Your Utility Bill Online

Do you receive your CVRD water, garbage or recycling bill through the mail? Sign up for online billing to receive or pay your bills without potential delays.

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/utilitybilling](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/utilitybilling)