

# Electoral Areas Community Update

May 2026  
Issue 16

## Welcome to the Spring Electoral Area Directors' Newsletter

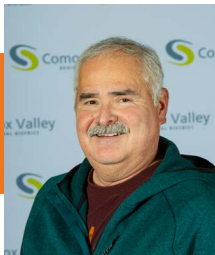
Learn more about initiatives and projects underway in the Comox Valley Regional District. Questions about these updates, or other CVRD work? please email [communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

### Who's listening



**Electoral Area  
A Director  
Daniel Arbour**

**Baynes Sound Denman/  
Hornby Islands** Includes Royston,  
Union Bay, Fanny Bay, 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, and  
Mount Washington. The northern  
boundary of Electoral Area C is the  
Oyster River.

### Come Say Hello!

**Meet your Comox Valley Regional  
District Electoral Area Directors:** Daniel  
Arbour, Richard Hardy, Edwin Grieve, and  
CVRD staff at the Spring Meet and Greet.

**Tuesday, May 19, 5-7 pm  
CVRD Civic Room  
770 Harmston Ave.**

Drop in anytime to hear  
updates, ask questions, and  
share what matters most to you.

### In this issue

- Emergency Preparedness Week
- Electoral Areas Updates
- Agricultural Plan Moves Forward
- Property Taxes Demystified
- And much more!



### Are You Ready For An Emergency?

Natural hazards can happen at any time. In a major disaster, help may take 72 hours or more to arrive. **Celebrate Emergency Preparedness Week** this May by:

- Creating and reviewing an emergency plan
- Learning how to safely shut off utilities
- Get notified by signing up for local alerts
- Preparing emergency kits and go bags for household members and pets
- Learning about the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program
- Stay connected to EmergencyInfoBC, DriveBC, and trusted sources for road and weather alerts

Look for booths in the Comox Valley in May for information on emergency preparedness.

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



### \$1.8M for Comox Valley FireSmart

The Comox Valley FireSmart Collaborative, representing local municipalities and electoral areas, received a community resiliency grant to help communities reduce risk and stay safe during wildfire season.

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



### New Capital Funding for Baynes Sound Community Halls Confirmed

As part of the 2026 budget, new capital allocations have been confirmed for community halls in Baynes Sound. Among these, over \$200,000 is earmarked for fixing problems with the foundation of the Fanny Bay Community Centre; new funds are being reserved for a dishwasher replacement and gym floor upgrades at the Union Bay Hall, and funding contributions are confirmed for electrical/panel upgrades and a potential heat pump at the Royston Hall.

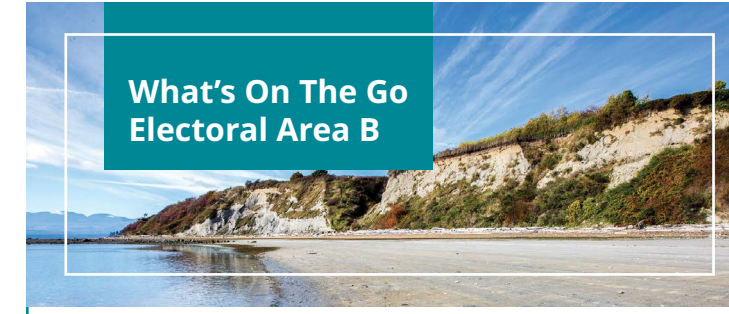


### What's Next for the Denman Fire Hall

The CVRD is looking ahead to the future of the Denman Island Fire Hall.

The current building is aging, needs repairs, and is too small to accommodate future needs. In the coming year, staff will look at options to repair or replace the hall. This work will include exploring partnerships, developing a site plan, and completing geotechnical and environmental studies to better understand future costs.

Learn more about the Denman Island Fire Department at [denmanfire.ca](http://denmanfire.ca)



### Dyke Road Park Phase 2 Construction Underway

Construction on the final phase of the Dyke Road Park Coastal Resiliency project has begun with the park expected to be open to the public in early summer 2026.

In partnership with the K'ómoks Guardian Watchman and the Stewardship Centre for BC, the project is embracing nature-based restoration to improve the climate resiliency of the site and the visitor experience. Visitors can expect improved parking, a new boardwalk and viewing platform, picnic area and restored estuarine habitat.

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



### Long-Term Wastewater Plan Moves Ahead

Thank you to those who toured the treatment plant, and shared feedback on timing and costs of wastewater treatment plant upgrades this spring. The Liquid Waste Management Plan has been under development since 2018. The plan began by confirming treatment and conveyance options, while urgent pipe upgrades were completed separately in 2025. The current stage, Stage 3, outlines costs, timing, and delivery.

To follow along for updates, visit us online:

[engagecomoxvalley.ca/LWMPStage3](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/LWMPStage3)



### Saratoga Beach Studies Underway: Draft Plan Coming in 2026

Studies are underway to determine how much growth Saratoga Beach can support as part of the Local Area Plan, which guides land use over the next five to 10 years. The studies stem from 2025 engagement with residents, businesses and developers who identified interests and concerns. They provided feedback, including reviewing septic conditions, environmental conditions, and wastewater feasibility. A draft plan will be available for review in late spring before bylaw consideration.

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

### Fire Hall Construction Begins This Spring

Construction on the Mount Washington Fire Hall begins this spring. The former Mountain Centre is soon to be transformed into the community's first dedicated emergency response station. The site will include a new building with truck bays, equipment storage, and training space for volunteer firefighters.

### One Spot Trail Link Secured

In September 2025, the CVRD acquired a 30-metre-wide piece of land to connect the southern end of the Macaulay Road section of the One Spot Trail to Hamm Road. Environmental studies and permits will be required to determine how best to connect the trail through the area, which has a large wetland. Until a formal trail is built, please do not enter the property. Thank you!

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

## Agricultural Plan Moves From Planning Into Action with new Coordinator

### New Plan Launched

CVRD Board approves the Agricultural Plan in 2025 to strengthen the agricultural sector in the Comox Valley.



### 5 Core Goals Identified

-  Steward water resources to meet agricultural needs
-  Maintain agricultural land protection and support for producers
-  Support actions to grow the regional agri-food economy
-  Collaborate on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and emergency preparedness
-  Increase awareness and appreciation of local agriculture

### Coordinator Hired

An Agricultural Planning Coordinator was hired to serve as a conduit between the agricultural community and the CVRD, and to provide dedicated capacity to support the Plan's implementation.

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/agplan](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/agplan)

## Property Taxes Demystified

### How much do you know about your property tax bill?

If you live in an electoral area (outside of municipal boundaries), you should receive a property tax notice from B.C.'s Surveyor of Taxes at the end of May.

Your property taxes help fund important services including recreation and emergency management.

The amount you pay will vary depending on the services provided in your area.

To learn more about your notice and the services you receive, join us at one of the pop-up events below:



Comox Valley Farmers' Market, June 6, 9 am-1 pm

Courtenay Country Market, June 10, 3-5 pm

Marine Drive Boat Launch, June 13, 9-11 am

You can also find a breakdown of how funds are allocated for your area at:

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/propertytaxes](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/propertytaxes)

## CVRD General Briefs



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

To meet with a planner or building official, please book an appointment in advance. Book your appointment online today.

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/bookappointment](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/bookappointment)



### Water Use Hits Record High; Restrictions In Effect May 1

Water use across the CVRD reached a record high in 2025 surpassing 10 million m<sup>3</sup> – a 9.15% increase over 2024. Stage 1 water restrictions are in place as of May 1 for Black Creek-Oyster Bay, Comox Valley, Royston, and Union Bay water systems.

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions](https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions)



### Rural Community Grants Awarded

Did you know the CVRD awarded more than \$260,000 to 35 community organizations in 2026? A list of funded projects and organizations are now available at

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/communitygrants](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/communitygrants)



### Stay Connected!

Want the latest on important CVRD projects? Sign up for the free monthly e-newsletter.

[comoxvalleyrd.ca/subscribe](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/subscribe)