

Electoral Areas Community Update

September 2024
Issue 12

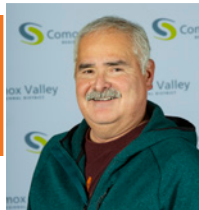
Welcome to the Fall Update from Your Electoral Area Directors

Welcome to the Fall 2024 issue of the Electoral Area Director's newsletter. This update shares information about initiatives and projects underway in the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD). If you have any questions about these updates – or other CVRD work – please contact us at 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** stretches from the southern boundary of the City of Courtenay south to Cook Creek. This area includes Royston, Union Bay, Fanny Bay and Denman and Hornby Islands.

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.



Come Say Hello!

Join us for a meet and greet with the CVRD's Electoral Area Directors. Directors Daniel Arbour, Richard Hardy and Edwin Grieve will be on hand – along with CVRD staff – to share updates, answer questions and talk about what's important to you!

 **Tuesday, Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m.**

 **CVRD Civic Room, 770 Harmston Ave.**

Stop by at anytime with your questions and comments!



Building Resilient Communities

The Comox Valley Emergency Management (CVEM) team wants to help neighbourhoods prepare to support each other in the event of a disaster.

The Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) offers a guide and staff support to create a plan for managing emergencies with those living in your neighborhood. In the event of disaster, many people and neighbourhoods will have to fend for themselves for days, or weeks.

“While personal and household preparedness is important, NEPP builds resilience at the community level,” said Cari McIntyre, Emergency Planning Coordinator. “By working together with your immediate neighbourhood, you will not be alone in times of need.”

A program guide and overview video is available at comoxvalleyrd.ca/nepp or you can call the CVEM team at 250-334-6000 if you have any questions.

Create Your NEPP Plan

The NEPP Guide walks you through the six steps of creating a neighbourhood emergency plan:

- Step 1:** Be Personally Prepared
- Step 2:** Be a Neighbourhood Champion
- Step 3:** Prepare to Host a Meeting
- Step 4:** Meet to Create basic NEPP Plan
- Step 5:** Hold a NEPP Leadership Meeting
- Step 6:** Host Follow up Meetings

What's On The Go Electoral Area A



Fanny Bay Senior Society Hall Acquired

The CVRD has acquired 418 Ships Point Road (the Fanny Bay Senior Society Hall) to allow for its continued use as a community facility and enable future service possibilities.

The hall will remain an active community hall for the Fanny Bay community under the day-to-day operation of the Fanny Bay Senior Society.

Purchase of the hall will be funded by the CVRD's Baynes Sound Community Facilities Support Service and the Fanny Bay Senior Society. The Society and community fundraised \$47,000 to be put towards the purchase of the property to ensure its long-term use as an important community facility.

The remaining funds needed to complete the purchase will be borrowed by the CVRD with the loan being repaid within five years.



Royston Multi-Use Path on Track

Work is proceeding on the design of a new multi-use path in Royston after the CVRD received a \$500,000 BC Active Transportation grant from the Province of BC.

The path will extend from the Island Highway/Royston Road intersection to Royston Elementary School, traveling along the north side of Royston Road and the east side of Livingstone Road.

The project involved engagement with the Royston Elementary Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Comox Valley Schools staff, and the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition.

To see the work to date:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/roystonmup

What's On The Go Electoral Area B



Dyke Road Park Renewal Underway

Big changes are underway at the Dyke Road Park as the CVRD works with the K'omoks First Nation and other interest groups to complete the shoreline restoration project.

First the old viewing platform was removed and re-purposed to the Department of Defense for use in their new post-disaster training facility.

In August, work began in the estuary to create a new fish channel and enhance estuarine habitat. This area will eventually be accessible for public viewing when a new boardwalk is completed.

The new boardwalk, parking area and lookout are planned for completion in late fall 2024/early 2025.

This project demonstrates a nature-based solution to protect the coastline from erosion and flood risk.

Follow along for the latest updates:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/dykeroadpark



Lazo Pathway Rolls Forward

Construction is officially underway on the new Lazo Greenway Multi-Use Path, to be completed along Lazo Road from Butchers Road to Sand Pines Drive.

The work is in partnership with the Town of Comox, Government of Canada and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Timing of construction has been scheduled to align with work on the Sewer Conveyance Project to reduce impact and avoid individual project delays.

The path will include asphalt and gravel sections that will vary in width to minimize environmental impacts. Pedestrian crossings will be installed at suitable intersections to increase public safety.

For updates on the project, visit:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/LazoMUP

What's On The Go Electoral Area C



Saratoga Local Area Plan Update

Work on the Saratoga Local Area Plan is moving along.

A request for proposals for the plan is expected this fall, with public engagement scheduled for winter 2025. The development of a plan for the Saratoga area 'settlement node' will assess capacity in the area, taking into account services and the natural environment. It will also consider climate-related risks, explore ways to build resilience, and identify growth scenarios that take into account housing, community values, and the area's capacity. This work could potentially be an input to a future Liquid Waste Management Plan.

For more information, keep an eye on the CVRD website in the coming months.



Agricultural Plan Ready for Harvest

The Comox Valley Agricultural Plan is now being finalized and ready for roll out after a thorough development process and engagement process.

Development of the Agricultural Plan began in 2022 with the review of the previous plan created in 2002. Its included an extensive process that included analysis of the current condition of agriculture in the region, creation of an advisory committee, interviews with stakeholders, focus group meetings and community workshops.

A draft plan was presented in June, and has been available to the public for comment. With a Sept. 30 deadline for feedback, the final plan will be brought to the board for approval.

To see the work to date visit:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/agplan



Improvements Made to Grant Program

Changes to the Rural Community Grant system will improve equity and transparency – and create a more efficient process for applicants and the CVRD.

Rural Community Grants are one of the ways directors provide support to community groups – by small-scale (under \$30,000) one-time funds, that support organizations in paying for operational and capital expenses.

The new changes include creating clear criteria for eligibility and an updated application including evaluation criteria to align with community impact and CVRD drivers and basic reporting requirements. This will create a consistent assessment tool for directors to consider in awarding the grant funds.

“These changes will help ensure that we can demonstrate fairness in the grant awards, and will make the system overall more accountable,” said Lucy Wiwcharuk, Chief Financial Officer.

Deadlines have also been shifted from March to October each year, to align with the CVRD’s budgeting process. These changes will be in place for 2024 applications (for funds to be awarded in Spring 2025).

To learn more about Rural Community Grants and the application process, visit: comoxvalleyrd.ca/grants

Fast Facts



In 2024, CVRD Electoral Areas awarded over \$295,000 in grants to organizations in the community



Approximately 40 community-based organizations have received funding each year



Each Electoral Area has its own community grants fund, which is distributed to applicants following consideration by the Electoral Areas Services Committee



Know your Route

The Sewer Conveyance Project will have a significant impact on traffic for the entire Comox Valley, beginning in 2025. While work right now is focused in the Town of Comox and Area B areas around Lazo Road, in 2025, work will move to Comox Road. To accommodate the work and keep traffic moving, the CVRD will introduce one-way traffic on Comox Road, heading west (from Comox to Courtenay). To access Comox from Courtenay, traffic will be detoured up Ryan Road, to Lerwick and onto Anderton Avenue.

Follow along for updates at engagecomoxvalley.ca/conveyanceproject



Your Voice on Your Time!

Our online engagement platform gives you the chance to weigh in on issues that are important to you, when the time is convenient. Join us at engagecomoxvalley.ca to learn about projects and initiatives, ask questions, share input and sign up for the latest update- regardless of whether it’s early in the morning or late at night.