



CVRD UPDATE

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT



Latest News: CVRD signs MOU with Cowichan Search & Rescue Society



Island Rail Corridor Towards a Shared Vision Project Final Report



South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment Final Report

FireSmart rebates now available for Ladysmith, Duncan and CVRD Electoral Areas



Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC), on behalf of the CVRD, the Town of Ladysmith and the City of Duncan, will be launching a FireSmart Rebate program to support homeowners in performing Firesmart activities on residential properties.

5



Events

Check out some of the latest events happening in March at CPAC.

4



Careers at CVRD!

Come work with us! Check out our featured job opportunities in the Cowichan area.

7

CVRD Board and Committee Highlights

The following meeting highlights do not include all meeting items and while the following content is copied from meeting agenda packages and minutes, it may be edited or summarized for clarity and readability to suit a general audience.

Meeting agenda packages and minutes are available on the [CVRD.ca](https://cprd.ca) website.

Upcoming CVRD Meetings:

Board: March 26, and April 9, 2025

Committee of the Whole (COTW): March 26, and April 9, 2025

Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC): April 2, 2025

For COTW, EASC & Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes, visit:

<https://cprd.primegov.com/public/portal>

Watch the Meetings

The Board approved:

Cowichan Valley Regional District Island Rail Corridor Towards a Shared Vision Project Final Report

On February 26, 2025, the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board accepted the report “Cowichan Valley Regional District Island Rail Corridor Shared Visioning Project Final Report” as recommended by the COTW. The report was presented to the COTW on February 26, 2025, by Stantec and Modus.

Review the [Island Rail Corridor Towards a Shared Vision Report](#).

#2-5280 Polkey Road Lease Renewal 2025-2028

CVRD staff reported and recommended that the CVRD renew the lease agreement with Parhar Holdings Ltd. for premises located at #2-5280 Polkey Road, Duncan BC, for a period of three (3) years (March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2028) for the purposes of an emergency communications workshop and emergency management warehouse space.

Review the [staff report](#) from Emergency Management Cowichan/Community Services Dept.

To the Board:

2025 Budget Overview Report

The purpose of this report from the Chief Financial Officer is to present an overview of the 2025 Draft Budget showing the total impact on the budget of the decisions made thus far at all Committee and Commission meetings.

View attachment links below:

[Attachment A Changes in Tax Requisition](#)

[Attachment B Effect of Requisition Change](#)

[Attachment C Historical Tax Requisition](#)

To the Board and approved:

Five-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029) Bylaw No. 4629

The purpose of this Finance Division report is to introduce the Five-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029) Bylaw (Attachment A), which appears later in the agenda for three readings and adoption.

Attachment A Bylaw 4629

To the COTW for information:

South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment Final Report

Report from the Legislative Services Division Re: South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment Final Report and EcoPlan presentation were presented for information purposes.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that staff report back to the Electoral Area Services Committee with a report that provides further information and options to address South Cowichan community identified issues in the categories of Governance, Servicing and Jurisdiction, as proposed in the EcoPlan report.

Review the **South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment Report**.

2024 Year End Park Ranger Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the activities of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Park Ranger Program from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Review **the Staff Report** from the Parks and Trails Division.

2024 CVRD Parks and Trails Visitation Program Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of 2024 public visitation counts at monitored electoral area community parks, regional parks and the Cowichan Valley Trail, as compared to visitation use trends from recent years.

Review **Attachment A - Parks and Trails** Visits from the Parks and Trails Division.

2024 Park Reservations, Special Events and Parks & Trails Volunteer Program Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of 2024 park reservations, special events and volunteer program activities in Electoral Area Community and Regional Parks.

Review **Attachment A - 2024 Park Reservations and Special Events** from the Parks and Trails Division.

Review **Attachment B - 2024 Parks & Trails Volunteer Program** from the Parks and Trails Division.

CVRD MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Calendar

Find local events, Board & Committee meetings, online and in-person CVRD information meetings. Sign up to get notified and subscribe to the calendar.

Events

Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

The AC/DC Tribute Concert – PWR/UP

March 28, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Regular price: \$49.95

THE BEST AC/DC YOU'LL SEE WITHOUT TIME MACHINE!
PWR/UP! Young Lads with a Devilish passion for AC/DC and bringing it to you with all the attitude and power of 1980 when AC/DC was young and hungry! This ain't no band of old farts! Both Bon and Brian are sung with all the swagger and character that makes them unique. Angus tones are painstakingly spot on! Riffs for days!

Visit the [CPAC website](#) for tickets and information.



Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy Four on the Floor Tour

March 30, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Regular price: \$55

Canada's internationally renowned virtuoso fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy take their music to new heights with an all-new show. Bursting onto the music scene with exuberant youthful mastery, their two eldest children Mary Frances and Michael Leahy join their parents for a night of musical magic. Don't miss this rare event this spring!

Visit the [CPAC website](#) for tickets and information.

CVRD Utilities: Water System Flushing

CVRD FACEBOOK

Hey Cowichan,

Are you a customer of a CVRD water system? Water main flushing is ongoing through March and ends on Friday, April 25, 2025.

Residents may experience some air in the lines and discolouration of the water supply during these operations. Should this occur, running a cold water tap for a short period should help to restore the water quality to normal.

Should the problem persist, please call the CVRD's Utilities Division at 250.746.2530 or by e-mail: utilities@cvrld.bc.ca.

View the water flushing schedule: cvrd.ca



Did You Know?

Backyard Burning - CVRD bylaws specify the allowable burning dates each year are March 15 to April 15 and October 15 to November 15 for Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E and G (with the exception of the Gulf Islands)

Residents in Areas F, H, and I must adhere to restrictions set in place by the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Strategy.

Backyard burning is completely banned in the following local municipalities:

The City of Duncan

The Town of Ladysmith

The Town of Lake Cowichan

Check the **Know the Rules** web page to learn more.




EMC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COWICHAN

2025 FIRESMART REBATE PROGRAM

Up to \$4000 in rebates for homeowners!*

[Apply Now!](#)



NEWS RELEASE

FireSmart rebates now available for Ladysmith, Duncan and CVRD Electoral Areas

Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC), on behalf of the CVRD, the Town of Ladysmith and the City of Duncan, will be launching a FireSmart Rebate program to support homeowners in performing Firesmart activities on residential properties.

The Cowichan Regional FireSmart Resiliency Program is designed to help homeowners and communities reduce the risk of wildfire damage. Wildfires are a natural occurrence, but they can also be devastating to homes, businesses, and communities. A Wildfire Home Assessment, available free from EMC, will help home owners identify easy

steps and actions to reduce their property's risk to wildfires. In 2023-2024, more than 200 homes were assessed in the Cowichan region. Recommendations in FireSmart home assessments can now be funded for eligible applicants under this rebate program.

LATEST NEWS

“The frequency and intensity of wildfires have increased, making it more important than ever to take steps to protect our community,” said Chris Geiger, Town of Ladysmith Fire Chief. “This rebate program will provide funding to families who want to take steps to protect their home from wildfire, making us more resilient in the future.”

Applications for rebates up to \$4,000 will open on March 19th, 2025 at a limited amount per community. To be eligible for a rebate, homeowners in the Town of Ladysmith, the City of Duncan and the Electoral Areas of the CVRD must have a free FireSmart Home Assessment completed, and be willing to complete approved FireSmart work within 90 days of the application approval.

[Full News Release.](#)

For more information, please contact a local FireSmart representative:

Phone: 250-746-2500 Ext. 5012

Email: Firesmart@emcowichan.ca



LATEST NEWS

their equipment, conduct training, and help prevent the loss of life when unfortunate circumstances occur in our communities.”

In February 2024, CSAR submitted correspondence to the CVRD stating that their current facility was no longer adequate to support their operational needs. “The Bings Creek site is ideal for us due to its central location for the CSAR service area, and enhances our ability to effectively respond when we’re called to action,” said Jamie Tudway-Cains, CSAR Search Manager and Past President. “We’ve enjoyed a 15 year relationship with the CVRD at this site and appreciate the continued support to ensure CSAR can continue its role in emergency response for residents of the Cowichan region.”

CSAR currently occupies two service bays at the Bings Creek site, which includes a meeting/training space. At this time, the location of a new CSAR facility within the Bings Creek site has not been identified; however, CSAR has determined their future needs will include approximately 1.8 acres, with accommodation of up to 60 parking spaces.

[Full News Release](#)

Learn more about [CowichanSar](#)

NEWS RELEASE

CVRD signs MOU with Cowichan Search & Rescue Society to explore new facility options at Bings Creek

CVRD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cowichan Search and Rescue Society (CSAR) for a proposed new facility at the site of the Bings Creek Recycling & Waste Management Centre.

The MOU follows previous capacity assessment work for future expansion of the Bings Creek site which explored use of the site to further incorporate CVRD Parks & Trails, Utilities and Recycling & Waste Management staff. The assessment also identified opportunities for future consideration of existing tenants, including Emergency Management Cowichan and

CSAR.

“We are grateful to the many volunteers of Cowichan Search & Rescue Society and the service they provide to residents of the Cowichan region,” said Kate Segall, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board of Directors. “This MOU will provide them with the ability to develop a new permanent facility to house

Important Notices!

- **Curbside Collection Inclement Weather Policy in Effect Until April 1, 2025:**

Extreme weather events or acts of nature (e.g. snow, ice, flooding, etc.) may impede drivers from providing regularly scheduled curbside collection service. The CVRD will notify residents about curbside service disruptions on the [CVRD website](#), [Facebook page](#) and the Cowichan Recycles mobile app.

- **Youbou Little League - Sportsfield Temporary Closure**

Closure March 13 - April 30 for sportsfield and turfgrass maintenance. During this time, users will still be able to access the east side of the park. [Review the notice](#)

- **CVRD Recreation Guide - Winter/Spring 2025:**

Looking for a new fitness routine or recreation program to try? Check out local recreation activities in your local area of Cowichan! The [Winter/Spring 2025 Recreation guide](#) is available. Register online at [reccowichan.ca](#)

CAREERS at CVRD

Featured Job Opportunity: Corporate Records Analyst II

Join our organization! We're now accepting applications for the regular full-time Corporate Records Analyst II position in the Corporate Records Section of the Legislative Services Division within the Corporate Services Department. The Corporate Records Analyst II provides support for the development, implementation, and ongoing operation of the Corporate Records Management (RM) program in accordance with established procedures and the direction of the Manager - Corporate Records.

APPLY

Visit our [Careers Page](#) for more job opportunities!



CVRD Bids & Tenders

Looking for a Cowichan Valley Regional District bid posting? Visit [CVRD bids webpage](#).

If you are a consultant, service provider, contractor, vendor, or supplier, this is a convenient place for you to find out about current bidding and contract opportunities.

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

CVRD Procurement

CVRD Current Contracting Opportunities available:

- ITT# 25-07 Roof Replacement – Cowichan Community Centre Phase 3 - Mar 31st 2025, 2:00 PM PDT
- RFQ# 25-12 Supply and Delivery of One (1) Truck, One (1) Cargo Van and One (1) Compact Hybrid or Electric SUV - Mar 31st 2025, 2:00 PM PDT
- RFP# 25-10 CVRD Parks Wildfire Risk Assessment & Management Strategy - Apr 3rd 2025, 2:00 PM PDT
- ITT# 25-11 Cowichan Community Centre HVAC System Upgrades - Apr 10th 2025, 2:00 PM PDT



The CVRD Ingram Street offices at 175 Ingram St. in Duncan are open Mon. - Fri. with main reception hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CVRD Recycling Facilities are closed on all statutory holidays. For more information please visit: [cvrld.ca](#)



Cowichan Valley Regional District

| 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 1N8 | Phone: 250.746.2500

| Email: Communications@cvrd.bc.ca

Work with us at the CVRD! Visit: [Careers at cvrd.ca](#)

[Update email preferences](#)



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Cowichan!



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