

The Cordovan

50 Years



Spring / Summer 2026
Issue 43

Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA) www.cbaca.ca

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As representatives of the CBACA, we acknowledge the W̱SÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory our community was built, and offer our respects to their ancestors who were living at the village of ȚEL,İĆ at the time of the South Saanich Treaty of 1852.

We recognize that the treaty charted out a relationship with the W̱SÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples that we are hoping to continue to develop today and into the future.

(Courtesy of Dr. Brian Thom, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology UVic January 2021)



The old Cordova Bay plaza.

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CORDOVA BAY ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AGM

April 29, 7:00 p.m.

Details in this issue.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER **By Barb Lucas**

Cordova Bay is an enjoy-outdoors-all-year-round place. In this issue of *The Cordovan* you'll find several articles highlighting exciting green initiatives — at schools and on the golf course — demonstrating commitment and respect for local flora and fauna.

Soooo, what were you doing in 1976? I was moving to Victoria from the B.C. Interior with all my worldly possessions — not to Cordova Bay right away though, that took a bunch more years. In 1976, Cordova Bay residents were buzzing! *continued on page 2*

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IN CORDOVA BAY **By Jen Massullo**

This spring marks a very special milestone for the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs — our **50th Anniversary**. For five decades, CBACA has supported, connected, and advocated for our community and the beautiful land we are fortunate to call home. To celebrate this meaningful occasion, we are delighted to invite you to an evening of reflection and celebration.

Friday, May 8, The Ridge Café, 5300 Cordova Bay Road, 7 - 9 P.M.

Join your friends and neighbours for a celebratory toast in honour of our community's past, present and future. The evening will feature a live guitar soloist along with light bites and drinks in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

continued on page 2

President's Corner, continued from page 1

Saanich was working on a long-term community plan (Official Community Plan (OCP) and a developer (Daon Developments) was proposing to remove about 300 acres of Mattick's Farm property from the Agricultural Land Reserve to build hundreds of houses. That, as we all know, did not happen – the property was sold to McArthur Park Estates and is now the Cordova Bay Golf Course and Mattick's Wood subdivision.

Determined to have their say in how the community evolved over the next 20 years, residents approved formation of the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA), the *first* community association in Saanich, at a March 1976 meeting at Claremont School.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of community participation!

The original group of CBACA members had a large say in how Cordova Bay was reflected in that early OCP, and in the community's first Local Area Plan (LAP) about a decade later. The most recent LAP update took place from 2018 to 2023 where again residents had their say in developing the vision for Cordova Bay for the next 20 to 30 years; this LAP was adopted by Saanich Council in May 2024. The big delay in this last process was due to the worldwide shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those major OCP/LAP processes have bookended the first 50 years of CBACA. In between, CBACA has kept the community informed of happenings through *The Cordovan* newsletter and our website. For many years, each *Cordovan* issue included articles from the local schools, a Pets Hotline, the three local churches, Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, badminton, softball and soccer groups, boating safety, New Horizons (precursor to 55+), Kiwanis, highlights of Cordova Bay Days, and – images of EVERYBODY's business card! If you ever want to take a trip down memory lane, all past issues of *The Cordovan* are on the website cbaca.ca/the-cordovan-newsletter

Today *The Cordovan* is delivered to about 2,800 households in Cordova Bay and is full of local information and supported by our local businesses. The website www.cbaca.ca is currently going through an update to make it more user-friendly. Watch for it later this year!

Both *The Cordovan* and our website are managed by volunteers; volunteers also help at any CBACA hosted events (see Jen's articles this issue about past and upcoming events), and volunteers man the CBACA Board and sub-committees. It is a very strong team, but we can always use more help! Right now we have a need

for additional board members in the Planning and SCAN roles, PLUS someone to manage our Social Media. Contact me anytime (president@cbaca.ca) to learn more.

As always, a **BIG thank you** to our local business supporters. Watch for a couple new businesses opening this year – the Tonnolli's coffee shop at Tiller and Grace (Fenn Road) and the satellite location of Royal Oak Optometry (to be called Driftwood Optometry) at the Haro. There are also new stores at Mattick's Farm – fashion retailers Moden Boutique and House of Hathor, plus Waterlily Shoes. With the completion of both Tiller and Grace and The Tides, we also extend a warm welcome to all new Cordova Bay residents.

Mark your calendars! The Annual General Meeting is coming up on Wednesday April 29th at 7 p.m. at Cordova Bay 55+. This year's guest speaker will be Saanich Police Chief, Dean Duthie. I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful summer everyone – there's lots to enjoy right here in the bay.

.....
Celebrating 50 Years..., continued from page 1

We would also love your help in bringing our shared history to life. If you have historical photos of Cordova Bay, please bring them along. There will be a display area for community contributions, as well as a collection of photos we've gathered to share with everyone.

Tickets will go on sale in March, and full details will be sent out by email. We look forward to gathering together to celebrate 50 years of community – and to many more ahead.

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TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE **By Dave Chater**

Introduction and Background

The Transportation and Parks Committee was formed in 2005 to discuss community priorities and concerns related to transportation and parks in our community (e.g., cycling, public transit, street safety, trails, amenities, public art).

As of February 2026, the following transportation and parks updates include:

Transportation updates

The pedestrian and cycling infrastructure safety improvement project on Cordova Bay Road near Cordova Bay Elementary School and on Fenn Avenue remain on pause. The project's start date is scheduled for initiation in 2026 but has been repeatedly delayed by Saanich since its original 2022 project announcement date.

The CBACA submitted a proposal, in conjunction with Saanich, to seek funding from B.C.'s Vision Zero Road Safety Program for a pedestrian-controlled traffic light and crosswalk on Cordova Bay Road at Doris Page and Cordova Bay parks. A decision on the funding proposal is expected by April 2026. If the Vision Zero Program approves the grant, Saanich would complete the work on this new crosswalk and pedestrian controlled flashing lights by the fall 2026.

The CBACA has submitted a proposal to BC Transit for enhanced service for Cordova Bay. Our proposal advocated for a dramatic improvement in service levels and coverage across the community. BC Transit is updating the future transit plan for the capital region, and we are hopeful that through this transit plan update, Cordova Bay will finally get the transit service that it needs and deserves.

Cordova Bay's Local Area Plan (LAP) calls for local improvements to support cycling in our community. In support of this LAP policy direction, the CBACA has

recently provided input to Saanich's Neighbourhood Bikeway Program and has also submitted a request to the BCAA to have Cordova Bay included in their EVO e-bike loan program.

Park updates

Construction work is continuing to fully revamp Fowler Park into a large pickleball facility. Saanich Parks expects this upgraded facility to be open for public use by the fall of 2026.

The CBACA has been advocating for several park improvement projects over the past year. Our requests for improvements have included the restart of the Lochside Park renewal planning program, further facility upgrades to Fowler Park, trail upgrades in Sayward Hill and Doumac Parks as well as new park entrance and wayfinding signs for Doris Page Park.

Art in the Parks

Several years ago, the CBACA Board dedicated funds in the association's budget for a project to install public art in one of Cordova Bay's parks. Since then, the CBACA has been pursuing a collaboration with the Tsawout First Nation, Saanich Parks and UVic's Department of Anthropology on a proposal to install a First Nations' art piece or interpretative signs at Agate Park. This park was once the site of an ancient village called TEL IŁĆE and is an especially important site, along with the entirety of Cordova Bay, to the local First Nations.

The CBACA, along with representatives from three Tsawout First Nations, Saanich Parks and UVic Anthropology have had an initial meeting to scope out the possibilities for this project. More meetings are being planned for this spring to get this important project underway.

Other Program Support

The committee has also been active in supporting the CBACA's Planning Program in gathering transportation and parks input to respond to proposed large scale developments in Cordova Bay.

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AGM AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS By Pat Bourke

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA) will hold its 2026 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Cordova Bay 55+ Centre at Cordova Bay Elementary School. This year's guest speaker is Saanich Police Chief Dean Duthie. We hope you plan to attend.

Along with presentations from CBACA committees, the AGM includes the election of directors. This year we are looking to elect, or re-elect, seven board positions, each for a two-year term. There are five board members standing for re-election, and two to be elected from the membership.

Please consider lending your support for our community by putting your name forward for a board position. Nomination for director positions can be made in advance to any member of the Nominations Committee:

Robyn Reid, Chair secretary@cbaca.ca Randy Otto rfitto@shaw.ca Debbie Sherwood cordovan@cbaca.ca

Nominations can also be made in person at the AGM by any two members in good standing.

The Nominations Committee welcomes inquiries from any Cordova Bay resident to discuss areas of interest (especially in planning) and time commitment. We look forward to hearing from you!

HEALTH CONNECT REGISTRY

In December 2025, a grassroots group of Saanich residents got together with the goal of wanting to help improve access to primary care in Saanich. Their aim is to encourage people without a family doctor or nurse practitioner to sign up with the BC Health Connect Registry. The government can only attach people to a family doctor or nurse practitioner if they know who is looking for one.

To sign up for the Health Connect Registry, go to www.healthlinkbc.ca/find-care/health-connect-registry.

CBACA applauds the group's efforts. To learn more about this grassroots group go to www.familydoctorsforsaanich.ca.



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DEMYSTIFYING THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS IN SAANICH

(Prepared by CBACA using information provided by the District of Saanich)

When reviewing development applications, the District of Saanich (Saanich) follows the legal framework established by B.C. legislation and municipal bylaws. Applicants are required to follow Saanich’s established review and adjudication framework so the process is carried out with accountability, transparency and fairness.

Who can make a development application to Saanich?

Any landowner (applicant) can make a land-use (development) application to Saanich for land they own under the Land Use and Development Procedures Bylaw including applying to amend the Official Community Plan (OCP).

The landowner determines the content of their application and what they are asking the municipality to decide in relation to their land, which may include asking for an amendment to the OCP. Council does not provide input or direction to the landowner on the content of their application and is not directly involved at this stage.

What happens after a development application is submitted to Saanich?

Saanich staff review the application independent of Council; this process can be lengthy and complicated, especially for larger development applications. During the staff review process, and until all final information has been submitted by the applicant, staff are not permitted to respond to substantive questions from the public.

At the end of the review process, staff send a report with recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The recommendations are based on the staff review and on applying Saanich’s overall policy framework to the specific

land-use application. The application is then added to the agenda of a Council meeting so Council can adjudicate the application and the accompanying report.

When can members of the public provide input and comment on an application?

The public can, at any time, submit correspondence to Mayor, Council and staff on any proposed development, both before and after an application is made.

The final opportunity for public feedback is at the Council meeting when councillors are deliberating on an application and the accompanying staff report.

The method of public feedback depends on the type of land-use application and the legal principles that apply. Certain applications require a formal public hearing. In Saanich, even when a formal public hearing is not an available process, members of the public can make verbal comments on a land-use application at open Council meetings, and provide written feedback to the Mayor and Council.

Council should take into account the public input and feedback they receive in making a determination on the application.



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A PRIMER FOR SMALL-SCALE DEVELOPMENTS IN SAANICH

By Janet Munson

With the 2023 changes in provincial residential housing legislation, local councils throughout B.C. have had to update their bylaws and associated application policies and procedures to bring them in compliance. Saanich has posted several resources on their website to inform their constituents of these changes and to assist with the development application process for those seeking land use changes.

To help Cordova Bay residents better understand changes relating to Small-Scale Multi Unit Housing, the following outlines policies and procedures that Saanich has in place to shepherd these types of projects through their review process.

What is Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH)?

This provincial initiative aims to increase housing supply by allowing more diverse types of housing (i.e. the *missing middle*) in what have traditionally been zoned as single-family neighbourhoods. The intent is to make housing more affordable for the middle class and increase the options for first-time buyers and families. This kind of gentle densification is also seen as being more desirable to suburban sprawl.

Bill 44 achieves this by permitting duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes (or *houseplexes*) to be built on virtually any

single family lot within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) provided it meets nominal eligibility criteria such as minimal lot size and sewer connectivity. There are currently some exceptions for private covenants, and properties close to streams or located on a floodplain may first have to apply for a development permit; heritage-designated homes also need to pre-qualify.

What Properties in Cordova Bay Qualify for SSMUH?

Most of the residential lots in Cordova Bay would be eligible for SSMUH development of three to four units. The houseplex can be intended as rentals or individual units offered for purchase (i.e. stratified). Lots within 400 meters of a regular bus stop may be eligible for up to six units.

To foster infill, the bylaws governing garden suites and secondary suites have also been relaxed for Saanich residential property owners. Now, a homeowner can have both a free-standing garden suite as well as a secondary suite inside their home. However, specific and more restrictive rules continue to apply to A-1 properties located outside the UCB (which includes many properties at the north end of Cordova Bay such as those in the Alderley/Sayward/Fowler district).

Will Residents be Notified of a SSMUH Development in their Neighbourhood?

In practical terms, Bill 44 removes the requirements for community notification and public engagement for land-

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A Primer for Small Scale Developments in Saanich, continued from page 8

owners who wish to densify single family lots. However, the landowner/builder still needs to apply to Saanich for a Building Permit and undergo the internal review process as it relates to sanitary, storm, water and roadways in that area.

Saanich has posted some examples of appropriate SSMUH designs on its website, but in most cases, the overall appearance and layout of a three to four unit houseplex is largely left up to the developer. Builders of five and six unit residences must engage an architect and apply for a Form and Character Development Permit along with the Building Permit.

What are Saanich’s Requirements and Processes?

Saanich continues to vet all land usage applications for compliance with the Official Community Plan (OCP). All applicants must meet the current building code and set-back requirements and not exceed maximal allowable height or maximal lot coverage without a variance being granted. Each unit must have ground access,

and the height cannot exceed three stories nor the total number of units permitted for that particular lot; secondary suites located within each unit contribute to the total unit count. In most cases, demands for a minimum of off-street parking spaces and bike-parking must also be met.

Saanich planners will be monitoring for unintended consequences on any given neighbourhood and the district at large as more and more multiplexes come to market. Although the major structural components of Bill 44 cannot be refused or altered by any municipality in B.C., it may prove possible to locally tweak some of the design features of multiplexes if need be in order to promote a more seamless integration into the surrounding neighbourhood (e.g. by further reducing height restrictions mid-block; insisting that at least one of the units have a defined front-door entry to the street, etc.).

In addition, Council can request Saanich staff to consider revisions to design and landscaping allowances as members of the public notify them of their concerns. Positive feedback to Council and municipal planners is also welcome and necessary so staff overseeing the process can form a comprehensive impression of community reception.

Need More Information?

Readers seeking more information about SSMUHs can be directed to Saanich’s “Frequently Asked Questions” [https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/Housing/SSMUH%20FAQs%20\(For%20Public\).pdf](https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/Housing/SSMUH%20FAQs%20(For%20Public).pdf).

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We hope you enjoy reading this spring/summer edition of *The Cordovan*. The fall/winter issue will be available in November. If you have suggestions for articles, drop us a line at hello@cbaca.ca

In the meantime, please visit www.cbaca.ca for news and articles of interest.

The Cordovan Team:
Chris Harbord • Sari Naworynski • Debbie Sherwood



NURTURING THE ECOSYSTEM

HOW VICTORIA'S CORDOVA BAY GOLF COURSE IS REDUCING INPUTS AND BOOSTING THE FOOD CHAIN.

Reprinted with permission by author, Kelsie Horner

Digital Editor, *Golf Course Industry* magazine

Cordova Bay Golf Course superintendent Dean Piller believes it's a superintendent's job to work alongside Mother Nature, not against it. That's why the 27-hole public facility has been insecticide-free since opening in 1991.

"You get a lot of collateral damage when you spray an insecticide for a grub that might be on your turf or for caterpillars in your trees," he says. "When you work with Mother Nature, your job becomes easier."

Piller and his team have seen no insect-related turf damage or turf loss on the Bill Robinson-designed course in more than three decades. The course also only spot sprays with herbicides to protect the bird population.

Located in southwestern Canada in Victoria, the course is less than 500 feet from the Pacific Ocean and features 60 acres of forest between the front and back nine of the main course, making it a safe haven for both land and water animals. Sixteen water features are found around the course – some home to rainbow trout and American Signal crayfish. The small, lobster-like prawn helps keep the ponds clean. "They spend their life eating organic matter," Piller says. "Our philosophy was they would help keep our ponds clean by removing leaves that blow in, or the bird and duck poop. They would eat the vegetation and turn it into protein, therefore removing nutrients from the water."

The course is no stranger to wildlife. At any time, deer, raccoons and rabbits can be spotted. Black bears make semi-frequent visits and, in rare cases, even a mountain lion may pass through. While some superintendents may make efforts to prevent rabbits from hopping by, Piller welcomes them. "They're the food source for predators like bald eagles, owls and red-tailed hawks," he says.

A large portion of the course's conservation efforts are aimed at birds. More than 75 species of birds reside on the property, but Piller is most proud of the purple martin presence. Piller and his team worked for 10 years to attract the species through setting up houses alongside water features and using bird calls. After a decade of trying, the course successfully discovered a mating pair. "The federal government was so excited they came in and actually banded the first clutch," Piller says. Banding is the process of attaching a small tag to a bird's feet, allowing for tracking and monitoring. The course now has nine nesting pairs this year and roughly 40 to 45 new bird residents.

The facility is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, a designation it first received in 1996. "I'll compliment Audubon International because they give you a blueprint that lays out ways for you to maintain your golf course in an environmentally responsible manner," Piller says.



Sunrise at Golf Course. Photo by Dean Piller.



Purple Martins. Photo by Dean Piller.

The course maintains buffer zones to prevent inputs from reaching the water, and roughly 10 acres of land have been naturalized to allow plants and wildflowers to grow in. The clubhouse also maintains three organic vegetable gardens on the course, and the facility purchases hundreds of thousands of ladybugs each year to work as a natural biopredator and to clean up aphids.

When Piller graduated college and took on the turf-grass world, he believed his most important role was to maintain playing conditions – well-raked bunkers, firm fairways and pretty flower beds. However, he says now: "The more I've been in the business, the more I realize it's a privilege and a responsibility to nurture an ecosystem. Nurturing an ecosystem and maintaining an ecosystem is our largest responsibility."



Navigating Choppy Waters: The Value of Discipline

In challenging markets, discipline can play a role in successful investing. A core part of our role as advisors is to remain objective, unemotional and focused—building portfolios based on research and fundamentals, with the understanding that occasional market or economic setbacks are a normal part of the investing journey.

The dilemma, of course, is that human nature often compels us to want to take immediate action when faced with adversity. This instinctive response rooted in our evolutionary drive for survival—can lead to decisions that hinder longer-term investing success.

While it might feel like the right response to exit the markets when things get tough, such as we saw with the dramatic market pullback in April, the opportunity cost of doing so—when markets reverse their course, often unexpectedly—can have a notable impact on future wealth. Ideally, we'd avoid the worst days, but these are nearly impossible to predict. Many of the strongest market days also tend to follow the weakest. The chart below shows how missing a handful of the best days can substantially reduce long-term returns. Ironically, doing nothing can sometimes be the best course of "action."



This dynamic isn't limited to the longer term. During the 2020 pandemic, when the U.S. stock market fell 34 percent in just 22 days, an investor who moved to cash at the bottom in March and remained on the sidelines until July would have seen a 2 percent decline (from 2018 to end of 2022). A disciplined investor holding the same balanced portfolio through that period would have seen a 21 percent gain.

Impact of Shifting to Cash: 2020 Pandemic Market Drawdown



A well-constructed wealth plan serves as a critical roadmap, but professional guidance can help navigate uncertainty and stay on course. One study suggests behavioral coaching alone may provide an average annualized return of 3.4 percent. Don't underestimate the role of discipline and support in making informed decisions, managing risk and maintaining focus on longer-term wealth goals.

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CLAREMONT SECONDARY SCHOOL GARDEN **By Graeme Mitchell**

Claremont Secondary School's Institute for Global Solutions teacher



Not long ago, the school garden at Claremont Secondary was easy to overlook. Tucked into a quiet corner of campus, it held promise but played little role in daily school life. Over the past year, that has begun to change.

The transformation started with students in the Institute for Global Solutions (IGS) program, working alongside

school counsellor Ronato Pama. They cleared the space, built fencing and raised beds, introduced composting, and began experimenting with regenerative growing practices. What was once underused space is now

becoming an outdoor classroom, where learning happens through hands-on work and shared responsibility.

As the garden took shape, its purpose began to expand. Counsellors started meeting students there and noticed that conversations often felt more open outdoors. For many students, the garden has become a quieter place to slow down and reset during a busy school day.

With generous support from the Jawl family, the project has continued to grow. Most recently, students took on the challenge of assembling a greenhouse themselves as part of their Do Good project. What arrived as a collection of panels is now a working growing space filled with seedlings that students tend each day.

Plans are also underway to add native plantings, giving students opportunities to learn about local ecosystems and the importance of restoration. Looking ahead, students are developing plans for a student-run farm stand and storage shed. Plants, produce, and compost will be sold to the community, with proceeds reinvested into future student-led projects. These include renewable energy initiatives and food programs that support organizations such as the Women's Transition House.

The garden remains a work in progress, shaped by student involvement and evolving ideas. In the process, it has become something more than a garden. It is a place where learning, wellbeing, and community connection grow side by side.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA A WONDERFUL SUCCESS IN CORDOVA BAY **By Jen Massullo**

On December 23, the CBACA was delighted to host our inaugural Breakfast with Santa at Bill Mattick's Restaurant at Cordova Bay Golf Course – and what a wonderful morning it was!

The event was very well received by families in our community and warmly supported by the golf course team. It marked a meaningful step forward in creating more family-focused events in our neighbourhood.

Santa was truly fantastic – engaging and full of holiday cheer. Children enjoyed visiting with Santa, receiving wrapped gingerbread men and candy canes, and settling in with colouring activities upon arrival. CBACA President Barb Lucas graciously welcomed everyone and helped set the tone for a festive morning.

We were also fortunate to have two fantastic “elf” volunteers, Anna and Ella from Royal Oak Middle School. They did an excellent job helping with the children, keeping Santa organized, and adding to the joyful atmosphere. We are very grateful for their time and enthusiasm.

A heartfelt thank you to Bill Mattick's Restaurant and the Cordova Bay Golf Course team for hosting and supporting this special event. Their partnership helped make this new community tradition a great success.

Save the Date!

We are excited to share the 2026 Breakfast with Santa will take place on Sunday, December 6, 2026 at the same wonderful location. We look forward to welcoming even more Cordova Bay families this year!



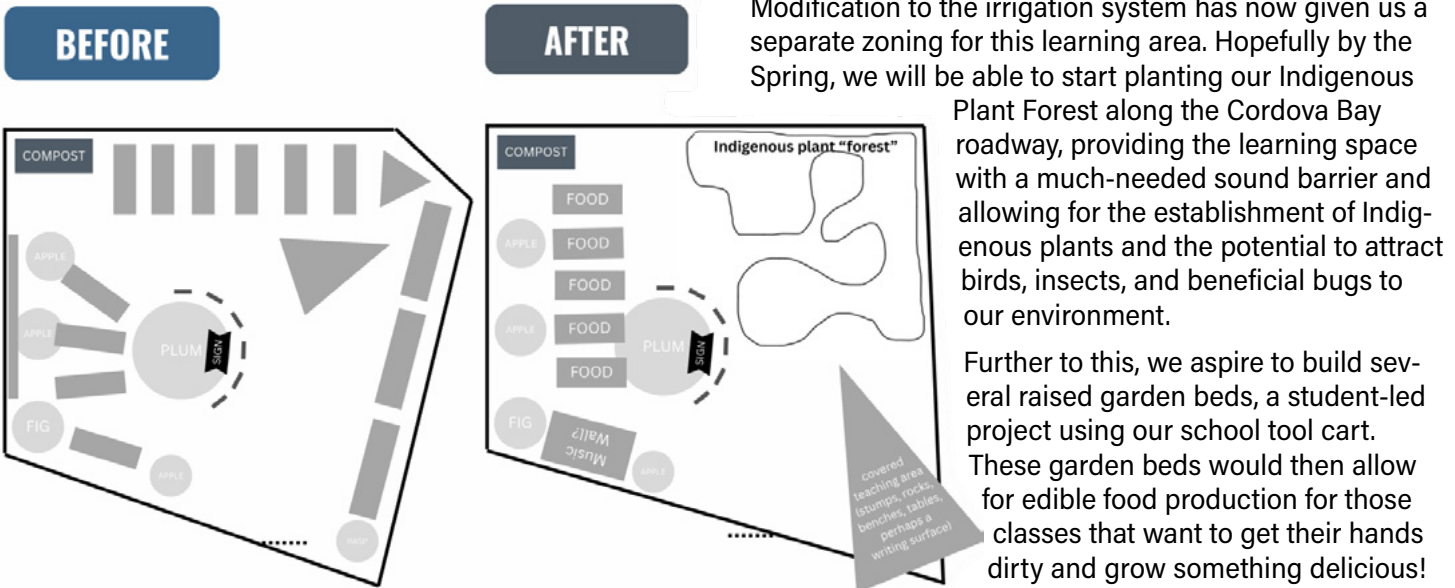
AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT AT CORDOVA BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Heather Simpson

Cordova Bay Elementary School teacher

Cordova Bay Elementary School is a small school located on the territory of the WSANEC people. We are fortunate to be surrounded by large cedar and Douglas fir trees and have access to a plethora of outdoor spaces (beaches and parks alike). As educators, we aspire to connect our students to the land and place on which they learn and live.

Our current outdoor learning space (or garden) has had several iterations over the years, along with various challenges, and we are now working to recreate an accessible outdoor learning space which students from K-5 can engage with. In collaboration with the Climate Changemakers District and the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, the goal aspires to develop an Indigenous Plant space along with a Food Garden Space and an Outdoor Classroom.



Why get kids outdoors learning?

- Getting outdoors connects us to the places we live and the environments we will want to protect.
- Getting outdoors results in better learning outcomes, across the board.
- The benefits of outdoor learning and play last beyond early education.
- Outdoor learning and play create healthier, more active children.
- Time spent outdoors boosts mental health and helps children develop their senses.

What is happening in the outdoor space?

Currently, we are working alongside district staff to prepare the area for the installation of a covered classroom area; think fancy lean-to with natural seating and sound barriers from the parking lot. In addition, work is being done on building back up the soil after several years of battling with overgrown grass and weeds; a result of the initial design which had a portion of the field sectioned off. With the removal of a large portion of these weeds (and their roots and seeds), we hope to return the soil to a more workable environment.

Modification to the irrigation system has now given us a separate zoning for this learning area. Hopefully by the Spring, we will be able to start planting our Indigenous Plant Forest along the Cordova Bay roadway, providing the learning space with a much-needed sound barrier and allowing for the establishment of Indigenous plants and the potential to attract birds, insects, and beneficial bugs to our environment.

Further to this, we aspire to build several raised garden beds, a student-led project using our school tool cart. These garden beds would then allow for edible food production for those classes that want to get their hands dirty and grow something delicious!

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Art Show and Sale. Photo by Donna Denman.

CORDOVA BAY 55+ ART GROUP SHOW AND SALE

By Donna Denman, CB55+ Art Group Coordinator

The Cordova Bay 55+ Art Group will be holding its Spring Art Show and Sale on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Cordova Bay Elementary School. Group members work in a variety of mediums including acrylic, watercolour, oil, pastels, mixed media, collage, ink and pencil. More than 15 talented artists will be exhibiting their original art, art cards, unique handcrafted creations and gifts. This is a free indoor event and there is plenty of parking available.

DESIGN FOR EVERYONE: HOW TO IMPROVE DESIGN ACCESSIBILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Crystal Sherrah

Good design choices can make websites, signs, community posters, restaurant menus and newsletters easier for people to access and enjoy. Accessible design is ensuring content can be used by people who have challenges with their eyesight or understanding complex material, like menus, signs, posters and billboards as well as digital media - websites, ads, and other online content. Anything people need to read or interpret can be made easier using accessibility principles.

How can you help increase accessible design in our community? If, for example, you create content for a computer screen, ensure colours are high contrast and the font is at least 16 pt. Ensure photos have a description (alternative text) so people with limited sight can understand the content. Posters should be clear and concise. The text should be large and in a simple font such as "Arial" or "Times New Roman", so it's easier to read from far away. If you post on social media, like Facebook, clear writing and plain language will help people better understand your content.

Next time you create a visual message, think about accessible design and these tips.

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Celebrating 50 Years of Community in Cordova Bay 1976-2026

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs has helped neighbours stay connected – reflecting the steady growth of a community shaped by care, character, and enduring relationships.

Homes evolve. Families grow. Renovations happen.

New chapters begin.

What helps a home – and a neighbourhood – endure?

- Thoughtful stewardship
- Care protecting long-term value
- Investment in community
- Strong local connections
- Trusted guidance when change arrives

Spring & Summer Home Care

As the seasons shift, it's a natural time to refresh, inspect, and prepare – protecting comfort today and value for tomorrow.

A cleared gutter.

A well-maintained roofline.

Outdoor spaces ready for gathering.

Small attentions. Lasting value.

Thinking about buying or selling this year?

If a move is part of your next chapter, we'd be pleased to offer perspective – grounded in experience and rooted in Cordova Bay.



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Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA)

The larger our membership, the greater our voice with Saanich Council on issues affecting our community.

Street Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

All residents, 18 years of age or older, residing at this same address receive a membership. Provide email addresses to receive our newsletter and timely announcements.

Name (1): _____ E-mail: _____

Name (2): _____ E-mail: _____

Name (3): _____ E-mail: _____

Name (4): _____ E-mail: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Annual Cost: Only \$10.00 per household. Membership fees support CBACA's activities on behalf of our community, provide grants to local non-profit organizations, and increase our influence with Saanich Council.

One Year - \$10.00 Two Years - \$20.00 Three Years - \$30.00 Five Years - \$50.00

Payments will be acknowledged by email. Do you also require a receipt? Yes, please No, thank you

1) For an electronic, online-fillable form and instructions to pay by e-transfer, visit www.cbaca.ca/membership, or scan the QR code to go directly to the online form,

- OR -

2) Complete this form and send it with your cheque payable to CBACA

- By mail to PO Box 53584, Victoria RPO Broadmead, V8X 5K2; - OR -
- Deposit in CBACA box at Mint Health + Drugs Cordova Bay, 5166 Cordova Bay Rd

Personal information is collected solely for communicating with individuals joining CBACA.

Membership Form

Please check one:

- Renewal Member(s)
 New Member(s)

