



AUGUST 2026

What business owners in Electoral Areas A, B and C need to know about government decisions, projects and opportunities.

The Rural Comox Valley Business Newsletter helps local business owners stay ahead of decisions and opportunities that may affect their operations. Each month, we monitor CVRD meetings, planning applications, infrastructure projects, and more then provide a concise summary of what happened, what's coming next, and why it matters.

NOTE: Municipal projects, meeting schedules and public engagement opportunities can change quickly. We encourage readers to follow the source links provided and visit the official Comox Valley Regional District websites for the most up-to-date information.

Comox Valley Regional District: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/>

Engage Comox Valley: <https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/>

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Did you know?

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NEWS

Partial Campfire Ban Reinstated

Business Impact: ● Watch

Electoral Area: A, B, C

The BC Wildfire Service reinstated a partial campfire ban across the region in response to changing wildfire conditions. The restriction may affect campgrounds, tourism operators and outdoor recreation businesses during the peak summer season.

Why it matters

Businesses serving visitors should be aware of current fire restrictions and communicate them to guests where appropriate.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Water Restrictions: Update Across the Comox Valley

Business Impact: ● Immediate Impact

Electoral Area: Areas A, B & C

Water restrictions continue to be in effect across the Comox Valley as dry summer conditions persist. In July, the Royston Water Local Service Area moved to Stage 3 water restrictions, joining several other water systems already operating under heightened conservation measures.

Current restrictions include:

- Royston Water Local Service Area (Area B): Stage 3 water restrictions effective July 10.
- Comox Valley Water System (serving Courtenay, Comox, CFB Comox and parts of Area B): Stage 3 water restrictions remain in effect.
- Black Creek–Oyster Bay Water Local Service Area (Area C): Stage 2 water restrictions in effect.
- Union Bay Water Local Service Area (Area A): Stage 2 water restrictions in effect.
- Graham Lake Water Service Area (Area A): Stage 1 water restrictions in effect

Businesses should check with their local water service for the most up-to-date information.

Why it matters

Water restrictions can affect businesses that rely on outdoor water use, including farms, landscaping companies, accommodation providers, restaurants, recreation facilities and other tourism-related businesses. Understanding which restrictions apply to your property can help you plan operations, communicate with customers and avoid unnecessary water use.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New Septic System Rebate Program Launched

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

Electoral Area: A, B, C

The CVRD launched a three-year Septic System Maintenance Rebate Program for properties in Electoral Areas A, B and C. Eligible property owners can receive up to \$700 toward inspections and qualifying maintenance completed by authorized professionals. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why it matters

Many rural businesses operate on private septic systems. This program may help reduce maintenance costs while protecting water quality and avoiding more expensive repairs.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

qapoje Park Improvements Completed

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

Electoral Area: A, B & C

The CVRD announced improvements to qapoje Park that enhance climate resiliency while recognizing Indigenous cultural heritage.

Why it matters:

Continued investment in regional parks supports tourism, recreation and visitor experiences throughout the Comox Valley.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Candidate Information Sessions Announced

Business Impact: ● Watch

Electoral Area: A, B & C

The CVRD announced information sessions for prospective candidates in the 2026 local government elections.

Why it matters:

Municipal and regional decisions directly affect taxation, infrastructure, planning and economic development. Understanding the election process helps businesses stay engaged in local governance.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Agricultural Land Reserve Application

Business Impact: ● Watch

Electoral Areas: C

The Electoral Areas Services Committee supported forwarding an Agricultural Land Reserve application involving soil extraction and fill placement to the Agricultural Land Commission for consideration.

Why it matters:

Agricultural Land Reserve decisions can affect farming operations, land management and future agricultural investment.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

The following meetings are open to the public and provide opportunities to stay informed or participate in decisions affecting businesses in Electoral Areas A (Baynes Sound–Denman/Hornby Islands), B (Lazo North) and C (Puntledge–Black Creek).

AUGUST MEETINGS

- **August 6, 2026** - 6:00pm - 8:00pm: Public Hearing
- **August 10, 2026** - 9:00am - 10:00am: Black Creek - Oyster Bay Services Committee
- **August 10, 2026** - 10:00am - 3:00pm: Electoral Areas Services Committee
- **August 11, 2026** - 1:00pm - 2:00pm: Comox Valley Sewage Commission
- **August 11, 2026** - 2:00pm - 3:00pm: Comox Valley Water Committee
- **August 11, 2026** - 3:00pm - 4:00pm: Regional Parks and Trails Committee
- **August 11, 2026** - 4:00pm - 7:00pm: Comox Valley Regional District Board (CVRD)
- **August 13, 2026** - 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission
- **August 17, 2026** - 3:30pm - 5:00pm: Advisory Planning Commission - Area B
- **August 20, 2026** - 3:30pm - 5:00pm: Advisory Planning Commission - Area C
- **August 26, 2026** - 1:00pm - 2:00pm: Board of Variance
- **August 31, 2026** - 10:00am - 3:00pm: Electoral Areas Services Committee

Public Hearings

- **Input Level:** Direct public commentary.
- **Details:** Held specifically for community members to speak or submit written comments regarding proposed bylaws (such as zoning or official community plan changes). Every attendee is given an opportunity to be heard directly.

Why it matters to businesses:

Public Hearings provide the best opportunity to influence decisions that could affect where businesses can operate, future development, housing, transportation, tourism and neighbouring land uses.

Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) & Agricultural APC

- **Input Level:** Advisory public participation.
- **Details:** Composed of appointed local community members providing land-use and planning advice to electoral area directors. The regional district conducts the planning and land use management in the electoral areas, with the exception of the Islands Trust which is within Electoral Area A and which has its own planning service. Meetings are open to the public to observe.

Why it matters to businesses:

APC meetings are often the first place where rezonings, development permits, Temporary Use Permits and Agricultural Land Reserve applications are discussed. They provide an early look at projects that may affect business activity, investment and future growth.

Regular Board, Committee, & Commission Meetings

- **Input Level:** Observation and pre-arranged delegations.
- **Details:** Includes the CVRD Board, Electoral Areas Services Committee, and various recreation or service commissions. These meetings are not open for spontaneous general floor input, but the public may attend to observe or apply to appear as a formal delegation (up to 10 minutes) by contacting Legislative Services at least one week prior.

Why it matters to businesses:

These meetings are where many of the decisions affecting rural businesses are made, including budgets, transportation priorities, infrastructure investments, utilities, parks, economic development initiatives and planning recommendations.

Board of Variance

- **Input Level:** Affected property owners/applicants.
- **Details:** Open for persons who deem their property interest affected by a specific minor variance application under consideration.

Why it matters to businesses:

While Board of Variance applications are generally limited to individual properties, they can affect business operations, expansion plans, signage, building additions, parking requirements or the redevelopment of commercial and agricultural properties. Businesses considering renovations or new construction may benefit from understanding how minor zoning variances are reviewed and approved.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Free Pre-Approved Building Plans Available for Secondary Dwellings

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

Electoral Areas: Areas A, B & C

The Comox Valley Regional District has launched a new program offering free pre-approved building plans for detached secondary dwellings in Electoral Areas A, B and C. The plans are designed to streamline the building permit process, reduce design costs and make it easier for property owners to add secondary housing to their properties while meeting local zoning and BC Building Code requirements.

Why it matters

Access to housing remains one of the biggest challenges facing rural employers. Making it easier to build secondary dwellings can help increase rental housing options for employees, seasonal workers and family members, while also creating opportunities for local builders, designers, tradespeople and suppliers. Although the plans are pre-approved, property owners must still confirm their property meets zoning and site-specific requirements and obtain the necessary permits before construction.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Comox Valley Regional District serves more than 70,000 residents across three municipalities and three electoral areas, with rural Electoral Areas A, B and C covering the majority of the region's land base and supporting hundreds of farms, tourism operators and small businesses.



The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening our local economy through advocacy, education, collaboration, and meaningful connections. We champion business success across the Comox Valley, ensuring the voices of our business community are heard at all levels of government while providing opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive together. This Rural Business Newsletter is part of our commitment to supporting the businesses that make the Rural Comox Valley a vibrant place to live, work, and do business.

[Visit our the Chamber of Commerce Website](#)

2026 Corporate Partners



Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce | #103-576, England Ave | Courtenay, BC V9N 2N3 CA

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