

Directors Report August 2026

Highway 19A Paving Work: Paving in the community is nearing completion. Notable safety improvements have been made to the highway shoulders for cyclists.

Recycling Depot Overflows & Relocation: High summer usage has led to overflowing bins, prompting inquiries from Electoral Area D and Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Area C. The issue is slated for the upcoming Comox Valley Solid Waste board agenda. Additionally, the CVRD is actively working to relocate the current depot tenant to suitable housing over the next few months to resolve the depot's overall status.

Strathcona Gardens Referendum: Following provincial approval without changes, the Regional Board finalized the referendum ballot question for ****Bylaw No. 643****. The referendum seeks to add designated parts of Area C (Quadra Island) as service participants, adjusting the cost-sharing formula based on converted hospital assessments (Campbell River at 100%, Area D at 90%, and Area C at 80%).

Governance & Financial Alignment: The referendum addresses a long-standing imbalance where Campbell River and Area D carried 100% of the facility costs and Area D held disproportionate voting power (1 vote vs. Campbell River's 4). A 2026 Recreation Study provided data showing that Quadra Island residents account for 66% of non-contributing user accounts (944 accounts total) across aquatics, rehab, and ice services.

The main arguments and supporting data for the proposed Strathcona Gardens Referendum (Bylaw No. 643) centre on correcting long-standing tax imbalances and aligning costs with actual usage patterns

- **Correcting Financial Disparity:** Currently, only the City of Campbell River and Electoral Area D bear 100% of the financial burden to fund and maintain the Strathcona Gardens Regional Recreational Hub.
- **Aligning with Regional Standards:** Peer districts across Vancouver Island (such as Nanaimo and the Comox Valley) draw from a broader pooled tax base to fund shared regional facilities.
- **Equalizing Board Governance:** The proposed change addresses a structural voting imbalance at the regional board level, where Electoral Area D holds only 1 vote compared to Campbell River's 4 votes.
- **Proportional Cost Sharing:** The new structure shares operating costs based on converted hospital assessments, accounting for geographic accessibility:

City of Campbell River: 100%

Electoral Area D (Oyster Bay-Buttle Lake): 90%

Electoral Area C (Quadra Island - Appendix A area):80%

Key Supporting Data: (2026 Recreation Study)

The decision to include Quadra Island is backed by findings from the 2026 Recreation Study:

Non-Contributing User Share: 66% of all active user accounts from non-contributing communities belong to Quadra Island residents.

Active User Accounts: 944 accounts at Strathcona Gardens belong to Quadra Island residents.

Service Utilization: Quadra Island residents actively utilize all core services at the hub, specifically*aquatics, rehabilitation services, and ice time.