

Chair Report for the AGM
March 25, 2023

Turning the corner seems to have been a theme for us in 2022. As the world started to emerge from the dark days of Covid, we saw a return to many of the wonderful things that make the Filberg such an amazing venue. We had a number of significant successes and, as in years gone by, it was our volunteers at the heart of much of what we accomplished. Here's what it looked like at the Filberg since the last AGM:

- We started 2022 with the addition of our new Executive Director, Linda Thomas. She has brought a ton of energy and passion to the Park. We're so lucky to have her.
- The Gift Shop, under the continued leadership of Anne Marie Bowen and Mo MacKendrick, had its best year ever. Thank you to all of the volunteers that worked so hard for us and to all of you members, and the public, that supported us.
- Easter returned to the park in 2022. We had a successful event that saw more than 500 guests enjoy our festivities. Thank you to our community partners: Cobs Bread Driftwood Mall, John's Your Independent Grocer Comox, Little Sparks Creative Early Learning Centre and All In One Party Shop.
- The jewel in our crown finally returned after a long absence. The Filberg Festival came to life July 29 – 31. The weather cooperated, albeit a bit toasty for some. Our volunteers, vendors, production team, and performers made this event one of our most successful ever.
- It was such a pleasure to bring back our Christmas event. We had a different format this time, and of our guests seemed to really enjoy it. Thank you to our Title Sponsor Odlum Brown Limited and Kevin Pantuso Portfolio Manager for providing the amazing Christmas lighting, which was a wonderful backdrop to the holiday season. Thank you also to our community partners Canadian Tire Courtenay, Comox Recreation, Cobs Bread Driftwood Mall, and Coastline Property Service.
- Other events in the park included: Heritage Week, BC Seafood Festival and National Garden Day.
- The Summer Kitchen continues to be a wonderful venue, with amazing food and the best view in the Valley. Feedback from the guests continue to be incredible. Well done Chef Marc-André and team!
- We were finally able to get our fire suppression needs accomplished in the Lodge. This has been a critical issue for many years. Thank you to the support from The Town of Comox and the Comox Fire Department.
- The Liz Stubbs cutting garden again had a great year. Sadly, our garden namesake passed away in 2022. Our appreciation and well wishes extends to the Stubbs family.
- The Hands On Farm had another successful year. If you haven't already done so you should check out the new fencing that keeps the adorable animals safe and protected.
- The Legacy Tree Program continues to grow. We continue to look for more sponsors.
- We had 21 weddings and receptions. We continue to be a desirable venue for these events, and this will keep being a priority for us going forward.
- We continue to provide 3 bursaries annually to local high schools.

- A special thank you to the Town of Comox for the amazing work that they do to keep our grounds beautiful.
- This past winter proved to be a challenge for us. We had two closures as a result of snow, ice, and heavy winds. Thank you to everyone that pitched in to help us get back up and running within a short period of time.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers. It takes so many people to keep our Park in operation and we sure appreciate everything you do. You can learn more about some of our dedicated volunteers through our volunteer of the month feature in our monthly newsletter.

Let's make this year our best year ever!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Edmunson, Vice-Chair of the Board
Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association