

Chair Report to the 2023 Annual General Meeting
Filberg Heritage Park and Lodge Association (FHPLA)

Held: May 11, 2024

What an amazing year for the FHPLA! It was a whirlwind of 12 months for all as we continued to grow in brand and revenue. None of this would be possible without the amazing support and dedication of our volunteers, as they are the backbone of our association. Additionally, the team of Linda Thomas, our ED and Serhii Krot, our new facility manager, have taken the park to a new level. Linda`s dedication and perseverance over the past two years have been astounding.

Here`s what it looked like at Filberg since our last AGM:

- We have found our niche market – wedding ceremonies, celebrations of life, and other receptions that have provided us with solid revenue without much disturbance to the neighbourhood.
- Our board continues to refine our governance model, and we have held onboarding sessions for new directors.
- All board members sit on several of our task forces and committees. Additionally, we invite non-board people to some committees and task forces.
- We continue to produce an excellent monthly newsletter that is both informative and easy to read. The “Volunteer of the Month” and “Featured Tree of the Month” are great additions.
- Our monthly Volunteer coffee continues to draw a good crowd. Our ED gives a good overview of past events, upcoming events and where help is needed. We also provide a report from the Board of Directors and an overview of our Governance model.
- We held two volunteer appreciation lunches one in the Spring and one at Christmas – great attendance at both.
- We held a very successful Easter at Filberg Park with crafts provided to over 500 children, hot dogs for all, games for all ages and a photo booth with the Bunny! Thanks to our sponsors, exp Realty, McDonald’s Comox Valley, and Cobbs Bread (Driftwood Mall)
- Once again, the Hands-on Farm opened at Filberg for the summer.
- We continue to provide three bursaries annually to Vanier, Isfeld and Highland secondary schools.
- We were pleased to welcome the BC Minister of Tourism, Art, Culture and Sport Lana Popham to the Park during the Festival as we were a recipient of the 2023 BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund.
- Our volunteers restarted the Lodge tour program and it proved to be very successful.

- The Summer Kitchen re-opened and provided its customers with the best view in the Valley. Chef Marc-Andre and his culinary team continue to provide an excellent offering.
- As the Town of Comox was designated a Bat Friendly Community by the BC Community Bat Programs of BC we hosted a successful Bat Day at the Park
- The Filberg Festival was a success! The board looked after an FHLPA booth providing information on our Association and the benefits of becoming a member. As a team, we do a very thorough debriefing, making recommendations for next year. Huge thanks to MRG Events and our many community sponsors.
- The Liz Stubbs cutting garden volunteers continue to provide lovely bouquets of flowers for sale. They work tirelessly planting, weeding, and watering for most of the year. Once again, they produced “Winter Posies” for sale at Christmas.
- The Gift shop continues to amaze us with their sales numbers and revenue. What an incredible group doing incredible work under the leadership of Anne Marie Bowen and Mo MacKendrick
- Once again, “Christmas at Filberg Park” was enjoyed by many. The outdoor lights were amazing, thanks to our sponsors, Odlum Brown and Kevin Pantuso, Chan Nowosad Boates, McDonald’s Comox Valley, COBS Bread (Driftwood Mall), and Coastline Property Service.
- Huge thanks to the Town of Comox for their continued support of our Association, for providing us with excellent groundskeeping, and for always being there when we need assistance. Our sincerest thanks to the Town representative, Councillor Maureen Swift, who always has FHLPA on her radar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has assisted and supported me during my 6-year term on the Board. As your chair it has been my honour to represent you at various engagements in the community as well as to work with a fantastic board, fully engaged and committed Executive Director, tireless and inventive Facility Manager, and the most dedicated volunteers that I have ever come across. We have accomplished a lot together and I am looking forward to what lies ahead in the coming years. Filberg Park gets into your soul as I find it the most calming and relaxing location in the Comox Valley.

All the best in the coming years!

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Craig, Chair

Board of Directors, FHLPA