

President's Annual Report for 2024
Respectfully submitted by the Chair of the Board of Directors
Cheryl Edmunson

To say that the past 12 months have been a time of action and success is an understatement. We have achieved so many wonderful things this past year, and we are very excited and proud to share them with you.

- Under the leadership of Mo MacKendrick and the management team, the Gift Shop had another amazing year of record donations and sales. Not only does this dedicated group of volunteers receive, inventory, price and place these treasures in the Gift Shop, they do a superior job of making the Lodge look beautiful for all of our guests.
- The Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden once again had a great year. This team of dedicated individuals has produced amazing bouquets throughout the year. Well done, everyone!
- The Filberg Festival was our strongest ever in 2024. We saw 15,000 visitors join us. The MRG Group, our Festival Producer, continues to do an amazing job. We're so proud to partner with them. Unfortunately, the BC government will not be offering the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Funding this year, so we will work hard to increase our numbers to make up this shortfall.
- The Legacy Tree Program continues to be a strong focus for us. Thank you to those of you who have participated in our program.
- Wedding ceremonies, celebrations of life, and other corporate events have continued to grow each year. We are doing a very professional job of showcasing the Filberg and meeting the needs of those who celebrate here.
- Our Easter and Christmas events were a huge success again last year, welcoming so many new families to the Park. We are one of the very few by-donation events for these two holidays.
- We are pleased to advise that the Cottage at the Park is in the midst of renovations to make it a wonderful meeting spot for local groups and wedding couples.
- You have likely heard that we have been awarded a level 1 arboretum accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. This accreditation recognizes Filberg Park for achieving professional standards essential to the development of and management of tree-focused parks worldwide. With only one other accredited Arboreta on Vancouver Island, we are in an elite group.
- The Summer Kitchen continued to be a great success. Congratulations to Chef Marc-Andre' and his team for another strong year. Best food and best view in the Comox Valley!
- The Hands On Farm continues to be a strong draw for the Park, especially for the little ones that visit us. We look forward to the Farm opening in the coming weeks and the work that the Comox Community Recreation does to run it each year.
- We continue to provide 3 bursaries annually to local SD71 high schools.

A special thank you to the Town of Comox. You do an amazing job of keeping our grounds beautiful. The Town helped us with some great things this year, including outdoor plumbing, fencing, and so much more. As always, our grounds continued to be exceptional. A special thank you to Councillor Maureen Swift for her dedication and support of the Filberg.

Linda, our Executive Director, continues to provide an informative and fun climate. She does a great job of producing a newsletter each month that showcases our "Volunteer of the Month" and "Featured Tree of the Month." Linda, this place doesn't run without you. You had an amazing year, and we all benefit from your hard work every day. Well done, Linda!

Thank you to our Facility Manager, Serhii. He has done a great job of keeping our buildings and surrounding areas in the Park beautiful and doing many fun projects to further engage our visitors.

We have been so pleased with the support from the community for our events this past year. Generosity is thriving in the Comox Valley.

Finally, to our many volunteers, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You continue to treat the Park like its your own and this means you do amazing work that keeps this jewel of the valley shining and thriving.

Cheryl Edmunson, President
Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association