

President's Annual Report for 2025
Respectfully submitted by the Chair of the Board of Directors
Cheryl Edmunson

The past 12 months have been a remarkable time for the Filberg Heritage Lodge & Park. A significant amount of activity and success has taken place. We're excited to share these successes with you:

- The Gift Shop was led by Mo MacKendrick, and later (starting January 1, 2026) by Linda Lytle, leaders who provided strong communication and guidance to the volunteers. The Gift Shop had another great year of record donations and sales. Our dedicated group of Gift Shop volunteers receive, inventory, price and place these generously donated treasures in the Gift Shop. They also do a wonderful job of making the Lodge look beautiful for all of our guests. The Gift Shop team supports our valued Tour Guides who provide education on the Lodge and its history.
- The Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden had another great year. This team of dedicated individuals has produced amazing bouquets throughout the year for our guests to purchase and also to display at the Summer Kitchen. Additionally, they created beautiful displays on the front porch of the Lodge and Potting Shed for our Christmas at Filberg Event. They have worked closely with our wedding team to provide wedding couples with DIY buckets for their special day.
- The Filberg Festival proved again to be a strong and successful event. We saw 15,500 visitors join us. The MRG Group, our Festival Producer, continues to do an amazing job, and we are very happy to be partnering with them. Our reputation for being a world class Festival continues.
- Wedding ceremonies continued to be a significant contributor to our success over the past year. Feedback from the wedding parties has been very positive. Weddings, together with family celebrations and corporate events, have continued to grow each year.
- Our Easter and Christmas events were a huge success last year. Our guest numbers have increased significantly. Support from the community, whether it is generous contributions from local businesses or the guests who provided kind donations for our events, has been very rewarding for us. We love to see the families enjoying our Park.
- We are pleased to advise that the Cottage has undergone a renovation. It is now a lovely spot for guests to join together for an event. We look forward to this spot becoming a beloved place for people to gather.

- The Legacy Tree Program continues to be a focus for us. We are pleased to say that we kicked-off another successful event at our Earth Day celebration. Many of the Legacy Trees are now renewing, and we are so pleased with the support we are seeing. Thank you to those of you who have participated in this program.
- We are proud to be a Level 1 Arboretum through 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. We are in an elite group with only one other accredited Arboreta on Vancouver Island. Our accreditation was front and center at our Earth Day celebration in 2026.
- The Summer Kitchen continued to be a great success. Congratulations to Chef Marc-Andre' and his team for another strong year.
- The Hands-On Farm continues to be a strong draw for the Park, especially for the little ones who visit us. We look forward to the Farm reopening in the coming weeks and thank the Comox Community Recreation for their dedication to this service.
- We continue to provide 3 bursaries annually to local SD71 high schools.

A special thank you to the Town of Comox. The Town provides staff to keep our gardens and grounds looking beautiful throughout the year. The Town also supported us throughout the year with outdoor plumbing, fencing and much more. A special thank you to Councillor Maureen Swift for her dedication and support of the Filberg.

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.

Our Executive Director, Linda Trevor, is the backbone of the activities that happen in the Park. Linda keeps our members informed with a monthly newsletter, she works tirelessly with the Town and groups in the community, and she moves forward initiatives that inform, educate and bring a lot of fun to the Park. One of her greatest successes is the priority that she places on supporting and recognizing our volunteers.

I am blessed to work with a strong Board of dedicated Directors. These individuals place a high priority on recognizing the Filberg in the community through events and speaking engagements. They're also quick to offer support at the many events we run in the Park throughout the year. Thank you for all that you do.

Lastly, to our many volunteers, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It's through your commitment and dedication that our Park thrives. We simply couldn't do this without you.

Cheryl Edmunson

President

Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association