

Langford Residents' Association (LRAS) 2025 Annual Report

Summary of 2025 Activities

February - Collaborated and supported ReImagined West Shore's Repair Café (now located in Langford!).

March - Provided support and volunteers to Greater Victoria Green Team (GVGT) Solstice Park cleanup.

- Conducted our 1st (of 4) LRAS community cleanup events at Westhills Park.

May – Conducted our 2nd LRAS community cleanup event at Westhills Park (FireSmart-sponsored event).

June – Commenced planning with Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) on our second annual Canadian Newcomers event in Langford.

July – Commenced planning on our inaugural free youth event at the Outpost board game cafe.

September - Conducted our 3rd LRAS community cleanup event at Westhills Park.

- Collaborated and supported ReImagined West Shore's Repair Café.

October - Conducted our 4th LRAS community cleanup event at Westhills Park.

November – Conducted our 2nd annual Canadian Newcomers event in Langford.

- Conducted our inaugural free youth event at the Outpost Board game cafe.

2025 Results and Metrics

A. Enhance our natural spaces and support community connections (LRAS Mission #1 and #3)

Our 4 community cleanup events resulted in the **removal of about 10,000 cubic feet of flammable invasive species** from Westhills Park: **enough to fill 143 full size pickup trucks**. End to end **these full trucks would form a train almost 1km long!!** This great achievement came from **700+ hours of volunteer labour**, in addition to the time spent supporting our partners like Greater Victoria Green Team. As a measure of savings to the taxpayers of Langford, this level of volunteer effort would be worth no less than \$21,000. But it's not about the money, it's about making a park and neighbourhood safer and providing opportunities for community-building and bonding. This year's results (3 x larger than last year) were greatly boosted by the participation of 200 volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter day Saints at one of our events. In addition, all our events are well supported by members of Langford Fire, Langford Parks and Langford Council, all donating freely their off duty time to a community effort. A huge thank you to all those who volunteered.



B. Support services, programs and events that foster connection in our community (LRAS Mission #3)

Once again, this year, we held our second annual Newcomers information event in collaboration with the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS). Although the evening was lightly attended by residents (unfortunately competing with a Blue Jays World Series game), it was very successful in providing an opportunity for discussing and exploring additional collaborative opportunities.

Given the recent arrival of the Outpost Board Game cafe in Langford, we were able to collaborate and plan a free youth event. We ran the inaugural event on a weeknight evening, and we had 33 youth take advantage of the free drop in board game event. At least one youth member commented about the need for a safe place to connect, hang out and socialize with other youth in Langford...we could not have said it better.



Funding

This year we received a \$500 grant from FireSmart BC as well as a \$1500 Grant-in-Aid from the City of Langford. These grants helped us cover the \$1800 costs associated with our 6 community events as well as covering a portion of the \$600 annual costs associated with running our registered non-profit society.

The Future of LRAS

As previously mentioned the membership has decided to cease operations and dissolve LRAS as a non-profit society. We would like to thank all those that supported us: the membership, the community, our amazing volunteers and City staff and Council. I personally see the upcoming consolidation with Reimagine West Shore as a type of organizational metamorphosis; we will grow into something bigger and better in terms of community building. Working together has always been, and will always be, our superpower. Now onward!!

Jeff Byam
(Ex) President
Langford Residents' Association