

Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden

Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association

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Supported by the B.C. | Canada 150 grant, the Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association (FHLPA) was able to revitalize the community-run Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden, along the way making important new connections in the community and industry. The project involved crafting a new concrete retaining wall in the garden, added fencing structures, and completely redeveloping the existing garden plots. Expanded garden facilities increased functionality and accessibility for volunteers and visitors alike. Along the way, FHLPA liaised with First Nations groups and the Provincial Archaeology Branch, connected with contractors, and engaged new volunteers.

Filberg Lodge was developed in 1929 by businessman Robert Filberg, who crafted the property into a European-style lodge and park. It is estimated that the Filbergs collected over 100 species of tree seeds from around the world that were eventually planted

on this property to compliment this vision. Today, visitors can still spend time under these very same trees and engage in this unusual piece of living legacy. The land upon which Filberg Park was originally built in the 1920's and 30's is on the traditional territories of four Indigenous groups, the Nanwakolas Council, Qualicum First Nation, Tla'amin First Nation, and Xwemalhkwa First Nation. Before proceeding the FHLPA liaised with the groups to receive the go-ahead to break ground on the project, thereby forming new community and stakeholder connections.

The rebuilding and restructuring of the garden has not only provided much-needed infrastructural support, but also helped this vibrant community space grow. The new fence protects the carefully grown plants from four-legged visitors, and the addition of a wrought iron gate provides more functionality and access for volunteers. A reconfiguration of the flower beds has created more growing space, allowing for a larger variety of flowers in the garden. Twelve volunteers shared the task of filling the new garden beds with seedlings and bulbs beds. Annually more than 1000 volunteer hours are spent planting seedlings, cultivating plants and maintaining the garden. The addition of a newly built red flower cart helps with the sale of the beautiful bouquets in the spring and summer, which are a welcome boon to Fall fundraising efforts.

It is amazing how much growth can stem from the simple revitalization of a garden plot, and a project like this can spread deep roots in a tight-knit community like Comox. Spaces where people can come together provide opportunities for learning,

While in the Cutting Garden the other week, there were three generations admiring the garden from outside the gate. A grandmother, a mother and a young child, each one was eager to come in to smell, see and wander around the flower beds. It was a special moment for me and for them to come into the garden and experience the beauty. We look forward to many more moments like this as the Cutting Garden continues to attract visitors to the park and gain interest from all generations.

– Eden Lindsay-Bodie, Executive Director

conversation, and community building. These are the things that make a place worth living – and worth protecting. By using this grant to support improvements to the garden, the FHLPA has generated more community interest to enjoy the Lodge, park, and surrounding area. Preservation and involvement go hand in hand, and the improvements to the garden have led to a noticeable increase in interest and support from the community for the preservation and maintenance of the heritage site. This interactive, engaging, and collaborative community project makes people care about their history and their community by giving them an opportunity to have a creative, connected experience.

WEBSITE: filberg.com/
FACEBOOK: [@FilbergPark](https://www.facebook.com/FilbergPark)
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Filberg Apple Press Party, 2017
 Photo credit: Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association.



The Cutting Garden surrounded by its new fence and concrete retaining wall.
 Photo credit: Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association.



Contractor, and local archeologists who were on site throughout the project in case anything interesting was found.
 Photo credit: Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association.