

Colwood Creek Ratepayers

info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

June 22, 2026

Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a personal statement, chronology, and supporting correspondence regarding recent events involving Councillor Ian Ward.

Sincerely,

Hilary Mackey
(Retired Master Gardener)
President

Enclosures: 2



Personal Statement

I am no longer confident that Colwood Creek Park can be adequately protected outside the Agricultural Land Reserve.

When the Colwood Creek Ratepayers was formed, our immediate concern was the proposed Community Garden Hub and the failure to consult the surrounding community. After the proposal was withdrawn, our Executive turned its attention to understanding what protections would exist if the park were removed from the ALR.

We met with the Mayor and CAO, sought information from Planning staff, and carefully considered the advice of our Vice President, a retired professional forester with decades of experience in land-use decisions involving governments and stakeholders. He believes the highest and best use of this land is as a dedicated municipal park. Through this process, I was beginning to accept that Colwood Creek Park could be adequately protected outside the ALR because I believed a process of consultation and trust-building was underway.

What I did not anticipate was the effort Councillor Ian Ward would devote to publicly asserting that I had failed to respond to his requests for contact and that the Colwood Creek Ratepayers was not interested in consultation. Responding to those assertions required the preparation of a chronology, documentary record, correspondence to our membership, and to Mayor and Council. More importantly, it diverted attention and energy from our primary objective: understanding and communicating to our membership the municipal protections available to Colwood Creek Park.

As I experienced it, this episode damaged my confidence in a process that I believed was beginning to rebuild trust between residents and the City. As a result, I am less confident in municipal protections alone than I had recently become.

The question before me is no longer simply whether Colwood Creek Park should remain in the ALR. It is whether residents can have confidence that the processes intended to protect the park will be respected in the future.

Hilary Mackey

Consolidated PDF.pdf

- 1 June 8 1855 Councillor Ward (IW) emails Hilary Mackey (HM), requests meeting on weekend or early next week
- 2 June 9 1804 IW emails HM: CGS proposal pulled, still welcomes a meeting
- 3 June 11 0730 HM emails IW a cordial invitation for weekend meeting
June HM receives no response to the invitation
11-16
- 4 June 14 0239 Lawrence Surges (LS) posts on Facebook
- 5 June 17 0933 IW emails HM requesting meeting
- 6 June 17 0935 Via FB Messenger to LS, IW seeks a meeting with HM
- 7 June 17 0936 On FB, IW comments that he messaged LS
- 8 June 17 0936 On FB, IW comments: emailed Ratepayers twice, seeks to consult
- 9 June 17 2322 HM sends follow-up email to IW, requests info
- 10 June 17 2322 With it, HM forwards original June 11 invitation to IW
June HM receives no response to her email
17/18
- 11 June 18 0933 IW emails webmaster (LS), states he's emailed President (HM) twice without a reply, interested in meeting
- 12 June 18 0935 IW emails CCR
- 13 June 18 1425 HM replies, thanks IW for his interest, explains CCR focus is currently on the upcoming public hearing and related community matters, and defers consideration of a meeting
- 14 June 18 1556 IW emails again, outlines interest in meeting, expresses concern the organization's not interested in consultation
- 15 June 18 1559 IW posts HM June 18 email on FB
- 16 June 18 1559 IW publicly questions the sincerity of the CCR's interest in consultation

From: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Subject: Hello
Date: June 8, 2026 at 6:55 PM
To: president@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Hi Hilary,

Thank you for making the effort (you and your neighbours) to come out to the Council meeting this evening. I am away the rest of the week on business, but I'd welcome the opportunity to meet this coming weekend or early next week if it suits your schedule?

Again, thank you for coming out and I appreciate you educating me on the views of many of the residents in the area!

Best regards,

Ian Ward
City Councillor

City of Colwood
250-478-5999

iward@colwood.ca | www.colwood.ca

Follow @CityofColwood on [facebook](#), [twitter](#) and [instagram](#)!

*Please use our online **Action Request** form to report issues on Colwood roads and throughout our community. Your information will go directly into our tracking system for follow up so we can provide more information, take appropriate action and better understand your needs and expectations.*

From: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Subject: Garden Plan
Date: June 9, 2026 at 6:04 PM
To: president@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Hi Hilary,

You likely already are aware, but if not, the Colwood Garden Society has apparently pulled their proposal.

I'd still welcome the chance to meet to better understand your neighborhood concerns so that I may be better informed in future as other issues arise.

Best regards,

Ian Ward

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From: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca
Subject: Re: Garden Plan
Date: June 11, 2026 at 7:30 AM
To: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca

Hi Ian,

Thanks for reaching out. Yes, I heard on Tuesday. The threat has hung like a cloud over the neighbourhood and we are very relieved.

My Vice President, Jim Gowriluk, and I will be happy to meet with you this weekend. He and I are both retired from our professional work and working for our community is our priority.

Is either Sat or Sun around 10 available for you? If not please suggest other times. It is supposed to get very hot on Sunday.

Best regards,

Hilary Mackey

On Jun 9, 2026, at 6:04 PM, Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca> wrote:

Hi Hilary,

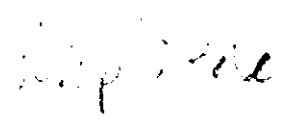
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I'd still welcome the chance to meet to better understand your neighborhood concerns so that I may be better informed in future as other issues arise.

Best regards,

Ian Ward

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Comments

Colwood Creek Park ALR application discussion

Title generated by AI from Meta

**Colwood Community Association**

Lawrence Surges · 6d ·

Sunday, June 14, 2026 2:39 AM

colwoodcreekratepayers.ca**Colwood Creek Ratepayers****Re: Public Hearing - Colwood Creek Park ALR Application**

Members of the Colwood Creek Ratepayers are considering the issue. To facilitate the process, our Vice President prepared a DRAFT Discussion Paper for our membership. The paper's content will change as we find facts.

Membership in our group is open to any resident of the Colwood Creek Park neighbourhood.

The same issue has come up in the Colwood Community Association group, so we invite you to visit <https://colwoodcreekratepayers.ca> to read the draft document. If you live in our neighbourhood, we hope you'll join and learn with us.

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From: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Subject: Meeting?
Date: June 17, 2026 at 9:33 AM
To: president@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Hi, just following up on my earlier offer to meet in the neighbourhood. I'd be available this Friday if that works for you and your membership.

Regards,

Ian Ward

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Ian Ward

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**Ian Ward**

Profile

Add friend

@ianalistairward

Messages and calls are secured with end-to-end encryption. Only people in this chat can read, listen to, or share them. [Learn more](#)

June 17, 2026

WED 09:35

Hi Lawrence, I've emailed the ratepayers "President" email twice to seek a meeting. If there's interest, perhaps you could help facilitate? I'd like to better understand the neighbourhood concerns as nobody knows the area better than those who live there! Regards, Ian Ward, Councillor, City of Colwood
iward@colwood.ca



Tap and hold to pin



If you accept, Ian will be able to call you and may see info like your Active Status and when you've read messages. Choose who can message you.

Block

Delete

Accept



No notifications



More



Ian Ward · 2d ·  All-star contributor · Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:36 AM

Lawrence Surges I've sent you a message. Looking to connect with the ratepayers to meet and understand the issues direct from the neighbourhood. Thanks!

Reply





Ian Ward · 1d · All-star contributor · Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:36 AM

Lawrence Surges Brett Donaldson I've emailed the ratepayers twice now seeking to consult with your group and meet to understand the neighbourhood concerns. Perhaps someone can speak to Hilary and reply? Thanks!

Reply  1



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From: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca
Subject: Fwd: Garden Plan
Date: ~~June 17, 2026~~ at 11:22 PM
To: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Bcc: Jim Gowriluk jim.gowriluk@shaw.ca, Lawrence C. Surges surgeslc@gmail.com

Councillor,

I replied to your earlier email and have forwarded it below in case you did not receive it.

Could you let me know what you would like to discuss?

Regards,

Hilary Mackey

Begin forwarded message:

From: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca
Date: June 11, 2026 at 7:30:21 AM PDT
To: Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca>
Subject: Re: Garden Plan

Hi Ian,

Thanks for reaching out. Yes, I heard on Tuesday. The threat has hung like a cloud over the neighbourhood and we are very relieved.

My Vice President, Jim Gowriluk, and I will be happy to meet with you this weekend. He and I are both retired from our professional work and working for our community is our priority.

Is either Sat or Sun around 10 available for you? If not please suggest other times. It is supposed to get very hot on Sunday.

Best regards,

Hilary Mackey

On Jun 9, 2026, at 6:04 PM, Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca> wrote:

Hi Hilary,

You likely already are aware, but if not, the Colwood Garden Society has apparently pulled their proposal.

I'd still welcome the chance to meet to better understand your neighborhood concerns so that I may be better informed in future as other issues arise.

Best regards,

Ian Ward

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dep 7/1/26

From: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Subject: Meeting?
Date: ~~June 18~~, 2026 at 9:33 AM
To: webmaster@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Good Morning,

I have tried emailing the President email twice now with no reply. And sent a DM to your Facebook representative (Lawrence).

Per my comment to Hilary at the last Council meeting I'd be interested in meeting the group to better understand their concerns. Feel free to contact me at:
iward@colwood.ca

Best regards,

Ian Ward
Colwood Councillor

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From: Ian Ward iward@colwood.ca
Subject: Meeting?
Date: June 18, 2026 at 9:35 AM
To: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Hi,

Per my previous emails to the President email address, I'm again following up to gauge the interest in meeting so that I might better understand the neighbourhood concerns.

Please feel free to contact me at: iward@colwood.ca

Best regards,

Ian Ward
Colwood Councillor

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From: Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca>
 Subject: Re: Meeting?
 Date: June 18, 2026 at 3:56 PM
 To: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca

Hi Hilary,

Thank-you for the reply. I appreciate that this is your decision, however the offer remains open should you change your mind. I am meeting with one of the folks who came to the last Council meeting in a yellow ratepayers shirt on Saturday (who responded via social media).

I was interested in meeting to better understand the concerns "on the ground" from residents and in response to concerns about lack of consultation. A public hearing doesn't really provide for meaningful dialogue as it's strictly one way and no real open conversation can take place under the meeting rules. However, if consultation is no longer an issue from your perspective I respect that.

Best regards,

Ian

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From: info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca <info@colwoodcreekratepayers.ca>
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2026 14:24:54
To: Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca>
Subject: Re: Meeting?

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Councillor,

Thank you for your interest in understanding neighbourhood concerns.

Our focus is currently on the upcoming public hearing and related community matters. We are not in a position to schedule a meeting at this time.

We will revisit your request at a future point.

Regards,

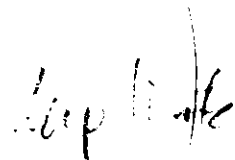
Hilary Mackey
 President
 Colwood Creek Ratepayers

On Jun 18, 2026, at 9:35 AM, Ian Ward <iward@colwood.ca> wrote:

Hi,

Per my previous emails to the President email address, I'm again following up to gauge the interest in meeting so that I might better understand the neighbourhood concerns.

Please feel free to contact me at: iward@colwood.ca



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Ian Ward · 1d · All-star contributor Thursday, June 18, 2026 3:59 PM

After numerous attempts to reach out my sincere effort to consult with this community group was rebuffed. It's hard to reconcile claims about lack of consultation when people refuse to reply or meet.

Councillor,

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Thank you for your interest in understanding neighbourhood concerns

Our focus is currently on the upcoming public hearing and related community matters. We are not in a position to schedule a meeting at this time.

We will revisit your request at a future point.

Regards,

Hilary Mackey
President
Colwood Creek Ratepayers

Reply  2

