

August 19, 2026

South Wellington Community Centre Officially Opened

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) celebrated the official opening of the South Wellington Community Centre with dignitaries, funders, the South Wellington and Area Community Association (SWACA) and the public on Wednesday, August 19. During the celebration, attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, toured the facility and learned about recreation and community programs available in Electoral Area A.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, speeches were presented by the following dignitaries:

- Tamara Kronis, MP, Nanaimo-Ladysmith
- George Anderson, MLA, Nanaimo-Lantzville
- Jessica Stanley, Director, RDN Electoral Area A
- Tom Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks, RDN (retired)

The new community centre features spaces that can be rented by individuals, groups and businesses for programs, events and workshops, as well as a gathering space where community members can connect in a casual, welcoming setting. Outdoors there is a playground, sport court with basketball hoops and a play field.

Background

In 2022, the RDN and School District 68 entered a 25-year lease for the former South Wellington School and Grounds with the intent of using the land as a community park and converting the school into a community centre. Capital work on the building began in 2024 and, on August 1, 2026, the South Wellington and Area Community Association took on the day-to-day operation of the facility. The RDN is responsible for the capital costs of the building and the management, maintenance and planning of the community park (grounds, field and sport court).

The \$4.4 million cost to bring the building up to the required standards was funded by \$2.9 million through the Build Communities Strong Fund Community stream, \$360,765 in Growing Community Funds, almost \$1.1 million in reserve funds and \$60,003 from other funding sources. Ongoing operational costs will be funded by the Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Service.

For more information about the South Wellington Community Centre, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/south-wellington-community-centre and swaca.ca/community-centre. For information about Electoral Area A parks, recreation and culture services, visit rdn.bc.ca/area-a-recreation. Photos of the event can be viewed on the RDN's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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Quotes

"Community spaces help bring people together and build strong and vibrant communities. The South Wellington Community Centre will give residents a welcoming place to gather, learn, stay active, and connect. Our government is proud to support a project that will serve this Vancouver Island community for years to come."

The Honourable Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors), and Member of Parliament for Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke

"Communities are stronger and more connected when people have opportunities to come together. The South Wellington Community Centre gives residents of South Wellington and the surrounding area a space to access recreation and community programs and build the relationships that help communities thrive. I'm grateful to everyone who worked together to bring this project to life, and I look forward to seeing people of all ages enjoy this space for years to come."

The Honourable George Anderson, MLA for Nanaimo-Lantzville, and Parliamentary Secretary for Energy and Climate Solutions

"On behalf of the RDN and from the bottom of my heart, thank you to our funding partners and the South Wellington and Area Community Association for making this much-needed community centre a reality. This community-run space helps address service gaps, including recreation and arts programming, after-school care and emergency preparedness, while building social connection and supports among community members. I look forward to seeing residents of all ages enjoy this great new amenity."

Jessica Stanley, Director, Electoral Area A

"This Community Centre means so much more to SWACA than simply having a building to operate. It gives our community a place to come together again — a place for neighbours to meet, kids and families to take part in programs, seniors to connect, local groups to gather, and people of all ages to feel like they have somewhere they belong. We're really excited to see the Centre grow into whatever our community needs it to be over the years ahead. Our hope is that it becomes a busy, welcoming space filled with programs, events, celebrations, learning and everyday community connection. There has been a lot of work by a lot of people to get us to this point, and as Chair of SWACA, I'm incredibly grateful and excited to finally open the doors and see this space come to life."

Rebeca Easthom, Chair, South Wellington and Area Community Association

Key Points

- South Wellington Community Centre officially opened August 19.
- The centre offers indoor rental spaces, programs and outdoor amenities and both SWACA and the RDN will use the space to deliver programs.
- The \$4.4 million project was funded through multiple sources, including federal and provincial grant funding, with SWACA operating the facility.
- The RDN is responsible for the building's capital costs and managing the community park, including the grounds, field and sport court.

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Quick Facts

- The original school, constructed in 1969, is in Electoral Area A and was in operation until 2013.
- The community centre includes 9,108 sq. ft. of functional indoor space with an additional 5,932 sq. ft. of storage and 2,207 sq. ft. of covered outdoor space.
- The outdoor spaces are now a community park.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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