

VANCOUVER ISLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS:

2026

VILGMA



CONFERENCE

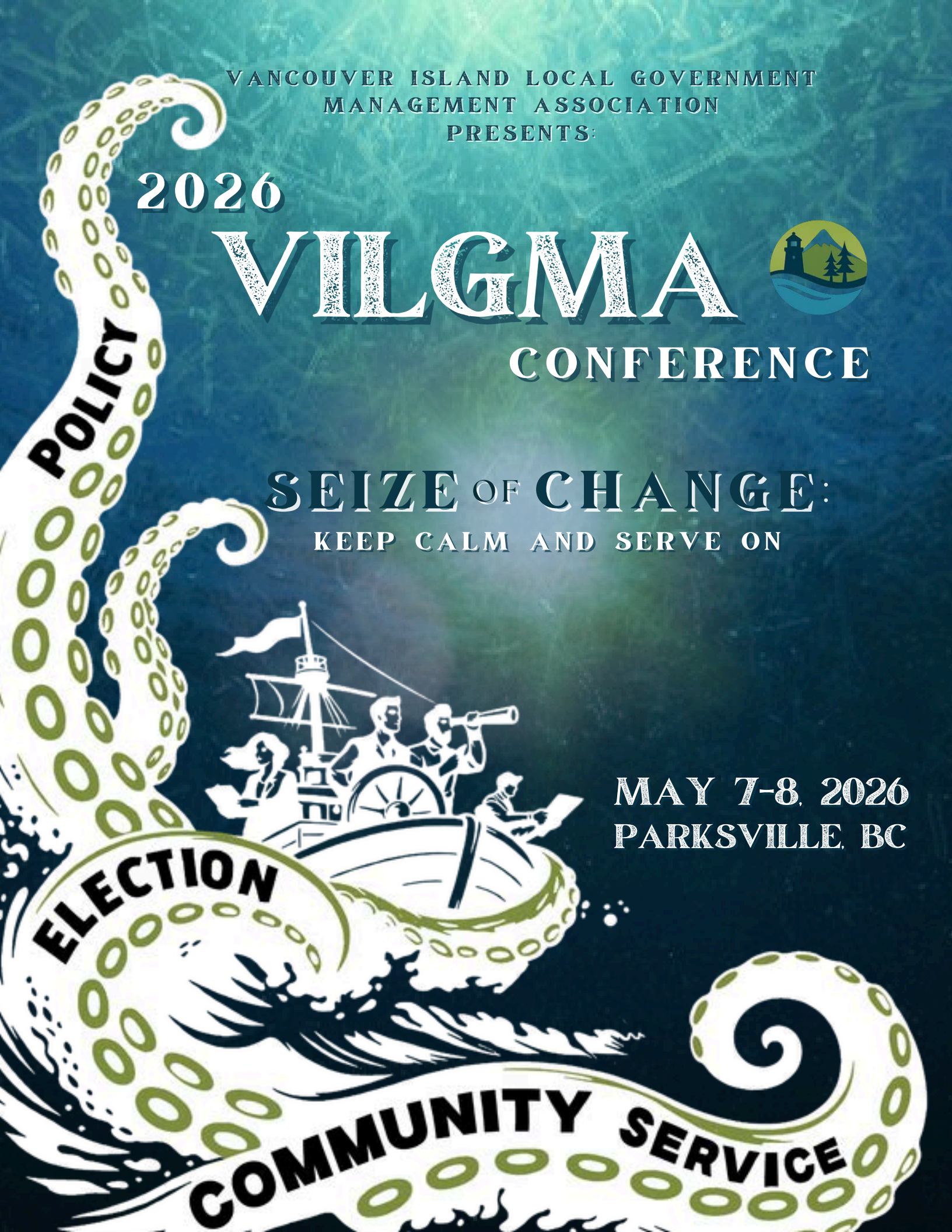
SEIZE OF CHANGE:  
KEEP CALM AND SERVE ON

MAY 7-8, 2026  
PARKSVILLE, BC

POLICY

ELECTION

COMMUNITY SERVICE



# 2026

# VILGMA CONFERENCE

The Vancouver Island Chapter of the Local Government Management Association (VILGMA) is holding its annual conference in Parksville on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 hosted at the Parksville City Hall. This year's conference will be hosting a comprehensive selection of guest speakers, relevant topics and an excellent opportunity to network with other local government professionals representing their Vancouver Island communities. With local, provincial and global changes among us and ahead of us, as local government service providers we must **Keep Calm and Serve On in the Seize of Change.**

*Check us out  
online!*



[www.lgma.ca/vilgma](http://www.lgma.ca/vilgma)

Hosted in the City of Parksville:



# PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

## THURSDAY, MAY 7

*Breakfast - City Hall* 8:30 AM

**Mayor's Welcome** - City Hall 9:00 AM

**Kevin Ramsay & James Ridge** - City Hall 9:15-10:15 AM

*Networking Break - City Hall* 10:15-10:30 AM

**Municipal Finance Authority** - City Hall 10:30 AM-11:00 PM

**Lidstone & Company** - City Hall 11:00-12:00 PM

*Lunch Break - City Hall* 12:00-1:00 PM

**Tim Pley & Associates** - City Hall 1:00-2:00 PM

*Networking Break - City Hall* 2:00-2:15 PM

**Keynote Speaker: Sara Wegwitz** - City Hall 2:15-3:30 PM

**Cornhole Tournament** - Parksville Community Park & Beach 3:30 PM

*Networking Break - Beach Club Resort* 6:00 PM

*Dinner with Entertainment by Jason Verners* - Beach Club Resort 6:30 PM

## FRIDAY, MAY 8

*Breakfast - City Hall* 8:00 AM

**AGM & Election** - City Hall 8:30-9:00 AM

**LGMA** - City Hall 9:00-9:30 AM

**Colliers Project Leaders** - City Hall 9:30-10:00 AM

*Networking Break - City Hall* 10:00-10:30 AM

**CivicInfo BC** - City Hall 10:30-11:00 AM

**MIABC** - City Hall 11:00-11:30 AM

**BC Assessment** - City Hall 11:30-12:00 PM

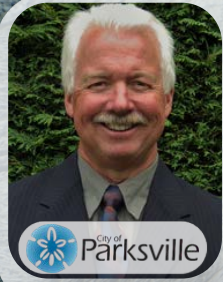
*Grab & Go Lunch - City Hall* 12:00 PM



**DAY 1:**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

**MAYOR DOUG O'BRIEN 9:00 AM**  
**CITY OF PARKSVILLE**



**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

Mayor Doug O'Brien of the City of Parksville will kick off the 2026 VILGMA Conference with a welcome to delegates. This opening session will set the stage for a focused and engaging program.

**KEVIN RAMSAY & JAMES RIDGE**

**9:15 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

Bringing a wealth of local government experience, Kevin Ramsay and James Ridge offer practical insights shaped by real-world challenges. In a time of constant change, their perspective helps ground decision-making in steady leadership and adaptable thinking. Their combined experience across administration and operations brings a balanced, solutions-focused lens to the conversations that matter most.



[www.innovastrategygroup.com](http://www.innovastrategygroup.com)

**MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY 10:30 AM**



**Municipal Finance Authority of BC**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

A cornerstone of local government finance in BC, the Municipal Finance Authority supports communities in navigating complex financial landscapes. As change accelerates, their work helps ensure stability, sustainability, and confidence in long-term planning. From pooled borrowing to investment management, they provide the tools that help local governments stay financially resilient.



[www.mfa.bc.ca](http://www.mfa.bc.ca)

# DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 7

## LIDSTONE & COMPANY

11:00 AM

**Location:** Parksville City Hall

Specializing in local government law, Lidstone & Company provides trusted guidance through evolving legislative and regulatory environments. Their expertise helps communities move forward with clarity, even when the path ahead is uncertain. With deep knowledge of BC statutes and case law, they support local governments in making informed, defensible decisions.



[www.lidstone.info](http://www.lidstone.info)

LIDSTONE & COMPANY



**TPA**  
Tim Pley & Associates

## TIM PLEY & ASSOCIATES

1:00 PM

**Location:** Parksville City Hall

Focused on governance, leadership, and organizational effectiveness, Tim Pley & Associates supports local governments in adapting to change while staying grounded in strong, thoughtful practices. Their work often helps bridge the gap between policy and implementation, ensuring ideas translate into meaningful action.



[www.timpley.ca](http://www.timpley.ca)

**DAY 1:**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7** Parksville City Hall

**SARAH WEGWITZ**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**2:15 PM**



Sara Wegwitz is a resilience educator, leadership facilitator, and organizational team coach with over 27 years of experience spanning critical care nursing, coaching, and leadership development.

She works extensively with municipal leaders and teams across Canada, supporting them to stay steady, communicate clearly, and build trust, especially in high-pressure, high-stakes environments.

Known for her grounded presence and practical approach, Sara equips leaders with simple, real-world tools to navigate pressure, steady the room, and stay human while leading through complexity and change.

### **Calm Is Contagious... And So Is Good Leadership**

There's a lot coming at leaders right now. Change. Pressure. Strong personalities. Public expectations. And in an election year, all of it gets amplified. In the middle of it, you're still expected to stay steady, make good decisions, and lead well. Think about the last tense meeting or difficult conversation you were in. Before anything was said... You could feel where things were going. That's not random. People are constantly picking up on cues from the person leading the room, especially under pressure. And in those moments, one thing matters more than most leaders realize. Not what you say. But how you show up.

In this session, we'll explore one often-overlooked leadership skill that becomes a true superpower: the ability to read the room, notice subtle shifts, and intentionally shift the tone through how you show up. Because your presence can change what happens next. This isn't about being calm all the time. It's about knowing how to come back to centre, think clearly, and lead in a way others can feel and trust. You'll leave with practical tools you can use right away, and a steadier, more grounded way of leading through change. Because calm is contagious. And so is good leadership.



[sarawegwitz.com](https://sarawegwitz.com)

# DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 7

## CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

3:30 PM



### Parksville Community Park & Beach 193 Island Hwy E, Parksville

Get ready to bring your game face! The Cornhole Championship Tournament is on, and things are about to get *just competitive enough*. Whether you've been honing your toss for years or have never touched a bean bag in your life, all skill levels are welcome (and equally likely to claim victory, let's be honest). In the spirit of "Seize of Change, Keep Calm and Serve On," this is your chance to channel your focus, steady your aim, and embrace the thrill of friendly (*but very serious*) competition.

Join **Team North Island** or **Team South Island**, step up to the boards, and prepare to defend your honour, throw by throw, as the leaderboard heats up. Expect dramatic comebacks, questionable techniques, and at least one team that takes it far more seriously than they should. Bragging rights are absolutely on the line... and no experience is required - just a willingness to compete and laugh!

## DINNER

FEATURING ENTERTAINMENT  
BY JASON VERNERS

6:30 PM

### Beach Club Resort

Prepare to be amazed as Jason Verners brings a dynamic mix of magic, humour, and audience interaction. Performing throughout the dinner hour, Jason will move through the room, engaging guests right with close-up magic and moments of surprise. His approachable style creates shared laughter and unforgettable experiences in a relaxed, up-close setting. Blending polished illusions with quick wit, Jason delivers entertainment that unfolds right in front of you!



[www.jasonverners.com](http://www.jasonverners.com)

sarawequits.com

**DAY 2:**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**Parksville City Hall**

**AGM & ELECTION**

**8:30 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

The Annual General Meeting and Election provides members with an opportunity to receive chapter updates, review the past year, and look ahead to future priorities. Members will also participate in the election of the Executive, supporting leadership for the year ahead and the ongoing work of the association. This session is an important part of ensuring the organization remains responsive, well-governed, and connected to its membership.



**LGMA**

**9:00 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

As the professional home for local government leaders across BC, LGMA supports learning, connection, and leadership development. In times of change, the organization plays a key role in helping members stay informed, supported, and ready to serve. Through conferences, training, and peer networks, LGMA continues to strengthen the profession across the province.



**DAY 2:**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**Parksville City Hall**

**COLLIERS PROJECT LEADERS**

**9:30 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

Colliers Project Leaders works alongside communities to deliver infrastructure and capital projects that meet today's needs

while preparing for tomorrow. Their work reflects the balance between managing change and building lasting value. With expertise in project management, advisory services, and strategic planning, they help turn complex visions into achievable outcomes.



Project Leaders



[www.colliersprojectleaders.com](http://www.colliersprojectleaders.com)



**CIVICINFO BC**

**10:30 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

A trusted hub for local government information, CivicInfo BC connects professionals with the resources, opportunities, and knowledge they need.

In a rapidly changing environment, access to timely information is more important than ever. Their platform supports everything from job postings to bylaw sharing, helping communities stay connected and informed.



[www.civicinfo.bc.ca](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca)

**DAY 2:**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**Parksville City Hall**

**MIABC**

**11:00 AM**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

Supporting local governments through risk management and insurance services, MIABC helps communities prepare for uncertainty. Their work ensures that even in times of change, organizations can move forward with confidence. By providing coverage, education, and risk-sharing solutions, they play a key role in protecting public assets and services.



[www.miabc.org](http://www.miabc.org)



**BC ASSESSMENT**

**11:30 AM**



**BC ASSESSMENT**

**Location:** *Parksville City Hall*

Providing property assessments that underpin local government taxation, BC Assessment plays a vital role in maintaining fairness and transparency. As communities evolve, their work helps ensure systems remain balanced and responsive. Their data and expertise support informed decision-making for both governments and property owners across the province.



[www.bcassessment.ca](http://www.bcassessment.ca)

# 2025-2026 VILGMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Thank you to the 2025–2026 VILGMA Board of Directors for their leadership, time, and commitment to supporting local government professionals across Vancouver Island. Your dedication helps strengthen our network, create meaningful learning opportunities, and guide the association's ongoing work. We appreciate all that you do to keep the organization moving forward.

<b>CHAIR:</b>	<b>Michael Dillabaugh, City of Langford</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR:</b>	<b>Pete Nelson-Smith, Village of Zeballos</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Marlie Boven, City of Parksville</b>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Melisa Miles, City of Langford</b>
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE:</b>	<b>Jacquie Hill, Regional District of Nanaimo</b>
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE:</b>	<b>Sarah Morden, District of Oak Bay</b>
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE:</b>	<b>Mark Boysen, North Salt Spring Waterworks District</b>
<b>LGMA CHAPTER DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>Michael Dillabaugh, City of Langford</b>



A huge  
**THANK YOU**  
to our sponsors!

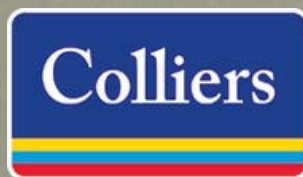
We gratefully acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their generous support of the VILGMA conference. Your contributions help make this event possible, from bringing in engaging speakers to creating opportunities for connection and learning. We truly appreciate your continued support of local government professionals and the communities we serve.



LIDSTONE & COMPANY



BC ASSESSMENT



Project  
Leaders



Municipal Finance  
Authority of BC