



**Comox Valley Schools**

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

# Comox Valley Schools

School District No. 71

**Communications**

2488 Idiens Way  
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 9B5  
Telephone (250) 334 5500

---

For immediate release

May 4, 2026

## **Highland students learn about carving techniques from local expert**

Comox Valley, B.C. – Students at Highland Secondary recently had the opportunity to learn from local K'ómoks First Nation carver Trevor Hardy during a special classroom visit that brought together art, culture and hands-on learning.

Hosted by Highland art teacher Barbara Mareck, Hardy visited both Art 9/10 and Art 11/12 classes, where students are currently exploring carving through clay projects, including mask-making. His visit gave students a chance to see how traditional carving practices are carried out in wood and to gain a deeper appreciation for the skill, patience and artistry involved.

During the sessions, Hardy shared his personal story, cultural teachings connected to mask making and carving, and insights into his creative process. He also demonstrated carving techniques for students, offering a close-up look at the detail and care involved in each piece.

“It was an incredible experience for students in attendance,” said Mareck. “Seeing Trevor’s work and hearing directly from him helped students better understand the importance and beauty of this art form.”

Hardy, a member of K'ómoks First Nation, learned from his grandfather about the ways of the land and traditional practices, and has continued to carry that knowledge forward through his artwork. His passion for woodworking has led to the creation of masks, paddles, bentwood boxes, canoes and other carved works that reflect Coast Salish and west coast Indigenous traditions. Some of his work can also be found at North Island College’s Indigenous Gathering Place.

The visit supported Comox Valley Schools’ commitment to Indigenous learning and providing students with meaningful opportunities to connect with local knowledge keepers, artists and community members.

Experiences like this help bring learning to life while fostering respect, understanding and appreciation for the rich cultures and traditions of this region.

-END-

### **Media Contact**

Craig Sorochan  
Communications Manager, Comox Valley Schools  
250-507-5408