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West Shore Voice News

6 pages this issue

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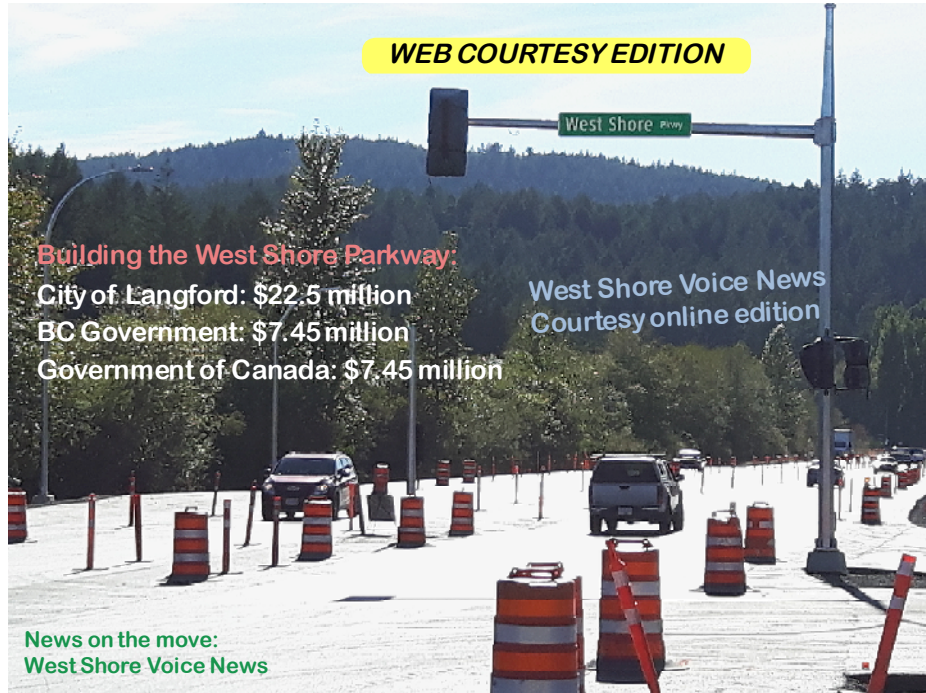
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WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Vol.1 No.46
SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol. 6 No.35

Friday, September 16, 2016 West side of Vancouver Island v2

This way to Langford: with bookends

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



Building the West Shore Parkway:
City of Langford: \$22.5 million
BC Government: \$7.45 million
Government of Canada: \$7.45 million

West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition

News on the move:
West Shore Voice News

Street name signage for West Shore Parkway went up this week, though it'll be a while until the traffic signals are needed. The new 3.5 km thoroughfare between Sooke Road (Hwy 14) and the TransCanada (Hwy 1) will open sometime later in 2017.

Regular folks with busy lives may have missed what seemed like just another highway construction announcement back in July 2015.

And then all the road widening and resurfacing this summer has just been something for commuters to manoeuvre.

But therein lies the power of words. As soon as the sign went up, that's what really caught the imagination of Sooke/Langford commuters and businesses who rely on travel from point A to point B between the far west shore and downtown Victoria.

The sign says "West Shore Parkway". The sign says it all.

While the road can obviously be travelled in both directions, by name it leads to the West Shore. It could have been called a street, road or avenue, but a parkway ... ah, there's a sound of elegance in that.

And some of the good news for those doing business or planning to open new commercial or industrial outlets in the area, is that the West Shore Parkway



Commercial & industrial business park is under development at Hwy 14 & West Shore Pkwy. The location will include a Co-op Gas Station at the corner.

may be completed by late summer or early fall 2017, according to someone with some skin in the game. Ross Marshall, Vice-President, CBRE Victoria, says that recent progress with the road access has sparked interest for several businesses and investors who might choose to make the Glenshire Business Park their next commercial hub or home – right there at the corner of West Shore Parkway and Highway 14 (Sooke Road).

Glenshire Business Park land is for sale for as little as \$26 per square foot. Compare that to \$40 and higher in other parts of Greater Victoria. "The price point is appealing," says Marshall.

At the other end of the roadway, where the West Shore Parkway will lead its travellers to the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1), there will in future be another business park, as announced by Langford earlier this week. A business park at each end of the parkway. Bookends.

Build a road and they will come. All in all, the West Shore Parkway allows for an important de facto on-the-ground economic amalgamation of the west side of south Vancouver Island. The improved travel efficiency is likely to have an immediate and longer-term positive impact on commuters, businesses and communities.

Belmont Secondary Neighbourhood Learning Centre includes health services for youth

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

The new Wellness Centre at Belmont is now open in the Neighbourhood Learning Centre area of Belmont Secondary in Langford. Doors opened September 9, and students came in the very first day.

The facility is open to all of students at the school and to any other youth in the community. It is located on the main floor of Belmont Secondary at 3041 Langford Lake Road. The facility is situated at one far end of the school as an extension of the classroom areas but can also be accessed from an entrance other than the main school entrance.

There is an open waiting area, ... continued on page 3 ... /



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West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition

The Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) at Belmont Secondary is a revenue-generating feature for the Sooke School District (SD62). Components include a satellite office of Camosun College, a child daycare operated by Pacific Centre Family Services Association, activity area by West Shore Parks & Recreation, and a health centre by Island Health. WSV



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EDITORIAL

Editorials aim to explore broader issues of concern to communities, economy and society as a whole.

A rare impassioned speech at Sooke council

There is something occasional and rare at Sooke Council meetings. And that would be from-the-heart impassioned missives on matters of community importance, that actually shift the landscape.

What was even more amazing than the colourful and impactful discourse from District of Sooke Councillor Kevin Pearson at Committee of the Whole on Monday night, September 12, was the response he got from the Mayor and at least one other councillor.

In fact, Pearson's comments on proactive thinking about including environmental concerns in the District's strategic plan were only six minutes and 33 seconds minutes long. And a powerful six-and-a-half minutes that was.

What was different about Pearson's prosaic monologue was the quality of his analysis and the tone of real commitment. Compare that to the carefully crafted, often tightly-held-back, or dripping-with-critique remarks that are the trademark of comments by elected officials at most Sooke council meetings.

Witnessed there on Monday night was a refreshing breakthrough of real passion for this community and a weaving together of various complex facets of the issue, serving to move things forward both short-term and long. Well done, Councillor Pearson. You've raised the bar.



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR Editor & Publisher West Shore Voice



District of Sooke Councillor Kevin Pearson

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Distracted driving will cost you – one way or another

If you knew that you were 23 times more likely to lose your money on a bad investment you probably wouldn't write the cheque. So if you know you're 23 times more likely to be in a crash if you text or email while driving, why would you take that chance?

by Mike Morris BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General



Here are some numbers to help you make the right choice every time you are behind the wheel:

- Drivers are four to five times more likely to crash if they talk on the phone while driving.
A driver texting or emailing is 23 times more likely to be involved in a collision.
In 2015 alone, driver inattention contributed to at least 88 deaths.
That's 88 families and hundreds of friends who had to say goodbye to a loved one because of distracted driving.
Driver distraction is tied with speeding as the leading contributing factor of deaths on BC roads over the last year.

These are the hard facts about distracted driving: something so dangerous, that earlier this year the Province brought in some of the toughest penalties in Canada. If these numbers don't make you think twice about distracted driving, maybe the stiff new penalties will.

Numbers paint a compelling picture, but it's more powerful to hear from people who have been directly impacted by distracted driving.

One of those stories involves a young Vancouver man named Brad Gorski. He was just 21 years old and less than five minutes from home when he decided to check his cellphone. He ran a red light and was T-boned by a semi-truck. His family was told he only had a 10% chance of survival. But Brad didn't die, he woke up seven weeks later. He has spent the last 11 years re-learning how to do with ease - speaking, writing and walking.

For Kari-Lyn Twidale, her life changed forever one day in 2010, when her aunt died after being struck by a vehicle in marked crosswalk. She is happy to share her sad story with hopes that it might get drivers to think twice:

In the coming weeks, the Province is working to drive home the message about distracted driving through stories like these and a social media public awareness campaign in partnership with TELUS and ICBC.

Electronic devices aren't the only distraction. Maybe you are multi-tasking, planning dinner on the way home, thinking about a dozen other things, or involved in an intense conversation. Whatever it is, it can wait.

For your safety and the safety of all those around you – I urge you to please leave your phone alone. Think about the numbers. Are you willing to take that chance? If you choose to drive distracted, it will cost you – one way or another.

Make the safe, smart decision to get home safely at the end of the day.

WSV

Advertisement for Kelz Sweet & Savory Bake Shop featuring Thanksgiving Pies. Includes list of pie flavors: Apple, Blueberry, Apple Blackberry, Apple Raspberry, Apple Peach, Cherry. Contact info: 7-6716 WestCoast Rd, Sooke, Open Mon-Sat | 778-352-4444.

No MSP increase in 2017

The BC government is cancelling their planned 4% increase to Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums, it was announced September 15. As well, those eligible for Regular Premium Assistance will see a 4% reduction of their premium beyond what was announced with Budget 2016.

Thought by many in financial distress to be changes long in coming (rates have increased annually for several years), the Government claims that the changes are now possible because they are in a stronger fiscal position than forecast in Budget 2016.

The enhancements announced with Budget 2016 will continue to be implemented as planned January 1, 2017. This includes exempting children and expanding the range of incomes at which British Columbians can qualify for Regular Premium Assistance.

For example, a single parent with two children will only be charged the single adult rate, rather than the three-person rate they pay today – saving a family in that boat \$900 per year. Many families for years have suffered under MSP fee duress. Yes, there is premium assistance. But it's tough to be motivated to earn more family income without falling further behind due to being charged higher MSP fees.

By January 2017 approximately 40% of BC families will pay reduced premiums or no premiums at all, says the BC Government. Once the changes have been implemented, an estimated two million British Columbians will pay no premiums. Cancelling the January 2017 premium rate increase also means businesses that fund part or all of MSP premiums for their employees will not require a payroll adjustment.

MSP premiums cover about 13% of the overall health-care budget. Other taxes like corporate income tax, sales tax, natural resource and other government revenues are all required

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Banning retail use of plastic bags Are plastic bags really single-use?

Editor ~ West Shore Voice News

● **Banning the issuance of single-use plastic bags to customers at the retail checkout** in Sooke came up as an idea during District of Sooke Committee of the Whole, September 12.

The proposal surfaced for debate during a presentation by Zero Waste Sooke (ZWS). The initial details of the presentation to Council (based on an open symposium held by ZWS on April 17) were given by Wendy O'Connor. Followup statements were given by two other ZWS members: Jeff Bateman and Jo Phillips.

The idea of regularly using reusable shopping bags was pushed this summer by ZWS, including a booth at Sooke Country Market where bag-making was demonstrated.

While the idea of taking along reusable bags to retail stores is catching on, even Mayor Maja Tait admitted that she forgets to take them along sometimes.

So-called single-use plastic bags were the culprit in the discussion. Councillor Ebony Logins wondered aloud what she would use for garbage, if not the plastic bags from grocery store shopping.

Plastic bags issued for groceries at the checkout are not necessarily single-use. People use them for garbage, next shopping trip(s), storage, garden cleanup, emergency kit contents, for dog poop while out on walks, and more.

In the business realm, it's tough for a business to stop providing a service that customers do appreciate. Earlier this year, Shoppers Drug Mart introduced their 5-cents-per-bag fee at the checkout. It took a while for some customers to adjust, but now people arrive with their reusable bags at the ready, or carry out their purchases as best they can, or pay the 5 cents. Fees collected for plastic bag sales go toward environmental initiatives by Shoppers.

Both plastic and paper bags are the checkout options at the two major

West Shore Voice News
issue
analysis



Three major stores in Sooke sell groceries.

grocery stores in Sooke (Village Food Markets and Western Foods). According to a ZWS rep who inquired at those two stores, there is reluctance to 'be the first' to stop providing plastic bags to customers, though there's likely more to it.

Other grocery stores have variations on the protect-the-environment theme when it comes to bags. Thrifty Foods rebates 3 cents per reusable bag that is used at the checkout.

There appeared to be no appetite on the part of Sooke council to go anywhere near creating a bylaw to prohibit the issuance of plastic bags in local retail stores. Consumer, environmental, and retail market forces will take care of it in due course.

Ocean waves draw the art crowd

Art Exhibit Review
by Mary P Brooke,
West Shore Voice News

ART in the COMMUNITY

● **Watercolours and oils, bold colours and funky frames.** The reception to explore a collection of paintings by John Janzen – in an exhibit called *Overtide* – was enjoyed by about 75 people on Friday evening, September 16 at the Coast Collective Art Centre in Colwood.

Janzen's art explores the power of ocean waves as an interpretation of human emotions.

"We think we've beaten the ocean with our boats. But the ocean wins. The ocean is a great slave but we are poor masters," the expressive artist told *West Shore Voice News* during the reception.

The ocean provides. People travel on it, gather fish from it, enjoy recreation on it, and appreciate its beauty.

John Janzen and his art, at the opening reception of his *Overtide* exhibit.



But humanity poisons the ocean. Each of John Janzen's paintings is an expression of an emotional response of the ocean itself. *Crestfallen* expresses disappointment. *Ripping* expresses fury. *Whiplash* expresses anger. *The Slap* is a wakeup call.

The many depictions of boats in Jansen's paintings show them as 'fragile primitive liaisons' between the ocean and man's treatment of it. In one painting he conveys recreational yachting as something of a mockery of the ocean, as if such tremendous adventurous leisure is not without great risk. All this has environmental overtones for Janzen, who was inspired to create this series of works by the Fukushima nuclear disaster after 15-ft tsunami waves hit the nuclear facility located on Japanese shores on March 11, 2011 (following a 9.0 magnitude earthquake).

A few of the larger paintings have already sold. The *Overtide* exhibit opened September 14 and runs through to October 2. www.coastcollective.ca **WSV**

SD62 high schools offer on-site doctor

... [Neighbourhood Learning Centre / continued from page 1] West Shore Voice News

...private consultation rooms, and three examination rooms. "It's an amazing level of service for any community to have," says Belmont Principal Ray Miller.

Belmont Secondary is the largest high school in the Sooke School District (SD62) fleet of schools that serve Langford, Colwood, Sooke (out to Port Renfrew) and portions of Highlands and Metchosin. This year there are 1,340 students at Belmont for 2016-2017 (with final registrations to be tallied at Sept 30).

On-site personnel includes a doctor (Dr Marni Brydon, MD one day per week), public health nurses, nurse practitioners, a mental health and substance use counsellor, and a medical receptionist. The facility is a partnership of Island Health, SD62 and the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) toward improving student access to primary care services.

Primary care services will also be offered at Edward Milne Community School and Royal Bay Secondary, where Dr Brydon will be on site one half-day per week, starting in mid-September. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

All Western Communities youth, regardless of what school they attend and whether or not they have a family doctor, will find health services at the Wellness Centre at Belmont – for mental, sexual and physical health, as well as health promotion strategies. "The health centre will be a safe place where students are assessed, treated and if necessary referred to other programs or services as needed," said Island Health in a news release this week.

The partnership began several years ago when SD62 started construction of its new Belmont high school, including the Neighbourhood Learning Centre concept where the Wellness Centre at Belmont is located. "A lot of hard work over many years was put into this wonderful centre," says SD62 Trustee Dianna Seaton.

"Together we have realigned the health care system to better meet the needs of youth by moving key people and programs to where students can access them all more easily," says Kathy Easton, Public Health Manager, Island Health. **WSV**



Inviting reception and spacious waiting area at the Wellness Centre at Belmont. Beyond are consultation and exam rooms.

To waive or not to waive

SERVING THE NON-PROFITS

West Shore Voice News

● **Sooke council at their discretion** can waive a \$500 damage deposit that is normally payable by groups that want to hold events in a municipally-owned or managed park or public area. The deposit is taken, then returned if the area is restored to the condition in which it was provided.

The Victoria Pet Food Bank & Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society - VPFBFCRS (aka SAFARS) will see the \$500 fee waived for one off-leash dog walking event in Fall 2016 and another in Spring 2017, it was decided at Council at their September 12 meeting. Councillor Brenda Parkinson asked for her 'no' vote on that to be officially recorded.

VPFBFCRS is covered by their own insurance, and therefore their lead organizer Margarita Dominguez pitched that the District's event damage deposit is unnecessary. She added that in the City of Victoria a refundable \$500 event fee comes with the provision of tables, chairs, and water.

Dominguez told council that the non-profit VPFBFCRS is no longer also a charity that issues donation receipts. The group is prone to making political comments about the rescue and treatment of animals in the region, and openly says they do not want their freedom of speech on that topic to be hampered. **WSV**

Seeking firefighters

● **Fire departments** around the west shore seek new recruits each year. Metchosin Fire has launched their campaign this week. Langford will announce their 2017 recruitment program in the coming weeks. Sooke usually has a fall recruitment, for training to start by the new year. **WSV**



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VOTE stamps struggling at Canada Post

West Shore Voice News

● **Oddly**, the postage stamps that celebrate the 100-year anniversary of women achieving the vote across Canada are struggling to capture broad appeal at Canada Post Sooke Main. "For some reason, they haven't been selling very well," says local main post office postmaster Lori Jayes. The stamps were first available in March of this year.

The attractive gold, black and white letter-mail Permanent 85¢ stamps come in boldly coloured packs of 10, for \$8.50 + GST. But inside, the package looks incomplete – an image of suffragettes is so faded back that it really isn't visible and looks like the usual additional decorative stickers that come in multi-packs have fallen off.

By the landmark effort led by



Women's Suffrage stamps for first class letter mail up to 30 g in weight.

Nellie McClung, in 1916 women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta became the first women in Canada with the right to cast provincial ballots. BC and Ontario followed suit in 1917, NS in 1918, NB and Yukon in 1919, PEI in 1922, Nfld in 1925, Quebec in 1940, and NWT in 1951. All Inuit and First Nations could vote by 1960. **WSV**

Regional News

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

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CRD approves core area wastewater plan Finally, forward-action that will help protect the environment

On September 14, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved the recommendations put forward by the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project Board (CAWTPB) which will form Amendment 11 of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan.

This decision follows a report from the CAWTPB recommending that liquids treatment be located at the McLoughlin Point site in Esquimalt and solids processing be located at Hartland Landfill in Saanich.

The plan includes a process to develop an integrated resource management solution for the region's waste and a commitment to advance studies for a wastewater treatment proposal in Colwood. The capital cost of the approved plan is approximately \$765 million.

"The proposal that was approved today is a better project than the previous plan at McLoughlin Point. It includes a higher level of treatment for less cost, it considers community feedback with regards to set backs and public access, and looks at climate change mitigation strategies and sea level rise. With all of this taken into consideration the CRD Board felt that this is the right and responsible proposal to move forward with," said CRD Board Chair Barbara Desjardins.

The report came after an extensive review of previous technical work and consideration of public consultation reports. It is based on a Business Case which describes the proposal and implementation strategy and includes a detailed project budget.

"We are pleased with the manner in which the Project Board reviewed the previous materials and their insights leading to new improved outcomes in their plan. I would also like to thank the Province, and particularly Minister Peter Fassbender, for their support and expertise throughout this process to assist us in reaching a decision today," said CRD Board Chair Barbara Desjardins.

CRD approves 911 amalgamation

911 calls originating from the Greater Victoria area will be answered in a unified location at 4219 Commerce Circle in Saanich, following a Capital Regional District (CRD) Board decision on September 14. The CRD board voted to support a service establishment bylaw amendment and loan authorization for construction of an Emergency Response Dispatch Centre that will unify the 911 Primary Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and Police Dispatch for the Greater Victoria region.

The South Island Police Dispatch Steering Committee, comprised of CRD staff, police chiefs, the Province of BC, RCMP and ECOMM have been working together to solidify the planning and operational framework necessary to establish the new unified 911 Call Answer and Police Dispatch Centre. Existing facilities were considered inadequate.

CRD says a new site is required to construct a proposed centre that will meet post disaster standards and accommodate consolidated services. The Province has contributed \$100,000 to support the initiative.

"The establishment of a unified centre in the region will contribute to achieving the CRD Board's Strategic Priority to collaborate with partners to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies," said CRD Board Chair, Barbara Desjardins. "It also creates the opportunity to achieve operational and cost efficiencies, and to upgrade facilities to a post-disaster standard and modernize equipment."

A conditional purchase agreement to acquire 4219 Commerce Circle in Saanich has been negotiated as recommended by the South Island Dispatch Steering Committee. On August 5, the CRD achieved a conditional offer to buy the property for \$1,350,000 with a final subject removal date in December 2016.

To proceed with this project, an amendment to CRD Bylaw No. 2468, Emergency Response Telephone Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1997, is required to provide for the construction of the facility and a loan authorization bylaw is required to fund the land purchase and construct the building. The estimated cost for the project is \$16 million (amortized over 15 years that will be about \$1.3 million per year). That includes land and initial installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment. A refined budget and detailed project proposal together with details on service agreements will come back to the CRD Board for approval and the actual borrowing amounts will be based on the final budget.

Currently there are three 911 Primary Safety Answering Points and police dispatch in the Greater Victoria area: Victoria Police (serving Victoria and Esquimalt); Saanich Police (serving Saanich and Oak Bay); and Westshore RCMP (serving the rest of the CRD). At these three locations, calls are answered. Information is gathered and then transferred to the appropriate agency for dispatch, such as fire and ambulance. Public safety has considered to be at risk under the current setup. Amalgamation of the system for the overall region was supported by law enforcement.

The CRD will submit the revised plan and new business case to the Provincial and Federal governments for financial and regulatory approval, and to get grant funding. The CAWTPB recommendations are on the Project Board webpage: http://www.crd.bc.ca/project/wastewater-planning/project-board . Residual solids from a tertiary wastewater treatment plant at McLoughlin Point in Esquimalt would be piped to Hartland Landfill in Saanich.

Types of Wastewater Treatment

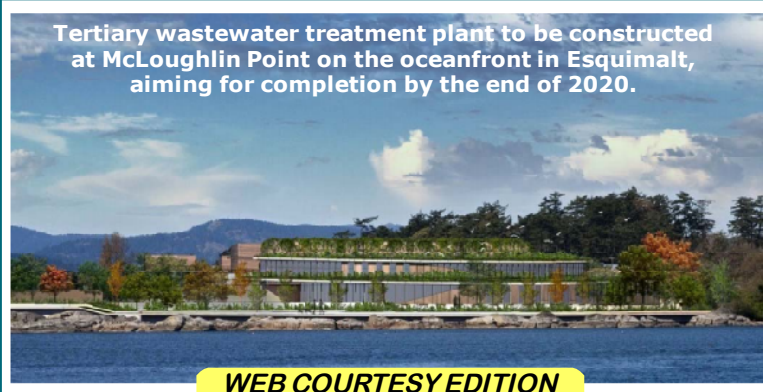
Source control: Reduction or elimination of contaminants before they enter the sewer system (done in CRD since 1994).

Preliminary: Removes grit (sand/gravel). Screens out coarse solids (rocks, rags, plastics) that are then sent to landfill. Currently in use at CRD's Clover Point & Macaulay Point pump station and outfall facilities. Screened wastewater is discharged into the deep waters of the Juan de Fuca Strait.

Primary: Gravity is used to settle solids and grease; oil and fat are skimmed off.

Secondary: Removes dissolved oxygen-demanding organic substances from wastewater by using bacteria to convert degradable organic matter into bacterial cells. Wastewater is then filtered by separating treated liquid from grown bacterial cells.

Tertiary: A final process to improve the quality of the effluent discharged after the wastewater treatment process, often using membrane filters. Advanced oxidation or UV systems can further reduce levels of pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.



Tertiary wastewater treatment plant to be constructed at McLoughlin Point on the oceanfront in Esquimalt, aiming for completion by the end of 2020.

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The treatment plant at McLoughlin Point would process 108 megalitres per day. It is expected to be in operation by December 31, 2020. The plant will be operated by the CRD.

A plant for the treatment of residual solids at Hartland would be used to produce Class A biosolids and interim storage of biosolids.

There was a further commitment to advance studies for a wastewater treatment proposal in Colwood, including up to \$2 million to complete the required technical studies and environmental impact assessments.

Data source: Capital Regional District



Modern Nature

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Photo by Jennifer Brooke

Nature photos: A weekly feature in West Shore Voice

Regional plan for affordable housing now underway

This week the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved their Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) Implementation Plan that will create at least 268 supported and affordable housing units at provincial shelter rates and at least 175 housing units considered affordable to those with low and moderate income households in the region.

The plan will initiate proposal calls to develop and acquire affordable housing units in mixed-market projects that address the needs of people experiencing chronic homelessness as well as those in low- to moderate-income households in the region.

"Through collaboration we can provide solutions to individual and community needs for housing, financial and health support services," said CRD Board Chair Barbara Desjardins on September 14.

Through a six-year phased project the CRD and BC Housing will provide capital funding for an equal number of units with anticipated completions to take place over three years starting in 2019.

"This is an important step toward making sure people in the community who are homeless have access to the housing and support services they need to address their challenges and rebuild their lives," said Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing. "We will soon be inviting municipalities, non-profit societies and other community groups to partner with us on innovative housing projects that create affordable housing for individuals living in the CRD."

Back in December 2015, the CRD Board approved borrowing of up to \$30 million to create the RHFP through which the CRD will contribute to the capital costs associated with building affordable housing. In May 2016, the CRD entered into a Partnering Agreement with the BC Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) and Island Health through which the Province has committed to contribute a matching \$30 million to the RHFP.

Island Health has agreed to align its existing mental health and substance services with new affordable housing opportunities through the RHFP. The CRD Board further directed staff to develop a plan to support the implementation of the RHFP.

The Program will follow a three step project approval process beginning September 2016 and repeating over a three-year period.

http://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-housing-first-program WSV

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What's happening with SD62 bus fees

Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● Upon hearing that school bus transportation would be provided at no cost in Sooke School District (SD62) this year, bus registrations spiked. As of September 13, there were 342 more riders registered than when registration closed on June 24. In total, 2,780 students will ride the bus to schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke in the 2016-2017 school year.

These figures were among the discussion at the SD62 Education Committee of the Whole on September 13. Trustees and senior staff grappled with the pros and cons of providing no-fee bussing this year. Funds from the BC Government won't quite cover the real costs of delivering the district-wide bus service, leaving \$115,000 to be drawn from other budget areas, said SD62 Treasurer Harold Cull.

The funds that were announced in August have sent the SD62 board and administration on a bit of a scramble to pull together all the aspects of the 'windfall'. The funds are available from the BC Ministry of Education for student bus riders attending schools in their catchment areas based on their residential address. But in SD62, many students attend schools beyond their catchment due to some



HORGAN at the FAIR

In a quick chat while touring the produce and craft displays at the Sooke Fall Fair on September 10, John Horgan, MLA was evidently gearing up for the long race to the May 2017 BC provincial election. He told West Shore Voice News that the BC NDP campaign platform will focus on important issues like affordability (housing and household), education, and achieving clean energy for BC (including jobs in that sector).

West Shore Voice News

courses being offered at other schools in the district, or because schools were full and SD62 itself redirected students to other areas of the school district.

Three options were proposed by Cull to the board for how to handle the fees: 1) cover the cost for all riders; 2) charge about 600 out-of-catchment-area riders only; or 3) enforce walking-distance limits and not offer bussing to those within walking/cycling distance. The board settled on Option 1. An official motion will be made in-camera, and then voted on at the Sept 27 public board meeting.

Part of the reason for choosing Option 1 is that staff doesn't have time to process all the minutia of who is in-catchment and/or had been directed out of catchment due to some schools being full, said Trustee Wendy Hobbs. Board Chair Bob Phillips echoed that, saying they should avoid hardship to staff.

"We will have to act quickly," said Trustee Denise Riley, so that previously automated bus fee withdrawals can be cancelled before October 1 (the September fee installment was already transacted / to be refunded). WSV

Sooke Fall Fair agricultural showcase



Locally-grown produce entries were recognized at the 2016 Sooke Fall Fair (SFF):

- Village Foods / most points in fruit and vegetables - Lady Bug Garden
- George Duncan / most points in vegetables - Lady Bug Garden
- Arnold Glinz / most outstanding vegetable exhibit - Anita Wasiuta
- Sooke Harbour House / best display of garden herbs - Lisa Nilsson

Trophies for Animals:

- Western Forest Products / best purebred bird - Lorraine Hoy
- River Road Farms / best backyard bird - Lorraine Hoy
- SFF / best cow - Alison Widomer
- SFF / best duck - Krista Carle
- SFF best goat - Tala Nemeth

Sooke Fall Fair is organized and prepared for all year long by Ellen Lewers (president) and a dedicated team of volunteers.

What a weekend! Food, farming, & fun!

PEOPLE & FOOD

● The annual Sooke Fall Fair is always popular. But it seemed like a wider swath of the community attended the event this year at Sooke Community Hall and outdoors in front of the Sooke Legion, September 10 & 11.

Relaxed and fun, there were pie-eating contests, the Sookeini race for kids, hay rides, and farm animals to see. Displays included info on the International Year of the Pulse to promote beans, lentils and peas for their low-cost nutritional value in a hungry world.

The crowd in the main hall heard brief comments from MP, MLA and Mayor.

Randall Garrison, who's been the MP for the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke area since 2011, said: "I thought I knew what volunteering was until I came to Sooke. And then I found out what it really was. This is a community that is unbelievably devoted to volunteering." He added that the Sooke Fall Fair always brings to mind the issue of food security, and that Sooke doesn't get enough credit for innovation in this area including work being done by Sooke Food CHI.

John Horgan, MLA (Langford-Juan de Fuca) has attended the Sooke Fall Fair for many years, and once again kept his remarks to comments about the fabulous quilts and pies.

Sooke Mayor Maja Tait quipped about her 'hard job' to determine the winning scarecrows, then officially opened the two-day event.

WSV

Sooke's Official Community Plan being revised this fall, with public input

● A range of public input opportunities are being made available to residents and taxpayers of Sooke, as part of the District of Sooke's revision of their Official Community Plan (OCP). That includes comment stations at the Sooke Library in September during regular library hours, and at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in October during regular hours.

As well, comments are being gathered at Whiffin Spit on Fridays in September (8:30 am to 12:30 pm). Online surveys are provided at www.sooke.ca

The OCP establishes the vision, objectives, goals and priorities for how Sooke will grow and evolve into the future: "A clear community vision today shapes Sooke's future in a way that is healthy and sustainable, while providing a great quality of life for current and future residents," it is stated in municipal materials. Alongside development of a new OCP to update the one completed in 2010, Sooke council seems to be excited about developing their strategic plan for the years ahead.

A draft vision Open House can be viewed at Sooke municipal hall as of Thursday, October 20 (drop-in). Focus groups on environmental and social community aspects will be held (November 2 & 15 respectively), and a built-form & infrastructure group on December 1. The Draft OCP drop-in Open House is scheduled for December 16. WSV



Reliable news on Facebook: WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

Breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com



More parking for bustling SD62 school district office

3143 Jacklin Rd

SD62 Admin building has 42 new parking spots for staff. Helps accommodate parking for large meetings.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

BC News

Breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com

Minimum wage now \$10.85 per hour in BC

● The minimum wage in British Columbia is now \$10.85 per hour (liquor server minimum wage now \$9.60). The increase of 40 cents - up from \$10.45 - came into effective this past week on September 15, 2016. These new rates include the 10 cents scheduled for the 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus an additional 30 cents. This is the first part of two-stage action.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

The second increase - effective September 15, 2017 - will be 30 cents plus an amount based on the 2016 CPI (currently estimated to be 10 cents) and will bring the general minimum wage rate to at least \$11.25 (and the liquor server minimum wage to \$10). The 2016 CPI will be available from Statistics Canada by March 2017.

The higher minimum wage is "to better reflect the province's overall economic growth and ensure all workers benefit from BC's thriving job market," said a release from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour.

Fact sheets for workers and employers have been updated to reflect the minimum wage increases, including for commission sales, farm labour contracts, farm workers, live-in support workers, motel and campground managers and caretakers, and more. www.gov.bc.ca/EmploymentStandards

Following the wage announcement the expected range of responses emerged from the BC NDP about the wage not being high enough. Many economic analysts consider a minimum wage of \$15 per hour wage as necessary for individuals and families to stay above the poverty line.

This summer, BC NDP Leader John Horgan went so far as to commit to raising the basic minimum wage to \$15 if his party is elected May 9, 2017 to run the BC Government. "The minimum wage needs to be \$15 an hour, and New Democrats are going to get it there," said Horgan back in June.

WSV



This year's Great BC Shakeout will be held at 10:20 am on Thursday, October 20. www.shakeoutbc.ca

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Serving the Sooke community for over 25 years

Luxton Fair. Fri Sept 16 to Sun Sept 18. Admission by donation. www.luxtonfair.ca

Sculpture Splash. Sat Sept 17 & Sun Sept 18. Art Extravaganza by the Sea, in Esquimalt. www.townshiparts.org

Colwood Seaside Festival. Sun Sept 18. Free. 11am-4pm at Fort Rodd Hill & Figgard Lighthouse. Historical tours, carriage rides, paint-in, vintage dress-up selfie station, music. www.colwood.ca/SeasideFestival

Pro-D Day (SD62). Mon Sept 19.

Autumn Equinox. Thurs Sept 22

Royal Visit in BC. Sept 24 to Oct 1. Open to the public: Official Welcome of Duke & Duchess of Cambridge to BC, at the BC Legislature on Sat Sept 24. Final departure at Victoria Inner Harbour on Sat Oct 1.

Overtide Sept 14 to Oct 2 Coast Collective. **Fighting in Flanders.** Sept 16 to Dec 2.

Power of the ocean and human emotion. www.coastcollective.ca
 Travelling exhibit from the Canadian War Museum. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Post your exhibit here (& online) \$29.95+GST/month. Call 250-217-5821 or email: advertising@westshorevoicenews.com



Free Bike Tune-Up. Active living event Sat Sept 24 courtesy of TELUS PureFibre, at Goldstream Bicycles, 694 Goldstream Ave. 10am to 4pm. Free ice cream! www.telus.com/westshore

Wadams Way Fun Run & Ride. Sat Sept 24. 9am ride prep at 6672 Wadams Way (get registered & decorate your bike, wheelchair or stroller; no fee). 2km ride starts 9:30 am. Includes official opening of John Phillips Memorial Park Loop Trail by Mayor Maja Tait. Then 3rd annual Wadams Way Market, 10am-2pm.

Sooke Fall Fair Monthly Market. Sat Sept 24 Sooke Community Hall 10-2. Order pies: 250-812-2830.

Sooke Country Market. Sat Sept 24, Otter Pt Rd at Eustace. 10am-2pm.

Electoral Reform Town Hall. Sat Sept 24 with MPs Randall Garrison & Alistair MacGregor, 2-3:30pm at Belmont Secondary, Langford. www.fairvote.ca

Light up the Hills by Westhills & West Shore Arts Council. Sat Sept 24. 7:30 pm. In support of Victoria Hospice. www.westhillsbc.com/lightupthehills

Invasive Species Cleanup at Ed Macgregor Park. Sun Sept 25 Help remove ivy from tree trunks at Ed Macgregor Park, 9am-3pm. Sponsored by the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society, District of Sooke, and Greater Victoria Green Team.

3rd Annual Apple Fest. Sun Sept 25 at Sunriver Community Gardens, 10am-3pm. www.sookefoodchi.ca

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Sept 26. Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. Register at www.blood.ca

SD62 Board Meeting. 8pm. Tues Sept 27. Board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooke - Sooke Program of the Arts Committee. 9:30 am. Wed Sept 28. www.sooke.ca

Free Swim. Active living event Fri Sept 30 courtesy of TELUS PureFibre, at SEAPARC Leisure Complex. Free ice cream! 5 to 7 pm. www.telus.com/sooke

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Have you considered emergency planning for your pets? CRD has pet grab-&-go bags for \$10. Available at various CRD offices & the municipal halls in Sooke & Saanich.

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Pack an emergency kit for your pets



@jdfemerg

www.prepareyourself.ca

District of Sooke Parks & Trails Committee. 1 pm. Tues Oct 4. www.sooke.ca

Thanksgiving Long Weekend. Sat Oct 8 through Mon Oct 10. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

District of Sooke Committee of Whole 6pm; **Regular Council** 7pm. Tues Oct 11. Agenda & webcast: www.sooke.ca

Awareness Film Night, 22nd season premier. Wed Oct 12. 'Requiem for the American Dream'. 7pm, EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

Great BC Shakeout. 'Drop, cover and hold on' during BC-wide earthquake drill Thurs Oct 20. Register yourself, business or school at www.shakeoutbc.ca

Sooke Official Community Plan. Drop-in Open House on District of Sooke Draft Vision of OCP. Thurs Oct 20. 3:30-7:30pm, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca

Halloween Dog Party. Sat Oct 22. Fundraiser for The Boneless Project, at Speedsource Fitness, 2197 Otter Point Rd, Sooke, 11am-3pm. Bring dogs in costume. Treats & beverage by donation. www.safars.org

Exhibits

Enjoy an evening swim on behalf of TELUS.

Join us at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Friday, September 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
 FREE Swim sponsored by TELUS.
 We will be onsite to answer your questions about the TELUS PureFibre™ network.
www.telus.com/sooke

PureFibre, pure fun

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Active living is on the mind of TELUS as they promote their PureFibre network, making possible their Optik TV experience and super-fast Internet services.

To get with the action, they are sponsoring two free activities on this west side of the island – one for cyclists and one for swimmers.

Cyclists may bring their bicycles for a free check-up at Goldstream Bicycles, 694 Goldstream Avenue in Langford, courtesy of TELUS, on Saturday, September 24, 10am to 4 pm.

And for the whole family and community, a free evening swim is being offered at SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Friday, September 30, 5 to 7 pm.

Both events will also see the now-familiar TELUS ice cream giveaway table (seen at events around Sooke and Langford over the summer) with TELUS PureFibre information available along with the ice cream treats.

Fibre optic cable is made from flexible, transparent fibres of glass that are slightly thicker than a strand of hair. These fibres transmit data as pulses of light, which allows large amounts of information to be sent to your home or business at close to the speed of light.

More info at www.telus.com/westshore and www.telus.com/sooke. **WSV**

Hope to see a Christmas tree in the roundabout?

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Christmas is coming.

And the new roundabout in Sooke town centre could be prettied-up. But at Sooke Council on September 12 there was debate. Not so much about what to put there, but whether to adorn that area of the de-facto centre of town at all. Mayor Maja Tait wants 'something' there, as in nothing not being a desirable option. But Councillor Brenda Parkinson who effectively leads the charge for



Roundabout to be barren at Christmas?

The roundabout on Sooke Road in town centre has a low-key display of native plantings, without much colour or jazz.

beautification in Sooke somewhat shocked the room, saying that last year some people didn't even want a Christmas tree in the roundabout.

So, while Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan assured Council that new light-up Christmas decor is in the works for the town core for the 2016 holiday season (needed by the end of November in time for the yet-to-be-arranged Sooke Santa Parade), no decision was made about what will appear in the roundabout. **WSV**

Tree or no tree in the Sooke roundabout this Xmas? letters@westshorevoicenews.com

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NDP You're Invited!
Electoral Reform Town Hall
 A panel and discussion about how to make our voting system fairer.
SEPT 24
 Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm
 Location: Belmont Secondary School
 3041 Langford Lake Rd
Randall Garrison MP - ESQUIMALT-SANNICH-SOOKE
 Phone: 250 405 6550
Alistair MacGregor MP - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD
 Phone: 1 866 609 9998

Electoral reform explained

by Mary P Brooke for WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

About 30 people who were not shy to grapple with the many details and nuances about the various options for electoral reform in Canada, that's who was there. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

At the evening info session hosted by Transition Sooke at Edward Milne Community School on Sept 15, Fair Vote Canada Vice-President David Merner handily explored the details. The Harvard/Oxford-educated lawyer (who in his day job is a senior force with the BC Justice Ministry, and last year was the Liberal candidate for Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke), delivered a comprehensive explanation about proportional representation,

single transferable vote, and mixed member. www.fairvote.ca

Proportional representation is based on all votes contributing to who finally gets elected. It would in theory force cooperation among elected leaders from a number of different parties.

However, some debate included a comment from Juan de Fuca area resident Sid Jorna that cooperative politics may not produce the best policy results. He noted that the current first-past-the-post voting system produces governments that ultimately strive to please the electorate or they are ultimately voted out. **WSV**

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