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WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Vol.3 No.2
SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.7 No.43

News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookline Publishing House Inc

Friday, November 10, 2017

BC Hydro rate freeze for 2018

The promise of lifestyle affordability in BC

The costs to continue building (or cancel) the Site C hydroelectric project will impact further BC Hydro rate increases in 2019.



Building Site C will cost about \$12 billion. To cancel would cost \$4 billion.

● Consumers in BC are getting a bit of a reprieve, as the BC hydro electricity rate increase slated to start in April 2018 has been suspended, it was announced this week by Michelle Mungall, Minister of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

And while the BC NDP government pitched consumer affordability in the 2017 provincial election campaign, once in power more facts become known. It's likely further rate increases will follow in 2019,

The pause in rate increases is also a logistical opportunity for BC Hydro and government to phase out the payments of Provincial Sales Tax as charged to businesses. As well, in the coming months, the costs for Site C will be clear (whether it proceeds or not).

"After years of escalating electricity costs, British Columbians deserve a break on their bills," said Mungall. "From the moment we took office, we've taken action to make life more affordable."

It puts "an end to the years of spiraling electricity costs that have made life less affordable for BC homeowners and renters," Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Michelle Mungall announced on Nov 8.

BC Hydro rates have gone up by more than 24% in the last four years, and by more than 70% since 2001. This was part of a five-year roll-out toward a

total 28.5% increase starting 2014 under the former BC Liberal government. The steady march of increases appeared to be tone-deaf from the start as to the overall recession-recovery financial struggles of households and small businesses in BC.

Mungall says that in 2016, BC Hydro applied to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) for three years of increases, with a 3% increase planned for next year, but will be pulling back its request "consistent with this administration's commitment to a rate freeze".

The rate freeze will provide government the time to undertake a comprehensive review of BC Hydro, it was stated in a Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources release. "That review will identify changes and cost savings to keep rates low while ensuring BC Hydro has the resources it needs to continue to provide clean, safe and reliable electricity."

Details of the scope and process for the review will be developed once government has made a final decision on Site C, which on Nov 8 Premier John Horgan said would take another couple of weeks. After completing a comprehensive review, any cost and revenue adjustments identified will be reflected in rates starting in April 2019, the government said. This likely gives consumers just a one-year reprieve. **WSV**

Sidney Mayor now chairs CRD Board

● The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board has a new chair. On November 8, Sidney Mayor Steve Price became the new Chair. View Royal Mayor David Screech is vice-chair.

Outgoing Chair Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins was thanked for her service. In her two years as chair, she had ushered the 13-municipality board

board on the path to achieving sewage treatment for core and westside areas.

Representation on the CRD board balances varying population bases with community interests. From the west shore, Langford has 7 assigned votes, Colwood has 4, View Royal 3, Sooke 3, Juan de Fuca 2, Metchosin 1, and Highlands 1. **WSV**

Remembrance Day 2017

West Shore Voice News

● Premier John Horgan released a statement on November 10 in honour of Remembrance Day.

“ On Remembrance Day, people around British Columbia honour veterans, armed forces members, merchant marines and families who have sacrificed in service of our country.

For many of us, it's impossible to imagine the courage it takes to put on a uniform and go into harm's way. Yet for generations, Canadians have bravely risked their lives to protect ours.

Today, in moments of silence all around the province, we pay tribute to loved ones lost, and to those who have returned with injuries, both visible and invisible.

We cannot forget the tragedies of war, and we must all work together to build a more peaceful world. Lest we forget. ”

Premier Horgan who is the MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca will be attending the West Shore Remembrance Day ceremony on Saturday, November 11 at Veterans Memorial Park in central Langford. Also attending that ceremony will be four west shore mayors: Langford Mayor Stew Young, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton, Metchosin Mayor John Ranns, and Highlands Mayor Ken Williams.

A commemorative oak tree grown in



Remembrance Day ceremonies take place at cenotaphs across the country on Nov 11 [Sooke Cenotaph 2013].

Ottawa from an acorn from Vimy Ridge was planted at the Langford cenotaph a few weeks ago.

Filling in for Premier Horgan at the Sooke Legion ceremony on Saturday will be Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) principal Patrick Swinburnson.

The public is expected to arrive early at all events. A veterans march to the cenotaph takes place ahead of the two minutes of silence at 11 am. **WSV**

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on November 10, on the 100th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Passchendaele:

● "Today, we mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Passchendaele. On this solemn anniversary, we honour the thousands of Canadians who fought and died there, and pay tribute to their great courage and sacrifice. The Battle of Passchendaele has come to be a symbol of the worst horrors of the First World War. It began in the summer of 1917, as Allied soldiers sought to open a path through Western Belgium to coastal enemy bases. For months, Allies and enemies alike fought in conditions many described as a living hell; a landscape already broken by years of warfare; mud that swallowed men and horses, but refused to bury the dead. The Canadians joined the battle in October of that year. For weeks, they endured incessant rain and shellfire but by mid-November, they had taken the ridge. Our soldiers fought an impossible fight with perseverance, valour, and commitment to a greater cause. Nine Canadians would earn the Victoria Cross for their bravery. Yet the battle came at a devastating cost. 16,000 Canadians were killed or wounded – and thousands of families forever changed.

"On this solemn anniversary, we honour the great heroism and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Passchendaele. Tomorrow, please pause to remember and honour those who have served, and continue to serve, so that we may live in peace. Lest we forget." **WSV**

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We remember.



Editorial

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Working hard toward the open-minded view



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

Canada is fast gaining an international reputation for advancing by leaps and bounds in various social areas, like flinging open the doors to immigration, working fast toward legalization of cannabis by next summer, and labouring toward reconciliation with indigenous peoples in various areas of concern. Zero tolerance for sexual harassment and bullying have become, finally, pretty much mainstream. Remembrance Day this weekend should remind all of us how much sacrifice has been made over the last century to uphold all manner of freedom and personal dignity in our country.

So in the context of this fast-action swirl of progressive social movement in this country, it was odd -- and made national headlines -- that Canada's new Governor General took a swipe at 'believers'. Religious or not, most people realize this is a country based on a founding faith and where all faiths are respected, or at least the freedom to hold beliefs that might be different from yours or mine.

In a speech at a science conference in Ottawa on November 1, Governor General Julie Payette mocked with a wide brush the entire art and science of astrological interpretation and calculation. While astrology is not exactly a belief-system, it has been shown to be an effective tool for self-awareness and understanding. The math to calculate planetary transits isn't easy ... before the advent of modern computing the charting was done by hand. Some world-class astrologers such as the industrious Neil F. Michelsen (organizer of the modern ephemeris) and the uniquely brilliant Jim Lewis (inventor of astrocartography) in the late 1970s and early 1980s generated entire volumes of analysis based on math done with calculators and good ol' brain cells.

There was a time, long long ago, when the stirrings of modern science and medicine were mocked. Germs we can't see? Nonsense! Today's accurate science is essential and should rightly guide the development of technological civilized nations. But we should remember that over time many scientific 'truths' have been debunked, followed by further advancement. Meanwhile, the evidence of one's life purpose can be examined through competent natal astrological analysis based on one's geographical entry point into time and space on earth (i.e. birth), pointing to congruence for the individual within their social framework.

Years ago it was actually a mainstream university administrator in my world (not a hippie with sun signs and moons pasted up around the room) who pointed out the value of a system of personal insights that accepts a myriad ways of being 'right' and whole. Today's mental health movement that is based dangerously on models that lead to labelling and medication could well take a page from that book to recognize that not all pegs fit into the same holes. [Footnote: there is value in utilizing therapeutic levels of nutritional supplementation as an approach to managing mental health, rather than by rote reverting to drugs and psychotherapy. 'We are what we eat', entirely scientifically proven -- cellular microbiology at work. Canadian founder of that research and clinical application: Dr Abram Hoffer.]

Youth are stressed by frantically working hard to 'fit' and find a place in the big scheme of things (that's always been the challenge of approaching adulthood but it's incredibly more complex in a digital, global, hyper-social era). It takes a constellation of personalities to create the universe of humanity, and while our culture gives lipservice to diversity, it's still tough for those who don't find a ready niche.

It's a fool's path to wake up in the morning and guide one's every move of the day based on sun-sign astrology. But utilizing deeper astrological principles as a tool for the continual work of personal self-actualization (e.g. providing direction for choices in lifestyle and career), family dynamics (noting the insightful work of international depth astrologer and author Erin Sullivan), and sociocultural examination (e.g. all baby boomers were born with transformational Pluto in fiery self-focussed Leo) is a principled choice that flies neither in the face of science nor religion. Understanding of self and society, by whatever tool or system, is clarity worth achieving.

With her one fell-swoop mocking astrology, Payette gave Canadians a glimpse of an old-school intellectual arrogance that does not fit within Canada's newfound bent for exploring with an open mind all things 'wonderful and new'.

BC News

Horgan grappling with Site C

West Shore Voice News

BC Premier John Horgan reiterated the degree of pressure he is under to decide about Site C, in a media session Wednesday, November 8.

Whether to proceed with or stop the Site C hydroelectric project is a \$12 billion dollar decision affecting contracts, indigenous interests in the area, and individuals, he explained. Having information made public about Site C decision-making is something he promised during the 2017 election campaign, and he seemed pleased that the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) report indicating costs and impacts (as requested by the BC NDP government August 2) is now public. www.siteinquiry.com

At present, Horgan says there is an oversupply of electricity in the North American market. He says the estimates by BC Hydro for future electricity demand are wrong.

"Site C is over budget and off schedule," said Premier Horgan, something he's been saying "for some time". He reiterated having run on a platform of affordability for British Columbians. He said it was "bad policy making from the start" for former Premier Clark to try to "get the project past the point of no return".

It would be costly to shut down the project, but that must be weighed with the social and economic costs of falling short on electricity demand in the future. While alternative energy sources are moving forward in various ways, there is no way of telling whether solar, natural gas, biomass heat capture, wind power and other methods will be far enough along should a growing population require more electricity in five to 10 years time.

"It's not an easy choice or decision. I will be grappling with it for the next couple of weeks," Horgan said. He used the magnitude of this decision, in part, to defend not calling a by-election in Kelowna West (a seat left empty by the departing Christy Clark). His other reason is timing... too close to the Christmas holiday season, saying people wouldn't appreciate the time intrusion.



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Jagmeet Singh in Victoria



It was pretty much a full house at the BC NDP convention in downtown Victoria on Saturday, November 4, with a rousing clamor of introductory applause for the new leader of the national NDP party, Jagmeet Singh.

Singh was elected by NDP membership to head up the party, a month ago in Toronto. Since then he has gained a unique flavour of popularity among NDP and attracts a curious level of fascination across the country.

Bounding onto the stage at the Victoria Convention Centre on November 4 to upbeat music, Singh was accompanied on stage for the duration of his 20-minute speech by elected members of parliament and party leaders.

He began with accolades for BC Premier John Horgan and the BC NDP for "changing the course of 16 years and bringing in an NDP government".

Singh commended the new BC NDP government for their comprehensive strategy to tackle poverty in BC, and for working to re-establish a Human Rights Commission. In followup to a final point about raising the corporate income tax "so that everybody pays their fair share", Singh said to Horgan and the BC NDP: "Thank you for showing us the way."

Singh came right out to say that the national NDP party experienced a "pretty significant setback" in the 2015 federal election, but was upbeat about the NDP MPs holding six of seven seats on Vancouver Island.

As for his fast-track to the 2019 election campaign, he is already challenging the federal Liberals for "not implementing any strategy to fight climate change". Singh says the NDP are opposed to the infrastructure bank set up by the Liberals, though perhaps not realizing the jobs and community growth that it supports.

Singh got two genuine standing ovations during his speech... once for his statement that no Canadian should have "less of a sense of self worth" because of the colour of their skin, and again with his statement of the obvious that "poverty, mental health issues and addiction are social justice problems, not a criminal problem". As he is a former criminal defence lawyer, that last statement really had some punch.

It is always evident how the NDP across Canada rally together to support new stars on their team. The only chink in that armor is the differential between Alberta's NDP Premier Rachel Notley and BC Premier John Horgan over the pipeline issues.

Singh wrapped up his articulate, in-depth speech with "yes we can". WSV

Greens on Remembrance

BC Green Party leader Andrew Weaver released a statement in recognition of Remembrance Day:

"Remembrance Day is a time for all Canadians to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by those who have served our country," Weaver said. "We remember the bravery and honour of the Canadians who fought for us, as well as the strength of their families who supported them at home."

"Nearly a century after the end of the First World War, in which so many Canadians lost their lives, we are reminded how precious and tenuous peace is in our world. We must honour the peace and freedom that those brave Canadians and so many others fought for by upholding these values through our actions in our everyday lives. Lest we forget."

WSV

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada

National Library Registration:

WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722

Mailing & Deliveries:

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- Distribution: PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook. IT Support:

Les Oberg. Printing: Brookline Publishing House Inc.

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Advertisement for Sooke Staff Holiday Party on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at the Sooke Legion. Includes sponsors like Telus and Mason Financial.

West Shore Chamber announces deficit elimination by 2017 year-end

West Shore Voice News



● **About 40 West Shore Chamber members** at the organization's Annual General Meeting on November 8 heard mostly about how great they are doing with the budget. Like paying off a multi-year deficit by year-end 2017. Treasurer Todd Troyer presented the numbers.

With mixers, events and membership dues revenues year to date (YTD) are about \$194,000 with expenses at about \$147,000, showing a net income of \$47,000 (compared to \$20,000 YTD in 2016).

Without speculating as to why, executive director Julie Lawlor said the membership count is presently at 379 -- a bit lower than in previous years. She reported 11 mixers this year (a few of them shared with other chambers) and that there's been engagement in regional concerns and transportation.

There was some great hot-dinner food and coffee at the event, hosted at Oak Bay

Bicycles Westshore in the Westshore Town Centre mall.

The Chamber holds a 33-year lease with the City of Langford (it commenced October 2013) for their 2830 Aldwynd Road office location in Langford. Property tax exemption is usually approved by Langford Council each year.

The AGM was attended by Langford councillors Denise Blackwell and Lillian Szpak as well as three area publishers (Goldstream Gazette, West Shore Voice News, and Go West Shore). Also represented were WorkLink, Brookes Westshore, and Millstream Fishway Project.

Attending from Premier John Horgan's Langford-Juan de Fuca constituency office was Bruce Fogg. **WSV**

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Social media fuels graffiti incident at Journey Middle School

West Shore Voice News



web-sourced

● **Contrary to what was swirling on social media**, there were "no words of any weapons of any kind" in the graffiti that was found on the exterior walls of Journey Middle School (JMS) in Sooke on Tuesday morning, November 7, says JMS principal Laurie Szadkowski.

From the nature of the writing the 25 "mostly goofy silly middle school comments" were considered harmless. The markings were washed off right way (after photos being taken for a followup investigation).

"We talked to the kids and assured them they were safe," said Szadkowski. "The fear came after incorrect information in social media. Most kids came to school the next day," she said.

The Grade 6, 7 and 8 students at JMS (school population 515 -- down a bit from last year) were asked to let the principal know anonymously or in person about any information they might have about the incident.

Sooke School District 62 (SD62) has a protocol. With the help of the RCMP the school follows leads for any vandalism.

In a letter to parents, Ms Szadkowski wrote: "I appreciate your assistance in reminding youth that social media is a public domain and that it may be more appropriate to discuss thoughts and feelings in person. Speculation and rumours are not helpful." **WSV**

JdF Director Hicks gets his way at CRD Board

● **The motion read like this:** "That the CRD board advise the mediator to allow Director Hicks to make a presentation and to participate on behalf of the Juan de Fuca (JdF) as an electoral director in the mediation process." After lengthy discussion at the November 8 CRD board meeting it passed unanimously.

In a nutshell, it means Hicks can represent his own area (which should seem like an obvious right) regarding the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). For years there has been an impasse, in that core areas of Greater Victoria wish to contain urban sprawl by restricting piped water service to outlying areas in the JdF (west of Sooke). Meanwhile, long in support of Hicks being able to participate in the RGS discussion have been Metchosin and Sooke which have strong rural components.

At the November 8 CRD Board meeting staff reported that the Province had said that non-binding mediation is to conclude by November 30, 2017. That's even with some mediation sessions still planned by CRD for December 6 to 8, to be followed by Board review. If it's not possible to complete mediation by Nov 30, that would trigger an end to mediation. The dispute would then be resolve through binding arbitration.

"If we get to binding arbitration I get to make a presentation," said Hicks. "Binding arbitration gives us all equality to make our case, not just the rejecting municipalities which are the minority is wagging the tail. Vote for the staff recommendation to get on with it to go for binding arbitration. That's after 10 years and \$4 million in taxpayer's money spent on the RGS," he said.

Arguments about process came down to fairness. While Hicks represents JdF at the board table, he was not allowed to participate in RGS decision-making. Hicks told the CRD board that he approached the premier. "I need some intervention. This is going nowhere. The Province says get it done by November 30 or go to binding arbitration." That's for "total equality for JdF to represent its case," Hicks said. After the meeting Hicks told *West Shore Voice News*: "I hope that Municipalities Minister Robinson and Premier Horgan send us to binding arbitration so that our position may be fairly represented. The CRD's process has failed."

Victoria councillor Ben Issit said going to binding arbitration would be short-sighted and not respectful of time and resources contributed over a long period by elected officials and staff. Former CRD Chair Barb Desjardins said that out of frustration of the time and cost, she initiated the letter to the Province. View Royal Mayor (and CRD vice-chair) David Screech said the RGS is about the whole region and quality of life moving forward. "It's a bad precedent by the BC government to expect us to do something that is impossible (i.e. extend water too far out)." Metchosin Mayor John Ranns said "The RGS is all about JdF because the rest of us aren't affected." **WSV**

Thefts behind building at busy mall

West Shore Voice News



WEB COURTESY EDITION

RCMP are investigating incidents that occurred November 7 in a secluded spot on the Jacklin Road side of the Westshore Town Centre shopping mall behind the Cineplex theatre building.

● **On Tuesday November 7** around 3:10 pm West Shore RCMP responded to a report of a robbery behind the Cineplex Odeon Westshore Cinema building at the Westshore Town Centre on Jacklin Rd in Langford.

Police received reports of approximately seven youths fighting behind the movie theatre. Police received information that a youth had his backpack stolen during the incident. All suspects fled the area when police arrived. West Shore RCMP, with assistance of the Saanich PD K9 Division, located and arrested four youth in the area, and the backpack was recovered. No injuries were sustained by youth at the scene. Further investigation showed the parties were familiar with each other. The matter is still under investigation.

The same day at about 6:15pm West Shore RCMP received a report of another robbery at the same location. Two suspects allegedly robbed another youth and threatened the youth with bear spray. Two necklaces and a cellphone were taken. Officers located and arrested the two suspects close to the scene (one from Victoria age 18, the other from Esquimalt age 16) were held in custody for a court appearance.

Anyone with information is asked to contact West Shore RCMP at 250-474-2264 or Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-8477 www.victoriacrimestoppers.ca **WSV**

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: **Wednesday Nov 15**
for the WSV Nov 17 Issue

West Shore Voice News

Remembrance Day. Sat Nov 11. West Shore ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park (corner of Goldstream Ave). Sooke ceremony at the Sooke Legion cenotaph (Eustace Rd). Arrive by 10:45 am, two minutes silence at 11 am.

Statutory Holiday. Mon Nov 13 [re Remembrance Day]. Government and schools closed.

Free breakfast on Remembrance Day to active & veteran military. Sat Nov 11. Bucky's Taphouse, 9:30am-3pm. 2668 Sooke Rd, Langford.

Public Drop-in Flu Clinic [Sooke] by Island Health. Sooke Child Youth and Family Centre, 104-6672 Wadams Way. Tues Nov 14 1 to 4; Sat Dec 2 9:30 to 2:30; Tues Dec 12 1 to 4. www.viha.ca/flu/

SD62 ECOW. Tues Nov 14 7pm. Dunsmuir Middle School, 3341 Painter Rd, Colwood. www.sd62.bc.ca

Public Drop-In Flu Clinic [West Shore] by Island Health. Colwood Pentecostal, 2250 Sooke Rd. Wed Nov 15 1:30 to 6 pm; Fri Nov 24 9:30 to 3:30; Wed Dec 13 1:30 to 6pm. www.viha.ca/flu/

Computers & Technology. Wed Nov 15. 2-3:30 pm. Juan de Fuca Library, 1759 Island Hwy, Colwood.

Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) Constituency Office Open House. Wed Nov 15. 4 to 6 pm. 104-1497 Admirals Rd. www.mitziidean.ca

All Sooke Arts & Crafts Christmas Craft Fair. Fri-Sat-Sun, Nov 17, 18, 19. Sooke Community Hall. www.allsookeartsandcrafts.com

West Shore Voice - Xmas Ads. Tell people about your seasonal specials! Book your holiday season ad package by Fri Nov 17 to get a 9% discount. Includes mini-feature article. Ads can run Nov 24, Dec 1, 8, & 15 (or 4 Fridays in Dec). 250-217-5821 advertising@westshorevoicenews.com

Christmas Craft Fair & Tea. Sun Nov 19 Langford Legion. 10-3. Free admission. 52 vendors.

Transition Sooke. Presentation re Hwy14 upgrades/transit. Mon Nov 20. 7pm. EMCS. www.transitionsooke.org

West Shore Womens Business Network lunch meeting. Thurs Nov 23. www.wwbvictoria.com

Biggest Little Market & Craft Fair. Sat Nov 25. Sooke Community Hall, 9-5. www.sookeforallfair.ca

Barbecue Fundraiser for Goldstream Food Bank. Sat Nov 25. Millstream Village, Langford. 11-2.

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Nov 27. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, 1 to 7 pm. www.blood.ca

Truck Light Convoy and Langford Christmas Light up Sat Dec 2. Veterans Memorial Park, 6 to 8 pm.

All Sooke Staff Party. Sat Dec 2. By Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce at Sooke Legion, 6pm. \$25 members/\$30-non: www.sookeregionchamber.ca

Moss Cottage Christmas & Snowman Building. Sun Dec 3. Sooke Region Museum, 2070 Phillips Rd, Sooke. 12 to 2 pm. Free family event. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) Constituency Holiday Season Open House. Tues Dec 12. 104-1497 Admirals Rd. www.mitziidean.bcndp.ca

Premier John Horgan, MLA, Langford-Juan de Fuca Constituency Christmas Open House. Wed Dec 13. 122-2806 Jacklin Rd, Langford.

10,000 Tonight Food Drive. Wed Dec 13. Three SD62 high schools collecting non-perishable food items for food banks. 5 to 10 pm. Donations will be collected door to door, but can also be taken to the schools: Royal Bay, 3500 Ryder

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WEST SHORE VOICE

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Hesjedal Way; Belmont, 3041 Langford Lake Rd; EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd (5 to 9 pm).

Holidays at Hatley. Wed Dec 13. Seasonal celebration by West Shore Chamber at Hatley Castle. Tx \$35 members, \$40 non-members. www.westshore.bc.ca

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Transition Sooke taking a look at Highway 14



Speed reader boards will be installed in the Luxton stretch of Hwy 14.

As new speed reader boards are readied for installation on one stretch of Highway 14 (in the Luxton area in Langford, east of where the 4-lane starts toward Sooke), a public discussion about Highway 14 as the one-road-in/out of Sooke is also coming up.

The presentation entitled "Sooke's Transportation Future: Hwy #14 Upgrades, Four Lanes and/or Improved Public Transit?" will be held Monday, November 20. As part of Transition Sooke's speaker series, the presentation will be given by Eric Doherty, a registered transportation planner with the Victoria consultancy firm Ecopath Planning and a founding member of the Better Transit Alliance - Greater Victoria. The two-hour event starts at 7 pm, at Edward Milne Community School, 6218 Sooke Rd. Admission free or by small donation.

The evening will add "further context to a hot topic addressed this year in the provincial election campaign and by the #DividedBy14 initiative," says Transition Sooke spokesperson Jeff Bateman. "Doherty will address the big picture of regional transportation while focusing on Sooke's part within it," he says.

Transition Sooke says the talk "will serve as a prelude to the release of a long-awaited BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure report on continuing upgrades to our winding road home (which is blocked for an annual average of three hours per week due to accidents)".

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SPLPS ventures into the bottle return business

Bottles and containers wanted! Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society (SPLPS) will benefit by a Big Blue Bottle recycling bin in the Shirley Delicious upper parking lot at 2794 Sheringham Point Road, Shirley (corner West Coast Rd and Sheringham Point Rd).

"We invite all to use it, any refundable containers can go in, no need to sort, just use the chute, and all proceeds from the deposit go directly to the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society," say Phil and Sheena of Shirley Delicious.

All refundable bottles, cans, plastic beverage containers are accepted. Anything you would normally take to a return-it centre. **WSV**



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look forward to working with the Province on continued improvements to Highway 14." She spoke at the CRD Board meeting on November 8 about how Hwy 14 is a critical route for Sooke commuters to get to employment at the dockyard, the westshore, the two major hospitals, and downtown.

Apparently BC Transit will be scheduling a public forum in Sooke next year to hear community views and opinions about the region-wide bus service. In Sooke the main bus is #61 also with transfers to the #50 in Langford.

A local group of Sooke business people who drive the #DividedBy14 campaign to heighten awareness about the highway may propose a list of target improvements for Highway 14 that if implemented could -- one by one -- improve the efficiency and safety of the provincial highway. **WSV**

Traffic delays on Hwy 14 on Thursday November 16



Expect traffic delays on Thursday November 16 on Sooke Road (Highway 14), due to some live maintenance work being done on hydro poles in 5700-block (area near Harbourview Road to Woodlands Road). Single lane traffic and delays can be expected from 9:30 am to 3 pm. This will cause backups both eastbound into Langford and westbound toward Sooke.

"We're doing the work live," says BC Hydro spokesperson Ted Olynyk. "We appreciate the public's patience and the delays it may cause." He also hopes drivers will obey the speed limits and respect the flaggers who will be on site to manage the traffic flow.

Marquee sign boards are up around 5700-block Sooke Road already this week, in an effort to advise regular commuters.

BC Hydro will be doing their maintenance work live on one or more poles with 25 kV lines so that a major power outage is not required for a large part of the Sooke area. For safety reasons, this work on live wires must be done during the daytime, says Olynyk.

Sooke Road is a provincial highway (Highway 14), and is effectively the only road in and out of Sooke (population 13,000). **WSV**

Public input on Human Rights Commission: to Fri Nov 17

BC has established a Human Rights Commission. Public input is open at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/bchumanrights/> up to 4 pm on Friday, Nov 17. Public engagement began Sept. 20. It will inform the new commission's model, in terms of how it helps educate about human rights, prevent discrimination and address systemic abuse. **WSV**

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