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Friday, December 15, 2017

Big support for the food bank

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice

10,000 Tonight

West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition



WEB COURTESY EDITION

Students and volunteers at Belmont, sorted non-perishable food donations.

Royal Bay Secondary School leadership team leaders on the night of 10,000 Tonight (from left): Carson Loughridge (Gr 12), Desere Sophonow (Gr 12), Holly Climenhaga (Gr 12), Maddy Momison (Gr 11).

Community Support at Xmas time

● Hundreds of SD62 high school students in Langford, Colwood and Sooke were out collecting non-perishable food donations in neighbourhoods on Wednesday night, Dec 13, and hauling them back to the schools for sorting. It was their "10,000 Tonight" (per school) event by Belmont Secondary, Royal Bay Secondary, and EMCS Community School. About 32,000 items in total were shipped to the Goldstream Food Bank in Langford at the end of the evening. From all that, over 650 Christmas food hampers will be assembled for individuals and families in need this holiday season. Supporting this were teachers, parents, and food suppliers.

And backing up the Goldstream Food Bank with a huge donation again this year was the City of Langford through their Economic Development Commission together with the West Shore Developers Association. They presented a \$10,000 ceremonial cheque outside the Goldstream Food Bank this week, alongside the food bank van is that sponsored by the business community and the city.

The Christmas Bureau aspect of the food bank system has evolved over the years. Over a full week hampers are issued to individuals, 2-person households, 3-person households, and large families. Some hampers contain gluten-free items and some are vegan by request. Volunteer firefighters and from the coast guard will help lift the full hampers into people's vehicles on designated days next week. All hampers include potatoes, onions and carrots as well as fresh eggs. Condiments and miscellaneous items like cookies or potato chips are further added to each hamper. A gift certificate takes care of the entire part -- for turkey, ham or main-meal item of choice. Parents of young children and teens can visit the toy room to select items for under the tree or as stocking stuffers.

Food banks also serve their patrons year round. WSV



WEB COURTESY EDITION

Donation of \$10,000 to the Goldstream Food Bank this week (from left): Ron Coutre, president, West Shore Developers Association; Gayle Ireland, president, Goldstream Food Bank; City of Langford Mayor Stew Young on behalf of the Langford Economic Development Commission.

BC Premier John Horgan in his home riding at Christmas time

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice



WEB COURTESY EDITION

Premier John Horgan at his local constituency office, December 15.

● Surrounded by staff and handlers, and with TV cameras waiting in the wings, Premier John Horgan relaxed into a fast 15-minute interview with *West Shore Voice News* on Friday December 15. Coffee at the Langford-Juan de Fuca constituency office. A holiday tradition.

The blur that is the new life of John Horgan, 58, since he became BC's 36th Premier in July, doesn't prevent him from spending time doing some of his favourite things like heading out to Sooke where for decades he has enjoyed the people, the fresh air, and laidback lifestyle. On this busy day he will do that too.

But in the heat of the moment there are important things to discuss like the decision to proceed with Site C and whether or not life will still remain affordable for average British Columbians.

In the wake of BC's most costly fire suppression season -- coupled this year with aftermath expenses that are indicative of the caring style of the BC NDP government (such as relief for businesses, small tourism enterprises, and small town fire departments devastated by the fires) -- there are financial challenges ahead. "Carole James is working on the budget," was the comment Horgan rolled out about his finance minister in response to costing questions.

After a one-year reprieve in hydro rate increases in 2018 (during which the BC Utilities Commission will review the utility's proposed rates), there will very likely be a steep series of annual increases to pay for the Site C hydroelectric infrastructure. No specifics yet, but 30% over 10 years is on the horizon according to the economically-based Site C announcement on December 11.

Maintaining affordability for people in BC is a 2017 campaign promise that Premier Horgan seems determined to keep. For months he has kept reinforcing that message, despite all the setbacks. He could understandably be pushed to the brink of being daunted by it all. After all, the number and severity of challenges on his government's plate in these first six months has been remarkably intense (wildfires, opioid crisis, and upcoming cannabis legalization).

But with about 30 years of public policy under Horgan's belt there is expertise and experience to draw upon, shored up by his calm insightful approach to things and his rock solid support team among staff and the party. In addition to the time suck and financial setback presented by a significant fire season as soon as he took office, plus the necessary distraction of dealing with the Site C decision, Horgan cites other scenarios that added to the load. There was and is the opioid crisis (which he says is getting worse), .../ continued pg 2

Difficult Site C announcement

West Shore Voice News



WEB COURTESY EDITION

BC Premier John Horgan announced his Site C decision, in the Library Rotunda at the BC Legislature, Monday December 11. (From left): Environment Minister George Heyman; BC Premier John Horgan; and Energy & Mines Minister Michelle Mungall.

● "With a heavy heart" Premier BC John Horgan announced his NDP government's decision to continue forward with construction of the Site C hydroelectric dam project in BC's northeast interior. The overriding reason was economic, including that he wants to be able to deliver on promises aimed at helping make life more affordable for people throughout the province. That despite that hydro rates will now -- after a one-year reprieve in 2018 -- go up 30% over 10 years (2019-2028). Full article was posted December 11, 2017 at www.westshorevoicenews.com WSV

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Editorial

IEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Who's your pick for most influential newsmaker of 2017?



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

● This is a wild card question with no right answer. We will publish all the suggestions and comments that come in. **Who is your pick for the most influential newsmaker of 2017 in your local community or in BC overall?**

We're going to tip the scales on this and suggest that Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon takes the prize for "most influential newsmaker" in BC. Her decision to put BC Premier John Horgan into the top job (underpinned by a handful of Greens) set in motion a cascade of changes in this province that have arguably changed everyone's life for the better on one level or another.

Any and all contributions welcome. Send by Wednesday Dec 27 to news@westshorevoiceneews.com for publication in our Dec 29th year-end issue.

Coffee chat with Horgan...

West Shore Voice News

.../ continued from page 1 /... softwood lumber trade impacts (worrisome, he says), and sorting out the delivery and regulation of non-medicinal cannabis ("the public is well ahead of the policymakers" on this one) with 18 pieces of legislation and having to deal with municipalities of varied in enthusiasm. And unspoken, but evident... the potentially disruptive political disarray amidst much of his grassroots base over proceeding with the construction of Site C.



Moving BC forward into the future with clean energy is a firm goal. The power from Site C -- coming on stream in 2024 -- will be an essential "backstop" to the supply variability of wind and solar, Horgan said Friday.

Most meaningful achievement in his first six months in office? Premier Horgan not surprisingly falls back to his root philosophy about the importance of education as the great equalizer. "The people need to have equal opportunity to succeed," he most naturally proclaims. So he is pleased about "doing away with" adult grad tuition fees. There is no longer a barrier to getting those basic high school math, science and English courses completed, with post-secondary and opportunities for better employment beyond.

Will any social programs be threatened by the financial impacts of Site C and other commitments? "No, we're not prepared to do that. We need to make sure that people are getting the services they need. That's the role of government. There are highs and lows in an economic cycle. In my view, government's responsibility is to make sure that we remain constant and people can get the services that they need. And that's what we're committed to do."

"Child care and housing are going to be the centrepiece of the budget," said Horgan. "We're working as hard as we can on affordable, accessible child care. We need to work with our Green partners...they have some issues around language," Horgan was keen to point out. "The \$10-per-day plan is not the NDP plan, it's the child care advocates' plan. People that deliver the service have been working on this for a long long time. We embraced it as a political party, and said this is our objective and this is what we want to do." Horgan is confident that what families want and need is "just access to child care", not necessarily a fee set precisely at \$10. Horgan says families want safe child care spaces "where they can comfortably leave their kids and pick them up at the end of their work day". On that fundamental socioeconomic issue Horgan says: "That's what our target is and we're working hard on that."

Then he was whisked away for a boardroom TV interview, after which he headed to Mom's Cafe in Sooke to have pie and yet another year-end interview... working those TV crews for another ride on Highway 14, on a grey wet day. **WSV**

Review of BC Ferries set for the new year

West Shore Voice News

● In January 2018, the BC government will begin a comprehensive review of the coastal ferry service to evaluate performance in meeting the needs of ferry users and BC's coastal communities. Improvements to the existing model will be identified, including the Coastal Ferry Services Contract "to better serve the needs of ferry users and coastal communities".



Large vessels: Spirit of Vancouver Island and Coastal Renaissance passing each other in Active Pass.

Contracted ferry services will be reviewed to determine if they support the public interest. Price caps and regulatory models to ensure efficient and effective operations of the ferry system will be assessed, in particular for users and communities who depend on the essential transportation service. The aim is to enhance ferry service delivery and/or reduce costs without impacting service.

Government says it won't consider bringing BC Ferries back into government, leaving it privatized as

occurred about 14 years ago under the former BC Liberal government.

The \$250,000 exercise will be overseen by Blair Redlin, former deputy minister of transportation and former CEO of the BC Trans-

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READER COMMENTS

Site C coverage by WSV

(posted Dec 11, 2017 online)

- "Thanks for the excellent Site C re-cap and information. After all these years reading stuff about it, I finally understand it by reading your material." ~ MG, Vancouver Island
- "Your column on Site C was exceptional and reflects a ton of research and a ton of discipline in the writing. I was always opposed to Site C as a poor 'financial decision' for BC residential ratepayers who will now basically subsidize cheap power for corporations that evade taxes. The real unrecognized 'losers' are poorer BC families who will face increased hydro rates which is far different from our generally well-off seniors (68% of BC seniors have

Goodale's Xmas fundraising pitch

West Shore Voice News

● We're just ahead of Christmas, but politics never lets up. Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Hon Ralph Goodale (MP for Regina-Wascana) this week sent a fundraising letter to Liberal supporters. An MP since 1974, Goodale has served in the House of Commons under four different Liberal Prime Ministers. He says he has "seen firsthand what principled, progressive leadership can do to build a better Canada for all of us".

"With Pierre Trudeau, we embedded the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the inclusive principle of multiculturalism in the Canadian Constitution. With Jean Chrétien, we signed the Kyoto Protocol to begin combating climate change, spurred a solid decade of economic growth, and kept Canada out of the war in Iraq. With Paul Martin, we bolstered federal funding for healthcare all across Canada, made equal marriage the law of the land, and negotiated the Kelowna Accord, which blazed the trail for closing painful gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples." He went on to say that now under Justin Trudeau that "exciting progress" is being made for the middle class.

portation Financing Authority. A report to Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Claire Trevena is due June 2018. **WSV**

Colwood GIS

West Shore Voice

● Cities face a constant challenge to maintain infrastructure like storm water systems, roads, and buildings while bringing on new services and systems. Colwood says they're working with the Capital Regional District to create a Geographic Information System foundation for Colwood's core asset management system so that regional maps show Colwood's infrastructure like roads, pipes and light standards, and natural assets like parks, trails, forests and significant trees. **WSV**

Wishing SD62 families a wonderful holiday & Happy New Year!



SOOKE 62 SCHOOLS Shaping Tomorrow Today

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no debt and get free ferry rides). I digress: well written!!!! ~ Bob Phillips, Otter Point

Goodale also served in Opposition under Stephen Harper, where he says he saw "first-hand the damage that right-wing Conservatives can do to our country... the Harper decade of grinding mediocrity stifled economic growth and job creation." **WSV**

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CRD NEWS



Capital Region: 2018 highlights

● **The Capital Regional District (CRD) board vision for 2018** was delivered in new CRD Board Chair Steve Price's inaugural speech at the December 14 board meeting. "Our region continues to be an exceptional place to live, work and visit," said Chair Price. "The CRD has made excellent progress throughout 2017, and the year ahead will provide many opportunities to create meaningful change in support of a vibrant, sustainable and livable region."

Highlights: ● **Climate change** remains a top strategic priority as the CRD Regional Climate Action Strategy is implemented, guiding services to support community-focused climate mitigation and adaptation action. ● **Solid Waste** Advisory Committee will support revision of the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan and the Integrated Resource Management Advisory Committee will focus on finding proven practical solutions to maximize resource recovery. Both sub-committees will report up through the Environmental Services Committee. ● **Regional Parks** will connect Langford to Victoria through construction of a 1km section between Atkins Ave and Savory School in Langford as part of the E&N Rail Trail. ● **Special Task Force on First Nations** continues to explore various governance approaches, and is gaining considerable insight into possible models through ongoing and regular meetings with First Nations leaders. ● **South Island Communications Centre construction** continues; when complete it will provide residents with a unified 911 call answer and police dispatch centre that meets post-disaster standards. ● **Regional Housing First Strategy** will support the development of new affordable housing units, with an emphasis on those who experience chronic homelessness. ● **Updated Regional Housing Affordability Strategy**, to be published in spring 2018, will prioritize actions the CRD will take to address housing affordability. The region is focused on being a leader in collaboration, building strong partnerships to address housing affordability in the capital region. ● **Regional Trails Plan** for the Southern Gulf Islands will identify a conceptual regional trail route on each of the six islands. **WSV**

Over 28 years of eye care by Joslin-Morin on this west side of the island

BUSINESS FEATURE by West Shore Voice News

● **For eye care in the west shore**, the optometry offices of Dr Brian Joslin and Dr Louise Morin have been popular for many years. The offices of the husband-wife team were again finalists in the Best of the West Shore awards by the West Shore Chamber of Commerce this fall season (1st place last year, 2nd place this year).



Langford Optometry office on Goldstream Avenue.



They've been around a long time. The Sooke office was opened by Drs Joslin and Morin back in 1988, followed by the Langford office in 1990.

Each office has a few optometrists. In Sooke Dr. Morin is joined by Dr. Lisa Meister and Dr. Nicole Hewitt; sometimes Dr. Joslin will work out in Sooke when another doctor is away. In the Langford office, Dr. Joslin is joined by Dr. Craig Barlshen and Dr. Lisa Meister.

In addition to regular optometry checkups, the offices are able to request coverage for those who may need help getting exams and glasses through social services, Department of Veterans Affairs, First Nations Health Authority and Department of National Defence. "We try to be accessible for all people as we are predominantly a family focused all-aged practice," says Stephanie, Certified Optometric Assistant in the Langford office. Both offices are standard size wheelchair accessible. "Dr. Joslin and Dr. Morin also contribute to many community charities and events in the West Shore and Sooke," she says.

Dr. Joslin, Dr. Morin & Associates take pride in their wide selection of eyewear products, with comparable pricing. They carry Maui Jim Sunglasses (and also now their ophthalmic line of glasses frames).

"Because Dr. Joslin and Dr. Morin have been around for so long, they know quite a few people and have such a wonderful relationship with other professionals in the area, and not to mention great staff who have been with them ranging one to 28 years!," says Stephanie.

The Langford office at 105-814 Goldstream Avenue is open Monday to Friday 8:30-5 pm. plus Wednesday evenings to 8:30 pm and Saturdays 9-3pm. There are designated parking spots in the building lot plus street parking.

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*denotes optometric corporation

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EDUCATION NEWS

SD62 ahead of 2018

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **At their December 12 board meeting** ahead of Christmas break, the Sooke School District (SD62) trustees held their annual election, returning Ravi Parmar as Chair and shifting to Bob Phillips (a former SD62 Chair) as Vice-Chair. Dianna Seaton was thanked for her last couple of years of service as Vice-Chair.

Superintendent Jim Cambridge reported on his most recent school visits (Royal Bay, Saseenos and John Muir) and his involvement in the south island partnership with Camosun College as well as his participation in a committee about technical funding for all schools in BC for 2018-2019. He said some "land acquisition meetings with municipalities" had been held.

Treasurer Harold Cull introduced the process of developing the 2018-2019 strategic plan, to which

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public input will be invited in January. SD62 promotes a goal of providing education that produces "creative, cultural and social thinkers with the capacity to be global citizens". **WSV**

SD62 Trustees at their December 12 board meeting

(from left): Margot Swinburnson, Bob Phillips (Vice-Chair), Neil Poirier, Denise Riley, Dianna Seaton, Ravi Parmar (Chair).
Absent: Wendy Hobbs.



WEB COURTESY EDITION

SD62 exec staff after the December 12 board meeting

(from left): Dave Strange (Asst Supt - Sooke schools), Harold Cull (Secretary-Treasurer), Jim Cambridge (Superintendent), Stephanie Hedley-Smith (Asst Supt - Langford schools), Paul Block (Asst Supt - Colwood schools), Dan Haley (Exec Director HR).



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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: **Wednesday Dec 20** for the WSV Dec 22nd Christmas Issue

West Shore Voice News

Victoria Christmas Bird Count. Sat Dec 16 (Dec 28 in Sooke). In a group, or count birds in your own yard: www.christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi/feederwatchbrochure.pdf

Winter Wonderland Skates Dec 16-20. JdF Arena, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Metchosin: Breakfast with Santa. Sun Dec 17. 10am-1pm. Bring food bank donation. www.metchosinfire.ca

2017 Santa Go Round with Colwood Firefighters. Sun Dec 17. 9am-3pm. Thru Colwood neighbourhoods. Accepting food bank donations. www.colwood.ca

Skate with Santa at SEAPARC. Sun Dec 17. 11 am to 12:30 pm. Admission by food-bank donation. www.seaparc.ca

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Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) Holiday Open House Mon Dec 18. 4-6 pm at the constituency office, 2904 Tillicum Rd. www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

Chicago, the musical. Royal Theatre. Mon Dec 18 to Sat Dec 23, 805 Broughton St, Victoria. M-F 8 pm, Sat 7:30 pm; Th & Sat 2 pm. www.chicagothemusical.com

Government House holiday open house. Tues Dec 19. 5 to 7pm. Festive carolling, view the holiday decorations. Mustard Seed food bank donations accepted. 1401 Rockland Ave, Victoria.

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Keep the Xmas tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles and even the TV.

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Season's Greetings from Randall Garrison

Dear Friend,

As the year comes to an end and the holiday season begins, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all residents of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke and their families.

It is an honour to represent you. In the New Year, I am committed to continuing to work for a fairer and greener Canada. As your Member of Parliament, I know that many of you are struggling with the housing crisis, affordability issues, and that you want our environment to be better protected.

I will continue to advocate for improvements to housing, pharmacare, childcare, and affordability. I will also continue to stand with the majority of my constituents in their opposition to Kinder Morgan.

I hope that your holiday season is joyful and that the New Year brings you success and happiness.



Randall Garrison, MP

Sincerely,
Randall C. Garrison
Randall Garrison, MP
Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke

West shore schools announcement by BC Government

BC Education Minister Rob Fleming is scheduled to make an announcement "that supports west shore students" coming up at Belmont Secondary School in Langford on Monday, December 18.

The SD62 school board has in recent months pitched for provincial funds to build new schools in this, the province's fastest-growing school district.

There are presently three SD62 high schools: Belmont in Langford, Royal Bay in Colwood, and EMCS in Sooke. **WSV**

Decorating trees at Government House



Lt Governor Judith Guichon with tree-decorating helpers from local schools.

Three west shore elementary schools will take part in this year's children's tree decorating party at Government House in Victoria on Monday, December 18.

For two hours that morning, eight Grade 3 classes will decorate trees in the ballroom and in the office of Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon. Participating from the west shore are students of SD62's Colwood Elementary, Happy Valley Elementary and Millstream Elementary.

There will be entertainment by Tickle the Clown, holiday treats and a grand finale tree-lighting outside.

Also participating are Grade 3 students from Brentwood Elementary, Eagle View Elementary, Keating Elementary, Lighthouse Christian Academy, and South Park Family School.

This event is an annual tradition at Government House. **WSV**

SD62: more teacher orientation

A full day of orientation for new teachers in SD62 will be held soon -- two sessions ahead of Christmas break, and two more in January. With so many new teachers in the growing school system, this is an expansion over the usual one meeting of previous years.

New educators will be provided with various supports, says SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. That includes information from the human resources, information technology and finance departments as well as various classroom supports, and "stories about successes in the past".

SD62 Vice-Chair Bob Phillips pondered aloud at the Dec 12 board meeting whether there is any research on retaining new teachers. "Thirty percent say bye-bye after the first year," said Phillips. **WSV**



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Cost of water going up

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board has approved a 2018 Regional Water Supply wholesale water rate of \$0.6644 per cubic metre, as recommended by the Regional Water Supply Commission. That's a 4.22% increase over the 2017 rate.

Water supply management costs include renewing and improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for the region's urban centres and local service areas. Activities include the upgrading of the drinking water disinfection plant for the Regional Water Supply System and Juan de Fuca Water Distribution System upgrades.

The preliminary 2018 CRD Financial Plan is subject to change prior to final approval by the Board in March. Feedback can be emailed to financialplan@crd.bc.ca.

Details and online feedback option at www.crd.bc.ca/about/financial-accountability/budget-in-brief **WSV**

Hon. John Horgan, MLA LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



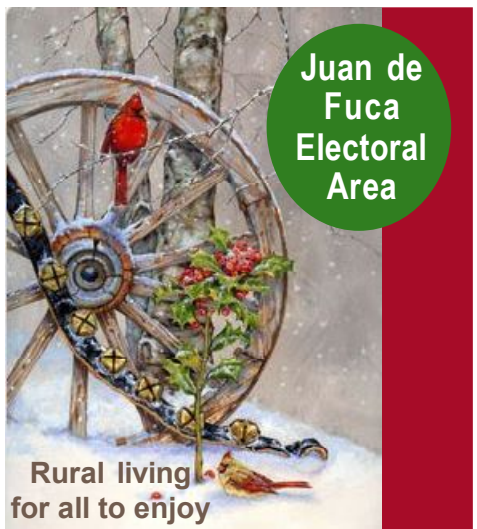
My best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy, healthy holiday season!

John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca
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ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE

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Season's Greetings to everyone in Juan de Fuca & our friends in the District of Sooke

Mike Hicks, Electoral Area Director
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