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LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



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West Shore Voice News v1

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4 pages this issue

'INFRASTRUCTURE & HOUSING' amidst the arts season
Additional breaking news & PDF of this week's print issue:
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News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookeline Publishing House Inc

Friday, August 4, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

Langford: infrastructure for economic boost

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Road infrastructure leads to JOBS, ECONOMY & HOUSING



Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Amarjeet Sohi toured the West Shore Parkway construction site with Langford Mayor Stew Young, August 2.

● **With hot pavement and the crunch of gravel underfoot**, federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Amarjeet Sohi and Langford Mayor Stew Young today took a short infrastructure site tour where two roads intersect. Not just any two roads, but where the urban Langford Parkway intersects with the almost-ready West Shore Parkway – a road to many things.

The West Shore Parkway is set to open by early October. It will be a corridor for traffic from the TransCanada (Highway 1), across the top of Langford, over to Sooke Road (Highway 14). Industrial and residential developments along the route point to future jobs, economic opportunities, and further housing supply in the rapidly growing City of Langford and surrounding regions.

Indeed, August 2 broke temperature records as the hottest day of the year on Vancouver Island so far, if not for this day on record. Together with the haze and thick air of smoky skies from wildfire debris, and at high noon under very high UV conditions, it was a symbolic statement of the effort that a city – partnered with other levels of government and coordinated with the private sector – will make to foster economic development and security for its community.

“The West Shore Parkway extension will improve traffic in Langford’s downtown core and the West Shore,” says Mayor Stew Young. “It will promote further residential development with a variety of housing options, and provide existing and new residents with a number of alternative transportation choices via the new bike lanes, sidewalks and transit stops.”

Continued on pg 2 ... /

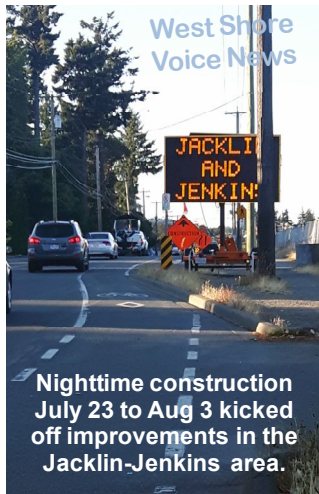
Jacklin Road upgrades

West Shore Voice News

● **In the Jacklin Rd and Jenkins Ave area** a new municipal road will divert traffic in 2018 during construction. The project started with night work July 23 to August 3 to install underground utilities.

The new road will extend from near the SD62 driveway entrance, east and north through the former Belmont school site, and exiting onto Jenkins. The sidewalk on the west side of Jacklin will be completed, with hydro lines relocated underground on the west side. **For completion in 2018:** • Installation of remaining sewer on Jacklin (Jenkins to Galloping Goose Trail) and on Terlane Ave • Replacement of two CRD existing watermain on Jacklin • **Improvements on Jacklin:** new signalized intersection at Terlane; sidewalks on east side; existing bike lanes at a new location; additional lanes north/southbound at Jenkins; improvements in front of SD62 building. • **Improvements on Jenkins:** sidewalks on the south side, bike lanes, and a new signalized intersection opposite the TD bank building at Westshore Town Centre.

The City of Langford says it worked with the school district prior to the sale of their land to Sobeys to ensure all frontage improvements would be completed by the new developer. This was to address the needs of existing residents as well as the new



Nighttime construction July 23 to Aug 3 kicked off improvements in the Jacklin-Jenkins area.

development. The City is excited about the ultimate build-out of Jacklin as a main thoroughfare between the Galloping Goose and Jenkins as well as the significant improvements on Jenkins. It's also part of Langford's goal to provide cycling and pedestrian access to that downtown area. **WSV**

TD Sooke cuts back on branch hours

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

BANKING & the ECONOMY



Changing the sign at TD Canada Trust in Sooke, late Monday afternoon, July 31.

● **A sign of the times!** One of the five major banks is cutting back on its promise of 7-days-a-week service, at least at the Sooke branch. And evening hours are being cut back as well. The amount of walk-in business at the branch at 6670 Sooke Road just doesn't warrant the long hours and staff time.

So on July 31 the writing was no longer on the wall (er, the sign). The old sign...

Continued on page 3 ... /

Premiere arts show visited by BC Premier

ARTS & COMMUNITY

West Shore Voice News



Mary P Brooke ~ WSV

BC Premier John Horgan showed off his Artists Celebration Evening ticket at the July 29 event in Sooke.

● **On Saturday night, July 29**, BC Premier John Horgan attended the Artists Celebration Evening at the 31st Sooke Fine Arts Show.

Ahead of the 7pm entry to the exhibit area, Horgan (also MLA for the Langford-Juan de Fuca area) chatted with people in the lineup outside.

He was warmly received during the official ceremony that recognizes artists and volunteers. Here's what he said to the crowd, amidst ample and frequent applause:

“It's delightful to be here for 31st annual Sooke Fine Arts Show! For those of you here for the first time, you're in for a real treat. For those of you here for perhaps the 31st time you've seen how this small but vital program has grown to be the premiere event on South Vancouver Island if not the premiere event in BC.

I think I can say that now representing the government of British Columbia, because there's no place that I would rather be tonight than at the Sooke Fine Art Show. It's a testament to Geraldine (McGuire, SFAS president) and the board and all of the volunteers that make this happen.

I was talking to a few couples in the lineup from downtown, who made the great pilgrimage out on Highway 14 to come to the program tonight.

And I've been in this arena in early mornings for hockey games, I've been in this arena for graduation ceremonies, but somehow every year the volunteers and the people that get behind the Sooke Fine Arts Show turn this dusty dingy arena into a studio to demonstrate the spectacular work of the arts community up and down Vancouver Island and coastal communities.

I'm so excited to be here, on behalf of just me, and also as the Premier of BC, to make a commitment to everyone here tonight that I will do my level best to see that the arts will get the character and attention that they deserve. Not just now but into the future. And that we invest and ensure that we think of Sooke not just as a place to go fishing, not just where the forest industry used to be dominant, but a place that's diverse and dynamic and can house a premiere juried art show like this.

This year, make it the best ever ... and let's work to next year that Sooke can continue to be the centre of arts in July each year going forward.”

Publisher's Note

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Going other places

● **As they say in real estate -- location, location, location.** As communities on the vibrant and lovely west side of Vancouver Island grow, as an attentive news platform so must we be centrally located in the action zone. The core of our writing as first *MapleLine Magazine*, then *Sooke Voice News*, and now *West Shore Voice News* has sprung from being nestled amidst the intangible creative energy of Sooke's forest, sea and people. Forever grateful for that. But here's the shift... as of August 11, 2017 *West Shore Voice News* will be published out of Langford.

And oh hey, Canada Post, why do addresses in Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Goldstream, Millstream, and Highlands still need to say Victoria when mailing a letter or parcel? Maybe it's time for a V9B update!

News about the unique and fascinating Sooke and Juan de Fuca areas continues within our coverage of this west side of the island. And now catch increasing insights about Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, View Royal, and Esquimalt.

Thank you to those who have believed in the journalism produced from these pages for nine years. The writing continues! Back to editorials next week. ■

Langford: infrastructure for economic boost

INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMY



West Shore Parkway construction staff were joined by Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Amarjeet Sohi, Langford Mayor Stew Young and council.

Continued from page 1 ... /

.../ At full build-out the industrial park under construction at West Shore Parkway and Highway 14 is expected to produce up to 3,000 jobs. Langford and nearby Sooke are considered two of the most affordable areas to live on south Vancouver Island. The Housing Price Index in July showed \$592,300 for a single family home in Langford [actual sales average \$670,299], while in Sooke the HPI was \$479,100 [actual sales average \$519,392], compared to an HPI of



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

\$700,800 in overall Greater Victoria [\$868,008]. This lower price-point for housing in the west shore region helps when it comes to attracting employees for those new jobs.

The West Shore Parkway extension project (first announced July 2015) carries a price tag of \$22,352,570 as funded in thirds... the Government of Canada and Province of BC are each contributing \$7,450,856 with the City of Langford pitching in the other nearly \$7.5 million with the support of regional developers.

Under the new BC NDP government, a promise of 114,000 new housing units in BC over the next 10 years is now open to be fulfilled. This is of interest to the Langford municipality that has the proven their expertise with fast-tracking permits (48-hours) and zoning/rezoning applications (within three months), and to get cracking with increasing housing supply, including rental units. For over a decade, almost no rental units were constructed in the core areas of Greater Victoria; Langford has in the last couple of years taken the lead in fleshing out the availability of apartment units and multi-family housing (such as townhomes, condos and duplexes).

"BC's new Premier John Horgan has seen Langford's housing development up close," says Mayor Young. "We can work with his government to help him fulfill his government's housing goals in a region that needs and is ready to support the creation of more jobs and housing supply." Young also appreciates that Premier Horgan is supportive to expanding Highway 14 – the road to Sooke – to the desired four-lanes all the way between the two communities. Effective transportation underpins the creation of jobs and a variety of housing options.

In the summer sunshine on Wednesday, Minister Sohi said: "I'm happy to be visiting Langford. The federal government is interested in economic opportunity for jobs and a stronger middle class." He was keen to get boots on the ground to further understand how municipalities, BC and the federal government can work together. He was impressed to see how the federal government's investment in road infrastructure would contribute to community growth, and new residential and commercial development.

A former Edmonton city councillor for eight years, Minister Sohi sees infrastructure as a catalyst for growth. He likes to tour projects in local communities. "We need to be at the grassroots, to meet with local leaders," he said.

Ahead of seeing the road construction, Minister Sohi had met with Langford Mayor and Council that morning about the impact of infrastructure and what Langford might be seeking to do next. Both Minister Sohi and Mayor Young found the meeting productive. Sohi was excited about how sewer and water infrastructure could rapidly open up the region to supply more affordable housing.

Langford Mayor Stew Young says there are always shovel-ready projects that Langford can proceed with, when grant funds come through for partnership with other levels of government. A priority goal is to receive a grant funding partnership contribution for sewer and water servicing to the business park and residential areas underway for development at West Shore Parkway and Highway 14. "This is important for affordability and the economy in the west shore," says Young.

Stew Young takes a regional view. Adjacent to Langford are several municipalities with flavours of their own. Metchosin maintains itself as rural with farming. Highlands has its trees and mountains. Sooke offers the getaway lifestyle and overall affordability. In Mayor Young's view, the two expanding communities of Langford and Sooke are well-suited to accommodate growth where it supports jobs and more housing supply. And that comes back to infrastructure.

"Minister Sohi thinks like we do out here," said Stew Young. "As a former municipal councillor he understands how hard it is to get things done. He knows how infrastructure contributes to jobs and economic opportunity."

Says Mayor Young about his municipality that is always ready: "We're not afraid to take anything on," he said, saying that municipalities are often the biggest hindrance to affordable housing and housing supply development. Young enthusiastically pitched to the federal minister that Langford is a desirable place for federal infrastructure investment, putting some dollars into western Canada where the economic spin-offs could be strong, high-profile and quick.

Also discussed by Minister Sohi and Langford's mayor and council were possibilities

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Sooke, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
SVN ISSN 1925-2722 | WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Mailing: PO Box 851, Sooke, BC, Canada V9Z 1H8

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Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc. Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content: Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR
Publishing Support Specialist: Jennifer Brooke. Contributors this week: Michelle Mahovlich. Distribution: PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook. IT Support: Les Oberg. Printing: Brookline Publishing House Inc. Pickup copies: Bulk to coffee shops, reception areas business/community. Online PDF & breaking news (web & FB): ~64,000 pgs/vsits/wk. Subscribers, community depots. Social media.

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for rapid transit (along the E&N) that is "green and sustainable", said Sohi. "I respect that decisions are made at the local level and that it's appropriate to understand the realities," he said regarding infrastructure partnerships with local governments. Sohi says the federal Liberal government is investing close to \$20 billion in public transit across Canada to help build sustainable communities.

Just two days previous, the nearby Irwin Road extension was opened without fanfare. But City of Langford Engineer Michelle Mahovlich says there was a lot of cheering and waving to engineering staff from 'happy residents' driving through for the first time. Mahovlich acknowledges and appreciates the hard work of all the local contractors to make that project happen. The extension connects Irwin Road from Humpback Road east to Meridian and then east to the West Shore Parkway.

Opening of the West Shore Parkway right through to Sooke Road may be delayed into October. That's to await BC Hydro crews that are presently working in the BC interior wildfire zone.

Sohi continued on his infrastructure tour on Wednesday afternoon, heading with his staff to Duncan and Nanaimo. His upisland trip included meetings with new BC Ministers Claire Trevena (Transportation and Infrastructure) and Selina Robison (Municipal Affairs and Housing). It's all part of the grid for smart expansion of communities for jobs and economic growth and sustainability.

Mayor Stew Young says Langford is open to working on joint island transportation projects with the province, and chatted this week with Transportation & Infrastructure Minister Trevena about that.



7th Annual City of Langford

Show & Shine

AT THE FOUNTAIN

Sunday, August 20, 2017

- 10am to 3pm on Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC
- All Classic and Muscle Cars from 1975 and earlier



Info & Registration: www.langford.ca/carshow

SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 2017 ● 10 am to 3 pm

Artists Celebration: all about the glitz

ART FEATURE by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

31st www.sookefinearts.com

It's a bit puzzling that participation in a big Saturday evening is expected of the arts community on the heels of the Purchaser's Preview evening just two nights before. Especially as all the award-winning names and art pieces are readily public in the Sooke Fine Arts Show programme.

Ah, so it's about the glitz... being there, who was there, who said what, who wore what, who talked to who.

This year BC Premier John Horgan -- a long-time Sooke Fine Arts Show patron -- was the guest speaker (see pg 1). Otherwise, award sponsors got about 10 seconds of on-stage exposure to hand out in total about \$12,000

in awards to deserving artists.

During the presentations, info provided on each award was minimal to none. Winning art pieces were not described nor were any artists' profiles elaborated upon. In other words, no added value to deeper aspects of art appreciation.

With resources always at a premium for any non-profit event, especially of this scale, the expense of putting on this event (custom tickets, hors d'oeuvres, sound system, seating planning, etc) might be better invested in other areas of the 11-day show and sale. Perhaps combining the Purchaser's Preview with the Artists Celebration on one night would not overwork the devoted



Paintings and modern photography down one wall of the meandering exhibit space.

volunteer team. Any overhead savings could be applied to reducing the 30% commission that is charged to artists for sale of their items in the gift shop.

Despite all that, the art exhibit

itself is a remarkable display of 375 pieces of fresh works by regional and coastal artists (plus 200 local youth artworks). Touring through the full gallery is every year a treat. **WSV**

TD: a sign of digital times

Continued from page 1 ... /

across the front of the branch that said open daily was replaced with a sign bearing just the TD logo and name.

The convenience to customers with the longer hours, including Sundays, obviously is no longer the draw that it once was.

Market domination by Internet banking is probably a large part of that decrease in demand for in-branch service. Additionally, in Sooke, once people are home from the long commute to employment elsewhere in the region, taking a trip out for banking in the evening is probably not top of mind.

In-branch customer service is top-notch at the TD in Sooke. But for non-specialized everyday banking needs it's frequently more convenient for customers to use online banking and 24/7 ATMs including the drive-through.

The new branch hours were posted on the main door of the branch last week. Starting Monday, August 14 the branch hours will be Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturdays 9am to 4 pm, closed on Sundays.

The TD branch building in Sooke opened in May 2012. It was newly constructed in the middle of town centre. The decision to invest in a new branch in remote Sooke was based on an expectation of increased demand in what was thought to be a town growing rapidly enough to sustain the costs of opening a new branch. Until that time, the next nearest TD Branch was (and still is) in Langford.

TD Canada Trust has for many years distinguished itself from the other four major banks with extra-long and 7-day-a-week branch hours as well as pitching to small businesses which usually operate with long and variable hours.

There are three other financial institutions in Sooke: CIBC, RBC, and Coast Capital Savings; BMO and Scotiabank are not part of the Sooke banking footprint.

Sooke Chamber: Wild Coast Expo & more

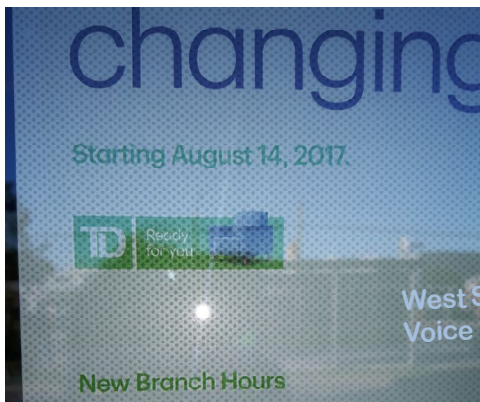
An action plan by the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce for 2017-2018 outlines "actionable steps for the Chamber to realize its vision of Sooke as a planned and prosperous community while maintaining the lifestyle and values that we all love," said Sooke Chamber president Kerry Cavers this week. "With the success of our members and the business community at the heart of all our decisions, the Action Plan will focus on four central pillars: Events, Economic Development, Workforce Development and Community Collaboration."

The Chamber will host the first-ever **Wild Coast Expo** April 7-8, 2018 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex. The two-day outdoor recreation tradeshow will feature speakers, workshops, gear testing, and excursions (website online later this month, with special member rates vendor participation). Other upcoming events include the **Special Joint Business Community and Newcomers Club** mixer on August 10, the **15th Annual Golf Tournament** on September 14, a **Four-Chamber Mixer** at Camosun College on September 21, **AGM** in November, and the **All Sooke Staff Party** in December.

The Chamber heads into its 70th year with a revitalization of branding and approach, aiming to improve the value of membership with renewed focus on tourism-led economic development. The Board of Directors is working with students and faculty of the Royal Roads University Tourism Management program to create a fresh, cohesive, and inclusive brand for the Chamber. They're reviewing all administrative policies and procedures, building a new website, and updating all marketing materials.

A monthly payment plan for membership dues will soon be available, as a convenience for members and staff. There will be an increased focus on workforce training to help business owners and their employees. "We also aim to build new partnerships with businesses," says Cavers, by offering discount rates on products and services and partnering with other regional organizations to support events and boost collaborative opportunities.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback about the changes that we have implemented over the last year. It has been a great deal of hard work but it really has only just begun," says the ever-bouyant Sooke Chamber President Kerry Cavers. **WSV**



New hours: door-sign in evening sunlight.

Record-setting hot weather & smoky skies

West Shore Voice News

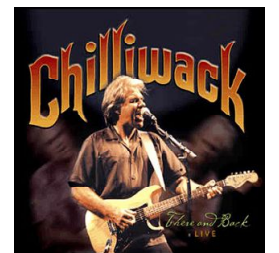
On Monday this week, Island Health issued a warning about super-hot weather, the kind that can endanger health by causing people to dehydrate and overheat.

The next day on August 1, an air quality advisory was issued by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with Island Health. Their 'Smoky Skies Bulletin' was for communities on the East Vancouver Island, the Southern Gulf Islands, and Greater Victoria due to wildfire smoke in the area. Debris from BC mainland forest fires had made its westward way to Vancouver Island. This can be a health challenge for people with heart and breathing difficulties.

Smoke concentrations vary widely as winds, fire behaviour and temperatures change. Record-breaking heat was expected for August 2 and 3, and that in fact did come to pass. Temperatures across BC reached beyond 30°C on Wednesday in most areas, breaking temperature records. It was 31°C at one point in Sooke, and 33°C in Langford mid-day.

Chilliwack returns to Sooke

They were in Sooke last summer, and they're coming back again! Canadian music legend Bill Henderson of the Chilliwack band will perform at EMCS Community Theatre on Sat Aug 26 (7:30 pm). Opening act by Juno award winner Sue Medley who has often performed at Sooke Folk Music Society concerts. It's a fundraiser for the Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees. www.VICCIR.org. Tx \$40 at The Stick and Sooke Shoppers Drug Mart or at chilliwack.bpt.me **WSV**



Chilliwack was active 1970 to 1988, and Henderson reformed the band in 1997.

Sooke houses over half-million

Considered the most affordable area on south Vancouver Island, owning a home in Sooke still comes with a price tag that is over a half-million dollars. In July the average sale price of a single family home in Sooke was \$519,392 though the Victoria Real Estate Board promotes a data-adjusted HPI of \$479,100. HPI reflects the relative value based on criteria like transportation and proximity to services. **WSV**

FINE ARTS SEASON IN SOOKE!

B&K

AUG 5 Jewellery & Gifts
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AUG 6 11-3 in Sooke town centre

BC Day Weekend: open Sat & Sun

Check out B&K items in the Sooke Fine Arts Show gift shop at SEAPARC ~ 2168 Phillips Rd on the long weekend to Mon Aug 7

778-352-4438

This week, Island Health suggested those with heat or breathing challenges consider visiting a location like a shopping mall with cooler filtered air. And to keep in mind that staying indoors may help a person stay cool and provide some relief from the smoke. However many air conditioning systems do not filter the air or improve indoor air quality. Reduce indoor pollution sources such as smoking or burning other materials. Wear sunscreen, hat and UV-protective eyewear when outdoors. **WSV**

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: Aug 9 for Aug 11 Issue of WSV

West Shore Voice News

HEAT WAVE in forecast ~ up to August 9 Stay cool ~ keep hydrated

31st Sooke Fine Arts Show. Continues daily thru Mon Aug 7. At SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. 375 pieces on exhibit / for sale. Also 200-piece youth art gallery. Gift shop, live entertainment, food. Admission: 1-day pass \$10. Youth ages 13-18: \$8 day pass. Seniors 65+: \$8 day pass. \$20 show pass. Kids < 12 free. Hours: www.sookefinearts.com

Bard Across The Bridge presents Macbeth. Thurs Aug 3, Fri Aug 4, Sat Aug 5 at Saxe Point Park, Esquimalt. 7:30-9:30pm. Tx at gate. \$24 (kids <12 free). Sr/Student: \$19.

Serious Coffee View Royal 1703 Island Hwy. Closed long weekend Sat Aug 5 to Mon Aug 7 for renovations.

BC Day Long Weekend. Sat Aug 5 to Mon Aug 7.

Sandy Shore Explore Guided Walk. Sat Aug 5. All ages. 10-11:30am. Witty's Lagoon. 250.478.3344. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Sooke Salmon Enhancement Chinook Salmon Derby. Sat Aug 5 & Sun Aug 6. www.sookosalmonenhancement.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Aug 7. Church of the Advent, 510 Mt View Ave, Colwood. 12-7pm. www.blood.ca

Sooke Night Market. Thurs Aug 10. Vendors, entertainment, food, outdoors in the summer evening air. 5 to 8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Sooke Music Festival. Sat Aug 12. Live music festival at John Phillips Memorial Park, 2197 Otter Point Rd. Fundraiser for Sooke Community Turf Field and Sooke Food Bank. 11 am to 10 pm. www.sookemusicfestival.com

Langford-Juan de Fuca NDP Constituency Association annual BBQ. Sun Aug 13 at Sooke Flats. Everyone welcome. 12 noon to 2 pm.

Movies on the Hill. 'Lego Batman'. Thurs Aug 17 behind JDF Library, 1767 Island Hwy. By donation. Weather permitting. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Expedia CruiseShipCenters new location opening. Fri Aug 18 & Sat Aug 19. 748 Goldstream Ave, Langford.

1st Annual SEAPARC 4-Person Best Ball Golf Tournament. Sat Aug 19. Register your team of 4. Prizes! Food for purchase on site. 250-642-8000. www.seaparc.ca

7th Annual Langford Show & Shine. Sun Aug 20. 10am-3pm. On Goldstream Ave in Langford. All Classic and Muscle Cars from 1975 and earlier. Info & registration: www.langford.ca/carshow

Summer camps at Belmont Secondary in Langford. For kids in Gr 2 to 7. Aug 21-25. 9am-3:30 pm. \$175. Half-days \$100. Register www.westshorebasketball.com

"Chilliwack - Live in Sooke!" Sat Aug 26. EMCS Theatre. Opening Sue Medley. 7:30 pm. Fundraiser for Vanc Is Counselling Centre for Immigrants & Refugees. Info: www.viccir.org Tx \$40 The Stick, Shoppers, & www.chilliwack.bpt.me

www.prepareyourself.ca

When it comes to conserving water, small adjustments can have a big impact.



100+ ways to conserve: www.wateruseitwisely.com/ 100-ways-to-conserve

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Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society AGM. Sun Aug 27. 2 to 3:30 pm. Village Food Markets upstairs meeting room, 6661 Sooke Rd. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

Labour Day Weekend. Sat Sept 2 thru Mon Sept 4 and Back to School. Tues Sept 5. www.sd62.bc.ca

Sooke Fall Fair. Fri Sept 8 & Sat Sept 9. At Sooke Community Hall. www.sookefallfair.ca

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EVENTS: www.westshorevoiceneews.com

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Free Family Event At Sooke Flats

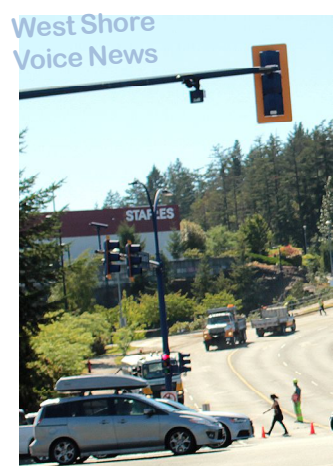
HOTDOGS, HAMBURGERS & HORGAN
ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

SUNDAY AUGUST 13TH
12 to 2 pm

BC PREMIER JOHN HORGAN ~ MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca

Diesel spill on McCallum Rd

WestShoreVoiceNews.com



Mary P Brooke ~ WSV

Cleanup work July 31 on McCallum Rd at Millstream

A diesel fuel spill around noon on Monday July 31 on McCallum Road in Langford's Millstream commercial area blocked road access to stores like Staples and Costco while crews first emptied the water tanks from the damaged water truck that leaked the fuel, then mopped up the oily mess. The fuel smell still lingered for a block or two, mid-afternoon, and on August 3 roadside signs remained that said 'fresh oil'. WSV

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WSV

New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be? Call Judy ~ 250-642-2268



Thinking about the continued BC wildfire situation.

"This wildfire, it's burnin' deep It's burnin' deep - burnin' burnin'.

Wildfire, It didn't take long" ~ lyrics from 'Wildfire' by Daryl Hall (1993)

BC Housing portfolio gets moving

All BC NDP cabinet ministers received their mandate letters last week from Premier John Horgan.

Selina Robinson (MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville) is the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Here's her priorities checklist, by which Premier Horgan expects "substantive progress":

- Partner with local governments and First Nations to develop a community capital infrastructure fund to upgrade and build sports facilities, playgrounds, local community centres, and arts and culture spaces.
- Through partnerships with local governments, the federal

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government, and the private and not-for-profit sectors, begin to build 114,000 units of affordable market rental, non-profit, co-op, supported social housing and owner-purchase housing.

- Create new student housing by removing unnecessary rules that prevent universities and colleges from building affordable student housing.
- Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to provide stronger protections for

Selina Robinson, BC Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing



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renters, and additional resources to the Residential Tenancy Branch. • With the Minister of Finance, deliver an annual renter's rebate of \$400 per rental household to improve rental affordability. • Work in partnership to develop a homelessness action plan to reduce the homeless population through permanent housing and services. Conduct a province-wide homelessness count. • Work with the Minister of Finance to address speculation, tax fraud and money laundering in the housing market. • Support the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation by funding 40% of the capital costs of every phase of the plan, in partnership with all levels of government.

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