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Week #348 of the Voice

WestShoreVoiceNews

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

Friday, September 22, 2017 INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

Wooing Amazon to Langford

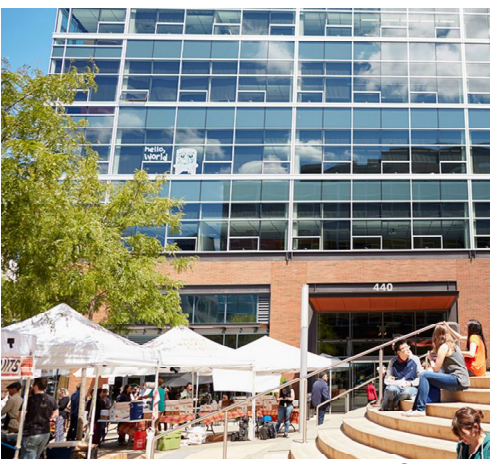


Langford Mayor Stew Young

ECONOMY

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Amazon would need about 8.1 million sq ft of operational space for its second headquarters, bringing \$5 billion to the successful host community just for construction, plus jobs and economic spinoffs after that.



Amazon headquarters in Seattle.

● If you don't try, you'll never know. The City of Langford with its go-after-it can-do attitude and team approach has assembled a bid to attract Amazon to the west shore of Vancouver Island.

They're responding to a tender put out by Amazon on September 7 for a location at which the online retailer can set up their second North American headquarters (HQ2 for short). HQ2 would be a full equal to the company's main headquarters in Seattle, WA said Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and CEO, in a statement earlier this month.

After their October 19 deadline, Amazon will be seeing Langford's pitch in front of them along with at least 50 bids from major cities across North America (likely including, in Canada, these -- Ottawa, Calgary, London, Edmonton, Toronto). If nothing else, it's good international exposure for Langford, but Langford Mayor Stew Young and senior staff are optimistic.

"We have great transportation routes, an international airport and seaplanes," said Mayor Young this week. Of course, the \$5 billion that the online retailer would spend to build HQ2 would be the first great part of Amazon putting down roots in Langford.

Amazon HQ2 would eventually employ up to 50,000 people full time over a 10-year period. In addition to Amazon's direct hiring and investment, construction and ongoing operation of Amazon HQ2 would create tens of thousands of additional jobs and tens of billions of dollars in additional investment in the surrounding community.

Langford offers an already established commercial hub within the west side of the island lifestyle, similar to the laidback lifestyle that Amazon offers their employees. Here the perks would be lots of indoor and outdoor recreation, modern digital services, universities and colleges, and relative housing affordability. And more... including locally three lakes that Langford has in within its boundaries plus nearby hiking, fishing and trails along the west coast.

As well, being in Canada would offer the US company a cheaper dollar as well as trade agreements into Europe and Asia that are separate from NAFTA, which is probably why the Request for Proposal (RFP) was not limited to American cities.

Stew Young was approached by the business community to give this bid a shot, even though the Amazon RFP

states the need for a base population of 1 million people. Greater Victoria is about 370,000 people, but the extended region could be seen to include adjacent regions of Vancouver Island, and by ferry-extension, the lower mainland.

In the last few years Langford's population has surpassed 40,000 and the development community keeps on building houses, townhomes, condos and rental apartments to help Langford try and keep up to housing demand.

Amazon's headquarters in Seattle is comprised of 33 buildings, in total about 8.1 million sqft. That includes 24 restaurants/cafes and eight other services. Their capital investment in buildings and infrastructure was \$3.7 billion. Operational expenditures are \$1.4 billion (utilities/maintenance). Employee payroll is about \$25.7 billion/yr. About \$43 million is paid into Seattle's transportation system. In 2016 about 233,000 hotel nights were booked by visiting Amazonians and guests.

Amazon estimates its investments in Seattle resulted in an additional \$38 billion to the city's economy (2010-2016) -- every dollar invested by Amazon generated an additional 1.4 dollars for the city's economy overall.

Naturally there is buzz in cities across North America to throw their hats into this enormous ring. Some financial critics say the magnitude of the project could overwhelm a city or region that is not prepared to handle it. On the other hand, it's an opportunity that likely comes once in a city's lifetime.

The closing date for the RFP is right around the corner. The entire tech industry and community of municipalities in Canada and the US are keen to see how this one plays out. **WSV**

Langford Council takes leadership with regional transportation

West Shore Voice News



Langford Council studying reports at their September 18 meeting (from left): Councillors Matt Sahlstrom, Roger Wade, and Winnie Sifert; Mayor Stew Young; and Councillors Lanny Seaton and Lillian Szpak (absent: Councillor Denise Blackwell).

● At their September 18 meeting, Langford Council endorsed three priorities for transportation. Top priority is a need for installation of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and/or bus lanes on the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1) between West Shore Parkway and downtown Victoria. Close on the heels of that is the priority for BC Transit to develop the E&N Corridor as a major bus or train corridor. Also in the top three is the priority to upgrade Highway 14 (Sooke Rd) that connects the Sooke region to Langford and the rest of Greater Victoria.

Council feels that to avoid duplication of services, that the Capital Regional District (CRD) be contacted about setting up an advisory committee to provide recommendations and priorities to BC Transit and the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI).

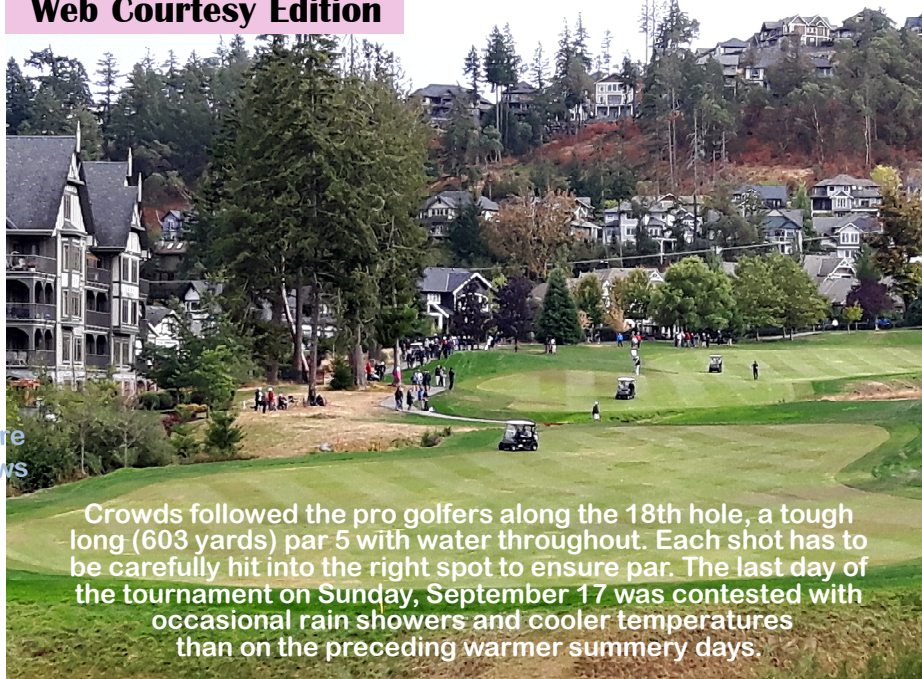
Langford will be advising BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Claire Trevena and the BC Transit board about the advisory committee request.

Langford Mayor Stew Young said this week that getting Langford residents to and from their jobs and post-secondary classes in the core areas of Greater Victoria is a top priority for his community. People have flocked in large number to Langford and the surrounding west shore area in recent years due to the relative affordability of housing and rental accommodation in the west shore municipality and surrounding region. **WSV**

Age 50+ golfers pull down big prizes at Pacific Links PGA last weekend

West Shore Voice News

Web Courtesy Edition



Crowds followed the pro golfers along the 18th hole, a tough long (603 yards) par 5 with water throughout. Each shot has to be carefully hit into the right spot to ensure par. The last day of the tournament on Sunday, September 17 was contested with occasional rain showers and cooler temperatures than on the preceding warmer summery days.

● High profile golf in Langford! The Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship (an official event on PGA Champions Tour) featured the world's premier golfers age 50+, September 11 to 17. They competed for a \$1.8 million USD purse.

With a bit of rain and cooler temperatures on the third day of championship play Sunday (after warm Friday-Saturday conditions), Jerry Kelly won top prize -- his second in five weeks. In the final round, he hit all 13 fairways and 15 of 18 greens in regulation. His \$270,000 bumps his season total to \$1,121,577. He's the eighth player to win over \$1 million this season. Lee Janzen pulled in second. It's his fourth top-10 of the season. David McKenzie finished third, two shots behind Kelly. There were 78 competitors in this 2nd annual Pacific Links event.

Tournament organizers announced a total event week attendance of 29,000. That's 2,000 more than the 2016 Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship.

Tournament Director Brad Parkins said the City of Langford was "absolutely spectacular to work with" in helping the event achieve a smooth operational outcome. He credits the great spectator turnout to people wanting to come out to see the top-name players. **WSV**

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Editorial
VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

BC's big money ban

Well, so BC is no longer 'the wild west' when it comes to the process political donations. But neither did much of the BC public think the bill would be shifted to them.



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher
West Shore Voice News

The NDP could have made it clear that this province would now follow a system similar to the one used federally, where political parties of a minimum size and larger are formula-assigned taxpayer dollars to run their election campaigns.

Would the progressive sector of voters have still supported the ban on big money donations if they'd known this? Probably. After all, no one protests the federal system. But a clear public explanation was surprisingly lacking.

What seems to be lacking overall in society is to what degree businesses of all sizes contribute in the way of taxes, contributions, donations and other scenarios where generosity is often significant. What might look like money being thrown liberally around, is more often than not an informal system of financial contribution that greases the wheels of good will and good works in a community.

The BC NDP government's approach to introducing the big money ban smacks a bit of the lack of awareness of different layers of the small



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and mid-size business community that has been missed by a country mile in the federal Liberal proposed changes to small business tax policy.

Fair enough, businesses don't post on billboards how they manoeuvre in their entrepreneurial and corporate worlds, so who would know? But busting the good will of businesses to donate large sums in their communities (in this case, by way of their politics) is hardly the way to go about maintaining their enthusiasm. When the chips are down, where will those helpful sums of money be found?

Let's all put our hands over our eyes and pretend this won't push favouritism further underground... just the opposite of what the BC NDP intended.

As a footnote, the BC NDP have a notably strong ground-game when it comes to getting out the vote during elections (something they work at year-round). If throwing more money at that game enhances their success, then this recent change in BC will of course help them succeed further in future.

BC NDP populates health board with new appointees



West Shore Voice News

The BC Government has made various new appointments to (and let some persons go from) the boards of the province's five regional health authorities. Fraser Health, Interior Health, Island Health, Northern Health and Vancouver Coastal Health board member announcements were issued September 22.

Here on Vancouver Island, Island Health sees Leah Hollins as the new chair, replacing Don Hubbard. Ron Mattson is a new board member, with Matthew Watson departing.

"Hollins and Mattson both have a long history of public service and significant experience in health care," said Health Minister Adrian Dix. "Our goal as a government is to provide leadership for a strong public health-care system in British Columbia and we are confident that these appointments will support this goal."

Island Health will benefit from the depth of experience offered by both members. "It's great to have an Order of Canada recipient and a devoted public-service and community-planning member join the board, lending their history, technical expertise and level of dedication to helping health care on the island reach its maximum potential," added Dix.

Alistair MacGregor, MP sticking close to home

While the House of Commons is back in action in Ottawa, with MPs having returned from summer vacation and getting down to business on September 18, local MP Alistair MacGregor (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) has remained here on Vancouver Island. He is helping to take care of some personal family health matters, for which his staff both in Ottawa and his two constituency offices (in Duncan and Langford) are supportive. He plans to return to Ottawa after Thanksgiving.

Salmon project funding



West Shore Voice News

Communities and volunteer-driven organizations that are involved in salmon conservation have an opportunity for project funding.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation is now accepting online applications for the Fall granting round of the Community Salmon Program. The application deadline is Sunday, October 15 at 11:59 pm.

To receive assistance with a project or the application system contact Jim Shinkewski at 604-664-7664 or jshinkewski@psf.ca well ahead of the deadline.

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Banks support digital tech

West Shore Voice News

The biggest banks and telecommunications companies in Canada are joining forces with the tech industry, academics, and provincial governments to tackle the identification challenges associated with a progressively digital economy.

The digital identity supercluster bid is in response to the federal government's Innovation Supercluster Initiative (first announced in the 2016 budget). The federal government requires of \$250 million in matching funds. In just four weeks, \$485 million of private sector investment was raised for use over five years.

Making face-to-face interactions easier within financial transactions is one of the project goals. Privacy assurances may be of concern to consumers.

Digital Identity and Authentication Council of Canada (DIACC) has assembled a nationwide public-private consortium of large and small innovators to create a digital identity ecosystem that will make transacting and sharing personal data online easier and safer.

Canada's largest banks are on board (RBC, BMO, Scotiabank, CIBC, TD, and National Bank) along with the largest telcos - Bell, Rogers, and TELUS - as well as academic institutions such as Ryerson University and UBC, and the provincial governments of Ontario, BC, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick. None of the investors asked for a return on investment, leaving all funds for research and development, as well as for grants to small and medium-sized enterprises, according to *IT World Canada* this week.

TELUS gets behind small business

ECONOMY

West Shore Voice News

TELUS recently announced their TELUS Pitch Contest, calling it Canada's largest small business contest. Pitch your business and possibly win \$100,000.

From Sept 7 to Oct 29, Canadian entrepreneurs are invited to enter the contest by sharing how winning the grand prize of \$100,000 will help them achieve their business goals and take their small business to the next level of excellence. The judging panel includes celebrated entrepreneur Arlene Dickinson (of *Dragon's Den* TV fame).

Additional prizes will go to four business owners, totalling over \$50,000 in additional cash prizes, hardware, technology and marketing services. Select finalists will be provided ongoing mentorship opportunities from industry experts.

An upbeat one-minute video at www.telus.com/en/bc/business/pitch/ shows Dickinson surprising entrepreneurs in an elevator, giving them a moment to pitch their business right there on the spot.

"The next pitch you present could be a game-changer for your business," says Lisa Ballinger, Senior Regional Market Manager with TELUS here on the west shore. "Share your business goals with us for a chance to win \$100,000," she said this week.

The contest includes a community impact award of \$10,000 cash plus \$10,000 more for donation to the charity of your choice.

West Shore Voice News

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West Shore Voice News

Federal NDP leadership points to mid October

The federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leadership election by party members is underway (Sept 18 to Oct 15). Party leader Tom Mulcair will stay on until a new leader is confirmed.

Running for the top spot are Charlie Angus, Niki Ashon, Guy Caron and Jagmeet Singh.

Local MP Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) says his vote is behind Singh, who is a former trial lawyer and until recently was deputy leader of the Ontario NDP.



TELUS - screenshot

Arlene Dickinson: celebrity lead for the TELUS Pitch Contest.



Supplied photo

TELUS Senior Regional Market Manager Lisa Ballinger dealt with the wind at her booth at Eats and Beats on the beach in Colwood this summer.

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\$500,000 for literacy

West Shore Voice

BC is investing \$500,000 to support this year's Raise-a-Reader campaign. The annual week-long campaign supports literacy by increasing awareness and raising funds for community-based programs. Families and children engage in reading and play to help develop literacy skills. Anyone can donate: www.canadahelps.org/dn/11502

West Coast Lifestyle

Langford: a growing community

Breaking news & updates:
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Traffic at Jacklin & Jenkins

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

West Shore Voice News

Traffic delays will become an everyday thing along Jacklin Road between Langford Parkway and Highway 14 (Sooke Rd), til mid-2018.



Base map: City of Langford | Overlay: West Shore Voice

● **Some underground utility construction**, lane improvements and signal light installations are a composite project by G&E Contracting, CRD Integrated Water Services and the City of Langford in preparation for major construction on the former Jacklin Road Belmont high school site.

The work will periodically impact vehicle traffic flow Mondays to Saturdays (7am to 6pm) at and around the intersection of Jacklin Road (Jenkins to Terlane) and also at Jenkins Avenue (Jacklin to Brittany Drive). Up to summer 2018. No night work is anticipated in 2017, says Langford engineering.

All of that is near the Westshore Town Centre retail area and affecting the major thoroughfare that is Jacklin Road to shops, restaurants and as a connector to the Goldstream Ave business centre of Langford. The SD62 administration building is also in the area.

The new West Shore Parkway (that runs from Hwy 14 to Langford Parkway, and soon to Hwy 1) is one route that will help motorists avoid the resultant congestion on Jacklin Road and Sooke Road.

Redevelopment of the former school site will include a new 56,000 sq ft Thrifty Foods store as the anchor tenant within the Belmont Market Shopping Centre (a 200,000 sq ft retail complex by Sobeys Developments). All of that bordered is by Jacklin Road, Jenkins Road, Brittany Drive and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

An additional 144,000 sq ft of retail and office space will be situated throughout the multi-acre site with as many as 860 surface parking spaces. It's a three-phase commercial project.

Phase One of the development (Thrifty Foods as anchor, plus five more retailers with storefronts 5,800 to 13,000 sqft) is the portion aiming to be completed in summer 2018. A 330-unit residential component (including rental apartments and some townhomes) will span the southern perimeter of the property, backing onto the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. **WSV**

Langford pays deposit to BC Hydro to get rolling on hydro-pole relocation design

West Shore Voice News

● **Show us the money!** This week the City of Langford paid a design deposit of \$70,000 to BC Hydro. That's so work by the electrical utility's engineers can begin figuring out how best to relocate a major set of transmission lines from overtop where the city wants to install a second section of bleachers at Westhills Stadium on Langford Parkway. For safety reasons, people cannot be seated below a major power line, so to see Langford Mayor Stew Young's vision of an expanded stadium materialize the lines need to be moved.

As first reported this spring (*'Next big Langford project: Move one hydro pole, boost the economy'*, June 2, 2017 West Shore Voice News), Langford is dependent on expanding the Westhills Stadium seating capacity (to about 5,000 from the present 2,200) in order to hold onto Rugby Canada as an anchor sports training facility in Langford. If a larger seating capacity and professional media box (for TV coverage) cannot be provided, the national sports organization could start looking elsewhere. The new Rugby Canada training facility (including 7,000 sqft gym, meeting/office rooms, recovery/stretch area, dorm, therapy clinic, and Canada Rugby Hall of Fame) is still under construction on Glen Lake Road, behind the stadium area.



This pole and two lines will need to be relocated, if an additional set of bleachers is to be constructed on the north side of Westhills Stadium. For BC Hydro, it's a complex engineering undertaking. For the City of Langford it's an additional expense considered key to long term regional economic gain.

The present transmission line would -- based on preliminary discussions -- be moved across the street to the north side of Langford Parkway. The work would include some scheduled power outages in the Langford area.

The expanded stadium facility would be a boon to the Langford economy as well as the broader west shore region. Athletes, their team entourage and families, spectators from many locations and the TV game coverage would boost the economy in both the short and long-term.

Construction of the bleachers (with press box, electrical room and storage) would ideally start in May 2018 for completion ahead of the May 2019 Women's Rugby Sevens.

Quite possibly the City of Langford's positive political relationship with new BC Premier John Horgan (also a rugby fan and resident of Langford) has helped move things along with the lines relocation request which first began in 2014. **WSV**

Langford senior parks manager Mike Leskiw retirement celebrated this week

West Shore Voice News



City of Langford
www.cityoflangford.ca

Retirement party at Langford Lanes!
City of Langford Parks, Recreation, Culture and Beautification Committee Chair Lanny Seaton presented a retirement gift to City of Langford Manager of Parks and Recreation Mike Leskiw. >>



MUNICIPAL MILESTONES

Mary P. Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Web Courtesy Edition

Mary P. Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **About 75 people** -- elected officials, coworkers, colleagues, family and friends -- gathered on Thursday afternoon, September 21, at Langford Lanes to wish a happy retirement to Mike Leskiw who until the day before had served 10 years as the Manager of Parks and Recreation with the City of Langford. City of Langford Mayor Stew Young thanked Leskiw, saying: "You were always able to solve things." Mayor Young gave high praise to Leskiw, saying he exemplified the Langford attitude about working with everyone to get the job done. "You gave your heart and soul to the community, and because of that you have the respect of everybody here."

Councillor Lanny Seaton as chair of the Parks, Recreation, Culture and Beautification Committee praised Leskiw, saying with gratitude how the Parks manager kept things running for council.

Before joining the City of Langford staff in 2007, Mike Leskiw was Parks

Manager with the City of Victoria (2002-2007) and before that Superintendent of Parks with the District of Saanich (1987-2002). Mike pointed out that he has always lived in Langford.

The mayor presented Mike Leskiw and his family with a 'forever free pass' to the recreational facilities in Langford.

Mike thanked Mayor and Council for the many good years and their "amazing leadership" to get staff and the community involved. "Now people want to come to Langford." For projects like the stadium and the ball field "we would all work together to get it done". Leskiw tipped his hat to working with Victoria Contracting for many projects around Langford and Ecoasis at Bear Mountain.

Long time Langford staffer Cory Manton (previous Deputy Manager Parks and Recreation), now moves into the position of Parks and Recreation Manager, after job-shadowing for a month with Leskiw. **WSV**

Langford protective services: forging ahead with priorities

West Shore Voice News



The City of Langford Protective Services Committee at their September 19 meeting.

● **"We'll deal with it as it occurs,"** said West Shore RCMP Officer in Charge Insp Larry Chomyn, at the September 19 Protective Services Committee meeting in council chambers. He was referring to motorcycle gang members operating out of a property on Spencer Road in Langford. However, Langford's Protective Services Committee kept that in perspective amidst their review of the other work of the West Shore RCMP. It was noted that theft of vehicle contents was down but that theft of vehicles was up. Chomyn explained that quarterly stats can reflect which people (including prolific offenders) might be in the community.

Distracted driving is on the rise and police are watching for that, "typically looking for people using cell phones or texting", Chomyn said. He encourages his officers in a 3-person traffic unit to "be creative" to catch distracted drivers.

Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey participated in a committee discussion about ambulance routes and efficiencies. As first responders, his firefighters also handle medical calls, with more expected in the upcoming flu season.

The committee discussed the newest Westshore AIDS Vancouver Island Health Centre that will now operate in Langford, starting with two days per week providing physician supervised opiate substitution therapy. Szpak expressed a desire for Langford to be "inclusive and compassionate" but to also "realize the concerns that the community may have" about treating HIV and hepatitis patients at the facility which is closeby to a school. The committee was pleased that a family doctor is "putting down roots" in the community, given a shortage of doctors throughout the region and the province. **WSV**

Mary P. Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: **Sept 27**
for Sept 29 Issue of WSV

West Shore Voice News

Lantern Tour at Fort Rodd Hill, Sat Sept 23, 7 pm. Guided tours every 15 minutes to 9:15pm. Tix cash \$10 at entrance. www.colwood.ca
Union of BC Municipalities 2017 Convention, Vancouver. Sept 25 to 29. www.ubcm.ca
SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Sept 26. 8pm. www.sd62.bc.ca
13th Annual Rotary Chili Cook Off & West Shore Showcase. Sat Sept 30, Eagle Ridge Centre, 1089 Langford Pkwy, 10am to 5pm.
Sooke Newcomers. Sun Oct 1, 11:30am-1:30pm. At Hara Sushi, 105-6661 Sooke Rd. www.sookeregionchamber.com

Blood donor clinic Mon Oct 2. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. 12 to 7 pm. www.blood.ca
City of Langford Regular Council Mon Oct 2. 5:30pm
West Shore Parkway opens to Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1). Wed Oct 4. www.langford.ca
Thanksgiving Weekend. Sat Oct 7 thru Mon Oct 9.
District of Sooke Regular Council, Tues Oct 10. 7pm
GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon. Sun Oct 8. Register by noon Wed Oct 4. www.runvictoriamarathon.com
BC Ferries. New regulation starts Wed Oct 11. Can't stay in vehicle if parked on the lower deck. www.bcferries.com
2nd Annual Ecohome Tour. Sat Oct 14. www.transitionsooke.org
March for the Right to Have Animal Shelters. Sun Oct 15, BC legislative grounds, 1 pm. www.safars.org/events
Awareness Film Night. 23rd Season. Wed Oct 18. Upcycled/vintage clothing sale 6:45pm. Film *The True Cost*. 7:30 pm. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca
SD62 Non-instructional day. Fri Oct 20. www.sd62.bc.ca
Sooke Repair Cafe. Sat Oct 21. www.transitionsooke.org
Blood donor clinic Mon Oct 23. Sooke Legion, 11:30am-6:30 pm. www.blood.ca
Best of the West Shore Awards Gala. At Bear Mountain Resort. Thurs Oct 26. www.westshore.bc.ca/bows2017/

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Paving, grading & such: Sept 25 to 30

- Another busy week is coming up for the engineering team in Langford.
- Paving on **McCallum Rd**, downhill lane to Millstream Rd, Tues Sept 26, 5:30 am to 6:30 am.
- Paving on **Peatt Road** (Goldstream to Orono) Tues Sept 26 and Wed Sept 27, 9am to 3 pm.
- Closure of **Orono Ave** (Jacklin to Peatt) for pulverising, grading and paving, Mon Sept 25 to Sat Sept 30, 7:30am-4:30pm **WSV**

LANGFORD ENGINEERING ON THE MOVE West Shore Voice News

Web Courtesy Edition

New Sooke Library delayed into 2019

West Shore Voice News

● The Sooke Library will stay where it is for now, in leased space on Anna Marie Road. This week the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) announced that they've renegotiated the leased space to Dec 2019. Delays by the District of Sooke in acquiring and preparing the land on Wadams Way for development have pushed the timeline. "Shovels in the ground" are expected by March 2018 with opening of a new 10,000 sqft 'state of the art' facility expected by spring 2019, it was stated in a VIRL news release on September 21. Another public consultation session will be held once VIRL's architect has prepared proposed designs. VIRL says Sooke's new library remains a top priority. Other obstacles have included "matters of health and safety" at the Sayward, Tahsis and Port McNeill branches. And Sooke's library manager Adrienne Wass resigned earlier this year; another manager visits one day a week. **WSV**



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Recycling plastic bottles, cans, juice paks

West Shore Voice News



● The recycling of beverage containers is easy when you know where (use a local Return-It Depot, take back to the grocery store, or donate to charities).
Plastic soft drink and water bottles (PET and HDPE sybmols) should be recycled with caps off (ok to leave the label on). Over 75% of plastic bottles sold are returned, says non-profit recycling organization Encorp Pacific (Canada). The bottles are power-washed, shredded, and power-washed again. Resultant material is sold to companies who pull, stretch and meld the shreds into fibre for new bottles and buckets. Recycling plastics uses about one-third less energy than manufacturing new plastic.
Aluminum cans: you can leave the tabs on. More than 80% of the cans sold in BC are returned for recycling. They are baled, melted and back on the shelf again as cans within 6 weeks. This saves a lot of raw material; it takes 95% less energy to manufacture a new can from recycled aluminum than to make one from new material.
Tetra-pak drink boxes: caps off, straws out. About 60% of these polycoated containers are returned for recycling. They're hydra-pulped to separate the paper, plastic and foil. The paper is turned into pulp for use in paper products and as cardboard boxes. For every ton of paper pulp recycled, about 17 trees are saved, says Encorp. **WSV**

Harmony Project Sooke tunes up their fall session

● Harmony Project Sooke has begun the fall session with two classes -- strings (violin, viola, cello) and drumline (marching band style). Modeled after the Harmony Project in Los Angeles, Harmony Project Sooke provides musical instruments and instruction to children and youth in the Sooke area.



Sheila Whincup

Harmony Project Sooke strings class with their ensemble teacher Maria Wang.

The drumline class welcomes Belmont English teacher Chris Rivollier as the new teacher this session. He's also been a drumline instructor at the Calgary Stampede since 2012. Students learn rhythm, teamwork and commitment to practice; open to Grade 7 and up. [Journey Middle School, Tuesdays, 4:45 to 8 pm].
 The strings class is taught by Harmony Project Sooke's lead teacher, Anne McDougall (concert master, Sooke Philharmonic), and Maria Wang (Master of Music degree in Cello Performance, UVic). The strings class is full right now, composed of students who have been with Harmony Project Sooke since the first year or who have studied violin, viola or cello for at least a year.

The program aims to offer a new beginner strings class when funding becomes available. A wait list is now available for any one students who are interested.

Info/register: Lorna Bjorklund 250-642-6681 sookeharmonyproject@shaw.ca **WSV**

Movie biz in BC

● Budgeted motion picture production expenditures in BC have reached an estimated \$2.6 billion in fiscal year 2016-17, an all-time high for the industry, says the BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. That's 35% more compared to \$1.9 billion in 2015-16. Creative BC approved 338 tax-credit certifications for fiscal year 2016-17, up from 297 the previous year. www.creativebc.com **WSV**

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