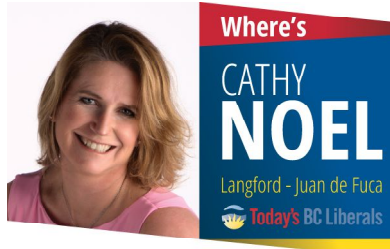


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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, April 21, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

Expansion of Langford: view from the top

● The new West Shore Parkway that when completed in September will connect Langford to Hwy 14 and the way to Sooke, is evidence of the vision that has driven Langford Mayor Stew Young to evolve this patch of the west side of south Vancouver Island for over 25 years. Over 3,000 jobs at full-buildout (2 to 5 years) will result from the industrial park up on and along the hill that offers a breathtaking view of the way to Sooke.

View of the Sooke Hills from the top of West Shore Parkway.



Recently, Langford added 354 acres to its footprint in a land deal with Metchosin and Beecher Bay, to help generate business activity and jobs, and allow for more construction of homes. **WSV**

Golf course opens April 26 in Sooke

● The DeMamiel Creek Golf Course will open on Wednesday, April 26 for the 2017 season. Just \$15/round to play.

This recreational offering by SEAPARC Leisure Complex is family-friendly including various special activities over the summer, says SEAPARC manager Steve Knoke. "The course suits all abilities and is a great place to practice your short game," he said this week.

Some popular promotions are returning this year including Seniors Day every Monday and Wednesday... if you're age 60+ you can play 18 holes for just \$15. Friday Family Nights are back as well, where families can play for half price.

"We will also be offering some clinics, a children's golf camp, and a summer tournament," says Knoke who was out at the course this week working



on construction finishes to the club house.

Journey Middle School students will also be learning about the game of golf at DeMamiel Creek this spring. "We would love to see the community take advantage of this great local amenity by hosting tournaments, whether for a company or family events," says Knoke.

There are three ways to pay for your round of golf: in person at SEAPARC, over the phone, or on-site with a new payment machine that will soon be set up.

SEAPARC Chair Mike Hicks enjoys taking in a round on the 9-hole, par-3 course.

DeMamiel Creek Golf Course opened last year. This year's hours are: Mon-Sat 7am-7pm and Sundays 9am-6pm. www.seaparc.ca **WSV**

VOTE



BARB DESJARDINS
ESQUIMALT - METCHOSIN

"In my three terms as Mayor of Esquimalt, I always put my constituents first. I was a strong advocate for local issues and concerns, and that's exactly what I'll continue doing as your MLA."

www.BarbDesjardins.ca

Esquimalt-Metchosin hopefuls in lively 2-hour debate

West Shore Voice News

● While it was the Libertarian and Community Party candidates who elicited the most bemused and/or frustrated crowd response, it was the rough and tumble of three titans on stage at Esquimalt High School Theatre on Tuesday night, April 18, that kept over 250 people engaged in the debate for over two hours.

Top contenders for the MLA seat for Esquimalt-Metchosin are BC Liberal candidate Barb Desjardins, BC NDP candidate Mitzi Dean, and BC Green Party candidate Andy MacKinnon. They gave prepared statements to questions from the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA)

.... continued on page 3



MITZI DEAN
Esquimalt-Metchosin

Mitzi.Dean@bcndp.ca
www.MitziDean.bcndp.ca

Mitzi Dean suspends family services career to run provincially in Esquimalt-Metchosin

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● A fresh smile combined with an intensity to get things done, BC NDP candidate Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin) is deep into the fray of the 28-day provincial election campaign in which she hopes to win a seat on May 9.

Of course she's big on the NDP platform that includes \$10/day child care, developing jobs in clean tech, and improving supports for seniors and those on disability income.

At her office this week, there was a bustling team of experienced campaign organizers and ready volunteers. The casual and friendly environment in the 2,200 sq ft office in mainstreet View Royal is clearly supportive to the big job of making sure an NDP candidate wins in the riding, to carry on the solid work of now-retired NDP MLA Maurine Karagianis.

"I give a big thank you to Maurine who has retired in such an elegant and thoughtful way. She set us up to be successful by sharing knowledge and a legacy of standards and values," said first-time campaigner Mitzi Dean, with evident gratitude.

In her career as a family services executive director, Dean knows first hand about the struggles of low income and otherwise disadvantaged community residents. "BC does not have a poverty reduction plan. We need systemic change and fair wages," she says, noting the \$15 minimum wage as promised in the NDP platform. An NDP government would make

.... continued on page 3

Hot dogs at Bosley's opening in Sooke

West Shore Voice News

● The new Bosley's by Pet Valu opened to the public April 12 in Sooke. Their community celebration day is coming up Saturday April 29 with hot dogs and cotton candy. The flyer sale starts May 1, including 2-for-1 pet treats.

Some inventory (to the tune of \$12,000) has been slow in arriving to the Sooke store at Evergreen Shopping Centre this week, but all stock areas should be full by next weekend, says store manager Kristal Beck.

Some dog food products that depend on a supply of venison and lamb have been backlogged for pet stores across Canada in recent weeks, says Beck.

Some new local customers are saying they're happy that coming to Bosley's in Sooke saves them a commute into Langford or Victoria for certain pet supplies.

"Evergreen Shopping Centre is pleased to welcome Bosley's by Pet Valu to the merchandise mix at the mall. We're happy with the enthusiastic reception from the Sooke community so far," says Paul Hars, Chief Operating Officer for Partners REIT and the owners of Evergreen.

Beck realizes that many local pet owners are customers at the independently owned Wiskers & Waggs, and hopes the two stores offer "the best of both worlds" to pet supply customers in Sooke. **WSV**

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EDITORIAL

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Voting May 9 The great divide in the BC economy

West Shore Voice News

Well, it wasn't quite a Letter to the Editor.

But it was enough to spark this editorial. So let's get into it.

Web COURTESY Sampler Edition



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

VOTE WISELY on MAY 9

The lead front page headline in the March 10, 2017 issue of *West Shore Voice News* (WSV) was this: "Horgan asks voters to remember hardship under the BC Liberals". And when we picked up the leftover, thumbbed-through and folded-over coffee shop copies of WSV a week later, there it was, a comment scrawled in the margin in red ink: "What hardship?"

In those two simple words is a volume of stuff to say. If someone went through the Great Recession of 2008-2016 (yes, it took that long for most things to get back on track) and didn't feel the pinch -- or worse, the drag and dump of a broken economy -- they are on 'the other side' of the ledger. They didn't see or experience the escalating rates of almost every aspect of the cost of living in BC while wages, salaries or business income either stagnated or even disappeared.

People who got in trouble when the crash came in 2008 had already been cascading toward disaster. But not through much fault of their own. In the 30 years pre-2008 the cost of modern living to any reasonable standard kept getting more expensive while personal incomes only increased among the wealthy few. And then the wealthy 'few' grew as the great divide widened. People who were lucky enough to make a fortune in the dot-com years and held onto it wisely possibly jumped from middle class to that top 2-percent that we all hear about. But other than that, most middle-class folks (especially young families) were hit at every turn, year after year. In the 1990s and early 2000s credit was easy to come by and economic buoyancy seemed a forever-friend. To keep a family afloat, people would use credit. Well, when the crash came, many of those credit cards were cancelled and became payable in full overnight. As credit ratings sank, and credit card debt remained unpaid, things only got worse; one of the biggest and most callous offenders was Citibank with tentacles deeply entwined in the lives and businesses of many.

As some people began to recover after a few years, others could not if the credit system penalized them, sharp as a knife. Late payments accrued interest upon interest. Property liens were imposed. The picture never got better. Some of those people ended up homeless. Strain on families contributed to distress and mental health challenges. Family dynamics suffered. The Great Recession was a dark, cruel experience for more people than we may ever know. High levels of chronic illness and drug addiction cannot be separated from the ravages of financial hopelessness. For someone to ask "what hardship", not only do you not have your eyes open, you are just damn lucky (but not envied).

In BC, that the government has continued through 2008-2017 with ever-increasing fees for electricity, ferry travel, ICBC rates and MSP premiums is more than a headshaker. Okay, it wasn't intentional cruelty but it was certainly complete ignorance -- or worse... a full disregard of what was going on for an increasing number of people in this province. People on fixed incomes have for years had to trade off some life essentials in favour of others. Most often it's the children who have suffered (BC has the highest child poverty rate in Canada) as well as fixed-income seniors. And while there are social programs and various tax credit initiatives, there has been no overall structural strategy for accomplishing poverty reduction. Kind of like fiddling while Rome burned, many of those whose life-package held them above and beyond the ravages of the recession were oblivious to the distress all around them (or quietly thankful, and who's to say which is worse). Sure, stable people are possibly proud of their resilience and resourcefulness and may not have spoken up. They just did what they could to get through it. Other than the brief flash in the pan that was the 'Occupy Movement' after the initial economic crash in 2008, most people just hunkered down and did their best.

Problem was, that an increasing number of people could not dig out from under. In slick 21st-century financial systems those who play to win, and do win,

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PLEASE VOTE

ANDY MACKINNON
ESQUIMALT - METCHOSIN

keep receiving and retaining the produced wealth of the society and economy. Everyone else has slid farther and farther behind -- and in some cases are further penalized for it (such as property liens for slow payment of MSP arrears which only serve to hamstring anyone trying to better their situation, or finding themselves with pension reserves that are minimal or even zero).

It took the BC Government far too long post-2008 to realize there was a problem, before they put in place their BC Jobs Plan and new post-secondary training initiatives (mostly accomplished with more seats at a wider range of post-secondary institutions).

Respectfully, attempts to finally fix some things have been professionally executed by this BC government in the last couple of years, though much of it planned in 2015 and 2016 and then held back for release just ahead of election season. So it's been a modest attempt but not from a wholehearted philosophical place. And, delivered several years too late for some who found themselves losing homes, dealing with family distress, health decline, addiction or worse. Not to mention the overlay of a sub-standard educational experience for several generations of high school graduates since around 2004 (as school cutbacks starting 2001 began to kick in). Those students who are now young adults (the struggling Millennials) really can have no idea what they missed. We all suffer by that.

For all those people who lived the worst of the Great Recession and the crisis of education erosion in BC, the train pulled out of the station and just kept on chugging into the distance. Tears and heartbreak, left behind in the dust.

Not only must voters think carefully about what leadership tone and management style they want going forward in BC after May 9, they themselves should also remember to speak up sooner. Concerns unspoken only fester and allow the wolf to continue messing around in the hen house. ■

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Queen Elizabeth celebrates 91 yrs



Web sourced

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 91st birthday today April 21 by taking part in one of her favourite activities -- watching the races at Newbury Racecourse, though her horse didn't win.

Military salutes were held across the UK to mark the occasion but it was a more modest day compared to 90th birthday national festivities last year.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement to mark the occasion, saying that "for 65 years, Her Majesty has served the Commonwealth and its people with grace, strength, and devotion".

Queen Elizabeth was born on April 21, 1926. On her 21st birthday in 1947 she addressed the Commonwealth in an infamous address, including a memorable phrase about dedicating her life "whether it be long or short", to the service of others. **WSV**

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Esquimalt-Metchosin: head to head

... continued from page 1 West Shore Voice News

as well as effective rebuttals on the fly.

Themes included the shift to renewables and a green economy, how to undertake climate action in the footsteps of the 2015 Paris accord, the pros and cons of the BC Hydro Site C hydroelectric project, and dealing with the inevitability of oil spills in coastal waters.

Here are some key flashpoints:

■ You could have heard a pin drop when **BC Liberal candidate Barb Desjardins** self-corrected on a matter relating to First Nations. In that moment she drew respect for herself as a candidate from everyone in the room, while also demonstrating how a key aspect of leadership works... promptly admitting mistakes and moving forward doing better.

■ One could not help but chuckle over the colourful delivery of historically-insightful statements from **Communist Party candidate Tyson Strandlund**. The ideas might work well in theory -- most of the room knew that -- so they otherwise enjoyed the young Metchosin resident's witty delivery on every point.

■ **BC NDP candidate Mitzi Dean** held closest to her party's key talking points,

hammering home on things like government making choices about revenues. She said the BC NDP is committed to electoral reform.

■ Clearly comfortable in his own skin as both a defender of the environment and as a politician, **BC Green Party candidate Andy MacKinnon** says "yes to marine ecosystems and orcas and delicious salmon". He supports bold immediate action on climate change.

■ **BC Libertarian candidate Josh Steffler** brought every point back to the rights of property owners -- whether individual or corporate, saying that people can't be told what to do with their land.

The full debate was taped live by Shaw, for repeat viewing. As political debates go, it's probably worthwhile revisiting. **WSV**

BC Leaders' debate on radio: first focal point of the 28-day campaign

West Shore Voice News

● **On Thursday April 20**, leaders of the three main political parties in BC went head to head debating most of the key issues of the 2017 provincial election campaign. Hosted by Bill Good on News 1130 Radio out of Vancouver (plus broadcast on City TV and livestreamed on Facebook), the 1.5 hour debate (8:30 am to 10 am) was above all a first-look for listeners and viewers to assess each leader's approach to the campaign, the issues, and the province overall.

Front and center at the table for debate was **BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark**, with **BC NDP Leader John Horgan** on her right and **BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver** to her left, all with comfortable seating and big green microphones. For the most part they played fair ball, but overtalking and fighting back was of course not unexpected. It's now available as a re-run on YouTube.

While some longtime political pundits felt Weaver was overly polite and gave a weak showing, the BC Green Party leader was in fact the stabilizing force, with facts at hand and a calm delivery after the dust settled between the other two. Clark pitched various achievements of the BC Liberal government while repeating the importance of jobs and economic growth, peppered with glowing accolades for some high-achieving BC Liberal MLAs. Horgan held forward the frustration of many British Columbians who have barely held on or who have fallen behind during the last 16 years in what has become a have/have-not BC economy.

Mainstream news issues such as affordable housing, transit and bridge tolls, health care, child care and livability for seniors were of course part of the discourse. There was talk of education, disability support, and the opioid crisis.

The leaders rather effectively surfaced their key criticisms of the philosophies of the opposing parties. Clark and Weaver both intimated that the NDP could have done more as the Opposition in the last 16 years. Horgan stated definitively that the Liberals have not put people or families first.

When asked by Good as to what had motivated candidates to come forward for each party, it was clear from Weaver that Green candidates are active working professionals with room in their lives to be available to make a difference. NDP candidates represent a broad spectrum of the people of the province, said Horgan. BC Liberal candidates have experience and 'they all care about jobs', Clark said pointedly.

So, while Green candidates are an impressive, accomplished group of active professionals, would they en masse, if elected, happily abandon their careers for full-time politics or would a 4-year Green Opposition be a flash in the pan? BC Liberal candidates are many of them long of politics and strong in business. They are, in many ways, in their natural element. NDP candidates are fighters for the people, and with that could effect change for the province if they back up their passion with practical plans and strategized solutions.

So, regardless of how competent, committed and suitable for their constituency that every local candidate might be, it's the flavour of leadership from the top that largely guides the voter's pen in the ballot box on May 9. That's the point of leadership debates... for voters to get a sense of the tone and direction of a future government as well as the capacity, integrity and level of resolve of the future leader.

Web COURTESY Sampler Edition

BC is at a crossroads with this election, heading into a significant socio-economic turning point in this second decade of the 21st century. In some ways BC is far behind but growing in a gangly way. They've lagged behind in responding to the opioid crisis, and BC is the last province in Canada to produce an equitable health services plan. Yet BC surges ahead with tech innovation and a burgeoning tourism and service-based economy, all it blessed with an enjoyable climate and unbeatable environmental treasures.

BC Liberals have been managers of the economy. NDP and Greens offer a bit more soul, borne of a realization of what now needs repair, replenishment and forward movement. Which party can deliver the best combo for the citizens?

When Premier Christy Clark claims that BC has a strong economy, it must be noted that a good deal of the recent abundance in BC is from a booming and escalating real estate market -- something that is cyclical and is certainly now peaking in 2017. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

Editor's reminder:

The BC Liberals are not the same party as the federal Liberals.

Mitzi Dean gunning to take Esquimalt-Metchosin

West Shore Voice News

... continued from page 1

choices about revenues," says Dean. "We cannot continue giving a tax break for the wealthiest two percent."

The NDP would increase the minimum wage, blend MSP premiums into the tax system, freeze hydro rates, make ferry travel more affordable, and invest where needed in education and health, said Dean.

"And yes, we need to focus on jobs and build infrastructure, and promote BC industry," said Dean whose grasp of the full NDP platform shows breadth and depth.

"The BC Liberals have not taken charge of the housing affordability crisis," says Mitzi Dean. She recalls some of her family services clients saying they forego use of electricity in their homes in order to afford groceries.

"It's a real gift to bring up children here on the west coast of Vancouver Island," says Dean, who moved here from England with her husband about 12 years ago, for a work-lifestyle balance close to nature. They live in Metchosin, and their 6-year-old daughter is homeschooled by her dad.

"We need to create more sustainable jobs that can support families," says Dean who seems to have swiftly found her footing as an increasingly high profile candidate for the NDP on south Vancouver Island. The riding includes voters who live in Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood and Metchosin.

"I've kind of been doing it (representing community on the political



West Shore Voice News

BC NDP candidate Mitzi Dean is eager to meet voters at her office (250 Island Hwy), door to door, and at community events.

level) for 10 years," says Dean. She's referring to her work in advocating for the socially and economically disadvantaged through the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA). "I believe in it and take it very seriously."

Dean stepped away from her role at PCFSA on March 17 to focus on her NDP campaign, but worked to leave a strong transition team in place. "I love working with teams, meeting people and hearing from people. I like to help motivate people to help them make a change, without creating dependence," says Dean with the voice of experience.

"Christy Clark's government has done too little, too late," says Dean, including in the social services sector where there were "cutbacks after cutbacks".

"Making good decisions for communities is about political will. And things could be different in BC under an NDP government," she concluded as the office suddenly became much busier mid-afternoon with further campaign action ahead on the day's agenda. **WSV**

Mon April 24 at Royal Colwood Golf Club, 629 Goldstream Ave. 5pm to 6:30pm. Mixer hosted by West Shore & Esquimalt Chambers for Esquimalt-Metchosin *and* Langford-Juan de Fuca.



Esquimalt-Metchosin candidates: Mitzi Dean (NDP); Barb Desjardins (BC Liberal); Andy MacKinnon (Green); Josh Steffler (Libertarian); Tyson Strandlund (Communist Party).

Tues April 25 at the Prestige hotel, Sooke. 7pm to 9pm. Hosted by Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce for the Langford-Juan de Fuca riding.



Langford-Juan de Fuca candidates: John Horgan (BC NDP leader, incumbent); Cathy Noel (BC Liberal); Brendan Ralfs (Green), Scott Burton (Libertarian); Willie Nelson, (Vancouver Island Party).

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Rugby Canada building underway

West Shore Voice News

● **Construction of a full-service Rugby Canada facility** for high-performance athletes to train and receive levels of restorative care after injury, is well underway in Langford.

The \$7.9 million two-storey facility will include a 7,000-square-foot gym, dressing rooms, recovery and stretching rooms, kitchen and lounge area, meeting and office rooms, six one-bedroom studio units, a therapy clinic and the Canada Rugby Hall of Fame.

The facility will serve to support professional athletes from across Canada who will come to Langford to use the new facility that is located behind Westhills Stadium.

National team athletes in other sports and the public will be able to use it.



The two-storey 19,000 sqft Rugby Canada high-performance training facility is under construction on about one acre on Glen Lake Road in Langford.

The facility is the single-largest investment Rugby Canada has made and is being funded by \$3 million from the federal government's Building Canada Fund, \$1 million in land costs and a repayable \$1.5 million loan from Langford, and the rest from private donations and fundraising.

"We worked with them to help make this happen," says Langford Mayor Stew Young about his Council who he frequently praises for being behind him all the way on various projects and strategies.

West Shore Voice News

WSV

Spotting a theft: West Shore RCMP tipped off by nearby resident

West Shore Voice News

Storage area behind Kal Tire was accessed through shrubs and fencing. >>

● **West Shore RCMP credit an alert citizen** who reported a suspicious vehicle which led to the arrest of two alleged thieves. Around 5:00 am on Easter Sunday April 16, a concerned citizen called police to report a white pickup truck parked against the back of Kal Tire in 2600-block Sooke Rd in Langford.

Kal Tire franchise owner Nash Sinha told *West Shore Voice News* that this is the second theft at his business in the last few months. This recent theft accounted for a loss of about \$5,000. Back in February a theft from the same area behind the building amounted to over \$20,000. Surveillance cameras are now being installed, as required by the insurance company.

Police arrived at Kal Tire to investigate and found a woman inside the pickup truck and a man crawling on the ground next to the truck. Police also observed a quantity of tires in the back of the truck, believed to be recently stolen from the shop.

"Both individuals were arrested at the scene and a representative of the shop was able to confirm that the tires belonged to their shop," said West Shore RCMP Media Relations Officer Cst. Alex Bérubé this week. "It appeared the suspects were able to make their way into the fenced compound in order to steal the tires." Both suspects, Andrew Trueman, 37, and Carol Poole, 45, of Sidney, have been released on bail following a Judicial Justice of the Peace hearing and are set to appear in court again on May 4.

Police remind the public that if suspicious activity is seen, do not hesitate to contact police. "Report suspicious activity while it is happening," says Cst. Bérubé. "Try to get a description of the suspects and their vehicle (including licence plate). Do not confront the suspects. Let the police determine if it's a crime in progress," he says.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact West Shore RCMP at 250-474-2264 or anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 or www.victoriacrimestoppers.ca



West Shore Voice News

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Growing Langford: housing needs to keep pace with population growth

West Shore Voice News

Langford Mayor Stew Young



West Shore Voice News

● **Langford's population grew by 6.7% in one year (2015-2016)** reaching almost 40,000, making Langford the fastest growing city in BC. Fostering business growth in Langford has always been Stew Young's priority as mayor.

There are now over 2,000 businesses in Langford. That's quadruple the number of businesses compared to 25 years ago. Businesses generate jobs and allow people to live in the community where they work.

Langford's efficiency with zoning and lack of red tape allows builders to get on with the action of building homes, which these days includes a lot of multi-family units and rental apartment buildings. In Langford, that happens by giving tax breaks to the developers. Last year there were 600 new units built, and this year it'll be 800 or more in Langford, says the mayor who is clearly pleased with the success of his town. When more people have a home and the recreational amenities that Langford offers, it increases community stability and leads to more local jobs. In addition to business, industry and retail, Mayor Young hopes to someday also see government offices in Langford, as an economic stabilizer.

"It comes down to political will, and understanding how business and development work," says Stew Young, Langford's mayor for over 25 years.

"It's the fault of the politicians if the local economy isn't good, and if people can't afford housing. Bureaucracy raises prices," he says. Getting rid of red tape in the zoning and permit process speeds up the building of new homes. "People are coming here from Vancouver to build in Langford, because we make that affordable," says Young.

It's been evident at the last few Langford council meetings that, generally speaking, if a developer is willing to commit to the investment of constructing housing that Langford will find "a way to get to yes". Young says that if people want affordable housing in a fast-growing community, that a municipal Council has the responsibility to facilitate that.

A building with 224 rental apartment units (1, 2 and 3-bedroom) is in the planning stages now for construction at 3130 Jacklin Road. "It's what the community needs," says that project's developer Danny Jadresko.

A seniors building by Cherish Community Living -- presently under construction at 2787 Jacklin Road at Glen Lake Road (across from the future new Thrifty Foods store) -- will add more affordability living options to seniors in Langford. Mayor Young says no taxes are being charged by Langford for development of those affordable units.

Tax on foreign buyers: wrong way to go

West Shore Voice News

● **After Vancouver** brought in a foreign-buyers surtax of 15% as a measure to cool down the rapidly increasing price of housing in that city last year, and now with Ontario doing the same this week, Victoria council got into the debate. The raw average house sale price in the core area (Victoria, Vic West, East Saanich, West Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt) increased almost 15% in one year (March 2016 to March 2017) from \$772,027 to \$898,233. Same rate of increase it seems in the Western Communities (Langford, Colwood, Sooke), seeing a March to March jump from \$517,291 to \$609,380.

Victoria council voted to also send the issue to the Capital Regional District board for consideration by Greater Victoria's 13 municipalities. But not only are housing prices lower in the Western Communities, Langford Mayor Stew Young is dead set against it for other reasons.

"People are coming from other countries to invest in Canada and in development in our cities. They buy homes to live in, even if they can't move here permanently right away. Everyone in Canada (except indigenous peoples) have at some point come from somewhere else. We're all immigrants. This sort of tax sets us down a wrong path," he told *West Shore Voice News* this week. "Our country has been built on investment from other countries," he said.

It appears that separating out the business market phenomenon of housing investment speculation from providing enough housing supply to Canadians, immigrants and refugees has yet to be fully understood by policymakers. Young suggests that housing supply be increased ahead of bringing thousands of people to Canada each year and putting pressure on housing stock. Common sense, step by step.

Langford aims for steady reduction in business tax rate

West Shore Voice News

● **This week, at their April 18 Committee of the Whole**, City of Langford Council approved their 2017 budget and five-year financial plan. Key things to note:

- A tax increase of 2.9% will be levied in 2017 (total impact on a typical home is said to be \$33.25). That's the same rate of increase as last year. Before that, taxes went up 3.9% in 2015, 3.0% in 2014, and 3.1% in 2013. Over the same time period, Langford residents have enjoyed increasing amenities in recreation, sidewalks, roads and a community beautification program that created jobs.

- The amount of tax on businesses (i.e. the commercial multiple) is being presently eyed for a decrease from 3 to 2.5 over 10 years. However, that process to decrease the tax burden on Langford businesses might be sped-up to occur instead over five years. The strategy will

be considered by Council annually. "If you don't treat your businesses well, you kill your local economy," said Langford Mayor Stew Young this week.

- An increase of \$100,000 was approved for a YM/YWCA service contract that provides Langford residents with a 10% discount when they use the facility.

- Public safety is a council priority. Four additional police officers were committed to in 2016, and private security services continue to operate as 'eyes and ears' at night around the city as they have for 20 years.

- More municipal staff were hired this year to keep up with the demands of administration for a growing municipality.



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Sooke Volunteer Recognition



Long-Time Volunteers Recognized by the District of Sooke

Recognized in a small ceremony by Sooke Mayor and Council on April 18, 2017 in Council Chambers:

Neil Flynn | Heather Phillips | Sid Jorna | Marlene Barry

"We appreciate the leadership and influence that each of these individuals has brought to improving our community", said Mayor Maja Tait.

"The tireless commitment and spirit of volunteerism throughout our community is one of the reasons that Sooke is such a wonderful place".

A program to recognize long-time volunteers in the Sooke Region has been ongoing since 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer. The last Volunteer Recognition Ceremony was held in March of 2013 and to date, more than 350 residents have been acknowledged for their volunteer service to our community.

Profiles of long-time volunteers who have been previously recognized can be viewed at the District of Sooke's Council Chambers.

WSV



Web COURTESY Sampler Edition

Celebrating Canada 150 with flowers

It's a nice visual perk at the corner of Sooke Road and Phillips Road to see red and white tulips on display out front of the Sooke Region Museum. All nicely contained for protection against nibbles by wildlife. Last fall the 1,000 bulbs were planted by members of the Sooke Children's Garden Club and gardening community volunteers.



DISTRICT OF SOOKE NOTICE OF SEWER PARCEL TAX ROLL

In accordance with section 208 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the District of Sooke Sewer Parcel Tax Roll is available for inspection at the municipal hall during its regular office hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm **April 26, 2017 to May 16, 2017.**

A person who owns a parcel included on the sewer parcel tax roll may request an amendment based on one or more of the following:

- there is an error or omission respecting a name or address on the parcel tax roll
- there is an error or omission respecting the inclusion of a parcel
- an exemption has been improperly allowed or disallowed (section 205(1) Community Charter).

A request by the property owner for an amendment must be submitted in writing to the District of Sooke on or before May 16, 2017 or at least 48 hours before the time set for the first sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, when submitted requests will be considered.

www.sooke.ca

Brent Blackhall, CPA, CA
Director of Finance and Administration

Bottle drives retrieve thousands of containers every month

West Shore Voice News

NEXT BOTTLE DRIVE
Sunday April 23
9am to 2 pm
EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd



Cheerleaders sort bottles at the school. Completed bags are picked up by Alpine.

Working around their academics and other activities, most of the Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) cheerleader team is out monthly to collect bottles and containers at their bottle drive fundraisers. Thousands of wine and liquor bottles, beer and pop bottles, tetra packs, and pop cans are brought by volunteers and members of the community during the 5-hour drives.

Helping out are coaches Melynda Warwaruk, Shala Revet, Kristie Ranns, and Kennedy Locke, and the cheerleaders: Chloe Berger, Hannah Berger, Erin Buxton, Izzy Dawson-Whisker, Lillia Egeland, Madelyn Fisher, Mckenzie Irvine, Hollie Krutz, Sky Langdon, Justice Panter, and Gina Ranns-Cass.

About \$600 to \$700 is raised each month with these drives, says volunteer cheerleader coach Shala Revet. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

The Sooke Bottle Depot service run by Alpine Group can be booked in advance. Alpine delivers large collection containers, sorting racks, bags and other items for making sure the day's activity runs smoothly. An Alpine employee will arrive as the event wraps up, to tally the results and with equipment do the heavy lifting into the Alpine truck. **WSV**

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Opening April 26th
Located at 6518 Throup Road, Sooke, BC
• 9 Hole Par 3 Course
• Fun for all skill levels & abilities
• Just \$15 per round
Contact SEAPARC Leisure Complex at 250.642.8000 for information, www.seaparc.ca

EARTH DAY 2017 West Shore Voice News

Cleaning up around Sooke

The Earth Day 2017 community cleanup of roadsides, ditches, green spaces and playgrounds by Zero Waste Sooke volunteers and supporters will be held on Saturday April 22, from 9am to 1pm. As of a few days ago, they had about 45 volunteers already signed up, who will work in six teams.

First they will gather at the Sooke Elementary School parking lot for gear, safety briefing and general instructions. Then they'll head out to the different neighbourhoods between 9:30am and 1pm wearing safety vests. Teams will cover the Sooke River Road area, Sasseenos area, Sooke town centre, Broomhill neighbourhood, Whiffin Spit neighbourhood, and along West Coast Rd between John Muir School and Whiffin Spit Rd. It's a family-friendly event including Trash Scavenger Hunts for the kids with prizes, says one of the organizers, Wendy O'Connor.

Earth Day is a call for everyone to unplug and enjoy outdoor activities, says O'Connor. www.zerowastesooke.ca **WSV** [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)



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Mon-Sat: 9-4:30 PM	Mon-Sat: 8-4:30 PM
Sun: Closed	Sun: 10-4 PM

www.alpinegroup.ca



WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: April 26 for April 28 WSV

West Shore Voice News

Blithe Spirit opening night Fri Apr 21. April 21-23, 28-30. At EMCS. 7:30 pm. Matinee 2:30 pm. Tx \$20, Sr/students \$15; under 13 free. www.sookeharbourplayers.com

11th annual Family Arts Fair. Sat Apr 22. Free family event, activities & fun. 9-12:30pm at SEAPARC. www.sookecommunityarts.com

Earth Day. Sat Apr 22. Breathe fresh air, leave your gas-line-powered car at home, clean up your yard, plant veggies or a tree! **Zero Waste Sooke spring cleanup** 9am to 1pm.

EMCS Cheerleaders Bottle Drive fundraiser, Sun Apr 23. Bring your bottles/cans to the school, 6218 Sooke Rd, 9-2.

3rd Annual Scrabble Tournament and Silent Auction, Sun Apr 23 at Edward Milne Community School, 2 to 5 pm. Fundraiser for Sooke Play and Learn Summer Literacy Camp by EMCS Society. \$10 entry fee; bring your own board and dictionary. Register: 250.642.6371 or rvasey@sd62.bc.ca. Last-minute registrants also welcome at the door.

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Saturdays: 9am-6pm
Sundays/Holidays: 10am-5pm

All Candidates Meet and Greet. Mon Apr 24 at Royal Colwood Golf Club, 629 Goldstream Ave. 5pm to 6:30pm. Hosted by West Shore Chamber. **Langford-Juan de Fuca candidates**: John Horgan, BC NDP Party Leader (NDP, incumbent); Cathy Noel (BC Liberal); Brendan Ralfs (Green), Scott Burton (Libertarian). **Esquimalt-Metchosin candidates**: Mitzi Dean (NDP); Barb Desjardins (BC Liberal); Andy MacKinnon (Green); Josh Steffler (Libertarian).

District of Sooke Council Meeting. Mon Apr 24. Public input 6pm, regular meeting 7pm. www.sooke.ca

All Candidates Forum for Langford-Juan de Fuca: Tues Apr 25 at the Prestige hotel, Sooke. 7pm to 9pm. Hosted by Sooke Chamber of Commerce.

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Apr 25. www.sd62.bc.ca

BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon at SD62 schools. Wed Apr 26: Sangster Elementary, Spencer Middle School, Royal Bay Secondary.

DeMamiel Creek Par 3 Golf Course. Opening Wed Apr 26. 6518 Throup Rd, Sooke. 9-hole, fun for all skill levels & abilities. \$15/round. Call SEAPARC to book: 250.642.8000 or use the new ticket machine on site. www.seaparc.ca

Vendor Applications Now Available at

www.sookeregionmuseum.com

Sooke NIGHT MARKET

Opens June 1st!

West Shore Voice News ad deadline Wed Apr 26 5pm for Apr 28 issue (2nd-last pre-election issue). advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com 250-217-5821

BC Election Campaign Televised Leaders Debate on Global TV. Wed Apr 26. 6:30 to 8 pm.

Meet Cathy Noel, BC Liberal Candidate (Langford-Juan de Fuca). Thurs Apr 27 at The Stick in Sooke, 3pm to 4 pm. www.votecathynoe.com

Victoria Pet Food Bank & Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society AGM. Fri Apr 28 at McDonald's in Sooke, 4pm. www.safars.org

Open Mic music night Fri Apr 28 at Pilgrim Coffee House, 105-1910 Sooke Rd. 778-265-5577

ARTIFACTS Exhibit Apr 28-May 28 Sooke Region Museum upstairs. www.sookecommunityarts.com

Bosley's by Pet Valu in Sooke. Community celebration. Sat Apr 29. Refreshments, in-store specials.

Soil: Really Important Tiny Lives. Sat Apr 29, 10 am to noon. Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. \$20. www.compost.bc.ca

Sooke Rotary Auction & Spring Fair. Sat Apr 29, SEAPARC, 10am-8pm. Displays, silent & live auctions, music, bikes & plant sale: www.sookerotary.com

Beach Clean Up at Royal Bay. Sun Apr 30. 11am to 2pm. www.royalbay.ca/events

Music Monday. Mon May 1. SD62 students performing at The Q Centre, Colwood.

New Sooke Library public consultation. Tues May 2. 6:30 to 8pm at Sooke Community Hall. Hosted by Vancouver Island Regional Library. www.virl.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News ad deadline Wed May 3 by 5pm, for May 5 final pre-election issue. Great exposure to a wide range of readers, for all advertisers. Contact: advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com

Meet Cathy Noel, BC Liberal Candidate (Langford-Juan de Fuca). Sat May 6 at Village Foods in Sooke, 11 am. www.votecathynoe.com

Duck Race Sat May 6 fundraiser by Sooke Harbourside Lions. 11-3 (race 1pm). Tx \$5 (\$20/5) from SHL members or at Pemberton Holmes.

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon May 8. Sooke Legion. 11:30am-6:30pm. 1-888-236-6283 or www.blood.ca

BC Provincial Election. Tues May 9. Lists of candidates, voter registration, advance voting info (Apr 29-30; May 3-6): www.elections.bc.ca

Pro-Day Day \$2 Activities at SEAPARC Leisure Complex 10:30am-12:30pm bouncy house, 1 to 3:30pm swim. www.seaparc.ca

Blueberry Plant Sale. Sat May 13, Fundraiser 10-4 for the garden project at Colwood Campus of Westshore Centre for Learning, 2139 Sooke Rd. www.westshorecentre.com

BC Forest Services: preventing wildfires. Tues May 16. 7pm, Metchosin Fire Dept, 4440 Happy Valley Rd. Free.

'Don't Drug & Drive' video ad contest. Deadline May 19. Open to local youth ages 18 to 25. www.CRDtrafficSafety.ca

Sooke Halibut Derby: May 20 & 21. Tx \$150. Fundraiser for Sooke Salmon Enhancement, Charters Creek, food bank. www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca

Sooke Night Market opens Thurs June 1, through the summer, Thursday nights 5-8pm. Vendor applications: www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Safe Driving: urban & rural. Tues June 20. 7pm, Metchosin FD, 4440 Happy Valley Rd. Free.

Sooke Region Museum Annual Open House & Salmon BBQ. Sun June 25, noon to 3pm.

WestShore
Centre for Learning & Training
250.391.9002

Blueberry Plant Sale

Sat May 13: 10am-4pm

Fundraiser for the garden project
at Colwood Campus
2139 Sooke Rd

www.westshorecentre.com

BC Election: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 Campaign Updates www.westshorevoiceneews.com

- If you live in Langford, Sooke or the Juan de Fuca area you'll be voting in **Langford-Juan de Fuca**
- If you live in Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood or Metchosin, you're voting in **Esquimalt-Metchosin**

3rd Annual
ARTIFACTS
2017

Art of the Sooke Region

9am - 5pm
Tuesday to Sunday

April 27 - May 28
Schedule of Events: www.SookeCommunityArts.com

SOOKE REGION MUSEUM
UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY, 2070 PHILLIPS RD
SookeRegionMuseum.ca

3rd annual ARTiFACTS opens April 27

• An exhibit of art pieces as inspired by the Sooke region, will open Thursday April 27 for a month-long stint in the upstairs gallery at the Sooke Region Museum.

Coordinated by artist Linda Gordon as a Sooke Community Arts Council project and supported by many volunteers, the work of painters, photographers, fabric artists, potters and more will be available to view and to purchase. Items on display are refreshed and rotated part-way through the exhibit that runs to May 28.

In this spring season, the museum is open 9am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday, at 2070 Phillips Road. www.sookecommunityarts.com WSV

Interest-free student loans, says BC NDP

• The BC NDP would make student loans interest-free, if elected as the next government on May 9, said John Horgan this week on the campaign trail. There would also be a \$1,000 bonus to people who complete their program of study. WSV

Public is invited to provide input about the new Sooke Library

• A public consultation for a new Sooke Library on Wadams Way will be held on Tuesday, May 2 at Sooke Community Hall (2037 Shileds Rd). The consultation will include presentations from Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) staff and the project architects, and will provide opportunities for the public to contribute their ideas and have their questions answered.

The session on May 2 will start at 6:30 pm and run to 8pm. The public consultation is open to everyone. Light refreshments will be provided.

VIRL has approval from its board to borrow a maximum of \$6 million towards all costs of site preparation and construction, with the goal of building a 10,000 sqft facility. That's an expansion well beyond the size of the current library (just over 3,600 sqft in leased commercial space on Anna Marie Rd).

In 2016, the District of Sooke purchased five acres along Wadams Way (referred to as "Lot A"), of which about one acre will be used by VIRL upon which to construct the new library, including parking.

At the VIRL board on March 18, Sooke Councillor Kerrie Reay and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks were instrumental in helping to produce the required unanimous vote to finally approve the go-ahead for a new Sooke library. WSV



"Lot A" on Wadams Way in the Sooke core area is the site for the new Sooke Library, scheduled to open by year-end 2018.

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www.sookerotary.com/auction