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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, April 28, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

John Horgan: Leading a fired-up party to the front lines

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



BC NDP Leader John Horgan revved up the crowd at his April 28 rally in Victoria.

BC NDP Leader John Horgan spent today Friday April 28 in the south Vancouver Island area. After an event with BC NDP Esquimalt-Metchosin candidate Mitzi Dean in Colwood, Horgan addressed delegates at a CUPE BC convention, then led a Facebook-live rally in the evening in downtown Victoria.

Horgan will be casting his vote in this 2017 BC election on Saturday morning April 29 as soon as the advance voting station opens at 8am at Belmont Secondary School in Langford.

He will then drop into his Langford-Juan de Fuca home-riding campaign office, before continuing his leaders tour to Duncan to make a health-facilities announcement. Then mid-afternoon to Vancouver by air for a photo-op in Surrey. He'll wrap up the evening at the Metrotown Hilton in Burnaby. Langford and Surrey have the two fastest growing populations in BC, a scenario which also impacts the requirements of school districts in those cities. Horgan has for years referred to education as "the great equalizer".

This week the BC NDP has

gone on record with this: "Year after year, the BC Liberals have been taking money from hardworking British Columbians and handing it to their rich donors. Now we've learned that Christy Clark is planning to bring back the HST after the election. Enough is enough. British Columbians just can't afford Christy Clark anymore."

Bringing back HST on top of all the increases in hydro rates, ferry fares, ICBC premiums and MSP premiums would further increase the burden on working families.

The NDP platform has focussed on making life more affordable for everyone, including with \$10 per day child care. Other more specific planks of the campaign include things like ending grizzly bear trophy hunting: www.bcndp.ca/bears

"People are falling through the cracks, concerned their children will be worse off than they were," says Horgan. "We need a government that is focussed on everyone."

Federal NDP MP Nathan Cullen says that in John Horgan the voter gets "intelligence, authenticity and courage, and the ability to connect. Horgan gets what's at stake... a sense of community. He wants to create good jobs by respecting the environment not fighting against it and pillaging. What I'm hearing is what I know he's going to do," said Cullen in an interview posted on Facebook.

In this election, the BC NDP seem to be successful in rousing youth to get out to vote and some have been door knocking for the first time. www.bcndp.ca/volunteer

People who've met Horgan in his home riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca over the years know that he gives back. "I've been shaped by people along the way," says Horgan. In turn he wants to help people realize their full potential. "Seniors are vulnerable, kids are being left behind. We are among the most indebted people in Canada, because the cost of living is so high in BC. This has to change," he says.

Horgan has been travelling the province well before the official campaign start. Now the campaign heads into the final lap, approaching general election day May 9.

WSV

Medications return program

West Shore Voice News

It's mostly seniors who are aware they should return unused medications to pharmacies for proper disposal. But the Capital Regional District (CRD) has found it necessary to again remind all residents in Greater Victoria that if medication goes down the drain it eventually ends up in the ocean, where it can negatively affect the marine environment.

Leftover medication can become accessible to children and teens in household medicine cabinets. If thrown into the garbage it ends up in the landfill where it can leach out and eventually wind up in the ocean.

Leftover pills, capsules, lotions, ointments and any containers and equipment used to administer medications can be taken to any pharmacy for breakdown or incineration.

More about medication returns, coming in the May 5 issue of West Shore Voice.

WSV



45% of residents in the CRD toss unused or expired medication down the drain or into the garbage.

Advance Voting Polls are open:
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Leader, BC's New Democrats
Candidate, Langford-Juan de Fuca

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West Shore Voice News

Early voting: steady at District Electoral offices



Ballot boxes are being sorted and organized at District Electoral Offices (EDO) throughout BC, as training of election support staff continues. Above: boxes organized in the hallway at the Langford-Juan de Fuca EDO this week.

West Shore Voice News

People have been dropping by steadily to vote at District Electoral Offices (DEOs) for Langford-Juan de Fuca and Esquimalt-Metchosin in the past week, say staff at both locations.

Personnel hired specifically to execute all the many responsibilities of operating a Voting Station have taken training at each DEO. Being responsible for a ballot box during the Advance Voting days includes overseeing the whereabouts of that box when it's not in active ballot-receiving mode, says David Garvey, Deputy District Electoral Officer for Langford-Juan de Fuca.

There is a step-by-step process to ensure secrecy of the ballots and their retention between the six advance voting days, explains Garvey.

Ballots that are cast at any DEO in BC are sent after 8pm on the General Election Day (May 9) to the riding where the vote belongs. Due to the

time this takes, there is a final vote count on May 23, once all ballots have been received in their home ridings. Potentially this could swing a vote result in any given riding.

With the increased number of advance voting days (six days this election -- April 29 & 30, May 3-6) and voting throughout the 28-day campaign period by any voter at any DEO in the province, that theoretically increases the number of ridings where final counts on May 23 could make a difference in the overall result.

The DEO for Langford-Juan de Fuca is at 111-2787 Jacklin Road in Langford. The DEO for Esquimalt-Metchosin is in Colwood at 3-1905 Sooke Road. See photos of both DEO office locations plus hours and list of candidates, (page 6). List of all voting stations in both ridings, and open hours (page 8). WSV

BC NDP

Mitzi Dean
Esquimalt-Metchosin

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

Authorized by Amber Hockin, Financial Agent. 604-439-8666
CUPE 3702

EDITORIAL

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Millennials will point us home

● **It's been a long haul.** For 16 years most British Columbians have endured the raw end of government privatization, additionally burdened by the Great Recession's erosion of economic security. While it might seem chaotic out there, BC is now birthing its own version of 'the new economy'.

Whether it's an adaptation to the gig economy and compiling a set of part-time revenue streams to build an income, or settling into a lifelong approach to learning and career re-training, in 2017 things look very different than even five years ago.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

Many business pundits will tell you that automation is charging forward fast. Over half of today's jobs will be gone in the next 20 years, thanks in large part to artificial intelligence (AI) as the enabler for automation in a myriad of ways. That leaves people... unique as each of us is, to focus on the quality of life. This will be good news once we're through it. But the transition of society over the next 20 to 25 years will take all the ingenuity, cooperation and forward-thinking that we can muster as individuals, businesses, and communities.

While the globe is now a closed loop, local communities and economies will be more important than ever... it's what each of us identifies with and interacts with. Each person, family, business and community will need to find its comfort zone, its niche. Supporting all this will be the need for jobs, education, sustainable food supply, and environmental management. And if we're lucky, a shift in the political system to a more proportional method of electing our leaders.

While it's not an entirely fair comparison to the steely muster of the 'Great Generation' who fought and endured the two World Wars, those of us here on the planet now are coalescing in new ways with this mighty task to move the world forward in a more compassionate and livable way. Long-living seniors have a wealth of knowledge and experience that should be tapped for its historical perspective. Adults 30 to 50 are grinding away, contributing to the tax base. Meanwhile, youth in their 20s are in many ways disadvantaged for what we think of as a steady job, house, family and career. And young children, well, they are unaware that their parents, families and communities have a big responsibility to get society's transition done right but likely absorb the stress that is around them.

The best bet for modern society is on the youthful Millennial group (approximately now ages 19 to 29) to surge forward and show us all how to really live. They are putting the care of people first, cherishing their friends and nurturing various supportive sub-culture groups. They are formulating personal growth and advancing into new formats and styles. Overall, they recognize that investing in lifestyle choices based on technology, travel and the creative arts is the 'new black' that will replace that so-called Canadian dream that is so heavily tied to being a homeowner, a car owner, and having a titled career. They're fluid.

And while youth mental wellness is an identified concern by educators and society at large, older folks may be missing the boat on how to deal with all that. It's not about 'fixing' the kids. It's society that needs fixing. Rolling with the punches of creating a new society is a job for titans, and this younger generation will likely surprise us all over the next 10 to 20 years as to how they sort out the mess they've been given by less insightful generations. Let them play, let them roam; they are exploring for answers that will serve us all.

Millennials mostly can't afford to buy into the speculation-inflated housing market anyways. They are -- to the benefit of the rest of us -- turning their energies to authentic ways of living. We will all be better off as this group matures into their 30s and 40s. They are generating a new fabric of inclusiveness and caring that will propel Canadian society forward in healthier ways. ■



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

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Ontario now pays all drug costs for all youth to age 25

West Shore Voice News

COURTESY WEB EDITION

● **The Government of Ontario is establishing the lead** for bringing a paid drug plan to Canada. This week they announced that effective immediately, the cost of drugs for all youth and children age 24 and under will be paid for by the provincial government.

Business analysts suggest this isn't as costly as it sounds, as the government probably already underwrites the costs for many of the drugs used by children with chronic and critical illness through health insurance plans.

The benefit of a government buying in

bulk is that the overall purchase cost would go down.

A federal drug coverage plan has been discussed by many social policy groups and pushed by the NDP in recent years. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

An analysis published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in February showed that universal drug coverage could save billions of dollars for Canadians by covering 117 essential medicines accounting for 44% of prescriptions filled in Canada (2015). The federal government is facing increasing pressure to address the rising cost of prescription drugs, but has not committed to a national pharmacare program.

Politically-speaking, the move in Ontario is a positive move for Premier Kathleen Wynne who is unlikely to hear much rumbling from the opposition -- for who can be against providing children with the health supports that they need?

It's likely that pharmaceutical companies are not eager for government bulk-buys. Other than in the privatized USA medical health system, Canada has the highest drug costs in the world. **WSV**

ECONOMY

More news and breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com

Getting it straight on BC minimum wage

West Shore Voice News

● **Oftentimes when people discuss the pros and cons** of what the minimum wage is or should be, there is not a full understanding of who lives at that level of income.

It's not just students. Many people are working full time (or more) at minimum wage just to keep their heads above water. Students, parents, seniors, new Canadians, and new workers in every part of the economy are paid minimum wage. The NDP affirms that it's not enough for them to get by.

BC's minimum wage at \$10.85/hour is among the lowest in Canada, though on September 15, 2017 that will increase by 50 cents to \$11.35/hour. The new rate includes a 20-cent increase based on the BC 2016 Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus an additional 30 cents. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

In recent years under political pressure, small steady increments in minimum wage have happened in BC. But overall government policies, have fostered a low wage economy, seeing nearly 500,000 workers earning less than poverty-level wages.

BC is also the only province in Canada that doesn't have a poverty reduction plan. In BC, one in five children living in poverty, while half of all

British Columbians are living paycheque to paycheque. About 6.4 % of workers in BC earn the minimum wage. That's about 120,000 people struggling to make ends meet.

The BC NDP say they will raise the minimum wage in stages to get to \$15/hour in their first term of office. It's one of their various platform initiatives to reduce poverty in BC.

So, who gets minimum wage? Some reputable agencies track this kind of information and the data clearly dispels the 'only students earn minimum wage' myth.

A report in October 2016 from the **BC Federation of Labour** <http://bcfed.ca/issues/minimum-wage> shows that about 60% of minimum wage earners are women and 80% are adults. Four out of five work for companies with more than 20 employees so it's not just 'mom and pop' type businesses.

According to **Policy Note** a raise to \$15 would mostly affect non-teenagers and would therefore have a much greater impact on working poverty. www.policynote.ca/bcneeds15/

The **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives** says a \$15 minimum wage would help families and reduce inequality: www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/case-increasing-minimum-wage

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West Shore Voice News

Andy MacKinnon: evidence-based politics is a good fit

FEATURE

by Mary P Brooke,
West Shore Voice News



BC Green Party candidate Andy MacKinnon (Esquimalt-Metchosin) at mixer co-hosted by the West Shore & Esquimalt Chambers, April 24.

While he's been a municipal councillor in Metchosin since 2014, Andy MacKinnon considers himself new to politics, in the sense of belonging to a political party. "So that's just six months experience," he quipped to the audience at a Chamber-hosted mixer on Monday, April 24.

But behind all that is 30 years as a forest ecologist and standing up for the environment in BC. He is a Professional Forester and Professional Biologist in BC.

"Response on the doorstep has been pretty positive for a lot of people for the BC Greens," says MacKinnon. "A message I'm hearing a lot is that people are ready for a change of government," he told *West Shore Voice News* in an interview this week.

The Green policy platform is evidence-based. It's all on the www.bcgreens.ca website, accompanied by a lot of reference material and footnotes, says MacKinnon, who is an adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University. "A lot of analysis goes into coming up with these policies," he says. "As a scientist, I appreciate that approach rather than working to an ideology or a funding base."

"People are turning to us in the recognition that as a society we need to fundamentally change our approach to some things. We're not going to get any new approaches from either of the two major parties. So people are interested in Greens from that point of view," says MacKinnon.

For MacKinnon, it's about people in community trying to solve problems. He ran in Metchosin because issues the community needed to deal with that were important to him... securing the crown land parcels and working with Beecher Bay to a solution. "It was very satisfying," he offers.

"I became a Green candidate because neither of the other major parties were going to adopt a seriously different environmental platform that BC needs right now. If we tie our province's future to the export of unprocessed fossil fuels, we're going to be very badly positioned for jobs a decade from now," he insists.

Top environmental issues for MacKinnon include stopping the focus on export of fossil fuel products, with an effort to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline. BC should not invest money, time and effort to create an LNG industry. "There is really no market demand for it, and it goes against every commitment we've made to try and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," says MacKinnon.

He continues: "Put a stop to development of Site C. Right now it's creating jobs, but there will be a low number of jobs after completion. And the project will create a huge debt, in addition to flooding important wildlife habitat, arable land, and areas that are important to local First Nations."

"Other provinces and states are moving toward alternate forms of producing energy. We need clean green energy in BC. There are more people who work in production of green energy across Canada right now, than in fossil fuels. That's where the future lies. Our current direction is tying the province to yesterday's economy," says MacKinnon.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

And on transportation: "We need to wrap our minds around efficient and affordable public transit. In Esquimalt-Metchosin it's one of the biggest concerns. The McKenzie Interchange may be good for six months or a year. But building more blacktop and more interchanges has never solved serious traffic problems anywhere. We need to invest more time and effort in public transit, rail corridor, and dedicated bus lanes. The Province has to have more of a role in working with regional districts and with municipalities to build that public transit. Solving transportation issues seems to be the responsibility of regional districts and municipalities but there is also a role for the province, to help out and make sure these important issues are addressed."

MacKinnon explains how **high-demand jobs** in the future will be for skilled technicians in various areas of clean technology. Highly trained people with specific skills, perhaps training in mechanical and electrical engineering and maintenance... he paints a vision of a new sort of job market and economy.

"We have to be a bit more forward-thinking than betting the future on jobs associated with diluted bitumen and LNG. Decisions that we make about diluted bitumen and LNG are really going to commit us to some high levels of GHG for decades. We need to be making important fundamental decisions to be in a different position and going in a new direction," says Andy MacKinnon.

On education: The Greens have a big policy plank with high tech and for a knowledge industry that includes lifelong learning, from early childhood education to seniors education. "The Green Party has committed to building partnerships between industries and universities, providing a nuclei of universities working with the private sector and others who can build some of these new industries -- an example would be in electronic gaming."

About small business: "We can be putting government in a position of being a low or no-cost loans agency for small to medium size start-ups... companies that are not big enough or organized enough to get serious investor funding from angel investors. But with some assistance, small and medium-sized businesses can really flourish." If you're a small new startup, in a lot of ways it doesn't matter how good your idea is, you're too small to qualify for the terms with larger lenders. The Green Party would make available the supports for small and medium size businesses to become the large employers of tomorrow.

And wrapping it up: "Based on what I'm hearing -- there is a lot of support for the Greens on South Vancouver Island. People want to see this government gone. I'm cautiously optimistic that the voter turnout for Greens will be a larger percentage this time over last time." **WSV**

Brendan Ralfs: duty to people and the land

by Mary P Brooke,
West Shore Voice News

FEATURE

BC Green Party candidate
Brendan Ralfs
(Langford-Juan de Fuca) at the
Sooke Chamber
All Candidates
Meeting, April 25.



West Shore Voice News

"There is no higher duty than to protect the people and the land," said Green Party candidate Brendan Ralfs (Langford-Juan de Fuca) in his opening remarks at the All Candidates Meeting in Sooke on April 25.

But being in front of people and learning such a wide breadth of issues is all a bit challenging, but he's learning fast.

Ralfs identifies the key issues of this campaign as health care, housing, and climate change. "It's tempting to try to just answer them and run with my gut. But I remember that I'm running for a party and there's a platform that is well researched."

This first time in politics is "pushing me to learn more detail about the issues" On many issues, it's an eyeopening experience for Ralfs. "Before this campaign I was engaged and following big issues, but now I dig in, issue by issue and find out there's a lot to know. For example, with housing... there are home buyers incentives, a need to create more housing opportunities without too much government interference, and market forces," he told *West Shore Voice*.

"I like meeting people. The tone of politics as seen in the media is often strident and divided. So I was bracing myself for strong reactions. But people are very polite. When I'm canvassing door-to-door people are polite even if they're from a different side of the political spectrum -- very few expressed real negativity."

"People are reacting well to the evidence-based style of politics by the Greens. We have a full platform that is fully costed. Most voters want the best for BC," says Ralfs based on his interactions in the Langford-Juan de Fuca riding. He has been to all areas of the electoral area including Langford, Sooke, Shirley and right up to Port Renfrew.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

Education is a key plank. "The Greens offer a needs-based grant for post-secondary, making education more accessible and affordable. There's also some tax forgiveness up to \$2,000 per year for 5 years for qualifying grads to pay outstanding debts for tuition fees. The Greens are aiming to start a task force to make post-secondary accessible and affordable."

At the April 25 All Candidates debate, the issue of the opioid crisis was brought up by someone from the audience. Ralfs was quick to respond in support of paramedics and first responders and making naloxone kits widely available to deal with the spike in fatalities. Addiction is often due to challenges in health and well-being -- a big challenge is low income when looking at causes of illness including addiction, and the role that income plays in longevity. The Green platform proposes a new economy that invests in job training. We would look at doing a trial with a Guaranteed Annual Income in a few communities (as is currently being tried in Ontario). Studies point to an overall social benefit to decreasing poverty and downstream effects of poverty. When you keep people from falling between the cracks, they remain healthy, find more gainful employment, can get back into housing and seek an education.

The Greens would establish a ministry of mental health and addictions and commit to looking at models that have been used more successfully such as a focus on harm reduction rather than enforcement and first-line response. "It's apparent that something needs to change. We continue to see the number of fatalities, and presently it all depends on how quickly a person gets naloxone. We need to treat addiction as a health issue rather than as criminal issue," says Ralfs, who has worked as a paramedic, BC forest fighter and currently as a provincial emergency manager.

"The Green education policy is something that Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver is much proud of, being an educator and professor," says Ralfs. It starts with early childhood education and continues past post-secondary. Mostly the policy is a commitment to funding: \$10 million per year for free adult basic education, \$10 million for in-service skills training, and training for those in small and medium size enterprises who become displaced by automation. The new economy is based on lifelong learning. Ralfs expects that the gig economy may be here to stay, and that people now have to adapt in order to have a sustained career.

So here's what Brendan is super-enjoying about the campaign. "I used to watch the news and feel like I was plugged in. But to get involved at the level of the campaign and get into the weeds on issues, that's pushing me to learn about the issues," says the fourth-generation Victorian who studied English Literature, Greek and Latin at the University of Victoria, winning scholarships along the way.

Drilling down into the areas of the riding:

Langford -- "Transportation is the biggest issue, from a congestion standpoint (length of commute). Light Rail Transit (LRT) is going to need to part of our regional transportation solutions. And there are concerns about housing, though a lot of people in Langford chose to enter the housing market and are looking at the cost of getting their next homes or what costs mean for their children."

Sooke -- "The transportation issue is focused much more specifically on Hwy 14 and whether that can be widened. There is more expressed concern in Sooke about the rental market and the affordability of housing and that has transferred over into a creating an unstable rental market. Small business owners -- especially in the service or hospitality industries -- have concerns, as it's hard to retain staff if people keep having to move. In Sooke, concerns about protecting the coastline are more pronounced. And health care issues come up a lot."

Shirley and Port Renfrew -- "It's a small population but for which real environmental sustainability and protection have become major issues for many, partially if they're living off the grid."

"All of this is an exciting challenge, and it's an honour to have been welcomed into the role of candidate in this election process," Ralfs concludes. amidst a very busy schedule. **WSV**

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Rugby Day coming up May 8

West Shore Voice News



● **Rugby Canada National Mens players Luke Bradley (red runners) and Justin Douglas (orange runners)**, were joined by City of Langford Councillors (from left) Lanny Seaton, Lillian Szpak and Winnie Sifert as part of announcing Rugby Day in Langford, set for May 8. Luke and Justin will be with their teammates heading to Paris and London next month. The HSBC Canada Women's Sevens games at Westhills Stadium in Langford May 27 & 28 are expected to attract a sell-out crowd. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

Year 2 of the lantern festival

West Shore Voice News

● **Success with last year's 'Light Up the Hills' Lantern Walk** has sparked continued interest. The City of Langford Parks committee this week looked to repeat the event for 2017, and with a few minor organizational and operational tweaks approved the \$33,500 budget.



People can make their own lanterns.

This year's route will not include going as far as the YW/YWCA and won't involve crossing roadways but will stick to pathways and sidewalks. All lights are to be LED with none requiring a flame.

Much of the \$33,500 costs will be covered by city, arts council and corporations. The City of Langford is pitching in \$9,000 while West Shore Arts Council is contributing \$2,000 (plus \$4,000 in-kind admin services) and Westhills Land Development is contributing \$6,000 (plus \$4,000 in marketing services). Other corporate sponsorships will tally to \$7,000. **West Shore Voice News**

People will be able to create their own lanterns in three workshops set for the week of September 16 to 20, organized by the West Shore Arts Council.

This year the event will be called Let Your Lantern Light Your Path, set to light up the streets of Westhills on the evening of September 23.

The Parks committee recommendation goes to Council May 1. **WSV**

McKenzie Interchange construction continues

West Shore Voice News

● **Construction continues** in earnest on the Admirals-McKenzie Interchange road improvement project on Highway 1.

The speed limit in the construction zone is 60 kph.

The Galloping Goose has been safely fenced off for continued use while construction equipment operates alongside.

The cloverleaf highway improvement is set for December 2018 completion. The idea is to ease up commuter traffic between the western communities and the core area of Greater Victoria including Saanich and traffic to and from UVic. **WSV**



Heading out of Victoria toward the western communities.



Construction continues close to the highway, with the Galloping Goose trail used by cyclists and pedestrians.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

Candidates mixer for the island's west shore footprint

Photos and report by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News



Mitzi Dean Cathy Noel Brendan Ralfs Barb Desjardins Andy MacKinnon

● **The turnout was sparse** for a mixer co-hosted by the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce on Monday, April 24. The idea was to provide a casual opportunity for the community to meet provincial election candidates of two west-side ridings.

Candidates, campaign personnel and displays of election materials were on hand: BC Liberals, BC NDP, BC Greens, and the Libertarian Party for Esquimalt-Metchosin, as well as NDP, Green and BC Liberal for Langford-Juan de Fuca.

Each candidate gave a 3-minute speech: **West Shore Voice News**

ESQUIMALT-METCHOSIN:

● **Andy MacKinnon** (BC Green) said it's important to recognize that environmental issues go hand-in-hand with economic and employment issues in BC. "We're setting ourselves up badly for the future if we focus the economy on undiluted bitumen, LNG, and unprocessed raw log exports," MacKinnon said. He promotes the need for fundamental change of how resources are managed. "For 40 years I've seen voting that is about voting against people or keeping people out of office. I joined the Greens as an opportunity for people to have something to vote for," he told the small but engaged crowd.

● **Mitzi Dean** (BC NDP) in addition to pitching her own race to hold the NDP-strong riding, also spoke on behalf of BC NDP Party Leader John Horgan who was busy on the provincial campaign trail. She competently addressed various business issues including small business needs and job growth and pronounced that an NDP government would make a \$13.5 billion investment in the BC private sector to "innovate and grow the economy" and match federal infrastructure funding "dollar for dollar". Affordable housing, transportation and health care planks of the NDP platform were addressed. **West Shore Voice News**

● **Barb Desjardins** (BC Liberal) illustrated her sense of commitment and skills in advocacy and getting things done, illustrated with a backdrop of her accomplishments as Mayor of Esquimalt and Chair of the CRD. "We need a government that has a plan, knows where it's going, and takes measured steps," said Desjardins. "Measured steps," she emphasized, for lowering taxes, growing the economy, and taking BC to "a better environmental place". "When you take jumps you can upset the boat. So maybe things wouldn't be as fast as you want us to get there, but we'd get there," she told those in the room.

● **Josh Steffler** (Libertarian) described the Libertarians the fourth-largest party in BC. "We are socially liberal but fiscally conservative," he explained, adding that Libertarians believe in private property and individual liberty. He said the carbon tax should be eliminated and that monopolies such as BC Hydro should be opened to more competition.

LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA: **West Shore Voice News**

● **Cathy Noel** (BC Liberal) brought the crowd up to speed on her background in sport and fitness organization, and highlighted the entrepreneurialism of her GoBid auction company, saying she has helped raise millions for charities and helped community groups "be the best that they could be". She believes in creating a vision and then a plan of how to get there. She lauded the track record of the BC Liberal government for five balanced budgets and a triple-A credit rating. "For jobs and education, we need a plan, and we need to work together to make that plan a reality," said Noel. **West Shore Voice News**

● **Brendan Ralfs** (BC Green) as a former forest firefighter and now an emergency management professional says he started from a place of interest in environmental issues after seeing the impact of climate change up close in BC forests and then in a wider array of climate-driven problems. He told the small gathering that he easily embraced the full spectrum of the BC Green party platform. Ralfs sees a need to change from "the divided status quo" of current politics in BC. He sees sustainability challenges — both economic, and in making a region that is more livable. Getting involved as a Green candidate "felt like the right thing to do".

Mingling and networking took place before and after the speeches which focussed on business interests and the economy in addition to overall party platforms. Among those attending the mixer were Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke), and City of Langford Councillors Lillian Szpak and Denise Blackwell. The event was held at the Royal Colwood Golf Club, from 5 to 6:30 pm. No refreshments were served. **WSV** **West Shore Voice News**

Springtime reno

● **Tim Hortons** coffee shop and drive-thru at the Westshore Centre in Langford were closed this week for renovations. **WSV**



West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

Candidates debate in Sooke fell short on audience opportunity

Photos and report by Mary P Brooke



All Candidates Meetings are highly anticipated and generally well (or even robustly) attended in Sooke, whether for elections that are municipal, provincial or federal.

The one such meeting held in Sooke for Langford-Juan de Fuca candidates in this BC provincial election cycle was on Tuesday evening, April 25, in a truncated portion of the ballroom at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort.

The room was relatively full, comprised of long-time political followers, some new faces in a growing town, and of course the teams for each candidate.

On stage were retired MLA Maurine Karagianis as the official representative for incumbent John Horgan (BC NDP); Cathy Noel (BC Liberal); Brendan Ralfs (BC Green); and Willie Nelson (Vancouver Island Party).

Most of the expected issues were discussed, including health care (MSP, and home care), transportation (highways vs public transit, including ferries), public services and programs, the environment (including the Kinder Morgan pipeline and oil tanker traffic), and education (cost and availability). The content was relatively light on the overall economy; in particular there was zero mention of the looming worries of long-to-live seniors who have inadequate or zero pensions.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

At some moments, for BC Liberal candidate Cathy Noel it was a bit of tough night in the NDP-stronghold that is Sooke. She took hits about the BC Liberals' poor 16-year track record for supporting the neediest of people in BC society (in terms of education, housing, children and families, poverty levels, addiction).

Urgent Care Clinics were the night's big promise by BC NDP – including one for Sooke, announced as part of the NDP platform by Karagianis in her opening remarks.

"There is no higher duty than to protect the people and the land," said Green Party candidate Brendan Ralfs in his opening remarks. He was keen to promote the evidence-based Green Party platform.

Vancouver Island Party candidate Willie Nelson promoted the need for a Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) in BC, especially as many jobs will be lost to automation rather rapidly over the next 20 years.

While there was engaged debate, the overly rigid format by moderator David Stocks tended to disintegrate any real momentum for the audience. Afterward and in days that followed, members of the audience, media and some of the candidates themselves expressed feeling short-changed to be able to really explain, explore and exchange ideas with the politically attentive Sooke audience. During the evening debate, after a while, Maurine Karagianis says she 'just didn't see' the red card for stopping at 60 seconds, as it was important to complete her statements. Debates are to serve the audience, not a spreadsheet.

Overall, this debate was less remarkable than some of past years. With Horgan on the provincial campaign trail, there just wasn't the sizzle that he's brought to debates since 2005. But mostly, the evening didn't achieve its best because momentum was squelched or lacking.



Maurine Karagianis represented BC NDP Leader John Horgan (incumbent)



Cathy Noel (BC Liberal)



Brendan Ralfs (BC Green)



Willie Nelson (Vancouver Island Party)

30th Sooke Rotary Auction accompanied by Advance Voting

West Shore Voice News

COMMUNITY EVENT
SOOKE ROTARY AUCTION & SPRING FAIR
SATURDAY APRIL 29

The 30th Annual Sooke Rotary Auction & Spring Fair is on Saturday, April 29, at SEAPARC Leisure Complex.

The opening ceremony at 10 am will include T'Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes, T'Sou-ke elder Shirley Alphonse, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, Juan de Fuca Electoral Director Mike Hicks, Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce President Kerry Cavers and a representative of the Sooke RCMP. Rotary Club of Sooke President John Topolniski will also say a few words. The Harmony Project Sooke drumline will escort the dignitaries into the SEAPARC arena.

Some of the local candidates in the BC provincial election were expected to mingle; Cathy Noel (BC Liberal) committed to a few hours at the event, visiting about and meeting people.

The day will include the popular Silent Auction (with over 500 items) that starts at 10am, plus a live auction that will start at 6pm. There's a free swim from 1 to 5 pm. Auction items had been listed for several weeks at www.sookerotary.com/auction featuring local goods and services. The used bike sale is from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The plant sale starts in the morning, outdoors.

There will be ongoing entertainment through the day, to enjoy while visiting the over 70 booths and displays by local businesses and organizations. The District of Sooke booth will include information about the 2017 municipal budget.

Also going on at SEAPARC on that day will be day one of provincial election Advance Voting for the Langford-Juan de Fuca riding (8am to 8pm).

SEAPARC is at 2168 Phillips Road. Parking is expected to fill quickly. Free admission. Proceeds in various ways to benefit the community.

Sooke council overview

APRIL 24 & MAY 1

On Monday, April 24 the District of Sooke's regular council meeting covered a wide range of issues. Delegations included KPMG with the municipality's audited financial statements; rural property sprinklers (Randy Clarkson); Salt Water Derby Series (Ron Neitsch); Sooke Transition House Society (Arlene Rees & Rhonda Harris); and #Dividedby14 (David Evans).



A public hearing was held regarding a zoning amendment for 7000 Melrick Place. A rezoning application regarding 6671 Wadams Way would see the much-discussed "Lot A" (purchased in Feb 2016 to provide space for a new Sooke library) changed from Large Lot Residential (R1) to Town Centre Mixed Use (CTC).

Council appointed Mayor Maja Tait to serve as liaison to the District of Sooke and T'Sou-ke Nation MOU Working Group, Primary Health Care Working Group, and the Te'mexw Treaty Advisory Committee.

A Council member was appointed for each regional and community organization that requested a liaison: Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce, Sooke Region Historical Society, Sooke Region Literacy Project, Victoria Family Court Committee & Youth Justice Committee; and Wildlife Conflict Reduction Working Group.

Resolutions now made public from the March 27 in-camera meeting included a 3-year management and maintenance agreement with the Sooke Horse-shoe Pitching Association; an agreement with Prestige Holdings Ltd to access and egress from Aquatic Lands (Lots 236 & 237); and a six-month contract with CRD for provision of animal control services effective April 2017 at the current cost of \$6,786.50/mo.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

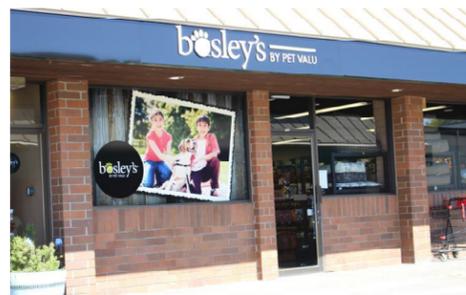
On Monday, May 1 following the District of Sooke's 6 pm Committee of Whole there will be a special meeting of council to discuss the artificial turf field and playing field.

District of Sooke meeting agendas and minutes are posted at www.sooke.ca

WSV

Bosley's is open in Sooke: celebration shifted to end of May

West Shore Voice News



Bosley's by Pet Valu opened April 12 in the Evergreen Shopping Centre in Sooke.

The new Bosley's by Pet Valu opened to the public April 12 in Sooke. Their community celebration day is coming up toward the end of May (previously announced for April 29) with hot dogs and cotton candy. The June flyer sale will be available for that event, including 2-for-1 pet treats.

Some inventory (to the tune of \$12,000) has been slow in arriving to the new Sooke store at Evergreen Shopping Centre, and party arrangements like balloons are being organized, says store manager Kristal Beck.

West Shore Voice News

EVERGREEN

Shopping Centre

6660 Sooke Road, Sooke, BC

EVERGREEN
Shopping Centre
welcomes its
newest addition!



bosley's
BY PET VALU

LETTER

LETTERS are also posted at:
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Rezoning application for Sooke library



West Shore Voice News

The Wadams Way area is a quieter section of Sooke, presently used for the half-km road and multi-use trail that connect Otter Point Road to Church Road. In a letter (below), the point is made that for many years Sooke Council was hoping to develop a community-centric activity area south of Sooke Road (down to the oceanfront). Several zoning debates occurred at Council over the years, regarding how to expand public access to what would be a tourism-friendly waterfront area.

West Shore Voice News

Open letter to Sooke Mayor and Council from Jeff Zigay, 6645/6647 Sooke Rd, Sooke

How will we ever realize our pedestrian friendly Waterfront town with staff and public officials continuing to working against it?

Mayor Tait and Council, as a property owner in the town center, I am contacting you with concern regarding the District of Sooke's rezoning application at 6671 Wadams Way for the proposed new library.

This is an excerpt from the application. Development Services Regular Council - April 24, 2017 File No. 3220 PLN01308. "Rezoning this property to CTC will position the District of Sooke for many opportunities to redevelop and energize the north end of the Town Centre."

It appears the District will be undermining their own downtown plan by trying to direct development to the NORTH end of town because it now owns property in the area.

Below is the main recommendation of Sooke's downtown plan:

"LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS The fundamental guiding recommendation of this Town Centre Plan is to transform the area SOUTH of Sooke Road and develop around a new 'main street' (Waterview Street) that will visually and physically link Sooke Road to the waterfront."

Certainly this is not a level playing field and taxpayers like myself and others are being affected. I recently underwent a rezoning on my property to CTC. It took over a year and had substantial costs associated with it. Now, the District of Sooke is trying to rezone 6671 Wadams Way at taxpayers expense to compete with the public with total disregard for the Downtown plan.

The last time they did this, property was rezoned to accommodate a hotel outside of the town center. Totally ignoring the plan that we, the public, paid over \$100,000 for, with disastrous results. The development of the waterfront town center has been dormant since.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

Are we not supposed to learn from our mistakes?

No one can compete with the District if they can continue to purchase cheap land, knowing they can rezone it at will. A rezone to CTC is inappropriate and just plain bad planning. Competing with the taxpayers for commercial and high density residential is detrimental to our town.

This property was purchased by the District of Sooke for the people of Sooke, not for profit.

The potential Library set to be built on this property needs only an institutional zoning (P2), which would also allow for a hospital/medical center and senior's center or affordable housing that would continue benefit this community. ■

Public is invited to provide input about the new Sooke Library

West Shore Voice News

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 8 pm. The public consultation is open to everyone. There will be light refreshments.

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

NEW SOOKE LIBRARY Consultation
Tuesday May 2 ~ 6:30 pm



West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

The present Sooke Library is in leased space on Anna Marie Road just beyond the core shopping area of town centre Sooke.



West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

The present Sooke Library offers a limited parking area.

Mike Hicks were instrumental in helping to produce the required unanimous vote to finally approve the go-ahead for a new Sooke library.

The VIRL manager for the library in Sooke as well as the library in Port Renfrew is Adrienne Wass. WSV

Earth Day 2017: cleaning up around Sooke

The Earth Day 2017 community cleanup of roadsides, ditches, green spaces and playgrounds by Zero Waste Sooke volunteers and supporters really polished up the look of Sooke area roadways on Saturday April 22.

About 45 volunteers pitched in as six teams. Under grey skies they cleaned up along West Coast Road, Sooke Road in town centre, and these areas: Sooke River Road, Sasseenos, Broomhill, and Whiffin Spit.

www.zerowastesooke.ca WSV



Prepping with safety vests and instructions.

Zero Waste Sooke

West Shore Voice News

How to vote: www.elections.bc.ca/2017-general-election/how-to-vote/

Esquimalt-Metchosin

West Shore Voice News

District Electoral Office for Esquimalt-Metchosin: 250-952-4408

In the 2013 election, residents of Metchosin voted in the Juan de Fuca riding. Due to revision of the boundaries, now in 2017 Metchosin folks will vote in Esquimalt-Metchosin.

The District Electoral Office for Esquimalt-Metchosin is in Colwood at 3-1905 Sooke Road. They're open daily (Mon-Fri 9-5 & Sat 10-4), with extended hours of 8am to 8pm on Advance Voting days (April 29 & 30, May 3-6) and also on General Election Day Tuesday, May 9.



COURTESY WEB EDITION

West Shore Voice News

If you live in Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood or Metchosin, you're voting in Esquimalt-Metchosin

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

West Shore Voice News

WSV

How to vote: www.elections.bc.ca/2017-general-election/how-to-vote/
District Electoral Office for Langford-Juan de Fuca:
Langford-Juan de Fuca 250-952-5014



West Shore Voice News

If you live in Langford, Sooke or Juan de Fuca area you'll be voting in Langford-Juan de Fuca



The District Electoral Office for Langford-Juan de Fuca is in Langford at 111-2787 Jacklin Road. They're open daily (Mon-Fri 9-5 & Sat 10-4), with extended hours of 8am to 8pm on Advance Voting days (April 29 & 30, May 3-6) and also on General Election Day Tuesday, May 9.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

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

West Shore Voice News

WSV

HEALTH NEWS

More news and breaking news:
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

“13 Reasons Why”: trending Netflix series stirs up response by school districts

Report by
West Shore
Voice News



Web sourced

The “13 Reasons Why” 13-episode series on Netflix is based on the novel by the same name. The final episode is apparently quite graphic.

The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response sent a letter to school districts this week, regarding what they feel is a dangerous impact of the trending Netflix series 13 Reasons Why.

The organization, based out of Alberta, does not feel the visually-graphic depiction of suicide and its effects on people around the incident is necessarily a good one as a suicide prevention educational resource.

The producers of the series have stated their intention as having the show assist those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide.

The series highlights the consequences of youth who are bystanders to such incidents and do not report them to an adult. The series also attempts to address a myriad of other topics such as rape, sex shaming, bullying and drunk driving.

“Our primary concern regarding the use of this series as an educational resource is around the potential impact on youth who are vulnerable, have a history of trauma, are victims of related content, or are currently struggling with suicidal ideation,” says Kevin Cameron, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. “The overall content is very heavy (including the graphic depiction of a suicide death) and it is quite likely many of you are already seeing the impact of these complex traumatic triggers in your school community,” wrote Cameron to school districts across Canada, in a letter also signed by Theresa Campbell, president, Safer Schools Together Ltd.

“While we are not aware of a single case where a student has said exposure to this documentary has lowered their risk, we do know of multiple cases (coast to coast) where it has increased their risk. In some communities, we are also already seeing imitator behaviour involving increased levels of suicidal ideation and individuals making their own version of ‘justification tapes’,” the letter to school districts continued.

“We are engaged in this discussion not to interfere with the professional autonomy of our educators, but to ensure the social, emotional and mental well-being of all staff and students. With this in mind, we offer the following recommendations to schools where this series is being considered for use in the classroom:

- District staff and school administrators should work with counselling staff to be available as consultants to any teacher considering portioned uses of the series.
- School administrators should feel confident that any professional inside their school considering the use of this medium is skilled to do so and that the school has adequate counselling contingencies to address any symptom development generated from the series.
- Any episode or clips depicting method used to complete suicide should not be shown in the school setting.
- District or school staff may want to issue a communication to parents to inform them about the series and strategies for discussing the content with their children (see ‘guidance for families’ section of the NASP article below).
- District or school staff may want to share the tips in the ‘guidance to educators’ section of the NASP article below with those staff members that play a key role in supporting vulnerable students.

In Sooke School District 62 (SD62), the letter did indeed get distributed to school principals and to parents. “It’s a real issue,” says SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge, noting that there have been suicides in the region over the years. “We’ve had concern brought up from Belmont counsellors and at Spencer Middle School about kinds watching this TV series. People are talking about it, and there is confusion with some parents about the name of the show itself... it’s not for 13-year-olds, it’s rated on TV for a mature audience,” says Cambridge. “The school district’s concern is not that there is a TV show or that the topic is being explored, but this is a drama and students are watching. Kids identify with characters on TV.” By sending the letter to parents in SD62 (with schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke), SD62 was hoping to ensure that youth are not watching the episodes alone without parents or without their parents knowing.

Included in the letter home to parents (by email nowadays), was the following list of recent professional articles provide guidance for educators and parents:

- **National Association of School Psychologists (NASP):**
www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators
- **Suicide Awareness Voices of Education:**
www.save.org/blog/tips-watching-new-netflix-series-13-reasons/
- **Common Sense Media:**
www.common Sense Media.org/tv-reviews/13-reasons-why

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On CTV on Thursday, April 27, Carol Todd said she believes it’s necessary to talk about these subjects and praised 13 Reasons Why for sparking a worldwide conversation about mental health, suicide, cyber abuse, revenge and sexual assault. However, she said the criticisms about the show’s graphic content are justified because they can have a lasting impact on teenagers. Carol Todd’s daughter Amanda killed herself after being bullied. The “Amanda Todd Legacy” was founded by Carol Todd in 2012. “Once you have something visually in your brain, it doesn’t really go away,” Todd told CTV’s Your Morning on Thursday.

Creator of the 13 Reasons Why series, Brian Yorkey, told The Associated Press that the series is intended to be “difficult to watch” because these subjects are hard to cope with in reality. “We wanted to say, ‘These things are happening in kids’ lives. You can keep quiet about them. You can keep kids from watching shows about them. It’s not going to stop them from happening in kids’ lives and you should be talking about that,’” he said.

RCMP use the term “suicide pact” when a suicidal teen pre-plans their own life in a manner than intertwines the emotional involvement of peers. WSV

Funding increase helps bustling school district as regional population grows

Management of the Sooke School District (SD62) has rarely seen a dull moment. A few years back there were agonizing choices for a few years in a row about cutbacks by school board trustees, underwritten by long hours of deliberations by senior administration.

Rather quickly it seems, the situation has flipped, and extra money is coming into the system. “We are all very happy about that,” says SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. Additional funds will come from the BC Ministry of Education not only for the equivalent of about 80 additional teachers (33 non-enrolling and 55 enrolling teachers) to support a growing student population in the western communities. Job postings go to SD62 human resources next week. The Ministry is also providing funds to cover expenses that happen around having a larger operation in place (e.g. more custodial, secretarial help, increases in HR/payroll load).

One school does need to go. That’s Metchosin School at 4495 Happy Valley Road, which doesn’t cover its costs. This week, SD62 trustees passed 1st reading for disposition of that property. At that April 25 board meeting a number of residents from Metchosin spoke about the need for a community centre in the location of the present school. Trustees agreed. At the May board meeting, 2nd and 3rd reading are likely to see approval.

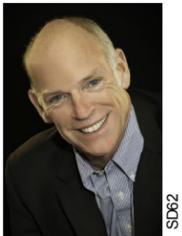
All 2017-2018 school fees were approved by the Board this week. Most of the fees for things like textbooks, unreturned locks, and yearbooks did not change. There were increases for some sport Academy fees, proportional to actual costs.

The board heard a bus transportation update. All the bussing will continue without charging any fees to families in 2017-2018. One more route will be added in the fall. Bus registration starts May 1. Some replacement buses were added to the fleet this year. Every new bus adds costs for paying the driver, gas and maintenance. One school bus can carry between 56 and 84 children (84 if primary students, three to a seat, or 56 if secondary students, two to a seat).

About half the schools in SD62 need additional classroom space. So more portable classrooms are coming for Fall 2017... 22 of them, to be spread around the various schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke to support the needs of a rapidly growing student population as families flock to the west side of Vancouver Island in search of relatively affordable housing. WSV

SD62 news update by
Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

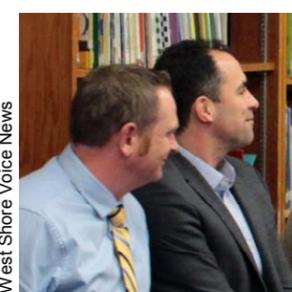
West Shore
Voice News



SD62
Superintendent
Jim Cambridge

Trio at the top

There will be three Assistant Superintendents (A/S) in SD62 for 2017-2018, reporting to SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. Each A/S will oversee one school family: Paul Block (Royal Bay and its feeder schools); Dave Strange (EMCS and its feeder schools); and Stephanie Hedley-Smith starting new as an A/S for Fall 2017 (Belmont and its feeder schools).



SD62 Assistant Superintendents Paul Block (left) and Dave Strange, at an ECOW meeting earlier this year.

Other overall areas of educational system management will be distributed among the A/S team:

Paul Block will oversee staffing, distributed learning, curriculum, secondary counselling, STA Labour Relations, and Academics. Dave Strange will oversee student support services, Colwood Campus, comprehensive school health, elementary counselling, CUPE Labour Relations, and Calendar. Stephanie Hedley-Smith will oversee Language, Education Standing Committee, Information Technology, Aboriginal Education, Early Learning, and Safe Schools. WSV

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: May 3 for May 5 WSV

West Shore Voice News

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

Blithe Spirit opening night Fri Apr 28, Sat Apr 29 & Sun Apr 30. At EMCS. 7:30 pm. Matinee 2:30 pm. Tx \$20, Sr/students \$15; under 13 free. www.sookeharbourplayers.com

West Shore Voice News

Advance Voting. Sat Apr 29 & Sun Apr 30, 8am-8pm.

● **For Langford-Juan de Fuca:** in SOOKE at SEAPARC Leisure Complex & Sooke Community Hall, 8am-8pm and in LANGFORD at Belmont Secondary, Four Points Sheraton.

All Langford-Juan de Fuca voters may vote any day up to and including May 9, at the District Electoral Office (111-2787 Jacklin Rd in Langford). More info EVENTS page: www.westshorevoicenews.com

● **For Esquimalt-Metchosin** at Colwood Pentecostal Church, Esquimalt United Church, Metchosin Community Hall, Songhees Wellness Centre, View Royal Town Hall, West Shore Parks & Rec.

COURTESY WEB EDITION

All Esquimalt-Metchosin voters may vote any day up to and including May 9, at the District Electoral Office (3-1905 Sooke Road, next to London Drugs in Colwood). More info on EVENTS page at: www.westshorevoicenews.com

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

Seedling & Seed Sale at ALM Farm. Sat Apr 29, 3680 Otter Pt Rd. 10am to 2 pm. www.almfarms.org

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

Protecting Waterways - BC NDP announcement. Sun Apr 30, 3pm at Gyro Park, 2625 Sinclair Rd, in Cadboro Bay.

Music Monday. Mon May 1, SD62 students performing at The Q Centre, Colwood. www.sd62.bc.ca

Langford Council. Mon May 1, 5:30 pm. www.cityoflangford.ca

District of Sooke Committee of the Whole. Mon May 1, 6 pm, followed by a Special council meeting. www.sooke.ca

New Sooke Library public consultation. Tues May 2, 6:30 to 8pm at Sooke Community Hall. Hosted by Vancouver Island Regional Library. Presentations, public input, ask questions. Light refreshments. www.virl.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News

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Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca
www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

West Shore Voice News

NDP environmental announcement set for Sunday April 30 in Green-held riding

West Shore Voice

● The BC NDP are planning to announce "strong measures to clean up and protect waterways", at an event on Sunday April 30 (3pm) in Cadboro Bay at the oceanside Gyro Park, 2625 Sinclair Rd. On hand will be BC NDP Candidates Gary Holman (Saanich North and the Islands) and Bryce Casavant (Oak Bay-Gordon Head) with guest Sheila Malcolmson, MP (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)

They will talk about how John Horgan and the BC NDP "would be the only government committed to keeping waterways pristine in BC". Cadboro Bay is in the Oak Bay-Gordon Head riding, home to BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver.

WSV

- 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**

Going solar, just like plants

West Shore Voice News

● The ability to convert carbon dioxide into energy using only the power of the sun, as plants do through photosynthesis, would be a monumental breakthrough in green energy research applications.

Scientists at the University of Central Florida have come up with synthetic material of 'tweaked titanium' that draws on visible light from the sun to produce solar fuels, sucking harmful CO2 out of the air in the process. The work was published in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*.

If the approach can be replicated on a large scale, it would be a game-changer. Which shows the importance of investors putting their capital in these sorts of projects that can make a difference for the well-being of people and the planet. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

One application might be rooftop tiles in which CO2-absorbing material could be used to both clean the air and power homes at the same time. Use of the process near a fossil-fueled power generating station could deal with carbon emissions before they get very far. [WSV](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

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www.virl.bc.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

Sooke Parcel Tax Roll. Opportunity to view and claim amendment (April 26 to May 16). At Sooke municipal hall, 8:30am-4:30 pm. www.sooke.ca

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. 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.

BC Election: Tuesday, May 9, 2017
www.westshorevoicenews.com



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Car kit tip

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