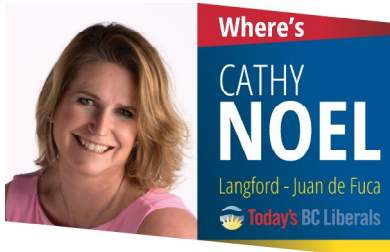


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# West Shore Voice

v2

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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, May 5, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

## Strategic moves in last leg

by Mary P Brooke,  
West Shore Voice News



BC Liberal Leader  
Christy Clark



BC NDP Leader  
John Horgan



BC Green Leader  
Andrew Weaver

In these last few days ahead of the May 9 general election, leaders of the three main parties are busy paying attention to any yet-unvisited sectors of their target voter base as well as visiting or re-visiting the ridings with tight races. And of course, finding precious-little time to romance the converted and keep them on track.

For those involved in the thick of the campaigns, planning and action has been on-going since at least the beginning of this calendar year. A 28-day campaign is not long enough for full debate of the issues, so at this point photo-ops, and excerpts from radio/TV/Facebook count for a lot. Plus Tweets! The 28-day election period requires nearly round-the-clock action of candidates and their teams. All of it based on intel gleaned by early door-knocking, surveys, party think tanks, and social media. Not much left to chance in this last leg of the project.

In some ways this campaign has not seemed quite as intense as some. Thanks to 24/7 social media, most of the key issues are already known. The deepest exploration is achieved by lengthier TV and print media interviews. The official campaign period that started April 11 has been about presence, smiles and handshakes, photo-ops, and finding ways to

take jobs at the competition to try and throw them off their game.

**BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark** has been appealing to businesses and the many niches of the broader investment community. She has been promising jobs (without going into much detail about how that happens) and low taxes.

**BC NDP Leader John Horgan** has floated out some key platform promises that have stuck in the voter mind: \$15 minimum wage and \$10/day child care. Horgan says he "will not balance the budget on the backs of seniors, kids and people who need help". His well-organized party is likely to retain their multi-election stronghold on Vancouver Island.

**BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver** is the effective disruptor, reminding voters that politics in this province is no longer a two-party game; he says his aim is to return democracy to the people. He touts the impressive educational calibre and science background of his candidates and this week played the celebrity card in accepting an endorsement by environmental activist David Suzuki.

If there are any undecided voters left out there, they are looking for nuance and inspiration -- a reason to make a difference.



## Advance voting strong in west side ridings

● **Advance voting** in the BC Election got underway again May 3 (also May 4, 5 and 6), 8am to 8 pm in all ridings, on the heels of a robust first round of advance voting on the weekend of April 29 and 30. In that first half of advance voting (April 29 & 30, May 3), here's how it looks on this west side of the island:

■ **Esquimalt-Metchosin** brought in 4,226 votes on the weekend plus 2,028 on May 3 [total 6,254], out of a total 37,692 registered voters (16.6%). Candidates are Mitzi Dean (BC NDP), Barb Desjardins (BC Liberal), Andy MacKinnon (BC Green), Josh Steffler (Libertarian), Tyson Strandlund (Communist) and Delmar Martay (independent).

More about advance voting ... continued on pg 3 .../



## BARB DESJARDINS

ESQUIMALT - METCHOSIN

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[www.BarbDesjardins.ca](http://www.BarbDesjardins.ca)

■ **Langford-Juan de Fuca** (includes Sooke) saw 3,722 votes last weekend plus 1,797 on May 3 [total 5,519], out of 39,176 registered voters (14% turnout). Candidates are John Horgan (BC NDP Leader, incumbent), Cathy Noel (BC Liberal), Brendan Ralfs (BC Green), Willie Nelson (Vancouver Island Party), and Scott Burton (Libertarian).

Advance Voting continues May 5 & May 6 8 am to 8 pm

In Langford: Belmont Secondary School; Gordon United Church; Four Points Sheraton

In Sooke: SEAPARC Leisure Centre; Sooke Community Hall

In Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood, Metchosin: Colwood Pentecostal Church; Esquimalt United Church; Metchosin Community Hall; Songhees Wellness Centre; View Royal Town Hall; West Shore Parks & Rec.

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BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver has been officially endorsed by environmental activist David Suzuki

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## Advance Voting: May 3-6

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West Shore Voice News

**EDITORIAL**

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

**Making your choice in a key BC election**

**VOTE WISELY on MAY 9**

• **While every election is important**, this one does plant BC at the precipice of a number of critical socioeconomic and environmental realities that require effective solutions. The role of principled media during an election in an active democracy is to provide key insights from within the information overload, so that voters may be assisted in their voting choices. We hereby present some thoughts about how things might work out, depending on which way you vote in the BC provincial election on May 9. ■



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

**Voting BC Liberal**

EDITORIAL West Shore Voice

• **The BC Liberals** have been in power for 16 years now. Starting under then-premier Gordon Campbell followed by current premier Christy Clark, British Columbians have journeyed down a relatively unique socioeconomic path. Nowhere else in Canada is the great divide between the have's and the have-not's so distinct.

The BC Liberals gladly describe themselves as the party of free enterprise. Businesses of course need to make a profit and healthy robust businesses do produce jobs. But it's a trickle-down economic philosophy, and as we saw during the long-extended Great Recession of 2008-2016, wealth was held at the top when times were tough.

But let's call a spade a spade. Those inclined to the BC Liberal stripe are managers and strategists, project-oriented and goal-driven. This is not a bad thing to have in charge of a province that appears to be going places with a kind of coastal destiny not found anywhere else.

An effective opposition -- whether officially in the legislature or from an uprising populace directly -- can, oddly enough, be the strong tail that wags the project-oriented government achievers. Get the right ideas to the right people, and results can be produced.

However, many of the social initiatives programs that are now coming onstream (e.g. more hospice beds and an multi-faceted single parent support strategy, to mention just two) are late in coming. Some things have not improved at all, such as the level of disability income. Must it always take a well-organized squeaky wheel to grease this government? Having some societal enhancement goals in place, from the inside-out, would be more wholesome.

However, the point is probably well-taken that on May 10 a returning BC Liberal government would be ready to take on NAFTA-related diplomacy and negotiations, and could continue right away with emergency management programs that were achieving some cohesion in the last year or two.

Indeed, qualified public servants do much of the important day-to-day work under any government. But leadership turns the rudder. Returning BC Liberal leadership will continue to focus on helping specific industries and businesses, which may not always be so bad if the goal is producing more jobs and hopefully more robust communities along with that.

Under a returning Christy Clark BC Liberal government, there would be the challenge of them eventually surrendering to the failure of LNG as BC's way forward. To not energetically embrace a green-tech economy head-on has, to date, been a great disappointment to those who see it being done readily and successfully elsewhere in the world.

The business and investment communities will be wanting to return a BC Liberal government. Any undecided voters that tip this way will have been convinced that step-by-step attention to targeted sectors of the economy is the way to building a better BC.

The best outcome of a returning BC Liberal government would be to see a bit more humility about bringing in Opposition-suggested programs more promptly without worrying so much about "who looks best". When the people are served, the government can easily take credit for it. If the BC Liberals get back in after this challenging election, hopefully they've listened and learned. **WSV**

**Voting BC NDP**

EDITORIAL West Shore Voice

• **The BC NDP** collective has been thirsting for 'the top job' for over 16 years now. The NDP have a proud legacy in BC including the Agricultural Land Reserve and a strong contribution to education.

They declare themselves the party of the people, that they care about average British Columbians. They have indeed articulated that average wage-earners families have had to endure some staggering increases in everyday costs of living such as electricity rates and vehicle insurance rates, in addition to the costs of ferry travel. And then there's the boondoggle of Medical Service Plan premiums that have gone up steadily for years under the BC Liberals, pinned to a barbaric and punitive system of privatized collection. The BC NDP have called out the BC Liberal government on that too.

However, few of the NDP's protests have been vigorous enough to tip the prevailing government to do anything about these increases. Granted, it's pretty tough going up against a majority that can easily vote down any idea in the legislature. But rallying the public to support the NDP in its important opposition work should not be left to election time.

The NDP have always been the party of seeing the broader spectrum of society's people and their needs. But finding a way to cost-out the improvements required for regular working folks under the constraints of a capitalist-based economy is a tall order. Short of a seismic flip to a brand new Scandanavian-style high-tax system that covers many more services, there is really no way to dramatically increase the lot of ordinary families overnight. The transition would, of necessity by the numbers, need to be a methodical and steady one. Which is what the 16-year Liberal government says they are doing. But they seem to need to be pushed. The NDP should have been pushing more effectively.

A more blended election outcome ... say, fewer Liberals, more NDP and a handful of Greens, might be the perfect mix to best serve the public. Such a synthesis might be the healthiest outcome of this 2017 election. For such an outcome, it will still take a strong mandate for NDP Leader John Horgan. He needs to return to the BC Legislature with more MLAs than he had there before. The NDP are of course hoping for a majority, and if they achieve that it will bear witness to "time for a change" which happens in all jurisdictions eventually. If they come in with less than the 44 seats required for a majority but at least the 35 they had at dissolution, they will hopefully find the resolve to be more of a force to be reckoned with. They might actually find it advantageous to have a few more Greens sitting in MLA seats, and work as a coalition (formal or otherwise) to hold a slightly reduced number of BC Liberal MLAs to account.

The NDP campaign has been more of a counterpoint to the BC Liberal track record than a sparkling new idea for living in BC. But really, they haven't had much of a choice. Government is a complex system with many working parts. Horgan knows this, which is why he probably resists making wild promises for sudden change.

The NDP is the favoured party for educators, union workers, those with health care challenges and/or low-income, and those who are empathetic to a readily compassionate society. If Horgan's team can -- with their optimistic view -- drum up the often under-tapped youth vote, they might just emerge with a majority win. It will be as much their win as the BC Liberals' to lose. **WSV**

**Seniors voice muted**

• **There are no jazzy or easy answers**, but the voice of BC seniors has been pretty low-key in this 2017 provincial election campaign. Somehow, all parties must be held accountable for this gross oversight. Many aging people must keep working past 65 because their pensions are lacking or non-existent,

which stunts job-market entry for the struggling millennials.

The senior population in Canada is now larger than youth under age 14. Perhaps "jobs, jobs, jobs" and attracting further investment to BC is in fact the simplest and most robust answer. Keeping the economic wheels turning wherever and how ever they can be oiled and revved up, will -- if revenues are properly managed and services appropriately delivered -- support the increasing health care and pension needs of seniors. **WSV**



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**Voting BC Green**

EDITORIAL West Shore Voice

• **The BC Green Party** has -- until now -- been one and the same as the face of their party leader and standalone MLA Andrew Weaver.

But if the apparent Green momentum in these latter days of the 2017 campaign is any indication, Weaver could return to his seat in the BC Legislature with a few more Green MLAs in his entourage.

Hammering home the message that the Green platform is "evidence based and fully costed" is like writing a very good essay with ample footnotes. It might sound good on paper, but will it stand up to the scrutiny of practical reality?

Certainly there is a thirst for non-confrontational presentation of issues and proposed solutions. An educated and informed electorate likes that. And who can be against a clean environment? We all like breathing clean air, drinking good quality water, and knowing that our natural world is not being further damaged by contaminants.

But will these highly qualified career professionals have the thirst to further "put their careers on hold" to get into the down-and-dirty of the machinations of running a province? They might get what they wish for, and then we will all find out the hard way!

While this week's celebrity endorsement of Weaver and the Greens by environmental activist David Suzuki has the tantalizing sizzle of a barbecued sirloin steak, it could backfire. That move emphasized the important environmental plank of the Green party. But in so doing, it kind of brings the party full-circle to the 'single issue' handicap that the Greens have tried to expand outward from in order to appeal to a broader range of voters.

And so comes up the issue of vote-splitting. We've all heard it. Will the Greens split away progressive votes from the NDP, and leave the BC Liberals charging right up the middle to another majority? Weaver's answer to that has been to vote for something, not against something. If the Green platform sounds good to you, vote for them, he says. And let the cards fall where they may.

Whichever way we look at this election, the three-party race brings some authenticity to the political process. Ideas in the best interest of the progress of BC have been brought forward as a cohesive package by the Greens. This is good for democracy. Whether this would be the right flavour of government in turbulent socioeconomic times would remain to be seen.

A strong Green showing on May 9 could serve to send the NDP back to the drawing board for another four to eight years. Much of the current government flavour would continue, with a dash of more progressive policy initiative thrown in. But a wedge of Greens would soon learn that you can't 'beat city hall' when they have the majority. Wanting so much to replace the NDP in BC's political discourse, the Greens might just do that, but produce a continued scenario of what low-income and many regular working folks have already endured for 16 years. **WSV**

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## Advance Voting strong on west shore

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

... continued from page 1

... / The highest turnout on Vancouver Island -- indeed in all of BC during April 29-30 and May 3 -- was in Courtenay-Comox with 6,413 votes cast; Saanich North and the Islands showed a close second with 6,368 votes (in 2013 the race in that riding was the tightest of any riding ever in BC). Esquimalt-Metchosin tallied the third-highest vote results with 6,254. Langford-Juan de Fuca had a strong showing with 5,519 votes in those first three of six advance voting days.

This is the first time that voting has been available on a Sunday, and in many ridings the turnout was strong on April 30. In some cases more people voted on Sunday over and above Saturday. Most of the polling stations were open on those first two days. On the west shore only Gordon United Church (in the Langford-Juan de Fuca riding) wasn't available due to the Sunday factor.

It would seem that the ridings where party leaders are running are getting voters out with relatively equal strength. Premier Clark (BC Liberal leader) is running in Kelowna West, where 5,529 advance votes were cast during the first three advance voting days. In BC NDP leader John Horgan's riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca there were 5,519 votes cast. BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver is running Oak Bay-Gordon Head where 5,176 advance votes were cast April 29-30 & May 3.

Usually a strong advance voting turnout indicates a committed voter population who are keen to make sure their vote happens ahead of election day. Perhaps because they are working on election day (at regular employment or on one of the campaigns), or more generally that the electorate is fired-up, with minds already made up. A high voter turnout (advance or otherwise) usually shows evidence of firm support and/or heightened resistance.

When people 'get their blood up' to vote with intensity, there's the possibility of strong change or in fact the return of a strong majority. Polls in this matter were unreliable in 2013, and less attention has been paid to polls in this election cycle. Wording, who's asking, timing in the election cycle, and the human propensity to secrecy are strong influences on the reliability of campaign opinion polls.

Advance voting results are being made available by Elections BC during the advance voting period.

All advance votes will added to the general election count on Tuesday night, May 9. Any advance votes that are cast over the 28-day campaign at District Electoral Offices will be counted on May 22 in the home ridings for those votes. Official final vote results of this 41st BC General Election will be provided by Elections BC on May 23. **WSV**

## West side gals: Barb & Cathy

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **This week started out** with a west-side-of-the-island joint interview for BC Liberal candidates Barb Desjardins and Cathy Noel, in an exclusive interview with *West Shore Voice News*.

In the Monday morning chat, they compared the similarities and noted the differences between the ridings they are vying for -- Desjardins running in Esquimalt-Metchosin and Noel in Langford-Juan de Fuca.

When it comes to transportation, Desjardins says public transit is a key demand and Noel sees Highway 14 access as key for Langford-Juan de Fuca voters who live in Sooke but work elsewhere in the region.

On the important health care file, Desjardins says family doctors are in short supply in the western communities. Noel noted there's a need for more health care services in the Sooke area given that Highway 14 can impose challenges to accessing to higher-end services. **Web COURTESY edition**

For both ridings in the west side region, jobs are of course important. Many workers live in Sooke or Langford where housing is relatively more affordable but commute to jobs in the core areas and beyond.

On the matter of cost of living, Desjardins explained the hazards of the NDP plan to promptly increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. She explained how staggering minimum wage increases over time allows businesses to plan for the transition and is less likely to produce layoffs and job losses.

Cathy Noel has had the task of taking on not only an NDP incumbent, but the opposition party leader himself. Her job of embracing the Sooke community full-on has been made somewhat easier given that John Horgan (who has held the riding since 2005) has been mostly on the province-wide campaign trail these past few weeks. In the Langford portion of the riding Noel is already well known, having worked at Bear Mountain and in the broader business community of southern Vancouver Island including marathon race management.

Barb Desjardins has the 'instant recognition' factor in her riding, having been Mayor of Esquimalt since 2008 and serving the past two years as Chair of the Capital Regional District. Her additional advantage is not running against an incumbent; NDP MLA Maurine Karagianis retired just ahead of this election. **WSV**

## Horgan on the NDP provincial trail

● **John Horgan** says that as MLA for 12 years he has "represented the people of Juan de Fuca with an open door and a strong voice in the BC Legislature". In this election, he's been travelling the entire province. Locals in Sooke who've supported Horgan and the NDP all these years do of course realize his commitment. "I've been talking with people all over BC about the need to come together and change the government. People can't afford another four years of Christy Clark," said Horgan this week.

This week BC Liberal candidate Cathy Noel (Langford-Juan de Fuca) charged that Horgan should have spent

more time in his home riding (which he has held since 2005), to attend local mixers and All Candidates events. In response: "I would encourage Ms. Noel to imagine how much more we could do with a government that worked for people rather than the top two per cent," says Horgan. "That's my priority and that's what I intend to deliver if the people of BC elect me as Premier."

Meanwhile in an interview on CHEK-TV on May 4, BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark said her party has a "unique island plan" and "some of the strongest candidates any party has ever run". **WSV**

## Green trail: Brendan Ralfs this week

● **This week** BC Green Party candidate Brendan Ralfs (Langford-Juan de Fuca) visited the Pacheedaht First Nation at Port Renfrew, and met voters at Poncho's Coffee House in Langford. He did a meet-and-greet on May 4, plus a regional All Candidates Forum at the Victoria Conference Centre hosted by the City of Victoria, and then went to a David Suzuki event at Green candidate Chris Maxwell's office in the Tillicum area.

May 6 and 7, Ralfs will do an ambitious last-weekend-of-the-campaign tour of Langford-Juan de Fuca with meet-and-greets and more. **WSV**

## Down to the wire: two west shore ridings

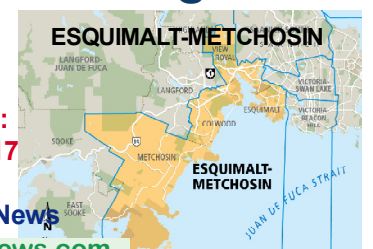


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Candidates: Mitzi Dean (NDP); Barb Desjardins (BC Liberal); Andy MacKinnon (BC Green); Josh Steffler (Libertarian); Tyson Strandlund (Communist Party); Delmar Martay (independent).



BC Liberal candidates Barb Desjardins (left) and Cathy Noel, compared notes about issues the ridings they hope to win.

## Suzuki endorses the Greens

West Shore Voice News



Web-sourced

● **"I am officially endorsing Andrew Weaver** and the BC Green Party for the May 9 provincial election," said environmental activist David Suzuki, May 3.

"I have never endorsed a political party before and I never expected to. But the need for real change in BC is so great, I have decided I must do everything I can to help elect the party that represents the right kind of change." He goes on to say that only the Green are "speaking to the greatest issues of our time with solutions that are practical and evidence-based".

"The economy and environment are inextricably linked, and only the BC Green Party has taken that seriously," said Suzuki in a statement to media. "Their platform is a real vision for the health and well-being of British Columbians, from education to housing affordability to the environment."

Weaver was already a leading climate scientist when he was recruited in 2007 by then-BC Liberal Premier Gordon Campbell to provide advice on a climate action plan. In the 2009 provincial election the Opposition NDP promised to "axe" the carbon tax, but lost the election. The carbon tax survived.

Polished as a status-quo disruptor, Suzuki in a rally mid-April with Weaver pitched for Greens to become a "dominant force" in BC provincial politics.

Suzuki did split hairs a bit with this endorsement, saying he has never endorsed a political party before. In 2013 he endorsed federal Liberal leadership candidate Joyce Murray for her "coherent vision of Canada as a sustainable society." **WSV**

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### Unused medications belong back at the pharmacy

ENVIRONMENT

West Shore Voice News

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc.  
West Shore Voice News

Web COURTESY edition [www.westshorevoiceneews.com](http://www.westshorevoiceneews.com)

● **The Capital Regional District (CRD)** has launched a new medications return awareness campaign to promote the proper disposal of medications at pharmacies and to prevent medications from reaching the natural environment.

"When medication goes down the drain, it eventually ends up in the ocean, where it can negatively affect the marine environment," said Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director of the Canadian Health Product Stewardship Association. "So, what you put down the drain really matters."

Since 2008, the CRD Regional Source Control Program, in collaboration with the Health Products Stewardship Association, Island Health, and pharmacists throughout the region, has been informing the public about the BC Medications Return Program (BCMRP), what types of medications can be returned, and how to properly return them.

And while 11,300 kg of medications were returned by residents in 2015, it seems a refresh is required: 45% of residents in the CRD area still toss unused or expiring medication down the drain or into the garbage.

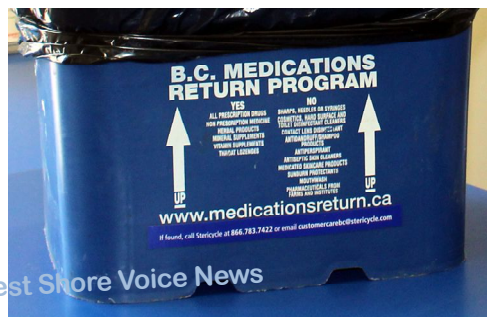
"Incorrectly disposed medication can affect the health of marine wildlife, but it also can affect the health of humans in direct and indirect ways," says Island Health Medical Health Officer Dr Dee Hoyano.

"Unused, old or expired medications are a safety hazard for both children and adults when left in the home, and are a common cause of poisoning. Antibiotic resistance is a concern, because we share one ecosystem with other animals," she says.

About 30% of residents over age 35, and 70% of residents between ages of 18 to 34 have a low awareness of medication return. Products covered under



Pharmacist Marilyn Boyce (at Shoppers Drug Mart, Oak Bay Junction) displayed a BC Medications Return bucket that gets filled up one-and-a-half times every week.



**Any leftover medications including tablets, capsules, lotions, ointments, nutritional supplements and oral homeopathic remedies can be returned to any pharmacy in BC.**

this program include:

- all prescription drugs,
- over-the-counter medications, and
- natural health products in oral dosage form.

Since 2008, about 70 tonnes of medications have been diverted from the landfill due to the BCMRP program.

Chris Smith, western Canada director of government relations with Loblaw (which owns Shoppers Drug Mart) says all 160+ store owners in BC are committed to the program.

Stephanie Yeboah, owner of the Pharmasave store in Sooke, says people can also bring in bandages, medicinal patches, needles and needle tops. Contaminated and sharp items should be brought to the pharmacy in a sturdy plastic container to prevent harm to pharmacy staff. Where appropriate, returned items are incinerated.

There is no fee at any pharmacy to return medications or contaminated products. [www.crd.bc.ca/mrp](http://www.crd.bc.ca/mrp) [www.crd.bc.ca/cleanwater](http://www.crd.bc.ca/cleanwater) **WSV**

### Two custom Langford bus services cancelled

West Shore Voice News

● **Two custom bus services** launched by the City of Langford are signing off.

Soon to go is the in-town trolley that has serviced local shoppers and residents in Langford commercial areas since 2007. BC Transit service to and around the Langford area have improved over the years (up 76%), so the trolley is no longer needed, says Langford Mayor Stew Young.

Also wrapping up (as of June 30) is the Langtoria Greenline bus, launched last fall to help ease commuter traffic round trip between Langford and Victoria. Low ridership was the main reason there. People still like travelling in their own cars despite the time in commuter traffic and the cost of parking in Victoria. Some who have used the Langtoria may now carpool. The Greenline idea came up when construction of the McKenzie-Admirals Road Interchange was announced, with the advent of even more traffic slowdowns during the construction period. Operated by Wilson's Transportation, the luxury bus has been following a route with 21 stops in the West Shore. Mayor Young says he'll now push for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on Hwy 1 that would also accommodate buses, and continue to work with the province on 'getting to yes' with transportation options along the E&N Rail corridor.

On the WestShoreSookeVoiceNews Facebook page, comments included how the BC Transit bus service in Langford could still be improved, and that families have enjoyed riding on the trolley. **WSV**



Langford in-town trolley



Langford-Victoria round trip

### Bear Mountain up for sale

West Shore Voice News

● **Bear Mountain**, owned by Ecoasis since 2013, is in search of a buyer, equity investor or partner. Straddling Langford and Highlands, the 772-acre urban resort community includes two 18-hole golf courses, hotel, restaurant, and land remaining to be developed. About 3,500 people live at Bear Mountain, with up to 10,000 as the projected population at full build out on land that has zoning and infrastructure in place for immediate housing development. **WSV**

### Roving Play Parks & Neighbourhood Nights

■ **Roving Play Parks** offer free outdoor activities for children ages 6 to 12, during July 4 to August 25, Monday to Friday (10 am to 3 pm), at five different parks in the west shore area: Centennial Park on Helmcken Road, and outdoors at these SD62 schools (Langford/Colwood): Ruth King, Willway, Sangster, and Lakewood. Call 250-478-2377, ext 3900 for details.

■ **Neighbourhood Nights** for families are offered this summer at Glen Lake Park (Tuesdays July 11, 18, 25 & Aug 1, 8, 15) and Royal Bay Beach Park (Thursdays July 13, 20, 27 & Aug 3, 10 & 24). No registration required. [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca) **WSV**

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Henderson Recreation Centre	Jason de Foa Recreation Centre
Oak Bay Recreation Centre	PLS (Pacific Liquor Store) (Sooke location)
Pharmasave Recreation	U.A. Park Recreation Centre
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## Rapid-fire public input for new Sooke library

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● About 50 people turned out for the new Sooke Library info session at Sooke Community Hall on the evening of May 2.

The public input exercise was hosted by the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) board chair and senior staff. In the audience was Sooke Councillor Kerrie Reay who sits on the VIRL board.

Ideas and suggestions flowed non-stop from the audience in a casual manner for over an hour and a half. Among those participating from the audience were Lee Boyko of the Sooke Region Museum, long-time resident Doni Eve, book editor Carolyn Bateman, and members of Zero Waste Sooke. "It was more input than we expected," said VIRL Executive Director Rosemary Bonnano after the crowd dispersed.

Suggestions ranged from the types of programs and activity spaces that might be offered in the new 10,000 sq ft library to providing enough parking and bicycle racks. While it was sort of a given that activity areas would be provided for children and teens, there was no mention about coordinating a space for seniors... though they are welcome to rent out a room for meetings or events, said Bonnano in a chat afterward with *West Shore Voice News*.

Although architect Danielle Pepin was present, there were no drawings or schematics of the new library. That comes in about six weeks, at another meeting. This is asking the public to engage twice. But the library-user crowd is pretty committed, and will likely come out again to see a schematic that will be prepared by Pepin of the global architectural firm HDR CEI.

Meanwhile, there's a tight window for Sooke residents to submit further ideas online. The survey at [www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke](http://www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke) is available for just two weeks, to May 16. Then architectural design work begins in earnest.

VIRL has a budget of up to \$6 million to build the new library, replacing the present service that is presently in 3,600 sq ft of leased space. While VIRL proposed the new space as extremely spacious, it will be quickly filled with collections (books, DVDs, etc), furniture, a computer user space, meeting rooms and other amenities. VIRL Chair Barry Avis seemed excited that the library is so large for a town the size of Sooke.

### Web COURTESY edition

The library on one acre will take up about 20% of "Lot A" on Wadams Way (behind Evergreen Shopping Centre) that the District of Sooke purchased last year. As Sooke grows, the location can easily be considered as within the 'town centre'. There will be a walking trail from the new library to the commercial town core shopping area. The new library is set to open in January 2019.

## Freedom Mobile expanding into Sooke

● Freedom Mobile Inc has proposed a 50.0m tall monopole type telecommunication tower with flush mounted antennas and related radio equipment, for installation on private property at 2614 Otter Point Road in Sooke. The proposed structure will provide wireless coverage for the community of Sooke within a few kilometres of the proposed location. The facility is proposed in a Rural (RU4) zoned area and will occupy a ground compound area of 3m x 6m.

This proposal will be presented at a District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting, coming up June 5.

The public can also make written submissions or request additional information from Freedom Mobile Inc c/o Tawny Verigin, Cypress Land Services Inc, Unit 120, 736 Granville St, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1G3. Tel: 1-855-301-1520 [publicconsultation@cypresslandservices.com](mailto:publicconsultation@cypresslandservices.com)

Freedom Mobile Inc is owned by Shaw. It is the fourth largest wireless provider in Canada, with about one million users. 'The big three' wireless market operators are Bell, Rogers and TELUS.



VIRL Executive Director Rosemary Bonnano in Sooke, May 2.

## VIRL survey says:

West Shore Voice News

- What features would you like to see in your new Sooke library?
- What is your favourite feature of the Sooke library right now?
- What other types of programming would you like to see in your new Sooke library?
- What days and times do you typically visit the library?

● Here's a once-in-a-decade-or-more opportunity to shape an important part of a growing town! Input from the Sooke public is being received by the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) on all aspects of the new Sooke library. That includes actual building design, functionality of the space, who the library should serve, and the type of programs and services that are offered.

It's a fast process now, to meet a building completion deadline of December 2018, so the new facility can open at the start of January 2019.

Here's a link to the survey that is available to 4pm on Tuesday May 16: [www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke](http://www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke). It's a short survey, not guided with too many specifics (see questions above). There's room for brief open-ended comments.

After reviewing the survey input, architect Danielle Pepin will begin design sketches in earnest. VIRL reps were in Sooke on May 2. Then another meeting is coming up in Sooke in about 6 weeks. At that time, VIRL will show some schematics and ideas to the public in Sooke. Stay tuned for that!

For more details about the library itself, and the meeting held on May 2, visit the SOOKE subpage at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

## Turf field ... from one town to another

West Shore Voice News

### Web COURTESY edition

● "The District of Sooke has approved \$700,000 for the turf field project," says Brent Blackhall, Director of Finance & Acting CAO. Meanwhile, there were further savings by accepting a contribution of turf field infill from the City of Langford. For that, \$270,500 was released to the Sooke Community Association (SCA) by Sooke Council on Monday night, May 1. Public input included concerns from Gail Hall about replacement costs. SCA owns the land, with usage intended for the public. Ellen Lewers posed the question to Council, asking if the public-private aspect (with the municipality spending money on private land) had been asked... if the arrangement fell through, would that put SCA in a position to sue.

FieldTurf -- on contract to the City of Langford for \$745,235 to install a new field at Westhills Stadium -- has agreed to use infill from the aging Westhills turf field, for an installation at SCA's Fred Milne Park on Sooke River Road. "The existing infill from Westhills (installed in 2008) cannot be reused in a new World Rugby Certified Field however it is fine for a community field," it was stated in a staff report at City of Langford council on May 1. "Reusing the infill reduces Langford's disposal costs and helps SCA and Sooke achieve their goals," said Langford Mayor Stew Young.

FieldTurf will also reuse Westhills Stadium carpet by installing it at Lake Cowichan. All of this is a significant savings to Langford.

## Finance & CAO combo

West Shore Voice News

● District of Sooke Director of Financial Services Brent Blackhall is also now serving as Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Effective May 1, Blackhall is handling the CAO work, while CAO Teresa Sullivan is off on a personal leave. "There is no set return date yet," says Blackhall.

"It's not any more of a tricky time to handle the Acting CAO duties. At this time of year the Finance duties are important as we had the Financial Plan Bylaw, Audited Financial Statements, Tax Rate Bylaw, Sewer Parcel Tax Roll, Property Tax Levy and Notices and related required year-end reporting to the ministry to get through," says Blackhall. "I also have the Corporate Services staff reporting to me now. We have a posting for a new Corporate Officer (Manager of Legislative Services) so that will lessen the load when that person is on board," he said.



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[www.alpinegroup.ca](http://www.alpinegroup.ca)

## 3rd annual Sooke Night Market

West Shore Voice News

● About 41 vendor booths, plus food and busker entertainment will be part of the 3rd Annual Sooke Night Market, Thursday nights on the grounds of the Sooke Region Museum this summer. The market will run for 15 weeks starting June 1.

There's still time for more vendors to book a booth at \$300 for the summer or for single nights at \$26, says Lee Boyko, Sooke Region Museum director. More buskers are also wanted, he says. The vendor application is online at [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

If local farmers have produce that's ready for sale on short notice, a one-night booth can be arranged. Call the museum at 250-642-6351.

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# WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: May 10 for May 12 WSV

# West Shore Voice News

## Advance Voting, continues Fri May 5, Sat May 6

For **Langford-Juan de Fuca** in SOOKE at SEAPARC Leisure Complex & Sooke Community Hall, and in LANGFORD at Belmont Secondary, Gordon United Church, Four Points Sheraton. [8am-8pm at all Voting Places]

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. 250-952-5014

For **Esquimalt-Metchosin** the Voting Stations are at Colwood Pentecostal Church, Esquimalt United Church, Metchosin Community Hall, Songhees Wellness Centre, View Royal Town Hall, West Shore Parks & Rec. [All: 8am-8pm]

All **Esquimalt-Metchosin voters** may vote any day up to and including May 9, at the District Electoral Office, 3-1905 Sooke Road, in Colwood. 250-952-4408.

**Sooke Potholes Guided Walk** Sat May 6 10am-noon, age 8+. Bring lunch & water. www.crd.bc.ca/about/events

**Sooke Country Market** Sat May 6 10am-2pm. Starts 22nd season. Otter Pt Rd at Eustace.

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

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

**BC Green Party Rally**. Sat May 6 at Delta Ocean Pointe Hotel, 100 Harbour Rd, Victoria. 6 to 7 pm

**Emergency Preparedness Fair** Sun May 7. 11am-3pm. JdF Rec Senior's Centre, 1767 Island Hwy. Kids activities, draws. Sponsored by West Shore Rec & View Royal Fire Dept.

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

**Sooke Council**. Mon May 8. 7pm. www.sooke.ca

## BC Provincial Election, Tues May 9. Voting stations open 8 am to 8pm.

Lists of candidates, voter registration: www.elections.bc.ca . If you don't have a voter card, take along two pieces of ID or documents with your name (one must have your home address). How to vote: www.elections.bc.ca

### For Langford-Juan de Fuca

In **SOOKE**: at SEAPARC Leisure Complex & Sooke Community Hall  
In **LANGFORD**: at Belmont Secondary, Gordon United Church, 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, 250-952-5014. More info on the EVENTS page at www.westshorevoicenews.com

### For Esquimalt-Metchosin

Voting Stations at Colwood Pentecostal Church, Esquimalt United Church, Metchosin Community Hall, Songhees Wellness Centre, View Royal Town Hall, West Shore Parks & Rec.

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 - 250-952-4408). More info on the EVENTS page at www.westshorevoicenews.com

**Let's Talk Drugs**. Free info session for SD62 parents, by SPEAC. Tues May 9. 7-8:30 pm at Royal Bay school, with childcare. RSVP. www.eventbrite.ca

**West Shore Voice News** ad deadline **Wed May 10** by 5pm, for May 12 election results issue. Contact: advertising@westshorevoicenews.com

**SD62 Education Committee of the Whole**. Now on **Wed May 10** (rescheduled from May 9), 7pm at Spencer Middle School. www.sd62.bc.ca

**Awareness Film Night** **Wed May 10**. "Power To Change - The Energy Rebellion". 7pm. EMCS. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

**D.A.R.E. Grad at Ecole Poirier Elementary**. Thurs May 11. 9:15 am. www.darebc.com

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

**West Shore Chamber of Commerce**. Deadline **Fri May 12** to list your business in Best of the West Shore 2017. www.westshore.bc.ca



**TELL US YOUR IDEAS FOR THE NEW SOOKE LIBRARY!**

We welcome your input on building design, functionality and services.  
**Survey online to Tuesday May 16:**  
www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke

**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

**West Shore Studio Tour**. Sat May 13 & Sun May 14. Over 70 artists. www.coastcollective.ca

**Mother's Day**. Sun May 14.

**New Sooke Library - public input survey**. Online (from May 2) to Tues May 16. Impact the actual design, functionality and services of the new Sooke library: www.virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke

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

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

**'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. www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca

**Victoria Day statutory holiday**. Mon May 22.

**District of Sooke Council Meeting**. Tues May 23. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

**ARTIFACTS Exhibit** (from Apr 28) to May 28 local art exhibit at Sooke Region Museum, upstairs. www.sookecommunityarts.com

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

Daily local & regional news: WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

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**South island hot market**

West Shore Voice analysis | Stats www.vreb.org

**Housing is clearly a commodity market** (over and above just a place to live), as prices escalate higher.

The inventory of properties for sale in Greater Victoria was low in April at 1,690. Compare that to 2,594 active listings a year ago. Buyers are still encountering multiple-offer scenarios.

Here's the quick profile of April 2017 prices in the western communities, showing the benchmark data-adjusted price (compared to 1 yr ago) vs raw sales average (i.e. what you really pay): **Langford** \$541,400 (\$449,500); average \$649,601 | **Colwood** \$599,300 (\$499,800); average \$709,585 | **Sooke** \$457,500 (\$374,200); average \$501,197. And the overall south island **Greater Victoria area** \$663,500 (\$568,100); raw average \$833,853. **WSV**

**3rd annual ARTIFACTS exhibit is bustling**

West Shore Voice News

For the **Sooke region artists** with items on display in the ARTIFACTS Exhibit at the Sooke Region Museum, it's been pretty exciting so far.

The show opened April 28 and already items by Deb Clay, Linda Gordon and Cheryl Parkinsons have sold! A meet-the-artist gathering was held in the upstairs gallery on April 29.

On Sunday May 21 artists Carly Butler and Cook Kettle Press founder Lloyd Bowcott will be demonstrating the art of letterpress, from 2 to 4 pm. You can print a special Sooke post-

**EXHIBIT April 28 to May 28**

card and learn how to use this old printing method.

The 3rd annual ARTIFACTS Show & Sale runs to May 28. Each year it is coordinated by the Sooke Community Arts Council, under the leadership of local artist Linda Gordon and a team of supporters.

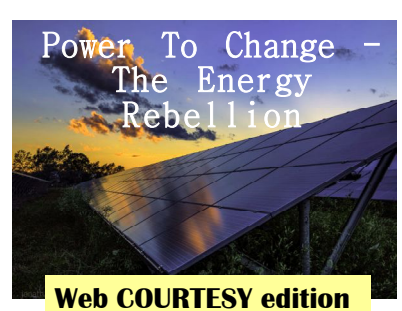
www.sookecommunityarts.com **WSV**

**Solar can come fast** West Shore Voice News

The **22nd season finale** of Awareness Film Night is coming up Wednesday, May 10. Film showing: "Power To Change - The Energy Rebellion". It's a 2016 film from Germany that outlines a wealth of green-friendly innovations and the figures behind them.

Energy alternatives such as celitement, biogas, kite-powered ships and passive houses are all explored along with the more well-known solar, wind and electric cars.

There's a clear message: a complete turnaround in energy policy towards 100% renewables is possible and it can be achieved quickly. Film & discussion at EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd, 7 pm. Admission by donation. **WSV**



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**SEAPARC pool annual maintenance** West Shore Voice News

Each year the pool at SEAPARC Leisure Complex closes for two weeks ahead of the busy summer season, for maintenance. There will be no aquatic programs June 12 to July 1 while this work is being done. **WSV**

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