Strategic moves in last leg

Friday, May 5, 2017

In some ways this campaign has not seemed quite as intense as chance in this last leg of the project. And of course, finding precious-time to make a difference.

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 credentials 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 choice. WSV
**Subscribers welcome**

In a key BC election

Friday, May 5, 2017  :::  WEST SHORE VOICE

**EDITORIAL**

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

While every election is important, this one does plant BC at the precipice of a number of critical socioeconomic and environmental resolutions.

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 things that might work out, depending on which way you vote in the BC provincial election on May 9.

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**Voting BC Liberal**

The BC Liberals have been in power for 16 years now, under Premier Christy Clark. Following the Campbell government followed by current premier Christy Clark, British Columbians have journeyed down a relatively unique socioeconomic path. Nowhere else in Canada is the 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 or go out of business. But it’s a trickle-down economic philo-

Advance Voting strong on west shore

by Mary P Broke, 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 6,306 votes (in 2013 the race in that ridings was tight as voting on Sunday did not occur due to travelling to BC). Esquimalt-Metchosin tied for the third-highest vote results with 6,254. Langford-Juan de Fuca had a strong showing with 5,159 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 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) had advance voting on both of those first two days. On the west shore only Gordon United Church (in the Langford-Juan de Fuca) had advance voting on both of those first two days. Usually a strong advance voting turnout indicates a committed voter population who, on election day, will cast their vote hastily due to an early rush on election day. 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. BC NDP Leader John Horgan’s riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca there were 5,519 cast. BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver is running in Oak Bay-Gordon Head where 5,176 advance votes were cast April 29-30 & May 3. Normally a strong advance voting turnout indicates a committed voter population who are more likely to cast their vote on election day.

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

All advance votes will be added to the general election count on Tuesday, May 9. Any advance votes that are cast over the 28-day campaign at District Election Offices are not being tallied for those votes. Official final vote results of this 41st BC General Election will be provided by Elections BC on May 23. 16/7

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 an open listening voice on 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 have to do with his committed heart. I’ve been talking with people all over BC about the need to come together to govern the province. 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 perspective” and “some of the strongest candidates any party could wish for”.

Suzuki endorses the Greens

West Shore Voice News

“I am officially endorsing Andrew Weaver and the BC Green Party for the upcoming provincial election,” said environmental activist David Suzuki, May 3.

“I have never endorsed a political party before and I never expected to faceboook it. 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 party speaks to “perhaps 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. “That’s our vision for a real health and well-being of British Columbia, from education to housing affordability to the environment.”

Weaver was already a leading climate scientist, he was named by Magazine in 2007, 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 April will push even harder for Greens to become a “dominant force” in BC provincial politics.

“The Green party is in a great position to leverage for success for Greens to become a ‘dominant force’ in BC provincial politics.” Suzuki did spin hats with a bold this endorsement, saying he 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.”

Horgan on the NDP provincial trail

Green trail: Brendan Ralts this week

This week BC Green Party candidate Brendan Ralts (Langford-Juan de Fuca) visited the Pachetdance First Nation at Port Renfrew, and met voters at Pachetdance First Nation at Port Renfrew, and met voters at Pocono’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 Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) at Green candidate Chris Maxwell’s office in the Tillicum area.

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

Down to the wire: two west shore ridings

WEST SHORE/BEACHES: John Horgan (BC Liberal) and Cathy Noel (BC Green)

WEST SHORE: BC Liberal candidate Barb Desjardins (left) and Cathy Noel, compared notes about issues the ridings they hope to win. 16/7

WEST SHORE: BC Liberal candidate Barb Desjardins (left) and Cathy Noel, compared notes about issues the ridings they hope to win.
Unused medications belong back at the pharmacy

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

CRD Region

Web COURTESY edition www.westshorevoicenews.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: 46% of residents in the CRD area still toss unused or expired 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 the BCMRP program include:

• 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/rvp
www.crd.bc.ca/cleanwater

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 Steve Young.

Also wrapping up (as of June 30) is the Langford Greenline bus, launched last fall to help ease commuter traffic round trip between Langford and Victoria.

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.

Bear Mountain up for sale

West Shore Voice News

Bear Mountain, owned by Ecotasis 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 1300 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.

Roving Play Parks & Neighbourhood Nights

West Shore Voice News

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

Bundle it! to save over $80

West Shore Parks & Recreation

Summer PASS

Drop in all summer long to the pool, weight room, skating, soccer camp, Familij times or sports, for just $90 plus tax.

Pass valid from June 1 – August 31, 2017

Free entry for families of 4 or more. Some drops for WestShorePASS and/or extra fees may apply.

Regional May Pass

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VIRL survey says:

- 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 4 pm on Tuesday May 16: 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

Turf field ... from one town to another

The District of Sooke has approved $750,000 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 from the City of Langford.

For that, $270,500 was released to the Sooke Community Association (SCA) by Sooke Council on Monday, May 1. Public input included comments 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 local farmers have surplus produce they wish to sell, Jodie Dowling, Director of Agriculture, said Bonnano in a chat afterward with West Shore Voice News.

Freedom Mobile expanding into Sooke

Freedom Mobile Inc has proposed a 50.0m tall monopole type telecommunications tower with a microwave antenna 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 a proposed location. The facility is proposed on 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: 1-855-361-1520. publicconsultation@cypresslandservices.com

West Shore Voice News

Rapid-fire public input for new Sooke library

by Mary P Broke, 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 Mayor Maja Tait.

Ideas and suggestions flowed non-stop from the audience in a casual manner for over an hour and a half. Among those participating, there was evidence that the new Sooke 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.

Some 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 senior citizens... though they are welcome to rent out a room for meetings or events, said Bannano 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.

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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.

Web COURTESY edition

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Advancing Vision. continuous Fri May 5, Sat May 6
For Langford-Juan de Fuca in Sooké 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, 11-2787 Jacklin Rd in Langford. 250-952-5014
For Esquimalt-Metchosin the Voting Stations are at CoHo, Colwood Centennial School, Esquimalt United Community Hall, Songhees Wellness Centre, View Royal Town Hall, West Shore Parks & Rec. [All 8am-9pm]
All Esquimalt-Metchosin voters may vote any day up to and including May 9, at the District Electoral Office, 3-1905 Sooke Rd, in Colwood, 250-925-4408.
Sooke Potheoles Guided Walk Sat May 6 10amnoon, age 8+, bring lunch & water. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca
Duck Race Sat May 6 fundraiser by Sooke Harbourside Lions. 11-3 race (1pm). $5 tx (does to SLH members. BC Green Party Rally. Sat May 6 at Delta Ocean Point Hotel, 100 Harbour Rd, Victoria. 6 to 7 pm
Emergency Preparedness Fair Sun May 7, 11am-7pm. Jdf Rec Seniors Centre, 1767 Island Hwy. Kids activities, draws, Spencerport, Noon & View Royal Fire Dept.
BLOOD DONOR Clinic. Mon May 8 Sooke. 11:30am-6:30pm. 1-888-236-6283 or www.blood.ca
Sooke Council. Mon May 8. 7pm. www.sooke.ca
Open Daily at 6716 West Coast Rd in Sooke. MonToSun 7am10pm. Your Medication & Compounding Experts
Phone: 250-642-2226

South island hot market West Shore Voice News
Housing is clearly a commodity market (over and above just a place to live), as prices escalate higher.

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 $54,140 ($449,500); average $649,601; Gordon $799,509 ($589,900); Sooke $709,585; [Sooke $457,500 ($374,200); average $501,197. And the overall south island Greater Victoria area $653,500 ($568,100); raw average $633,085. WSV

3rd annual ARTiFACTS exhibit is bustling West Shore Voice News
For the Sooke region artists with items on display at 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 been sold! A meet-the-artist gathering was held in the upstairs gallery on April 29.

On Sunday May 21 artsit 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 postmark.

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
Sooke Early birds & night owls catch faster fish West Shore Voice News
BC Ferries is offering ‘Sunrise and Sunset’ savings on early morning and late evening sailings on routes between Metro Vancouver–Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver–Sunshine Coast, May 18 through September 15.

Passenger vehicle and driver fares will be offered at $39, $49 and $59 on selected sailings between Tsawwassen, Nanaimo, Swartz Bay, Duke Point, Horseshoe Bay–Departure Bay and at $39 return trip between Horseshoe Bay–Langdale. This gives customers a choice of fare price if they have flexibility with the time-of-day for travel, and frees up space on busier sailings.

Space on the selected sailings is first-come, first-served. Reservations are $10 if booked seven days or more in advance, www.bcferries.com. WSV

West Shore Voice News
BEYOURSELF

www.sookecommunityarts.com

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Garbage Warrior
Victoria
FREE ESTIMATES
250-642-8503
www.garbagewarriorvictoria.com

Blueberry Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 9am-2pm at the Sooke Community Arts Council.（rescheduled from May 9）, 7pm at the Sooke Civic Centre, 3-1905 Sooke Rd, in Colwood, 250-925-4408.
Sooke Potheoles Guided Walk Sat May 6 10amnoon, age 8+, bring lunch & water. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca
Duck Race Sat May 6 fundraiser by Sooke Harbourside Lions. 11-3 race (1pm). $5 tx (does to SLH members. BC Green Party Rally. Sat May 6 at Delta Ocean Point Hotel, 100 Harbour Rd, Victoria. 6 to 7 pm
Emergency Preparedness Fair Sun May 7, 11am-7pm. Jdf Rec Seniors Centre, 1767 Island Hwy. Kids activities, draws, Spencerport, Noon & View Royal Fire Dept.
BLOOD DONOR Clinic. Mon May 8 Sooke. 11:30am-6:30pm. 1-888-236-6283 or www.blood.ca
Sooke Council. Mon May 8. 7pm. www.sooke.ca
Open Daily at 6716 West Coast Rd in Sooke. MonToSun 7am10pm. Your Medication & Compounding Experts
Phone: 250-642-2226

South island hot market West Shore Voice News
Housing is clearly a commodity market (over and above just a place to live), as prices escalate higher.

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 $54,140 ($449,500); average $649,601; Gordon $799,509 ($589,900); Sooke $709,585; [Sooke $457,500 ($374,200); average $501,197. And the overall south island Greater Victoria area $653,500 ($568,100); raw average $633,085. WSV

3rd annual ARTiFACTS exhibit is bustling West Shore Voice News
For the Sooke region artists with items on display at 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 been 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 postmark.

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
Sooke Early birds & night owls catch faster fish West Shore Voice News
BC Ferries is offering ‘Sunrise and Sunset’ savings on early morning and late evening sailings on routes between Metro Vancouver–Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver–Sunshine Coast, May 18 through September 15.

Passenger vehicle and driver fares will be offered at $39, $49 and $59 on selected sailings between Tsawwassen, Nanaimo, Swartz Bay, Duke Point, Horseshoe Bay–Departure Bay and at $39 return trip between Horseshoe Bay–Langdale. This gives customers a choice of fare price if they have flexibility with the time-of-day for travel, and frees up space on busier sailings.

Space on the selected sailings is first-come, first-served. Reservations are $10 if booked seven days or more in advance, www.bcferries.com. WSV

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