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West Shore Voice News

WEST SHORE VOICE 6 pages this issue

BC ELECTION RESULTS
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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, May 12, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING
 RELEASE DATE MAY 13, 2017

Absentee ballots could tip the vote

BC CLIFFHANGER

Election results PART ONE

by Mary P Brooke, Editor
 West Shore Voice News



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Web Courtesy Edition

Had this been a prime-time TV series and the season finale had left everyone hanging for several months over the summer, at least we'd all be on the same page.

And as the sands of the May 9 BC Election results will officially shift into place around May 23 when the absentee ballots are counted in 87 ridings across the province, politically there still are moving parts. The official recount in Courtenay-Comox following the result of a mere nine-vote spread will be the most-watched result of the final count.

First step on the morning after the May 9 general election was BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon asking BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark to continue serving as Premier. A top-down decision was required because the BC Liberals fell short of the required 44 seats to form a majority. Of the now 87 seats in the BC Legislature (up from 85 in the last session), Clark and her team won 43 of the MLA seats -- one seat shy.

See-sawing on the other side of the cliffhanger is the BC NDP. Under their leader John Horgan, the 'orange wave' did increase the number of NDP seats from 35 (at dissolution April 11) to 41 on election night. A notable gain, but not enough to reach a majority.

The BC-NDP's percentage of the popular vote was 39.86% (producing 41 seats), a hair's breadth below the BC Liberals' 40.84% (producing 43 seats).

Without the Greens winning three seats, Horgan could have possibly won

a majority for the NDP in this province. But the strange mix of populist-right/populist-left that is distinct in BC, has become tempered in 2017 by the wisdom of the collective voter mind in these challenging socioeconomic times.

The Greens were the apparent game-changers on Tuesday night. They will now hold three seats in the BC Legislature, having won three south-island ridings: Andrew Weaver, leader (Oak Bay-Gordon Head), Adam Olsen (who defeated NDP Gary Holman in Saanich North and the Islands), and Sonia Furstenu (overcoming NDP support in Cowichan Valley where long-time NDP MLA Bill Routley had retired). Two of those seats ate into long-time NDP territory. Almost like a note of caution that British Columbians want the kind of people-first governance that the NDP have promised, but carefully so.

Green Party leader Andrew Weaver has been getting most of the press these last few days, with the word rippling nationally that his party had achieved the largest elected Green presence in North America and --- for now --- holds the reins of power.

Weaver is figuratively the ingenu placed squarely between two monarchs with long-time demonstrable power. He appears primed for this -- intellectually sharp and at this point motivated for the greater good more so than political gain for its own sake. He's fresh with insight, ready to inject new momentum into one or both targets who for their own

survival now have no choice but to be delivered into the hands of someone with the wisdom to apply it for the larger whole. With only two other players on his immediate team -- wings with which to fly beyond his previous one-seat presence in the legislature. It's a real chance to carry BC forward in a short period of time, based on cooperation.

The limbo that the politically-connected are living in right now is massively uncomfortable. The NDP, who had hoped to elect Horgan as the next BC Premier on May 9, are squirming between the lack of jubilation they expected to feel on Tuesday night and the jubilation that Horgan hopes they will still feel given his 'wait and see the results' televised speech post-midnight on May 10.

Almost taking a stance of 'rightful heirs', the NDP are hopeful for possibly five more seats (following the absentee vote count and -- as announced May 13 -- two official recounts). This creates a sort of emotional turmoil. So that's where NDP supporters sit for now, while Horgan postures politely to the Greens until it becomes evident what the Greens might truly offer.

Ditto for Christy Clark, in a modified way. The BC Liberals must also be feeling a sense of limbo, even though bravado was the style that Clark projected on election night. There was more loss on the BC Liberal side (four cabinet ministers and overall six seats since the 2013 election), falling short of the 'easy-win' majority that they expected.

The NDP could right now choose to more broadly pump up their public relations about their seat-gain... staying strong in the eyes, hearts and minds of their faithful (and newly-wooded) NDP voter base.

In the 28-day campaign Horgan rode the populist wave without making it seem too radical, and it worked; they took seats from the conservative BC Liberals and didn't bleed seats overall to the Greens. They could make some lemonade out of a 3-seat-majority-shortfall by promoting the depth and power of their party. Which lays bare one of the handicaps of the NDP mindset ... they win over hearts but they don't hold the minds quite as well. It's okay to toot your own horn when it's to the benefit of all. A little bit of PR jazz never hurt anyone who rightfully has something to celebrate.

And so the twist of fate of this BC election is "what will Weaver do" with this sudden new-found power, the fate of BC in his hands (short term at least).

The natural inclination of the progressive voter is to expect a coalition (formal or otherwise) between the NDP and the Greens. In numbers combined, those two parties gained almost 60% of the vote. In that context, to some it feels a bit like betrayal to see Weaver posturing to work with the BC Liberals. But with the right fortune, the Greens could that way make a few quick and significant gains for British Columbians, aiming at things that Christy Clark could do for a win-win result (e.g. ban

.... continued on page 2

Web Courtesy Edition

BC ELECTION 2017

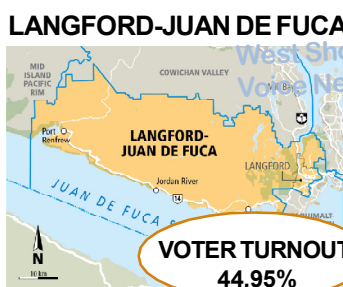
Regional Final Results: NDP hangs onto the west shore



Province-wide voter turnout was about 60% (up from 57% in 2013).
 BC NDP Leader & MLA-Elect Langford-Juan de Fuca John Horgan, MLA

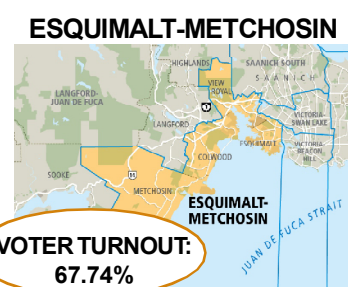


BC NDP MLA-Elect Esquimalt-Metchosin Mitzi Dean



ELECTED: John Horgan, BC NDP Party Leader, incumbent 52.78%
 > Cathy Noel, BC Liberal 26.35%
 > Brendan Ralfs, Green 18.87%
 > Scott Burton, Libertarian 1.03%
 > Willie Nelson, Vancouver Island Party 0.96%

BC Election results May 9, 2017
 This tally includes Advance Votes, but not the absentee votes (those come on or after May 23)



ELECTED: Mitzi Dean, NDP 46.01%
 > Barb Desjardins, BC Liberal 27.96%
 > Andy MacKinnon, Green 24.76%
 > Josh Steffler, Libertarian 0.63%
 > Delmar Martay, independent 0.38%
 > Tyson Strandlund, Communist 0.26%

West Shore Voice News

EDITORIAL

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

The people spoke, in many voter-dialects

● **People who are focused on running businesses and directly developing the economy** voted one way. People sticking up for the challenged and disadvantaged in our province voted another way. And those who saw the need for a shift in how governance is done, brought a third voting block to the mix. And within those blocks were local variations of course.

Like speaking in dialects of one language, this is the mix that produced what looks like it will be a minority government in BC. This can be a worthwhile phase. Pragmatism and the sharper edge of a functioning minority government is an opportunity for productivity and adjusting areas of policy and service delivery to 'get them right'. Well done, BC voters! ■



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

Veronique Cagnon

BC ELECTION 2017

ELECTION ANALYSIS ... continued from page 1

corporate and union donations in BC, produce a prompt shift from medical services premium billings over to an income-tax model, and resolve the housing affordability issue.

Rarely does an opportunity like this come along, with significant change made possible by a small new contingent. British Columbians could conceivably gain more in the short term if the Greens line up with the established BC Liberals government machine.

But over the long-term, the heart of British Columbians appears to remain underloved without an NDP temperament at the top from time to time. Presuming there is a minority government after the May 23 final tally -- say 42-42-3 -- then some pragmatic results will likely be produced for just about everyone in the province in the short term. This is what the pulse of May 9 results was about: 'we don't want the money-management BC Liberals completely gone but we want them to pay attention to some urgent social, housing and health care matters'.

Minority governments are by nature fragile. The buzz is that even a fortuitously functional one might last only 18 to 24 months.

Then once the NDP in particular have regrouped their campaign warchest, they could stretch the electorate just a little bit farther to a full majority in an election about two years from now when the 2017-alignment starts to unravel. If a few readily-requested improvements to daily living in BC are achieved over the next two years, the idea of a full-on NDP majority in 2019 might not be the 'scary thing' that some sectors paint it or believe it to be. Or it might not seem too necessary to flip to NDP. Hard to say.

Majority government stability offers a sense of comfort, so long as life is reasonably good. Perhaps not quite a flash in the pan, but this powerful moment in the sun for the BC Greens can look good on all leaders. Christy Clark and the BC Liberals can choose to appear cooperative, John Horgan and the NDP can (if they don't lose momentum) begin to appear like a safe bet, and Andrew Weaver will win popular favour for the Greens for a long while to come.

Folks of all political stripes will be sitting on pins and needles for about two more weeks. Not just for numerical results, but that a period of attention to productive change could very well be just about ready to unfold.

Clark herself could come of out this virtually unscathed. She lost a few players off the chess board last week but can maintain a hold on the overall reins of government. It would be reckless for this re-elected premier to wield power the way she did with a flat-out majority. If she moves forward with humility, she'll only look the better for it. And the NDP should not lose

lose hope. Their shift to full power could be a longer and deeper one starting in a few years' time and be more robust than the "we don't want to be career politicians" Greens can hope to have at this point. Operating strategically in a minority government, the NDP could contain and hold their enhanced position that is now heated up and whirring just below the surface. On pause if you will, ready to burst out of the gate from a position of power in the next election. If Horgan can assure his base (and the all-important new-to-NDP voters) that progress has been made and it's no time to back down, then the NDP won't have to pull up from far behind like they did after their demoralizing defeat in 2013.

In some ways, this second-place finish by the BC NDP was self-imposed. For instance, they have their own party rules that require a female candidate to replace any female candidate or MLA in the same riding. And that someone of an evident minority be run as the candidate under an internal party formula. In and of themselves, those are fine goals. But if you're running to win in a critical election, the strategic move is to run the best candidate irrespective of gender, evident minority or other data-driven parameter.

The final count announcement expected May 24 will determine the makeup of the legislature, as several seats were won with margins of a few hundred votes or less. Should neither the BC Liberals nor the BC NDP end up with 44+ seats, negotiations between party leaders Christy Clark, John Horgan, and Andrew Weaver will determine whether a minority government or a coalition government can be established. It's probably a bit tough, but necessary, for Clark and Horgan to now woo a relatively new player in a relatively new party, with a relatively new political style and agenda. Walking the green carpet, if you will.

Probably the most notable NDP strategic achievement in this campaign was keeping the BC Liberals out of the NDP Vancouver Island stronghold. The "first-ever Vancouver Island platform" rolled out by the BC Liberals was almost flawlessly flicked away by the NDP machine. Short of Benninger winning Courtenay-Comox in the recount, BC Liberals island representation is diminished right down to the count of one (Michelle Stilwell was re-elected in Parksville-Qualicum).

The Greens taking two more ridings (on top of Weaver's in Oak Bay - Gordon Head) in the south Vancouver Island area was for localized reasons, which can further inspire the BC NDP for next time. The counterpoint to this is that Vancouver Island (ironically through the direct and indirect power of three Greens) is the tail that wags the government and Opposition for the next while at least.

No matter the final result after May 23, the biggest winners are British Columbians -- as it should be. For at least a couple of years a few key socioeconomic snarls will be sorted out through inter-party cooperation. **WSV**



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West Shore Voice News



Democracy in action

Voting in the 41st BC Provincial General Election was in full action mode mid-afternoon at the Voting Place at Sooke Community Hall on Tuesday, May 9. For this election there were 3,156,991 total registered voters in BC (as of April 11); of those, 614,389 came out to cast ballots during Advance Voting (Apr 29 & 30, May 3-6). **WSV**

Voting picked up speed by mid-day

● **On General Election Day May 9**, some Voting Places in the two west shore ridings of Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca and Langford-Juan de Fuca had a bit of a voter rush upon opening at 8am. Then it was steady for most of the morning and early afternoon. By mid-afternoon, voter traffic started to pick up. At the Sooke Community Hall location for voting, lead organizer Janet Evans said she was expecting it to be extremely busy from mid-afternoon through till the 8pm end of voting.

Some issues at Voting Places included what appeared to be insufficient outdoor directional signage, including one complaint from a voter in the morning at the busy West Shore Recreation location. By around dinner time, Elections BC communications manager Andrew Watson said it was being dealt with.

At the Four Points Sheraton voting location all manner of helpfulness was made available. One senior sitting to rest in the lobby was offered 'curbside voting' by which the official would bring a ballot to him instead of the elderly man having to be mobile within the large ballroom location.

Scrutineers were seen doing their work of process observation at all locations visited by West Shore Voice News on May 9. Some people were waiting on seniors and others who they had assisted or chauffeured to the Voting Place.

A lot of Voting Place personnel training went into making the 12-hour day run as smoothly as possible for all concerned. **WSV**

Victory on pause

● **"The results are still uncertain** but a better BC is still possible," BC NDP Leader John Horgan has told supporters in an email message this week, after the NDP won 41 seats, three short of a majority.

"From day one this campaign was about people, and it was powered by people. From our 87 diverse candidates to our 10,000 volunteers, from the 26,000 of you who donated to the hundreds of thousands of you who voted -- I take great pride in what we've accomplished together," said Horgan who became party leader in May 2014.

"Our campaign connected with people and our message resonated -- it helped bring a new generation of campaigners and elect 15 new MLAs who will work for you in the legislature," he said.

The NDP are hoping to hang onto Courtenay-Comox after the official recount in that riding, as well as gain seats in other close races. Final count will be issued May 24 by Elections BC. **WSV**

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LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA

Horgan's home team on election night

West Shore Voice News

At 10:15 pm on election night, May 9, John Horgan's home team in Langford-Juan de Fuca was "excited about John sweeping in here", adding it was "kind of wierd when he's not around". Horgan won the riding with 52.78% of the vote. "Provincially there's lots of excitement," said organizer Bruce Fogg over the phone. "It's so much better this time (compared to the 2013 election night result for the NDP). "We never took anything for granted," said Ravi Parmar who organized Horgan's local ground-game. "John was able to join us by Skype and talk to volunteers. He was honoured and thankful for those who supported him. He looks forward to serving Landford-Juan de Fuca for another four years." At that point, advance votes were still being counted. "History shows that is our strong suit," said Parmar. "John's base came out. He held on to what he had." **WSV**

Cathy Noel on election night

West Shore Voice News

BC Liberal candidate Cathy Noel (Langford-Juan de Fuca) and her campaign team hung out at Poncho's Coffee House in Langford on election night.

Noel was elated with winning 26.35% of the vote in the west shore riding. "I'm very proud of the job I've done as well as the whole team. We didn't win, but I won," she said on Tuesday evening.

"This got me into the political arena. I met so many people. And I have learned so much. And there is so much to be done," Noel said from her celebration party over the phone.

Will she do more with the BC Liberals? "I'm not sure yet. But I will assess my next step and what next door I walk through.

I want to be involved. I believe in this community. Things have to be done. I'm looking at municipal or provincial," said Noel.

"I've enjoyed getting to know Sooke -- across the riding is huge. It's diverse and unique, From knocking on the doors I learned that everyone wants something for their community and they just need a voice," said Noel. "There's Sunriver, and old and new Sooke. It's a diverse population."

Noel adds that she ran a clean campaign and didn't over-promise.

The next day she was back to organizing marathon races, her day job. **WSV**

Brendan Ralfs on election night

West Shore Voice News

Langford-Juan de Fuca Green Candidate Brendan Ralfs will be back to his provincial government day job next week. But on election night May 9 he was happy about winning almost 19% of the vote in Langford-Juan de Fuca (4,341 votes / 18.87%). "People came forward to volunteer and we should be able to get a strong Green Party riding association going in Langford-Juan de Fuca. We can build a network for next time, and that could be sooner than four years given the likely minority government," Ralfs told *West Shore Voice News* on Tuesday night.

It was still before midnight on May 9 and Green party leader Andrew Weaver had not yet joined the crowd of Green supporters in the ballroom at the Ocean

Pointe hotel. "At that point the outcome remained uncertain," said Ralfs. Shortly after that, Weaver made a jubilant speech in the wake of expanding the number of Green seats in the Legislature from his one, to in total three. **WSV**

Election results PART TWO:
Final results analysis in the May 26
issue of West Shore Voice News

BC Transit seeks more drivers

West Shore Voice News

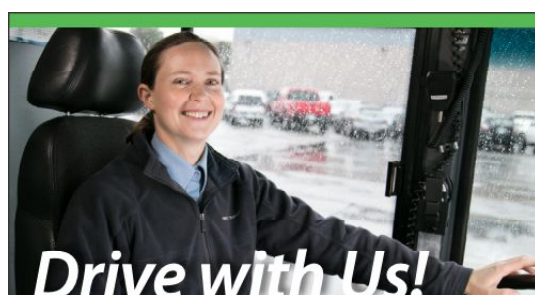
BC Transit is looking for customer-focused and safety-conscious individuals who are passionate about serving the local community to join the Transit Operator team in Victoria.

A paid 9-week training program is provided for learning how to operate every kind of bus in the fleet. Trainees will be supported to earn a Class 2 commercial license with air brakes.

"Bring your passion for driving, and we'll do the rest," says one BC Transit rep. The career opportunity is considered to be challenging and rewarding, with competitive compensation and comprehensive benefits.

The six core values for employees are safety, customer service, sustainability, collaboration, integrity and innovation.

www.bctransit.com **WSV**



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ESQUIMALT-METCHOSIN Post-election interviews by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

Victorious Mitzi Dean: three days in

"I feel really proud, very humbled by all the support," said MLA-elect Mitzi Dean just three days after the May 9 election night whirlwind.

This brand new political career -- already high-profile -- comes fast on the heels of a 30-year career in social services. "Every day on the campaign it felt like it was right decision. It all aligned," Dean told *West Shore Voice News* on May 12. She found that what she already thought was happening for families and the community was reflected on the doorstep. "That matched the priorities in NDP platform, so this was all a natural step," reflected the 48-year-old former executive director of the Pacific Centre Family Services Association.

"I'm so appreciative of how many people helped our campaign and gave up their time to help us be successful," says Dean. "I really look forward to serving everybody across the whole constituency."

At her campaign office, it was at least until after 10pm on Tuesday night, election night, that she was still waiting with her campaign team who "gave me a sense of their interpretation" of the incoming results." The advance poll count was awaited. In total she got 10,803 votes.

Life has changed overnight for Dean. "What I see in this is being able to better serve my community. Now I'm learning more about how I can do that," she said as she outlined some of the steps: setting up a constituency office, being accessible to hear from people and continue advocating on health of our community.

Dean says she feels fortunate to have a lot of mentors around her, experienced people who have been in politics a long time. "I talk to them about what the possible options are, and what I can do to continue our best service to our communities."

"We're still waiting to see what might happen (after the final BC-wide results are made known by Elections BC after May 23). Whatever happens, all our NDP MLAs will make sure we give voice to our communities that we represent and work hard for," says Dean.

"My family is really excited for me. They understand that it's a cause more than a job," says Dean about her husband and 6-year-old daughter. "My daughter tells me she is very proud of me. My husband is a great supporter otherwise I wouldn't have come so far in community service."

On Wednesday there was a lot of media to deal with, then "needing to catch up with team and see how they're feeling". Then started the nuts and bolts communication with the legislature and the Party ... how the MLAs get sworn in and putting those wheels in motion. **WSV**



Mitzi Dean
MLA-Elect

Esquimalt-Metchosin

Barb Desjardins on election night

West Shore Voice News

BC Liberal candidate Barb Desjardins on election night was disappointed about not winning in Esquimalt-Mechosin.

"When I look at the whole election, it showed a lot of surprises," Desjardins said in an interview with *West Shore Voice News* by phone on Tuesday evening. It was clear by then that NDP candidate Mitzi Dean had won in Esquimalt-Metchosin.

"There will be lots of analysis in the days ahead. There will be a number of factors. Around the province there was a sense of change that carried over to the riding for sure," Desjardins said.

She feels good about ending up with "good strong numbers" (6,564 votes / 27.96%) in Metchosin, and good results in Colwood. And this: "I hear now that in Esquimalt people didn't want to lose me as Mayor." **WSV**

MacKinnon pleased at support

West Shore Voice News

"Congratulations to all of the candidates in Esquimalt-Metchosin, and special congratulations to Mitzi Dean for her victory," says Andy MacKinnon, Green Party Candidate for Esquimalt-Metchosin. "I'm pleased that we had such strong voter turnout in our riding, and honoured that nearly 6,000 voters chose me as their preferred candidate."

"Thanks to all of the friends and volunteers who worked tirelessly on my campaign," MacKinnon said a few days after the flurry of the election calmed down. "I'm happy that by running a positive campaign that we've managed to increase our Green Party percentage in this riding considerably," says MacKinnon. He is a Metchosin municipal councillor who ran provincially for the first time in this recent BC election. MacKinnon's result May 9 was 5,814 votes (24.76%).

"This is a very exciting time for the BC Green Party, with three Green MLAs and significant support in ridings across the province," MacKinnon said. **WSV**

Angus Reid's 'day-after' notes

West Shore Voice News

It was interesting timing that the Angus Reid Institute chose the day after the May 9 BC election to release a commentary on likeability of political party leaders during an election. They covered this topic, among others, in a report at www.angusreid.org/fasten-seat-belts-british-columbians-enjoy-political-ride/

On measures of "favourability and positive momentum", the report said that Christy Clark trails behind John Horgan and Andrew Weaver in terms of likability. And the report seemed to newly discover that Horgan was apparently not widely known on the BC mainland ahead of this election, which is old news to political pundits. Seat gains by the NDP on the mainland this week may prove that Horgan did his homework plus the legwork to turn his presence into orange gold.

Angus Reid executive director Shachi Kurl wrote: "The big question that hung in the air before the polls closed was whether soft NDP supporters -- most of them younger, with a lower propensity to vote -- would show up. Many did, but not enough to deliver the NDP the majority it has coveted for so long."

Perhaps online voting would take care of bumping up the youth vote. But those who influence government decision-makers over the years seem to make sure the online voting idea suffers from cold feet. **WSV**

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Pharmaceuticals in wastewater reach fish & people

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

● **Not a lot of this is new information.** But it's starting to reach general awareness that many of the drugs people take -- whether pharmaceutical prescriptions, over-the-counter, recreation or elicit -- are ending up in whole or in part in the drinking water system and marine ecosystems.

It is estimated that at least 60% of the population is excreting drug by-products into wastewater systems. That includes widely used products like painkillers and oral contraceptives.

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

"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.

Stephanie Yeboah, Pharmasave owner in Sooke, is of the new generation of pharmacists. At age 30, her rigorous training in biochemistry and pharmacology is fresh and top of mind.

"Even with a coating, these pills break down and still present active ingredients to the marine ecosystem," says Yeboah.

The reproductive ability of fish can be compromised. Fish are important to the marine ecosystem and are an important source of food for people. Research from Lund University in Sweden (2016) shows that hormones found in birth control pills alter the genes in fish, affecting their drive to catch food and to procreate. Ethinyl-estradiol (EE2) is an active substance in birth control pills which affects aquatic organisms. "This can lead to the complete disappearance of

an entire fish population, and consequences for entire ecosystems," the report states.

Trace elements of drugs have been found in city water supplies. As reported in the journal *Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry* (2015), in one Ontario town 17 drugs were getting into the water system. After downstream dilution plus treatment at the water plant, the final on-tap cocktail still included cocaine, meth, ephedrine (used to make meth), benzoylcegonine (active in cocaine), and several prescription opioids including codeine. The artificial sweetener sucralose was tested for. That, and morphine, survived the journey downstream but was eliminated during drinking water treatment.

Yeboah has recently checked about this with pharmaceutical manufacturers back east; she says there is no attempt by manufacturers (within the drugs themselves) to deal with after-use chemical impacts on the environment.

Expired and leftover drugs of any kind can be returned to any pharmacy in BC (no fee) for proper disposal (usually by incineration). www.crd.bc.ca/mrp **WSV**
www.crd.bc.ca/cleanwater

Emergency Preparedness Fair a big hit

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News



Family fun and dozens of displays under sunny skies at the Emergency Preparedness Fair in the parking lot behind the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre in Colwood, May 7.

Learning about preparedness, one interesting display at a time

West Shore Voice News

● **"The Emergency Prep Fair was a great event!"** says Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton. "There were lots of folks attending and interesting vendors. It's amazing to see the search and rescue dogs at work," said Hamilton who spent time on Sunday May 7 making her way around the displays and activities.

"There was a lot of helpful information from the various vendors to consider to be emergency prepared in your car, home or office!" Hamilton said.

Indoors at one of the displays set up in the Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre, Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Coordinator Jeri Grant said people at her ShakeOutBC display were aware of the annual province-wide ShakeOut earthquake drill event. "But some people were but not really understanding the full 'Drop, Cover and Hold' and why we practice year after year," said Grant. Here's the scoop:

- You **DROP** to lower your center of gravity, **COVER** to protect your body and most importantly your head and neck, **HOLD ON** because things will be moving (side to side or up and down).
- The practicing every year is to develop muscle memory so when the earthquake happens your body knows what to do.

"People seem to realize that we are in a seismic active area and they should be prepared for an earthquake," says Grant. "Some visitors to the booth talked about what life would be like after a big earthquake and how to prepare for that," she said.

Trucks on hand at the fair with interesting equipment displays included CRD Hazmat, the Royal Canadian Navy Bomb Squad, and Juan de Fuca Search & Rescue. **WSV**

Visitors from Peru

● **A visiting group from Peru** will be in Victoria area next week as part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)-sponsored CISAL Project on Economic Sustainability. Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton will participate on behalf



BC Ambulance Service West Shore Unit Chief Andrew Britton and Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton at the Emergency Preparedness Fair in Colwood, May 7.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator Jeri Grant hosted the ShakeOut booth, May 7.





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Radioactive waste leaking into ground in WA state

● **Workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation** in southeastern Washington State found a sinkhole in the ground on Tuesday morning, May 9, raising concern about the spread of contamination. Workers were evacuated and people in a 500-sq-mile area were advised to stay indoors. The hole may have gone undetected for up to four days, as stated by the US Dept of Energy.

"Nowhere in the United States is there more nuclear waste and radioactive contamination than at Hanford," reported the CBC this week. Cleanup at the site has apparently been undertaken since 1989 by the U.S. Department of Energy. The site was used for decades to produce weapons-grade nuclear fuel, beginning with the Manhattan Project and the Second World War.

In addition to the decades-old tunnel leaking radioactive dust into the air, some tanks have been found to be leaking highly radioactive liquid. Some 200 million litres of radioactive waste is being held in 177 large underground tanks. Many of the tanks are long past their operational life.

The 360-foot long (110-meter) rail tunnel was built in 1956 from timber, concrete and steel. Eight flatbed railroad cars loaded with radioactive material were parked inside when the entrance was sealed in 1965. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

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West Shore Voice News

Taxes in Sooke: property, sewer

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **In a nutshell**, property owners in Sooke will be paying 5.58% more in taxes this year, as approved by District of Sooke Council on May 8. Where 1.0 is the ratio for residential properties (x every \$100,000 in assessed property value), businesses will pay at a ratio of 2.45. The dozen light industrial businesses in Sooke pay higher than that at 3.4.

For a property owner with a house valued at \$400,000 last year -- and seeing a market value increase of 8% (valued at \$432,000), the actual tax increase is about \$70.

Property owners in the sewer-specified area will continue to pay \$552 per residential property (with variations on the sewer tax rate for restaurants and offices), explains District of Sooke Director of Finance Brent Blackhall. **WSV**



Director of Finance Brent Blackhall reviews the 2017 budget in his office at Sooke municipal hall.

West Shore Voice News

SD62 2017-2018 budget almost ready

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



SD62 trustees and senior staff met in the Spencer Middle School library for their May 10 Education Committee of the Whole meeting.

West Shore Voice News

● **The Sooke School District 62 (SD62) budget** for 2017-2018 is in final stages before approval, ahead of the May 31 BC Ministry of Education deadline. The current version of the budget -- with capital portion now approved and the operating portion of about \$100 million expected to pass first reading on May 23 -- is based on 10,400 students attending SD62 schools in September 2017. "That could even reach 10,500 students by September," says SD62 Treasurer Harold Cull. West shore housing affordability is driving student numbers up.

Capital budget revenues could be topped up by as much as \$1.7 million if the old Metchosin School can be sold; those funds could be used for SD62's portion of land purchases for additional schools as needed to support the growing student population. Other projects approved in the capital budget are: expansion of Royal Bay Secondary, phase 2 of roof replacement at EMCS, boiler replacement at Lakewood Elementary, and two more buses. **WSV**

Two Freedom Mobile towers for Sooke

● **Last week we reported on Freedom Mobile Inc** proposing 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. And there's another one proposed for 5154 Sooke Road.

The proposed structures will provide wireless coverage for the community of Sooke within a few kilometres of the proposed location.

The proposals will be presented at a District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting, coming up June 19 (previously scheduled for June 5).

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. **WSV**

SD62 engages career-support team

West Shore Voice News

● **The Teen Work Employment Initiative** on contract to Sooke School District 62 (SD62) helps students prepare for work experience opportunities. In a presentation to the SD62 board on Wednesday evening, May 10, the services provided to help students "transition to adulthood" were outlined.

"We focus on what the student wants and how to help get them there," the presenter told those in the room including SD62 trustees, SD62 senior staff, education stakeholders (e.g. principal/viceprincipals, teachers, CUPE support), and public. In addition to direct career guidance, there is attention to other factors of successful employment including social skills and personal presentation.

This service provides a level of support to overworked in-school counsellors whose time is spread thin between course-content career streaming and mental wellness support.

Recruiting appropriate real work experience opportunities from within the business community is the other challenge being addressed by the contractor.

While Teen Work has met with education support teachers and administration at all three high schools (Belmont, Royal Bay, Edward Milne Community School), the pilot schools are Belmont and Royal Bay.

It was emphasized that two or three different careers in a long adult lifetime is rapidly becoming the norm. "Creating our own job and pursuing our passions" is the way to fare better in a rapidly changing employment landscape. **WSV**

Twitter chat on privacy awareness: May 18

West Shore Voice News

● **Privacy Awareness Week** is May 15-21, 2017 in BC. This year's theme is *Trust and Transparency*. "We wanted to take this opportunity to encourage businesses and public bodies to be transparent about the personal information they collect," explains Drew McArthur, Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC.



Results from a recent Public Awareness Survey

will be released on Twitter @BCInfoPrivacy as well as various privacy tips. A one-hour Twitter chat with assistant commissioner Jay Fedorak will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 2pm. Send questions to info@oipc.bc.ca and follow @BCInfoPrivacy and #2017PAW to join the conversation. **WSV**

Victoria Symphony at Belmont

West Shore Voice News

● **About 2,500 students** from 17 elementary schools throughout SD62 (Langford, Colwood, Sooke) will be converging on Belmont Secondary in Langford to hear the Victoria Symphony Orchestra live! The event is on Thursday May 18 in the school gym. The special appearance by the symphony -- in three concerts, taking up most of the day -- was set in motion by SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge last year, says Belmont principal Ray Miller. Events like this capture the interest of young students who might then become more involved with music during their middle school and high school years. **WSV**

SD62 sorts out bus routes

West Shore Voice News

● **About 1,244 student riders** have been registered so far, for transport to and from school by bus in SD62 in 2017-2018. That's 38% of the expected total registrations, said SD62 Chair Bob Phillips at the May 10 SD62 Education Committee of the Whole meeting.

Registration has been open online since May 1, but will be temporarily suspended at May 31. That's so bus routes can be sorted vis-a-vis population shifts with new housing developments especially in the Langford and Colwood areas.

Parents will be advised of bus route assignments at the end of June, says Phillips. **WSV**



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday May 18, 2017

Open House: 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Presentation at 7 pm

Sooke Community Hall - Lower Meeting Room
2037 Shields Road

You are invited to join the developer, West Wind Harbour Cohousing, to discuss a proposed development that would permit a 32-unit senior cohousing community at 6603 Sooke Rd., Sooke (at Goodmere Rd., west of Mariner's Village)

For more information, please contact:
Kitty Elton 250-507-5521
email info@westwindharbour.ca
or visit www.westwindharbour.ca

www.westwindharbour.ca

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: May 17 for May 19 WSV

West Shore Voice News

Sooke Community Choir. 'Spirit Train' concerts. Fri May 12, Sat May 13, Sun May 14. Tx \$20 adult, \$15 senior, under 14 free. www.sookecommunitychoir.com

Esquimalt Buccaneer Days. Fri May 12, Sat May 13, Sun May 14. Mmidway, free local entertainment, sky divers, kids play zone, races, parade (May 13). www.esquimaltbuccaneerdays.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

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

Mother's Day. Sun May 14.

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society Sun May 14 members meeting. 2pm, Village Foods upstairs. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

City of Langford Council Meeting. Mon May 15. 5:30 pm. www.cityoflangford.ca

New Sooke Library public input survey. Online (from May 2) to 4pm on 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. www.bcfsc.ca

West Wind Harbour Cohousing Open House Thurs May 18 at Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd. 4 to 8:30 pm. Presentation at 7pm. www.westwindharbour.ca

May Long Weekend / Victoria Day stat holiday. Sat May 19-Mon May 22. Victoria Day Parade Mon May 22 in Victoria. www.victoriaday.ca

Sooke Halibut Derby: Sat May 20 & Sun May 21. Tx \$150. www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca

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

Repair Cafe. Sat May 27. 9-1 at at Sooke Community Hall. Bring stuff and learn how to fix it. free! Get your bike repaired, see a demo of 3D printing. Kids can build a bat house! Organized by Zero Waste Sooke. www.zerowastesooke.ca

Rugby Canada Women's Sevens May 27-28. Westhills Stadium. Buy tickets online: www.rugbycanada.ca

Decide in advance, where to meet-&-shelter in case you are separated from family and are unable to remain in your home in a disaster.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

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

SD62 bus online registration 2017-2018 phase one deadline Wed May 31. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

EMCS Grad. Sat June 3 at UVic 1pm. **Royal Bay Grad.** Sat June 4 at UVic 11 am. **Belmont Grad.** Sun June 11 at UVic 11 am. www.sd62.bc.ca

Langford Mayor's Golf Tournament. Fri June 9. www.cityoflangford.ca

Picnic in the Park. Sat June 17. Free family event. Sooke Bike Park & Stan Jones Ball Field. www.seaparc.ca

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WEB COURTESY EDITION

Making Mother's Day special for your mom

West Shore Voice News



● **It wasn't too long ago** that Mother's Day had a reputation for being the busiest day for long-distance phone calls to mothers around the world. Nowadays there will no doubt also be chats on Skype, emails, e-cards and texts as well as well-wishes on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

Restaurants are usually full to overflowing on this special day where -- really, not often enough -- families honour the mothers, grandmothers and any other caregivers who have raised their families, been there for all of it, good times and bad.

Florists and gift shops do well by Mother's Day. But some moms just enjoy the company of their children on that day, or receiving special mementoes or photos. From younger children, those handmade arts and crafts are keepers!

One trend this year seems to be making a recording of your Mom (on phone or video) to get a snapshot of family history or favourite family stories. This is a high-tech throwback to oral history of ancient times. All of it great.

This Mother's Day, Sunday May 14, where will you take your Mom or how will you make the day special for her? The memories will be good for you too. **WSV**

It's just tastier at the beach

West Shore Voice News

● **Beach food is back** for the summer in Colwood! May to September on Fridays and Saturdays on Ocean Boulevard. Here's the delicious profile for the next few dates:

Sat May 13

The Crispy Fish 11am-7pm
Greek on the Street 11am-7pm
L'Authentique Poutine & Burgers 3- 7pm

Fri May 19

Pepperman's Grill 11am-7pm
The Crispy Fish 11am-7pm
Greek on the Street 11am-7pm

Sat May 20

The Crispy Fish 11am-7pm
Greek on the Street 11am-7pm
Grilled to the Mac 3pm - 7pm



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Popcorn machine back in action at Castle

● **For about three weeks,** fans of the complimentary popcorn at the Castle Liquor Store in Sooke had to wait for the 25-year-old popcorn-making machine to get a replacement part. But as of last



week, the kernels were popping again. Every year, the Castle goes through about 70 cases of popcorn (36 packets per case), making freshly popped popcorn as a treat for regular liquor store patrons.

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More sailings Victoria Day weekend

West Shore Voice News

● **BC Ferries is adding over 85 extra sailings** on the most popular routes for the Victoria Day long weekend: Thursday May 18 through Tuesday May 23.

That includes the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay route (60 extra sailings), Horseshoe Bay-Departure Bay, Horseshoe Bay-Langdale, Earls Cover-Salter Bay.

The most popular travel times are expected to be Thursday and Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning. Monday is usually the busiest day for return trips. www.bcferrries.com **WSV**

TD Sooke celebrates 5 years

West Shore Voice News

● **The TD Canada Trust branch** in Sooke opened with big fanfare five years ago. This year's celebration was a bit more low-key but just as joyful.

The high-profile celebration in 2012 was held in the then-newly-constructed TD building at 6670 Sooke Road in Sooke town center (before there was a roundabout).

Featured among the festivities back on May 7, 2012 day was a BBQ, lots of green take-home swag, and the opportunity for a photo-op sitting in the well-known TD large green leather chair. Only five of those custom chairs across Canada!



Submitted photo

Staff old and new celebrated the 5th anniversary of the TD Canada Trust branch in Sooke on Thursday, May 11.

This year all available staff were called in for the day today, for balloons and snacks, and a chance to share memories. The branch continues to grow.

There have been four managers at the Sooke branch, starting with York Langerfeld to open the branch in May 2012, followed by Jay Rona, Mark Doberstein and presently Erich Falk. **WSV**

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