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WEST SHORE VOICE

ALMOST-SUMMER ISSUE

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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, June 2, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

Next big Langford project: Move one hydro pole, boost the economy

by Mary P Brooke
 West Shore Voice News

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

● Sometimes just one thing relocated can change a torrent of other things. Like pulling the stopper out of the drain... everything starts flowing.

That's how things are for Langford when it comes their Westhills Stadium. It presently seats about 2,200 people at full capacity, in bleachers on the south side. Seating could be expanded by another 3,000 if another set of permanent bleachers can be installed on the north side of the stadium area.

Being able to attract over 5,000 people for sports events would be a boon not just to the City of Langford but to the entire Vancouver Island west side. People would come to see or take part in a pro-game or other field activity, then perhaps stay awhile to shop or travel about. Tourism benefits are a big plus for all communities in the south island (Greater Victoria) area, and an expanded stadium would be a further economic driver.

This positions the rapidly growing City of Langford on yet another growth cusp, which could be significantly boosted by one thing... moving a hydro pole in order to build that second set of bleachers. That's for safety reasons. Transmission lines can't run overtop of people sitting below, says BC Hydro. And Langford is quite aware of that. And thus the stalemate has lasted about four years now, mostly over the cost but with a twist.

"We're hoping that BC Hydro can donate half the cost of moving the pole and lines," says Langford Mayor Stew Young. The idea is that such a contribution would help boost the entire region.

Young hopes that Westhills Stadium can further accommodate professional rugby games and other high-profile activities. Langford is home to Rugby Canada including an under-construction world class training centre that will be ready later this year. Westhills Stadium is presently one of the smaller venues on the international rugby circuit.

Even the 2022 Commonwealth Games could include Westhills Stadium as a venue (within a successful Victoria bid) if the seating became expanded. Last week the brewing pair of progressive political party leaders -- the Green's Andrew Weaver and the NDP's John Horgan -- were jostling over it ... would it be the UVic stadium in Weaver's Oak Bay riding or



To put in a second set of bleachers at Westhills Stadium, this hydro pole carrying 230 kV transmission lines would need to be moved across the street.

Westhills in Horgan's Langford-area riding that would get the limelight.

Athletes from 70 member territories from the Commonwealth of Nations are expected to compete in 2022. In a Victoria bid, the stadium at UVic would be large enough, but add Westhills and that would double the stadium capacity of this region. All good news for the south island economy, and part of why Langford feels that BC Hydro should step up to help shoulder the financial load.

The cost to relocate the pole was estimated (in 2014) at about \$4 million. Langford has this week submitted a bid to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for a \$6 million sports infrastructure strategic priorities grant. If successful, those funds would still leave only \$2 million for stadium improvements. Beyond that, the costs would likely have to fall to Langford taxpayers. But Stew Young insists the benefits are regional, and that BC Hydro as a public utility should support the project the way Fortis did by absorbing half the cost of relocating an underground natural gas line to facilitate this seating expansion.

BC Hydro says that all customer requests for changes to lines and poles must be borne by the customer that makes the request (in this case, the City of Langford). BC Hydro's community relations manager for Vancouver Island-Sunshine Coast, Ted Olynyk, said this week that the utility is mandated to keep hydro rates as low as possible, and would not be in a position to absorb a costly customer-requested change to technical infrastructure. And if the work of redirecting a major transmission line did proceed, there would also be an impact on



The present set of bleachers at Westhills Stadium seats about 2,000 people.

This week's election results chapter: Premier Clark holds on to follow 'best practice' while NDP & Greens make a progressive deal

West Shore Voice News



Premier Christy Clark

● This week BC Premier Christy Clark proposed that a confidence vote in the BC Legislature is likely to fail, given the apparent public support for the BC Green-BC NDP cooperation agreement that was delivered this week to the Lieutenant Governor at Government House in Victoria. And now everyone waits. The house is likely to be convened fairly soon. A Throne Speech from the current Premier, read by Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, may not cut the muster. In which case power would then shift to the BC NDP under a now presumptive-Premier John Horgan. That would put Christy Clark as the BC Liberal Party leader into the position of Leader of the Official Opposition -- a role she said she'd be pleased to take on.

All that would give BC a minority government headed by the NDP, with just three Green MLAs holding the balance of power to achieve the passage of legislation. But stability is the goal. At the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor, another BC General Election could still be called. [More in Editorial, page 2] WSV

businesses, homes and schools during a scheduled work outage, affecting a wide area of the west shore. It's possible there could be a temporary 'redirect' of power during the work (i.e. maintain some power service), but some degree of outage time would be required. There would be significant engineering matters to deal with, that cannot be "done hot". Some pain for long term gain. And for BC Hydro, any public angst around the impact of outages is a cost to bear. They would have to do public consultation ahead of such a project (with residents near a newly located transmission line), deal with customers during the outage, and with any aftermath.

With Rugby Canada and also the training and games of other team sports being an integral part of the Langford community and economy, it's a safe bet that Langford will do pretty much whatever it can to make the stadium seating expansion happen. There is even the draw of possibly hosting a CFL pre-season game. But only with a bigger seating capacity.

The mayor is looking out for the city's overall growth and expansion as well as trying to balance the short-term and mid-term impact on taxpayers. BC Hydro says it keeps in mind the interests of all of its customers province-wide.

Young says he hopes BC Hydro donates the \$1.5 million execution aspect of the work to relocate the pole (the other \$2.5 million of the \$4 million ticket is for engineering and associated costs). Olynyk says BC Hydro is not opposed to the seating expansion project, but that BC Hydro cannot discount the amount

that Langford would be billed for the work.

Perhaps with enough keen public interest, BC Hydro might see to considering a contribution to this project as a way of supporting the growth of south Vancouver Island, where the growing population will also produce increasing numbers of hydro utility customers. It seems to come down to the view of what a public utility is to the people, says Mayor Young. "It's owned by the people. BC Hydro could take more community pride in what they do," Young told West Shore Voice News this week.

The provision of electricity is a user-pay technical service (which since 2001 in BC has become dramatically privatized with steady rate increases under the BC Liberal government). But an electrical utility is also a major player in the very fabric of the economy and lifestyle of any jurisdiction, and could be seen to have an overarching societal responsibility. BC Hydro is certainly one of the biggest players in the provincial scene. Every resident and business is a customer.

If things do go ahead, the pole and line relocation would likely be safer, easier and less costly in dry weather, pushing on-the-ground work to spring/summer 2018. Construction of the bleachers (with press box, electrical room and storage) could then start in May 2018 and be completed ahead of the May 2019 Women's Rugby Sevens. The heat's on for this stadium seating expansion. All stakeholders including sports community, regional businesses and west shore public will likely be keeping their eye on this ball. WSV



Relocation of the existing pole (to what would become a set of two redirectional poles across the street) would meet the BC Hydro requirement for no overhead lines running above the proposed new permanent bleachers.

West Shore Voice News

Langford/BC Hydro drawing
 Notations by West Shore Voice News

EDITORIAL

VIEWES & INSIGHTS
FROM THE WEST COAST

Thank you to the many readers who this past week said they've eagerly anticipated what I would write to capture the essence of the seismic political changes that we're witnessing in BC this spring of 2017. Like the unsettled period of time this has been, this editorial may yet leave you unsettled. It's not over til it's over!



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



Real growth can be painful, but the results for BC will be worth it

● **What a page-turner these past few weeks have been!** British Columbians have witnessed what seems like an almost endless shift of power through many channels of uncharted political territory. It's been an awkward dance that -- when it's all said and done -- will very likely be looked back upon as a masterful adjustment to a new way of governing in BC.

Since the night of the BC General Election on May 9 -- with speeches of uncertain conviction given by the three main party leaders well after midnight into May 10 following a 43-41-3 result (BC Liberal, BC NDP, BC Green) -- the populace and particularly the politically-inclined have kept their excitement idling as the playing field has rapidly evolved.

Right off the bat, Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon asked Christy Clark to stay on as Premier, something that Clark would have rightfully expected after 16 years of a BC Liberal majority and the largest number of election-night seats. She appeared to take that request in stride with her trademark bravado, not missing a beat. But then for weeks afterward there was the agitated anticipation of possibly some adjustments to riding wins, as might have resulted from the final count on May 24 (absentee ballots and official recounts). But alas, no change from 43-41-3.

The tease-and-taunt effect of inter-party posturing and negotiations with the Greens in the middle has felt like a game of Marco Polo in the swimming pool. For candidates that back-and-forth was peppered over top of the mechanics of wrapping up campaign offices and setting up or re-opening constituency offices in 87 ridings. For everyone else it's been an unusually extended period of political focus, when most folks would have rather been fully back to their regular lives. As such, we are all playing a part in the growing pains toward a new way in BC.

For the first few weeks it wasn't clear to either the BC Liberals or the BC NDP whether they should be celebrating. Rejoicing has belonged fully to the BC Greens since election night, along with an immense degree of responsibility put upon on the shoulders of three MLAs (two of them 'green', as in new to being MLAs). BC Green Party leader Andrew Weaver has been clear-headed and sticking to the principles that has propelled his party to some sort of permanence in the BC political realm. Weaver and his party got what they wanted, and more. Most people who voted Green are likely quite pleased with their ballot choice.

In the last few days, sealed with a publicly-inked deal on May 30, we've now seen a shift to a Green-NDP agreement that would together give those parties 44 seats in the legislature. It's still a fragile setup for actual governance. One of those 44 MLAs will need to be House Speaker (voting only to break a tie), and every attempt to pass legislation by majority could thereby conceivably require at least one vote from among the BC Liberal MLAs (making 44).

And all of this is still not firm. The final decision as to where BC heads is in the hands of Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon. What a test! It is she who will decide how all of this gets resolved. Given her stable relationship with the longstanding BC Liberal government, she is likely to deliver a status quo Throne Speech from the Christy Clark side of the house, and let the chips fall where they may in a confidence vote. Guichon is under no obligation to accept the NDP-Green agreement that was delivered to her May 31 (she wasn't at Government House to receive it in person on Wednesday, which speaks volumes). And one of Guichon's further options is to dissolve everything and call an election.

But in the interest of stability, what's likely to happen is that Throne Speech followed by a confidence vote in the house. Even Clark herself said on May 30 that such a vote is likely to fail. In which case she would, by precedent, be asked to serve as the Leader of the Opposition -- a job she said she would accept. It is the Lieutenant Governor's constitutional responsibility to ensure that British Columbians get a government elected by the people and which governs with the consent of a majority of elected representatives. If, after a failed motion of confidence, the BC NDP-&Green agreement is given approval, then BC would get Premier John Horgan.

It seems a weird twist of fate that Horgan's rise to the position he's coveted for so long comes packaged in a political 'bromance' with fellow Vancouver-Islander Andrew Weaver. But the fractured election results of May 9 showed that the people want not just change, they also want stability, and they don't want to be roughshod over again. No one got the full nod that night, and all readers would do well to remember that. Premier Clark can still hold her head high for the grace with which she has handled her continued role as Premier through a turbulent patch that is almost without precedent. Weaver has played a critical role in recent weeks, almost as if destiny hand-picked the articulate university professor to broker this transition in BC political life. And Horgan as possibly the next premier -- while

awaited a long while by many of his long-time supporters can remember that it was not a clear "we want NDP" vote on May 9. "We want change", yes, but to a new kind of government that embraces all tracks of society, from the bottom to the top. For Horgan and the NDP, their "absolute ascension" has been tempered with a reminder that the role was not only hard won, but hard for a reason. That reason is to 'get it right' for the people this time. Given that Horgan frequently states that he went into politics "for the people", then he is, at last, the people's choice.



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This bittersweet time in BC political history will be remembered in a kaleidoscope of ways, depending on who you are, who you support, and where you are in the political life of this province. What no one will forget is the chaffing anxiety and work to crystalizing things in recent weeks, or the agonizing hardship of many who bore the brunt of what was prosperity for others in the past 16 years.

A graceful winner is one thing. Grace in defeat is always remarkable to behold. Christy Clark, in respecting the dignity of the political and legislative process in recent weeks shows some of the reasons she has been the darling of the BC Liberals for so many years. Tough in battle, regardless of the outcome, she now sets herself up for a dignified sidestep to defeat. She likely well aware of how much the BC Liberals could achieve (or hold up from progress) if she ends up as Leader of the Official Opposition.

Bearing the now likely process of 'defeat' in the legislature is the honourable and strategic choice for Clark. It's a highly dramatic way to go down (even more than losing on an election night), as those who wield the dagger will have to look her in the eye while doing it. The Legislature is ultimately revered by all who dwell there. If a Premier is to go down under the conditions we see in BC today, that's where it should happen. The end result of this fascinating political transition of power will be the same in the end, but it will be executed in the people's house.

And so BC will get the progressive change that 57.12% of the voters indicated on their ballots (40.28% NDP and 16.84% Green). The reluctance that prevented a full-on clear NDP majority has been boosted by the choice of many voters for the more evidence-based approach of the Greens. As things go in 2017, this NDP-Green blend is a match made in BC political heaven.

This province could emerge with a dramatic potential for change in a short period of time. But the governing structure is fragile. So it may not last more than a year or two, despite the 4-year NDP-Green agreement. Clark knows she could possibly be back in power if another fast-called election were to go differently.

But all of this does feel like a 'once in a lifetime' chance to change the playing board and load it up for a whole new way of building and growing a prosperous, productive and stable province. It's unlikely things could ever go back to 'the old ways'. Too many bruises on both sides.

Many political pundits are meanwhile keen to see if this relatively experimental government-of-2017 could be something of an embryonic start for proportional representation. Peo-

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West Shore Voice News
Member: West Shore Chamber of Commerce

ple in BC are already getting a taste of what cooperative governing looks like. A functional minority government might be the best trial run for what could lie ahead. These may just be the dying days of first-past-the-post. How that prospect unfolds will be part of the next captivating chapter after these next few weeks of adjustment serve to help BC settle in with a new period of productive change.

A feminist footnote: it's interesting that we may watch BC's first 21st-century woman premier have to step aside for progressive change brought in by a pair of cooperative men. The only other woman premier in BC was Rita Johnston who served for seven months in 1991 after the resignation of Premier Bill Vander Zalm.

So hang on. Another chapter in this saga unfolds next week. ■

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Rugby rocked the west shore last weekend

West Shore Voice News



Rugby Canada

Under sunny skies over two days, 12 international women's rugby teams competed in Langford at Westhills Stadium. The winners were New Zealand in 1st place (centre), Canada in 2nd place (red jerseys), and Australia 3rd (yellow).

Despite the many demands for audience attraction last weekend -- including nice outdoor weather for yardwork or travel, the Swiftsure International Yacht Race, and grad season preparations -- the Rugby Women's Sevens games at Westhills Stadium in Langford captured a good turnout.

On the field over the two days (May 27 & 28) New Zealand nabbed first, Canada's took second, Australia third. That puts the New Zealand Black Ferns into winning their second HSBC Canada Women's Sevens as they edged Canada 17-7 at Westhills Stadium. Canada is now level with Australia in second-place on the World Series with one tournament to go (June 24-25 in France).

This is the third consecutive year that the HSBC Canada Women's Sevens have been hosted in Langford. The stadium filled to near-capacity under bright sunny skies (over 5,000 in attendance over two days), and the games were also livestreamed.

Canada advanced to the final after defeating Brazil, France and Russia on Saturday in pool play, and continued their charge to the final on Sunday by defeating England, followed up with a thrilling win against Australia to put them into the Cup final against New Zealand. Canada is now tied for second place heading into the final event of the HSBC Women's Sevens Series in Clermont-Ferrand, France on June 24 & 25.

"It was tough to get any momentum going," said Canada Women's Seven coach John Tait after the May 28 final: "It felt like we were trying to get some quicker ball going but they were disrupting us around the breakdown. We just need to adjust to the calls that are being made (by the official) a little quicker." There have been three finals this season out of five tournaments, with one to go. "Traditionally over the last two years we've finished with a cup win to end the season, so we'll target France and hopefully finish one better," Tait said.

Average house over \$875,000 in Greater Victoria in May 2017

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS
Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

The Greater Victoria Real Estate Board shows a benchmark value for a single-family home in May 2017 as 16.8% higher than a year ago. Skyrocketing well past anyone's income increase.

The 1,896 tally of properties for sale at May month-end was up 12.2% over last month, but still 21.2% below 2,406 listings at May 2016 month-end. In Sooke the average house sale was \$512,752 last month, below Langford at \$675,843 and Colwood \$678,350. Overall the Greater Victoria actual average sale price in May was \$876,910. We live here for the awesome climate, but there's a price to pay.

FOCUS on WESTERN COMMUNITIES

What people actually paid	Avg - May 2017	Attraction
Langford	76 sales \$675,843	recreation / retail
Colwood	26 sales \$678,350	closer to downtown
Sooke	41 sales \$512,752	get-away feel
Gr Victoria	467 sales \$876,910	climate

HPI (adjusted)	May 2017	1 yr ago	3 yr ago
Langford	\$555,300	\$463,100	\$419,600
Colwood	\$629,500	\$517,500	\$454,300
Sooke	\$465,100	\$383,500	\$350,400
Gr Victoria	\$681,800	\$584,700	\$485,200

Public input at Langford Planning meeting: "No gravel crushing in our backyard"

West Shore Voice News

About 50 people attended the May 29 Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee meeting in Langford council chambers. An applicant was hoping for approval to do extraction, processing, storage and sale of aggregate at 1297 Glenshire Drive and 2929 Sooke Road.

After public concerns expressed about the noise, dust and traffic congestion aspects of such an operation in a residential area, the committee rejected the application for a temporary industrial use permit, with a suggestion that a rezoning application be submitted to indicate ultimate use of the property (which appeared to be housing development).

The committee had hoped to hear more solid details about the

future housing development plans for the property which is currently zoned RR4 (Rural Residential). If the ultimate goal is to build housing, the temporary action of resourcing the rock and gravel might be better tolerated over a short time period.

Although a good number of people came to the meeting and spoke up, there was some commentary that notice of the meeting was short or spotty at best.

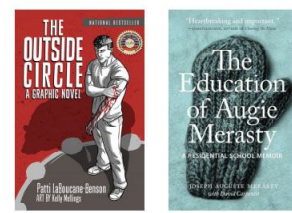
The planning committee is chaired by Councillor Denise Blackwell, with Councillor Roger Wade, co-chair.

Langford Council has designated all of Langford as an area where temporary use permits may be issued in accordance with Section 493 of the Local Government Act.

Steps forward this week

ISLAND NEWS

West Shore Voice



Read for Reconciliation list includes 150 titles by indigenous authors.

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY (VIRL)

In recognition of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, VIRL's Read for Reconciliation offers a curated list of 150 titles by indigenous authors that stimulate awareness, foster discussion, and facilitate a culture of learning:

www.virl.bc.ca/rfr

"VIRL is committed to embracing and learning from our indigenous communities. We are also very

excited to be part of the celebrations that are sweeping the country on Canada's 150th anniversary," said VIRL Executive Director, Rosemary Bonanno. Hashtag: #Read4Reconciliation

For Canada's 150th, VIRL's mobile library will travel to events across Vancouver Island to promote library services. People can be part of an oral history project that aims to tap into and curate the rich tapestry of the Island, with the recording of 150-second stories at community events and at all 39 library branches.

Canada 150 materials are available at www.virl.bc.ca/150.

ALISTAIR MacGREGOR, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford)

Improving access to healthy food for every Canadian, ensuring sustainable agricultural communities and resources, and promoting food in Canada and



NDP Agriculture Critic Ruth Ellen Brosseau, MP and Alistair MacGregor, MP welcome public input on agriculture and food sustainability.

around the world will be discussed at a town hall meeting with Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) and Ruth Ellen Brosseau, MP (NDP Critic for Agriculture) on Fri June 16 (5:30 pm) at Island Savings Centre - Heritage Hall, 2687 James St, Duncan. "We need to look at the whole picture and bring an integrated approach to federal policy that connects agriculture, rural development, health and income security," says MacGregor. "Lack of support, attacks on supply management, struggles of small and medium farms, threat of NAFTA renegotiations, safety and sustainability, are daily concerns for farmers and agriculture workers."

A program to clean up abandoned vessels

along the coast was announced this week by the federal Liberals, but the NDP says it barely scratches the surface, calling it "a rudderless plan that cannot address the thousands of vessels abandoned on our coasts". Says Alistair MacGregor: "The plan lacks any measures to improve vessel registration, build a vessel turn-in program, get taxpayers off the hook for clean ups, or support local marine salvage businesses. Additionally, the lack of resources included in the plan is dwarfed by what's required for vessel removal. The cost of removing just one vessel last year off Vancouver Island was more than the annual budget for vessel removal." Last month, the NDP tabled Bill C-352 in Parliament to create a comprehensive coast-wide strategy to clean up abandoned vessels which pose significant economic and environmental risks to coastal communities.

BC FERRIES

BC Ferries fleet maintenance unit received its first Green Marine certification on May 31. BC Ferries vessels and terminals have been Green Marine certified since 2015, but the shipyard certification is a new achievement, showing a commitment to continue to benchmark environmental performance.

Customers with private passenger vehicles longer than 20 ft (6.1 m) will pay \$3.25/additional foot (reg. \$6.50) on select sailings on two routes between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island: Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen-Duke Point. 'Size Up The Savings' runs June 3 to Oct1 for savings to customers with RVs, campers and other extra-length vehicles.

ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION

A business plan update including recent public feedback was released this week by the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF). The participation of 438 survey respondents was considered strong, coming out of Greater Victoria, Greater Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley, Comox Valley, and Parksville/Qualicum Beach. It's 'very important' that the corridor is preserved for long-term public use said 85.5% and 62% were 'very supportive' of rail service. The survey indicated expenditure support as follows: 60% on rail infrastructure and services, 32% on rail-with-trails, 15% heritage (train stations), and 13% on charitable projects in corridor communities. Based on 5-yr financial projections, ICF will be seeking project funding.

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It ain't the way it used to be, baby! 'Gig economy' is here to stay

Editorial Insights
by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Most people over the age of 35 can remember mustering up their courage and finding their first job right out of high school or university, and full independent adult life generally got underway. Not so for the Millennials.

For those under 30, the 'gig economy' built of creative offbeat endeavours (many of those online), part-time, contract, consulting and any other sort of non-permanent, no-benefits sources of income are the patchwork quilt of building an income package. Sustaining it is another matter, especially in urban areas of BC where housing/rental costs are far out of proportion to personal incomes. And here's something not to underestimate... finding an employer who 'gets' the Millennial mind. Not to be pampered, but to be optimally functional.

All of this is different from being an entrepreneur -- not every one has that gene. Those of the entrepreneurial spirit -- if adequately financed -- will do alright in this new gig economy. But for the rest of the youth, it's a whirlwind roll of the dice to be blown out of high school or university into a world without a pattern in which to create a foothold. Not to be overly dramatic, but for many of these teens-into-adulthood it's like jumping out of an airplane at 30,000 feet without a parachute.

This generation has the smarts (intellectual, intuitive and digital), and beneath that they will certainly now be building up the emotional force that comes from being deprived of what might have been theirs. Opportunities are still out there but must be called forth with a willpower not taught in schools. It's a rougher world these Millennials have found themselves tossed into, tougher than perhaps they were set up for by today's ultra-digital, mobile, data-cloud youth reality.

And on the other side of all this are the parents who -- if they are able -- and finding themselves with any heart at all, are helping out their grown children here and there, or more. In the past 30 years, wealth that made its way rapidly to the top for some has left the rest of us pinned to grinding wheels that provide only the occasional jump-off point. Many are without adequate retirement resource. What's worse, is those who do try to jump from the pit onto the fast-moving train may falter trying, and badly. Worst case scenarios produce homelessness, drug addiction and a myriad of mental health issues. In addition to what government should be doing, every stable business and employed person owes it to the next generation -- the future of our world -- to consciously give a thoughtful helpful hand to the youth of today who are the masters of tomorrow's world (if not in wealth, in force). ~MPB

"Old Belmont" remembered in display unveiled in new Belmont lobby

Special event May 30, 2017

West Shore Voice News



Belmont History Class (from left): Bert Ridley (1953), Hannah May (Gr 11), Mike Gibson (1957), Savannah Purdy (Gr 11), Shirley Moseley Smith (1953), Jena Janmohammed (Gr 11), Marilyn 'Babe' Moseley Hepworth (1956), Gracie May (Gr 10), David Ranns (1953), Olivia Godek (Gr 11), Andy Krogstad (1956), Mattie Duddridge (Gr 12), Judy Ranns Partridge (1953), Emma Emile (Gr 12), Glenn Willing (1966), Ryana Emile (Gr 12). Not in photo: Ravi Parmar (2012).

The "Belmont History Class" was not about history taught anywhere else. In 2016-2017 it's been a one-time class and project at Belmont Secondary in Langford. The goal was to capture the memory of the previous school building (called Belmont 1.0 during the transition, and now fondly called Belmont RIP).

Principal Ray Miller & Belmont History Class teacher Cindy Cullen



Under the guidance of socials teacher Cindy Cullen, the class created the new **Commemorative Event** Belmont History Wall that was unveiled on May 30 in the school front lobby.

The project was a joint effort of students and alumni who blended graphic techniques with documenting a wealth of first-hand history. The brightly lit display was unveiled and warmly received by several of the SD62 trustees who were present, SD62 superintendent and senior staff, Belmont PAC president, and other guests.

Belmont Principal Ray Miller in an upbeat speech called Ms Cullen 'the child whisperer'... a teacher who helps each person find something positive in their day. He commended the participation of alumni.

Principal Miller also noted that the photos and memorabilia in the display focussed on events, not individuals. There was no other way to succinctly recognize all the efforts of every year at the old Belmont school from 1946 to 2015. The new Belmont (aka Belmont 2.0) opened in September 2015. The LEED Gold architecture of the new building was proudly announced by Miller.

One alumnus said "it's an honour for us to be remembered this way". WSV



NEXT WEEK: West Shore Voice News

Deep into 2017 Grad season

Grad season in June seems to bring with it some summery weather and thoughts of an easier pace. But for families it's probably one of the biggest seismic shifts in the relationship between a parent and their now-grown child. It comes up fast at a busy time in life for both parent and teen, and in a moment it seems 'where did 18 years go?'. Beyond those exit doors is a complicated world.

Each year, as a courtesy to community and a recognition of accomplishment, West Shore Voice News lists all the names of Grade 12 graduates in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) as well as scholarship and award winners. In our upcoming issues June 9, 16, 23, and 30 watch for the names of the youth in your community who are making this rite of passage to adulthood that is experienced in various ways for each family.

Formal grad ceremonies are being held at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium for **Edward Milne Community School** (Sooke) on Saturday June 3 at 1pm, **Royal Bay Secondary** (Colwood) on Sunday June 4 at 11 am, and **Belmont Secondary** (Langford) on Sunday June 11 at 11 am. The formal grad event for Westshore Centre for Learning & Training students (district-wide) will be held at Royal Colwood Golf Course on Tuesday June 27 at 4pm.

If you would like to contribute content or place an advertisement honouring youth as they embark on their next journey, you are invited to get on board with this. Write to advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com or call 250-217-5821. WSV

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www.westshorecentre.com

Call for info & registration: 250.391.9002

MORNINGS
9:30 am to 12 noon
Chemistry 12
Communications 12
English 12
Pre-Calculus Math 11
Physics 11
Social Studies 11
Foundations of Math &
Pre-Calculus 10
English 10
Math 9 /Literacy
Foundations Level 6

AFTERNOONS
12:30 to 3 pm
Pre-Calculus Math 12
Biology 12
English 12
Pre-calculus Math 11
Apprenticeship &
Workplace Math 11
Chemistry 11
Social Studies 10
Science 10
Apprenticeship &
Workplace Math 10
English 9/Literacy
Foundations Level 6

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www.alpinegroup.ca

Freedom Mobile eyes Sooke expansion

West Shore Voice News

As Sooke's population grows, so does the demand for various modern services. And mobile wireless services are certainly an integral part of modern living.

As part of the growing market for affordable wireless, Freedom Mobile Inc is proposing two monopole type telecommunication towers for the Sooke region. The first is a 50 m tower for installation on private property at 2614 Otter Point Road in Sooke west of the town core. The other is 45 m in height, proposed for placement on private property at 5154 Sooke Road, east of the town core. The proposed structures would provide wireless coverage for the community of Sooke within a few kilometres of the proposed location.

The proposals will be presented by Freedom Mobile reps at a District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting, coming up June 19 (7pm in Council Chambers).

Freedom Mobile Inc (formerly Wind Mobile) is owned by Shaw. It is the fourth largest mobile provider in Canada, with presently over one million active users that are presently clustered in urban areas of Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Of the more than 30 million wireless users in Canada, 90% are served by 'the big three' providers: Bell, Rogers and TELUS.

Freedom Mobile is known for its uncomplicated flat-fee pricing, no data overage, and straightforward renewal policies. They take pride in claiming to be keeping wireless costs under control. Canada has among the highest wireless charges in the world, in large part due to the infrastructure costs to serve a relatively sparse population over a vast geographical area.

Dealing with details: traffic flow, neighbourhoods, expense allowances

DISTRICT OF SOOKE Committee of the Whole May 29, 2017

West Shore Voice News

A few highlights of the May 29 District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting, held in Council chambers (a cold room in winter, a hot room in summer... HVAC system still needs attention):

In a long-extended '5-minute' delegation by Sooke Fall Fair president Ellen Lewers a lot of time was taken to grind through details about roadway access or blockages at Shields and Eustace Roads during the Sooke Fall Fair in town centre. Other events that are held at Sooke Community Hall would presumably benefit by the revised roadway plan in future too. While important to sort out, that sort of technical stuff is better done in committee (still public) and brought to Council for review and approval.

Mayor Maja Tait essentially supplied herself with a perk by wooing Council in her direction to see that child care expenses will be covered by the municipality for elected women officials who bring their children to conferences and other public events. Tait takes along her young son to various conventions and conferences. Councillor Rick Kasper reminded the room that many people are not so fortunate for this sort of benefit in their working lives.

The next phase of the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) was methodically presented by staff planner Danica Rice. In public comment, former Sooke Councillor Herb Haldane called the current OCP version "10 times better than the one we've been working with". One of the driving themes of the proposed OCP is to drill down with planning variations into different areas formalized as named neighbourhoods. Realtors and taxpayers take note: Western Town Centre, Eastern Town Centre, Sunriver, Sooke River East, Kaltasin, North Sooke, Grouse Nest, Foreshore, T'Sou-ke Nation, Town Centre, Whiffin Spit, Erinan, Silverspray, Phillips North. Where you buy a house could end up producing a lot of variations in your lifestyle compared to your 'neighbours'.

There's a new committee not yet (re)named having to do with the process of building permits, process, forms and policies for property development in Sooke was set. Overall goals are to speed up applications for building permits and streamline the process so as not to impede timelines for developers.

The lengthiest discussion of the night entailed Mayor and Council discussing the many specifics of how staff are paid and it seemed to evolve to include Councillor expenses as well. Paying for vehicle usage, meals and fees not covered by the conference or convention fee, etc. Again the stuff of committee, to then be brought to Council.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: Proposed 50.0 Meter Telecommunication Tower Site To be located at 2614 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC

Freedom Mobile Inc. has proposed a 50.0m tall monopole type telecommunication tower with flush mounted antennas and related radio equipment on private property at 2614 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC.

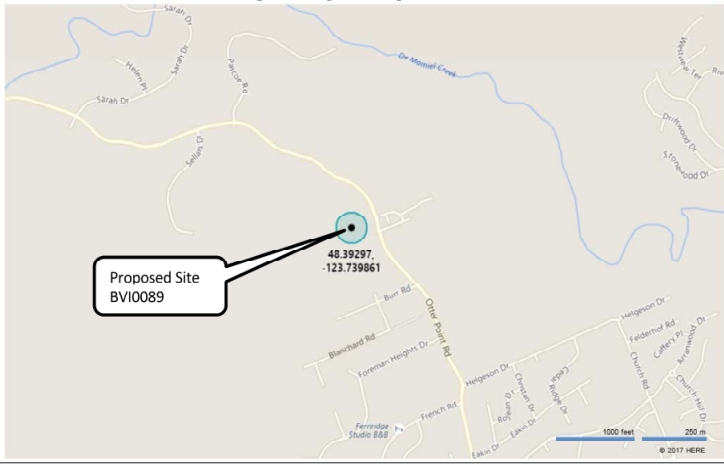
The proposed structure will provide wireless coverage for the community of Sooke within a few kilometres of the proposed location. The geographic coordinates for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: (NAD 83) 48°23'34.58"N & Longitude: (NAD 83) 123°44'22.88"W.

The facility is proposed in a Rural (RU4) zoned area and will occupy a ground compound area of 3m x 6m.

ANY PERSON may make a written submission or request for additional information to the PROPONENT CONTACT: Freedom Mobile Inc. c/o Tawny Verigin, Cypress Land Services Inc., Unit 120, 736 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1G3. Tel: 1-855-301-1520 Fax: 604-620-0876, publicconsultation@cypresslandservices.com

As per the District of Sooke's Communications Antenna Policy 11.4, this proposal will be presented at a District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be held in District of Sooke Council Chambers at 2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC on June 19th, 2017 commencing at 7:00 pm.

SITE LOCATION MAP



PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: Proposed 45.0 Meter Telecommunications Tower Site To be located at 5154 Sooke Road

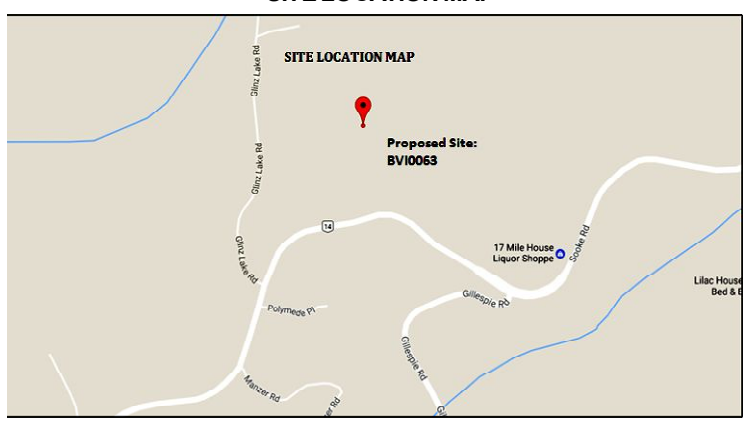
Freedom Mobile Inc. has proposed a 45.0m tall shrouded monopole style telecommunication tower and related radio equipment on private property at 5154 A Sooke Road, Sooke, BC. The proposed structure will enhance wireless coverage for the Community of Sooke, specifically along Sooke Road, Gillespie Road, Glinz Lake Road and the surrounding area. The geographic coordinates for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: (NAD 83) N 48° 23' 48.48" & Longitude: (NAD 83) W 123° 38' 00.52". The facility is proposed in a Rural (RU2) area and will occupy a ground compound area of 3m x 4m.

ANY PERSON may make a written submission or request for additional information to the contact provided below.

PROPONENT CONTACT: Freedom Mobile Inc. c/o Sean Ogilvie, Forbes Bros Ltd., Unit 130, 482 South Service Rd E, Oakville, Ontario L6J 2X6. Tel: (647) 224-4399 | Fax: (888) 622-4939 | sogilvie@forbesbrosltd.ca

As per the District of Sooke's Communications Antenna Policy 11.4, this proposal will be presented at a District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting. The Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19th, 2017 at 7:00pm at the District of Sooke Council Chambers; 2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC.

SITE LOCATION MAP



West Shore Voice News GRAD SEASON

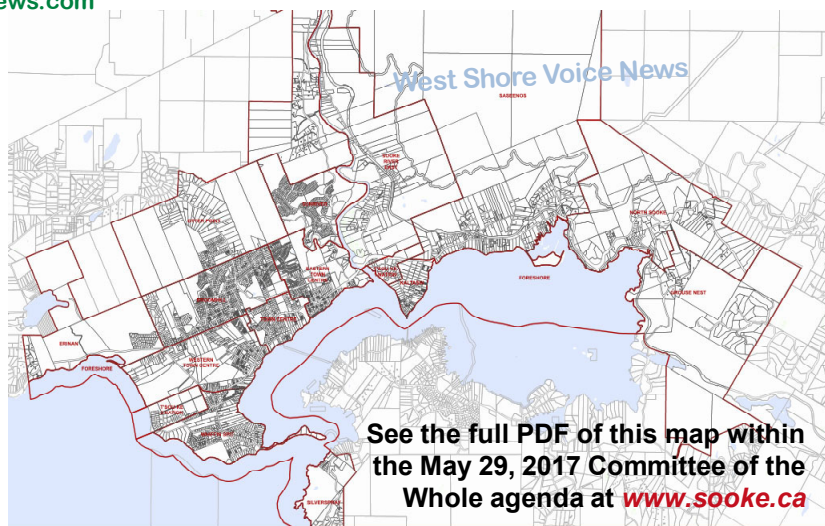


Congratulate SD62 grads in the June 9, 16, 23 & 30 issues.

Ad Rates Online

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The Official Community Plan Review Update as presented to Council on May 29 includes a proposal that various levels of planning take place with a distinctive difference for each area called a neighbourhood. >>



District of Sooke

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West Shore Voice News

Sooke's first Repair Cafe well-attended

Submitted by Zero Waste Sooke West Shore Voice News



A steady stream of folks with repair jobs, drop-in visitors curious about the concept and parents with excited children in tow attended Sooke's first Repair Cafe on May 27 downstairs at the Sooke Community Hall.

Zero Waste Sooke organizers report that 28 people filled out registration forms with repair requests for one or more household items. At least 21 items (ranging from flashlights, mixers and slow cookers to ripped pants and a broken chair) were saved from the landfill thanks to the work of the Cafe's volunteer fixers: Wendy O'Connor, Paula Johanson and Sarah Kirby (fabrics); Elgin Ambrose, Bernie Klassen and Jeremy Newell (wood products); Garrath Morgan (small appliances); and Chris Morgan (small engines). The services were free or by small donation.

Also donating their time and expertise to the day were Triston and Nick of EMCS Robotics who gave a demonstration of 3D printing, bike repair experts Mike and Kasian Russell, kombucha pro Marion Pettinger and micro-home specialist Forest Adam (who was busy at the popular bat house-building station for kids).

Zero Waste Sooke, a working group of Transition Sooke, is planning a second Repair Cafe in mid-to-late October, hopefully again at the Community Hall. In preparation, Sooke residents are invited to start stockpiling their broken and malfunctioning possessions. The event was officially licensed through the international Repair Cafe Foundation with thanks to the District of Sooke for support through its Community Grant program.



Volunteer fixers Garrath Morgan (seated at left) and his father Chris (standing at left) at the first Sooke Repair Cafe, May 27.

Jeff Bateman



WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: June 7 for June 9 WSV

West Shore Voice News

SOOKE COUNTRY MARKET - Saturdays 10-2 May-Oct

Goddess Run vendor expo & package pickup for Sunday run. Sat June 3. Westhills Stadium, Langford. 10am to 6pm www.goddessrun.ca

6th Annual Victoria Goddess Run. Sun June 4. 5K & 10K. Westhills Stadium, Langford. 8:30 am. www.goddessrun.ca

SD62 Grad Ceremonies at UVic: EMCS Sat June 3 at 1pm. **Royal Bay** Sun June 4 at 11 am. **Belmont** Sun June 11 at 11 am.

SD62 French Immersion Grad (at the schools): **Belmont** Wed June 7 5pm. **EMCS** Th June 15 5:30pm
Belmont Secondary year-end concert. Thurs June 8. 7pm.

Sooke Night Market Thurs June 8. Thursday nights 5-8pm all summer at Sooke Region Museum. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Langford Mayor's Golf Tournament. Fri June 9 at Bear Mountain. 1pm. www.cityoflangford.ca

Beach Food on Ocean Boulevard near Lagoon Rd, in Colwood. Fri June 9 & Sat June 10. 11am to 7pm

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon June 12 at Church of the Advent, Colwood. 12 to 7pm www.blood.ca

SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues June 13 at board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. 7pm

Chamber of Commerce Mixer (West Shore & Sooke). Wed June 14. 5 to 7 pm. Four Points Sheraton, Langford. www.westshore.bc.ca

SD62 Awards Evenings EMCS Thurs June 15 7pm. Belmont Wed June 21 6:30 pm.

Town Hall on Agriculture with Alistair MacGregor, MP & Ruth Ellen Brosseau (NDP Agriculture Critic). Fri June 16, 5:30pm, 2687 James St, Duncan

Picnic in the Park. Sat June 17. Free family event at SEAPARC, Sooke Bike Park & Stan Jones Ball Field. Live music & activities. www.seaparc.ca

Sooke River Bluegrass Festival. June 16 to 18. Tx/campsite bookings: www.sookebluegrass.com

Father's Day. Sun June 18.

Freedom Mobile. Mon June 19. Public hearing about monopolies at District of Sooke Committee of the Whole, 7pm. www.sooke.ca

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

Journey Middle School Gr 6&7 Recognition Fri June 23. 10:30 am.

Elementary School Year-End Events: Fri June 23. **Willway & Saseenos** 10:30 am. **David Cameron.** 1 pm..

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

'Seeking Salmon' exhibit. Sooke Region Museum. **Opens Sun June 25** (runs to April 2018). www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

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Green & NDP deal: a few key details

Some highlights of the BC NDP-BC Green deal signed May 30 for what's being called a progressive minority government in British Columbia: — Legislature would be recalled within one month of the swearing in of an NDP government. — Referendum on proportional representation in Fall 2018, concurrent with the next municipal elections. If approved, proportional representation would be used in the next BC election. The parties would work to consult the public about the form of proportional representation. — Legislation in first sitting to ban corporate and union donations and contributions from non-residents of BC to the province's political parties, as well as placing limits on individual contribu-

— Move fixed election date from May to a date in the fall, starting 2021.
— Increase current \$30/tonne carbon tax by \$5/tonne/yr, at April 1, 2018; continue rebate cheques to ensure majority of taxpayers better off financially than under the current formula.
— Refer Site C dam construction project to the BC Utilities Commission to determine economic viability.
— Employ every tool available to the new government to stop expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline (already federally approved).
— Arm's-length commission to "establish a pathway" to minimum wage of at least \$15/hr.
— Create emerging economy task force to address changing nature of business over the next 10 to 25 years.
— Establish commission to support innovation and business development in tech sector; appoint a commissioner with mandate to advocate for the province's tech sector in Ottawa and abroad.
— In first budget, NDP would develop a proposal to implement an essential drugs program, designed to reduce the costs of prescription drugs and ensure drug costs not a barrier to health management.

DISTRICT OF SOOKE

Regular Council Meeting
Monday June 12
7 pm

Committee of the Whole
Monday June 19
7 pm
• includes public hearing on Freedom Mobile monopolies

Regular Council Meeting
Monday June 26
7 pm

Note: Schedule is subject to change

Meetings are held in Council Chambers, 2225 Otter Point Rd
Agendas & webcasting at www.sooke.ca

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Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes, and long pants when using lawn mowers and other machinery.

Summer Safety Tip

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program
www.prepareyourself.ca

Mon June 26: **John Stubbs Middle School Year End Assembly** 10 am | **Crystal View Gr 5 Recognition** 1 pm | **Port Renfrew Year End Tea** - time tba | **Dunsmuir Year End Assembly** 1:30 pm.
Tues June 27: **Wishart Gr 5 Recognition** 1pm. **Crystal View Year End Assembly** 1pm. **Saseenos Gr 5 Recognition** 1:30pm. **Westshore Centre Gr12 Graduation** 4pm at Royal Colwood Golf Course.
School year-end June 28 & 29 morenext week. Send us your news! news@westshorevoiceneews.com
SD62 Last Day before summer break. Thurs June 29. www.sd62.bc.ca
Canada Day 150. Sat July 1 at Sooke Flats. Gates open 9am this year, official opening ceremony at noon, fireworks 10 pm. www.canadadaysooke.com
SEAPARC Pool re-opens. Sun July 2. See program guide at www.seaparc.ca
Blood Donor Clinic. Mon July 3 at Sooke Legion. 11:30 am to 6:30 pm. www.blood.ca

LIST YOUR SUMMER EVENTS - send info to news@westshorevoiceneews.com

TELUS tech talk, with Tesla!

Business technology has revolutionized the way companies conduct business. Small businesses can now implement business technology and level the playing field with much larger organizations. Small business owners can now utilize a wide range of communication tools to enhance customer contact and reach their consumers in real time and in new ways. Think email, texting, web, social media and digital 'apps' to name a few. New markets can also be realized to help a business digitally expand beyond brick and mortar locations.

On this topic, TELUS is holding one of their Lunch & Learn seminars for Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce members and guests next week in Sooke. Over a lunch catered by Jenny's Country Pantry & Tea Shoppe (courtesy of TELUS) they will chat about how technology is driving change and opening new avenues for small businesses across BC.

One of the perks at the session will be an opportunity to see the TELUS Pure Fibre Tesla in the SEAPARC parking lot!

Yard sale along extended route in Sunriver

About 90 homes in the Sunriver Estates area of Sooke will be holding their 3rd annual 'epic yard sale' on Saturday June 3. Look for balloons at participating addresses. This year the Sooke Harbourside Lions will be there with a hot dog stand, plus Mai Mai's food truck, Sweet Haven Cupcakes, and some houses offering up lemonade, ice tea, baked goods and other treats, says Sunriver resident and organizer Kerry Cavers. Garage sale regulars will know that getting there early is always good. The event runs 8am to 2pm. Maps for the winding road tour are available at the Sunriver Estates sales centre.

FREE EVENT

Bring the family, a picnic, a blanket and your bikes.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

FREE EVENT

SEAPARC CPD

SATURDAY JUNE 17
11 am to 1 pm

Sooke Bike Park & Stan Jones Ball Field
SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2618 Phillips Rd, Sooke

Learn to ride the pump track with Nolan Riding.

Bike maintenance by Sooke Bike Club.

Featuring Music by The Gord Phillips Band

www.seaparc.ca