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West Shore

News

WEST SHORE VOICE

4 pages this issue

‘NEW YEAR 2018’ ISSUE  
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Week #363 of the *Voice*

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**WSV in support of successful living:** business & economy, health & wellness, youth, education, the arts, politics, sustainability, Millennials & social trends.

## Passenger ferries from Sidney to the southern gulf islands

West Shore Voice News

● **It’s an idea whose time may have come.** A smaller ferry service for passengers only (no vehicles) to facilitate transportation from Sidney on Vancouver Island to and among five of the southern Gulf Islands: Salt Spring, South Pender, Mayne, Saturna and Galiano.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has put out a request for proposals for a possible foot-passenger ferry interconnecting Sidney and the five Southern Gulf Islands. If a successful bid is found, the service could soon be launched as a pilot project, according to the CRD.

While facilitating the needs of Gulf Island residents, tourists, and people doing business, a spinoff would be the economic benefit to Sidney.

Presently, one passengers-only service from the foot of the pier at Sidney (Alpine ferry) goes over to Sidney Spit but not over to the Gulf Islands.

The CRD is requesting proposals for a service focused on island-hoppers who want to easily travel between Sidney and the Gulf Islands. The service would run separately from BC Ferries, which only offers a few sailings per day that travel from Swartz Bay (at Sidney), stopping at each individual island which oftentimes makes direct connections difficult.

BC Ferries has said they do not see a viable business case for this passenger-only service, already having plenty of room in their existing fleet.

The study is being commissioned by the CRD as a transportation initiative that would include the Southern Gulf Islands (North and South Pender, Mayne, Saturna, and Galiano), Salt Spring Island and the Town of Sidney. An early plan calls for five routes to provide a low-emission alternative transportation option for residents and tourists. **WSV**

## Homeowner grant threshold raised to \$1.65 million for 2018

● **The 2018 homeowner grant threshold** will be increased to \$1.65 million, as announced by the BC Government Jan 3. They aim to ensure the same percentage of homes are below the threshold as in 2017 (about 91%).

The increase is one firm indicator of how much the value of housing has increased in the past year (in 2017 the threshold was \$1.6 million, up from the level of \$1.2 million in 2016).

Eligible homeowners (principal residence) must apply for the homeowner grant each year. The homeowner grant is automatically calculated on a homeowner’s property tax notice. Some low-income owners (e.g. seniors or people with disabilities), can apply to supplement the grant if it has been reduced or eliminated because of the high assessed value of their principal residence. A property tax deferment option is available for those age 55+, or supporting a dependent child.

Homeowner grants will return about \$825 million to British Columbians this year. Renters are eclipsed from these benefits that increase wealth potential for homeowners.

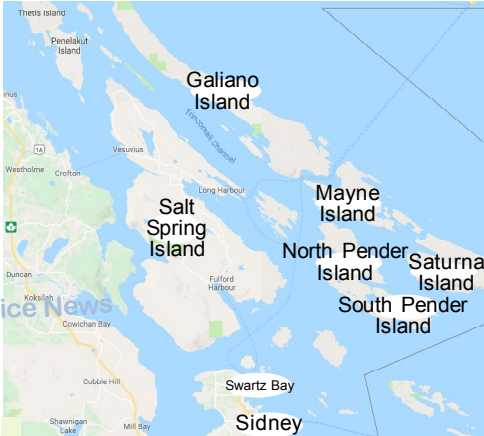
### JdFEA ‘this close’ to getting piped water

● **Fought for long and hard** by Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks, recently-concluded mediation by the BC Government sees the extension of CRD piped water services made available to residents of JdF areas, including Otter Point to Port Renfrew (East Sooke and Malahat are also in JdFEA).

Until the mediation that concluded Jan 5, seven of the 13 municipalities within the CRD (Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, View Royal, Highlands, Colwood and Esquimalt) had rejected the idea of piped-water extension by rejecting the overall Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Over the past year or two, Hicks had the continued support of Langford as well as the neighbouring Sooke municipality.

Hicks’ pitch to Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-JdF) helped move things along, with Municipal Affairs Minister Selina Robinson then extending the mediation deadline from Nov 30/17 to January 15. CRD Directors will vote on the mediated solution at their board meeting on Wednesday January 10. If approved, the RGS goes back to municipal councils for final approval.

The RGS is used as an overall guiding tool for regional development including transportation, land use, water, waste management, environmental services, arts and recreation, hospitals, planning strategies, and protective services. **WSV**



Southern Gulf Islands could be served by a passenger-only ferry service overseen by CRD.

Adapted from Google Maps

**Homeowner Grants:**  
> \$570 basic (\$770 northern/rural)  
> up to \$845 if age 65+ or disabled  
(up to \$1,045 northern/rural)



Homes in the Westhills area of Langford, BC

Friday, January 5, 2018

## Housing prices up, # of sales down

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS Focus on South Vancouver Island's West Shore Communities			
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES December 2017			
Area (# of sales)	Real Sales Avg Dec 2017 [\$ HPI Adjusted]	Avg Dec 2016 \$ HPI Adjusted	
<b>Langford</b>	<b>\$684,132</b> (35) \$590,400	<b>\$685,942</b> (43) \$506,900	
<b>Colwood</b>	<b>\$728,373</b> (11) \$661,400	<b>\$585,808</b> (16) \$558,800	
<b>Sooke</b>	<b>\$485,718</b> (14) \$477,000	<b>\$527,854</b> (24) \$428,500	
<b>Greater Victoria</b>	<b>\$850,562</b> (210) \$692,800	<b>\$749,307</b> (220) \$625,600	
Comparison by <i>West Shore Voice News</i> developed from data at <a href="http://ww.vreb.org">ww.vreb.org</a>			

**SALES VOLUME** in 2017  
Greater Victoria

**8,944 properties**  
sold in 2017  
10,622 properties  
sold in 2016

West Shore Voice News

● **The continuing demand for homeownership** in Greater Victoria was strong in 2017. In figures released by the Victoria Real Estate Board on January 2, the year 2017 saw fewer property sales (8,944 in 2017 compared to 10,622 in 2016), but prices were higher at this year-end.

The overall actual average sale price of a single-family home in Greater Victoria went up about \$50,000 (Dec 2016 to Dec 2017). The HPI (data-adjusted figure based on selected criteria like transportation and proximity to schools and services) went up more than that --

an increase of \$67,200 between December 2016 and December 2017 which implies an upward trend perhaps for 2018 as well.

**WEST SHORE FOCUS:** Comparing 2017 year-end to one year previous, actual house sale average prices were virtually unchanged in Langford (\$684,132 this year compared to \$685,942 in Dec last year) though the HPI jumped almost \$83,500. Colwood sales prices skyrocketed, with an actual average increase of \$142,565 in the one-year period (house sales in Dec 2017 averaged \$728,373 in Colwood compared to \$585,808 in Dec last year); the HPI rose \$102,600. In Sooke, the overall of homes sale price dropped about \$42,000 (from \$527,854 in Dec2016 to \$485,718 in Dec 2017) though both are still around half a million dollars to live in a fairly remote semi-rural area; Sooke HPI went up \$48,500 in the one-year period.

Different types of housing probably contributes to the variation. Langford is consistently building a range of housing types including single-family, townhomes and some condos (as well as rental apartments and affordable housing buildings). Colwood is seeing a lot of new construction of higher-end single family homes. In Sooke there was new construction in 2017 but it’s possible much of the best resale stock had already sold in the very active year that was 2016. **WSV**

**BROADER HOUSING MARKET ISSUES:** The new Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) mortgage rules (at January 1, 2018) include a ‘stress test’ to determine if a homeowner’s income can withstand interest rate increases. This caused a pre-2018 rush in housing sales in November 2017 in particular. While the government says it hopes to see the housing market cool a bit (and protect buyers from over-reaching their ability), homeownership is increasingly unavailable to many Canadians -- especially in the perpetually inflated Victoria/Vancouver markets.

The underlying problem is a precarious job market in which fewer stable long-term jobs are available compared to in decades past, despite the recent hype about low unemployment rates. And underlying that scenario is a financial system that has for about 30 years favoured the winners to keep on winning, pushing affordability in all respects further out of the reach of average workers and much of the middle class.

**In Canada overall,** the crash of 2008 was followed by about nine years of economic stagnation. That was compounded in BC by a government whose policies to privatize, use crown corporations as cash-cows, and save at all costs for a rainy day that left little fresh energy or opportunity in the economic system for small business and workers alike.

Canada started CMHC after WWII, creating the modern housing market as a vehicle for personal and family investment as well as government tax revenue. Now very much an investment tool for those who can afford it, the housing financial system in Canada has completely lost sight of the main purpose of real estate which is to put a roof over people’s heads with some sense of stability.

Now pushing previous low-end homeowners back into the rental market (and keeping more people renting because they can’t afford to enter the market) is an additional ‘unintended consequence’ of rising house prices. This makes rental availability virtually nil for that new group of renters as well as those who have always rented (which includes most of the Millennials).

**All of this is a crisis waiting to burst.** It has yet to be seen whether actions by the federal and BC government (affordable housing, and ‘cooling’ the homebuyer market) will moderate the looming crisis of ‘where are people going to live’? And if people can’t afford to buy high-end or even ‘regular’ homes, the construction industry will have to shift fairly rapidly to building other types of housing to maintain their profitability. **WSV**

### Current mayors lead the pack

West Shore Voice News

● **Looks like ‘steady as she goes’** in regional political leadership for four more years if 11 of 13 current mayors in Greater Victoria are re-elected in the Oct 2018 municipal elections. Kicking off the momentum on Jan 1 was Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. Ten other current mayors say they will be running again: Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin, Central Saanich, and Sidney. Sooke’s Mayor was this week undecided. North Saanich unknown. **WSV**





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## Editorial

VIEWES & INSIGHTS  
FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST  
SHORE  
VOICE

West Shore Voice News

### Planning for disruption: the constant for 2018

by Mary P  
Brooke  
Editor &  
Publisher  
WEST SHORE  
VOICE NEWS

● Like one of those fishing-line attachments that bobs at the surface of the lake as you're waiting for a nibble, people in today's fast-paced changing world need to find ways to stay afloat, not knowing when the unexpected may happen. You might get pulled under once in a while, but maybe it means you've hooked a big fish. Then you have to deal with the work and resource-challenges of maintaining stability while producing new results.

West Shore Voice News

In the 1990s and 2000s people became used to the idea that constant change was here to stay. "Embrace change" became a buzz-phrase. As we hurtle toward the mid-21st-century with all the marvels of science, technology and social reform, it's more like constant disruption is the norm. You just get something going in a straight line and a myriad of factors might blow it out of the water.

This disruption just keeps repeating, but it's not necessarily bad. A lot of it is driven by rapid technological change, bringing not only greater convenience but saving time and providing novelty. A rapid sense of social change -- much of it progressive -- allows for a broader range of behaviours but also sets new standards of accountability and excellence.

West Shore Voice News

Access to information is the biggest juggernaut... there isn't anything you can't find out or learn how to do. The power to master various aspects of your life (or at least your understanding of things) is available to every person with Internet access. In fact, just ahead of 2017, one of the greatest recent strides in Canadian culture may have been the CRTC declaration that broadband Internet is a basic telecommunications service (previous to that, only the landline telephone was deemed a basic right). With Internet service considered vital and essential to life and success, now all doors are potentially open.

The worst disruption for individuals, families and societies is economic uncertainty. While the national news was filled this week with pronouncements that the Canadian economy is strong with unemployment at its lowest since 1976 and even seniors finding lots of jobs, we may want to go easy on the champagne celebration. The potential collapse of NAFTA looms, and household debt remains at its highest point ever (171.1% in 3Q 2017) which means many people still don't make enough to cover their living costs and so they borrow. And a lot of the recent hiring was likely seasonal, so watch for a job numbers drop in February/March. Government and economists know this stuff, so from a leadership standpoint it's a little concerning that this week it was about tossing party hats into the air.

During constant socioeconomic disruption we rely on our mainstream institutions to keep things rolling: government, schools, business, and the financial

### Father of two girls killed on Christmas Day: Andrew Berry charged with 2nd degree murder

West Shore Voice News

Photos: released by family



Chloe Berry Aubrey Berry

● The father of two young girls who were found dead in his home on Christmas Day was charged with two counts of second-degree murder this week after release from hospital. He is obtaining a lawyer and is scheduled to appear in court Feb 1. The incident that turned the Oak Bay community on its head produced an outpouring of grief, mourning and support. A well-attended candlelight vigil was held at Willows Beach last Saturday night, December 30. The funeral for the sisters -- Chloe Berry, 6, and Aubrey Berry, 4 -- will be held at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Victoria, on Friday, January 12 at 11am. The public is welcome to attend.

Chloe had attended Christ Church Cathedral School. A scholarship fund in the names of Chloe and Aubrey will be managed by the Victoria Foundation. **WSV**

### Rifle shots in Sooke on New Year's Eve

West Shore Voice News

● A Sooke home on Grant Road left in the hands of a female housesitter over New Year's was the location of a domestic assault incident that resulted in rifle shots reaching as far as neighbouring homes on New Year's Eve (Sunday December 31). The housesitter is safe and recovering from injuries sustained.

Upon returning from holidays, the home owners (a Sooke couple) found excessive damage and immediately contacted police. TVs and computers were smashed, couches slashed open, beverages poured out onto floors and counters. "Of most concern a high-powered rifle was out in the open and used cartridges located on the floor," said Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander S/Sgt Jeff McArthur.

Sooke RCMP and the RCMP Vancouver Island GIS unit ultimately arrested a suspect in the serious domestic assault. The suspect was in a relationship with the person the homeowners had asked to look after their home during the Christmas holidays. The consumption of liquor, heroin and methamphetamine are believed by investigators to be contributing factors in the incident.

The RCMP Forensic Identification Section conducted a full examination, and it was determined that several rounds from a high-powered hunting rifle were fired from inside the home. Two of these rounds were found located in the walls of neighbouring homes. No one outside the subject home was injured.

During their investigation, RCMP determined that several people in the surrounding area had heard the gunshots (four in total around 9pm). No calls were placed to the police, with some people thinking it was the sound of fireworks.

In the evening of January 3, the Vancouver Police Department advised Sooke RCMP that the suspect was in their custody on an unrelated matter. McArthur says that on January 4, Sooke RCMP went to the Lower Mainland to take custody of the suspect and return him to Sooke, where he remains in custody.

The suspect, a 26-year-old man from Victoria, BC faces charges including Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Careless Use of a Firearm, Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose and Mischief Over \$5,000. He appeared in Provincial Court in Colwood on January 5. **WSV**

Jeff McArthur,  
Detachment  
Commander,  
Sooke RCMP



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system. Of these institutions we should expect performance to the highest possible standards. If these ballasts of the socioeconomic system are stable, people should rightfully expect pre-planned, identifiable and respectful accessible points of respite amidst the disruption. To perform at this level, these institutions must keep changing as well, be adaptive and be always prepared to deal with disruption on behalf of the people they serve.

Resilience is no longer just about pulling in one's horns, hunkering down until the storm passes, or even blustering through. It's about expecting a significant if not permanently altered scenario when you open the door after that storm, and having a strategy in mind and in place to deal with a range of unknowns.

Ah, such times are these, seeing our society faced with forging a new world in which more individuals, families, groups and institutions within our society may flourish. ■

Dec 29 crash in 5900-blk Sooke Rd



Facebook

### Sooke man killed in Dec 29 Hwy 14 MVI

West Shore Voice News

● Sooke RCMP have identified Drew Ripley of Sooke as the man killed in a two-vehicle crash on Friday, December 29 in the 5900-block of Sooke Road (Provincial Hwy14) between Parkland and Woodlands Roads. Road conditions were wet and at dusk the sky was almost dark in that poorly lit section of the highway. The next day, a roadside makeshift memorial had already set up.

Police said on January 3 that the 48-year-old Ripley -- driving a grey Dodge Caravan heading westbound on Hwy 14 -- was pronounced dead at the scene. A woman driving a green Jeep SUV heading eastbound had to be extricated by Sooke Fire Rescue using hydraulic equipment; she was taken to hospital and later released. There were no passengers in either vehicle.

RCMP, Sooke Fire Rescue and the BC Ambulance Service attended the two-vehicle collision that occurred around 4:20 pm. The BC Coroner also arrived on scene.

Police said no charges will be laid. "The investigation is ongoing. However, it appears from initial witness reports that the Dodge Caravan was travelling westbound when it crossed over the double solid line, colliding with the SUV travelling in the eastbound lane," said Sooke RCMP Cpl Joe Holmes in a press release.

The collision caused major traffic delays, however, traffic was diverted via sideroads around the closed portion of the highway. The vehicles were removed around 10:15 pm on the night of the crash but the road remained closed longer as BC Hydro and road crews cleaned up the area. **WSV**



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# Langford retail malls enjoy ample parking

Notes and rainy day parking-feature photos by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **Large or small**, the retail malls in the City of Langford maintain the goal of providing ample parking for customers and staff.

This past week, there was a swirl of public complaints in the City of Victoria about bike lanes eating up many of the available vehicle parking spots on downtown streets, as the downtown municipality continues to rebalance the combination of services to vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

In the wake of that, Langford Mayor Stew Young reiterated his open-door policy to business. He says he wouldn't deprive businesses of parking, that it's important to provide adequate parking to businesses in the west shore. **WSV**



Goldstream Station: in Langford town centre



Westshore Town Centre: east section



Langford Centre: on Goldstream Ave in town centre including Western Foods as an anchor tenant

Send us your west shore parking, cycling and pedestrian tales! [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com)



Millstream Village Shopping Centre



Capital Iron & Quality Foods at Langford Parkway



Millstream Village Shopping Centre

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## West Shore Voice publisher to address youth



Veronique Gagnon

Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR  
Editor & Publisher

WSV

● **West Shore Voice News (WSV) editor and publisher** Mary Brooke continues to provide leadership within the journalism community. Maintaining standards for principled journalism and finding ever-new ways to bring meaningful news to busy people is important for attentive individuals, families and communities.

Brooke will address youth about journalism at the Royal Bay Secondary career day in March. The future of news-gathering as a function of democracy has been challenged for years under pressure from instant information availability delivered via the Internet and smartphone technology, together with publishing conglomerates that has put shareholder profits above maintaining high-level editorial staff, as well as almost every business and organization mistaking their own marketing and public relations for news.

Quick news is important in the digital age. In serving that need, the full range of TV, radio and newspaper media outlets in this region act fast to get news out there as it happens. To that tune we post local, regional and BC breaking news at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) and on Facebook at *WestShoreVoiceNews*.

But the fastest newsstory (while necessary and sought) is not always the best report. 'Get it first or get it right?' is still a benchmark for stalwarts in the news profession, especially for investigative journalism. These weekly *West Shore Voice News* print/PDF issues published out of Langford provide a weekly digest, allowing for perspective, insight and archive. **West Shore Voice News**

Active journalism is still greatly appreciated in print format throughout west shore communities. In addition to our many digital subscribers who see the full PDF of this colour newspaper through their email, social media or our website, the free greyscale weekly print edition of WSV actively picked up in coffee shops, businesses, libraries and rec centres.

Upcoming 2018 municipal and school board election cycle features and on-the-ground news reports by *West Shore Voice News* will draw the attention of readers from across the south Vancouver Island region and beyond. **WSV**

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: **Wednesday Jan 10**  
for the WSV Jan 12th New Year's Issue

## West Shore Voice News

**SD62 - Back to Classes** after winter break in Sooke and the west shore **Mon Jan 8.**

**City of Langford Regular Council Meeting.** **Mon Jan 8.** 5:30 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting.** **Mon Jan 8.** 7 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**SD62 ECOW meeting** **Tues Jan 9** at Willway Elementary, 7pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Ad Deadline** **Wed Jan 10** at 5pm for **Jan 5th New Year Issue of West Shore Voice.** Call 250-217-5821 | [advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com)

**Tree-mendous Trees Guided Walk, Sat Jan 13.** Devonian Regional Park, Metchosin. 10-11:30 am. Age 5+. [www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events)

**SD62 non-instructional day.** **Mon Jan 15.** [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Blood Donor Clinic.** **Mon Jan 15.** CFB Esquimalt, 1575 Lyall St. 9 am to 4 pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting.** **Mon Jan 15.** 7 pm. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**Blood Donor Clinic.** **Mon Jan 22.** Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. 12-7 pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**SD62 board meeting** **Tues Jan 23** at 8 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

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**Family Learning Tour.** **Sat Jan 27.** 10am to 1pm. Free event at JdF Rec Centre, Royal Bay Secondary, and Centennial Centre. [www.sookewestshoreliteracy.ca](http://www.sookewestshoreliteracy.ca)

**Winter Pruning workshop.** **Sat Jan 27.** 1 to 3 pm. Victoria Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St. \$20. [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)

**Grid-Tie Solar Info Night.** Viridian Energy Cooperative. **Tues Jan 30.** 7 pm. EMCS library. [www.transitionsooke.org](http://www.transitionsooke.org)

**January 2018: SD62 will be accepting feedback on their strategic plan.** [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Public comment about the BC Medical Services Plan** accepted online up to 4 pm on **Wed Jan 31** at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/msptaskforce/>

**Vision Westshore 2018.** **Thurs Feb 1.** 5 to 9:30 pm. West shore mayors panel discussion, dinner. Olympic View Golf Club. \$85 members. [www.westshore.bc.ca](http://www.westshore.bc.ca)

**BC Liberal Leadership Voting.** **Feb 1 to 3.** Candidates: Mike de Jong, Michael Lee, Todd Stone, Sam Sullivan, Dianne Watts, Andrew Wilkinson.

**BC Family Day.** **Mon Feb 12.**

**Blood Donor Clinic.** **Mon Feb 12.** Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 11:30am-6:30pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**BC Legislative Assembly** resumes after winter break. **Tues Feb 13.** [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**Victoria Seedy Saturday.** **Sat Feb 17.** 10-3:30. Victoria Conference Centre. \$7. [www.jamesbaymarket.com](http://www.jamesbaymarket.com)

**Sooke Seedy Saturday.** **Sat Feb 24.** 10-3. Sooke Community Hall. Free admission. [www.sookefoodchi.ca](http://www.sookefoodchi.ca)

**BC's building, plumbing and fire codes.** Feedback on proposed technical changes can be made online up to **Feb 28, 2018:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards/the-codes/public-review>

## An eye to 2018-2019: SD62 digs into big issues

West Shore Voice News



SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge listens to an ECOW presentation (2017). Cambridge will be retiring at the end of June 2018.

**Fastest growing school district in BC:** SD62 delivers public education to residents of Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Highlands, Metchosin and Juan de Fuca.

● **At their monthly Education Committee of the Whole (ECOW) meeting,** Sooke School District (SD62) trustees will hear an update on the District's International Program from their District Principal of Student International Programs, Laura Schwertfeger.

Also, the board will hear a presentation on 'Student Success in SD62' given by senior administrative staffers: Superintendent Jim Cambridge and the three assistant superintendents Paul Block, Stephanie Hedley-Smith, and Dave Strange.

Open for discussion by all who attend is the proposed 2018-2019 Strategic Plan (also open to input from parents, students and teachers during January), as well as transportation options (usually centering around the cost of school bus services).

Open to families and the public, the ECOW meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, January 9 at Willway Elementary in Langford. The meeting starts at 7pm, to be chaired by SD62 Trustee Dianna Seaton. Hosted by Willway Principal Sue Tonnesen. SD62 Chair is Ravi Parmar. **WSV**



SD62 Assistant Superintendents oversee three families of schools that serve over 10,000 students in the west shore (from left): Dave Strange (Sooke), Stephanie Hedley-Smith (Langford), Paul Block (Colwood). They also handle many other high-level administrative responsibilities such as labour negotiations, curriculum, IT, international students, distance learning, and enrolment numbers. [WSV Photo: Aug 2017]

### SD62 STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2019

**Vision:** honour student voice and choice through engaging, purposeful and experiential learning in a safe and respectful community

**Values:** Relationships, Choice, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Safety

**Mission:** to develop informed, literate and resilient citizens and sustain a safe, respectful and responsive learning community.

**Goals:** Learning | Engagement | Growth **WSV**

## WorkLink to celebrate 40 years of employment services

West Shore Voice News

● **The WorkLink WorkBC Employment Services Centre** provides free job search services to eligible clients in the west shore, Sooke and surrounding areas. In 2018 they will be celebrating their 40th anniversary, says WorkLink Community Relations Coordinator Barb McLean.

On Wednesday January 17 WorkLink will host an employer presentation with Thrifty Foods, YMCA-YWCA and Royal Roads University so interested applicants can find out how to get hired by these robust employers. It's a free event being held at the WorkLink satellite office at 101-847 Goldstream Ave (behind Tim Hortons), 1:30 to 3 pm.

The main WorkLink administrative office is on Jacklin Road in Colwood. [www.worklink.bc.ca](http://www.worklink.bc.ca) **WSV**

## Seedy Saturdays in February

West Shore Voice News

● **For those who care** about where their food comes from, the annual Seedy Saturday experience is a highlight of the winter season.

First in **Victoria** on Sat February 17, the James Bay Market hosts the massive Victoria Seedy Saturday at the Victoria Conference Centre, 10-3:30. \$7 admission.

Then on Sat February 24, the **Sooke** region community will get into the seeds, plants and demonstrations at Sooke Seedy Saturday. 10-3 hosted by Sooke Food CHI at Sooke Community Hall. Free admission. **WSV**

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\*denotes optometric corporation



## Choosing the next staff lead for west shore schools

West Shore Voice News

● **SD62 is in the process of selecting their next Superintendent,** to start August 2018 ahead of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Whoever is finally chosen by the SD62 Board of Directors will be taking on several sweeping dynamics that are part of managing a rapidly growing school district (likely over 500 new students each year for the next five years).

The board is seeking candidates with "a history of success in affecting positive change while ensuring that existing successes are honoured and maintained". They're looking for someone with proven strong leadership as a school and district leader "who connects well with partner groups, students, parents, unions, management staff, media and the community."

Applications are due January 15, 2018. Contact: [jfoulger@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:jfoulger@sd62.bc.ca) **WSV**

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## Pets on the street

● **In that sometimes forlorn time** between Christmas and New Year, volunteers with the Victoria Pet Food Bank delivered pet food, treats, toys and coats door-to-door to people who are disabled and/or senior, and to emergency shelters and transition homes from Sooke to Victoria. They also rescued a mother cat with her four kittens, says animal rescue coordinator Margarita Dominguez. **WSV**



In the arms of her homeless owner who lives on the street, this 5-year-old chihuahua named Bella is one of the dogs that received treats and support from the Victoria Pet Food Bank this holiday season.

## Cyber stuff 2018

● **Cyber security** solution providers are calling these the **top issues for 2018:** More AI applied in cyber security; further exploitation with stolen NSA/CIA hacking tools; cyber fraud and financial crimes converge; reputation management is coming (to help fight fake news); malicious domain registrations up; ransomware to find new targets; more mobile apps targeted; travel sites subject to ID hacking; cyberwar becomes official; hackers continue to leverage unprotected devices; tougher insurance in IT; massive Denial of Service attacks will increase. **WSV**

## Hon. John Horgan, Premier MLA, LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



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