

Hon. John Horgan, MLA
LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



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West Shore Voice News

v2

4 pages this issue

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Week #365 of the Voice

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Views on successful living: business & economy, health & wellness, youth, education, arts, politics, sustainability, Millennials & social trends.

Friday, January 19, 2018

Highway 14 improvements announced in Sooke by BC Premier John Horgan

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News

● **BC Premier John Horgan** on a rainy Friday afternoon, January 19, announced 'a start' for the process of improving the travel conditions on Highway 14 (Sooke Road).

With a \$10 million expenditure in the mix, Premier Horgan's announcement was made roadside in the company of about 100 people -- politicians, provincial and municipal government staffers, community leaders and media.

Horgan has been the MLA for what is now the Langford-Juan de Fuca riding since 2005. He has driven Sooke Road countless times, and knows well its pitfalls and challenges for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. He has been aware for some time about the economic impediment that a dangerous and unreliable highway poses to Sooke as a small remote community.

The detailed announcement kicked off this first of multiple phases of safety, transit and traffic congestion improvements for the highway that serves as an essential commuter corridor for residents of Sooke. The route is also depended upon by tourists and mobile service providers who contribute to economic development of the Sooke area.

Langford Mayor Stew Young has long sought improvements to Highway 14, as a way to help connect the rugged sea-side forested area of Sooke to the services and growth of Langford which is now the fastest-growing city in BC (other than Surrey in the Lower Mainland). For Young this announcement was a good start, in that his articulated vision for the west shore has included better road accessibility to Sooke for about 25 years now.

"It's better to put money into infrastructure than into more studies," Mayor Stew Young told media following Horgan's infrastructure announcement.



^^ Premier John Horgan and Sooke Mayor Maja Tait launched the Highway 14 safety improvements announcement event on January 19 at the BC Transit Park-and-Ride across from Edward Milne Community School.



Happy about Phase 1 of Highway 14 improvements were Beecher Bay Chief Russ Chipps (left) and Langford Mayor Stew Young. Last year Beecher Bay, Langford and Metchosin made a 3-way deal that will open up economic and environmental benefits for the region. (Back row): long-time Langford Councillor Lanny Seaton.

Noting the housing affordability of Sooke and similarly Langford, Mayor Young said that better, safer travel on Highway 14 will help link the two communities together to build a great community and a greater economy. "The scale is good here. It help businesses. As Sooke grows, you have to make sure your construction keeps up with that. I know there's going to be more coming, there might be widening. Today we're hearing that safety and lighting improvements are first," said Young. All of this is good for economic development, says Young.

Horgan's Phase 1 announcement is just the beginning. His government's budget in February will include more announcements for improvements on Highway 14, more to do with actual work on the road itself (in addition to the lighting and public transit-related announcements made today).

At the podium with Premier Horgan was Sooke Mayor Maja Tait who said Sooke and the surrounding region is connected by this single highway. "Residents and politicians and alike have been asking for safety improvements for commuters, transit users, pedestrians and everyone else who relies on this."

Tait said that young people and retirees are being attracted to Sooke as a growing community "with proximity to large urban centres that afford us access to diverse employment

● **Twenty cities in North America were shortlisted** this week and still in the running to host the Amazon Thunderdome -- a second headquarters (HQ2) for the online retailer. In Canada the only shortlisted city is Toronto.

Of 238 bids received by Amazon in October 2017, one of those was from the City of Langford here on Vancouver Island.

While Amazon was quick to say they pretty much stuck to their bid criteria which included a minimum city population size of one million people, they also were glad to have learned about many smaller cities that might now be considered as locations for future infrastructure investment and job creation. Langford's population is over 40,000 and growing fast.

While cities across the USA and Canada got some relatively low-cost publicity through being noticed by Amazon, in fact the bidding process also saved the multi-billion-dollar high-tech retailer a lot of market research effort and expense in passively finding out more about smaller centres.

Expected to be in the top three is Atlanta, GA for its proximity to UPS, as well as Austin, TX for its low employment taxes, and any of the US eastern seaboard cities that are situated near large customer populations.

opportunities, health care, educational programs and the like". She reminded the crowd that Sooke relies on Highway 14 "to connect us to the west shore and Victoria."

The rainy-day announcement held at 1 pm was held at the Park-and-Ride across from Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) on Highway 14 at Lazzar Road. In addition to politicians (including members of Sooke council, Langford Council, and BC Transit) and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff, there were many active members of the Sooke community including business and education leaders, and firefighters.

The Sooke region tourist info centre (within the Sooke Region Museum) is one of the first arrival points for motorists as they approach the town of Sooke. Director of the Sooke Region Museum, Lee Boyko, said on Friday that the 'shovel ready' projects for Highway 14 as announced will be helpful to the community.

Two youth from EMCS said the impact of road closures on Highway 14 when there are accidents has meant that teachers cannot sometimes get to the school, and that when fellow students are injured on the road it affects the entire school community.

Among those attending the announcement was Victoria Regional Transit Commission Chair Susan Brice, Langford Councillor Lanny Seaton, District of Sooke Councillors Bev Berger and Ebony Logins, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks, Royal



Roads University, Business Development Director Dale Gann, senior staffers from the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, senior municipal staff from the City of Langford and District of Sooke, T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes, Beecher Bay Chief Russ Chipps, SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar, SD62 Vice-Chair Bob Phillips, Mainroad South Island manager Rick Gill, Sooke firefighters, and community leaders from around the region. **WSV**

HIGHWAY 14 IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1

- **Three bus pullouts** on both sides of Highway 14 at the West Shore Parkway, Laidlaw Road, and Harbourview Road.
- **A bus queue jump lane** at Jacklin Road.
- **New safety signs** at three locations (Kangaroo Road, Gillespie Road, and Parkland Road).
- **Slow-moving vehicle pullout** east of Muir Creek, between Sooke and French Beach.
- **New rest area** at the Sombrio lookout
- **New two-lane bridge** on Gillespie Road (at Roche Cove) -- an important alternative route to Highway 14 (when vehicle accidents and other incidents on the main highway block normal through-traffic).
- Intersections currently without lighting that will receive **new LED lights** are: Awsworth Rd, Humpback/Woodruff (including one at the bus stop), Manzer, Laidlaw, Parkland, and Impala.
- Intersections that will have **new LED lights installed to augment current lighting** are: Kangaroo, Connie, Gillespie, Glintz/Polymede, Ludlow, Goodridge (with upgrade to the fire signal), Harbourview, Saseenos, Woodland, Winnipeg; Saseenos Elementary School (4 additional lights including two directly over each side of the crosswalk); Sooke River/Lazzar/Park-and-Ride. **WSV**



Phase 1: Signage about traffic delays will be posted during construction, starting January 22.

Getting to the deeper story, and as usual it's political



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher
WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

What's the story behind the big news that there will be some immediate improvements to safety and transit flow on Highway 14 (Sooke Road), the commuter lifeblood for Sooke residents? On the political level, the corridor was ignored under a BC Liberal government -- at least in part -- because in the rising NDP star that was John Horgan (2005 til he became Premier) they saw a way not to be kind to the needs of his base in the Sooke area.

And let's face it. Still to date there is no viable local economy in Sooke. Yeah, there are grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants. But when over 70% of residents leave daily to locales beyond for employment and essential services like medical and education, one can't argue with the brokenness that being stubbornly remote produces. Sooke's mayor this week admitted as much in her public remarks that an improved Highway 14 into Langford and toward Victoria is essential while Sooke still sorts out its economy.

The Highway 14 improvements announcement is rightly 'owned' by the Horgan NDP government. All things being equal, the big improvements (only Phase 1 revealed to date) are a natural outcome of the highway being in the Premier's home riding. But the real juice that pushed for these changes came from the practical application of business and politics by Langford's leadership that is guiding proactive development for the west shore. Not inviting Langford's mayor to the podium at the roadside announcement on Friday was the same sort of politics of exclusion that the tossed BC Liberal government practiced for so many years.

National News

Bank of Canada rate highest since 2009

The Bank of Canada benchmark interest rate hike to 1.25% (from 1%) on Wednesday January 17 follows two increases of 0.25% that were implemented in summer/fall 2017.

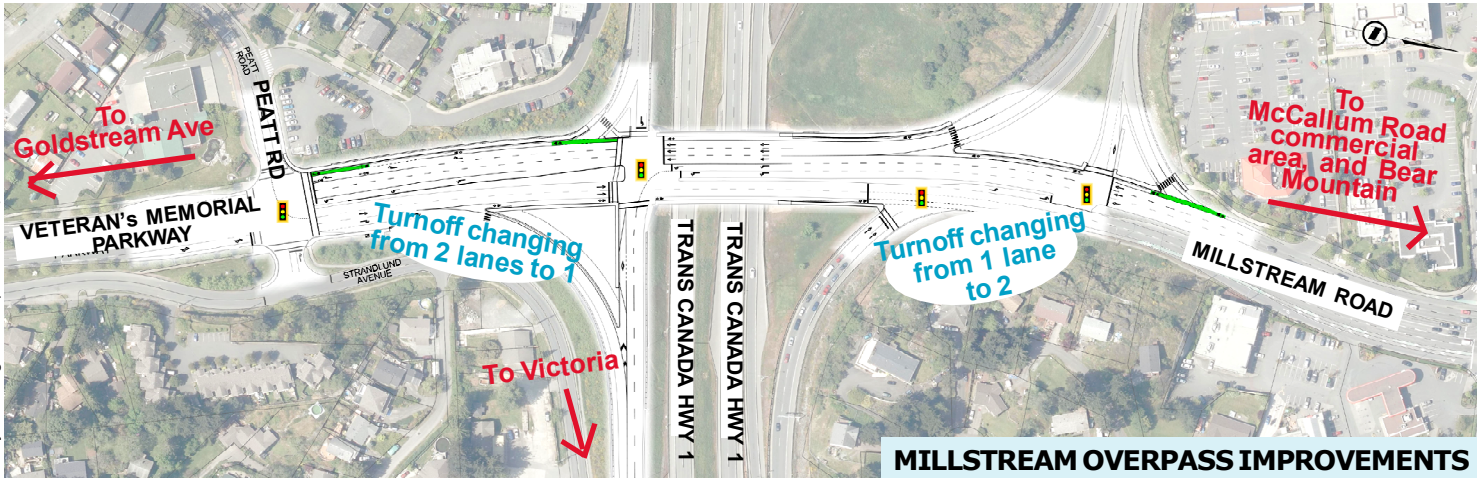
The bank rate is usually moved upwards as a mechanism to control or contain an inflationary market. The new rate of 1.25% is the highest level in Canada since 2009. As of January 18, all five big banks (RBC, BMO, TD, Scotia, CIBC) had a prime lending rate of 3.45% (previously all at 3.2%).

While job numbers were apparently strong in the latter part of 2017, that data appears not to have been fully explored for job quality (i.e. part/full-time benefits) and may include a wave of seasonal hiring ahead of the holiday season.

With the anticipated impact of the mortgage stress test that is now in place (as of January 1, 2018) there began a 'rush on the bank' in Fall 2017. People locked into low-rate and fixed-rate mortgages and bought up what they could. But the lower end market was squeezed -- fewer entry level buyers were qualifying, and owners of lower-end properties were challenged to find available buyers.

WEST SHORE INFRASTRUCTURE

Starting Jan 29: City of Langford starts work on Millstream Overpass



Some long-awaited and much hoped for improvements to travel efficiency around Langford's busy Millstream Road commercial area will now be attended to with improvements to the Millstream Overpass.

City of Langford Engineering will get rolling with the project starting January 29. By February 1, actual road work construction will be seen by the travelling public. Windley Contracting is the civil contractor on the site. Raylec will do signal-related works.

"When the Millstream overpass was originally built it anticipated an additional lane on the bridge. That lane exists right now behind concrete barriers," says Langford Director of Engineering Michelle Mahovich.

The improvements being done now in 2018 include:

- Construction of 2-metre wide bike lanes in both directions linking to the existing bike lanes on Millstream Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway;
- Completion of the missing sections of sidewalk on the east side of the bridge (in the northbound traffic direction);
- Signal improvements including pedestrian crossing capabilities on the northbound off-ramp and a signalized left turn lane for vehicles on the bridge deck travelling north to Nanaimo;
- Pedestrian and/or cyclists crossing location northbound to cross over the southbound on-ramp (travelling north on Veterans Memorial Parkway to southbound TransCanada/Hwy1);
- Creation of the second left turn lane (for traffic heading left/south to Victoria); and
- Maintaining two through lanes south on the overpass toward Veterans Memorial Parkway and a dedicated right turn lane southbound to Peatt Road.

Coming from the direction of Goldstream Avenue where there are presently two lanes allowing exit from Veteran's Memorial Parkway onto Hwy 1... that will be reduced to one lane. Mahovich says current and projected traffic loads have been taken into account for that change. Some drivers will be pleased about having one less lane merge to execute for joining the main flow of Hwy 1 traffic.

"A detailed traffic management plan will be adhered to," says Mahovich. Night work will be permitted to best manage construction related traffic. "Not all work can be done at night, however, so we ask motorists to follow construction signage on site."

Work that includes lane closures is not permitted from noon on the Friday of a long weekend to the Tuesday following a long weekend that has a statutory holiday on a Monday.

Windley's general work hours will be Monday to Friday 4 am to 2 pm. This will include some lane closures, with traffic control personnel on site.

Raylec will work mostly during the day with minimal lane closures. Some of their work at night will be to relocate signal poles or install new signals/pedestrian flashers.

The Millstream Overpass revisions were first set to be done in 2017 but a shortage of trades resulted from heightened demand in the housing sector as well as for remedial work in wildfire regions of the BC Interior.

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The Sooke Voice News

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Iconic 'Cranberries' singer dead at 46

Ontario was the adopted home of Irish singer Dolores O'Riordan, who was found dead in her hotel room in London, UK on January 15. She was 46.

Singer/songwriter of the Irish rock band The Cranberries in the 1990s, O'Riordan's lilting, haunting mezzo-soprano voice was a stark contrast to the predominant rap and hard metal rock of the day. She is best known for hit songs Linger, and Zombie.

The cause of death was not considered suspicious, but the exact cause won't be known until early April.

O'Riordan had been married to Duran Duran tour manager Don Burton; they had three children who they raised in Canada.

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Pharmacare, housing, and environment top priorities for Randall Garrison, MP in 2018

Submitted by Randall Garrison, MP to West Shore Voice News

Randall Garrison, MP
(Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke)



● **As the Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke**, I see the impacts of the affordability crisis on my constituents, and I hear their concern that the federal government must do more to protect the environment and respond to the challenges of climate change. In 2018, I will continue to fight for affordability, for environmental protection, and to advocate for Canada taking a lead role in promoting peace and stability around the world. I look forward to fighting for pharmacare, nuclear disarmament, and improved environmental protection in the House of Commons during the spring sitting. Under the leadership of Jagmeet Singh, my New Democrat colleagues and I are working for a Canada where no one is left behind.

Despite portraying themselves as champions for the middle class, the Liberals are likely to continue to advantage their Bay Street friends rather than taking action to address the concerns of the many Canadians who are struggling with the rising cost of living and job insecurity. The Liberals spent most of the fall defending the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister, who were both embroiled in ethics scandals. Meanwhile, many of my constituents are facing an affordability crisis that leaves them unable to find adequate housing or forced to forgo the medicine that they need. I will continue to remind the Liberals that despite a strong economy, many Canadians are falling behind and inequality is on the rise.

On October 5th, my colleague Don Davies tabled a motion calling for Universal Pharmacare, which would have provided necessary prescription drugs for all Canadians and still save the government billions of dollars. On October 17th, the Liberals voted against the motion, using their majority to block the NDP's effort to provide much-needed pharmacare coverage for Canadians.

In 2018, New Democrats will continue to use every means possible to push for pharmacare for Canadians. Too many people across the country are forgoing medicine that they need or having to beg and borrow to be able to buy the medicine that their doctor has prescribed them. This is not acceptable.

Canada is a rare example of a country that has a universal health care system, but no universal pharmacare coverage. Although my New Democrat colleagues and I were disappointed that the Liberals voted against our motion last fall, we will continue to advocate for pharmacare.

The housing crisis is also deeply affecting the communities that I represent. I hear from constituents who are unable to afford housing and many companies are now finding themselves short on workers, as it becomes harder to attract people to our region. I know that homelessness and housing insecurity are the unfortunate reality for too many people in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke.

Last year, my colleague Rachel Blaney (North Island - Powell River) introduced legislation that would have added the right to housing to the Canadian Bill of Rights. The Liberals again used their majority to block this and instead introduced their own housing plan several weeks later. Unfortunately, the Liberal's housing strategy does very little in the short term, with none of the funding starting until April 2018, while most of the funding will not be provided until after the next election. Additionally, the Liberals used their housing strategy to announce their intention to add housing to the Bill of Rights, which is surprising given that they could have already made this change, had they supported the NDP's bill.

In Fall 2017, my New Democrat colleagues continued our opposition to the Kinder Morgan pipeline, particularly when Kinder Morgan requested permission to overrule the city of Burnaby when the city denied them permits to build a tunnel in late 2017. I will continue to stand with the majority of my constituents in their opposition to this pipeline and the tanker traffic that it would send through our waters.

Finally, with the nuclear sabre rattling by both the US and North Korea over the holidays, it has become clear that someone needs to step up and provide leadership in doing away with nuclear weapons. Any use of nuclear weapons now would be a catastrophe not just for the immediate victims, but for the entire world. If, as the Liberals like to say, Canada is back on the international scene, we should immediately sign the nuclear prohibition treaty and, by doing so, take the lead in efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

I look forward to continuing to work for increased affordability, peace and stability, and environmental protections for the people of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke in 2018. ~ **Randall Garrison, MP** (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) ■

Bus windows, stolen bicycles

West Shore Voice News

● **Westshore RCMP** dealt with the impact of pellet gun shots that shattered windows on a BC Transit bus travelling in View Royal on January 17. The pellets did not enter the bus and no one was injured.

RCMP also notified the public about three bicycles having been stolen January 4 from a condo building on Jacklin Road in Langford. **WSV**

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Rugby Canada training centre: almost ready



The new Rugby Canada professional training centre on Glen Lake Road in Langford is nearing completion. Signage is up and this week landscaping was being done in the rain. **WSV**

Student bus passes

● **SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar**

is exploring the idea of public bus transit passes being made available to all students in the public school system. He sees this as one way to stave off demand upon school-district-provided bus services in the fast-growing west shore area. It would also encourage a lifelong habit of using public transit.

Victoria Regional Transit Commission Chair Susan Brice said this week that two private schools in the Victoria area are now provided with BC Transit passes, with the cost included in student enrollment fees. **WSV**

Sooke Fire Rescue at Hwy 14 improvements announcement

West Shore Voice News

● **The Sooke Fire Rescue Service** has seen many a crash on Hwy 14 (Sooke Road). ICBC figures for 2006-2015 show 1,275 vehicles crashes, with 575 of those resulting in injury or death.

So it was no surprise that the Sooke Fire Rescue Service was represented at Premier John Horgan's highway improvements announcement Jan 19: Matt Barney, Cam Norris-Jones, and Grayson Kerr.

Improved lighting in some sections and a sturdier

Coastal News

WEST SHORE VOICE

No smoking on BC Ferries

West Shore Voice News

● **BC Ferries vessels and terminals** as well as the interior of all vehicles on BC Ferries property will be smoke-free environments starting January 22, 2018. This policy change was first announced last summer.

The coastal transportation provider says a smoke-free environment supports the health and wellness of customers and employees.

The non-use of smoking tobacco "and any other substance" including e-cigarettes is governed under the new policy.

BC Ferries says it has received many requests from customers to offer a smoke-free environment. Smoking-cessation services have been offered to employees. **WSV**



Sooke Fire Rescue Service contingent, roadside January 19 (from left): Firefighter Grayson Kerr, Assistant Chief Matt Barney, Captain Cam Norris-Jones.

bridge on the detour along Gillespie Road will certainly be of help to firefighters when they are out on the highway doing their rescue work. **WSV**

New attempt for a Seniors Centre in Sooke

● **"Sooke attracts youth and seniors,"** said Sooke Mayor Maja Tait on Jan 19 during the Hwy 14 infrastructure announcement alongside Premier Horgan.

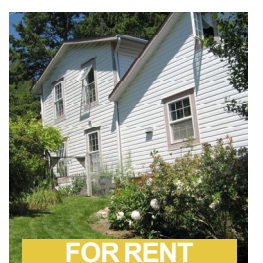
Yet there is no seniors center or youth centre after years of council discussion and attempts by various groups to manifest a space (including at one point consideration of renovations of the old Sooke Community Hall where a small group of seniors met primarily for a hot lunch and bingo).

At Sooke Council on Jan 15, approval in principle was given which will facilitate three groups to begin lobbying government for funding toward building a new senior centre. The Sooke Seniors Drop-In Centre, Sooke Age Friendly Committee and Sooke Region Communities Health Network are eyeing "Lot A" (district-owned land on Wadams Way) for an eventual project centered around a 5,000 sq ft building.

The district budget shows \$200,000 for senior youth facilities, and the groups have reportedly already raised \$55,000. **WSV**

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Jan 22, Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. 12-7 pm. www.blood.ca

City of Langford Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 22, 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 22, 7 pm. www.langford.ca

District of Sooke Committee of the Whole. Mon Jan 22, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

City of Langford Protective Services Committee. Tues Jan 23, 5 pm. www.langford.ca

SD62 public board meeting Tues Jan 23 at 7 pm (new time). www.sd62.bc.ca

Academy Programs SD62. Info Night at Royal Bay Secondary for students in Gr 9-12 & parents. **Tues Jan 23** during RB info night. (Academies info nights also Dunsmuir Jan 30, Belmont tba, and Spencer tba).

Family Learning Tour. Sat Jan 27, 10am to 1pm. Free event. JdF Rec Centre, Royal Bay Secondary, & Centennial Centre. www.sookewestshoreliteracy.ca

SD62 2018-2019 Kindergarten Registration (age 5 by Dec 31, 2018). Mon Jan 29 to Fri Feb 2. Starting 8am online: www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooke Regular Council. Mon Jan 29, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

Brookes Westshore Independent School. Information Night. Mon Jan 29, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. <https://westshore.brookes.org>

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Academy Programs SD62. Info Night at Dunsmuir Middle School for students Gr6-8 & parents. **Tues Jan 30** in the school gym, 6pm. Grade 6-8 Dance Academy, & Gr7-8 Soccer Academy.

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

SD62 Academies (Sports & PACE) in west shore & Sooke. Opens at 6am on **Thurs Feb 1** online at: <https://registration2016.sd62.bc.ca/apps/academy>

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

BC Liberal Leadership voting by members province-wide. **Feb 1 to 3.** Results to announced Feb 4.

West Shore Voice News

Licensed Preschool Open House at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke. **Fri Feb 2**, 3:30-4:30 pm. Registration opens Feb 7 at 9:30 am. www.seaparc.ca

Awareness Film Night: 'A New Economy - Reinventing Business As Usual'. **Wed Feb 7**, EMCS. 7pm. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca | www.transitionsooke.org

BC Family Day. Mon Feb 12.

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Feb 12, Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 11:30am-6:30pm. www.blood.ca

BC Legislative Assembly resumes after winter break. **Tues Feb 13**. www.leg.bc.ca

SD62 Education Committee of the Whole **Tues Feb 13**, 7 pm at Journey Middle School. www.sd62.bc.ca

Valentine's Day. Wed Feb 14.

Victoria Seedy Saturday. Sat Feb 17, 10-3:30. Victoria Conference Centre. \$7. www.jamesbaymarket.com

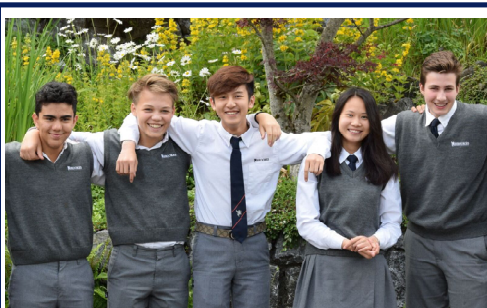
Sooke Seedy Saturday. Sat Feb 24, 10-3. Sooke Community Hall. Free admission. www.sookefoodchi.ca

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>

West Shore Voice News Spring Break & Easter Issues - March 2018 special 5-week ad package. **Ad deadline** Wed Feb 28. Call 250-217-5821

Juan de Fuca 55+ Spring Craft Fair. Sat & Sun **March 10 & 11**, 9-3. Free. Jdf 55+ Activity Centre.

Royal Bay Secondary School career day for all students. **Wed March 14**. <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca>



SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT Monday JANUARY 29 • 6:30 pm



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and Rec Centre, Kinsmen
Fieldhouse, 1767 Island Hwy

<https://westshore.brookes.org/january-information-night/>

Brookes Westshore construction well underway

West Shore Voice News

● **Brookes Westshore independent school** is holding their next school information night for parents and students on Monday, January 29.

"Registrations are going well, way better than expected," says Linda Tesser, Community Relations and Admissions Manager. Full capacity would be 300 students (combination of day and boarding).

"Students are registering for all grade levels. The most for Grade 9, a lot for Grade 6, and a few for Grade 11," says Tesser. There's a mixture of students, coming from other schools, both independent and public. Some of the new students will be transferring from the Brookes Shawnigan campus.

"There is strong interest because other private schools go only to Grade 8," Tesser explains.

The next info session on January 29 will be held at the West Shore Rec Kinsman building (behind the arena, down the hill), from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Students who register in 2018 (for the 2018-2019 academic year) will get a founding school discount of 10%. The discount applies for their entire time at Brookes.

One-year tuition for local day students: • Grades 6 to 10 - \$14,400 • Grades 11 to 12 - \$16,400. Students who board, pay a composite fees that include tuition, room, meals, and other fees.

Features of the new campus include passive solar to manage temperature, ensuite bathroom in every 2-person dorm room, and dining hall with family-style seating.

The school's new website at <https://westshore.brookes.org/> shows an innovative school for modern-day students including outdoor second-floor walkways and views of the creek. **WSV**



Construction of the administration and classroom buildings continues at Brookes Westshore campus at 1945 Sooke Road in Colwood. The third floor is nearly done, and roof trusses were set to be on by end of this week.

Sport & performing arts academies stronger than ever in west shore schools

West Shore Voice News

● **Studying sports and performing arts** in a focused way that leads to possible career opportunities is what the Sooke School District (SD62) Academy Programs are all about.

"Academies increase attendance and achievement," says SD62 Assistant Superintendent Paul Block. "Uptake in registration (over the past few years) has been significant," Block reported at SD62's Education Committee of the Whole meeting on January 9.

In 2017-2018 there were 949 students registered in Academies. That was almost 10% of the student population.

Dance has been a popular Academy program for many years. And starting for 2018-2019, PACE (Performing Arts and Creative Exploration) is within the Academy Programs.

Sports in the Academy Programs are Hockey, Soccer, Baseball/Softball, Lacrosse, Equestrian, Golf, and Rugby.

Border conditions monitored for school trips

West Shore Voice News

● **Education trips** are taken at various times by students in SD62. Coming up is a trip by some Spencer Middle School students to Seattle April 6-9, to take part in the Heritage Worldstrides International Music Festival. And sooner than that is a trip to New York February 20-25 for some Belmont Secondary students to visit Times Square and the UN building.

All trips (within Canada or beyond) require SD62 Board approval. In the past year or so, even with approval there is a caveat that if US-border-related or safety issues change, the SD62 Superintendent has the board's authority to cancel any trip as deemed necessary. **WSV**

ACADEMY PROGRAMS 2018-2019



SPORTS and PERFORMING ARTS

Hockey, Soccer, Baseball/Softball, Rugby, Lacrosse, Equestrian, Golf, Dance, PACE



Info Nights in the West Shore

Royal Bay Secondary for students in Gr 9-12 & parents. **Tues Jan 23** during school info night | **Dunsmuir Middle School** **Tues Jan 30**. | Also at Belmont & Spencer (call schools for details).

ACADEMIES REGISTRATION

Opens at 6am on **Thurs Feb 1** online at: <https://registration2016.sd62.bc.ca/apps/academy>

"Now that Rugby Canada has a training centre in Langford, it will be great for students interested in rugby," says Academies Principal Wayne Kelly.

Information for parents and students who are interested in Academy Programs for 2018-2019 are being held at four SD62 schools in the west shore in coming weeks: Belmont Secondary, Royal Bay Secondary, Dunsmuir Middle and Spencer Middle.

Registration for these high-demand programs starts 6 am online Thursday Feb 1 at <https://registration2016.sd62.bc.ca/apps/academy> **WSV**

West Shore Voice News



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WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

www.westshorevoicenews.com



TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Jan 8 to 26. Intermittent interruptions on Treanor Ave (Millstream to Ashley Pl). 7:30am - 4:30pm, roadworks, BC Hydro installations. **Starting Feb 1, for a few months.** Construction of improvements to Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Some traffic closures/delays (except Fridays) ahead of long weekends).

Until mid-summer. Traffic interruptions for sewer installation along Bray Ave, Carlow Rd, Linda Lane (west of Jacklin & Goldstream). **WSV**