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News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookeline Publishing House Inc

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

Friday, January 26, 2018 Release date January 28, 2018

Tsunami Warning shakes up some Vancouver Islanders in the middle of the night

by Mary P Brooke

Municipalities jolted to act

West Shore Voice News
● Tuesday morning January 23 the earth shook near Alaska, producing a reality shake-up for most residents and municipalities in Greater Victoria capital region.



In the event of a Tsunami Warning, people in low-lying areas should move to higher ground.

There was a sense of disarray for the public, although emergency preparedness officials say it all went rather well (see BC response, page 5).

Following the 7.9 Magnitude quake that occurred 278 km off the coast of Alaska at 1:32 am, a Tsunami Warning was issued six minutes later for most of the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Many people slept right through the wee-hour event. And those who became passively aware of the Tsunami Warning achieved that through a splatter of social media, TV news (including The Weather Channel), website postings, email bulletins, text messaging, Facebook posts from friends, and phone calls from friends or family within or beyond the region. As a communications exercise it was, at best, a hit and miss outcome. People seem unclear as to the difference between needing to be concerned about a tsunami (affecting low lying areas) and an earthquake ('the big one' will affect all of coastal BC plus areas beyond).

In a way, it turned out to be a drill. The couple of hours until cancellation of the warning at 4:12 am could be considered a good wake-up call that preparedness levels may fall short of need and expectation. Most municipalities feel they did a pretty good job on the ground. But given that individuals and families realized their preparations are not up to where most emergency professionals believed or hoped them to be, shows public education falling short.

Most people assumed they would receive a text message, phone call or email with an alert advisory (similar to the state-wide alert system used in Hawaii recently during a missile-strike false-alarm). The nation-wide Alert Ready program in Canada is only on TV and radio, not on phones or social media (though Alert Ready will include text alerts as of April 2018). Most people rely now on their digital technologies; emergency preparedness officials and municipalities are clearly sure of that now.

The CRD's www.prepareyourself.ca and also www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca (when active during emergencies) plus @EmergencyInfoBC on Twitter advises residents to check with 'local authorities'. Well, that's a bit of jargon that most people don't know how to interpret in the stress of an emergency. Call 911 or police or fire? Clicking through to the website of your municipality is a bit of an info search exercise, and not an intuitive first choice for most people.

Some people did call police or 911. Fire rescue departments were a better call, but some municipalities took a while to get to their liaison posts. Some responses were 'over the top' such as what the Sooke Fire Chief called a panic response after someone pulled the fire alarm in an apartment building followed by a group heading to Sooke Fire Hall seeking instructions.

Some people in the wider region afterward wondered if there are maps showing low-lying regions that would be endangered during a tsunami. The CRD has had maps for years, shared with fire departments and emergency services. In the throes of Tuesday night's tsunami warning, the CRD website itself had no current postings on the live situation.

As much as knowing to phone 911 for fire and

PUBLIC SAFETY

EARTHQUAKE January 23, 2018
7.9 Magnitude at 1:32 am in the Gulf of Alaska, 278 km S/E of Kodiak, Alaska, 10 km below the surface.
TSUNAMI WARNING cancelled at 4:12 am.

medical emergencies, people want to know how to find emergency information during a quake-response. Also, to assume that everyone is at home or at work when a quake or tsunami hits is simply wrong.

It's surprising there wasn't more public critique of municipalities and the provincial government this week over what are now evident massive cracks and gaps in the preparedness advisory system. Organization of that service varies dramatically among the various municipalities in the Greater Victoria area.

Perhaps because Metchosin and the Juan de Fuca areas are further out from the main core area and primarily rural (with an innate sense of self-reliance), they were notably the most prepared.

Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop promptly emailed her established list, with necessary details for timing and evacuation, punctuated with "this is not a drill". She is following this up with a review session on January 29 for residents and officials to debrief.

In Juan de Fuca west of Sooke, the situation was monitored closely. After seeing that the waves did not reach a critical expected height, discretion was used. No sirens.

Tofino advised all residents to evacuate to higher ground. The tsunami was expected to arrive there at 4:40 am.

In Esquimalt, only residents in low lying areas were evacuated to the

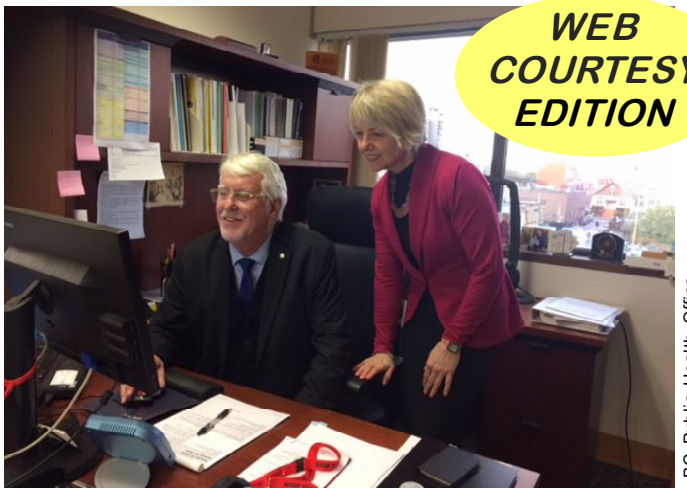
Switchover at the helm: Dr Bonnie Henry stepping into Dr Perry Kendall's big PHO shoes

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Deputy provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry has been appointed as BC's new provincial health officer (PHO). She will replace Dr. Perry Kendall, who will retire on January 31, 2018.

Health Minister Adrian Dix made the announcement January 24. Dr Henry is the first woman to hold the PHO position in BC.

Dr Henry says she will contribute independently,



This week it was announced by Health Minister Adrian Dix that Deputy Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr Bonnie Henry has been promoted to PHO starting February 1, 2018. Dr Perry Kendall, in the job since 1999, will retire on January 31, 2018.

evidence-based advice including on the overdose crisis, work to do around community, legalization of cannabis, cable diseases and .../and drinking water.

CONTINUED on pg 2

Langford & Royal Roads: greater economic & community opportunities

Taking a big stride forward in and for the west shore regional community, the City of Langford now has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Royal Roads University (RRU). Announced at the January 22 City of Langford council meeting, the MOU sets in motion an official collaboration of the fastest growing city in BC together with the leading-edge west shore university.

RRU Business Development Director Dale Gann says the "attraction, creation and retention" of young talent by the local university is becoming more formal with the MOU. Langford Mayor Stew Young said that "retaining young people to stay in our community" is important as the city grows. "Post-secondary is paramount for this council as we have grown," Young said, in line with his long-time philosophy of building Langford as a community where people can stay to learn, have jobs and build businesses instead of leaving for towns and cities afar. "We improve what we've got in our community," Mayor Young said at Council.

The five-year agreement bears the signatures of RRU President Allan Cahoon and Langford Mayor Stewart Young. **WSV**

local rec centre. This unearthed awareness that broader notification is desired. Esquimalt may now collaborate with the Victoria's popular VicAlert.

In Saanich an emergency reception centre was activated at the Gordon Head Rec Centre. Some folks made their way to the top of Mount Tolmie.

This was a real situation but 'nothing' happened. This allows the 'cry wolf' complacency phenomenon to set in. The type of earthquake that occurred January 23 produced horizontal movement of tectonic plates. There wasn't the same force as there would have been if the quake had produced vertical motion, pushing waves up with great force.

In Sooke for years there had been a proactive awareness campaign with information sessions provided by the fire rescue service. Most people in low-lying areas of the Sooke area were aware they

should move to higher ground if a tsunami threat were to become real, but not necessarily where to go. 'Higher ground' is pretty vague. To where, and how long?

Overall, especially in urban and suburban areas of Greater Victoria, people may expect a rescue team will arrive at every door. The reality is that preparation for 72 hours of self-reliance is required in urban areas, and up to 7 days or more in rural and remote areas.

A grab-and-go kit is only a start. What about long-term food, clothing and shelter needs? Does every family, household and workplace have an evacuation plan? Interruptions to banking, employment and transit will have further impacts after a major quake followed by tsunami. Medical care will be restricted or largely unavailable if transit corridors are interrupted. So much readiness is yet to be achieved. **WSV**

MORE on page 5

Editorial

BUILDING CITIES

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Developers: building-out the people's vision



Veronique Gagnon

Mary P Brooke
Editor &
Publisher
WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

● **Property developers** paint their mark with a big brush. With a wide range of professional expertise they build homes, offices and commercial buildings and contribute funding for roads, sidewalks and parks. The results of their efforts are injections of opportunity into neighbourhoods, communities and local economies.

In Langford through a vision of manifesting a modern metropolis, the cityscape has changed dramatically in the last 12 years to include higher housing density and more places of business. In Colwood, community plan discussions in the past year have unearthed a view among residents and city planners to preserve natural environments while avoiding overdensification; developers are now working hard to find ways forward in that mix.

Developers are the ones who take the financial risk to construct our cities. But at the end of the day we all pay for town growth through increased housing prices (including rentals) as well as tax increases related to the maintenance of infrastructure improvements. Developers and communities must work hand in hand if desired goals -- including affordability -- are to be achieved. ■



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BC HEALTH News



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WEST SHORE VOICE

Health issues in BC: Dr Bonnie Henry on opioid crisis, viral pandemics

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

A CLOSER LOOK - This week *West Shore Voice News* had a few questions for incoming Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry.

● **Regarding the opioid crisis:** What has worked (for the success of people addicted to the drugs), and what hasn't worked? What will you recommend or do differently going forward?

Dr Henry: There has been tremendous progress in many areas in responding to this crisis since we declared the emergency in April of 2016, tragically though deaths continue at unacceptable levels and there is much still needed to be done.

Things that have worked have been the expansion of naloxone to thousands of people in BC, including providing it for free from pharmacies, and its use to save lives; establishment of the innovative and overdose prevention sites under a Ministerial order, these have proven to be critical in reaching populations that have not in the past accessed sites like Insite and have been instrumental in engaging the knowledge and support of peers in supporting people who use drugs and preventing deaths. We have also made progress in establishing eight supervised consumption sites across the province where people can access not only harm reduction supplies and a safe environment but also can be connected to recovery services when they are at that point in their journey when this is needed. We have also made progress in drug checking and using that as a tool to help people avoid overdosing on the toxic street drug supply.

We have significantly increased access to more modalities of evidence based treatment for substance use disorders and increased the numbers of trained health professionals who are interested and skilled in addictions treatment, particularly OAT. Much of this work has been accomplished through the newly created BC Centre on Substance Use. We have also had very supportive partnerships with public safety in building and supporting an understanding that addictions is primarily a health issue rather than a matter to criminal law and sanctions.

Where we still need to work is in continuing to change the public understanding and discourse around people who use drugs to recognize that these are people, our family, friends, neighbours and reduce the stigma that is associated with drug use so that people are able to have those critical supportive conversations about drug use. Currently the highest proportion of people who are dying are young men who are using alone; much of this has to do with shame and stigma. Decriminalizing people who use drugs is an important step to reducing stigma and creating the opportunity for recovery.

● **You mentioned a recognition of need for people addressing pain** (not just physical). Will your recommendations encompass a need to recognize how socioeconomic issues play a role in despair (for which some people turn to drugs)?

Dr Henry: Yes, we need to look at the broader determinants of why people use and abuse substances be that emotional, psychological or physical pain. And we know that poverty is a key underlying factor to why many people have pain and poor health and this can lead to or go hand in hand with problematic substance use.

● **You handled SARS in Toronto.** How prepared is BC for massive virulent infection, and more specifically for germ warfare?

Dr Henry: In some ways we are well prepared in that we have a tested structure and process for organizing a health response to any emergency like SARS. We have expertise at agencies such as the BCCDC that supports this response. We have tested this with many issues from the H1N1 pandemic in 2009, the response to the West Africa Ebola outbreak, and the severe wildfires we had in BC last summer. Having said that there is always a degree of chaos when a new emergency arises and we need to continually refresh and practice our responses to minimize that period of chaos as much as possible.

● **Will British Columbians see any new directions from you in your role as Provincial Health Officer?**

Dr Henry: The important role of the Provincial Health Officer as an independent voice for the health of British Columbians is one that Dr Kendall has established and that I respect tremendously and this responsibility is one I take to heart in my new role. *WSV*

/ continued from page 1

acknowledged that British Columbians "are in the middle of a bad influenza season right now".

Dr Henry has concerns about co-locating cannabis and alcohol in the same provincial liquor-store outlets "and impacts that might have". "We have expressed that but it's up to others to make decisions," she said.

The incoming Provincial Health Officer says that under Dr Perry Kendall BC has "led the country" in recognizing the overdose crisis and that "a myriad of different measures to try and keep people alive" have been implemented. Dr Henry says the focus is on communities "and what we can do with their unique needs".

She says progress will be about "building a system that will support people where they are in their journey". She articulated that pain can be psycho-social, emotional or physical and that it's not easy to change a chronic relapsing condition under such scenarios.

Providing a safer drug supply is part of the solution, Dr Henry said. The drugs are "toxic and killing people". She feels strongly about not criminalizing people who use drugs and instead focusing on "helping them wherever they are".

Dr Perry Kendall — who has been BC's Provincial Health Officer since 1999 — thanked media for continuing to report factual stories and getting the message out properly in a new world of 'fake news'. *WSV*

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Published by **Brookeline Publishing House Inc.**, Langford, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Mailing: 2969 Abouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 **Tel & Text: 250-217-5821**
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Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed
Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF

Publisher: Brookeline Publishing House Inc. **Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content:** Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR. **Publishing Support Specialist:** Jennifer Brooke. **Reporter:** Sophia Romanchuk. **Contributors this week:** Jeri Grant, Michelle Mahovich, Jennifer Rice. **Distribution:** PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook. **IT Network:** Ivandafish Computing. **Printing:** Brookeline Publishing House Inc. **Courtesy copies:** coffee shops; business reception areas, libraries, rec centres, community. **Online PDF & breaking news (website & Facebook):** ~ 64,000 page exposures/wk

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Trudeau to host town hall in Nanaimo

● **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** will host a town hall meeting in Nanaimo on Friday, February 2.

His recent town hall meetings in a few locations across the country have been "an opportunity for Canadians to discuss how we create more jobs and grow the economy".

Town halls have already been held in Halifax, Hamilton, London, and Quebec City. Winnipeg and Edmonton are the next stops before the prime minister arrives in Nanaimo.

Any other public stops during Trudeau's visit to BC next week have not yet been announced. *WSV*

GG to South Korea

● **Governor General of Canada Julie Payette** will visit South Korea Feb 7 to 12. She will attend the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang and the opening of Canada Olympic House. *WSV*

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Transit options along the E&N Rail corridor: a west shore priority for Premier John Horgan

West Shore Voice News

● Premier John Horgan says the E&N Rail Corridor is a priority, something to be dealt with by his government within the next two years. The corridor has been eyed for many years as a route that could be used by trains or buses.

Horgan says he has already discussed options for the unused rail corridor with Transportation Minister Claire Trevena. MLA Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin) is leading a consultation with the local representatives.

"We want to move on this as quickly as possible," Horgan said during the Highway 14 improvements announcement on January 19 in Sooke.

"I've been 12 years an MLA," said Horgan. "And I've been talking about this almost every time I get an opportunity. Is it going to be a train, is it going to be a bus corridor? That's a decision that we have to make as a community."

"But what we know for certain, is that the pinch point at View Royal where you have the Old Island Highway and the new highway doesn't allow for any more growth in that area. We have an unused corridor that stretches from Comox right into the city and it's underutilized. That's stupid and we need to fix that."

"I know everyone here agrees with that. The challenge is, what's the mode, what's the least costly way to make that happen," he told media, elected officials and community leaders last Friday.

Horgan appears to not be in favour of the proposed Regional Transportation Commission that is being discussed at the Capital Regional District (CRD).

The Premier said: "How do we break down the barriers between municipalities, and how we bring people together? There have been numerous discussions, trial balloons about regional transportation authorities, how do we use the CRD? Do we create a new body? Is BC Transit the appropriate vehicle? Do we need a new organization or a new entity?"

Horgan continued: "I'm going to work with what we have in front of us. I think we can come up with a structure that works for everybody. I don't think we need a new bureaucracy. I think we need to have a common purpose for the region. And the way you do that is by bringing people together from the various municipalities that desperately need transportation infrastructure improvements." Generally speaking, that would be the western communities including Langford, Colwood and Sooke where residents are clustering in larger number all the time in search of relative housing affordability.

"I'm biased because I live in the west shore," says Premier Horgan. "All of the growth, all of the development is happening here. We need to make sure that our provincial infrastructure is helping us grow our economy and protecting our citizens."

In the last few years as traffic congestion to and from the west shore has only increased, Langford Mayor Stew Young has urged the opening up of the E&N Railway for use by buses.

Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton said this week that she is not in



Premier John Horgan chatted with Sooke Councillor Ebony Logins (black coat) and youth ahead of his Highway 14 improvements announcement.

West Shore Voice News



BC Government construction signage was already up along Highway 14 this week: "Highway 14 - Transit Pull Outs - Harbourview . Laidlaw . Westshore. Complete Spring 2018 - Value \$1.9 million"

West Shore Voice News

favour of the proposed Transportation Regional Authority at the CRD. 'Weighted' votes (whereby core municipalities such as Victoria and Saanich have more votes at the CRD board table) she feels will tip the vote against the interests of the west shore communities. **WSV**

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Alistair MacGregor takes on Agriculture

West Shore Voice News

● Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) has been named as the Agriculture Critic in the NDP Shadow Cabinet. The appointment was announced January 25 in Ottawa by NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh during the NDP Caucus Retreat.

In this role MacGregor

will also be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

"As someone who owns a small-scale farm property in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, I am excited to accept this appointment to serve as the NDP's Agriculture Critic," said MacGregor.

"The issues surrounding how we produce and consume our food are always on the forefront of the national conversation, and I am looking forward to leading the development of NDP policy on these matters and holding the government to account," added MacGregor. "Agricultural producers are among the most important actors in the Canadian economy, and I will make sure their voices are heard in Parliament."

MacGregor previously served as the NDP's Critic for Justice and Attorney General and for Seniors.

MacGregor maintains two constituency offices within the broad geographical region of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford — one in Duncan, and one in Langford. **WSV**



<< Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford), with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, last year in Victoria.

Mitzi Dean looking forward to February

West Shore Voice News

● "We're looking forward to the Speech from the Throne February 13 and the BC Budget on February 20," said Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean this week.

"Our government has been making good progress on our objective to make life better for British Columbians. Over the last few months, our focus has been to make life more affordable and to improve the services people count on while creating good jobs and a strong, sustainable economy."

"We're working on strategies to deliver affordable universal child care, housing that families can afford, health care where and when people need it, and good jobs as part

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Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

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of an economy that works for everyone." Dean has been helping out with consultations about the unused E&N corridor, according to Premier John Horgan last week during his Highway 14 improvements announcement. **WSV**

Horgan in Asia

West Shore Voice News

● BC Premier John Horgan says what's impacted him most so far on his 10-day economic development trip to three countries in Asia is "the staggering magnitude and scale of China... to see it first hand — the traffic, people, air quality." With enthusiasm, addressing media by phone on Friday January 26: "These are real opportunities for the clean tech sector. (Canada is) a small player on the international stage compared to China."

Horgan's trip that includes urban stops in China, South Korea (where he toured a new tech hub) and Japan is about "job creation and investment for BC". He added: "This trip has shaped my perspective of the enormous potential for BC to diversify our trade." **WSV**

Tim Hortons construction underway in Sooke

Economic Development



T'Sou-ke Nation economic development project: a Tim Hortons coffee shop & Petro Can fuel station with convenience store, next to EMCS high school in Sooke.

West Shore Voice News

The who's who of a Premier's roadside speech in his home riding

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● Over 100 people gathered at the roadside for Premier John Horgan's Highway 14 improvements announcement on January 19. Sprinkled throughout his 12-minute remarks were the names of his local notables.

For any politician, such apparently casual mentions are a huge shout-out to people in the community who support or affect the speaker's political sphere.

Here's who Horgan gave the nod to last Friday, sometimes more than once: Transportation Minister Claire Trevena, Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean, District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks, City of Langford Mayor Stew Young, T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes, Beecher Bay Chief Russ Chipps, Regional Transportation Chair Susan Brice, Metchosin Councillor Moralea Milne, and the Pacheedaht in Port Renfrew.

Horgan wrapped up saying to 'Gordie' (T-Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes) that he's looking forward to buying a coffee at the new Tim Hortons on Sooke Road, which is a T'Sou-ke Nation economic development project currently under construction. **WSV**



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait

JdFEA Director Mike Hicks

Detour starting mid-February: Jacklin Road detour during Belmont Market construction West Shore Voice News

● For those who commute regularly through Langford, from Sooke Road over to the Langford core, this one is for you!

A new municipal road called Division Avenue will soon be open for use through what is now the construction site for the new Belmont Market (on the old Belmont school site).

The City of Langford will issue a Traffic Advisory with the exact date, but as a commuter, you'll know!

Closing off a section of Jacklin Road between Terlane and Jenkins (the section you'd take from Sooke Road to reach Westshore Town Centre), is still on track for Tuesday February 13. The closure will be in both directions, for about four months. After that, some improvements will be done on Jenkins Avenue, but that work can be completed with single-lane alternating traffic.

The City and the contractor are on track to contact residents who are directly affected. That would also include the Sooke School District 62 administration office, just a stone's throw beyond the section of Jacklin that will be closed.

"Residents living in the closure area will be given full continued access however the general public will not be allowed into the construction zone. Businesses will also be notified in the general region of the construction works (eg. North of Jenkins Avenue and south of Division Avenue)," says Michelle Mahovich, Director of Engineering, City of Langford.

Division Avenue will be opened to the public before Jacklin Road is closed so that traffic can use this as a detour.

The road closure is being done to best enable efficient and safe completion of a **large amount of construction works slated for this section** of road including: • Watermain replacement by CRD Water • Installation of a new sewer main • Completion of sidewalks on the east side of Jacklin Rd (the west side of Jacklin Rd sidewalks would be installed as development proceeds on that side of the road) • Bikelane completion on both sides of Jacklin Rd • A new signal light at Terlane Ave leading to a controlled entry point to the Belmont Market property • Landscaping • Transit stops.

The road improvements were all a requirement of rezoning for the Belmont

Colwood housing affordability: a concern

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● It was slow-mode taking in an extensive amount of public input, followed by 'hurry up' at the formalizing phase. That's been the dynamic over the past year or two for the City of Colwood in their efforts to 'get it right' with a new Official Community Plan (OCP) to reflect a new vision for the town.

The existing OCP was generated in 2008. Only 10 years later, as housing prices have escalated and community expectations have crystalized to include 'green' sustainability, a new OCP is being now quickly forged ahead of the fall 2018 election season. The impact of this OCP is 20 years, says the City.

The west shore development community says time is now awfully short for producing an OCP that will properly manifest what people say they want. The people build the vision, and the developers enact it.

During public input at Colwood council during on January 22, planning and development consultant Mark Holland (hired by a consortium of west shore developers to step into high gear with an OCP response) made it clear that developers are in something like 'emergency mode' over the proposed OCP. Developers are seeing that they will be forced into more challenging and costly scenarios to produce housing that is affordable. Green vs affordability is a stark way of putting it. There are ways to work toward achieving both goals, but that takes time to work through all the real and technical ramifications of OCP expectations, to discuss options and preferences of community and developers, back and forth.

One sticking point appears to focus around the preservation of trees, some of which are aging and will likely suffer and die following all the activity of construction around them. For all the trouble of working around one or two trees, there are benefits to instead do new landscaping with attention to ecosystem.

Developers do recognize and respect an OCP as the people's vision for a town. The document guides direction, with homes and infrastructure built from there. They really don't have a choice, as Council approves development permits.

Developers did participate and provide input during the Colwood OCP input process, including at a meeting November 27, 2017 at which about 50 developers, land owners, business stakeholders and residents participated to review what had been gathered during public input and then assembled by the Colwood planning staff. Emerging from that meeting was a sub-committee to represent the perspective of the Colwood Community Stakeholders Association, specifically: Peter de Zwager of Burrard Group, Jim Hartshorne of Keycorp Consulting, businessman Dave Saunders, Ian Spurling of Canland Holdings Ltd., and Len Wansborough of Metropolitan Capital Partners.

"The issue with the rushed schedule at this stage, is that the town is not giving enough time for the refinement of the 'implementation' side of the vision," says Holland. "Two years building a vision – and little time to dig into the complexities of its implementation – specifically the development permit guidelines. There are so many details in it that need to be reviewed in light of the next 10 years of reality ahead," he told West Shore Voice News this week.

The OCP as it presently stands would end up producing a significant divide in housing types in Colwood, essentially pushing up the cost of housing and eliminating some buyers from the market altogether. Seeing favouritism to higher-end single family home development, Colwood might become almost elitist if medium-density and rental accommodation is not plentiful enough. Housing prices in Colwood are already beyond what's seen in Langford and Sooke.

Local businessman Dave Saunders says the housing prices that would result from building to satisfy the proposed new OCP shows Colwood as "taking a defeatist attitude toward affordability". A former Colwood mayor, Saunders says: "Colwood is such a great city. We have to make it diverse for young, middle age



A new municipal road called Division Avenue will be used as a traffic detour while construction improvements are done in a nearby section of Jacklin Road.

Market site and are being paid for by the Developer.

"If the road were not closed for this work it would likely take twice as long or more to complete the work and would prove very challenging," says Mahovich.

The closure does not go south as far as the Galloping Goose. It stops short (just north of) the SD62 school board office. There is a project map on the www.langford.ca website.

"I believe we will be impacted when Jacklin is worked on," says SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. People will need to take the detour. "Langford is leading that awareness piece as they are responsible for managing traffic flow."

The City has been doing pothole repairs on Jacklin and Jenkins. With cold weather and snow the potholes were opening back up and proving to be an ongoing maintenance challenge. **WSV**

Youth counselling supported by City of Langford West Shore Voice News

● At the January 23 City of Langford Protective Services Committee meeting, Chair Lillian Szpak and committee members received thanks from the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) for continued financial support that allows them to serve more youth with counselling services and "allows us to pull family members into the counselling mix".

A low-barrier LGBT drop-in program for ages 13 to 18 started Oct 3. The organization also has a youth gang counselling coordinator.

Last fall, the non-profit organization relocated into their new building at 324 Goldstream Ave.

PCFSA executive director Deborah Wilson (who sits as a member of the Langford Protective Services committee) reported that there has been very little counselling staff turnover since 2012, which provides consistency for clients. Most clients are from areas in Langford and Colwood, said Wilson.

Sooke youth seeking these services can contact the Sooke Family Resources Centre at 6672 Wadams Way. **WSV**

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

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www.westshorevoicenews.com

and seniors. We all have to roll up our sleeves put on our workboots and try to make housing as affordable as possible," Saunders told West Shore Voice News. **WSV**

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Rob Martin re-elected at GVPL

● Colwood Councillor Rob Martin was re-elected on January 23 as Board Chair for the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL). "I'm so blessed to be apart of this world class organization!," he posted on Twitter @RobMartinBC.

Martin was first elected to Colwood Council 2011, and re-elected in 2014. He sits to the right of Mayor Carol Hamilton at council meetings. **WSV**

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Tsunami-warning aftermath: Every municipality does it differently

West Shore Voice News

● In the days that followed the early-morning Tsunami Alert on the west side of Vancouver Island on January 23, most people felt unsettled at what appeared to be an uncoordinator system of advising people. Media throughout the south island region was filled with letters, editorials and critiques of the disarray that people felt.

Well, there are 13 municipalities in the Greater Victoria area and each one is responsible for their own emergency planning and deployment of services. "On a provincial level, the government works with individual communities to develop emergency plans that reflect their unique needs," says the BC Government's Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, Jennifer Rice.

"If anything, the January 23 tsunami warning reveals to what extent the system works," said Rice. So why the disconnect in public opinion? Where low-lying areas are known by emergency preparedness professionals to be in danger during a tsunami, somehow the danger differential based on where you live has been better communicated in some areas more than others.

The Juan de Fuca area was prepared. They have emergency drills throughout the year, setting up and working through various would-be scenarios. Those needing advisories in Sooke, Colwood, Langford and Esquimalt were visited door-to-door by emergency personnel.

"No alert system is failsafe, and the Province is continuing to work with local and national governments to improve the safety of all individuals visiting or residing along the West Coast of British Columbia," said Rice this week.

In the event of a tsunami warning, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) notifies local governments, first responders and media of emergencies via the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS); the Emergency Info BC blog and Twitter feed; and Alert Ready (currently TV and radio; immediate notifications from wireless service providers to be available April 2018).

"The current system offers municipal governments the opportunity to make decisions based on the determination of their own unique risks," says Rice. But somehow many citizens felt left out or ill-advised, possibly not realizing there is 'no need' to advise them if they are not in danger. But people also have a need to know what's going on in other locations where family and friends may reside or where their businesses or colleagues are located.

"It is local government that decides whether to activate a local alert and the method of communication. A siren, broadcasts through social or local media, and emergency personnel knocking on doors are some examples," says Rice.

In Tofino, residents were in fact advised to evacuate, which took place in a calm and orderly fashion (the result of public education).

"With respect to the January 23 earthquake that occurred just off the coast of Kodiak, Alaska, a number of coastal communities chose to evacuate, while others decided to monitor the situation as it



Jennifer Rice, MLA,
Parliamentary Secretary for
Emergency Preparedness

unfolded using the information available to them," says Rice.

EMBC continues to support the federal government's implementation of the National Public Alerting System. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has announced this will include immediate notifications from wireless service providers by April 2018. This expanded mandate from broadband to wireless will complement other tools already employed in BC to help reach as many people on as many platforms as possible.

"More than anything, however, I would like to stress the importance of knowing the risk," says Rice. She itemized: Do you live along waterfront, or along a flood plain? Have you developed an emergency plan with family members and your neighbours? Do you have not one, but perhaps three emergency kits stowed in an easy-to-reach location in your home, your car and your workplace? Do you have enough supplies to carry you through at least seven days of disrupted water, electricity and other services?

Metchosin has been prepared for years. Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop had advisories out by email to all residents who had signed up. Some residents in low-lying areas evacuated. A debrief will be held January 29, 7pm.

In Juan de Fuca they were 'this close' to activating their new siren system at Port Renfrew. "But we decided not to," says JDFA Director Mike Hicks, after no significant waves were seen at Port Hardy at the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The estimated time of wave arrival for Port Renfrew was approximately 4:55 am. Notifications showed a wave height of about 0.5 ft (6 inches).

The Juan de Fuca area includes both East Sooke and west of Sooke up to Port Renfrew. Juan de Fuca Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Jeri Grant says she knows there are some who have wondered why JdF didn't use the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) early Tuesday morning. "That came down to the protocols we have in place for distal tsunamis, we have two in place that we follow," says Grant. 1 - CRD Dispatch Protocol: As per protocol CRD/Langford dispatch pages the Emergency Program when a Tsunami Warning has been issued and as well CRD Dispatch pages out all JdF Fire Depts (this did take place). 2 - CRD Tsunami Protocol (Distal): Public Notification takes place 90 minutes prior to inundation time so the public can evacuate in an orderly way if there's a threat.

"During the time the earthquake happens and the inundation time, the CRD, EOC and JdF EP are monitoring information from USGS, NOAA, EMBC etc to be able to identify early if there is a threat or non-threat for our area Zone C and D, so that we are able to activate notification system, sirens and do sweeps of low lying areas by the Fire Departments and RCMP," says Jeri Grant.

Langford Fire is actively coordinating with other

Newspapers on the retail newsstand & in coffee shops

West Shore Voice News



>> The newsstand at Shoppers Drug Mart in Sooke is a popular location for buying printed newspapers.



West Shore Voice News

● Printed newspapers are still a 'thing'! People like having the news to pore over at their leisure, or refer to again without having to be near a computer. Or maybe just as a memento, keepsake or archive. The West Shore Voice News colour print edition is for

Customer appreciation: free chocolate on Valentine's Day

● For people who like coffee, tea and all the snacks and sandwiches at Serious Coffee View Royal, there's an additional special treat coming up on Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14. "That's 10% off for everyone," says franchise owner Eric Chang. "And free chocolate that day!"

Chang took over the coffee shop franchise on April 14 last year. He appreciates the support of a growing clientele who drop in for morning coffee, afternoon tea, and late-afternoon snacks as well as for grab-and-go drinks.



The free black-and-white version of each week's West Shore Voice News is available in the lobby at West Shore Parks & Rec in Colwood, 1767 Island Highway as well as at libraries and coffee shops in the west shore and Sooke. >>



West Shore Voice News

sale each week at newsstands including at Pharmasave in Millstream Village in Langford, and Shoppers Drug Mart in Sooke. Same price as most cups of coffee: \$2.25+GST.

In the interest of community connectedness, the greyscale version is free in many coffee shops, rec centres and libraries in Langford, Colwood and Sooke.

The colour PDF of West Shore Voice News is available by paid digital subscription, and online www.westshorevoicenews.com WSV



Serious Coffee View Royal is located at 1703 Old Island Highway (next to Big O Tires Westshore, and across the street from the casino in View Royal). WSV

municipalities in the region to recommend options for an emergency alert system. "We hope to have a report to Council as soon as we have researched an appropriate system," says Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey. "There will be a national alerting system starting in April. We are looking at options to best tie into that system so there is consistency in the messaging to the public." In the interim, if there is a need to alert the public in an event such as a tsunami, information will be provided by the Langford Fire Dept through a variety of sources such as social media, TV, radio and in person as needed starting with those in the most immediate danger.

Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount will provide Council at their January 29 meeting with an update on notification systems, particularly about the CRD system that was demonstrated to them in 2017. "The Emergency Program has been trialing this system for several months now," says Mount. "Speaking with other municipalities since the incident, they are looking at some of the same alternatives and cost sharing. Subscriber-based systems can be a good advisory tool to help supplement good credible information to residents."

Colwood has an email subscription system that provides regular news, not emergency alerts. The city is currently working with View Royal and Langford to explore options for a West Shore emergency alert system, says their communications manager Sandra Russell. On the morning of Jan23, Colwood Fire and West Shore RCMP knocked on doors within the tsunami notification area along the lagoon and notified residents that the evacuation centre had been set up at Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre. RCMP Officers cleared all cars from Ocean Blvd. At 3:30 am, an emergency notice was posted on the Colwood website and shared widely on social media. WSV

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STAYING SAFE IN AN EMERGENCY

For more information about how to improve the safety of yourself and loved ones, see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>

If a tsunami alert is broadcast in your community, remember to stay calm, stay safe, heed the instructions of local government and head to high ground.

Jennifer Rice, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for
Emergency Preparedness



WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

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 at Kinsmen Fieldhouse (behind Westshore Rec Centre), 1767 Island Hwy. <https://westshore.brookes.org>

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 to 4pm Wed Jan 31. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/msptaskforce/>

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

Vision Westshore 2018. Thurs Feb 1. 5 pm to 9:30 pm. West shore mayors panel discussion, dinner. Olympic View Golf Club. \$85 members / \$100 non-members. www.westshore.bc.ca

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WestShore VISION 2018
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1
5 to 9:30 pm

Come hear the five west shore mayors on their vision for the region in 2018. A dinner event at Olympic View Golf Club (643 Latoria Rd). **\$85+GST** members (\$100+GST non-members). Tickets by phone 250-478-1130 or at the WestShore Chamber office.
www.westshore.bc.ca

Prime Minister's town hall meeting in Nanaimo, Fri Feb 2. Location and time tba. Open to the public.

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

Lynn Miles in concert. Sat Feb 3. Holy Trinity. 1962 Murray Rd, Sooke. 8 pm. \$15 at Shoppers Sooke. \$20 at door. www.sookefolkmusicssociety.com

BC Liberal Leadership voting by members province-wide. Results to be announced Feb 4.

Community Grants. District of Sooke Special Council Meeting. Mon Feb 5, 7 pm. www.sooke.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.

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'The day after'

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice

● It seemed like 'the day after', but it was still the very same day of the Tsunami Warning, January 23.

Operating on the steam of a series of short rests punctuated by various stages of emergency action and media followup after the wee-hours morning call to action, Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount was pleased with his team's response to what was effectively the first real test of the current system.

"We were ready to deploy," said Chief Mount, although he was "diverted at the start" by a group of 'panickers' who had en masse left their apartment building on Kaltasin Road and headed to higher ground. Well, to the Sooke Fire Hall as it turns out.

Four utility command units were deployed to low-lying areas including West Coast Road, Coopers Cove and Billings Spit. And they got ready to close Whiffin Spit. And right in the middle of that there was a car fire on Connie Road to handle.

Emergency Services Support (ESS) volunteers got over to Sooke Community Hall, ready to set up a reception centre if that had been needed.



Sooke Fire Chief and Emergency Program Coordinator Kenn Mount (left) and firefighter Ben Temple alongside Engine 1 later on January 23, after the Tsunami Warning experience. There are 44 personnel on the firefighting team now in Sooke: 6 full-time career, 30 volunteers (including 6 new recruits), one office coordinator (liaison during emergencies), and seven ESS.

Chief Mount will provide Council with an update at their January 29 meeting on notification systems with particular attention on the CRD system that was demonstrated to them in 2017. "The Emergency Program has been trialing this system for several months now," says Mount.

"Speaking with other municipalities since the incident they are looking at some of the same alternatives and cost sharing," says the Sooke Fire Chief. "These subscriber-based systems can be seen as a good advisory tool to help supplement good credible information to residents and support efforts with the proper information coming from ground crews going door-to-door." **WSV**

2019 there will be centralized pickup and drop-off areas and pre-identified routes made known ahead of registration. **WSV**

TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Jan 29-31. 701 Strandlund Ave, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Traffic Delays for roadside construction.

Jan 30-Feb2. Langford Pkwy between Lakepoint Way & Langford Lake Rd. WEATHER DEPENDENT: 9am to 4pm on *one* of these dates: Tues Jan 30; Wed Jan 31; Thurs Feb 1; Fri Feb 2. Traffic Delay for roadside construction.

Feb 1 to Apr 30. Construction of improvements to Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Some traffic closures/delays (except Fridays ahead of long weekends).

Starting Feb 13, to about June 30. Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont site on Division Ave.

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



SD62 infrastructure

West Shore Voice News

● A BC Hydro right-of-way on the SD62 administration building property at 3143 Jacklin Road in Langford recently required access. That was so the utility could access and install underground services to provide power to the neighbouring Belmont Market construction site and development.

Some parking lot users were dismayed in recent weeks about the missing parking stall lines and fewer spots. "The parking lot surfacing will be replaced to its previous state so there is no loss of parking spaces," said SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull this week.

SD62 administration needs more office space. For that, they're installing a portable near the rear of the property. "We need dedicated space for District-wide learning resources and staff as the District continues to grow," says Cull. **WSV**



Kindergarten

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2018-2019 academic year

January 29 to February 2
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More details:

www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten

SD62 bussing adjustments

West Shore Voice

● It's been something of a thorn in the SD62 school board's side, determining the best way to provide school bus services (registration, routes, costs) as the student population grows. SD62 trustees were as much relieved as pleased at the solutions that Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull announced at the Jan 23 board meeting. "It's so complete and takes away some of the angst for parents and trustees," said SD62 Trustee Dianna Seaton. For 2018-

2019 there will be centralized pickup and drop-off areas and pre-identified routes made known ahead of registration. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

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

BC Legislative Assembly Throne Speech. Tues Feb 13. (Budget on Feb 20). 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. 10% off at Serious Coffee View Royal, 1703 Island Highway.

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

SD62 Non-Instructional Day. Fri Feb 23. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

SD62 Public Board Meeting Tues Feb 27. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

BC's building, plumbing and fire codes. Feedback on proposed technical changes 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 - special 5-week ad package (weekly in March). Advertising 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 student career day. Wed March 14. <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca>

SD62 Spring Break for schools in the west shore and Sooke. Sat March 17 through Easter Monday Apr 2. School re-opens Tues Apr 3.

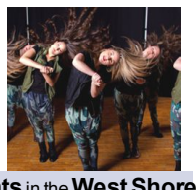
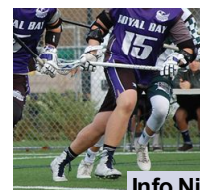
Easter Long Weekend: Fri Mar 30 thru Mon Apr 2.

ACADEMY PROGRAMS 2018-2019



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Info Nights in the West Shore

Spencer-John Stubbs Middle School Mon Jan 29 7-8 pm. **Dunsmuir Middle School** Tues Jan 30 6-7pm. **Belmont Secondary School** Wed Jan 31 6:30 pm (Gr 8 info night).

ACADEMIES REGISTRATION

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

Women at lunch

West Shore Voice News

● About 85 business women gathered at this month's sold-out lunch meeting of the Westshore Women's Business Network on Thursday, January 25 in Colwood. The main presentation was about building sponsorships for businesses and non-profits. **WSV**



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