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West Shore Voice News

v2

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Vision 2018

MUNICIPAL ELECTION YEAR

West Shore mayors

by Mary P Brooke
 West Shore Voice News



West shore mayors at Vision 2018, February 2 at Olympic View Golf Club. From left: Langford Mayor Stew Young, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton, View Royal Mayor David Screech, Metchosin Mayor John Ranns, and Highlands Mayor Ken Williams.

● Addressing an attentive audience of movers and shakers in business and politics, on Thursday evening five west shore mayors covered a wide range of issues in their Vision 2018 panel discussion.

Among those attending the west shore dinner event hosted by the Westshore Chamber of Commerce were municipal leaders, MLA Mitzi Dean, SD62 school district senior staff and chair, developers, Royal Roads University senior leadership, and organizers from the service and non-profit sectors.

Langford Mayor Stew Young, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton, View Royal Mayor David Screech, Metchosin Mayor John Ranns, and Highlands Mayor Ken Williams fielded questions on regional transportation, housing affordability, educational opportunities, expanding economic opportunities including new tech, as well as serving youth, providing recreation and supporting the arts.

They even addressed that old bugaboo – amalgamation, saying that overall the distinct needs of the various municipalities would not be well served by amalgamating all existing 13 municipalities of the Greater Victoria area.

However, Stew Young reiterated his idea of creating three regional boards (to replace the CRD), which would allow municipalities with similar concerns to work together more than they already do. That would roll out as a west shore region, core region, and peninsula.

It was evident throughout the couple of hours of discussion that these five mayors enjoy and appreciate their communities, and have mutual respect for each other's governance. Four of the five have served two or more terms as mayor (only Williams is a first-term mayor). They've clearly evolved in both depth and scope in understanding the nuances of issues in their municipalities to the point where rather creative, co-supportive solutions and services have been found.

It's the west shore way, it seems, to work with what you have and collaborate where shared interests are better served. Like an well-evolved ecosystem, these west shore communities are in many ways productively co-dependent. For example, Colwood relies on Langford for robust retail, and fire rescue services in several west shore municipalities have reciprocal agreements to help each other out as required. Metchosin contributes their preserved natural landscapes (underscored with a no-growth policy) as a 'carbon sink' for the west side of the island, said Metchosin Mayor John Ranns.

On the broader scope, Langford's mayor spoke about bringing more offices and technology companies to Langford, which will help provide jobs and reduce the need for long commutes. Metchosin's mayor added that "technology is the only thing that will get us out of global warming" and appreciates the job and recreational opportunities for his residents in nearby Langford.

Last year Langford, Metchosin and Beecher Bay signed a 3-way agreement that brought more development land to Langford, more greenspace to Metchosin, and more economic opportunity to Beecher Bay.

However, the next day Langford Mayor Stew Young said his municipality shouldn't really carry all the costs of modern recreation for Metchosin. He further explored the reality that the Westshore Rec Centre is in Colwood but supported by several municipalities to the tune of millions of dollars (including from Langford) even though Langford now has its own arena, bowling alley and sports fields.

And the next day, View Royal Mayor David Screech made it clear that he supports the CRD Regional Transportation Service bylaw that the other west shore mayors have rebelled against for its apparent redundancy of exploring transportation options. Langford and Colwood in particular would just rather get on with evident needed changes such as better lane setups on Hwy 1, getting commuter access to the E&N rail corridor, and setting up more park-and-rides.

About 175 people attended the event at Olympic View Golf Course, emceed by retired broadcast journalist Bruce Williams. Williams took the opportunity to remind the room that the role of media is "to hold people's feet to the fire".

The relaxed nature of the evening allowed this experienced group of mayors to wax eloquently and use some 'insider' humour to address the news-attentive audience. A technique of submitting questions by text messaging was moderately successful; a few people got up and asked questions in real time.

A major fundraiser for the Westshore Chamber, the dinner event ticket price was \$85 per plate for members (\$100 for non-members) and was also supported by a number of business sponsors. **WSV**

"BC has lost a giant," says Premier John Horgan on the passing of former NDP Premier Dave Barrett

West Shore Voice News

● "Today, BC has lost a giant, former premier Dave Barrett," said Premier BC John Horgan in a statement released late Friday afternoon, February 2. Barrett, who led an NDP government 1972 to 1975 died February 2 at age 87. His health deteriorated in his later years due to Alzheimer's.

Barrett led BC's first NDP government, busting out of office a 20-year centre-right Social-Credit government.

"His visionary leadership and unflinching commitment to the well-being of ordinary people around the province led to lasting change that shaped our province for the better. In just one short term, his government delivered our first modern ambulance service, the Agricultural Land Reserve and public auto insurance. We are all better off, thanks to his tireless work and immeasurable contributions to public life," said Premier Horgan.

Horgan said that Barrett's sense of humour and ability to command a room with his oratory was legendary. "First and foremost, I will always remember his commitment to working for regular people."

"He was an inspiration to me and many other British Columbians, and I am grateful for his friendship and guidance over the years. His legacy will live on in our hearts," said Horgan.

Since taking the reins of the first NDP government in 16 years in BC last July, Horgan seems to have taken a page from the Barrett book of politics by getting many initiatives in place right off the bat. Back in 1972 Barrett took a bold path, writing in his 1995 memoir: "We agreed unanimously to strike while the iron was hot. Our government represented the first real break from the traditional power base of the province. We were free and unfettered to roam in new directions."

Today BC Green Party leader Andrew Weaver said about Dave Barrett: "As Premier, he enacted bold, sweeping changes that touched on every aspect of life in BC. He has left a lasting imprint on our province. Many of the reforms enacted under his leadership are still with us today, including lasting protection to our agricultural land through the Agricultural Land Reserve, and Pharmacare." **WSV**



Dave Barrett
 BC NDP Premier
 1972-1975

West shore realty prices Jan 2018

West Shore Voice News

● WEST SHORE: Single Family Homes Jan 2018 (averages of actual sale prices)

Colwood \$721,774 (8 sales / 8.6% of GV sales)
 Langford \$712,247 (32 sales / 34.4% of GV sales)
 Sooke \$511,437 (26 sales / 27.9% of GV sales)
 Greater Victoria (GV) \$925,715 (93 sales)

From stats at: www.vreb.org

● GREATER VICTORIA:

LOW INVENTORY 2016-2017: 1,491 active listings at Jan 31, 2018 virtually the same as a year earlier (1,493 at Dec 31, 2016).
 HIGHER INVENTORY 2013-2015: In July 2013 there were 4,772 properties for sale; 3,489 at Dec 2014; 2,517 at Dec 2015.

No more dual agency in BC real estate

West Shore Voice News

● Real estate in BC is changing. On March 15, 2018 the New Consumer Protection Rules come into effect. Changes were recommended to the Real Estate Council by an independent advisory group.

One of the biggest changes is the end of Dual Agency, which means a Realtor may offer representation to a buyer or to a seller for any listed property. Two competing buyers in the same transaction will be represented separately.

"This new rule significantly impacts real estate teams as they are considered one Agent," say Clive and Kirsten Greenaway of Greenaway Realty in Sooke.

A new form called the Disclosure of Representation in Trading services, clearly states the risks of being unrepresented (i.e. the absence of an Agent providing fiduciary duty). 'Double-ending' is still possible but only if the buyer is willing to work with a Realtor unrepresented

Some offices already have more than one broker under one roof in order to best serve their clientele.

There are five new terms in the lingo: co-operating brokerage; designated agent; dual agency; listing brokerage; unrepresented party. These new definitions standardize the terms introduced by the new rules that deal with dual agency, representation disclosures, and licensee remuneration.

You can send comments to the Real Estate Council and learn more at www.recbc.ca **WSV**

Got Real Estate Questions?
 Stop in for a coffee to talk about what is likely the biggest financial decision of your life!

The way we do Real Estate in BC is changing

As of March 15, 2018 in BC, your Realtor may represent the seller or the buyer, but not both.

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Editorial

SMARTER POLITICS VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST WEST SHORE VOICE

'Messy democracy' at Trudeau's BC town hall



Mary P Brooke Editor & Publisher WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **Ah, protesters in BC** ... a style all their own. Many people are dismayed over the potential dangers of oil spills associated with getting bitumen from Alberta to the BC coast through the federally-approved TransMountain pipeline project, and onto ocean-faring tankers. And rightly so. And the BC government has a form of organized protest all its own, led by Premier John Horgan. He seems intent on representing the view that environmental concerns must be considered and protected (not singularly about environment, but because the broad economic future of BC would be impacted by a spill not the least of which would be the seafood industry and tourism). Horgan is proactively playing the middle ground.

But the 'messy democracy' bordering on verbal abuse at Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's town hall meeting in Nanaimo on February 2 showed a real lack of engagement with a process of respectful public engagement that does sometimes allow distinct perspectives and community viewpoints to shine through. Trudeau contained the ruckus with statesmanly comment for what seemed like a very long uncomfortable time, eventually followed by a few people being bodily removed from the assembly after they repeatedly refused to listen and allow others to speak.

The political system in Canada can be slow, cumbersome and frustrating but it does work if you engage with it intelligently and respectfully. Sure, at most levels there are heavy-duty players who call most of the shots. But if you're not one of them, then use the few openings you can find for getting your points across



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effectively (which in 2018 includes your provincial government which appears to be shooting straight on behalf of all British Columbians on this complex issue).

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BC News

COURTESY ONLINE EDITION

WestShoreVoiceNews

WEST SHORE VOICE

Horgan explored BC's economic opportunities in Asia

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● "It's great to be back in BC, back home with my colleagues," said Premier John Horgan at the tail end of a 10-day whirlwind three-country tour in Asia.

He made the trip to re-establish and build new relationships with trading partners across the Pacific.



BC Premier John Horgan and the BC delegation, in South Korea.

Horgan was accompanied by a lean team, just three elected representatives (Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology Bruce Ralston; Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Lisa Beare; and Minister of State for Trade George Chow), deputy ministers for those ministries, Horgan's press secretary and chief of staff.

Softwood lumber and NAFTA were top concerns. "And we wanted to talk about the tech sector, which has exploded in BC, driven by innovation in Korea, Japan and Asia," Horgan told media in a news conference back on BC soil on February 2.

As reported on January 26 following a media teleconference with Horgan out of South Korea, BC's premier was strongly impacted by "the staggering magnitude and scale of China... to see it first hand - the traffic, people, air quality." Having grown up on Vancouver Island, he was particularly impacted that people live with such thick polluted air in many Asian urban centres.

"There are real opportunities for the clean tech sector. (Canada is) a small player on the international stage compared to China," he said, indicating the massive scale that Canadian exporters could contribute to.

Horgan's trip that included urban

stops in China, South Korea (where he toured a new tech hub) and Japan was 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.

"We went to Asia to tell business leaders the intentions and focus of a new government in BC. It's been 16 years since a change of parliament in BC," Horgan said upon return. Tourism, tech and trade were on the overall agenda.

The 10-day trip included business roundtables, numerous networking events and face-to-face meetings with government officials and business leaders with operations in BC or those considering expanding to this province.

A comment made to Horgan by one of the trade representatives who appreciated the visit to reaffirm connections, reinforced for Horgan the importance of face-to-face meetings.

"Nothing replaces face-to-face conversation," he told media, referencing an opportunity of meeting with Governor Ma Xingrui of Guangdong (BC's sister province in China). "He was impressed that BC visited so early in our mandate."

The tour began in China January 20, continued in Korea January 25, and finished in Japan on January 30. **WSV**

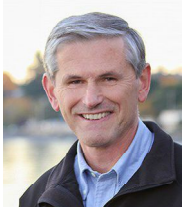
Wilkinson now leads BC Liberal party West Shore Voice News

● **The BC Liberal Party** has operated with an interim leader (Rich Coleman) since former Premier Christy Clark resigned August 4 last year following the power shift to a progressive minority government a try under the NDP's John Horgan.

A slate of six BC Liberal candidates vied for their party's top job, with the membership on February 3 choosing the relatively new Vancouver-based MLA Andrew Wilkinson (first elected in 2013 and served as the minister for Advanced Education and also Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services). It is interesting that the more celebrity-style candidates who made a vibrant mark with outgoing moves during the Clark era - Mike deJong and Todd Stone - came in fourth and fifth respectively.

Wilkinson grew up in Kamloops, and earned his higher education as a medical doctor at the University of Alberta, followed by law degrees at Oxford and Dalhousie.

Prompt congratulations were issued by Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver, adding: "One of our caucus' key priorities in choosing a confidence and supply agreement over a coalition government was to ensure we could work with both parties to advance our shared priorities in the legislature." **WSV**



Andrew Wilkinson

The BC-Asia Connection

● **BC goods exports** to China totalled \$5.9 billion in 2016, making China BC's second-largest export market.

● **China is Canada's second-largest export destination**, with 4.3% of Canadian goods shipped there.

● **The 2018 Canada-China Year of Tourism** is an initiative launched by the governments of Canada and China to celebrate and promote tourism opportunities.

● **China is a burgeoning tourism market**, with a 22% increase in overnight visits to BC in 2016 over 2015. Tourism visits to BC from residents of China, South Korea and Japan in 2016: Mainland China: 312,668 overnight customs entries. This has more than tripled since 2009 and Mainland China is now BC's second-largest market, after the U.S. Japan: 151,535 overnight customs entries. This is BC's third-largest Asia-Pacific market after China and Australia. South Korea: 108,903 overnight customs entries. This is BC's fourth-largest Asia-Pacific market.

● **Canada and South Korea share a thriving, two-way trade relationship** totalling billions every year - particularly in the natural resource sector, agrifoods and seafood, international education, technology and tourism.

● **BC exports to South Korea** were \$2.2 billion in goods exports in 2016, accounting for 51% of total Canadian exports to Korea.

● **Japan is BC's third-largest trading partner**, at \$3.7 billion in good exports in 2016. BC total exports to Japan, which are primarily commodities, are nearly double that of the next leading Canadian province.

Source: BC Government, February 2, 2018

43% more overdose deaths in 2017 West Shore Voice News

● **There were 1,422 suspected drug overdose deaths** in BC in 2017, representing a 43% increase from 2016, it was announced by Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and BC Coroners Service on January 31.

About 81% of the suspected illicit drug deaths in 2017 as tallied to date had fentanyl detected, up from 67% in 2016. In most cases, fentanyl was combined with other illicit drugs, most often cocaine, heroin or methamphetamines. Carfentanil has been detected in 64 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths (June to December 2017).

The majority of deaths continue to occur in private residences. **WSV**

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Western communities rally against CRD on costly transportation service

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore
Voice News

● **Almost like one of those stand-offs** in an old cowboy movie, among the 13 municipalities of the Capital Regional District (CRD) there is a growing angst about the Regional Transportation Service (RTS) that has west shore communities pitted against the rest (with View Royal somehow straddling the middle).

The RTS is something the CRD wants to do, feeling that its regional position would be a more appropriate guiding force than the status quo whereby various municipalities cooperate in an ad-hoc fashion as it makes sense for certain areas of service.

No one can argue with the fact that commuter traffic congestion between the west shore and core areas is the top transportation priority in all of the southern Vancouver Island area. Or can they? View Royal Mayor David Screech -- with his small municipality centrally engulfed between the western communities and the core areas of Saanich, Esquimalt and Victoria thinks all aspects of transportation -- from the west shore out to Sidney -- are important.

But with Langford, Sooke and Colwood being among the fastest-growing areas in terms of housing demand, it's plainly clear that getting from those areas down to where most of the employment and post-secondary action is happening in the core, is a significant problem that is simply not replicated anywhere else on the south island.

And it's not just about the temporal frustration of executing one's way through the traffic jams (whether by car, bus, or bicycle), but also what they impact ... less time in a day for both work and family, plus the environmental impact of many (gasoline-fuelled) vehicles on the road. And there's political pressure too, as communities look to their municipal leadership for something to be done. Moving traffic along better on the existing roadways is one thing (e.g. with bus pullouts and HOV lanes), as well as getting the E&N rail corridor back

into use for use by commuters -- if not with trains, then for buses and cars.

Last month Premier John Horgan made it clear he is taking a direct interest in west shore regional transportation concerns (much of which is in his own Langford-Juan de Fuca riding). Horgan has asked MLA Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin) to be something of an envoy, out there gathering information and viewpoints to help bring -- if nothing else -- more goodwill to the decision-making process from various factions. There are plenty of reports already, going back many years on transportation in the region, including the E&N.

Defacto, that the CRD reduced the original \$10 million price tag for their still-pending RTS down to \$2.5 million acknowledges that plenty of input and intel already exists. Langford Mayor Stew Young has stacks of transportation reports at his office. Premier Horgan says there are numerous E&N reports at the legislature. Really, it seems that all it takes now is political will, and in Premier Horgan the interests of the west shore may have finally been found.

The day after a pointed RTS debate at Colwood Council January 22, a letter from Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton was sent to CRD Chair Steve Price and cc'd to all the mayors as well as Horgan, Dean, and Municipal Affairs & Housing Minister Selina Robinson. Hamilton articulated the frustration of the west shore in that enough time has passed, that it's time for action, and that few if any further studies need to be done. Certainly not at the cost of \$2.5 million which would increase the CRD portion of taxes in every municipality.

Municipalities have 45 days to respond to the RTS that passed 3rd reading at the CRD board's January 10 meeting. After February 23, not proceeding with the RTS will require core area CRD directors (holding the greater number of votes) to accept the need for immediate action using existing resources. **WSV**

Park & Ride in Colwood targeted as prime real estate

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **The Park and Ride** that is so popular and well used at the corner of Island Highway and Ocean Boulevard is being targeted for real estate development.

The City of Colwood says the property on Ocean Boulevard that is currently used as a BC Transit Park & Ride site is designated as road right of way. "Council directed staff to bring forward a closure document that will make it a land asset, giving the City further options for the land," it was announced by the city.

None of the documentation -- including an ad published in a newspaper (not this one) -- mentions the intended use for the land as a Wellness Centre.

But that's the plan. A meeting was held January 31 at Colwood municipal hall to show the Wellness Centre plans to the public. The City of Colwood says the property is centrally located on major roadways in Colwood, and has immense potential "to revitalize the City's town centre with new services, retail, employment opportunities, community amenities and an increased tax base". No RFP has yet been issued to glean ideas from various developers; the pre-determined goal seems to be a medical centre. Says Colwood Councillor Rob Martin: "Say the land is worth \$2 million and a \$10 million medical building is built there. That land and building will create about \$130,000 of property tax per year (approx 1% tax rise)." For Martin, it seems to be a win-win to get some "desperately needed medical services within our community" while bringing in more tax revenue.

Working with BC Transit to find locations to replace the current park and ride appears to be key. BC Transit's rep James Wadsworth said at Colwood council January 22 that they are exploring park and ride land options with Langford, and asking the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for more land options along Highway 14. About 9,500 bus commuters (with 2,700 to 3,400 in peak hours) travel from the west shore to downtown Victoria daily, he said.

On a matter of process, Colwood businessman Dave Saunders says the other municipalities that pay millions of dollars into the operations

Colwood Councillor Rob Martin throws his hat into the mayoralty race

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Colwood Councillor Rob Martin

● **Municipal election season** is warming up in the west shore. Two-term Colwood Councillor Rob Martin has announced February 1 that he will enter the 2018 Colwood mayoral race.

Also with experience as the Board Chair of the Greater Victoria Public Library (2016 to present) and Board Chair of Westshore Parks & Recreation (2012-2016) as well as being an active member of the Colwood Emergency Preparation Committee since 2011, Martin brings a broad community approach to his interest in being Colwood's next mayor.

Martin runs his own small business, Precise Surgical & Medical Supplies. "Colwood is at a pivotal time in its history," says Martin. He has four main areas of concern: housing affordability, honouring truth and reconciliation with indigenous neighbours, the complexities of transportation issues for the west shore, and fostering the West Shore rec centre for use by residents.

"The Official Community Plan is the most important document the city creates. It lays out not only the direction that will impact how Colwood will look and feel but it determines how the City will interact with our neighbouring municipalities. We need to get it right, rather than fast," Martin said this week. He is also in favour of selling off the land at Island Highway and Ocean Boulevard (presently a park and ride) so that a medical facility can be built there for the Colwood area.

Still an active Colwood Councillor, Martin says he really wants to spend the next six months working on some projects he is excited about. "The best way to campaign is to show it through my works, not just my words."

At Colwood council meetings, Martin often ably summarizes what is going on while handily moving the conversation forward with observations and options.

Rob expects to informally talk with residents about his vision and listen even more over the next four to six months. "Announcing today was about being able to start the conversation," he said. **WSV**

Pre-approval of renovation waste required at Hartland Landfill

by Sophia Romanchuk
West Shore Voice News

● **There was a steady stream** of potential home reno do-it-yourselfers stopping at an info booth about health risks of hazardous waste when doing home renovations.

The educational presentation at Canadian Tire at Hillside Mall on January 27 was one of several by the Capital Regional District (CRD) over a few weeks.

The booths have been hosted in various hardware and building supply stores in the west shore, Esquimalt, and Victoria. In the west shore displays were recently held at Slegg Lumber in Langford and Home Hardware in Sooke. Another will be at Home Depot in Langford on Saturday, February 17 (10:30 am to 4 pm).

This CRD campaign also informs residents and small contractors about regulations at Hartland Landfill surrounding demolition and renovation waste.

Until recently smaller businesses and home renovators were simply dumping reno waste in bins at the landfill, making the control of asbestos difficult.

There is now a pre-approval process for small business and homeowners, which involves assessing the structure for hazardous materials and completing a clean demo application. After the submission of the application and getting the test results, the applicant receives a pre-approval number and can schedule an appointment for disposal. www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/construction-demolition

Asbestos is a strong mineral fibre which was used as insulation, for fire protection, and to add structural strength to cement and plaster. The danger arises when these fibres become airborne, which can happen when material containing asbestos is disturbed. Inhaling the fibres can lead to lung scarring and disease.

While some homeowners might be frustrated over additional steps to take before beginning their renovations, ultimately it's about protecting themselves, their families, and workers from any kind of asbestos disease.

Many houses in the Greater Victoria area were built pre-1990, making it highly likely they contain asbestos in some form.

This is "something we need to start treating a little bit more seriously, because so many people do renovations without knowing the dangers," said one of the CRD reps. "Even if you hammer something into the wall, you could potentially expose yourself to asbestos".

Full implementation of residential pre-approval takes effect March 2018. Info about the policy change and asbestos: crd.bc.ca/renowaste **WSV**

.....
of Westshore Parks & Rec (i.e. Langford, Highlands and Metchosin) should have been consulted about Colwood's action to take the road right of way and call it a land asset. He says back in 1999, Westshore Parks & Rec owners (originally also including Juan de Fuca) were consulted about the original creation of the park and ride. **WSV**



Athena (left) and Colette provided info to shoppers at the CRD's 'Reno Safe & Waste Wise' booth, January 27 at Canadian Tire.

Sophia Romanchuk ~ West Shore Voice News

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Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

- Super Bowl.** Sun Feb 4 at 3:30 pm Pacific Time.
- City of Langford Regular Council.** Mon Feb 5, 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca
- City of Colwood Committee of the Whole.** Mon Feb 5, 6 pm. www.colwood.ca
- 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
- 5th annual Career Development Conference.** Thurs Feb 8. Royal Roads. 9-4:30. www.royalroads.ca
- BC Family Day.** Mon Feb 12.
- Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon Feb 12. Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 11:30am-6:30pm. www.blood.ca

Achieve distinct marketing reach in West Shore Voice News. 250.217.5821

- BC Legislative Assembly Throne Speech.** Tues Feb 13. www.leg.bc.ca
- City of Colwood Special Council Meeting.** Tues Feb 13. Public input on portion of Ocean Blvd to be removed as highway dedication in favour of medical services development; means loss of park-and-ride at that location. 7 pm. www.colwood.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.
- BC Legislative Assembly Budget Speech.** Tues Feb 20. www.leg.bc.ca
- 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
- Rugby Canada Training Centre official opening,** Langford. Tues Feb 27.
- 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 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

- 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>
- BC Real Estate - new rules.** Dual agency ends as of March 15, 2018. Realtors represent either the seller or the buyer. www.recb.ca/licensee/new-consumer-protection-rules.html
- 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.
- #BCTECHsummit** May 14-16 in Vancouver. www.bctechsummit.ca

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WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

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Super-blue blood moon draws out middle-of-the-night sky watchers

It was a much-watched lunar trifecta! Super moon, blue moon, and blood moon lunar eclipse. In the Victoria area the shadow started appearing on the moon around 3:48 am, with the best viewing time between 5 and 6 am. NASA did a livestream starting at 5:30 am.



Rare super blue blood moon as seen from Kitsilano Beach in Vancouver, Wednesday, January 31.

A super moon is when a full moon has the moon in orbit coming closer than 359,000 km to the Earth.

A blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month.

During a lunar eclipse, when the moon passes into the Earth's shadow, the moon often appears red, hence "blood moon."

In those wee hours of Wednesday morning, the moon

appeared about 7% larger and 14% brighter than usual.

People who stayed up to watch that, who also engaged for hours the night before to watch Trump's State of the Union address, experienced a real shift in biorhythms that cascaded through the rest of the week.

Transportation safety innovation awarded by BC Government

An Internet of Things challenge was issued to BC tech companies at last year's #BCTECH Summit by the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and the BC Innovation Council (a crown agency).

Local tech companies were challenged to develop innovative solutions to enhance public safety and transportation efficiency. A variety of solutions in 40 proposals rolled in, reflecting a variety of solutions.

A total of \$50,000 was awarded to five local finalist companies to fund the development of their proofs of concept, in three challenge categories - Analytics, Highway Cameras and Smart Gateway. The results will be showcased at the 2018 #BCTECH Summit in Vancouver, May 14-16.

"Every day, we rely on thousands of sensors and cameras throughout the province to provide real-time information, so people can plan their travel safely, no matter the conditions," said MOTI Minister Claire Travena. "It's exciting to engage with local tech talent to find out-of-the-box ideas that will improve traffic flow, relay road conditions and keep our highways well maintained. I'm looking forward to the proofs of concept from the five finalists that could help the ministry provide better service to the driving public."

An estimated 24 billion devices are expected to be connected to the internet by 2020. <https://bcic.ca/events/past-challenges/>

Eight Solutions (Vancouver-based) will use its analytics platform to trial a central user-friendly dashboard to view data and take action in real time. Large volumes of data will be collected from several different points to highlight current and developing issues on BC's roads, so the ministry can respond quickly.

UrbanLogiq (Vancouver) will use its platform to leverage data from multiple business areas to provide analytical insights that were not previously available. This technology has the potential to identify how road conditions impact traffic flow, how traffic impacts the structural health of bridges, and how to predict avalanche locations.

VectorBlox Computing (Vancouver) specializes in technology that can process video feeds in real time to automatically identify objects, such as obstructions on the road. By processing the video feed in real time, action can be taken quickly to alert the travelling public through an automated notification system.

Vilion Systems (Victoria) traffic cameras will use 3D technology to process video feeds in real time, in order to identify objects and collect data from nearby sensors. By combining these functions, the camera can immediately send information to the ministry that can be used for better road maintenance and allow for a quicker response to events.

Cypress Solutions (Burnaby) specializes in smart gateway technology that can collect sensor readings from multiple collection points, process the data and send it to the ministry through one feed. This can provide more thorough and reliable information about roads in remote areas of the province, leading to better maintenance response times.

TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Feb 2 & Feb 5 to 7. Traffic delays on Strandlund Ave. 8:30-4:30. For BC Hydro maintenance.

Mon Feb 5. Weather dependent Langford Pkwy (Lakepoint Way to Langford Lake Rd), delays 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, and Mondays of long weekends).

Starting Feb 13 for about four months. Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont Market construction site on the new Division Ave.

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

Victoria gets overdose crisis funding

Victoria is one of 18 BC communities that to be set up with an on-the-ground Community Action Team (CAT) and dedicated funding as part of the Province's escalated response to the overdose crisis.

"Our government is committed to doing whatever we can to address the overdose crisis, which has devastated too many families in our community and across BC," said Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean. "It is so important to be able to target resources to the communities that have been hardest hit."

The CAT is provided with an initial grant of funding of up to \$100,000 to get started, and may be eligible for future funding from a Community Crisis Response Grant, which is part of the government's three-year, \$322 million investment to address the overdose crisis.

"Our community already has strong networks and organizations that have been working tirelessly on the ground, and these additional resources and tools will be critical in delivering a broad and proactive response to the crisis, saving lives," said Dean.

The Victoria team will work with existing community partners and with the new Overdose Emergency Response Centre in Vancouver. The CAT will intervene early to deliver proactive and comprehensive care and support to people at risk of overdose.

The Community Action Team will focus on four areas of action to save lives and support people with addictions on a pathway to treatment and recovery: • Expanding community-based harm-reduction services. • Increasing the availability of naloxone. • Addressing the unsafe drug supply through expanded drug-checking services and increasing connections to addiction-people at risk of overdose by intervening early to provide services like treatment and housing.

Initially, 18 communities are at first receiving the support of on-the-ground CAT teams (as identified through the Overdose Emergency Response Centre's data as having the most urgent need). Teams will be established in other communities as the need is identified.

The Community Action Teams are the latest in a series of initiatives already in place to respond to the overdose crisis. Other initiatives include: • broader access to naloxone kits; • expanding access to opioid substitution medications to treat opioid addiction; • opening more overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites; • expanding access to drug checking services; • proactively identifying and supporting people at risk of overdose; • and improving the system of treatment and recovery services.

"Together, these initiatives will save lives, and ensure that people get the support and treatment they need, when they need it," says the BC Government.

New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be? Call Judy 250-642-2268

NDP on Wilkinson

On behalf of the BC NDP, Ravi Kahlon, MLA (Delta North) issued congratulations to new BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson.

Also in the February 3 evening news release, the NDP said:

"Right now, the stakes couldn't be higher for British Columbians. People are counting on (the NDP) to make life more affordable, protect the services they count on and keep investing in a sustainable economy," said Kahlon.

"Our government has made great strides towards these goals, but major challenges -- like the dumpster fire at ICBC -- still remain".



Mitzi Dean, MLA

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