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News

4 pages
this issue

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Friday, February 23, 2018 RELEASE DATE February 24, 2018

EXCLUSIVE: Premier John Horgan reflects on the 2018 budget

West Shore Voice News

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● At the end of a busy week of BC politics in the top job, Premier John Horgan drives back to the west shore, heading in from the ferry having been in Vancouver to speak to the Vancouver Board of Trade today, February 23.

This week also included delivery of the NDP's first fresh-start budget in about 30 years, and taking next steps looking out for the economic and environmental interests of BC over the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion from Alberta to the BC coast.

"The Vancouver Board of Trade is not well known for support of social democratic governments, or for supporting the NDP. But they gave us a B+ on our budget," said Horgan by phone. "That's because we listened to them. Housing, transit, child care initiatives – those were all identified as economic issues," he said.

"If you're trying to recruit or train people to work in a high cost jurisdiction, you have to make sure you can afford to live here," Horgan said. He says companies tell him that people love the mountains, ocean, and lifestyle but can't afford to live here.

"We needed to tackle the housing issue, and child care. These things are welcomed by the business community," said Horgan both in explaining the budget's affordability aspect but also how small businesses are well served.

Numbers are strong: "We've balanced the budget over the 3-year cycle, every year." For 2018-2019 there is a \$219 million surplus, a forecast allowance of \$350 million and a \$500 million contingency.

"There's now more money in housing, capital for roads and transit, school and hospital construction. We're able to do that because the BC economy is doing so well. Because people are out there taking risks and trying to spin economic activity not just for themselves but for the community," he said.



BC Finance Minister Carole James, sharing a pause with Premier John Horgan during her delivery of BC Budget 2018 on February 20. Is that water glass half-full, or half-empty?

The Alberta disconnect

"Government deserves a pat on the back for listening to people and delivering on the policies that we campaigned on," Horgan continued. "And the people of BC deserve a pat on the back for working so hard, to have produced low unemployment, high productivity and growth in economy."

Nevertheless he says that "inequality in BC is stark and there are serious poverty issues." That's being addressed through the Poverty Reduction Plan, he says.

A one-year freeze on hydro rate increases and on ferry fares on the three main routes plus cutting MSP premiums in half this year contributes to putting money "directly back into people's pockets".

Horgan defended the budget delivered February 20 by Finance Minister Carole James in which a Medical Services Tax was announced. The tax will be levied (on a sliding scale) only on businesses with annual payrolls greater than \$500,000. This is instead of taking medical premiums from every citizen.

Horgan said that "the panel that Carole James appointed wanted a mix of payroll taxes, luxury taxes and income taxes," all of which became interpreted through some aspect of Budget 2018.

Horgan itemized how MSP exemptions and paperwork were difficult to manage. But government seems not to have considered that income-based deductions could be done across the board -- even a small amount for low income, internally at tax time (if only to defend equal application to all). Most people file their taxes on time, in order not to interrupt receipt of child, GST and climate tax credits.

"On balance, after seven months we've done a pretty good job but there's a lot of work left to do," the Premier said. **WSV**

● It seems to have been perceived by both Alberta and the mainstream media this week as "backing down" when BC shaved off its 'fifth point' to a legal process (and will take the other four points about environmental and economic protections to public consultation). But Horgan hasn't backed down at all.

"We are going to remain committed to protecting our local economies, our environment and our coast. I'm grateful that we no longer have a trade war, but we're still going to pursue remedies through the Canadian internal trade agreements because what Alberta did was against the law," Horgan told West Shore Voice News on Feb 23.

"The Government of Alberta disagreed with our position and they went to extraordinary lengths to violate signed trade agreements that allow goods and services to move across Canada," Horgan said.

"Alberta said loudly that they thought that our actions were unconstitutional. The federal government said 'you can't do that'. And we said, 'yes we can'. And they weren't prepared to test the question. So we're going to. I don't see that as backing off at all," the Premier said.

A boycott of BC wine by the Alberta government that went on for about two weeks was cancelled Feb 22. It was a tactic applied with apparent glee by Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, to ratchet up the heat on BC. Horgan did not reciprocate with boycotts and stood by BC wine producers the whole time.

State memorial service for Dave Barrett: March 3, 2018

West Shore Voice News

● A state memorial service for former premier of British Columbia Dave Barrett, OC, OBC, will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Farquhar Auditorium on the University of Victoria campus, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria. The service is open to the public, starting at 10 am. A full-to-overflowing house is expected.

In addition to Premier John Horgan delivering his remarks, there will be several other speakers including Glen Clark who was an NDP BC Premier in 1996-1999. "There were a lot of people affected by him and who worked with him," Premier Horgan told West Shore Voice News this week.

An **online book of condolences** has been set up at <http://ow.ly/37bd30ixe0H> and in addition to the online book, a book of condolences is available in Victoria at the Parliament Buildings, located in the Hall of Honour until 2 pm on Friday, March 2. All messages will be presented to the Barrett family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be directed to the Alzheimer's Society of BC, the Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion, or a charity of choice.

When Barrett's passing on February 2 at age 87 was announced the next day, Horgan said in a statement: "Today BC has lost a giant. 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."

Barrett and the NDP made political history in defeating the powerful five-term Social Credit government of W.A.C. Bennett. 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."

In Barrett's short three-year term as BC's first NDP Premier (1972-1975) his government achieved many legacies that define BC today including public auto insurance (ICBC), Pharmacare for assistance with the cost of medications, and the Agricultural Land Reserve to help support food sustainability for the future. Barrett's government introduced Question Period in the BC Legislature as well as Hansard (word-for-word documentation of goings-on in the legislative assembly), something we consider commonplace today. Barrett's education minister in the day succeeded in banning corporal punishment in BC schools.

Barrett was elected eight times as a provincial member of the legislature (the first time in 1960) and was also a federal MP (NDP) in 1988 in what was then Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca.

A simple but upbeat family obituary for Dave Barrett remembered the man as "a much loved husband and father... he will be greatly missed", and that he "had a tremendous life beyond his profession in social work and his many years as a provincial and federal politician". **WSV**

Langford Council approves McCallum Road development

West Shore Voice News

● In a matter of seconds, approval of OCP and land zoning Bylaws 1461 & 1749 was done by Langford Council on Monday

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The property developer is Seacliff Properties, frequently represented by Keycorp Developments Ltd. In addition to about 4 acres of land provided to the City, the developer will need to pay a density bonus of \$2 million toward the municipality's amenity reserve fund. One or more arts and cultural structures valued in total at \$500,000 might be one of the outcomes. **WSV**



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Broad-scope synthesis in BC provincial budget

● **Can you chew gum** and update your phone contacts at the same time? So can a provincial budget spend in areas that nourish human security, creativity and success while turning the corner with new areas of investment and innovation in business and trade (and still maintain due attention to traditional industries and manufacturing). In this way, BC Budget 2018 shows strong management for present and future, offering a bit of relief for people's socioeconomic well-being and leaving room for businesses of all sizes to innovate and contribute. A masterful work of political vision combined with a sharp financial pen. Success of this plan depends on a continued strong economy and bets on the continued industriousness of the business community as job creators. All of that is subtly underpinned with the hope and expectation that a better cared-for population does their part to beneficially apply the enhanced education and greater job skills that are coming their way. ■



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher
WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

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BC Budget: steps toward affordability

Summary by West Shore Voice News More details: www.bcbudget.ca

● **On Tuesday, February 20, Finance Minister Carole James delivered this NDP government's first full budget.** "Budget 2018 puts people first, makes life more affordable for British Columbians," says the government. "Budget 2018 carves a new path to shared prosperity for everyone in the province with a made-in-BC child-care plan, a comprehensive housing plan and record levels of capital investment in every corner of the province," James said.

"Budgets are not only about the bottom line, they should be about people. That's why British Columbians are at the centre of every choice we have made in Budget 2018," said James. She said the investments in child care and affordable housing would be felt for generations.

Over three years, an investment of over \$1 billion will initiate a path to a universal child-care plan. The aim is to make child care affordable for parents and caregivers. Over 22,000 child-care spaces are to be created throughout BC, with assurances of meeting rigorous quality and safety standards. While there is a challenge from the Opposition and a thread in mainstream media that the "\$10 a day" child care plan has not been delivered, it should be recognized that massive socioeconomic changes like delivering affordable child care don't happen overnight. Revenues and expenditures in other areas obviously need adjustment, not to mention the time it takes to train new Early Childhood Education workers and expand or create child care facilities.

Budget 2018 also lays out a comprehensive housing plan that introduces new taxation measures to tackle foreign and domestic speculation, to close loopholes and crack down on tax fraud, and to stabilize housing prices. More than \$1.6 billion over three years is earmarked to build and maintain affordable rental housing, help finance student housing, increase rental assistance for low-income seniors and working families, and provide supportive housing for those at risk.

James said the budget balances the needs and priorities of people with fiscal prudence. "Our province needs bold action, and Budget 2018 delivers by investing in choices that make life more affordable, improving the services we all count on, and supporting a strong, sustainable economy for all British Columbians."

Affordability: Housing, Child Care & Transit * Introducing a new **affordable child-care benefit** that will reduce child-care costs by up to \$1,250 per month for every child and support 86,000 BC families per year by 2020-21. * Providing **up to \$350 per month directly to licenced child-care providers** to reduce fees for an estimated 50,000 families per year by 2020-21. * **Curbing speculation in BC's housing market** and helping to **build 114,000 housing units** (affordable rental, non-profit, co-op and owner-purchase) through partnerships. * **Eliminating Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums** by January 1, 2020, saving individuals up to \$900 a year, and families up to \$1,800/year. * **Ferries more affordable:** freezing fares on all major BC Ferries routes, reducing fares on non-major routes, fully restoring Mon-Thurs seniors' passenger fare discount. * **Improving BC's Fair PharmaCare** to eliminate deductibles for families with annual net incomes below \$30,000, starting January 1, 2019 (about 240,000 families will receive expanded coverage). * **Reinstating free bus passes** with flexibility to support other transportation needs, to help over 100,000 people on disability assistance to better connect them with communities and services.

Health Care, Education, Social Services, Legal Services * Significant **investments in health care**, with funding of \$548 million over three years to improve care for seniors and \$150 million to help connect those who do not have a family doctor with team-based primary care. * **Hiring more teachers**, total of over 3,700 new hires to support students and meet the need for qualified teachers. * Making a historic investment of \$50 million this fiscal year to support the revitalization and preservation of Indigenous languages. * \$18 million to services that provide **outreach and counseling support** for women and children affected by violence. * Improving **access to justice** through increased funding for legal aid, family law services, and the hiring of more sheriffs and court staff to help reduce court delays.

Sustainable Economy: People & Communities * Supporting communities hit hardest by the 2017 wildfire season; investing in wildfire preparedness to protect people, communities and wildlife. * Increased funding for the agrifood sector to support enhanced Buy BC, Grow BC and Feed BC initiatives; drive consumer demand and get BC goods to overseas markets. * Confirmed removal of fees for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning. * Partnering with industry, federal government and First Nations to support Indigenous skills training programs with \$30 million over three years. * Increasing grants administered through BC Arts Council and Creative BC. * Expanding tuition waiver program and increasing financial support for former youth in care while they attend post-secondary school or training programs.

Funding of Budget 2018 commitments [based on improved revenue forecasts & new revenue sources], including: * Speculation tax & increases in the foreign buyers' tax to address housing affordability by reducing foreign demand, and curbing speculation in the residential property market. * Employer health tax to allow for full elimination of MSP premiums. [See details of the MSP phase-out and new Medical Services Tax on the BC page at www.westshorevoicenews.com] **WSV**

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Letter

Shifting from First-Past-the-Post

● **Is anyone in the least bit of doubt** that the argument over Proportional Representation (PR) is political, rather than based on fact? If so, they need only consider the announcement made by Andrew Wilkinson immediately upon attaining leadership of the BC Liberal Party. He promised his supporters that his first priority was to fight PR in the coming referendum on changing the BC electoral system. He needed (and got) their approval to direct \$1 million dollars of their party's war chest to this fight.

We should prick up our ears at such a major commitment of party resources to this issue. It is due both to fear of BC voters, and to a desire to repeat the FPTP (First-Past-The-Post) successes of the recent past. For 16 years, the BC Liberals held 100% of the legislative power, and legislated many policies that were contrary to the values and interests of the 55% of voters who did not vote for them in repeated elections.

PR would change that, with all parties holding seats in the legislature in proportion to their share of the popular vote and having to negotiate policies collaboratively. Why on earth shouldn't the share of seats held by each political party closely reflect the popular vote?

Not surprisingly, when partisan arguments are disregarded and the research is done, it turns out that the constituents in democracies with PR electoral systems (regard-

Building and managing a strong BC economy

● **In BC Budget 2018 this week**, the economic growth forecast is higher than was forecast in 2017, with an upward revision of the 2017 real GDP estimate from 2.9% to 3.4%. This is based on better-than-expected performance of domestic indicators such as employment, retail sales, housing starts, and exports. Growth is expected to continue at 2.3% in 2018. Private sector forecasters expect BC's economic growth to continue to rank near the top of provincial standings in the near-term. The overall short term global economic outlook has apparently also improved since Budget 2017 Update.

Downside risks include uncertainty over US fiscal and trade policy and ongoing economic challenges in Asia and the euro zone. The government says its economic forecast is prudent, compared to the outlook provided by the independent Economic Forecast Council, in recognition of downside risks.

Surpluses & Contingencies. Figures for 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

Surplus: \$219 million; \$281 million; \$284 million. **Forecast Allowance** to cover lower-than-expected revenues, unforeseen expenses or emergencies: \$350 million; \$500 million; \$600 million. **Contingency:** \$550 million; \$750 million; \$750 million.

Revenue: Total government revenue forecast \$54.2 billion; \$57.6 billion; \$58.6 billion. **Expenses:** Total over 3-year fiscal plan are forecast at \$53.6 billion, \$56.8 billion, and \$57.8 billion. **Capital Spending.** Record-level \$15.8 billion (over 3 years) includes investments in critical infrastructure (education, postsecondary, health, housing, student housing, and transportation). **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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less of which PR model) report much greater satisfaction than their FPTP counterparts with respect to "democracy, health, education, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility and accountability" (Human Development Index, United Nations, 2010).
~ Suzanne Wilkinson, Duncan

Government Questionnaire on Proportional Representation available to Feb 28, 2018: engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote



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Get that blood pumping!

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc.
West Shore Voice News

Three locations in the west shore now host regular blood donor clinics. Canadian Blood Services regularly sets up their mobile clinics at Church of the Advent in Colwood, at Royal Bay Secondary in the newest area of Colwood, and at Sooke Legion.

On BC Family Day, Monday, Feb 12, the Sooke clinic saw a strong turnout. Of the 99 pre-booked donors, 85 attended, plus two walk-ins -- and 56 rebooked for a future clinic. The target was to collect 67 units of blood... 69 were collected, a 103% success.

Supply Levels

The need for blood and donors continues to be urgent. Inventory is at concerning levels after a difficult winter for collections. Winter interruptions include weather, flu, and the holiday season.

"As a result, we're asking 35,000 donors to step up across Canada to ensure we continue to meet patient needs leading up to spring break," says Ann Chabert, CCanadian Blood Services Territory Manager for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

"As partners in our work for Canadian hospital patients, we are encouraging people to come in to donate blood at any of our clinics," Chabert says. Visit www.blood.ca to find out about clinic times and to book appointments, or call 1-888-2-DONATE.

As of February 16, there was only a 2.8 day supply of the most common blood type, O+ (considered to be an emergency low level). Rarer blood types, including AB+ and AB-, had a 10+ day supply of red blood cell inventory (considered excess).

Upcoming Clinics

The next local clinic is on Monday March 19 at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave in

Red Blood Cell Inventory as of 2018-02-16		
Type	Days on Hand	
O Pos	2.8	
O Neg	2.6	
A Pos	8.8	
A Neg	3.3	
B Pos	3.6	
B Neg	2.2	
AB Pos	10.2	
AB Neg	10.6	
Total RBC units	13,236	

Legend:		
Level	DOH	
Emergency	0 - 1.5	ER
Serious	1.5 - 3	SER
Minimum	3 - 5	MIN
Optimal	5 - 8	OPT
Maximum	8-10	MX
Excess	>10	EXS

Colwood (12 noon to 7 pm). As of February 20, the donor target for that day was 101 units (1 unit/donor); about 72 available spots for that Westshore clinic are still available.

Clinics after that date come up after Easter -- on Mon April 9 at Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd 12:30-7:30pm (time changed from the previous 11:30am-6:30 pm), and on Mon April 23 at Royal Bay Secondary, 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way (9am to 4pm).

The Royal Bay component

In spring 2016, a large delegation of Royal Bay students attended the clinic at Church of the Advent. "It was so successful that the school decided to host a blood drive on site at their school," says Chabert.

In May 2017, Royal Bay hosted their first blood drive as part of their Graduation legacy. Grad student Jaimey Hamilton (a three-time cancer survivor and recipient of blood and stem cells) "inspired her peers and ultimately the entire school," says Chabert.

The public is welcome to attend the Royal Bay clinic. To book a spot, call 1-888-2-DONATE or go to www.blood.ca . Belmont Secondary students might participate in that blood drive and shuttle students from their school in Langford over to Royal Bay. WSV

23rd annual EMCS Grad Fashion Show

by Alana Gibb for West Shore Voice News

FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER



Some of the participants in the upcoming 2018 EMCS Grad Fashion Show.

Students from the Edward Milne Community School 2018 graduating class are practicing their modeling poses and putting their dancing shoes on. The group of about 30 students began preparing for the annual grad fashion show in mid January and they are eagerly awaiting their performance. This is an excellent way for members of the community to come and show their support for the local sponsoring businesses and this year's graduating class, with funds raised being put towards their June graduation fees.

This energy packed, entertaining show was started by students 23 years ago. It features casual and athletic clothing, as well as, formal prom dresses and tuxedos. There will also be a concession, door prizes and a chance for some audience participation. In addition, the EMCS Grad 2018 Silent Auction is currently underway on Facebook and will continue until the evening of the performance. Donations are still gratefully accepted.

The Wednesday, March 14 show will start at 7pm. Past shows have usually sold out. A second show may be added for Thursday, March 15 depending on demand. Tickets will be available for \$10 at the Sooke Shoppers Drug Mart and in the EMCS School Office. Show proceeds go toward helping the show participants with the grad event fees.

Rehearsals are held three times a week for two hours, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students selected which songs they wanted to be a part of; and some are in all the numbers and will attend all rehearsals. WSV

CAN YOU DONATE BLOOD? ELIGIBILITY QUIZ:
https://blood.ca/en/search/site/eligibility

Teens leading momentum for gun law changes

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

The energy of well-educated youth from an upscale neighbourhood seems to have energized the gun control law debate in the US. With about one mass shooting a day in the USA, why has it taken this long to see effective activism for change? Following the Valentine's Day shooting deaths of 17 teens at Parkland near Miami, the sudden emergence onto the national stage of articulate, camera-ready teens backed by secure, successful parents is the difference. Major sponsors of the NRA gun lobby are pulling their support, including Hertz and Symantec.

By Canadian standards the changes requested of US lawmakers are not even close to the distance from guns that we enjoy in Canada. 'All' they are asking for is to increase the gun-purchasing minimum age to 21, improve mental health background checks, and ban the sale of gun components that automate a high-powered gun into a weapon of war. WSV

Speed skater to carry Canada's closing ceremony flag

West Shore Voice News

Canadian athletes have captured 29 medals at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Eleven of those are gold, with eight Silver, and 10 Bronze.

Short track speed skater Kim Boutin -- now a triple Olympic medalist -- will carry the Canadian flag into Sunday's Closing Ceremony at PyeongChang 2018.



Web-sourced

Boutin has won three medals in her Olympic debut, including bronze in the 500 and 1,500-metres and silver in the 1,000.

The closing ceremony on Sunday Feb 25 will be broadcast on CBC at 3 am Pacific Time.

The ice dance duo of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir carried the flag in the opening ceremony on Feb 9. Now with five medals to their name, Virtue and Moir are the most decorated figure skaters in Olympic history. They captured ice dance gold on Feb 20 in the free dance final. WSV

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

Sooke Seedy Saturday. Sat Feb 24. 10-3. Sooke Community Hall. By donation (\$5). www.sookefoodchi.ca
PyeongChang 2018 Olympics closing ceremony. Sun Feb 25 televised on CBC at 3 am Pacific.

Federal Budget 2018. Tues Feb 27.
Rugby Canada Training Centre official opening, Langford. Tues Feb 27.

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Feb 27. School board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

BC Proportional Representation questionnaire available to [Wed Feb 28: engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote](http://WedFeb28.engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote)

Parenting Now for the Future. 11th annual 2018 Vancouver Island Parent Conference www.vipc.ca. Sat Mar 3. 8:30 am to 4 pm. Royal Bay Secondary. For tickets contact speacpres@sd62.bc.ca

State memorial service for Dave Barrett, OC, OBC, former premier of British Columbia. Sat Mar 3 at Farquhar Auditorium, UVic, 3800 Finnerty Rd, Victoria. 10am. Open to the public. Online book of condolences: <http://ow.ly/37bd30ixe0H>

Childhood Stress & Anxiety - Building Resilience. Mon Mar 5. Free presentation at EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd, but registration required. Community welcome to join elementary school parents of children age 5 to 11, caregivers & staff. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/

Juan de Fuca 55+ Spring Craft Fair. Sat & Sun Mar 10 & 11. 9-3. Jdf 55+ Activity Centre, 1767 Island Hwy.

Brookes Westshore school info session. Tues Mar 13, Kinsmen Fieldhouse behind JdF Arena, 1767 Island Hwy. 6:30-8:30 pm. westshore.brookes.org

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

EMCS Grad Fashion Show Wed Mar 14, 7pm. (2nd show pending for Mar 15 depending on demand). Tix \$10 at Sooke Shoppers & EMCS office.

Sooke Mayor & Council Open House. Thurs March 15 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Council Chambers. www.sooke.ca

SD62 School Spring Break west shore & Sooke. Sat March 17 through Easter Monday Apr 2.

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

Easter Eggstravaganza Sat Mar 31. 10:30 am to 12 noon at SEAPARC in Sooke. Crafts, bouncy house, Easter egg hunt 10:30am (age 1-4), 11:15am (age 5-7). Entry by donation to Sooke Food Bank.

SD62 schools re-open Tues Apr 3 after break.

Viva La WestShore 2018. Fri Apr 27. 7 to 11 pm. Olympic View Golf Club. www.westshore.bc.ca

#BCTECHsummit May 14-16 in Vancouver. www.bctechsummit.ca

Kingfisher Preschool Family Fun Day Sat May 26. Sooke Family Resource Society, 6672 Wadams Way. Send your SFRS stories to info@sfrs.ca

Colwood Campus Plant Sale - May (date tba). 2139 Sooke Rd, Colwood. A fundraiser for grad at Westshore Center for Learning & Training.

BC Minimum Wage goes up to \$12.65 starting June 1, 2018.

Have a grab-and-go bag ready in the event you have to evacuate and make sure you have an emergency plan.

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Emergency alerts @jdfemerg www.prepareyourself.ca

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West Shore Voice News

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ONLINE WEB-COURTESY EDITION

New Save On Foods in Langford

West Shore Voice News

The new Save On Foods store that held a 'family and friends' ribbon cutting on February 22 and a soft opening with prizes for the first 500 customers on February 23, will hold their official Grand Opening on Saturday, February 24.

"Save On Foods opening here means another 150 jobs for Langford and more choices for residents. They're a great company and I'm glad to have them as a partner in Langford's economic future," said Langford Mayor Stew Young. The new 36,000 sq ft Save on Foods is in the Gateway Station Shopping Centre, in the renovated former Home Outfitters building at 759 McCallum Road. Open 7 am to 11 pm daily.

There are several other grocery stores serving the fast-growing population of Langford including Quality Foods, Fairway Market, Market on Millstream, and Mountain Market in Bear Mountain plus CostCo just up the hill. Plus the brand new Thrifty Foods soon under construction within the upcoming Belmont Market across from Westshore Town Centre.

Save On Foods customers are offered or already use the grocery company's More Rewards card. A flyer sent out around the region this past week offers a VIP coupon to get 1,500 points with every \$100 spent with the More Rewards card, up

TRAFFIC INFO - LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Mon-Wed Feb 26 to 28

Happy Valley Road south of Braeburn Ave. Traffic delays for underground utility installation.

Wed Feb 21 to Thurs Mar 1 - Millstream Road Interchange 6 pm to 5:30 am. Lane closures for construction.

Current, to Apr 30. Construction of improvements to the Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Some traffic closures/delays (except Fridays ahead of long weekends, and Mondays of long weekends).

Current, to mid-June/July. Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont Market construction site on the new Division Ave.

Current, to summer 2018. Leigh Road at Langford Parkway Railway Crossing. Completion of Leigh Road Railway Crossing to Langford Parkway.

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

For other short-term traffic advisories, visit www.langford.ca



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SD62: a full agenda for Feb 27 board meeting

At their board meeting on Tuesday evening February 27, SD62 school trustees will again visit their 2019-2019 budget, as well as firming up their approach to bus routes and transportation registration for Fall 2018. They are likely to finalize their decision as to how SD62 will respond to a housing grant funding request from the Knox Centre Affordable Housing Project in Sooke.

New courses are added to school curriculums on a fairly regular basis. Up for approval are some new course areas including Genocide Studies 12, Comics as Communication 10/11/12, and Outdoor Education 10.

A motion on the agenda sees the board not increasing their Trustee Remuneration and Professional Development amounts, Chair and Vice-Chair Stipends, and per diem and mileage rates next year. WSV

BC's Gender Equity portfolio: why now?

"We're working every day as a government to make sure promoting and mentoring women into positions of leadership

within the public service," said Premier John Horgan in a media interview with West Shore Voice News this week.

The question to the Premier was 'why now' -- why not seven months ago at the beginning of this NDP government to create the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity.

"BC is needing representation at various conferences that happen across the country," said Horgan. "We noticed we didn't have anyone to go to those meetings or take part in interprovincial discussions on conference calls," he explained. "Having someone keeping tabs of what other jurisdictions are doing, knowing what the best practices are, it's important."

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



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Your Voice in the Legislature

Strong registration pace for opening year of Brookes Westshore independent school in Colwood

West Shore Voice News

The much-under-construction Brookes Westshore independent school aiming to open their doors for September 2018 at their 2227 Sooke Road campus in Colwood is enjoying a strong response from parents and families.

"We are still waiting for responses from the re-enrollment packages that were sent out, but even with that we are at 87% of our targeted enrollment for local day students," says Linda Tesser, Community Relations & Admissions Manager.

Langford arts update

An update from the West Shore Arts Council (WSAC) was heard by City of Langford Council at their February 19 council meeting. WSAC president Laura Davis delivered the 30-year organization's 2017 annual performance report, emphasizing the creative range of activities and venues. Programming includes concerts, art shows, festivals, fairs and special events. www.westshorearts.org

Mayor Stew Young said he'd like to see all the seating at Spencer Middle School's Isabel Reader Theatre in Langford upgraded at one time, with Langford prepared to contribute \$30,000 or one-third (with grants up to about \$70,000 to cover the balance).

WSAC serves the residents of Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Metchosin and Highlands. WSV

We identified an area where we could use someone to be focussed on those issues on a more regular basis," the Premier said.

The announcement of Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) being appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity came February 15 (see February 16th WSV, page 3). WSV

The enrolment plan is for 150 day students who live locally in the west shore area or Greater Victoria, and 150 international students most of whom who will board at the school.

At the last Brookes info session on January 29 over 50 people attended -- their largest audience to date. That resulted in five new applications over two weeks, and a significant amount of further interest.

The next information session will be on Tuesday March 13, again at the Kinsmen Fieldhouse behind the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, 1767 Island Highway, 6:30 pm.

Earlier this month, Brookes Westshore opened their information office at 2227 Sooke Road, open Tuesday to Thursday, 1 to 4pm. westshore.brookes.org WSV

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