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EARTH DAY ISSUE



Friday, April 20, 2018

West shore post-secondary boost

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Centrally located in the west shore, Royal Roads University will -- on behalf of the three public post-secondary institutions on southern Vancouver Island -- manage development of a report for potential program delivery options in Langford.

● **Improved access to post-secondary education** and training for people living in the fast-growing west shore and Sooke communities will be explored by developing a community solution, the BC Government announced this week.

"I'm excited that we're engaging with community partners to improve access to post-secondary education and training," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

For this project, Royal Roads University (RRU) will receive \$250,000 from the province on behalf of the three public post-secondary institutions on southern Vancouver Island. RRU has been charged with managing the development of a report for potential program delivery options in Langford, based on need.

RRU is the appropriate choice to lead the study, says RRU President and Vice-Chancellor Allan Cahoon. RRU has a successful track record for offering a unique, applied, demand-responsive, 'change maker' approach in its academic model.

"I welcome the ministry funding and opportunity to work with other post-secondary institutions and community partners in the region," says Cahoon. Community partners for this initiative include students and parents, Sooke School District 62 (SD62), West Shore municipalities, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, the University of Victoria and First Nations. The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training will also be involved in the local planning process.

Cahoon sees the initiative leading to the creation of a solution that meets the post-secondary educational needs of fast-growing west shore which includes Colwood, Langford, Metchosin, Highlands and View Royal. "This is about supporting a community need with a collaborative approach and innovative solution. That's a net gain for everyone, especially for students and families," he said this week.

In 2017, the west shore area had an estimated population of about 74,000, while Sooke has a population nearing 14,000. For the City of Langford (itself with a population over 40,000) the annual average population growth rate over the last 10 years was 4.7%, making it one of the fastest growing regions in BC.

"We need to guarantee easy affordable access for our students to post secondary education," said Langford Mayor Stew Young. "The west shore and Sooke are 19% below the average for students transferring on to university and we must remove the barriers and find the solution to get more students from Langford and westshore area to enroll in post secondary," he said this week.

"We've been looking at ways to advance the delivery of post-secondary education and training to programs in the west shore for a number of years," said Mayor Young. "It makes a lot of sense to give students pursuing a post-secondary education the opportunity to do that in the community they live in."

"Giving our students the ability to transition to post-secondary education or training, while continuing to live in their home community, is a great option," said SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. "Students can stay in a familiar place where they are comfortable, continue working locally and potentially save money by living at home," said Cambridge.

Not all Grade 12 grads go on to post-secondary right away. As of 2013-2014, the provincial average of Grade 12 grads going directly into post-secondary in September following their June graduation was 49.7% while SD62 only saw a 38% transfer rate.

According to BC Ministry of Education stats, after two or three years (for employment, travel or life in between), there is also a significant number of high school grads who return to the education system in post-secondary.

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A lighthouse moment

West Shore
Voice News



John Wall ~ Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

● **The Sheringham Point Lighthouse Heritage Site** at 1 Sheringham Point Road in Shirley has been closed for a bit (April 15 to 22) for some planned restoration work. These otters enjoyed the environs!

The Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society has been removing, repairing, painting and then replacing all guard rails. Because the rails protect visitors from the very steep cliffs just beside the engine room and light tower, it requires the Society to close the site for this short period. "Please plan your visits accordingly," say organizers. "Above all, for your safety and the safety of others, do not enter the property or trespass during the closure."

Weather and other factors may impact the site-visit reopening date. Check at www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

ALR public input to April 30

West Shore
Voice News

● **British Columbians are encouraged to participate** in the final week of consultations to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). Ideas, opinions and passion for BC farms and food are invited with participation at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve>

In recent weeks, about 1,500 people from around BC have offered their thoughts and vision of how to make it easier and more efficient for the ALC to fulfil its mandate of preserving farmland and encouraging farming. "I encourage all British Columbians to make sure their voice is heard," says Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture. "Your input on ALR topics like on-farm processing and sales, residential uses, and creating a defensible and defended land reserve, will help frame recommendations for an ALR that will serve generations.

The online consultation portal is open to 4 pm on Monday April 30. **WSV**

Improvements for Otter Point Rd

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)** will upgrade approximately 2 km of Otter Point Road, a key access point for Highway 14 (Sooke Road), and an important alternative route when the highway is closed.

"Over my years as MLA, I have heard many safety concerns from the community about Otter Point Road and many suggestions on how to make it better for people. These upgrades will help keep drivers, cyclists and pedestrians moving safely," said Premier John Horgan, MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca, in a news release.

The project and its funding of \$2.5 to \$3 million was unceremoniously announced by Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Director Mike Hicks on behalf of Premier Horgan at the AGM of the Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) April 15 in Otter Point.

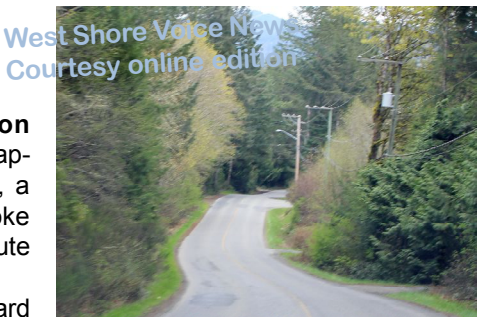
More intersection upgrades, passing opportunities, improvements for transit, highway shoulder widening and alignment improvements are under development in consultation with the community. Existing lanes will be resurfaced and lanes will be widened wherever possible for cyclist/pedestrian safety, said Ryan Evanoff, Operations Manager, MOTI, at the OPSRRA AGM.

The cost for BC Hydro to move utility poles is a large part of the project cost, Evanoff told the 30 people in attendance at the AGM. He added that there are no "property take" costs (no private lands will be required or purchased to complete these road improvements).

The proposed improvements will widen and pave approximately 2 km .../

continued on page 4 ... /

RURAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



Otter Point Road, heading into Sooke.

Mary P Brooke ~ WSV



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Editorials

Mary P Brooke, Editor & Publisher
WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

WEST SHORE VOICE

Hot topics of the week

Digital Privacy ● **Better late than never.** As discussed in this editorial space for several years, the use of personal data from people's Facebook accounts has finally met with an awareness among lawmakers that some regulation of social media is required. In some rather notable moments during challenges to Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg by USA senators and members of congress it was starkly apparent that the tech literacy of lawmakers is grossly sub-par for properly addressing the magnitude of the problem. That is in large part one of the reasons that legislation in the USA (and similarly in Canada) has fallen far behind the scorching-hot pace of digital data-driven technology online.

Data mining is far from new. It's been used by large corporations since the 1970s for marketing penetration with things like store coupons, then online in every possible way since the mid-1990s (what you search for, where you visit, what you buy, what apps you use), and now through digital TV (what you watch and when).

It's been agonizingly slow to watch the general population (understandably intoxicated with the power to instantaneously communicate worldwide) catch up to the awareness of the precious value of their personal data.

Next month the European Union is bringing in some stricter privacy rules for the use of customer data gained through the Internet. Hopefully their leadership catches on in North America pronto. ■

Who's blinking now?

● **There's a lot of 'who's blinking' analysis going on** over the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion situation. Following the private meeting of Prime Minister and two feuding Premiers on Sunday, April 15 in the PM's office, Canadians got to see the unfolding of this next phase of battling titans.

Did Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lose a bit of cool by directing his finance minister to come up with some financial incentives to Kinder Morgan? According to some business experts, the last thing a big corporation wants in their financial department and boardroom is bunch of government officials doing their oversight bit. And do taxpayers really want to be on the hook to save the financial interests of a US corporation?

Did Alberta Premier Rachel Notley over-react by threatening provincial legislation to block the shipment of refined oil products to BC? And it was a wide-eyed moment to also see Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe follow suit, saying his province would stand by Alberta and not ship petroleum products to BC, to double-up any of Alberta's punitive efforts against their coastal neighbour.

The only calm one in the bunch is BC Premier John Horgan who is sticking to his guns about defending the environmental interests of not just his voter base but the deliciously pristine environment of the BC coast, not just for BC economic interests but for the economic benefits of beautiful BC to the rest of the Canadian economy. "In the national interest" is not just about pipelines, but also a beautiful coast that has brought Vancouver to world-class urban status and all of BC to being a wildlife haven and recreational destination for the world.

And in this mix, BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver is a heavyweight... without support of his party's three seats in the BC Legislature, Horgan could lose his presently functional minority government. However, ironically even if Horgan were to lose out on Green support, he would actually still have the support of the BC Liberal Official Opposition on all matters pipeline (afterall, it was under the BC Liberal government that approval of the federally pipeline expansion came to pass).

BC is armed with court-readiness if Alberta's premier pulls the trade war trigger. Horgan is using the process of law for the Trans Mountain pipeline matter, and meanwhile going about his business delivering funding and programs to help with the housing crisis and continuing with the work toward accessible child care and other social programs.

Unfortunately for the political leaders, no one can control any further actions that may come from environmental and indigeous movements who are keen to protect the ecosystems of British Columbia. If things drag on, civil action on the ground could get quite heated up along with the weather of summer months.



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Humboldt shocker ● **This country mourned these past two weeks** over the tragic senseless deaths of half a hockey team on their way to a game by bus. What has been dramatically brought to light for those not in the worlds of team sports or that of small towns, is how integrated those two worlds have become. The Humboldt bus crash tragedy brought to light the interface of the sports world's highly integrated team/family culture (and its massive corporate commercial underpinning) and the tight thread of small town culture that thrives below the surface of Canada's modern urban culture. ■

Mysterious brain injury sends diplomats home

● **A new kind of brain injury** emerged as the top news story on CBC's *The National* on Tuesday, April 17. Apparently Cuba is now on the list of dangerous places that US & Canadian diplomats cannot take their families, after a mysterious 'immaculate concussion' condition (no apparent cause) has emerged among the diplomats and their families while in Cuba. While it's now trendy to say that Trump flies off at the mouth, we can remember that recently he said something to the effect of 'wait til you see what is going on in Cuba'. ■



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Rental housing ramp-up ● **BC Premier John Horgan** appears to be picking up momentum on the housing file. While all the announcements and initiatives being rolled out have no doubt been the works for months, the speed with which housing development initiatives are being announced is actually quite remarkable. Last week it was a group of four faith-based organizations pooling their land values and resources to produce a mix of 414 housing units in Coquitlam, Nanaimo, Richmond and Vancouver. This week it was a 108-unit announcement in Victoria's VicWest area, and 82 units in Colwood. The most notable aspect of these sorts of announcements is awareness of the need to provide support for supplying a wide range of housing types. Win-win-win: people get housing set to accommodate various income levels and family sizes; the development community gets projects, helps build the economy and provides jobs; and the government gets a big checkmark for getting this right. ■

LANGFORD NEWS WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Housing & commercial: property rezoning in 2600/2700-block Sooke Rd



● **The face of Langford** continues to rapidly evolve. On Monday April 16 at Langford Council, the Public Hearing on rezoning of several properties in the 2600- and 2700-blocks of Sooke Road (Bylaw 1767) was relatively tame.

The proposed zoning change from C3 (District Commercial) and CS1 (Service Commercial) along that stretch of mostly old commercial buildings and long-time services would see a new C9 (Community Town Centre Pedestrian 9) designation. That would allow for a mixed-use development including high density residential as well as commercial.

New development along that stretch of the well-travelled Sooke Road would probably be a visual improvement to the older neighbourhood.

There was discussion of setbacks and sound barriers. The cluster of current properties, under rezoning, would as a unit back onto Page Road near Glen Lake Road. All of this is across the street from the intersection of Happy Valley Road and Sooke Road (Hwy 14). The Galloping Goose Regional Trail runs behind the proposed property development.

The maximum height of a future development there would be 6 storeys and providing adequate parking would be a key limitation on density, said developer Jim Hartshorne (on behalf of Oakcrest Estates). He addressed Council in followup to questions during the public hearing. Adjacent road paving and road safety improvements as well as some drainage improvements are part of the mix.

Council approved 2nd and 3rd reading of Bylaw 1767.

The City of Langford does well by developers. If this project is approved, amenity contributions would be \$2,684 per new residential unit (\$2,074 to the General Amenity Reserve Fund, and \$610 towards the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund). These costs eventually get passed on to the homebuyer. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

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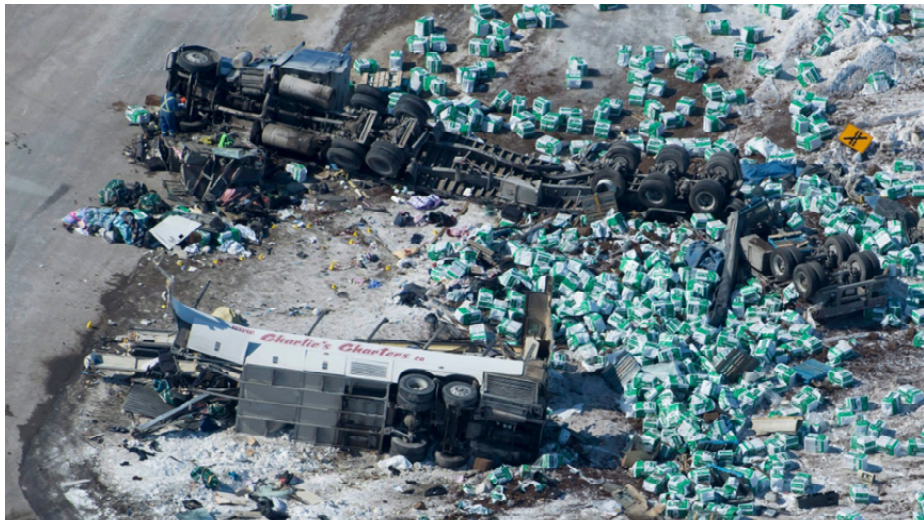
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Record-breaking fundraising to support the Humboldt Broncos family

West Shore
Voice News



Humboldt Broncos crash scene (aerial view shown here on April 7, the day after). The truck flipped over; the front of the bus was demolished by the impact.

● **Worldwide attention** has been paid to the tragic crash of Friday April 6 in which a bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team was impacted by a large semi transport truck.

Of the 29 passengers on the bus, 16 died: 10 players, the bus driver, two coaches, the athletic therapist, a volunteer statistician and a broadcaster. Funerals and memorials have been held in Humboldt and various other towns that the victims called home.

The 13 others on the bus were injured, some of them critically and with permanent disability to their mobility. The truck driver was not physically injured.

The northbound bus carrying the hockey team along Hwy 35 collided with the westbound semi transport truck on Hwy 335 carrying a load of peat moss bundles. Investigators now say the truck was position within the intersection when the impact occurred. A tall stand of old-growth trees also may be found to have blocked the sightlines for traffic coming from one or both directions.

Those who died were mostly the junior players and other personnel who by hockey culture tradition sit at the front of the bus; in hockey culture senior team players generally sit toward the back of the bus.

Within hours of the crash a now infamous Go Fund Me crowd-sourcing fundraising page with a \$4 million goal was launched by one of the Humboldt hockey moms. When the fund closed at 11 pm (PDT) on April 18, in total \$15,185,700 had been donated by 142,032 donors from across Canada and around the world in just 12 days.

The funds will be transferred to a newly created non-profit corporation *Humboldt Broncos Memorial Fund Inc* "to be allocated for their intended purpose", it was stated on the Go Fund Me page. "An advisory committee is being established to make a recommendation for the allocation of these funds, which will be held in trust until that allocation occurs," it was stated by organizers.

As a gesture of empathy and support for about two weeks after the crash, hockey sticks adorned with or accompanied by the green and yellow colours of the Humboldt Broncos were laid to rest against walls, porches and public places across Canada and in global locations. April 12 was 'jersey day'... people 'everywhere' wore sports jerseys to demonstrate their support.

Weather conditions were bright and clear when the accident occurred around 5 pm local time. By many reports, the corner at Hwy 35 and Hwy 335 in northern Saskatchewan has been considered by locals for years to be dangerous due to minimal crossing management (a stop sign north/south traffic but through-traffic for east/west). **WSV**

Premier honours Langford Mayor Stew Young & Council: 25 years & counting

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Langford Mayor Stew Young congratulated all the contractors (16 represented that evening - full list on pg 1 in April 13 WSV) who contributed to achieving the Bear Mountain Parkway, at a recognition ceremony April 10 at Bear Mountain Resort.

● **An event to recognize 25 years of achievement** as the incorporated City of Langford was held at the Bear Mountain Resort on April 10, hosted by Langford Mayor Stew Young and council. The highlight preceding the evening reception was the roadside ribbon cutting and official opening of the Bear Mountain Parkway (aka Olympic Way), which Premier John Horgan later said he had the delight of driving along to attend the reception.

"It's been an extraordinary quarter of a century of extraordinary things happening in this community," said Premier Horgan to a packed room of about 300 people at the Bear Mountain Resort. "I grew up in Victoria and I had the good fortune of finding a home 26 years ago, before Langford's 1992 incorporation. And every minute of that time has been extraordinary for this community," Horgan said at the podium.

Horgan remarked on the extraordinary achievement of Langford having built the Bear Mountain Parkway, adding: "Stew Young and council have been able to

Opinion-Editorial

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

EDUCATION WEEK in BC

April 23 to 27, 2018

by Rob Fleming,
BC Minister of Education

● **Since 1986**, British Columbia has joined other provinces in proclaiming Education Week to recognize and celebrate the important work happening in our schools. This year, Education Week takes place from April 23-27.

In my time as Minister of Education, I've travelled around the province and met with students, parents, teachers, staff and trustees. It's clear our education system has been through challenging times, and I'm proud to be part of a government that is charting a new path forward. We're supporting our students by investing in education.

Our focus, along with our education partners, is on student success. We have a vision for a school system where all students can reach their full potential and get the quality education they deserve, regardless of their background or where they live. We won't move student success forward without working together to eliminate these gaps.

To do that, students need to have access to quality teachers and support staff. We've hit the ground running to support school districts as they hire record numbers of new teachers, and will continue to restore resources that have been missing from classrooms. Government is also investing in teacher training, to meet the growing demand. Great educators have always been a key part of student success. Their role will be even more important as we focus on driving student achievement forward.

Kindergarten students today will graduate into a world that is vastly different from the one we know now. In order for them to be successful, we need to teach them to never stop learning, embrace technology and develop skills that are valuable to every career - communication, collaboration and critical thinking. BC's new curriculum allows students to have more input with respect to how, when and where their learning takes place. We are working with our partners on a new graduation program that will give students the best possible chance for future success. We're also taking a hard look at our provincial assessments to make sure they support the new curriculum, while maintaining high, measurable standards that show us how we're doing and drive continuous improvement.

In order to reach their full potential, students need comfortable and safe spaces to learn in. That means schools need to be seismically safe, well-maintained and operating properly. We have an aggressive plan to tackle the backlog of seismic projects in BC, backed by the largest school capital investment in generations - \$2 billion over three years. We've also increased funding to maintenance programs by more than \$20 million over last year, helping schools ensure their water is safer to drink, their heating and cooling systems are working, and their fire alarms are up-to-date.

We also have to look beyond just bricks and mortar when it comes to student comfort and safety, and ensure our schools are welcoming and supportive. There will be an emphasis in 2018 and beyond on improving student mental health. We are working with our partners to find ways to better support students who may be struggling with mental-health issues. Educators and schools also have the Province's full and unwavering support as they work to ensure students of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel safe and welcome at school.

Great schools have great leadership. We're investing in leadership development for principals, vice-principals, superintendents and trustees to enable students, educators and school communities to thrive through skilled and effective educational leadership.

Students have waited long enough for an education system that works for them, and that's what we're working hard to deliver. I look forward to continuing to build new, respectful relationships with educators, students, parents and school boards throughout BC. We know that the best way to build a strong society and economy is to put students first by investing in their success. We've made great strides so far, and I look forward to continuing our work together. ■

juggle a few other balls too -- Glen Lake, Mill Hill, Happy Valley, Latoria -- wherever you look there are families putting down roots, meeting their full potential and realizing the dream that all Canadians and all British Columbians want... to live in a prosperous, safe, sustainable community," the Premier said, to great applause.

"I give full marks to the entire Langford council which has been here almost the whole time -- a council singularly focused on making life better for people in this great community. Stew's enthusiasm is undeniable. Over 25 years people have stood with him -- even when protestors or the government said no, Stew and the council would find a way to make it happen," said Horgan, making note of the Leigh Road Interchange and the Bear Mountain Parkway in that context. "Whatever it took to get the job done, Stew would reach out to the people in this room and say we can do this if we work together."

Horgan wrapped up his short speech



BC Minister of Education Rob Fleming, with Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) and students at Royal Bay Secondary (March 2018).

Government is also investing in teacher training, to meet the growing demand. Great educators have always been a key part of student success. Their role will be even more important as we focus on driving student achievement forward.

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Premier John Horgan at Bear Mountain

with this: "I'm always proud and humbled to be the Premier of BC, but I'm always honoured to say I come from Langford. That's how it works -- you can get it done if you work together. At the end of the day it's always about community here in Langford," Horgan said. **WSV**

RENTAL HOUSING: Provincial Scope

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Building BC Community Housing Fund to create 14,000 new rental homes

West Shore Voice News

Homes for BC: 30-point plan to address housing affordability for British Columbians: bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018/homesbc/2018_Homes_For_BC.pdf

● On April 18 in Victoria, Premier John Horgan announced his government's new Building BC Community Housing Fund that will make an investment of \$1.9 billion toward building 14,000 new rental homes throughout BC. The goal is to help make housing more affordable for seniors, families, and low- and middle-income seniors.

"Time after time, poll after poll, the number one issue is affordable, safe secure housing," Horgan said last week in Vancouver. He says his government has done their best to address that in Budget 2018, including "demand, supply and security of housing".

"Too many people are struggling to find a place to live," said Premier Horgan, with a further explanation that improved housing opportunities also helps businesses because then employees can find places to live.

As a way of putting the new funds into context, Horgan said that this is "not about building individual condos, stratas, or a house but a systematic and methodical plan" to help those with middle incomes, who are homeless, and "those struggling to make ends meet".

The announcement was made along with Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, on Wilson Street in the VicWest area of the Victoria core. Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps was on hand to support the announcement as well as Dean Fortin, executive director, Pacifica Housing.

The new rental housing will be available in about 24 months including larger units for families. The project has three target components: 30% of the units will be for households with moderate incomes, 50% for low-to-moderate income at market-driven rent levels, and 20% for low income on deeper subsidy (such as income assistance).

"It will capture the continuum of housing needs in the community," said Premier Horgan, adding that it's first time that the co-op housing sector can access funding. Horgan identified Pacifica Housing, M'akola Housing, and communities (municipalities) with new opportunities now to meet the broad range of housing needs.

"We're building British Columbia by investing in homes for people who live and work in our communities," said Premier Horgan. "Fixing the housing crisis is not just about ownership. It's about making sure that British Columbians who rent rather than own can find homes they can afford and have a future in."

The \$1.9 billion investment over 10 years is set to deliver safe, secure and affordable housing for BC renters. This housing will be built through partnerships with municipalities, non-profits and co-ops. About \$355 million is "out the door" now to get this project started.

"People are struggling in the midst of this housing crisis. We need to do everything we can to make housing more affordable," said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Through the Community Housing Fund, people who have been squeezed out of the tight rental market will be able to find a place to call their own, so they can stay in their community."

BC Housing is issuing requests for proposals (RFPs) to identify prospective partners, including non-profit societies, housing co-operatives and municipalities, that want to develop and operate mixed-income rental housing projects.

"Providing new affordable rentals for low- to moderate-income families and individuals keeps them living and working in our city," said City of Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. "We look forward to working with the Province on developing new, affordable housing for the city."

Projects will be prioritized based on a number of criteria, including targeted clients and the impact the project would have in reducing the community's affordable rental housing need. "Non-profit housing providers have been anxiously awaiting this day -- the launch of a historic investment in affordable housing," said Dean Fortin, executive director, Pacifica Housing. "We all know the fundamental importance of decent housing to enable the building of strong and resilient families and children and how important quality housing is to individuals in determining a quality of life every citizen deserves."

Each project built under the Building BC: Community Housing Fund will reflect the following mix of incomes:

* 30% of the units will be for households with moderate incomes. These are defined as household incomes up to \$71,200 for homes with fewer than two bedrooms, or up to \$104,000 for homes with two or more bedrooms.

* 50% of the units will be for low- to moderate-income households. These are defined as household incomes below the Housing Income Limits, which range from \$21,000 to \$95,000, depending on the community and the unit size. Housing Income Limits represent the income needed to pay the average market rent. Average rents are derived from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) annual Rental Market Survey. Rents for these units will be targeted at the CMHC definition of affordability, at or below 30% of the household income.

* 20% of the units will be for households with low incomes. Households requiring a deeper level of subsidy, such as those receiving income assistance. These are incomes below \$15,000 to \$30,000, depending on unit size. **WSV**

Budget 2018 launched the biggest investment in housing affordability in BC history: more than \$7 billion over 10 years. The Province has set an overall target of creating 114,000 new homes, including affordable market rental, non-profit, co-op, supported social housing and owner-purchase housing through partnerships.



Announcing the Building BC Community House Fund in Victoria, April 18 (from left): Dean Fortin, Executive Director, Pacific Housing; Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; City of Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps; and BC Premier John Horgan.

CTV News - screenshot

Improvements for Otter Point Rd

.../ continued from page 1 West Shore Voice News

of Otter Point Road between the municipal boundary and Kemp Lake Road. Once survey and design work is complete, the ministry will provide an estimated project cost and schedule for the construction of these improvements.

"Community input has been vital to enabling the ministry to get to work quickly on planning work for safety improvements on Otter Point Road, and I look forward to continuing this engagement on more essential upgrades to the Highway 14 corridor," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevena.

The Otter Point Road project funding and project work is in addition to the suite of Highway 14 corridor improvements that were first announced in January (i.e. transit pullouts and a queue jump lane, safety signs, new Gillespie Road 2-lane bridge, Sooke River Road intersection upgrade, Muir Creek slow-moving vehicle pullout, and Sombrio rest area).

Work will get underway once the list of specific improvement requirements and possibilities are finalized, said Evanoff. **WSV**

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RENTAL HOUSING: Colwood

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

82-unit rental project underway in Colwood

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Construction crew at 2006 Sooke Road project site this week.



Mitzi Dean, MLA
(Esquimalt-Metchosin)

● A new development at 2006 Sooke Road in Colwood will provide 82 rental homes for families, seniors and people with disabilities. The BC Government is partnering with Pacifica Housing and the City of Colwood for the project that is expected to be complete by summer 2019. Construction is already underway by contractor Townline Housing Solutions.

The Province will provide \$8.4 million in capital funding and \$10.2 million in construction financing. The City of Colwood will contribute \$328,000 through their affordable housing reserve fund. Pacifica Housing has provided the land valued at approximately \$4 million (12 aging townhomes of the Helios project are now being replaced on that land with the 82 new units).

Demand for rental housing is considered to be at crisis levels in urban centres in BC. Through the new Building BC Community Housing Fund, government will invest close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to deliver safe, secure and affordable housing for BC renters.

"Our community has been struggling under the weight of this housing crisis, along with the rest of the province, for far too many years," said Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin. "I am excited for the people who will be living in these homes. Our government is working hard to create the partnerships needed to build even more projects like this to help people find a place to call home."

The project is situated on the well-travelled Sooke Road (Hwy 14) across from Royal Roads University. This offers transit accessibility and is considered walkable to Colwood's commercial core.

"Colwood is proud to support Pacifica Housing on the construction of 82 affordable rental units at Helios in Colwood," said Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton. "Current housing costs and low vacancy rates can make homelessness a frightening possibility for people with low or moderate incomes. The kind of safe and affordable housing Pacifica provides is the foundation people need to build the life they envision for themselves and their families."

Helios will include homes of varying sizes, from studios to three-bedroom units aimed at low-to moderate-income households. The projected range of monthly rent levels is broad: Studio \$825; 1-bedroom \$950; 2-bedroom \$1,225; and 3-bedroom \$1,575. Operated by Pacifica Housing, the project will include pedestrian walkways, a playground and community gardens.

"We are thrilled to be working with our partners to increase the affordable housing stock for families in the Western communities," said Dean Fortin, executive director, Pacifica Housing. "People should be able to work in the communities where they live, and projects like Helios make that possible."

"A variety of housing is essential to the growth of Colwood," says Colwood Councillor Rob Martin. "Colwood City hall will need to continue working with our development community to create affordable, accessible housing that allows tenants and owners to age in place, and to provide supports for this to be successful," said Martin. **WSV**

Vancouver-based Townline Group of Companies (contractor Townline Housing Solutions) is building the new 82 rental home Helios project at 2006 Sooke Road in Colwood.



Construction of the 4-storey Helios rental housing project is underway.

"To address the issue of housing affordability for British Columbians, the Province is curbing speculation in BC's housing market and building 114,000 affordable market rental, non-profit, supported social housing and owner-purchase housing through partnerships. Budget 2018 launched the largest investment in housing affordability in BC history -- more than \$7 billion over 10 years."

~ BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

THE ARTS

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

Modern hits in a fresh new concert by Sooke Community Choir

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● Keeping it fresh and interesting, each concert by the Sooke Community Choir offers something a little bit different. For their 'HITS' spring concert May 4, 5 and 6 in Sooke (at Sooke Community Hall) and May 12 in Qualicum Beach, audiences will be treated to some creative performances of modern pop.

"This is a show of 'ear worms' -- songs that have stuck in people's heads over the years," says Sooke Community Choir artistic Bruce Ruddell. "Pop is never boring," he says.

Accompanying the 60-person choir will be pianist Kathy Russell, Steve Cross on guitar, and drummer Mark Owen. Soloists in this season's concert are Jonathan Francoeur, Elena Hoath, Jason Ince, Mike Kelley, and Iain McLean.

Fairly recent songs like Adele's *Hello*, older pieces like Toto's *Africa*, and pretty new ones like Ed Sheeran's *Thinking Out Loud* are sure to delight.

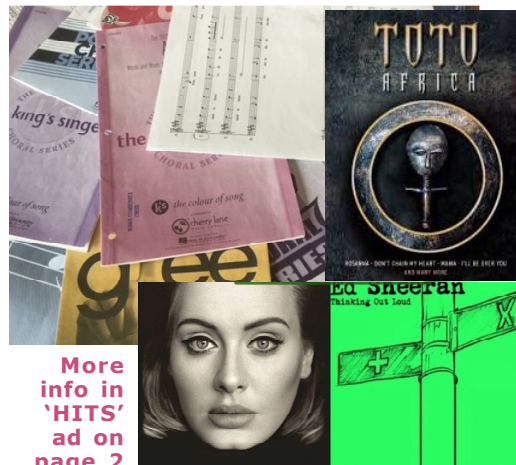
"Something most people don't pay attention to in pop music is the craft of writing those songs. It's phenomenally

difficult," says Ruddell. "When a pop song does get to that level of being a huge success, there's a reason for that. It's touching people in some ways. Organization and creation of that sort of piece is not easy. Our HITS concert is celebrating the pop song," he told *West Shore Voice News* this week.

Ruddell wants this concert to feel like going to a club. As a composer and arranger, Ruddell has pushed a lot of the

arrangements "into a another level" by adding instrumental breaks, cutting parts that are poorly arranged, plus adding drum, guitar and piano parts. "*Blackbird* is better when a guitarist is playing a George Harrison tune."

Tickets \$20 (under age 16 free), available at Shoppers in Sooke or at the door, or ticketrocket.co or 1-855-842-7575 or box office 101-804 Broughton St, Victoria. **WSV**



More
info in
'HITS'
ad on
page 2

www.sookecommunitychoir.com

EDUCATION: SD62

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

SD62 Public Board Meeting: April 24

West Shore Voice News

● The Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Board meeting on Tuesday April 24 will include two presentations -- one on student support services and another on the Belmont Bytes Robotics team competition. The 2018-2019 budget and capital plan will be discussed. Courses are frequently added to SD62 curriculum offerings -- this month the board looks at Golf Skills 10B. A discussion will be held on a National Daycare Strategy.

The public is welcome to attend SD62 public board meetings at the SD62 administration office, 3143 Jacklin Road, 7pm. Lots of parking.

Upcoming for trustees to attend is the BC School Trustees Association AGM April 26-29 in Richmond. One of the presentations there is about optimizing workplace culture, the future of work, and engagement in the workplace. **WSV**

RECREATION

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

WS Parks & Recreation: skateboard park, fees

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● West Shore Parks & Recreation (WSPR) met for their monthly board meeting, April 19. They heard about the skateboard park coming close to a final design with public input from youth and older folks.

A discussion about fees included that the 'child' and 'student' handle for all activities will be called a 'youth' fee starting in September 2018. The 'student' might be shifted to mean post-secondary as a new category. The family pass will change to 3 months (instead of 6) for 2018-2019. Every fee in the program/activity roster was evaluated -- some fees will go up more than others. This is to help cover increases in utility costs and wage increases.

The board heard during their budget discussion about a deficit of \$65,895 this year: some revenues are lower (e.g. pool and fitness) and some expenses are higher (e.g. staff time to implement a new software system to manage facilities and activities). This weekend's HomeExpo show and the upcoming Rock the Shores concert in July are good revenue generators.

KPMG's presented the audited 2017 financial statements. WSPR chair Ed Watson noted the auditors' point that accumulated surplus in the capital reserves can be used for things other than just designated capital projects. **WSV**



A presentation about the West Shore Parks & Recreation skateboard park design was heard by the board, April 19.

WHAT'S GOING ON



Earth Day. Sun Apr 22. 2018 theme: End Plastic Pollution in the oceans. www.earthday.org

Earth Day Party. Sun Apr 22. Sooke Community Hall, 10 am to 9 pm. Repair Cafe, vendors, family activities, upcycled fashion show, food trucks, evening dance. <https://planetearthparty.blogspot.ca> or rebrand.ly/PEP

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Apr 23. Royal Bay Secondary, 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way. 9-4. www.blood.ca

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Apr 24. Admin office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

Healing City Soils. Free soil contaminant testing for food-growing households anywhere in Greater Victoria. Deadline extended to April 30. www.compost.bc.ca

SD62 Bus Registration 2018-2019. Starts May 2. Routes can be viewed ahead of May 2. www.sd62.bc.ca/about-sd62/transportation

'HITS' concert by Sooke Community Choir. Fri May 4 & Sat May 5 at 7:30 pm & Sun May 6 at 2pm at Sooke Community Hall. Also May 12 at 2pm at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach. Tx \$20 (free under age 16). www.sookecommunitychoir.com

Duck Day at the Flats. Sat May 5. 12th annual duck race. Sooke River Campground. 11am-3pm (race 12pm). Tx \$5 or 5/\$20. www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/sookeharboursidelions

Emergency Preparedness Week. May 6 to 12. Wireless alerts will be publicly tested for the first time in BC. Wed May 9 at 1:55 pm (Pacific time), alongside routine television and radio tests.

HSBC Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament. May 12-13. Westhills Stadium, Langford. www.worldrugby.org

Colwood Campus Plant Sale. Sat May 12. 2139 Sooke Rd. Fundraiser for Westshore Centre for Learning & Training grad. 10-4. Blueberry, raspberry and strawberry planters can be pre-ordered from Debbie Lodewijk at dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca

Sooke Rotary annual fundraiser. Dinner at Prestige Hotel with silent auction. Sat May 12. Tx \$60 at Little Vienna Bakery or email rogertemple48@gmail.com

75th Annual Swiftsure International Yacht Race. May 24 to 28. www.swiftsure.org

Kingfisher Preschool Family Fun Day. Sat May 26. Sooke Family Resource Society, 6672 Wadams Way. Send stories your SFRS experiences for their 30th anniversary celebration to info@sfrs.ca

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. Sun May 27. Membership Meeting. 2 pm in the SEAPARC meeting room, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

Salt Spring Potters Guild juried Exhibition & Prize Competition. Submissions accepted to May 31, Exhibit Oct 4-14. www.ssicaceramicawards.com



Sooke Fine Arts Show submissions open to June 4. Show dates July 27-Aug 6. www.sookefinearts.com

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

Rock the Shores. Outdoor weekend rock concert in Colwood. July 13-15. www.rocktheshores.com

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ARTiFACTS exhibit to April 29 at the Sooke Region Museum

Next west shore blood donor clinic at Royal Bay Secondary April 23

Blood samples that match up with units of donated blood are organized for testing later at the Canadian Blood Services lab in Vancouver. [Photo: mobile clinic in Colwood, March 2018]



● The next Canadian Blood Services donor clinic in the west shore area will be held on Monday, April 23 at Royal Bay Secondary School in Colwood, 9am to 4pm. The school address is 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way. There is guest parking.

This is the first clinic at Royal Bay Secondary, after success with students experiencing the mobile clinic by bussing over to the clinic held at another location. Students may give blood on Monday, and the public is also welcome to make appointments at www.blood.ca or phone 1-888-236-6283 or drop in on the day. **WSV**

Farewell to Lt Gov Guichon

West Shore Voice News

● A farewell ceremony for the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will be held in Victoria on Monday, April 23, 2018.

Guichon will arrive at the Parliament Buildings at noon to inspect the 100-person Guard of Honour. There will be a 15-gun Vice-Regal Salute, and the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy will play the Vice-Regal Salute.

Premier John Horgan will greet the Lieutenant Governor and escort her to the library rotunda. Premier Horgan will present Her Honour with a legacy gift in thanks for her service to the people of British Columbia. Guichon was appointed Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia on November 2, 2012.

It could be said that Lt Gov Guichon changed the face of BC for a more progressive future, when after the fractious May 2017 election results she gave the green light for BC NDP Leader John Horgan to form a minority government with the BC Greens. **WSV**



Lt Governor Judith Guichon served Nov 2012 to Apr 2018



BC Premier John Horgan

Volunteer Week: social & economic value

● National Volunteer Week (April 15 to 21) is a time to recognize the contributions of volunteers in communities. This year's theme has been 'Celebrate the Value of Volunteering - building confidence, competence, connections and community'. Volunteering is seen as a way to generate social and economic value for the full community. www.volunteer.ca/nvw2018

"Volunteers are the heart of emergency response, including Emergency Social Services (ESS), Search and Rescue (SAR), and Emergency Communications," says Jeri Grant, Coordinator, Juan de Fuca Emergency Program. ESS provides short-term assistance to people forced to leave homes due to fire, floods or other emergencies (including food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification). About 2,500 registered SAR volunteers throughout

TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Weekdays to Fri May 04.

7:30 am to 5 pm. Traffic delays for utilities & frontage works, 2854 Peatt Rd at Hockley Ave.

Now open: Tues Apr 10 -

Bear Mountain Parkway extension from Leigh Rd interchange at Hwy 1, over to Bear Mountain Resort (3.5 km).

Weekdays April 16 to May 18 - Jacklin Rd (Sooke Rd to Division Ave) traffic delays for water main installation. 7am to 7pm.

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, & Mondays of long weekends). Some night work.

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



BC respond to 1,400 incidents annually. In 95% of cases, people are found or rescued within the first 24 hours. Emergency radio is a public safety lifeline to help coordinate crisis relief. **WSV**



Win 2 weekend passes to Rock the Shores! [GA value \$298]

Courtesy of West Shore Voice News. Tell us what you think makes a good pop/rock song. Best answer wins, all answers will be published. Send to news@westshorevoicenews.com by Fri June 8, 2018. Winner to be announced in our June 15th issue.



March 29 - April 29

Schedule of Events: SookeCommunityArts.com

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Tuesday: 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am-3:00pm

BC Premier John Horgan's statement on Earth Day

● In recognizing Earth Day on April 22, BC Premier John Horgan issued a statement: "Climate change and environmental degradation affects everyone. Sitting back and accepting the status quo isn't an option. If we do that, we fail our environment, our economy and future generations."

"We're developing a road map to grow a sustainable economy, and seize upon new and lasting economic opportunity, while reducing carbon pollution."

"And we've committed to legislating an interim target for 2030 of a 40% overall reduction in carbon emissions, and to introducing a comprehensive climate strategy in the fall." **WSV**



RECYCLE YOUR PLASTICS

Bank of Canada rate holds steady

West Shore Voice News

● The Bank of Canada did not increase their base interest rate on April 18, instead holding it at 1.25%. Since summer 2017 there have been three rate increases of 0.25% each, and more were thought to be coming this year based on the Bank of Canada considering the economy to be robust (including job numbers). However, there is economic uncertainty with NAFTA, the housing crisis, and a still very high level of household debt. **WSV**

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