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News

6 pages this issue

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Friday, May 4, 2018

Release date May 6, 2018

## Canada Women's Sevens players teach rugby skills to youth in Langford

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



Learning the sport: kids try out rugby skills with two of Canada's Women's Sevens players: Julia Greenshields (left) and team captain Ghislaine Landry.

● **For fun and skill-building**, about 35 youth from around Greater Victoria took part in a rubgy clinic at Westhills Stadium in Langford on Friday afternoon, May 4. The activity for girls and boys was free. Parents came to watch.

The kids had fun and professional rugby players from Canada Women's Sevens had a chance to interact with potential new athletes. And it was a ramp-up to the 2018 HSBC Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament game coming up May 12-13 at Westhills Stadium by which ticket sales are one way for spectators to donate to KidSport when they purchase tickets online. [www.canadasevens.com/womens](http://www.canadasevens.com/womens)

The KidSport program helps remove financial barriers to participation in a wide variety of sports, explains KidSport Greater Victoria executive director Jill Shaw. She says that last year two girls were funded by KidSport for their registration in rugby that summer, thanks to donations from ticket-purchasers in May 2017 that amounted to about \$500.

"Last year KidSport overall funded a total of \$400,000 to pay for sport registrations for 1,400 youth," said Shaw, out on the Westhills Stadium field on Friday.

Canada Women's Sevens team captain Ghislaine Landry was happy to participate in the youth clinic. "We train so hard, sometimes we forget about the big picture. Activities like today are about growing the grassroots of sport," Landry told *West Shore Voice News*. "It's important to be interacting with the community," she said before joining a group of eager youth to starting tossing around the rugby ball.

Back on February 27, the new AI Charron Rugby Canada National Training Centre was officially opened on Glen Lake Road behind Westhills Stadium. Landry said at the time that the new home for rugby players would be a boon to the sport. Today she said: "Before, we were spread out across the country. This way we feed off each other and this leads to good things for the program."

Drills, games and skill-building exercises continued for about an hour in the warmish weather under slightly overcast skies, familiarizing the kids with the game of rugby. The clinic was open to all interested youth.

The HSBC Canada Women's Sevens two-day tournament next weekend at Westhills Stadium will feature 12 of the world's top women's rubgy seven's teams. It's the fourth stop in a five-stop world tour series.

Rugby Sevens is a fast-paced, shorter version of traditional rugby with only seven players per side.

The 2018 series kicked off in Dubai at the end of November, followed by Sydney Australia in January 2018, Kitakyushu Japan in April 2018, now Langford next week on Sat May 12 and Sun May 13, and finishes up in Paris June 8 to 10. <https://www.worldrugby.org/sevens-series-seriesinfo> **WSV**



**KidSport Greater Victoria Executive Director Jill Shaw was pleased with such a good turnout of kids and their parents, May 4 at Westhills Stadium.**

## Langford sets out its ground rules for retailing recreational cannabis

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **The City of Langford has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the retail sale of cannabis** and related products, open May 1 to June 1, 2018. Up to five proponents will be selected with whom the City will enter into further discussions in relation to the consideration of the issuance of temporary use permits authorizing the retail sale of cannabis products for non-medicinal use at locations identified in the proposals of the preferred proponents or as determined in subsequent discussions with the City.

The motion was approved at a Special Council Meeting on Monday evening, April 30. The RFP had been prepared in consultation with the City's lawyers.

Following presentation of a staff report April 30 by Langford CAO Darren Kiedyk that included details of the guiding principles for the sale of non-medical cannabis products within the Langford municipality, the motion to go ahead with the cannabis RFP was moved by Councillor Lillian Szpak who chairs the City of Langford Protective Services Committee. Mayor Stew Young and Council supported the motion.

Council has now directed staff to wait to see how the Province of BC and the Capital Regional District (CRD) will be regulating and enforcing issues of cannabis odour and nuisance prior to granting any temporary use permits that are related to retail sales of cannabis and related products.

Langford says it expects the provincial government to be outlining remaining details of BC's non-medicinal cannabis regulatory framework in "the coming months". Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth has been the lead on organizing the wholesale and retail cannabis regulations in this province. On April 26, Farnworth tabled two pieces of legislation -- the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act and the Cannabis Distribution Act as well as a BC cannabis private retail licensing guide.

The federal government is coursing quickly toward a self-imposed July 1, 2018 cannabis legalization deadline that evolved from promises made during the Liberal campaign in 2015. On May 4, Bill Blair (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and to the Minister of Health) reiterated on CTV's *Power Play* that provinces and municipalities have asked for eight to 12 weeks for rolling out cannabis-related regulations after Royal Assent of the legislation has been received from the Senate; so he articulated mid-August to mid-September for recreational cannabis sales becoming legally active. Blair also reiterated the federal government's intention that cannabis sales should not be in the hands of organized crime, and that the health and safety of youth "and all Canadians" is achieved through comprehensive regulations.

**LOCATION:** Langford's guiding principles for the location of retail sale of cannabis products for non-medicinal use include that businesses selling those products not be located within: • 500 metres of any other location where the retail sale of cannabis products for non-medicinal use has been authorized (with the exception of Goldstream Avenue, where two locations may be considered); • 300 metres of any school; • 300 metres of any group daycare; • 150 metres of Centennial Park, Veterans Memorial Park, City Centre Park, Westhills YMCA, and regional or Provincial park, or any of the three lakes in Langford (Langford, Glen, Florence); • 50 metres of any land zoned R1 (one-family residential) or R2 (one- and two-family residential) except within the city centre.

**COSTS & IMPACTS:** It's clear the City of Langford doesn't want to see much if any cost increase for proceeding with retail cannabis authorization in the municipality. Potential cannabis retailers will need to provide a proposed plan for financially assisting the City of Langford with policing and bylaw enforcement costs, including the costs of additional training and administration as associated with: • Ensuring that the retail sale of cannabis products for non-medicinal use in a particular location is in compliance with the regulatory framework and all applicable city bylaws; • Minimizing the impact on the neighbourhood of the retail sale of cannabis products for non-medicinal use; • Addressing nuisance issues relating to public use of cannabis products for non-medicinal purposes; • Addressing impairment issues relating to public use of cannabis products for non-medicinal purposes; and; • Providing educational initiatives and materials associated with the above impacts are related social concerns. **WSV**

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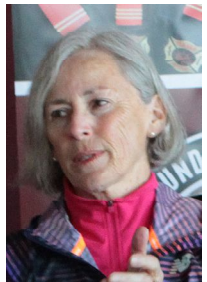
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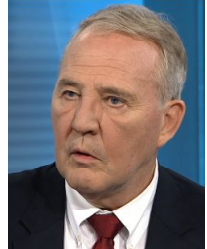
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**Langford Councillor Lillian Szpak**



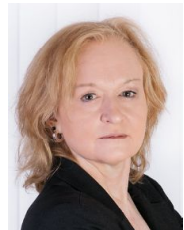
**Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth**



**Bill Blair, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of Health**



## There's nothing new about 'unintended consequences': degrees of acceptable remiss



Mary P Brooke  
Editor

There is absolutely nothing new about 'unintended consequences'. Life has always been that way, as no one can ever foresee all the impacts and outcomes of their decisions.

That's why a democratic society tries to wisely select elected leaders who -- when the chips are down and things are in crisis -- they can be trusted to make the best possible decisions with the information that is available. Every significant decision in life is made without all the information available.

Bold leadership is respected because a person or group has or will demonstrate the vision, background knowledge, and confidence (of both those who are affected and those who share the responsibility) to make tough decisions with the least negative impact overall.

So this trend to using the 'unintended consequences' buzz phrase is becoming a bit tiresome. When used to try and placate a populace or citizenry when things go wrong, the degree to which the 'unintended consequences' buzz line is used is often equivalent to the degree that inadequate forethought was put into whatever happened. We don't hear a fallback to 'unintended consequences' when it's a natural disaster (like a wild windstorm, a dangerous flood after heavy rains, or forest fire by lightning). We do hear a sort of mea culpa request for forgiveness when there's some degree of realization that more could have in fact been done or foreseen ahead of the crisis -- but that doesn't always feel clean.

No one will ever get it 100% right. But if a politician or community leader spices their explanation with 'unintended consequences', it's a clue they already realize there's something else that should have been considered. A simple apology for a genuinely poor outcome (beyond their control, and simply seen as that) seems less disingenuous as "gee, now we see we could have done better".

Let's look at some of the biggies in the news lately: the awkward introduction of the BC Speculation Tax, and the promise to eliminate the MSP through implementation of the new Employer Health Tax (EHT). The backlash is not just political for obvious reasons. In the BC Speculation Tax debacle there is lack of fulsome thought about why and how people own property. And with the MSP shift to EHT some simple number crunching should have revealed that almost everyone will -- for example -- still pay for health taxation through the municipal and school district taxes that will increase. Headshaker here is that the NDP government missed by a country mile the need to assuage the BC Liberals' aversion to taxation on those who are financially successful. Had the BC Budget been unveiled with a straightforward method whereby within the income tax system everyone pays even the smallest amount for health care (say, even just a few bucks per year -- and not requiring the completion of forms for exemption), they might be avoiding pushback from the anti-tax sector. To see that now does not qualify as not seeing unintended consequences -- it shows a serious lack of political savvy, or at the very least an overconfident sense of political bravado -- which is worse?

By comparison, where you're not hearing any mea culpa in the introduction of the new federal cannabis legislation. A great deal of work is being done federally, provincially and municipally to try and chase down all the bits that could go awry. The magnitude of the impact of cannabis regulation is so great that no one will likely dare admit later on to have not seen "unintended consequences", because there certainly will be. There will be vehicle crashes as a result of TCH-

### BC NEWS

#### BC Small Business Task Force: June consultations

● A new BC Small Business Task Force in BC will "listen to entrepreneurs and business owners throughout the province, so we can continue to improve BC's small business climate", said BC Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology in Surrey on May 2.

Public consultations in June will almost entirely be held on the mainland, with Nanaimo being the only pitstop on Vancouver Island. BC's small business community, including chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs and First Nations will take part in the consultations. Comments, requests or suggestions for the task force can be submitted at [www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca](http://www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca).

A final report with recommendations will be submitted to the Minister in Fall 2018. **WSV**

#### Strong public input on Agricultural Land Commission and Agricultural Land Reserve

● More than 2,300 British Columbians responded with ideas on how the BC government can support the Agricultural Land Commission to preserve farmland and encourage farming. Their input will help guide the Ministry of Agriculture as it strengthens the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

The consultation took place February 5 to April 30, led by an independent committee of volunteers with diverse agricultural backgrounds and experiences. There were nine stakeholder meetings in nine communities, plus written submissions and online consultation.

Input received by the committee is intended to help frame its recommendations for an ALR that will serve future generations of British Columbians, and will be provided to BC Agriculture Minister Lana Popham this summer.

The top three themes identified in responses during the consultation were:

- \* A defensible and defended ALR [identified by 1,203 people]
- \* Food security and BC's agricultural contribution [identified by 1,146 people]
- \* Residential uses in the ALR [identified by 866 people]

Online responses were contributed by over 750 farmers, 115 agriculture specialists and over 1,400 members of the general public. There were 240 responses from people representing an agricultural industry or interest group. South Coast residents completed 900 surveys, while submissions from the Island topped 800, with almost 200 from the Okanagan, and over 100 from each of the North, Kootenay and Interior regions. **WSV**

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impaired driving, youth under the legal age will still get their hands on the substance, and brain health impairment will be found years later in some users (especially those who start young ... this is backed up by science).

The message here is to not fool ourselves about the complexities of moving forward in life. Nothing will be perfectly executed. But a modern educated society deserves better than politicians and governments who say 'oops we'll do better next time'. Leaving the price to be paid by those who've been shortchanged or harmed deserves more than a platitude.

Elected officials are expected to do their very best to get it right (or close to right) at the outset. In that sense, the trend of recent years for the federal government and notably this current BC NDP minority government to consult extensively is not a bad thing. Political ideology will still colour the final choices made, but if we can still count on some good measure of professional management in government, any serious red flags will likely be found before they are unleashed.

The BC government still has time to revise their speculation tax that has rankled many property owners, and to replace the Employer Health Tax with something less onerous on business, municipal taxpayers and school districts. That sure would take the steam out of opposition toward them come next provincial election and do most of the rest of us a financial favour. ■

MUNICIPAL  
ELECTION  
WATCH 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada

National Library Registration:

WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722

Mailing: 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 Tel & Text: 250-217-5821

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& [SookeVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/SookeVoiceNews)

Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon

Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed

Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF

Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc.

Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content: all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR unless otherwise stated.

Publishing Support: Jennifer Brooke.

Reporters: Chelsea Kirkpatrick, Sophia Romanchuk.

Community contributors this week: -

Distribution: PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook.

IT Network: I vandafish Computing.

Printing: Brookline Publishing House Inc.

Courtesy copies: coffee shops; business reception areas, libraries, rec centres, community.

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Rob Martin



Kevin Pearson

● As election campaigns start to roll out in municipalities throughout BC toward the October 20 election, so far there are two west shore municipalities in which contenders are vying for the mayor's job against existing incumbents.

A few weeks ago first-term City of Colwood councillor Rob Martin threw his hat into the race for mayor of Colwood where he is now challenging the Official Community Plan (OCP) timeline/process. Two-term Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton has said she is running again.

This week, two-term Sooke Councillor Kevin Pearson announced his intention to run for mayor, pitching him into a race so far against incumbent District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait (two-term councillor, one-term mayor) who has said she intends to run again. Pearson states 'leadership' as his campaign theme.

In the Town of View Royal, last week Mayor David Screech said he's running again, and that all of his present council is probably running again this fall in the municipality that deals with issues often related to being centrally-positioned in the Greater Victoria area (e.g. transportation, housing).

In the District of Metchosin, long-time Mayor John Ranns said a few weeks ago that it's tough to find candidates for a four-year commitment (the term of office was changed in BC from three years to four, as of the 2014 election cycle). He plans to run again in the small rural municipality where no-growth is a goal.

In Langford, most if not all of the current council is expected to run again. Last month long-time Mayor Stew Young and councillors celebrated their 25 years serving in that municipality since incorporation in 1992.

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks is running again. This week he sent a letter to Honourable Selina Robinson Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the disparity between election campaign spending limits for candidates in BC who are running for regional director (\$5,000) compared to that of candidates running for municipal mayor (\$10,000).

School district trustee elections are also held alongside the municipal election process. In Sooke School District 62 (SD62) the board of seven trustees is comprised from two areas of the district -- three from the Milne's Landing Zone (schools in the Sooke area), and four from the Belmont Zone (schools in the Langford and Colwood areas).

Candidates may file their nomination papers with Elections BC during September 4 to 14. The campaign period is September 22 to October 20. General voting day is Saturday October 20. **WSV**





## Regional News

## Community Growth



News updates any time:  
www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

### Unveiling designs for the new Sooke Library: public meeting May 16

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **An open house to view designs for the new Sooke Library** will be hosted on Wednesday, May 16 by the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board at Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shield Rd, downstairs in the dining room area.

The event will run from 5:30 to 8 pm. First from 5:30 to 6:30 pm there will be an open session to learn about the designs. Then at 6:30 pm there will be a presentation by library staff, with a question and answer session.

The new Sooke Library building has been long in coming, even though VIRL says it has been at the top of their priority list for at least five years. A significant number of people came out to a VIRL-hosted public meeting about the pros and cons of a new

library in 2012 under Sooke's then-Mayor Wendal Milne. Back then, one resident said in the public forum that he hadn't been in a public library for over 10 years, as he uses the Internet from home. District of Sooke Councillor Kerrie Reay has been the long-time rep to the VIRL board.

"The construction of a new community library facility has been a goal shared by the District of Sooke for many years," said Sooke Mayor Maja Tait. Indeed, the District of Sooke for years grappled with the decision of whether or how to provide 'free' land to VIRL -- the library board's deal with all communities in their region is that the municipality to provide the land, then VIRL pays for the building construction and facility equiment and furnishings. The District of Sooke eventually purchased land (Lot A) on Wadams Way a few years ago, of which a section will be provided for VIRL upon which to build a 10,000 sq.ft. library building.

The current Sooke Library has operated out of rented space on Anna Marie Road, near Sooke Road for about 10 years. As the Wadams Way area continues to develop (effectively behind -- north of -- Evergreen Shopping Centre), it will expand the footprint of town centre.

With an oft-pushed-forward opening date, construction will take about a year after designs are approved. That makes the new opening date probably in the realm of 2019 year-end.

VIRL promotes their libraries as community hubs, going well beyond just housing books and audio-visual resources. They offer programs and meetings as well as a range of online services. Last year, design proposals also included a media/film-viewing space.

The Sooke Library has for years attracted a regular group of on-site Internet-users and offers many family-based activities as well as space for group meetings. And the borrowing of books for free is still popular! **WSV**

### Greater Victoria real estate April 2018: strong market correction

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **A significant drop in the average price of homes that sold in Greater Victoria in April 2018 shows evidence of 'market cooling'.** At \$651,835 the average was dramatically below the \$903,052 seen in March (a 27.8% drop in just one month), \$876,397 in February, and \$925,715 in January. This is stark evidence of the market slowdown that the Bank of Canada was hoping to see, achieved largely through the mortgage qualification 'stress test' that as of January 1, 2018 requires a prospective buyer to qualify for a higher interest level (2% higher) than the current rate.

Reducing the ease with which people can enter into home ownership effectively results in fewer entry-level buyers, loss of some middle-income homeowners (the stress test applies to renewals of mortgages under 5 years), and produces more renters at the expensive top end of a low-vacancy rental market.

Prices for housing types vary based on the particular product presently available, and the season (prices usually go up in spring/summer for the most active period of the market). Sales averages for single family homes in the west shore have sagged since January (though townhome sales averages are up. In the fast-growing Langford the house average was \$632,851 in April (down 11.1% from \$712,247 in January) and in the less robust but neighbouring Colwood the April price was \$659,600 (down 8.6% from \$721,774 in January). Prices seem to have remained over the half-million mark in Sooke since the start of the year and in fact are bucking the downward trend: \$557,226 in April (almost no change from \$554,704 in March) which is up 8.2% from \$511,437 seen in January. **WSV**

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5:30 - 6:30 pm:

Open session to learn about the designs

6:30 - 8 pm:

Presentation by library staff and Q&A

virl.bc.ca

### Housing Prices in the West Shore: Jan to Apr 2018

GV = Greater Victoria



Regional News:

www.westshorevoicenews.com

#### Average Sale Prices January 2018

##### Single Family Homes

GV: \$925,715  
Colwood: \$721,774  
Langford: \$712,247  
Sooke: \$511,437

##### Townhomes

GV: \$545,156  
Colwood: \$564,633  
Langford: \$475,234  
Sooke: no sales

##### Condos

GV: \$495,633  
Colwood: \$417,000  
Langford: \$343,865  
Sooke: \$295,000

#### Average Sale Prices February 2018

##### Single Family Homes

GV: \$876,397  
Colwood: \$754,259  
Langford: \$805,315  
Sooke: \$602,919

##### Townhomes

GV: \$647,643  
Colwood: \$680,500  
Langford: \$501,483  
Sooke: \$410,000

##### Condos

GV: \$434,295  
Colwood: \$304,875  
Langford: \$366,886  
Sooke: \$300,000

#### Average Sale Prices March 2018

##### Single Family Homes

GV: \$903,052  
Colwood: \$754,867  
Langford: \$723,450  
Sooke: \$554,704

##### Townhomes

GV: \$582,849  
Colwood: \$601,829  
Langford: \$521,368  
Sooke: no sales

##### Condos

GV: \$477,814  
Colwood: \$369,613  
Langford: \$384,142  
Sooke: no sales

#### Average Sale Prices April 2018

##### Single Family Homes

GV: \$651,835  
Colwood: \$659,600  
Langford: \$632,851  
Sooke: \$557,226

##### Townhomes

GV: \$594,204  
Colwood: \$621,283  
Langford: \$493,128  
Sooke: \$425,000

##### Condos

GV: \$439,578  
Colwood: \$319,900  
Langford: \$334,652  
Sooke: \$215,000

#### Inventory (Properties for Sale on MLS)

at January 31/18  
1,491

at February 28/18  
1,545

at March 31/18  
1,766

at April 30/18  
2,002

Table by West Shore Voice News with stats compiled from www.vreb.org

### Accommodation tax levy of 2% to help market Langford as a tourist destination

● **An accommodation tax of 2%** is set to come into effect in the City of Langford starting November 1, 2018.

The new Hotel Room Tax Requisition Bylaw No 1778 was handily approved without debate at the municipality's Special Council Meeting on April 30. First, second and third readings were done April 16.

The 2% levy will be charged on the purchase price of accommodations such as hotel room nights and Air B&B stays.

The additional municipal revenue is intended "to finance marketing of the City of Langford as a tourist destination". **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

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\* Option to pre-order BC-grown blueberry, raspberry and strawberry plants by email: dlodewjk@sd62.bc.ca



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Plant sale to support the SD62 Sustainable Resources class garden project

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● **The 2nd annual plant sale** fundraiser for the garden project at SD62's Westshore Centre for Learning & Training (Colwood Campus, 2139 Sooke Rd) is coming up Saturday May 12, 10am-4pm.

Grade 11 Sustainable Resources students have been busy planting under the guidance of Jennifer Freeman of Zero Mile Solutions a large variety of vegetable starts including 25+ varieties of heirloom and organic tomatoes.

"And this year we have partnered with a local grower from Saanich to offer hanging flower baskets, fuschia hanging baskets, and annual flowers," says plant sale organizer and sustainable resources teacher Debbie Lodewijk. "We will have BC-grown blueberry, raspberry and strawberry plants and a selection of culinary herbs and herb garden planters," says Lodewijk.

Four parent volunteers will help out during the plant sale. Last year about 400 people came to the sale. "Some people bought one item and others loaded up their whole car," said Lodewijk

PLANT SALE  
Saturday, May 12 (10-4)



West Shore Voice News

Up to 5,000 plants will be available for sale at SD62's Colwood Campus Garden Project fundraiser on Saturday, May 12.

this week as she was guiding students in various plant management and food preparation activities.

"Some people are on the hunt for specific plants, like heirloom tomatoes," said Lodewijk. Advice on which plants are suitable for patios and urban settings will be provided.

The Sustainable Resources class looks at "where does our food come from and why does it matter". In addition to hands-on work (in-ground and in planter boxes, as well as the greenhouse), studies include food security, sustainable agriculture, soil management, plant biology, and food strategies (global and local).

This year the garden project did not receive support funding from the YMCA (a spillover effect from the YMCA apparently seeing less government funding), which has left the project with a shortfall of \$14,000 (labour and supplies) compared to last year, says Lodewijk. Without some new funding support options, there will be less time spent on managing the crops that have been planted by students this spring. **WSV**

Belmont Residences sales centre now open

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **Under bright sunny skies** on Saturday May 5, a steady stream of drop-in visitors came to the Belmont Residences presentation centre at 915 Division Avenue in Langford, 1 to 3 pm.

Otherwise surrounded by the churned-up ground of a construction zone, the sales centre is a bright modern open space, now open six days a week (Mon-Thurs and Sat-Sun), from 12 noon to 5 pm.

A three-person sales team will be on hand. Appointments are recommended but drop-ins are welcome, says on-site Project Coordinator Cathy Noel.



West Shore Voice News

**Belmont Residences Sales Centre on opening day May 5 saw a steady stream of visitors to view the new show suite.**

The sales centre includes a complete 2-bedroom, 2-bath furnished show suite. The layout of that particular floorplan brings you directly into the kitchen, in view of the inline living/dining room area.

About 80% of the 80 units in the Phase 1 of Belmont Residences include the 'flex room', says Belmont Residences Sales Director Peter Gaby. There are three different 2-bedroom+flex floorplan styles, says Marcela Corzon, Director of Development, Leducor Properties Inc.

The flex space is likely to be a popular feature, which (in the show suite) is situated immediately upon entry. In the show suite it's set up as a small home office but could be used for as a sewing room, exercise space, or storage.

Each of the Phase 1 of Belmont Residences condo strata units will have its own vehicle parking space. Natural gas and hot water included in the strata fees. Heat by electric baseboard.

Phase 1 pre-sales start around June 9, with occupancy targeted for early 2020, says Gaby. Phase 2 will offer 90 condo units, followed by an apartment building with 156 rental units, and later on a few townhomes. **WSV**

SD62 News: revised 2018-2019 calendar, same bus registration system

West Shore Voice News

● **The 2018-2019 SD62 school calendar** has a few changes (compared to previously published versions that families may have lying around).

- The BC Family Day statutory holiday is now February 18 (not February 11).
- The non-instructional day in February 2019 is now February 15 (not February 22)
- A new non-instructional day has been added on December 3, to make sure the number of non-instructional days is the same as it was in the previous two years.

● **Student bus registration for 2018-2019** opened May 2 online. Due to some IT issues, bus routes could not be pre-selected (as previously promoted), but "experienced transportation staff will place child(ren) on the best routes", said SD62. Toward the end of this school year, parents will be notified by email as to which bus routes have been assigned. Bus passes will be handed out during the first week of school in September. Drivers will enforce passes starting that first week of classes, says SD62. **WSV**



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Blueberry, raspberry and strawberry planters can be pre-ordered by email up to May 8: [dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca)

Birch-walk to the sea

West Shore Voice News



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

After five years, there's a new look at Pilgrim Coffee House, 105-1910 Sooke Road in Colwood. In this month of May, shop owners Jan & John Krottner are pleased to unveil their new nature wall. Mural by Mario Labonte of MuralsBC.com





## Health & Wellness News

West Shore & BC

WEST SHORE VOICE

News updates any time:  
www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

### Next blood donor clinic on Victoria Day

West Shore Voice News



ONLINE WEB-COURTESY  
watermarked  
EDITION

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

Volunteers provide refreshments and monitor donor recovery [clinic March 19 at Church of the Advent, Colwood]. West Shore Voice News photo

● The next Canadian Blood Services mobile blood donor clinic in the west shore will be held on Victoria Day, Monday May 21, at the usual location: Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Avenue in Colwood. Clinic hours will be from 12 noon to 6:45 pm that holiday Monday. Appointments can be made at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) but drop-ins always welcome. Lots of parking.

Last month, the first Grad blood donor drive held at Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood saw 82 students as volunteer donors, producing 58 useable units of blood. Most were first-time donors! **WSV**

### Employer Health Tax will push up costs to taxpayers in 70% of BC municipalities

West Shore Voice News

● Local governments were recently surveyed by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to assess the impact of the new provincial Employer Health Tax (EHT) on local government.

Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums are this year 50% of previous rates. Then the EHT starts January 1, 2019 but MSP at 50% will also be charged that year, thereby producing a burdensome tax load for many municipalities in 2019.

UBCM says that based on input provided from 40% of municipalities who participated in the survey in April 2018, it is evident there will be a wide variance of impact on local governments: 29% will see net reductions in MSP-related costs but 71% will see cost increases. Overall, survey respondents will see MSP-related costs double between 2017 and 2020.

In the west shore region, Langford and Highlands did not participate in the survey. Sooke, Colwood and View Royal indicated a significant increase (cost will surge in 2019, and settle to the new rate in 2020):

2017 MSP Premiums	2020 Employer Health Tax
Sooke \$54,975	\$78,000
Colwood \$78,225	\$130,000
Metchosin \$13,320	\$14,636
View Royal \$25,000	\$70,000

Of note, many employees in BC (including in municipalities and school districts) have had their MSP premiums paid as an employment benefit for many years. Those who are self-employed or otherwise outside corporate-style employment have in most cases paid MSP premiums themselves.

Low-income BC residents have eligible for premium assistance (sometimes reducing the fees to zero), based on income but through a process that required an application. Collection MSP payment arrears has been handled through a punitive 3rd-party collection process (including property liens) that remains in effect until the full elimination of premiums in 2020.

In total, eliminating MSP premiums will save individuals up to \$900/yr and families up to \$1,800/yr, it was stated in Budget 2018. "MSP premiums disproportionately impact low and middle income earners. Currently, all households with adjusted net income of more than \$42,000/yr pay the same amount," it was stated in Budget 2018. **WSV**

### Students learn to administer Naloxone

West Shore Voice News

● Students at Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood can learn about administering Naloxone, to help in the event of an opioid overdose. The session by AIDS Vancouver Island on Wednesday May 9 in Portable 5 at the school.

Naloxone can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose by binding to opioid receptors in the body. Naloxone can very quickly restore normal respiration to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped.

The liquid for injection is commonly used by paramedics, emergency room

doctors, and other specially-trained first responders. To facilitate ease of use, NARCAN® Nasal Spray is also used.

The BC Coroners Service has reported 1,422 deaths from illicit drug overdoses in BC in 2017 (up 43% over 2016). Approximately 81% of suspected deaths last year involved the opioid fentanyl which is often combined with other illicit drugs — most often heroin, cocaine or methamphetamines.

Nearly 90% of those who died in 2017 were alone inside a home when they suffered an overdose. More than half of all victims were age 30 to 49, and 80% were men. **WSV**

### People with disabilities get help filing taxes

West Shore Voice News

● Filing taxes will be easier for hundreds more people receiving provincial disability benefits with the expansion of Disability Alliance BC's Tax AID program. Tax AID DABC provides free, individual help with tax returns year-round. A number of provincial and federal tax credits can be claimed retroactively. The Province is providing \$1.14 million to Disability Alliance BC (DABC) to expand the Vancouver-based program to Victoria, Kelowna and Prince George. **WSV**

## Health & Wellness News

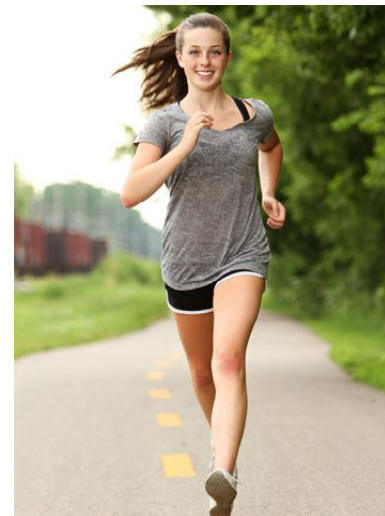
WEST SHORE VOICE

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Editor: Mary P Brooke, B.Sc.



Including regional news about health & social programs & services

(BC, Island Health, schools, & local)

### BC partners with retailers for emergency preparedness

West Shore Voice News



BC Govt

● A new Partners in Preparedness Program was announced in Vancouver on May 5 by Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness along with retail partners, London Drugs and Save-On-Foods. Making it easier for British Columbians to purchase the supplies they need to be better prepared, is the goal.

"Industry, retailers, all levels of government and all citizens have a role to play in emergency readiness," said Rice.

BC retailers may partner with the Province by promoting and selling disaster supplies in their stores. Ready-made shopping lists will help people find supplies for assembling an emergency kit.

Retailers can customize the program to the specific hazards in their area by featuring one or more of five emergency risks: earthquake, wildfire, flood, power outage and severe weather.

A PreparedBC survey showed a need for people to know what to include in their kits. **WSV**

Emergency Preparedness Week  
May 6 to 12, 2018

### Emergency Preparedness Week Checklist

- ☐ Identify the risks for your region.
- ☐ Make an emergency phone list with at least one out-of-area contact.
- ☐ Pick a meeting spot if you're separated from family members.
- ☐ Assign someone to collect your children from school or daycare if you can't.
- ☐ Identify official sources you can get information from.
- ☐ Learn how to turn off utilities.
- ☐ Store enough emergency water and food for your family (including pets) for 3 to 7 days of self-sufficiency.
- ☐ Ensure a proper supply of medications, batteries and other special items.
- ☐ Secure your space.
- ☐ Create grab-and-go bags.

Juan de Fuca  
Emergency Program



@jdfemerg

[www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)

Compost Education Centre

### SPRING ORGANIC PLANT SALE 2018

May 12<sup>th</sup> 10am to 2pm  
1216 North Park St., Victoria  
250-386-9676 [compost.bc.ca](http://compost.bc.ca)

Compost Education Centre

[www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)

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\*denotes optometric corporation



## WHAT'S GOING ON

Municipal 2018 election campaign ad bookings now open. Write to [advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com)

**Be Emergency Ready**

**Emergency Preparedness Week**

May 6-12, 2018

Canada

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK** info available at the Sooke Fire Dept at 2225 Otter Point Road, or call 250.642.5422



**Emergency Preparedness Week.** May 6 to 12.

**Music Monday in SD62.** Mon May 7 student assembly at The Q Centre. 9:45-10:45 am. [www.musicmonday.ca](http://www.musicmonday.ca)

**Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon May 7 at Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 12:30 tp 6:30 pm. Drop-ins welcome. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**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. [www.alertready.ca](http://www.alertready.ca)

**HSBC Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament.** Sat May 12 and Sun May 13. Westhills Stadium, Langford. Single-day tickets available. [www.canadasevens.com/womens](http://www.canadasevens.com/womens)

**Colwood Campus Plant Sale.** Sat May 12. 2139 Sooke Rd. Fundraiser for Westshore Centre for Learning & Training garden project. 10am-4pm. Blueberry, raspberry & strawberry planters can be pre-ordered to May 8 by email to: [dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca)

**Compost Education Centre Spring Plant Sale.** Sat May 12. 1216 N. Park St, Victoria. 10 am to 2pm. [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)

**Sooke Community Choir 'Hits' concert.** Sat May 12 at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach, 2pm. Tx \$20 at [www.ticketrocket.co](http://www.ticketrocket.co) or 1-855-842-7575 (free < age 16). [www.sookecommunitychoir.com](http://www.sookecommunitychoir.com)

**Royal Bay Secondary Dry Grad Carnival.** Sat May 12. 7am-2pm. Parent volunteers wanted: [rbparentgradcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:rbparentgradcommittee@gmail.com)

**Sooke Rotary annual fundraiser.** Dinner at Prestige Hotel with silent auction. Sat May 12. Tx \$60 at Little Vienna Bakery & Shoppers Sooke, 250-642-1842 or [RAD2018Tickets@gmail.com](mailto:RAD2018Tickets@gmail.com)

**Mother's Day Paint-in & Craft Fair.** Sun May 13. 23rd annual community outdoor festival, 11-4. Royal Roads University - Hatley Park & gardens. Free admission. [www.hatleypark.ca](http://www.hatleypark.ca)

**#BCTECHsummit** May 14-16 in Vancouver. [www.bctechsummit.ca](http://www.bctechsummit.ca)

**Premier John Horgan addresses members of 5 Chambers of Commerce.** Tues May 15 luncheon at Crystal Gardens. 11:30 to 1:15 pm. \$80 members, \$110 non-member. Inquire: [chamber@westshore.bc.ca](mailto:chamber@westshore.bc.ca)

**Victoria Day Long Weekend.** Sat May 19 thru Mon May 21. **Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon May 21. 12 noon to 6:45 pm. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave., Colwood. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**SD62 Academies Banquet.** Thurs May 24.

**75th Annual Swiftsure International Yacht Race.** May 24 to 28. Race start at Ogden Point, Sat May 26. [www.swiftsure.org](http://www.swiftsure.org)

**Kingfisher Preschool Family Fun Day.** Sat May 26. At the Sooke Family Resource Societ building, 6672 Wadams Way.

**Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society.** Sun May 27. Membership Meeting. 2 pm, SEAPARC meeting room, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. [www.sheringhamlighthouse.org](http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org)

**BC Legislative Assembly in session to May 31**, then summer break. Fall session starts Oct 1. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**Sooke Fine Arts Show** artist submissions open to June 4. Show dates July 27-Aug 6. [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)

**BC Minimum Wage** up to \$12.65. June 1.

**Rock the Shores Contest.** Win 2 weekend passes (general admission July 13-15) courtesy of *West Shore Voice News*. By Fri June 8 write to [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com) with your ideas about makes a great rock/pop song. One winning entry to be announced June 15; all entries will be published.

**Garden Days.** Sun June 17 at Royal Roads University, 2005 Sooke Rd. Complimentary access to Hatley Park gardens all day. [www.hatleypark.ca](http://www.hatleypark.ca)

**Rock the Shores - outdoor weekend rock concert.** On the grounds at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. Fri Jul 13, Sat Jul 14, Sun Jul 15. Single-day tickets & weekend passes. [www.rocktheshores.com](http://www.rocktheshores.com)

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## More funding for Farmers Market nutrition coupons

West Shore Voice News

● **Funding** to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets

will increase by about \$ 0.75 million to expand the BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program, it was announced on May 5. The total coupon amount will increase from \$240 per participant household to \$336 (as weekly coupons for four months). The number of participating households is expected to rise from 3,708 to over 3,900 and the number of expectant mothers in the program will be up by 450 by March 2020, it was stated in a Ministry of Health news release. The coupon program runs June 11 to October 31 at participating farmers' markets in 57 communities including Duncan, Esquimalt, Sooke, and Victoria's James Bay and Moss Street Markets. The program provides nutrition and skills-building programs which are offered by community agencies associated with each participating market. Coupons help with the purchase of local food including vegetables, fruit, nuts, eggs, dairy, herbs, meat and fish. The program is part of the BC Government's poverty reduction work. Program benefits also include improved economic activity through an increased and sustained customer base for local and regional farmers, which in turn has allowed them to grow and diversify. **WSV**

**WIN 2 Weekend Passes**

**Rock the Shores!**

Concert weekend July 13 to 15

WEST SHORE VOICE

**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](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com) by Fri June 8, 2018. Winner to be announced in our June 15th issue.

## TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

**Mon May 7 to Fri May 11.** Traffic delays at Jacklin & Jenkins during water main installation. 7:30am-4:30pm.

**Tues May 8 to Fri May 18.** Carlow Ave closed (Costin Ave to Goldstream) 7am to 5pm. for sewer works.

**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 over to Langford Parkway (near the sports fields).

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

**COMPLETED / OPEN APRIL 10.** Improvements to the Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway.

**Two left turn lanes now open** (from Millstream Rd onto Hwy 1 southbound). **And two left turn lanes from Peatt Road** left onto Millstream Rd.

For other short-term traffic advisories visit [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)



## Langford Traffic: Jacklin & Jenkins

West Shore Voice News

**Traffic signals were off** at the intersection of Jacklin Rd & Jenkins Ave on Thurs May 3 and Fri May 4 (7:30 am to 4:30 pm both days) during some preparation for underground water main installation.

Traffic control was on site. At mid-afternoon, the traffic delay was about 5 minutes at a standstill for each direction. Pedestrian and cyclist directional management too. As a landmark, this is at the Jacklin-side of the Westshore Town Centre.

This work was ahead of the installation of underground water mains in that section of road, coming up the May 7 to 11 (7:30 am to 4:30 pm), says City of Langford Engineering.

Since mid-February, the closure of all Jacklin/Jenkins through-traffic to Sooke Road has seen the new Division Avenue (through the under-construction Belmont subdivision) carry traffic -- without a hitch -- from Jenkins (Kelly Rd) over to Jacklin, exiting at the SD62 administration building location. **WSV**

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Sun: 10-4 PM

[www.alpinegroup.ca](http://www.alpinegroup.ca)

**Traffic management at the Jacklin & Jenkins intersection in Langford, May 3.**

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