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RELEASE DATE MAY 19, 2018

Friday, May 18, 2018

## Circular design unveiled for new Sooke library

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● **The beaming smiles** of Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) senior staff and board chair said it all. The unveiling of the design for the new library in Sooke on Wednesday evening, May 16, was a crowning moment.

The political road to effectively giving Sooke a professional community gathering place has been long. Sooke has long required an accessible, tech-supported space for young families, youth, seniors, special-purpose uses, and those who are new-to-town as well as residents who require a drop-in space.

The existing books/AV materials from the current library on Anna Marie Road will be moved over to the new building on Wadams Way plus a new 'opening day collection', serving to triple the current offering.

But libraries these days aren't so much about lending out books as facilitating an accessible interactive space. This interior designed in soft blues and wood tones (inspired by impressions of Whiffin Spit) includes spacious entry, multi-purpose space (for up to 50 people), study rooms (4 to 6 people), breakout rooms (1 to 2 people), computer areas, laptop bar, music studio, maker space, and teen/children areas all on main (with facility support down). Quick collections return is facilitated with an elevator and two parking spaces for 5-minute drop-off in addition to the 59 regular parking spaces. There will be electric vehicle charging stations, as well as secure bicycle area with self-service repair station.

The VIRL business model since 2010 has been for a community to provide the land, then VIRL constructs the facility at their own cost from resources pooled from its 26 member communities (39 libraries in towns large and small). It took District of Sooke council longer than most of the other municipalities to come around to its own reasons for providing 'free land' .../

New library will be on Wadams Way (artist's rendering)



VIRL

'Wow' was the public response at the May 16 unveiling of a 10,000 sq ft round floorplan design on stilts for the long-awaited new Sooke library.

## Horgan held firm with business audience in Victoria

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **It was a tough crowd** for an NDP Premier — a room packed with about 400 chamber of commerce members and business leaders at Crystal Garden in downtown Victoria — who at least in part would be expected to take some issue with the left-leaning policies of Premier John Horgan's NDP government.

**In less than one year** in office, Horgan has rapidly rolled out numerous policy adjustments and new directions for British Columbia that are changing the socioeconomic landscape of the province in notable ways.

**In a nutshell**, that's to make life more affordable for all British Columbians, as he is off heard to say. But that has come with almost seismic shifts in some areas of taxation — some that businesses consider punitive (such as the Employer Health Tax) but others that 'help' businesses such as eliminating PST on electricity for businesses by 2019 and reducing the small business tax rate from 2.5% to 2.0%.

**A seasoned, relaxed speaker**, Horgan was comfortable at the podium but was careful to put a business or economic context around every potentially controversial portion of his 35-minute speech. He covered the gamut from justifying the BC Speculation Tax and the shift from the Medical Services Program (MSP) to the Employer Health Tax (EHT), to defending his government's stance spawned by the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project to protect the coastal environmental in the event of a diluted bitumen spill. At least twice he emphasized "not social policy but economic policy", specifically with regard to providing more and better child care, and working to full reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

**"The economy, environment and people** are inextricably bound together," said Horgan, saying that "everybody benefits" from the economic success of addressing all of those socioeconomic components that are part of governing a thriving province like BC. Underpinning that is public education.

**"Given the opportunity** and tools of education we can achieve anything — the greatest tool at our disposal is public education," Premier Horgan suggested to the crowd, referencing K-12 and post-secondary. He proudly reminded the room that one of the first things his government did upon taking office in July 2017 was to eliminate tuition fees for adult basic education and English language learning.

**In the audience Tuesday** were BC Cabinet ministers Finance Minister Carole James and Education Minister Rob Fleming. They sat with Premier Horgan at the same table as Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps who at the end of the event presented Horgan with a painting by a Cowichan-area indigenous artist.

**Also attending from NDP ranks** were Victoria MP Murray Rankin and Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke MP Randall Garrison. Various municipal mayors and councillors attended, including View Royal Mayor David Screech, Oak Bay's Mayor Nils Jensen (a former CRD Chair) and Councillor Hazel Braithwaite, Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins (also a former CRD Chair), and Langford Councillors Lillian Szpak and Denise Blackwell.

**This was a five-Chamber** event with members from Greater Victoria, Saanich Peninsula, WestShore, Sooke Region and Esquimalt Chambers.

**Horgan outlined** how there is now — thanks to NDP housing policy — the opportunity for post-secondary institutions to arrange to build student housing "without coming cap in hand to the treasury board", as a way to free up housing stock in the broader surrounding community. This also provides housing-supply business opportunities for the development and construction sectors.

**The overall thread** of the speech was to demonstrate the potential for a productive interface between the social directions unfolding from the NDP and what the business community can do to benefit and prosper through attention to the well-being of people and communities. People who can find affordable places to live are therefore available for employment in high-demand business regions. Families who can access reliable quality child care can then afford for a second parent to join or rejoin the workforce.

**Overall the crowd's mood** was polite and attentive. But there likely weren't many converts to the government's position on two things of most concernation to vocal leaders in the business community — the BC Speculation Tax and the EHT that is set to replace the outgoing MSP.

**Regarding transportation congestion** issues in the Greater Victoria area, Horgan was asked if he would support a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Horgan's first noted "seeing a failure of the previous government to invest" in transportation solutions, followed by saying that he's observed with TransLink in Vancouver that large advisory bodies can become "disconnected from the needs of the community and lean to the loudest voice at the table".

**Horgan hopes BC Transit** will "provide opportunities for people" in Greater

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Premier John Horgan addressed five-Chamber crowd, May 15.

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



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continued on page 2 ... /



Editorial

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TOPICS OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Cooler heads prevailing in Trans Mountain dispute

**Lobbing some gentle moves across borders**, the hardball political jabs between federal and two provincial governments over the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project have been given some room to relax, just a bit.

While this seems remote, think about it. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau chose this week to announce Canada's gift to the newest little prince in the UK. It was an indigenous-style blanket with a note of remembrance about the Duke and Duchess' visit to the pristine coastal environment of Haida Gwaii in 2016. An eco-friendly statement about BC oceans. That was followed by a distinct level of diplomacy with a formal letter from BC's environment minister to his counterpart in Ottawa, reminding the federal environment minister of common interests between the federal and BC governments when it comes to such things as being informed by science, responding to climate change, protecting the natural environment, respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, and supporting the economy including jobs. Thousands of jobs in tourism, fishing and associated industries (more jobs than the pipeline will produce and likely longer-term) are dependent on a clean and healthy environment.

Considering the intensity of harsh words this week from federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau directed at BC Premier John Horgan as essentially the spoiler of all things pipeline, and the hard core grassroots pipeline protest that is solid in BC, these softer gestures carry more power than might at first be evident. It means that cooler heads are talking about strategy in quiet places, looking for new and

BC NEWS

continued from page 1 ... /

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Premier Horgan addresses business leaders

/... (continued) ... Victoria. He favours a non-formal provincial government lead on transportation: "We kinda got it covered here," he said, referring to the connections that he and Ministers Rob Fleming, Carole James, Lana Popham and MLA Mitzi Dean have in the community. "We work with the CRD and local mayors and councils to try and deliver services for people."

**One written question** expressed concern about losing tourism in BC due to the pipeline dispute with Alberta. Horgan did take the opportunity to express positive support for NDP Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, acknowledging it's of course her job to represent the economic interests of her province.

**"I am not convinced** that we are prepared to deal with the consequences of a diluted bitumen spill in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Gulf Islands and Burrard Inlet," said Horgan. "We need to find a balance — my responsibility is to the people in this room and the people who are coming here who are "attracted by the pristine environment". He reiterated his view that bitumen should go to refineries in Canada "to help people" economically instead of being shipped overseas. He said that the federal 10-year commitment of \$1.5 billion on three coasts of the largest coastline on the planet is not a lot of funding should anything go wrong.

**The big reveal** was Horgan's commitment to making sure something is achieved with the E&N corridor, saying that trains (or an additional lane on Highway 1) are probably not the solution to getting more commuters from the Langford/Colwood/westshore to the Victoria/Saanich core area core for major employment. He is committed to "moving people", and is "committed to doing that in the term of this government".


**Getting people "out of cars"** into public transit is good for the economy to move people efficiently and effectively, Horgan said. Afterward, View Royal Mayor David Screech — whose municipality is squarely in a heavy commuter traffic through-zone — said he is still in favour of reactivating trains for the E&N (trains last ran in 2011). If Horgan succeeds, that's the end of about 25 years of discussion about light-rail transit for the south island region -- the Premier sees bus service through BC Transit along the E&N rail line corridor as the answer to alleviating west shore resident commuter congestion.

**Randall Garrison, MP** afterward said he felt that Horgan spoke directly to the business community about "issues that they care about", adding that BC has "enviable economic success". Horgan knew what he was up against but didn't pander. He talked about his government's plan, supported stated policies, and answered questions in which he held his ground.

**Horgan wrapped up** saying he will back next year. The NDP minority government with BC Greens is moving forward with many things that in a few years time will see BC and Canada looking back at a provincial socioeconomic canvas painted with new strokes that are intended to open up new opportunities for business, communities and individuals. **WSV**

... new Sooke library


to VIRL for a new library. VIRL Board Chair Barry Avis and Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno told *West Shore Voice News* that "it took Sooke longer to learn the issues of community and development" and that they don't consider Sooke to be rural. Avis called the design 'exceptional' and Bonanno coined it 'iconic'. Construction is expected to take about 1.5 years past a Fall 2018 start. Building designs are on the VIRL website: <http://virl.bc.ca/branches/sooke> **WSV**



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creative ways to keep the lid slightly off the pot so the steam doesn't build up and explode the stew.

Meanwhile, Kinder Morgan's self-imposed May 31 deadline to see where things are heading with the politics around Trans Mountain is coming up fast. Few people -- including pundits, the public and many politicians -- are sure that throwing Canadian taxpayer dollars at Kinder Morgan is a wise solution.

This is a case where BC's thoughtful and deliberate process of asking the courts for guidance provides everyone an opportunity to see how both the environment and the economy can both come up winners. ■

BC partnering with First Nations in mining development

● **The BC government**, along with First Nations and several exploration companies from BC's northwest region, has created the BC Regional Mining Alliance (BCRMA) to promote British Columbia's mining opportunities internationally and showcase how collaboration is leading to world-class mineral development in BC.

The BCRMA is a pilot project of the Province, the Tahltan Central Government (TCG), the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG), the Association for Mineral Exploration, Dolly Varden Silver Corp., Skeena Resources Ltd. and GT Gold Corp. This collaboration represents projects in the 'Golden Triangle' northwest area of BC. BCRMA members attended the Canadian Mining Symposium in England, April 24-25. **WSV**

BC partnering with First Nations in wildfire land recovery

● **As part of wildfire recovery efforts** following the 2017 fires in BC's interior, the BC government is partnering with local First Nations to help protect and restore burnt areas and support local First Nations, as they monitor this spring's mushroom harvest. With an anticipated influx of individual mushroom harvesters and commercial buyers, steps are being taken to make sure mushroom harvesting in the region is done responsibly, and will not cause further damage.

The Secwepemc communities have developed a management plan for the Elephant Hill area. Permits will be required to harvest, buy or process morel mushrooms from the region, and permits for camping within the territory are also mandatory. As ancestral caretakers of that land, the Secwepemc are encouraging responsible, safe and low-impact mushroom harvesting. The plan, the first of its kind in BC, charges a \$20 fee to individual pickers, and \$500 to mushroom buyers. In exchange, pickers and buyers receive educational materials, safety tips and rudimentary camping services.

Harvesting in the affected area will be monitored by experienced Secwepemc land stewards. "We have been managing and using the forests since time immemorial," said Kukpi7 Ron Ignace of the Secwepemc Nation. "Our sacred role as Yucwminmen (caretakers of the land) means that our first responsibility is to the health and care of the land. If you look after the land, the land will look after you."

The British Columbia government's support of the First Nation stewardship role in the Elephant Hill area demonstrates its ongoing commitment to implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

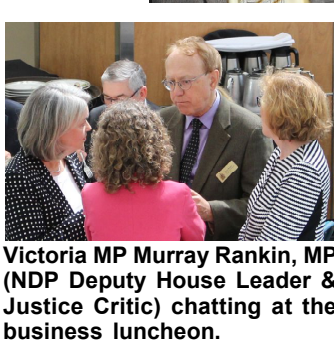
As part of the environmental recovery process, the BC government has closed the affected region to motorized vehicles (including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and all types of off-road recreational vehicles) except on existing roads. The closure was implemented May 17 and runs to year-end. **WSV**

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City of Langford Councillors Lillian Szpak (left) and Denise Blackwell at the five-Chamber luncheon in Victoria May 15.



Victoria MP Murray Rankin, MP (NDP Deputy House Leader & Justice Critic) chatting at the business luncheon.



Sorel mushrooms are an important crop in the Elephant Hill area of the BC interior.

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## Another elementary school site in Langford, announced by Premier Horgan

Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● The BC Government is providing \$6.6 million to Sooke School District 62 (SD62) for the purchase of a new site for a future elementary school in Langford, the fastest growing community in the Greater Victoria area.

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Premier John Horgan announced funds for a new elementary school site in Langford, May 18, at Lakeview Elementary.

"We acknowledge the City of Langford for working with the development community and SD62 to facilitate the process of expanding school infrastructure." ~ Education Minister Rob Fleming

"More and more families are continuing to call Langford their home, and we need to make sure there are safe and modern schools in place ready to welcome their children," said Premier John Horgan, MLA on Friday, May 18 at Lakeview Elementary in his home riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca.

"We're looking ahead to the future with the school investments needed to support families in growing communities across the province," Horgan told a crowd of about 50 leaders in education, community and development.

Six acres of land in the North Langford area known as Skirt Mountain have been identified as a location where a future elementary school is needed. Major housing developments are planned for the South Skirt Mountain neighbourhood. An elementary school will help relieve existing and future enrolment pressures at nearby Lakewood Elementary (presently with three portable classrooms on site, and Millstream Elementary presently with two portables). So far 80 children are registered for kindergarten at Lakewood Elementary for this September.

"SD62 is one of the fastest growing school districts in BC, with a projected increase of 1,800 students in the next five years," said Minister of Education Rob Fleming, adding that making the investment now is "so families settling in this new neighbourhood will have peace of mind knowing there are plans for a school for their children."



SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar

"In such a fast-growing school district, we are always looking to purchase land, but can't always afford to," said SD62 chair Ravi Parmar. The SD62 student population is 11,074 students (March 2018 figures in May 18 news release), though for qualifying for per-pupil funding at a full-time-equivalent of 10,544 for 2018-2019 (May 8 board meeting).

Langford's population continues to grow as developers build more housing supply (plus commercial development to support the growing resident base). A city population of 18,840 back in 2001 had blossomed to 35,342 by 2016. The bustling west shore municipality expects their population count to top 42,000 by 2026.

"With the rapid rate of growth in the west shore, land for schools must be secured now for future generations of students," said Jim Cambridge, who as SD62 Superintendent since 2009 has overseen some rigorous facility expansion management including building two highschools (Royal Bay and the new Belmont) that opened in 2015 which heavily shifted the focus of SD62 senior staff to that of facility management for about two years. Cambridge said Friday that he's glad the government is acquiring land for schools before suitable land is either unavailable or unaffordable.

Since September 2017, BC has invested \$55 million in SD62 capital projects, including this latest announcement together with \$23.3 million for 16 acres in the Westhills area for two upcoming schools (elementary and middle) as announced in December 2017, and \$25.2 million to expand Royal Bay Secondary as announced in February (full when it opened in Fall 2015). The provincial government says it is working with partners to build new schools and upgrade existing ones throughout BC; for that, \$423.1 million in school capital projects have been announced since September 2017. The provinces is investing what it says is a record \$2 billion in school capital projects over the next three years (Budget 2018).

Attending Friday's announcement were Lakewood Elementary principal Bryan Johnson; Lakewood parent advisory council rep Jane Bamara; SD62 trustees Dianna Seaton, Denise Riley, Margot Swinburnson, Wendy Hobbs and Neil Poirier (vice-chair Bob Phillips was unable to attend); SD62 senior staff Superintendent Jim Cambridge, Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull, Assistant Superintendents Dave Strange and Stephanie Hedley-Smith and HR manager Dan Haley; Langford Councillors Denise Blackwell (as acting mayor), Lanny Seaton, and Lillian Szpak; representatives from Premier John Horgan's Langford-Juan de Fuca constituency office; and long-time west shore area developer Jim Hartshorne. Twelve Lakewood students posed for photos with Premier Horgan and Minister Fleming in the school playground after the formal announcement that was held outdoors.

Langford's acting mayor Denise Blackwell said at the podium that the city works hard with developers and SD62 in this fast-growing municipality, so that infrastructure keeps up with demand, a process that Education Minister Fleming also acknowledged at the podium.

Now that the land is acquired for this latest elementary school "it's now on to building it," Superintendent Cambridge told West Shore Voice News. He expects SD62 to have the details to Ministry staff by mid-summer, with approval hoped for by fall. **WSV**



SD62 trustees Dianna Seaton (left) and Wendy Hobbs.



SD62 trustees Neil Poirier and Denise Riley.

## SD62: Strategic Plan, Resource Committee

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● The Sooke School District (SD6) Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 was approved by the SD62 board earlier this year. But in recent weeks a rollout of booklets and other printed materials further served to promote the belief statement, vision (for powerful learning) and values (relationships, choice, respect, integrity, trust and safety), and three main goals (learning, engagement and growth).

Despite ever-present political threads that come with any school district board, the SD62 board has mostly 'risen above' to put classroom and teachers first. A genuine desire to see students succeed in education is evident at board meetings and in the reports and explanations brought to the table from deeper work on committees, and by senior staff, teachers, principals, parent leaders, and CUPE. This pursuit of excellence appears to be captured in the strategic plan.

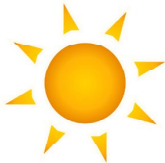
The first meeting of the new SD62 Resource Committee was held May 8, chaired by Trustee Denise Riley who for many years has also chaired the committee that previews new courses that are sent to the board for approval. **WSV**



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## New protections for renters facing eviction

West Shore Voice News

● **New protections and compensation** for renters in British Columbia, who are facing eviction as a result of renovation or demolition, have officially come into effect.

**Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act** support the government's commitment to provide stronger protections for tenants by: • providing tenants with more time to find alternate housing if their landlord ends a tenancy to demolish or renovate a unit and requires the unit to be vacant; • providing notice to end a tenancy for demolition, conversion, or renovation; • increasing the amount of compensation a landlord must pay a former tenant if they end a tenancy for renovation/demolition and then do not follow through on their plans.

**This compensation** would also apply in situations where the landlord uses a "vacate" clause because they had plans to move back in, but then re-rented the unit to someone else; and including a first right of refusal for tenants in multi-unit buildings who are evicted because of renovation or repair. The requirement to offer units to the original tenant will also help address improper uses of this provision by allowing the tenant to confirm that the renovations did, in fact, occur.

**Updated forms** and guidelines and information about the amendments, including questions and answers are online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/changes-to-the-residential-tenancy-act>

**The Province's changes** to the Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act, to create fairness for tenants when landlords choose to close or convert a manufactured home park, are expected to come into effect in the coming weeks.

**The new Rental Housing Task Force** was announced April 10. The task force will consider further improvements to the Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act, building on the actions taken to date. **WSV**

## Randall Garrison calls for ocean protections

West Shore Voice News

● **A town hall meeting** attended by about 100 people in Saanich on May 14 was hosted by Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) in support of creating of a marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia between Vancouver and Victoria (which includes the Saanich Inlet). Updates were given by Parks Canada and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

"The Liberal Government must take meaningful action to protect the coastal ecosystems that our cultures and economies rely on," Garrison said, calling the Southern Strait of Georgia a vibrant and ecologically sensitive area which also sees high volumes of human activity. "With adequate regulations and protections, human use can continue in sustainable ways," he said, adding that a path to implementation of the marine conservation area is both crucial and achievable.

The Strait is home to Canada's most endangered orca whales and more than 3,000 other marine species, including a large species of octopus, 100-year-old rockfish, and many sea birds. With only 76 Southern Resident Killer Whales remaining, Garrison is more insistent than ever that the federal government take concrete action to protect the coastal environment. **WSV**



## Canada Women's Sevens rock Westhills

West Shore Voice News

● **The 2018 HSBC Canada Women's Sevens** tournament May 12-13 saw a packed stadium of 6,070 on Mother's Day weekend at Westhills Stadium in Langford.

New Zealand emerged the tournament winner, for their 2nd tournament win on the 5-stop HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series.

Canada placed 5th with a decisive win in their final match of the day against Ireland, moving them into 4th place in the Series standings with one tournament remaining in Paris, France June 8-10.

Playing well for Canada were Charity Williams who four times ran the length of the field and Bianca Farella who got Canada ahead in the second game. Two kicks by Canada's team Canada Ghislaine Landry (returning from a hamstring injury that saw her sit out the games in Japan in April) fell short of the 10-metre line.

Rugby Canada CEO Allen Vansen extended thanks



Tournament results:  
[www.canadasevens.com](http://www.canadasevens.com)  
[www.worldrugby.org](http://www.worldrugby.org)

to the Langford community and fans who came out to cheer the Canadian women's team. He also thanked partners, sponsors and volunteers for their continued support and congratulated New Zealand on their "well deserved win".

The HSBC Canada Women's Sevens tournament will return to Langford next year (May 11 & 12, 2019) for the 5th and final year of the current Series cycle. Rugby Canada is actively bidding for another four years of both the men's and women's HSBC Canada Sevens tournaments, and hopes to receive approval on their bids by Fall 2018.

The 2018 HSBC Canada Women's Sevens features 12 of the world's top women's rugby sevens teams on Canadian soil. It was the fourth stop in a five-stop world tour. Sevens is a fast-paced, shorter version of traditional rugby with only seven players per side. A growing international audience has been built through the success of the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens.

[www.worldrugby.org/sevens-series/sevens-info](http://www.worldrugby.org/sevens-series/sevens-info) **WSV**

## Bad drivers could pay more

● **From public consultation** in recent months it was determined that "the vast majority of British Columbians (82.3%) believe risky drivers should pay more". As a first step to improve rate fairness, the BC government has asked ICBC to bring forward increases to the Driver Risk Premium (DRP) program which includes excessive speeding, impaired driving and distracted driving, and to the Driver Penalty Point (DPP) program for minor driving violations, to the BC Utilities Commission to be ready for implementation as early as fall 2018. **WSV**

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## Active interest in Belmont Residences pre-sales

West Shore Voice News

● **It was only May 5** when the Sales Centre opened at Belmont Residences in west Langford and already about 500 groups have come through to see the show suite and find out more about suites available in the 80-unit Phase 1 condo building.

"Currently we are in the preview stage of the program," says Peter Gaby, sales director with DFH Real Estate Ltd. "People view the sales centre which has the architectural model, wall graphics and digital screens outlining the product offering, the master plan and points of interest in the area as well as a 2-bedroom-plus-flex fully merchandised show suite," Gaby said this week.

Most comments from sales centre visitors have been positive. "The location, the design layout and functionality of the suites, the quality and attention to detail in the suites in a master plan community is what they are most impressed with," Gaby says.

People are glad to hear that the 160,000 sq ft of commercial/retail space will be completed prior to Belmont Residences occupancy in early 2020. Sales start in the first half of June; appointments recommended for interest in early purchase. **WSV**

**COURTESY  
ONLINE EDITION**



Construction for new commercial and residential continues on the Belmont site on Division Avenue in Langford (May 17).



View of the Belmont Residences sales centre and surrounding construction site, from the other side of Jenkins Road (May 18). [www.belmontresidences.com](http://www.belmontresidences.com)





## Strong Communities

## Youth & leadership



News updates any time:  
[www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com](http://www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com)

### SD62's short term plan: more portables

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **A short term plan** to accommodate the burgeoning west shore student population in the Sooke School District (SD62) includes bringing in some more portable classrooms ahead of September for the 2018-2019 academic year.

It was discussed at SD62's Resource Committee meeting on May 8 that five portables have been ordered, with two destined for Belmont Secondary in the Westhills area of Langford, as well as one each for David Cameron Elementary in Langford, Wishart Elementary in Colwood, and Journey Middle School in Sooke.

While modern portable classrooms are fully furnished and equipped, the drawback is considered to be in the isolation from the mainstream of school activity in the hallways, common areas, specialty labs and administration offices of the main part of a school.

In addition to the portables, a number of computer labs are being converted into classrooms at John Stubbs Elementary (French Immersion K-8) in Colwood, Happy Valley Elementary in Langford, and John Muir Elementary in Sooke.

Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull explained that schools have found it to be more effective and efficient for computers on mobile carts to be called into classrooms as required, instead of having a full group of students relocate to a separate room full of computers to all work on the same task. This indicates an evolution of the integrated use of computer technology in modern learning environments. **WSV**

### Digital responsibility in youth: what parents can do

West Shore Voice News

● **A presentation for parents** about 'Raising Digitally Responsible Youth' was held on Wednesday evening, May 16 at Belmont Secondary School.

"With society heading in a direction of being constantly connected to technology, what do we need to know as parents to protect our kids and teach them responsible and appropriate use of technology?", it was pitched to parents by the SD62 school district. "The parameters of rules and expectations that you put in place at home will undoubtedly guide their behaviour in the years to come."

The presentation was delivered by Safer Schools Together – an organization focused on promoting a climate and culture of safety in schools through comprehensive education. [www.saferchoolstogether.com](http://www.saferchoolstogether.com)

Presentation content included: • **Social Media Update:** The most current apps and trends in their social media lives. • **Pick Your Battles!** You will have to balance the yin with the yang, promote independence whilst taking a strong stance on certain subjects. • **Current Research:** Brain development and technology, violent video games. • **Digital Footprint and Reputation:** With your teen's future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note – what will they find? **WSV**

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION WATCH 2018

by Mary P Brooke



● **This week in Sooke**, mayoral candidate Kevin Pearson stopped to chat after a Vancouver Island Regional Library event where the new facility design was finally announced. He was pleased that after eight years Sooke will finally have a modern community gathering place in its new library. He has served seven years on Sooke council (2011-2018) but admits "what's missing in the organization is leadership -- we gotta get some", he told *West Shore Voice News*.

Pearson cites failure of updating the Official Community Plan (OCP) in this last term as a major setback for Sooke in its process of facilitating community growth. Some OCP community-input initiatives were conducted by staff and then reported as a series of lists to Council to which council ultimately did not apply a vision. "Strategic planning needs to weave in your values," he said. There was an extensive in-camera strategic planning initiative among Mayor and Council early in 2015 as their four-year term got rolling under Mayor Maja Tait but Pearson says that should not have been conducted behind closed doors.

Pearson says he would set up three standing committees if he becomes mayor after the October 20 election: Arts, Finance, and Development (which he says would include Environment).

Pearson will soon retire from his career with Canada Post. **WSV**



Councillor Kevin Pearson

West Shore Voice News

### RTS youth bands competition

West Shore Voice News

● **A youth battle of the bands** is coming up Saturday June 9. Rock the Rink will take place in the Juan de Fuca curling rink from 7 to 10:30 pm.

Five bands with players up to age 18 will compete for the chance to play a set at the big weekend Rock the Shores outdoor concert July 13-15. The competing bands were shortlisted from auditions: Tuesday's Roadkill, The Colts, Fairfield, Sugar Castle and The Porter Brothers.

West Shore Parks & Recreation is coordinating the Rock the Rink youth event in partnership with Atomique Productions and the Zone @ 91-3.

A panel of celebrity judges, including Elli Hart, lead singer from Dirty Mountain, and Rock the Shores 2018 performer, will help crown the winner. All bands selected to play Rock the Rink will receive complimentary tickets to attend Rock the Shores on the Friday night. On top of playing Rock the Shores the winning band will be interviewed on the Zone @ 91-3 and will have a band photo shoot courtesy of "Rocktographers".

The full community (all ages) is invited to attend and support local youth bands. Prizes include a weekend pass to Rock to the Shores. Doors open at 6:30 pm with a limited number of tickets at the door (admission by donation). Tickets can also be purchased by donation online through <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-the-rink-youth-battle-of-the-bands-tickets-44817631743>

Proceeds will support regional youth initiatives in Greater Victoria.

Several community organizations including the RCMP, Foundry, and Trans Care BC will be on hand to connect youth to community resources in recreation, mental and sexual health, music and more.

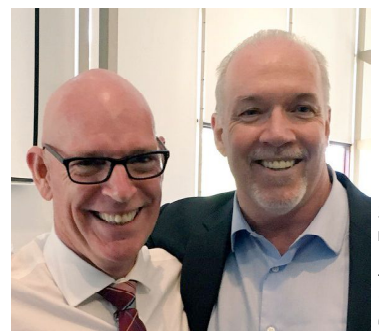
More info online at [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca) or by email [cbryson@westshorerecreation.ca](mailto:cbryson@westshorerecreation.ca) **WSV**

### Jim Cambridge's retirement party

West Shore Voice News

● **A retirement party** for SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge was held on Wednesday evening, May 16 at the Olympic View Golf Club. About 140 people including family, associates and community leaders turned up to laud the west shore's long-time champion of public education. Cambridge says it felt a bit awkward for him to be the focus of all the attention, as he's become deeply accustomed to his role of intently focussing on the school community during his 2009-2018 tenure.

Cambridge stays on the job to July 31, with a transition to incoming Superintendent Scott Stinson already underway. The party was held ahead of the busy grad season. **WSV**



Congratulations from Premier John Horgan to Jim Cambridge at the SD62 Superintendent's May 16 retirement party this week.

Posted on Twitter

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News insights for & about the west shore.

### WIN 2 Weekend Passes



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

Courtesy of **West Shore Voice News**. Send a quick note as to what you think makes a good pop/rock song. Best answer wins. Send to [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com) by Fri June 8, 2018. Winner will be announced in our June 15th issue.

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Please join the Society for the **MEMBERSHIP MEETING** and help preserve the lighthouse at Sheringham Point - a recognized Canadian Heritage Site.

**May 27, 2018**  
Sunday 2:00pm  
SEAPARC Meeting Room  
[SheringhamLighthouse.org](http://SheringhamLighthouse.org)

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

**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)

**Langford Regular Council Meeting,** Tues May 22. 5:30 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**SD62 Public Board Meeting,** Tues May 22. 7 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.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)

**Family Fun Day ~ Celebrating Kingfisher Preschool 30 years.** Sat May 26. Outdoors at Sooke Family Resource Society building. Games, live music, cake. 11 am to 2pm, 6672 Wadams Way, Sooke. [www.sfrs.ca](http://www.sfrs.ca)

**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)

**Colwood Regular Council Meeting** Mon May 28. 7 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**Sooke Regular Council Meeting.** Mon May 28. 7 pm. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

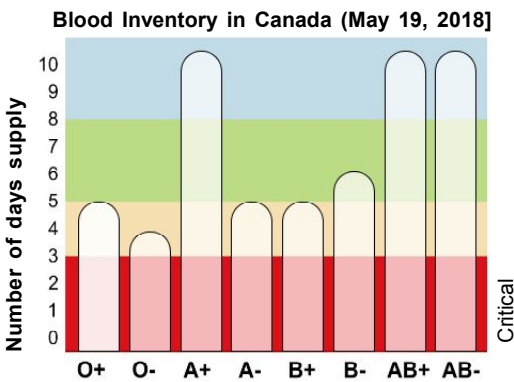
**BC Legislative Assembly in session to May 31,** then summer break. Fall session starts Oct 1. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**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.

**Annual bat count** - volunteers wanted for June 1 to 21. Contact Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) at [bat@hat.bc.ca](mailto:bat@hat.bc.ca) or 250-995-2428.

## Blood donor clinic in the west shore this May long weekend



● **Many people enjoy the May long weekend** as the first 'summer' weekend of the year. Year-round there's always a need for blood supplies in Canadian hospitals and cancer clinics.

Even though **Monday May 21** is a statutory holiday, Canadian Blood Services offers their mobile blood donor clinic from 12 noon to 6:45 pm that day in the west shore.

Appointments can be made ahead of time at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) or just drop-in to get checked in and donating a unit of blood.

The May 21 clinic is at one of their usual locations at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave (access off Sooke Road) in Colwood.

**ELIGIBILITY:** As of April 23, donors with tattoos or piercings can now give blood after three months (down from six), and anyone



After being greeted by reception, blood donors pre-screen at a private computer station.

who's done hair removal with a personal device may donate. Regarding use of marijuana and alcohol: "If you're sober and can give informed consent, you can donate" (down from waiting 12 hours). There is no more lifelong deferral from blood donation for hepatitis, other than hepatitis B or C. Many cases of hepatitis or jaundice have non-infectious causes, or are caused by viruses (other than Hep B or C) that are not infectious once resolved (donors are asked only about six months history of hepatitis). Recipients of blood and blood products are eligible to donate after six months (previously one year). People with epilepsy may donate six months after their last seizure, and in some cases if on medication to prevent seizures. Travellers are no longer asked if they have visited Togo or Cameroon in the past year. All of these changes are considered safe for patients who rely on blood and blood products, says Candian Blood Services. More info: 1 888 236 6283.

**SUPPLY:** The O- blood type is always in high demand, says Canadian Blood Services. Only 7% of the Canadian population has the same blood type but 100% of the population can use O- as the red blood cells are compatible with all other blood types; it's used in the most critical emergency situations from newborns to trauma patients. As of May 19, there are 3.5 days of O- supply (below 8 days is considered critical). The O+ blood type is the most common in Canada (39%), with red blood cells that can be given to any patient with a Rh+ blood type (used in emergency situations). As of May 19, there are 5 days of O+ supply (below 8 days is considered critical). **WSV**

### Editorial by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

● **In a Saturday noon-hour ceremony**, Britain's Prince Harry and American self-styled career actress Meghan Markle tied the knot this weekend, on May 19, 2018. It was a celebrity moment that broke some molds. Upon marriage, together they became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Successful in her own right, it was a major statement of independence by Ms Markle to join by choice one of the world's oldest 'family businesses'. Among other things she apparently broke with tradition at the private evening reception by giving a speech (a job normally reserved for the guys).

For many it was a social spectacle of the year, reportedly viewed worldwide by about 2 billion people on TV/livestream and stirring up giddy excitement on the ground with about 100,000 people packing into the centuries-old town of Windsor (population 32,000) to be a part of or catch a glimpse of the pagentry.

Royal watcher or not, this event caught the attention of many -- for reasons old and new. The traditional reasons to gaze upon this orchestration of course include support of the monarchy, a belief in fairy tale endings, or just plain entertainment (the bride's dress, the fascinators worn by guests, and who was there).

The new reasons are far more intriguing, and Markle has indeed given sparkle to a new edge in societal decision-making. For starters, she veritably shrugs off all the narrow-minded fluff about her bi-racial heritage. But most dramatically she made powerful statements with simple actions, like choosing to enter the cathedral and walk most of the way down the aisle

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**Sunriver Community Yard Sale,** Sooke. Sat June 2. 8 am to 2 pm, rain or shine.

**EMCS Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony.** At Farquhar Auditorium, UVic. Sat June 2. 1 to 4pm.

**Royal Bay Secondary Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony.** At Farquhar Auditorium, UVic. Sun June 3. 11am to 1pm.

**Sooke Night Market.** Season opening Thurs June 7. Thursday nights 5 to 8 pm through summer on Sooke Region Museum grounds. [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

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

**'Rock the Rink'** youth battle of the bands at JDF Curling Rink Sat June 9. 7 to 10:30 pm. Youth bands (under 18 yr) compete for the chance to play a set at Rock the Shores. Presented by West Shore Parks & Recreation in partnership with Atomique Productions and the Zone @ 91-3 radio. [www.westshorecreation.ca](http://www.westshorecreation.ca)

**Laser Tag & Swim.** Sat June 9. 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Age 8-14. Laser, Tag, bouncy house in arena, swimming. \$5 for all three activities. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)  
**Colwood Fire Hall Open House.** Sun June 10. 10am-2pm. 3215 Metchosin Rd. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)  
**SEAPARC Mud Run 4.0.** Sun June 10. \$10 pp. Youth age 5-13 year & families. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)  
**SEAPARC pool closed for maintenance.** June 11 to July 2. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Picnic in the Park & Dirt Jam.** Sat June 12. 11am-1:30pm. Join 2018 Summer Camp Leaders and Sooke Bike Club for games, bike park races, live music by Gord Phillips Band. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Belmont Secondary Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony.** At Farquhar Auditorium, UVic. Sun June 10. 11am to 3pm.

**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)

**Canada Day.** Sun July 1.

**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)

**Sooke Fine Arts Show.** July 27 to Aug 6 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex, Sooke. [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)

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### TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

**Tues May 22** - one-day road closure on Carlow (Linda Lane to Dunford), 7am to 3 pm.

**Tues May 22.** Paving on Setchfield Ave (High Forest Place to 2394 Setchfield, near Lakewood Elementary) in Bear Mountain. 4 pm to 7 pm.

**Wed May 23 to Fri May 25.** Road closure to through traffic Carlow Rd at Goldstream. 7 am to 3 pm. Detour through Costin Ave.

**Tues May 22 to Wed Aug 1.** Intermittent single-lane alternating traffic on Hannington Rd in Bear Mountain, 7 am to 5 pm. For BC Hydro installations & road construction.

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

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



City of Langford  
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### Social insights: a modern royal wedding

on her own with no man taking her arm as she was about to forever end her previous life. Yeah, at first it seemed a bit weird when she requested that her future father-in-law Prince Charles walk her the rest of the way down the aisle. But in a way, that forced her hand upon the family, rather than the other way around. What a perfect match, this Markle for the son of the late Princess Diana who is still given far too little credit for setting the monarchy onto a modernizing pathway to the 21st century (primarily by raising her two sons to see and interact with the real world).

It appears Markle appreciates her new position as a means to further the social causes that are important to her. It's an intelligent and gutsy choice, underpinned by love of



American actress walks herself down the aisle at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, May 19.

her man. The strength it will take for the new duchess to pull this off long-term is the storyline we now get to see unfold. Hats off to Harry for opening the door to this bold new adventure. **WSV**