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WSV ISSN 2368-9374

Vol.3 No.31

SVN ISSN 1925-2722

Vol.8 No.20

Another health trend, this time in teen contraception [Editorial] ... 2

Electoral Reform in BC: referendum Oct 22 to Nov 30 ..... 3

Federal government to purchase Trans Mountain pipeline ... 3

VREB uses May 2018 HPI to highlight housing price pressures ... 4

Sooke tourism businesses look at destination marketing tax ... 5

News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookeline Publishing House Inc

Friday, June 1, 2018

RELEASE DATE June 2, 2018

Goddess Run through Westhills

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

Courtesy online edition

The 7th Annual Goddess Run saw 787 runners and walkers through the streets of Westhills in Langford, Saturday morning, June 2. Of 467 runners in the BMO 5K, best time was made by Bailey Haugan at 19:28; Sophie Mallory (21:20); Liv Rabien (23:42). Average time 41:39. There were 320 runners in the Westhills 10K, with best time by Jenner Court at 41:20; Chantelle Smith (44:08); Karlie Leclair (44:38). Average time 1:13:35. This year the route included a stretch along the new West Shore Parkway that opened in October 2017. Since 2012 about 13,300 participants have crossed the Goddess Run finish line. Over \$170,000 has been raised for charity. **WSV**

BC Green leader happy with first 'collaborative year'

West Shore Voice News

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News

In a joint media teleconference with Premier John Horgan, BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver said that one year ago the two parties "set up the province for success".

"In any relationship there are ups and downs. We've come together and we're working together collaboratively," Weaver told media on Tuesday May 29, the one-year anniversary of the BC NDP and BC Greens signing a confidence and supply agreement as the basis upon which to form a minority government (subsequently approved by then-Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon in arguably one of the most significant acts of governance in BC history).

On the matter of electoral reform, the BC Greens are for it. Presently under first-past-the-post "one party gets 100% of the power and can push through an agenda without having to consult with other parties," said Weaver.

Weaver has been "delighted with what we've been able to accomplish" including key elements of the Green Party platform, with innovation at its core. He said that the Greens together with George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, can see BC work toward transition to a low-carbon economy. "Benefits pay to those who lead and not who follow," said Weaver, whose main reason for getting into politics was to further his climate change vision that he developed as a climate change researcher. "Strong economic and bold climate action plans are perfectly compatible," continued Weaver, on the same day that the federal Liberals announced plans to purchase the Trans Mountain pipeline (current and extension) even while BC remains intent on challenging the environmental (ocean) protections around that.

Weaver said he remains committed to the two parties working constructively and collaboratively. "We are united in our love for this province and the desire to see the best possible future, for citizens of today and those who come after us. Thank you John for a wonderful year working together." **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

INFRASTRUCTURE

June 2 on Jenkins Road

Underground installations for the Belmont Market / Residences project in Langford.

Post-secondary options for the west shore: have your say

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News

Does the west shore need post-secondary options for new high school grads, so they can remain in their home community and still continue with their education affordably?

This week a survey with that very line of questioning was sent out by email to parents of students in grades 9 to 12 in the SD62 school system. That's secondary schools in Langford (Belmont Secondary), Colwood (Royal Bay Secondary) and Sooke (Edward Milne Community School), as well as the Westshore Centre for Learning & Training which serves the full region.

Students will also be asked to complete a survey too (in class time), ahead of departing for the summer.

And now the broader community has an opportunity for input. A survey has been posted on the SD62 website at [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) (scroll down to the "We want your opinion" section). Or visit: <https://www.academicasurveys.com/c/a/6AMQ4bVZlgMFN4yXK2BBC8>

The public input is sought from people in business and community, as students do interact with and are employed by the local community.

A collaboration of Royal Roads University, The City of Langford and Sooke School District 62 (SD62) -- with \$250,000 funding from the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training -- is exploring ways to encourage more high school graduates to remain in the west shore for post-secondary.

Another important target audience is parents of recent high school grads, and grads who've gone on to post-secondary. They've experienced the lack of post-secondary in the west shore and may have important observations on the barriers to post-secondary. The transfer rates of students from SD62 schools into post-secondary is below the provincial average. **WSV**

More on page 5 ... /

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Editorial

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TOPICS OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Another health trend, this time in teen contraception



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Editor

Remember when the commonly held health advice was that eggs were bad for cholesterol levels? Then about a year ago (after several decades) the advice was reversed. It made news headlines, because many people believed the doctors and the promoted research, and had twisted up their dietary habits and mealtime preparation to avoid the dastardly eggs (which are actually one of nature's best all-in-one sources of high-quality protein, various key vitamins, and iron).

Well, one needs to dig a bit deeper to hear this week that the Canadian Paediatric Society all of a sudden says they're 'catching up with the rest of the world' by recommending the use of intrauterine devices (IUDs) for teen girls as the contraceptive method of choice, ahead of the longstanding first choice, i.e. oral contraceptives (OCs). [Note there is now also the intrauterine system or IUS which includes OC hormones.] Almost none of the media coverage got into 'why this now?' That was asked during one interview on CBC but the media-experienced medical doctor stuck to her talking points.

Here's some background. In 2015, the results of a health measures survey were published by Stats Canada. In that report, women who self-declared as lower-income and immigrant were found to be more wary of using oral contraceptives (too costly, too difficult to understand) and preferred something presumably easier to do once and be more easily understood (mechanical insertion of a device). The report also linked OC use to not only the somewhat socially-acceptable health hazard of obesity (tipping progesterone levels upwards serves to relax ligaments as nature's way of slowing a woman down, and increases appetite), but also to an increased incidence of the feared cancer (notably breast cancer, the rate of risk for which is apparently only fully diminished 10 years after ceasing OC use). There was also itemization of the better-known impacts of OCs to cause an increase in cardiovascular events such as venous thromboembolism (VTE), myocardial infarction, and stroke. And often not recognized is the imbalance that OC use throws into the levels of the body's B vitamin-complex management which could in some cases lead to metabolic changes that in turn can allow for other health issues to evolve including metabolically-generated mental health imbalances.

This week's big news splash about promoting IUDs as the preferred contraceptive for teen girls (instead of OCs) was accompanied with caring reminders about the social and financial impact of teen pregnancy. No mention of trying to step away from the increased rates of obesity, cancer and heart problems associated with OC use. That would open an entirely different kettle of worry for women who've used OCs for years, even decades, and possibly start some finger-pointing blame. This IUD/IUS push is being hung on socioeconomic factors. But they could be trading in women health's wholesale from one set of problems to another.

IUDs are considered over 98% effective at preventing pregnancy and the IUS almost 100% effective (compared to 91% with combo OCs, 88% diaphragm, 82% condom). But the IUD/IUS devices come with their own problems such as uterine perforation and bacterial infection which can lead to infertility and other health complications (not to mention ectopic pregnancy and the incidence of some pregnancies then complicated by the presence of a foreign object). The doctors and clinic practitioners in the news this week very much minimized or avoided these topics in their promo campaign.

Why discuss this here? There are two main sociopolitical reasons that should concern people. First, that the widely trusted medical profession will have its own agenda and skew the delivery of their messaging to what they think is a well-intended socioeconomic strategy (in this case probably aimed more at low-income and immigrant populations than they're letting on). Teens in the 21st century are a bright bunch but could be misled here on matters of their own health and are also possibly being used as a bit of a foil. The Canadian Paediatric Society is generating an entire program presumably directed at dealing with issues surrounding teen pregnancy (which people are generally comfortable acknowledging) as a side-ways way to deal with an agenda to reduce the rate of pregnancy in groups that are less politically correct to single out: low income and immigrant.

And secondly, once again, women are (potentially) being herded like sheep into accepting the latest medical philosophy, which is as much sociopolitical as it is medical. It was less than 100 years ago that it was considered okay to use electric shock therapy on women if they demonstrated 'hysteria' or 'abnormal behaviour'; the sister of JFK was a famous example -- lobotomized at her father's direction because she was 'different' from the other Kennedy women (more playful and sexually active). And in the 1950s to 1970s it was pretty standard for hysterectomies to be done (i.e. full removal of the uterus) instead of looking for more holistic ways to deal with problems. In the *Playboy* era it was cool to get breast enlargement implants which created any number of health issues for many women. In the last 10 to 15 years it's been transvaginal mesh technology at the height of troublesome gynecological woes -- ending up causing damage to surrounding tissue and organs (both while implanted and if removed by an insufficiently skilled surgeon). Now it's IUDs as the latest craze, though the technology's been around since the 1970s (with health professionals now saying that IUDs mistakenly got a bad rap that has somehow mysteriously endured 'until now').

The bottom line for deciding about one's health is to be informed. That means having access to necessary information and asking the right questions. If a large number of teen girls are implanted with IUDs because they're sexually active (apparently that's half of Canadian girls age 17+), we shouldn't be surprised to hear in years to come about infertility and other problems related to uterine perforation and infection. And not only that, if teens (the girl and her male partner) in their haste feel protected by the 98% contraceptive track record of IUDs and therefore don't use condoms, there will in turn be a spike in the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). That was mentioned this week as an add on: "And oh yeah, remember that your partner should use a condom even if you're fitted with an IUD." But it's human nature to skip something if you think it's not needed.

Somehow it seemed particularly infuriating that it's female health professionals doing the big push (selling out one's own gender) to this new craze, even saying that Canada is just 'catching up' to the rest of the world. That's really working the social acceptance factor. So let's say the craze catches on. It was also made clear that implanting IUDs requires training for the health practitioner, that some doctors may not want to provide that service, and that in rural/north areas the service may not be available. That doesn't quite take care of the low-income or immigrant objective, or fulfill Canada's apparent objective of universal

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BC NEWS

Wrapping up for the summer

Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

On May 31 -- the last day of the spring session in the Legislative Assembly -- Premier John Horgan told media he was very pleased with work done by his NDP government over the last couple of months. He highlighted the government's 3-year fiscal plan with "initiatives that make sense": housing, child care, public education, health care investments, and transit and transportation investments.

Of all the Ministers and long-time colleagues that he could have singled out, he chose Health Minister Adrian Dix. Horgan said he's pleased with Dix for transforming primary care delivery including more access to diagnosis equipment (e.g. more MRIs), and bringing in a team-based approach that "takes the burden off doctors and spreads it over a host of health care providers". A reduction in wait times for hip/knee surgeries opens up hospitals to other procedures, Horgan explained. Also, investment in dental surgeries for serious oral health issues can now be done in a hospital paid for by the medical plan in BC, he was pleased to say.

"On the education front we have made great progress," said the Premier who often calls education "the great equalizer". Specific to the west shore, the BC Government has provided a lot of funding for land purchases by SD62 where an expanding student population will be tough to keep up with without more schools.

Horgan also highlighted about working with municipalities and non-profits to streamline decision-making to produce more housing supply. Also that he's pleased with an 85% opt-in for new child care supports so far.

The next day Horgan spent time at his constituency office in Langford, catching up with staff. *WSV*



BC Premier John Horgan



BC Health Minister Adrian Dix

US President Trump sets trade war in motion

As of midnight May 31, US President Donald Trump instituted tariffs on virtually all of the USA's main trading partners around the world including Canada (notably 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum).

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded immediately with what appeared to be a much-ready, well-researched list of retaliatory tariffs totalling up to \$16.6 billion. The list targets industries in several US states where the Trump voter base and/or Republican support in DC are prominent.

Canadians can almost immediately expect to see higher prices on a wide range of products -- anything that includes **steel** (e.g. vehicles, appliances, tall structures including condos and commercial buildings) and **aluminum** (e.g. kitchen utensils, sanitary equipment). Also boats; mattresses and sleeping bags; beauty care products; toilet paper; herbicides/insecticides/fertilizers; playing cards, ballpoint pens and felt-tip markers; automatic regulating or controlling instruments and apparatus; and a wide range of consumables including chocolate, coffee, cucumbers and pickles, soya sauce, mayonnaise, ketchup, prepared mustard, fresh orange juice, strawberry jam, and whiskey.

Canada has filed with the World Trade Organization to claim that Trump's position of declaring Canada as a national security threat (as a reason to apply the tariffs) should be repealed.

Trump appears to be applying shock-value negotiating tactics to try and frustrate and exhaust the broader economy. But this is not a real estate deal with presumably weakened opponents. Trump's brash bravado could very well backfire in a modern complex global political-economic scenario that is lined with smart, strong players. This could very well be the downfall of Trump's long-term political success. *WSV*

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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

National Library Registration: WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722

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Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon  
Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed  
Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF

Publisher: Brookeline Publishing House Inc. Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content: all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., CertPR unless otherwise stated. Publishing Support: Jennifer Brooke. Reporter: Sophia Romanchuk. Photojournalist: Chelsea Kirkpatrick. Community contributors this week: Lisa Haug, Bob Phillips, Lindsay Vogan. Distribution: PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook. IT: Ivandafish Computing. Printing: Brookeline Publishing House Inc. Courtesy copies: coffee shops; business reception areas, libraries, rec centres, community. Online PDF & breaking news (through WSV website, Facebook & Twitter): ~ 64,000 page exposures/wk (social media & subscribers).

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## Referendum on Electoral Reform: Oct 22 to Nov 30

● After 14 weeks of public engagement about electoral reform that wrapped up February 28, on May 30 BC Attorney General David Eby released a report with 18 recommendations to cabinet for how a referendum should be structured.

Input was received through 180,000 visits to the *How We Vote* website, with a record 91,725 questionnaires completed. Another 1,101 questionnaires were completed by a panel selected to represent BC's demographic mix to provide a base for comparison to the web input. Written submissions were received from 46 organizations and 208 individuals.

"Ultimately, British Columbians, through the referendum, will determine how we vote in BC," said Eby. The referendum (to be conducted October 22 to November 30, 2018) will decide whether BC keeps its current First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system or moves to a system of proportional representation (PR).

The report recommends that the referendum ballot include two questions. The first asks which is preferred -- FPTP or PR (see inset). If a majority of responses to the first question indicate a desire to adopt a PR system, then responses to the second question would determine which system is implemented in British Columbia.

The referendum campaign period could begin July 1. The chief electoral officer (independent of government) would provide neutral and factual information to voters about the referendum, including voting systems on the ballot.

If voters decide to adopt a PR system, a second referendum would be held following two general elections, where voters would decide to either keep the new system or return to FPTP.

If a proportional system is adopted, the AG's report says PR must include no significant increase in the size of the legislature; no region having fewer MLAs than at present; and no political party eligible to receive a seat if they get less than 5% of the overall vote in the province or region. **WSV**



BC Attorney General David Eby

### ELECTORAL REFORM

#### Proposed Referendum Questions

1. Which should BC use for elections to the Legislative Assembly (vote for only one):

- The current First Past the Post voting system
- A proportional representation voting system

2. If BC adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer? (rank in order of preference; you may choose to support one, two or all three of the systems):

- Dual Member Proportional (DMP)
- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
- Rural-Urban PR

## Federal government to purchase the Trans Mountain pipeline project if no private buyer found

● The federal government announced Tuesday, May 29 that \$4.5 billion will be committed to purchasing the Trans Mountain pipeline project (both existing infrastructure of the pipeline built in 1953 and the new infrastructure that is currently in place to get the extension pipeline built) if Kinder Morgan cannot find a private sector buyer before August. In addition to existing infrastructure, the estimated cost to build the expansion would be \$7.4 billion. All of this to be paid for by Canadian taxpayers unless that private buyer is found.

This is largely seen as a statement of political assurance that the federal Liberal government can get a project "in the national interest" accomplished, something they charged in Question Period in the House of Commons that the previous Conservative government was unable to accomplish.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau says this step is to 'de-risk' the pipeline project. He insisted that the project will not have a (negative) fiscal impact in that the federal government does not intend to be a long-term owner. At the appropriate time, the government would work with investors to transfer the project and related assets to a new owner or owners, Morneau said, adding that investors could include Indigenous groups and pension funds that have already expressed interest. The stock value of Kinder Morgan shares went up 2% on Tuesday morning in response to the news, but sagged later on.

In response to the federal action, BC Premier John Horgan released a statement about the federal government's proposed purchase of the pipeline: "Today's events do not change the risks of a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic, or the catastrophic effect a diluted bitumen spill would cause to British Columbia's economy and environment. Tens of thousands of BC jobs depend on pristine coastal and inland waters. Our environment generates millions in economic activity, from tourism to film and fisheries. It does not matter who owns the pipeline. What matters is defending our coast -- and our lands, rivers and streams -- from the impact of a dilbit spill." He said his government will continue to defend BC's interests within the rule of law, to determine BC's rights within provincial jurisdiction.

Horgan told media in a live news conference on Tuesday: "The federal government now is completely accountable and, at the end of the day, that is a good thing." Horgan said that the federal finance minister will be responsible for outcomes, adding there is skepticism about making money off the pipeline, noting the oil price of about \$66/barrel that day. Horgan encouraged any protesters who wish to continue to express their disappointment to do so "within the rule of law". And so they did. In Victoria on Thursday evening, May 31, about 700 people holding placards and banners marched in protest and this weekend about 100 protesters showed up at the pipeline worksite in Burnaby.

BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver issued a statement: "A government that promised to end fossil fuel subsidies and to champion the clean economy should not be spending billions of dollars of taxpayer money to buy out a fossil fuel expansion project. We should be investing in growth industries that are clearly where the world is heading... It is clear that the world is transitioning away from fossil fuels."

Federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer said the federal government should not be paying for a private sector project, that it is a political move by the prime minister to essentially save face, and that the legal questions and obstacles to the project remain unresolved.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley called it "a major step forward for all Canadians". She said any efforts by BC to further interfere with the project will have less effect with the federal government being the owner, because it will have Crown immunity. **WSV**



Rachel Notley Justin Trudeau John Horgan

## Commuting this week: Hwy 1 & McKenzie

West Shore Voice News



West Shore & Sooke traffic updates at: www.westshorevoicenews.com

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Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Northbound traffic heading out of Victoria toward the west shore on Highway 1 at the under-construction McKenzie Avenue interchange (May 30).

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## SookePoint Ocean Cottages now in True Key resort portfolio

West Shore Voice News

● True Key Hotels & Resorts this week announced SookePoint Ocean Cottages Resort as the newest addition to the True Key management portfolio. It's True Key's ninth property in BC and second in the Sooke region (the other is Sooke Harbour Resort & Marina on West Coast Road).

"SookePoint Ocean Cottages Resort embodies perfectly the luxury properties True Key is proud to manage," said True Key's president Michael Anderson, heralding the oceanside location, views of the natural environment, and "impressive experiences"

SookePoint Ocean Cottages Resort is a newly developed resort on the southwest tip of Vancouver Island in East Sooke, perched cliff-side above the Pacific Ocean. Ferry transport across the Sooke basin might be set up.

The 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom premium rental suites offer 640 to 1340 sqft living area with oversized walls of glass offering 180-degree views. **WSV**

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[www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)**VREB uses HPI to highlight housing price pressures****REAL ESTATE**Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● In May 2018, the Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB) showed their data-blended HPI housing prices at the highest price points ever. In real dollars, for single family homes the average of actual sale prices was \$921,046 for Greater Victoria overall, and in the west shore saw Langford at \$733,238, Colwood at \$790,061 and Sooke at \$547,653 (there have been higher real averages in some other months, but not by much).

A total of 755 properties sold in the VREB region in May 2018. That 's 25% fewer than the 1,006 properties sold in May last year, and a 2.5% decrease from April 2018.

The homebuyer mortgage 'stress test' (effective Jan 1, 2018 but first heeded in Fall 2017) has reduced the buying power of many prospective or mortgage-renewing homeowners, and hits particularly hard on first-time and entry-level buyers who (if they fail to qualify for purchasing) are pushed into the already overstressed rental market.

In Greater Victoria there are one-third fewer single family homes for sale under \$750,000 when compared to last year, says VREB. Competition for available inventory tends to push up prices, though inventory at 2,394 at May 31 is up compared to the end of May 2017 (1,896). For listings priced at \$1.5 million and above, the number of active listings is almost 50% higher than last year at this time. STATS: Victoria Real Estate Board

**Greater Victoria REAL ESTATE PRICES May 2018 [focus on West Shore]**

Single Family Homes	# of Sales	Sale Average	HPI Adjusted*
Greater Victoria	346	\$921,046	\$738,500
Langford	52	\$733,238	\$636,600
Colwood	22	\$790,061	\$700,700
Sooke	17	\$547,653	\$514,100

\* =  
All HPI  
figures  
for May  
2018 are  
higher  
than in  
any  
previous  
month.

Condos	# of Sales	Sale Average	HPI Adjusted*
Greater Victoria	236	\$465,734	\$485,600
Langford	31	\$372,871	\$395,700
Colwood	7	\$419,286	\$411,200
Sooke	1	\$176,000	n/a

Townhomes	# of Sales	Sale Average	HPI Adjusted*
Greater Victoria	70	\$585,740	\$592,300
Langford	20	\$524,285	\$492,900
Colwood	1	\$636,000	\$609,700
Sooke	5	\$417,980	\$518,200

**Summer salmon politics**

West Shore Voice News

● Areas of BC coastal waters are now closed to salmon fishing in an effort by the federal government to protect the southern resident killer whales (SRKWs/orcas). The thinking is that orcas need a more stable and available food supply (salmon) to help prevent further reduction of the orca population.

However, the impact of reducing recreational fishing impacts the tourism industry in coastal areas. And some critics say a reduction in the noise and intrusion of whale-watching activities might do a better job to help the SRKW.

NDP MP Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) has been pushing for orca protection for years but he likely didn't expect a shutdown of salmon fishing. The new closures from the Dept of Fisheries & Oceans are effective June 1, including parts of Juan De Fuca Strait, the southern Gulf Islands and the mouth of the Fraser River. In many cases recreational fin fishing is completely banned until September 30, while commercial fishing for all salmon is banned. New daily catch limits have also been put in place for chinook in other North Coast and South Coast areas, along with trolling restrictions in some areas.

If there is some politics involved here, note that a lot of recreational ocean fishing takes place on the west side of Vancouver Island, where BC Premier John Horgan's riding is situated. Horgan is seen by the federal government as the source of their woes with the Trans Mountain pipeline issue. Horgan has already said the negative effects on fishing/tourism will be a topic he'll likely hear about on the summer BBQ circuit in the Langford/Sooke/Juan de Fuca area which is his voter base. However, to drill down on that further -- it's more likely business people (who are not always NDP supporters) who will be affected by the fishing restrictions, and this could fire them up against the NDP and pipeline protestors. **WSV**

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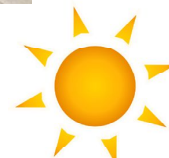
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SHORE  
VOICE**MUNICIPAL ELECTION WATCH 2018**

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News

● **Jeff Bateman is running for a seat on District of Sooke Council.** Last weekend, the Transition Sooke and Zero Waste Sooke leader attended a Destination Marketing event to hear about how tourism presence can be raised for the Sooke region through application of an accommodations tax.

Bateman says he has a solid grasp of the components that a municipal councillor participates in i.e. decisions about bylaws, official community plan, and matters of budget and governance.

Bateman ran for council in November 2014 and came short of winning by a seat by just a handful of votes.

A freelance writer/editor by profession (including a focus on tourism), Jeff has been a long-time participant in many progressive events around town. He attended the unveiling of the architectural designs for the new Sooke Library at Sooke Community Hall last month. Jeff Bateman has spearheaded many presentations to council over the years, putting forth initiatives toward a greener and more sustainable Sooke region. He feels that community transition is something shared by long-time residents and Sooke newcomers alike. **WSV**



**Jeff Bateman running for Sooke council**

2014 photo

**SD62 looking at more facilities expansion**

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **Langford, Sooke and Colwood** are growing fast. Sooke School District (SD62) is already looking at building another new secondary school in Langford after opening a new Belmont in Langford and the new Royal Bay in Colwood in September 2015. Expansion at EMCS in Sooke (which may require more land) is also part of a long range facilities overview that was presented to the SD62 board May 22 by planning consultant Bill Woods.

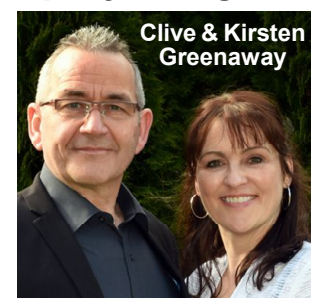
In the last six months, land for elementary and middle schools has been acquired in various locations around Langford.

Based on a projected student population increase of 37% over the next eight to nine years, about 4,400 new student spaces will be needed over the next 10 years (including the 600 spaces already approved for Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood).

The present focus is on accommodating the entry-level population. For **elementary**: SD62's school land in Sunriver Estates could see a 396-seat school, a new larger Sooke Elementary is needed, and John Muir needs replacement or renovation/expansion depending on population growth in that area which is based on whether sewer service is expanded. For **middle**: expansion at Journey and Dunsuir, with renovations at Spencer. Expansion spills into the secondary school level after that.

Wood said he was surprised that Sooke's population hadn't increased as much as anticipated

a few years ago (sewer expansion delayed growth), but that Langford is booming (high-density housing). He said Colwood's population growth is a bit slower. Student population counts have very much to do with housing costs and availability. **WSV**

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## Strong Communities

## Community Growth | Education



### Sooke tourism businesses look at destination marketing tax

Report & photos by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

#### TOURISM

#### There was a Destination Marketing and tourism economy discussion in Sooke on Sunday afternoon, May 27.

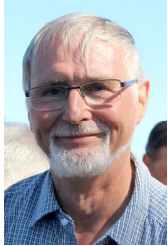
The afternoon event at Vancouver Island Lodge offered a detailed exploration of what it would take to establish the District of Sooke (possibly in combination with the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area) to become government-approved as a Destination Marketing region and be able to collect an accommodation tax on recreational establishments of four or more rooms in the Sooke to Port Renfrew region.

Guest speakers were Peter Harrison from Destination BC; Calum Matthews from Tourism Vancouver Island; Brian White who is program head for the Master of Arts in Tourism Management program at Royal Roads University (RRU); and Kathleen Gilbert of the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission.

Intel contributions about the region were offered by Sooke Region Museum director Lee Boyko, and Mike Hicks who operates a small B&B.

Discussion was mainly about whether the Sooke region should sign up for the the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) by which accommodation businesses could collect a per-night levy of 2% or 3% that goes to the BC government for payment back to the group that collected it. Or whether a business working group is preferable (less structure but possibly less transparent/accountable).

The underlying thrust for the event was to somehow increase revenues to be put



**Brian White**  
RRU tourism professor



**Ryan Chamberlain**  
Vancouver Island Lodge



**Kevin Pearson**  
Dist of Sooke Councillor



**Jeremy Wilson**  
17 Mile Pub & AdrenaLINE



**Mike Hicks**, Juan  
de Fuca EA Director

tourism operators that day.

A 2% levy could bring in much more, which a core group of tourism operators say would attract more visitors to the region. The 3% tax sees 20% of total collections retained by Destination BC for redistribution to groups for putting on special events.

RRU's Brian White reminded proponents that a business plan comes first. Destination BC has strict guidelines and a strident application process.

Currently 56 communities around BC operate MRDT programs (19 of those at the 3% level), generating \$60 million per year. Of those programs, about 70% are authorized through local governments who then hire a contractor, 15% are managed by tourism organizations, and 10% directly are handled directly by local government.

Langford recently signed on with MRDT; a 2% room tax starts Nov 1. **WSV**



### Banning plastic bags: a survey

West Shore Voice News

“Stop making single-use plastic shopping bags” was the strongest result (44%) in a recent opinion survey on *The Weather Network* website. Results from 14,640 survey participants as of May 31 showed “providing free reusable bags” as the second-most popular option (29%).

There was less interest in imposing bylaws to prohibit stores from using or selling plastic bags to customers at the checkout (16%). For stores to charge more for plastic bags, that got a 6% response; education and awareness came in at 5%. As for levying fines for the use of plastic bags, that result was 0%.

The response pool for this survey would be national. In the Greater Victoria area, the City of Victoria has recently banned retail plastic bags. Starting July 1, 2018 businesses in Victoria cannot provide customers with single-use plastic checkout bags. The checkout provision of single-use plastic bags varies in the west shore and the rest of the Greater Victoria region: some stores charge for bags (e.g. Shoppers, Thrifty Foods) while others still provide plastic or paper bags (e.g. Village Foods), and still others provide no bags at all (e.g. Superstore). **WSV**

Impose bylaws that prohibit stores from using or selling plastic bags to shoppers: 2,299 (16%)

Get stores to charge more per bag: 851 (6%)

Provide free reusable bags: 4,251 (29%)

Levy fines: 68 (0%)

Stop making them: 6,476 (44%)

More education & awareness: 695 (5%)

Pie chart image reset from The Weather Network website.

**WSV**

### Look who's talking! SD62 Grad ceremonies this weekend: EMCS & Royal Bay

West Shore Voice News

#### Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) Saturday June 2 at UVic

Territorial Recognition – Butch Dick, Elder, Songhees Nation  
All Nations Welcome – Chief Jeff Jones or rep from Pacheedaht Nation  
All Nations Welcome – Chief Gordon Planes or representative from T'Sou-ke Nation  
SD62 Board Greeting – Bob Phillips (Vice-Chair)  
School District Greeting – Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent  
Municipal Greeting – Mayor Maja Tait, District of Sooke  
Guest Presenter – Premier John Horgan, MLA (Langford-Juan de Fuca)  
Presentation to Grads – John Lyall & Todd Powell, Vice Principals  
Message to the Class of 2018 – Marjorie Baskerville  
Class Historians – Lucy Bridal & Colby Benty  
Class Valedictorian – Andrew Rodd



#### Royal Bay Secondary Sunday June 3 at UVic



Territorial Recognition – Brother in Residence, Rick Peter  
SD62 Board Greeting – Trustee Wendy Hobbs  
School District Greeting – Paul Block, Associate Superintendent  
MLA Greeting – Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin)  
Principal Greeting – Windy Beadall  
Valedictorians – Evan Lindsay & Danica Eve Neral **WSV**

Selected speech notes are in the Grad section at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

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Watermarked Version

### Post-secondary options for the west shore: have your say

continued from page 1 ... /

“We’re a changemaker campus, committed to curriculum that causes social change,” says Royal Roads University’s VP Academic, Steve Grundy.

If first and second-year courses were offered “we would do it differently,” Grundy told *West Shore Voice News* this week.

“If we do whatever the right thing is for the community, good things can come from that,” he said. “We have some ideas, Langford’s mayor Stew Young has some ideas, and there’s good collaboration with the SD62 school board. But so far we don’t have the data to make good decisions.” Hence the rush to catch students and parents with a questionnaire before school breaks for the summer. “So, when and if we do anything, we hit the target,” says Grundy.

The idea is that transition to university be “much cleaner and easier for everybody involved”. There have been massive changes in the K-12 curriculum in BC. “Changes in 9-12 curriculum are much more closely aligned with our teaching model at Royal Roads,” said Grundy. It’s a model of collaboration, active learning, and integrated learning.”

Having the city involved brings the possibility of access to recreational facilities in Langford. As well, there is an idea of putting together an ‘innovative city’ business incubator jointly with businesses in the community.

**Steve Grundy** is the Chief Academic Officer at Royal Roads University. He is Vice-President Academic and Provost, and a Professor in the School Environment and Sustainability.



RRU

The three partners to the exploratory program have the same objectives to make education more accessible to local residents in the west shore area. RRU, City of Langford, and SD62 all expect that there are financial barriers to grads going on to post-secondary (not just tuition but also travel and accommodation costs). Also, smaller communities are close-knit, and heading off to a far-away university or college may not be a desired option for many students.

Having first- and second-year courses available at Royal Roads in Colwood could be a highly suitable alternative. Course transferability would be given careful attention, says Grundy, so that students can further their education at other post-secondary institutions as desired.

If anything develops out of this initial exploratory (funded with \$250,000 from the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training back in April), the earliest course offerings could come by September 2020, says Grundy.

Having taught at RRU since 1995, Grundy is particularly interested in the directions of post-secondary education, the evolution and development of online learning, and new models of university governance and leadership.

Public survey about post-secondary in the west shore: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) **WSV**

### Soccer at Westhills

A new pro soccer Canadian Premier League was announced June 1, with the only BC team to be based in Greater Victoria. The inaugural league season starts April 2019, with games at Westhills Stadium in Langford.

A second grandstand still needs to be built at Westhills Stadium. That will be possible once relocation of one or more BC Hydro transmission line poles is sorted out by the City of Langford. Stadium capacity could then be increased to as much as 8,000.

Owners of the Victoria franchise will be former European pro and Canadian national team players Josh Simpson of Victoria and Rob Friend of Kelowna, and Vancouver-based financier Dean Shillington, founder and president of Knightsbridge Capital Group. **WSV**



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Relocation of a power transmission line pole at Westhills Stadium is being discussed, so that stadium seating capacity can be expanded.



## WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

**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.

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

**City of Colwood. Special Council Meeting** about the OCP. Mon June 4. 6 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**SD62 Education Committee**. Tues June 5. 7 pm at the school district office. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Belmont French Immersion Graduation Ceremony**. At Belmont school. Wed June 6. 6 pm.

**Sooke Night Market**. Season opening night. Thurs June 7. Thurs nights 5 to 8 pm til Sept. 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) and tell us what you think makes a great rock/pop song. One winning entry to be announced June 15.

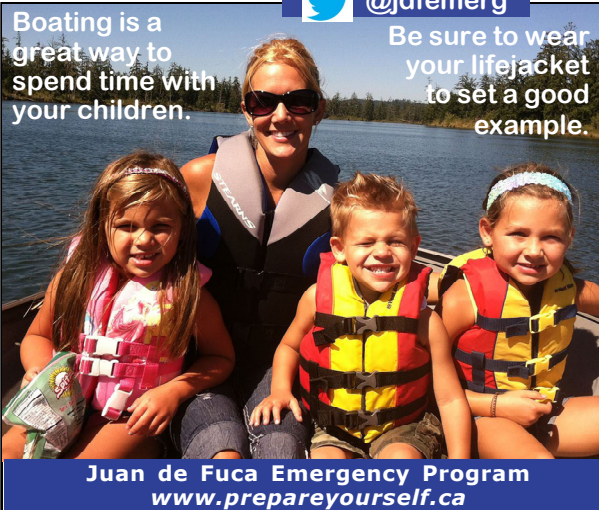
**West Shore Chamber of Commerce member promo**. Include your business name in 2018 Best of the Westshore, up to June 8. [www.westshore.bc.ca](http://www.westshore.bc.ca)

**BC Ferries - Swartz Bay** terminal improvements public input up to June 8 at [www.bcferries.com/swbvision](http://www.bcferries.com/swbvision)

**'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. [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.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)



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program [www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)

**SEAPARC Mud Run 4.0**. Sun June 10. \$10 pp. Youth age 5-13 year & families. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

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

**SEAPARC pool closed for maintenance**. June 11 to July 2. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**SD62 Resources Committee**. Tues June 12. 7 pm at the school district office. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Awareness Film Night**. Film on fracking and the water table. Community discussion. Wed June 13. 7 pm at EMCS, by donation. [www.awarenessfilmmight.ca](http://www.awarenessfilmmight.ca)

**EMCS French Immersion Graduation Ceremony**. At Belmont school. Thurs June 14. 5:30 pm.

**Belmont Residences**. Public Sales Event / show home open. Sat June 16, 1 to 4 pm. 915 Division Ave, Langford. [www.belmontresidences.com](http://www.belmontresidences.com)

**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)

## West Shore Voice News

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News insights for & about the west shore.

### Dry month of May in Victoria area

West Shore Voice News

● **The average rainfall** for the month of May in the Victoria area is 40 mm (which is 5.6% of the year's overall 705 mm average precipitation).

But in May 2018 there was just 6.5 mm of rainfall, with 5 mm of that falling on one day, May 10.

There were some memorably hot days in May here on the south

### 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.

island (May 12 to 15), with Victoria on May 14 recording a high of 26.1°C.

Vancouver (YVR) recorded the driest May on record last month, seeing only 1.9 mm of rain for the entire month (usually 65 mm). Kamloops also saw a significant precipitation shortfall, and the second driest May on record with 2.4 mm (usually 27.3 mm). **WSV**

### Fun new patterns coming to The Cloth Castle

West Shore Voice

● **Natasha and Maria** came back from a recent Quilt Market with some fun new patterns that will be coming from Australia. "We just adored

Swan Island and Arctic Feathers will arrive this summer. Some of the fun new patterns like The Cloth Castle is at 786 Goldstream in Penguin Party, Langford. **WSV**



June 7 to September 6, 2018

**Sooke Night Market**

Thursdays 5 - 8

Sooke Region Museum Grounds  
Corner of Sooke Rd & Phillips Rd

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

### Minimum wage now \$12.65 in BC

West Shore Voice News



The liquor server minimum wage in BC will increase at a greater rate to catch up to the regular minimum wage by June 1, 2021.

● **The minimum wage in BC** has increased to \$12.65 effective June 1, 2018. This comes on the heels of an increase to \$11.35 last fall (September 15, 2017).

Annual increases of the minimum wage are scheduled by the BC government to take place on June 1, 2019 (\$13.85/hour), June 1, 2020 (\$14.60/hour), and June 1, 2021 (\$15.20/hour).

A set schedule of increases is thought to

be helpful to businesses as part of their operations management and business growth plans

The liquor server minimum wage (now \$11.40/hour) will increase at a greater rate than the regular minimum wage until June 1, 2020. As of June 1, 2021 liquor servers will be paid the regular minimum wage.

There is a set rate to be paid to live-in home support workers; as of September 15, 2017 that's \$113.50 per day or part-day worked.

There is also a pay schedule for resident caretakers. As of June 1, 2018 for an apartment building containing 9 to 60 suites the minimum rate is \$759.32/month plus \$30.43 for each suite; and for an apartment building containing more than 60 suites, \$2,586.40/month/

There is even a set rate for the hand-picking of harvested crops, such as 71.2¢/kg to pick peas, 83.8¢/kg to pick strawberries, or 87.1¢/kg to pick raspberries. There is no fee listed to pick blackberries which grow wild as an invasive species in parts of Vancouver Island. **WSV**

Celebrate and congratulate the Grade 12 graduates in your community.

Articles & photos welcome.

Inquire to 250-217-5821 or [advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com) for grad season marketing info.

### TRAFFIC INFO

#### LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

**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.

**June 4 to 8.** Bray Ave closed for paving, 8 am to 4:30 pm.

**Now 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 Rd at Langford Pkwy Railway Crossing. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy (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)



### Congratulations to All SD62 Graduates...



**SD62 Sooke School Board Trustees.** (From left, back row): Margot Swinburnson, Wendy Hobbs, Denise Riley, Dianna Seaton. (From left, front row): Ravi Parmar (chair), Bob Phillips (vice-chair), Neil Poirier.



... from the Board of Education,  
Sooke School District 62

[www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)