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Friday, June 15, 2018

RELEASE DATE June 16, 2018

HOUSING: 'not a crisis' but a permanent condition in BC

EVENT REPORT

Solutions: drop the Speculation Tax & increase supply

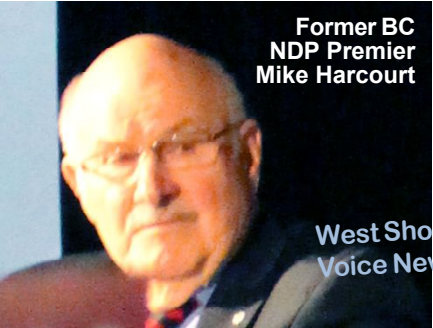
by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

The "Housing Crisis" discussion held June 12 at the Roundhouse at Bayview Place in Esquimalt brought together a group of presenters who see room for constructive change in how housing is managed in the BC economy. Some of the messaging and sentiment was anti-tax, all of it was pro-supply and about boosting economic growth.

● **There is a housing problem in BC.** And on Tuesday June 12 a lineup of politicians (past and present) and a spectrum of development-industry leaders not only agreed about that, but about the solution: increase supply.

This was addressed to about 400 people over lunch at the rustic Roundhouse at Bayview Place in Esquimalt. It was a diverse audience of political and business leaders, joined by a wide range of the business community, housing issues advocates, general public, and media. They endured the hard wooden chairs for two hours to hear about ways to move forward with housing in BC.

The event conveyed a clear message that the BC Speculation Tax will be harmful to the BC economy overall and the housing market specifically (especially renters). That was tagged with a further message that getting creative with growing the economy is more successful for all sectors than is additional and



Former BC
NDP Premier
Mike Harcourt



Former
Conservative
Saskatchewan
Premier Brad Wall



Langford Mayor
Stew Young



Two of the 'Housing Crisis' key speakers were former BC Liberal cabinet minister Peter Fassbender (left) and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps (right). Joined here by former BC Liberal Transportation minister Todd Stone.

situation-specific taxation.

Former BC NDP Premier Mike Harcourt clarified at the outset: "It's not a housing crisis, it's a permanent condition in BC." He expanded on that, saying that sustainability and housing affordability is a problem all over the world. Saying that the 21st century is "a century of cities", Harcourt and other speakers really turned to local governments as part of the problem and much of the solution. Cities have the power to change zoning, and handle the processes for development permits more promptly and efficiently. "City halls are causing a huge amount of the increase in the cost of housing," Harcourt said. When developers hold onto property for lengthy periods, the cost of interest to wait for the development green light ultimately gets passed onto homebuyers.

Former BC Liberal cabinet minister for communities Peter Fassbender, and himself a former mayor (of Langley), said that municipalities need to "look at their community and decide what they want it to be". He also said that the key for community development success is to "build the economy and let the economy become the driver of those things". He is worried that investment is "leaving the province, or not coming to BC, or stalling" because of the current government's tax policy "that has not been well thought out".

On the matter of what type of housing needs to be built in BC, Fassbender said that single family homes as the mainstay of the housing market is not going to change, it already has changed. He has listened, and hears that young people are "into living a different lifestyle" that would be served by higher density housing and more efficient transit systems for the target communities. That in turn allows

Continued on page 2 ... /

BC still glad to not be in for FIFA costs in 2026

● **Soccer is about to grow big** in Canada! On June 13 it was announced at the FIFA tournament in Moscow that Canada will co-host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, along with the USA and Mexico. The United bid beat out Morocco which has bid on the World Cup opportunity five times.

Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal are Canadian candidate host cities for the men's soccer showcase, expanded to 48 teams for the 2026 tournament. Canada and Mexico are expected to stage 10 games each, with the USA hosting 60.

Mexico has twice hosted the World Cup, in 1970 and 1986. The US hosted in 1994.

Building up teams toward 2026 will be a big boost to soccer in Canada. On the west shore of Vancouver Island, there is a BC team for new pro soccer Canadian Premier League, central to Victoria; the inaugural league season starts April 2019 with games at Westhills Stadium in Langford (as announced June 1).

In the west shore there is a soccer academy at three schools in the SD62 school district, giving an opportunity for youth to learn the sport: Dunsmuir Middle School (Gr 7 & 8); Royal Bay Secondary (Gr 9-12); Edward Milne Community School (Gr 9-12)

The SD62 soccer academy is for students who want to develop potential as a high performance athlete or simply to learn and enjoy playing the game. It is not a program reserved only for elite players within the sport, but welcomes players of all skill levels who are committed to development both as soccer players and as individuals.

Vancouver will not be hosting



^^ Soccer academy students at Royal Bay Secondary in a quick pick-up game with BC Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean on March 16, following an announcement about funding to expand the school's seating capacity. [WSV file photo].



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Lisa Beare,
BC Minister of
Tourism, Arts
and Culture



BC Premier
John Horgan

any of the FIFA games, as the BC government was wary of what were seen as open-ended cost commitments expected by FIFA.

"The FIFA bid agreement contained clauses, which government felt left taxpayers at unacceptable risk of additional costs," said BC Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Lisa Beare today in a statement. "We tried very hard to get assurances that addressed our concerns. Unfortunately, those assurances were not forthcoming," Beare added: "I am happy for Canadian soccer fans that some of the World Cup matches are coming to Canadian host cities."

On the day of the FIFA announcement, BC Premier John Horgan told media that soccer coming to North America in 2026 is "good for soccer fans."

Horgan added: "I do not regret the decision we made for support for the bid, based on a lack of a final number from FIFA." The Premier reiterated that BC is "not prepared to write a blank cheque", itemizing that at the time there were no definitive answers on the numbers of games that would be played in Vancouver, or about the costs of closing of BC Place, nor a final dollar figure (which would have included a hefty security expense).

Keeping the provincial budget in mind, and soon now having to fund flood restoration in Grand Forks and the efforts required in the summer fire season, Horgan said "most taxpayers will be grateful for that decision". **WSV**

Hon. John Horgan, MLA LANGFORD – JUAN DE FUCA



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Publisher's Note

THE CONTINUED ROLE OF JOURNALISM & PUBLISHING

WEST SHORE VOICE

Tapping west shore trends to support the conversation



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR
Editor & Publisher

● For many years now, non-profits and struggling small businesses have enjoyed discounted and bonus ad space in the pages of *West Shore Voice News* as well as being supported by our keen desire to tell your stories. We're a small business playing in a big media landscape, but it's important that professionals in this game play it right.

For years *West Shore Voice News* (formerly *Sooke Voice News* 2011-2013, and *MapleLine Magazine* before that 2008-2010) has explored and examined the shifts and trends of the community. If any of us take heed of Shakespeare's missive "to thine own self be true", then it's important, too, for communities to know themselves. That's why we write. The words won't always please everyone, but once a challenging thought is out in the open, then exploration, growth and possibly even change can take root and grow. The role of journalism is to gather and compose those messages. The role of publishing is to provide a vehicle for delivery of those messages.

There is in fact a cohesive west shore region. There are ripple effects and sometimes formal interdependencies that work among Langford, Colwood, Sooke, View Royal, Metchosin, Highlands and Juan de Fuca. We tap that each week. ■

PREMIUM-SUBSCRIBER EDITION

HOUSING: 'not a crisis' but a permanent condition in BC

Continued from page 1 ... /

... for young talent to live in larger centres where the high-tech jobs of the future are located. People who are displaced from the city areas "have no place to go", Fassbender said.

"To deal with affordability, you build the economy, then let the entrepreneurial spirit loose and let people build the economy," said Fassbender.

Former Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall took a moment to ask everyone in the room – indeed, all Canadians – to show their support for the current federal government and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in their current battle of words and tariffs with the US President and White House team. Negative comments hurled at Trudeau by top White House officials following last weekend's G-7 Summit have shocked many, including citizens across the United States and Canada. Tweets, letters, emails... it all helps, said Wall. "Trudeau deserves the support of every single Canadian," said Wall, urging people in the room to keep this support "top of mind, front of mind".

Wall questioned the likelihood of the BC Speculation Tax as being able to "address the goal of the tax". If more rental vacancy is the goal, does this tax which starts at 0.5% this year (going up to 1% in 2019 for affected residents in BC and 2.0% for non-Canadians) serve to truly increase rental supply? Brad Wall suggests "this tax will affect mostly people of means". Indeed, some political opponents of the tax have called it an 'envy tax', i.e. emotionally motivated rather than strategically formulated based on generating true economic growth.

There was some wise counsel. Toward a solution, one speaker suggested that provincial and federal governments take a favorably heavy hand with municipalities by directing local governments to make appropriate housing-related zoning changes. If the directive comes like that 'from above', this will relieve local politicians of the natural impediment to avoid doing something unpopular.

Langford's success with zoning efficiencies was mentioned. Afterward Langford Mayor Stew Young said that zoning approvals are frequently achieved within three months, and that building permits can often be issued in about 48 hours. This helps developers get on with the job of building homes and helping to contain the borrowing costs that get passed on to consumers. Stew Young agrees

New housing stock is better quality will age more slowly than in the past.

As empty-nesters age, more single family homes come onto the market.

Many Millennials are not seeking single family homes with a yard, and many prefer the use of public transit over owning a vehicle.



Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins attended the June 12 lunch discussion. >>

with the idea of the capital gains tax being increased from 7% to 10%, an idea that was floated during the formal presentations. The increase could be directed toward development of affordable housing. He added that additional taxation "steals assets from hard working families".

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps addressed the crowd at the start of the lunch. She summarized that Victoria's economy has been prosperous "but it's not going to stay that way until we crack the housing nut". She pitched for the BC Government to find something "in place of the speculation tax".

The crowd was served coffee, an appetizer, lunch and dessert during the two-hour session of speeches, panel presentations, and questions from the audience. The day was hosted as the 6th Annual Kenneth W. and Patricia Mariash Global Issues Dialogue.

Victoria-based developer Ken Mariash spoke highly of the zoning and permit efficiencies in Langford, and that a speculation tax only works when there is no supply issue.

Increasing housing supply was the main overall going-forward message of the day. The BC Government's 30-point plan does outline various programs and funding initiatives to increase housing supply (the promised 114,000 units over 10 years), but much of that is targeted to various disenfranchised socioeconomic groups with less of a view to engaging effectively with the development industry that produces the housing units that are needed in BC. Recent research by the BC Non-profit Housing Association shows that 34,167 more housing units will be needed in the Greater Victoria area by 2038. **WSV**

Equipment for trades training gets \$3.5 million boost

● New equipment funding of \$3.5 million from the BC Government to school districts throughout BC is for the upgrading of trades classrooms and workshops.

The June 15 announcement boosts 58 school districts through the Industry Training Authority' (ITA)'s Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program.

The equipment is to improve classroom safety and provide learning with up-to-date technology.

ITA leads and coordinates BC's skilled trades system. ITA works with apprentices, employers, industry, labour, training providers and government to fund training, issue credentials, support apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. **WSV**

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The Sooke Voice News

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Have your say about small business

West Shore Voice News

● **Phase one of the BC Small Business Task Force** public input runs June 1 to 29. There is an online questionnaire at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/small-business-task-force/> plus various group consultations in communities (the one Vancouver Island session was recently held in Nanaimo).

In terms of head count, most businesses in BC (98%) are considered small businesses (i.e. fewer than 50 employees) and provide employment for over 1 million people in BC.

Phase 2 for public input will be open the last two weeks of July, with an opportunity to comment online on a draft intentions paper.

The point of the exercise is so government can better understand who to help strengthen the small business sector. **WSV**

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More estimators at ICBC

● **ICBC has hired 43 new estimators** in response to the increase in vehicle claims costs, and to enhance oversight of autobody repair costs. This is as government says it is working to bring ICBC back to financial stability, as announced June 15 by the Ministry of Attorney General. With 17 more estimators later this year, there will be a total of 267 estimators on the job.

"We understand that British Columbians needing auto repair work have concerns about possible overbilling, and the impact this has on insurance costs. That's why I directed ICBC to increase the number of estimators on the front lines," said David Eby, Attorney General.

"These new hires will provide more guidance and support to body shops, increase governance of ICBC's material-damage programs, and help

strengthen ICBC's relationships with industry," said Eby.

Over the last 18 months, ICBC has completed 2,800 more site visits of collision repair shops than in the previous fiscal year. That amounts to a 38.5% year-over-year increase in shop visits. Turnaround times for estimator responses have also been reduced, with the goal of even greater reductions, so that customers can get their vehicles back more quickly.

Government -- in its efforts to keep insurance rates affordable for BC drivers -- has ICBC working with collision repair shops and industry associations on changes that will modernize the current tiering of auto-body suppliers. The redesign of these programs is intended to help improve efficiencies, improve program governance and ensure customers continue to receive the highest standards of vehicle repairs at the best market value.

WSV

West Shore Parks & Rec municipal owners disband their board

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Full article with more budget numbers was posted right after the June 14 meeting: https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11732

West Shore Parks & Recreation Society owner municipalities represented at the June 14, 2018 AGM at the JdF Fieldhouse (facing camera, from left): Mayor Ken Williams (Highlands), Mayor Carol Hamilton (Colwood), Mayor David Screech (View Royal); Councillor Denise Blackwell (Langford), and Mayor John Ranns (Metchosin).

● On Thursday, June 14 the five municipalities that own the West Shore Parks & Recreation facility disbanded their board. While mayors (or their reps) around the table for the 2018 Annual General Meeting gave assurances that the West Shore Parks & Recreation Society board and staff were not the problem, the boom came down.

Effective immediately, the five municipal owners (Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Metchosin and Highlands) will run the show more directly than they have until now. ‘Time to push the reset button’, was a phrase used often this evening, June 14. The five mayors running this show are Stew Young (Langford), Carol Hamilton (Colwood), David Screech (View Royal), John Ranns (Metchosin), and Ken Williams (Highlands). They will be represented by the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of their municipalities.

It’s a rather unique setup, an interim board to — in part — carry the WSPR entity relatively intact through the fall municipal election period (during which mayors will be otherwise occupied) and into the 2019 home stretch of the current agreement. The current West Shore Parks & Recreation ownership agreement expires in spring 2019.

Rumblings for change began in the last few years and intensified this year, as Langford with its seven new recreational facilities in seven years began to feel as though its annual contribution to WSPR was becoming out of balance with the benefits gained for Langford residents.

At the WSPR AGM Langford Councillor Denise Blackwell said: “Langford pays a great deal and we also fund our own facilities. We’ve felt an inequity in the amount that Langford is paying for recreation,” she said. And joining the chorus of similar statements around the table: “It’s not about the members of the board or staff – it’s owners with the most issues,” said Blackwell.

When WSPR began, there were few recreational amenities in Langford. After how long it took to get the Q Centre (behind the main Juan de Fuca Rec Centre building at 1767 Island Highway) up and running, Langford’s Mayor Stew Young took recreational initiatives in Langford under the control of his municipality. Langford now has sports fields, ice rink and arena, a bowling alley, and access to the pool within the Langford YM-YWCA. And more to come.

Until last year the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) was also a member, but JDFEA Mike Hicks managed to get his area out of the deal over evidence of minimal usage by JDFEA residents.

The current five mayors met in camera mid-May to discuss the findings and recommendations in a report known as ‘the Huggett report’ (by consultant Jonathan Huggett) which was commissioned for \$25,000 to review the terms of reference and find a way forward for recreation in the west shore that is presumably more equitably contributed to. “The Huggett Report takes us one step

forward,” said Metchosin Mayor John Ranns during the AGM. “It’s a preliminary report and we’re following the footsteps. It’s nothing against the board and good works that people have done.” Ranns said that the interim board is “the only means we could find” to break the current impasse of budget and funding issues.

View Royal Councillor Ron Mattson who had served on the WSPR board (with a key project being public consultation and design development of a skateboard park), called the Huggett Report “one of the most poorly written and researched reports at the council level” that he has seen in his 28 years of government. He said councillors only had a chance to see the report a few days before the June 14 board meeting.

View Royal Mayor David Screech said in-camera discussions had not been unanimous. But the final vote at the AGM was unanimous, and the City of Colwood issued a joint release on June 15 to reinforce that.

Budget and funding issues may in fact be underscored by staff being left rudderless for vision and direction – perhaps by a combination of ownership being one-step-removed (mayors were not members of the WSPR board), extended absence of a senior staff person away for health reasons, and perhaps a lack of organization around ‘moving forward’ in various levels of business development.

For Ranns to say “we fired ourselves” was a bit of humble pie, as mayors never sat at the board level, and now fully hold the reins through their CAOs. Highlands Mayor Ken Williams said “the board did the best they could do with the tools given to them”. He said the new arrangement was a way for achieving “maximum potential for this facility”.

Volunteer board chair Ed Watson clearly stated that he felt that




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<< Ed Watson: he served as West Shore Parks & Recreation Board chair for several years (board now disbanded)

collapsing the current board was “about money”. Langford in particular has been looking for a new formula for a couple of years now, one that will see its annual contribution (requisition) to WSPR be more representative of how much benefit Langford residents get from the facility. Now all five member municipalities are on board for something equitable. “We are working together to provide a blueprint for a vibrant future,” said Highlands Mayor Ken Williams.

In March, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton blew a very public whistle over her concerns for the future of WSPR. At the AGM she said “it’s about the ownership and productivity, and how we support this facility to see it thrive”. She supports having CAOs run the ship over the election period.

The WSPR budget has been frozen at 2016 levels. Staffing costs have gone up, but so have (or soon will be) some of admission/facility fees. A revenue burst was seen in 2017 from roadside LED display sign rentals. But use of the curling rink, Q Centre, and other areas are seen to have been underutilized. **WSV**



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Insulin pumps now covered for all ages in BC

by Sophia Romanchuk
West Shore Voice News

HEALTH NEWS

● **An expansion of insulin pump coverage takes effect July 3.** Announced June 12, this expansion will ensure that any diabetic person in BC has access to an insulin pump under PharmaCare if needed. Previously, insulin pump coverage for youth extended only to the age of 25 (and when the program was first introduced in 2008 covered children only to age 18).

BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix explained that many people over 25 years of age "have been forced to make the difficult choice between purchasing this device for their health, or foregoing it due to cost. Going forward, they won't be put in this position," said Dix in a media announcement.

An insulin pump is a medical device that more closely mimics the body's natural insulin production than insulin injections. The pump is worn on the body at all times and delivers insulin through a thin tube (cannula). It allows greater freedom and blood glucose control, thus reducing the likelihood of long-term complications.

For young patients with type 1 diabetes, insulin pump therapy is associated with lower risks of severe hypoglycemia and diabetic ketoacidosis and better glycemic control than insulin injection therapy, according to a study published October 2017 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The cost of one pump runs from \$6,000 to \$7,000 and requires replacement every five years.

The pump system allows diagnosed diabetics to better manage their condition, improving quality of life and well-being, and preventing serious secondary conditions ranging from cardiovascular disease to nerve damage, said Dix.

"Insulin pumps can also help prevent eye disease, kidney disease, amputations and a number of other complications related to diabetes," says Ramya Hosak, executive director and co-founder of Young and T1, a BC-based and volunteer-run organization for young adults living with Type 1 diabetes.

"Following through on a pledge made by Premier John Horgan, the provincial government is removing the age restriction for insulin pump coverage," said Dix. About 485,000 people in BC live with diabetes. An estimated 830 adults will benefit from the expansion in the first year.

BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver made a statement of support for the decision. "Insulin pumps are not only an effective tool for patients to manage a very dangerous disease, they're also a preventative and cost-effective measure for our healthcare," said Weaver.

BC is the third province to cover the cost of insulin pumps for diabetics, regardless of age. To young Type 1 diabetics living in the province, it comes as a huge relief. "Diabetes Canada commends the provincial government for making this decision. Type 1 diabetes doesn't stop at age 25, and we are so pleased that insulin pump coverage won't also," says Sheila Kern, regional director of BC and Yukon Diabetes Canada. "The burden of worrying about how to continue insulin therapy after the age of 25 can be very heavy, but this decision put through by the Horgan administration will help lessen it."

Physicians in BC who provide continuous care to diabetic patients receive a diabetes management incentive payment. In 2017-18, more than 3,400 family doctors received that payment for over 208,300 patients.

Aging populations, increasing urbanisation, and widening social inequalities (including poverty) are contributing factors to the rapid rise in diabetes prevalence over the past 40 years, it was reported in *The Lancet* this week. **WSV**



Insulin pump delivers insulin through a tube as required.

Respectful workplace in the creative sector

West Shore Voice News

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Knowledge Network:

● **Supportive action toward respectful and inclusive work environments** for workers in British Columbia's creative sector was announced June 15 by Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

"The #MeToo movement has elevated awareness that abuse, discrimination and harassment are serious problems globally," said Beare.

"Our government is deeply committed to ensuring that the people working in BC's creative industries are protected." New measures promote safe, respectful workplaces for workers in the creative sector, in partnership with provincial three agencies: Creative BC, the BC Arts Council, and Knowledge Network.

The \$175,000 in funding is aimed at supporting immediate steps including work-culture training for the board and leadership levels of creative industry associations and regional film commissions.

Creative BC will administer the fund, paying for the development of toolkits, training, education and workshops to promote safety, diversity and equity in the creative sector. Eligible organizations can apply for grants of up to \$15,000.

"By creating safe, respectful work environments, we can help boost productivity and innovation across all industries," said Mitzi Dean, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. She said this is a way to work alongside industry to create healthier, more equitable workplaces for everyone, particularly noting women and people who identify as LGBTQ2+ or with other equity-seeking groups.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture is also working with its agencies to create policies and strategies aimed at promoting respectful workplaces. As part of the initiative, Creative BC and the BC Arts Council are changing contract requirements for grant applicants (who must commit to ensuring their workplaces are free from bullying and harassment). Knowledge Network has published a new *Respectful Workplace Statement of Expectation* for its producers.

Creative industries in BC contribute more than \$5 billion to the economy each year. Creative industries include: the motion picture industry; music and sound recording; interactive and digital media; and book and magazine publishing. The sector supports more than 90,000 full-time workers, and employs thousands more in part time or contract positions.

The arts and culture sector includes: artists and cultural organizations in dance, media arts, literary arts, museums, music, theatre and visual arts; unincorporated collectives in various art forms; Indigenous artists and organizations; arts festivals; arts training institutions; community arts organizations; and arts presenters.

BC has the highest concentration of artists in Canada, supporting more than 24,800 professionals in communities throughout the province. **WSV**



MUNICIPAL ELECTION WATCH 2018

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News

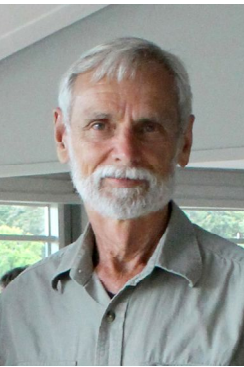
● **For District of Metchosin Mayor John Ranns**, this fall's municipal election will be his eighth. Holding tight to a no-growth policy for the rural west shore municipality (population 4,706 as of 2016). Ranns has built a resilient and somewhat self-contained community that embraces low-density housing and large tracts of untouched land.

Notably, Ranns guided Metchosin in striking a three-way deal with the City of Langford and Beecher Bay First Nation in March 2017, to increase a protected area of natural ecosystem while relinquishing 354 acres to Langford for high-density development.

Earlier this year Ranns expressed his appreciation for recreational opportunities in nearby Langford. The juxtaposition of the passionately rural Metchosin and the intensely high-density urban Langford seems to work for both jurisdictions.

Metchosin has a small council of four councillors (compared to six in larger municipalities). Locals will remember that Metchosin Councillor Andy MacKinnon ran for the BC Green Party in the 2017 provincial election, largely on a pro-environmental campaign. Councillor Moralea Milne who served on the district's finance committee and on the West Shore Parks & Recreation board is not running again. Councillor Kayara Kahakauwila is running again in 2018. She has served as the Highways and Public Works Committee Chair, on the CRD Arts Committee, and on the CREST (Capital Regional Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc) board. Councillor Bob Graminga who has served as Metchosin Planning Committee Chair and on the CRD's Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission is not running again this fall.

Ranns says the four-year term (that came into effect with the 2014 election) makes it more difficult to find solid council candidates who can make that longer-term commitment (up from the previous three years). **WSV**



District of Metchosin Mayor John Ranns

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

Cycling infrastructure improvements rolling right along

West Shore Voice News

● **Eighteen communities** throughout BC will benefit from BikeBC grants for cycling projects that support green transportation options and encourage healthy, active lifestyles, it was announced June 13 by Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Trevena said recipients represent diversity in the kinds of projects being built and the size of participating communities, both urban and rural. BikeBC is the Province's cost-sharing program to help communities build cycling projects that support green transportation options and healthy, active lifestyles, while attracting tourism cyclists. Earlier this year, enhancements to BikeBC were made by the government "to better support rural communities, and offer more flexibility in the kinds of projects eligible for funding".

The number of people who bike to work is up 64% since 1996. Biking 10 km to work each day can save up to 15,000 kg of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Over \$34 million has been invested in 117 cycling projects in BC since 2014, benefiting 70 communities. BikeBC 2018-19 grants total \$6.11 million. In the Greater Victoria area two grants were announced this week: \$78,160 for Cadboro Bay Rd bike lanes in Oak Bay and \$895,000 for the Wharf St protected bike lanes in downtown Victoria. **WSV**

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Culvert upgrade on Pacific Marine Circle Route

West Shore Voice News

INFRASTRUCTURE

● **Henson Culvert Replacement Project** construction begins the week of June 18 and extends to late September at km 31 (~22 km NE of Port Renfrew) on the Pacific Marine Route (Hwy 14).

The BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure is undertaking replacement of an aging wooden culvert with a new concrete box culvert. Guardrails will be added along road at the culvert site. The contractor is Associated Engineering (B.C.) Ltd.

The contractor will phase construction to maintain one-lane of traffic through the site, in a single lane alternating traffic configuration. Brief closures may be necessary to accommodate unique construction needs. **WSV**



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Education in the West Shore



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www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

WEST SHORE: More houses, more families, more kids, more schools

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Ravi Parmar

The Resource Committee of SD62 has met twice this spring, to review facilities expansion and strategic planning. Front table: SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge and SD62 Trustee Denise Riley (Resource Committee Chair).

● **Growth of the student population** in the west shore's Sooke School District 62 (SD62) has been rapid and expansive due to a steady increase in the number of families with children moving to the area. The relative affordability of housing in the west shore (particularly Langford, Sooke, and Colwood) has been attracting families in greater number to this region.

Issues surrounding this external pressure -- that have required more teachers, more schools (and in the interim more portables), and even more school buses -- have been regular fare for discussion and debate at SD62 board meetings since at least 2013. SD62 now keeps on top of expansion projections with attentive facilities planning. In recent months, the nuts and bolts of that has also been discussed at Resource Committee meetings chaired by Trustee Denise Riley.

At the June 12 Resource Committee meeting, trustees, staff, teacher reps and others heard more details about the Long Range Facilities Plan 2018 Update as prepared by Matrix Planning Associates. A lengthy presentation and discussion was led by Matrix consultant Bill Wood at the May 22 board meeting.

The capacity of SD62 schools has already been exceeded at about 108%. That's with a 2017 registration tally of 10,308 students in an operational capacity space of 9,524 (hence the portables in place at various schools, as reported in *West Shore Voice News* in recent weeks). With the goal of operating at 95% to 100% capacity, the facilities plan sees a need for about 3,500 new student spaces. Among other adjustments, that will require seven new schools on new sites, explained SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge at the June 12 committee meeting.

The top priority is to build a new middle school and the new West Langford Elementary on the land purchased by SD62 in Westhills before Christmas 2017.

Senior staff are also out weekly looking for a site to acquire for a new South Langford elementary school. Land was recently acquired for a new elementary school in North Langford (Skirt Mountain area), so construction there is also a priority. The new Sooke River Elementary school on a long-held site at Sunriver Estates is also on the priority list, as well as replacing Millstream Elementary with a new and larger school.

A new secondary school site is also required in the west shore (on 12 to 14 acres), with a school capacity of at least 800 seats; Belmont holds 1,200+ and Royal Bay will eventually be at 1,400 seats (their 600-seat expansion is set for 2020 completion). Expansion plans are in the works for Edward Milne Community School in Sooke. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

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News insights for & about the west shore.

Summer classes in the west shore: upgrading, adult grad

West Shore Voice News



● You might be needing to upgrade a course standing for getting into university or college this fall. Or there's a particular course you need for shifting gears in your studies toward graduation next year.

Or you're a working adult with some course upgrading toward that Grade 12 diploma you missed. Courses for Grades 8 to 12 are available.

Whatever the situation, there are summer courses offered through SD62's Westshore Centre for Learning & Training. For this fast-track summer learning, the classes run July 8 to August 9. Registration by June 29 is required.

Check it out at www.westshorecentre.com or call their office in Langford at 250-391-9002. They're open Monday to Friday at 101-814 Goldstream Ave. Or email westshore@sd62.bc.ca

And oh yeah, there are lots of other online courses for skills upgrading in many areas. Those courses begin each month, and are available online 24/7.

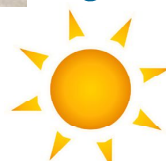
WSV



www.westshorecentre.com



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SATURDAY, JULY 14

SOCIAL DISTORTION
THE SHEEPDOGS
CORB LUND • JESSE ROPER
CHUCK RAGAN • AARON LEE TASHAN
JARE JACKSON • THE VELVETINS
DIRTY MOUNTAIN
LO WRIGHT & THE RATTLESHAKES

SUNDAY, JULY 15

BRIAN WILSON
BAHAMAS
ALLEN STONE • FRAZEY FORD
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2018

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

WHAT'S GOING ON

Community Health Services Planning Open House, Sat June 16, 1 to 4 pm. Sooke Baptist Church, 7110 West Coast Rd. Public meeting about access to health care in the region. www.sooke.ca/health

Compost Education Centre AGM (11 am to 12 noon) & Garden Party (12 to 3 pm). Sat June 16, 1216 N Park St, Fernwood. All welcome. www.compost.bc.ca

Belmont Residences. Public Sales Event / show home open. Sat June 16, 1 to 4 pm. 915 Division Ave, Langford. www.belmontresidences.com

Father's Day. Sun June 17.

Garden Days. Sun June 17 at Royal Roads University, 2005 Sooke Rd. Complimentary access to Hatley Park gardens all day. www.hatleypark.ca

City of Langford Regular Council. Mon June 18, 5:30 pm. www.sooke.ca

City of Colwood Public Hearing about their Official Community Plan. Mon June 18, Colwood Pentecostal Church, 2250 Sooke Rd. 7pm. www.colwood.ca

Sooke Night Market. Thurs June 21. Thurs nights 5 to 8 pm til Sept. Sooke Region Museum grounds. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Picnic in the Park & Dirt Jam. Sat June 23, 11am-1:30pm. Summer Camp Leaders and Sooke Bike Club offer games, bike park races. Live music by Gord Phillips Band. www.seaparc.ca

Scleroderma Walk/Run. Sun June 24, 9:30 am start. West Shore Parks & Rec lower field, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. www.sclerodermawalkrun.ca

Sooke Potholes Guided Hike. Sun June 24, Age 18+. 10am-12pm. Cultural & natural history of Sooke Potholes with CRD Regional Parks naturalist. No fee. Ppre-register by June 21. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Westshore Centre for Learning & Training Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony. Royal Colwood Golf Club. Tues June 26, 4 pm.

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BC Small Business Task Force. Phase 1 public input online (June 1) to June 29. <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/small-business-task-force/>

Happy Canada Day! Sun July 1, **SOOKE:** Sooke Flats, 11 am (12 noon official ceremony) to 10 pm fireworks. www.canadaysooke.com | **WEST SHORE:** Fort Rodd Hill, 10 am to 4 pm. www.colwood.ca

Blood donor clinic. Mon July 2, Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 12:30 to 6:30 pm.

Municipal Property Tax Deadline. Tues July 3, **Sooke Lioness Garage Sale.** Sat July 7 by the Sooke District Lioness, 1646 Winnifred Pl, Sooke. 9 am to 1pm. All proceeds to Lioness projects.

4th annual Eats and Beats. Sat July 7, 1 to 8 pm along the lagoon at Ocean Blvd. www.colwood.ca

Farmer's Markets
Sooke | Shirley
Langford | Metchosin
See Sustainability page at
www.westshorevoicenews.com

SEAPARC pool closed for maintenance
June 11 to July 2.
www.seaparc.ca

West Shore Voice News

Friday, June 15, 2018 :: WEST SHORE VOICE

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

Ayre Manor 10th Anniversary Afternoon Tea. Sun July 8, 2 to 4 pm. www.ayremanor.ca

Blood donor clinic. Mon July 9, 9 am to 3:45 pm. CFB Esquimalt, 1575 Lyall St. www.blood.ca

StoryWalk. Nature walk & outdoor storytelling. Wed July 11, 6 to 7:30 pm. Every Wednesday to Aug 22. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Rock the Shores. Outdoor weekend rock concert. Juan de Fuca Rec Centre lower fields, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. Fri Jul 13, Sat Jul 14, Sun Jul 15. Single-day tickets & weekend passes. www.rocktheshores.com

Blood donor clinic. Mon July 16, 9 am to 3:45 pm. Vancouver Island Technology Park, #2201 - 4464 Markham St. www.blood.ca

32nd Sooke Fine Arts Show. Purchaser's Preview July 26. Full show: July 27 to Aug 6 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. www.sookefinearts.com

Blood donor clinic. Mon July 30, Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 12:30 to 6:30 pm.

Blood donor clinic. Mon Aug 13, 12 to 6:45 pm. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave., Colwood. www.blood.ca

RCMP Musical Ride. Sat Aug 18 & Sun Aug 19. Hosted by Sooke Lions. Info on Facebook: [SookeMusicalRide](https://www.facebook.com/SookeMusicalRide)



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WEST SHORE VOICE

Warm westshore weather this coming week

West Shore Voice News

● A tempting hot week in mid-May still left the west shore waiting for the steady warm temperatures of summer. Looks like a straight week of sunny skies and warm temperatures with minimal rain lies ahead. For Langford a seven-day run starts on Father's Day Sunday June 17 with a high of 24°C. Here's what The Weather Network has in their forecast for the coming week for Langford (temperature ranges are comparable for Colwood and Sooke this coming week, though a bit cooler in Metchosin and Shirley):

LANGFORD FORECAST

	Sun 06/17	Mon 06/18	Tue 06/19	Wed 06/20	Thu 06/21	Fri 06/22	Sat 06/23
	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of a shower	Sunny
	24° 15°	25° 16°	24° 16°	23° 16°	23° 14°	21° 13°	21° 14°
Feels Like	25	28	27	27	27	24	24
POP	10 %	0 %	0 %	10 %	10 %	30 %	10 %

Links to West shore areas and Victoria can be found on the WEATHER page at www.westshorevoicenews.com



Congratulations to all the SD62 Graduates of 2018!

~ West Shore Voice News ~
News of the west shore region

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A bus stop moment

West Shore Voice News
June 2018

West Shore & Sooke traffic updates:

www.westshorevoicenews.com



Roughin' it at the roadside: waiting for the BC Transit bus to Langford, Sooke and beyond, in the McKenzie construction zone on Highway 1.

Randall Garrison pushes for clean, renewable energy

West Shore Voice News

● This week Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) brought forward a motion promoting government investments in clean, renewable energy and severely criticizing the federal government for continuing to subsidize the fossil fuel industry.

"The Liberals committed to ending fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, but rather than taking action towards this goal, they recently decided to buy Kinder Morgan's pipeline project at a total estimated cost to taxpayers of \$15 billion dollars," says Garrison.

On May 29 the federal government announced purchase of the existing pipeline at \$4.5 billion from Kinder Morgan, plus an expected \$7.4 billion to complete the twinning-expansion that is underway. Overall this was to indicate investment-community stability and open up new economic opportunity through the sale of diluted bitumen to markets beyond the USA.

In speaking to the motion June 12, Randall Garrison pointed out that the renewable energy sector, including geothermal, solar, wind and green building, is already a major source of employment in BC.

"While the Liberals are wasting tax dollars on fossil fuel subsidies, the renewable energy sector is not only already providing good quality long-term jobs but tangible solutions to climate change," says Garrison.

Last month, the Auditor General found that the federal government had yet to implement any plan to meet their goal of ending fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, says Garrison. Subsidies that increase greenhouse gas emissions and pollution put Canadians' health at risk as well as Canada's environment, coastlines, waterways, and wildlife, and jobs in marine and tourism, he said. **WSV**

BC Ferries cancels fuel subsidies

● On June 12, BC Ferries announced cancellation of fuel rebates for passenger fares and vehicle loading. Fuel rebates of 2.9% for the major and minor routes and 1.9% for the northern routes have been in place since spring 2016). The changes is effective June 27. On the main Vancouver-Victoria route that's about 50 cents more for an adult fare and \$1.70 more per vehicle. Keeping up with the cost of fuel was given as the reason, along with a token nod to recognizing travel affordability issues. **WSV**



Randall Garrison, MP
Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke