

The most basic of election issues: housing

● **A roof over your head.** Do you take that for granted? House all paid for? Or you're part-way into paying down your mortgage to a healthy level? Or, maybe you're among the many who are barely making ends meet and living paycheque to paycheque or contract to contract. Or on a fixed modest income from government (seniors, or disability), or you live off savings at meagre investment interest rates.

Editorial WSV



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

Or skip to another page... maybe you are renting under conditions of increasing rental rate – up 4.0% in 2018 and up 4.5% in 2019 (surpassed only by a 4.6% increase back in in 2004 when the economy was considered robust). Or on the last page in the saga... you're homeless and you live in your vehicle or a tent. Or on the street.

This is the shocking spectrum of housing in BC and indeed across Canada. In the last 30 years the economy galloped ahead for those who found a fast track. For the rest there have been stagnant economic conditions; even for those now employed or building a business there is a 10-year hit dragging at their heels from the Great Recession recovery phase in which everything changed.

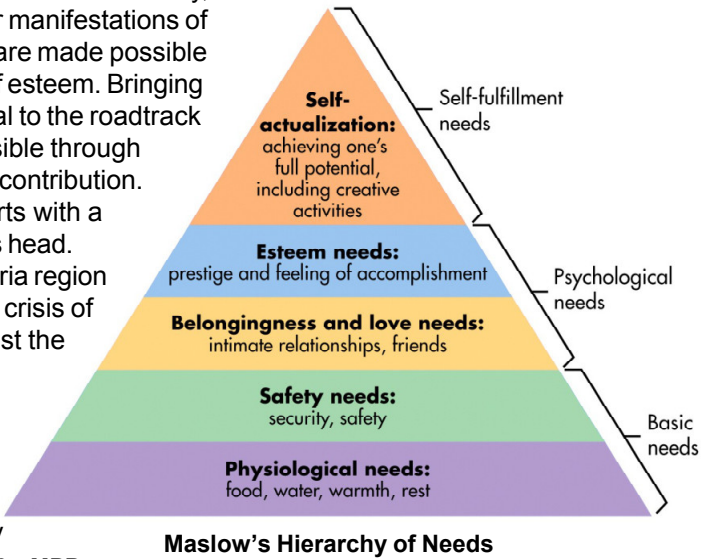
Until the past few years, in Greater Victoria for 30 years there was barely any apartment building construction. What forces in the development and financial community were complicit in that? Where was lack of will for municipal zoning change to support more housing development? Leadership in Langford under Stew Young saw the need for more housing coming and has been pro-actively building affordable housing for several years, something which now seems to be catching on around the province. A big fan of the Langford model is Victoria mayoralty candidate Mike Geoghegan who sees how the fast-tracking of zoning and building permits not only gets projects happening faster but ultimately somewhat contains the cost of housing because for developers it reduces the pre-build financing carrying costs. And he's on board with reminding people that getting people off the street and out of tents and into homes they can afford is clearly good for society's balance sheet. People with accommodation challenges produce a burden to the health care system, community maintenance, and social safety net programs.

Marching up fast into the necessary options for urban communities everywhere is the idea of much smaller housing. Micro housing, cluster housing, high-density condos and smaller townhomes... these are simply necessary now. It may not be everyone's choice, but the cost of purchasing, owning and maintaining the traditional Canadian single-family home is a dream lost now for many, indeed for most people in the current young generations (Z-gen now approximately age 18-to-23 and Millennials age 24-31). Studies show the under-30 set would rather spend money on technology, education, travel and lifestyle choices rather than owning and managing residential property. Maybe it's about settling for something in which they have no choice, but nevertheless it's the reality.

The NIMBY (not in my back yard) idea of resisting creative and higher density housing is simply getting tiresome. We all end up paying for the troubles of a challenged society. Drug addiction, gun violence, mental anxiety issues and lifestyle challenges that are associated with financial stress, poverty and social dislocation certainly weigh heavily on individuals, families, employees and employers, business productivity, and on each of our tax bills as governments try in various ways to keep us all afloat.

Back to your basic psycho-social studies, let's take a quick glimpse at Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Without basic security at the base of the pyramid, it is logically and demonstrably impossible (or certainly messy) to achieve a sense of safety upon which a sense of belonging can be built. Once there is a feeling of inclusion among friends and community, then comes the higher manifestations of accomplishment that are made possible through enhanced self esteem. Bringing a person's full potential to the roadtrack of society is then possible through creativity and selfless contribution.

And all that starts with a reliable roof over one's head. That the Greater Victoria region is now experiencing a crisis of basic housing – not just the homeless in tents but many people facing escalating mortgages and rents, it is difficult to see how this gets wholesomely rectified any time soon. **MPB**



Municipal Election Watch 2018

WSV ELECTION WATCH: https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11011

● Many of the west shore municipal mayors and councillors will be at the 115th **UBCM** convention in Whistler for September 10 to 14. There's now a 3-way race for mayor in Sooke: **Maja Tait** (incumbent) and UBCM 2nd Vice-President; **Kevin Pearson** (councillor); and **Mick Rhodes**; and a strong slate of eight candidates so far for Sooke council: **Rick Armour, Jeff Bateman, Al Beddows, Herb Haldane, Rick Kasper, Ebony Logins, Phil Rossner, Tony St-Pierre** (that's nine if incumbent **Brenda Parkinson** also runs).

Stepping up for a council seat in Langford is long-time planning/housing committee member **Norma Stewart**. After 25 years on Langford council, **Winnie Sifert** is not running again.

In Colwood, there are now six new candidates for council: **Michael Baxter, Dean Jantzen, Scott McDonald, Eve Millington, Stewart Parkinson, and Aaron Weisgerber**. That generates a healthy race against Colwood incumbents **Cynthia Day, Gordie Logan, and Jason**



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Election Season: housing

Michael Geoghegan running for mayor of Victoria

West Shore Voice News

by Mary P Brooke

● **Well, this is coming right out and saying it....** regarding the number of people heard to be running for Mayor in the City of Victoria: "Certainly a lot of people are very unhappy with the current mayor and some of the decisions she has made," says Michael Geoghegan who is running for Mayor of Victoria.



Supplied

Michael Geoghegan is running for mayor in the City of Victoria.

Geoghegan's lead issue is housing. "The obvious solution is we need to build low income housing, throughout the region," he told *West Shore Voice News* this week. He suggests cutting the red tape – as Langford has done – to more quickly advance affordable housing development. "It should not take years to get projects approved." He says the BC Energy Step Code adds significantly to the cost of every unit built in Victoria and Saanich, which gets passed on to the buyer. Shovel-ready projects are key, so that construction can begin promptly once funding is achieved.

"Tent city is a crisis." He says even just a few years ago a person could rent an entire floor of a house for now what's required to rent a 1-bedroom suite in an older building. "We need to go after the federal and provincial government for low-income housing dollars," he says, adding that municipalities take an unfair share of the burden when people are homeless or struggling with housing. Studies have shown – when it comes to health care and social services system – it's far more expensive to have people homeless than to provide them with basic housing. "And if we build enough rental, rents stop skyrocketing."

Geoghegan, 52, believes in healthy communities, and would like to see anyone under age 18 get a free annual rec pass. "Healthier more active kids get into less trouble and become healthier adults. We save save on health care costs down the road as a society."

The bike lanes have been a "\$15 million disaster", resulting in reduced flow of traffic in the downtown core, increasing congestion, and people have been injured. "Bike lanes should have been one lane going down secondary roads not two-way lanes down major arterial roads."

He wants to see Victoria become a notable tech centre, similar to what's seen in other

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The Sooke Voice News

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major cities, as a way to boost the economy and provide jobs.

Geoghegan served for seven years on the City of Langford planning and zoning committee. He also worked at the BC legislature as a provincial ministerial assistant during the 1991-1996 government of NDP premier Mike Harcourt, and now for over 20 years has been a government relations consultant (lobbyist).

A few weeks ago he took a hiatus from his 'Monday Morning Mike' radio show on C-FAX. **WSV**

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ROB MARTIN for Colwood Mayor



Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

Rain or shine! Colwood Councillor Rob Martin is out on the campaign trail to become the next mayor of Colwood.

Watson have filed nomination papers; said to be running again are incumbents **Bob Phillips** and **Neil Poirier**. **WSV**

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Making room to learn in the west shore West Shore Voice News



Belmont Secondary School in Langford opened in September 2015 and is already beyond capacity (adding two new portables this fall), due to rapid population growth in the west shore.

● **Langford's housing supply** is booming, with population growth also seen in Sooke, and more families moving to Colwood.

Enough room for all the students? "We can always accommodate students, it just may not be in their catchment neighbourhood school," says Lindsay Vogan, SD62 Public Relations & Community Engagement.

Planned well in advance, based on student population projections led by Associate Superintendent Paul Block and coordinated with Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull and then board approval, there are the right number of portable classrooms to deal with overflow. As of September 4, there are 54 portables in the SD62 school district. That includes two new ones this fall at Belmont Secondary in Langford, and new ones – one each – at David Cameron Elementary and Wishart Elementary (Colwood), and Journey Middle (Sooke).

"We're growing at the rate of 350 to 400 students or one elementary school per year, and predict that will continue for the foreseeable future," says Scott Stinson, SD62 Superintendent. "We're always in communication with the Ministry to make sure that we continue to have great spaces today and into the future". **WSV**



Two new portables behind the main building at Belmont Secondary School.

Scott Stinson slides right into leadership at SD62

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Scott Stinson, Superintendent, SD62

● "It feels good to be back in SD62," says new SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson. He slid into the top administrative job August 1, but he's been around the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) in years past.

"I've worked with people previously, and there are some people who are new," said Stinson ahead of the first day back to the 2018-2019 academic year. "There have been a lot of changes in the past six years, but I know where all the schools are (which speeds up his reintegration)," he said. Several of his administrative team he's already worked with before. In August he met with municipal and First Nations leadership. For back-to-school he was ready to roll.

With a plan to walkabout at several schools on the first day back, September 4, his goal was to meet with administrative teams and get a feel for things around the district. And his first-week to-list included attending the start-up meeting at Royal Bay Secondary and the bus drivers start-up meeting. There was also a leadership team start-up meeting with principals and vice-principals (PVPs), managers and directors. He's already worked with about 85% of the PVPs.

Stinson's leadership style is about building working relationships with people, with that as the foundation for action and success by building trust, respect and strength of relationship. And further: "Motivation is intrinsic," says Stinson. "Set the circumstances for people to be motivated" and things happen from there.

Stinson is keen to work with SD62's freshly minted 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, with its main goals of Learning (adaptable learners who are creative, critical and social thinkers who can be global citizens), Engagement (purposeful, experiential learning through collaboration and communication), and Growth (facilities expansion with attention to safe and respectful learning environments).

In this day and age of socio-cultural challenges not just on the island but in comparing Canadian and American influences, Stinson says schools should reflect diversity. "People should be who they are, as opposed to being assimilated into the dominant culture." **WSV**

Anti-SOGI springs up in the west shore

West Shore Voice News

● A group of "concerned parents and grandparents" who have not identified themselves have been distributing printed materials in the west shore regarding their concerns about SOGI 123 (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) in schools, saying students are being "encouraged to accept the non-scientific idea that 'gender is fluid'" and say that SOGI 123 is "designed to cause children to question their own sexual identity and undermine traditional family values".

Sooke School District 62 (SD62) which delivers public education in the west shore region (Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Highlands, Metchosin, Juan de Fuca, and parts of View Royal) has been pleased with its anti-bullying efforts over the past few years and has put a lot of work and resources into integrating SOGI awareness into the educational environment.

Developed by the ARC Foundation, the BC Ministry of Education, UBC Faculty of Education and the BC Teachers' Federation, SOGI materials include lesson plans on family diversity, sexual orientation and gender identity. ARC says SOGI-inclusive education is "fundamentally about learning to treat each other with dignity and respect regardless of our differences as a form of inclusion."

"SD62 has been open and transparent in our SOGI planning and approaches," says SD62 Vice-Chair Bob Phillips. "We work closely with the Ministry, BCSTA, SPEAC, SD61 and SD63." Phillips says BC schools have been instructed to integrate Charter protections into each school's Code of Conduct. Basically SOGI falls within this much broader context of making our schools and classrooms more inclusive and supportive for all students. This is consistent with the BC Ministry of Education and BCSTA materials and outcomes expectations as well as both the BC and federal Charters of Rights and Freedoms. "SOGI actions in SD62 have had full support of the SD62 SPEAC parent council and all the other educational partners," Phillips said this week.

A long-time parent advocate in the west shore, SD62 trustee candidate Cendra Beaton says the trustee's role is to represent all students within the district. "Creating and promoting an inclusive and safe environment, and a sense of belonging for all is important to generate a positive learning experience," said Beaton.

Earlier this year, there have been some high-profile protests against SOGI in schools, including one in Richmond in June and at the BC Legislature in April. Victoria teacher Kelli Kraft was quoted in April: "SOGI allows us to talk about how gender impacts our privileges in life."

The SOGI website at <https://bc.sogieducation.org/sogi3/> supports the view of many educators that academic achievement improves when classrooms feel safe. There's a 5-minute video, and description of elementary and secondary lesson plans which clearly indicate that SOGI is not one class but consists of content that is available to pretty much all areas of curriculum at all grade levels. **WSV**

New Grade 10 curriculum

● **New Grade 10 curriculum** starting Sept 2018 "offers opportunities for teachers to engage their students in new and innovative ways of learning and to foster creativity," says BC Minister of Education Rob Fleming. Goals include better preparation for college, university and employment. New K-9 curriculum was introduced in Sept 2016.

SD62 says one of the largest changes for Grade 10 is English. There are now five courses that allow for personalized learning: New Media, Composition, Creative Writing, Literary Studies, and Spoken Language. Career-life education in Grade 10 will foster exploration about careers, passions and interests.

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Flexible learning spaces in SD62 schools are intended to support unique learning experiences. **WSV**

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Controversy erupts over Five Eyes statement on encryption [condensed]

by Howard Solomon, as published in *IT World Canada* September 7, 2018

TECHNOLOGY
PRIVACY &
SECURITY

● **Are Canada, the US** and other members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance preparing to sacrifice online privacy to increase security? Are the five countries about to increase pressure on telecom and software companies to install ways of defeating encryption?

Yes, if you believe privacy advocates after seeing a communique issued last week by security and public safety ministers following their annual meeting in Australia. They are alarmed the statement says the five countries – including the UK, Australia and New Zealand – “agreed to the urgent need for law enforcement to gain targeted access to data, subject to strict safeguards, legal limitations, and respective domestic consultations.”

No, if you believe a spokesperson for Canadian Public Safety Ralph Goodale. In an email Scott Bardsley, the minister’s senior communications advisor, noted the statement also says the Five “have no interest or intention to weaken encryption mechanisms,” and that any action on the ministers’ statement “will adhere to requirements for proper authorization and oversight, and to the traditional requirements that access to information is underpinned by warrant or other legal process.”

The communique covers a range of safety-related issues including maintaining an open, safe and secure internet, countering the threat of terrorism, cyber security and critical infrastructure resilience and countering foreign interference in internal affairs, and does include a separate Statement of Principles on Access to Evidence and Encryption.

It says that because “the increasing use and sophistication of certain encryption designs present challenges for nations in combatting serious crimes and threats to national and global security,” the ministers “encourage information and communications technology service providers to voluntarily establish lawful access solutions to their products and services that they create or operate in our countries. Governments should not favor a particular technology; instead, providers may create customized solutions, tailored to their individual system architectures that are capable of meeting lawful access requirements. Such solutions can be a constructive approach to current challenges.

“Should governments continue to encounter impediments to lawful access to information necessary to aid the protection of the citizens of our countries, we may pursue technological, enforcement, legislative or other measures to achieve lawful access solutions.”

‘Backdoors wanted’: Statements like that worry Imran Ahmad, privacy law specialist and a member of the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance’s cyber security advisory board. “This is effectively a different way of saying that governments want companies [to build] backdoors into certain software solutions and applications,” he said in an email.

Canadian privacy expert Ann Cavoukian tweeted that the “Five Eyes’ pursuit of a crypto backdoor must be stopped dead in its tracks. The cost to our privacy, security and freedom would be devastating.”

In a Thursday (September 6) blog, US encryption expert Bruce Schneier called the statement of principles “reckless and shortsighted ... Demanding that technology companies add backdoors to computers and communications systems puts us all at risk.”

The debate over putting backdoors into encrypted systems goes back years, but erupted furiously in 2016 when the FBI wanted Apple to create a special version of its iOS operating system so it could unlock an iPhone belonging one of two shooters who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, Calif. Ultimately the FBI were able to get into the phone, but law enforcement agencies around the world have been saying loudly ever since that police need better tools to break into encrypted communications of suspects. Encryption experts warn that any kind of backdoor solution – even one designed to only allow decryption keys to be in the hands of police or intelligence agencies with a warrant – can be defeated by the bad guys. There’s no such thing as a secure backdoor.

Earlier this year the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine proposed a framework to evaluate proposals giving authorized government agencies with access to unencrypted versions of encrypted data. It suggests policymakers answer eight questions about any solution, including to what extent will the proposed approach affect the privacy, civil liberties, and human rights of targeted individuals and groups, as well as affect commerce.

In 2013 the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab issued a report that concluded a backdoor is “not only bad for civil liberties, it is bad for security, and sets dangerous precedents for the legitimization of practices abroad we [as citizens] ostensibly oppose ... In the world of Big Data, in which so much personal information is readily abundant, new methods of “connecting the dots” must be explored other than those that drill holes into our communications infrastructure.”

Proposed legislation: Some Five Eyes countries are hotter about the issue than others. In June, Australia introduced legislation that would force tech companies to give access to customer encrypted data to its security agencies. Backdoors wouldn’t be mandated, but somehow providers would have to give access under a court order. In 2016 the U.K. government of the day talked about legislation giving the Home Secretary the power to force telcos to remove or disable end-to-end encryption. Also in 2016 two U.S. senators co-sponsored a bill obliging tech companies to comply with court orders to help solve crimes. Meanwhile this year some Congressmen introduced legislation prohibiting law enforcement and surveillance agencies from forcing companies to create encryption backdoors.

In his email Bardsley noted Parliament’s standing committee on national security and public safety is studying encryption issues. “It will also continue to examine options to ensure agencies have the resources necessary to gain access to decrypted data required to address criminal activity,” he added. Unsaid is how that access to decrypted data will be achieved.

Canada ‘doesn’t believe in legislative solution’: Bardsley pointed out a 2017 committee report called for “no changes to the lawful access regime

Privacy Minister Ralph Goodale: Canadians must take more personal responsibility for what they put online

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News **EXCLUSIVE**
As first published August 24, 2018

● **Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale** was quickly heading to the annual meeting of the Five Eyes security alliance in Australia, right after the cabinet retreat that wrapped up Thursday afternoon August 23 in Nanaimo. “They are a very reliable stable group of countries that have had an important security alliance since World War II: Australia, NZ, Canada, the US and UK.”

“We work very hard to ensure the security and safety of our own countries. But that obviously makes a major contribution to security around the world,” Goodale told *West Shore Voice News*. “As a middle-size country, Canada has a very constructive broker role to play in the middle to try to find consensus, to find practical solutions to very difficult safety and security issues. It’s an ongoing dialogue that takes place among these countries every day, but once a year the ministers get together to meet in person.”

Should Canadians be concerned about loss of privacy? It seems to be almost gone. Goodale: “It’s a product in many ways of technology. Canadians will have an intense debate about what information is known or not known about them by a government agency, but they’ll give all their personal information over the Internet to a commercial entity or to someone at the other end of a tweet that they don’t even know. So there’s a very large element of personal responsibility that comes into play here. People need to recognize in this day and age of information technology that’s changing and innovating quite literally many times a day, that the old assumptions about what’s private are being challenged. And when the government is involved we work very closely all the time with the privacy commissioner who is very proactive and very assertive (and that’s a good thing!) to make sure that the government is respecting the privacy of Canadians and that we’re following all the appropriate laws and codes.”

Is this something that cabinet deals with top of mind? Goodale: “Privacy is quite often a very important discussion. The privacy commissioner is there to be the ever-present watchdog but Cabinet ministers are very alert to this too.”

Back in April 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said threats of cyber attacks will continue to grow as the world becomes more digitized. He had met on the sidelines with the prime ministers of Australia, New Zealand and the UK during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, to solidify their position on Russia’s persistent cyber warfare attacks on businesses and government institutes. The August 2018 meeting will serve to significantly advance transnational security collaboration across a broad range of functional problems and mission areas, said Australia’s Home Affairs secretary back in June. **WSV**



Privacy Minister Ralph Goodale at the cabinet retreat in Nanaimo, August 23.

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

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for subscriber information and encrypted information be made.” In response to that report Public Safety Minister Goodale said that while encryption poses challenges to law enforcement and intelligence agencies the government doesn’t believe in a legislative solution. It is looking at other solutions.

Each country “will consider how best to implement” the statement of principles on encryption, “including with the voluntary co-operation of industry partners.” Any solution “will adhere to requirements for proper authorization and oversight, and to the traditional requirements that access to information is underpinned by warrant or other legal process.”

A separate Five Eyes ministers’ separate document promisw to work together to counter the illicit use of online spaces by child predators, terrorists, violent extremists and others. “We note with disappointment that senior digital industry leaders did not accept our invitation to engage on critical issues regarding the illicit use of online spaces” during last week’s meeting. The ministers called on the ICT industry to develop and implement capabilities to prevent illegal and illicit content from ever being uploaded, and to execute urgent and immediate takedown where there is a failure to prevent upload; a promise to work together to protect critical infrastructure and support the development of secure critical infrastructure supply chains; and a promise to share information on foreign interference and attribution. **WSV**

Sea and mountain views draw new residents to Sooke harbourfront

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

SOOKE



Residences on Sooke Harbour

View of the Sooke Basin from the height of one of the future units.

● **“When nature is displayed this beautifully, you’ll want to have a front row seat.”** That’s the claim on the The Residences on Sooke Harbour website. And it can’t be said much better than that.

Views of sparkling blue ocean and gorgeous sunsets, punctuated with fishing vessels, seagulls and the sounds of the sea... this is what awaits the 27 future owners of condo units for sale at the 1820 Maple Avenue South development. That’s at the foot of Maple Avenue, with all its history of commercial fishing and tales of the sea. The government wharf is in full view, not too active.

“People want to be out here,” says developer Jesse Fitzpatrick. He hikes and fishes in the area, and really loves what the Sooke region has to offer.

Originally from Alberta, and now living in Victoria, Jesse and his brother John are helping out their father Dan who is a Victoria-based businessman and developer. Through Paul Vandermade, a Realtor with MacDonald Realty Ltd, they learned of the 19,000 sq ft land purchase opportunity at the foot of Maple Avenue South, and loved it.

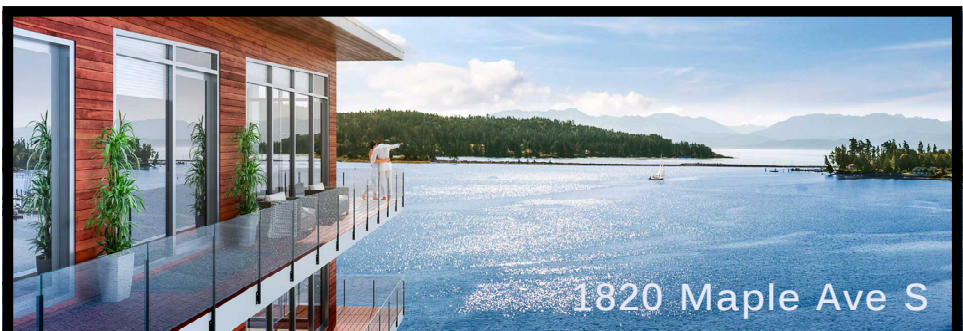
Future living in bright condo spaces is an opportunity for early retirement or downsizing, with the luxuries of urban living but nestled in the rustic ambience of Sooke. Sooke’s natural amenities allow for enjoyment of the west coast lifestyle while still being part of a growing semi-urban community.

“The architect knocked it out of the park,” says Jesse. “Carolyn Wilson Architects has created a beautiful building.” Some of the 1-bedroom units are as large as a typical 2-bedroom, recognizing that people are downsizing but still want livability.

“The developers have been pleased with the response to the development with buyers coming from Alberta and Ontario, and local residents looking to downsize from their current home but stay in the area,” says Jesse. With empty-nesters in mind, the developers aim to give potential buyers a variety of large, luxurious condominium homes. Offered is a choice of 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom or 3-bedroom homes ranging from 739 to 1,275 sqft all with outdoor living space.

The Harbourside Collection, comprised of the nine condo units situated directly facing the harbour, offers 180-degree views stretching from the Sooke Basin over to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The remaining 18 units in the building make up The Residence Collection, also with views of the ocean and surrounding area. The two collections differ in available finishing and appliance packages, with upgrades available to potential buyers.

Buying-ahead for retirement is part of the appeal. Many of the purchasers are not yet retired, but plan to retire to Sooke. In the meantime, they will rent out



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the units or use them as get-away vacation properties. “You’re in the wild but you have your comforts,” says Vandermade.

Construction is set to start in the coming months, says Vandermade, who is actively pre-selling the development and taking appointments with any interested parties.

The District of Sooke was impressed with the developer’s presentation at council earlier this year, says Vandermade. There will be a new public sidewalk out front as part of the developer’s contribution, and also the hydro poles and lines will be put underground which is a costly improvement but will improve the views. “The District of Sooke also expressed interest in extending the oceanside boardwalk to the front of the new development, a plan that the developers fully support,” says Jesse.

When people come to meet Paul at the site at the foot of Maple Avenue South, appointments are held in a pop-up area within the neighbouring Wild

Signs of a future home.



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Mountain restaurant operated by Oliver and Brooke. Lots of parking. **WSV**



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**Hon. John Horgan, Premier
MLA, LANGFORD–JUAN DE FUCA**



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Your Voice In the Legislature



Sooke local stuff
by West Shore
Voice News on
FACEBOOK at
[SookeVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/SookeVoiceNews)



Call Judy or Liz
250-642-2268

New to Sooke? New
mom? Bride to be?

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OPEN MON-Sat (open late on Thurs)

www.langfordoptometrists.com

**#105-814 Goldstream Ave
in Langford**

Phone: 250-474-4567

*denotes optometric corporation

WHAT'S GOING ON

Metchosin Day. Sun Sept 9. 8 am to 6:30 pm. Metchosin municipal grounds. www.metchosinday.ca

2018 UBCM Convention. Sept 10-14. Whistler. www.ubcm.ca

Sandy Shore Explore at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin. **Tues Sept 11.** 10-11:30 am. Guided walk, all ages. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Sooke Arts Council AGM and Potluck Reunion. **Tues Sept 11.** 7 pm. Meet longtime members and new! 1911 Murray Rd. 250-642-2236. www.sookecommunityarts.com

Sooke Harbour Toastmasters Open House & BBQ **Wed Sept 12.** 6:30 pm, 6669 Goodmere Rd. Info: 250-884-9955 or on Facebook.

Municipal Elections in BC. Close of nominations on **Fri Sept 14.** www.elections.bc.ca

Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays on Colwood waterfront, Ocean Blvd at Lagoon Rd. **Fri Sept 14 & Sat Sept 15.** 11 am to 7 pm. www.colwood.ca

Luxton Fall Fair. **Sept 14 to 16.** www.luxtonfair.ca

Colwood Seaside Festival. **Sat Sept 15.** Fort Rodd Hill. 10am to 4pm. www.colwood.ca

'Mad Scientist' activity for ages 5-12 at Sooke Library. **Sat Sept 15.** 2 to 2:45 pm.

Terry Fox Run. **Sun Sept 16.** JdF Picnic Shelter. www.terryfox.org

District of Sooke Special Council Meeting. **Mon Sept 17.** 7pm. www.sooke.ca



Back pack basics

Your child's backpack shouldn't be too heavy to carry. No more than 10-15% of body weight.



@jdfemerg

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Pro-D Skate/Swim at SEAPARC in Sooke. **Mon Sept 17.** Skate/Swim. \$2 admission. www.seaparc.ca

Pro-D Skate/Swim at Westshore Rec in Colwood. **Mon Sept 17.** Swim/Skate. Regular admission. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Open Burning. Emergency preparedness session **Tues Sept 18** at Metchosin Fire Hall. 7pm. www.metchosinfire.ca

Fun Swim with Tsunami the Inflatable Dragon. **Fri Sept 21.** 6:30 to 8:15 pm. www.seaparc.ca

Blood Donor Clinic. **Mon Sept 24.** Sooke Legion. 12:30-6:30 pm. www.blood.ca

SD62 Public Board Meeting. **Tues Sept 25.** 7 pm at the board office. www.sd62.bc.ca

Island Health public board meeting. **Thurs Sept 27.** 1:30 pm at Duncan Meadows at 6507 North Road, Duncan. *Written questions must be submitted by Sept 13.* www.islandhealth.ca

BC Legislative Assembly resumes **Mon Oct 1.**

SD62 Education Policy Meeting. **Tues Oct 2.** 7 pm at the board office. www.sd62.bc.ca

Langford All Candidates Forum to hear City of Langford municipal election candidates. **Thurs Oct 4.** 6 to 8 pm, at Langford Legion. Hosted by the Westshore Chamber of Commerce.

39th Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon. **Sun Oct 7.** www.runvictoriamarathon.com

CRD Regional Parks Funding Priorities Survey. Available online to **Mon Oct 8.** www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-parks-funding-priorities

Great BC Shakeout: Drop, Cover and Hold On. **Thurs Oct 18.** www.shakeoutbc.ca

Municipal Elections in BC. General Voting Day. **Sat Oct 20.** Make sure ahead of time that your name is on the voters list. www.elections.bc.ca

Sooke Harbour Toastmasters Club

Invites you to our **Open House and BBQ** **Wednesday, Sept. 12** **6:30 to 8:30 pm** At Sooke Hospice House 6669 Goodmere Rd (off Murray Rd.) **Info about this or future meetings:** **Marlene Barry, VP of Membership,** **250-884-9955** or check us out on **FaceBook.**



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE www.toastmasters.org

Quiet chili cook-off

The 14th Annual Chili Cook-Off & West Shore Showcase on Saturday September 8 attracted a modest turnout for the 4.5 hour event held in the commons and out on the patio at Belmont Secondary in Langford.

Various members of the Westshore Chamber had info displays in the gym as well as community organizations and services including West Shore Rotary Club, Westshore Centre for Learning & Training, Westshore Arts Council, Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Centre Society, City of Langford, Mitzi Dean MLA, M'akola Housing Society, Indigenous Perspectives Society, and more.

Chili tastings were the central activity of the family-friendly day, with prizes awarded to various of the groups who worked hard to make tasty chili for all to enjoy, including Bucky's Taphouse, Elements Casino, and Sooke Family Resource Society. **WSV**

Colwood: beach erosion



Colwood Council : Sept 4 Committee of the Whole

WEATHER

Now there's rain

	Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thurs 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16
LANGFORD / similar for most of the West Shore							
HIGH	16	15	16	16	15	16	17
Night	12°	11°	11°	11°	11°	11°	12°
Feels Like	16	15	16	16	14	16	17
POP	40%	60%	40%	40%	60%	30%	10%

● **And suddenly it became autumn last week!** Highs a bit below seasonal for Sept 10 to 16, and rain all week. **WSV**

● **Looking at how much the shoreline will erode** at Esquimalt Lagoon and the need to relocate the Ocean Boulevard Pump Station, was the subject of two engineering presentations and discussion at City of Colwood Committee of the Whole on September 4. An expected shoreline retreat of 9 to 12 metres is expected by the year 2100 which will significantly impact the pump station, road infrastructure, and park area. A survey in 2018 found 'notable and widespread erosion' of the upper beach area by winter storms but no change in shoreline position at mean sea level. Council explored options for renourishing the sand on the beach, as well as timelines and costs for relocation of the pump station to avoid it being flooded in the event of tsunami or just overall sea level rise. **WSV**

TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE



Roadworks on Jacklin Road Sept 10 to 18.

Mon Sept 10 to Tues Sept 18. Roadwork on Jacklin Rd (along the Belmont Market construction zone / Rex Rd to Sunridge Valley Dr), 7 am to 5 pm including **night work Thurs Sept 13,** 7 pm to 7 am. Single lane alternating traffic as required. Division Ave through the Belmont Market construction site is open.

August into Sept 2018. Along Langford Pkwy near Westhills Stadium and arena. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy.

For other short-term traffic advisories visit www.langford.ca

Horgan at the Sooke Fall Fair: talk about housing



Premier John Horgan forefront at the Sooke Fall Fair, Sept 8. From left: Sooke historian Elida Peers, T'Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes, T'Sou-ke Elder Shirley Alphonse, and Sooke Fall Fair coordinator Ellen Lewers.

● **Again this year,** Premier John Horgan kicked off the two-day Sooke Fall Fair in style. He comes for the pies, the quilts, and reconnecting with his Sooke base.

A friendly, community event for the display of people's accomplishments with produce, handcrafts, plants and animals, the opening ceremony at noon each year is a way for VIPs to set the tone. Attending again this year on Sept 8 were Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) and District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait.

"This is the smallest crowd I've seen in recent years," Horgan told *West Shore Voice News*, also comparing that to dwindling action at the Luxton Fair in Langford (coming up Sept 14-16). "Passage of time and lack of agrarian presence," are two reasons he muses.

Further improvements to Highway 14 are needed, says Horgan. He talked about straightening the alignment and the curves in and around the frequent-accident areas, plus adding shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians. Last year, the Ministry of Transportation "was directed to do a consultation with the people in Sooke, but they started again with a different view... so they could actually accomplish something", said Horgan. "The price tag is being explained to the people of Sooke to explain how little or much we can do depending on dollars available. But there's much more work to do," he told media at the fair.

Regarding the freshly announced 4.5% rent increase for 2019. "I'm very sad about that. It was a BC Liberal policy, 2% plus inflation (that's been in place for some time). I don't believe the renting public can sustain that. I've asked my minister to take a look at changes. Everything else is going up as well," the Premier said. "We're trying to make life more affordable for people," said Horgan, "and now we're going to see what we can do about (the rent increase)".

For housing development, Horgan referred back to the 30-point plan that was released in February. He reminds: the hot-button speculation tax will be debated in the legislature this fall toward "finalizing who will be captured by that -- and trying to reduce the demand on housing (so it's not a speculator's market)." People can avoid by renting their accommodation for half a year and not sit on empty homes,

West Shore Voice News, Editor Mary P Brooke, with notes from Chelsea Kirkpatrick

apartments and condos.

Horgan reiterated how people with land are being encouraged to get into the market. The Housing Hub helps particularly non-profit land holders to hire the people to build the housing. The goal is to develop more accommodation that is appropriately sized for families – 2 and 3 bedroom units. "We are shaping what type of product that comes onto the market, to meet the needs of communities," said Horgan.

He is concerned about zero occupancy, homelessness, and affordability. His NDP government has created 2,000 mobile home units by creating the physical space, working with municipalities on the land, and adding services to support those with mental health and addiction issues. "Housing is the foundation of our poverty reduction plan which is coming out this fall," said Horgan.

"We will address the root causes of poverty – homelessness, mental health, and lack of adequate education." These are ways to give people an opportunity to get out of the quality of life they're stuck in. It's government's and community's responsibility to be there with ideas and solutions," the Premier said. He talked about addressing the stigma of poverty: "Give people hope and opportunity and they'll succeed. I want to make sure I'm doing everything I can to reduce barriers to success. Not just income assistance rates or bus passes – that's continuing the status quo. We need action from a place of compassion and hope," John Horgan said.

"Sooke is my favourite place in the world. I got elected here because people here think the same way I do," said Horgan at the fall fair. He has held the riding since 2005 and teased at his summer BBQ last month that he's gunning for 12 or more years leading his progressive government. **WSV**

SOOKE

COURTESY watermarked version