



West Shore Voice News
v3 Week #399 4 pages this issue
Weekend news digest (print & online)
published by Brookeline Publishing House Inc

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WEST SHORE VOICE

WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Vol.3 No.46
SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.8 No.35

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM
What makes this west side of Vancouver Island tick? News & views on business & economy, health & wellness, education, the arts, politics, sustainability, Z-gen, & social trends.

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Friday, September 14, 2018
Release date September 15, 2018

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BC mayors & councils support Langford's push for exemption from Speculation Tax

by Mary P Brooke

WEST SHORE VOICE

West Shore Voice News | Analysis

"You don't tax your way out of a crisis," says Langford Mayor Stew Young regarding the proposed BC Speculation Tax. "The damage is starting now – the brand of BC is being damaged."



Langford Mayor Stew Young addressed the proposed BC speculation tax at the 2018 UBCM convention this week in Whistler.

● **The room was full.** And when the final motion was voted on, September 12, BC mayors and councillors at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Whistler supported that the proposed BC speculation tax instead be structured to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties, with the funds to be invested in non-market housing.

It was a motion brought forward by the rapidly growing City of Langford that is interdependent with developers, investors, the housing industry, and the real estate sector.

"People are catching on about the spin the government is putting on the speculation tax," says Langford Mayor Stew Young.

Young says many other mayors agree it's a tax that targets people's investment in retirement homes and vacation properties, effectively penalizing retirement and vacation-home buyers from outside of BC.

"The speculation tax is already hurting investment in many parts of BC and housing sales are the lowest in 10 years," says Young. "Prices are dropping. People will soon see what that approach to taxation is doing to jobs and the economy," says Langford's mayor. He says the evident impact will be slow at first. "In a year it will start to hurt as investment slows." The mortgage 'stress test' on homebuyers has also served to cool the housing market in the past 12 months, consequently constraining would-be homeowners within the overloaded rental market.

"Every mayor and councillor I talked to feels the Finance Minister is not listening to the communities around BC," said Young, which has caused a backlash. And if 'shout-outs' are the currency of political sway, it's evident Langford's mayor is making his mark when it comes to leadership about expediting housing supply. BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson in his speech to UBCM delegates on Thursday, September 13 mentioned Stew Young's success with the housing development process, three times. Premier John Horgan (who lives in Langford and sees the local pace and density of housing development up close) told media after his UBCM speech on Friday that he hears from Stew Young a lot on the speculation tax and housing supply.

Premier Horgan also said that "much of the attention about the speculation tax is

on those who want out, but opting in and out of tax policy is not effective, for any sector". Horgan says that some municipalities told him this week that they do want the speculation tax to be applied in their jurisdictions. But a strong movement for opting out points to trouble.

Wilkinson says the Opposition is in favour of a true anti-speculation tax which would intervene during the pre-sale phase of real estate transactions.

Premier Horgan said in an interview with *West Shore Voice News* during the Sooke Fall Fair last weekend that the 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)."

He reminds: "People can avoid the tax by renting their accommodation for half a year and not sit on empty homes." But how is the use of someone's private property appropriately within the reach of government? The impropriety of that idea greatly contributes to the clash between higher-end property owners and the provincial government. A more genuine approach to producing more housing is to increase supply, which the government is in fact working on through its 30-point housing plan (over 10 years). But the perceived attack on the property development/ownership community through the speculation tax – the rollout of which Horgan admitted in a recent interview with *Global News* was "poorly executed" – is counterproductive to goodwill with the sector that finances and executes housing development.

The clumsy if not misguided speculation tax rollout has opened the door wide for opposition to the tax and toward the NDP government. And with housing sales now sagging, so too does that cash-cow source of revenue to the BC coffers. These are clear signals for a re-think. **WSV**

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HOUSING & ECONOMY

>> Spec Tax motion passed at UBCM:

Modify Speculation Tax: Local Government Vacancy Levy Endorsed as amended: "Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to replace the approach in the current proposed Speculation Tax with a provision to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties and to require local governments that choose to impose such a levy to invest the revenues in non-market housing." [Motion, was submitted by the City of Langford]

Premier Horgan at UBCM: Pro-Rep, wildfires, economy

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **Regarding Proportional Representation** which will soon be voted on in a BC-wide referendum October 22 to November 30, Premier John Horgan said he looks to the possibility of the BC electoral system "as a form of cooperation rather than conflict"

He was addressing delegates of the 115th Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Whistler on September 14. His speech was livecast.

"The adversarial relationships of opposition in government have been long established and they are valuable. But I think they have to be amended for the 21st century, to be contemporary with the people we represent," he said.

Regarding the wildfire season – which is expected to recur with relative severity for the next few years – Horgan acknowledged that wildfire smoke was "omnipresent in entire province". To help address the fires, Horgan said he was pleased with federal government support this summer. He is further encouraged that military personnel will get training in fire and flood responses for next time. For better wildfire management, getting fuel off the forest floor is a start. Horgan says his government also supports an initiative to develop research chairs at

PREMIER JOHN HORGAN at UBCM



Screenshot from BC Govt Livestream

UNBC, UBC Okanagan and Thompson Rivers University "to make sure we're getting real time research and state-of-the-art thinking from within the region".

At several points in his 35-minute speech he targeted the presumed NDP-naysayers in the audience, to point out the holistic nature of the economy: it's "not just money in and out". In that context he reviewed the interconnection of housing affordability, child care availability, and providing educational opportunities with success for businesses and the workplace. The 4.5% rent increase for 2019 (a spillover from the BC Liberal government) will be looked at this fall.

He spoke of some expected success with an LNG deal, and said that tax regimes and regulations would be similar for all resource industries in BC.

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The role of editorials during election season

● **As each election season rolls around** – whether municipal/trustee, provincial or federal – up comes the question of whether as a news service we will ‘endorse’ one candidate or party.

The answer to that from *West Shore Voice News* is always the same. It is not the absolute right or even the expected role of a news service to endorse any one candidate or party for political office. Some newspapers do it, occasionally.

Publisher's Note



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

The role of media is to gather information for readers/ electorate, organize it for public consumption (including fact-checking and historical lens), and present it within the framework of what are seen to be the issues of the day.


People will point out that in May 2013 this publication (then *Sooke Voice News*) published a full-page editorial about why then-MLA-candidate John Horgan was the right choice for voters in the Juan de Fuca riding. It was an editorial (an analytical discussion, backed up with facts and observations), not an endorsement. Media must remain observant and offer ideas deemed pertinent to the times. Think of editorials as those essays you were asked to write in high school English class. You're given a topic, you explore it, and offer some conclusions. In May 2013, the most suitable leader to watch out for the Sooke community's expressed interests was Horgan, and we simply pointed that out.

Similarly, in the 2014 municipal election in Sooke, after almost seven years of attending council and committee meetings at the District of Sooke, this editor proffered up observations based on spending literally hundreds of hours in the media pit. Observations were made about how things were handled at the council level over the years by both candidates in that race (Tait and Haldane); our news coverage spoke to what was seen firsthand. To the public who almost never attends those meetings, it was perhaps a different set of observations than what you see in campaign materials (why be surprised at that?). It's the job of media to

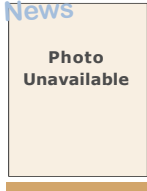
Municipal Election Watch 2018

ELECTION CAMPAIGN UPDATES: https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11011

LANGFORD
Candidates for Mayor




Stew Young
incumbent




Robert Fraser

COLWOOD
Candidates for Mayor




Carol Hamilton
incumbent




Rob Martin

SOOKE
Candidates for Mayor


The race is on!
Nominations for municipal councils & school districts throughout BC closed at 4pm on Sept 14.



Maja Tait
incumbent



Kevin Pearson



Mick Rhodes

● **In Greater Victoria there are 13 municipalities.** Of those, six can be considered in or interactive within the west shore region: Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchosin, Highlands and View Royal. Three of the six mayors stand uncontested (in the smaller jurisdictions of Highlands, Metchosin and View Royal). And while there is a likely return of all incumbents in Langford, the other municipalities are likely to see quite a stir of the council pot after ballots are counted on October 20.

Here's the municipal list: (I) = incumbent. More background and analysis each week. Also see updates at www.westshorevoicenews.com

LANGFORD: Running for mayor is business powerhouse Stew Young (incumbent), who has served over 25 years now on Council and makes a devotion of his attention to his home town. At the last minute, software developer Robert Fraser threw his hat into the mayoralty race essentially to critique the pace and density of development. Running for council are eight candidates (five are incumbents): Denise Blackwell (I), Wendy Hobbs, Rick Johal, Matt Sahlstrom (I), Lanny Seaton (I), Norma Stewart, Lillian Szpak (I), and Roger Wade (I). Denise is a strong affordable housing proponent. Lanny is active with parks and trails. Norma has served 12 years on the planning/housing committee. Lillian has chaired the protective services committee for many years and is strong in the arts. Roger has served on the affordable housing committee.


COLWOOD: Incumbent Mayor Carol Hamilton (two terms as mayor) is being contested by two-term Colwood councillor Rob Martin. For council, 11 candidates (three of them incumbents) are running for six seats: Michael Baxter, Cynthia Day (I), Dean Jantzen, Doug Kobayashi, Gordie Logan (I), Scott McDonald, Eve Millington, Jason Nault (I), Misty Olsen, Stewart Parkinson, and Aaron Weisgerber. Martin has served as chair of West Shore Parks & Rec board as well as the Greater Victoria Public Library. Baxter is a former Colwood staffer (engineering). Day is proactive with youth social services. Jantzen is a police officer in another municipality. Nault is strong on environmental concerns and led the OCP redevelopment. Weisgerber has shifted over from View Royal where he was on council.

SOOKE: The 2018 Sooke mayoralty race is three-way: Maja Tait (incumbent), two-term Sooke councillor Kevin Pearson, and Mick Rhodes. For council, 13 candidates are vying for the six seats (three are incumbents; and three have served on Sooke Council before the 2014-2018 term - SP) : Rick Armour (SP), Jeff Bateman, Al Beddows, Doni Eve, Herb Haldane (SP), Peter Jonassen, Rick Kasper (I), Ebony Logins (I), Megan McMath, Brenda Parkinson (I), Phil Rossner, Tony St-Pierre, and Jeff Stewart (SP). These candidates cover the spectrum of left-to-right, most with deep silos of community support (by philosophy, issues, sector).


METCHOSIN: Long-time mayor John Ranns (I) stands uncontested. For council's four seats there are eight contenders (two of them incumbent): Darren Brown, Brian Donney, Sharie Epp, Norm Hardy, Kyara Kahakauwila (I), Marie-

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School Trustee Candidate - SD62


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consistently observe long-term and give context to those observations for people to think about.

Now in this 2018 municipal election, same thing. We'll bring you as much information as we can. Lots of it will sound familiar, but some of it will have been gleaned from our on-the-ground, on-the-phone, through-email interactions with political teams, and at public forums. That's our job. The editorials, articles, news bits and insights are the deliverables to our readers.

How you vote is up to you. But hopefully you do that after considering the widest possible range of facts and analysis. **MPB**



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Terese Little, Andy MacKinnon (I), and Jenny Millar. This municipality of less than 5,000 residents prides itself on protecting greenspace and pursues a rural way of life.

HIGHLANDS: Ken Williams (I) is running for mayor without competition. Six candidates are running for six seats on council (acclaimed): Leslie Anderson, Ann Baird, Gord Baird, Marcie McLean (I), Karel Roessingh (I), and Rose Stanton.

VIEW ROYAL: David Screech (I) is uncontested as mayor. For the four seats on council there are six candidates: Nathan K Daisley, Adam Flint, Damian Kowalewich (I), Gery Lemon, Ron Matson (I), and John Rogers (I). The footprint of View Royal includes major regional transportation and hospital services.

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT - JUAN DE FUCA: Two candidates: Mike Hicks (I) and Daniel Yates. Issues include water supply to that outlying region. **WSV**

New face in Langford race

● **Langford resident Robert Fraser** is a semi-retired software developer who is throwing his hat into the Langford mayoralty race. He supports what Langford council has done to keep taxes low and be financially conservative. But he says he's stepping up to represent the views of his neighbours who don't feel development should force them to pay for sewer hookup or lose the rural feel of their large properties. He says the rapid pace of growth and density in Langford doesn't seem to pay attention to maintenance of infrastructure over time, and that "livability of a city" requires more greenspace for kids to play in addition to sports facilities. **WSV**

SD62 School Trustee Election Watch 2018

ELECTION CAMPAIGN UPDATES: https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11011

SD62 (Sooke School District 62) candidates for School Trustee (7 seats)

● **The SD62 school district** covers a vast geographical area from within View Royal, through Highlands, Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke, and Juan de Fuca all the way up to Port Renfrew. Depending on which part of the municipality they live in, some View Royal residents vote in SD62 and others in SD61. The SD62 Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 adheres to visions, values and goals in three areas: Learning, Engagement, and Growth.

Voters in SD62 cast their ballots for a subset of candidates in two zones: the Belmont Zone (four seats) is essentially drawn from all west shore areas except Sooke and Juan de Fuca which are in the Milne's Landing Zone (3 seats).

The **Belmont Zone** race sees three incumbents and five new candidates, therefore eight candidates vying for four seats: Cendra Beaton, Bob Beckett, Russ Chipps, Wendy Hobbs (I), Ravi Parmar (I), Dianna Seaton (I), Blair Sloane, and Trudy Spiller. Cendra has been an active parent advocate, particularly for the French stream. Bob is a former Langford fire chief. Russ is chief of Beecher Bay first nation. Wendy has previously chaired the SD62 board. Ravi has chaired the board for over a year. Dianna has in past years served as vice-chair.

In the **Milne's Landing Zone** there are six candidates vying for three seats (three are incumbents): Bob Phillips (I), Marian Cvitkovic, Neil Poirier (I), Britt Santowski, Margot Swinburnson (I) and Allison Watson. Bob has been SD62 chair and comes from a social work background; he's big on facts and data. Neil is longtime of Sooke; Britt is active media in Sooke which both voters and candidates might see as a conflict of interest; Margot has recently retired from a health care career and works hard at the health aspects of SD62; Allison ran in 2011. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Mailing: 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 **Tel & Text: 250-217-5821**
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Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed
Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF

Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc.
Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content: all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR unless otherwise stated.
Reporter: Eryn Chaney.
Photo-journalist: Evan Lindsay.
Contributors: Chelsea Kirkpatrick, Chad Levesque. **Consultant:** Jennifer Brooke. **Web Tech:** Greg Szabo. **Server Tech:** Ivandafish. **Printing:** Brookline Publishing House Inc. **Distribution:** PDF/web, print, TW/FB. **Courtesy to:** coffee shops; business lobbies, 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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Recreational infrastructure: BC hand-in-hand with smaller communities

West Shore Voice News



Minister of Municipalities and Housing, Selina Robinson, addressed delegates at the UBCM convention in Whistler, September 12.

communities. Sooke has just over 13,000 residents, View Royal about 10,500, Metchosin less than 5,000, and Highlands under 3,000. And as nowadays most municipalities in the west shore work collaboratively or interdependently, this could be seen as a recreational boost for the west shore region overall. As separate jurisdictions, there are pockets of smaller populations that rely on neighbouring municipalities when it comes to things like recreation and transit.

That funding announcement made in a speech by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Selina Robinson September 12 at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Whistler drew genuinely enthusiastic applause.

Smaller communities can use the boost to provide jobs and build local economies. Outcomes will include enhanced overall community activity and well-being, said Robinson, creating strong communities on all levels.

Robinson announced that another 2,500 modular homes (along with support systems for occupants) will be made available to municipalities that can provide land for these projects. She said BC will continue its work to moderate the housing market by creating 114,000 homes over the next 10 years. **WSV**

Short-term rentals may now require business licences

● **Led by Oak Bay** Mayor Nils Jensen, mayors and councillors from around BC this week (at the annual Union of BC Municipalities convention in Whistler, Sept 10-14) endorsed a motion that would see short term rentals like Airbnb be required to have a business licence to operate.

The 'Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms' Responsibility in Compliance' motion calls on the Province to negotiate a BC-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short-term rental platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service. **WSV**

Health insights at OakTree

West Shore Voice News

● **Learning more** about how your body uses nutrients is one of the benefits of dropping by to OakTree Naturals health store in Langford.

One of the owners, Firoz Jiwani, is a retired pharmacist. With his son Aman Jiwani who runs the store, he helps customers make choices that can improve their health.

An exercise program called 'the four-minute workout' has recently caught their attention. It seems that multiple short bursts of physical activity may have health benefits that are equivalent in some ways to more elaborate and lengthier workouts, as well as fitting nicely into a busy day.

Some simple exercises done a few times per day for four minutes at a time (with a minimum two-hour interval in between), the idea is to liberate nitric oxide into the bloodstream. Nitric oxide is a natural free-radical that causes blood

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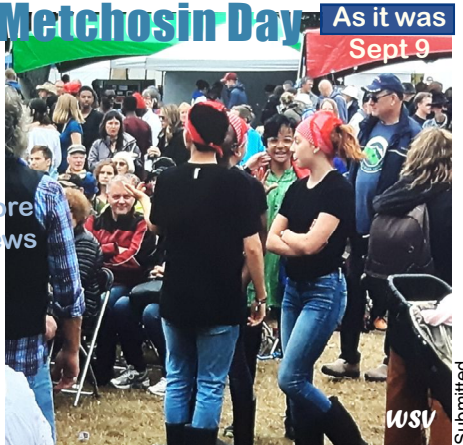
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This works hand in hand with taking antioxidants (e.g. Vitamins A, C, and E), as a bit of action by a natural free radical is one of the body's 'clean up' systems. Nitric oxide causes blood vessels to dilate, thereby delivering more oxygen and nutrients to all cells including the muscles.

OakTree Naturals is at 705 Goldstream Avenue in central Langford (ample mall parking). They're open from 10 am Monday to Saturday including to 7pm Wednesday through Friday. **WSV**



Submitted

Margot Swinburnson: boundaries between education & health care

● **Long-time SD62 trustee Margot Swinburnson** says 'stability within change' is her approach for the next term. She sees trustees as being enablers of staff and administrators.

She advocates for positive change for youth with mental health and substance use issues but "we need to be clear where the education system ends and the health care system begins" says the retired nurse.

She says the Milne's Landing Zone in Sooke is within the second-fastest-growing municipality on the south island and advocates for safe routes to school. **WSV**

Campaign forums in Sooke

● Two public forums in Sooke, hosted by Transition Sooke: **Meet-and-Greet with candidates for Sooke Mayor & Council & SD62 Milne's Landing Zone (Sooke): Wed Sept 26** at the Sooke Community Hall, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. **Mayoralty Candidates Forum: Wed Oct 3**, EMCS theatre, 7 to 9 pm. Bring your questions. **WSV**

Retired Langford fire chief in SD62 trustee race

West Shore Voice News

● **After 41 years** in the fire service, former Langford fire chief Bob Beckett is turning his attention to community as a trustee candidate for the SD62 school board.

"Education develops our children and subsequently our community," says Beckett. He says that education today is "not just about academics" but about giving youth the best possible experience while in school "so they may succeed in all aspects of life – personal, post secondary education, and the workforce". Bob and his wife Laura have two children in SD62. **WSV**

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St-Pierre in Sooke: 'municipal matters most'

by Chad Levesque for West Shore Voice News

● **"Municipal matters most,"** says Tony St-Pierre, a candidate for Sooke council. "We have a strong voice at this level. People should vote for someone they know something about, not just tick off the boxes on the ballot."

Building a strong economy and affordable sustainable housing are among his key issues.

Tony and his wife and family are Cast Iron Farm which is a land co-op based on permaculture. **WSV**

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Luxton Fall Fair. Sept 14 to 16. 12 to 10 pm Sat and 12 to 6 pm Sun. Kids activities, fairgrounds, Luxton heritage display. www.luxtonfair.ca

Wine, Women & Wheels III. Show 'n Shine, chorus, bbq. Sun Sept 16, 1-4 pm, Mill Bay. www.pacifiedgechorus.ca

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

City of Langford Council Meeting. Mon Sept 17. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

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

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 12-3:30 pm. Skate 1-2:30 pm. Regular admission. www.westshorerecreation.ca

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

Five-Chamber Mixer: WestShore, Esquimalt, Victoria, Sooke, Saanich. Thurs Sept 20. 5 to 7:30 pm, at Elements Casino, Island Highway.

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

Light Up the Hills. Sat Sept 22. 7:30-9:30 pm. Community walk through Westhills. Starts at Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. Displays and entertainment. Free and open to the public. www.westshorearts.org

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



City of Colwood Council Meeting. Mon Sept 24. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca

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

Meet-and-Greet with candidates for Sooke Council, and SD 62 (Milne's Landing Zone). Wed Sept 26, Sooke Community Hall, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Island Health public board meeting. Thurs Sept 27. 1:30 pm at Duncan Meadows at 6507 North Road, Duncan. 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

Sooke Mayoralty Candidates Forum. Wed. Oct 3. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd, 7 to 9 pm.

Langford All Candidates Forum. Thurs Oct 4. 6 to 8 pm, at Langford Legion. Hosted by the Westshore Chamber of Commerce. www.westshore.bc.ca

Thanksgiving Weekend. Sat Oct 6 - Mon Oct 8. **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

Public hearing on Budget 2019. Tues Oct 9. 8 am to 4 pm. Boardroom, Songhees Wellness Centre, 1100 Admirals Rd. Esquimalt. Written input due by 5 pm on Oct 15. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/finances/budget/consultations>

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

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

Why not try 4-part harmony a cappella style?



We meet Tuesdays 6:45 pm at Gordon United Church in Langford. Carpool available.

Pacific Edge Chorus invites women to experience the excitement of performing and competing in a supportive, learning environment. e: info@pacifiedgechorus.ca tel: 250-248-7923 www.pacifiedgechorus.ca

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. Single lane alternating traffic as required. Division Ave through the Belmont Market construction site is open.

Continuing into Sept-October 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



Have your say toward BC Budget 2019

West Shore Voice News

GOVERNMENT

Background:

www.gov.bc.ca/BudgetConsultations

- Online survey starts September 17, 2018.
- One public input session in the Greater Victoria area: Tuesday October 9: Boardroom, Songhees Wellness Centre, 1100 Admirals Rd, Esquimalt. 8 am to 4 pm.
- All public input (written, audio, or video) due Monday, Oct 15 (5pm); Ideas may be submitted to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services by email to financecommittee@leg.bc.ca

The online survey questions about Budget BC 2019 preparation include:

- What are your top three priorities to help make life better for you, your family and your community? Open-ended question.
- If you had one dollar to put toward programs and services across government, how would you choose to divide it? K-12 education, child care, climate change and environmental protection, economic development, housing, indigenous resources and reconciliation, health care, justice and public safety, post-secondary education and skills training, poverty reduction, roads/highways and bridges, public transportation, debt reduction.
- Given the high level of demand for government programs and services, how would you pay for new and enhanced programs and services? Choose up to three: increase personal income tax, increase corporate income tax, increase PST, introduce new fees (i.e. licensing, recycling), increase natural resource royalties; reduce or eliminate existing programs. **WSV**

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Election Watch 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

Backgrounders and news interviews with candidates in six west shore municipalities and for school trustees (SD62) are being posted daily throughout the election campaign (up to October 19). At www.westshorevoicenews.com

you will find the **ELECTION WATCH PAGE** and also individual news sections (e.g. Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Highlands, Metchosin, View Royal, Juan de Fuca; & **EDUCATION** section). **WSV**

New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be?

WELCOME WAGON SINCE 1930
250-642-2268

Light Up in Westhills: free family event

West Shore Voice News

Light Up the Hills

will be held this year on Saturday, September 22. Sunset is at 7:09 pm that evening, so the 7:30-9:30 pm time slot is perfect for evening ambiance in the Westhills neighbourhood to view illuminated artworks that create a glowing effect throughout the community. Starts at Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. Organized by the West Shore Arts Council, the event is free and open to the public.

Event participants walk along a designated path, passing by various performances and artworks, using hand-made lanterns to guide their way. This community-focused event aims to showcase the creativity of local artists, musicians, and performers.

Parking will be available at Belmont Secondary School and at the Westhills YMCA. For those with small children or mobility issues, a trolley service will be circulating from Belmont, to the YMCA, and past Westhills Park.

www.westshorearts.org **WSV**



Sooke Toastmasters had a BBQ

West Shore Voice News



Meeting of the Sooke Toastmasters group, Sept 12.

Based on notes from Chelsea Kirkpatrick, for West Shore Voice News

The Toastmasters group in Sooke is a great way to meet people, and develop new speaking skills.

The group receives community support, including from Western Foods who donated hot dogs and burgers for this meeting, and Village Foods which donated a \$100 gift card to the group.

Mystery Master is a unique segment to Sooke: it's an open topic portion of the evening, for a toast, a joke, a soap box speech, or a personal story.

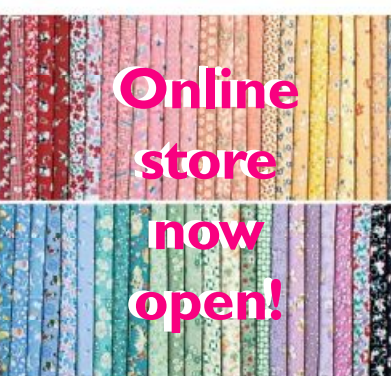
Time management skills are delivered in a supportive environment, leadership skills as well "Failed my way to greatness" is a great quote from one of the member's speeches.

The group is coordinated by Marlene Barry.

The barbecue featured burgers, hot dogs, mix of salads, potato and pasta salad, cookies and baked goods.

About 25 people (a range of ages) attended the event that was held at the Sooke Hospice Building at 6669 Goodmere. **WSV**

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