



West Shore Voice News

Week #400

6 pages this issue

Weekend news digest (print & online)
published by Brookeline Publishing House Inc

COURTESY
watermarked
edition

WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Vol.3 No.47
SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.8 No.36

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.

Housing crisis: tents in Goldstream Park

> Langford points out the costs
> Saanich steps up with land for modular homes

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Release date September 22, 2018

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Five chambers mix at the casino

West Shore Voice News

● **At least 250 business people** showed up for a five-chamber mixer at the Elements Casino in View Royal on Thursday, September 20.

Represented at the evening get-together were WestShore Chamber (hosting), Sooke Region Chamber, Esquimalt Chamber, View Royal Chamber, and Victoria Chamber.

Aside from a few short announcements, it was an evening to mingle with candidates. Among those active in the crowd were Colwood mayoralty candidates Carol Hamilton and Rob Martin, and Colwood council candidates Michael Baxter, Cynthia Day, and Aaron Weisgerber. Chatting up Victoria transportation and housing issues was Victoria mayoralty candidate Mike Geoghegan. View Royal Mayor David Screech looked particularly relaxed – as the only candidate for that seat, he has been acclaimed and doesn't need to run a campaign. Langford council members/candidates were conspicuous by their absence that evening. **WSV**



Colwood mayoralty candidate Rob Martin (left) listens attentively to Chamber announcements in the business crowd.



Colwood incumbents enjoying the mixer (from left): mayoralty candidate Carol Hamilton and council candidate Cynthia Day.



Reps of five chambers on stage with WestShore chamber executive director Julie Lawlor (at the podium).



View Royal Mayor David Screech fine with not having to run a campaign.



Victoria mayoralty candidate Mike Geoghegan captured an attentive crowd. **WSV**

Your pets can't vote, but you can! Pets affected by difficult economy

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Kittens named Onix & Peanut are currently in rescue-care with SAFARS.

● **When people on limited incomes** are struggling with the cost of housing and groceries, they sometimes find it necessary to give up their pets because they cannot carry the costs of good pet care. Sometimes the pets are truly abandoned and require being rescued. And sometimes people will bring their pets to the Victoria Pet Food Bank and Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society (aka SAFARS) instead of taking them to the BC-SPCA where euthanization will likely happen after a period of time if a pet is not adopted out.

The District of Sooke recently renewed their contract with CRD for another five years of services that in large part includes the cost of collecting loose dogs and enforcing other aspects of the animal control bylaws.

SAFARS says its team of volunteers has rescued over 600 abandoned cats in the last seven years in the Sooke region. The Society has been undertaking all the spay/neuter/vaccination costs from their own pockets. Their main 'ask' is for the provincial and municipal governments to allow them to house the animals they rescue. In Sooke, this requires bylaw changes so that more than four animals can be cared for in one location.

At this moment, SAFARS is overseeing 25 locally-rescued kittens in different foster homes instead of being able to do the pet care in one experienced facility. "The animal foster care system is a significant expense that we would like to see eliminated," said the society's president, Margarita Dominguez.

Due to their battle to change what Dominguez calls the 20th-century animal laws in BC, SAFARS rejects charity status and relies exclusively on donations. To become an animal support volunteer or to make a donation: 778-352-2999 | www.safars.org

As part of your voting research in the local municipal election, you could find out which candidates for Sooke mayor and council support changing the bylaws to allow for cat rescue services to be allowed in private homes. Requiring a tract of land is not a realistic economic feat for most volunteer organizations. **WSV**

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Your Voice in the Legislature



What are your 'hot button issues' this election?

● **Municipal candidates in the west shore** will soon receive an email from *West Shore Voice News* inviting them to respond to a set of questions about their campaign and their views on the top issues. We've got a pretty good idea of what the key issues are in this region -- including housing, jobs, transportation challenges, affordability, and the pace of community development.

Publisher's Note



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

We welcome your input during the campaign. Please email us at news@westshorevoicenews.com with your thoughts about the important issues in Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchoshin, Highlands, View Royal and Juan de Fuca. What should we be asking the candidates? What will *you* be asking the candidates at the various All Candidates forums coming up over the next couple of weeks?

A lot of times, people ask their local candidate about things that actually fall under provincial or federal jurisdiction. But most things are intertwined, so it's always good to know how your prospective candidate choices on the ballot October 20 will stand up to defend your municipality when it comes to the bigger picture. ■ MPB

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Municipal Election Watch 2018

ELECTION CAMPAIGN UPDATES:

(I) = incumbent https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11011

ADVANCE VOTING: Wed Oct 10 & Wed Oct 17
8 am to 8 pm

- **Correction from last week's Municipal Election Watch:**
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. **WSV**
- **Update since last week:**
In the **Milne's Landing Zone** (SD62 trustee race) there are now five (not six) candidates vying for three seats, as Marian Cvitkovic has dropped out of the race. That leaves Bob Phillips (I), Neil Poirier (I), Britt Santowski, Margot Swinburnson (I) and Allison Watson. **WSV**

Ask yourself how you feel about this scenario

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **As difficult as it may be**, at times it is the role of media to bring to light those issues that are felt and whispered about in the community, but which few would like to talk about. This one is particularly difficult because it has to do with the same industry (i.e. media), and in this case, a shared audience (in Sooke).

After discussion and consultation this week with Elections BC, the Chief Election Officer for the area (and various deputies of that role), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, SD62, other media outlets and other journalists, it remains obvious there is a gap in the awareness of who is responsible to draw the line on transitioning from one side to the other within that social contract in a democracy between journalism and those who hold elected office.

But there is an established protocol on the record and -- when exercised -- is respected by all concerned (media, elected officials, and the public). And that is: step aside from active news reporting or commentary while seeking elected office. It's not a law, or even a regulation, but taking that action shows respect for both what one does (if one truly is media) and what one seeks (elected office). Some known examples -- past, recent and now -- would include when Christy Clark stepped down from her radio show before running in provincial politics; when now-MLA Jas Johal (Richmond-Queensborough) stepped down from working at *Global News* ahead of his election bid; and currently with long-time lobbyist and now Victoria mayoralty candidate Mike Geoghegan who has taken a hiatus from his Monday morning spot on *CFOX 1070 Radio*.

The current discussion of this matter evolved as a Sooke-specific scenario, where one candidate running for trustee in the Milne's Landing Zone (Sooke-Juan de Fuca voters) of SD62 -- Britt Santowski of the online portal *Sooke Pocket News* -- has campaigned without vacating her position as a media member. She is also using her media address for her campaign and has offered free advertising space on her website to her competitors. This was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Education this week.

But this area of concern can be

ANALYSIS: MEDIA & the ELECTORAL SYSTEM

broadly applied across BC and Canada, hence the need to examine this instructively, not with malice. Let's look at what media is and what it does. And why all this is so important.

Media is a profession that delivers the work of journalism. Reporting the news of the day and the community, and on issues of society, is a more of a higher calling than might be evident in the age of 'fake news' and where almost everyone has a Facebook 'soapbox'. The role and power of 'critic-by-observation' is given room by society with the caveat that what society gets in return... information, insights and clarity of the issues... is worth giving the necessary leeway and access to journalists for their actions of investigation and granting authority-by-social-litcense to the voice that delivers it.

Democracy is said to depend on this process of journalists operating independently of the social collective for the purpose of reporting back to that collective. Serving as a mirror if you will. Journalism is something of a free-radical process (biological cells have defenses against free radicals, to prevent cell damage or tissue injury). But "don't shoot the messenger" as Shakespeare put it. It's good to keep one's defences sharp. Journalism helps us pay attention to where the problems are, toward maintaining a healthy society. Sometimes people dislike, resent or even fear the free radical, as it makes one see problems within the system.

In the social democratic context journalism 'holds power to account'. That sounds lofty, but really it's just a way of identifying and articulating shifts or actions worth examining. Kind of like your best friend saying (after hearing your concerns): "And did you think about this aspect of the problem?" They may not have the answer but they give you another angle to consider.

When information is delivered accurately and in a fair and timely manner, most angst among public

critics just dissolves away. With more information people can have a better understanding, and then suddenly a problem doesn't seem so bad, and perhaps even seems resolvable in a new or better way.

A small example: This week *West Shore Voice News* posted a standard traffic advisory (not a full construction report) about roadworks on Jacklin Road in Langford. A local resident fussed on Facebook, saying how stupid to not have left turn lanes at every corner. Well, the roadworks aren't finished yet, and once we replied with additional intel that indeed there will be left-turn lanes at all four corners of Jacklin and Jenkins, the same critic relaxed and gave a thumbs-up reply. Information (and familiarity) leads to understanding, which can lead to peaceful relations. Journalism contributes to this.

If a journalist is off the mark, a story will pretty fast fall flat. If they're on to something, it gains momentum. You've heard the expression 'a nose for news'. After a while, a seasoned journalist instinctively senses where there is a story to be ferreted out. Seasoned journalists and editors also know when it's sometimes unwise to go down a rabbit hole that could lead to unwarranted trouble or even cause harm.

In this case, indeed, this seems like a lot of 'ink' about one particular news portal and its operator-turned-candidate. But it's been a rabbit-hole worth digging into because the reaction almost everywhere has been one of surprise and discomfort, even of being offended. Where there was no reaction that is almost as bad (the deeper ethical issues being disregarded). And then there was the reaction of another media outlet that said they weren't concerned because "*Sooke Pocket News* isn't real media anyhow", and since the portal is also owned by its editor, that somehow asking a person to 'not make a living' wouldn't be right. Uh, planning ahead would make it possible (ask someone else to run it, or save up a hiatus fund); not stepping aside may reflect a last-minute decision to seek elected office and/or disrespect (even if unintentional) for the role of journalism ethics.

So in the current situation, Elections BC says really their only concern would be if any financial impropriety were taking place. Though they are also fussy about filling out all those forms in a legitimate fashion. People might be surprised that 'money matters' are the only concern for Elections BC investigations. But voters deserve to hear about this media ethics scenario, as part of knowing the candidates (including which ones accepted free ads -- will that be accounted for in election expense reporting?).

The Ministry of Education in their response to *West Shore Voice News* on September 21 said: "The School Act sets out the general requirements for eligibility to run for election

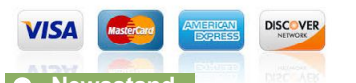
West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News
Published by Brookeline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Mailing: 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 **Tel & Text: 250-217-5821**
Email: news@westshorevoicenews.com
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Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed
Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF
Publisher: Brookeline Publishing House Inc. **Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content:** all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR unless otherwise stated. **Reporter:** Eryn Chaney. **Photo-journalist:** Evan Lindsay. **Contributors:** Chelsea Kirkpatrick, Chad Levesque, Alysha Punnett. **Consultant:** Jennifer Brooke. **Web Tech:** Greg Szabo. **Server Tech:** Ivandafish. **Printing:** Brookeline 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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as school trustee. The School Act does not disqualify members of the media from running for office as school trustee. Elections BC is responsible for campaign financing and advertising rules in local elections."

But to continue to report on the community in which one is running as a candidate (and offer free ads to appease fellow candidates) has to many -- in the past week -- smacked of impropriety.

Perhaps the actions seen in this scenario will serve to set the bar higher for anyone else in media who decides to cross the floor and serve their community from the other side.

And so here is the Pop Quiz part ... what do you think? Should a member of the media stop reporting on her community while running for elected office in that same community? (Municipality and school board interact with each other, so while separate races, will have impactful composite results.) Should free ads be offered to appease the other candidates?

What does all that say about forethought, planning and respect for the various communities (media, candidates, community)? Claiming to be 'real news' (including editorial content) and participating in the community as media cannot all of a sudden be ignored. Being included on official media distribution lists is another benchmark indicator of media status.

Media or candidate, but not both, seems to be the respectful and respectable way to proceed.

Environmental protection & Indigenous art recognized amongst this year's OBC recipients

West Shore Voice News



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Screenshot BC Govt Livestream

Indigenous artist Carey Newman of Sooke (left) received the Order of BC in a ceremony at Government House, September 20, from Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin and Premier John Horgan.

● The 2018 Order of British Columbia investiture ceremony was livestreamed on Thursday, September 20.

Among the 14 people chosen this year to receive the distinction of OBC was David Anderson, a federal and provincial politician who has worked to safeguard coastal waters and wetland areas from environmental pollution in his capacity as an elected official and in many roles on special committees and panels.

Also receiving an award was Carey Newman of Sooke. He is an Indigenous artist, master carver, singer, volunteer and well-known speaker about the spirit of reconciliation. He created the Witness Blanket, a powerful monument to the impact of the residential school era and the healing journey of First Nations.

OBC recipients in the morning event at Government House represented a combined group of people who could not attend last year to receive their award, and many of this year's 14 designated recipients. This year 13 recipients walked across the stage. Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin put the medals around each recipient's neck, and certificates were issued with a handshake by Premier John Horgan.

"Your example of citizenship inspires me to use my time in office to promote democratic literacy," said Lieutenant Governor Austin. She encouraged a respect for good governance. "I thank you for all you will continue to do to build our province and to strive for the betterment of others," Austin said.

"All of us are the sum of those who've helped us along the way," said Premier Horgan in his remarks. And he thanked the selection committee. Recipients: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/V2_OBC_BG1_Bios.pdf WSV



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Light Up the Hills 2018: A magical autumn equinox evening

Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News



Quite a crowd gathered on the autumn equinox evening, September 22, to listen to a faery in a tree musing about the the power of natural magic.

● Thousands of people turned out for 'Light Up the Hills' on Saturday evening, September 22. Even though the weather was cool with a moderately brisk wind, lantern-carrying families and friends were not deterred.

Illuminated displays along the pathways and trails in the upper Westhills community were a delight for families, teens, and groups of friends who showed up for the ambling walk. The route started at Belmont Secondary School on Langford Lake Road and wove through the residential neighbourhood, winding back along Langford Parkway at the West Shore Parkway roundabout and past the Y and the library.

Families made lanterns at craft tables set up in the parking lot at the school before heading out after dusk. The bright orange sunset was at 7:09 pm. The event ran 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The Langford trolley was available to assist anyone who found the long walk a bit much.

Displays and performances included string music by a Victoria Conservatory of Music quartet, a harpist, a talking faery seated up in a tree, a large lit-up rainbow, lanterns along trails, and swirling lights in the trees. A mobile 100.3 the Q DJ was on hand to provide the music. Free coffee and hot chocolate were provided courtesy of West Shore Rotary.

It was just a little bit tricky walking over those tarp-covered electrical cables in the dark. Some reflective lights on those might help.

All of this was organized by the West Shore Arts Council. The setup must have taken hours, with all those lanterns along the trail, signs, and venue setups.

A great free evening event for the community. Looks good on Langford. WSV



A large illuminated rainbow against the night sky is a surefire draw for people of all ages.

Long-time Sooke resident Doni Eve running for council

West Shore Voice News

● Doni Eve is running for Sooke council. She feels that the town is "at a pivotal juncture" and that District actions "should reflect and honour the values that built this community".

She notes challenges and pressures on services and infrastructure but also the richness of the volunteer organizations that provide recreation, service and culture to enrich the community.

Ms Eve wants to see more affordable, supportive and rental housing seniors and families, and social housing those most vulnerable. Getting back to improvements that "began with the roundabout and Wadams Way" will help create an "attractive, safer and dynamic town centre". Community gardens are another goal.

Doni has a Journalism degree from Carleton University and was a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. In years past, she edited the Sooke News Mirror and Positively Sooke Magazine. For the past 26 years she has worked in the BC government public service communications. WSV



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Alistair MacGregor to host a housing forum in Langford

● The public is invited to a Town Hall Meeting on the National Housing Strategy, being held in the west shore. The two-hour session on Tuesday, October 9 being held at Luxton Hall, 1040 Marwood Avenue in Langford, will be hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford), from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There will be a discussion on the National Housing Strategy and what MacGregor calls "the urgent need for affordable housing on Vancouver Island". For information ahead of time, email to alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca or phone toll free 1-866-609-9998

MacGregor addresses anchorage problem

● Alistair MacGregor, MP, on September 20 asked the federal transport minister in the House of Commons why First Nations had not been consulted when the anchorages were established in their traditional territory (in regards to a letter Penelakut Tribe sent earlier this month). "The use of anchorages around the southern Gulf Islands and east coast of Vancouver Island has turned our precious coast into a parking lot for freighters," said MacGregor. Transport Minister Marc Garneau responded to MacGregor: "No relationship is more important than our relationship with indigenous peoples. The Port of Vancouver is an extremely busy port. We have a lot of ships that are coming to the Port of Vancouver and we have had to find temporary anchorage points. We are in a period of a one-year of interim study to find a better solution. At the moment we have to find places for these ships to anchor, and we are trying to do it by respecting indigenous and local communities." MacGregor says he will continue to advocate for a solution to what he calls a growing anchorages problem. **WSV**



MacGregor in the House of Commons, September 20: standing up for indigenous anchorage rights. <https://youtu.be/v8GXSykvbJY>

TELUS brings 300/300 to the west shore

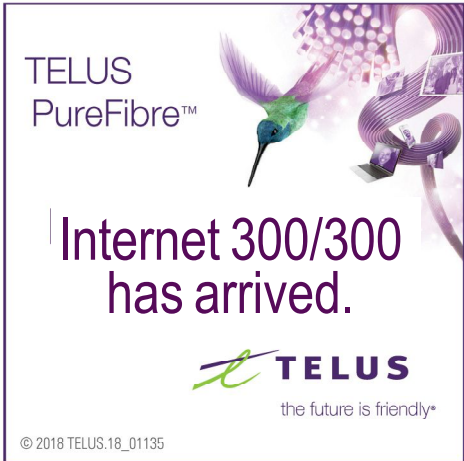
TELUS PureFibre connection



● TELUS is now promoting their direct, 100% fibre optic connection on the west shore, calling it the fastest internet technology with "upload and download at blazing fast speeds with Internet 300/300". Fibre optic never degrades, which means an always fast, always consistent connection, without lag or buffering delays, says TELUS. In comparing their service to that delivered by cable, they say that "TELUS PureFibre delivers 100% fibre right to your home on a connection that will never slow down, even during peak hours". Download and upload are at equally fast speeds. This is considered to be a consistent, fast and reliable service for both upload and download, which makes sharing and streaming easier. The 300/300 services starts from \$55 per month for six months when signing up for a 2-year term. After that the price is \$110 per month. Two years ago there was a TELUS 'Home of the Future' display at the Westshore Town Centre, where people could tour through to view and interact with the new possibilities of highspeed. Highspeed provides both services and entertainment to the home, and of course supports home-based business with higher connectivity speeds and reliability. **WSV**



TELUS Future Home includes climate-controlled herb growing station, a fridge that tells you what foods you're running low on, direct screen communication with medical providers to save taking that trip to the doctor, and even a virtual reality zone in the living room.



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Transitioning from summer to winter gardening

by Alysha Punnett, Compost Education Centre, Victoria

● "A winter garden differs from a spring/summer garden in a number of ways: **Rate of Growth.** Plants don't grow at the same speed in colder months. Instead, the lower temperatures slow growth down to a snail's pace, so think of your winter garden as outdoor cold storage. **Amount to Grow.** Because you won't be able to continually harvest new leaves from things like lettuce and kale, you'll need to plant more than you would in a spring garden where new growth is fast. A good rule of thumb is to plan on doubling the number of plants you would normally grow. **Maintenance.** Instead of battling drought and aphids, the major winter garden maintenance involves keeping plants protected from a deep freeze (freezing temperatures that last more than a few days). In our climate, you



Check out the Winter Gardening Fact Sheet at www.compost.bc.ca

don't need to grow things under cover 100% of the time, but you will need to keep an eye on temperatures. If a freeze is in the forecast, be prepared to place some floating row cover or a piece of plastic over your plants for temporary protection. **Mulch's Role.** In spring/summer growing, mulch is used to prevent the soil from drying out and protect it from the burning sun. In winter growing, a thicker layer (4-6 inches) insulates plant roots and prevents them from freezing. Some things you plant in the summer you will harvest in winter. But some you will wait until early spring to harvest. Purple Sprouting Broccoli is a good example; the plant won't grow to maturity before the cold sets in, but as soon as the weather starts to warm they will put on a growth spurt and you'll begin eating florets in March. It can be difficult to figure out how to plant your winter garden when your summer garden is in full harvest mode. A handy tip is to poke winter varieties amongst your summer plants. When your summer plants are done, cut them at soil level and leave the roots to rot in the ground, where they will return nutrients to the soil and create air spaces for the other plants to make use of. **WSV**

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'People in tents' in the west shore brings housing crisis into focus

● **Housing is a provincial responsibility.** The federal government is pitching in, and BC does plenty, but the ground-work falls to municipalities for management and maintenance especially when things fall between the cracks.

Campers in Goldstream Provincial Park stole the show this week by drawing attention to the dire need for a society and economy that provides a roof over everyone's head.

As a fast response, the District of Saanich (a municipality in which the nomadic 'tent city' had pitched their tents during the summer) on September 20 offered access to land on their Municipal Hall grounds, for BC Housing to provide modular supportive housing units for those experiencing homelessness or who risk being homeless. The section of land is north of the Saanich Fire Hall #1 on Vernon Avenue.

"We're hopeful that by providing this land, we're moving in the right direction to secure housing and satisfy some of the need for housing in the region," said Saanich CAO Paul Thorkelsson. "Saanich staff and Council remain committed to a compassionate and dignified approach to providing support for people experiencing homelessness in our community."

BC Housing is currently evaluating the site with surveying work to be completed soon. The exact number of modular supportive housing units to be placed on the land is undetermined at this time.

Last week at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Whistler, Minister of Municipal Affairs Selina Robinson announced the availability of 2,500 more modular units and invited municipalities across the province to take up the offer. The self-contained units are provided along with social services including attention to mental health issues and dealing with addictions.

In addition to offering the municipally-owned lands, Saanich continues to assist the provincial government by exploring options for social housing and other solutions. Saanich is not in a position to fund or develop new housing solutions on its own.

The BC Housing Hub is something brought in this past year by the NDP government whereby organizations with land can be matched up with a process of getting buildings constructed. That can take years.

Temporary overnight sheltering

● **"The government needs to buy the land and build the housing permanently, not short term."** ~ Langford Mayor Stew Young



Langford Mayor Stew Young

from 7 pm to 9 am is also available in 102 Saanich parks, with some restrictions, for people experiencing homelessness. The hygiene station and storage facility set up at the Municipal Hall in July 2018 remains open as support services for those who need overnight shelter.

Meanwhile, in the Goldstream Provincial Park in Langford where about 30 campers moved in with the help of supporters with UHaul truckson September 18, it was important to Langford Mayor Stew Young to point out the real costs to taxpayers when tents are pitched in public spaces. Especially as Minister Robinson says she is not asking the them to leave. "BC Parks is not asking the homeless campers to leave at this time," she said September 20.

Mayor Young says it's costing Langford about \$15,000 per day (much of that in policing and bylaw officer staffing costs -- and their other work not getting done) to deal with public protection. There is also a loss of future enjoyment of the space and an impact on tourism, as recreational campers left the park, apparently some vowing never to return. There was concern about interfacing with drug users, and a concern that needles would remain a long-time afterward.

It does point to a lack of societal provision that not everyone has a home... whether that's rental, social housing or market ownership. Building codes have become so strident and consumer expectation for the modern home so high that mainstream market housing is clearly beyond the financial reach of most regular working people and families. Social housing often takes years to bring on-stream. Rental accommodation is higher than ever, including a 4% increase in 2018 and now 4.5% being the allowable increase for 2019 (unless the NDP government can reverse or minimize that in the legislature this fall).

Langford intends to send an invoice to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing every two weeks, says Stew Young. Will they pay the \$30,000 bi-weekly tab? "They better."

Minister Robinson in a statement to *West Shore Voice News* on September 21 said: "I understand the concerns raised by municipalities in dealing with homeless camps, and I have spoken with the mayor of Langford and will continue to speak with him about any concerns he has about the impact of the situation at Goldstream Park."

"Homelessness is a complex issue that cannot be addressed by any level of government alone," said Robinson. "It requires funding from senior levels of government, and partnerships with regional and local government leaders to build appropriate and affordable housing."

We are providing funding to build and operate 4,500 units of supportive housing throughout BC. That includes \$291 million we committed in fall 2017 to support the construction of 2,000 modular homes for people experiencing homelessness and more than \$170 million over three years to provide 24/7 staffing and support

● **"In the short term, we are opening a shelter at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, with space for 25 people, starting October 1."** ~ Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Selina Robinson



Screenshot - livestream

services. This spring, we committed a further \$1.2 billion over 10 years to build and support 2,500 additional new supportive housing units. We continue to cover the full capital and operating cost of these buildings, and only ask that municipalities partner with us by identifying and providing suitable land for these homes."

So while the BC government's goal is "to get people into shelters and longer-term housing", in the short term municipalities carry the brunt. The money has to come from somewhere, so this directly impacts a municipal budget and possibly the level of taxes to local taxpayers in subsequent years.

"In the short term, we are opening a shelter at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, with space for 25 people, starting on October 1," said Robinson mid-week. "We are also continuing to offer rent supplements to help people find housing in the private market." That would include The Rental Assistance Program provides eligible low-income working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments, and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) for seniors, programs which saw slight increases recently.

On Thursday, Minister Robinson said: "Until Saanich's offer earlier today, no other local governments within the Capital Regional District have identified land where we could build these homes."

Would Langford provide land for the modular units offered by the BC government? "If the public supports it," says Stew Young, though he adds that the city only has park land that would be difficult to pull out of ALR or park status. "But as of now the public is concerned about their safety", with those \$15,000 per day costs going to "managing the tent city and the property crime and illegal drug use to try and keep our community safe," he told *West Shore Voice News*.

Again, it's about essentially dumping the problem onto municipalities, without forethought. "They should not have (Minister Robinson's) staff think that it's a good idea to move into a provincial park. And Dean Fortin through Pacifica Housing should never have paid for them to move there without consulting Langford council or the RCMP," says Mayor Young.

He says there were 14 criminal acts in 24 hours at Goldstream Provincial Park, including a stolen car, two incidents of open shooting up in a washroom in front of other campers, and seven stolen property crimes."

On Thursday, Mayor Young recounted: "A resident chased two men out of his yard last night and an arrest was made on a warrant and more today. I've issued an alert that the public is to stay away because we cannot guarantee public safety." Langford city bylaw staff were directed to go door-to-door to advise all residents to call the city if they see or hear anything. "The police were present in area while kids were walking to school," said the concerned mayor.

"The government needs to buy the land and build the housing permanently,

by Mary P Brooke

not short term," says Young. He adds that the other area requiring funding support is for staff to manage things 24/7 through appropriate ministries.

"In Langford we are building more affordable housing than anybody, and have provided over \$10 million in tax incentives and dollars over the last five years," says Young whose vision has guided the development of Langford for now over 25 years.

All of this angst looks like a big mess, but in fact the flares being sent up by this situation are not only getting some action from government but have served to raise the awareness of the public of the cost and impacts on society when the most basic of needs -- a place to call home -- is not met due to an economy that excludes some (many) to the benefit of others.

If the NDP government, with support of the Greens, can manage this shift -- as messy as it looks right now -- it will serve everyone for the better. And that includes being in the best interest of those who can afford to buy market-level housing, as that market will then stabilize including making room for entry-level buyers, which at the moment is seriously constrained.

As for the pushback about the proposed BC Speculation Tax, that still remains a "poorly executed" approach (as Premier John Horgan himself put it, in an interview with *Global News*) for tamping down the escalation of second-home and retirement home ownership -- which the NDP government (questionably) sees as a way to produce more housing availability and curb market price escalation.

It could be said that the simple fear of the proposed tax has accomplished a rapid market cool down (in combination with the mortgage stress test brought in nationally in January but has spooked buyers since Fall 2017 when first announced).

When it comes right down to it, if people can find employment and build stable careers, their income is then available for housing at various levels. Together with more housing supply (generally a slow process), jobs and training are needed. That's in the works by the BC government on many levels -- K-12, post-secondary, free access to high school completion courses, and various employment programs, etc -- to improve people's ability to afford today's high cost of living. Even a modest lifestyle is expensive on Vancouver Island. Increasing and stabilizing people's income is the best way to shift the emphasis in housing from crisis to accomplishment.

The current housing mess took decades to develop, with the current BC government now putting a deliberate effort toward sorting it out. That includes the NDP government's awareness of the need for a deliberate effort at poverty reduction. **WSV**

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society AGM. Sun Sept 23. 2 pm. SEAPARC meeting room, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org
Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Sept 24. Sooke Legion. 12:30-6:30 pm. www.blood.ca

City of Langford Special Council Meetings. Mon Sept 24 1 pm and Tues Sept 25 2 pm. www.langford.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
It's Complicated: Democracy. Panel discussion: ups and downs and history of proportional representation in BC. Wed Sept 26. Free. 5:15-7pm. Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville St, Victoria.

Metchosin All Candidates Forum. Wed Sept 26. 6 pm. Max Bell Hall, 650 Pearson College Dr.
Sooke All Candidates Meet & Greet (municipal & SD62 trustee candidates - Milne's Landing Zone). Wed Sept 26. Sooke Community Hall, 6:30-8:30 pm. Hosted by Transition Sooke. Note: no formal question period.

Island Health public board meeting. Thurs Sept 27. 1:30 pm at Duncan Meadows at 6507 North Rd, Duncan. www.islandhealth.ca

View Royal All Candidates Forum. Thurs Sept 27. Elements Casino, 6 pm
CRD Director (Juan de Fuca) All Candidates Forum (also for SD62 trustee candidates - Milne's Landing Zone). Sun Sept 30. 2 to 4 pm. Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building, 3-7450 Butler Rd, Otter Point. Hosted by OPSRRA. www.opsrra.ca

BC Legislative Assembly resumes Mon Oct 1.
BC Transit 'Future Bus' making a stop in Sooke. Tues Oct 2. www.bctransit.com

Colwood All Candidates Forum. Tues Oct 2. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, 6 to 8 pm.

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

Make sure you're prepared in the event of a power outage:

<http://ow.ly/b8r930IU400>

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program
www.prepareyourself.ca

Home & Business
@jdfemerg

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

SD62 School Trustees All Candidates Forum by SPEAC (district PAC), date tba.

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

Langford All Candidates Forum. Thurs Oct 4. Langford Legion, 6 to 8 pm. 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. 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>

Town Hall Meeting on the National Housing Strategy (focus on Vancouver Island). Tues Oct 9. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Luxton Hall, 1040 Marwood Ave, Langford. Hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malana-Langford). 1-866-609-9998

"Era of Megafires" film & discussion with Jens Wieting, Forest & Climate campaigner with Sierra Club of BC. Wed Oct 10. 7pm at EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

District of Metchosin (& SD62 Belmont Zone) Advance Voting. Wed Oct 10 & 17. 8am to 8pm. Metchosin Municipal Hall. 4450 Happy Valley Rd www.metchosin.ca

District of Sooke (& SD62 Milne's Landing Zone) Advance Voting. Wed Oct 10 & 17. 8am to 8pm. Sooke Community Hall. www.sooke.ca

City of Colwood (& SD62 Belmont Zone) Advance Voting. Wed Oct 10 & 17. 8am to 8pm. Colwood City Hall, 3300 Wishart Rd. www.colwood.ca

City of Langford (& SD62 Belmont Zone) Advance Voting. Wed Oct 10 & 17. 8am to 8pm. Langford City Hall, 877 Goldstream Ave. www.langford.ca

Tour of Metchosin's Emergency Program. Metchosin Fire Hall. Tues Oct 16. 7pm. www.metchosinfire.ca

Recreational cannabis use becomes legalized in Canada. Wed Oct 17, 2018.

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

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

Proportional Representation Referendum. By mail-in ballot. Oct 22 to Nov 30. <https://elections.bc.ca/referendum/>

Best of the Westshore. Thurs Oct 25. Business awards event at Bear Mountain. www.westshore.bc.ca

Pacific FC men's soccer team. Try-outs Nov 5 & 6 at Westhills Stadium, Langford. www.pacificfc.canpl.ca

Candidates: get your campaign ads into the huge WSV October 5 Thanksgiving issue. 250-217-5821

WEST SHORE VOICE

TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE



Ongoing to early November. All four directions will have left-turn lanes by early November. [Photo: corner of Jacklin & Jenkins, Sept 21]



Continuing in September-October 2018. Along Langford Pkwy near Westhills Stadium and arena. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy. [Photo: construction zone alongside Langford Parkway, Sept 21]

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



Four All-Candidates Forums in the west shore

West Shore Voice News

● **The WestShore Chamber of Commerce** is hosting four All Candidates Forums as a way for voters and the community to know more about municipal candidates.

Metchosin (note, mayor John Ranns is uncontested): Wed Sept 26: 6 pm at Max Bell Hall at Pearson College UWC.

View Royal (note, mayor David Screech is uncontested): Thurs Sept 27: 6 pm at Elements Casino, Island Highway.

Colwood: Tues Oct 2: 6 pm at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave.

Langford: Thurs Oct 4: 6 pm at Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave.

Questions will be accepted online until 3 pm on the date of each Forum, here: <https://westshore.bc.ca/calendar-of-events/> **WSV**

Green Pro-Rep rally drew a big crowd last weekend in Victoria

by Eryn Chaney, for West Shore Voice News

● **"When political leaders** can neglect housing affordability and money laundering for more than a decade, our system is broken," says the BC Green Party. They say that the referendum this fall (Oct 22 to Nov 30) on how MLAs are elected in BC is a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix it"

In broad marketing this past week, the BC Greens are saying: "Proportional representation gives us better accountability, gives everyone a voice, protects our democracy, and produces better laws." The NDP government is being supported by the BC Greens in their Pro-Rep position on changing the electoral system from first-past-the-

post to one that creates representation for all voters.

Last weekend the Greens held an information session at the Victoria Conference Centre.

"All three proportional systems on the ballot will deliver to every voter an MLA," Sonia Furstenau, Green Party MLA (Cowichan Valley)



Full house at BC Green Pro-Rep rally at the Victoria Conference Centre, Saturday September 15.

and Deputy Leader, reassured the full lecture theatre. Furstenau described the benefit of Pro-Rep as government collaboration, "people will be working together, likely across party lines, to better represent you."

Also attending the rally was Adam Olsen, MLA (Saanich North and the Islands), who called the referendum the "most important provincial campaign" right now. Other speakers included BC Green Deputy Leader, Jonina Campbell; and BC Green Youth Leaders Hunter Lastiwka, and Kinsale Philip. BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver was unable to attend. **WSV**

Eryn Chaney ~ West Shore Voice News

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Election Watch 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

GENERAL ELECTION Oct.20

Backgrounders and news interviews with candidates in six west shore municipalities and for school trustees (SD62) are being posted online 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**

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