



West Shore Voice News

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COURTESY Watermarked edition

Contributing to a knowledge-based economy & society since 2008.

Your weekend news digest. BREAKING NEWS & PDF of this week's issue: www.westshorevoicenews.com

WEST SHORE VOICE

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Week #401

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.

When does a Division become a Reunion?

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Oct 1 name change

Friday, September 28, 2018

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'Musical chairs' Sooke meet-&-greet for municipal & trustee candidates

Notes & photos by Mary P Brooke

● **About 100 people showed up** for a meet-and-greet election-season event organized by Transition Sooke. The musical-chairs format was provided as an opportunity for voters in the District of Sooke to have one-on-one conversations with candidates for District of Sooke council and the Milne's Landing Zone of Sooke School District 62 (SD62).

It was definitely mix-and-mingle -- with candidates for both council and school board interspersed in the same space -- but awkward in some cases when some candidates were left sitting for the 7-minute rotation without anyone at their table. Rick Armour was unable to attend.

WSV

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Maja Tait (incumbent)

■ **Sooke mayoralty race:** Maja Tait (I), Kevin Pearson (2-term councillor), Mick Rhodes.

■ **For Sooke council** (13 candidates vying for six seats): 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, Jeff Stewart (SP).

■ **SD62 school trustee race** Milne's Landing Zone has five candidates vying for three seats (three are incumbents): Bob Phillips (I), Neil Poirier (I), Britt Santowski, Margot Swinburnson (I), Allison Watson.



Kevin Pearson



Mick Rhodes

I = incumbent
SP = served previously

Homeless campers to be out of Goldstream Park before morning of Oct 2

West Shore Voice News

● **On Thursday, September 27** (a week after homeless campers moved into Goldstream Provincial Park, causing a stir in Langford where neither Council nor RCMP had been notified), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson confirmed the departure date of the campers. The Minister's statement: "A plan is in place to provide shelter and housing for all homeless campers currently staying at Goldstream Provincial Park. People will begin to transition into housing and shelters on October 1, 2018 and BC Parks will notify the public once the campground is ready to reopen. The day-use area and group sites remain open. Between now and Monday, BC Housing and outreach staff will continue to work with campers to match them with the right housing for their individual needs. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure the safety of everyone involved and assist campers in a respectful transition before the morning of October 2, 2018, which is the expiry of the 14-day maximum stay at provincial parks."

"BC Housing and outreach staff will work to decamp the park and transition campers to shelter and housing. Transportation to housing and storage for personal belongings will be organized for campers starting October 1, 2018. Outreach staff will assist campers in moving into shelter or housing prior to October 1 as those opportunities arise. In the immediate term, Pacifica Housing will also continue to deliver daily outreach and provide harm reduction supplies and other necessities to the campers."

"BC Parks will work with BC Housing with the goal of achieving voluntary departure of the campers. In the event that people choose to remain past the October 2 deadline, BC Parks will evict campers in accordance with parks policy, and in coordination with the RCMP, other ministries and outreach workers." **WSV**

Candidates for Sooke council



Jeff Bateman



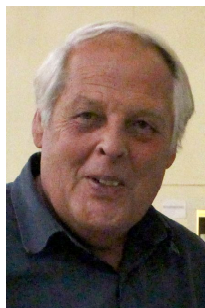
Doni Eve



Herb Haldane



Peter Jonassen



Rick Kasper



Ebony Logins



Megan McMath



Phil Rossner



Tony St-Pierre



Jeff Stewart

All candidate photos taken during the mix-and-mingle, by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Photos of these candidates unavailable from the September 26 event: Rick Armour, Al Beddows, Brenda Parkinson.

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Election Coverage 2018

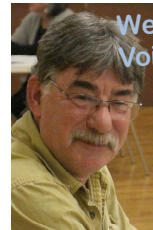
www.westshorevoicenews.com

More election coverage in the Oct 5 Thanksgiving weekend issue. **Ad bookings due by Oct 3: 250-217-5821**

Candidates for SD62 (Milne's Landing Zone (Sooke & Juan de Fuca))



Authorized by Robert Phillips, financial agent | 250-642-3297



Neil Poirier



Allison Watson



Britt Santowski



Margot Swinburnson



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Will these questions answer *your* questions?



Editorial

● **Whoever takes leadership calls the shots.** In the case of Municipal All Candidates Forums, the organizers colour the tone of the event and the content of the questions. In Sooke for this 2018 election cycle, the chamber has booked the Prestige Hotel for an All Candidates meeting for October 11; usually their format is to open the floor to public questions and media as much as possible (or receive public questions in advance).
Meanwhile, Transition Sooke has taken a robust early stride this election season. They hosted a meet-and-greet for municipal (and SD62 school trustee) candidates on Sept 26, and will host a mayoralty forum on Oct 3. Their membership has determined 15 questions for the mayoralty candidates to answer (with little time for public questions). Transition Sooke openly promotes the questions as reflecting the concerns of their membership: Smart Growth civic planning, the local economy, waste reduction, food security, public transit, and 'compassionate communication'. Of the questions sent this week to the three candidates, some are quite specific (e.g. lawn-garden pesticide ban) and some ask if the candidate will 'lead by example' with personal trend-setting actions. And while housing is probably the top concern on just about everyone's mind on the island, no mention of that.

Internet 300/300 has arrived.

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Municipal Election Watch 2018

(I) = incumbent

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



GENERAL ELECTION DAY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2018

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

- > **District of Metchosin (& SD62 Belmont Zone).** Metchosin Municipal Hall. 4450 Happy Valley Rd. www.metchosin.ca
- > **District of Sooke (& SD62 Milne's Landing Zone).** Sooke Community Hall. www.sooke.ca
- > **City of Colwood (& SD62 Belmont Zone).** Colwood City Hall, 3300 Wishart Rd. www.colwood.ca
- > **City of Langford (& SD62 Belmont Zone).** Langford City Hall, 877 Goldstream Ave. www.langford.ca

● **Bulletin:** For **SD62** trustees, there will not be an All Candidates event hosted by SPEAC (the District parent PAC). While that had been the traditional offering to candidates, this time around SPEAC has decided to ask all trustee candidates (Belmont Zone & Milne's Landing Zone) for a video of themselves answering a set list of questions from parents. The videos will be posted online for viewing – calling it a town hall but without interactivity. If you live in Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchosin, Juan de Fuca, and parts of View Royal and Highlands, you may vote for SD62 trustee candidates even if you don't have kids in school.

● **Correction to last week's Municipal Election Watch analysis entitled:**

"Ask yourself how you feel about this scenario"



(regarding media/candidate ethical conflict). The 4th paragraph should have read:

"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."

● **Update since last week:** In the **City of Langford** race, one of the council candidates (Rick Johal) has dropped out. That leaves seven candidates for six seats; five of the candidates are incumbents (I). On the ballot: Denise Blackwell (I), Wendy Hobbs, Matt Sahlstrom (I), Lanny Seaton (I), Norma Stewart, Lillian Szpak (I), and Roger Wade (I).
The Langford All Candidates Meeting has been changed from October 4 to now Tuesday, October 9. It will be held at the Langford Legion, 5:45 pm to 9 pm.



Council and school board election campaign signs are sprouting up around Sooke. [Photo: September 24 on Hwy 14 near EMCS high school].

BC & REGIONAL NEWS Daily news www.westshorevoicenews.com

Housing unaffordability 'off the charts' says RBC

● **"Unaffordability is off the charts** in Vancouver, Toronto and now Victoria," says RBC in their September 2018 Economics Research report, saying the affordability measure hasn't been this bad since 1990. Ownership costs to carry a home bought in the second quarter of 2018 would have taken up 53.9% of a typical household's income. This is up sharply from 43.2% three years ago. Their conclusion about housing 'unaffordability' should come as a surprise to no one.

Banks have traditionally required a 30% cap on home ownership costs as a percentage of household income. Spending more than 30% on home ownership (or rent for that matter) has long been situation for many in the Greater Victoria area. The burden of that is only now reaching broad awareness in the mainstream because even families with two incomes can't often qualify for a mortgage.

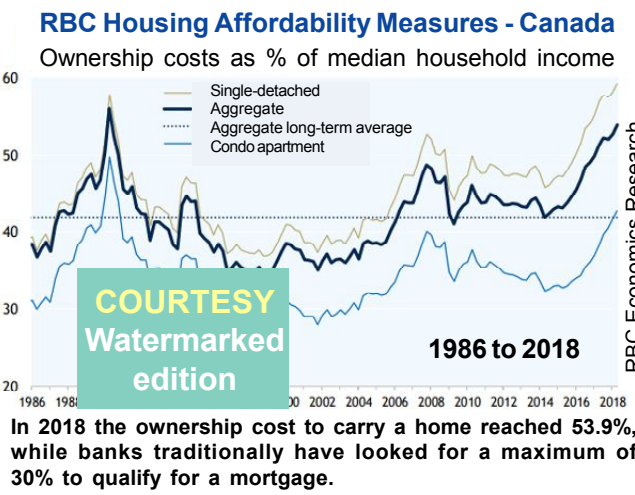
News last summer/fall 2017 about the pending stress test spooked buyers and banks, even then starting to 'cool the market'. The Bank of Canada admitted well before the January 1, 2018 stress test start date that the measure would likely shut out 10% of low-ratio homebuyers.

First time-buyers now often end up in the higher-end of the glutted rental market where they essentially take up room that the regular renter market needs, and also diminishes their ability to save up to put a downpayment on a home. This socioeconomic sector is still motivated to try hard... they've often got new businesses or young families, and may still have stars in their eyes for a full and successful life ahead of them. Squeezing this group makes no socioeconomic sense. It can crush people, serving to diminish their enthusiasm on all sorts of levels. A smart economy will seek the verve of the 'up and coming'. Suppressing young families and talent within the workforce – by diminishing their basic housing security – is starkly counter-productive to a healthy society and robust economy.

RBC's conclusion in their September 2018 report? "It'll probably get worse. We expect further interest rate hikes in the period ahead. This is poised to drive ownership costs even higher across Canada. Household income increases will soften the blow for buyers." It's unclear how household income is expected to increase anywhere close to the rate of rising housing costs.

Nowadays for many individuals and families it's put a roof over your head and then see what's left for everything else. It sets up an underlying tone of desperation (not good for productivity or for holistic relationships in families and community). Depending on life circumstances (sometimes unforeseen), homelessness can easily lurk in the shadows for anyone.

Victoria Real Estate Board statistics for August 2018 show



the single family home average sale price as \$937,459 for Greater Victoria overall. In the west shore, average sale prices in August were somewhat lower compared to a few months ago (i.e. 'market cooling'): Langford: \$708,970 (had been in the \$772,000 range earlier this year); Colwood: \$727,447; Sooke: \$446,065 (had been well over half-a-million at points earlier this year).

The present scenario is hopefully a loud wake-up call that continued attention to the housing crisis should be the primary concern for all levels of government, including municipal (where land zoning happens), provincial (housing falls directly under their watch), and federal (for a national strategy).

This crushing reality in the housing market is coupled with regularly increasing rental rates (the rate was 4.0% in BC for this year, but is being held to the rate of inflation at 2.5% for 2019). **WSV**

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

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Town Hall Meeting
on the National Housing Strategy

Tuesday, October 9th // 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Luxton Hall

1040 Marwood Ave, Langford

Join **MP Alistair MacGregor** and special guests for a discussion on the National Housing Strategy and the urgent need for affordable housing on Vancouver Island.

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca

Phone: 1-866-609-9998



Community Growth

Housing & Education



News updates any time:
www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Colwood Corners construction gets underway

West Shore Voice News

● **Construction of the first new buildings** at Colwood Corners will be celebrated on Thursday October 4 by a gathering of Colwood Mayor and council, representatives from Onni Group, and other community leaders.

In January 2018, the City of Colwood issued a preliminary building permit to Onni Group to begin work on overall site, civil, and landscape preparation. Some initial site work related to stormwater management and other site considerations began mid-August. Completion of the first phase of construction is anticipated for 2020.

The site at 1907 Sooke Road was acquired by Onni Group in 2015 after the previous owners experienced financial difficulties during the post-2008 recession.

Onni plans to transform Colwood's town centre with eight new buildings to provide more than 400 units of rental apartments and over 14,000 sq m of commercial space for new shops, services, and eateries. **WSV**



Artist's rendering of Colwood Corners.

Road acquisition payment to BC government would push up cost of affordable housing units

West Shore Voice News

● **At a special meeting of Langford council** on Wednesday morning, September 26, there was some discussion about a piece of land on Spencer Road where 128 affordable housing units could be built, but that initiative has been sitting in limbo for about 18 months, said Mayor Stew Young.

A closed portion of road situated alongside Highway 1 was given by the province to City of Langford in a contract, said Mayor Stew Young. "Now the province has said they're going to sell it to us," he said.

"Rightfully we should get the property transferred to the city at no cost," Mayor Young explained, in the context of a closed municipal road normally automatically going to the municipality.

According to Langford, the government presently has set a price tag of \$750,000 for the 24,000 sq ft of closed road. Legal recourse has been taken by the City, with a subsequent back-and-forth going on between the City and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI).

The cost of purchasing the closed road would consequently push up the cost of any housing that is built on the site.

The lands are part of development permit DP17-0039 issued by the City.



MPB ~ West Shore Voice News

"Ministry of Transportation staff have been working with the City of Langford on the transfer of these properties as part of the project, and the process is ongoing. We are optimistic a fair agreement will be reached soon," MOTI stated on September 28.

The development would utilize land at civic addresses 2741, 2749, 2751, 2753, 2757 and 2761 Spencer Rd and 996 Preston Way. The original DP request on June 20, 2017 included a mixed-use portion of the building to include office space and studio/daycare. The DP was promptly issued by the City on July 21, 2017. **WSV**

SD62 enrollment increase pushes past 500

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● 4+ years of SD62 education reporting by West Shore Voice News



● **SD62 Associate Superintendent Paul Block presented enrollment numbers showing an increase of 509 students over last year, reaching a total count of 10,432 students in SD62 classrooms as of September 22.**



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **SD62 head table at their September 25 board meeting (from left): Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull, Superintendent Scott Stinson, Chair Ravi Parmar.**

Ratios across BC (teacher to students)
Teacher librarians: 1:702 | Counsellors 1:693
Learning Assistance: 1:504 | Special Education: 1:300 | Early Language Learners & English as a Second Dialect: 1:21.5

● **"The trend is growth,"** said SD62 Associate Superintendent Paul Block in his report to trustees at the September 25 board meeting. While an enrollment projection of 10,209 students was determined in June for this 2018-2019 academic year, over the summer more families with young children arrived in the west shore and Sooke. An influx of 509 more students in K-12 saw enrollment reach 10,432 (Sept 22). Final numbers to be supported with BC Ministry of Education funding will be determined effective September 30 for this academic year.

SD62 has increased their number of counsellors to just over 20 FTE's, which is five more than the required ratio. A counsellor's salary (including benefits) is generally about \$100,000 said SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull. "We are well beyond our contractual obligation," said Block.

"Schools are staffed at levels that meet the needs of increased enrollment and legislated class sizes and specialist-teacher ratios now," it was stated in the board presentation. Enough French Immersion teachers were found for this fall (a shortfall was the concern earlier this year). SD62 Human Resources Executive Director Dan Haley said that the only hiring shortage now is among educational assistants (EAs). That same evening, the CUPE rep reported the shortfall in EA staffing as causing stress in the work environment of current EAs.

The board gave approval to their new Policy D-300 'Dissemination of Information Through Schools' which will curtail most things that are deemed commercial or external from reaching students. Whether that is of benefit to keeping students appropriately informed of the world around them is debatable.

SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar reported that Ministry of Education Foundation Skill Assessment (FSA) tests that are delivered to students in Grades 4 & 7 province-wide see the lowest turnout in SD62. He said that parts of the test have been "revised by the new government". Vice-Chair Bob Phillips said the FSAs grew "from parents wanting to know how their kids were doing in school" but that one or more third-party organizations have been providing FSA results with an interpretation that (as Parmar put it) "some schools ranking low sends the wrong message". In Sooke over several years, the teachers' association has discouraged families and students from participating in FSAs, as a way to protest misuse of the results.

Librarians have been restored to every school in SD62, something that's been a long-time coming since teacher-librarian cutbacks and library closures under the BC Liberal government in years past.

At the Tuesday night meeting, each of the three associate superintendents reported on their designated family of schools: Stephanie Hedley-Smith for the Belmont family, Dave Strange for the EMCS family, and Paul Block for the Royal Bay family. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

Pacific FC is hiring

West Shore Voice News

SPORT BIZ

● **Pacific FC men's soccer league** based out of Langford has begun hiring, posting opportunities on Twitter this week for: Director Business Operations; Director of Marketing; Manager, Partnership Services; Account Executive; Ticket Sales & Service manager. @Pacificfccpl **WSV**

No federal housing strategy money spent in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke so far

● **"I checked** and not a single penny of funding from the government's vaunted housing strategy has been spent in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke," said Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) this week.

The NDP used their first opposition day of the fall sitting in the House of Commons to "highlight the fact that measures announced by the Liberal government don't address the urgency of the situation". The motion calls for the government to immediately bring forward 50% of the funding attached to the government's housing strategy.

Referring to his own riding: "People here are being squeezed out of the housing market and can't afford to wait. Waiting until after the next election will be too late for many people who can't afford for things to get worse." And while he said the "lack of affordable housing is directly tied to decades of successive funding cuts by Liberal and Conservative governments", in Greater Victoria it was

made particularly difficult by a reluctance amongst municipalities (other than Langford) to rezone land toward higher density in a timely fashion. And in BC overall, it took a while for the BC Liberal government to catch on to developing affordable housing in the last few years of their 16-year run.

The Liberal government says Canada's first ever National Housing Strategy is a 10-year, \$40-billion plan. About 1.7 million families still don't have a home that meets their basic needs. To achieve this goal, the strategy will first focus on the most vulnerable Canadians, says the federal government at www.placetocallhome.ca

The plan's first-focus includes women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, those dealing with mental health and addiction issues, veterans and young adults.

Over the next 10 years, the strategy will apparently cut chronic homelessness in half, remove 530,000

families from housing need, and invest in the construction of up to 100,000 new affordable homes.

Canada faces an unprecedented housing crisis with exploding house prices, rising rents, rental housing shortages, long waitlists for non-market housing, and increasing homelessness. **WSV**

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CRD Director (Juan de Fuca) All Candidates Forum (also 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. Submit questions ahead of time at www.westshore.bc.ca

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

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

Thanksgiving Weekend. Sat Oct 6 - Mon Oct 8.

Ecohome Tour 2018 (East Sooke, Sooke, Otter Point). Sat Oct 6. 11 am to 3pm. www.transitionsooke.org

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

Thanksgiving Skate. Mon Oct 8. 1 to 2:30 pm. \$2 admission with a donation for Sooke Food Bank. Limited supply of skates. Bring your own helmet. www.seaparc.ca

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>

Langford Municipal All Candidates Forum. Tues Oct 9. Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave. 5:45 to 9 pm. www.westshore.bc.ca

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-Malahat-Langford). 1-866-609-9998

Westshore Chamber Business Mixer, Wed Oct 10. 5-7pm. Hosted by WorkLink, 3179 Jacklin Rd.

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Walk-In's & Appointments Welcome

"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.

Sooke Municipal All Candidates Meeting. Thurs Oct 11. 7pm. Prestige Hotel. 7pm. Hosted by Sooke Region Chamber.

Composting Basics. Free workshop Sat Oct 13. Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. 10am to 12 noon. www.compost.bc.ca

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

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

Great BC Shakeout: Drop, Cover and Hold On at 10:18 am on Thurs Oct 18. Register: www.shakeoutbc.ca

Pro-D Day (BC-wide). Fri Oct 19. Swimming 12-5 pm. Skating 1-2:30 pm. Juan de Fuca Rec, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. Regular admission. www.westshorererecreation.ca

Municipal Elections in BC. General Voting Day. Sat Oct 20. 8am to 8 pm. 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. Try-outs Nov 5 & 6. Westhills Stadium. www.pacificfc.canpl.ca

Candidates: get your campaign ads into the huge WSV October 5 Thanksgiving weekend issue.

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TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Tues Oct 2. Walkway paving for one day on Millstream Rd, north of the overpass. 7 am to 3 pm. Lane next to the curb will be closed during this work. Some traffic delays.

Continuing in September-October 2018. Along Langford Pkwy near Westhills Stadium and arena. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy.



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

For other short-term traffic advisories see: www.langford.ca



All-Candidates Forums in the west shore

West Shore Voice News

● The WestShore Chamber of Commerce is hosting two more municipal (mayor and council) All Candidates Forums – one before Thanksgiving weekend, and one after. These events are a way for voters and the community to know more about municipal candidates. **Colwood**: Tues Oct 2: 6 pm at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave. **Langford**: Tues Oct 9: 5:45 pm at Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave. [Note, this event has been rescheduled from Oct 4]. Questions will be accepted online until 3 pm on the date of each Forum: <https://westshore.bc.ca/calendar-of-events/>. This past week the chamber hosted all candidates forums for Metchosin and View Royal. **WSV**

What's in a name? 'Division' to become 'Reunion'

West Shore Voice News



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● As of October 1, the now heavily-used Division Avenue through the Belmont Residences/Market development will undergo a name change. The municipal road that connects Jacklin and Jenkins through the new subdivision will be called Reunion Avenue.

The name change resulted from a team decision amongst the City of Langford, Belmont Market (Crombie REIT) and Belmont Residences developer Ledcor Properties. "The team at Belmont Residences is very happy with the change from Division to Reunion," says Marcela Corzo, Director of Development, Ledcor Properties.

"The renaming fits perfectly with this master-planned community as it relates to the overall philosophy of trail-meets-home-meets-market. Reunion Avenue is all about building community," says Corzo.

Belmont Residences is pleased that the new name is also an acknowledgement to the high school that used to occupy the land, as Belmont Secondary graduates will continue to have reunions over the years. The newly constructed Belmont Secondary School (aka Belmont 2.0) opened in September 2015 on Langford Lake Road in Westhills. **WSV**

<< **Sunset photo Sept 28: the last days of Division Avenue signage.**



WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930
New to Sooke?
New mom?
Bride to be?
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Lighthouse renovations almost done!

West Shore Voice News

● Renovations toward restoration have been going on for a while at the Sheringham Point Lighthouse, west of Sooke. But the project is almost done! Lantern room painting has been completed and tower painting has begun. Windows have been fabricated and installed, with the weather vane has been restored and replaced. Scaffolding is to be removed; painting will be done suspended from a hook on the lantern room. A railing safety cable will be installed.

For many years former Senator Pat Carney had held the lighthouse file. Senator Patricia Bovey (Independent Senator from Alberta) has taken over the Lighthouse file and this summer she visited the site, it was reported at the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society (SPLPS) AGM on September 23 held in Sooke.

The organization has received a new grant from the Westaway Charitable Foundation. It's a matching grant of \$150,000, to line up with the same amount in community and membership contributions.

Public road access has been improved, as Sheringham Point Road will be improved and chip-sealed either this fall or in the spring.

A new lighthouse history book will be published soon. Writing is completed, production is underway.

ORCA monitoring at the lighthouse site continues. New hydro phones have been installed, and there will an internet connection to enable visitors to hear the orca whales coming by. Technical and behavioral data about the whales is being collected by Paul Cottrell of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

There is a School Lighthouse Ambassador program. Local schools kid visit site and learn more about lighthouse history and heritage, and the environment. **WSV** www.sheringhamlighthouse.org



Power washing to prepare for painting. [Photo by: Ian Fawcett]

SPLPS Board elections: Michael Galizio - President; John Walls - VP/ Treasurer; Bonnie Arden - Secretary. Board members: Bill Turner, Terri Alcock, Bill Parkes, Dr. Gary Geddes (also chair of the Board of Advisors).

Lighthouse preservation society presents Heritage & Environmental awards

● An award for dedication to preserving and protecting the Heritage Lighthouse at Sheringham Point was received by Juan de Fuca Regional Director Mike Hicks at the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society (SPLPS) AGM on September 23 at SEAPARC in Sooke.

"Mike is an honest, straightforward leader in our community who has worked tirelessly for the residents of the region, and in his capacity as Regional Director he has reached out to help the Society year after year," said SPLPS VP John Walls.

DFO Pacific Mammal Coordinator Paul Cottrell received an Environmental Preservation Award for dedication to preserving and protecting the marine environment surrounding the lighthouse. Paul has participated at the lighthouse site since the Society's volunteers started the preservation effort in 2003. **WSV**



JdF Regional Director Mike Hicks gets heritage preservation award.



Bob Cottrell received SPLPS environmental preservation award.