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West Shore Voice News

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Week #407



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Pro-soccer dreams get started Pacific FC begins to build their roster

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

● This week the professional soccer dreams of about 225 young men were tested on the sports field at UVic. Amateur soccer players mostly ages 18 to 24 came out from across the island, across Canada, Mexico, Europe and Japan for the two-day #GotGame Canadian Professional League (CPL) open trials November 5 and 6.



The event was hosted by Pacific FC as the wrap-up of a seven-city circuit (September to November in Halifax, Montreal, Hamilton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Victoria) to seek out the best aspiring soccer players as CPL begins to build the seven teams of their new pro soccer league.

Pacific FC games starting April 2019 will be held at Westhills Stadium in Langford. On-field training has been active there through summer and fall, with signed league players to begin training by March 2019.

Official team gear by Macron was already being worn by coaches on the field during the trials.

Pacific FC membership deposits are already available at pacificfc.canpl.ca.

Attending the two-day trials were Pacific FC President Josh Simpson, Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend, Pacific FC coach Michael Silberbauer, Pacific FC assistant coach James Merriman, and former Canada Men's National Team star and Canada Soccer Hall of Fame member Alex Bunbury as trials leader.

A roster of 23 players will ultimately be drawn from the pool of players seen in seven cities and at university games (U-games) that CPL management have attended. On November 6 the goal was to choose a shortlist of 28 but an additional complement saw the selection rise to 34.

"We've seen some bright players here," said Merriman. "They're sharp technically, with good energy."

"It's not easy for us, and it's heartbreaking for some of the players," said Bunbury. "There are some good players



Strategizing the Pacific FC team-building November 6 on the UVic sport field (from left): President Josh Simpson; Coach Michael Silberbauer; CEO Rob Friend; and Assistant Coach James Merriman.



Some of the youngest players at the CPL #GotGame trials in Victoria November 5, with trials leader (from left): Cameron Ickert, 16 (Maple Ridge); Nicolas Barabash, 16 (Burnaby); Alex Bunbury, CPL trial head coach; Josh Boyt, 16 (Dorset, UK); and Jon Boyt, 17 (Dorset, UK).

here. The cream has risen to the top," he told *West Shore Voice News* before a final set of games was played on Tuesday afternoon.

Players did fitness testing, then wearing GPS tracking devices were assessed for on-field strategy as well as skills and athletic performance.

"The kids are giving their heart and a big effort," said Silberbauer. "It's early in roster-building," the Pacific FC coach said. By early 2019 some contracts will be in place. Training starts by March, and the playing season at Westhills Stadium in Langford starts in April. "It's a big process. We're only just starting."

Players ultimately selected for contracts with the seven CPL teams will have been discovered at any of the seven trials and the U-games. Where a player did his trial isn't necessarily the location he ends up being on a team.

Pacific FC Chairman Dean Shillington said Langford Mayor Stew Young was highly enthusiastic about anchoring the only BC team to Westhills Stadium. "Langford made us feel like they really wanted us there, and it made sense. The City has made a commitment to expand the

Sea change for Colwood council

New Colwood Council for 2018-2022 Article on pg 2 >>



From left: Michael Baxter, Cynthia Day, Doug Kobayashi, Mayor Rob Martin, Dean Jantzen, Gordie Logan, and Stewart Parkinson.



- | | |
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| Alistair MacGregor, MP
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stadium and get the attendance we need," said Shillington. The "tight small stadium" (a goal of 6,000 seats) compared to venues in larger cities is what Pacific FC was looking for to create a European soccer experience with "the stands right to the field, the noise...the players feel the energy and for the crowd... it's a fun, vibrant way to watch a soccer game."

At \$200 a pop, registration for the trials was sold out a couple of months ago, says Pacific FC's president. "These open trials are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show your stuff," said Simpson, who grew up on Vancouver Island but had to leave for Europe to follow his dream to play professional soccer.

"Victoria has a long history of soccer," said CPL President Paul Beirne

on the field this week. The CPL was strong in the 1980s to mid-90s. The World Cup being played in Canada (Toronto, Edmonton and Montreal), the USA and Mexico in 2026 "gives us a nice runway, and energizes people's imaginations. It gives us a goal," Beirne explained. He estimates that players now age 13 to 18 will be setting their sights on playing in the World Cup.

And while soccer is the most-played sport across Canada, "it's never gone to the level it's going to go now," said Bunbury, after putting the #GotGame participants through warmups, drills and short games. "The smarter players are the ones who excel," said Bunbury, who emphasizes strategy. "I watch what they do when they don't have the ball." **WSV**

Christmas Spirit 2.0 by Mary P Brooke | Editor & Publisher



Mary Brooke, B.Sc. Cert PR

Decades ago there was a shift about realizing the difference between the commercialized Christmas and the spiritual meaning of it. That contributed to or was part of the anti-corporate theme that we now see in some communities.

'We wouldn't want to be like Langford' one can hear in some other parts of the region. Can you say not even once you've nipped out to get a bargain at one of the big-box stores or been glad for the convenience of buying some sports gear or a decorative pillow at the last minute?

Living lean, renewing and recycling are important skills and habits for everyone. Also important are the jobs and economic resilience for families and small businesses that result from participating in a metropolitan economy. We can be both thoughtful people who respect the environment while at the same time recognizing the economic drivers of our communities. While society, the economy and the planet are in transition (which could take decades or even centuries) let's not beat up on one another in the meantime.

Each community of the west shore has a vision and its own ways of

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achieving stated goals. The bird's-eye view is to see the region as a whole, with each community putting forward its best. ■

Quick reset for Langford council

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

Langford voters returned a near-match of a council on October 20, seeing incumbent Mayor Stew Young returned to office to build on his 26-year run, and incumbent councillors Denise Blackwell, Matt Sahlstrom, Lanny Seaton, Lillian Szpak and Roger Wade who were sworn in to five of the six seats at their November 5 inaugural meeting.

The sixth councillor Norma Stewart is a longtime member of the Langford Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee.

This council was already approving motions that first evening, and were back into committee meetings this week. With a can-do style and strident business-minded attitude,



Mayor Stew Young was away on a pre-arranged vacation.

Six Langford councillors, ready for four years of city growth and development (from left): Norma Stewart, Matt Sahlstrom, Denise Blackwell, Roger Wade, Lanny Seaton, and Lillian Szpak after being sworn into office Nov 5.

Langford council didn't miss a beat. Large residential developments and new commercial developments as well as recreational infrastructure are their standard fare. Their swift handling of zoning amendments and issuance of

development permits has caught the attention of municipalities throughout BC. Developers appreciate timely municipal action on their projects, which helps control the cost of borrowing and in turn helps contain market housing prices.

Under Mayor Young's leadership, the city continues to bring on new initiatives, such as wooing Rugby Canada to station its headquarters here as well as signing on the new Pacific FC team to generate even more sports-fan enthusiasm and economic spinoffs in Langford.

One Langford-brand approach to building the commercial strength of the city is to offer tax-free incentives to new businesses. That worked with big-box stores in the mid-2000s and the most recent flavour is offering tax-free status to any new medical or health services offices that set up shop in Langford.

Relative housing affordability in Langford continues to attract new residents, seeing the population now over 40,000. New schools are needed in response to support the growing number of families, so there is a lot of work hand-in-hand with SD62. The expanding population also increases the current strain on commuter traffic into Victoria/Saanich, but Langford continues to expand its own road infrastructure including last year the West Shore Parkway with an interchange at Highway 1.

All in all, a municipality still on the fast track and demonstrating agility with all levels of community growth. ■

Sea change for Colwood council

>> from pg 1

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

Sea change: "A substantial change in perspective, especially one which affects a group or society at large, on a particular issue... a paradigm shift, a change to a society or community's zeitgeist, with regard to a specific issue."

And for Colwood in the 2018 municipal election was that, ushering in a new mayor after a seven-year period of recessionary recovery in which the city of just over 17,000 people now finds itself facing down a double-barrel gun of skyrocketing housing prices and a commuter traffic stranglehold.

Underpinning the stagnation of growth was a minimal commercial tax base in part borne of a reluctance to embrace robust and creative housing development. Not confident to make a start in that direction, perhaps not knowing how.

In comes the new Mayor Rob Martin -- a two-term councillor under now former mayor Carol Hamilton. Toward the end of his two terms Martin realized the need for Colwood to actively attract commercial growth and housing development while still acknowledging and protecting the environmental treasures that are the seashore and forested landscapes of the municipality. More specifically, this year he saw how developers were interested but frustrated.

Not re-elected on October 20 was the councillor who primarily led the development of the new Official Community Plan. And with two former councillors not seeking re-election there was room for new faces.

But the new profile of Colwood council is more than that. There is a palpable difference in energy... something properly straightforward and somehow tested about the group despite that four of six councillors have never before held public office. They all looked very natural in suits at their inaugural evening meeting in council chambers.



"We are not a caretaker council," said Mayor Rob Martin in his inaugural speech.

Each in their own way, returning councillors Cynthia Day and Gordie Logan are methodical straight-shooters. Michael Baxter with his engineering background has logged many years as a municipal staffer and knows process. Doug Kobayashi stands strong on his desire to balance the books. Dean Jantzen brings edge but with the stability mindset of his law enforcement career background. Stewart Parkinson is an engineer and longtime business owner in Colwood.

Perhaps that is the well-built stature required for the muscle and stamina it will take to wrestle with the mechanics

and procedure of the many changes that are necessary to turn around the equivalent of a large but sleepy steamship while it courses mid-stream as a relatively well-established community. The voters got what they needed -- a visionary at the top who has the ideas and spark to inspire but who can also drill down into details with an understanding and appreciation of the process to pull at that together and forward.

This appears to be a functional and willing council. Mayor Martin has already set the tone that they will grow together and he will push them hard to accomplish the smart growth that the Colwood community is hoping for.

At the podium during the inaugural Colwood council meeting on Monday night November 5, Martin addressed the community and thanked them for turning out in such large number (about 175), seeing that as a vote of confidence but also as a statement of expectation.

Then in his seven-minute speech, Martin turned to his council and gave something of a mandate letter to the two returning councillors and four new ones:

"I want you to understand that you have taken on a huge responsibility. You've been asked to lead for your community. I ask that you take this sincerely and seriously. You will find a lot of joy in this job, but you will also find the odd sleepless night and you will need to find a thick skin as you are criticized for the decisions that you make."

"I will challenge you," Martin said to his council. "We are not a caretaker council. We are going to move this community forward and we are going to work very hard. But I will expect that you challenge me as much as I challenge you. I embrace this next four years. I look

forward to it, and thank you for this."

"My advice to you is this. Gather as much information as you can, make the right choice that you believe is right for this community, and you can do no more. Make that effort, take that time, find the answer that's right. The most influential decision makers are not the people who can stand and argue the best. The influential decision makers are those who come in with a decisive decision but also have the ability to listen and to hear the opposite argument and to be brave enough to say I'm willing to change my opinion because of that argument. Be open, be brave, be bold," said Martin.

That evening, council approved appointments to regional boards. Martin will sit on the CRD board (with Kobayashi as alternate), and attend the AGMs of the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc (CREST) and the Greater Victoria Labour Relations board. Logan will be Colwood's rep to CREST. Parkinson will be the regular rep for Colwood to the Greater Victoria Labour Relations board, with Kobayashi as alternate. Baxter will be Colwood's rep to the Capital Regional District's Climate Action Intermunicipal Working Group for the full four years. After a review of committees coming in a staff report in December, further committee appointments for 2019 will be made.

The town is comfortable with its new leader. Martin commanded the respect of the room at this, the start of his term, including as he expressed his gratitude to outgoing Mayor Hamilton who received a 40-second standing ovation. There was live music, refreshments and cake. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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Sooke council takes a new direction

by Mary P Brooke and Chelsea Kirkpatrick ~ West Shore Voice News



New District of Sooke council for 2018-2022 at their November 5 inaugural meeting (from left): Brenda Parkinson, Jeff Bateman, Ebony Logins, Maja Tait (mayor), Al Beddows, Tony St-Pierre, and Megan McMath.

● **Sooke council chambers** was full on Monday evening November 5 to witness the swearing in of **Mayor Maja Tait** for her second term of office, and to usher in a council that includes only two returning councillors. The four new councillors are also new to elected office, though none of them are strangers to Sooke and its distinct culture of deep-rooted communities.

Tait's strong win over contender Kevin Pearson (who served two terms on council) showed evidence of her strong and broad base in the community, likely strengthened by her good working relationship with MLA and MP for the area.

During the inaugural meeting Tait indicated her expectation that leadership be taken by returning councillors **Brenda Parkinson** (now in her third term) and **Ebony Logins** (now in her second consecutive term) in helping the new councillors learn the ropes.

Jeff Bateman brings his connection with the Transition Sooke and zero-waste community as well as the tourism industry for which he has been a writer. **Al Beddows** has spent years serving with the Sooke Lions and providing leadership with the Sooke Food Bank. **Tony St-Pierre** will be keen on sustainability with his urban studies background and running a local farm. **Megan McMath** is part of the Sooke Economic Development initiative among the local business community.

Catching up with a few of the new councillors after the formal meeting, Al Beddows said he is keen to see how the new medical facility unfolds. He also wants to see progress with infrastructure as it relates to traffic in Sooke. "It's not going to be solved overnight, and it will take a team working together to make it happen. We need to make a bit of noise and get something going," Beddows told *West Shore Voice News*.

Jeff Bateman sees getting hiring the District's next Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) as key: "That the one and only staff position we have direct involvement with. That (staff) addition is key," Bateman said. He is also eager for a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP), with the last fully approved one having been developed in 2010. As for other goals for his time on council, he refers to his campaign website: "Over time a few of those things will be addressed."

Tony St-Pierre sees housing affordability and reducing commuter traffic as fundamental to reducing carbon emissions. "That's the most important thing to do because nothing else matters. We need to try and win this, and get serious. The municipal level is where there is a lot of power to do this," he explains. "So people can work where they live, we need to develop our local economy in all kinds of ways as soon as possible, and then we need affordable housing so we can stay here. Sooke can model this stuff and do it. We need a war on carbon. We need to mobilize everyone for local economy, building affordable housing, reducing our carbon and using clean energy." Stretching to a worst-case scenario: "In Sooke we can take care of people if anything happens. With this council and this community, we've got the best shot anywhere." St-Pierre sees a solution to the carbon emissions problem by focussing on quality of life and "making affordable housing really affordable". He wants to make progress in the next year on affordable housing, saying there are a lot of legislative barriers. "But at the municipal level we can attack affordable housing and the local economy. Those are the lynch pins for really reducing the carbon."

The next Sooke council meeting is on Tuesday, November 13 (livecast www.sooke.ca), 7 pm. **WSV**

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Sooke Historian Elida Peers is clearly proud of Maja Tait becoming mayor again for a second term.

BC child care prototype launched

West Shore Voice News

● **The BC government is moving forward** with 53 prototype projects around the province to deliver child care that will cost families a maximum of \$200/month per child (approx \$10/day, in line with an NDP campaign promise). The announcement was made Nov 9 in Vancouver.

This is the next major step in government's 10-year ChildCare BC plan and "will model what high-quality, affordable, universal child care may look like for BC families". Forty-three child care sites in BC started operating on November 1 with a further 10 slated to start December 1. The pilot project runs to March 31, 2020.

The investment is \$60 million under the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement with the Government of Canada. Parents of about 2,500 children will benefit.

"The Government of Canada believes that early learning and child care services should be affordable for all families," said Jonathan Wilkinson, Member of Parliament for North Vancouver and Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Province selected sites after a call for applications in June 2018, with priority given to sites with infant and toddler spaces, though expanded eligibility includes other types of licensed child care.

"We are finding new ways to make it easier for families to get by every month and to save for the future," said Premier John Horgan. "Through this kind of action, where we significantly reduce the cost of child care, we can make life more affordable for so many BC families."

"Government and the BC Green caucus are working collaboratively to build quality, universal early childhood education in BC," said Sonia Furstenu, MLA (Cowichan Valley).

Providers at the new sites will receive government funding to cover operational and administration costs. In return, they are to reduce parent fees to a maximum of \$200 per month for full-time enrolment during regular hours. They are to provide feedback to the BC government to help inform the future implementation of universal care. More: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/new-child-care-prototype-in-bc/> **WSV**

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Ballot rate

● **As of Nov 9**, Elections BC had seen 1.3% of eligible voters return ballots in Langford-Juan de Fuca (including Sooke) for the Proportional Representation referendum. The overall return rate for BC was 3.7%. Ballots are due by 4:30 pm on Friday Nov 30. www.elections.bc.ca **WSV**

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

'British Columbia's War, 1914-1918' exhibit
opens at Sooke Region Museum. Fri Nov 9 to Feb 10, 2019.
www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Remembrance Day. Sun Nov 11.
Langford/Westshore parade 10 am, ceremony at 10:50 am, Veterans Memorial Park. Colwood ceremony at Colwood Cenotaph near the Juan de Fuca arena. | Sooke ceremony at Sooke Legion. | Digital: www.mypoppy.ca



2 minutes silence at 11 am

Municipal offices closed. Mon Nov 12.
SD62 Board Meeting. Inaugural. Tues Nov 13. 7 pm.
www.sd62.bc.ca

'Take Our Kids to Work Day'. Wed Nov 14. Gr 9 students visit parent workplaces. www.thelearningpartnership.ca

All Sooke Arts & Crafts Christmas Fair. Fri Nov 16, Sat Nov 17, Sun Nov 18. Sooke Community Hall. www.allsookeartsandcrafts.com

'Evolution of Band' fundraiser for new music bursary. Sat Nov 17. 1pm. Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. By donation.

Disasters & Medical Response. Tues Nov 20. Emergency preparedness session at Metchosin Fire Hall. 7pm. www.metchosinfire.ca

SPEAC (SD62 District PAC) monthly meeting. Wed Nov 21. 7pm. Wishart Elementary. www.sd62.bc.ca

The Biggest Little Craft Fair. Sat Nov 24. 9-4. Sooke Community Hall. www.sookefallfair.ca

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Magic of Christmas Craft Fair. Sat Nov 24 10-5, **Sun Nov 25** 10-3. Eagle Ridge Centre, 1089 Langford Pkwy, Langford.

Port Renfrew Xmas Market. Sun Nov 25. 10-3. Port Renfrew Community Centre, \$15/table. portrenfrew647@shaw.ca

Human Library - lived experiences in military & first-responder service. Wed Nov 28 (6-8 pm) Sooke Library & **Thurs Nov 29** (3-5 pm) Sooke Region Museum. To be a speaker call: 250-642-6351

SD62 Colwood Campus Xmas Tree Sale. Sat Dec 1 to Sun Dec 16. Fundraiser for Grad 2019. Mon-Thurs 3-7 pm | Fri-Sat 10 am to 8 pm | Sun 10 am to 6 pm 2139 Sooke Rd.

Alistair MacGregor, MP Holiday Open House. Sat Dec 1. 4 to 6 pm. At Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 798 Goldstream Ave, Langford. Free, drop-in.

12th Annual City of Langford Christmas Lightup. Sat Dec 1 at Veterans Memorial Park (Veterans Memorial Pkwy at Goldstream Ave). Free hot dogs, coffee & hot chocolate, craft activity for kids. 6 pm Market opens, 6:15 Santa arrives, 7:25 pm Xmas Greetings & countdown to Tree Lightup, 7:30 pm Official Light-Up, 8 pm Island Equipment Owners Truck Light Convoy & Food Drive passes by (bring a non-perishable food donation). www.langford.ca

Moss Cottage Christmas. Sun Dec 2. Free family event at Sooke Region Museum. Kids can make a snowman! Free refreshments. 12-2pm.

Skate with Santa. Sun Dec 2. Westhills Arena, Langford.

Art & Word by Sooke Arts Council. Sun Dec 2. Masonic Hall, 6544 Throup Rd, Sooke. 1-4 pm.

Pro-D Day Activities at SEAPARC. Mon Dec 3. Skate 11:30 am to 12:45 pm, Family & Friends Hockey 2:15 to 3:45 pm. Swim 1 to 3 pm. www.seaparc.ca



Catch the daily news stream at www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com



TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE



Current to Fri Nov 30. Langford Parkway adjacent City Centre Park will have travel lanes shifted to the south. Access to Langford Lanes and City Centre Park from Langford Parkway available. Construction and underground utility work at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road.

Mon Nov 12. Traffic Delay in 600-block Goldstream Ave for BC Hydro pole relocation. 9:30 am to 5 pm.

Tues Nov 13 & Wed Nov 14. 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Traffic delays during sewer works on Jenkins Ave at Churchwood Pl (just west of Jacklin).

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

12th Annual Lightup in Langford: Dec 1

● **The 12th Annual** City of Langford Christmas Lightup Celebration is coming up Saturday, December 1. Held each year at Veterans Memorial Park.

An open-air pop-up market starts at 6 pm Market open and Santa arrives at 6:15 pm. Christmas greetings 7:25 pm are followed by a countdown to the 7:30 pm official Tree Lightup.

Around 8 pm the popular Island Equipment Owners Truck Light Convoy & Food Drive passes by (bring a non-perishable food donation).



Large crowds come to enjoy the event. There's musical entertainment, a clown, live choir, and martial arts demo. Family event with music, shopping, crafts for the kids, free hot dogs, coffee and hot chocolate. **WSV**

New health clinic in Langford busy in first week

West Shore Voice News

● **The new Westshore Primary Urgent Care Centre** at 582 Goldstream Avenue in Langford opened on Monday November 5 and got right down to business in their first week.

The long-time St Anthony's Treatment Centre right next door had closed a few weeks ago, so this new urgent primary care centre is picking up the slack and more (open daily 8 am to 8 pm).

"We saw 174 patients on the first three days at the Westshore Urgent Primary Care Centre," says Island Health south-island area communications rep Meribeth Burton.

The Island Health privately-managed facility can handle one-on-one visits, appointments with multiple providers, telehealth visits and group appointments that support people with similar conditions.

Over time, the urgent care clinic will be able to accommodate 128 unique patient visits per day and up to 40,000 visits a year. It's located near pharmacies, lab, and diagnostic services. The drive to Victoria General Hospital is 7.8 kilometers.

As announced by Health Minister Adrian Dix on October 26, about 5,300 people who are presently without a family physician are expected to be 'absorbed' at the new phase-1 facility. That's about 19% of the estimated 30,000 people (Island Health area modelling) without a doctor in the broader west



Mary P Brooker - West Shore Voice News

'Ambulance Only' parking area gives direct access for ambulances to acute care room at the Westshore Primary Urgent Care Centre.

shore area (approximately half of those in the Langford area).

More physician offices will be opened at Westshore Urgent Primary Care Centre location by April 2019, says Island Health. The City of Langford is offering tax-free status to new medical and health offices that come to the city. **WSV**

Highlands appreciative of community confidence "to do the people's business"

● **The District of Highlands** got to skip the 2018 municipal election process. Their Mayor Ken Williams and council were acclaimed, as there were no contenders. "We are deeply appreciative of the confidence and the community's trust to do the people's business," says Williams. He says his council's priorities now and for the next few years are environmental protection, emergency management, and asset management. **WSV**

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Holiday season open house with Alistair MacGregor, MP: Dec 1

West Shore Voice News

● **Alistair MacGregor, MP** (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) will host a holiday season open house in Langford on Saturday, December 1 just ahead of the City of Langford lightup. The public is invited to drop by from 4 to 6 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 798 Goldstream Ave. **WSV**

You're Invited! Meet and Greet with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh

Tuesday, November 13th // 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Belmont Secondary Learning Commons

3041 Langford Lake Rd, Langford

Join local MP Alistair MacGregor, federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, to talk about federal government policy and what they should focus on in Parliament.



Alistair MacGregor

MP // COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

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