

Serving Drumroaster Coffee

Open 7 days a week 105-1910 Sooke Rd Colwood 778-265-5577

PILGRIM COFFEE HOUSE

West Shore Voice News

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

Watermarked courtesy edition

Week #408

To get the unwatermarked version, become a subscriber.

WEST SHORE VOICE

WSV ISSN 2368-9374 Vol.4 No.3
SVN ISSN 1925-2722 Vol.8 No.44

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.

Book your holiday season marketing package by November 21 to get a 12% discount!
PRINT & ONLINE
advertising@westshorevoiceneeds.com

Subscription info at www.westshorevoiceneeds.com

SD62 inaugural drew a crowd

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

SD62 Board of Education for 2018-2022



Newly elected Sooke School District 62 (SD62) trustees taking their oath of office on November 13 in the SD62 board room (from left): Bob Beckett, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson, Bob Phillips, Wendy Hobbs, Ravi Parmar, Allison Watson.

On Tuesday night, November 13, the trustees who were recently elected to the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) board were officially sworn in at their inaugural board meeting. About 75 people attended to watch and congratulate them, in the board room at the SD62 administration office in Langford.

The SD62 board of seven is comprised of four trustees representing the Belmont Zone (school families in Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, Highlands and View Royal) and three trustees representing the Milne's Landing Zone (school families in Sooke and Juan de Fuca).

Belmont Zone has produced the chair (Ravi Parmar) and vice chair (Dianna Seaton); both stood uncontested for those positions. Parmar had been chair ahead of the October 20 election, and Seaton had been vice chair for a portion of the previous four-year term. The other two Belmont trustees are Bob Beckett (new to the board) and Wendy Hobbs (long-time trustee).

Milne's Landing Zone trustees are Margot Swinburnson (re-elected, with 21 years service), Bob Phillips (re-elected, with 21 years service), and Allison Watson (new to the board, and a graduate of EMCS in Sooke).

In his speech as Chair, Parmar said the annual school board budget at \$130 to \$140 million is larger than all the municipalities of the region combined. Though in context, at least 85% of that is essentially earmarked by teacher contract with the BC Government for staff salaries and benefits.

Parmar reiterated the importance of the 2018-2021 SD62 Strategic Plan (learning, engagement and growth) and singled out the SD62 goal of producing graduates "who have the capacity to be global citizens". He said that facilities expansion priorities are the new elementary and middle schools (in Westhills) and a new high school -- likely in Langford -- fast on the heels of two new secondary schools (Royal Bay and the new Belmont that opened in September 2015).

The rapid expansion based on a population explosion in the west shore area (most prominently Langford and Colwood, where housing is still considered to be relatively affordable) makes the west shore like "a small Surrey" (in terms of competition for provincial educational dollars), said Parmar. He noted there are presently 55 portable classrooms being used around the district, to underscore the importance of building new permanent schools.

Parmar said that SD62 is excited about the combined efforts of Royal Roads University, University of Victoria, and Camosun College to bring a "west shore campus" to the west shore area. Graduation rates in SD62 are not as high as the provincial average, and not as many SD62 grads go on to post-secondary. Providing post-secondary in the west shore would increase grad rates and help with the cost of living for students who would otherwise have to relocate.

Guest speakers at the short meeting were Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) and Royal Roads University president Allan Cahoon. Both speakers outlined how they are working cooperatively with the goals of enhancing K-12 education into broader aspects of community and post-secondary.

A former SD62 Chair and Vice Chair, Trustee Phillips said that "enrollment will define everything" in the next four years. "Every spare nickel and dime will be spent on this being a place for kids to be," he told *West Shore Voice News*.

Phillips will chair the Education Policy Committee, with trustees Swinburnson and Beckett all on the EP Committee. The Resources Committee will be chaired by Seaton, with Wendy Hobbs and Allison Watson also on that committee. Hobbs and Phillips will sit on the audit committee.

SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson, and Associate Superintendents Paul Block, Dave Strange, and Stephanie Hedley-Smith attended, as did Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull who conducted the swearing-in. **WSV**

on Friday, November 30 to see that your ballot reaches Elections BC.

Eligible voters who haven't received a voting package may request one up to November 23: • Online: www.elections.bc.ca/ovr • By phone: 1-800-661-8683 (Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm) • In person: At a Service BC Centre or Referendum Service Office www.elections.bc.ca/rso

Completed voting packages can also be returned in person at a Service BC Centre or Referendum Service Office. In Victoria there are two offices: 100-1112 Fort St, and 403-771 Vernon Ave in Gateway Village in Saanich. Both are open 8:30 to 4:30, Mon to Fri. **WSV**

Strike & ballot count Updates online at www.westshorevoiceneeds.com

Friday, November 16, 2018

- SD62 inaugural meeting drew a crowd 1
- Xmas parcels: resolving labour disputes [Editorial] ... 2
- Commuter traffic congestion: west shore to in-town ... 2
- Rugby Canada closer to World Cup | Pacific FC store party ... 4

Jagmeet's afternoon at Belmont Secondary in Langford

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

SOCIAL TRENDS

This week there was a bit of an orange wave at the Belmont Secondary School campus in Langford.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh was proudly hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) for a one-hour question period with students. With the teens, Singh talked about free post-secondary tuition, the problems of mental health and addictions as related to economic struggle and poverty, and standing up for human rights and inclusion for everyone.

That was followed by a tour of the school. The new Belmont opened in September 2015 featuring open spaces, science labs and a large gymnasium.

Then another hour for Singh, this time with the general public in the school's spacious Learning Commons with city views, answering questions about broader issues like proportional representation in BC as a one way to set a



"I've got the arm for selfies," joked NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh as he held up a smartphone for a social media shot with a group of students at Belmont Secondary on Tuesday Nov 13.

trend for the rest of Canada, and the human rights aspect of sending arms to Saudi Arabia.

Also attending in the second hour with Singh was Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) who announced his upcoming Private Members Bill C-77 that will attempt to see 'self harm' removed from reasons that the military can deny mental health supports to personnel and veterans.

Afterward, Singh told media that he would start a process toward free tuition with interest-free student loans. He said that governments and banks "should not be profiting off the debt of students".

On climate change, the NDP leader talked about electrifying buses and battery development, which is already happening in Canada. He says it would make sense to look at banning the sale of internal combustion vehicles by 2030 or 2040.

Setting his sights on getting a seat in the House of Commons, Singh and his wife have found a rental home in Metro Vancouver, in the Burnaby South federal riding where he hopes to win an eventual byelection. A byelection must be called within six months after a seat is vacated, therefore March 18 at the latest for Burnaby South. **WSV**

Postal strike: impact on Xmas, & electoral reform referendum

The labour strike by Canada Post workers rolled in like a lamb on October 22 with rotating strikes spread out across the country. But now it's roaring like a lion, impacting the Christmas season for all Canadians (see Editorial, page 2).

Negotiations have stalled. The Canadian Postal Workers Union (CUPW) is asking for a 2.9% annual increase for their workers; Canada Post has offered 2.0%. The union wants double-pay for a sixth or seventh day worked in a row; Canada Post has offered overtime for over 40 hours. CUPW wants more benefits for part time workers; Canada Post says it would hire 500 more full-time employees in the coming year.

The mail slowdown and backlog due to the postal strike has very likely affected delivery of Electoral Reform Referendum ballots to Elections BC in Victoria. In fact, the rotating strike began October 22 in Victoria the same day that ballots were issued. As of November 16, there was a return of 18% of ballots to Elections BC (7.9% of those were processed into the counting system).

West Shore Voice News is awaiting word back from Canada Post in Ottawa as to an estimated number of ballot packages that are still sitting in Canada Post delivery system, undelivered to Elections BC. As well, an estimate of how many ballots have not reached voters by mail, and whether Canada Post set a priority on moving ballots along to voters and Elections BC.

There has been mention that the deadline for returning ballots to Elections BC might be extended due to the strike, but for now the deadline is still 4:30 pm



Parcels for Christmas: resolving labour disputes

by Mary P Brooke, Editor & Publisher

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWPOINT

Truck trailers full of undelivered parcels parked at a distribution hub in Mississauga, Ont (Nov 16).



Canada Post

● **Sending a gift parcel for Christmas** has ironically come full circle. As the Internet took hold in people's social and economic lives from the late 1990s to now, the trend was first about sending digital gifts (money, gift cards, e-cards) to avoid the cost and inconvenience of shopping (whether online or in stores) and the cost and hassle of mailing.

Fast-forward to 2018 we see slick e-commerce functionality entrenched into seasonal gift-giving. Ironically, online shopping depends heavily on delivery IRL (in real life) where as a result Canada Post as a Crown corporation has seen a fortunate resurrection of its revenues that plummeted as email overtook demand for first class postal mail. The victory here for consumers is avoiding long lineups at the post office to mail parcels ahead of deadlines. For Canada Post it has meant production system adjustments.

But the pitfall for consumers is now relying on Canada Post to be the main handler of online purchase deliveries. With an escalation of rotating strikes by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) that began October 22, as of November 16 this sees a backlog of now 1.5 million parcels stored in delivery containers (600 containers each with about 2,500 parcels) by Canada Post across Canada. Canada Post has even now asked 190 countries around the world to halt all parcel shipments into Canada until matters are resolved.

And in BC the uncertainty caused by the rotating strike action has also likely contributed to the lower-than-expected return rate of Electoral Reform ballots to Elections BC. Ballots were first available October 22 and the current deadline for return is November 30. About 18% of voter packages had been received by Elections BC (with 7.9% of those opened and processed) by the morning of November 16.

Which leads to the idea of what is considered an essential service in Canada, beyond the reach of a labour strike. On November 16 -- with a November 17 deadline looming (midnight, Eastern Standard Time) -- Prime Minister Trudeau had said last week that "all options will be on the table" to end postal disruptions if negotiations between Canada Post and CUPW are not successful by that time. That includes legislating CUPW employees back to work.

If in fact the entire seasonal economy and the social fabric of the holiday season are impacted, in the modern 21st century the delivery of parcels in peak season could in fact be seen as an essential service.

The strikes are now into their fourth week and have touched virtually every Canada Post facility and every Canadian address so far, says Canada Post. "The union's strikes continue to cause unprecedented backlogs in our delivery network," it was stated by Canada Post in a news release.

Back-to-work legislation imposed upon workers is often seen as diluting the power of collective bargaining. Worker demands might be valid (e.g. concerns that some delivery personnel must walk 30 km each day to fulfill routes or that rural post office workers -- many being women -- are unduly impacted in favour of urban). But also it's valid to keep the operations of a major company flowing, so that everyone has an income and customers are serviced. Canada Post has

Commuter traffic congestion: west shore to downtown and back

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FUELS COMMUTER INCREASE

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/colwood-crawl-is-regional-traffic-congestion/>



New lane configuration during construction on Highway 1 at the Mackenzie/Admirals interchange (southbound view, November 5) in place until summer 2019.

● **This week the City of Colwood** posted a map on their website, showing the populations of five west shore municipalities (Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchosin and View Royal) and the Malahat route (commuters from Mill Bay, Shawnigan, Cobble Hill, and Duncan) showing commuter traffic influx from those areas toward employment and post-secondary in Saanich and Victoria. In part, the post at www.colwood.ca was to refute the 'Colwood Crawl' reputation that does unfairly implicate that municipality as the source of the problem.

The estimated number of vehicles per day through the intersection of Highway 1 (Trans Canada) and Mackenzie Ave/Admirals Road is 85,000, says Janelle Straite, regional deputy director of highways for the South Coast region, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). The population of the five implicated municipalities is about 81,500 (though that is a total count of residents, and not all of those are daily commuters).

Colwood says it coordinated the first meeting of local mayors and MOTI

TELUS PureFibre™
Internet 300/300 has arrived.
TELUS the future is friendly®
© 2018 TELUS.18_01135
www.telus.com/westshore

approximately 42,000 urban employees and 8,000 rural and suburban carriers. Virtually everyone in Canada is serviced by Canada Post in some way or another.

Back-to-work legislation is not new and it always seems jarring. But as socioeconomic systems evolve, this readiness by the federal government to keep things flowing (even though it appears to trump workers' rights) seems in keeping with a new social direction to resolve conflicts through discussion and conciliatory agreement rather than management-worker conflict.

Inherent in this new direction is both sides realizing the big-picture impact of their internal dispute (a form of victim-impact realization, if you will). Not getting a Christmas gift parcel on time is spearheading the pain. But people are paying attention to this dispute resolution for more than the restored flow of parcels. It's about seeing a more authentic realization of broad-scope economic impacts of what two front-line players (in this case Canada Post and CUPW) see as their own internal dispute. People might think this bends or breaks union strength, but it equally forces large corporations to see a broader social-impact responsibility. It leads both sides to realize their common goal to survive themselves while serving a mutually-necessary customer base that in turn drives the wheels of economy and social activity.

There is some progress -- a recognition of broader factors: "There is no reason to halt international shipments," said CUPW president Mike Palecek in a statement this week. "Let us solve our issues at the bargaining table." But that ignores the reality of physical demands in the system -- a backlog of parcels already reaching storage capacity by the corporation (presumably both availability of space and parcel security) that the corporation must contend with responsibly.

As a footnote, small businesses and mid-size companies that do not employ unionized workers today often use shared-profit incentives and good old-fashioned awareness of shared

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News
Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
WSV ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Mailing: 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 Tel & Text: 250-217-5821
Email: news@westshorevoicenews.com
advertising@westshorevoicenews.com
www.westshorevoicenews.com
Facebook: [WestShoreVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/WestShoreVoiceNews) & [SookeVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/SookeVoiceNews)
Copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed
Ad Tech: 300 dpi, RGB, jpg/PDF
Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc. Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content: all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR unless otherwise stated. Reporters: Eryn Chaney, Chelsea Kirkpatrick, Sophia Romanchuk. Contributors: -. Youth Consultant: Jennifer Brooke. Web Dev: Greg Szabo. Server Tech: Ivandafish. Printing: Brookline Publishing House Inc. Distribution: PDF/web, print, TW/FB. Courtesy to: coffee shops; business lobbies, libraries, rec centres, community. Online PDF & breaking news (through WSV website, Facebook & Twitter): ~ 64,000 page exposures/wk (social media & subscribers).

● ADVERTISING RATES at www.westshorevoicenews.com

● Digital subscriptions by email or text advisory
Link version \$27.95+GST 52 wks OR Unwatermarked Premium PDF: \$28.95+GST 18 wks
● Print subscriptions
Weekly by 1st class postal mail (includes PDF by email):
\$41.95+GST for 12 issues colour or \$35.50+GST for 18 issues grayscale.

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

● Newsstand
Colour print edition \$2.25 at Shoppers Westshore (Langford) & Shoppers (Sooke).

● Community Free pickup copies in coffee shops, libraries, rec centres.

Courtesy edition (PDF), archives & breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com
Letters published in *West Shore Voice News* do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher, editor, staff, or affiliates. The publisher reserves the right to decline any articles, letters, photos, ads or other contributions.

goals to keep their enterprises moving forward.

The idea of a labour strike seems binary and outmoded where instead a discussion of shared values and a realistic understanding of fiscal responsibility can -- with modern leadership -- be undertaken by all parties that play into the success of running an operation that delivers a service. ■

mayors and MOTI in 2017 to advocate for priority lanes between the west shore and Victoria. Priority lanes today are LRT lanes of the future, says Colwood, even though the cost of light rail transit continues to frustrate any realistic plans for that method of transit.

With a population over 40,000 now and growing fast, Langford is a growing number of commuters who have relocated to the west shore for its relatively affordable housing. Adding the designated HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes for buses or eventually trains "is the only option for the future", says Langford Mayor Stew Young. He has met with Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevena and written to the province on this matter.

Premier John Horgan often says that the province has ample reports on the E&N corridor availability for transit use, but Langford's mayor says a current study by the province is needed. And not just that, but also a regional transportation board of some kind -- something separate from the Capital Regional District.

Langford's mayor points out that for metropolitan Vancouver there is a regional transit board that "gets billions for these types of projects". "The province needs to take over the South Island part of the E&N from the Island Corridor Foundation and make it part of BC Transit for the operations," Stew Young told *West Shore Voice News* this week. **WSV**

This week, the *West Shore Voice News* article about Colwood's map got a lot of buzz on our Facebook page: "Priority lanes from Colwood to the highway can't come soon enough! This commute has been hell since Nov 1 by transit to the point that I am forced to drive to work to be there on time. This is the opposite of 'green'." ~ *Melissa Da Silva* | "You can't keep blasting the crap out of every hill and valley to stuff people in every crevice and still deal with the same old vein. Carpooling should be mandatory and will cut traffic in half. Then there is rapid transit, but the situation is overwhelmingly glum. Too many people and no current solution for commuters other than to work locally and move shops and offices closer to the masses. ~ *Andrew Barry* | "LRT lines of the future" ...believe it when I see it. When did government listen to the people? ~ *Miriam Lambert*

Why does traffic back up in Colwood?



Larger map image at <https://westshorevoicenews.com/colwood-crawl-is-regional-traffic-congestion/>

As posted at www.colwood.ca

BC Budget 2019 consultation

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **A unanimous report on the BC Government's Budget 2019** consultation was released November 15 by the all-party Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The report presents a comprehensive and detailed summary of ideas shared by British Columbians for the next provincial budget, with the committee making 100 recommendations to address key sectoral and economic priorities.

The report and its recommendations seem quite skewed to the public input, without seeming to reach beyond what certain available sectors provided during that specific consultation period. There were strong representations regarding indigenous issues and natural resources. The committee says four key topics emerged: indigenous peoples, inequality, climate change, and the economy.

The consultation ran September 17 through October 15 -- which happened to be directly within the busy municipal election period. Nevertheless, the committee heard 267 presentations and received 253 written submissions. It also received 473 responses to the online survey, which was based on the Budget 2019 Consultation Paper released by the Minister of Finance on Sept. 15, 2018.

"We received thoughtful and passionate input from British Columbians and we thank everyone who took the time to share their perspectives," wrote Bob D'Eith, committee chair. "A number of significant themes emerged and shaped our recommendations, including the importance of taking meaningful steps toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and of adopting measures to address inequality," said D'Eith in a news release.

"Climate change, the ongoing impact of natural disasters, such as wildfires and flooding, and the need for a healthy and vibrant economy were other core themes that influenced our report," added Dan Ashton, deputy chair.

Report sections were reported alphabetically: Advanced Education; Economic Development; Environment; Fiscal Policy; Health Care; Housing; K-12 Education; Public Safety and Justice; Social Services; Sport, Arts and Culture; and Transportation and Transit.

The members of the committee are:

- Bob D'Eith, MLA Maple Ridge-Mission (chair);
- Dan Ashton, MLA Penticton (deputy chair);
- Stephanie Cadieux, MLA Surrey South;
- Mitzi Dean, MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin;
- Sonia Furstenaу, MLA Cowichan Valley;
- Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox;
- Peter Milobar, MLA Kamloops-North Thompson;
- Tracy Redies, MLA Surrey-White Rock;
- Nicholas Simons, MLA Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Top Survey Respondent Priorities for BC Expenditures (444 responses)

Health Care	14.7%
Child Care	13.4%
K-12 Education	10.2%
Housing	11.1%
Climate Change & Environmental Protection	9.9%
Poverty Reduction	6.7%
Justice & Public Safety	5.4%

Some of the key recommendations in the economy, agriculture and taxation include: allocating an additional \$5 million to BCcampus for continued and new open textbook resources; increased investment in early childhood development and early intervention services; continuing a taxation and regulatory environment and trade-enabling infrastructure to encourage strong business growth; various supports for agriculture and agri-foods including support for new farmers and extending the replant program for fruit tree growers by four years to 2025; continue to ensure stable funding for invasive species management; increase base operational funding for BC Parks; review UBCM recommendations to address revenue generation challenges for municipalities; examine exemption of machinery, equipment and technology from the provincial sales tax (PST); increase monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws for PST-payment by non-resident companies working in BC. Some of the key recommendations in **Health Care**: eliminate the client co-payment for home support; increase Better at Home funding; enhance nutritional supports for seniors; increase funding for health human resources planning and development including the expansion of training capacity for priority professions such as physiotherapist, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, sonographers, MRI technologists, with attention to recruitment and retention in rural and remote areas; expand medical interpreting services to include non-MSP covered services such as physiotherapy, eye exams and hospice; invest in and scale up services for mental health and addiction; invest in multi-disciplinary team-based care models such as community health centres; apply PST to sugar-sweetened beverages; implement an annual fee for tobacco retail authorization permits; create a licence system for e-cigarette sales with annual renewal and licence fee; tax deductions for medical travel costs in rural areas; provide funding for not-for-profit dental clinics with incentives to dentists who support charitable dentistry. In the area of **Housing**: increase funding to build more social and affordable rental housing in collaboration with indigenous partners, municipalities, non-profit and faith-based organizations and the private sector; maintain existing affordable housing supply; address homelessness with a housing-first principle and more social support services for the homeless; develop a youth homelessness plan; conduct an annual review of property transfer tax thresholds and adjust to address challenges related to home ownership and the dynamic nature of the real estate market. **Education**: increase capital funding to school districts to build new schools, maintain and upgrade existing facilities, do seismic upgrades, add classroom space and playgrounds; fund compensation increases for exempt staff, principals and vice principals; fund an age-appropriate sexual health curriculum for all grades that includes consent and online safety. **Transportation**: increase funding for road/highway maintenance; offer discounted ferry fares to K-12 classes, clubs and sports teams; consider cycling as part of all major infrastructure projects.

The full report is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/finance WSV

More on-campus housing at UVic

West Shore Voice News

● **Hundreds of new, affordable, student homes** are coming to the University of Victoria, it was announced on campus November 15 by Premier John Horgan.

The idea is that living on campus assists students with their transition to university, provides academic and social programming and support, and nurtures a strong sense of belonging in the UVic community.

Two new buildings that will accommodate 782 students in addition to a new dining hall and multipurpose space replaces three aging buildings, for a net gain of 620 student homes.

This expands on-campus housing by 25% at UVic, making education more affordable and freeing up more rental unit availability with in the general community where rental vacancy rates are among the lowest in BC if not the country.

"Students have enough stress in their lives without having to worry about finding a place to live they can afford," said Premier Horgan. "We're moving forward on our commitment to students at UVic and throughout the province to deliver comfortable and affordable housing in the heart of where they study."

During the 16 years of BC Liberal government (2001-2017), 130 student homes were funded, said Horgan.

UVic president Jamie Cassels said he was "stoked" over the advancement for student life on campus. "This is a great day for the university. Thank you to government for making this dream a reality," Cassels said in the news conference Thursday. He thanked business and community leaders (noting Oak Bay and Saanich) and local MLAs who supported the vision including Minister Carole James for finding the funds in the provincial budget and Education Minister Rob Fleming for six years of pushing for the accomplishment.

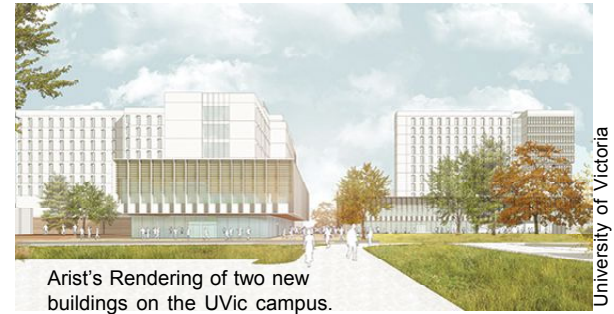
For Cassels the project's significance is in supporting on-campus life. UVic is one of Canada's premiere research and teaching universities; over 22,000 students attend each year with an annual intake of 4,000 to 5,000. UVic is "fairly unique in Canada" in being a "destination university", with over 75% of students from outside the immediate area, said Cassels. "When you surround yourself with high-performing ambitious, kind, generous peers you begin to emulate those values."

Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Melanie Mark was on hand, saying the UVic project is the second to access the BC Student Housing Loan Program, a \$450-million initiative launched in this year's provincial budget to make housing more affordable and available for students.

On-campus housing applications exceed available spaces each year. On-campus housing is cheaper than market housing and includes student group/study space, Indigenous student lounge, communal spaces, laundry, and secure indoor bicycle storage.

Energy efficient buildings will use 75% less energy for heating and cooling, and at least 50% less overall energy than a typical construction design.

Total project cost is \$201 million (\$123 from BC; \$45 million UVic Foundation; \$33 million UVic). The provincial portion is comprised of \$98 million from the BC Student Housing Loan Program for student housing and \$25 million from the ministry capital budget toward half the cost of the dining hall.



Arist's Rendering of two new buildings on the UVic campus.

University of Victoria

Working for our community

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885
#104-1497 Admirals Road
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca
MitziDean.ca

www.MitziDean.ca

Ask a Doctor of Optometry on Facebook

Dr. Joslin*, Dr. Morin* & Associates: Doctors of Optometry



Providing comprehensive eye health and optical services in Sooke and the west shore for over 25 years.

www.sookeoptometrists.ca

#5-6726 West Coast Rd in Sooke

Phone: 250-642-4311

OPEN MON-Sat (open late on Thurs)

www.langfordoptometrists.com

#105-814 Goldstream Ave in Langford

Phone: 250-474-4567

*denotes optometric corporation

Ballot rate

West Shore Voice News

● **As of Nov 16,** Elections BC had seen 18% of returned ballots (with 7.9% of those opened and processed) for the Electoral Reform referendum.

In Premier John Horgan's riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca (including Sooke) there is a return percentage (opened/processed) of 5.7%.

BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson's riding of Vancouver-Quilchena sees a return (opened/processed) of 11.5%.

Ballots are due by 4:30 pm on Friday Nov 30.

The rotating Canada Post workers strike is likely impacting people's confidence in using the mail for ballot returns.

Completed ballots can be taken directly to Elections BC or BC Service Centres (in Victoria those are at 100-1112 Fort St and 403-771 Vernon Ave; both open 8:30-4:30 Mon-Fri). **WSV** www.elections.bc.ca



New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be? 250-642-2268

VIEW ROYAL 778.430.5282
Across from the casino

Monday-Friday | 5:30 am to 7 pm
Saturdays | 6 am to 6 pm
Sundays | 6:30 am to 6 pm

Cozy Cafe Comfort
Friendly service, convenient location, lots of parking.

OPEN DAILY | 1703 Island Hwy

YOUR HEALTH

House of Nutrition
Colwood Corners

Come chat with our qualified staff

Putting your health first

Serving the west shore since 1980
#6 - 310 Goldstream Ave
Open daily | 250-478-3244

www.houseofnutritionbc.com

Proportional Representation Referendum

Mail-in ballots must be received at Elections BC by 4:30 pm Fri Nov 30. <https://elections.bc.ca/referendum/>

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

City of Langford Council Meeting. Mon Nov 19. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

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

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.

Alert Ready emergency test on smartphones. Wed Nov 28. 1:55 pm local time across Canada.

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.

Pacific Football Club. Fri Nov 30. Store Launch Party, 665 Fort St. 12 noon to 6 pm. Buy team merchandise, meet owners, coaches & staff. Ticket info available. www.pacificfc.canpl.ca

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

@jdfemerg

Cold weather is hard on car batteries.



Check older batteries. Be sure connections are clean and tight.

www.prepareyourself.ca

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. Outdoors at 2139 Sooke Rd. For custom pre-orders contact Debbie at dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca

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 up to age 10 can make a snowman! Free refreshments. 12-2 pm.

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

Festival of Trees 2018 kickoff. Tues Dec 4. 5 pm at SEAPARC Leisure Complex In partnership with Sooke Professional Fire Fighters L4841. To support of BC Children's Hospital. Display runs to Dec 28, vote for your favourite tree. Take a photo with Santa on fire truck (by donation). Hot chocolate & snacks. www.seaparc.ca

3rd Annual Goldstream Farmers Market. Christmas Craft Fair. Sat Dec 8. 10am-5pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 798 Goldstream Ave. \$2 or food bank item.

Skate with Santa & Festive Family Art Event. Sun Dec 16. 1 to 2:30 pm at SEAPARC. Admission by donation of food item or cash for Sooke Food Bank. www.seaparc.ca

Winter Wonderland Skate at JdF Arena. Regular Admission. Dec 19 6-7:45 pm & Dec 20 (4-5:45 pm). Dec 21 4-5:45 pm, Dec 22 2:15-3:45 pm, Dec 23: 1:15-2:45 pm.

Xmas Eve Skate at JdF Arena in Colwood. \$2. Mon Dec 24 12-1:30 pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Christmas Eve Skate at SEAPARC in Sooke. Mon Dec 24. \$2. 11:30 am to 12:45 pm. www.seaparc.ca



TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Mon Nov 19. Traffic reduced to one lane on a portion of Jacklin Rd between Dunford and Goldstream, 9-5.

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.

Sidewalk Reminder: During winter conditions, the City of Langford needs homeowners' cooperation to clear snow and ice from any sidewalks fronting their property.

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



Xmas trees help grads

West Shore Voice News

● **Again this year,** the Colwood Campus of Westshore Centre of Learning & Training is holding a Christmas tree sale as a fundraiser for their grads.

Daily from Saturday December 1 through Sunday December 16, there will be a wide range of evergreens for sale including fir, spruce and pine. Also crafts and baked goods for sale.

Outdoors at 2139 Sooke Road. Mon-Thurs 3-7 pm; Fri-Sat 10 am to 8 pm; Sun 10 am to 6 pm. For custom pre-orders contact Debbie at dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca **WSV**



WestShore Centre for Learning & Training
250.391.9002
101-814 Goldstream Ave

Adult, Alternative, Distributed Learning & Continued Education



Adult Graduation 2019 is within your reach

Adult Grade 12 Graduation (age 18+) College/University Prep & Upgrading Study online 24/7 with in-person support available weekdays in Langford

www.westshorecentre.com

Call us! 250.391.9002

Rugby Canada close to World Cup spot

West Shore Voice News

● **Canada defeated Germany** in their second match of the 2019 Rugby World Cup repechage with a 29-10 win on November 17 (November 16 Pacific) in Marseille, France. That came on the heels of Canada's 65-19 Kenya win November 11.

This week's game saw Canada come out on top with an impressive offensive effort early in the first half, says Rugby Canada.

"It was incredibly difficult, we knew they were going to be strong and we knew they were going to be a big physical side so we really prepared for that," said Captain Phil Mack. "I'm really happy to get a game like that in and we still have one more. So again, just like last week we have to reflect on this, carry on, and then you know, hopefully get a trip to the World Cup."



Rugby Canada

Rugby won in France this week.

Canada will face Hong Kong next week in their final match of the tournament.

With Rugby World Cup qualification on the line, Canada will "try to do all they can to defeat Hong Kong and secure their spot."

The next game can be watched live on TSN1 and TSN3 on Friday November 23 at 12pm PST. **WSV**

Soccer launch party Nov 30

West Shore Voice News

● **The new Pacific Football Club** will be holding a Store Launch Party on Friday, Nov 30 at 665 Fort St in downtown Victoria. Official Festivities from 12 noon to 6 pm. Team merchandise available for purchase. Meet owners, coaches and staff. Ticket info available. <https://pacificfc.canpl.ca> | Twitter: @Pacificfccpl **WSV**



MPB - West Shore Voice News

CPL roster trials Nov 5 & 6 at UVic.



Promote your business, organization or activity to our broad reach of readers in West Shore Voice News. **PRINT/PDF or online** www.westshorevoicenews.com



Holiday season PDF issues Nov 23 & 30 Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 or online anytime.

Call 250-217-5821 or inquire to news@westshorevoicenews.com

You're Invited!

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 1st // 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Our Lady of Rosary Church

798 Goldstream Ave, Langford

MP Alistair MacGregor and his staff invite you to join them in celebration of the holiday season for their annual open house. There will be snacks and refreshments available, free of charge. All are welcome! Ends just before the Langford Christmas Light Up!

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca

Phone: 1-866-609-9998



Your ad can be here in the **holiday** season!

advertising@westshorevoicenews.com



Text 'Xmas banner' to 250-217-5821

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Serving readers in Langford, Colwood, Sooke and beyond



This ad size (728 x 90 pixels) could be your next banner ad with link to your website, at www.westshorevoicenews.com where it appears at the top of every page! Inquire to advertising@westshorevoicenews.com or 250-217-5821 for details.