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West Shore Voice News

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Tips for Safe Use of your Portable Generator



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Holiday season scenes in Sooke

West Shore Voice News



Trio of fresh amazing lemon meringue pies at Mom's Cafe.



Gingerbread contest in the Prestige Oceanfront lobby.

Friday, December 21, 2018

Release date
December 22, 2018

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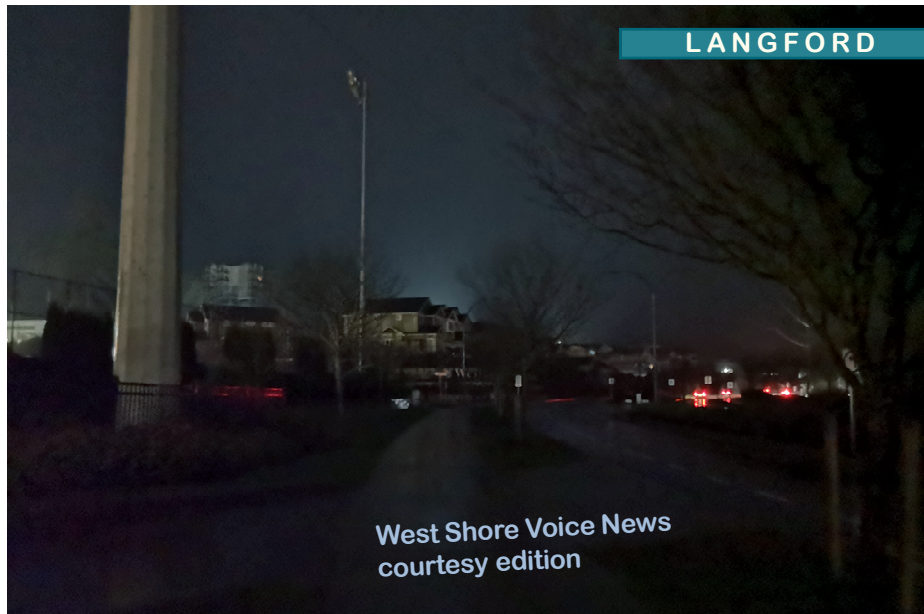
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Windstorm creates multi-day power outages across Vancouver Island

by Mary P Brooke
~ West Shore Voice News



LANGFORD

West Shore Voice News
courtesy edition

An entirely darkened Westhills community during the rainy-night power outage, December 20. Power off for 27 hours.

● **Strong winds and pelting rain** delivered Mother Nature's punch to coastal regions of BC this week. Starting Thursday morning December 20, power outages rolled like tumbleweeds through neighbourhoods, towns and regions. The sudden and cumulative impact was powerful upon people, property and plans.

All day and evening, trees came down onto yards, roadways and homes, causing damage and traffic blockages and in many cases pulled down electric utility lines. For BC Hydro this has turned out to be the most demanding storm repair experience since the windstorm of 2006 (that hit particularly hard in Sooke), and before that the significant snowstorm of 1996.

The tally of outages across BC coastal regions and lower mainland surpassed 150,000 at one point. By Friday morning December 21, Vancouver Island still saw 90,000 BC Hydro customers without power (half of those in the south island area). Soon it was clear some homes would not have power for Christmas.

The usual protocol is to restore power first to the more highly populated areas, said BC Hydro media rep Ted Olynyk. But this outage posed different challenges, with restoration depending on more than just replacing a transformer or reconnecting a downed line. Lines, transformers and crossarms were damaged throughout the storm areas, to varying degrees and in a range of conditions. Many lines fell on roads which required surface clearing and traffic management.

People dealt with suddenly interrupted schedules, loss of food if fridges and freezers went too long without power, and electronics required recharging.

Many larger retail outlets with backup generators meant people could still shop in grocery stores and pharmacies. More: www.westshorevoicenews.com **WSV**

Commuting from downtown to the west shore

West Shore Voice News



West Shore Voice News
courtesy edition

Traffic congestion on Mackenzie Avenue heading toward Highway 1, December 18. Construction of the Mackenzie/Admirals Interchange continues. **WSV**



Tree-style lightup in the Sooke roundabout.

WEST SHORE VOICE

Festival of Trees in the SEAPARC lobby.

Merry Christmas!



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Pro-Rep: in with a blast, out with a whimper



Mary Brooke, Editor, B.Sc., Cert PR

This publication has been contributing to a knowledge-based economy & society since 2008.

● **Three tries now** -- the idea of changing the voting system from First Past The Post (FPTP) to Proportional Representation (Pro-Rep or PR) in British Columbia has probably seen its last legs for a long time. A whopping 61.3% vote in favour of FPTP will keep things the same. All that trouble, time and expense to basically remind the Pro-Rep proponents to do what they now say they will do, i.e. try to get more people involved in the electoral process. Both Deputy Minister Carole James and BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver told media that very thing on Thursday, December 20 after the referendum results were announced. Wasn't that always the point? To engage the voters more?

The BC Greens really led the desire for electoral change, so they could see more of their voter base reflected in the number of seats in the BC Legislative Assembly. On Thurs-

day, Weaver seemed a bit surprised at the wakeup call at being led full-circle to working within the strengths of the current system to produce better voter participation. Flawed as it is in certain key ways (like changing the boundaries of ridings to help produce different voting results), FPTP ultimately does leave the decision in the hands of voters. It's way easier to boot out a bad lot of politicians with one swift election kick than to weed them out slowly from a system where various party threads would become embedded for years if not decades.

Both James and Weaver gave the standard response that politicians give when they lose, i.e. 'the voters are always right'. As James said upon conceding referendum defeat: "The public has clearly spoken. As elected officials you always know the public is right." The referendum was something the BC NDP had to do, to appease the BC Greens as part of their 2017 Confidence and Supply Agreement upon which the strength of the minority government relies. James -- who as Finance Minister has a big Budget 2019 process ahead of her -- quickly shifted back to the business of government at hand: "We have a lot to do in the next 16 months" but it almost sounded like 'glad we're done with that, let's move on'. (Btw, to our attentive readers, that's one of the benefits of attending live media events/teleconferences to do the work of journalism; observation of body language and absorbing tone of voice adds depth to the written word).

Despite the clear divide that exists in BC politics and many communities -- i.e. the business-strong pragmatists who tend to lean right, and the so-called progressives who lean left -- there really is just real life, where a person, business or community can 'get down to business' but with an eye to improvement of the world around them. It takes money and resources to improve the world. Businesses and pragmatic politicians know this; it doesn't mean they don't want to help where they can. Jigging the electoral system to try and ensure social improvements as if the other view doesn't matter is actually a flavour of the confrontational approach to governance that citizens in BC are clearly quite tired of.

People took more interest in the Electoral Reform Referendum of 2018 than one might expect for a busy, stressed society because they are tired of being messed with. Just run our province, get along, and get things done. Premier John Horgan said himself that's what people around the province are telling him. Yes, the NDP Premier and his government delivered on their promise to deliver a referendum on PR as part of appeasing the Greens. But the political execution of the referendum was messy (overly complicated question process, loaded with unknowns in Part 2 on Pro Rep) and unabashedly tainted by government opinion; in that context it didn't have a hope of achieving the PR result that Horgan and Weaver said (perhaps for differing reasons) that they wanted. Weaver would be right to challenge how the government executed it all.

And on the west shore where City of Langford Mayor Stew Young and his council have worked for years to generate a robust regional economy by way of less government red tape and more action: "The referendum was another political spin to help politicians, not the people. They never should have tried to change our current system. It was a waste of our time and millions in taxpayer dollars."

Perhaps the best outcome from this referendum is the articulation by politicians of all stripes saying they are in a sense remotivated to achieve more citizen engagement and voter participation. Perhaps there was no other way for this to play out -- the idea of PR apparently needed that push-to-shove answer from the voters, to settle this once and for all. But it was a costly reset button on many levels (financially, politically and the precious resource of people's time). No surprise that so many are glad to be done with it. ■

Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays!



At West Shore Voice News we care very much about community well-being and the future of journalism in serving a knowledge-based economy. All the best to you and yours in this winter season of celebration.

Upcoming Nanaimo by-election is key for BC NDP government stability

● **Last weekend**, the NDP chose Nanaimo-area MP Sheila Malcolmson to run in one of the most important races in current provincial political times: the Nanaimo by-election (likely in January ahead of Budget 2019 in February). Also last weekend, the BC Greens nominated Michele Ney as their candidate; she is long of a Nanaimo municipal family. And last month, the BC Liberals nominated Tony Harris as their candidate whose family goes



Nanaimo by-election candidates (from left): Sheila Malcolmson (NDP), Michele Ney (BC Green), Tony Harris (BC Liberal).



back decades in the Nanaimo business community. This is a competition of titans.

The punches won't be light, as the riding has been an NDP stronghold for decades and unless an NDP MLA fills Leonard Krog's old seat (he left provincial politics to run for Mayor of Nanaimo this past fall, and won), the Speaker of the House will be required to break all tie votes which for the long term is seen as unsustainable for a minority government. **WSV**

Updates to come at: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/three-candidates-ready-for-nanaimo-mla-race/>

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When is an ad not an ad?
When it's any of these creative ways to market your business, organization or services

● **The role of a 'newspaper'** is still that of being a news service to the community. Before the Internet, newspapers (along with TV and radio) were the leading edge of news delivery. The role of providing the results of professional, dedicated journalism was well understood by those who were written about and those who consumed the news.

Now with pretty much everyone having a Facebook page, website, Instagram account or Twitter feed, that technically makes everyone a publisher (i.e. posting messages for an audience broader than one -- that includes your family Christmas letters that are blasted out along the genealogy lines). It's not private.

But not much of that is actual journalism, where issues of social, economic and/or political importance to community and citizenry are tracked over time, fact-checked, given input by interviews with stakeholders, delivered to known demographics, and archived.

Supporting that process of delivering the leading edge plus analysis of what is going on in the world (in this case at West Shore Voice News being local and regional), is the continued contribution of advertisers and subscribers. Advertisers get exposure for their brand, and subscribers are honouring the value of the product they receive (i.e. fee for service).

Advertisers are businesses, organizations, event promoters, government, and community leaders. Putting content into a square box and calling it an ad was the original way of doing things. Today, extension of your brand and enhancement of sales or awareness is done in a variety of ways. At West Shore Voice News (WSV) our 'print' (newspaper format) edition is actually read by 98% of our readers as a PDF online. Our daily news portal at www.westshorevoicenews.com opens up a range of premium opportunities for your marketing -- not just to reach the intended customers at the right place and at appropriate times, but along with quality messaging and content.

In the media marketplace 'branded content' is simply a fancy way of saying message consistency (design and wording) toward a common goal, systematically delivered across all platforms in a strategic and timely manner.

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On the WSV website, content is tagged and categorized: click on a tab or tag and up pops all the stories on that topic. We also dovetail many articles into social media as part of supporting the goals of our advertisers.

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The technology is amazing, helping to get messages get in front of attentive readers who

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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www.westshorevoicenews.com

Day 4: power outages hit hardest on Vancouver Island

Ferry sailings filling up for Sunday December 23

Active Belmont Market construction site in Langford

Always be prepared for power outages, especially in winter during storms and icy weather

Safety tips for using a home generator

come to our web portal for unique and insightful news along with interesting photos (and video starting in the new year).

Sections in our data-driven website that will grow in 2019 are Health, Education, Emergency Preparedness, and Housing/Real Estate. We have given depth to these topics for years, based on editorial expertise in those areas.

Already strong and continuing to grow in the WSV daily news portal is our local business, municipal and political coverage. Check out the 'News by Region' drop-down menu for your area.

You know the buzzwords: Digital Display Ads, Ad Words (content & slogans), Branded Content with Search Engine Optimization, Responsive Web Design, Timeline Rollouts, Social Media Treatment, Print Advertising, Photo Stories, & Video Marketing. Ready?

We welcome your inquiry to include your 2019 digital messaging in West Shore Voice News (PDF archive & daily news portal). This publication is about informing the community -- people come here for ideas so they can make up their own minds, and they are not short-changed. ■

Belmont Market construction pushes along during busy shopping season

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News



Busy shopping season surrounds forward-motion construction at the Belmont Market commercial site at Jacklin Road and Kelly Road. A new Scotiabank in Belmont Market will be right across the street from the TD Bank in the Westshore Town Centre.

It has been a rainy, windy week but construction continued in earnest at the Belmont Market development site at the corner of Jacklin Road and Jenkins Avenue (recently changed to Kelly Road in that stretch, up to Jacklin).

Prominent commercial leasing signage proudly presents the logo for a new Scotiabank branch as well as KFC, Starbucks, and Thrifty Foods as the anchor tenant.

The Belmont development footprint includes Belmont Residences by Ledcor Properties with an offering of 1, 2 & 2+flex condo homes in the heart of Langford which was about 50% sold out around the end of November (occupancy for those 80 units aiming for early in 2020). When all done, the full Belmont development will add about 400 new households to Langford in that one part of town.

Roadworks have been active on Jacklin and Jenkins since summer including paving, sidewalks, intersection streetlight installations, street lighting, signage, and some new meridians as well as all the utility works below that.



The big tree in Veterans Memorial Park on Goldstream Ave in Langford, officially lit up on Dec 1. >>



Always be prepared for power outages, especially in winter during storms and icy weather.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program @jdfemerg www.prepareyourself.ca

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A time to relax and reflect

The true Christmas celebration that centuries ago became entwined with winter solstice traditions also now has its 21st-century commercial overlay. But instinctively the short days and long nights slow us down and generate a natural desire to celebrate successes and celebrations by spending time with family, friends, loved ones, neighbours and community in ways that we normally don't make time for during the rest of the year.

As another busy year draws to a close and the joyful energy of the season seeps into each of us, the team here at West Shore Voice News wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday season.

We especially want to thank our regular long-term subscribers and advertisers -- many of whom have ads on this Christmas edition -- for their devoted support to the work of local journalism that we've been doing for 10 years now on the west side of Vancouver Island.

Many of our advertisers are shifting to placing more of presence for their businesses, organizations, events and offices on our news portal at www.westshorevoicenews.com but it's these print pages where it all began.

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Winter Wonderland Skate at JdF Arena, 1767 Island Highway, Colwood. Regular Admission. Sat Dec 22 2:15-3:45 pm, Sun Dec 23: 1:15-2:45 pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Santa Go Round. Sun Dec 23. 9 am to 2 pm. Colwood firefighters through neighbourhoods collecting donations for Goldstream Food Bank. www.colwood.ca

Christmas Eve. Mon Dec 24. Last shopping day before Christmas.

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

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

Santa Run by Langford Fire Rescue, on Christmas Eve, Mon Dec 24. www.langford.ca

Merry Christmas! Tues Dec 25.

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● **Mom's Cafe.** Holiday season hours: Dec 24 (8-2), Dec 25 & 26 (closed), Dec 27-30 (regular hours), Dec 31 (8-2), Jan 1 (closed). Winter hours start Jan 7: Mon & Tues: 8-2, Wed-Sun (8-7).

● **Highlands District office.** Closed Dec 24 through Jan 1. www.highlands.bc.ca

● **Sooke Region Museum.** Closed Dec 25 through Jan 1. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

● **New Year's Eve Skate** at JdF Arena, Colwood. \$2. Mon Dec 31. 12-1:30 pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

● **New Year's Eve Skate** at SEAPARC. Mon Dec 31. \$2. 11:30 am to 12:45 pm. www.seaparc.ca

● **Happy New Year!** Tues Jan 1.

● **District of Sooke New Year's Levee.** In council chambers. Tues Jan 1. 10 am.

● **New Year's Day 2019 Polar Bear Swim at Esquimalt Lagoon.** Tues Jan 1. 11:30am-12:30pm. Bring a donation for KidSport Greater Victoria. Prizes. www.colwood.ca

● **SD62. Back to Classes** after Winter Break Mon Jan 7. www.sd62.bc.ca

Festival of Trees. On now, to December 28 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex to support BC Children's Hospital. Vote for your favourite tree. www.seaparc.ca

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Holiday season could impact platelet supply

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc. West Shore Voice News

● While the overall supply of all blood types is fairly strong as Canadians head into the holiday season, the interruption of a busy shopping weekend, Christmas Eve on a Monday, with Christmas and Boxing Day on Tuesday/Wednesday, is logistically seeing some people with extended time away. If they are regular donors they might miss the opportunity to give.

On December 15 it looked like inventory levels were good heading into the holiday season. "It's probably one of the strongest inventories we've had in years," said David Patterson, Director of Donor Relations BC & Yukon. Canadian Blood Services.

Canadian Blood Services is a non-profit corporation that manages the national supply of blood products for all the provinces and territories (excluding Quebec). Many variables can impact their ability to maintain blood inventory in the year-end holiday season including weather (interrupting the donation process) or tragic events (situations calling for more blood).

As of December 15, the most widely available O+ blood type was at 10 days supply, with B+ at 13 days and AB+ at 16 days. The lowest supply was for O- (the universal blood type that can be given to any recipient) at 4 days.

But on December 17 out went the usual seasonal call to remind Canadians of the importance of donating blood around the holiday season. The platelets component of blood only have a seven-day shelf life. Platelets are the component of blood that helps with clotting after injury or blood loss. Anyone with low platelets or improperly functioning platelets (e.g. cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy) need platelet transfusions.

Platelets can only be separated during live blood donation; they cannot be produced from blood inventory that is already in stock. And the holiday season is therefore likely to interfere with platelet supply.



^^ **Canadian Blood Services mobile donation clinic as set up at Church of the Advent in Colwood (March 2018 file photo).** Donated blood units are stored and then transported in temperature controlled trays and containers. Everything is digitally tracked. Donors are attended by nurses for the drawing of blood, and supported by volunteers for rest and nourishment afterward.

About 50% of Canadians meet the eligibility criteria to give blood (determined by answering about 57 questions), but only one in 60 (1.6%) donates.

Year-end housing prices likely lower, year-to-year

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● A softening of housing prices in BC's larger cities in recent months will likely result in the overall average sale prices of properties at 2018 year-end as lower than a year ago. In Fall 2017 the government had announced plans to change mortgage lending qualification rules. Those who could, rushed to sell their homes

or buy additional property before restrictions became tighter. And while overall pricing has softened, the south Vancouver Island region consistently holds value due to geographical desirability and the lifestyle made possible by that. **WSV**

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO

City of Langford www.cityoflangford.ca

Construction zone on Langford Parkway [December 20]

Winter, and into Spring 2019. Langford Parkway adjacent to City Centre Park and Westhills Stadium (access to Langford Lanes and City Centre Park is open). Construction and underground utility work continues at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road. ■

Continuing into January 2019. Various roadway adjustments around construction in the Belmont Market/Residences zone along Jacklin Road. ■

More traffic advisories: www.langford.ca

The safety of both patients and donors are considered, although "the patient bears the ultimate risk of any donation," says Patterson. But many eligibility restrictions have been relaxed over recent years, explains Patterson. "All the restrictions are science-based," he says. That includes reducing the number of months that men in sexual relationships with men must wait to donate (at one time it was five years, then one year, now it's three months).

One of the biggest restrictions right now is if a donor has travelled to areas of the world where malaria is prevalent (that includes Mexico, areas of South America, and India); the World Health Organization recommends a one-year deferral for anyone who has travelled to these regions, and Canadian Blood Services heeds that advisory.

Another restriction was increased in recent years, and that's how often adult women can donate blood. To maintain their hemoglobin supply as donors, the donation interval for women is now 12 weeks (whereas for men the interval is eight weeks between donations). Some medications in the bloodstream are also a restriction for donating blood. More on eligibility: <https://blood.ca/en/blood/am-i-eligible/abcs-eligibility>

"We've relaunched our brand this year," says Patterson. He emphasizes the impact of going digital as a way to attract younger donors. "The next generation of donors" are younger and people who interact digitally to whom Canadian Blood Services hopes the new slogan of blood donors being "Canada's life line" is more appealing than the previous theme of "continue to give". Digital engagements including email reminders and being able to fill out forms online or on computers at the clinics as a time-saver for donors and more in-keeping with their lifestyle. **WSV**

Local blood clinics start up mid-January

● In the west shore region, the next blood donor clinic is in Sooke on Monday January 14, followed by the first 2019 Colwood-area clinic at Church of the Advent on Monday January 28. www.blood.ca

Clinics held too close to the actual Christmas break can add to delivery complications. Sometimes when there is traffic congestion or ferry travel is unavailable, the blood products collected on the west shore must be shipped by air in temperature-controlled units. Personnel are flown over from the Lower Mainland to Victoria to collect up the supplies and return back with them to the lab facilities in Vancouver. **WSV**

WEST SHORE - Nov 2018
Single Family Homes:
average sale price (vreb.org)
Langford: \$686,964
Colwood: \$734,075
Sooke: \$524,841

Year-end real estate analysis by WSV to subscribers first, in our Dec 28 & Jan 7 issues.

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