

West Shore Voice News

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Friday, December 28, 2018 Release date December 29, 2018

- Windstorm aftermath: power outages last a week in some areas ... 1
- The essential business of news independence [Editorial] 2
- Top newsmakers of 2018: the people, the stories 3
- Cannabis in Langford: not in parks, beaches or trails ... 4
- BC salmon strategy open for public discussion: Jan 10 4



New left-turn lane on Langford Parkway to reduce traffic congestion

by Mary P Brooke
~ West Shore Voice News



New left-turn lane and crosswalk will be installed in 900-block Langford Parkway in 2019, to reduce traffic congestion [photo: Dec 28]

As usual around the City of Langford, the action is fast. Back on December 11 the Transportation & Public Works Committee heard from City Engineer Michelle Mahovich with her annual report and proposed budget for the coming year. On Monday, December 17, Langford Council approved the 2019 budget resolution for \$5,732,839 and five-year financial plan as presented.

Within the budget is an unveiling of Langford's transportation infrastructure plans for 2019. That includes how new 2018 infrastructure will add to 2019 maintenance costs. In 2018 there was the addition of 8.9 km of new roadways (including Bear Mountain Parkway and West Shore Parkway), 1.7 km more bike lanes, 1.6 km new sidewalks, 235 more street signs and 130 new streetlights.



Michelle Mahovich, City of Langford Director Engineering [West Shore Parkway opening Oct 2017]

The maintenance budget increase is about 10%. Funds for that come out of general revenues. That does not mean a 10% property tax increase, reminded Director of Finance Michael Dillabaugh. Generally, as more housing and businesses come to Langford, overall tax revenues increase accordingly, which helps cover increased maintenance costs.

Fast-growing Langford's population is now over 40,000. As new housing is developed, more road and recreation infrastructure is required.

Aging infrastructure continues to be taken care of. A lot of leaky culverts were repaired this year, with more of that to come in the 2019 maintenance program.

A few lane realignments (whether the road itself or lane markings) were done this year to help improve traffic efficiencies. There are now two lanes for turning left from Millstream Overpass onto Highway 1 (heading south), and now four left turn lanes at Jacklin and Jenkins that will help support the huge Belmont Market and Belmont Residences development that comes onstream in 2019/2020.

Improvements on Langford Parkway to accommodate the upcoming connection to Leigh Road will continue into March 2019, ahead of the upcoming sports season at Westhills Stadium. Resulting from a traffic study done this year, a left-turn lane off Langford Parkway into the retail mall in 900-block (Quality Foods mall) will be done in 2019. That has added about \$90,000 to the 2019 budget for the work to amend the median, include a flashing pedestrian crosswalk, and install an improved wheelchair accessible BC Transit pad. When motorists stop to turn left into that mall, it creates traffic backups that presently impede traffic flow along to Westhills (including the highschool) and beyond that the West Shore Parkway. As well, backups to Jacklin Road occur during rush hour.

Other items in Mahovich's report included some reflective posts having been added on a portion of Bear Mountain Parkway to discourage view-lookers who were pulling over to gaze but then their vehicles were bringing gravel back onto the road upon pulling out.

She said that Green City Strategies for bike and multi-purpose lanes have been ongoing since 2012, usually at about \$400,000 per year. For 2019, a Bike BC grant has not been received but the plan is to still go ahead with a connector from Humpback Park along Irwin Road to Goldstream Park.

Two more bus shelters were recently received from BC Transit. "They give us lots because they know we can get them installed," said Mahovich. The city provides the pads. One shelter will be on Millstream across from Home Depot and the other on Jenkins between Belmont Market and Westshore Town Centre.

Langford Councillors who sit on the Transportation and Public Works committee are Roger Wade (chair) and Norma Stewart.



Langford Councillor Roger Wade chairs the Transportation Committee

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LOCAL NEWSMAKERS of 2018

TOP FIVE, HIGH-FIVE

WEST SHORE VOICE

by West Shore Voice News



SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson



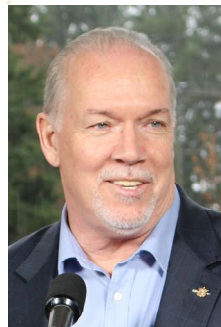
SD62 Associate Superintendent Paul Block



Colwood Mayor Rob Martin



Langford Mayor Stew Young



Premier John Horgan

>> more on page 2 .../

^^ It's always a tough call, because so many people make a difference in the community. But in terms of who moved things forward big-picture in the west shore in 2018, here are WSV's Top Five.

Some islanders without power for a week following December 20 windstorm

West Shore Voice News

As of 9 pm Friday evening, December 28, there were still 925 BC Hydro customers without power in the south Vancouver Island region (primarily Galiano, Ganges, Saturna, and a handful in Sooke). Some of those had been without power since December 21, but some were new outage events as of this week.

At the peak of the December 20 windstorm on Vancouver Island there were 150,000 customers without electricity (600,000 throughout the province), resulting from lines brought down by the December 20 windstorm that hit most of coastal Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. By Friday morning on the winter solstice December 21, Vancouver Island still saw 90,000 households and businesses without power. In urban areas of the west shore, some neighbourhoods were without electricity for over 24 hours. Areas of Sooke were restored within a day, while areas west of Sooke up to Port Renfrew had to wait a little bit longer. At one point during the storm some crews had been dispatched to outage areas in Colwood but the seaside storm-ravaged location proved too dangerous for crews, who had to return later.

Many ferry sailings were cancelled for reasons of safety; this jammed up a lot of people's holiday travel plans that required getting off or to the island.

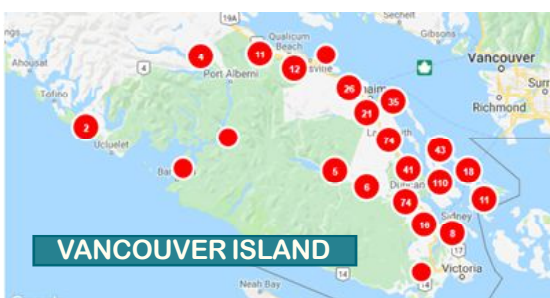
Pretty quickly, as many as 550 BC Hydro personnel were on the job round-the-clock once the degree of damage and geographical scope was apparent. Many came back off Christmas vacation or never went on holidays, in order to get the restorations done. After a few days more crews arrived from Alberta and the Atlantic provinces through a shared-support agreement between utility companies. That topped the number of repair personnel to 900 at one point.

The extent of the damage was known early on. "This will be a multi-day event," said BC Hydro customer relations rep Ted Olynyk on December 20. And this week: "About one-third of Vancouver Island hydro customers were without power at the peak of the storm." Olynyk was impressed with people's support: "Everybody understood what we were up against," he said, adding that people arrived with food and notes of support for workers.

The usual protocol is to restore power first to the more highly populated areas, said Olynyk. But this outage "was a serious event" that posed different challenges. Restoration depended 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 of trees and debris before repair crews could get access, and then sometimes traffic management while repairs were being done. At one point, 1,100 spans of wire, 300 power poles, 550 cross-arms and 180 transformers were tallied as destroyed.

On December 28 over 80 crews were still working, primarily in the southern Gulf Islands. "We expect to have all customers restored by the end of the day December 31," said Olynyk.

Links to WSV daily outage and restoration updates (Dec 20 to 27): <https://westshorevoicenews.com/day-8-power-outage-restoration-continues-on-vancouver-island/>



As of 9:45 pm on Christmas night Tuesday December 25, there were 8,946 BC Hydro customers without electricity, all of them on Vancouver Island: North 2,571 / South 6,375. [BC Hydro Map: Dec 25]

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Mary P. Brooke,
B.Sc., Cert PR
Editor & Publisher,
Mission Statement:
This publication has
been contributing to a
knowledge-based
economy & society
since 2008.

Professional journalism and the media industry that supports it continue to battle the continual onslaught of changes brought on by the Internet and social media. The newest dragon on the horizon is the very thing that purports to be the solution.

In a nutshell, new policy that is headed for the 2019 federal budget this spring could see many major news outlets choose to shift from being a business to being a non-profit organization with charitable status, believing

this will be a better way to survive financially. This follows from a report requested by the Heritage Minister last year (received in January 2018) which included a strong non-profit recommendation to resolve media woes.

"Well, we had to do something," conceded one government official last month when Finance Minister Bill Morneau rolled out more specifics in the Fall Fiscal Update. He implied that the news service industry is in such bad financial shape that even this solution was worth a try. The problem? American tech giants like Facebook and Google are nabbing up the ad revenues, and readers are heading to search engines and social media where news is 'free' -- if it is real news at all).

What the government came up with is to entice professional news organizations to become non-profits (some have already made the shift), including fundraising and accepting charitable donations. Society has become so accustomed to non-profits, fundraisers and grant funding that few are hearing the alarm bells on this.

The non-profit 'saviour' option may sound good. But when a board of directors and donors have influence, the news will no longer be free of inappropriate influence. As well, smaller news services will be hard pressed to find the resources

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM
WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS
coverage: What makes this west side of Vancouver Island tick? News & views on local communities, business & economy, health & wellness, education, the arts, politics, sustainability, & social trends.

(time and money) to set up as a non-profit with a volunteer board, a paid executive director, and a charitable fundraising department. As a lobby group out of Toronto says, its members (including *The Globe and Mail*, *La Presse*, and big news chains in BC) are keen for the idea, but admits the smaller papers will be put at a disadvantage.

Why does this matter to you, the reader? Professional journalism is necessary for generating real news. Which types of news organizations will readers trust? It's hard enough nowadays to discern the reliability of news sources, let alone fracturing the professional news industry itself into two sectors.

As a few long-time journalists properly lamented on CBC-TV's *At Issue* in November: 'This will tell you how bad it is for newspapers in today's marketplace, if they will jump at this option', and 'once down that rabbit hole, there's really no turning back'. If the arms-length

PROFESSIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS: REVENUE SOURCES & OPERATIONAL MODELS
in a CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPE

Business Analysis by *West Shore Voice News*

PRE-INTERNET
Print newspapers, radio, TV

Operational Model:
business

REVENUES:
Ads & subscriptions

COMPETITION:
Other media outlets

Evolving Internet 1998-2018
Print & digital newspapers, radio, TV, specialty blogs

Operational Model:
business

REVENUES:
(Fewer) print ads & subscriptions. Links & sponsorships. Online ads & visual features.

COMPETITION:
Other media outlets, the Internet (search engines, corporate & group websites, blogs, personal and organizational social media).

Federally proposed for 2019 >>
Print & digital newspapers, radio, TV, specialty blogs*

Operational Models:
business

REVENUES:
Ads (print & digital), subscriptions, links, sponsorships.

COMPETITION:
Other media outlets, search engines, corporate & group websites, blogs, social media.

Government to select/define media?
*** Eligibility for news organization tax deduction &/or charitable status to be defined by an appointed panel.**

Operational Models:
non-profit

REVENUES:
Ads (print & digital), subscriptions, links, sponsorships, grants & charitable donations.

COMPETITION:
Other media outlets, search engines, corporate & group websites, blogs, social media, and other non-profits seeking charitable donations.

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Wishing SD62 families a wonderful holiday & Happy New Year!



SOOKE SCHOOLS 62
Shaping Tomorrow Today

relationship becomes blurred between media and the government and corporate forces they are charged with holding accountable, this doesn't help maintain a full-force journalism profession in Canada. This week *Maclean's* editor Paul Wells on *At Issue* called the idea of government subsidies to newspapers "absurd".

In business we understand that competition keeps us sharp and on our game, and this is good for our customers, the readers. However, if competitive energy shifts to who can attract the larger charitable donation, this takes the support of newspapers into a different realm... serving the bigger financial players rather than the readers. In the regular marketplace, if the consumer doesn't like a product they stop buying it. Businesses know this, and therefore continue to evolve. If news services can produce less than the best and know they will still survive on charitable donations; it puts journalism into the hands of large donors (and indirectly government), thereby retracting it from the citizenry.

Yes, big business already influences publishers and the operations of media outlets in various ways. And changing the media business model to non-profit for the support of journalism may not change the ethics or activities of individual journalists and editors. But a major shift to non-profit will bring the work of journalism closer to the fire of favouritism in the corporate board room. The government does see the newspaper industry business model is threatened, and Trudeau himself often speaks of how important journalism is to democracy. But big enterprises welcome the non-profit idea for the perception of 'easy dollars' and know it will pressure the smaller players within (or out of) the market. The federal government may not yet see that an 'unintended consequence' of their proposed non-profit model would be to endanger (if not weed out) the smaller news services. This hardly seems within the original goal of 'saving local journalism'.

Attempting to save the media industry is admirable. In recent years, larger newspapers have cut back on news coverage and editorial staff in order to keep the lights on. Local news coverage in particular has suffered -- becoming a 'throwaway option' if you will. Hence the federal government's push to 'save local news' with the proposed non-profit model and tax deductions for hiring journalists to focus on local news. But this particular non-profit solution will soften the edge of investigative journalism, which is the primary *raison d'être* for professional news organizations. That larger enterprises require enticement to reinstate the very thing that should be their core activity, should concern every citizen. And among the larger media, some are worried that the biggest players will just use the subsidies to cover off debt, the News Media Canada lobby group recently admitted.

Here at West Shore Voice News (and before that *Sooke Voice News*) it's been the core of our reporting from day one to report on local municipalities and how their decisions affect the

Mobile business licence

West Shore Voice News

All 13 municipalities in Greater Victoria offer an inter-municipal business licence for \$100, which can be used by mobile businesses operating in the lower island municipalities (Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Saanich, Metchosin, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Sidney, Sooke, Victoria, View Royal).

Now there is also an Inter-Community Business Licence for contractors and others doing business in a wider range of Vancouver Island communities. The new licence developed by the Small business Branch under the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology costs \$170 on Vancouver Island. More: www.smallbusinessbc.ca **WSV**

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community. That job has become tougher for all newspapers in this buttoned-down world of corporate control. It is not overly dramatic to call this a civic crisis, when journalism as the primary accountability tool of democracy is being hampered and diminished.

There's still time to make your thoughts known on this. If you appreciate this or any other professional news organization, write to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in January to support the current independent business model for professional news organizations:

■ [BC/Alberta](mailto:BC/Alberta@cfib.ca) CFIB rep Richard.Truscott@cfib.ca or
■ [National](mailto:National@cfib.ca) president Dan Kelly at Dan.Kelly@cfib.ca or on Twitter @CFIB.

■ And/or write to the [News Media Canada](mailto:info@newsmediacanada.ca) lobby group at info@newsmediacanada.ca to express how the non-profit idea would ultimately be detrimental to journalism integrity, and will put additional pressure on small and independent newspapers (see chart for details). ■



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Newsmakers of 2018

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West Shore NEWSMAKERS of 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

TOP FIVE, HIGH-FIVE

It's always a tough call, because so many people make a difference in the community. But in terms of who moved things forward big-picture in the west shore in 2018, here are the WSV Top Five.

Economy & People

by Mary P Brooke, Editor



SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson



SD62 Associate Superintendent Paul Block

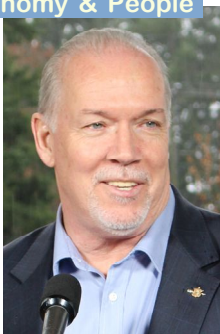


Colwood Mayor Rob Martin



City growth

Langford Mayor Stew Young



Premier John Horgan

● **There's an entire board**, executive and staff that operate the Sooke School District 62 (SD62). But in 2018 we are highlighting Superintendent Scott Stinson and Associate Superintendent Paul Block for the high-impact nuance of their work this year. Stinson took over the helm from Jim Cambridge who had been Superintendent since 2009. Those were big shoes to fill in terms of how SD62 had become a 'district of regard' among Districts and within the Ministry of Education.

With aplomb, Stinson shifted over from SD63 (Saanich) this summer, back to his long-time SD62 stomping grounds. He's taken the best of an inherited strategic plan and is making it sparkle, by direct involvement with teachers and students at the schools, bringing the best out of staff, and respectfully engaging with trustees plus the wide range of stakeholders including CUPE, principals/VPs, and parents.

There are three associate superintendents, each of whom is fully engaged, enthusiastic and productive with their individual jurisdictions and their school 'families': Paul Block (Royal Bay/Colwood), Stephanie Hedley-Smith (Belmont/Langford), and Dave Strange (EMCS/Sooke).

This year we highlight the numbers-game that Paul Block has machinated these last couple of years, coming close to perfect on estimating the number of students arriving in each school or catchment area based on housing development growth. It's more than an administrative exercise. Upon those numbers are based massive decisions like teacher hiring goals (numbers and subject areas), facilities expansion (including land purchases), and bus service provision -- all of which seems to be unfolding nicely. **WSV**

● **A few municipalities** got new mayors in the October 20 election. But what stands out for Colwood is that two-term councillor Rob Martin rose to the calling of mayor not out of political ambition but because through being mayor he could turn 'the big ship' in a new direction at a point in the municipality's history where time is of the essence and fresh ideas are essential.

Colwood got nabbed in the jaws of the Great Recession, with notably a few commercial developments going under and businesses suffering. Without many local options, residents have had to travel for employment, shopping and health services.

As Martin said in his inaugural speech, he is working his council hard and will ask them to consider all angles of a decision even after arriving at the council table prepared. This makes for longer meetings but it brings all players on board in an authentic way that so far even members of the public are commenting on.

It's tough to be a hero, as expectations are high. But Colwood residents voted for change and in Martin (along with the council he attracted) they have high hopes.

With a mind for detail and a vision for a vibrant, wholesome community, Martin will advance Colwood. **WSV**

● **Langford Mayor Stew Young** needs no introduction. Most people in the community know him on a first-name basis, due to a day-by-day campaign style that hasn't stopped since his first mayoral inauguration in 1992.

What stands out about Stew in 2018 is his 25th anniversary of both the city and his stint as mayor, shepherding the anchoring of Rugby Canada in his town, hosting the grand opening of the Bear Mountain Parkway, wooing the major Belmont Market & Residences to the south side of town to increase housing and services, bringing the Pacific FC professional soccer team to Langford to increase sports and spin-off jobs, manouevering to get Westhills Stadium ready as an expanded summer sport and concert venue, muscling the Westshore Parks & Recreation board into a new direction including fresh vision for the Q Centre, and the many charities that he and/or his Council directly or indirectly support.

For 25 years, Mayor Young has also promoted the need for affordable housing and made it happen. With strong local partnerships and BC government support, more local affordable housing was announced in 2018.

Young recognizes that with more residents (pop. 40,000+) that services must keep up. His ingenuity includes a tax holiday for new health care offices in Langford, along with facilitating quick construction of the Westshore Urgent Primary Care Centre this fall. **WSV**

● **BC Premier John Horgan** runs the province. But at home in Langford he's simply John, or Horgan, depending on the circle you find yourself in. From the summer barbecues in Sooke to the formal housing announcements in Langford, Horgan is both casual and high-profile in the region he is proud to promote during his travels as a place that has "people who think like him" (in Sooke) and who "get things done" (in Langford).

Thanks to John there is a dynamic range of improvements on Highway 14 (Sooke Road) that without his own numerous years of driving that highway would not be as suitable or as quickly installed as they've been this year.

Horgan sees firsthand the struggle of many residents in the more outlying areas of his riding, and admires the robust development that he sees in Langford where he appreciates the open door for affordable housing developments that are a key plank of his NDP government.

In 2018 he delivered on promises for improvements to child care, health care, affordable housing and eliminating individual MSP premiums. Province-wide he delivered on his promise of a referendum on proportional representation.

On Horgan's watch, BC is achieving economic growth while providing more stable services for those in need. No small feat. **WSV**

Impacting the region in 2018

West Shore Voice News



Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin)

● **Mitzi Dean**, since being elected MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin, has skyrocketed to NDP prominence, often representing Premier John Horgan locally and serving as the first Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. **Maja Tait** achieved re-election in Sooke for a second term as mayor along with a significant changeover to a mostly new council. **David Michaud** has come from the BC interior to Langford to head up a new level of sport and entertainment ventures for Keycorp on the west shore. Metchosin Mayor **John Ranns**, Highlands Mayor **Ken Williams**, and View Royal Mayor **David Screech** were acclaimed in October for their next 4-year terms. In November, Langford Councillor **Denise Blackwell** became vice-chair of the Capital Regional District board. Cowichan-Malahat-Langford MP **Alistair MacGregor** hosted NDP Leader **Jagmeet Singh** to meet with students at Belmont Secondary in Langford in November. **WSV**

BIG NEWS STORIES of 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

West Shore Voice News

● **CANNABIS became legal** in Canada (October 17, 2018).

● **HUMBOLDT BRONCOS** bus crash in April riveted and saddened both the sport community and the country. New Saskatchewan legislation regarding the division of crowd-sourced funding was tested.

● **TRUDEAU's GOVERNMENT** fought long and hard for a renewed NAFTA but we still see Trump-imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum (affecting vehicle prices and jobs) and a squeezed dairy industry.

● **BC GOT LNG** after all: helps Trudeau's energy agenda and will produce needed revenues for BC's social programs.

● **CANADA bought the Trans Mountain pipeline** to send a positive international economic message, but oil has yet to flow; Alberta is fuming.

● **PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION** got a third try in BC in a Fall 2018 referendum (results announced Dec 20). First Past the Post won comfortably with 61.3%; 42.6% of eligible registered voters participated.

● **CANADA arrested** a Chinese tech company executive at the insistence of the US, squeezing this country politically and diplomatically; future economic and privacy/security losses may result.

● **SMOKY SKIES** due to summer wildfires in BC gave reason to re-examine air quality expectations.

● **HOUSING CRISIS** across Canada, with high impact in Victoria and Vancouver where the cost of housing drives people away from

urban job locations; homelessness recognized as chronic.

● **SOLSTICE-EVE WINDSTORM** in December caused outages for one-third of BC Hydro's Vancouver Island customers.

● **BRITISH ROYALTY** welcomed a 'biracial' duchess; in marrying Prince Harry, American actress Meghan Markle switched her pop-culture career for royal duties and a chance at broader philanthropy.

● **FACEBOOK WAS CAUGHT** selling private user data. But they keep doing it. Shows a stark need for tech industry regulation. **WSV**

Queen's 2018 Christmas message emphasizes peace

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **On December 25**, Queen Elizabeth II delivered her (pre-recorded) 66th Christmas message to the Commonwealth and the world. In the usual way, she was seen surrounded by framed family photos, then the camera pulled in closer.

This year a bouquet of flowers on the table in front of the Queen matched the floral theme of the decorated Christmas tree behind her as well as visually coordinating with the burst of peach-coloured flowers in front of unlit fireplace.

Over the years, the long-reigning monarch's messages have covered a range of commentary (sometimes light, sometimes pointed) on family, faith, conditions of the world's well-being, and her views on significant personal and world events.

This year at age 92, Queen Elizabeth's message included that "faith, family and friendship have been a constant and source of personal comfort". She was not shy to boast that 53 countries in the British Commonwealth comprise 2.4 billion people, or one third of the world's population.

She said that the strength of the Commonwealth (which includes Canada and Australia) "lies in the bonds of affection it promotes and a common desire to live in a better more peaceful world".

In pitching for a more peaceful world, the Queen said that "even with the most deeply held differences, treating the other person with respect and as a fellow human being is always a good first step towards greater understanding."

With a forthright statement about Christianity, Queen Elizabeth says it is not a religion that provides "theoretical explanations for the puzzles of life... it's about the birth of a child, and the hope that birth 2,000 years ago brought to the world".

And continuing: "Only a few people acknowledged Jesus when he was born, now billions follow him. His message of peace on Earth and goodwill for all is never out of date and can be heeded by everyone. It's needed as much as ever."

"A very happy Christmas to you all," she concluded, in the 5-minute message that included choral music and video clips of her family at various highlights of their public life in the past year including two royal weddings (Princess Eugenie to entrepreneur Jack Brooksbank, and Prince Harry to actress Meghan Markle), the birth of Prince Louis (third child to Prince William and Kate — the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge), and taking pride in another great-grandchild on the way (to Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex).

Visuals with the Queen's voiceover included a few moments of Prince Charles at various public events. Charles, now 70 years old, is first in line to the throne. Elizabeth famously said in her message to Britons after the death of her father in 1952 that she would be a devoted Queen for her entire life "whether it be long or short". She said today that with age, one hopes, comes wisdom. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/queens-christmas-message-emphasizes-peace/>



Screenshot

Queen Elizabeth delivered her 66th Christmas message to the Commonwealth, broadcast on TV and available online.

COMMONWEALTH

- **Pharmasave Sooke.** Holiday season hours: Dec 28 (8-6), Dec 29 (9-6), Dec 30 (10-5), Dec 31 (8-6), closed Jan 1. Open Jan 2.
- **Pilgrim Coffee House.** Holiday season hours: Closed Dec 25 through Jan 1. Re-opening Wed Jan 2. Tel: 778-265-5577
- **Mom's Cafe.** Holiday season hours: 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). Tel: 250-642-3314
- **Quality Foods,** 977 Langford Parkway. Closing 6 pm Dec. 31, closed Jan 1. Re-opens Jan 2. www.qualityfoods.com
- **City of Langford** municipal hall. Open Dec 27 & 28, closed Dec 29 to Jan 1. www.langford.ca
- **City of Colwood** municipal hall. Closed Dec 25 through Jan 1. www.colwood.ca
- **District of Sooke** municipal hall. Open Dec 27, 28 & 31. Closed Jan 1. Re-opens Jan 2. www.sooke.ca
- **Sooke Region Museum.** Re-opens Jan 2. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

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

Juan de Fuca
Emergency
Program

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www.prepareyourself.ca

World Juniors Hockey. Games in Vancouver: Canada vs Czech Republic Sat Dec. 29; Canada vs Russia Mon Dec 31. On TSN starting 5 pm.
Sheringham Point Lighthouse winter hours Mon Dec 31 and into 2019. www.sheringhamlighthouse.com
New Year's Eve Skate at SEAPARC. Mon Dec 31. \$2. 11:30 am to 12:45 pm. www.seaparc.ca
New Year's Eve Skate at JdF Arena, Colwood \$2 Mon Dec 31. 12-1:30 pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Happy New Year!
Tues Jan 1.

2019

District of Sooke New Year's Levee. In council chambers. Tues Jan 1. 10 am. www.sooke.ca

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

World Juniors Hockey. Quarter-finals in Vancouver and Victoria Wed Jan 2. Semi-finals Fri Jan 4 in Vancouver, with the bronze and gold-medal games on Sat Jan 5.

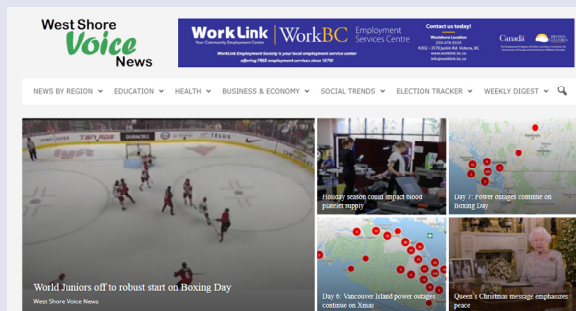
SD62. Back to Classes after Winter Break Mon Jan 7. www.sd62.bc.ca

City of Langford Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 7. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

City of Colwood Committee of the Whole. Mon Jan 7. 6pm. www.colwood.ca

BC Wild Salmon Policy to be discussed Thurs Jan 10 at the Lower Field House (across from Q Center), Juan de Fuca Rec Center, 1767 Island Hwy. 6 to 8 pm.

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Langford lines up cannabis regulations with CRD Clean Air Bylaw

● **If you're a smoker** -- tobacco or cannabis -- in Langford there is no smoking or vaping in a public place or on a highway unless you're on a sidewalk that is more than 20 m from school property, 7 m from any doorway/window/air take of a building, 7 m from any intersection or crosswalk or bus stop, 20 m from any park or other city-declared recreation area, or 2 m from a retail store that sells cannabis. That's per Bylaws 1822 & 1823 as passed at the December 17 council meeting.

This lines up with the Capital Regional District's regulations in their Clean Air Bylaw that prohibit smoking or vaping of cannabis in a park or open space, or on a beach or trail. Public education on this is coming in the new year.

Meanwhile, Langford plans to issue up to five temporary 3-year operating permits for cannabis retailers, allowing for evaluation of operations. The application fee will help pay for a community liaison officer and RCMP school liaison officer. The names of five potential cannabis operators who passed several City criteria were forwarded to the BC government; approval is still awaited.

Mayor Stew Young expects that most cannabis taxation benefits will be federal and provincial. Any new municipal revenue from cannabis retailing will go to covering the costs of bylaw enforcement and public education. **WSV**

BC salmon strategy open for public discussion

● **"The complex task of restoring salmon abundance** and bringing the benefit from our fisheries resources back to BC simply cannot be done without a whole-citizen effort." That's the mainstay of *Options for a Made-in-BC Wild Salmon Strategy* as prepared by the BC Wild Salmon Advisory Council and submitted to the BC Government in Sept 2018. A public meeting to discuss the content and implications of the strategy will be held on Thursday January 10 in the Fieldhouse Building behind the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Director Mike Hicks encourages people with an interest in this topic to attend, from 6 to 8 pm. **WSV**
Find the PDF here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/426/2018/11/Wild-Salmon-Strategy-Options-Paper.pdf>



JDFEA Director Mike Hicks: salmon enhancement at the Sooke River, Oct 2016.

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Happy Holidays!
Closed Dec 25-Jan 1
See you in the new year!

New to Sooke? Bride to be? New mom? Call Judy or Liz 250-642-2268
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BONUS 2019 THANK YOU TO ALL OUR READERS, SUBSCRIBERS & ADVERTISERS. HAPPY NEW YEAR! **WEST SHORE VOICE**

Year-end real estate analysis by WSV will be sent direct to subscribers by email ahead of the public January 4 weekend issue.

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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

MSP burden shifts to corporate in 2019

● **Individuals will still pay Medical Service Plan (MSP)** premiums in BC in 2019 (at the 50% rate that was introduced in January 2018), but that gets fully eliminated at January 1, 2020.

Meanwhile, starting January 1, 2019, the Employer Health Tax (EHT) Act applies 1.95% to the payroll of businesses, organizations and school districts with payrolls over \$1.5 million. Enterprises with a payroll between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million will pay a reduced tax amount.

While the government says fewer than 5% of businesses in BC will pay the full EHT, the change is expected to create some chill in hiring and investment. Smaller businesses with payrolls below \$500,000 will be protected by an exemption, while the payrolls of charities and non-profits will be shielded by a \$1.5-million exemption. **WSV**

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723 trees support good causes

Tree sale success

● **The annual Xmas tree fundraiser** by the Colwood Campus of SD62's Westshore Centre for Learning & Training reached their financial goals as well as providing a learning opportunity for students. "We were very pleased to reach our fundraising goal this year," says organizer Debbie Lodewijk. This year 723 trees were sold -- that's up from 624 last year. "The students and teachers did an excellent job as volunteers and we loved hearing from our customers how much they enjoyed visiting our festive tree lot," said Lodewijk this week. Funds are applied to grad costs for students-in-need in June, as well as for ongoing summer costs of the sustainability garden at 2139 Sooke Road campus. **WSV**

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