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Your Voice in the Legislature

Weeks #420 & #421

# West Shore Voice News

v1

6 pages this issue



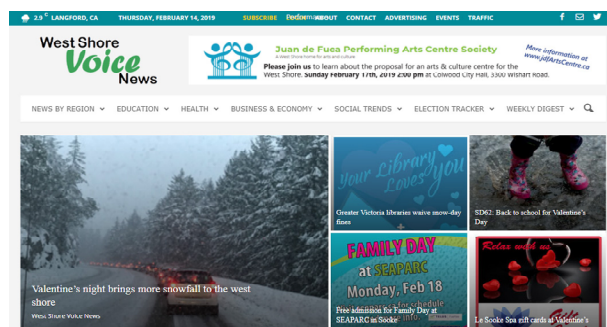
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## Friday, February 8 & 15, 2019 COMBO EDITION

Interrupted schedule due to snow-impact on business and community.

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Snowy Malahat section of Hwy 1 at dusk on Valentine's, February 14

https://westshorevoicenews.com/valentines-night-brings-more-snowfall-to-the-west-shore/

City of Langford Engineering

# SNOW, WIND & OUTAGES

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News



Overlooking Langford Lake Road near Belmont Secondary, with Langford Parkway beyond, on a snowy February 11 evening.

● **Snowfall that began Friday February 8** before noon carried on for five days to February 12, with a one-day reprieve February 13, and then one more last boot on Valentine's evening February 14.

By **Monday** morning February 11, school districts around Vancouver Island had called snow days. That evening in the west shore, Sooke School District 62 (SD62) called a second snow day for February 12, given the accumulation that would impact school access, bussing and overall travel safety on Tuesday.

**Tuesday** was a quiet day, highlighting by its absence the usual 'white noise' of city transportation, business activities, and schools in session. The scraping of one person's sidewalk could wake up a neighbourhood.

**Wednesday:** A third consecutive snow day was called by SD62 that morning despite the strain on families and businesses.

Environment Canada issued twice-daily snowfall warnings for the Greater Victoria area during the five days, ranging from 5 to 10 cm on February 8 to as much as 25 cm February 11 into February 12. At some points wind gusts were up to 90 km/h. Like a collapsing deck of cards, the cancellations rolled in -- meetings, school/university closures, and appointments -- until by Tuesday it had caught on like a fever that everything that could be cancelled, rescheduled or postponed would in fact be. Except for the Throne Speech at the BC Legislature on Tuesday -- that carried on, though pared back without cannons and military marching band as most of the DND base was closed.

Most of the power outages over Friday night into the weekend and some lingering into Monday were due to trees falling on wires, or the impact of wind and the wet cold on hydro transmission equipment like poles, lines and transformers. Around 5 pm on Saturday there were 14,318 BC Hydro customers without power (earlier in the day 9,762 of those were in the west shore and Sooke). BC Hydro crews were out in the field non-stop for days to continue restoring power on a priority basis.

Central operations for governance and essential community services are given priority with BC Hydro, as well as densely populated areas, and where roadways are blocked by downed powerlines. The newly-opened temporary homeless shelter for the Sooke-region homeless in the CRD's Juan de Fuca Services Building was put on the priority list too. Most of the central urban areas were spared outages this time around, compared to the December 20 to 27 outage period before Christmas. By Tuesday, there was one contained outage in the Treanor Avenue area of Langford, but most remaining outages were small pockets west of Sooke and on the Gulf Islands. Nowadays, many commercial and retail enterprises maintain their own generators, especially for important services like indoor malls and grocery stores.

On the roads, many Greater Victoria area drivers may profess lack of experience with driving in snowy conditions and many vehicles are not equipped with the proper winter tires. And sometimes it shows. On Friday on Highway 14 many vehicles ended up in the ditch (and the highway closed for portions of the

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION



Classrooms were not dismissed on Friday February 8, with students heading home in the snow that afternoon.

weekend). Over the weekend some vehicles heading on Highway 17 heading in from the ferry and airport were abandoned roadside. On Sunday evening, Highway 1 was closed in the Malahat section for about 2.5 hours so that road crews could clear the roads more efficiently without vehicle traffic in the way.

BC Ferries sent out their last Monday evening sailing from Swartz Bay at 5 pm, cancelling later sailings due to weather conditions. Road travel to and from the terminal would have posed challenges for would-be ferry travellers.

Scheduled municipal meetings were cancelled one by one on Monday. That included the City of Langford's Affordable Housing committee meeting (as well as the Transportation Committee for Tuesday), a public hearing and council meeting at the City of Colwood, and a District of Sooke council meeting.

Municipalities either have their own in-house work crews or contract out the necessary road maintenance services. Langford uses Victoria Contracting and Municipal Maintenance. Colwood has their own public works. Sooke uses Mainroad South Island on contract. Mainroad also does Highways 1, 14 & 18.

In Langford where the population of 40,000+ is in both older and newer neighbourhoods, the municipality typically runs five to seven plows including a large tandem plow. They have two dedicated brine trucks that run in advance of large weather events, and a dedicated sidewalk cleaning machine. Their crews run 24/7 during winter months. In the last seven days, Langford went through 200 tonnes of salt to help keep roads safe, with another 185 tonnes subsequently ordered. The city advised people to stay home and off the roads.

First responders -- firefighters, police and ambulance -- were out in full force around the west shore to handle vehicle incidents and circumstances around downed power lines. Some sections of Highway 14 were closed for extended periods due to power lines and/or trees across that provincial route that serves Sooke.

BC Transit did their best to keep up on Monday with some detours and delays on snowy roads in the west shore, as well as dealing with an 'inaccessible' website that prevented real time updates. By Tuesday, there were some cancelled routes throughout Greater Victoria due to road conditions.

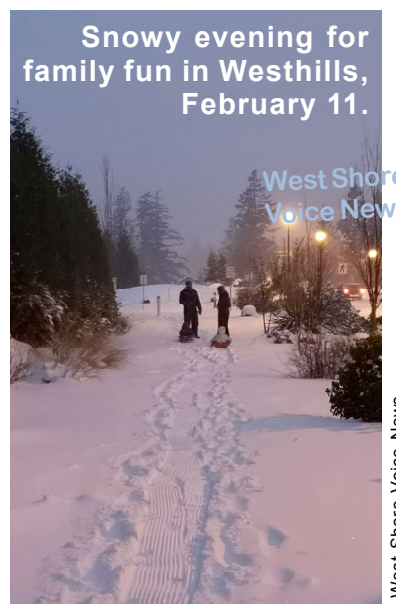
After five days of snow, Island Health issued a health advisory about snowy conditions. On shovelling snow they advised awareness of the physical strain and to pace the work. Also to "be a good neighbour" by helping seniors or others who are unable to keep their sidewalks safe, and to sprinkle sand or salt around homes and on sidewalks to improve traction.

Island Health identifies more visits to hospital under snowy winter conditions that usually result in an increase in motor vehicle incidents and falls. Island Health does not have a contingency plan for getting their staff to work, so in some cases doctors and nurses slept at their hospitals in order to be available for their next shifts. Some volunteer driving services revved into high gear to get health care employees to work. **WSV**

Five non-stop days of snow-related news reports:

- ROAD CONDITIONS:** <https://westshorevoicenews.com/heavy-snowfall-tonight-into-tuesday-february-12/> | <https://westshorevoicenews.com/heavy-snowfall-tonight-into-tuesday/> | <https://westshorevoicenews.com/driving-safely-on-snowy-roads/> | <https://westshorevoicenews.com/whiteout-conditions-on-roads-in-west-shore-malahat-closed/> | **POWER OUTAGES:** <https://westshorevoicenews.com/windy-sub-zero-weather-brings-on-power-outages/> | <https://westshorevoicenews.com/continued-power-outages-on-sunday-with-more-snow-coming/> | **SNOW DAYS (schools closed):** <https://westshorevoicenews.com/tag/snowday/> | **COMMUNITY IMPACT:** <https://westshorevoicenews.com/west-shore-slows-down-during-snow-day-2>

Snowy evening for family fun in Westhills, February 11.



West Shore Voice News

**E Impact of a west coast snow-week**

West Shore Voice News Editorial



**Mary P Brooke**  
Editor & Publisher

● **Few of you really need to hear** about the impact of a full week of snow on otherwise balmy south Vancouver Island. You lived through it! As the first flakes began to fall on Friday morning and with a significant dump in the forecast, it was apparent that the next few days would not be the same.

Kids went home from school Friday in the snow. Traffic was snarled on the weekend as snow depth accumulated. Monday through Wednesday ended up being 'snow days' and with schools closed, the knock-on effect of parents not showing up for work in the absence of child care or the ability to drive was dramatic. Transit became an option for some commuters, to avoid icy roads and sidewalks.

Businesses everywhere around the region have seen the impact in their pocketbooks, which before you jump on the profit motive includes the ability to pay staff and keep the lights on. Most municipalities cancelled meetings that will need to be rescheduled; this pushes along the results of governance.

Emergency responders (firefighters, ambulance, police, hydro repair crews, road crews, preparedness teams) were on top of their game -- a well-prepared response that communities are reminded to be grateful for. ■

**BC Throne Speech takes aim at affordability and transparency**

West Shore Voice News

● **The Throne Speech** delivered by Lt Gov Janet Austin on February 12 was the prelude to Budget BC 2019 coming up February 19. Written all over it was the NDP thrust of achieving affordability for British Columbians wherever possible, along with a strong stance on climate change. More: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/bc-throne-speech-goes-further-deeper-toward-affordability/> **WSV**



**Lt Gov Janet Austin** delivers Throne Speech.

**BC Hydro rates going up, way up**

● **BC Hydro customers will be hit with a new series of rate increases** starting April 1, 2019, just as five consecutive years of increases (2014-2018) end.

Calling the rates affordable in a February 14 release, Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources put the blame squarely on the former BC Liberal government for getting into independent power producer agreements that sell power into the grid at higher rates. "The (Phase 1 BC Hydro Review) report concludes that BC Hydro bought too much energy, the wrong type of energy and paid too much for it," Mungall said passionately in a news conference.

"While costing the average household an extra \$200 per year, 80% of that money did not stay in the province. This was just not a good deal for British Columbians," she said.

Subject to approval by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), electricity bills for ratepayers are forecast to increase by 1.8% effective April 1, 2019, and 0.7% effective April 1, 2020. This is part of a cumulative rate increase of 8.1% over the next five years, which is almost 40% lower than the 13.7% cumulative increase for the same period under the previous government's 10-year rates plan, and 20% lower than the 10.7% forecast rate of BC inflation over the same period.

As part of transitioning to enhanced oversight, government has accepted a recommendation from the review for BC Hydro to stop using the rate-smoothing regulatory account and to write off its balance to zero in 2018-2019. This will limit rate increases and relieve ratepayers of the burden of directly paying off \$1.1 billion in deferred costs over the next five years.

In addition, BC Hydro will implement a number of measures that will lower costs and increase revenues, including managing future energy purchases from private power producers. This includes indefinitely suspending BC Hydro's Standing Offer Program, effective immediately. No change will be made to electricity purchase agreements that are already signed and in place. Mungall says the province is open to discussing the extent to which the indefinite suspension of the Standing Offer Program may affect the economic interests of individual Indigenous Nations.

"This government deserves significant credit for the steps they have announced today to address the politicization of BC Hydro by the previous government," said Andrew Weaver, leader of the BC Green Party. "Re-establishing the BC Utilities Commission's oversight role will help ensure future governments base their policy decisions in evidence, rather than what is politically expedient at the time." **WSV**

**Regional mayors push for E&N train**

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● **Despite the promise of a South Vancouver Island Regional Transportation Strategy** by September -- with funding attached (per Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure/MOTI, January 30), all 13 south island mayors blasted out a letter to Trevena on February 6, asking that trains be reinstated to the E&N rail corridor right away, as well as specifically requesting fast completion of the southbound bus priority lanes on Highway 1. The Mayors are urging the Province to commit to these projects in the upcoming Budget 2019.

View Royal Mayor David Screech says he doesn't feel that a strategy will emerge from MOTI by September: "more likely by next year". "The track is there, the corridor is there. It is one part of a broader picture, but it's just something we feel needs to happen and we want the province to commit some funding to it," said Screech on February 7. He said that the number of cars that would come off the road would outweigh the pollution impact of the trains (which run on diesel).

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has a transportation committee but "it has no authority", says Screech. The jointly-signed letter from all 13 mayors was a way of speaking as one voice, he said.

Sooke Mayor Maja Tait (who sits on the BC Transit Commission board) signed on to the letter that effectively challenges the Horgan government on its promise of a prompt strategy. "Rail doesn't come into Sooke but for the commuters, let's get on with it," she told *West Shore Voice News* February 7.

Langford Mayor Stew Young says that the BC and federal governments need a new agreement with First Nations along the corridor for another 100 years. "Without their support for the corridor as a willing partner, the train will never run," he told *West Shore Voice News*. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/south-island-mayors-call-for-trains-to-run-again-on-e-and-n/>

**CFIB identifies impact of proposed journalism tax credit on small business**

● **The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)** this week issued a letter to Finance Minister Bill Morneau regarding the **Fall Economic Statement -- New Tax Credits to Support Canadian Journalism Industry**. Here is the full text, as submitted by Corinne Pohimann, Senior Vice-President, National Affairs and Partnerships, CFIB:

**Dear Minister Morneau:**

"As you may know, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit political action organization representing the interests of 110,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Canada. From time to time our members contact us to provide valuable feedback on a variety of issues, and it is for this reason that we write to you today.

Several CFIB members have contacted us recently to alert us of their concerns regarding the new tax measures intended to help the journalism and media industries. The measures were announced in the most recent fall economic statement, which estimated that close to \$600 million over the next five years will be dedicated to fund domestic news organizations that produce a wide variety of original content.

While the full details of these tax credits won't be available until the next federal budget, our members are concerned that one of the programs being introduced may not be accessible to smaller news services.

It is our understanding that one of the new measures being introduced will allow non-profit media organizations to apply for charitable status, enabling them to seek donations for which they could issue tax receipts. This new policy could see many major news outlets choose to shift from being a corporation to being a non-profit organization with charitable status, believing this will be a better way to survive financially.

The concern from our members is that smaller news services will find it difficult to find the resources (time and money) to set up as a non-profit with a volunteer board, a paid executive director, and a charitable fundraising department. As larger news chains may be open to the idea, smaller, local papers will likely find making that transition very difficult and can put them at a significant disadvantage.

Currently, the details remain sparse on the eligibility criteria, contribution limits for the charitable tax credit, and a working definition for what constitutes professional journalism. As small, independently owned media outlets face similar challenges as larger media outlets and often play a critical role in their community we would ask that the new journalism measures announced last fall keep in mind the more limited means of smaller news outlets. We believe it is only fair that these new measures should also be accessible to smaller news entities as they deserve to be recognized for their important contributions to keeping their local communities informed."

**Morneau announces local Freedom Mobile network**

● **Just ahead of the snowfall** that began mid-morning last Friday February 8, Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau addressed a Victoria Chamber of Commerce breakfast, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) Canada.

Minister Morneau and Chamber CEO Catherine Holt engaged in a conversation that covered the state of the economy, housing affordability and money laundering. Morneau was candid about the trials of working with the United States under the Trump administration, and how Canada could be impacted by Brexit.

Morneau took the local opportunity to announce the expansion of the Freedom Mobile network in the Greater Victoria area. Owned by Shaw, it's been a long haul getting enough transmission towers in place to effectively launch the service due to resistance in some municipal areas (such as in Sooke where Council supported some public pressure about the idea of more exposure to transmissions from wireless equipment and the idea of making room for another competitor in the cell phone market).

Freedom Mobile (formerly called Wind -- a marketing brand that didn't work too well) presently has a 2GB+2GB special. **WSV**  
[www.freedommobile.ca](http://www.freedommobile.ca)

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Finance Minister Bill Morneau announcing Freedom Mobile expansion, February 8.

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# NEWS

## Weather | Technology | Economy

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### Three snow days for west shore & Sooke

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



Uphill approach to Belmont Secondary School on Langford Lake Road, Snow Day #3, February 13 >>



West Shore Voice News

SD62 SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED FEBRUARY 11, 12 & 13, 2019

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

It turns out there were three consecutive snow days for most school districts around south Vancouver Island, February 11 to 13. A snow day means that schools and school offices are closed. Three-times-in-a-row is a first.

Declaring a snow day (i.e. schools closed or classes not in session) is not taken lightly. The school district realizes that parents often must get to work and also may not be able to find child care for any children that cannot get to school. Teachers and facilities staff as well as bus drivers must be advised in a timely manner.

For the west shore and Sooke, the daily decision for three consecutive snow days came from Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Superintendent Scott Stinson. Normally the decision is made same-day by 6:30 am, after the superintendent, facilities management and bus fleet management head out around 4:30 am to check road and school access conditions. But on Monday night, February 11, the announcement came that evening, giving parents and businesses a chance to plan and prepare for a second snow day on Tuesday. Stinson said the school district needed Tuesday to clear access to schools including parking lots.

SD62 used Twitter to inform parents and community, followed up with emailed notices to regular media. Some parents were saying in social media that same-day (morning of a snow day) advisories were not enough notice. "It's unusual to have two snow days in a row," said Stinson Monday evening, right after he announced Tuesday as the second snow day. Given the amount of snow falling that evening, he wanted to give parents and staff enough notice.

"This difficult winter weather puts a lot of extra stress on our SD62 community," said SPEAC (SD62 district parent PAC) president Melanie Armstrong this week. "From families scrambling to find childcare during the school closure, to district staff going above and beyond to provide safe busing and safe school spaces in icy and snowy conditions, to our district administrators making the tough call to close schools, it was a challenge," she said. "But the clear and prompt communication we've received from the district has been a big help for families and is much appreciated."

Monday was exciting for knocking routine off kilter, but by Tuesday the impact of missing work, school, business commitments and appointments for health and family was starting to sink in. Wednesday was something of a drudge for all transportation systems and business operations. On Thursday many parents expressed relief at seeing their kids back in school for one day (Friday was a Pro-D day, followed by this long weekend with BC Family Day coming up February 18).

SD62 delivers public education in Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and Juan de Fuca areas and some parts of View Royal. There are 24 schools in their own buildings, plus the Westshore Centre for Learning & Training campuses (one in each of Langford, Colwood and Sooke) that operate out of other types of facilities.

Losing three days of instruction does impact the classroom. In particular, high school students (now in Semester #2 of the 2018-2019 academic year) will see their teachers adjusting lessons accordingly, says Stinson. "Teachers will do a little extra work to make sure students are ready for exams," Stinson said. Some academic course material can be advanced by email and online with high school students when the regular classroom is not available. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/tag/snowday/>

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Snowy Malahat section of Hwy 1 on Monday February 11.

Langford Engineering

During the five-day snow event in the south island area (February 8 to 12), West Shore RCMP dealt with 75 calls for motor vehicle incidents, 26 of which were crashes. **WSV**

### Hwy 14 was closed in two sections

At various points during the long five days of snow on the south island, Sooke had to deal with full closures of Highway 14 (Sooke Road), their only access in/out of town. Trees falling across the provincial highway and bringing down powerlines was the cause for closure in the 5100-block



Tree & power line across Hwy 14 (Feb 9)

Web / MOTI

that blocked access from the Langford side (Feb 9 & 10), and a tree across the road near Shirley blocked access to Port Renfrew. (Feb 10 & 11). **WSV**

### Coast Capital: the economy in 2019

EXCLUSIVE for West Shore Voice News subscribers:

Where does Coast Capital Savings (CCS) feel the economy is going in 2019? That question was posed to the credit union, as well as: "Steady state or recession? How will this affect various board-level decisions? Any regional variation in services?" The reply from Daryl Hosein, VP, Treasury Growth, CCS:

"That is a good question and a tough one to answer with a lot of certainty. There are expectations in 2019 that the economy could be supported by strong employment, still relatively low rates and foreign demand. While interest rates are low relative to historical norms, rates have been increasing and this in combination with tougher mortgage lending criteria could continue to put a damper on housing markets. There are number of factors that could contribute to uncertainty including global trade developments, geopolitical events and effects of oil price fluctuations. As market expectations can change quickly based at times on factors we cannot anticipate, we encourage our members look past the day-to-day noise and develop saving habits that will serve them well in any economic environment." **WSV**

### Federal dollars to AI tech & jobs

West Shore Voice News

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced support for AI technology on February 15 with \$40 million to BlackBerry to help develop automated control systems, and improve vehicle safety and security by expanding its driver assistance system. As well, \$225 million has been announced to support Future Skills over four years to help the Canadian job market adapt to new technology, artificial intelligence and global competitiveness. <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/federal-government-investing-225-million-in-future-skills-over-four-years/> **WSV**

### Clarification: child pornography investigations in the west shore

West Shore Voice News

**CLARIFICATION** (re the WSV article published February 1, 2019): There are 17 investigations underway (not necessarily 17 persons) in the west shore area for child pornography, with 12 of those in Langford. That finding is for 2018 with the followup work now rolling into 2019, as reported by West Shore RCMP on Thursday, January 31. **UPDATE FEBRUARY 4:** West Shore RCMP also wishes to clarify that investigations are initiated based on findings that a computer associated with an IP address had been used to access, download or distribute child pornography images, and does "not" imply that any persons doing that were generating original content of that nature. "It is important to note that this number is the collective amount of investigations since January 2018 and that these investigations are in various stages," says West Shore RCMP Media Spokesperson Cst Nancy Saggar. "Some are in the court process and trials have been conducted and others are just starting. We don't believe that the number of investigations being conducted in the West Shore are disproportionate compared to jurisdictions of a similar size," she said. "We want to highlight that the nature of these investigations require officers to spend a significant amount of time and resources on them. This is particularly true of any kind of cyber crime where computers or storage devices are seized and then have to be sent to our Tech Crimes unit to analyse," said Cst Saggar. "Public safety is always number one for us," says Cst Saggar. "Investigators will always establish if there is a threat to the public/person(s) before continuing on gathering evidence," she told West Shore Voice News. More: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/west-shore-rcmp-working-on-17-child-porn-investigations/> **WSV**

### Malahat was closed for road clearing

West Shore Voice News

During the worst of the five-day snow event, the BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure authorized closure of the Malahat (between West Shore Parkway and Bamberton Provincial Park) so that Mainroad South Island could get in there with equipment to clear the roads properly, for about 2.5 hours on Sunday evening, February 10. <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/whiteout-conditions-on-roads-in-west-shore-malahat-closed/> **WSV**

### Walking on snow

West Shore Voice News

Making your way to the corner store or to the bus in all this snow? Island Health had some safety advice this week:

Walk on crunchy snow where you can (to avoid ice) and use a backpack to free up use of your hands (to improve balance). Walk more slowly and pay attention to your step. Wear warm footwear that fits well.

During the entire snow-day phase, this was the only official news release issued by Island Health. **WSV**

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# Community News

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### Snow: landfill restricted to commercial-only West Shore Voice News



Hartland Landfill receives waste from around Greater Victoria.

● **Hartland Landfill access** was restricted to commercial-only on Tuesday, February 12 after five days of almost non-stop snowfall. About 44 cm fell in the Greater Victoria area

from February 8 to 12.

“Winter weather conditions continue to impact Hartland landfill facility,” said the Capital Regional District (CRD) on Tuesday.

Located about 14 km northwest of Victoria, Hartland normally operates from Monday through Saturday (and closed on statutory holidays).

Due to poor road conditions and the accumulation of snow, Hartland was limited to commercial account customers with landfill access only via automated scale (RF tag) that day, and was closed to the public.

Since 1985, the CRD has invested over \$33 million in site infrastructure and environmental controls. A lengthy list of banned items includes asbestos-containing material, biomedical waste, ignitable wastes, motor vehicle bodies, yard/garden waste and kitchen scraps. **WSV**

### Asbestos accepted by appointment West Shore Voice News

● **As spring approaches**, the idea of home and building renovation is on the horizon. And again this year, the CRD reminds property owners to hire a qualified professional to test for asbestos and remove it safely.

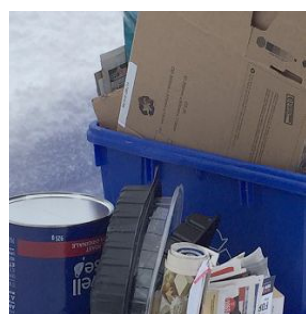
Proposal disposal is outlined at [www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste](http://www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste)

A homeowner who is planning to renovate or demolish a home that was built before 1990, must take responsibility for the asbestos content, says WorkSafe BC. And contractors are responsible for protecting their workers from asbestos exposure, says WorkSafe BC.

Asbestos is a group of mineral fibres that resist fire, heat and electricity. Renovating and deconstructing houses containing asbestos products can release fibres into the air. Inhalation can lead to lung scarring and cancer. The most common asbestos containing materials are include drywall, vinyl flooring, grout, insulation, stucco, cement board, and paneling. For a full list see: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/hartland-landfill-facility/asbestos>

Asbestos-containing material (ACM) is accepted by appointment at Hartland Landfill. Call 250.360.3410. All materials must be bagged and loads covered. **WSV**

### Snow impacted blue box pick up this week West Shore Voice News



● **Some blue box curbside pickup routes** were impacted Wednesday February 13 due to snow-affected roads, sidewalks and driveways. “Efforts will be made to collect recyclable materials in areas that drivers can safely access, however, some households will miss collection due to safety precautions for both drivers and residents,” says the Capital Regional District (CRD).

The day before on Tuesday February 12 it was a different matter, with all routes cancelled after several days of snowfall: “Deteriorating weather and road conditions have made collection unsafe so in the interest of worker and public safety we will not be collecting curbside recycling today,” it was stated by the CRD.

Collection was also impacted (some routes not collected) in some areas on the day of the first snowfall (Friday February 8) and again Monday February 10.

By the time Valentine’s Day rolled around on Thursday February 14, the advisory from CRD was prompt: “Some routes will be impacted. Efforts will be made to collect recyclable materials in areas that drivers can safely access, however, some households may miss collection.” Another heavy snowfall on Thursday evening similarly impacted pickups on Friday February 15 as well.

Residents whose recyclables weren’t picked up are advised to bring recycling inside until their next regular collection day. A list of depots where recycling can be dropped off for free is available at [www.crd.bc.ca/bluebox](http://www.crd.bc.ca/bluebox).

The CRD Blue Box Recycling Program provides curbside recycling to over 121,000 homes in the region. CRD thanks residents for their understanding and patience. Updates: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) and [@crd\\_bc](https://twitter.com/crd_bc) **WSV**

Get updates on blue box schedules and service details by signing up for the **recycleCRD App**.

### Where does your recycling go? West Shore Voice News

● **Despite shifting world markets** for much of Canada’s recyclable materials, Recycle BC has been able to ensure that plastic packaging, paper products, glass and metal containers collected in the capital region are still being recycled.

The Capital Regional District collects recyclable materials from single family homes through its curbside program on behalf of Recycle BC, the organization responsible for residential recycling in the province.

Materials collected at the curb and in depots are sold and processed as follows:

- **Plastic containers** collected in the capital region remain in BC, with a local end market in Metro Vancouver that processes this material into pellets that are then recycled into new packaging and other products like fleece clothing, rope, brush bristles, car bumpers and household furnishings.
- **Glass** is shipped to Abbotsford to be processed into new bottles and to Quesnel to be made into sandblast materials.
- **Metal containers** are sold to end-markets in BC, Ontario and the United States and are typically recycled into new packaging, road signs and window frames.
- **Most of the mixed paper** collected in the capital region remains in BC for processing into new egg cartons, though it’s also processed into new boxes, paper towels, tissues and other paper products.

Residents included in the curbside blue box program are encouraged to continue rinsing their recyclable materials and sorting them into three separate streams (plastic and metal containers, paper and glass) to reduce contamination and ensure that these materials continue to have an end market.

Residents living in multi-family buildings who are concerned about the end-markets for their recyclable materials can return their clean containers to one of several recycling depots in the region.

Large rigid plastic items—things like lawn furniture and car seats—have not been collected for recycling since the only market for this material (China), implemented its National Sword Policy in January 2018. Representing less than 0.4% of the tonnage diverted by CRD recycling programs annually, large rigid plastic items brought to Hartland will be disposed of in the landfill until a new market for them emerges.

CRD staff will continue to monitor global recycling markets closely. For more information on the region’s curbside collection program, see [www.crd.bc.ca/bluebox](http://www.crd.bc.ca/bluebox)

The CRD collects recyclable materials from residential addresses through its curbside blue box program on behalf of Recycle BC, who owns the recyclable materials and is responsible for marketing them. For more information, please visit <https://recyclebc.ca>.

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/blue-box-program-shifting-world-markets-but-still-collecting/> **WSV**



Rinse & sort your recyclables.



### Renovating this year?

Some dangers are easy to see. Others—like the asbestos found in thousands of old building products—are invisible but deadly.

Before you renovate, hire a qualified professional to test for asbestos and remove it safely.

Learn how to properly dispose of your reno waste at [crd.bc.ca/renowaste](http://crd.bc.ca/renowaste) to avoid being turned away at Hartland Landfill or private facilities.

For step-by-step guides and a list of professionals:

[crd.bc.ca/renowaste](http://crd.bc.ca/renowaste)



### Snow puts a dent in garbage pickup West Shore Voice News

● **The day began** with good intentions on Monday -- trucks were going to roll out a bit later than usual but still cover the day’s route. But by mid-morning February 11, it was apparent that Alpine Group’s garbage collection trucks were only going to handle the flat areas. That left steeper streets -- like many in Westhills -- without garbage pickup that day.

On Tuesday, similar impairments to the usual pickup schedule were happening.

To get back on schedule, customers can put out their garbage and kitchen scraps totes on the next regular pick up day.

“Everything that gets put out next week will be picked up,” says Stew Young. **WSV**



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# Community News

## ENVIRONMENT | EDUCATION

News updates any time:  
[www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com](http://www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com)

### CleanBC: public input by phone West Shore Voice News

● A series of telephone town halls about the Province's comprehensive plan to create a cleaner, stronger and more prosperous BC will be hosted by George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

"Building a cleaner, brighter future for BC is something we're all a part of, and CleanBC is our Province's plan to help get us there," says Heyman. "We are committed to listening to British Columbians as we take action on expanding a low-carbon economy to protect our natural environment and the place we call home."

The town halls provide an opportunity to connect directly with Heyman to ask questions about CleanBC, give feedback and to learn more and comment on how the Province will make things better and more affordable



for people while reducing air pollution, protecting the environment and communities.

There are four regions-specific telephone town halls (PDT), with closed captioning available:

- \* Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. Lower Mainland and southwestern BC
- \* Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Kootenays, the Interior and northern BC
- \* Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. Vancouver Island and communities throughout the coast
- \* Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. Lower Mainland and southwestern BC

Closed captioning for these telephone town halls is available. A separate link to follow closed captioning online will be sent to participants who choose that option when they register.

Registration and further info about the CleanBC plan: [www.cleanbc.ca](http://www.cleanbc.ca) **WSV**

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

### Weaver says BC Hydro needs to evolve West Shore Voice News

● In the wake of the BC government's announcement about BC Hydro rate hikes to cover too-high payouts to independent power producers, BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver says: "The number one issue that remains unaddressed with today's announcement is how BC Hydro is planning for the future."

"The economic strategy CleanBC announced late last year relies heavily on the electrification of buildings, transportation and industry," said Weaver in a news release February 15.

"We need to be having a serious conversation about what changes need to happen to BC Hydro to accomplish our goals," said the MLA who is by profession a climate change expert. "The future is no longer big dams; it's time our utility evolved." **WSV**

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### West Shore Voice News



Daily online news portal

~ News by Region ~

[www.westshorevoiceneews.com](http://www.westshorevoiceneews.com)

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**JDF Performing Arts Centre Society AGM.** Sun Feb 17. 2 pm, Juan de Fuca Library, 1759 Island Hwy, Colwood. All welcome. [www.jdfartscentre.ca](http://www.jdfartscentre.ca)

**Family Day in BC.** Mon Feb 18. Statutory Holiday. Free admission all day at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke.

**BC Budget 2019.** Tues Feb 19. Approx 1:30 pm. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**City of Langford Council Meeting.** Tues Feb 19. 5:30 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**City of Colwood Special Council Meeting.** Tues Feb 19. 5:45 pm. **Committee of the Whole** 6 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**Colwood Volunteer Firefighter Info Session.** Tues Feb 19. 6:30 to 8 pm. Colwood Fire Hall, 3215 Metchosin Rd, Attendance mandatory fto become a volunteer. RSVP 250-478-8321. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**Climate Change Denial and Game Changers for Survival.** Tues Feb 19. Speakers Peter Carter & Elizabeth Woodworth, EMCS Community Theatre, 6218 Sooke Rd. 7 pm. Admission by donation. [www.transitionsooke.org](http://www.transitionsooke.org)

**SPEAC** (district parents PAC in SD62) meeting. Wed Feb 20. At Colwood Elementary, 3300 Wishart Rd. [www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/)

**Town of View Royal.** Budget discussion. Committee of the Whole. Wed Feb 20. 6 to 9 pm. [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca)

**Who's Hooting?** Learn about owls, guided walk age 5+. Thurs Feb 21. 10-11:30am. Mill Hill. [www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events)

**CRD Arts Grants Info Session.** Thurs Feb 21. 1 pm at Sooke Municipal Hall. [www.artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](http://www.artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)

**Connections Place** grand opening. Thurs Feb 21. 5:30 to 7 pm. 3375 Oak St. RSVP: [www.connectionsplace.org](http://www.connectionsplace.org)

**Americas Rugby Championship.** Canada vs Chile. Fri Feb 22. Westhills Stadium, Langford.

**Victoria Boat Show.** Fri Feb 22 to Sun Feb 24. Eagleridge Centre, Langford. [www.victoriaboatshow.com](http://www.victoriaboatshow.com)

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/events/>

**10th Annual Sooke Seedy Saturday.** Sooke Region Food CHI. Sat Feb 23. 10-3. Sooke Community Hall.

**Housing crisis Town hall.** Sat Feb 23. 1 to 3 pm. Hosted by Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke), Esquimalt High School Theatre, 847 Colville Rd.

**BC Children's Hospital** skating fundraiser for kids with food allergies. Sat Feb 23. JdF Rec, 1767 Island Hwy.

**Burnaby South Federal By-Election.** Mon Feb 25. Includes NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh. Polls close 8 pm.

**Wounded Warriors Run BC.** Port Hardy to Victoria. Feb 25 to Mar 3. [www.woundedwarriors.ca](http://www.woundedwarriors.ca)

**District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting.** Mon Feb 25. 7 pm. Also: "Lot A" public open house on Tues Feb 26. Drop in 5 to 8 pm. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**SD62 Board Meeting.** Tues Feb 26. 7 pm. Deadline for the public to submit comments about school calendars for the next three years (2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022). [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Premier John Horgan** addressing the Victoria Chamber of Commerce. Tues Feb 26.

**Awareness Film Night** and Transition Sooke present "What Is Democracy". Thurs Feb 28. 7 pm. EMCS Theatre. [www.awarenessfilmmight.ca](http://www.awarenessfilmmight.ca)

**Canadian Animal Policy Symposium.** Fri Mar 1. Comfort Inn, 3020 Blanshard. [spca.bc.ca/caps2019](http://spca.bc.ca/caps2019)

**Americas Rugby Championship.** Fri Mar 1. Canada vs Argentina XV, Westhills Stadium, Langford.

**Vancouver Island Parent Conference.** Sat Mar 2. Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. 8:30 am to 4 pm. \$100 (includes lunch). [www.vipc.ca](http://www.vipc.ca)

**WestShore LobsterFest 2019.** Sat Mar 2. At Langford Legion, 761 Station Rd. 6 pm. \$75. Proceeds to Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground.

**CRD Arts Grants Info.** Webinar 10 to 11pm. Thurs Mar 7. RSVP: [artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca) | T: 250-360-3007

**#BCTECH Summit.** March 11 to 13. Vancouver

**SD62 Spring Break.** Mar 16-31. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**CleanBC Telephone Town Hall** (Vancouver Island). Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. Register at [www.cleanbc.ca](http://www.cleanbc.ca)

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## Horgan drops the puck for charity game

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



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>> Hockey players and VIPs at the start of a charity hockey game to support The Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health. At the Q Centre, on Sunday February 10.

● It was an upbeat charity game with the Montreal Canadiens Alumni teaming up against the Greater Victoria Firefighters hockey team.

The family-friendly event on Sunday February 10 at the Q Centre in Colwood was to support the Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health in their efforts to raise funds toward the purchase of a second-stage recovery house that they currently operate on a rental basis in Victoria.

The Umbrella Society operates three recovery houses, two houses for men, and one for women. Each house offers a different level of support and programming, without time limit.

From Premier John Horgan dropping the puck, to the fun of mascots Marty and Grizz, it was a winning event. About 1,000 tickets were sold, though due to snowy weather about 600 fans showed up. Final score: 12 to 3 for the Canadiens.

The Victoria Grizzlies Junior A Hockey club was an event partner. VIP tickets included a meet-and-greet with the Canadiens, autographs, and lunch.

Career and volunteer firefighters from Langford, Saanich, Esquimalt, Victoria and DND fire departments played on the 15-player team. That roster included Brian Bell, Justin Ellis, and Jason Reimer (Langford); Matt Landry, Scott McMillan (Esquimalt); Brad Franklyn, Matt Northrup, Bart Taylor, Trevor Vanderwereld, and Ryan Wells (Saanich); Mike Beckner, Greg Spence and Frank Williams, (Victoria); and Rob Patterson and Paul Patterson (DND). Two firefighters from Victoria -- Dustin Oliver and Oscar Pohl, and Saanich firefighters Dan McLaughlin and Carle Trepels took part in the pre-game ice ceremony. Colwood firefighters were invited to participate but time frames didn't work out.

"We all play regularly in a league -- some of these guys have junior hockey experience, high-level playing but that was years ago. We're not doing that anymore," said says Brian Bell, Maintenance Coordinator, Langford Fire Rescue.

"Premier Horgan is a big fan of the firefighters. He was out there supporting his community," says Bell. "It was lots of fun. Like a Harlem Globe Trotters event."

Other VIPs in attendance with BC Deputy Premier Carole James (whose son Evan James works with The Umbrella Society), Langford Mayor Stew Young, Grizzlies president Lance Black, Umbrella Society Executive Director Sharlene Law, and Umbrella Society staff. **WSV** [www.umbrellasociety.ca](http://www.umbrellasociety.ca)

### LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

#### TRAFFIC INFO

**Tues Feb 19.** 731 Station Ave, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Traffic delays (single-lane alternating) for BC Hydro work.

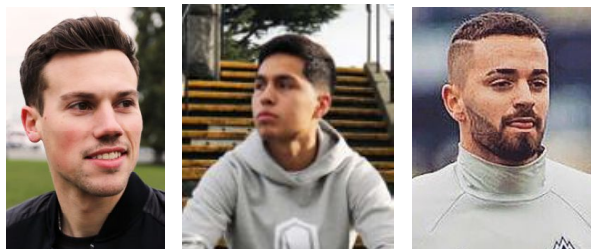
**Winter, and into Spring 2019.** Langford Pkwy adjacent to City Centre Park & Westhills Stadium (access to Langford Lanes & City Centre Park is open). Construction and underground utility work continues, at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road.

**Continuing in February 2019.** Various roadway adjustments continue around and around the Belmont Market/Residences construction zone [Jacklin Road, Kelly Road, Jenkins Avenue].

More traffic advisories: [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

## A trio of strengths & styles brings Pacific FC roster up to 10

>> The latest players to join Pacific FC (from left): Ben Fisk, Jose Hernandez and Victor Blasco.



● Pacific Football Club (Pacific FC) continues building its inaugural season lineup, recently adding three more players to seven already on the roster. Total of 10 so far!

As announced February 7, Pacific FC has signed midfielder Ben Fisk, forward Jose Hernandez and midfielder Victor Blasco — a trio of strengths and styles, says Pacific FC head coach Michael Silberbauer. "They will make our attack even more versatile and I see them as a great addition to our growing team." And Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend says: "We are delighted to have secured three dynamic attacking players."

Fisk, 26, is a Canadian international returning home to play in the Canadian Premier League (CPL) alongside Hernandez and Blasco. Fisk returns to Canada after playing for Derry City FC last season in the League of Ireland Premier Division. Raised in Vancouver, Fisk entered the Whitecaps FC youth program in 2006 and made his debut with the club's U-23 squad in 2011. Fisk's pro career has taken him to Charleston Battery before heading abroad to Spain's Coruxo FC and later Deportivo de La Coruna. He then returned to Canada with FC Edmonton before signing in Northern Ireland for 2018. Fisk has played on the Canadian men's U-20 and U-23 youth squads; he made his senior team debut in 2017, featuring in two matches.

"Ben Fisk brings a wealth of experience and he's coming into the prime of his career. Jose Hernandez is one of the top young strikers in Canada, and Victor Blasco has the potential to be one of the most exciting midfielders in the league," says Friend.

Edmonton-born Hernandez joined the Whitecaps FC Residency in 2016 and appeared in 26 matches for the U-16 team, registering an impressive 19 goals. He competed internationally in 2017 at the CONCACAF U-17 Championship for Canada, making his international debut against Cuba. At 18, Hernandez is the youngest player to sign to Pacific FC to date.

Blasco played here on Vancouver Island while at Vancouver Island University (VIU) in 2014. Blasco, 24, spent his youth playing in his home city of Barcelona, as well as Cornellia and Mallorca before coming to Canada to play at VIU where he was named 2014 PACWEST Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year. In 2015, Blasco made his pro debut with Whitecaps 2 of the USL Championship and turning heads in the local soccer scene over the course of two seasons.

More signings are slated for the coming weeks, with another major announcement coming Monday February 18. Spring training begins early March; the season officially kicks off late April at Westhills Stadium. The inaugural Canadian Premier League season with seven teams across Canada starts toward the end of April. **WSV**