

West Shore Voice News

4 pages this issue

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- Greener 'grass' in Langford: saves water & maintenance, safer to maintain ... 1
- BC adopts 12-storey housing one year early: ecofriendly, fire-safe 2
- Pacific Coastal Airlines doubles up Victoria-Prince George flights for summer ... 3
- Coast Collective Gallery & Art Centre maturing as a local arts organization ... 4

Horgan & Dean's morning at Wishart Elementary

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Visiting with Grade 5 students at Wishart Elementary in Colwood on March 14: local MLA Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin) and Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca).

Wishart Elementary School in Colwood was treated to a visit from Premier John Horgan and Mitzi Dean, MLA this week. Horgan shot a few hoops on the basketball court outside at school recess, then kicked off a school-wide assembly about literacy and did an in-depth question-and-answer with Grade 5's.

The March 14 event was attended by Trustees Dianna Seaton and Wendy Hobbs from the SD62 Board of Education. Other leaders in business and community took part in the literacy portion of the assembly to talk about their jobs and the importance of literacy.

To the full audience of children from Kindergarten to Grade 5 in the school gym, Premier Horgan started off with the 'wow factor'. He told the kids that there are 500,000 books in the legislative library, including two comic books!

Horgan outlined how important reading is in his job. Of the many piles of paper that cross his desk that "give him information", from that his job is to make choices. Emphasizing literacy, he said that the "writing with words" (the words he reads in documents and reports) contributes to his decision making. It's very important "how those words convey the consequences of the actions, and the decisions that I make".

Dean explained how she is the MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin which also includes Colwood and View Royal, and that she is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. She broadly hinted that she would be mentioning this day's experience at Wishart School very soon in the BC Legislative Assembly.

On his way to the Grade 5 classroom, the Premier told West Shore Voice News that addressing school children over such a wide age range was tough! He was pleasantly surprised that they understood the concept of consequences.

Upstairs with the Grade 5's in Ms Deanna Brajcich's class, Horgan and Dean fielded some rather complex and insightful questions that the children had composed themselves after studying government for two months with their teacher. Ahead of the Premier's visit there was a random draw to determine which student questions would be asked aloud.

Horgan also busied himself sketching out a flow chart of various levels of government on the whiteboard— including provincial and federal — including where his job and his gender-equity cabinet fits into it all.

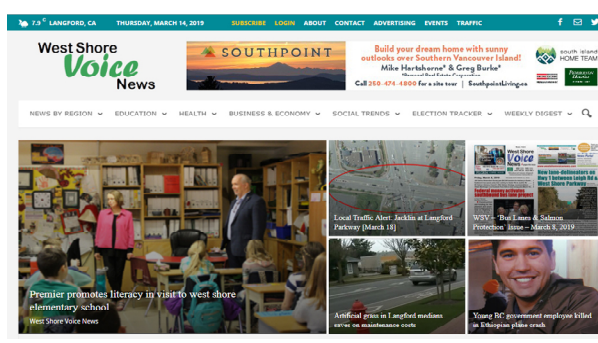
"What made you choose politics?" asked one student. Premier Horgan reiterated his story about being inspired by the CCF (later NDP) Leader Tommy Douglas who created the medicare system in Canada in 1962. As for the circumstances that led Horgan to being premier, he summarized: "Life happens."

Mitzi Dean outlined the way women must be encouraged to get into politics — that often it takes up almost 10 times to be asked, before a woman will say yes — but that men tend to just do it.

Horgan was asked how much he deals with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the course of his work, and how many MLAs he works with. The latter was answered as 41 + 3 on his team, with a total of 87 MLAs (one being the speaker).

Horgan and Dean were asked how much they get paid. Their salary information is publicly available online. Dean explained that additional roles (such as being in cabinet) result in more pay. Horgan said some of his senior staff make a lot more money than he does: "Don't go into politics to get rich." **WSV**

More photos: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/premier-promotes-literacy-in-visit-to-west-shore-elementary-school/>



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Greener grass in Langford

Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Artificial grass will be cropping up in more locations around Langford over the next few years.

The City of Langford has begun this season's installation of artificial grass in public spaces areas around town. "It's a program I came up with three years ago with buy-in from the development community," says Langford Mayor Stew Young. It's a specific ground cover product for medians. Developers pay for most of the cost.

At \$200,000 per year over the next five years, the upfront expenditure is more than for installing real grass. But it will pay for itself in three years due to less being spent on water, irrigation systems, and maintenance staff. The overall expenditure comes out of development cost charges, with some out of the parks and transportation budgets.

"It'll look good year-round," says Young. It pops up on medians, along walkways and other public spaces. "It's just better in the long run to do it."

The mayor says it's safer for parks crews not having to work on the medians between active traffic lanes.

Direction for the artificial grass program comes from the city's Bylaw 1000, explains Cory Manton, Manager Parks and Recreation: "This is mainly in separated boulevards (area between the sidewalk and the road) less than 3 metres in width and in center medians. In the centre median case, we have implemented a band of artificial turf on the outside of the shrub beds. This allows for safe travels of maintenance workers within the median without having to provide for lane closures or other traffic control measures to safely maintain shrub beds."

The installation locations of artificial turf are primarily determined by new development and which roads get completed this spring and summer.

There will be some circumstances around the location of main entrances into subdivisions where a more enhanced landscape treatment is requested from developers such as Westhills, Southpoint, Ecoasis and others. These are reviewed by staff for compliance with Bylaw 1000.

"We started using artificial turf in Langford around three years ago," says the parks and recreation manager. It took about one year to confirm materials and installation costs. "With some trial and error over the first year we finalized specifications and this product was added to Bylaw 1000 in 2018," says Manton.

"We work closely with the developers in determining the overall landscape treatment as has been done recently on the Westshore Parkway and Bear Mountain Parkway," said Manton.

Proactive placement of artificial turf will be installed during the week of March 18 along Jacklin and Jenkins on both sides that front onto Sunbelt Rentals.

What is this 'grass' made from, and how it is tacked down? The backing, thatch layer and grass blades are made from polyethylene. Silica sand is used to weigh down the turf which is attached with staples to a plastic nailing strip along hard surfaces such as curbs or sidewalks. In medians it is usually glued over top of a flexible plastic board to maintain separation from the soils/shrub bed area.

"The products have a 10-year warranty against fading and breakdown but the manufacturers expect that to be prolonged in our climate," says Manton.

The faux-grass is not as soft as living grass, but will maintain visual appeal year-round, including in summer when real grass often turns yellow in dry heat.

Trees in the boulevards will start featuring more palm trees and magnolias. This is a move away from deciduous trees that lose their leaves which requires clean up by maintenance crews, but adds year-round visual appeal.

Palm trees grow tall enough that their year-round foliage doesn't interfere with sight lines for drivers while adding a tropical coastal flair; they are prominent along Goldstream Avenue in the center of town.

Magnolias come in about 12 varieties known for being hardy in a range of conditions for sunlight, temperature and precipitation. The drought-tolerant southern magnolia with waxy green leaves and white flowers grows best in full sun or partial shade. Large patches of magnolias were planted to replace taller maple and cherry trees in medians along Langford Parkway this past winter. **WSV**

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EDITORIAL

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TIMLEY TOPICS OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

West Shore Voice News Editorial

Saving BC salmon



by **Mary P Brooke**
Editor & Publisher

● **This week, \$142 million was announced** in support of rescuing, sustaining and enhancing the salmon stocks in BC. The federal government has pitched in \$100 million and BC will contribute \$42.85 million; all of that over 5 years. For this, BC Premier John Horgan and Federal Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Minister Jonathan Wilkinson made a joint announcement wharfside in downtown Victoria on March 15 (and by teleconference). They commended the range of participant input from what they see as all sectors of the economy and various salmon communities (including recreational, scientific and ecological) into the Wild Salmon Advisory Council and recommendations emerging from their work.

Clearly this has been a thoughtful effort with a wide range of participation from sectors that are sometimes at odds with each other (e.g. overfishing by industry or recreational sectors vs preservation groups). Pretty much all directly-involved sectors as well as the public are giving this funding-back initiative a thumbs up. And the BC Greens approve too. ■



The BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund is now accepting proposals to help restore wild salmon in BC. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/19186>

NEWS West Shore Voice News

BC poverty reduction plan being unveiled

Video at: www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/

● **BC's First Poverty Reduction Strategy** will be announced on Facebook on Monday March 18 at 10:30 am by Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, livestreamed from a child care centre in Surrey.

One of the first actions taken by the new NDP BC Government in 2017 was to eliminate fees for adults seeking to complete their Grade 12 diploma, and to increase monthly disability payments by \$100 per person.

The BC Government under Premier John Horgan has an overall philosophy of enhancing lifestyle affordability. Horgan often reiterates the need to improve child care availability so people can better afford to maintain employment, that MSP premiums will soon be fully eliminated, that ferry fares have not increased on the main routes (including reinstatement of free Monday to Thursday sailings for seniors), and other factors to keep the cost of basic living expenses under control.



Premier John Horgan and Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The BC Budget includes elements for moderating the price of housing in BC (especially major urban centres), and there is a 10-year, \$30 billion plan to increase the housing stock with an emphasis on increasing the supply affordable housing units and a range of partnered arrangements to make land available for multi-family housing.

The poverty rate in BC is among the worst in Canada. "Too many people are struggling to make ends meet, earn a living wage, or find and keep affordable housing," says the BC Government on their poverty reduction information page. "Too many families are suffering without basic necessities, relying on food banks, going hungry or sending their children to school hungry."

BC has studied a basic income approach to understand how offering basic income to eligible people could reduce poverty in BC and help break the cycle for people who are struggling to get by. Basic income can be delivered through direct payments to people or through the personal income tax system." Key themes from public input October 2017 to March 2018 included that indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty. Other key groups experiencing poverty include refugees, immigrants, people of colour, single parents, women, and LGBT2Q people. Discrimination makes it more difficult to escape poverty. **WSV**



City of Langford
www.cityoflangford.ca

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO



Langford Parkway roadworks near Westhills Stadium, March 6.

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

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

More traffic advisories:
www.langford.ca

BC adopts 12-storey housing one year early

West Shore Voice News

● **Building code changes** will create jobs and provide opportunities in BC forest communities, said the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, March 13.

This comes through "BC's proactive adoption of building code changes that allow the safe construction of taller wood buildings". The federal 2020 National Building Code is expected to allow mass timber construction up to 12 storeys.

"Changes to the national building code that allow for taller wood buildings take effect next year, but we're not waiting to get started. Our government is ready to work with communities to build safe, secure and green tall wood buildings that will create jobs, grow BC's value-added sector and realize our low-carbon future," said Premier John Horgan.

Eligible local governments are invited to become early adopters of mass-timber technology to construct buildings up to 12 storeys, up from the current six-storey allowance.

A mass timber building is one where the primary load-bearing structure is made of either solid or engineered wood. Encapsulated mass timber is where the mass timber components are surrounded by fire-resistant materials like drywall. "Mass timber technology allows faster construction where large sections of a building can be manufactured in a plant and then assembled on site," said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "The faster we can deliver the homes that people need, the better for communities right across BC."

Mass timber buildings can be one-fifth the weight of comparable concrete buildings, while still meeting performance standards for safety, structural resilience and fire protection. The development of innovative and cost-effective low-carbon building solutions supports the CleanBC goal of making buildings more efficient.

Creating jobs, acting on climate change and building a sustainable economy are shared priorities with the BC Green Party caucus and are part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

The government says that mass timber buildings meet or exceed performance standards for safety, structural resilience and fire protection. Other benefits are reduced traffic to a site, reduced waste and reduced construction noise. **WSV**

Working for our community

Mitzi Dean

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Smart use of your smartphone

West Shore Voice News

● **Most digital tech experts** say it's important that your smartphone be secure, for many reasons.

You may keep data on it and if your phone was lost or stolen, the data would be lost.

Or perhaps your personal information may be hacked from online pages that you have visited, or from the smartphone itself.

Or perhaps there are people in your sphere who might borrow your phone to look at photos, but end up seeing or finding more.

Don't ride your phone bareback. Saddle up! Here are some tips to help keep your device as secure as possible.

- Use a screen lock (pattern / password)
- Use a SIM card lock
- Protect sensitive data
- Wireless protection
- Protect bluetooth use
- Application download security
- Attentive Internet browsing
- Turn off geotagging
- Install antivirus
- Remote wipe

Emails and text messages can also be managed and protected. More: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/tech-10-top-tips-for-smartphone-security/> **WSV**

Westshore ferry idea has been floated

West Shore Voice News

● **BC Ferries** is looking at a fast-catamaran passenger-only ferry service linking west shore communities to downtown Victoria and Esquimalt. Proposed terminals for the "Westshore Express" would be at the old quarry site at Royal Bay in Colwood, in the outer Esquimalt Harbour at the Pacific Fleet Club building, and at Ship Point near downtown Victoria. Vessels could carry up to 294 foot passengers at a crossing speed of 25 knots; opening year 2021 would serve 3,100 passengers daily on two routes, with an annual revenue of \$2.2 million (based on fares being the same as bus transit). A pre-feasibility study draft by SNC-Lavalin was delivered to BC Ferries back on December 19, and released March 5. **WSV**

Jagmeet Singh sworn in as MP, March 17

● **NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh** was officially sworn in March 17 as the Member of Parliament for Burnaby South, at a signing event in Ottawa. He said he was honoured by the experience of being sworn in.

Singh handily won the riding of Burnaby South on February 25 with 39% of the votes cast.

"Any time you achieve anything, there are so many people that made it possible. You never do it alone," he said. He said he sees a leader as being someone who serves. "I'm only here today because other people broke barriers for me." **WSV**



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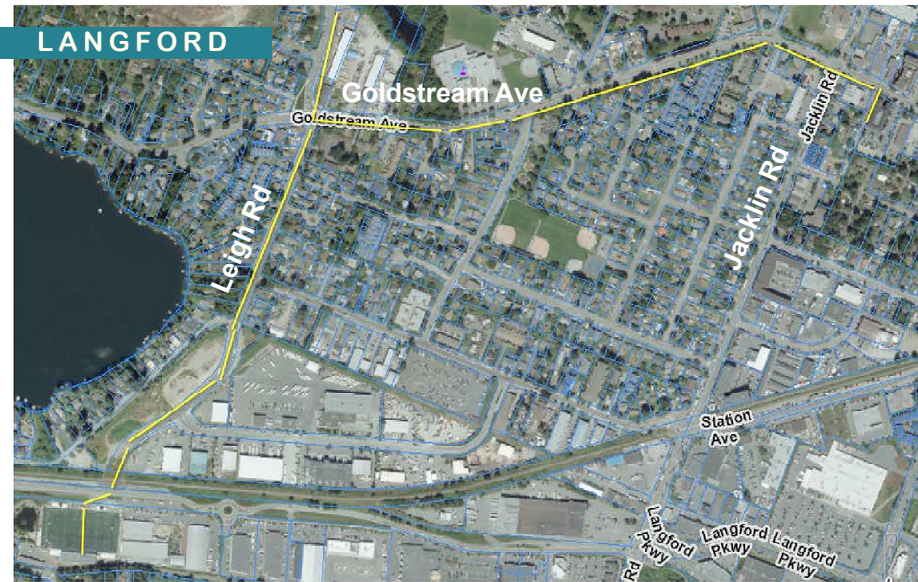


NEWS

WEST SHORE & the ISLAND

News updates any time:
www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Roadworks during spring break



Goldstream Avenue (both sides of Jacklin) and Leigh Road will see some roadworks done, March 18 to 29 during spring break.

● **Roadwork crews will be ramping up activities in Langford** for the next few weeks. It's spring! Less rain, warmer temperatures, and longer bright days.

It's also now spring break for schools in the west shore (March 16 to 31), producing less traffic load in the region. That means fewer drivers and buses will be impacted during the roadwork activity.

In a few areas there will be short term delays for long-term gain, for improvements in traffic flow and access around central and west Langford.

Monday March 18. Jacklin at Langford Pkwy. 9 am to 3 pm. The inside lanes on Jacklin Road will be closed, reducing traffic to a single lane in each direction. Traffic control will be on-site directing traffic. Delays may be expected. Some impact for commercial areas along Jacklin and into Langford Parkway.

Monday March 18 to Friday March 22. Jacklin Rd and Jenkins Ave. 9 am to 3 pm. Boulevard landscaping on Jacklin and Jenkins. The right hand turn lane on Jacklin Road southbound and the north lane on Jenkins Ave westbound will be subject to closures. Traffic control will be on-site; expect some delays. Some impact for traffic around Westshore Town Centre and Belmont Market, and access to Glen Lake area.

Monday March 18 to Friday March 29. Goldstream Ave (on both sides of Jacklin Rd) and Leigh Road. No scheduled lane closures but delays may be expected during roadworks. Some impact for motorists using Goldstream to reach Bear Mountain Parkway. The work on Leigh Road will facilitate future cross-town/alternate access to Westhills Stadium, and businesses on Langford Parkway.

Monday, March 18 to Tuesday May 07. Irwin Road between Meridian Avenue and Creekside Trail. 7 am to 7 pm. Traffic delays for road side construction. This is the area where the new Elementary and Middle school combo in Westhills will be constructed. **WSV**

Map for each work location: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/langford-local-traffic-advisories-march-18th-to-month-end/>

Rugby Canada: renewal for another 4 years

● **Canada will again host** one of 10 stops on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series, from 2020 to 2023. As announced March 6, the successful tender has been awarded to Rugby Canada in light of year-over-year growth and momentum, breaking records as the largest rugby event in Canada for three consecutive years.

"I'm thrilled that BC will continue to host the HSBC Canada Sevens tournament for the next four years," said Premier John Horgan.

With the national rugby training center in Langford, the Sevens renewal is a further boost for the growing west shore sports community and regional economy. "And with a new expanded stadium this is great for the players and fans and residents of Langford," said Langford Mayor Stew Young last week. **WSV**

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Marcel de Jong injured, can't play

Pacific FC will sign another defender @CPLsoccer | #CanPL

West Shore Voice News

● **Pacific FC's left back Marcel de Jong was injured** in a pre-season practice session on March 13. Surgery on March 15 to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon was successful.

"Recovery time is variable for this type of injury," said Randy Celebrini, Director of Sports Science, Pacific FC. "But he will likely not return to play this season."

De Jong was the 11th player added to the roster, at an announcement on February 19 in downtown Victoria.

A defender who can also step into midfield, de Jong spent the previous three years with Vancouver Whitecaps FC following stops at Sporting Kansas City and the Ottawa Fury. The 32-year-old's professional career includes 250 appearances with top tier clubs in Europe and North America.

Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend will be looking for a new player to fill de Jong's spot, said the team's media rep on Friday night.

The inaugural Canadian Premier League season with seven teams across Canada starts on April 28 with the first game seeing Pacific FC playing the Halifax team at Westhills Stadium in Langford. **WSV**

Schedule and tickets: <https://pacificfc.canpl.ca/schedule>



Marcel de Jong during training in Tofino, weekend of March 9-10 (pre-injury).

Pacific Coastal Airlines doubles up for summer

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION



Pacific Coastal Airlines 34-seat Beechcraft 1900D at the Prince George airport (YXS). >>



● **Pacific Coastal Airlines (PCA) is one of the oldest airlines in Canada.** Started 50 years ago in Bella Coola by a second-generation truck logger, it's now the sixth largest airline at the Vancouver International Airport and the third-largest for takeoffs and landings in BC.

This week the Boeing 737 was on many people's minds, given the fatal crash of Ethiopia Airlines on March 10. But for Pacific Coastal Airlines (PCA) that is not of concern: "We don't fly jets, turbo props only," says Kevin Boothroyd, Director Business Development and Corporate Communications, PCA.

"We comply fully with all Transport Canada rules and regulations governing the rules of aircraft and crew. Flying for 50 years, we know the region really well."

Their pressurized planes fly from larger airports as in Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Masset, Trail, Port Hardy. They offer the only non-stop flight service from Victoria to Prince George as the northern 'capital' of BC. All other airlines heading to Prince George connect through Vancouver, says Boothroyd.

The PCA summer schedule starts Sunday June 23, including the addition of a second non-stop daily flight between Victoria International Airport (YYJ) and Prince George Airport (YXS). The two daily non-stop flights in summer (Sunday to Friday) represent a 27% increase in seat capacity. There will be new connections for Prince George travelers including, Campbell River (YBL), Comox (YQQ), Trail (YZZ), Powell River (YPW), and Tofino (YAZ).

Peak times for the government, business and outdoor recreation customers of Pacific Coastal Airlines are Fridays and Mondays, or Tuesdays if following a long weekend. Mid-week departure and return times are organized to allow for a good-enough work day and returning by early evening. For example, the flight to Prince George leaves Victoria at 9:05 am, landing in Prince George at 10:45 am. A flight from Prince George to Victoria departs at 3:30 pm. The additional summer departure is at 5:35 pm, arriving back in Victoria at 7:15 pm. It's a shorter work day but eliminates the need for a transfer or staying overnight in Vancouver.

Whether for local customers or international travellers, the peak season is April through the end of September or early October. Visitors incoming from Germany and China come to the main Vancouver terminal, and from there to the south terminal where PCA is ready to fly them to other hub communities, fishing lodges and other remote spots. Their 22-minute Victoria/Vancouver flights run five to seven times a day.

Their smallest aircraft that heads regularly to Prince George (the Beechcraft 1900D) seats 19 people and is spacious, but no bathroom or flight attendant. The smaller aircraft is also used to get to Klemtu in the remote coastal fjords of BC to see the white Kermode (Spirit) bear. "A lot of the places we fly can't take a large aircraft," says Boothroyd. The 100-minute flight to Prince George -- as well as to Masset -- is also serviced by PCA's 34-seater (Beechcraft 1900C) which includes bathroom and flight attendant.

Seat prices aren't fixed. "The last seat on the last available site in mid summer is one price. Off-season, the first seat can be the cheapest. It's supply and demand," says Boothroyd.

The airline has become integral in the economies of local communities. "For a lot of the province, we are their daily flyer." That includes tourists, as well as people in remote areas coming to larger centres for hospital visits and shopping.

"Pacific Coastal Airlines are a made-in-BC success story," says Boothroyd. For three provincial elections in a row they have been chartered for flights around the province. In January, a number of government officials including Premier John Horgan flew PCA coming back from the 16th Annual BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George in January. In the west shore, City of Langford officials use PCA for business travel. **WSV**

Week of March 18 to 24 *Spring break*

SD62 Spring Break. (Mar 16) to Sun Mar 31.
City of Langford Council. Mon Mar 18. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca
City of Colwood. Committee of the Whole. Mon Mar 18. 6 pm. www.colwood.ca
Federal Budget. Tues Mar 19.
City of Colwood. Emergency Planning. Tues Mar 19. 3 pm. www.colwood.ca
District of Sooke Open House - Budget. Wed Mar 20. Public consultation. 3 pm. www.sooke.ca
Oculus Rift Virtual Reality. Thurs Mar 21. 4 to 5 pm. Age 10+. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd. 250-642-3022
Capital City ComicCon 2019. Mar 22 to 24. Victoria Conference Centre. www.capitalcitycomiccon.ca
Gardening for Garry Oak Ecosystems. Sat Mar 23. Compost Education Centre. 1 pm. www.compost.bc.ca

Week of March 25 to 31 *Spring break*

SD62 Spring Break. (Mar 16) to Sun Mar 31.
CleanBC Telephone Town Hall (Vancouver Island). Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. Info & registration: www.cleanbc.ca
City of Colwood. Regular Council. Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca
District of Sooke. Regular Council. Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
LEGO Block Party. Wed Mar 27. 4 to 4:45 pm. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.
Popsockets for Mobile Phones. Make one at the Sooke Library. Sat Mar 30. 1:30 to 2:15 pm. Age 12-18 yr. 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.
Earth Hour. Sat Mar 30. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. www.earthhour.org
PUBLIC INPUT - Changes to BC's Employment Standards Act - first update since 1994. (From Feb 28) to Sun Mar 31. Submissions by email. More info: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/modernizing-the-employment-standards-act/>



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

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



Coming up in April

Back to School. Mon Apr 1. www.sd62.bc.ca
Status of Our Salmon. Presentation by Dr. Brian Riddell, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Thurs Apr 4. 7pm. EMCS Theatre, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation.
SD62 Adolescent Health Survey results workshop. Wed Apr 10. Dunsmuir Middle School. 4 to 5:30 pm.
Backyard Rainwater Management. Sat Apr 13. 1 pm. Compost Education Centre. www.compost.bc.ca
PUBLIC INPUT: Active Transportation - bike lanes, walking paths, connections to transit. (From Mar 2) to Mon Apr 15 (4pm) online at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation/>
DeMamiel Creek Golf Course in Sooke. Season opens Wed Apr 17. www.seaparc.ca

South Island Prosperity Index Update. Business Leaders Lunch. Thurs Apr 18. 11:30 am to 1 pm. Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour, 728 Humboldt St., Victoria. www.victoriachamber.ca

Eggstravaganza. Easter Bunny at SEAPARC, Sooke. Sat Apr 20. Age 1 to 4 at 10:30 am, age 5 to 7 at 11:15 am. Admission by donation to Sooke Food Bank. www.seaparc.ca

Easter Long Weekend. Apr 19 thru Apr 22. Good Friday Apr 19 (Stat holiday) | Easter Monday Apr 22.

SD62 Board Meeting - budget. Tues Apr 23. Board office. www.sd62.bc.ca

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Apr 22. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. www.blood.ca

Pacific FC Inaugural game. Sun Apr 28 at Westhills Stadium. 4pm. Vanc Island vs Halifax. www.pacificfc.ca

Looking ahead to May

Viva La Westshore. Fri May 3. At Olympic View Golf Club. Westshore Chamber fundraiser for Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island. www.westshore.bc.ca

Rotary Sooke Annual Fundraising Auction/Dinner. Sat May 4. Prestige hotel. Tickets at Shoppers & Little Vienna Bakery. Info 250-642-1789.

Victoria Chamber AGM. Tues May 7. Speakers on Amalgamation: Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps & Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes. 11:30 am. Hotel Grand Pacific. www.victoriachamber.ca

Annual Westshore Learning Plant Sale. SD62 Colwood Campus, 2139 Sooke Rd. Sat May 11. Pre-orders: Debbie at dlodewijk@sd62.bc.ca

13th Annual Duck Day at the Flats. Sat May 11. Tix \$5 ea or \$20 for 5. Sooke Harbourside Lions fundraiser.

Women's Rugby 7s. Sat May 11 & Sun May 12. Westhills Stadium, Langford. www.rugby.ca

Mother's Day. Sun May 12.

SPEAC AGM. Wed May 15. At SD62 school board office, Langford. www.sd62.bc.ca

May Long Weekend. Sat May 18 to Mon May 20.

Victoria Shamrocks Senior A Lacrosse. Season starts Fri May 24 at Q Centre, Colwood. www.victoriashamrocks.com

Sheringham Point Lighthouse | Winter hours 9 am to 4 pm | www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

LA Tanning: loyalty hot spot

by Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

● In the two years that John Bowker has operated LA Tanning and Universal Supplements at 114-2806 Jacklin Road, he has built success for the business combo of tanning services and health supplements by engaging authentically with his customers.

The fact that the shop is open long hours – and is the only shop in the Jacklin Gate outdoor mall with the lights on in the evening – also helps. But the lights are on in more ways than one.

Bowker's friendly way with people creates an effective bond that keeps customers from a wide range of the community coming back for more. Whether it's for a another quick tanning session or an attentive browse through the supplements and body-building products, there's always the conversational personal touch. He builds trust.

And with that, the business has grown over 14



The tanning beds at LA Tanning are pretty busy, day and evening. Wide range of body-building energy products. years; it's one of three tanning places left in Langford, down from six in years past. This new location for LA Tanning

offers high visibility. One of the biggest overhead costs is electricity which has gone up 15% in the last seven years.

On the supplements side the store carries a significant inventory including protein-building products, anti-inflammatories, fat burners, amino acids, vitamins, enzymes and minerals as well as power-snacks and healthy beverages, and Walden Farms Foods weight loss products. All nicely displayed, with the evident orderliness of Bowker's 20+ years in the military. Fair pricing – that's important to this business owner. And good service – he orders in products that customers want, if not already on the shelves. Customers following specific diets like keto, come back for more.

Bowker has lived most of his life in Langford, other than 15 years serving overseas.

LA Tanning / Universal Supplements is open daily, 10 am to 8 pm. Parking out front. **WSV**

Coast Collective maturing as an organization

● The Coast Collective Gallery & Art Centre has launched the spring season with their 11th annual Bloom exhibit of floral-themed artworks. The show and sale runs

March 13 to 31. A meet-the-artists reception was held March 16.

Coast Collective president Sheila Lintaman is excited about how the organization has evolved and matured into a viable operation over the years. Coast Collective treasurer Kathryn Fudge explains that job descriptions are being fine-tuned and other aspects of the organization are becoming more effective.

The gallery is known around the west shore and in the regional arts scene, including with some long-time participants from the Sooke arts community. A wide range of artists participate, and members of the organization help out in a variety of ways.

"We're a collective for artists to learn and display their art," says Lintaman. Artist members take part in running the organization, which builds a strong internal community while serving the broader community of the west shore.

Members can help out on the art-hanging team for the shows that change every two weeks. They can also help maintain the gift shop and display areas, or be active on social media on behalf of the gallery and store.

In exchange for helping out, members pay a lower commission on the sale of their artwork.

The gallery is located at 103-318 Wale Road with parking at the back of the building. They're open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm.

Major sponsors include the BC Arts Council, Government of BC, City of Colwood, and West Shore Arts Council. **WSV**

The 11th Annual Bloom spring floral exhibit at Coast Collective Gallery & Art Centre runs to March 31. >>

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