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West Shore
Voice
News

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New BC special advice on marine debris
protection

Langford Memorial Run in Langford
on April 13

Rainy day runs for Sarah Beckett

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Friday, April 12, 2019

RELEASE DATE **APRIL 14, 2019**

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Rainy day run for Sarah Beckett

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Over 500 runners took part in the Cst Sarah Beckett Memorial Run on Saturday April 13, many wearing commemorative 51939 T-shirts.

● **An overcast sky** with a slight drizzle falling on the crowd was a fitting weather temperament for today's Sarah Beckett Memorial 5km walk/run in Langford.

Crowding in behind Belmont Secondary School for the race start ahead of 10 am were local dignitaries, West Shore RCMP, first responders, and a wide cross-section of the west shore community. There was a bit of a 'business fair' with booths set up on the artificial turf field and school patio representing businesses and local organizations.

Langford Mayor Stew Young and West Shore RCMP Detachment Commander Todd Preston were introduced by Ed Bain of 100.3 The Q. Mayor Young commended the community for backing the RCMP and Sarah Beckett's family for the event, and over the past few years since the tragic crash that took the life of Cst Beckett while on duty on the streets of Langford. Detachment Commander Preston acknowledged the contributions and commitment of everyone involved.

The event was coordinated in memory of Beckett who was killed in the line of duty on April 5, 2016. The money raised will be donated to the Constable Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Traffic Safety Commission for a post-secondary student interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Over 900 people registered for the event at \$50 (early bird) or \$55 (later registration, including on the ground on April 13), bringing the incoming funds to over \$45,000 toward the scholarship fund.



Langford Mayor Stew Young on the pre-race podium platform with media host Ed Bain (100.3 The Q). West Shore RCMP Detachment Commander Todd Preston and husband of the late Cst Beckett, Brad Aschenbrenner, looked on.

About 500 runners/walkers showed up on this race day to make their way through the streets of Westhills, with many others doing a virtual run and sending in their race photo via social media to #RunforBeckett.

Among the runners were Colwood Councillors Dean Jantzen and Gordie Logan. SD62 Vice-Chair Dianna Seaton was helping out at the West Shore Rotary booth, helping with fundraising for the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground in Langford.

Many runners wore Sarah Beckett T-Shirts bearing her 5-digit badge number 51939 and the names of numerous sponsors.

The overall event mood was upbeat and supportive for the family, with a sense of pride in bringing such a crowd together to both remember and look forward. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/rainy-day-run-for-sarah-beckett/>

www.westshorevoicenews.com

Instant popularity of rent-to-own opportunity at the new Crossing

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Home Ownership Innovation



An innovative rent-to-own program will see renters in Crossing buildings qualify for downpayment points toward a condo purchase in Belmont Residences across the street.

● **Between a splashy opening** for VIPs on April 11 and a high-energy public open house on April 13, the Crossing at Belmont rental apartment launch has met with excitement.

The 156 rental suites in two buildings on Reunion Avenue in Langford come with the option to sign on for a rent-to-own agreement. Rent in the Crossing, then buy in the Belmont Residences condo buildings across the street.

The crossing over is not just physically with furniture but from renting to home ownership. It's a program keenly backed by the City of Langford for this first round, including a \$5,000 contribution when each condo purchase deal closes. If the uptake of rent-to-own agreements is robust, the municipality says it will look at expanding the program, using money from a development cost charges fund.

This is considered to be the first program of its kind on Vancouver Island, with Langford showing leadership amidst the persistent housing crisis. It helps the municipality to have 'invested' residents who own property and pay taxes. It helps fuel the volume of product by the housing development. And it helps young adults, young families and downsizers alike with purchasing a home in a complex if not fragile economy where downpayments are often difficult to accumulate.

The mortgage 'stress test' that was launched by CMHC in January 2018 may have contributed to softening the price tag of market homes but it also put a stranglehold on entry-level buyers who could not meet the higher monthly payment threshold. This rent-to-own opportunity could be a game-changer for many people who found themselves shut out of home ownership options.

"I think it will be a well-accepted program and allow young people to plan and save the deposit that is so important for realizing home ownership that currently is difficult to attain," says Langford Mayor Stew Young. He is pleased with the success of this weekend's rental open house, as are the developer Belmont Crossing Developments LP (Ledcor) and the Devon Properties Ltd rental team.

"We are delighted to be able to help put the movement of home ownership within the reach of more people," said Ledcor's director of development for Belmont Residences, Marcela Corzo.

Devon Properties president Dave Craig discussed rental unit options for hours non-stop at the public open house, explaining the range of sizes and prices to patient and eager prospective renters:

- 1 Bedroom**
• 552 to 575 sq. ft.
for \$1,475 to \$1,600
- 1 Bedroom + Den**
• 643 to 770 sq. ft.
for \$1,775 to \$1,900
- 2 Bedroom**
• 820 to 861 sq. ft.
for \$2,000 to \$2,450

A portion of monthly rent goes toward a points program to assist with building a down payment on a Belmont Residences condo purchase. **WSV**

More Info & Pics:

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/strong-turnout-for-viewing-new-crossing-at-belmont-apartments-in-langford/>



Steady crowd of excited prospective renters learned about Crossing at Belmont apartments from Devon Properties reps on site, April 13. www.crossingatbelmont.com

EDITORIAL

by Mary P Brooke, editor

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TIMLEY TOPICS OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

Game of Thrones lurches us back to baselines

Many people are huge Game of Thrones fans. Others don't follow it much if at all. However, the launch of Season 8 -- just six episodes, starting April 14 -- surpassed a threshold into widespread popular culture. The Game of Thrones theme (plot, characters and music) is seen in commercials for other products, there was recently a search for real thrones in wilderness locales around the globe, and on Sunday night even a seismic pause in schedules to fit in the one-hour HBO show if only to see what the fuss was all about. Forcing mass numbers of viewers to drop everything at a specific time is now counter-culture to the 'anytime, anywhere' availability of media and entertainment. Back to baseline.

Game of Thrones has brought new concepts and phrases into popular culture such as 'winter is coming' as a matter of foretelling difficult times or 'mother of dragons' to represent a powerful woman. But it reintroduced to TV a level of dark often senseless violence and an acclimatization to war that society had come to realize even decades ago was numbing TV viewers into accepting violence. Back to baseline. A few years ago the sexual violence against female characters in Game of Thrones was so intense that many people stopped watching, though they may be back now, as four central women emerge with power in this final season.

Sorry fans, but all the amazing special effects and memorable haunting theme song do not override the guttural violence of this TV series. For what Game of Thrones has delivered to the fantasy genre it has robbed from the elevation of mind and soul through art.

Regional News



West Shore Voice News



@VancIslandVOICE

Marine debris protection gets more attention in BC

West Shore Voice News

Marine debris protection is getting a higher profile in BC, with a focus on derelict vessels as well as curbing the disposal of plastics in the marine environment.

On Friday April 12, Premier John Horgan announced his appointment of Sheila Malcolmson, MLA (Nanaimo) as the special advisor on marine debris protection, reporting to George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

"Derelict boats and discarded plastics pollute our waterways and put boater safety at risk. Sheila Malcolmson has worked with coastal communities to clean up marine debris and tackle the growing problem of marine plastics," said Heyman.

"My ministry has begun planning measures to further reduce plastic waste and Ms. Malcolmson will play an important role in our work," Heyman said.

With the October 2019 federal election fast approaching and within that the inevitable political debate over the Trans Mountain Pipeline and increased oil tanker traffic off the BC Coast that would result from a twinning of the pipeline, the new marine debris portfolio is timely.

Until now, it has been generally possible for people to just leave damaged or unwanted vessels



Sheila Malcolmson is BC's first special advisor on marine debris protection. She was out on the water April 14 checking out abandoned vessel recycling solutions. The Deadboats Society & Nanaimo Ocean Adventures facilitated her exploratory trip.

behind in BC waters. Malcolmson will make recommendations for a provincial action plan in coordination with the federal government, to

eliminate environmental threats caused by derelict vessels including building on existing work and partnerships, collaborating with the federal government on potential development of a boat-licensing program to aid enforcement of regulations for the management of derelict boats; feasibility of an environmental stewardship program to manage the end-of-life recycling of boats and marine infrastructure, as well as fibreglass and other elements of derelict boats; the feasibility of a 'cash for clunkers' program for derelict vessels or those at the end of their useful life; and what lessons can be learned from the Washington state program for this problem.

Malcolmson will also make recommendations for provincial action to curb the disposal of plastics in the marine environment.

In the Capital Regional District in 2018 and 2019, seven abandoned boats were assessed with \$16,175 in federal funds. And 25 boats have been funded for removal in 2018-2019 with federal funds of \$458,950 to Salish Sea Industrial Services to remove 24 boats; Esquimalt received \$5,625 to remove one boat.

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/new-special-advisor-on-marine-debris-protection/>

Nils Jensen remembered for regional impact

West Shore Voice News



Nils Jensen (then Mayor of Oak Bay) at the UBCM conference in Whistler (Sept 2018).

A memorial ceremony for former Oak Bay Mayor Nils Jensen was held on Thursday April 11 in the theatre overflowing into two more viewing rooms at Oak Bay High School. Numerous elected officials and community leaders attended the family-led remembrance.

Jensen was remembered for his community service, his work with regional water supply issues, and a steady style of governance delivered with a touch of humour and wit.

Jensen was 69 on Sunday April 7 when he undertook by choice an assisted death. This followed his January 2019 cancer diagnosis.

SD61 school board trustee Ryan Painter said Jensen symbolized what a happy, positive and engaged politician can be like.

Langford Mayor Stew Young says about Jensen: "We had a lot of great conversations over the years. He was passionate about politics and always supportive of new ways to make things better for the residents of not just Oak Bay but the whole region. His family can be proud of his many accomplishments and his long service to his community. He will be missed."

Langford Councillor Lillian Szpak said Thursday's memorial was impactful and reflected Jensen's character, and that the music was soulful.

Colwood Mayor Rob Martin says: "Mayor Jensen made a choice in his life to contribute back to his community through service. Our entire region is a better place because of his hard work. A good man with a good heart." Condolences were extended to current Oak Bay Kevin Murdoch in person at the April 8 Colwood Council meeting.

View Royal Mayor David Screech posted on Twitter when Jensen's death was first known: "I was so sad to hear of the passing of my friend and colleague Nils Jensen. He had a great sense of fun and a wonderful sense of humour. He will be truly missed."

The Capital Regional District (CRD) outlined how Jensen had served on the CRD Board as Mayor of Oak Bay for two terms from 2011-2018 and was elected Board Chair in 2014. Prior to being elected mayor, Nils served on the Regional Water Supply Commission during 1997-2011. As Commission Chair, he played a key role in 2002 to raise the Sooke Lake dam by six metres, doubling the size of the reservoir storage. During his later years on the Commission in 2007 and 2010, the CRD made a significant investment in purchasing the Leech Water Supply Area to protect and ensure future drinking water supply for Greater Victoria.

Jensen held a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, a law degree from Osgoode Hall and a Masters of Law from the London School of Economics.

He leaves his wife, Jean, and sons Nicholas and Stewart.

by Mary P Brooke
~ West Shore Voice News

McKenzie Interchange completion now targeted for Summer 2020

Hwy 1 McKenzie Interchange construction: big crane will be gone soon, piers will be installed to support vehicle ramps & pedestrian bridges.



The McKenzie Interchange on Highway 1 long-awaited by commuters now has a revised target completion date. First announced in summer 2015, the project was to complete by 2018 year-end, then fall 2019, and now into summer 2020, including loop ramp, pedestrian bridge, landscaping and transit facilities.

The revised timeline announcement came Friday April 12 from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). They articulated a multi-week construction interruption in February/March due to the impact of snow and cold wet weather which impacted equipment and workers as well as ground conditions.

Also, out of consideration for residential neighbours there have been shortened work periods to avoid construction noise (including the beeping of trucks and equipment in reverse), especially at night.

When digging deep into the soil for the interchange supports, an unexpected rock impediment was encountered which sent engineers back to the drawing board. "We encountered rock much sooner than anticipated," said Janelle Staite, regional deputy director, MOTI. Engineering modifications to the center pier of the interchange have been required; that pier will hold the bridge that will carry eastbound and westbound traffic over the intersection. Five piers will support the pedestrian structures.

Accommodating commuters (vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians) through construction also slowed down the project timeline.

The \$85 million project will see a cost overrun due to the further construction time and additional design work. An exact revised budget figure is still being determined.

The signal light for traffic turning left onto McKenzie (heading into Saanich) will be in place until completion of construction.

Vehicles are expected to save 20 minutes commuting time on average with new interchange.

Hon. John Horgan, Premier MLA, LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



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<https://westshorevoicenews.com/mckenzie-interchange-completion-shifted-now-to-summer-2020/>



COMMUNITY NEWS

SOOKE | LANGFORD

News updates any time:
www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Dozens of community groups in Sooke shared intel

by Chelsea Kirkpatrick ~ West Shore Voice News

Over 30 community groups and organizations based in and around Sooke came together Tuesday evening April 9 to outline what each of them does. About 40 people attended in the lower-level dining room at Sooke Community Hall.

Led by recreation, events and community development facilitator Julie van den Born, the meeting centred around informing the organizations about each other as a way to encourage communication, growth and connectivity within the town.

The meeting began with the Sooke Country Market folks introducing themselves as a summer farmer market, offering locally grown and made goodies from produce to wearable items.

Sooke Transition Society spoke about their activism to raise awareness around climate change, zero waste, financial insecurity and compassion within the community.

The Sooke Fine Arts Society (SFAS) and Amber Academy followed with their after-school program, focusing on art as a way to teach self confidence and teamwork. They also focus on volunteerism and giving back to the community with the skills acquired in the program. SFAS also of course offers their annual exhibit at SEAPARC Leisure Complex -- with over 9,000 visitors (2018) they continue contributing to tourism economics while enhancing the visibility of local artists.

The Sooke RCMP ICBC volunteer group provides programs run by their volunteers such as Citizens on Patrol, Speed Watch, Cell Watch and Lock out Auto cTime. The RCMP also offer Block Watch to encourage safety and bonds of community in local neighbourhoods.

The Victoria Literacy Connection offers Noisy Kids as an after-school program. The Sooke Region Community Health Network focuses on life-long learning for seniors and youth.

The Sooke Region Women's Cancer Support Society freely supports women who are going through the struggles that come with having cancer or knowing someone who has the disease.

Sooke Harbour Toastmasters encourages and teaches public speaking and communications. They partner with EMCS to put on Sooke Talks.

The Sooke Welcome Wagon discussed their newcomer services and offer baskets for new mums.

Sooke Autism Support Society offers a lending library for equipment that helps those with disabilities, has local mentors, website and monthly meetings. Their first scholarship at EMCS in June will promote positive inclusion for people with special needs in school and the community.

The Loan Cupboard program in Sooke rents out basic equipment for a small fee, by appointment only. They also offer rides to medical appointments done by volunteers.

Sooke Harbourside Lions raises money for a summer camp for children with disabilities, Huntington's Disease and diabetes. They also set up the annual Sooke River Duck Race and other community events that raise funds for causes.

WorkLink (delivering WorkBC programs) offers support with job search and issues within current employment. They discussed grants for new parents returning to school/work and can provide childcare support for the first two years.

Meals On Wheels spoke about their 3-day-week service that gives registrants a \$6 full delivered meal including dessert, which saves cooking time and stress for seniors or people who are housebound.

The Sooke Baptist Church spoke about their Grace Gardens where they produced over 2,000 lb of fresh vegetables last year that was donated to the Sooke Food Bank. They offer a large hot breakfast on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am to the community for free. Their Craft Group meets the second Tuesday of every month from (2 to 4 pm), all welcome. There is a Seniors Game on the last Monday of every month (2 to 4 pm) to make friends and play games. SINK is a weekly youth group they offer for youth in the community.

Sooke Music Festival Society was there to talk about their free annual summer music festival to unite the arts and non-profit groups.

Sooke Philharmonic Society talked about their Harmony Project which connects local musicians with local student musicians. They hold free concerts in the park and do an annual 'secret garden' fundraiser.

Sooke Regional Community Health Network (SRCHN) is a collaborative volunteer network to help address and assist medical needs on the west shore. They're working on expanding the local Sooke medical centre, aiming to increase the medical staff in Sooke with two new doctors and a new nurse.

Sooke Arts Council is a non-profit society with a mandate is "to encourage creative participation and excellence in the arts". They have many events going on this summer including family fun yard sales, open galleries through the west shore, and other events such as Art in the Park, Beach Art and more.

Wild Wise Sooke was there in collaboration with Transition Sooke to raise awareness to being conscious of wildlife and teaching the public to coexist with wildlife. They offer 'bear in the area' signs and wildlife crossing signs, as well as educational programs about respecting the wildlife interface environment.

Sooke Community Choir encourages local residents to attend their concerts. Their choir about 60 singers is a way to enjoy music and make friends.

Vancouver Island Regional Library (Sooke Branch) emphasized that their collection includes both hard copy books as well as digital and audio. The Sooke Library has free Wi-Fi and on-site computer access. They offer a wide range of educational programs for the community including programs for children and teens.

Sooke Shelter Society works with people at risk of becoming homeless and those who are homeless. They check in with people to find out what they need and offer food vouchers, laundry vouchers, camping gear and a range of miscellaneous items as needed. Rental assistance is provided as required. They do a lot of charity bottle drives.

Al Beddows (a District of Sooke councillor) represented the Sooke Lions Club. The Sooke Lions organize many events that connect the local community including Canada Day, Santa Parade, and the summer car show.

Rotary Club Sooke donates funds to groups and causes locally and regionally including literacy programs and adventure programs. They've contributed to the Rotary Pier, the skateboard park, and the John Muir teaching garden. WSV

Langford Protective Services got into the spirit

West Shore Voice News

The tasting of wine, cider, mead, spirits and beer will now be allowed at vendor booths at Goldstream Market in Langford, as discussed at the April 11 City of Langford Protective Services Committee meeting. Up to two vendors with those products will be allowed per Saturday market. No purchased beverages can be consumed on site at the market which is located in Veterans Memorial Park.

Also reviewed at the meeting were the applications from Western Speedway at 2207 Millstream Road for extension of their licenced seating area (from a capacity of 1,004 patrons to a total service capacity of 2,219 in existing seating), and also Ma Miller's Liquor at 2903 Sooke Road which will now be able to serve alcohol from 9 am instead of 11 am on Saturdays and Sundays.

These changes were approved as recommendations by the Protective Services Committee. Recommendations go to Council for further approval. WSV



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Last half of April

Town of View Royal Regular Council Meeting. Tues Apr 16, 7 pm. www.viewroyal.ca

DeMamie 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

Easter Egg Hunt. Ed Macgregor Park, West Coast Rd, Sooke. Sat Apr 20, 10 am to noon. Face-painting, giveaways and snacks. All ages.

Easter Egg Hunt in Meadow Park. Sat Apr 20, 2 to 4 pm. By Royal Bay & City of Colwood. Family fun event. www.colwood.ca

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

Zero Waste Sooke's 5th Repair Café. Sat Apr 20 at Sooke Community Hall, 10 to 2. www.zerowastesooke.ca

Earth Day. Mon Apr 22. www.earthday.org

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

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Tues Apr 23, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

District of Metchosin Environmental Advisory Committee. Tues Apr 23, 7pm. www.metchosin.ca

SD62 Board Meeting - budget. Tues Apr 23. Board office. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

Super Channel Boxing Championships. April 23 to 27 at Bear Mountain Resort. Hosted by Boxing BC with Boxing Canada, Super Channel, City of Langford. www.boxing.bc.ca

West Shore Community Garage Sale. Sat Apr 27. 1761 Island Hwy. Free admission 10-2. Open: swimming & weight room 1:30-4pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Sookarama 2019 Business Expo. Sat Apr 27, 10 to 4 at SEAPARC, 2168 Phillips Road. Door prizes: BBQ, Samsung Galaxy Tab E, Chemanius Dinner Theatre Trip. Free admission. Organized by the Sooke Lions Club.

Colwood Spring Cleanup. Fri Apr 26 & Sat Apr 27, 8:30 am to 4 pm. Small fee to bring items for recycling and disposal (Colwood residents only). Colwood Public Works 250-474-4133. <https://www.colwood.ca/discover-colwood/faces-places/spring-clean-2019>

ARTiFACTS | 9 to 5 | til April 28 | Sooke Region Museum | www.sookecommunityarts.com

events

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



<https://pacificfc.canpl.ca/pacific-football-club-ticketing>

Sooke region clean up. Sat Apr 27 & Sun Apr 28 by Zero Waste Sooke. Gloves, reflective vests & garbage bags provided. Contact wendyconnor@me.com or 250-361-6965.

Pacific FC Inaugural game. Sun Apr 28 at Westhills Stadium. 4pm. Pacific FC vs Halifax. Single-game tickets and season passes for sale online: <https://pacificfc.canpl.ca/pacific-football-club-ticketing>

Rock the Rink audition deadline send (music file or YouTube link) by Tues Apr 30. Westshore Parks & Recreation youth bands competition, live event June 1. Contact cbryson@westshorerecreation.ca or 250-474-2847.

Sheringham Point Lighthouse

Open daily | www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

First half of May

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

Sooke Community Choir #ModernLove Spring concert Fri May 3 & Sat May 4 at 7:30 pm. Sun May 5 at 2 pm at Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd. www.sookecommunitychoir.com

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

Nanaimo-Ladysmith federal by-election. Mon May 6. www.elections.ca

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

Annual Westshore Colwood Campus Plant Sale. 2139 Sooke Rd. Sat May 11. Pre-orders: Contact Debbie at dloedewijk@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.

Vancouver Island Sustainable Technology Expo. Thurs May 16. JdF Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. www.vistaexpo.ca



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PilgrimCoffeeHouse

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Business Expo

Saturday April 27

10 am to 4 pm

SOOKARAMA 2019
Free Admission
Door prizes

Hosted by the Sooke Lions Club at displays **SEAPARC Leisure Complex**, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke

Sooke Lions adopt the business event mission

● **The Sooke Lions Club** is organizing their first Business Expo to help support community exposure for businesses of the Sooke region. Calling it

WSV

Sookarama 2019, proceeds from booth sales will support local Lions initiatives including Sooke Canada Day, the summer car 'show and shine', Santa Claus Parade, and the Sooke Food Bank. Admission to the venue is free.

The event will be held on Saturday April 27 at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Sooke Lions also publish a substantial business directory that promotes Sooke businesses.

For about 10 years, the Sooke Rotary Club held a similar event that was headlined by a live and silent auction event but the trade show aspect became too much for the core volunteers; the evening dinner portion of that program has been maintained this year, being held by Sooke Rotary on May 4 at the Prestige Hotel as a fundraiser for their many causes. **WSV**

Six measles cases in South Island area

● **On April 10**, Island Health confirmed one new case of measles infection on the South Island. That brought the total number of measles cases in the South Island area to six on that day, and there have been no further confirmed cases as of April 12.

The announcement on April 10 said that individuals may have been exposed to measles if they visited or passed through the building common spaces, including washrooms, at the Royal Oak Shopping Centre at 4475 Viewmont Avenue in Saanich on Tuesday March 26 and/or Wednesday March 27 between 8:30 am and 7:30 pm. <https://westshorevoicenews.com/six-cases-of-measles-confirmed-on-vancouver-island/>

This comes in the wake of possible exposure to measles as announced on April 6, those being at two LifeLabs clinics, Hillside Mall, Camosun College (Lansdowne campus), on BC Transit buses #27 & #28, and other locations during March 27 to April 3. <https://westshorevoicenews.com/more-measles-exposure-in-victoria-saanich-march-27-to-april-3/>

Other possible exposures were announced by Island Health regarding a case confirmed on April 4. Details about that window of exposure: Saturday March 30 at Beacon Community Services Thrift Store at 7060 West Saanich Rd (same building as Victoria Costumes) from 12 to 3 pm and also at Fairway Market at 7108 West Saanich Rd, 12 to 3 pm. **WSV**

SD62 budget looks to the future, with flexibility

● **A fresh approach** to the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) budget process is underway. Rather than looking at all expenditures then whittling away personnel positions or specific resources as might be required to achieve the required balanced budget, for the 2019-2020 budget it's about recognizing core requirements (salaries, facilities and classroom operations, bus transportation, and more teacher prep time at the elementary level) then making decisions within areas that might be considered discretionary -- whether cuts, increases, or blending similar areas of expenditure that require real-time flexibility.

"We're taking a different direction this year by engaging with stakeholders

to see what they feel should be priorities in the budget," says SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar. "It's truly been a collaborative process and it's great hearing different perspectives. Principals and Vice Principals and other stakeholders are sending us clear messages about what they want in their schools, and we're going to help make it happen," says Parmar.

All school district budgets must balance to zero (no deficit or surplus allowed under the BC School Act). The overall SD62 budget is comprised of operating, capital and special purpose.

The total estimated operating budget for 2019-2020 is about \$114.5 million — that includes a core expen-

More: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/sd62-looking-at-10-6-million-in-discretionary-options/>

Next SD62 Board Meeting: Tuesday April 23



Even with 59 portables this year, SD62 schools are at full capacity. One more portable will be added at Belmont Secondary where presently there are two. diture of about \$104 million (\$74.1 million for statutory obligations such as salaries, and about \$29.9 million in operating expenses), explained SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull at the April 9 Resource Committee meeting chaired by SD62 Vice Chair Dianna Seaton. Within the \$29.9 million for non-statutory operating expenses, the draft budget shows \$10.6 million as 'discretionary' where board and stakeholder priorities may be expressed. SD62 recently saw about \$700,000 more in funding (since the previous budget discussions) due to per-pupil funding due to student population growth.

The biggest evident change in SD62's

proposed 'discretionary' expenditures is a shift to spending about \$1.1 million each year on information technology (IT) requirements. That's up from \$250,000 per year including this year.

Stinson is quick to explain that IT is not just hardware but also software, network speed and access, data management, and data security. It's about aiming for teachers, classrooms and administrators to have the technology and Internet/wireless access they need for optimal function in the learning environment.

This fall a further 238 students are still expected, with five more portables needed (total 64). One more bus route will be needed.

The next opportunity for public input on the budget comes up at the SD62 board meeting on Tuesday April 23 at 7 pm. **WSV**



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