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Week #440

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Friday June 28, 2019 RELEASE DATE JUNE 30 for CANADA DAY

Chinatown tour launches 'museum'

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Premier John Horgan addressed Chinese community leaders at the Chinese Public School on Fisgard Street, during a tour of clubs within Chinatown in downtown Victoria on Saturday, June 29. He was accompanied for the day by local MLAs -- Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) who is Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, and Minister of Education Rob Fleming (Victoria-Swan Lake).

“Some of the clubs we’re visiting today are older than Canada itself,” said Premier John Horgan at the start of his tour of Chinatown in downtown Victoria on Saturday, June 29.

Accompanied by George Chow, MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview and Minister of State for Trade, the entourage of Premier, MLAs and the Victoria-based Chinese community wended its way to at least six spots along Fisgard Street, many with long rises of stairs in old buildings. Outdoors it was sunny and warm. The culture and history indoors was deep and rich. Ornate artifacts and decor stood proud in basic rooms that have seen countless meetings and gatherings.

At each stop in the second-oldest Chinatown in BC, Horgan would give a speech, accept a framed photo, or simply glad-hand around the room with members of the local Chinese community. There was even time for a playing a bit of the tile-based game of mahjong.

The idea of a province-wide Chinese museum is a way to organize and promote the Chinese history found in municipal museums around BC. “It was a critical commitment in our campaign platform,” says Horgan. “We put George on it right away.” There was a committee and online consultation to uncover a broad consensus on this “untold part of our rich Canadian history. Horgan told media on the sidewalk outside shops and restaurants. The final program will be rolled out in a few months’s time.

The museum hub will be based in Vancouver with ‘spokes’ to Victoria’s Chinatown as well as other areas on the island and in the interior including Nanaimo, Revelstoke, Nelson, and Kamloops. “It’s very exciting to connect all the museums,” said Chow. Locally, input about including the small regional museums was provided by Sooke Region Museum Director Lee Boyko; early development in Sooke included Chinese workers at logging camps and building the Kapoor Tunnel that directs water from Sooke into the westshore and Victoria.

Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) who is Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity joined Premier Horgan on his tour on Saturday afternoon. The tour included a visit to the Chinese Public School on Fisgard, and having tea and snacks with the local community members at each stop. Lots of photo-taking by the big crowd! **WSV**

More photos: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/chinatown-tour-in-victoria-launches-bc-wide-cultural-museum/>

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Your Voice in the Legislature

Brenda Parkinson
~ Remembered ~

- District Councillor
- Marriage Commissioner
- Arts advocate
- Legion supporter



More photos on page 2

- **‘We are deeply saddened by Brenda’s passing.** Councillor Parkinson brightened every meeting with her enthusiasm and love of this community. A passionate advocate for the arts, culture, beautification, emergency services, the well-being of staff, volunteers and our veterans were some of her many priorities. Brenda strived for excellence and good governance and brought a high level of preparedness to every meeting. We express our most sincerest condolences to her family and loved ones.” ~ Sooke Mayor Maja Tait
- **“Her heart was huge.** All of Sooke will be grieving this weekend at the loss of an extraordinary person. In true Brenda form, she had a big bang before she left. We had a party. I danced with her in her wheelchair and will remember that for the rest of my life.” ~ Premier John Horgan
- **“Just days ago** my friend Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson checked herself out of hospital to attend her living funeral, truly an event in Brenda style, both brave and sorrowful. Little did we suspect she would go so soon. Farewell Brenda, you have left the world a far better place!” ~ Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) **WSV**

Pre-frozen Chinook



Outdoor traditional salmon BBQ.

- **Chinook salmon** grilled over a traditional outdoor firepit is the highlight of the annual Sooke Region Museum barbecue. This year held on Sunday June 23, the event drew over 200 people.

Salmon lunch with salad was \$15 per plate. For over 30 years now, the end-of-June event has marked the beginning of summer tourism and also is when a new temporary upstairs exhibit is launched for the summer -- this year “Women of the Sooke Region”.

The salmon is donated. Chinook is the preferred fish for the fresh air pit method of cooking. It has to be pre-ordered in the fall, and is provided frozen by SM Industries out of Delta on the mainland. “Gone are the days of fresh salmon locally in spring,” says Sooke Region Museum Director Lee Boyko. **WSV**

NDP

Happy Canada Day!



Alistair MacGregor
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca
Phone: 1-866-609-9998

More comments & photos in the days ahead at www.westshorevoiceneews.com

EDITORIAL

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR ~ Editor & Publisher

West Shore
Voice News

Brenda Parkinson: adored her community, a friend to many

● This week the community of Sooke lost District of Sooke Councillor **Brenda Parkinson**. She died from a small but obviously insistent brain tumour that crept up on her rapidly, after noticing a few symptoms that sent her to promptly seek medical care. She threw her own high-energy farewell party recently at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort, attended by a wide range of folks including the Premier of BC.

Brenda had served on the District of Sooke Council from 2005 to 2008 (under Mayor Janet Evans) and again 2014 to 2018 (under Maja Tait in her first mayoral term). During the in-between years when she was not on council she maintained active participation, including consistent attendance in the audience at council meetings when Wendal Milne was Mayor. Parkinson was re-elected in October 2018 with the largest number of votes among her fellow councillors for this 2018-2022 term. On council she seemed to stick up for Sookies in ways that other councillors did not.

She had been an Appointed Marriage Commissioner since 2008, a job she deeply enjoyed, especially when weddings took place outdoors in natural places.

There are many folks in Sooke who will have their own stories to tell about Brenda. The bravado of her helping style sometimes saw her decide what was best, instead of asking what might be most appropriate, with mixed results. But people knew she cared. She will be officially honoured at the Sooke Canada Day event on Monday July 1, for all the community to hear -- quite fitting, as she was one of the lead organizers for the VIP speeches each year at the annual event held at Sooke Flats.

For better or worse, Brenda would stick to her guns on an idea and rally support from an eclectic range of community leaders and supporters.

Premier John Horgan said this weekend that she was unapologetically loud in her presentation of self, but was completely committed to her causes and the community. She was not an 'orange card holder' as Horgan put it, but she rarely if ever missed a Horgan constituency summer BBQ or Christmas party, chumming it up with Horgan's wife Ellie. Horgan told media that he danced with Brenda at her farewell bash -- she in a wheelchair -- and that he'll remember that for the rest of his life.

In covering Brenda in the news from 2007 onward, this editor sees her highlights as spearheading Sooke's involvement in Communities in Bloom, being the

inspiration for what is now the Sooke Region Museum's Sooke Night Market, promoting the arts on many levels in the community (including encouraging other women to explore their artistic talents), being the driving force that produced decorative seasonal lights and banners around town.

Brenda often remarked how she took heed of her father's approach to politics... saying if you're not absolutely certain of your commitment to an issue or motion at council, then to hold back on supporting the vote.

She held relatively lavish Christmas parties at her home each December. As you approached there were often deer in the yard as if to greet the guests. After dropping off your donation for BC WildArc in the garage, you could come on inside and trade your shoes for a pair of fuzzy slippers out of the big basket in the front hall. There was wine, and a mix of guests... always the convener, even if the results seemed forced.

Brenda was active at the Sooke Legion. Her father Bob Clark was known as 'the Colonel' and her husband Stewart is retired military. Brenda leaves behind her husband (married 40 years) and a wide range of family (including her mother, age 92), friends, and associates throughout the political and arts communities of Greater Victoria.

With a loud laugh and having impacted such a wide range of the community, Brenda Parkinson's mark on Sooke is indelible. ■

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

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Mailing: 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 **Tel & Text: 250-217-5821**

Email: news@westshorevoicenews.com
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Brenda Parkinson remembered

WEST SHORE VOICE

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION



<< Brenda Parkinson honouring Cst Reginald Williams, an RCMP officer who died long ago at the Government Wharf at the foot of Maple Avenue South, at an event renaming the portion of Maple Road as Williams Street, December 2015.



Brenda Parkinson with Sooke Mayor Maja Tait at a health summit meeting at Sooke Community Hall, October 2016. >>

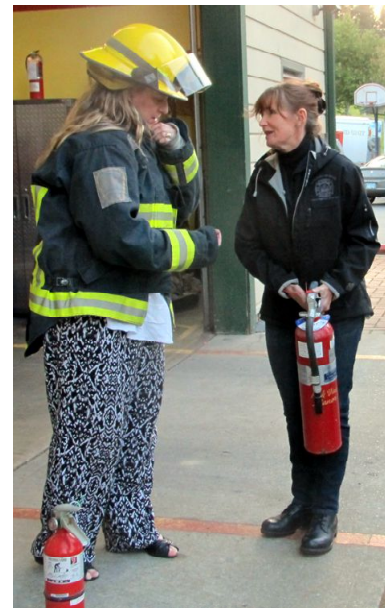


<< Brenda Parkinson enjoying the luncheon at Sunriver Community Gardens during Communities in Bloom, July 2013.



^^ Brenda at the 2016 Sooke Region Museum annual summer BBQ.

Brenda Parkinson and then Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen at Whiffin Spit to promote emergency preparedness, April 2015. >>



Learning fire suppression skills at Sooke Fire Hall #1, April 2015.



^^ Brenda Parkinson flanked by District of Sooke Councillor Ebony Logins and NDP Leader John Horgan at the 2015 Sooke Santa Claus Parade.



^^ Proud member of the Sooke Legion: Brenda Parkinson on Remembrance Day 2014.



^^ Brenda Parkinson with fellow councillor (the now late) Nils Jensen then Mayor of Oak Bay, at UBCM in Victoria, Sept 2016.



District of Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson with fellow Sooke Councillor Rick Kasper applauding then-Leader of the Opposition John Horgan, at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention in Courtenay, BC in April 2015.



<< Brenda Parkinson with Horgan who wore a 'next Premier' name tag, at the NDP leader's 2016 constituency BBQ.

West Shore Voice News ~ Laura Lucina

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News updates any time: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Mandatory immunization reporting in BC starts September 2019

West Shore Voice News

● **Parents and guardians** will be expected to provide public health units with immunization records for students enrolled in the provincial school system, starting September 2019. The Province of BC is implementing this mandatory reporting requirement through the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation, it was announced June 28 by Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.

"In the wake of the global measles outbreaks this spring, BC is implementing several measures to protect children and families from this and other communicable diseases through improved immunization," said Dix.

"This mandatory reporting of the immunization status of students will ensure the public health system is prepared in the event of an outbreak. Furthermore, with the up-to-date records, public health can reach out to families with children behind on their immunizations and provide an opportunity to catch them up, as well as discuss any concerns with parents," said Dix.

Public health officials will review school enrolment records in late August and into October 2019 to match them against immunization records for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 that currently exist in the provincial immunization registry, as outlined in a Ministry release. For the first year of the reporting requirement, the goal will be to help parents get their children up to date on immunizations by the end of the school year.

Mandatory reporting is part of the ongoing plan to increase immunization rates for all vaccine-preventable diseases. BC has what it calls a comprehensive provincial childhood immunization program including coverage for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, pertussis, polio, HPV, varicella, diphtheria, influenza, meningococcal disease and hepatitis.

"This spring, we launched the catch-up measles immunization program throughout schools and public health units, which is having a positive effect," said Dix. Since April, the number of K to 12 students having received two doses of measles vaccine increased by over 33,000. Based on the records reviewed so far by health authorities -- amounting to over 566,000 -- nearly 95% of students have received one or two doses of vaccine." **WSV**

<https://immunizebc.ca/what-vaccines-does-your-child-need-and-when>

Sarah Beckett Memorial projects:

West Shore Voice News

- >> **Playground construction continues**
- >> **Scholarship deadline extended**

● **Development of the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground** continues along Glen Lake Road behind Westhills Stadium. The timeline goal is for completion ahead of the big-bash concert and Pacific FC soccer game on August 24 at the stadium. The fundraising goal of \$250,000 still needs to be fully met.

The community is being asked to dig deep to support the cause. The playground will commemorate the life and service of Cst Beckett with a new place to play for kids while at the stadium or surrounding neighbourhoods. **WSV**



Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground site development continues along Glen Lake Road behind Westhills Stadium (June 23). Rock wall and fencing underway.

● **The application deadline** for the Capital Regional District's Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 in support of high school graduates aiming for a career in law enforcement has been extended to July 26, the CRD Traffic Safety Commission announced this week. An additional \$20,000 was raised through the Sarah Beckett Memorial Run & Walk earlier this year. **WSV**

Stabbing in Langford school yard

West Shore Voice News

● **A stabbing of one teen on the grounds of an elementary school** in Langford is being investigated by the West Shore RCMP Serious Crimes Unit. The incident took place Wednesday evening, June 26 outside Ruth King Elementary at 2764 Jacklin Rd (a busy residential and commercial area of central Langford).

Police learned "there had been an altercation involving two groups of youths, leaving one youth hospitalized with knife wounds," says Cst Nancy Saggar, Media Relations Officer, West Shore RCMP. The wounds were called non-life-threatening. Police believe two groups of youths walking on Goldstream Ave between Peatt Rd and Matson Rd had crossed paths between 8 pm and 11:30 pm.

West Shore RCMP are asking for residences and businesses on Goldstream Ave between Peatt Rd and Matson Rd, that are equipped with surveillance cameras, to review their surveillance footage between those hours and contact West Shore RCMP at 250-474-2264.

The affected area of the school grounds was hosed down by Langford Fire Rescue on Thursday, said Assistant Fire Chief Lance Caven. Children arriving at school on Thursday morning were at one point met with yellow crime tape.

City of Langford Protective Services Committee Chair Lillian Szpak says: "Taking care of at-risk youth is a universal concern for all community leaders and presents unique and well known challenges." She notes there has been "difficulty in engaging youth, especially youth who are considered "at-risk".

Szpak says that Langford has built recreation services in Langford. "However, we know that at-risk youth do not normally access main-stream recreation, sports and activities and so other, creative approaches have to be used," she said recently in discussing the matter of gangs with a local youth worker.

As an example of attentive ways to deal with youth behaviour challenges in the community, the city sees Bylaw staff sitting down with youth who are caught vandalizing with spray paint and whenever possible, turn it into a restorative justice opportunity where youth are encouraged to give back to the community. "Their dignity is preserved and they willingly pick up litter, clean graffiti and benefit from the opportunity to be mentored," says Szpak.

Langford participates in the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, a regional committee funded by the CRD. **WSV**

Any RCMP updates will be posted here:

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/stabbing-in-elementary-school-yard-in-langford/>



Langford Councillor Lillian Szpak

WSV / MPB

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Trash comes back from the Philippines

West Shore Voice News

● **This week**, 69 shipping containers holding 1,500 tonnes of rotting garbage that originated in Canada in 2013 and 2014 -- mistakenly labeled as plastics for recycling -- were returned back from the Philippines, arriving at the Port of Vancouver.

"That's a federal responsibility," says BC Premier Horgan. "It's a black eye for Canada. Somehow permits were inappropriately filled out for several years," he said, which produced "a pile of garbage in another jurisdiction, and now here in BC." Horgan says BC is "working with the federal government to make sure it's disposed of".

The cost is now reportedly about \$1.5 million to have the material shipped back and now incinerated and turned into electrical energy at a Waste-to-Energy facility in Burnaby. That facility was chosen by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) for being close to the Port of Vancouver and because it can receive international waste. **WSV**

● First report on this, May 23: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/canadian-waste-coming-back-from-philippines-will-arrive-at-vancouver/>

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Canada Day. Mon July 1. **Canada Day Breakfast at Bear Mountain Resort.** 8:30 to 11:30 am (Langford). **Fort Rodd Hill** (Colwood), 10am-5pm. **Craigflower Manor** community event 9 am to 6 pm (View Royal) - Mitzi Dean, MLA. **Sooke Canada Day** (Sooke Flats), 11 am to 10 pm (VIP parade & speeches, and remembering Brenda Parkinson at 11:30 am) - Premier Horgan, Randall Garrison MP, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait; fireworks at dusk. **Pacific FC game** vs Calgary FC at 3 pm at Westhills Stadium (Langford).

2019 municipal taxes due on Tues July 2. Check the website of your municipality for details.

SEAPARC pool. Re-opens **Tues July 2** after annual maintenance. www.seaparc.ca

Grand opening of Big Mountain Centre Petro Canada & Tim Horton's. **Thurs July 4.** 6080 Sooke Rd. 10 am.

Fling! Sooke Philharmonic outdoor concert. **Sun July 7.** 2:30 pm at EdMacgregor Park. Free admission.

Sooke Car Show & Art in the Park. **Sun July 14.** Sooke River Campground, 2259 Phillips Rd. 10 am to 2 pm. www.sookefallfair.ca www.sookecommunityarts.com

Northwest Deuce Days. **Sun July 21.** Classic cars at Inner Harbour & BC Legislature grounds.

Eats & Beats at Esquimalt Lagoon in Colwood. **Sat July 20.** 1 to 8 pm. www.colwood.ca

Langford Mayor's Golf Tournament. Bear Mountain Resort. **Thurs July 25.** www.langford.ca

Sooke Fine Arts Show. **July 26 to Aug 5.** At SEAPARC. www.sookefinearts.com

Langford 9th Annual Show 'n Shine in Langford town centre. **Sun Aug 18.** 10 am to 2 pm. www.langford.ca

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



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Students, teachers, staff benefit from more classroom support, says Education Minister

West Shore Voice News



BC Minister of Education Rob Fleming (at Royal Bay Secondary, April 2019)

● The BC government has issued record-high levels of funding for more teachers and support staff, and has produced smaller class sizes compared to two years ago. "An investment in education is an investment in our future, and everyone benefits when students have the best possible chance to succeed," says Rob Fleming, Minister of Education.

"After years of underfunding and neglect, our government's investment in student success is starting to pay dividends in outcomes and opportunities, especially for students with special needs and Indigenous learners. And we aim to do more."

Schools are receiving \$6.6 billion during the next school year, which is \$1 billion more than two years ago (a total increase of 17.1%, while enrollment has grown 3.2%).

For the first time since 2006, all 60 school districts are forecasted to see an increase in funding for the coming school year.

For the next school year, the ministry estimates school districts will receive \$570.9 million to ensure appropriate staff is in place to support students with special needs, a 23% increase over the past two years. The number of classes with an educational assistant has increased by 37% in the past two years.

The issuance of funds to school districts does not assure how it will be spent or distributed. In Sooke School District 62 the 2019-2020 budget includes cuts to library assistant hours. **WSV**



Congratulations to all the SD62 Graduates of 2019!

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Pacific FC Game: 2,500 flags on July 1

West Shore Voice News



Pacific FC against Edmonton FC, June 23 at Westhills Stadium (1-3).

● **Canada Day July 1 will be a party** at Westhills Stadium in Langford, for the next Pacific FC home game. Up against Calgary FC!

Beer gardens happy hour runs from 1 to 2 pm. You can buy some Pacific FC swag and learn more about activities in the region along the vendor walkway.

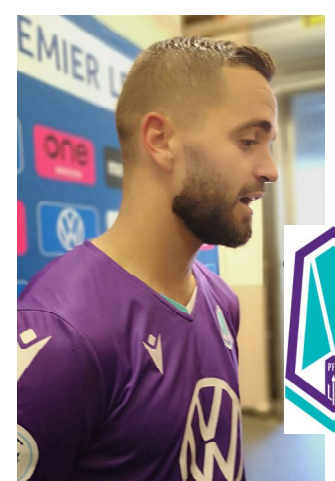
Gates open at 1 pm, kickoff 3 pm. This will be the second home game with Pacific FC hosting Calgary FC from Calgary (with another July 6).

The first 2,500 fans for this July 1 game will receive a Canada flag for waving in the stands! The most recent game on June 23 (against Edmonton FC) saw over 4,600 seats filled.

About 29% of single game tickets are purchased in the west shore, says Pacific FC VP Operations Brad Norris-Jones. About 20% of season's tickets have been purchased by people who live in the west shore.

There is parking near the stadium as well as overflow parking available at nearby lots (including the YM/YWCA up the road on Langford Parkway, and in a city lot at Constellation Avenue and West Shore Parkway -- wear your walking shoes!). The stadium is still under construction in some sections, with another 1,000 bleachers being added at the west end of the field. That is aiming for completion before the August 24 game.

This game marks the end of the first half of the Spring season. Tickets for the July 1: www.pacificfc.ca **WSV**



Victor Blasco landed the one goal for Pacific FC in the Sunday June 23 afternoon game.

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