

**West Shore** News 4 pages this issue

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Friday August 9, 2019 WEEKEND | News to August 11, 2019

# Tree-planting memorial for former Sooke Councillor

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A crowd of friends, associates and colleagues attended the tree-planting memorial for Brenda Parkinson on August 6 at John Phillips Memorial Park.

Under bright open sunny skies on Tuesday August 6, two red oak trees were planted in memoriam of former District of Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson.

At the event officiated by Sooke Mayor Maja Tait who introduced Premier John Horgan and Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) to make their remarks, Tait wrapped up the formal presentations with her own speech.

"What I remember most about Brenda was her love of this community.," said Tait. "She wanted to make sure it was inclusive and welcoming and that much prettier for everyone to enjoy."

"She wanted us to remember local first, and to ensure Sooke has the very best and not to settle for the second best," said Tait about her Sooke Council friend. "You're all things bright, bold and beautiful. A bit of sparkle and cheer."

Tait described Brenda as "a shining example of how one person can make a difference... she found way to get other people involved, even if she bossed people along just a little bit."

Tait noted how Parkinson had worked on Parks and Trails, Communities in Bloom, and local beautification including indigenous art.

"When she took a leave, she was texting constantly and asking what we were up to on council," said Tait. "I wanted to make sure her viewpoint was always there." Tait recalled how on a jaunt to an event with Brenda, the late councillor said: "I think I'm becoming a bit unfiltered." To which Tait responded: "Really? When?!", which elicited a collective chuckle from the outdoor audience. "Members of the community will know, no matter what event, you would find Brenda there. She would encourage, support or participate."

Mayor Tait thanked Brenda and her family." I hope the trees will be something that resonates with you. The park is important," she told the family. Tait thanked the parks staff for finding the right type of tree that would thrive in that location. "They'll put on a beautiful display in the years to come," said about the two oaks as she expects they will grow. West Shore Voice News

Premier John Horgan said in his remarks at the outdoor podium that "at the core of who Brenda was, was love". He continued: "Brenda loved people, she loved life. It was only fitting that she put on a tribute to her life (a party she hosted herself at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort) where she could dance with her friends."

"Brenda was a politician that wasn't a politician. She was friends with everyone across political lines. Her family was certainly right of center," said the NDP Premier who is proudly left-leaning. "But with Brenda it was always about service to the community of Sooke. We will always remember happiness when we think of Brenda, not sorrow. Her song will always be in our hearts," Horgan said in a calm and positive tone. West Shore Voice News

Member of Parliament for the area, Randall Garrison thanked everyone for being there. "You are doing this," he recalled Brenda often saying to him. "She brought people together to get things done."

Garrison outlined three things that trees represent about Brenda: they put down roots that grow out and hold the soil together; they provide shelter in the storm; and they're very beautiful. It's fitting that these trees honour the spirit, art and everyday living of Brenda." Saying Brenda would not be forgotten, he said "we will carry her spirit forward in all of our hearts".



<< Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) addressed the crowd at the tree-planting memorial for the late District of Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson on August 6, 2019 in John Phillips Memorial Park. At left is Sooke Mayor Tait, at right is Brenda's husband Stewart Parkinson.

<< The plaque reads: "Brenda Parkinson: Lover of all things beautiful: art, music, nature and laughter. May her passion for her community live on in the hearts of the many lives she touched. District of Sooke Councillor 2005-2008, 2014-2019."

The oaks were chosen for their stature and durability, and the brilliant red that the leaves will be in the fall season. The two trees are positioned on either side of the walkway upon entering John Phillips Memorial Park off Otter Point **Voice News** Road.

Some entrance signage will be added to that location soon. In recent weeks a public washroom was installed at the park and a water fountain is soon to come. People lined up to sign a book of condolences ahead of the event, at a table where pink flowers and a photo of Brenda were set out.

The park was well manicured for the occasion, attended by about 200 people. VIPs and special guests could sit under a tent. The crowd sat or stood a short distance away, with the shade of trees in the park available, from where they could hear the speeches amplified by a sound system and watch the VIPs contribute a shovel of dirt to the area around each tree.

The two trees were placed in pre-dug holes just minutes ahead of the ceremony. Buckets of water were on hand to help ease the trees into the soil.

T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes delivered a greeting and there was a blessing by T'-Sou-ke Elder Shirley Alphonse. They held a small carved wood bowl painted with indigenous imagery which held water that was used to spray the tree lightly. Each dignitary came up to bless the tree, using a small cedar bough dipped in the water that was used to anoint the tree.

Maples, poplars, alders and Douglas fir are more immediately native to the Sooke local geo-climate, but oak was .../

Voice News

Continued on pg 2.../

Page 2 of 4 ::: Breaking news at: www.westshorevoicenews.com



Mary P Brooke **Editor & Publisher** 

### Election campaign resources do varv

 Money is powerful in an election campaign. It pays for ads, venues, signs and campaign worker support. The Conservatives and Liberals do well in their fundraising, and usually apply thier funds effectively. People's will to win is also a powerful resource. The NDP ground game is always impressive in that regard; a determination to win being palpable in every phone call, coffee meeting, door-to-door campaign and in getting out the vote on election day. And this time the Green Party has undertaken a relentless early-start door-to-door

campaign as they hope to rachet-up their party's presence in the country and the House of Commons in this upcoming October 21 election. What are your resources for this campaign, starting with deciding where you'll place your vote?

### **REGIONAL NEWS**

www.westshorevoicenews.com

Three adult killer whales -- J17, K25, and L84 -- are missing and presumed dead as of July 1, says the Centre for Whale Research. Starvation is the reason given, based on scarcity of suitable Chinook saimon prey. J17 (female, age 42, who carried along her dead calf for 17 days last year) and K25 (male, age 28) were not in good body condition last winter. L84 (male, 29) was the last of a matriline of 11 whales, 10 of whom died previously.

Five portable classrooms are coming to SD62 schools in time for the start of classes on September 3. Portables are manufactured

and transported in two sections and then placed together on site. At Belmont Secondary in Langford, the portable that arrived this week will be setup on a pad next to the two existing portables on the Glen Lake Road side of the school. The other new portables will be set up at Wishart Elementary in Colwood (2), Millstream Elementary in Langford (1), and Spencer Middle School in Langford (1). About 500 more students arrive in SD62 each September due to families seeking housing in the region.

BC Hydro will be drilling some geotechnical boreholes (11 locations in all) on August 13 and 14, along the north side of Sooke Road between Jacklin Road and West Shore Parkway. Some traffic delays can be expected from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. wsv

### **WORLD NEWS**

### PROTESTS:

**Democratic rights** perceived by many **Hong Kong** West S residents to be slipping away in the former **British Colony.** 



Pro-democracy activities have included sitins at the international airport in Beijing.

The 2019 Hong Kong anti-extradition bill protests that started March 31 have continued for 10 weeks now, on weekends.

As reported by international media, tear gas grenades and rubber bullets have been used on demonstrators in Beijing city area. As of July 31 there were over 230 injuries and as of August 6 over 560 arrests. On August 9, Hong Kong authorities warmed of "hazard" if violence and destruction did not subside.

People in Hong Kong -- which is a distinct jurisdiction from mainland China with a separate governing and legal system -- have been protesting a government of Hong Kong bill that would allow local authorities to detain and extradite people who are wanted in countries or territories that Hong Kong does not have extradition agreements with, including mainland China and Taiwan.

The concern of opponents to the legislation include that it would place Hong Kong residents and visitors under the jurisdiction of mainland courts (which are controlled by the Communist Party of China) and apply not only to criminals, but political dissidents as well. They see it as a slippery slope toward the loss of civil rights.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the principle of 'one country, two systems', with the promise of certain democratic rights not afforded to people on the mainland. It produced an exodus of Hong Kong residents to Canada and other countries between around 1980 and 1997, in many cases the Hong Kong immigrants bringing along financial wealth which in Canada has largely been invested in real estate (notably in Metro Vancouver).

In recent years, some in Hong Kong have accused the Communist Party-ruled Chinese government of steadily chipping away at their freedoms, which has now led to these protests mostly by young people out on the streets but apparently supported by older residents as well.

The opposed legislation has recently been suspended. But Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has reportedly defended her government's handling of the protests, including saying (in a statement from her office -- as reported by CBC) that while her government "respects the diverse views held by members of the public on various issues as well as the freedoms of speech and assembly, it will not let violence and illegal behaviours disrupt public order".

The Canadian government is warning travellers to avoid areas of Hong Kong with large demonstrations. As of August 10, the official warning status for Canadians travelling to Hong Kong is: "Exercise a high degree of caution."

Global economic fallout is now being predicted as a possible outcome by some financial experts. Lam made a media announcement on August 9 surrounded by Hong Kong business leaders, saying "the economy is very important to everyone in Hong Kong" but that "a small minority of people did not mind destroying the Hong Kong economy" as "they have no stake in the society that so many people have helped to build" -- which is essentially an admission that sectors of the population have in fact been left out of the system, and are being asked to not spoil it for those who are within the system. Lam appealed for "calmness and rationality, to overcome the situation". Watch that August 9 video clip on CNN: https://www.cnn.com/videos/ business/2019/08/09/carrie-lam-hong-kong-economy-protests-sot.cnn

Hong Kong state media delivered a message saying that if the unrest worsened there would be "extreme hazards" and dangers. See that video clip on CTV: https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-raises-travel-warning-amid-escalating-protestsin-hong-kong-1.4542520 wsv

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## **Bodies of two BC homicide** suspects found in Manitoba

The search for two BC teens who were wanted for suspected homicide in the deaths of three people in northern BC ended August 7 at 10 am with the RCMP's discovery of two bodies in dense brush near the shoreline of the Nelson River northeast of Gillam, Manitoba.

RCMP are confident the bodies are those of Bryer Schmegelsky, 18, and Kam McLeod, 19. Results of the autopsies are awaited.

The bodies were recovered 1 km from where officers found undisclosed items directly linked to the suspects (including a small aluminum boat), and 8 km from the torched vehicle they had been driving.

Identifying the cause of death is expected to answer some of the questions of the investigation including how the two teens survived, how long they were in the woods, and if there was any physical altercation with the three homicide victims (to possibly indicate the nature of the crimes).

The first homicide of two tourists had occured on July 15 and that of a UBC botany lecturer on July 19, with McLeod and Schmegelsky deemed suspects on July 23. That activated a nationwide manhunt that included RCMP searching over 11 sq km in northern Manitoba with more than 4,500 hours of manpower

utilized during the search. wsv

### Elizabeth May LANGFORD says Greens Broken Clouds could sweep

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



• "We have real potential to win seats just about everywhere in Canada," said May in an exclusive interview with West Shore Voice News ahead of a town hall meeting co-hosted with Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke Green candidate David Merner on Friday evening, August 9, in Saanich.

"There is a lot of Green support in places where we didn't use to have it," May said, particularly noting Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

"Quebec is a wild card — it could go with a lot of Green seats, or none," said May. She sees Quebec "in a state of flux" and compares that that has now receded".

How many Green seats are the House of Commons that May Mas "Enough to be the balance of power, and absorbing climate refugees. wsv

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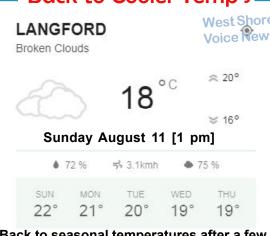


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# **Back to Cooler Temp's**



Back to seasonal temperatures after a few weeks of super-hot days & warm evenings.



to "before 2011 and the NDP wave and we don't know that number," she said with a bit of excited wonderment.

"Vancouver Island is obviously where we needed for that balance of power in think we can sweep the whole island," she said.

Addressing about 90 people, May and been talking about wanting to achieve Merner discussed the urgency to deal with cliin the October 21 election results? mate change including transition to green tech

Full article on May & Merner's town hall, with photos: https://westshorevoicenews.com/another-may-and-merner-combo-night-asgreen-campaign-rolls-forward/

**Brenda Parkinson** 

**Sooke Community** 

## **GATHERING TO REMEMBER**

News updates any time: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

# Tree-planting memorial in Sooke for

Continued from pg 1.../

Voice News

https://westshorevoicenews.com/two-oaks-planted-in-park-to-commemorate-former-councillor-brenda-parkinson/



Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca) addressed the gathering of folks at the treeplanting event, August 6.

West Shore

Voice News

[continued from page 1]... / considered an elegant choice. An oak tree was planted many years ago in memory of the first mayor of Sooke — Ed Macgregor — in Ed Macgregor Park named after him, in the 6700-block of West Coast Road just beyond the town core. This location of Parkinson's memorial tree in John Phillips Memorial Park at 2197 Otter Point Road is also outside the town core but immediately adjacent to Sooke municipal hall.

Perhaps one of the most unique moments of the event was the announcement by Fire Chief Kenn Mount that the fire department's Ladder Truck Number 1 had been given the name of 'Brenda', a decal for which is now on the truck, immediately to the right of the driver's door.

While Chief Mount has been in Sooke just three years, in that time he obviously came to know the intent and compassion of Councillor Parkinson. She would sometimes bring goodies for the firefighters on their training nights.

Mount said that Brenda's name is now up in the fire hall where it will be seen as first responders leave for their emergency calls. "She will have our backs," said



People signing the book of condolences in memory of Brenda Parkinson on August 6, 2019 in John Phillips Memorial Park.



Wendy Morton read a custom poem.

The oak trees were set into place



Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount alongside Ladder Truck #1 that now bears the name 'Brenda' with a small flower meshed into the script.

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# on September 28 West Shore Voice News

A by-election to fill the one vacant Councillor seat on District of Sooke Council is set for Saturday, September 28, 2019.

Nomination packages were available starting July 16.

The nomination period is August 13 to 23. Candidate names will be posted on the District of Sooke website: https://sooke.ca/city-hall/local-government/elections/

Advance voting will be available on Wednesday September 18 and Wednesday September 25. General Election Day is Saturday September 28. Declaration of official results will come Monday September 30. wsv



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Chief Mount, in one of the most touching remarks of the formal part of the event that lasted about 40 minutes - about 20 minutes for speeches and about 20 minutes for planting and honouring the trees. The ladder truck shows an extended arm, and is always out there during service to the community. "The ladder truck has the most flair and bling," said Mount, comparing that to Brenda's flamboyant style of attire.

Local poet Wendy Morton (a recipient of the Order of BC) read aloud a custom poem, the second about Brenda that she has composed in one month. "Let's make it beautiful, you said, and you did," was the first line of the poem.

Councillors attending from the District of Sooke were Jeff Bateman and Al Beddows.

Also attending were Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks, View Royal Mayor David Screech, Langford Councillor Lanny Seaton, and SD62 Vice-Chair Dianna Seaton. Former Sooke Mayor Janet Evans and former Sooke Mayor Wendal Milne were there, as were former Sooke counciliors Bev Berger and Rick Kasper.

Sooke Region Museum Director Lee Boyko attended, as did Steve Knoke and Liz Olsen from SEAPARC, Nicky Logins of the Sooke Family Resource Centre, Bev Lewis of the Sooke Family Resource Society Thrift Shop, Jacob Cramp of the Prestige Oceanfront Resort. Sinclair and Frederique Philip, Karen Stones, Pat Phillips, and many others wno knew Brenda well in the work of serving the community.

Attending from the Langford-Juan de Fuca Constituency Office were Maureen Mitchell-Starkey and Hans Frederiksen. wsv



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New Citizen Celebration. Sun Aug 11 at Bright Angel Park on Tigwell Rd in Duncan, 2 to 4 pm. All welcome. Hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford). 1-

Free Golf for Kids. Tues Aug 13 at DeMamiel Creek Golf Course in Sooke. Age 8 to 16 (free when accompanied by a paying adult). Limited supply of club rentals available. www.seaparc.ca

Westshore Chamber of Commerce mixer. Wed Aug 14. 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Fountain Tire, Langford Parkway.

District of Sooke 20th Anniversary celebration. Sat Aug 17. Includes Movie in the Park 8 pm. Avengers: Endgame. www.sooke.ca

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

City of Langford Council Meeting. Mon Aug 19. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

City of Colwood. Committee of the Whole. Mon Aug 19. 6 pm. www.colwood.ca

Grand Opening of Westhills Stadium and Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground. Family entertainment, facility tours. Sat Aug 24. 11 am to 2:30 pm (ceremony 1 pm). www.langford.ca

Pacific FC vs Valour FC. Sat Aug 24. Soccer game. Kickoff 3 pm. Pacific FC tickets: www.pacificfc.ca

https://westshorevoicenews.com/events/

## **Preparing Your Emergency Kit**

Stock your emergency kit with enough water for at least 7 days for every family member and your pets.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program www.prepareyourself.ca

City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Mon Aug 26. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca.

Rugby BC All-Stars game. Fri Aug 30. Westhills Stadium, 6:30 pm. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 youth - available on match day. Gates open 4:15 pm. Post-game BBQ (families welcome), 8 to 10 pm.

Labour Day Weekend. Sat Aug 31 to Mon Sept 2. Last days of summer 2019! Have a good one!

# West Shore Voice News

Friday August 9, 2019 ::: WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Back to School in SD62. Tues Sept 3. Check your school website for times. www.sd62.bc.ca City of Langford Council Meeting. Tues Sept 3.

5:30 pm. www.langford.ca Sooke Fall Fair. Sat & Sun Sept 7 & 8 Sooke Community Hall, Shields Rd. www.sookerailfair.ca

District of Sooke Council Meeting. Mon Sept 9. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

Dance Through the Decades with The Timebenders. Sat Sept 14. Sooke Community Hall. 9 pm to 1 am. Tube steak dinner. \$25 pp. Sooke Lions.

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Sept 24. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooks Local By-Election. Sat Sept 28. Nomination period: Aug 13 to 23. Advance voting: Sept 18 & 25. General voting: Sept 28. Declaration of official results: Sept 30. www.sooke.ca



### **Pacific FC at Westhills Stadium**

**Fall Season Home Games** 

- Sat Aug 24
  - Sat Sept 14
- Wed Sept 4 Wed Oct 2 Wed Sept 11 Sat Oct 19

# **Alpine Group sells part of its trucking** division to GFL Environmental

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

In its 35th year, Alpine Group has sold aspects of the massive disposal pickup trucking division of its multifaceted company to Toronto-based GFL Environmental Inc.

Alpine Group founder and co-owner Stew Young says it's a win-win for everyone. All employees were able to keep their jobs and retain seniority. Partners who wanted to retire are now able to do so. Young himself is about to turn 59-years-old, but is still raising a young family. He's eyeing 64 for retirement.

'The trucking has been merged, making for efficiencies in both of our companies," said Young about GFL. Young already knew the owner of GFL through the environmental management business, and they eventually struck a deal.



Stew Young says Alpine will continue supporting local charities and youth sports in the community.

Alpine customers around the west shore and Greater Victoria area will begin to see some migration of logos and colours on trucks in the fleet that travel around west shore and regional neighbourhoods. The current 100-truck fleet will expand, and the service footprint — which for Alpine on south Vancouver Island has been to Nanaimo - will extend now to Campbell River.



Alpine trucks are seen all around Greater Victoria (this photo, on Leigh Rd approaching Goldstream, May 2019).

"We merged certain parts of trucking where it made sense for efficiency. It's a very complicated process and takes lots of time to adjust all the parts," says Stew Young. "But now we can service the whole island."

On the mainland Alpine is not merging any service areas with GFL. The merger is only on Vancouver Island toward providing

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better service to customers. "No other areas of BC are part of the deal, they remain Alpine," said Young.

He explains that GFL offers environmental services that Alpine wasn't doing, and that "we can combine routes and now provide service to customers that we were not in certain areas but GFL was, and vice versa."

For Young it's an exciting expansion: "We can service our customers commercially or residentially anywhere on the isiand now for just about any environmental service. Our Alpine employees have up to 30 years experience on the island and do a great job. All employees are staylingwith Alpine/GFL, so it will be business as usual with no interruptions but with more services available to all our customers. A one-stop shop!"

The long-time disposal management entrepreneur speaks highly of his new business partnership. "GFL is a great Canadian success story itself and has been very professional dealing with Alpine and the transition — treating our employees great and supporting our valued customers. The only change people will notice is more services to choose from, all over Vancouver Island, but with the same great employees."

The Alpine Group logo name is well known as dark green and yellow on white (or dark green on deep yellow). The GFL theme colour is a solid bright neon green with black wording.

In the works for a while, the deal was officially transacted on August 1, 2019. Dollar amounts have not been disclosed.

The Alpine company name

City of Langford LANGFORD ON THE MOVE TRAFFIC INFO

Traffic advisories and scheduled roadworks: www.langford.ca



The Alpine logo makes its way into the Langford landscape (shown here on a roll off container in front of the Pacific FC training centre construction site, June 22).

is omnipresent in the Langford visual landscape. Their trucks and roll off containers are seen all around town.

The Alpine company iogo is widely seen in sports sponsorships and other activities in the community. And that won't change. Young says that the Alpine/GFL business strength will allow Alpine to "continue on with our company's many charity works and youth sports sponsorships that we have been promoting in our community for 35 years ... another good part of the merger!"

Stew Young has been the Mayor of the City of Langford for over 25 years. Under his Council's pro-development stance, the population of Langford has grown quickly — especially in recent years — to over 40,000 people, along with a robust business sector, strong commercial tax base, and expanding infrastructure for transportation and recreation. WSV



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