

West Shore Voice News

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Congratulations Westhills Stadium!

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Friday August 23, 2019 WEEKEND | News to August 26, 2019

Two-part celebration by the Langford community Saturday August 24

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground

GRAND OPENING

Westhills Stadium expansion



GRAND RE-OPENING

Article & photos pg 3 >>



Nearly 1,000 people attended the playground opening. Families streamed into the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground right after the gates opened.

The first visitors to the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground right after the gates opened around 1:40 pm on Saturday, August 24, 2019 were Brad Aschenbrenner (widower of Cst Sarah Beckett), his sons Lucas, 8 (brown top), and Emmitt, 5 (blue top), and lots of children fast behind. >>



More playground opening photos: pg 4 & 5 >>



Langford Mayor Stew Young emceed as Premier John Horgan and VIPs of the Canadian Premier League and Pacific FC cut the purple ribbon.



“As Mayor, I’m proud of the overwhelming support of our residents, Rotary club, businesses and first responders all over our region who have supported Brad and his family in honour of Sarah Beckett. This grand opening sends an important message to all first responders, that our community will always be supporting the RCMP officers in the difficult and dangerous job they do.”
~ Langford Mayor Stew Young

incredible support for the memory of Sarah Beckett. The City of Langford has been nothing short of incredible -- your support for RCMP, Sarah and her memory.”
Preston noted about Mayor Stew Young “whose passion of doing the right thing for the right reasons rings true” with this project. He commended City of Langford Parks & Recreation Manager Cory Manton for having “worked feverishly with his trades people” to complete the playground.
Langford Mayor Stew Young thanked everyone for showing up, calling it the best event in his 27 years as mayor. He thanked his Council for their support. And he was pleased that the playground shows support to the local RCMP officers “and first responders everywhere”.
“It was so important to make sure this day happened here for Sarah Beckett, the memorial and her family and every officer who protects you,” said Mayor Young. He thanked the RCMP for what they do “day in and day out” to keep the community safe.
Young thanked the Premier for supporting Langford in having a family community that is safe. “There’s nobody who fights for our community more than John does when we’re getting into the things we need out here.” Young noted in particular the province’s support for land purchases for schools in the last two years, as well as support for police and public safety.
Deputy Commissioner Strachan worked at the West Shore RCMP detachment 21 years ago. She remarked on how much and how well Langford has grown as a community. WSV



Publisher's Note: Elections, community

As we head into September, there's a double whammy on the election front for folks on this side of Vancouver Island. There's federal of course (set for October 21, 2019), for which *West Shore Voice News* will focus coverage on Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke (which includes Coowood, Metchosin, View Royal, and parts of Juan de Fuca) and Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. Tight local coverage of the by-election in the District of Sooke (to fill one vacant council seat - September 28, 2019) will also be presented over the next several weeks.

This weekend's edition gives extensive coverage to the events of one day in Langford: the grand opening of an expanded Westhills Stadium, and the grand opening of the new Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground. Winning four pages of coverage is a testament to the impact these shifts in Langford will have on the broader community on many levels. As well, our sense of reader interest for this event acknowledges the contributions and work by many layers of business and organizational leadership which made possible the August 24 grand feat. Events celebrated that day effectively flipped yet another switch in Langford which will boost economic channels and expand activities, by and through which the lifeblood of this town flows.

Next week we will still have room for any businesses and organizations whose ads including congratulations didn't make it into this weekend's keeper edition. ■

MUNICIPAL NEWS: SOOKE

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/category/news-by-region/sooke/>

WEST SHORE VOICE Sooke Municipal By-Election Watch 2019

EDITORIAL INSIGHTS

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Ten candidates vying for one Sooke council seat

The by-election race in the District of Sooke to fill the one vacant position of municipal Councillor is underway.

Finding their way to the top of the heap and into the political spotlight for this season from many directions — politics, business and community — are 10 candidates vying for the one (1) seat. Nominations closed on Friday August 23, 2019.

General voting day is September 28 (8 am to 8 pm at Edward Milne Community School), with advance voting available on two Wednesdays: September 18 and 25 (8 am to 8 pm in Sooke Council chambers).

Two of the 10 candidates have each already served for two terms as councillors on District of Sooke council: **Kevin Pearson** (who ran for Mayor in October 2018) and **Herb Haldane** (who ran for mayor in November 2014) — both of them against the current Mayor Maja Tait who won those two races.

Two other former candidates are **Mick Rhodes** (who ran against Tait and Pearson for mayor in October 2018) and **Jeff Stewart** (ran for Council October 2018).

The recently retired Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander **Jeff McArthur** has thrown his name into the ring.

Other candidates are **Dana Lajeunesse**, **Lorraine Pawlivsky-Love**, **Kenneth Robar** (said by Sooke RCMP to be missing since August 16), **Britt Santowski**, and **Christina Schlattner**.

Most if not all the candidates would have name recognition in their respective spheres. The ones who bridge sectors of voter interest are likely to tally the greater number of votes. It's still early, and there could be a dropping off of candidates for lack of funding or momentum, or who may throw their name behind another candidate.

Whoever wins on September 28 (results to be officially announced on September 30) will join the current council comprised of Mayor Maja Tait, and Councillors Jeff Bateman, Al Beddows, Ebony Logins, Megan McMath, and Tony St-Pierre.

The current 2018-2022 Sooke council is generally considered to be progressive on community and social causes, but is not generally seen as pro-development (although growth of the community and its population base are frequently spoken of as desirable, for the benefits of services and activities it is thought to attract).

Not running this time is long-time, multi-term former Councillor Rick Kasper, nor Doni Eve or Rick Armor — all of whom ran in the fall 2018 Sooke municipal race.

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West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

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Candidates likely to have the broadest base:



Kevin Pearson at a salmon protection event at Juan de Fuca fieldhouse this year. [January 2019]



Jeff McArthur served the last stint of his RCMP career with the Sooke detachment. [2014 file photo]

The presently vacant seat resulted on June 28, 2019 upon the passing of the late Councillor Brenda Parkinson. A memorial tree-planting ceremony was held for Parkinson on August 6 in John Phillips Memorial Park next door to Sooke municipal hall.

The District of Sooke is within Premier John Horgan's riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca.

Overall, Sooke is a highly politicized community. Few locals are without an opinion or position of sway on one or more sectors.

Big blocks of votes could be seen to come from voters focused on any or all of 'transition', building and development, fishing and on-water recreation, community volunteering, community protection, the arts, education, sustainability and food growing, small business, seniors, and health care. Hence, at least one reason for the large number of candidates.

And there is still to some extent the pulse of 'old-Sooke/new-Sooke', i.e. people who've been in the community for decades themselves

or with long family lineage as distinct from new arrivals.

The Sooke region population began to grow in 2007 upon the first wave of people seeking more affordable housing outside the core Victoria areas; a second distinct wave rose starting around 2017 after the worst of the Great Recession had subsided and developers were building again. The last official census numbers (from 2016) showed a population of 13,001 which has clearly been surpassed by now in 2019. **WSV**

Favourite art pieces chosen by the public at Sooke Fine Arts Show

West Shore Voice News

Award winners as chosen by visitors to the 2019 Sooke Fine Arts Show (July 26 to Aug 5) have been announced by the Sooke Fine Arts Society (SFAS):

- People's Choice:** "Bad Hair Day #3" by Jeannette Sirois
- Children's Choice:** "What's for Dinner?" by Kaidyn Robertson
- Youth Art Choice:** "Where's My Freedom?" by Gesa Stawinski

The arts



People's Choice: "Bad Hair Day #3" by Jeannette Sirois

Youth Art Choice: "Where's My Freedom?" by Gesa Stawinski >>



Children's Choice: "What's for Dinner?" ~ by Kaidyn Robertson
Polymer clay, wood, pastel, acrylic paint

Sooke Fine Arts Society

"Attendance was up over last year and sales were on par," says SFAS Executive Director Terrie Moore. "We have had feedback from our guests that they thoroughly enjoyed the colour and vivacity of the artworks this year."

Moore said the artist talks and demos were well attended and that the m-ARTket Night event drew even more locals in this its second year.

Juror's Choices: "Where's the Toast?" by Diana Grenhow; "Unmask" by Nicole Sietn; "Grace" by Lisa Hebden. All Awards of Excellence & People's Choice images online: <http://sookefinearts.com/2019-award-winners/> **WSV**

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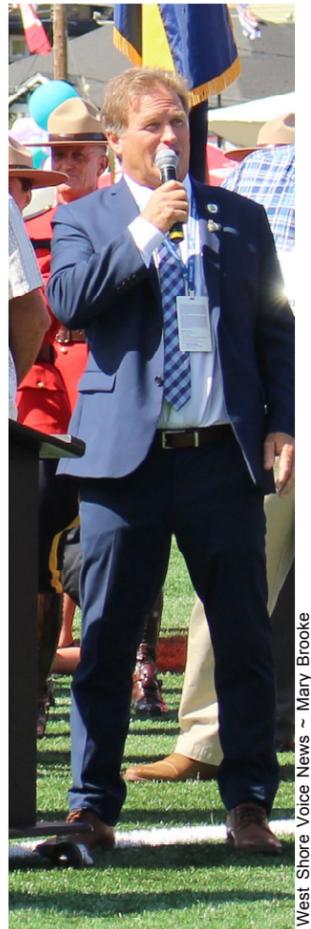
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WEST SHORE VOICE Federal Election Watch 2019
West Shore Voice News

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Regular updates start next week. Also check out www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Westhills Stadium expansion celebrated with grand re-opening on Saturday August 24, 2019



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Langford Mayor Stew Young emceed as Premier John Horgan and VIPs of the Canadian Premier League and Pacific FC cut the official-opening purple ribbon. The stadium will be used by Pacific FC, Rugby Canada, the Westshore Rebels and other sports teams.



The first Pacific FC home game in the expanded stadium was played vs Valour FC at 3pm on August 24. A winning game, 2-1 for PFC.



Canadian Premier League Commissioner David Clanachan



Pacific FC President Josh Simpson on stadium grand re-opening day.

Langford Mayor Stew Young now has the stadium he's always dreamed of as part of building his growing city into a national sports capital. Seating capacity is now 6,000 plus more locker rooms, wash-rooms, food concessions and outdoor entertainment spaces. *WSV*



Premier John Horgan on-field at the grand re-opening of Westhills Stadium, expanded now to 6,000 seats.

Langford: a regional center for sport

In a brief ceremony on the artificial turf at Westhills Stadium, Langford Mayor Stew Young thanked city staff and contractors for pulling together the expansion to 6,000 seats and stadium infrastructure. "This is a great day for us. We've been working on this for years," said Young at the microphone to an audience of over 4,300 people in the stands.

"We have a great team with Pacific FC here," said Young, also commending PFC President Josh Simpson on the team's indoor soccer stadium 'just up the road' in the Westhills area.

Simpson thanked Mayor Young and Premier John Horgan for building the expanded stadium. "Now we just need the power pole to go down so we can build the rest of it," said Simpson to a round of chuckles and applause. "This is a fantastic day for football in Canada and for us here on the island."

Mayor Young called the expanded Westhills Stadium "a centerpiece for recreation", saying "it all started with Rugby Canada" and thanked them for their support for building the facility which now bears large purple-and-white PFC initials in the stands.

Premier Horgan said people around the capital region now go to Langford for state of the art sport. "You name it, it happens in the west shore," said John Horgan, himself a sports enthusiast.

"Sport builds character, character builds community," said Horgan loud to the crowd. "Thank you, Langford, for the work you're doing to make this community the center for sport on lower Vancouver Island."

And then it was right into a Pacific FC soccer game vs Winnipeg's Valour FC. Game on! *WSV*

On field to sing O Canada was PFC President Josh Simpson's young daughter Adriana, her voice as clear as bell. The audience was hugely impressed. >> *WSV*



WSV/MPB

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LANGFORD SPECIAL EVENT

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.../ Continued from pg 1

Langford Protective Services Committee Chair Lillian Szpak (left) with fellow Langford Councillors Denise Blackwell (front) and Norma Stewart. >>



Playground fundraising coordinator Dianna Seaton and Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey at the official opening, August 24. >>



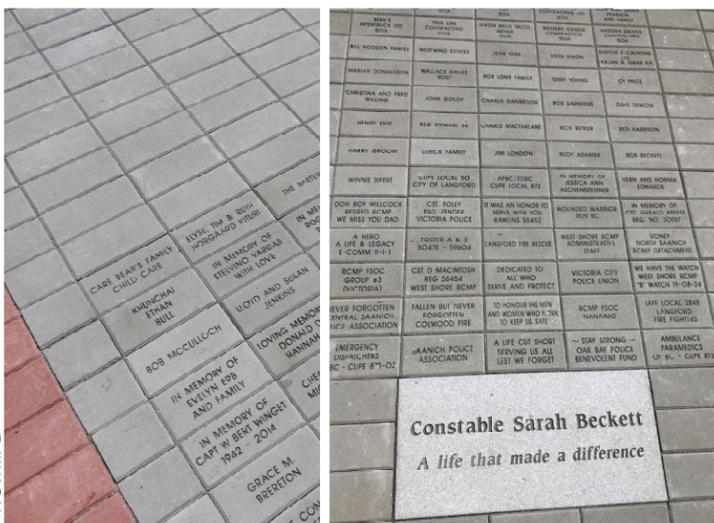
Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground



Ribbon cutting at the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground by Brad Aschenbrenner and his sons Lucas, 8, (left) and Emmitt, 5, cheered on by the crowd.



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^^ So far, 250 inscribed bricks have been inlaid in the entrance walkway of the playground. Another 100 have been sold, and there's room for more. The donation for each brick is \$200, with funds to Rotary of the West Shore. Next round will be installed soon.

Colwood Mayor Rob Martin still >> sporting a recovering injured ankle, chatting with Langford Mayor Stew Young, at the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground opening.

Connecting at the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground event (from left): Colwood Councillor Dean Jantzen, Dianna Seaton (for Rotary of the West Shore), and Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean. >>



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising tally was announced as \$175,000 in days leading up to the playground opening. In the last few days ahead of the event, that was topped up to the desired \$250,000 goal with a donation by Jim Hartshorne of Keycorp and Seacliff Properties-- as announced by Mayor Stew Young during the August 24, 2019 official opening. WSV

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Congratulations to the west shore community on the opening of the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground!

Community News

LANGFORD SPECIAL EVENT

News updates any time: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com



Enjoying the new playground after the gates were officially open.



WSV/MPB

WSV/MPB

Ribbon cutting at the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground by Brad Aschenbrenner and his sons Lucas, 8, (left) and Emmitt, 5, with some very proud RCMP onlookers:



After presentations by RCMP, Premier and Mayor, kids swarmed onto the playground equipment as soon as the gates opened at the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground.

About the Playground

● The Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground is located behind Westhills Stadium with access from Glen Lake Road. The land purchased for that required demolition of an old house, removal of tall stands of old growth trees, some excavation, and ultimately installation of playground equipment, a rubberized surface, brick walkway installation, and landscaping. The playground's colour theme is primarily red and blue, being thematic of the RCMP colours in memory of the fallen officer. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News ~Chelsea Kirkpatrick

West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke



Ribbon cutting





Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground



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City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Mon Aug 26. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca
View Royal Garden Club General Meeting. Wed Aug 28. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Wheelley Hall, 500 Admirals Rd, Tx \$10 at GardenWorks.
Sooke Night Market. Thurs Aug 29. Sooke Region Museum, 5 to 8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca
Rugby BC All-Stars game. Fri Aug 30. Westhills Stadium, 6:30 pm. \$10 adults, \$5 youth on match day. Gates 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!
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
View Royal Council Meeting. Tues Sept 3. 7 pm. www.viewroyal.ca
Pacific FC Home Game. Wed Sept 4. Westhills Stadium. 7 pm. www.pacificfc.ca
Sooke Fall Fair. Sat & Sun Sept 7 & 8. Sooke Community Hall, Shields Rd. www.sookefallfair.ca
Victoria Shamrocks Lacrosse. Mann Cup Finals. Fri Sept 6 through Wed Sept 11, & Fri/Sat Sept 13 & 14. 7 pm. The Q Centre, Colwood. www.victoriashamrocks.com

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District of Sooke Council Meeting. Mon Sept 9. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
District of Sooke ADVANCE VOTING. Wed Sept 18. Municipal by-election. 8 am to 8 pm. Sooke Council Chambers, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca
SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Sept 24. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca
District of Sooke ADVANCE VOTING. Wed Sept 25. Municipal by-election. 8 am to 8 pm. Sooke Council Chambers, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca

District of Sooke Local By-Election. Sat Sept 28. 8 am to 8 pm. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.sooke.ca
Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society AGM. Sun Sept 29. 2 to 4 pm. Location tba. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org



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First Pacific FC home game at the expanded Westhills Stadium

by Mary P Brooke
 West Shore Voice News

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First-time usage of the newly-constructed 'Stand C' (1,000 seats) at Westhills Stadium for the Pacific FC home game vs Valour FC on Saturday August 24.

Pacific FC enjoyed a 2-1 win over Valour FC at their Saturday August 24 match at Westhills Stadium. Bringing Marcus Haber (#9) back onto the field in the second half (after months away following a knee injury June 20) brought instant energy and two goals. Brought onto the field at 60 minutes, one minute later Haber (assisted by Victor Blasco) restored the home crowd's enthusiasm with the first Pacific FC goal of the game. The goal for Winnipeg's Valour FC was scored by their midfielder Michael Petraso (#9).

There was some tough energy between the two teams. After the game Valour FC head coach Rob Gale questioned one of the penalties. "I thought we were the better team today. We really controlled the tempo of the game and the possession. (Pacific FC) went a bit negative and tried to break up play in persistent fouling. Then the big name comes on... we didn't defend that. I feel like we had it taken away from us today. We controlled the game from start to finish, other than the first 10 minutes," said Gale in a media scrum.

Pacific FC Coach Michael Silberbauer said: "We do what we can do to win games". The coach had "so many options on the bench" -- lots of ready players to draw upon depending on what happens. "Everybody has to be the best they can be. It's crucial for us to have the number of players." The coach said that Haber has put an enormous amount of energy in during training. "I knew he was ready. When I needed him he stood up and was ready. Well done!" said Silberbauer about Haber. As for getting through the rest of the Fall season: "We take it game for game and put in a performance we can count on." And his thoughts on the new stadium: "Isn't it beautiful! That back stand there is amazing. I'm so happy to see so many people out here," the coach said.

Marcus Haber told media after the game: "I've got my fitness going, I felt sharp. As a team we defended really well." Coming from months off with an injury, he says he's staying mentally strong -- taking it one day at a time and staying focussed. He called the stadium grand re-opening a special day for everyone. "A lot of the boys had family here today in the new stands. We could feel the mood change."

Remarking on game strategy, Haber said: "We tried to slow things down and make it difficult for them, and I think we did a good job. It was a tight game, there weren't that many chances in the first half. It was a tough hot day. As one of the top players on the team, he hoped to "come on and give a little and work hard in a few areas, so the game would be more open, and it was".

Haber said he hasn't played 90 minutes in a while, and says the coaches are monitoring so he can contribute as he is able. Haber, 30, is among the older experienced players on the team. Marcel de Jong (also injured earlier this year) is 32, and Issey Nakajima-Farran is 35.

Official stadium attendance at the August 24 game was 4,381. More concessions and new permanent washrooms are part of the expanded facility. WSV



Marcus Haber scored both Pacific FC goals in Saturday's game at Westhills Stadium.

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Lookout Brook Dam: Colwood applying for \$750K grant, doing more design prep

current to Aug 26

by Mary Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Colwood Council at their August 19 Committee of the Whole (CoW) discussed the need to deal with remediation of the Lookout Brook Dam, and at Council Monday August 26 approved the motion.

Colwood Mayor Rob Martin was keen for council approval to proceed with applying for a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Structural Mitigation grant for \$750,000, with an application deadline looming. Project cost: \$1.3million.

The option of removing the dam was considered unacceptable to most of the councillors around the table at CoW.

As one resident said during public input that Lookout Lake Park up on Triangle Mountain (made possible by the dam) is "a jewel for us, don't destroy it".

Remediation and seismic upgrading of the existing dam is considered necessary (and required by provincial legislation) largely because of damage that a water eruption would cause for homeowners downstream (who happen to live within the municipality of Langford). "Langford is aware of the dam and possible consequences if it failed," said staff on August 19. Mayor Martin is unsure if the City of Langford has budgeted for participation in the necessary work.

Part of August 26 approved motion is for Colwood to seek clarification on a recent geotechnical engineering report. Moving ahead will include preparation of a preliminary design for a rockfill buttress to upgrade the dam, with staff given a benchmark of achieving a Class B (closer to actual) cost estimate for all required works.

The dam was built in 1958 and inherited from the province when Colwood incorporated in 1985.

The lake has been regularly stocked with rainbow trout and smallmouth bass (part of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC's Fishing in the City program). WSV

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TRAFFIC INFO

Traffic advisories | Scheduled roadworks:
www.langford.ca