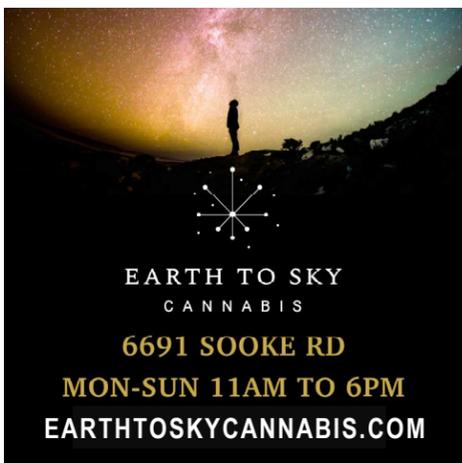


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Friday September 13, 2019 WEEKEND | News to Sept 17, 2019

Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke is 'ground zero': eyed by Liberals, Conservatives and Greens

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● If such a thing can be said supportively, long-time former BC MLA Maurine Karagianis can do it: "They're coming for Randall," she told a large crowd of NDP campaign organizers who gathered for Randall Garrison's official campaign office opening on Saturday September 14. As the steadfast and accomplished two-term Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke (ESS), Garrison took it in stride. But he knows he has a fight on his hands to win the riding for a third term.



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke NDP incumbent Randall Garrison at his office opening with long-time NDP organizer Maurine Karagianis.



Green candidate David Merner

Working the ESS riding since before 2019 is Green Party candidate David Merner (who as a Liberal candidate came a close second to Garrison in 2015); National Green campaign money is being poured into ESS where Green Party Elizabeth May has already done a few joint events with Merner.

Running as the Liberal candidate in ESS is Jamie Hammond. With a stellar background of high-level military service (including Afghanistan command and Special Ops) and working for two BC Lieutenant Governors, Hammond is retired and available for full-on commitment in Ottawa. He grew up in Greater Victoria and after his military career and teaching political science at Carleton in Ottawa, has returned here with his wife where he is keen to engage with community where he recognizes the many leaders and organizations working hard in this region. His connections in the structural levels of government are broad and deep. He has the backing of former Liberal environment minister David Anderson who represented Victoria in Ottawa years ago.



Liberal candidate Jamie Hammond

The Conservatives have brought forward a long-time dentist as their ESS candidate, for whom politics is new. Dr Randall Pewarchuk lives in Metchosin. He is well versed in the taxation changes that the Trudeau government brought in with a majority government since 2015, which he says have targeted and damaged professionals and people who own their own businesses. He's fired up about fiscal responsibility and has a well-connected campaign team with deep business roots in the west shore and Sooke. At this point, he says if he wins he would need to bring on an associate to help him run his dental practice that is based in Langford.



Conservative candidate Dr Randall Pewarchuk

In the world of politics it could be taken as a compliment that the "big guns" are being brought into the ESS riding which embodies a wide range of socioeconomic, business and environmental needs and interests. The resident core base of the anti-tanker movement is in ESS, which has thwarted the Liberals (and the Conservatives before that) who have sought to get the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion done as a means for more oil sands products to reach tidewater and be shipped to markets other than the US (which is presently the sole customer base for Alberta oil).

In that sense, Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke is in many respects 'ground zero', where the Liberals would hope to break the NDP stranglehold on Vancouver Island (it also happens to include a big part of Premier John Horgan's home base as the MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca). Trudeau told media at an event in Saanich last week that profits resulting from the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion would help fuel the economic transition to green technology. He reiterated that caring for the environment and building the economy go hand in hand. **WSV**

Trudeau on why Vancouver Islanders should vote Liberal

● There are seven federal ridings on Vancouver Island, five of which were held by NDP candidates at dissolution, and two by the Greens. Asked by West Shore Voice News (September 12 at his media event in Saanich) as to where he sees room for the Liberal vote amidst the NDP/Green strength on the island, Trudeau responded: "We continue to put forward a strong plan to move forward on housing affordability, on growing the economy in a way that both creates jobs (as we have seen Canadians create a million jobs across the country over the past four years) at the same time as we've lifted 300,000 kids out of poverty, 900,000 Canadians total. We know that to move forward in both protecting the environment and growing the economy goes together. We've been a government that has done more for protecting the environment (which is something that matters deeply to Vancouver Islanders as well as people right across the country) than any other government. I'm very pleased to put forward an incredibly strong team -- seven great candidates on Vancouver Island to give people an opportunity and choice to be part of a government that's going to continue to move forward for all Canadians." **WSV**

Trudeau announces higher housing price threshold for First Time Homebuyer Incentive

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

FEDERAL ELECTION

● On Day 2 of the 40-day federal election campaign, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau held an early morning media event at a construction site in the Royal Oak area of Saanich, to announce an increase in the house price qualification threshold for participants in the First Time Homebuyer Incentive program.

The higher priced markets of Greater Victoria, Greater Vancouver (Lower Mainland) and the Greater Toronto Area will see the increase go into effect if the Liberals are returned to government after the October 21 election.

For this Greater Victoria area, the property price limit for the program will be \$789,000 (up from \$505,000); the mortgage applicant(s) can apply for a 10% downpayment contribution, if the family income is \$120,000 or less.

The media event saw about 200 people on hand, seven of which were the Liberal candidates from all around Vancouver Island (from left in photo): >>

Jamie Hammond (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke), Blair Herbert (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford), Michelle Corfield (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), Nikki Macdonald (Victoria), Jonah Gowans (Courtenay-Alberni), Ryan Windsor (Saanich-Gulf Islands), and Peter Schwarzhiff (North Island-Powell River).

Trudeau also announced a foreign speculation and vacancy tax of 1% on homes that are owned by non-resident, non-Canadians, as a way to help slow down the speculative impact on housing costs drives up housing costs. Permanent residents, and Canadians living abroad would not be affected by that tax, it was emphasized.

"Canada is not a place for those who wish to speculate in the housing market," he said, and described the proposed 1% annual tax on residential properties of owners who are not Canadian and who do not live in Canada as "modest". That



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau making a homebuyers affordability announcement in Saanich on Thursday morning, September 12.



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

Liberal candidates running in the seven Vancouver Island ridings stood behind Trudeau at the September 12 event.

1% would be levied on top of local taxes already in place to help markets to "stay stable and affordable." **WSV**

- MORE**
- **TRUDEAU MEDIA EVENT** (Sept 12): <https://westshorevoicenews.com/trudeau-announces-expansion-of-first-time-homebuyers-support/>
 - **RANDALL GARRISON (NDP) CAMPAIGN OFFICE OPENING** (Sept 14): <https://westshorevoicenews.com/esquimalt-saanich-sooke-is-a-targeted-riding-says-garrison-team/>
 - **DR RANDALL PEWARCHUK (Conservative) CAMPAIGN OFFICE OPENING** (Sept 15): <https://westshorevoicenews.com/conservative-candidate-says-more-federal-fiscal-responsibility-needed/>

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WEST SHORE VOICE

News of the region

EDITORIAL



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

Sorting out the decision of your federal vote in 2019

by Mary P Brooke, Editor, West Shore Voice News

● If you're someone who votes the same way always and forever no matter what, then possibly there's no point in you reading any further. However, if you belong to that amorphous set of adult citizens who collectively comprise the 'independent' or 'undecided' voter base, perhaps there are some things here that will twig the sidelines of your decision-making process. After all, you are among those at whom all this expensive, complex and cliff-hanging campaigning is directed.

This is not to suggest anyone should abandon their values that define their vision of a desirable society. It means looking at the situation on the ground as we have it today, and finding where those values have the best chance of producing the desired result in the medium to longer term. That's presuming, of course, that to you politics is a process of purposeful change for all (including economic stability, socio-economic balance, a cared-for planet and a chance for all persons to embrace good health), not just a pension-producing career choice or the access to boardrooms.

Yes, the various party campaigns provide reassurance to the devoted and committed party faithful that they are on the right track. But the swing vote that independent thinkers represent and exercise is often a game changer (points scored for public education), especially in what is now appearing to be a tight close race for achieving a majority or robust minority by the Liberals or possibly the Conservatives. And right behind that, the now tightening race between the federal NDP and Greens for that coveted kingmaker slot -- the party with the third-highest number of seats (or popular vote, or the party that achieves the lead of social conscience, or quite simply lines up better with the winner of the October 21, 2019 election night results) that a minority government leader would turn to in the hopes of forming a relatively stable governance going forward for a few years or a full term. The scuttlebutt is that the Liberals would turn to the NDP if they need to prop up a minority scenario (for relative similarities in their 'for the people' socioeconomic discourse), and that the Conservatives would turn to the Greens (for their shared sense of practicality and fiscal prudence). All of that is still speculation and will depend on many factors.

What seems clear though, is that the Trudeau majority government of 2015-2018 will in the history books stand alone at the pinnacle of sweeping power in this decade; Justin Trudeau for sure had the winds of change at his back in 2015 and with that he set new directions in motion amidst the complexities of what variant strata of society believe to be 'the Canadian way' (i.e. we're not all in the same boat to prosperity, folks). The Camelot of Trudeau's 2015-2018 government will be just that for now -- a moment to marvel at for its political mastery and also its confidence to tackle some notable feats such as legalizing cannabis and medically assisted dying, and spreading moderate financial support in new ways to boost middle class economic well-being for families and children. The short-lived nature of Trudeau's starlight moment is not necessarily because the Liberal governance did some things wrong, but

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that it did a lot of things right -- it both placated and flustered the status quo while producing a glimmer of light upon the pathway for progressives that they might feel they've now got room to tweak and improve upon what was left of the Canadian spirit after the Harper years.

Things that are unique and vibrant don't always last quite as long as do the ordinary and mundane. The peaks and sparkles of life are intended to inspire all the rest that comes.

So that's the barefaced mechanics of political workings. And then there is the true life force of any election: the energy, ideas, momentum and unpredictable happenstance that occurs during the realtime, seeing-the-whites-of-the-candidates-eyes, post-writ-drop campaign whirlwind that is the road only once-travelled. Like a game of Snakes and Ladders, some candidates and some moments will produce great momentum while sometimes the simplest things produce a fast slide to the bottom.

Voters have an opportunity in this federal election cycle (more than in many of the recent past) to sort the pathways of their values through the campaign promises of four strong headwinds: Liberal, Conservative, NDP, Green. One tidbit of a tax credit or an enhanced program might entice you now, but should also serve to make an attentive voter also think beyond today. ■

More at: www.westshorevoicenews.com

West Shore Voice News The Sooke Voice News

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FEDERAL ELECTION INSIGHTS on the WEST SHORE

Structured debate format at Brentwood College: fair playing field for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford candidates

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

FEDERAL ELECTION



Candidates of the four major parties who are running in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford addressed a full house at the Brentwood College theatre on Saturday September 14 (from left): Alana DeLong (Conservative); Lydia Hwitsum (Green); Alistair MacGregor (NDP), incumbent; and Blair Herbert (Liberal).

● For all the innovation in how candidates and political parties interact with their targeted voters, there is nothing quite like the equal-opportunity format of a structured All Candidates Debate to bring out the strengths and contrasts of candidates.

Much of the success of this format depends on the skill of the moderator to choose a format and stick to it, but also adapt it as required in the moment. Knowing one's audience is also part of the knack to succeeding with this format.

Each candidate had a chance to introduce themselves and their platform, with the incumbent Alistair MacGregor going last of the four which allowed for a lingering impression before eight pre-set questions were delivered by students and moderator. Questions were directed at specific candidates/parties depending on topic, but based on candidate response and determining whether the question was fully answered, sometimes another candidate would be invited to speak. With the floor then open to student questions, ultimately through the full event (which ran almost 90 minutes), most issues were fleshed out enough for the audience to know the candidates and their parties better, in a relatively balanced and equal fashion.

The audience of a few hundred people was almost entirely the student body of Brentwood College (a private school for Grades 8 to 12) in Mill Bay -- most of whom are still not old enough to vote, plus a few others from the community and candidate support teams. Student interest was keen, with some of their questions digging deep or going wide, whether on social or economic issues.

The issue of concern for the environment seemed genuinely deep in the young audience. Each of the party platforms (NDP, Green, Liberal and Conservative) have a different approach to addressing the concerns about climate change, no news there. There was some relatively direct back-and-forth between the Liberal and Conservative candidates on economic issues.

During the debate, these major points came through:

NDP incumbent Alistair MacGregor stood on his record of bringing south Vancouver Island issues to Ottawa including addressing the needs of low-income sectors of the population as well as environment (calling climate change "the issue of the 21st-century") and local agriculture, plus understanding the intergenerational trauma of the indigenous community. He said there is a "zero business case" for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and looks for a shift away from fossil fuels. He says that skills of the fossil fuel industry are transferrable to delivering new green tech.

Liberal candidate Blair Herbert was fully aware of the range of socioeconomic and environmental issues of the large south island riding in which he operates a farm and works as a realtor. He gave good defence on Liberal policy on broader issues including TransMountain Pipeline expansion to which he said it should proceed "without undue political decisions overriding reasonable decisions" and that ownership and operations will ultimately return to the private sector.

Conservative candidate

Alana DeLong (a four-time Alberta MLA now living in BC) is pro-pipeline. Her responses to most questions focussed on lowering taxes and prudent spending by government. She was asked about political impact for the Conservatives with former leadership contender Maxime Bernier having started the People's Party of Canada (PPC) and whether that now siphons votes from the Conservatives. DeLong said it was ultimately positive for her party, because the PPC has shunted off those on the most extreme right.

Green Party candidate Lydia

Hwitsum called the climate change issue an emergency. She said that looking to the science of climate change and setting standards and targets as a way to incentivize industry is necessary in conjunction with "buy-in from civil society". On the matter of housing she says the Greens are calling for a variety of solutions including co-op housing, and revisiting Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's role to address more than market lending. WSV

Candidates: Cowichan-Malahat-Langford



NDP Incumbent Alistair MacGregor



Liberal Candidate Blair Herbert



Green Candidate Lydia Hwitsum



Conservative Candidate Alana DeLong

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Low turnout to meet Sooke by-election candidates

Sooke Municipal By-Election Watch 2019

Mary P Brooke

SOOKE MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

One table for each candidate provided a drop-by-and-chat station for interested local residents, held at Sooke Community Hall on the afternoon of Sunday September 15. Organized by Transition Sooke. >>



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

Regional perspectives
West Shore Voice News



Candidate Kevin Pearson discussed the District of Sooke Official Community Plan (OCP) and local development issues. >>



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Candidate Lorraine Pawlivsky-Love discussed her campaign platform that includes working together for the arts, culture and education. >>



WSV/MPB

Candidate Mick Rhodes discussed his campaign platform about managing the pace of growth. >>



WSV/MPB

● A meet-and-greet for Sooke council by-election candidates on Sunday September 15 saw a low turnout of mostly already-engaged political enthusiasts.

The format involved no formal announcements and did not provide any interaction between candidates. The only comparison of candidates' positions on any range of issues depended upon the diligence of potential voters to visit each candidate at their separate tables and ask the right/same questions.

For this important filling of one seat on a council that is unquestionably in a key part of the west shore region where housing growth is increasing but the business and industry footprint still struggles, it appears there will be no debate opportunity for voters to compare their options. By default, this leans the process to drawing out mostly the pre-informed or purposefully inclined voters.

Candidates attending on Sunday were Dana Lajeunesse, Lorraine Pawlivsky-Love, Kevin Pearson, Mick Rhodes, Britt Santowski, Christina Schlattner, and Jeff Stewart. Most candidates were heard responding to issues about town growth, housing affordability, the Official Community Plan (last updated in 2010), taxation levels (including the need for a stronger commercial tax base), fishing in the region (recreation and conservation), transportation, and the overall reality of being a bedroom community to the robust commercial areas of Langford and Victoria/Saanich core.

The ballots for the September 28 by-election with voting at Edward Milne Community School (also advance voting at Sooke municipal hall September 18 and 25) are already printed with 10 names, even though two candidates have dropped out of the race (Jeff McArthur and Ken Robar).

Whoever wins the empty seat on Sooke Council will join Mayor Maja Tait (who is slated to become president of the Union of BC Municipalities next week), Jeff Bateman, Al Beddows, Ebony Logins, Megan McMath, and Tony St-Pierre. Sooke is within the provincial riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca where the MLA is Premier John Horgan. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/low-turnout-for-sooke-by-election-meet-and-greet/>

SOOKE BY-ELECTION

Advance Voting: Wed Sept 18 & 25 [Sooke Council Chambers, 8 am to 8 pm]
By-Election General Voting: Sat Sept 28 [EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd, 8 am to 8 pm]

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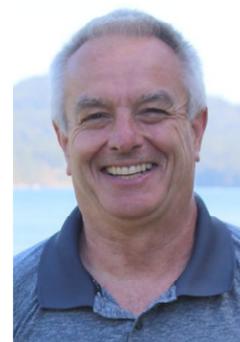
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Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce presented urban regional view to federal candidates

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

FEDERAL ELECTION



Four speakers addressed candidates and the public on September 11 at the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce All Candidates Listening Session (from left): Paul Nursey, CEO, Destination Greater Victoria; Catherine Holt, CEO, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce; Jeff Bray, CEO, Downtown Victoria Business Association; and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps.

It was a listening session intended to inform candidates of business and municipal leadership perspectives in the Greater Victoria area, but federal candidates also got to say their piece for two minutes each. The evening event by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce (GVCC) on September 11 turned out to be also the first day of the official campaign period.

Four speakers addressed about 200 people at the Victoria Conference Centre on six key topics: Labour Shortage, Improved Transportation, Available and Affordable Child Care, Affordable Housing, Climate Change Solutions, and Reconciliation.

All the presentations were succinct and compelling. Combining aspects of labour shortage, immigration and work force development, Greater Destination Victoria CEO Paul Nursey talked about the ability of the region to attract and retain "high quality employees", and how there are "opportunities to do better". GVCC CEO Catherine Holt on transportation said there is regional alignment among employers as to what is needed. "The most livable cities have figured out transportation," said Holt, saying this region needs "big changes in how we move people and goods ... changes that can allow businesses to succeed". Holt also ably addressed "available and affordable" child care as an economic issue; employees who have suitable child care support are better for business. She said the federal government should be contributing as much as BC does toward child care, including good pay levels for child care workers. Affordable housing was addressed by



Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke Green Party Candidate David Merner's campaign information table was one of several candidate pop-ups.

Downtown Victoria Business Association CEO Jeff Bray who said that many social challenges are effectively addressed when people have adequate housing, and that national leadership in partnership with local governments and non-profits (as the BC government is doing) is required for housing supply, including investment in co-ops.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps addressed climate change "as one of the biggest challenges of our time". She says cities need more power and authenticity within the federal model including "clear predictable funding tied to clear outcomes". She called for an integrated multi-level government approach to government action. Gas Tax Funding to municipalities (which was doubled by the federal government last year) allows for sustainability

projects like new bike lanes. She suggested that the federal government require cities to have climate action plans, so that municipalities can detail how local governments will meet national climate goals. She suggested the federal government give loans to business owners and homeowners for energy-efficient retrofits (cities can only give loans to non-profits).

Helps also addressed the issue of reconciliation. "Nation to nation relationships are very important to us," she said; there are nine indigenous nations in the Greater Victoria area. She acknowledged that a commitment to reconciliation has been made at all levels of government, but now "ways of thinking and ways of doing" need to change. "Find out how indigenous nations want to work in this country" and consider local impacts of actions taken, she said, giving bylaw and governance changes as examples. Her summary of recommendations: allocate funding to affordable housing on indigenous lands; allow greater economic autonomy for indigenous nations; and provide indigenous rights training and history to federal civil servants.

Major party candidates who spoke at the podium were: Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke: Randall Garrison, incumbent (NDP); David Merner (Green) | Victoria: Laurel Collins (NDP); Nikki Macdonald (Liberal); Racelle Kooy (Green) | Cowichan-Malahat-Langford: Hydia Hwitsum (Green) | Saanich-Gulf Islands: Sabina Singh (NDP). *WSV*

Planet Cannabis gets TUP for 2317 Millstream Rd

Langford Council at their September 16 meeting approved a Temporary Use Permit [TUP 19-0004] Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee recommendation for Planet Cannabis (1188770 BC Ltd) to operate at 2317 Millstream Road.

The store would be purpose-built at the east end of the Liquor Planet outlet already located at 2317 Millstream Road, which happens to be adjacent to an existing brew pub.

A positive municipal recommendation was required by the province as part of the licensing process being done under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) of BC.

The zoning of that location is Neighbourhood Mixed Use (C6A) and is designated as Neighbourhood Center within the Mixed Used Employment Centre with the City of Langford's Official Community Plan.

The applicant submitted their proposal in response to the city's RFP last year (applications were due June 1, 2018). Planet Cannabis is located the required distance from the nearest other cannabis retail store (at 693 Hoffman), nearby school (Millstream Elementary), and a nearby day care (on Bellamy Road).

A 3-year term of use would begin upon date of occupancy. *WSV*

City of Langford approves naming of Victor Chen Memorial Park

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Joyce Chen (center) with her family, and (from left) City of Langford Director of Engineering Michelle Mahovich, and Councillors Lillian Szpak, Roger Wade, Denise Blackwell, Lanny Seaton, Matt Sahlstrom, and Norma Stewart.

Members of Langford Council and staff with Joyce Chen (widow of Victor Chen) and family on Monday September 16 at Langford Council, to celebrate the upcoming construction and official naming of the Victor Chen Memorial Park on Reunion Avenue within the Belmont Market development. Before his sudden passing in August 2017, Victor Chen was the city's manager of engineering construction. He played a significant role in Langford's infrastructure development -- including the broad scope of manifesting the West Shore Parkway and Bear Mountain Parkway that have connected east and west in the growing municipality. The naming request had been submitted by Kevin Pritchard, Director of Development, Western Canada, Crombie REIT (which owns Belmont Market), who anticipates construction of the plaza area to start immediately, with a formal dedication upon satisfactory completion in late October or early November. *WSV*

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Craft cannabis cultivators can flourish within larger facility



News of the region

Article by Lana Tong for West Shore Voice News | Photos on site by Chelsea Kirkpatrick for West Shore Voice News

● For several reasons, BC's craft cultivators have been slow to flower in the legal cannabis market

Introduced as a means for experienced small-scale cannabis cultivators to enter the legal fold, Canada's micro-cultivation program has been largely ineffective since nationwide legalization in October last year.

Since its inception late in 2018, only one producer has successfully navigated Health Canada's rigorous application process and received their micro-cultivation license -- this despite Health Canada having received more than 120 completed documents.

A number of factors have contributed to this licensing mire. Most municipalities refuse to zone land for the purpose of cannabis cultivation, and banks are reticent to accept micro-growers as clients. At the same time licensing fees, holding costs, and necessary equipment upgrades present significant financial barriers.

"The most common hurdles have come as a result of the infancy of the legal cannabis market. Banks are still examining the industry and capital is mostly limited to private equity," explained Bobby Stewart, an early applicant for a micro-cultivation license. "Health Canada also has the ability to change the process without any warning, which can throw a monkey wrench into a business plan that's already in motion."

Stewart is referring to Health Canada's recent mandate that new applicants must complete the build out of their facilities before applying for a cannabis cultivation, processing, or sales licence, a costly process that doesn't come with any guarantee of actually being approved.

When all's said and done, micro-growers can be on the hook for tens of thousands of dollars with absolutely nothing to show for it.

"I have personally seen the above with several micro-growers," Stewart noted.

It's easy to see how large-scale cultivators have captured so much market share with this in mind. In fact, over 55% of the licit Canadian cannabis market is dominated by just five industry titans. About those large licensed producers (LPs):

"These large LPs have access to billions of dollars, whereas a micro-grower is more of a small business model. Most micro-growers have to come up with their own capital as they aren't backed by legions of investors."

A common trend among consumers is the demand for boutique, high-quality cannabis that offers a unique experience as opposed to mass-produced products. Many, Stewart included, feel that same craft cannabis quality just can't be met by large-scale grow operations.

"It's extremely difficult to produce top grade cannabis on a massive scale. For a truly high quality product each individual plant needs attentive care, something only small-scale growers can offer."

This picture is backed up by statistical evidence -- of the \$5.9 billion spent on cannabis in Canada, \$4.7 billion was spent on black market products.

Locally there is Sitka WEEDWORKS. They're a Sooke industrial park turned cultivation facility looking to change the game. They offer micro-growers a leg-up in their efforts to enter the legal market. Sitka WEEDWORKS owner Ian Laing has divided just over 14 acres of this land into individual units for micro-grower tenants, equipped with the high-ampage power supply (600-amp 3-phase) and security features that micro-growers will need to secure their licence and start growing.

According to Laing, Sitka WEEDWORKS "...clears all the hurdles of starting from scratch with a normal rental property, saving micro-growers money and time waiting on zoning bylaws that don't exist yet in most municipalities"

Why go to such lengths? The answer is simple: quality.

"The whole point of this is to illuminate the black market and put prohibition behind us in Canada. That will be pretty hard to do if we exclude the professional growers who have been perfecting their trade for years," Laing said, adding that "craft growers are experts at what they do."

Despite being blindsided by the above-mentioned changes to Health Canada's licensing process, Laing sees Sitka WEEDWORKS' role as more valuable now than ever: "This new decision will speed up the licensing process, but it also puts micro-growers on the line for huge build-out costs. Micro-growers will really need to get it right the first time which Sitka WEEDWORKS can almost guarantee."

Another benefit is the unique genetics that micro-growers can offer, with a change in the regulatory system allowing for a "one-time influx of [black market] genetics" into a licensed grow space -- a significant boon for the genetic diversity of legal cannabis and a point of celebration for long-time cannabis consumers.

To Bobby Stewart, micro-growers are essential to this movement, which is similar to the resurgence of small scale breweries in recent years.

"Not everyone wants to drink Molson Canadian beer - some want to drink a thoughtfully crafted Hoynes Dark Matter or Salt Spring Island Heather Ale. Consumers want options beyond cheap, mass produced product," he said.

Stewart is one of a number of growers who will be leasing from Sitka WEEDWORKS, a process he describes as being much easier than applying on one's own.

Sitka WEEDWORKS is located in the Sooke Business Park on Butler Road in Otter Point (which falls within the Juan de Fuca jurisdiction of the Capital Regional District/CRD). Laing says he enjoys the full support of CRD electoral area director Mike Hicks, who has publicly celebrated the significant tax revenue and job opportunities this endeavour will generate. When both are taken into account, Sitka WEEDWORKS could provide about three-quarters of the revenue necessary to sustain the Otter Point Fire Department.

For Laing, the end result is a win-win-win.

"We're creating jobs, we're tackling the black market, and at the same time we're bringing quality BC craft cannabis to the marketplace." **WSV**



West Shore Voice News / MIPB

Juan de Fuca Area Electoral Director Mike Hicks



WeedWorks building at 4-7450 Butler Rd in the Sooke Business Park in Otter Point.

West Shore Voice News ~ Chelsea Kirkpatrick



Micro-growing high quality cannabis plants at WeedWorks.

West Shore Voice News ~ Chelsea Kirkpatrick

You've gotta be 18 years or older to visit this website!

BC Canna Park is a Home for Micro-Growers

● **BC Canna Park** is a collaborative space for micro-growers, providing compliant and fully-upgraded lots for craft cannabis cultivation. But providing ready-to-lease production space at the Sooke Business Park location in Otter Point, they help smaller operators avoid having to deal with expensive electrical upgrades or waiting on zoning approvals.

The BC Canna Park parent company WeedWorks helps growers manage post-production marketing and sales to save on time and resources of a small operation. They provide training for growing techniques and help with navigating the Health Canada license application.

The setup ultimately provides the teamwork that helps produce profits and supply the market with in-demand products. WeedWorks can provide clones and genetic support, allowing small growers to utilize all their canopy space for flower rooms, to help maximize annual product output.

You will be asked to declare your age to visit this website: www.bccannapark.ca **WSV**

Some exciting paper work



● **Licence No. LIC-04VSE80NRD-2018-01 issued to Licence Holder Specialty Medijuana Products Inc on May 17, 2019:** Units 4 and 6 at 7450 Butler Road, Sooke, BC. Authorized to possess cannabis; obtain dried cannabis, fresh cannabis, cannabis plants or cannabis plant seeds by cultivating, propagating and harvesting cannabis; to sell cannabis in accordance with subsection 11(5) of the Cannabis Regulations. **WSV**

WEST SHORE VOICE

News of the west shore and Greater Victoria.

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www.westshorevoicenews.com



West Shore Voice News

Businesses and organizations -- be part of our **Thanksgiving weekend issue** (October 11 edition). Call 250-217-5821
Email: marketingedge@westshorevoicenews.com

District of Sooke ADVANCE VOTING. Wed Sept 18. Municipal by-election. 8 am to 8 pm. Sooke Council Chambers, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca

All Candidates Forum: Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke. Wed Sept 18. At Pearson College, Max Bell Centre, 650 Pearson College Drive, Metchosin. 7 pm. www.pearsoncollege.ca

SPEAC. Executive/Board Meeting. Wed Sept 18. 7 pm, SD62 school board office. www.sd62.bc.ca

Campaign Launch for Liberal Candidate Jamie Hammond (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke). Thurs Sept 19. 6 pm. Campaign office, 918 Esquimalt Road.

Guided Walk about Black Bears. Sat Sept 21. 1 to 2:30 pm. East Sooke Regional Park. Age 5+. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Light Up the Hills 4th annual. Sat Sept 21. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Starts at Belmont Secondary. www.westshorearts.org

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Sept 24. 7 pm. First board meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year. 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

Community Action Workshop on climate change, food security and transportation. 10 am-5 pm. Sooke Community Hall. Free admission. Includes lunch. www.transitionsooke.org

YOUR HEALTH

House of Nutrition
Colwood Corners
#6 - 310 Goldstream Ave
Open daily • 250-478-3244
www.houseofnutritionbc.com

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society AGM. Sun Sept 29. 2 to 4 pm. Upstairs at Village Food Markets. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

District of Sooke Council Meeting. Mon Sept 30. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

Pacific FC vs HFX Wanderers FC. Wed Oct 2 at Westhills Stadium. Get a free general admission ticket with the donation of two food bank items. www.pacificfc.ca

Federal Election English Language Debate. Mon Oct 7. TV broadcast and livestreamed. 4 to 6 pm PT.

Awareness Film Night. 25th season. Wed Oct 9. 'Push': Unaffordability of housing and owning a business in our own communities. 7 to 9 pm at Edward Milne Community School, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

Advance Voting for the Federal Election: Oct 11, 12, 13, 14. Confirm dates, times and locations for your riding at www.elections.ca

Thanksgiving Long Weekend. Sat Oct 12, Sun Oct 13, & Mon Oct 14.

Pacific FC vs Valour FC. Sat Oct 19 at Westhills Stadium. www.pacificfc.ca

Federal Election General Voting Day. Mon Oct 21. Confirm voting locations and times at: www.elections.ca

Feature your business or event in the WSV searchable news portal.

#FEEDTHEISLE

Drop off non-perishable food items and receive a complimentary ticket to the Pacific FC match on Pacific FC food bank drive ahead of Thanksgiving weekend!

www.westshorevoicenews.com

To include your event write to: marketingedge@westshorevoicenews.com

Shamrocks miss out on 2019 Mann Cup

Victoria Shamrocks played five games against the Peterborough Lakers for the 2019 Mann Cup

[WSV Photo: Game 1, Sept 6. Was won by the Shamrocks]



● **The Peterborough Lakers claimed their third consecutive Mann Cup** upon winning the fifth and final game of the best-of-seven 2019 series over the Victoria Shamrocks that played out at The Q Centre in Colwood on September 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11. The arena was packed loud and full to standing room only through the five-night series, bringing out hordes of steadfast Shamrocks fans of all ages from around the west shore and south island region. The Lakers won Games 2 through 5. Full series results: www.victoriashamrocks.com **WSV**

Pacific FC teams up with Dodd's Furniture to gather Thanksgiving food bank donations

● **Soccer and food for the community, a good combo!** Pacific FC and Dodd's Furniture and Mattress are teaming up as a way to give back to the community to support The Mustard Seed and the Goldstream Food Bank as Thanksgiving weekend approaches (Thanksgiving Monday is October 14). **#FeedtheIsle**

Ahead of Pacific FC's return to Westhills Stadium on October 2 vs HFX Wanderers FC, the CPL side will offer a free ticket to the game for every two non-perishable food items donated (General Admission tix | Max of 8 tickets per donation).

Donations can be made to Dodd's Furniture and Mattress on Finlayson Street or at the Pacific FC Store at 665 Fort Street (open daily to 6 pm).

Items must adhere to the organizations' list of accepted food. Season ticket holders can receive 100 points on the Official Centre Circle app, in addition to being entered-to-win a \$100 gift card to The Local or a \$250 gift card towards Dodd's Furniture & Mattress at 715 Finlayson Street.

More (with links): <https://westshorevoicenews.com/pacific-fc-food-bank-drive-ahead-of-thanksgiving-weekend/> **WSV**



WEST SHORE VOICE

CHEK-TV 'road show' featured Langford at Westhills Stadium

● **A live interview with Langford Mayor Stew Young** was a feature segment of CHEK-TV's 10th Anniversary 'road show' for their 5 o'clock broadcast on Monday September 16 at Westhills Stadium. Jokingly referring to Young as 'the Sheriff around here', news anchor Stacey Ross interviewed the mayor who is now in his 26th year of driving the growth and development of Langford.

Young is pleased about the development of housing and schools in Langford which is the fastest growing city on Vancouver Island. He emphasized that development helps support the costs of recreation.

Langford is deep in the thick of building its infrastructure and reputation as a 'national sports capital'. Just last year professional soccer came to Langford (the seats at Westhills Stadium are now purple and white for the Pacific FC presence), building on the Rugby Canada presence that began in earnest in 2017. Now Pacific FC is building a fieldhouse which will offer indoor athletic training and event facilities, also in Westhills. Behind the stadium a new Boxing BC building will have a footprint by next summer, next to the Sarah Beckett Memorial Playground.

There's also a new hotel in the works nearby (as first reported by West Shore Voice News in May) to serve the increased stadium usage. There's talk of a big concert event in summer 2020 featuring Bryan Adams -- stay tuned on that! **WSV**

Saving the life of a Shamrocks fan

● **Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey** was one of three firefighters who just happened to be at Game 4 of the Mann Cup lacrosse best-of-seven series on Tuesday September 10. Seamlessly, he went right into action with CPR when he saw another firefighter already doing chest compressions on a man in cardiac arrest in the lower level concourse area of The Q Centre ahead of the 7 pm game.

The 91-year-old man (a long-time Shamrocks fan who lived to celebrate the tale and ask about the welfare of his Shamrocks jersey that had to be cut off of his body during resuscitation) had walked a long way from the packed parking lot, which seems to have been a bit too much exertion. Using CPR and the AED unit that was on site at The Q Centre it was the fast skilled work of Chief Aubrey, Colwood volunteer firefighter Pat Seward, and Colwood career firefighter Lt Craig Twidale that together saved the man's life.

"I'm ecstatic, to have been there at the right place at the right time, then to meet the family and to know what it means to them that our actions were able to help one of their family members," Chief Aubrey told *West Shore Voice News* a few days later.

"That's why I'm a firefighter. Whether on duty or at a Shamrocks game -- that feeling and that need for firefighters to help doesn't disappoint. I will remember that for the rest of my career. To help out, for the family to come over to the station, and taking the family photo. It's why I do the job I do," said Aubrey, who brings all of himself to the job.

Langford's fire chief says he hopes that CPR and first aid -- including the use of the AED equipment -- can be taught in schools. He says that even brief exposure to the techniques of helping to save a life would 'kick in' and be helpful in any real situation that comes up. CPR and first aid training is widely available at a reasonable cost, says Aubrey. AEDs are installed at more locations all the time. Firefighters endure a lot of stress in their work of rescuing people. Aubrey has lost track of the many times he has provided CPR, but can count "only on two hands" the number of people who survived after that. **WSV**

City of Langford
www.cityoflangford.ca

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO

Traffic advisories | Scheduled roadworks
www.langford.ca



Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey truly enjoys being a firefighter (seen here at the inaugural Pacific FC game at Westhills Stadium, April 2019).

West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke



Langford Mayor Stew Young was interviewed live by Stacey Ross on CHEK-TV as part of the station's 10th Anniversary 'road show' in various communities around Vancouver Island Sept 9 to 20. **WSV**

<https://www.cheknews.ca/5pm-newscast-september-16-2019-604841/>

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