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Week #457

West Shore Voice

v4

News

4 pages this issue

WEST SHORE VOICE WSV ISSN 2368-9374 SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.4 No.50 Vol.9 No.39

Weekend news digest
Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

Election Results | Halloween
News to October 27

West Shore Voice News



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Friday October 25, 2019
Poppy campaign 2019 launched in the west shore

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke



West Shore Voice News

^^ The Langford Legion (Branch 91) poppy campaign visited Colwood City Hall on Friday Oct 25 to raise a Lest We Forget flag.

Children (ages 5 to 10) with Sunshine Out of School Care put on poppies ahead of the ceremony outside Colwood City Hall. >>

As acting mayor, Colwood Councillor Doug Kobayashi at the poppy campaign launch at Colwood city hall. >>



^^ Hot chocolate for the kids!

● Branch 91 Langford Legion representatives launched their annual poppy campaign on Friday October 25 by visiting four municipalities: Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, and Highlands. At each stop they raised a 'Lest We Forget' flag and pinned a poppy on elected officials and municipal staff members.

The west shore Remembrance Day ceremony will be at Veterans Memorial Park in Langford on Monday November 11. It will start with a parade at 10:30 am followed by two minutes silence at 11 am and the laying of wreaths by dignitaries. This year Premier John Horgan, Langford Mayor Stew Young, Highlands Mayor Ken Williams and Metchosin Councillor Kahakauwila will be attending. **WSV**

Voters return NDP incumbents to Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke & Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS

RANDALL GARRISON
Returning for 3rd term



WSV

WSV

West Shore Voice News / Mary Brooke

Randall Garrison (NDP) happy on election night: re-elected in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke

● On election night with his campaign team buzzing around him at the Pearkes Arena in Saanich, NDP incumbent Randall Garrison expressed thanks to the people of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke who have trusted him again. "It's very special to win a third term," Garrison told *West Shore Voice News*. "The campaign helped clarify what's important to people, which are the same things I've been working on -- climate change and affordability are #1 and #2. The government could do a lot more on these, and it looks like we've got a minority so we'll push for that," said Garrison.

The win was substantial (margin of 5,381 over the Green candidate). "I always felt that people would look at my record and vote on that basis. We always run like we're losing. We campaigned as hard as we could and that paid off," said Garrison. He said that after NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's rally that 50 new volunteers came in for E-day. "It was a direct correlation. People were there or saw him on TV. They were enthused by his positivity, enthusiasm and authenticity. That brought a lot of new energy at the end. After that happened we were pretty well convinced we were going to win," Garrison said. He was one of Singh's early endorsers. "When you get to hear Jagmeet instead of talk about him, your opinion will change," he told people over the past two years. **WSV**

The strong ballot-box result for MacGregor resulted from focusing on affordability issues. People also want to see that a party's climate change plan includes a good amount of attention paid to economic issues and social issues. "Our pursuit of environmental justice cannot be realized unless there is also economic justice and social justice," he said. **WSV**

● The NDP won 24 seats across Canada (7.1% of the national vote) down from 39 seats at dissolution. The new NDP caucus teleconferenced on Oct 23, and will meet in Ottawa on Oct 30. The Liberal cabinet will be sworn in Nov 20. **WSV**

ALISTAIR MACGREGOR
Returning for 2nd term



WSV

Alistair MacGregor (NDP) re-elected in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

● NDP incumbent candidate Alistair MacGregor never took for granted the work or the opportunity to carry on as the Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. In the October 21 federal election he achieved re-election with 23,095 votes (32.6%).

MacGregor and his team were organized and worked long hours over the 40-day federal election campaign, and for weeks and months ahead of that, getting ready for the fight to hang onto the riding that bridges west and east shores of Vancouver Island (including Langford, Malahat, Cowichan Valley and Duncan). "I'm thrilled with the results. It was a tough campaign to get through. It was really nice to see all of our hard work over the last four years -- and the hard work by the volunteers during the campaign -- validated by the results," said MacGregor.

The strong ballot-box result for MacGregor resulted from focusing on affordability issues. People also want to see that a party's climate change plan includes a good amount of attention paid to economic issues and social issues. "Our pursuit of environmental justice cannot be realized unless there is also economic justice and social justice," he said. **WSV**

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Tim Hortons under construction near library and Y in Westhills

LANGFORD

WEST SHORE VOICE

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A "Tim Hortons coming soon" sign went up last week on Langford Parkway across the street from the Langford Lake Road intersection in Westhills. **WSV**

Naming two new schools in West Langford

West Shore Voice News

● A call for names for two schools soon under construction in West Langford -- to open September 2022 -- has been put out by Sooke School District 62 (SD62). The deadline is November 1 for ideas to roll in. As of October 27, there are 568 suggested names for the elementary school and 359 for the middle school that will both be located on Constellation Avenue in one of the newer sections of Westhills. Contribute here: **Elementary School:** <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#900989084> **Middle School:** <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#372840639>

Participants can revisit the online portals to support other names they like. SD62 media rep Stephanie Sherlock says input is important "for understanding the most important areas to focus on for naming our new schools". **WSV**
[See editorial page 2]



EDITORIALS



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

What's in a school name?

Langford is getting two new schools that will open for September 2022. The naming process involves public input up to November 1 (see page 1). The SD62 board policy is to name the schools with reference to geographical location or a person's name with historical context, with Indigenous consideration as well. The fact there's interest well beyond the schools themselves is indicative of how important these buildings (and what they represent) are to the community.

So far the names include such suggestions as John Horgan, Stew Young, Rob Fleming (Education Minister), Sarah Beckett Memorial, Stephen Harper, and Gord Downie. The names with geographical references so far include Westhills, Langford, Langford Lake, and Goldstream. If you consider that geography is more than land, there are suggestions inspired by the street name of the schools (Constellation Avenue), including Starlight, Galaxy, Bright Star, Ursa Minor, and Milky Way. Some nature-related names are in there too: Orca, Sitka, Douglas, Camas, and even Nematode. Indigenous names include Coast Salish.

Langford has much to be proud of. Hopefully the board will think big on this choice. It won't be an easy decision. But for the light, happy energy of children in

Alberta needs to take a sober second look at Trudeau's win

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau returned his Liberals to power with a minority status but clearly Canadians wanted him at the helm. Most of the seats gained by the Conservatives were outside of urban areas and beyond the youth vote. That alone shows the progressive vote went to the Liberals (and in their slipstream to the NDP and Greens). The Liberals have no elected MPs in Alberta or Saskatchewan, but 'Trudeau bought a pipeline' (as the saying goes) and intends to see its expansion so that Alberta has a means to get more of their oil products to markets beyond the US. Trudeau took a lot of heat in BC in particular for supporting the pipeline and across Canada as well from those concerned about the environment. Trudeau knows that Alberta wants strong oil production. How is that not obvious to Albertans, from their premier on down? Even without seats for some jurisdictions at the cabinet table (a peculiarity of the Canadian electoral system compared to the US where all States are represented), attentive leadership can get the job done for multiple interests.

Bullying against women in leadership must stop

by Mary P Brooke, editor

Three days after the October 21 federal election, Canadians heard in their morning news about an example of the ugliness against women in politics (also often experienced by women in business and in the role of media). Newly re-elected Liberal candidate/MP Catherine McKenna had again been targeted. An anti-woman slur word was found painted on the exterior of her campaign office.

It happens locally as well to various degrees, and as media we say this has to stop. Sometimes it's overt (including catty remarks and trolling in social media), but more often it's insidious (a sociological systemic problem). Holding women back from full participation in democracy and business is something many of us thought was finally a thing of the past. It appears that the struggle continues.

Such sad actions are produced out of fear and are largely systemic, including that many women remain entangled in the patriarchy for their economic survival. For some men and women — in business, politics and community — there remains an incentive to hold women back, out of fear that their position, money or structural control will be compromised. But in Canada there is no room for discrimination against any sector of our society by bullying or subtle exclusion. If someone feels threatened, they can use their respectful communication skills to work toward a solution.

In a timely fashion, our article interviewing Green candidate Lydia Hwitsum post-election this week (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) includes her views on the challenges to women in society and politics: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/lydia-hwitsum-raised-green-profile-in-cowichan-malahat-langford/>

Here is our comment as posted on Twitter October 24, in response to the McKenna incident: "Absolutely abhorrent how #WomenInPolitics and also sometimes in #media are sometimes treated by people who dwell in a lower qualitative realm. Sometimes it's even women who are behind #bullying antics against women

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/continued-bullying-against-women-in-business-and-politics-must-stop/>

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Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Earthquake! It's not if, but when. So have an emergency plan. #BePreparedNotScared

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@jdfemerg www.prepareyourself.ca

elementary one hopes the name does not come with a heavy burden, and for the middle school hopefully the name brings inspiration for life planning that soon lies ahead. You can't get much brighter or enduring than starlight, and you can't get much bigger than a galaxy.



Re-elected Liberal candidate Catherine McKenna said in response to the slur word painted on her office, that she's got a thick skin but was a bit shaken. She said the incident only recommits her to her work, and that this sort of thing has to stop.

in power, fearing their reliance on #patriarchy is challenged."

WSV readers can always count on the West Shore Voice News editorial stance of speaking up against bullying in whatever form it takes.

- COMMENTS FROM WSV READERS** on the McKenna incident:
- **Doug Willoughby:** "It's incredibly sad and irritating that this continues in all areas of life, politics, business and personal life. It quite frankly pisses me off. This is most unfortunate to see continuing. There is no reason for this to happen, none whatsoever! I treat everyone with respect and perhaps things might be better with everything. Hopefully the purps will be caught!!"
 - **Maureen Mitchell-Starkey:** "WRONG on so many fronts. Cowards do this at night, when nobody is watching. Shame shame shame! I am very sorry this happened!"
 - **Chelsea Kirkpatrick:** "Despicable." **WSV**

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION NEWS

UN declaration inspires BC Indigenous legislation

Legislation introduced October 24 by the provincial government "will move the Province forward with a clear action plan for reconciliation, supporting predictability and economic opportunities, while respecting Indigenous human rights," it was stated in a BC Government news release.

The new legislation aims to create further certainty for investment and reaffirms BC as a world-class destination providing opportunities for business while creating a strong inclusive economy. It provides an additional tool for establishing rules, transparency and accountability when the Province works with Indigenous governing bodies, business and local government on decisions affecting Indigenous rights.

Over time, as provincial laws are modified or built, they will be aligned with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). That process will take time for consultation with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders including business, industry and local government.

The legislation enables the Province to enter into decision-making agreements with Indigenous governments, when the other relevant statute allows for it. There will be a transparent process when making decision-making agreements, including ongoing consultation with stakeholders and local government.

There will be recognition for additional forms of Indigenous governments when making agreements, to help provide more clarity about who to engage when working with Indigenous partners.

The legislation was developed in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council (comprised of leadership from BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs).

"This new law is an important step toward true and lasting reconciliation, where we build a robust and sustainable economy by working together, and create economic and social opportunities for Indigenous peoples, communities across BC, business and industry," said Premier John Horgan. **WSV**

Working for our community

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885
#104-1497 Admirals Road
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca
www.MitziDean.ca

SD62 & Pacheedaht sign local education agreement

On October 25, the Sooke School District (SD62) says they took "an important step forward" in their partnership with the Pacheedaht First Nation (Port Renfrew area) for educating students from the Nation.

SD62 is committed to improving First Nation Student outcomes, to which this Local Education Agreement is expected to contribute.

Many months of work went into preparing the partnership agreement. SD62 thanks Pacheedaht, Chief Jones and Council for their commitment to this work.

The school district says it is committed to reconciliation and strengthening partnerships with all Indigenous peoples that it serves. "SD62 proudly values its partnership with the Pacheedaht Nation and this Local Education Agreement is one way we commit to promoting and achieving effective working relationships now and going forward," it was stated in a news release. **WSV**



SD62 Chair, Vice-Chair and two trustees, District Staff and principals and vice-principals were welcomed to the traditional lands of the Pacheedaht people.

News updates by region on our 24/7 news portal: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

West Shore Voice News
The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Langford, BC, Canada [Member: Canadian Federation of Independent Business] **National Library Registration:** WSV/ISSN 2368-9374 | SVN/ISSN 1925-2722

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

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Print copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Print ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed

Published & Printed by: Brookline Publishing House Inc. **Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Webmaster:** all writing by Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR unless otherwise stated. **Reporter:** Chelsea Kirkpatrick. **Contributors:** Sandy Carmichael. **Z-Gen Consultant:** Jennifer Brooke. **IT:** Les Oberg. **Distribution:** WSV website, direct to subscribers, TW/FB; coffee shops; business lobbies, libraries, rec centres; online PDF. Daily breaking news (WSV web, Tw, FB).

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Community News

FEDERAL ELECTION AFTERMATH

News updates any time:
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Second place for a second time David Merner 'gonna get physical', heading into eco-restoration

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **High-profile political candidate David Merner** pulled out every stop in his campaign efforts for the Green Party in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke in the 2019 federal election that ended on October 21 for him with a second-place finish (18,135 votes; 26.3%).

In 2015 he placed second as well, that time as a Liberal candidate. Both times he lost to NDP incumbent Randall Garrison who won this time with 23,516 votes (34.1%) which is a wider margin than in 2015.

Now it's time to win for the environment. Merner says he thoroughly enjoyed the campaign and is pleased at his part in helping build the Green campaign infrastructure in south Vancouver Island for future elections.

But Merner has been captivated with the idea of working on habitat restoration projects: planting trees, restoring riverbeds and watersheds – that sort of thing, that the planet needs. Watch for his community leadership in that area of climate change action in the months and years ahead.

"It was hard to lose an election, but it was also hard to see sad and worried young people," said Merner in a post-results interview with *West Shore Voice News* on October 23.

The proudest moment of the campaign for Merner was witnessing Green Party Leader Eliza-



David Merner on the Green campaign trail (Aug 2019)

beth May's unflagging enthusiasm in action. "She was sign-waving at 5 pm out on the roads on the eve of the election, and on election day at 3 pm in rush hour traffic she was waving signs in the rain," Merner recalls. "It's astonishing how much energy she has."

As did all the candidates, Merner heard about affordability issues on the campaign trail. "People are stretched and can't stretch any further," he observes. Not just financially but also in terms of time and energy for fighting for very big things like climate change action. But overall, Merner says that people "aren't getting that this is serious". *WSV*

>> Full interview and more photos:

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/david-merner-heading-into-eco-restoration-after-second-try-at-esquimalt-saanich-sooke/>

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Economic growth requires opportunities for everyone

Blair Herbert: "It was important to keep the Conservatives out of power"

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **Coming in fourth in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford**, Liberal candidate Blair Herbert said the day after the October 21 election: "We got caught in the squeeze here."

Some voters told him the last four or five days before the October 21 general election that they switched their voting intentions from Liberal to NDP (whose candidate Alistair MacGregor was seen to have a very good chance of winning) as a way to make sure the Conservatives did not succeed in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford in 2019.

For those voters it seemed to be a fearful last-minute decision "because Andrew Scheer hyped up the rhetoric in the last part of the campaign and that put people off — they wanted to make sure Scheer didn't get in", said Herbert. And he says the Greens "poured a lot of money" into their campaigns on the island, but that the financial investment didn't seem to do enough to win them more seats.

"For me this campaign was a very positive experience, and although the results were somewhat disappointing here we're still happy with the way it turned out federally," said Herbert today. "It was important to keep the Conservatives out of power, so I guess we won from that perspective."

Blair Herbert was among several of the Liberal candidates running on Vancouver Island who attended a Trudeau rally on Sunday evening October 20 at a pub in downtown Victoria where the Liberal leader said: "We can't just create economic growth through cutting. If you have economic growth without giving opportunities for everyone to succeed it doesn't count for anything. We're just getting started."

Now the plan going forward in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford is about how to get the Liberal electoral district association more active. "There are a lot of Liberals in this area. We have to tap into that," said Herbert. *WSV*

>> Full interview and more photos:

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/blair-herbert-pleased-with-national-result-for-liberals/>

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Blair Herbert was the Liberal candidate for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Strong effort for Greens Lydia Hwitsum: "There's a big gap - people are struggling in a lot of ways"

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **First-time political candidate Lydia Hwitsum** made a strong showing for the Green Party in the Cowichan-Malahat-Sooke electoral district in the 2019 federal election that ended on October 21 for her with a third-place finish.

The NDP volleyed with a robust ground game to return incumbent Alistair MacGregor for his second term as the member of parliament for the riding. The other stiff competition came from the Conservatives with Alana DeLong who is an experienced campaigner and former Alberta MLA.

Hwitsum became better known in the south island region during the 40-day federal election campaign. She not only addressed her party's environment and climate change issues but used the platform to bring forward Indigenous issues and the action of women in politics.

Hwitsum's campaign benefited by the resources of the national campaign, clearly enjoying the support of Green Party Leader Elizabeth May as did all the other Green candidates on Vancouver Island. However, only May and Paul Manly (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) achieved re-election on the island, leaving five of seven federal island seats still in the NDP stronghold.

"In a campaign you put yourself out there in such a big way. We had the support we had and did the best we could," said Hwitsum in an election-followup phone interview with *West Shore Voice News* one day after the election.

"I'm pleased with the effort," said Hwitsum. As for her biggest successes of the campaign: "Opening the doors, going forward with really strong candidates for the Green party, building the base, and bringing climate change to the forefront". She said that "a big piece seems to be developing a strong base for Greens". Hwitsum says that now a person can run as a good strong candidate for Green.

Hwitsum saw that the most important issue to voters in this riding across the board was affordability. "People are trying to makes lives," is how she put it, referring to the need for quality child care so there's an opportunity to be part of the economy. "There's a big gap. People are reaching out, both First Nations and across the board, people are struggling in a lot of ways. There are a lot of limitations in the way society is developing," said Hwitsum. She made particular note of the impact of this economy on seniors.

"As Greens we encouraged people to vote their values, but as the time for the election came we could see the fear impact," said Hwitsum. "People would tell us they just aren't ready (to vote Green)," she acknowledged with disappointment. *WSV*

>> Full interview and more photos:

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/lydia-hwitsum-raised-green-profile-in-cowichan-malahat-langford/>

Liberal minority government just 13 seats short of majority Canadians return Justin Trudeau & Liberals to power

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **Despite a lot of talk** ahead of the election by political pundits and the media about structured minority government arrangements, re-elected Prime Minister, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau said the very next day after the October 21 general election: "It is not in our plans at all to form any (sort of) coalition at all, formal or informal."

The Liberals won 157 seats (down from 177) with 33.1% of the popular vote, ushering Trudeau into his second term as prime minister, though

without any Liberal MPs in Alberta or Saskatchewan where he needs strength to stabilize those parts of the country that depend on the oil industry and through that produce a lot of revenue for federal government coffers for use by all Canadians.

The Conservatives achieved the highest popular vote (34.4%) and increased their seat count to 121 (up from 95), the Bloc Quebecois won a hefty chunk of seats (32), the NDP now hold 14 seats (down from 39), and the Greens upped their seat count to three (up from two).

Across Canada, 5,915,950 people voted (65.95%), with much of that count (4.7 million) casting their ballots at advance polls over the four-day Thanksgiving long weekend and on post-secondary campuses.

There are 22 national parties in Canada. The new People's Party got 1.6% of the popular vote but didn't see their own leader elected.

The Liberals hold 46.4% of the seats in the House of Commons, Conservatives 35.8%, Bloc 9.5%, NDP 7.1%, and Greens 0.9%. Trudeau will be able to get legislation passed on a case by case basis (e.g. Conservative support for pipelines, NDP for health care or education issues). The new Liberal cabinet will be sworn-in on November 20 in Ottawa. *WSV*



Justin Trudeau held his last rally of the 43rd election campaign in Victoria on Sunday evening, October 20.

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MUNICIPAL: City of Langford Planning, Zoning & Affordable Housing Committee. Mon Oct 28, 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca || **City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting.** Mon Oct 28, 7 pm. www.colwood.ca || **District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting.** Mon Oct 28, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

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Flu Clinic at Sooke Health Unit. Tues Oct 29. By appointment only, for families with children. 1 to 3:30 pm. Call: 250-519-3487.

Six Mile Corridor Open House. Tues Oct 29. 5 to 7 pm. View Royal municipal hall. www.viewroyal.ca

Halloween Skate. Tues Oct 29. SEAPARC Leisure Complex, Sooke. 7 to 8:15 pm. Everyone welcome. Prizes for best costume. www.seaparc.ca

Ghost Bus Tour. Wed Oct 30. Sooke Region Museum. 7 pm. \$35 tickets. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

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

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Friday Night Roller Skating. Nov 1 and every Friday night to Dec 20. West Shore Parks & Rec. 7 to 10 pm. \$3.30 kids, \$4.90 teens, \$6.75 for adults 18 and over, \$4.90 seniors. Skate rentals \$4.50. www.westshorererecreation.ca

Flu Clinic - WestShore. Sat Nov 2. By appointment, for families with children. 9 to 4. Call: 250-519-3490

JDF 55+ Craft Fair. Sat Nov 2 & Sun Nov 3. 9 to 3. Free admission. JDF 55+ Activity Centre, behind JdF arena. www.westshorererecreation.ca

Eclectic Art Show at South Shore Gallery. Opening reception 1 to 3 pm on Sat Nov 2. Show to Nov 14. 2046 Otter Point Rd. www.sookearts.com | www.southshoregallery.ca

Charitable Pumpkin Smash by View Royal Fire. 10-2. Drop your pumpkin from the top of the tower, prize draw. In support of Movember. www.viewroyal.ca

City of Langford Regular Council Meeting. Mon Nov 4. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

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Francophone games seek volunteers



2020 CF Games organizers Louise Alepin and Casey Edmunds, Oct 24.

● From across Canada, organizers of the 2020 Canadian Francophone Games met with the Victoria-region Francophone community on Thursday evening October 24 at Ecole Victor-Brodeur in Esquimalt. Pizza and a pitch for volunteers for the July 14-18 event that will be held primarily in Oak Bay attracted about 150 people. Delegates age 14-18 must be able to speak French but for volunteers French language skills are not required. **WSV** <http://jeuxfc.ca/english>

Beverage container return rate doubles in BC

● The deposit on non-alcoholic beverage containers up to the 1-litre size will double from 5¢ to 10¢ on November 1, 2019. This is presumably good news for the environment (less plastic in landfills and bodies of water) as well as for groups and companies that collect bottles for fundraising and profit. The refund applies to aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, drink boxes and cartons. The refund for containers over one litre in size will still be 20¢. Encorp Pacific (aka Return-It) — the industry-owned, not-for-profit organization that recycles single-use plastic and glass bottles and containers — announced the doubling of its deposit value for bottles up to one litre in size bought at BC grocery stores on October 24. The increase applies BC-wide. Returns on liquor and non-liquor bottles are now the same in BC. **WSV**



Happy Halloween! Thurs Oct 31.

Langford Halloween Open House. Langford Fire Rescue. Hot dogs, candy, hot chocolate, entertainment. 5:30 to 8:30 pm. At three stations: 2625 Peatt Rd, 3205 Happy Valley Rd, 2872 Sooke Lake Rd. www.langford.ca

Colwood Halloween Bonfire. Colwood Fire Hall, 3215 Metchosin Rd. Free hot dogs, hot chocolate, treats. 6 to 9 pm. Hosted by Colwood Volunteer Firefighters. www.colwood.ca

View Royal Halloween Fun. View Royal Public Safety Building. 6 to 9 pm, 333 Island Hwy. Hot dogs, hot chocolate, candy. www.viewroyal.ca

Bear Mountain Halloween Spooktacular. 5:30 to 9 pm. Fireworks at dusk. Food concession, photo booth, music. www.bearmountain.ca

B&E and sexual assault in Colwood residential neighbourhood

● On Wednesday October 23 West Shore RCMP received a report of a break and enter and sexual assault that had taken place at a residence in the quiet neighbourhood in the vicinity of Sooke Road and Metchosin Road in Colwood.

"This investigation is in its very early stages," says Cst Nancy Saggar, Media Relations Officer, West Shore RCMP. "The victim of the crime was an adult female who was assaulted by an unknown male suspect. At this time police do not have a suspect description to share with the public. The West Shore RCMP Major Crime Unit is leading the investigation. A team of investigators canvassed the neighbourhood yesterday along with the Police Dog Service," it was stated in an RCMP news release. Officers were likely to be in the area the next day to continue the investigation, said Saggar.

"The suspect is unknown to police and when we have more information to share with the public we will be sure to provide an update," said Cst Saggar.

"We want to remind everyone to take the regular safety precautions of locking your doors regardless of whether you are home or not and report any suspicious activity immediately," she said. **WSV**

Moving in: Crossing at Belmont renters become owners

● The rent-to-own condo ownership opportunity at Crossing at Belmont achieved another milestone on October 16: their first tenant moved in. The development in Langford is a part of the MyBelmont master-planned community in southern Vancouver Island's west shore.

"I'm glad I chose the MyBelmont community," says tenant Daniela Arevalo. "The suites are modern, the staff are helpful, and it's close to my kids' school."

The Crossing at Belmont project is a collection of 156 premium rental homes brought to life by Ledcor Property Investments, the same developer responsible for the Belmont Residences across the street -- all of this on Reunion Avenue (which runs through the old Belmont high school site); the sales office is at 915 Reunion Ave at the corner of Kelly Road and display homes can be viewed.

The mix of condominiums, townhomes and rental apartments in the 24-acre MyBelmont masterplan community is further enhanced by 160,000 sq ft of retail and commercial shops in the vibrant Belmont Market. Overall there are seven residential market and rental buildings targeting first-time home buyers, working professionals, and downsizers.

"I'm looking forward to having everything I need for myself, and my kids, any time of day within arms reach," says tenant Elliot Biranbaum, referring to the abundant adjacent retail.

Ledcor first launched the MyBelmont project in March 2018, saying it offers a unique blend of urban-meets-suburban lifestyle, alongside the Galloping Goose Trail, numerous parks, lakes and outdoor spaces, to set a desirable standard for urban living in the west shore.

The Crossing at Belmont units are top quality, says Devon Properties president Dave Craig. Devon Properties is the property management company responsible for the Crossing at



Belmont. "With tenants moving in, the Belmont community is really taking shape. We are well on our way to reaching capacity and are seeing new retail units added every week," says Craig.

The Crossing at Belmont opportunity is helping to tackle housing affordability through its MyBelmont's Rental Rewards Program. Qualified renters can apply for 25% of monthly rent towards buying a future Belmont Residences condo, within the master-planned community. **WSV** www.mybelmontliving.com

Fire at Four Mile House Oct 22



● A fire in the daytime on the upstairs level at the popular Four Mile House (restaurant, pub and sports bar) on October 22 caused significant damage and the 150-year-old building (renovated in 1979) remains closed. In total, 44 firefighters from four departments (View

Royal, Langford, Colwood and Esquimalt) responded within their mutual aid agreements.

There were no injuries. All occupants of the building had evacuated before fire crews arrived. BC Ambulance was there, checking on the firefighters with regard to smoke.

Four Mile House is owned by Graham and Wendy Haymes. **WSV**

www.westshorevoiceneews.com/popular-view-royal-restaurant-closed-due-to-fire/

City of Colwood Committee of the Whole. Mon Nov 4. 6 pm. www.colwood.ca

Peninsula Streams annual fundraising dinner. Sat Nov 9. Saanichton Fairgrounds. Tix \$85. www.peninsulastreams.ca

Dog Swim in the West Shore Parks & Recreation pool. Sun Nov 10. JdF Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy Colwood. [Pool closed for annual cleaning Nov 11 to Dec 26.] www.westshorererecreation.ca

Remembrance Day. Mon Nov 11. 10:30 a.m. LANGFORD: Veterans Memorial Park. SOOKE: Sooke Legion. | Two minutes of silence at 11 am.

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Tues Nov 12. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Tues Nov 12. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca

All Sooke Arts & Crafts Show. Sooke Community Hall. Fri to Sun Nov 15 to 17. Free entry.

Federal Cabinet swearing in. Wed Nov 20. Livestream - time tba.

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Nov 26. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

Moss Cottage Christmas. Build a snowman. Free. 12 to 2 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Pacific FC Training Facility. Official opening. Sun Dec 1. Kettle Lake Drive, Langford. Complimentary facility use Dec 1 to 15. www.pacificfc.ca

Blood Donor Clinic. Journey Middle School, Sooke. Mon Dec 16. 12 to 6 pm. www.blood.ca

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