



**Kindergarten Registration** for the 2020-2021 academic year

**General registration for Sooke School District Kindergarten is from January 27 to 31. Don't miss out!**

**Registration Online starts 8 am at**

[www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten)

Registration for Nature K & French Immersion took place January 13 to 17.

# West Shore Voice News

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## Ride-hailing approved for Vancouver area & Whistler

● **Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Claire Trevena** on Thursday January 23 responded to the application decisions by the independent Passenger Transportation Board on ride-hailing companies BC. She said the current government "did the hard work and delivered" after the public waiting since 2012 for ride-hailing. Still no ride-hailing in Victoria though, just Vancouver and Whistler, and for just two companies -- Uber and Lyft. High safety standards have been a priority for Trevena. "Over the last two years, our government has been diligent in developing a framework that puts passenger safety first, and we remained steadfast against pressures to abandon the safety measures we put in place."



"Since September 2019, the Passenger Transportation Board has been reviewing applications from 29 ride-hail companies and submissions from stakeholders. In the board's decisions, it has committed to closely monitoring fleet sizes and minimum pricing to avoid potential impacts on traffic congestion and to ensure adequate incomes for drivers," said Trevena in a statement.

"Our government is committed to work with both the ride-hail and taxi industries to address outstanding areas in the coming months and futures issues as they arise. We will continue to support a passenger transportation industry that gets people safely where they need to go and ensures sustainable livelihoods for drivers."

Regulations in the Passenger Transportation Amendment Act (2018) require ride-hail drivers to hold a Class 4 driver's licence and undergo a vulnerable sector check -- the most stringent type of police information check. **WSV**

## Bank of Canada holds interest rate steady

● **This week the Bank of Canada** held its key interest rate at 1.75% where it has been for 15 months. Inflation was 1.9% in 2019, below the 2.0% that Canada was seeking. Consumer spending appeared to be down in 2019 for big-ticket items (e.g. cars, appliances) but over half of consumer expenditure is still for services. Despite trade developments in various areas around the world "a high degree of uncertainty" remains, said Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz. BC Finance Minister Carole James said last fall that global economic uncertainty will be reflected in BC Budget 2020 (coming February 18). **WSV**

## BC Lottery Corporation taking bets on where Harry & Meghan will live

● **The BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC)** says that "royal fever is sweeping across British Columbia" as they launch a novelty bet on their *PlayNow.com* website as to whether Harry and Meghan will move to Vancouver and settle there by year's end.

BCLC has launched this 'novelty bet' despite that the recently decommissioned Duke and Duchess of Sussex (who can no longer use their HRH titles or receive UK public funds) saying they want a private life and to achieve "financial independence". Since December they have been staying in a large home in North Saanich.

BCLC says that on *PlayNow.com*, players are invited to wager whether Vancouver is where the Sussexes will call home. "If Harry and Meghan buy a house in Vancouver and become residents of the city before the end of 2020, a \$10 wager will result in a \$20 win (2/1 odds) for BC bettors. In order to win, Harry and Meghan must buy a home in Vancouver and live in it by the end of 2020," it was stated in a BCLC news release on January 23. **WSV**

● that worsen should seek a diagnosis; a lab test will confirm whether it's just regular flu or something else. People with disease-compromised immune systems and generally seniors are more likely to succumb to flu in general, and seem to be the group that is dying from the Wuhan Coronavirus in China (average age 71 years).

**Canadians are being reminded** to follow good flu-season hygiene including

washing hands frequently, sneezing or coughing into tissues which are then disposed of right away, and staying home when sick. If you require medical attention, the proper public health protocol is to phone ahead to your doctor, clinic or hospital emergency room; that way health care workers can isolate you immediately upon arrival and also act to protect themselves.

The idea of sneezing or coughing into your elbow (a trend that was initiated as a preference over sneezing or coughing into your hand) has recently been losing favour with some doctors, as you're still touching your clothes where the germs are. Carry tissues! And instead of handshakes, do a fist bump, or just acknowledge the person verbally with a hearty hello!

Disease stats are changing by the hour. Check major news outlets for updates. **WSV**

**Friday January 24, 2020**  
News to Saturday January 25, 2020



# Wuhan Coronavirus kills 56 so far, spreading globally

**One case in Canada so far** by **Mary P Brooke, B.Sc.**  
West Shore Voice News

● **The new Wuhan coronavirus disease (aka 2019-nCoV)** slowly got rolling in mid-December in China and by mid-January was being given serious attention by public health officials and governments around the world.

Mutated from an animal virus, the Corona-type virus (notable for its surface projections) has spread to humans, and now is spreading among people.

**As of Saturday January 25**

there were 56 deaths reported in China (up from 41 on Friday evening) and over 2,000 people infected in 20 cities with a population of about 50 million. There are detected cases in their neighboring Hong Kong and -- enabled by global travel -- in Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and the USA.

As of January 25 there is one presumptive case (symptoms fit, just waiting for lab test results) of the virus in Toronto. There were two observed patients in Vancouver (later cleared) and four in Quebec, as stated by Health Minister Patty Hajdu on January 23. In light of the Ontario case, BC Health Minister Adrian Dix and Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry issued a joint statement on January 25 saying the BC Centre for Disease Control has a diagnostic test but overall risk to people in BC is low. [ Full statement: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/bc-provincial-statement-on-the-wuhan-coronavirus/>]

Over 2,000 people are now said to be suffering with the illness in China where brand new hospitals (with as many as 1,000 beds each) are already under construction, to be ready in the coming week to accommodate infected persons. Three doctors have died from exposure to patients or other doctors.

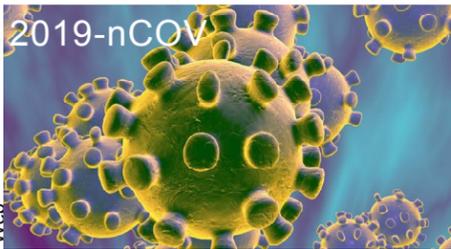
The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Public Health Ontario gave a joint press conference on Friday January 24, saying the Canadian health care system is ready for any cases of Wuhan coronavirus that arise (and that they expected some -- it's only a matter of where and when).

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** met twice this week, with their medical experts split on whether to declare a global public health emergency. The general view is that due to a good level of readiness for a disease such as this (based on experienced learned by handling SARS in 2003 by which almost 800 people died including 44 Canadians), that any further cases will be handled effectively without having to shut down travel and transportation around the world which would have disruptive economic impacts including the food supply chain.

China was strangely slow in revealing the new disease for several weeks, then all of a sudden this week swiftly released the genetic code to health officials around the world. The DNA of swabs taken from patients with flu-like symptoms can now be tested against the known Wuhan Coronavirus genetic code, an exact match makes for a firm diagnosis.

In China now over 20 cities have been quarantined by shutting down transportation systems and where brand new hospitals are being constructed virtually overnight in which to house infected patients. But Western countries are confidently prepared to screen for patients who have the disease and are generally well set up with protocols and specific ways of isolating patients and protecting health care workers.

**The Wuhan Coronavirus initial symptoms** are much the same as a flu: cough, runny nose, fever. But the new virus is more aggressive about attacking lung cells, leading to a severe pneumonia-like condition. Anyone who develops flu symptoms



**Projections on the cells of the Wuhan Corona virus (2019-nCoV) attach to lung cells, causing pulmonary consumption similar to pneumonia.** 2019-nCoV was first seen in December 2019 and is now spreading globally. It emerged in a way that is similar (i.e. from animal to human) to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which came out of in China in 2003 (bats to cats to humans) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) out of Saudi Arabia in 2012 (camels to humans). All cause viral respiratory infections. **WSV**



**BC Health Minister Adrian Dix**



**BC Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry**

### **SYMPTOMS**

of 2019-nCoV infection are similar to flu but notably:

- **Fever**
- **Coughing**
- **Difficulty breathing**
- **Pneumonia in both lungs**

Source: BC Center for Disease Control

**BC Center for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca>**

**Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus.html>**



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## The high stakes global politics of public health

ANALYSIS ~ MPB



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

● With the entire world on high alert about a new respiratory disease caused by a virus that jumped from animal to human, the political epicentre is China. Through a western lens by which we expect reasonable transparency, we look at how China handled the release of information about the flu-like virus -- not really much at all when the virus was first discovered in December, followed and contrasted by eager presentation of the genetic code last week and this week the release of aerial construction photos of new built-overnight hospitals. They've been releasing information as it suited them, with the health of the world at risk.

That this Corona virus (the same sort of virus that brings us the 'common cold' and influenza) has surfaced right in the midst of the annual winter flu season is excellent timing to cover up a test release. Symptoms are outwardly the same, until it's too late. This nasty new virus attacks lung cells, potentially leading to respiratory failure. Anyone with a compromised immune system or less robust health (such as most seniors), or with a still-developing immunity spectrum response (very young children) is particularly at risk.

Thankfully the global public health community is medically and ethically on their toes to deal with the onslaught, regardless of the origin of this crisis. However, even the World Health Organization (WHO) might be said to have been naively manipulated, convincing themselves (note a stark 50/50 split among their decision-makers about calling a global emergency) that China's enforced containment of its people in the Wuhan region would contain the spread. That was very possibly a thinly veiled ruse to delay more rigorous attention to the disease around the world. What's been slow in coming is clearly identifying transmissibility -- i.e. same Web Courtesy as any other respiratory illness (through coughing/sneezing Watermarked Edition and close breathing proximity which passes along airborne droplets).

Medical commentators in Canada say it can take up to two weeks for incubation and symptoms to present. This also leans to indicating a virus that could have been cooked up to perform in just that manner. Camouflage within the 'flu family' and presenting within the flu season is a Trojan Horse getting a head start in a race. We all know about Trojan computer viruses, that get into our computers innocuously because the system remains open but once inside lands its blow. That this illness -- once detected -- seems reasonably well managed by modern professional care, is possibly further evidence of a 'test run' sort of germ warfare experiment.

The free world may find it has been subjected to an experiment, but will probably find no political advantage in admitting to it. ■

## Conservative coronation lining up

West Shore Voice News

ANALYSIS ~ MPB

● Now that the federal Conservatives have moved Andrew Scheer out of the way (he's still interim leader after what his party considers 'his loss' of the 2019 election -- as if a flip flop between governance by Liberals and Conservatives is a law of the universe), more people have stepped back from declaring their intention to run for party leadership than have stepped forward. This leaves Peter MacKay in the spotlight, with Erin O'Toole nearly and clearly talked about but without the coronation vibe that MacKay is already seeing thrust beneath his wings.

Northern Ontario MP Marilyn Gladu (Sarnia—Lambton) is in the race with good stalwart Conservative intentions, but so far lacks sizzle in her public persona. Pierre Poilievre was set to run but has suddenly 'put family first'. The other high-profile Conservative -- Rona Ambrose -- who could have made this a real race, is putting her much talked about 'comfortable private life' first with a dash of 'serving causes through the private sector'; there's always the next decade. Although from Western Canada, Michelle Rempel Garner (Calgary-Nose Hill) has garnered a lot of on-air media exposure in the last year or two, but seems uninterested in clashing with the big guns for the top job.

There is a key difference between Liberals and Conservatives -- one wears and lives their politics through the thread of their lives, and the other separates one from the other around a fulcrum of capital gain and knowing their place within the tribe.

Leadership candidates must declare by February 27, and there are some high bars to meet. By March 25, verified candidates will have each met a total financial obligation of \$300,000 (\$100,000 of that is eventually refundable) and will have secured 3,000 signatures (the first 1,000 in 30 electoral districts across seven provinces). The leadership vote is set for June 27. ■



Peter MacKay



Rona Ambrose

Web Courtesy Watermarked Edition

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## Education & City

### Time capsule in Langford highlights education within city growth

by Mary P Brooke  
SD62 coverage at the board level since 2014

● After 25 years, a time capsule put in place at Lakewood Elementary School in Langford will be opened at a celebration among community leaders and school alumni on Monday February 3. The school opening in 1995 was attended by Langford Mayor Stew Young who is still the active mayor of this growing city.

Now a burgeoning metropolis, Langford will see two new schools -- one elementary and one middle -- opening in its Westhills neighbourhood for September 2022. Names of the new schools (being announced in the coming weeks or months) will acknowledge prominent community members, geographical references, or indigenous recognition.

Also coming is another high school in Langford (with Belmont Secondary '2.0' in Westhills already beyond capacity) and also soon a Langford-based post-secondary campus led academically by Royal Roads University along with a Camosun component and interwoven with the needs of the west shore's Sooke



SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar



Langford Mayor Stew Young

School District 62 (SD62) which is often promoted by SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar as the fastest growing school district per capita in BC.

SD62 produces about 750 Grade 12 graduates per year through currently three high schools -- one in each of Langford, Colwood and Sooke, as well as the Westshore Centre for Learning & Training which incorporates other avenues to graduation. **WSU**

## BC News

### Mini cabinet revisions this week squash talk of any early BC provincial election

West Shore Voice News

● Barely a ripple in cabinet changes in BC this week: Bruce Ralston and Michelle Mungall switched hats, and a backbencher was brought forward.

Ralston shifted from Jobs, Trade & Technology to Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources where more travel to northern and remote areas of the province where robust debates are taking place in the resource sector. He will also oversee the BC Hydro crown utility.

Mungall is now in the Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness driver's seat, which for the mother of a toddler is a post likely better suited to urban appearances and day trips. She will continue to promote BC's technology sector.

Anne Kang (Burnaby-Deer Lake) has been appointed Minister of Citizens' Services which is actually a significant portfolio in John Horgan's NDP government which focuses on putting people first. Kang replaces Jinny Sims, who resigned from her post last October amid an RCMP investigation into allegations that haven't been made public.

This muted cabinet revision dampens expectations that a provincial election would be called by Premier John Horgan anytime before the scheduled date of October 16, 2021. Bigger



Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness Minister Michelle Mungall (photo: 2018 at BC Legislature with her 2-month old son)

shuffles usually happen prior to election campaigns. Though groundwork was being laid in the northern interior of BC last week with Horgan making pit stops for announcements or meetings in Prince George, Fort St James, Quesnel, Terrace and Kitimat.

Given how hard the NDP has worked to maintain the stability of its minority government since July 2017 with the support of the three Green MLAs (well, now two, with former Green Leader Andrew Weaver sitting as an independent) by way of a formal Supply and Confidence Agreement, it's only in the realm of political banter from the opposition to have any talk of an election earlier than the set date.

From day one, Horgan's NDP team has worked like every day is their last -- not so much because they sense any fated end is near (though a minority government can be fragile), but also driven by a pent up frustration of seeing many socioeconomic needs (including education) go untended or poorly managed or neglected during 16 years of BC Liberal governance (compounded by an extended Great Recession recovery) which set so many people unkindly behind. **WSU**

## Working for our community

**Mitzi Dean**  
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

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# Danbrook One update: Government & EGBC statements

by Mary Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● Since revoking the occupancy permit for Danbrook One (2766 Claude Road) on December 20, 2019 the City of Langford had not yet reinstated the permit.

As of January 20, building owner Centurion Property Associates Inc has not charged rents for January 2020 and had asked tenants in writing "to remove their belongings". All tenants were expected to vacate the 11-storey building which has 90 units (about 85 of which were actually rented out); as of January 16 about 35 units were still occupied. So, not an eviction notice, per se, and Centurion says tenants are welcome to move back in once everything is resolved. Temporary shoring has been installed but so far it hasn't been enough for the city to reinstate an occupancy permit.

The situation has seemed 'odd' from the start, because instinctively everyone senses no clear willingness for any party to articulate where the problem lies. Ultimately, just best to clear the building, make the repairs, and let things get back to normal. For the building owner, sadly it looks like they figuratively 'bought a lemon', and for the City is ultimately just 'egg on their face'. For the tenants it's a bad-ass life experience that no one could have foreseen. For the BC Government and EGBC it's a torch under their feet to move fast with the changes they are making to the regulatory structure for building permits.

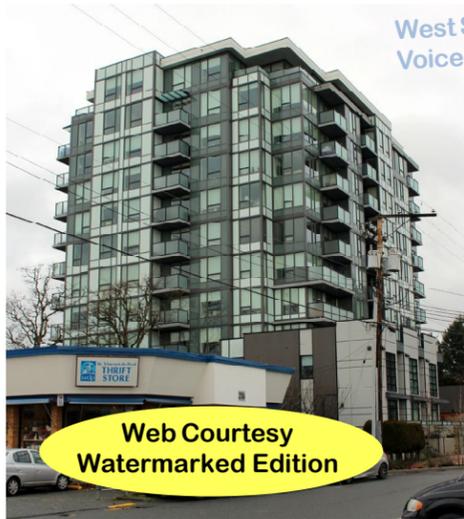
In time, there may have to be stricter regulations on municipalities to require a second opinion on building permit sign-offs. This could have a huge ripple effect in the development community and their relationships with municipalities, as well as possibly producing a jolt within municipalities themselves to reassess their own building permit processes and how they would deal with inviting in a second opinion.

Based on statements this week from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as well as the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (EGBC), it appears there are soft areas in the overall system, which likely no one used intentionally but have left room for error or oversight. When it comes right down to it, one engineer may not have done his best work, and no one wants to single out an individual when really the system allowed for shortfalls to go unnoticed or overlooked.

The City relied on sign-off approval of building integrity by the project engineer in the spring of 2019, and did not undertake an optional additional inspection as is their right under the Local Government Act.

However, after receiving a letter from EGBC in December 2019 that the sign-off engineer was under review by the organization, the City did undertake an independent review by WSP Engineering which stated that "certain aspects of the building's structural design and its as-built structure do not meet engineering requirements and are not sufficient to mitigate risks to life safety of the tenants".

EGBC is responsible to regulate professional engineers, but not



The 11-storey, 90-unit Danbrook One rental apartment building at 2766 Claude Road in the Langford core had its occupancy permit revoked by the City on December 20. On January 16 the building owner advised all remaining tenants that they must vacate the building.

the actual projects that the engineers work on or approve. Currently the organization is self-regulating by its own industry members (something that is changing soon).

Last week, Langford Mayor Stew Young said that it's time for the BC government to tighten the loose areas, which was a tough thing to say because it implies that municipalities have at the very least been able to ride an easy road. Turning all attention to provincial-level regulations, Young said on January 17: "There's a limit to how much the residents and taxpayers want to fund."

West Shore Voice News this week obtained the following two statements, one from the government and the other from EGBC:

## STATEMENT from the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

● "Public safety is the number one priority for our government.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs sets the BC Building Code, which sets technical standards for new construction across the Province.

The role of enforcement of the building code is the responsibility of local governments. Under the Local Government Act and Community Charter local governments also have the authority to manage the permitting process and are not required to report building permits to the Province.

In BC registered professionals (engineers and architects) are required to certify that the design and construction of buildings comply with the building code through Letters of Assurance. Local governments can either rely solely on those Letters of Assurance when issuing building and occupancy permits for buildings, or they can undertake additional inspection to ensure that the building is in compliance before issuing a building permit.

Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) is the body that regulates professional engineers. Engineers and Geoscientists are transitioning from being regulated under the Engineers and Geoscientists Act to full regulation and oversight under the Professional Governance Act and the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) in the Ministry of Attorney General.

The OSPG was created to bring independent oversight to professional regulation and to ensure qualified professionals are acting in the public interest. The office will oversee five regulatory bodies including Engineers and Geoscientists BC."

## STATEMENT from Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC)

● "We're at the beginning stages of our investigation process, so (there is no) time estimate on a conclusion at this point. At this time, our focus is on conducting a comprehensive, careful and fair process. If our investigation results in disciplinary action, that information is made public on our website (see current cases here: <https://www.egbc.ca/Complaints-Discipline/Discipline-Notices>)

With respect to our structure, Engineers and Geoscientists BC reports through the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) within the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is the regulatory and licensing body for the engineering and geoscience professions in BC. Our role is to maintain robust standards for entry to the professions, and comprehensive regulatory tools to support engineers and geoscientists in meeting their professional and ethical obligations. If our standards are not met,

we take action through our investigation and discipline processes.

We have legislation in place (the Engineers and Geoscientists Act, which is currently transitioning to the Professional Governance Act) which specifies how we meet our mandated duty outlined above. This legislation is owned by government.

The OSPG oversees the governance of five regulatory bodies, including Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and administers the Professional Governance Act. It can conduct investigations and audits of regulators, research and develop best practices in governance, and take compliance actions such as issuing directives – but the OSPG does not oversee individual professionals. That is the responsibility of the regulator.

Regarding the engineer's responsibility versus the municipality's: the engineer has a professional responsibility to meet the established legal and technical standards required for the structural design of a building. As the permitting authority, the municipality is responsible for compliance with the building code, and for ensuring the safety of the building and its occupants." WSV



Notices to tenants on the doors at 2766 Claude Road (Dec 2019).  
2020  
January 17, 2020: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/remaining-tenants-must-vacate-danbrook-one-says-building-owner/>  
2019  
Seven articles (Dec 19 to 31) with links listed at: <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/remaining-tenants-must-vacate-danbrook-one-says-building-owner/> WSV

## Colwood short-listed for Small Business BC award

● The City of Colwood is a finalist in the Open for Business Awards category for communities with a population of 5,000 to 25,000. Small Business BC recognizes communities that have created a friendly environment for small businesses. Colwood Mayor Rob Martin says there is an increasing number of opportunities for small business and that the city understands their needs and expectations". Winners in all categories to be announced at a gala in Vancouver on February 21. WSV



Colwood Council at their Committee of the Whole on January 20, 2020.

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**Chinese Lunar New Year.** Sat Jan 25. Year of the White Metal Rat.  
**SD62 General Kindergarten Registration.** Mon Jan 27 to 31. All registration online. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)  
**City of Langford Planning, Zoning & Affordable Housing Committee.** Mon Jan 27. 5:30 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)  
**City of Colwood Council Meeting.** Mon Jan 27. 7 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)  
**District of Sooke Council Meeting.** Mon Jan 27. 7 pm. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

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**City of Langford Protective Services Committee.** Tues Jan 28. 5 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**BC Public Service Employment Standards workshop.** Tues Jan 28. 10-11:30 am. WorkBC west shore. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/employment-standards-presentation-tickets-88719551567>

**SD62 Board Meeting.** Tues Jan 28. 7 pm at the board office. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Sooke Arts Council.** Deadline Thurs Jan 30 for submissions to Art & Word, Vol 2. [www.sookearts.com](http://www.sookearts.com)

**Capital Regional District (CRD) provisional 2020 Financial Plan** online for public feedback to Jan 31. <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/crd-accepting-public-input-on-2020-financial-plan/>

**Eco Academy at EMCS.** Registration for the September 2020 semester opens Mon Feb 3 at EMCS high school in Sooke. Fee \$500. Pending SD62 board approval. 250-642-5211.

Web Courtesy Watermarked Edition



### Lakewood Elementary

#### 25th Anniversary

Alumni are invited to join SD62 and community leaders to open the time capsule!

Monday February 3 at 1:15 pm

2363 Setchfield Ave, Langford

[www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

## Nature K and French Immersion K see overflow registration

● During the week of January 27 to 31 there will be General Kindergarten online registration for any children who will turn 5 years old in 2020.

Two specialty Kindergarten programs -- Nature K and also French Immersion -- had registration online during January 13 to 17. The popular programs saw full capacity registration, with overflow now being taken care of by lotteries.

"Registration for these programs of choice went well," says SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson. "We did need to do a lottery for Nature K at both Sangster and Saseenos as well as French Immersion at John Stubbs," he told West Shore Voice News this week. "In all other programs we were able to accommodate those that registered," said Stinson.

"We are working through the question of overflow now and how we will attend to any waitlists. We continue to refine the process based upon feedback (which we will gather from our schools over the next bit) in order to streamline the process and ensure clarity," said Stinson.

Stinson says their general kindergarten registration which will give SD62 "a better indication of overall enrolment across the district and any areas of pressure that we need to attend to".

Nature K is based on the principle of turning the outdoors into a classroom. Children spend all their instruction time outdoors, which is popular with some children and not others.

Regular indoor General Kindergarten (full-day Kindergarten at all SD62 schools in Langford, Colwood & Sooke) can be done by parents online at [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) starting at 8 am on Monday January 27. **WSV**

## BC Agriculture: bees and berries

● Beekeepers looking for new ways to produce more honey and cranberry producers seeking more pollinators are two examples of 28 projects that received over \$2.7 million in support from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. **BEES.** There are almost 2,700 beekeepers in BC, operating as a hobby, part-time or full-time business, with over 52,000 total colonies. Honeybees play a major role in agriculture as pollinators of crops, contributing an estimated \$538 million to the BC economy and over \$3.2 billion across Canada. **CRANBERRIES.** In 2017, farmgate sales for cranberries reached more than \$43 million. Over 42,000 tonnes of cranberries were harvested in BC in 2017. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News ~ SD62 coverage at the board level since 2014



SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson



Bees pollinate cranberries.

## Go easy on Ocean Boulevard, awaiting hot asphalt

● The road surface along Ocean Boulevard has been impacted by snowfall, snow clearing, heavy rain, ocean spray from winter storms and king tides, as well as vehicle use. Repairs will be made as quickly as possible, says the City of Colwood. They're waiting for improvements in winter weather conditions before doing hot asphalt repairs. Driving slowly and using extra caution to "navigate the pits and bumps" is recommended. **WSV**

## Teen drop-in at Sooke Library on Wednesdays

● For teens there is a program called "Board in the Library", on Wednesday evenings at the Sooke Library with games, activities and just to hang out. Ages 13 to 18.

The Sooke Library is located at 2065 Anna Marie Road in Sooke town centre. 250-642-3022 **WSV**

Phone: 250-642-4311

• New patients welcome

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## Lots of rain in January

● RAIN! According to information at [victoria.weatherstats.ca](http://victoria.weatherstats.ca) there has been 176.8 mm of precipitation in January so far, which is extra wet (compare to Jan 2019 with 125.7 mm). December was also wet with 103.7 mm, but November as you may recall was unusually super dry with 33.8 mm of rain.

Of course, this month will be

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memorable for the four days of snow January 12 through 15 with 29.3 mm of the fluffy white stuff (January 15 was the big snow day where much of the Greater Victoria area was quiet with inactivity). **WSV**

## Public input opportunities

Your input can contribute to changes in your community.

- **Emergency Program Act Modernization**  
Public input to 4 pm on January 31, 2020. By mail or email. Emergency Management B.C. (EMBC) is modernizing the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support more effective management of emergencies in BC by incorporating international best practices. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/emergency-program-act-modernization/> **WSV**
- **Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply & Affordability**  
Public input to 4 pm on April 3, 2020. Online survey; written submissions. The panel is specifically looking at housing supply. They are exploring solutions to ensure there are affordable homes available for purchase or rent in British Columbia's largest cities. They will meet with local governments, housing experts, and stakeholders in spring 2020. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/expert-panel-on-affordable-housing/> **WSV**

## WAVES Pet Hospital open 24/7 starting February 1



● The WAVES Veterinary Specialty Emergency Hospital in Langford has until now been open every day until midnight. As of February 1 the popular service will be open 24/7.

WAVES is a 'veterinarian's vet', handling specialty needs for treatment and surgery.

The public can take their pets there after regular vet hours in the case of emergencies. On snow day January 15 there were some emergency drop-ins.

WAVES opened in April 2019. They are located at 947 Langford Parkway in the mall at the corner of Jacklin Road and Langford Parkway. **WSV**

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