

# Christmas Eve Skate

**Tuesday Dec 24**

11:30 am to 1 pm

**New Year's Eve**

**Tues Dec 31**

11:30 a.m to 1 pm

Info: 250-642-8000

[www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

Week #464

# West Shore Voice News

v1

4 pages this issue

WEST SHORE VOICE

WSV ISSN 2368-9374 Vol.5 No.5

SVN ISSN 1925-2722 Vol.9 No.46

Weekend news digest

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

To get the unwatermarked edition, become a Subscriber! See details at <https://westshorevoicenews.com/subscribe-2/>

There's a lot of news and information out there. People come to WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS for our focus & insights on business, politics, community leadership & regional lifestyle trends including housing, transportation, health and education. Unique journalism & editorials.

Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

**Daily Online News Portal**

Where to catch Santa in action

[www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

**Subscribers & advertisers welcome!** You are the 'juice' that keeps *West Shore Voice News* moving forward! Call: 250-217-5821 for details.

**Friday December 13, 2019**  
The week's news to Sunday December 15

# Student hit by vehicle while crossing Hwy 14 (Sooke Road) to get to school

● In conditions of heavy rain, dark pre-dawn skies, wet roads and commuter traffic, on Thursday morning December 12 a teenage girl was struck by a vehicle while crossing Highway 14 on her way to Edward Milne Community School.

The injured EMCS student was transported to hospital where that same morning she was reported in stable condition.

The vehicle had been travelling west bound (toward Sooke). The pre-dawn incident occurred around 7:45 am (7:56 am sunrise that day). As of December 13, the name of the student had not yet been released.

The girl is understood to have been walking from a point near Lazzar Road, across Highway 14 (Sooke Road) toward the school, at or near the crosswalk. The crosswalk is unattended by a crossing guard but does have a user-activated flashing light. Investigators have not revealed yet whether the flashing light had been activated, or if the teen was in the crosswalk at the time of the accident.

SD62 sent their critical incident team to the school at 6218 Sooke Road, to be available to with staff and students. Students continued their usual classtime routines. EMCS is a secondary school, with students in Grades 9 to 12.

The crosswalk allows pedestrians to cross the provincial Highway 14 (Sooke Road) which is the only road 'in and out' of Sooke. Weekday commuter traffic out of Sooke in the mornings is significant; about 70% of Sooke residents leave their home base to work in other parts of the west shore and south Vancouver Island.

Sooke RCMP arrived on scene just before 8 am. "Frontline members attended immediately and worked alongside BC Ambulance and the Sooke Fire department who were already on scene," says Cpl. Chris Manseau, Division Media Relations Officer, Sooke RCMP. Initial police reports indicate a green vehicle heading westbound had impacted the student. The driver cooperated with police and was very concerned about the injuries sustained by the victim. Alcohol was determined not to be a factor, said Sgt Clayton Wiebe, Sooke RCMP.

The speed limit on the highway during school hours is 40 km/h, and otherwise is 50 km/h. On that main artery in and out of town, traffic is often travelling at speeds faster than that.

The Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) said on Friday: "The



While crossing Highway 14 (Sooke Road) on her way to school before sunrise on Thursday December 12, an EMCS high school student was hit by a vehicle. [Drive BC webcam image at 8:03 am shows wet road conditions, heavy commuter traffic, and first responders attending to the injured girl].



Driveway and staircase access, and new sidewalk on Edward Milne Road (which runs parallel to Highway 14), at the west side of Edward Milne Community secondary school in Sooke. [File photo – November 2019]

Breaking news was posted here on December 12:  
<https://westshorevoicenews.com/emcs-student-injured-on-hwy-14-crosswalk/>

# Merry Christmas from the WSV clan, ho ho ho!

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

ministry's thoughts are with the student hit by a driver on Thursday while crossing the highway to Edward Milne, as well as with their family and friends. Initial reports said the student was crossing in a marked crosswalk with a pedestrian-activated light. The RCMP is investigating, and the ministry review the results of the investigation. In the meantime, the ministry will undertake a review of the crosswalk and adjacent highway to see if additional measures to improve safety could be added."

MOTI also said: "As the region continues to grow, Highway 14 through Sooke will become busier. Safety is the ministry's number one priority, and staff will continue to work closely with the municipality and school district to make sure pedestrians, cyclists and drivers can all safely travel along the corridor."

In the past year, MOTI did install a sidewalk along Edward Milne Road (which runs parallel to Highway 14, in front of EMCS) and improved the Highway 14/Sooke River Road intersection with traffic signal lights.

An open house that unveiled MOTI plans to expand Highway 14 to four lanes (in a section east of Sooke) was held just last week at EMCS, on December 3. The desire by local residents and businesses in the area is for a faster, more reliable commute in and out of Sooke.

While three elementary schools on Sooke Road (Saseenos Elementary, Sooke Elementary and John Muir Elementary) have crossing guards on duty before and after school, the high school on Sooke Road does not. Decisions about funding for crossing guards are up to Sooke School District 62 (SD62). "Crossing guards are funded through municipalities and hired by the district," says SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson.

The District of Sooke presently provides \$14,000 per year to SD62 for the cost of crossing guards, and a \$9,000 additional request for 2020 was made to the municipality by SD62, says District of Sooke CAO Norm McInnis. "The request was for another guard due to growth," says SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull.

In the other west shore municipalities where SD62 schools are located there are also municipal contributions: Langford currently pays \$42,000 and Colwood currently pays \$14,000. "These are historical amounts and have not taken into consideration our recent growth," says Cull. The other municipalities served for public education by SD62 but where there are no actual schools (Highlands, Metchosin and View Royal) do not pay for crossing guard services.

Crossing guards are employees within CUPE. The crosswalk locations served by crossing guards "have been in place a while", says Cull. He says the locations were probably initially based on risks on a site by site basis, as determined by the school district.

Will SD62 consider making any changes to crossing guard or crosswalk arrangements outside EMCS? "It would be premature on our part to make any decisions or recommendations at this point," says SD62 Superintendent Stinson. "We will allow the RCMP to complete the investigation and then see if there is anything we might consider doing," he told *West Shore Voice News* on Friday.

MOTI is responsible for the flashing light at the crosswalk on Highway 14. Crosswalks on municipal roads such as Goldstream Avenue (such as in front of Spencer Middle School, where the crosswalk was recently repainted ahead of September 2019 return to school) are a municipal responsibility. **WSV**

# West Shore Parks & Rec employee injured by vehicle cutting through parking lot

● West Shore Parks & Recreation (WSPR) is renewing their efforts to restrict cut-through traffic from Ocean Blvd to the Island Hwy following an incident

December 11 that resulted in a serious injury of a staff member when a driver cut through a scheduled closure at the entrance to the West Shore Parks & Recreation parking lot off Ocean Blvd. The employee was taken to hospital. West Shore RCMP responded to handle the matter with the driver.

"WSPR is feeling extremely concerned for the injured staff member and for the ongoing safety of the patrons on our site," said Sandy Clarke, Acting Administrator, West Shore Parks & Recreation. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/west-shore-parks-rec-restricts-cut-through-to-improve-safety/>

- HIGHLIGHTS
- West Shore Parks & Rec employee injured by commuter vehicle .... 1
  - SD62 Board reshuffles Trustee Bob Beckett up to Vice-Chair ... 2
  - Latest round of Hwy 14 proposed design improvements still require adjustment, says Premier ... 3
  - Big success: 10,000 Tonight food drive by three high schools ... 3
  - WorkLink shifts from leased to purchased space in Sooke .... 4

**Wet roads, less visibility. Get your vehicle ready for winter!**

2079 Otter Point Rd in Sooke  
**Open Mon-Sat 250.642.6665**

**DUMONT TIRECRAFT**  
Auto Center  
[www.dumonttire.com](http://www.dumonttire.com)

**TIRE REBATE**  
info online:  
[www.dumonttire.com](http://www.dumonttire.com)





## Shifts in holiday gift & card traditions



● **The shift has already happened...** shopping for gifts in the Christmas season has been robust online for years. Now it's not so much 'will I find a parking spot' as 'will the parcel reach my home or recipient's destination in time'.

Quite the reliance, there is, on accurate and representative product images as presented on websites. A thriving industry for photographers and copywriters, to be sure. And quite the pressure on Canada Post in particular (and delivery services in general) to have reliable, resilient systems in place for the massive onslaught of parcels and letters sent with the excitement of gift-gifting to anticipatory destinations.

While it's still a struggle to get people into brick-and-mortar stores, there seems to be a balance emerging between the convenience of online shopping (essential if mobility-challenged) and the experience of shopping in person. For some, it is still the collective energy of shopping in a mall or the invigorating experience of bustling along city streets in crisp winter air and stopping for lunch that is part of the ambiance of the season.

And still the printed Christmas card has its impact, though nowadays feels a bit surprising to receive by 'snail mail'. It comes with a thought directly to your home or office, lingering into the new year. But e-cards are cool too! ■



## BC News

## Agriculture

### BC food production revenues up

West Shore Voice News



Lana Popham, BC Agriculture Minister

● **BC farmers, ranchers, seafood** and processing workers contributed to a record-setting year (2018), says the Ministry of Agriculture. "It was an excellent year for agriculture in British Columbia. The hard work of many has led to record results," said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture.

Annual business revenue in those sectors reached \$15 billion, including a 4% rise in food processing, 6% in agriculture and 11% in seafood revenues. The number of overall sector employees increased to a 10-year high of 63,400, with 2,300 more jobs than in 2017.

BC consumers and companies are the main buyers of BC products, with an estimated \$6.4 billion of purchases.

The Ministry of Agriculture began a new mandate in 2017 to support BC farmers through a three-pronged approach:

- \* **Grow BC**, which creates a network of food hubs supporting entrepreneurs and food processors around the province, and has programs to increase production and support new farmers;
- \* **Feed BC**, which encourages the use of BC products in government-operated institutions and facilities; and
- \* **Buy BC**, which is helping more than 200 BC companies promote their products in BC, as well as developing partnerships supporting local foods in retailers. **WSV**

## Public Education News

## SD62

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/category/education/westshore-sd62/>

### SD62 trustees re-elect Ravi Parmar as their Board Chair

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

● **At the December 10 board meeting** of Sooke School District 62 (SD62) the trustees held an election for Chair and Vice-Chair. In a show of solidarity and support, the Board of Education re-elected Chair Ravi Parmar, while acclaiming Trustee Bob Beckett as their new Vice Chair.

Parmar was first elected as a Trustee in 2014, and re-elected in 2018; this is his second time as Chair. A former Langford Fire Chief, Beckett was newly elected as a trustee in October 2018.

The full board term is 2018-2022. The trustees are: Ravi Parmar, Chair (5 years service - Belmont Zone); Bob Beckett, Vice-Chair (1 year service - Belmont Zone); Wendy Hobbs (23 years service - Belmont Zone); Bob Phillips (20 years service - Milne's Landing Zone); Margot Swinburnson (20 years service - Milne's Landing Zone); and Allison Watson (1 year service - Milne's Landing Zone).

Allison Watson was chosen by her fellow trustees as the new BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Representative (nominated by Margot Swinburnson who will serve as the Alternate). Bob Phillips is the new BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Rep, with Bob Beckett as Alternate.

SD62 school trustees are elected by the public in two zones, alongside municipal elections. The Belmont Zone trustees are elected by voters in Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin and parts of View Royal. The Milne's Landing Zone trustees are elected by voters in Sooke, East Sooke and Juan de Fuca area out to Port Renfrew.

"It has been a pleasure to serve the Board for the last two and half years," says Parmar. "I look forward to continuing the work with our new Vice Chair, the Board and our partners to ensure the Sooke School District remains a great place for our students to learn, engage and grow!"

"We are fortunate to have a Board that is efficient and progressive," says Scott Stinson, SD62 Superintendent. "Trustees understand the needs of students and staff, as well as families and the community. With SD62 growing so quickly, we will all benefit from the guidance and leadership of Trustees Parmar, Beckett and the entire Board of Education."

Trustee Dianna Seaton was thanked for her service as Vice-Chair over the past year and a half. She also has chaired the Resource Committee which crunches the budget numbers and in the past year has explored school bus transportation issues. New chair appointments (for Education Policy Committee, Resource Committee, and Audit Committee) will be made by Chair and Vice-Chair in the new year.

In a short speech to the board upon his re-election as Chair on Tuesday night, Ravi Parmar said that the board's strategic plan (presently for 2018-2021, with the three planks of Learning, Engagement and Growth) will soon come up for review, to see how actions and outcomes are lining up with the plan.

Parmar said the board is excited about the expansion of Royal Bay Secondary School coming on stream in 2020 as well as the start of construction of two new schools (elementary and middle) in the Westhills area of West Langford. "This has been one of the most successful years in the history of SD62," said Parmar. **WSV**

**Mitzi Dean, MLA**  
**Esquimalt – Metchosin**  
cordially invites you to our

## Seasonal Open House!

Monday, December 16  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

104–1497 Admirals Road  
(in Admirals Walk)

Light snacks & refreshments  
Non-perishable food for Esquimalt  
Neighbourhood House welcomed.

250-952-5885 / MitziDean.ca  
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca

**Happy Holidays!**

**SOOKE EYECARE**  
DRS of OPTOMETRY

**Open Monday to Saturday**  
5-6726 West Coast Road, Sooke  
[www.SookeOptometrists.com](http://www.SookeOptometrists.com)

**Wishing SD62 families**  
**a wonderful holiday**  
**& Happy New Year!**

**SOOKE 62 SCHOOLS**  
Shaping Tomorrow Today

### 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**  
**Email:** [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com)  
[advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com)  
[www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)  
**Facebook:** [WestShoreVoiceNews & SookeVoiceNews](#)

**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. **Contributor:** Val Smith. **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).

#### Digital subscriptions by email or text advisory

Link version **\$28.95+GST** 52 wks OR  
Unwatermarked Premium PDF: **\$29.95+GST** 18 wks  
● **Print subscriptions**  
Weekly by 1st class postal mail (includes Premium PDF by email): **\$43.95+GST** for 12 issues colour or **\$37.95+GST** for 18 issues grayscale.

**VISA MasterCard Interac e-Transfer**

● **Newsstand**  
Colour print edition **\$2.25** at Shoppers (Sooke)

● **Community** Free pickup copies in coffee shops, libraries, rec centres.  
**Courtesy edition (PDF), archives & breaking news:**  
[www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)  
Letters published in *West Shore Voice News* do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher, editor, staff, or affiliates. The publisher reserves the right to decline any articles, letters, photos, ads or other contributions.

### UK landslide: pro-Brexit

● **In the UK** (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) on December 12, Conservative Party leader Boris Johnson achieved a resounding victory in a rare Christmas-season general election, capturing 365 of 650 seats (326 needed for a majority), with 43.6% of the vote. He vowed to the British public that he will 'get Brexit done' by January 31, 2020. Scotland may still want independence from the UK so it can stay in the European Union. **WSV**

### West Shore Voice News



SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar congratulated first-term Trustee Bob Beckett on his appointment as Vice-Chair.



**Outgoing Vice-Chair**  
**Dianna Seaton was thanked**  
**in particular for her**  
**strenuous service on the**  
**Resource Committee over**  
**the past year-and-a-half. >>**



### Hon. John Horgan, MLA

LANGFORD – JUAN DE FUCA



**My best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy, healthy holiday season!**

[John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.JohnHorganMLA.ca](http://www.JohnHorganMLA.ca)  
250-391-2801  
122 – 2806 Jacklin Road  
(Jacklin & Goldstream)





## Community News

WEST SHORE | SOOKE | VIEW ROYAL

News updates any time:  
[www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com](http://www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com)

### RRU's new campus proposal heads to BC government

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **On December 11** at Hatley Castle, Royal Roads University (RRU) was pleased to announce that they're putting "the finishing touches" on 2019, including a business case for a new post-secondary campus on the west shore. "I'm happy to tell you tonight that we are just days away from submitting the business case to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training," said Cheryl Eason, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, RRU. Partners in the initiative are the University of Victoria and Camosun College, with strong input from the City of Langford. Likely to be located in Langford, the new campus will aim to address the post-secondary and labour market demands of the west shore (primarily for residents and businesses in Langford, Colwood, and Sooke where Sooke School District 62 provides K-12 education to over 11,000 students). The announcement came during the WestShore Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday party. **WSV**

Serving Drumroaster Coffee  
PilgrimCoffeeHouse

**HOLIDAY SEASON GIFT CARDS**

105-1910 Sooke Rd in Colwood  
778-265-5577

**PILGRIM COFFEE HOUSE**

**REGULAR HOURS:**  
M-F 6:30 to 6 | Sa 7-6 | Su 8-5  
**CLOSED: DEC 25-29 & JAN 1**  
**OPEN: MON DEC 30 & TUES DEC 31**

### 10,000 Tonight a big success

West Shore Voice News

● **SD62 high school students collected a record number of items** for local food banks this year under the banner of their 10,000 Tonight food drive.

Held at three high schools -- Belmont Secondary in Langford, Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood, and EMCS in Sooke -- students and their supporters of family and community gathered 43,880 non-perishable food items.

Sooke School District (SD62) was excited to report that "the initiative to feed the Western Communities as well as Sooke and Port Renfrew, was once again, a smashing success!"

The event took place across the region on Wednesday evening, December 11. Volunteer student and parent drivers hit the streets, picking up non-perishable food donations, such as canned goods, pasta noodles and cookies.

This year, SD62 proudly had all three neighbourhood secondary schools working together for a collaborative total.



**Food drive by three high schools on one night each December; this year collected 43,880 items.**

In previous years the event was set up as a competition between the three high schools.

"We are very proud of the hard work our secondary schools put into this event," says Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools. "Once again, students, staff and parent volunteers went above and beyond to ensure their friends and neighbours don't go hungry this holiday season."

The event was first launched in 2009 at Belmont Secondary with the goal to collect 10,000 non-perishable food items in a single night. Since then, it has become one of the biggest food drives on the lower Island with all donations going to the Goldstream Food Bank and the Sooke Food Bank. **WSV**

### Where to catch Santa in action

● **The Christmas clock is ticking**, and at some retail locations in Greater Victoria the chance to sit with Santa for a photo-up have already come and gone.

Here are some locations and dates that remain, most up until Christmas Eve:

Mayfair Shopping Centre (up to Dec 24) | Hillside Shopping Centre (up to Dec 24) | Westshore Town Centre (up to Dec 23) | Victoria Public Market (Sat Dec 21).

More details: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/where-to-catch-santa-in-action/> **WSV**



Web-Posted  
Watermarked  
EDITION

### Premier has suggestions for latest Hwy 14 4-lane proposal

Mary P Brooke  
~ West Shore  
Voice News

● **Premier John Horgan broke away** for a moment from glad-handing with constituents at his holiday season open house on Wednesday evening, Dec 11, to say that he still has some suggestions for the Transportation & Infrastructure Ministry on their recent proposal for four-laning Highway 14 between Connie Road and Glinz Road near 17 Mile Pub. The proposal unveiled Dec 3 includes an overpass and two lengthy U-turns. Public input open to Wed Jan 15. [www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14) **WSV**

### Happy Holidays!

Ask a Doctor of Optometry  
on Facebook

Dr. Joslin\*,  
Dr. Morin\* &  
Associates:  
Doctors of  
Optometry



Providing comprehensive eye health and optical services in the west shore for over 25 years.

[www.langfordoptometrists.com](http://www.langfordoptometrists.com)

#105-814 Goldstream Ave  
in Langford  
Open Monday to Saturday  
including Wednesdays to 8 pm  
Phone: 250-474-4567

\*denotes optometric corporation

West Shore Voice News

### Poinsettias generate funds for VGH equipment

● **The Victoria General Hospital (VGH) Auxiliary** reports success with their annual Poinsettia for Patients fundraising campaign in this 2019 holiday season.

In October and November, over 700 poinsettias were sold to local businesses and 88 people anonymously purchased poinsettias for delivery to patients who must remain in hospital over the holidays. A fundraising dollar total was not provided.

For the past decade the Auxiliary has sold plants to finance amenities and equipment for the hospital.

"We are trying to improve the ambulatory lab and make it more kid-friendly. Having blood taken can be traumatic enough, so we're trying to make it feel more calming," says Val Smith continued VGH Auxiliary Vice-President.

Most Auxiliary revenues are generated with sales at the concourse gift shop which is operated entirely by volunteers who also sell Purdys chocolates. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/over-700-poinsettias-sold-to-support-vgh-auxiliary/>



Red, pink and white poinsettias are supplied to the VGH fundraiser by Hilltop Greenhouses.

VGH Auxiliary

## Herman Miller Aeron Chairs

\$150 OFF!

Dec 1-24, 2019

4 Colour options

3 Different Sizes

Fully customizable



[monk.ca](http://monk.ca) local • family run • Island company



[www.monk.ca](http://www.monk.ca)

### Holiday season electric lighting safety tips

West Shore  
Voice News

- Use Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified light strings/sets.
- Use the proper lights for the environment. Indoor light strings/sets should not be used outdoors because they lack weatherproof connections. Some outdoor light strings/sets burn too hot indoors.
- Inspect light strings/set before use. Check for cracked bulbs and for frayed, broken or exposed wires, and discard if faulty.
- Do not use electric light strings/sets on metallic trees. A faulty system could energize the tree and shock or electrocute anyone coming into contact. Illuminate metallic trees with colored floodlights placed at a safe distance from the tree and out of reach.
- Turn off all tree and display lights before heading to bed or before leaving the house.
- Use only CSA certified light strings. Read the labels and manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper use.
- Do not overload wall outlets during the holiday season; it's unsafe even for short periods.
- Inspect all cords before use, looking for loose connections or frayed/exposed wire.
- Discard any defective cords.
- Insert plugs fully into outlets. Poor contact may cause overheating or shock.
- To avoid overheating of extension cords, do not coil or bunch when in use; do not run under carpets or rugs. **WSV**

City of Langford  
[www.cityoflangford.ca](http://www.cityoflangford.ca)

**LANGFORD ON THE MOVE**

**TRAFFIC INFO**

Traffic advisories  
Scheduled roadworks  
[www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

WEST  
SHORE  
VOICE

News updates any time  
[www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com](http://www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com)

### Season's Greetings!

your local electrical contractors...

SOOKE HARBOUR  
ELECTRIC

CERTIFIED BONDED & INSURED  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

cell 250-888-4996

E: [sookeharbourelectric@shaw.ca](mailto:sookeharbourelectric@shaw.ca)

Where to  
recycle  
old light  
strings

Source:  
CRD website

● **A&P Disposal & Recycling** (6220 Marilyn Rd, Sooke), **Alpine Disposal & Recycling** (1045 Dunford Ave, Langford), **Bottie Depot** (4261 Glanford Rd, Saanich), **Ellice Recycle** (524 David St, Victoria), **Hartland Landfill** (250-360-3030). **WSV**



## Alistair MacGregor, MP's holiday season open houses



Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) held two holiday season open houses in the large riding: one in Duncan on December 14 and the other at Luxton Hall in Langford on December 15. He is pleased with the NDP start in Ottawa under Jagmeet Singh's leadership since the October 21 election. The NDP has proposed that the cutoff for the Liberals' proposed change in the basic tax exemption be applied to incomes \$90,000+ instead of \$150,000+, as a way to fund the \$1.6 million needed for Dentacare. **WSV**

**Always be prepared for power outages, especially in winter during storms and icy weather.**



## BC Hydro works support community growth

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

- **As the west shore population grows**, BC Hydro is keeping up with various installations and upgrades to their local infrastructure. Recently:
  - **A set of three voltage regulators** were recently setup alongside Highway 14, beyond Langford, near Kangaroo Road. Voltage regulators maintain a constant voltage within an area and help maintain power quality. "They are needed to support the system as a result of future growth in the area," says BC Hydro rep Karla Louwers. There is a steady increase in housing in the Sooke area, and starting 2020 there will be more Highway 14 improvements in the area within range of East Sooke, Metchosin and Sooke.
  - **In downtown Langford**, there is a scheduled power outage for late Sunday night December 15 into early Monday morning December 16 (along Goldstream Avenue, and along Peatt Road to Station Avenue) where there is an increase in rental housing and commercial space in the area. "The outage is required to allow crews to install flagline and cover up on our equipment," says Louwers. "Crews will be adding these visual markers to equipment along Peatt Ave from Hockley Ave to Goldstream Ave as well as along a portion of Hockley Ave. Flagline and cover up on our equipment provide a visual aid for construction workers helping them maintain the limits of approach when working near powerlines. The installation is related to construction activity in the area," she told *West Shore Voice News*. **WSV**

## THINKING OF A CAREER CHANGE?

**FREE COURSE UPGRADING FOR GRADUATED ADULTS**



**REGISTRATION INFO & AVAILABLE COURSES**

[www.westshorecentre.com](http://www.westshorecentre.com)

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## events

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/events>



### Kindergarten

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

**Register for Nature Kindergarten or French Immersion from January 13 to 17.** General registration is January 27 to 31.

**Registration starts 8 am at [www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten)**

If there are more applicants than spaces available there will be a lottery. For more information and to register please visit our website [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

## The Week of December 16

**Blood Donor Clinic.** At Journey Middle School in Sooke. Mon Dec 16. 12 to 6 pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**Mitzi Dean, MLA - Christmas Open House.** Mon Dec 16. 4 to 6 pm. Drop-in. 104-1497 Admirals Rd. [Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca) | Phone: 250-952-5885. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item donation for local neighbours in need.

## Be prepared for winter power interruptions

West Shore Voice News

- **Having enough food**, batteries, blankets and important medications on hand as well as an alternate heat source for your uninterrupted modern lifestyle during an unexpected power outage has become standard emergency preparedness practice for prep-ready people!
- Also, have cash on hand in case the ATMs are out of service. Have enough gas (or electric charge) in your vehicle. Lots of info about emergency kits, and more, at [www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca) **WSV**

Web-Posted  
Watermarked  
EDITION

## WorkLink buys new office space in Sooke

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

- **The WorkLink Employment Society** which operates WorkBC centers in the west shore and Sooke has just purchased a new property in Sooke, says Worklink Executive Director Peter Doukasis.

It's an older house that with a few renovations will be modernized and efficient.

The property is located on Church Road between Sooke Road and Wadams Way.

Until now, the WorkLink location in Sooke has been in a leased space in a small town centre mall at 6625 Sooke Road.

The WorkLink west shore location (headquarters) at 3179 Jacklin Road is technically in Colwood, right near the border of Langford.

WorkBC programs assist workers, those in search of work, and those who offer employment (i.e. businesses and organizations) with opportunities to access resources, skills training and hiring scenarios.

WorkLink is a non-profit organization funded through both federal and provincial government initiatives. WorkLink is a registered charity in the Province of BC. **WSV**



**New to Sooke?**  
Call: 250-642-2268

# West Shore Voice News

Friday December 13, 2019 :: WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

**Forest Nights** at Herm Williams Park. Thurs Dec 19. 6 to 8 pm, 646 Kelly Road, Colwood. Hot chocolate and caroling. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**SD62 - last day of classes before winter break:** Fri Dec 20. Back to school Jan 6. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Roller Skating.** Fri Dec 20. 7 to 10 pm. West Shore Parks & Rec. All ages. [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca)

## Rolling into Christmas & New Year

**Christmas Eve \$2 Skate.** Tues Dec 24 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex. 11:30am to 1 pm. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Christmas Eve.** Tues Dec 24. | **Christmas Day.** Wed Dec 25. | **Boxing Day** Thurs Dec 26.

**Sooke Saltwater Series.** Boxing Day Derby. Thurs Dec 26. [www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca](http://www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca)

**Blood Donor Clinic.** Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. Mon Dec 30. 12 to 6 pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**New Year's Eve \$2 Skate.** Tues Dec 31 at SEAPARC, Sooke. 11:30am to 1 pm. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**New Year's Eve at West Coast Grill** in the Prestige Hotel, Sooke. Tues Dec 31. [www.westcoastgrill.ca](http://www.westcoastgrill.ca)

**New Year's Day Polar Bear Swim** Wed. Jan 1 at the Lagoon Beach, 2901 Ocean Blvd, Colwood. 12 noon.

**Modernization of health care profession regulation.** Public input (survey & written submissions) to Fri Jan 10: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/healthprofessionregulation/>

**Climate Preparedness & Adaptation.** Public input to 4 pm on Fri Jan 10. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/cleanbc/>

**Highway 14 Improvements.** Public input open to Wed Jan 15. [www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14)

**Registration for children starting Kindergarten in September 2020** at schools in the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) -- Langford, Colwood, Sooke -- will be available in January 2020. Registration periods:

- **January 13 – 17, 2020:** French Immersion Kindergarten & Nature Kindergarten.
- **January 27 – 31, 2020:** General Kindergarten Registration.



## BC Transit installing more bike racks on buses

West Shore Voice News

- **Getting off the trails** from a ride and onto the bus with your bike will soon be a reality. This month, BC Transit will start phasing in new bike racks to accommodate bikes with tires up to three inches (75 mm) across the province.

The use of bike racks is increasing in popularity for commuters (as a first mile and last mile solution to help connect them door to door), or as a convenient way to go home after a trail ride.

Bikes come in a number of sizes. BC Transit's says their customers have expressed their need for a bike rack that can accommodate bikes with tires larger than the previous two-inch (50.8 mm) maximum allowance.

"The results from our testing indicated that we can safely approve this wide tire bike rack for BC Transit's customers", says Jeff Coleman, supervisor, fleet engineering, BC Transit.

Many different bike racks were tested throughout the process and the model that best met BC Transit's needs for safety and customer convenience was the Apex 2TM by Sportworks.

Customers have asked about racks that can hold three bikes, and BC Transit tested various three-bike racks. However, the three-bike racks did not meet BC Transit's safety expectations due to issues with the headlight obstruction. For accessibility and safety reasons, bikes cannot come on board, so bike racks are positioned on the front exterior of each bus. [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com) **WSV**

**Happy Holidays!**



Open daily ● 250-478-3244

**Colwood Corners**  
#6 - 310 Goldstream Ave  
**House of Nutrition**  
[www.houseofnutritionbc.com](http://www.houseofnutritionbc.com)