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Voice
News



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Week #466

West Shore
Voice

News 4 pages this issue

WEST SHORE VOICE

WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Vol.5 No.7

SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.9 No.48

Weekend news digest
Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

New Year's
Eve Skate
Tuesday
Dec 31

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to
12:45 pm



\$2

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Friday December 27, 2019



Kids soccer camp by new Pacific FC at Westhills Stadium (Aug 2019).

● **The west side of Vancouver Island** is getting a face lift. It's been happening for years, but suddenly seems to have reached a vibrant level of awareness by the broader region about how west shore communities tick and what might come in 2020 and beyond as a result of decisions made by local municipalities and organizations in the last few years.

West Shore Voice News has been covering the momentum of west shore politics and communities since 2008 (bringing an urban perspective to primarily Sooke 2008-2013, then shifting to the larger municipalities and region in 2014). That's a long timeline by which to gauge the shifts in public attention to what is going on around them in their communities.

● **LANGFORD:** It's all about growth in this city now beyond a population of 40,000. One still hears ripples of the past about 'Dogpatch' of olde, but you'd never know it now. Long-time mayor and council have made it their die-hard passion to transform the area from under-developed into a self-styled metropolis of pop-up centers of economic activity seen mostly as more businesses and shopping malls, entirely new neighbourhoods, more buildings and offices, more sports facilities and teams to go along with them, more roads and signage, and on the horizon another new hotel around which to build another economic hub. Several years ago apparently there was a locally organized study which indicated that the mayor should 'walk among the people' and not be sitting behind a desk at city hall; that may soon change, along with the stature of the city and its players. Very recently, Council seemed to realize that greenspace needs to be considered as a matter of policy, not just a windfall by the grace of such-minded developers. All well and good to build many new homes (people need that) and roads to get them where they want to go (everyone appreciates the new cross-town traffic arteries), but greenspace as an afterthought reveals one chink in the master plan that doggedly put the economy and jobs above people. It's coming back into balance now, an 11th-hour realization that people want holistic balance in their communities. Case in point, the 2017 tradeoff of land to keep Metchosin rural and environmentally pristine while expanding Langford's borders was brilliant for boosting Langford's tax base but missed the holistic goal (Langfordians generally don't think to head to Metchosin for untouched greenspace, they want it in their own backyard). A park (even the ones with rubberized surfaces and play equipment) may not generate user dollars, but generates good things amongst people that help them love their community more.



Community beach event at Colwood oceanfront (May 2019).

● **COLWOOD:** In Colwood the people made a big difference in October 2018 by electing a new mayor-and-council combo. While all of them being mainstream by profession or interest and effectively small-c conservative by action, they are forward thinking. With the guidance of a willingly creative mayor, in 2019 Colwood Council has been taking methodical steps to get where they want the community to go. The municipality is by necessity aiming for more of a commercial tax base, a wider range of housing with an eye to affordability, and actively pursuing a desire to raise the profile of local community activities. Threaded through much of what Colwood does is a palpable concern for the natural environment as an asset not yet seized for its full marketing/tourism potential, but also plainly if not compassionately to protect it as a 'jewel' that few other municipalities have in combination with a strong growth philosophy. They'd rather go slow and get it right, though the results of every council meeting seem to be pushing things along.

● **SOOKE:** The town that keeps stretching to be more is still held back by its sheer distance from the 'core' (which is no longer just Victoria/Saanich but now effectively includes Langford as the nearest robust economic centre for jobs and shopping, and Colwood for its convenient proximity to downtown and strong military community). The distance factor may be ameliorated to some degree once Highway 14 has an additional four-lane section midway between Langford and Sooke (that's 2022 at best), but it's not just the kilometres on the odometer. Sooke seeks to retain that getaway feel, and until that is ever shaken loose there are subtle forces every day on many levels that edge out 'big business' and the appeal that goes along with modern conveniences. Council stands for admirable things like environmental issues and slow growth, but some folks are beginning to question whether that ultimately serves the community. The new library has taken about 10 years now to reach another stagnant wait in 2019 for a development permit. New downtown office space or stores are next to none, with attempts suffocated by a swarm of things like design standards, parking issues, whether it's north or south of the highway, whether the existing core would be negatively impacted, and on and on. Now that Sooke's mayor (as UBCM president) is focussed on province-wide issues, and as the area's MLA will not be premier forever, the hopes of the town that already paid the price for its political affiliation may once again find itself struggling to maintain the new dream unless a bigger city business footprint is able to take hold (the Evergreen Mall expansion is a significant aspect of that, but the core generally impedes opportunities for the plethora of smaller local enterprises). Sooke is challenged with the fairly unique scenario of maintaining its special awareness of community and goodwill based on traditional rural values while welcoming the growth it needs. If Sooke succeeds in merging the two it will be a marvel for study by community planners everywhere.

Year-End Analysis
by Mary P Brooke, Editor
West Shore Voice News



New storefront development at Evergreen Mall in Sooke (Nov 2019).

● **VIEW ROYAL.** This is a mature but smaller footprint of Greater Victoria with sophisticated municipal dynamics including being the location of the biggest hospital on the island and positioned geographically between original core (Victoria/Saanich) and new core (Langford-plus). Their decision-making under a long-time mayor and steadfast council has included a range of housing options including an attentive policy on secondary suites. They get down to work on simple yet effective things like adding a public dock on the Gorge so it can be used by community and nearby school; it was just a matter of doing some diligent paperwork with the BC government. In November, View Royal council heard one of the first presentations by the Capital Regional District (CRD) that was designed to test the waters on how municipalities might react to being asked to implement zoning that would force businesses and the construction industry to deliver less debris to the landfill. The responses from four councillors and mayor were thoughtfully pointed yet helpful to the CRD process.

● **METCHOSIN.** Metchosin's off-stated goal is to remain small (keeping population under 5,000) and to maintain its rural culture with a concomitant modern view to maintaining untouched natural greenspaces. Their emergency management program is proactive (easier to do with a contained population size). Metchosin takes part in the politics of the West Shore Parks & Recreation where the main assets of rink(s), pool, golf course, Q Centre and more are a bonus being in nearby Colwood, presently funded in largest part by the Langford tax base.

● **ORGANIZATIONS.** Many non-profit organizations and other centres of activity serve a broad umbrella of communities that consider themselves part of the west shore. Included in that profile would be the Westshore Chamber of Commerce, West Shore Parks & Recreation, family service organizations and medical clinics, Legions, and so on. Their goals and activities are generally distinct but find areas of overlap. For all there are budget considerations in a careful economy (nothing is the same since the long recovery that was the Great Recession, 2008-2017). More broadly, the integration of team and amateur and community sports (including school sport academies) into the west shore economic mix creates a sub-economy that drives things hard in many strata of the community; Langford with its goal as a 'sports capital' has made sure to foster that.

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● **SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 (SD62).** Not to be confused with being a school district just serving the town of Sooke, SD62 delivers public education to over 11,000 students in the west shore (schools are located in Langford, Colwood and Sooke but students arrive as well from View Royal, Highlands, East Sooke, and Metchosin; Port Renfrew in Juan de Fuca is served by one small school). SD62 is the largest employer in the west shore, and is rapidly expanding their capital assets with facilities to serve their target audience. There are 27 schools at present, with a new elementary and middle school combo ready to break ground in Langford in 2020, then soon-after a high school. Paired with that is the 'new post-secondary' that Langford and Royal Roads University are revving up for, to which SD62 will need to cater as much as they can, as many of their graduates will find appeal in remaining close to home (considerations of cost and convenience). SD62 has for the most part a progressive board that speaks openly of their compassionate approach to education for the widest possible range of student needs and in recent years has sensibly addressed employee satisfaction with things like ECE support in Kindergarten classrooms and better computer/IT technology beyond the central office. SD62 keeps an attentive eye on housing growth in the region for how it generates student population increases. SD62 has learned in recent years to take advantage of other centres of activity (for both revenue and service to students and community), such as bringing a health clinic under its wing at Belmont Secondary in Langford, offering Camosun College courses in the evenings in co-shared space at Belmont, providing child care centres where possible, and operating sports academies at all three high schools. Leadership is cohesive between senior administration and trustees, which moves things along.

● **WEST SHORE AREA.** Evidence of 'doing what works' in the overall region includes collaboration between fire departments for on-call services and coordinated use of the CRD's emergency alert system. CRD's water distribution has a Juan de Fuca division. Transportation has never had much of a lift-off with CRD; the province is still working on their regional transportation strategy for the south island. The concept of 'west shore' has handy political fluidity for use in different ways at different times. To some it still means a sort of Langford-Colwood combo, and to others it's everything west beyond Victoria/Saanich/Esquimalt. There's a west shore label on a rec centre with one set of component municipalities, while also naming a chamber of commerce with a slightly different set of component parts or outreach.

For this news service (print, digital and online) the west shore moniker has always been to keep a finger on pulse of the region as a whole as it morphs, changes and grows.

Overall, the idea of 'west shore' has caught fire in the imagination of Greater Victoria as an area where new things happen -- exciting to watch and be a part of. ■

What's this year-in-review tradition?

ANALYSIS by
Mary P Brooke

EDITORIALS
MPB



Mary P Brooke,
B.Sc., Cert PR

What is this social contract that

communities have with their media to make room for our say on 'year in review' and 'year ahead'? Professional community-based journalists are essay-writers at heart, so we muse on the meaning or impacts of the many things we've been following through the year. As most people are busy living their lives, a spin-off function in society is the observer. That's the role of journalism, to observe along the way and reflect back to a community about itself. For those who aren't writers themselves it's sometimes difficult to imagine that there's a 'space' where observation steps aside from opinion. Yes, there are filters in the professional writer based on experience, but those normally serve to colour the success of observation for the widest possible audience. [Regional Year in Review - pg 1]

Quakes on the eve of Christmas Eve: a reminder

Five quakes on December 23 (ranging from 4.7 to 6.0 M) were enough to grab headlines in the days leading up to Christmas. All of them occurred well west of Port Hardy at the northern part of Vancouver Island, deep below the ocean. None produced a tsunami warning, and there was no reported damage anywhere on shore. There were aftershocks on December 24.

For emergency preparedness officials it was another oddly 'welcome' opportunity to remind people to prepare for emergencies ('the big one' were words avoided in the holiday season). Coastal BC is a seismically active zone; everyone knows this. Whether people are genuinely prepared in their homes, cars, places of work and study, and in their communities for the complete disarray that will come with a major seismic event, is still likely open to improvement. It's not easy to think about disaster and all the levels of disruption while enjoying a high-tech modern lifestyle.

All emergency preparedness organizations and leaders remind people on the coast to be prepared for seven days without regular services and conveniences: stores unavailable, banks without computer services, roadway access challenges, food supply interruptions, gasoline shortages (and e-vehicle charging down), medical services overload, emergency rescues underway, etc. And all of this possibly without Internet or smartphone availability. Readiness for this is a work in progress.

Health News

Blood Supply

Canadian Blood Services branding starts to take hold



A group of Canadian Blood Services staff display the organization's logo (new in October 2018), as part of a video shown at the CBS December 6, 2019 public board meeting in Ottawa (livestreamed).

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) held their public Open Board Meeting on December 6 in Ottawa, with livestream as available online [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjchDTVwgD0&feature=youtu.be>]. Financials of the first six months of 2019, a report on the recent rebranding of the organization's marketing and visual presence, and the achievement of key organizational objectives were covered in the meeting.

CEO Dr Graham D Sher talked about the organization continuing to build trusted relationships with donors, recipients, employees and volunteers, as well as the work of 'bringing donors in the doors'. October 2019 was the first anniversary of brand renewal for the organization that he called "Canada's biological lifeline". CBS is nationally responsible for transfusion and transplantation.

CBS met their hospital order rates in 2019, and this year received recognition from the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapies. The new strategic plan is about "keeping the promise". There was work this year with organ transplant programs across Canada to share hearts across jurisdictions as well as kidneys.

An IPSOS brand equity score of the organization's brand validity and value was reported as having gone up a bit from September 2018 to summer 2019. With components to the critique that include familiarity, trust, relevance and uniqueness, the CBS brand was "trending favourably", with donor recognition of the brand up from 7.2 to 7.5 (of out 10), and with the general public showing an increase from 6.0 to 6.2.

On the matter of product lines, the CEO said that CBS is "meeting hospital needs with strong inventory and order fill rates for red blood cells and platelets, which was offset with intermittent O-negative inventory challenges" (O negative is a 'universal blood type' because people of any blood type can receive transfusion of it). He said that "red blood cell discards are at the lowest level of discard in the history of the organization". Apparently loss of supply can occur at all points in the supply chain including the manufacturing process, and while "it's expensive to overstock", for recipients it's still better to have more than less blood on hand. "People are giving with the intent it will be used by a patient," it was stated in the presentation. In the national system, blood that is close to its expiry date will be relocated to "areas that are somewhat understocked".

Emerging pathogens are being watched (including West Nile virus which is seen mostly in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario; and Zika virus which is normally contracted in southern climates) but nothing significantly new came up in 2019. Zika is not tested for, but CBS will ask donors a lot of questions on their travel history and some people may accordingly be deferred as a donor for a period of time. "We have to be ready regardless of (a few cases or an outbreak)," said Dr Sher. Travel-related infections are usually caused by mosquito-borne viruses.

The next public board meeting will be in Calgary in June 2020. WSV



Season's Greetings!



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SD62 News <https://westshorevoicenews.com/category/education/westshore-sd62/>

SD62 meeting notes Dec 10: new website, ELL report

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News
SD62 coverage at the board level since 2014

At the December 10 Sooke School District (SD62) public board meeting, SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson was pleased to announce the December 16 launch of a new website presentation at www.sd62.bc.ca saying it was important to do that ahead of Kindergarten registration

which comes up in January. The website's main page now features the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan along with sections for Schools & Registration; Healthy Schools, Healthy People; Programs & Support; Board of Education; School Bus Transportation; Aboriginal Education; and District Growth; news, events and calendar. There is also a new Intranet for staff that was launched December 20.

The English Language Learners (ELL) component of SD62 "brings immigrants into our communities with our families", said program lead Laura Schwerfeger. There are currently 363 ELL students (FTE 280), a tally that changes through the year. Presently 40% of the international students are on track to graduate with a BC Dogwood (Gr 12 Certificate), with 60% in the cultural immersion track. Over 25 countries are represented in ELL (with 25% from Germany, 19% from China, Spain 9%, Japan 9%, Mexico 8% and Brazil 7%). The tally of ELL students is up 19% over last year, and up 167% compared to five years ago. The International student program brings solid revenues to SD62.


The board made a point of emphasizing that the holiday season 10,000 Tonight food bank collection initiative by the high schools was a combined cooperative effort this year, instead of the schools competing with each other in previous years. Stinson remarked on the 'inclusive nature' of Christmas-season concerts at schools this year.

The board heard brief commentary about the possibility of a few electric buses coming onstream in 2020 or beyond, with details yet to be confirmed. WSV

Wishing SD62 families a wonderful holiday & Happy New Year!




SOOKE 62 SCHOOLS
Shaping Tomorrow Today



City of Langford
www.cityoflangford.ca

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO



Traffic advisories
Scheduled roadworks
www.langford.ca

Happy New Year!

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
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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:** - **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 news (WSV web, Tw, FB).

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Call: 250-642-2268

Canadian Blood Services

Year-End Letters to the Local Community

We're buliding a stronger BC

Hon. John Horgan, MLA
LANGFORD-JUAN DE FUCA



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

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Letter from Premier John Horgan, MLA (Langford-Juan de Fuca)

“ I’m proud of the work our government has done over the last year to make life better for everyone in British Columbia, and what we’ve accomplished since taking office in 2017. From new roads, hospitals, schools and child care centres to better, more affordable services in every community – together, we’re building a stronger BC.

This fall, we made history, unanimously passing legislation to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples – making BC the first province to enshrine UNDRIP in law. In our community, I’m particularly pleased to note that new opportunities are helping the economies of Pacheedaht, T’Souke and Scia’new nations.

One particular highlight this year for me was the opportunity to help paddle from T’Souke to Scia’new as part of this year’s Tribal Canoe Journeys. What an honour to traverse part of the traditional highway of the ancestors of the Coast Salish people and celebrate together. I cherished the opportunity to use my new paddle, fashioned from a cedar plank that was gifted to me last year by Pacheedaht Nation Chief Councillor Jeff Jones. Thanks to T’Souke Nation Chief Gordon Planes and carve John Warren who assisted me with the carving over three weekends earlier this year. My paddle now has a few scrapes and dents from the rigours of the journey.

Access to family doctors continues to be a problem in our community, as it is elsewhere in the province. We are working on it, and the Urgent Care Centre in Langford has helped, and we’re expanding team-based care at the West Coast Family Medical Clinic in Sooke. We’re also boosting the number of MRI machines so people don’t have to wait as long for scans.

Work is underway to upgrade the Trans Canada Highway from Leigh Road to the West Shore Parkway. The highway is being widened from three lanes to four lanes for a distance of two kilometres, beginning at Leigh Road. The additional lane will continue through the West Shore Parkway intersection, with the northbound merge relocated to the Goldstream Park side of the signal. This will add capacity to the highway at this intersection and reduce northbound traffic congestion that is common during peak periods. To improve safety, 1.2 kilometres of concrete median barrier will be added to separate opposing lanes of traffic.

Okay, that’s just a quick look back. The job isn’t done yet – and we’re going to keep working hard to make life more affordable; improve the services you count on; and create good jobs and opportunities all across BC. There’s more to do, and by focusing on people, BC is getting back on track. We’re leading Canada with the lowest unemployment rate, the second-highest hourly wage growth, a triple-A credit rating, balanced budgets and zero operating debt for the first time in 40 years.

Despite global economic headwinds and challenges here at home, we have a lot going for us in BC. It’s because of our people. If we continue to invest in them and create opportunities for their creativity and innovative solutions, 2020 will be our best year yet.

All the best to you and those you love through the holiday season and in the New Year. ”

Premier John Horgan, MLA

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/b-c-families-saved-thousands-in-2019/>

Making life better for people in BC

Working for our community



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www.MitziDean.ca

Happy Holidays!

Letter from Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin)

“ As 2019 draws to a close, I appreciate this opportunity to look back over the work we’ve done this year.

I am honoured to serve in a government working to make life better for people in our community and across BC. We’ve completely eliminated MSP premiums, saving individuals and families hundreds of dollars a year, and reduced or eliminated Fair Pharmacare deductibles for 240,000 BC families. Work is underway to bring more doctors to our communities.

In just two years, we’ve funded more than 10,400 child care spaces, giving parents much-needed relief and the chance to rejoin the workforce. It’s all part of the largest investment in child care in BC’s history, including lower fees for child care spaces and our Affordable Child Care Benefit, saving families up to \$15,000 per year.

This fall, we made history, unanimously passing legislation to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples – making BC the first province to enshrine UNDRIP in law. This is a crucial step towards true and lasting reconciliation. Together, we’re creating a clear and transparent process for ensuring Indigenous peoples are included in the decisions that directly affect them, their families, and their territories.

We’ve introduced a range of measures to address the housing crisis. We’re constructing new, affordable rental homes across the province, with 22,000 completed or underway. We’re expanding rental support programs for low-income families and seniors, and have limited the annual allowable rent increase to keep rates affordable.

In our community, new affordable housing now being built includes a 124-unit Indigenous Housing Project on Wale Road and a 102-unit affordable rental housing project off Goldstream Avenue. Both of these Colwood projects are being built with support from the Province of BC.

In my role as Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, I’ve been working across ministries to ensure gender equality is reflected in all budgets, policies, and programs. We’re acting to address gender-based violence and building 1,500 new transition homes for women and children seeking safety. We are investing to reduce waitlists and better meet demand for vital services like counselling, outreach and crisis support.

The Province’s CleanBC plan to fight climate change and grow the low-carbon economy was given more weight with the Climate Change Accountability Act. We’re investing in public transit and improving transportation infrastructure to reduce congestion. And we’re implementing common sense solutions through innovation and collaboration.

A new mobile office pilot program for government workers who live in the Westshore will help reduce congestion, get commuters out of gridlock and give people more time with their families. It’s to be up and running next autumn.

We’re working hard to put people first, to put more money back in their pockets, build a strong economy and take action on climate change. Two-and-a-half years into our mandate, we’ve made great progress and there is more to come.

A special thank you to my staff at the Constituency Office for their service to our community throughout the year. On behalf of all of us, I’d like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful festive season. ”

Mitzi Dean, MLA

Greens celebrate new horizons

West Shore Voice News

● **FEDERAL.** At year-end, federal Green Party Caucus Parliamentary Leader Elizabeth May (and MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands) says “the future is looking Green!” In a year-end letter on December 27 she said: “You may not know Paul Manly and Jenica Atwin yet – but you will.” Together, we make such a strong team. Each of us has chosen areas of concentration. Being able to split up my workload is a real joy. We can do more than three-times the amount of work,” said May.



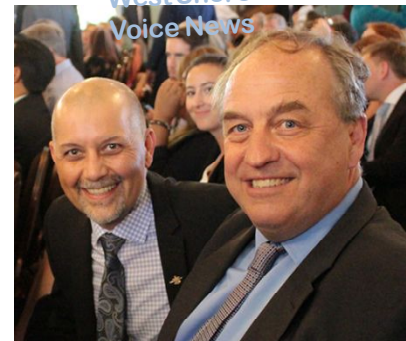
GPC Parliamentary Leader Elizabeth May (Sept 2019).

She noted the effort by Manly and his team to run two campaigns in the same year in Nanaimo-Ladysmith (by-election and general election) and that Atwin (winning Fredericton) secured the Green Party’s first federal seat in Atlantic Canada.

May expressed a new realization that in no small part indicates an important role of the media’s choice and management of messaging during election campaigns: “Until we began to overtake the NDP in fundraising earlier in 2019, I had not realized how much donation levels are read by the pundits and pollsters as key signs of political clout. It is clear that every donation helped us develop momentum as we headed into the election,” she wrote.

May stepped down as party leader shortly after the October 2019 election, with former Green candidate Jo-Ann Roberts serving now as Interim Leader. The party’s leadership election comes up in October 2020.

● **PROVINCIAL.** The BC Green Party has supported the BC NDP Government in their achievement of seeing climate initiatives implemented by government, and as such BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver felt his main mission for getting into politics had been accomplished. While he retains his seat in Oak Bay-Gordon Head until the October 2021 election, he has now stepped aside to see Adam Olsen, MLA



BC Green Leadership: Adam Olsen, MLA (left) is now Interim Leader with Andrew Weaver, MLA July 2017 file photo) who has stepped aside as leader.

(Saanich North and the Islands) selected to assume the role of Interim Leader. A leadership race comes up in June 2020.

A progressive step for organized politics is seen in the BC Greens opening up their leadership vote to any British Columbian age 16 or older, whether or not they are a Green Party member. <https://westshorevoicenews.com/adam-olsen-named-bc-green-party-interim-leader-anyone-age-16-can-vote-for-new-leader/>

WSV

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Blood Donor Clinic. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. Mon Dec 30. 12 to 6 pm. www.blood.ca

New Year's Eve \$2 Skate. Tues Dec 31 at SEAPARC, Sooke. 11:30am to 1 pm. www.seaparc.ca

New Year's Eve at West Coast Grill in the Prestige Hotel, Sooke. Tues Dec 31. www.westcoastgrill.ca

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

SD62 - back to classes after winter break: Mon Jan 6. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

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

SD62 Kindergarten Registration - French Immersion and Nature Kindergarten. Mon Jan 13 to Fri Jan 17. Note: General Kindergarten registration will be available Jan 27 to 31. All registration is done online. www.sd62.bc.ca

Highway 14 Improvements. Public input open to Wed Jan 15. www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Jan 21. 7 pm at the board office. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

BC Family Day. Mon Feb 17.

BC Legislature. Throne Speech Tues Feb 11. Budget Day Tues Feb 18.

Leap Year. Note there is Feb 29 in 2020.

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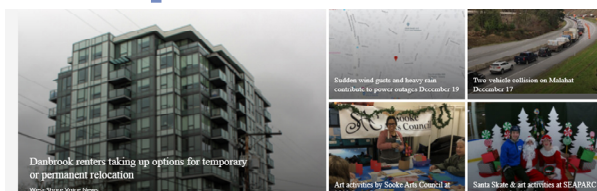
Always be prepared for power outages, especially in winter during storms and icy weather.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program @jdfemerg www.prepareyourself.ca

Have a safe & enjoyable winter holiday season!

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WEST SHORE VOICE

News insights
West Shore & Greater Victoria

Already tipping into longer days

The days are already getting longer. The winter solstice on Saturday December 21 marked the shortest day of the year. On that day in the west shore, sunrise was at 8:03 am and sunset was at 4:22 pm. The solstice itself occurred at 8:19 pm

By Christmas Day on Wednesday December 25, dawn came a few minutes later at 8:05 am but sunset shifted to 4:24 pm. By New Year's Eve on Tuesday December 31 the sunrise will be at 8:06 am and sunset will have inched along to 4:29 pm.

In the Northern Hemisphere,



Natural forest skyline in Westhills, just after sunset, behind homes lit up with holiday lights [Dec 27].

winters -- especially in December -- are noted for late dawn, early sunset, short days and long nights. The winter solstice each year brings the longest night, shortest day. **WSV**

West Shore Parks & Rec pool re-opened December 27 after annual cleaning

The Juan de Fuca pool at West Shore Parks & Recreation at 1767 Island Highway in Colwood re-opened on Friday December 27 after a six-and-a-half week shutdown (November 11 through December 26) for annual cleaning and maintenance.

The day before the shutdown the pool was made available to people who wanted to treat their dogs to a mid-winter indoor splash.

The pool is 25m in length with eight lanes, diving board, adventure pool with spray toys, and a 7.5 meter-long water slide. There is also a swirl pool and sauna/steam room. www.westshorecreation.ca **WSV**

SEAPARC's new facility expansion almost ready

West Shore Voice News



New parking lot markings at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke [Dec 16].

Facility expansion at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke is closing in on the January 2020 completion target. The addition of 5,150 sq ft includes a fitness gym and more multi-use space.

There are also some parking lot improvements such as speed bumps, crosswalk markings, directional arrows and a few extra-wide handicapped parking spots. **WSV**

Harry & Meghan here for Christmas

Prince Harry and Meghan -- the Duke and Duchess of Sussex -- and their baby Archie spent some time over Christmas right here on South Vancouver Island, a continent away from the formal Christmas gathering of the Queen and royal family.

While they were turned down for a dinner reservation by the owner of the Deep Cove Chalet in North Saanich (reportedly due to intense security requirements), they were greeted to their Canadian Christmas vacation by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau via Twitter while vacationing with his family in Costa Rica. One TV news report suggested the royal couple may have been staying at a home in Oak Bay. **WSV**

World Juniors in Czech Republic

The 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship is being held with its usual Boxing Day start, this year in the Czech Republic. Last year the popular junior hockey tournament was held in Vancouver (with a few games also played in Victoria).

The first game for Canada was at 10 am PST; (Game 4) vs US, which Canada won 6:4. That will be followed on Saturday December 28 with Game 10: Canada vs Russia at 10 am PST.

Then on Monday December 30 is Game 14: Canada vs Germany at 6 am PST and then Game 20 on New Year's Eve: Canada vs Czech Republic at 10 am PST.

The Quarter/Semi-Finals are on January 2 and 4, and the Finals are on January 5. <https://westshorevoicenews.com/world-juniors-in-czech-republic-starts-boxing-day/> **WSV**



All through December:
Forest Lights in
Herm Williams Park
www.colwood.ca

Malahat rollover on December 27

Around 11 am on Friday December 27, a single vehicle rollover occurred on the Malahat in the southbound lane, just south of Goldstream Park.

Langford Fire Rescue responded at 11:09 am, and West Shore RCMP responded around 11:30 am.

City of Langford Engineering reported the motor vehicle incident on the TCH as south of Finalyson Arm Road, north of West Shore Parkway and kept media apprised of traffic flow restrictions. Northbound traffic continued to flow, while southbound

traffic was stopped. By 12:15 pm TCH was reopened, reported Michelle Mahovich, Director of Engineering, City of Langford. Single lane alternating is enabled in such situations if it takes longer than 30 minutes for the road to be fully open.

West Shore RCMP say that both northbound and southbound lanes were shut down for approximately 40 minutes while emergency crews attended the scene and the vehicle was cleared from the shoulder.

"Frontline officers located a 2014 Jeep Wrangler that had gone off road at this location, hitting the rock wall and rolling onto the driver's side," says Cst Nancy Saggar, Media Relations Officer, West Shore RCMP.

"The driver was the only occupant of the vehicle and was unharmed in this collision. An impaired driving investigation ensued as the driver was suspected to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the collision. As a result the driver was issued and immediate roadside prohibition from driving and their vehicle was towed," said Cst Saggar.

BC Ambulance attended. No other vehicles were involved in the crash and no other persons were injured. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/malahat-closed-for-40-minutes-after-alcohol-impaired-driver-rollover/>



Twitter / Erica Holmes



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