



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

Register for Nature Kindergarten or French Immersion next week, January 13 to 17. General registration 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)

**Friday January 3, 2020**

News to January 5, 2019

Week #467

# West Shore Voice

**News** 4 pages this issue



WSV ISSN 2368-9374  
SVN ISSN 1925-2722  
Vol.5 No.8 Vol.9 No.49

Weekend news digest  
Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

## It's 2020!

## Happy New Year, New Decade!

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Roughed-in road access to the new Pacific FC indoor training facility at 2888 Kettle Lake Drive in Westhills (January 2020). The PFC soccer team owners had a soft opening of the facility on December 1 for some local community leaders with their families, then hosted various local sports activities at no charge to December 15. Sports teams will be able to book use of the facility in 2020. **WSV**



Braving the cold on a bright January 1, 2020 for the Polar Bear Swim at Esquimalt Lagoon in Colwood. The day's high in Colwood was 11.5°C. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News



The official cake for the City of Colwood New Year's Day Levee was proudly displayed at ESquimalt Lagoon by (from left): Councillor Gordie Logan, Councillor Stewart Parkinson, and Mayor Rob Martin. **WSV**



^^ The Humpback Trail is coming along. There is parking lot access off Meridian/Irwin Road in Westhills (near the West Shore Parkway roundabout). Wide winding trails are suitable for walking and biking, some areas soggy in heavy rain. There are rest stop benches, water features, old growth forest and native plants. >> **WSV**



**Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION**



Rainbow in Sooke: warming up after the polar bear swim at Whiffin Spit on January 1. The day's high in Sooke was 10°C. **WSV**

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Land leveling taking place at the site of the two upcoming new SD62 schools (one elementary, one middle) on Constellation Avenue in Westhills. School names to be decided by SD62 Board trustees this month. **WSV**

## The unfolding landscape of 2020

ANALYSIS by  
Mary P Brooke

EDITORIAL



**Mary P Brooke,**  
B.Sc., Cert PR

● **The West Shore and south island region emerges into 2020** in go-forward mode. During 2010-2019, Langford was creative at building a rapid-growth local economy that was cautiously crafted by manoeuvring the gulleys and hoops of the post-Recession economy, while Colwood and Sooke tried their hand at components of community growth. The BC economy saw wealth built largely upon the real estate market (shifting in 2017 to a redistributive people-first mode). Canadians now expect more of the job market (both for income and workplace quality) leaving employers to adapt to cost-of-living realities and evolving sociocultural standards.

Here are a few thoughts and some specifics on how 2020 might unfold:

**LANGFORD:** Langford has not slowed down to take a deep breath for years. There will be continued roadworks and development of new neighbourhoods including housing, schools, and commercial. A new post-secondary enterprise is in the works. In the foretelling-named City Centre Park area around the expanded Westhills Stadium there is progress for bringing another hotel to town, the Boxing BC building (behind the stadium) may complete this year, the annual Langford Show 'n Shine will hold some of its program there (breaking with Goldstream Avenue tradition), and -- we hear -- a high-profile concert headlined by Bryan Adams is coming in August. Langford will continue spearheading the reworking of a deal among five municipalities for a reemergence of West Shore Parks & Recreation. The city-affiliated Pacific FC professional soccer team enters its second year, comprising a backbone of Langford's goal to become the 'sports capital of Canada'. The new BC Government west shore office in Westhills will operational toward the end of 2020, marking a significant milestone for the city's goal to reverse-trend the commuter traffic and take job growth (now mostly construction and retail) into a new realm in the west shore. Rapid building construction may reveal a soft underbelly, as seen in the issues around apparently improper support structures at an apartment high rise just before Christmas.

**COLWOOD:** Council has heard presentations about the Royal Bay and Royal Beach developments, as housing and commercial development gears up. The expansion of Royal Bay Secondary School by Sooke School District 62 (SD62) will be completed in the heart of new housing, making it the largest highschool on Vancouver Island. More outdoor events at the beachfront and around town are part of raising the Colwood 'natural assets' profile within Greater Victoria. Royal Roads University in Colwood continues to raise its community-active profile and work cooperatively with Langford and SD62 toward the 2022 launch of that new post-secondary offering.

**SOOKE:** Construction along Highway 14 to create a four-lane section between Connie Road and Glinz Road will soon be a challenge for commuters and tourists until completion in mid to late 2022. Evergreen Shopping Centre is under development with three new retail spaces at the Highway 14 frontage at the town centre roundabout, wherein Sooke will finally get the town centre Tim Hortons that many local folks (especially youth) have said they always wanted; that will put Sooke 'on the map' as part of mainstream Canadian socioeconomic culture.

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT:** The CRD's regional strategy has long indicated the west shore as where the Greater Victoria population growth would occur (evident in waste water management, trail network expansion, and perhaps a west shore ferry out of Colwood to Victoria). Downtown Victoria has only recently realized it must adapt in order to maintain its appeal to regional residents and tourists. In 2020 the CRD will launch a campaign encouraging municipalities to develop bylaws to enforce stricter landfill disposal requirements upon businesses and the construction industry as Hartland Landfill reaches projected full capacity by 2050. The residential curbside bluebox program has been a success over the past 30 years, but now faced with fading markets for accepting recyclable materials CRD will begin a 'recycling 2.0' push on households including stricter expectations of multi-family housing and asking all households to be more attentive to the range of things that can be recycled.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** With the undetermined scent of the 2021 provincial election wafting in the wind, BC's NDP government (shored up with three Greens) is working hard to deliver or lock-in an array of social support programs, make improvements to family income impacts (e.g. individual/family MSP premiums now eliminated, and minimum wage increases on schedule), roll out more housing affordability and availability, and nail down a long-term framework for affordable child care and gender equity. CleanBC is now established as an evolving initiative -- so much so that Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver stepped down (in November); he said that his primary goal for getting into politics had been achieved. Highway and transportation development has been robust throughout the province, although the multi-faceted South Island Regional Transportation Strategy to better connect the Greater Victoria within itself and to parts up the TransCanada and to the mainland is still awaited.

**ELECTIONS:** While 2020 presents no scheduled elections (BC provincial 2021 with a maintained supply-and-confidence agreement with Greens), municipal 2022, and federal 2023 (unless the minority government falters), the political sector is already working hard over changes that will come. On June 27, the BC Green Party will have a new leader and Canada will see a new Conservative Party leader (Andrew Scheer having stepped down in December). If the slow-move to launch the 43rd

Parliament in November/December and Trudeau's lengthy family winter vacation in Costa Rica are any indication, there is a lot of strategizing going on to cover-off all likely scenarios amongst the opposition in the House of Commons and what Trudeau's leadership temperament will be this year. Local municipal councils are fast approaching the mid-point of a four-year term, and while busy with jam-packed agendas aimed at producing deliverables are eyeing 2022 as some mayors and councillors possibly age-out. The 2022 school trustee election alongside municipal will be a chance for shifts as well, as the broader community gets a bigger sense of how public education supports the well-being of the full community by having the goal to produce well-balanced young adults who possess life skills and job skills

## Happy New Year!



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for serving the economy that must grapple with the demands of fast-emerging technologies (meanwhile supporting a top-heavy senior population) and who with critical thinking skills can participate attentively in civic matters.

**TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE:** At this point in the 21st century, no doubt there will be many advancements in technology that impact health care, communications, transportation, forms of entertainment, and aspects of the workplace. More young people are embracing science, math and engineering for their career; the brightest minds for the technological world will hopefully be balanced by the brightest minds for the ethics of changes that come with technological advancements including artificial intelligence -- not just the philosophers but also the politicians and legal systems that understandably lag behind the lightning speed of technological change while they observe and quantify the impacts of tech change upon individuals, families and socioeconomic structures. Continued support for the arts will help balance all this.

**PRIVACY & SECURITY:** Canada should be grappling hard with its decisions about whether Huawei will be included in the expansion of the 5G network in this country. According to many tech experts, the concerns for use of data about Canadians by China's state government is real and worrisome. Every moment of every day, Canadians are effectively under surveillance. You are seen on cameras in stores and at banks, and walking down the street in commercial areas. In the workplace various levels of security are in place. Your home computer IP address gives away what you're viewing and buying (and when in active use indicates where you are), and your TV digital box reveals the content you watch. The GPS in your phone and car tracks you everywhere. Tech experts confirm that your smartphone listens to you even when you're not on an active call. Going forward, most people will not have any chance of truly comprehending what privacy is in the fully-monitored age, or why it's important. This brave new world is well upon us. When you log on to Facebook (or do you leave the interface active 24/7?) you are selling your privacy to one of the biggest enterprises on the planet. Baby pictures, old yearbook photos, details of an illness, a random thought -- it's all out there in 'the cloud' (i.e. non-random servers) forever.

**HEALTH CARE:** Doctors work with the wonders of drugs and surgery; they are our sophisticated body mechanics. The broader health care field that offers a wide range of disciplines like physiotherapy, acupuncture, naturopathy, and midwifery is now established in the mainstream. The dentists and dental surgeons in BC saw a tightening up of their realm recently, under a government which is planning for the regulation of health disciplines yet to emerge. Preventive health care is not a new concept yet we still see high rates of Type 2 diabetes and obesity (both largely contributed to by insufficient exercise and over consumption of carbohydrates and sugar). And while the idea of proactive nutrient supplementation and choosing natural foods has been around since the 1970s, it's an area of health that is variably applied for helping to achieve optimal health. Canadians can expect a long lifespan into their 80s, 90s and even past 100. This top-heavy senior population poses challenges for their care (e.g. adequate trained workforce and provincial budgets), but could be an excellent opportunity to observe the aging process for the benefit of future generations. Cancer treatment is robust in modern medicine, supported by attempts

**West Shore Voice News**  
The Sooke Voice News  
Published by Brookeline 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@westshorevoiceneews.com advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com  
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**Print copy deadline: 5 pm Mon**  
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**Published & Printed by:** Brookeline 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:** Jennifer Brooke, Jonathan Francoeur, Keith Sketchley. **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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for a thorough support system; but radiation and chemo together with surgery are still harsh commands upon the human body. Nowadays there are many cancer survivors but knowing or addressing the factors that cause cancer still lags behind (e.g. processed/microwaved foods, exposure to chemicals, and poor life-work balance, and response to trauma are known but largely unheeded). Addiction is a modern monster; once the connection between socioeconomic distress and the need to escape using drugs or alcohol is fully acknowledged, there will be progress. Mental health challenges -- particularly among teens and young adults -- will hopefully be seen as a problem that starts with the complexity of what it takes to fit into a competitive, complex culture that makes a plethora of demands on individuals and families as socioeconomic frameworks rapidly evolve.  
**ECONOMY & DEBT:** Unless you're in the top one percent for personal income, you are challenged by a morphing economy. Many Canadians are over-indebted to levels that easily contribute to financial crisis, and businesses remain cautious about investing in growth. Many seniors have insufficient resources for non-working years. It's a fragile condition for a country that presents itself as advanced and robust.  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:** Hopefully the role of the arts and entertainment to distract, inform, enlighten and reveal will be increasingly seen as a key component of community well-being (BC & CRD have robust programs). Content quality is always challenged to keep pace with electronic/tech marvels.  
**OUTER SPACE:** Hopefully marvellous Mother Earth is repaired and maintained in good health as we race past known horizons. **WSV**

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**Happy New Year!**

# Community News

## WEST SHORE | SOOKE

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

### New year's eve power outages

West Shore Voice News

By 3:10 pm on new year's day, pretty much all outages had been resolved. But on new year's eve Tuesday December 31 and into the morning of Wednesday January 1, at the peak 6,297 customers were without power (17 outages) on South Vancouver Island.

With on average two persons per address, that's about 12,500 people who spent new year's eve without electricity.

As of 9:10 pm New Year's Eve there were 1,598 BC Hydro customer addresses without power on South Vancouver Island (1,691 in Colwood/Langford), then 3,815 by 9:25 pm.

At 3:25 am on January 1 about 550 BC Hydro customer addresses lost power in the Sooke area. As of 9 am new year's morning there were still 1,528 addresses without power on South Vancouver Island.

BC Hydro crews were busy through the night, achieving restoration to customers in Colwood/Langford, East Sooke, Sooke, and Esquimalt as well as Saanich/Central Saanich,



Area of new year's eve outage in Colwood/Langford area on December 31, 2019 [BC Hydro map].

and Cowichan/Duncan. Most of the downed lines were in rural/remote locations.

Heavy rain and strong winds contributed to trees falling on transmission wires, leading to the outages in most cases.

Environment Canada had issued a rainfall warning earlier in the day December 31 for parts of the West Island as a frontal system was to dump nearly 100 mm of rain. The South Island was to see not as much rainfall as that; what ended up at 14.4 mm recorded precipitation for Greater Victoria (per The Weather Network) was still enough to make it a wet night ahead of 2020. WSV

### Gender equity into 2020

West Shore Voice News

In December 2019, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Mitzi Dean co-hosted a national meeting of political leaders holding similar positions in provinces across Canada.

With her federal co-host Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, Dean articulated the many aspects of achieving gender equality, including: women's economic empowerment and leadership, gender-based violence (cyber-violence, human trafficking, and domestic violence), the safety of indigenous women and girls, and issues facing LGBTQ2S communities.

The main structural barrier to women fully participating in the workforce is having access to quality child care, said Dean.

The BC Government's "Gender Equity Status Update Report" (December 2019) goes into more detail about three primary goals:

**Advance Economic and Political Empowerment.** Some specifics include: no interest on BC student loans (61% of which are held by women); \$1.8 million invested to support women in the building trades; encouraging more women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math); and encouraging more women into leadership positions.

**Eliminating Systemic Barriers to Gender Equity.** Specifics include: gender inclusiveness (including sexual orientation and gender iden-

### Working for our community

Mitzi Dean

MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

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



Happy New Year!

tity taught in more schools; 'X' as a third option in government documentation); and poverty reduction (including increasing the amount of time two people can live common law before reducing their assistance level to the lower couple's rate; providing free menstrual products in all BC schools).

**Ending Gender-Based Violence.** Specifics include: \$18 million over three years to better meet ongoing demand for counselling, outreach and crisis support around sexual assault and domestic violence; consultation underway about paid employment leave for people reorganizing their lives after domestic violence; and sexual violence prevention campaigns at public post-secondary campuses (aimed at students, faculty and staff). WSV

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/gender-equity-ministers-chart-the-way-forward-for-women-in-canada/>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/services-policies-for-government/gender-equity/gender-equity-status-update.pdf>

### Danbrook One update

by Mary Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

There is no set date for safe occupancy at Danbrook One, the 11-storey apartment building at 2766 Claude Road in central Langford near Goldstream Avenue, the City of Langford stated December 30 in an update about the building safety scenario that began unfolding December 18 (from that point forward, tenants were essentially mobilized out of their units right before Christmas).

An independent engineering report that was received by the City on December 20 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".

The report identified "life safety concerns regarding both the gravity system and the lateral system" — the latter affects how the building performs in a seismic event. There were also "a number of non-compliant BC Building Code issues".

<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/no-set-date-for-safe-occupancy-at-danbrook-one/>



Danbrook One building in Langford.

The City has been "strongly advising tenants" of the building to seek alternative accommodations until all life-safety and non-compliance issues have been addressed. They said that the building owner Centurion Property Associates has installed a temporary shoring solution. WSV

### West Shore RCMP identifies youth involved in June 2019 stabbing

West Shore RCMP say they have identified youth seen in a surveillance video of Goldstream Ave on the evening of June 26, 2019 as related to a stabbing on the grounds of Ruth King Elementary in Langford. No names have been released. <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/west-shore-rcmp-identify-youth-in-june-2019-school-grounds-stabbing/>

### Top baby names in BC

West Shore Voice News

For the seventh year in a row, Olivia is the most popular name for female babies born in BC. In 2019, the list of most popular names was then followed by Oliver, Lucas, Liam, Ethan, Noah, William, Benjamin, Charlotte, Emma and Leo, according to the Vital Statistics Agency's preliminary figures from January 1 to December 18, 2019.

This is the second year that BC has reported names not delineated by gender. In 2018, Liam was the top choice for babies born in BC, followed by Olivia, Emma, Lucas, Oliver, Benjamin, Ethan, Noah, Logan and Amelia. Only names for which the frequency is five or more times are listed by the government in their tallies released near year-end.

Over 40,000 babies are expected to be born in BC in 2020, the government said on December 18, 2019. As of that date 40,978 babies had been born in BC in 2019 which probably indicates a lower final tally than in 2018 when 43,844 babies were born for the entire year. In 2017 there were 44,694 babies born in BC.

A tradition, information regarding the first 2020 birth in BC was shared on Twitter at @BCGovNews on January 1, 2020. BC's New Year's baby was born at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster at 12:01 a.m.

In Sooke about 80 babies were delivered by Sooke Midwifery in 2019, which is a higher tally than in 2018, says midwife Uta Herold. About 20% to 25% of her birthing practice shared with Kaitlyn Whitworth sees pregnant mothers and families choosing home birth over hospital birth. WSV



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

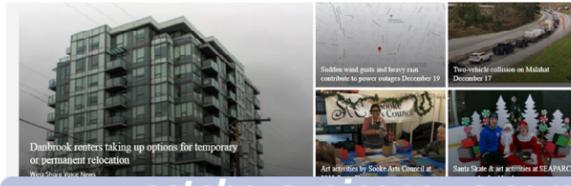
BC Family Day. Mon Feb 17.

Leap Year. Note there is Feb 29 in 2020.

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News insights ~ ~ ~ West Shore & Greater Victoria

Heavy year-end rain keeps CRD busy with water advisories

West Shore Voice News

December 31: A boil water advisory was rescinded for the Highlands Water Service System of the Highland Fernwood Water Service Area on Salt Spring Island. The boil water advisory was issued in consultation with Island Health as a result of a watermain break and subsequent repairs that occurred on December 29, 2019.

January 1: On New Year's Day the CRD issued a Core Area Wastewater Discharge Notice affecting shorelines off of Esquimalt and Oak Bay: "Heavy rain caused combined stormwater and wastewater overflows along some shorelines in Greater Victoria during the evening of December 31, 2019." The areas affected (still as of January 5): between Fraser St and Victoria View Rd including Macaulay Point in Esquimalt; and between Trafalgar Park and Radcliffe Lane including McNeill Bay in Oak Bay. Avoid entering waters along affected shorelines; wastewater may pose a health risk. Beaches within the affected areas are posted with public health advisory signs until sample results indicate enterococci levels are below the 70CFU/100mL recreational limit."

January 2: The Capital Regional District (CRD) in consultation with Island Health issued a Boil Water Advisory for the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Area in East Sooke which provides drinking water to 71 residential lots located near the top of Mount Matheson. There was heavy rainfall New Year's Eve and on January 2. WSV

BC Public input opportunities JANUARY 2020

Online surveys where your input can contribute to changes by government.

Modernization of health care profession regulation in BC Public input up to 4pm on Fri Jan 10. 10 minutes

(questions somewhat general)

- 1. Improve patient safety and public protection. 2. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework. 3. Increase public confidence through transparency and accountability. https://engage.gov.bc.ca/healthprofessionregulation/

Climate Preparedness & Adaptation in BC Public input up to 4 pm on Fri Jan 10. 10 minutes

(questions quite detailed, both for content and about survey participant)

This follows on the heels of the CleanBC Job Readiness survey that run to Nov 29, 2019, and in addition to discussion groups such as: How has climate change affected your community? | What supports will you need as impacts from climate change increase? | How are you planning to adapt to the risks and opportunities of a changing climate? | What education and training will help your community prepare for future climate changes? https://engage.gov.bc.ca/cleanbc/

Highway 14 Improvements (Connie Rd to Glinz Lake) Public input up to 4pm on Wed Jan 15. 15 minutes

(several questions allow for open comments)

www2.gov.bc.ca/highway14

WSV

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\*denotes optometric corporation

SD62 Kindergarten registration in two phases, starting January 13

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

The process of Kindergarten Registration for attendance starting September 2020 in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) starts January 13 at 8 am.

All registration is done online. Parents have access through the SD62 website at www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/childcare

To attend full-day Kindergarten starting September 2020 a child must turn age five years in the 2020 calendar year.

Registration is open first for Nature Kindergarten and French Immersion Kindergarten. That phase runs January 13 to 17. If registration is not achieved for those two specialties, there is still the opportunity to register for General Kindergarten which has registration open from January 27 to 31.

This is the first year for a staggered registration period, due to problems in the past with people not achieving registration for their children in the specialty areas but then scrambling to arrange general placement. That announcement was first made in November 2019.

Parents who are interested in having their child registered in Nature Kindergarten \*must\* attend a Nature Kindergarten info session prior to registration. See links for the three types of Kindergarten:

- General Kindergarten https://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/childcare
French Immersion Kindergarten - offered at John Stubbs, Poirier & Millstream Elementary https://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/registration/french-immersion-kindergarten
Nature Kindergarten - offered at Saseenos & Sangster Elementary https://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/registration/nature-kindergarten

SD62 serves families with public education in Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, Juan de Fuca (East Sooke, and west of Sooke out to Port Renfrew), and parts of View Royal. The 27 schools in SD62 are geographically located in Langford, Colwood and Sooke. WSV

- https://westshorevoicenews.com/west-shore-sooke-schools-accepting-2020-kindergarten-registration-in-january/
https://westshorevoicenews.com/sd62-specialized-kindergarten-registration-january-13-to-17/

News updates any time

www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Canada clinches the 2020 World Juniors

The 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship starting on Boxing Day in the Czech Republic and wrapped up Sunday January 5 with Canada winning Gold in the international under-20 hockey tournament.

Canada made it to the semi-finals and there beat Finland 5:0 on January 4.

The Finals saw Canada up against Russia at 10 am (Pacific Time) on Sunday with a final 4:3 win for Canada. There was much excitement in the third period with Canada coming up from far behind Russia for the win.

Last year the popular junior hockey tournament was held in Vancouver (with a few games also played in Victoria). The 2021 series will be played in Alberta (Edmonton and Red Deer).

Canada has now won Gold in the Juniors 18 times. WSV

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