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# West Shore Voice News

v4

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Weekend news digest  
 Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

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Weekend news digest  
**Friday January 31, 2020**  
 News to Tuesday February 4, 2020

## 1995 time capsule shows how far technology has come

### Lakewood Elementary: VHS, Nintendo, Pogs

by Mary P Brooke  
 West Shore Voice News

● It was a blast from the past with an easy lift. At an afternoon assembly in the gym at Lakewood Elementary School in Langford on February 3, hundreds of students led by Principal Bryan Johnson took part in the opening of a 25-year anniversary school time capsule.

For the most part, the 1995 contents of the large black tube with bronze-plate label were a letter from each student about what they saw their future to be in the year 2020. A few alumni from the school -- now well into their adult lives (and some now SD62 teachers themselves) -- were in the audience and some of their long-ago life predictions have come true!

While playing guitar, Fine Arts teacher Jym Wilson led some of the students in singing the school's song 'Keepers of the Code' about positive community behaviour.

Afterward the students returned to their classrooms to compose their own time-capsule contributions to be opened in

SD 62



WSV / Mary Brooke

**Three Grade 5 Lakewood Elementary students** show off their school's 25-year time capsule from 1995 (from left): Arianna (who likes gym and music), Grayson (a fan of social studies) -- both in Ms Devries' class, and Amy (who loves to write) who is in Mrs Jones' class.

2045. Their letters will be put onto a memory stick, which Principal Johnson teased would probably be 'unknown' (or historic) technology 25 years from now, just like the VHS tape he waved to the crowd and the Nintendo player and pog that were mentioned in the 1995 letters that also contained drawings or photos.

Pogs (for those who don't recall) were thick cardboard disks

about two inches wide with colourful glossy images on one side, used like trading cards. Does that make you feel old?

It was a fun day for adults and kids alike, a special Lakewood moment for the school that has grown from 265 students to now 466. **WSV**

## No treatment for coronavirus


● According to Health Canada, for now there is no specific treatment for most people with the coronavirus infection. "Most people with common coronavirus illness will recover on their own. Your health care provider may recommend steps you can take to relieve symptoms," it is stated on the Health Canada website.

Public health officials now believe that the coronavirus has a 14-day incubation period. As it has surfaced during the regular flu season, a person who is exposed to it may have mild flu-like symptoms and if not tested may not even realize they have contracted the illness.

Apparently it will take at least three months for a vaccine to reach clinical trials (in animals) and probably won't be available for people in the annual flu vaccine until next year's flu season. **WSV**

**Health Canada (2019-nCoV symptoms and treatment):**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus.html>

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## Canada plane(s) to retrieve about 325 Canadians from Wuhan virus epicentre

● Canada is sending one or more chartered aircraft to bring up to 325 Canadians back home from China, amidst growing concern about the spread of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) for which Wuhan has been the epicentre. That news was issued Sunday afternoon February 2, following a second meeting of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with his Incident Response Group in Ottawa (they first met earlier in the week).

Although most people do realize the complexity of the overall situation, there has been growing public impatience this past week for Canada's initiative to emerge with news of a plan to bring Canadians home from the epicentre of the coronavirus scenario. Now over 490 people have died from the virus (Feb 4) and over 20,478 are confirmed to be ill from it. There are confirmed cases in over 23 countries, including five in Canada (2 of those in BC) and 11 in the USA. One person in the Philippines has died of the new disease. Ten people on a cruise ship have now been confirmed to have the illness, as reported by Japan (Feb 4).

The World Health Organization seemed a bit slow to declare the viral outbreak as a global health emergency, but finally did on Thursday January 30. Among scientists there is growing consensus that the pathogen is readily transmitted between humans; it is carried in large droplets, therefore close proximity (or touching a surface that holds any droplets then touching one's face) seems to be how it is most likely transmitted between people.

Canada's first retrieval aircraft (holding up to 250 evacuees) will stop in Vietnam where it will pause, awaiting full readiness in China (evacuees will have short notice). On the return flight it will stop in Vancouver for refuelling and to drop off any passengers with symptoms (for treatment at Richmond Hospital). The remaining passengers will spend up to 14 days in quarantine at CFB Trenton in Ontario. That's a precaution based on the presumed 14-day 2019-nCoV incubation period.

Canadians are advised to avoid any non-essential travel to China, said Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne earlier this week. Canada has banned flights to Beijing and Shanghai on mainland China (January 30 through to February 29, 2020), though flights can still leave those cities to come to Canada. **WSV**

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

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Latina pizzazz at Superbowl half-time! January 2

Rainy weather impacts highways around BC

Patrol rights for medicinally assisted dying requested by Brandon Garrison MP

Traffic Advisory: Langford Parkway at Jackson for February 3 to 5

Rainy night wraps up weekend January 31 all night

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Mary P Brooke,  
B.Sc., Cert PR

## Does a federal party leader need to be fluently bilingual?

● As the Conservative Party of Canada leadership race heats up, the political punditry is bumping its tires up against the bilingualism curb at high speed. Apparently one of the lead contenders Peter MacKay (a former cabinet minister when Stephen Harper was prime minister) has not made it a priority to be a slick linguist in French. So long as we have Justin Trudeau as prime minister, the bar is set remarkably high for bilingual fluency in English and French.

But as anyone knows, Canadian society (driven by global connections online) is coursing rapidly to actually functioning in more than just the two core languages. For years, Chinese options have been available on bank machines, and government websites have been presenting documents in numerous languages including now indigenous languages as they are restored to the mainstream.

The core role of a nation's leader is to guide a society through its largest and most complex challenges. While fluency in two languages is one superior leadership skill set -- which may be said to represent or model the idea of 'full inclusion', it is not the most important one. A dynamic and successful federal leader needs to synthesize relative harmony among economic regions, foster common understanding among cultural groupings, and energize a willingness among all people to do their own best while working cooperatively with others for shared achievements. Arguably, those overarching requirements in a Canadian leader as decision-maker-in-chief can still be fulfilled without also being a multi-language master.

Strong francophone communities thrive outside of Quebec, and Quebec still has its distinct anglophone component. Canadian society since the 1960s has invested deeply in the dream of Anglo-Francophone functionality, at least within federal and provincial levels of government. Being bilingual has almost assured opportunities for employment in government, in career tracks that interface with government, and some business sectors. For those who had the resource and access to bilingual education in decades past, it was a good ticket to higher echelons of policy-making (in some ways creating a subset intelligencia which in some ways produces exclusivity). The public education system has worked hard over the years to provide French Immersion language training in most provinces outside Quebec, in a no-turning-back sort of way. In fact, February 3 to 9 is French Immersion Celebration Week as supported by the BC Ministry of Education. Even locally, Sooke School District 62 has just this week adopted a bilingual English and French slogan beneath its logo.

As a country that now robustly embraces the welcoming of newcomers from a wide range of nationalities and ethnic backgrounds (if for no other reason than to fortify workforce numbers and invite investment to Canada), the notion of a paired English and French paradigm may be something based on recognition of this country's history but it is not entirely observant of the future.

Unless we start expecting high-level political leaders to be as fluent as a Star

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Trek 'universal translator' in all of the many mother-tongue languages now spoken by Canadians, it is possibly time to recognize the two-language model for what it was -- a political tool introduced in the 1960s and enshrined in the Constitution in 1982 -- to bridge the great Canadian divide. It seems to have worked: bilingualism in French and English is a highly sought-after prize, now achieved by many, and the idea of inclusion has been branded into the national psyche.

But if that duality -- which somehow now seems a bit tone deaf to some who operate primarily in other languages in this country, (e.g. in Richmond where 44.8% of the population claims Mandarin as their mother tongue) -- serves to keep otherwise effective politicians from running for office, then the current bilingual expectation could begin to weigh down the path to achieving the truest goals of a 21st-century Canada. ■

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## SD62 News

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

### SD62 to unveil designs and names for two new schools in Langford

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

● The two new schools coming up in West Langford — one elementary and one middle on Constellation Avenue in Westhills — will have their designs and names unveiled at an open house on Thursday March 12. The public evening event starts at 6:30 pm, being hosted by the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) at Belmont Secondary School, 3143 Langford Lake Road.

The announcement about the open house was positive news delivered by SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson at the SD62 public board meeting on Tuesday evening, January 28. There are many facets being coordinated to bring together two new schools that are set to open in September 2022 including land-levelling, building design, construction, school naming, and catchment area adjustments.

Parents, families and community who attend the open house will be able to hear more about the catchment review process that SD62 is undertaking.

The catchment area adjustment is primarily due to the steady influx of students to the area which has SD62 schools in the fast-growing west shore communities of Langford, Sooke and Colwood. The boundaries in neighbourhoods which are associated with specific schools may change.

At Tuesday's meeting, Associate Superintendent Paul Block presented some preliminary student population growth numbers. He forecasts an increase of 411

> 411 more students expected to enrol in SD62 schools in September 2020

> Largest student population growth is in the middle schools (Grades 6 to 8).

students in September for the 2020-2021 academic year compared to the current 2019-2020 academic year. That number is based on recent inquiries with local municipalities about expected levels of housing development in the coming year.

This year's student population in SD62 is 11,142 with an expected 11,733 overall the following year in 2020-2021. The growth apparently will be comprised of modest growth in elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 5), significant growth in middle school (Grades 6 to 8), and continuing growth in the secondary schools (Grades 9 to 12), said Block in his verbal report.

Block revealed that last year's forecasted projection for student numbers in 2019-2020 was off by about 200 students. That means growth of the school district population is growing but not as quickly as was projected last year. However, it's still a significant influx to integrate 411 more students into classes this coming September (with impacts for classroom space, teachers, EAs, custodial support and bus transportation services).

"It's another banner year for Kindergarten registration," says Paul Block. On Tuesday, the Kindergarten registration for September 2020 was part way through its January 27 to 31 online registration period. But including the registrations for Nature Kindergarten and French Immersion so far the count was 788 new Kindergarten students for September 2020. The final count was expected to reach about 860 by January 31.

In SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar's absence, the January 28 board meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Bob Beckett. Trustees present: Bob Phillips, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson and Allison Watson. Trustee absent: Wendy Hobbs. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/open-house-about-new-west-langford-schools-march-12/>

### SD62 to meet with MOTI about Highway 14 safety

West Shore Voice News

● Sooke School District 62 (SD62) will meet with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) about safety for students near schools that are located on Highway 14 in Sooke.

There are three elementary schools located on Highway 14 (Saseenos, Sooke, and John Muir) and the Sooke-area high school (Edward Milne Community School - EMCS).

Some level of documentation of what signage and conditions currently exist will be documented as part of the consultation process.

This process came by way of a recommendation from the SD62 Resource Committee, in the aftermath of a student being injured while crossing Highway 14 to get to EMCS on a rainy early morning in December. There was also another recent SD62 student injury in Colwood with a student walking to Royal Bay Secondary in January.

Because Highway 14 (Sooke Road) is a provincial highway, certain speed limits apply, except in a school zone. But presently outside EMCS there are no speed limit signs (for regular speed or school speeds). Technically speaking, EMCS fronts onto Edward Milne Road (which runs parallel to the highway) but it sounds like MOTI may have to review all this up close to see how students and drivers actually use the school access and Highway 14 in that vicinity. **WSV**

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WSV/Chelsea Kirkpatrick



**Fire Chief Chris Aubrey**  
[April 2019 file photo]

### Langford Fire Rescue has 13 new volunteer recruits, will hire 3 new career firefighters

by Mary P Brooke

● **Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey** delivered a detailed upbeat 2019 departmental report to the City of Langford Protective Services Committee (chaired by Councillor Lillian Szpak) on Tuesday January 28. Right off the bat he reported 2,000 service calls by his department in 2019. He said the capacity for Langford Fire Rescue to handle that many calls in the fast-growing municipality (population now 42,653 for 2019) "is a testament to our model" of a combination of career and volunteer firefighters. "We typically lose eight to 10 volunteers a year through attrition, so we have been trying to increase our intake to 10 to 12 to try and increase our compliment to expand our program at Station 2," says Aubrey. This year there are 13 new recruits. "That will be a good fit for the organization and those who have the time and energy to meet the training requirements."

"In conjunction with the new volunteer members, we expect to go through a competition to hire the three new career positions to have them start in July," says Chief Aubrey. He explains that the new positions will be posted internally so as to draw from their volunteer ranks. The career positions will be firefighter positions with duties outside of responding to incidents including assisting the Training, Prevention and Maintenance Divisions in maintaining the fire department's equipment, training of members, and assisting with prevention activities such as school tours and fire inspections. Station 2 at the corner of Happy Valley Road and Sooke Road will be set up by July to be functional in the daytime, thanks to the new positions coming on stream. There will then be enough career members to split between the two stations. "As this area grows, so too will our response out of this station to continually meet the needs of the community." **WSV**

### Langford engineering rolls out 2020 goals for growing city



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TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE NOTES  
West Shore Voice News

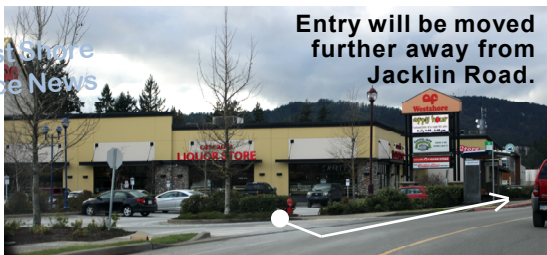
<< **As traffic volume changes around Langford**, some roads see more traffic. One such location is the two-way Alouette Drive and Langford Lake Road intersection in Westhills. This year it will be changed to a four-way stop so that traffic on Langford Lake Road must stop before proceeding. This will help serve traffic entering and exiting Freshwater Crescent across from Alouette. Project price tag: \$4,000. [Photo of the current two-way stop in February 2020]

● **As the population of the City of Langford continues to grow**, so does the transportation infrastructure. In 2020 there will be continued work to build and maintain roadways, trails, streetlights. At the January 26 City of Langford Transportation Committee meeting (rescheduled from that snowy evening of January 14), the city's Director of Engineering, Michelle Mahovich, made her annual presentation in support of the 2020 budget request for her department. The committee is chaired by Councillor Roger Wade, and was attended Tuesday night by Councillors Lanny Seaton and Norma Stewart and other appointed community committee members.

Significant arteries across town were opened in the last few years, notably Bear Mountain Parkway, West Shore Parkway and Leigh Road. This helps with traffic flow in particular at peak times. The new network of connector roads facilitates the local economy by bridging the town in support of various activities: commuters from Sooke through Langford, access from Highway 1 (as well as Leigh Road and Langford Parkway) to Westhills Stadium and the new Pacific FC indoor training facility, and for the growing Westhills population to access Highway 1 quickly via Leigh Road, and for Bear Mountain residents and visitors to reach in-town areas more quickly.

In 2019, added road infrastructure will increase the 2020 maintenance budget by \$160,000. This is what came onstream in 2019: bike lanes (360 m), sidewalks (1.8 km), street signs (road names, cautionary signs, reflectors, etc.), streetlights (76), and new roads (600 m, or 1,200 in total with one lane in either direction). For each of the next five years that amount will probably increase, said Mahovich to the committee. This year about \$50,000 will be spent (from within the repaving budget) to inspect all roads to determine the best maintenance approach moving forward; this was last done about eight years ago. Small road improvement budget is increased from \$20,000 up to \$80,000. Sidewalk maintenance is set for \$45,000 this year. Storm drainage maintenance will be up to \$30,000 (up from \$18,000) to dispose of contaminants and protect creeks and streams. The budget is pending approval by Council. **WSV**

**Moved into 2020** from last year's roadworks plan are access improvements to the mall in 900-block Langford Parkway (anchor tenants Cascadia Liquor, Quality Foods & Capital Iron). >>



### Danbrook One owner reminds tenants to vacate

West Shore Voice News

● **The occupancy permit for Danbrook One (2766 Claude Road)** was revoked on December 20, 2019 for reasons of safety.

On January 29, building owner Centurion Property Associates Inc issued a further statement: "The building has no occupancy permit and residents can't legally stay there and in the absence of confirmation of safety, it isn't in their interest to stay and they remain at their own risk and have been advised as such," said Centurion president Greg Romundt this week.

Centurion has commissioned engineers. "We expect that we would have to complete any required works before the occupancy permit is restored and work can only commence, if required when we have the report, hired contractors and obtained any required permits," said Romundt.

So the timeline is long. Any remaining tenants will receive from Centurion "a communication regarding more units becoming available nearby for them if they wish to take them," he said.



**The 11-storey, 90-unit Danbrook One rental apartment building at 2766 Claude Road in Langford.**

The message is clear: "Until we know the building is ready to reoccupy, and we have restored the occupancy permit, residents should not continue to stay. We are continuing to assist residents to relocate," said the building owner.

No rents were charged for January 2020. **WSV**

**The City of Langford's statement about Danbrook One** (Dec 30/19):  
<https://www.langford.ca/EN/meta/city-hall/danbrook-one-facts-information.htm>

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### Dianna Seaton appointed as Langford citizen rep to library board

West Shore  
Voice News

● **Langford Council** at their Regular Council Meeting on February 3 appointed Dianna Seaton as their 'citizen rep' to the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) board, for two years ending December 2021. Councillor Lanny Seaton recused himself for that vote. The other GVPL board rep from Langford in 2020 is Councillor Matt Sahlstrom.



**Dianna Seaton**

Other west shore municipal reps on the GVPL board of trustees in 2020 are Councillor Doug Kobayashi (Colwood); Councillor Karel Roessingh (Highlands), Councillor Andy MacKinnon (Metchosin), and Councillor Gery Lemon (View Royal).

Dianna Seaton is a long-time trustee on the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) board. In 2019 she was board Vice-Chair and also chaired the SD62 Resource Committee which undertakes significant development of recommendations to the full board on matters of capital investments (like new schools), transportation (including new or different buses), and the annual budget line by line.

On February 3 Seaton attended the Lakewood Elementary School 25-year time capsule celebration, as did Wendy Hobbs (also a long-time SD62 trustee), and SD62 Associate Superintendent Dave Strange. **WSV**

LANGFORD					
POPULATION (BC Stats)	2016	2017	2018	2019	5.2% increase (2018-2019)
	37,234	39,002	40,557	42,653	



**Regular commuters** through the intersection at Langford Parkway and Jacklin Road will want to allow additional time to get through the backed-up intersection during the work week (February 3 through 7) while crews do some gas main work. It's a busy commercial area, also handling traffic out of the Westhills area to core Langford areas and beyond. [Photo: Monday February 3 in the afternoon] **WSV**

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**BC Transit Open House on Route Strategy in Esquimalt & View Royal.** Mon Feb 10. View Royal Community Hall. 6 to 8:30 pm. 279 Island Hwy. Public input online to Feb 28. [www.bctransit.com/victoria](http://www.bctransit.com/victoria)

**City of Colwood Council Meeting.** Mon Feb. 10. 7 pm [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**District of Sooke Council Meeting.** Mon Feb. 10. 7 pm [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

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

**Awareness Film Night.** Bee ecology, honey tasting. Wed Feb 12. 6:30 pm, EMCS, 6217 Sooke Rd. [www.awarenessfilmmight.ca](http://www.awarenessfilmmight.ca)

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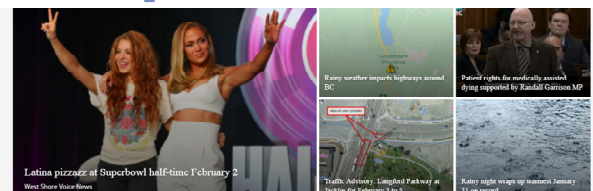
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**Valentine's Day & Pro-D Day SD62.** Fri Feb 14.

**Drop off Branches** at Colwood Public Works Yard. Sat Feb 15. 8:30 am to 4 pm. Have a tidy yard without backyard burning! (First and third Saturday of each month. Behind Colwood City Hall, 3300 Wishart Road. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**BC Family Day.** Mon Feb 17. Statutory holiday.

**Outdoor storytime.** Sat Feb 22 by the Sooke Library at Sooke Region Museum. 10:30-11 am. For children to age 5.

**Wounded Warriors Run BC.** Starts Sun Feb 23 in Port Hardy for over 600 km to Victoria arriving Sun Mar 1. Grand Finale at BC Legislature March 1, 4:30 pm. <https://woundedwarriors.ca/events/wounded-warrior-bc-run/>

**SD62 Board Meeting.** Tues Feb 25. 7 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Leap Year.** There is Feb 29 in 2020!

**Pan Am Cross Country Cup** 5 km course on the Bear Mountain Valley Golf Course in Langford Sat Feb 29. Organized by Vancouver Island Runners Assoc. <https://panamxccup2020.com/news/>

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**New West Langford Schools** information open house (designs, names, catchment areas). Thurs Mar 12. Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. 6:30 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Spring Break SD62.** Mar 14-29. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**CRD Committee of the Whole.** Wed Mar 18. Board will review final 2020 budget plan. [www.crd.bc.ca/budget](http://www.crd.bc.ca/budget)

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## Belmont Residences East coming on stream this spring

West Shore Voice News

● **Belmont Residences East** is the second phase of the Belmont housing development in Langford. Previews begin in March, with pre-sales start in April, offering 1, 2, and 2+den condominium homes. Price point starts in the low \$300,000s.

Interior features include Scandanavian-inspired styling and bright bathrooms.

Preview registration is online at MyBelmontLiving.com or visit the sales office at 915 Reunion Avenue.

Belmont Residences West (the first offering in the Ledcor Developments project) is now 90% sold with completion in Spring 2020.

All of this nestled within the Belmont Market commercial area with stores, restaurants and services. **WSV**

## Furstenau steps into BC Green leadership race

**BC Green MLA Sonja Furstenau sets the party leadership race in motion.**



Livestream

● **On January 27** in an announcement made in downtown Victoria also livestreamed on Facebook, BC Green MLA Sonja Furstenau (Cowichan Valley) announced her candidacy for the party's leadership.

On January 30, Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps endorsed Furstenau, calling her "intentional and collaborative".

Andrew Weaver stepped down as party leader in November, and then right out of the BC Green Party in January (now sitting as an independent for Oak Bay-Gordon Head).

BC Green MLA Adam Olsen (Saanich North and the Islands) is the party's interim leader until the June 27 vote. Anyone age 16+ in BC (party member or not) can vote for the new leader. **WSV**

## Three Sooke men dead

● **Hundreds in the community went searching** for three 20-year-old Sooke men -- Cory Mills, Eric Blackmore and AJ Jensen -- after they were reported missing on February 1. Their bodies were found by Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue on February 2 and 4 near the Sooke River. A piece of the truck they were driving was at first found in the river, giving a clue as to where the search should focus, said Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander S/Sgt Brett Sinden. More: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/three-young-sooke-men-found-dead-near-river/> **WSV**

## Young quarterback and seasoned coach lead KC Chiefs to Superbowl win

West Shore Voice News



New York Times

**KC Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes**

● **In the Superbowl LIV** (54th) game on Sunday February 2, there was victory by the Kansas City Chiefs with a 31 point score over the San Francisco 49ers with 20. At half-time the score had rested at 10-10.

The win breaks a 50-year Superbowl championship drought for the Kentucky team. Key components of the win: the impact of long-time coach Andy Reid combined with the on-field mastery of 24-year-old quarterback Patrick Mahomes #15 who in the fourth quarter led the team to victory. Mahomes is now the youngest Superbowl MVP.

In the half-time show -- paired and shared by Latina dancer-singers Shakira and Jennifer Lopez -- there was a lot of booty action that drowned out memorable song moments. However, the half-time hype fizzled fast afterward, despite some subtle political statements including Lopez wearing a Puerto Rican flag on the flip side of an American flag and some of the children in the choir depicted in cages. However, it sure was impressive how 50-year-old "Jenny from the block" can do calisthenics in spike heels. **WSV**

## WEATHER: that was quite the intro to 2020! Rain, snow, wind, temperature extremes

● **A record-breaking high** of 14.2°C on Friday January 31 capped off a dynamic month of notable active weather. Total rainfall was 262.6 mm and total snowfall was 29.3 cm for a total precipitation tally of 291.3 mm in January 2020, according to Environment Canada (data for Victoria International Airport location).

The average high in January was 7.9°C with an average low of 2.4°C. Winds were strongest (maximum gusts of 80 to 84 kph) on January 15 and 16.

Temperatures fell below zero mid-monmonth. Four consecutive days of snow produced the 'snow day' which saw most of Greater Victoria grind to a halt on January 15 (schools and businesses closed). The white fluffy stuff came as 20 cm of snow in the early morning of January 15, falling on top of 4.5 cm on the evening of January 14 and before that 2.5 cm and 2.3 cm on January 12 and 13 respectively.

February 1 and 2 have brought a lot of rain with some high winds, causing flooding and some highway and road closures. Highway 1 near Goldstream Provincial Park was down to single-lane training on Sunday morning due to a tree falling on the highway from rainsoaked soil and the impact of high winds Saturday night. **WSV**

## BC Stats show Langford as top growth spot

West Shore Voice News

● **Due to increased housing supply** and its relative affordability in the west shore and Sooke areas, population growth has seen a jump from 2018 to 2019 in the region. Top growth areas in Greater Victoria were Langford (5.6%), Sooke (4.8%), Esquimalt (3.9%), and View Royal (3.1%), with Highlands nudging up (2.6%), the City of Victoria keeping up (2.1%), and Colwood seeing a slight increase (1.3%).

Metochosin's 1.3% growth in 2019 continues a trend where the rural area broke past the 5,000 population-tracking boundary in 2018 (possibly changing some grant category eligibility): 4,894 (2016), 4,989 (2017), 5,117 (2018), 5,168 (2019).

Lake Cowichan saw modest growth (1.2%) while Duncan dropped (-2.5%).

There was strong growth in Port Hardy (4.9%), but negative growth in other Vancouver Island towns like Port McNeill (-1.5%), Port Alberni (-0.5%), and Qualicum Beach (-0.2%). **WSV**

LANGFORD					
POPULATION	2016	2017	2018	2019	5.2% increase (2018-2019)
	37,234	39,002	40,557	42,653	
SOOKE					
POPULATION	2016	2017	2018	2019	4.8% increase (2018-2019)
	13,608	14,013	14,300	14,657	
COLWOOD					
POPULATION	2016	2017	2018	2019	1.3% increase (2018-2019)
	17,665	17,941	18,321	18,867	

[Data Source: BC Stats]

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