

Preparing Your Emergency Kit

Stock your emergency kit with enough water for at least 7 days for every family member and your pets.



Juan de Fuca Emergency Program
HOME | VEHICLE | WORKPLACE
www.prepareyourself.ca

West Shore Voice News

WSV ISSN 2368-9374
SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol.5 No.15 Vol.10 No.4
Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc

INSIDE:

- Belmont Residences East to bring 85 more condo homes to Langford ... 1
- SD62 open house on two new West Langford schools (March 12) ... 3
- Mitzi Dean on better services for women under NDP leadership ... 3

West Shore Voice News
Weekend news digest
Friday February 21, 2020
News to Sunday February 23, 2020

Three protesters arrested by West Shore RCMP Wet'suwet'en blockade energies spill over to intrusion at Premier's home

West Shore Voice News

Tensions have been rising over the environmental rights and jurisdictional issues raised by the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and their supporters which have resulted in blockades of rail lines across the country that started February 5 (many are still in place).

Punctuating the building momentum was a visit by a group of 'Extinction Rebellion' protesters to the home of Premier John Horgan in Langford on Tuesday February 18 which happened to be Budget Day at the BC Legislature. The global environmental civil disobedience group apparently has the aim of 'compelling government action to avoid tipping points in the climate system, biodiversity loss, and the risk of social and ecological collapse'.



Premier John Horgan during Budget 2020 speech.

Hansard Livestream

Horgan had already departed for the legislature in his official vehicle when he heard about the incident at his home where his wife was home alone, and the driver turned around. RCMP officers arrived on scene to find protesters blocking the premier's driveway. RCMP moved onlookers and media back from the incident location.

Horgan evidently kept his cool, though later in the afternoon in the Legislative Assembly at moments he was not 100% focussed on the delivery of Budget 2020, with concern clouding his face (proceedings are livestreamed).

Last week entrances to the BC Legislative building were blocked ahead of the Throne Speech, February 11; the usual pre-speech official pageantry was cancelled. Later that day, Horgan released a statement, including: "British Columbians have the right to peaceful protest. We support people in the exercise of their democratic rights -- within the law... my government continues to be available to engage with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs." **WSV**

Feb 11: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/premier-issues-statement-after-legislative-building-blocked-by-protesters/>

Feb 18: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/three-arrested-for-mischief-at-premiers-residence-in-langford/>

The blockades must come down, says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Web-Posted | Courtesy Watermarked EDITION

West Shore Voice News

On Friday February 21, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had met once again with his Incident Response Group (IRG), and came out of his meeting with a declaration that the blockades must end and the injunctions must be enforced.

He and his ministers had repeated all week that in Canada the government does not instruct the RCMP to do their job. But the message is now clear that concerns for a fully functioning rail/transport system which impacts the economy and delivery of many essential products and supplies are overriding most of the patience that federal leadership has sustained in an effort to maintain an opening for dialogue.

"Here's the reality," said Trudeau to the media after the IRG meeting. "Every attempt at dialogue has been made but discussions have not been productive. We can't have dialogue when only one party is coming to the table. For this reason, we have no choice but to stop making the same overtures."

"Of course we will never the close the door on dialogue and our hand remains extended if someone wants to reach for it. In fact, Ministers Miller and Bennett just got off a call with the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chief just minutes ago. But the fact remains the barricades must now come down. The injunctions must be obeyed and the law must be upheld."

"Let me be clear. Our resolve to pursue the reconciliation agenda with indigenous peoples is as strong as ever. There are historic wrongs to right, there are gaps to be closed. There is a relationship to be renewed and new relationships to be built. Canada is ready for this. Canadians want this. But hurting Canadian families from coast to coast to coast does nothing to advance the cause of reconciliation."

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/trudeau-says-blockades-must-come-down/>

By Sunday February 23, some blockades were down but others were put up. Trudeau informed the premiers of BC, Ontario and Quebec of "measures being taken to ensure that critical needs are addressed across Canada, including propane, chemicals to treat drinking water, and essential agricultural products". <https://westshorevoicenews.com/trudeau-speaks-with-bc-ontario-quebec-premiers-about-blockades/> **WSV**



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller on Feb 21.

Livestream

Check out our daily news posts anytime!
• News by region
• SD62 news
• Health
• Events
• Political updates
• Traffic alerts

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/subscribe-2/>

www.westshorevoicenews.com

85 more condo homes coming to Langford's popular #MyBelmont area

West Shore Voice News



Ledcor Developments

Belmont Residences East condo building [artist's rendering]

Belmont Residences is launching its newest phase, Belmont Residences East, in the residential/commercial development area at Jacklin Road and Kelly Road in Langford. An updated sales centre reflects #MyBelmont's newest home offering in Belmont Residences East by Ledcor Developments.

Belmont Residences East (85 units) follows on the sales success of Belmont Residences West (97% of 80 units are sold) and the Rent to Own program. Condo units are 1-, 2-, and 2+den starting in the low \$300,000 price range.

As of March 2020, registered potential homebuyers will have the opportunity to walk through a Belmont Residences East show home to review options for layouts and Nordic-inspired clean modern finishings and design elements, and learn more about the variety of shops, services and amenities available in the shared #MyBelmont neighbourhood (commercial development by Crombie REIT). Sales start in April.

More info: <https://belmontresidenceseast.com/> **WSV**

Longer article & location map: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/another-85-condos-coming-to-mybelmont-in-langford/>

MYBELMONT'S NEWEST OPPORTUNITY TO OWN AT A MULTI AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY



1 BED TO 2 BED & DEN HOMES IN LANGFORD
FROM THE LOW \$300,000'S

FEATURING CONTEMPORARY NORDIC-INSPIRED INTERIORS

PREVIEWS BEGIN MARCH 2020 REGISTER NOW



Renderings and images provided are an artist's conception and are intended only as a general reference and are not to be relied upon. This is not an offering for sale. Such offering may only be made after filing a disclosure statement. For a copy of the disclosure statement when available please contact Fifth Avenue Real Estate Marketing Ltd. and DFH Real Estate Ltd. at home@mybelmontliving.com.

LEDCOR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

MYBELMONTLIVING.COM
www.mybelmontliving.com

EDITORIAL MPB



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

The process of change

● There's often no specific point in time when things shift in the ways of society, communities, or business. But here are some highlights of things that are much different today than at certain junctures in years past.

Before we get into the specifics, let's also note that change by its very nature is incremental, then seems to burst 'suddenly'. People and systems that don't keep up or shift to the new way of doing things can seem notably out of place or find themselves dysfunctional in some way that interferes with stability or progress.

SOCIETY: It's been less than three years since recreational cannabis became legal. See how fast it's all of a sudden not such a big deal? The big rush that big business was expecting has not exactly materialized; there is growth potential but it now just another business as usual. Who would have thought even 10 years ago that medically-assisted dying would be something Canadian society just accepts as part of modern ways? The #MeToo movement seemed to suddenly erupt a few years back, releasing pent up frustrations of millions of women who have endured what was prevalent in the mainstay corporate culture where women have lost so much in the last 50 years in terms of dignity, financial stability and family well-being. **COMMUNITIES:** While the world got very much excited about global exploration (embracing worldwide travel as a plank of modern living), since the Great Recession the allure of close-to-home (staycations, binge-watching TV/movies at home, and volunteering or engaging with local initiatives) has been strong. There is now a strong thread of community engagement in most towns and cities across Canada; people are more openly supportive of celebrations, acknowledgements and tragedies. Multi-cultural recognition and acceptance is now pretty much mainstream -- indeed the norm -- in communities across Canada; we live like that now without the blink of an eye, but that's relatively new after decades of transition during Canada's increase in immigration and the welcoming of newcomers. **BUSINESS:** Finally in the last few years there has been a very real recognition in the differences between small business and large corporate enterprises. Well, perhaps the difference was always noted, but what might be changing slightly is the bloodthirst with which larger companies try to consume the smaller ones (cooperation or co-functionality works better). Chambers of Commerce have always been self-serving for their members -- that hasn't really changed even if they engage in broader communities activities; most chambers still exclude many businesses by embracing their favourite pick. Governments are getting the hang of what it means to 'reduce red tape'. Businesses of all sizes are grateful for the streamlining and simplification of the many layers of paperwork and compliance. There has been a distinct shift in understanding about what business is and does, while at the same time new forms of business structure (e.g. social enterprise) have emerged. A component of community contribution is now included by most businesses in their operational model. **COMMUNICATIONS & the ECONOMY:** Lightning speed! That's how fast the changes have been. If you believe the Star Trek Voyager episode where a 20th century business tycoon happens upon 29th-century technology and henceforth the computer age spins rapidly from pre-computer 1970s to 5G networks and beyond in this decade, you're already with the program. The changes will unfold with compounded alacrity. Within 'moments' we will soon be in an age operated primarily by artificial intelligence, digitization of all things, full surveillance and zero privacy. Your phone is your friend and also your personal spy; it records (and transmits) everything. Anyone who is not aligned to be digitized in all ways will suddenly one day (soon) find themselves left far far behind. Education and job-retraining must keep up with this rapid change as well as government policy for facilitating stable income for people during sudden or massive times of transition. As for content delivered by the communications network, we're all going to have to decide what price we will pay for monoliths like Netflix (in your face), Facebook (in your privacy), Disney (in your dreams), and Hallmark (so much out of touch) deciding on content for public consumption. **WELL-BEING:** People and planet are rising up to make sure we don't lose sight of feeling good about things. Spirit trumps material.

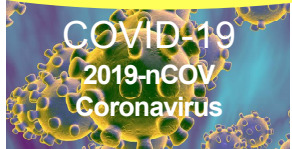
Web-Posted | Courtesy Watermarked EDITION

Coronavirus Update

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc. ~ West Shore Voice News

Coronavirus tally

Saturday, February 22, 2020 [1 am PST]
Stats from the World Health Organization (WHO)



● As of February 22, 2020 (1 am Pacific Standard Time) there are 77,794 confirmed cases of the Wuhan coronavirus recently renamed COVID-19 (599 new in the last 24 hours). Of those, 76,392 (or 98.19%) are in China, of which 397 are new. In China there have been 2,348 deaths (109 new).

Outside of China the number of countries reporting COVID-19 infections has increased to 28 (Lebanon and Israel new in the last day, and Iran before that). Outside China there have been 11 deaths (3 new). In Canada there are eight confirmed cases (2 in Ontario, 6 in BC, from which all patients are recovering or have recovered). <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/now-a-6th-case-of-covid-19-in-bc/>

Public health officials continue to remind individuals to wash their hands, observe proper cough/sneeze etiquette, and stay home if feeling unwell.

WHO also advises about surface contamination and transmission.

In sites outside a health care setting (e.g. household, hotel room, cruise ship, etc), transmission can occur from doorknobs, bed rails, bedside table, sink, hand rails, toilet (or bedpan), and floor. In the air flow system, pay attention to ventilation exits and air purifier filters.

In health care settings, WHO recommends keeping track of the time, frequency and details (e.g. type of disinfectant) of the cleaning and disinfection activities at all sampling locations. Some of the tests done which include propulsion of air (and the possibility of projecting the virus) include: positive pressure ventilation (bi-level positive airway pressure [BiPAP] and continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP]), endotracheal intubation, high flow nasal cannula, open airway suction, high frequency oscillatory ventilation, tracheostomy, chest physiotherapy, nebulizer treatment, sputum suction and bronchoscopy. Protection of health care workers includes wearing the proper gear including masks and protective gowns or enclosed suits. **WSV**

BC Health coronavirus news releases: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/diseases-conditions/novel-coronavirus-information>

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



February Special

Buy one pair of glasses at the regular price, get the second at 50% off.



Dr Chris Hewitt & Dr Nicole Hewitt

Sooke Eyecare
Doctors of Optometry

5-6726 West Coast Road, Sooke
Open Monday to Saturday
www.SookeOptometrists.com

BC Budget 2020: intense focus on education, child care and housing supports

● Now almost three years into the NDP government mandate under Premier John Horgan, there were few surprises about the direction of Budget 2020. The overall goal is to provide better, more and consistent access for British Columbians to produce greater affordability and opportunity.



Finance Minister Carole James on Budget Day

Components of that philosophy are easing the cost of education, housing, and child care, with additional underpinning for persons with low-income and disability support.

Finance Minister Carole James was clearly pleased with accomplishments for people in need at many levels. An increased tax on people earning over \$1 million was the key taxation shift. **WSV**

Boosting your natural immunity in flu season

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc. ~ West Shore Voice News

● Working to maintain and boost your own immune system is an important part of the discussion about coronavirus (and flu season more generally). Strategic use of vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements can be helpful.

Most health food stores are getting questions from customers about what to take for immune system support.

Right off the top, Chris at Lifestyle Markets in Victoria recommends zinc and Vitamin C, as well as colloidal silver (which selectively penetrates invading pathogens) and oil of oregano. Vitamin D is also important to boost the 'more investigative part of the immune system', he says. Elderberry (in syrup form) is popular for children.

At House of Nutrition in Colwood, Andrea says three products are particularly popular in flu season: elderberry (syrup or powder), thieves oil (usually a blend of oils from cinnamon, clove, eucalyptus, lemon and rosemary), and Immune 7 (which contains chaga mushroom from birch trees).

At the West Coast Natural Foods store in Sooke, Karam recommends the Natural Factors Anti-Viral tincture (with Echinacea extract) as well as echinacea angustifolia by Prairie Doctor (which is high in antioxidants). "Both are good for the immune system and will fight viruses," says Karam. He also recommends liposomal Vitamin C which encapsulates phospholipids for targeted release in the intestine.

In Langford at OakTree Naturals, Aman says many customers are asking for oil of oregano for immune system protection in flu season. And with the additional emphasis on hand-cleansing, he recommends diluted thieves oil as a hand sanitizer (commercial sanitizers contain isopropyl alcohol which can stress the liver). **WSV**



OakTree Naturals
Your Westshore Health Store
250-590-0171
705 Goldstream Ave
Langford
www.oaktreenaturals.ca

Open daily
PILGRIM COFFEE HOUSE
SERVING DRUMROASTER COFFEE
105-1910 Sooke Rd in Colwood
778-265-5577

West Shore Voice News
Your subscriptions & advertisements support independent local journalism.
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

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
www.westshorevoiceneews.com
Print copy deadline: 5 pm Mon
Print ad bookings by: 5 pm Wed
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.
Photojournalist: Chelsea Kirkpatrick. Consultant Input: Jennifer Brooke, Keith Sketchley. IT: Les Oberg. Distribution: WSV website, direct to subscribers, Twitter; coffee shops; business lobbies, libraries, rec centres; online PDF. Daily news (WSV web).
● Digital subscriptions (PDF by email)
Link version: \$28.95+GST 52 wks
Unwatermarked Premium PDF: \$29.95+GST 18 wks
● Print subscriptions
Weekly by 1st class postal mail (includes Premium PDF by email): \$43.95+GST for 12 issues colour or \$37.95+GST for 18 issues grayscale.
VISA MasterCard Interac
● Newsstand
Colour print \$2.25 at Pharmasave (Sooke)
● Community Free pickup copies in coffee shops, libraries, rec centres.
Courtesy edition (PDF), archives & breaking news: www.westshorevoiceneews.com
Letters published in West Shore Voice News do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher, editor, staff, or affiliates. The publisher reserves the right to decline any articles, letters, photos, ads or other contributions.
BC Budget 2020 Links here:
<https://westshorevoiceneews.com/budget-2020-keeps-even-keel-with-ndp-proposes-for-access-and-affordability/>

SD62 Open House on Thursday March 12

- Designs & names for two new schools in West Langford
- Catchment Area review

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



Land levelling on Constellation Avenue school property [January 2020 file photo]

Input from teachers, staff and broader community was received in October 2019 for suggestions about the names for two new schools (elementary and middle), with internal SD62 deliberations continuing into February 2020. >>



Two new schools are under development on the ground in the Westhills area of Langford, and within the many frameworks of the delivery of public education by Sooke School District 62 (SD62).

More students are on the way in SD62 (about 400 more for September 2020), a pace which is expected to continue to the opening date of the new elementary and middle schools on Constellation Avenue in September 2022.

With great excitement and much preparation, SD62 is preparing to launch this facilities expansion to the community of parents, students, teachers, staff and broader community next month.

On Thursday March 12 -- just ahead of spring break -- the community will be given a lot to see and to think about. At an open house on that date at Belmont Secondary School (within the same neighbourhood) there will be a presentation of building designs, new school names (short lists have been compiled by staff for Board consideration), and revision of catchment areas (residential boundaries for deciding which families are attached to which schools).

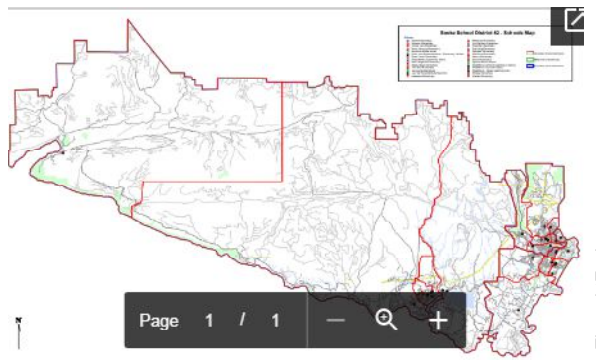


Public input on the school names was done last fall.

Now SD62 is accepting public input on the catchment area boundaries. With enrollment in SD62 continuing to rise year over year (in Langford, Colwood and Sooke) SD62 feels it needs to re-evaluate which students attend which schools.

SD62 student population is over 11,000 and is expected to grow by over 400 students per year for the next few years.

One of the first screens in the ThoughtExchange about SD62 Catchment Areas is a map of the large area served by SD62 (including Langford, Colwood and Sooke). >>



'Here we grow again!' is the lead to the catchment area public input portal. The West Langford schools project is being coordinated by former Royal Bay Secondary Principal Windy Beadall who was instrumental in the opening of that high school leading up to September 2015.

District staff have begun a catchment boundary review and are exploring draft options to address student populations in all of the schools, taking into account the new elementary and middle schools to be built in West Langford. The Catchment Consultation Group will bring proposed plans to the SD62 Board in the spring and a public consultation will take place in fall 2020.

Things like allowing students and siblings to attend the same school (even if catchment areas change), walkable distances to school, and how changes in bus and walking routes will be discussed with municipalities are just three of the questions in the ThoughtExchange survey portal. The questions are 'thoughts' submitted by users (no declaration of what SD62 itself has in mind). As of February 22, at least 803 people had participated at the https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#479902312 portal which is available up to March 10, 2020.

The public open house on Thursday March 12 begins at 6:30 pm. WSV

New Tim Hortons in Langford aims for March 19 opening

West Shore Voice News Business News call 250-217-5821 to promote your business.



A new Tim Hortons restaurant will be opening on Langford Parkway in the Westhills area near the YM/YWCA, library, and upcoming west shore BC government office. March 19 is the target opening date (during spring break for schools). Hiring was done at the Tim Hortonson Jacklin Road on February 21 & 22. Job positions had been posted on Indeed.com. WSV

Mitzi Dean on better services for women and families

by Mary Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Last week BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson referred to domestic violence as a "tough marriage".

"He's very out of touch, doesn't understand the issues," says BC Parliamentary Secretary Mitzi Dean. "It was absolutely disturbing that in 2020 a guy would say something like that".

"The premier was totally surprised. He couldn't believe a man in the 21st century would say that. In a position of authority, it was irresponsible of (Wilkinson)," Dean told West Shore Voice News this week.

Dean itemized that "the BC Liberals cut services, closed women's centres, and cut sexual assault centres" during their time in government (during 16 years up to mid-2017).

"In contrast to that we've invested millions in services for people experiencing sexual violence," Dean says about the NDP government under Premier John Horgan.

After just over one year in office, in October 2018 the BC NDP government announced that it would be building 280 new homes to provide safe places to stay for women and children fleeing violence.

Those homes are being delivered in 12 projects around the province. They are the first step in the government's new 'Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund', a \$734-million investment over 10 years to build 1,500 transition housing, second-stage housing and affordable housing spaces for women and children fleeing violence.

Dean went on to say that the first Transition House for the west shore is under development in coordination with the City of Langford. That project would have been discussed at the city's Protective Services Committee and development is now in the works with their land use and planning, says Dean. The non-profit Victoria Women's Transition House Society will operate the shelter, she says.

Transition housing in BC is operated by non-profit providers that

E-advertising acquisition

E-flyer publisher Intema Technologies & Marketing this week issued a letter of intent to acquire Quebec-based Publilpage (which owns Publiltech). A directory advertising agency, Publilpage (founded in 1996) has 20 employees and \$2.1 million in annual revenues. WSV

Working for our community

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885
#104-1497 Admirals Road
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca
www.MitziDean.ca



www.MitziDean.ca

specialize in housing and supports for women and children who are experiencing or at risk of violence. The new housing will include provincial funding (through BC Housing) for a range of services, including emotional support and safety planning. Projects will also include new affordable rental housing for women and children ready to move on to more permanent homes.

Dean ran the Pacific Centre Family Services Association in the west shore (with services in areas of Langford, Colwood and Sooke) for 10 years before entering provincial politics. She was elected as MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin in May 2017, and shortly thereafter (once the NDP formed government with BC Green support in July 2017) was appointed as BC's first Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity.

That new Gender Equity post was created by Premier John Horgan in recognizing the "Culmination of realizing still a lot of work in this area to be done and that it required leadership to pull everything together," says Dean.

Dean says she was "pleased to see the tax on the wealthiest one percent" in Budget 2020 that was delivered by Finance Minister Carole James on February 18. "Over 70 percent in that (income level) are men with privilege and advantage," says Dean. WSV

Ask a Doctor of Optometry

on Facebook

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



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

www.langfordoptometrists.com

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

*denotes optometric corporation

Monk Office

More than just office supplies.
We are Office Outfitters™

Think Monk...BUSINESS | RETAIL | INTERIORS | TECHNOLOGY

sales@monk.ca | monk.ca

www.monk.ca

City of Langford Planning, Zoning & Affordable Housing Committee. Mon Feb 24. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Feb 25. 7 pm. 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://panamxcccup2020.com/news/>

Beer and Burger Night with karaoke. 'Leap Year Fun' fundraiser for Sooke Community Choir. Sat Feb 29. 6:30 pm at Sooke Legion. Tickets \$20 at Shoppers Drug Mart or at the door. www.sookecommunitychoir.com

Wounded Warriors Run BC. Sun Mar 1. Grand Finale after 600 km run, event behind BC Legislature. 4:30 pm. www.woundedwarriors.ca/events/

Sooke Arts Council. General meeting Tues Mar 3. Submissions for Art & Word, Vol 2 to Mar 4. www.sookearts.com

Cabaret the Musical. Presented by Royal Bay Secondary. Thurs Mar 5. 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Tickets available at the Royal Bay school office, 250-474-2377

Drop off Branches at Colwood Public Works Yard. Sat Mar 7. 8:30 am to 4 pm. 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Behind city hall, 3300 Wishart Rd. www.colwood.ca


Cowichan Valley International Women's Day Committee 4th annual festival, with Rally at Charles Hoey Park. Sat Mar 7. 11 am to 12:30 pm. Info 416-532-2702

International Women's Day. Sun Mar 8.

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Mar 10. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

WEIGHT ROOM NOW OPEN



SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke
250-642-8000
www.seaparc.ca

School Spring Break SD62. Mar 14-29. www.sd62.bc.ca

CRD Committee of the Whole. Wed Mar 18. Final 2020 budget plan. www.crd.bc.ca/budget

National Men's Canada Soccer vs Trinidad & Tobago. Fri Mar 27 at Westhills Stadium, Langford. Tickets \$20. [Possibly a second game on March 31 if the March 27 game sells out]. www.canadasoccer.com

Bear Mountain Bike Festival. March 28 & 29. www.bearmountainbikefest.com

Earth Hour. Sat Mar 28. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. www.earthhour.org

Create Your Canada. Suggest legislation ideas to Alistair MacGregor, MP. Deadline Tues Mar 31. Open to students in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford who are in Grades 11 and 12. <https://alistairmacgregor.ndp.ca/news/create-your-canada-contest>

Lobsterfest 2020 fundraiser. Sat Apr 4 at Langford Legion. www.westshorerotary.org

Easter Long Weekend. Good Friday Apr 10, through Easter Monday Apr 13

Pacific FC home game 2020 season opener vs Edmonton FC. Sat Apr 11 at Westhills Stadium. <https://canpl.ca/schedule>

Out of School Care for 2020/2021. Registration starts Wed Apr 15. West Shore Parks & Recreation. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Family Arts Fair. Sat Apr 18 9:30 am to 12 noon. Family activities including music, dance, crafts and visual arts. Interactive demos and workshops. In partnership with Sooke Arts Council. Also garage sale. www.seaparc.ca

WELCOME WAGON SINCE 1930

New to Sooke?
Call: 250-642-2268



Daily News ■ www.westshorevoicenews.com

Sunday power outages

West Shore Voice News

● **Through the afternoon** on Sunday February 23 due to a combination of rain and high winds, 7,434 BC Hydro customers were without electricity still at 7:15 pm (14 outage locations on South Vancouver Island). Of those, 2,817 were in Colwood and Langford. In the Sooke region (including a few in Metchosin) there were about 1,960 customers without power. Environment Canada's 3:45 pm wind warning for Greater Victoria said southwest winds 60 to 90 km/hr will persist through the evening then ease early Monday morning. **WSV**

ONLINE EDUCATION



West Shore
Centre for Learning & Training
250.391.9002

- FREE COURSES FOR GRADUATED ADULTS
- GRADUATION PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION INFO & COURSE INFO:
www.westshorecentre.com

JDF Performing Arts Centre Society: in the black

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **About 20 people showed up** for the Annual General Meeting of the Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Centre Society (JDFPACS) on Sunday afternoon, February 23 at the JDF Library in Colwood. A few new members joined upon arrival.

Led by JDFPACS president Judith Cullington, the meeting included review of the 2019 financial statement, a quick presentation by local financial advisor Mike Reilley on how the organization might gain donations from donor securities, and a detailed presentation by Royal Roads University professor Brian White on how to build sustainable cultural precincts and districts within municipalities and regions.

A location for the long-sought performing arts centre for the west Shore has been narrowed down from several options, said Cullington. No firm news yet.

Cullington says JDFPACS operates with a lean budget. Revenues were almost \$11,000 in 2019 and expenses close to that, leaving net revenue of \$1,521.43 (better than 2017 and 2018 which operated in the red). Municipal grants (from Colwood, View Royal, Highlands and Metchosin) and other independent donations made up the lion's share of 2019 revenues, with the organization hoping that more people will use the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program as a way to make donations as they shop. Details on the group's website at www.building4thearts.com.

Elections were held (led by David Stocks), members voted, and an executive meeting was held immediately following the AGM. **WSV**

Pacific FC announces 2020 schedule

West Shore Voice News



Pacific FC home games are played at Westhills Stadium in Langford, shown here ready for the 2020 season (Feb 14).
Season opener **Sat April 11** >>



West Shore Voice News / M Brooke

● **The Canadian Premier League (CPL)** is excited to release the full 2020 regular season, presented by WestJet. Matches begin with the League opener on Saturday April 11 and continue through to the end of the regular season on October 4, 2020. Each CPL club will play 28 regular season games 14 home/14 away and will move to a single table format.

The new format provides fans with a more competitive season that creates more exciting matches right to the end of the season. The top three Clubs will move to a playoff series in order to proceed to the Finals 2020. At the conclusion of the season 1st place will earn a bye to the Finals 2020 while the 2nd and 3rd place teams will compete in a playoff game to see who advances.

Pacific FC organizers say that "after listening to our many fans and supporters, the overall schedule has undergone some exciting changes":

- o Over 90% of the matches will be played on holidays or weekends in 2020
- o Weeknight matches will be focused around good times and summer nights
- o 2020 will introduce Friday Night Games – a new tradition for CPL fans
- o All eight Clubs in the league will play on Canada Day (July 1)
- o All the final Matches of the season will all be played simultaneously on October 4, 2020.

The Pacific FC Home Schedule for games at Westhills Stadium in Langford starts Saturday April 11 with a 3 pm game vs Edmonton. See full schedule at <https://canpl.ca/schedule> **WSV**

VRTC Feb 25: New handyDART centre, bus shelters

● **The February 25 public board meeting agenda** of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission includes reports on expansion of the Youth Bus Pass program, the Fare-Free Youth Pilot Program, handyDART Youth-Senior Monthly Pass, and an infrastructure update. Those who attend will also hear about the local area transit plans for Sooke, Burnside-Tillicum, and Jubilee.

There are 21 new bus shelters in the region for 2019/20 including two in View Royal and three in Langford. CNG fueling and facility modifications are underway as well as plans for a new handyDART centre at 2401 Burnside Road in View Royal.

Design work is to be completed on the Island Highway Transit Priority Plan (Goldstream Avenue to Hwy 1), for completion by summer 2020.

The Westshore Transit Priority Action Plan is to facilitate "transit priority in the West Shore". Meetings with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Colwood, Langford and CRD detailed some transit corridors and priority options that are now being assessed. Local governments may need to contribute funds; community engagement will be done "as needed".

The Hwy 14 (Connie Road to Glinz Lake Road) project in Sooke will include a new park and ride and new transit stops with bus pullouts.

BC Transit is in the process of procuring a consultant to develop an update of the 2013 Victoria Regional Facilities 25-Year Master Plan. **WSV**

Colwood 2020 budget deliberations: crosswalks

● **The City of Colwood** held lengthy evening of 2020 budget deliberations in an open format on February 18. The city now livestreams their meetings. Budget items explored included brief mention of this year's 3.5% municipal tax increase (including a 1% set-aside for sustainable infrastructure).

Some residents attended, with children, to hear the portion on school crosswalk funding. Crossing guards at Colwood Elementary and Sangster Elementary are currently paid for by the city (\$14,000), with hiring and services provided by the SD62 school district. This year SD62 has responded to parental interest for a crosswalk near Wishart Elementary and has asked the city to fund that as well (\$9,000).

The next budget meeting on Tues Feb 25 at 6 pm will be livestreamed at www.colwood.ca. **WSV**

Proud to serve Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke



Randall Garrison, MP

250-405-6550

www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca

