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Week #477

West Shore  
Voice

News

v2

4 pages this issue

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# COVID-19

● If it wasn't so dire we could chuckle over how a microscopic virus has virtually overnight grabbed for itself a power-pack of 'first name only' celebrity status. **Simply COVID-19.** But with that name already comes the enormous weight of a global emergency that is moving at lightning speed, crashing like a brick through a window and then scouring every aspect of modern lifestyle and claiming some deaths as trophies. **Before we get into** the many details of what has shifted, changed, closed, opened, crashed, adapted, morphed, broken, grown and developed, held on for dear life or gone into pause mode -- yes the range is vast -- let's shine a light on the positives about COVID-19. Yes, there are actually quite a few. **We are already seeing** how resilient we are in Canada, and also how responsive we are at

**Socioeconomic analysis**  
by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc, Cert PR  
*West Shore Voice News*

tolerating the many requested changes, somewhat readily. This also shows compassion and understanding. An educated aware, information-hungry audience in BC has in just a handful of weeks consumed vast amounts of data and a few science lessons as public health officials work hard to bring everyone up to speed on why we need to wash our hands frequently, not touch our face, cover our coughs and sneezes with tissues (quickly disposed of) or bent elbow, practice self-distancing (both in public and in shared home space), stay home if we're sick, and self-isolate.

**That last one** -- the self-isolating -- is counter to the very nature of social human beings, and yet people are readily adapting. There is something primal about the way everyone is falling quickly in line with this 'war effort' of 2020 -- you might visualize it as metal filings lining up in a snap to the force of a magnet. We sense the pending wave of rampant community spread and dread that we are assured

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## INSIDE: More COVID-19 >>>

by public health professionals is coming. Which also means we are good listeners, because the messaging from health professionals has been gentle and subtle. Even the harshest of public health messages are being delivered wrapped in feel-good language. This is skillful communication, and as British Columbians we should be grateful for that skill among our top political leaders and public health professionals.

**Now even if you didn't suddenly study up** on the science of COVID-19 you can feel the coming tide of the most basic kind of harsh impact -- an illness over which there is no control, marauding with stealth in every unseen place. COVID-19 must have gone to spy school! It can hide in unexpected places (like surviving unseen on hard surfaces for sometimes up to several days), just waiting for you to touch it and transport it to your face where it gains entry through your eyes, nose or mouth. It's only giveaway is that it likes moisture (we're told it travels from sneezes and coughs in large 'heavy' moist droplets), so we can keep things clean and dry as one precaution. While it is ultimately a perpetrator of respiratory disease, COVID-19 is different from influenza and 'the common cold' in that it's not easily carried in an airborne manner. Those heavy droplets can't travel far on their own. They need our hands to transport them to our faces -- that's one manner of transmission. The other is through those sudden coughs and sneezes by others that we can't know are coming. That's why public health professionals tell us to position ourselves one to two meters (three to six feet) apart from any people around us. Boy, there could be quite a baby boom nine months after we're allowed to touch again. And all the pent-up industrious energy will very likely produce an economic boom once we're through this, just like the 'roaring 20s' after the 1918 'Spanish flu' (H1N1) epidemic that killed about 50 million people worldwide.

**So, back to the good stuff.** We're seeing that the lessons from dealing with SARS in 2002-2003 and H1N1 in 2009 have been integrated into robust and responsive public health policy in BC. Now in 2020 under the direction of BC Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry who was involved in addressing both those viral outbreaks, along with BC Health Minister Adrian Dix who clearly has a thoughtful passion for upping BC's game at delivering effective leading-edge health care, all British Columbians are benefitting from their combined expertise. For a few weeks now they've been delivering joint news conferences nearly daily to keep the media and the public informed about COVID-19. Step by step, each day the depth and breadth of news and background ramps up more and moves along fast -- every hour paints a new picture.

**This week also saw** how BC's legislation is almost where it needs to be. Dr Henry explained that she already has a lot of powers by way of the Public Health Act and Emergency Health Act. To further toughen things up, on March 18 Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth declared a provincial state of emergency and on March 23 he will be taking a few legislative tweaks (issues of supply and finance) to the BC Legislature for a one-day session of just 12 MLAs (being mindful of social distancing), to produce even more of a power-punch that can be delivered as required. Then BC will be able to do "whatever it takes" to fight COVID-19 and keep citizens safe. It looks like pretty much anything the government and Public Health Officer deems necessary for fighting this viral demon will be done. Hold on for a rough ride.

**And therein is another good thing** to add to our list. Overall we are trusting our politicians and public health professionals to guide us and get this right. We sense that it's all going pretty much okay, or people would be resisting the many requests to dramatically change our behaviours on such short notice. This means we have a civic system which has proven itself -- particularly in the last few years under Premier John Horgan -- to be putting people first. Not everyone has experienced a direct benefit in some of the NDP Government rollouts since July 2017. Not all of us needed free grad-completion tuition, or child care support, disability income hikes or transition housing. Not everyone directly benefits from a seismically-enhanced school building or improved bee-keeping. But it feels right. And then when the dirt hits the fan -- like this COVID-19 creature that could tear any one of us apart -- we are willing to fall in line by choice based on earned trust, including voluntary use of online health assessment.

**Falling in line big time** are the front line soldiers of this battle. Quite obviously those are the health care workers. But it's also people who still go to work in grocery stores and pharmacies (and their delivery services) so that we can have food and medicines amidst the chaos; the bus drivers who will still transport people who may have no other means to arrive at the hospitals and stores that are the front lines of this germ warfare; the engineers and technicians who will maintain our water supply and electricity grid; and the technological teams that maintain Internet and wireless networks so we can remain readily connected not only with key sources of information but also our loved ones, friends, colleagues, clients and health care providers.

**There's also now** the hard grinding effort expected of teachers throughout BC as they revise their curriculum delivery in short order for students returning to studies on March 30 after spring break -- not into classrooms but over the Internet. Ah, technology -- clearly a shining star in this complicated drama of visceral human life that in 2020 is inextricably entwined with a complex socioeconomic dance of corporations and employment; venture capitalism and small business; self employment and its cousin the gig economy; knowledge institutions that feed our minds to create even more cool gadgets while also equipping our workforce and educating our voters; the arts, sports and entertainment that distract us agreeably; a healthy thirst for well-being along with the leisure time to pursue self-actualization; the astounding World-wide Web (vast library, social sway, and cat memes); and so much more.

**We can appreciate** that this war is being fought in modern times. The ground that the injured fall upon is not mud -- it's perhaps a few weeks or months without crowd-style entertainment. There will be grief, and yet there is already some comfort in knowing that even that will be carried with grace by a population ready to serve. **WSV**

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March 17: BC sees 83 more COVID-19 cases

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March 17: BC sees 83 more COVID-19 cases

West Shore Voice News





**Mary P Brooke,**  
B.Sc., Cert PR  
Editor & Publisher  
**Serving the cause  
of COVID-19  
eradication  
with my pen.**

## Early lessons from a pandemic

● We've only just begun with

**COVID-19**

this journey called the COVID-19 pandemic. Phase 1 -- we heard about it, maybe in late December if you're a deep-read news junkie, or maybe in January if you were paying attention. Then most of us followed closely in February as we watched China 'take no prisoners' when it came to battling the new coronavirus. We paid further attention when the World Health Organization gave it a catchy official trade name. Come March we are now in full blown phased-in shut-down mode across our society and economy due to COVID-19.

This came at us like a freight train. Some of us heard it coming down the track early on and prepared. More people then followed suit and quickly complied with the requests of public health officials -- maybe not fully understanding why but trusting the momentum. Shockingly, a few thick souls are standing in the middle of the track with the train almost here -- they're the ones who won't self-isolate or who insist on shaking your hand because maybe they believe that brawny human beings are impervious to a virus. That's one of the first lessons we're learning, or perhaps re-learning -- that not everyone will get with the program, even if it harms themselves or others.

Then there's the more modern lesson of realizing that all the material clutter and overly busy schedules of all things 'middle-class-America' has been getting to be too much. Once all this is over we might thank that little bug called COVID-19 for waking us up to the crazy commutes to offices when we can work from home, the real danger of human infection in packed venues, our socioeconomic dependency on mega-corporations whose primary motive is greed by way of profit, the suffocating need to run everything past a team of lawyers, the rapid-fire demands of needing to be politically correct, the ceaseless learning curve that gadgetry demands, the belief that it's normal to hop on a plane several times a year for a faraway getaway even though the fuel emissions contribute big-time to global warming, and that the low-income sector in the population is 'just there', and even homelessness ... we discordantly accept it. Sorry that was a run-on sentence. It could have been longer.

The sweetest lesson we can re-learn from this COVID-19 journey we're now set upon is that time with family, friends and loved ones is precious. Time spent with our significant people may now have to be by phone, text, WhatsApp, Facetime, Skype, Facebook, Twitter and all the rest. Strangely we are becoming reconnected by way of being physically distanced from one another, but in that manner we aren't allowing the virus to use us as the vehicle to reach the next person. Remain 'close' to your favourite people by staying apart from them during this crisis -- at least one to two meters apart.

### Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

The saddest lesson to re-learn is that life is short. We may realize how much time we've wasted doing things that don't matter, or waiting for the right moment. As a result of COVID-19 we may truly lose people in our local communities to the jaws of death before their time. We have our public health system to thank for doing its best to try and make sure we don't see something as heartbreaking as the 1918 Spanish flu that killed 50 million around the world in short order.

We are learning once again that sometimes it's very simple things that can save our own lives and the lives of others. Easy things like washing your hands, not touching your face, staying home if you're sick, doing the social-distancing dance, and self-isolating as directed (all people returning home to Canada from any international location, and the rest of us) -- to break the chain of viral transmission. Big bad COVID-19. Keep it at bay.

One of the best things that could happen due to COVID-19 is realizing that Canada needs an economic shift to providing a Universal Basic Income. The stress for many people to just make ends meet has a direct impact on health (producing costs for the health care system) and is actually a form of cruelty that could finally come to an end. What brave federal government will take on that cause?

The federal aid becoming available in April will help support people who are self-employed or in the gig economy (who don't normally qualify for employment insurance). That will be a good example for how to move the system closer to accepting that relieving people's stress for the basic necessities of life would create not only a kinder society and one with less stress, but would unleash human creativity for economic and social benefit. Less stress results in better health, and lower health care costs that otherwise skyrocket in caring for people who have heart attacks from stress, kidney and liver disease from using alcohol or drugs to escape, obesity mostly from over-eating as a replacement for human intimacy, or just plain disregard.

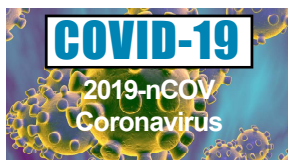
No one can be happy about COVID-19. The benefits will not outweigh the dramatic gravity of a viral pandemic. But we can fight for the positive outcomes that will lie within our reach after we're done with social distancing and self-isolation. ■

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## BC Coronavirus Update

2019-nCoV [COVID-19]  
As of March 18, 2020

Globally: 191,127 cases; 7,807 deaths



● **CASE TALLY:** 231 cases in BC (at 3 pm March 18): 144 in Vancouver Coastal Health, 58 in Fraser Health, 16 in Island Health, 9 in Interior Health, and four in Northern Health; seven deaths; 13 patients in hospital; five full recoveries.

● **TESTING:** At least 17,000 British Columbians tested so far. Testing available for all who need it, but not everyone requires a test (e.g. if no symptoms, mild symptoms, or you are a returning traveller self-isolating at home). Regardless of test results: self-isolate for 14 days to monitor for the development of symptoms or until your symptoms are completely gone. Those who have severe illness, require hospitalization, are residents of long-term care facilities or are health-care workers will continue to be tested. Anyone part of an active investigation or outbreak cluster will be tested so they can be appropriately monitored. If symptoms appear, call your health-care provider or 811 for guidance.

● **SOCIAL/WORKPLACE:** Employers must excuse workers for sickness without requiring a doctor's note. Essential service workers are exempt from self-isolation protocols. No plans to close BC Liquor Stores; cash transactions are acceptable. Mass gatherings limited to 50 people, effective to at least May 30, 2020. Businesses with liquor primary licenses (bars, pubs, night clubs, etc) are ordered to close. Restaurants and cafes that cannot maintain social distancing of one to two metres between patrons must move to take-out and delivery models. **WSV**

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

### Covering COVID-19

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● For the next few weeks at least, these print/PDF digest editions of *West Shore Voice News* will carry a large chunk of news about the COVID-19 pandemic which has sadly now massively hit our island shores.

Apologies for the delay in releasing this March 13-18 issue. The tsunami of information over the past few weeks has been diligently posted hour by hour at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) where I encourage you to visit for local and regional updates as they roll in as well as features. There is an enormous amount of news non-stop about COVID-19 that is all intertwined, despite that it comes from so many directions.

For subscribers, these digest editions will summarize the flow of COVID-19 developments and hopefully bring you a moment's pause to reflect by way of our editorials and analysis.

This is the most striking of times. The many layers of socioeconomic impact will take weeks, months and years to be sorted out, understood and learned from. Sadly, there will likely also be personal impacts along the way among groups of people that we know, no matter how well our health care system works to support us all. At some level, we prepare for that possibility as our days remain busy.

For now, at WSV the job is about keeping the flow of COVID-19 news developments on the copious straight and narrow for our readers on the [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) portal, with these print/PDF editions being hopefully a moment's pause in the storm.

May everyone be well as the various challenges of adaptation to social distancing, self-isolation and perhaps even more serious expectations are asked of us all.

Just last week someone at a school district function insisted on shaking hands, which shocked me at the rejection of my attempt to instead do an elbow bump: "Oh, we don't need to do *that*." Wow, still an attitude of 'it wouldn't happen to me' in that little scenario. Information about the importance of hand washing and social distancing is hopefully now sinking in. The reminders are everywhere in the news, in government announcements and on pretty much every business and organization's website.

Being informed with valid and reliable information about COVID-19 is to arm yourself toward the best possible outcomes.

We see that all businesses, organizations and tax-based municipalities are going to take a serious financial hit in 2020 due to COVID-19. It will be appreciated by all small businesses for the community to find new ways to 'shop local' when you can't actually go out and shop. Cash flow will be the challenge for businesses of all sizes, as many individuals are income-impacted and organizations and businesses are now going to be revenue challenged.

Let's all think outside the box on this from a business perspective. At WSV we are already

## West Shore Voice News

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**Mailing:** 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6 **Tel & Text:** 250-217-5821

**Email:** [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com)

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

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On the social side of things, the best we can all do is to support our friends and neighbours with phone calls or texts, cash flow, assistance with errands, deliveries for the self-isolated, and maintaining physical social distancing for all the health benefits that the public health officials are telling us about.

*West Shore Voice News* is in 24/7 mode about COVID-19 for the duration of this crisis. People know that in last century's wars abroad that newspapers were looked to for continuity and context. ■

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## Community News

## HEALTH &amp; SOCIETY

News updates any time:  
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## State of Emergency

● **BC is now in a state of emergency**, as declared March 18 by Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/21826> This puts additional weight behind directives and expectations of the Provincial Health Officer; makes it easier to procure needed supplies and equipment. How long will BC operate with extraordinary measures against COVID-19? "For as long as it takes," said Farnworth at a media conference March 18. Emergency sitting of BC Legislature (supply & finance measures) on Mon March 23; 12 MLAs to convene. **WSV**

## Federal Government

● On March 18, 2020 the Prime Minister announced a **new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy** during this challenging period. These measures, delivered as part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, will provide up to \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses. An initial \$500 million to provinces and territories for critical health care system needs, preparedness and mitigation efforts. Emergency sitting of House of Commons next week to approve new measures; 20 to 30 MPs to convene. **WSV**

**INDIVIDUALS:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individual>  
**BUSINESSES:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#business>

## BC Health &amp; PHO

● On March 16, Health Minister Adrian Dix and Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry announced a significant decision to **cancel all scheduled and elective surgeries at BC hospitals** as a way to free up beds for the expected influx of people suffering from complications of COVID-19 and requiring acute care such as with ventilators. **Online self-assessment tool** at <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/> to help people determine if they might have COVID-19; about 500,000 visits in first 24 hours. Daily live updates to media. Tallies (tests & cases) updated on Fridays at <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca> **WSV**

## BC Ferries

● As of this week, **passengers may remain in their cars on all decks** as a way to avoid contact with other passengers on the ships. This is a departure from normal transportation regulations (for safety reasons say people cannot normally remain in cars below deck). Food/retail service at minimum. **WSV**

## Sport &amp; Recreation

● **Canada Soccer** exhibition games against Trinidad and Tobago (as set for March 27 & 31 at Westhills Stadium) were cancelled last week.

**Pacific FC** is still holding out to make a decision about their season in the Canadian Premier League that is set to start on April 11. The directive from the BC Provincial Health Officer is that gatherings of more than 50 people are not allowed. Some sporting events are being played without fans in the stadium but are televised.

All **rec centres**, arenas, fitness centres and libraries are closed; social distancing was not possible. **WSV**

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## COVID-19

## Municipal

● **Langford City Hall** is preparing a support guide for businesses, online soon at [www.langford.ca/stayinformed](http://www.langford.ca/stayinformed). Appointments required for going to city hall: 250-478-7882 or email to [administration@langford.ca](mailto:administration@langford.ca).

● **The City of Colwood** has cancelled all their public council and committee meetings for the next several weeks. Access to city hall is by appointment only: phone 250-478-5999 or [info@colwood.ca](mailto:info@colwood.ca). COVID-19 updates at [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

● **District of Sooke:** Municipal hall, fire dept, and park washrooms closed (March 16); services provided by phone 250-642-1634 and email. Municipal meetings cancelled for at least 30 days. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

● **Town of View Royal** council meetings now only monthly on 3rd Tuesday. [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca)

● **District of Metchosin.** All March meetings cancelled. [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) **WSV**

## Post Secondary

● **UVic and Camosun College** have shifted from face-to-face instruction to online options (March 16). Instructors are tasked with revising their course assignments and assessment strategies. **Royal Roads** has moved all instruction to online (March 17). **WSV**

## Lottery &amp; Casino

● **All casinos in BC are closed.** Main prize payout locations in Kamloops and Vancouver are closed (March 18); prizes of up to \$200 can be claimed at retail outlets. In the short term, keep any winning tickets in a safe place. All tickets valid for one year after the draw date. **WSV**

## K-12 Education

● On Tuesday March 17, **BC Education Minister Rob Fleming** announced that students will not return to classrooms March 30 after spring break but will receive instruction from their teachers by other means, likely most or all of that online. All BC Curriculum is already online. Teachers now must refashion their instruction plans to carry their students to graduation in June. All students who are eligible to move to the next grade will do so, and all Grade 12 students who are eligible to graduate will do so, said Fleming. All 2020 grad ceremonies and events are postponed (but effectively cancelled for June). **WSV**

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## Retail

● **BC has now asked grocery stores** to put in measures to limit the number of items a customer can buy of any particular product, to help avoid over-purchasing or hoarding and to make sure there's enough for all customers.

● **According to Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth** on March 18, the grocery supply chain is strong. One of the reasons border-crossing (US/Canada) is still allowed during the pandemic is so that grocery supply from the US can still flow into Canada. Long haul truckers are exempt from the travel ban on people from all international locations coming to Canada.

● **Large retail:** **Costco** in Langford says mornings are busiest and ask customers to shop in afternoon/evening when it's less busy. **Staples** will reduce their store hours across Canada (as of March 19); they may limit the number of customers in the store at any given time. **Thrifty's** basically says they're cleaning their stores more and keeping the shelves stocked. **WSV**

## Banking

● **Coast Capital Savings** will temporarily close several branches starting March 19 (Central Saanich), with shorter hours at others (Bay Centre, Tillicum, Westshore). They are open to revising bank product arrangements on a case-by-case basis. **WSV**

Key developments of functional and socioeconomic change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To March 18, 2020

Compiled by

West Shore Voice News

WEST SHORE VOICE



West Shore Voice News / Chelsea Kirkpatrick

● **The new normal: shopping for groceries wearing mask and nitrile gloves.** Photo by Chelsea Kirkpatrick at Western Foods on Wednesday March 18 in Sooke. Elsewhere in the store there is signage advising about customer limits for the purchase of some products.

There are shorter store hours now (8 am to 8 pm), and customers are asked to allow seniors to shop first thing in the morning for the possibility of less exposure to any COVID-19, after cleaning having been done the night before. **WSV**

## COVID-19

Full COVID-19 articles with details & links on our daily news portal.

Working for our community

**Mitzi Dean**

MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885

#104-1497 Admirals Road

[Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

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Type COVID-19 into the Search field

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



## COVID-19

### All rec centres & libraries now closed

**School Spring Break SD62.** Mar 14-29. 'Back to school' Mon March 30 but with no classroom instruction due to COVID-19. All grad events cancelled. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**BC Legislature in session** for one day to pass legislative changes re COVID-19. Mon Mar 23. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**City of Langford Special Council Meeting.** Thurs Mar 26. 1 pm. Dial-in access available. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**Earth Hour.** Sat Mar 28. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**'Back to School' \*Online\* in SD62.** Mon Mar 30. Online or remote instruction only due to COVID-19. All grad events cancelled. Check website: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

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

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

● Sooke Arts Council ARTiFACTS show & April meeting cancelled. ● Coast Collective closed to April 24.

## Check for event CANCELLATIONS <https://westshorevoicenews.com/events>

**Pacific FC home game 2020 season opener** vs Edmonton FC. Sat Apr 11 at Westhills Stadium [check website re any cancellation re COVID-19]. <https://canpl.ca/schedule>

**Out of School Care for 2020/2021.** Registration starts Wed Apr 15. [Check website for any changes]. West Shore Parks & Recreation. [www.westshorererecreation.ca](http://www.westshorererecreation.ca)

**BC Ferries. Public Input on Coastal Ferries.** To 4 pm on Fri Apr 17. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/coastalferries>

**Family Arts Fair.** Sat Apr 18 9:30 am to 12 noon. In partnership with Sooke Arts Council. Also garage sale. [CANCELLED due to COVID-19]. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Earth Day.** Wed Apr 22.

**\$2 Pro D Day Activities at SEAPARC.** Mon Apr 27. 10 am to 12 pm bounce house & games, 1 to 3 pm swim. [Pending COVID-19]. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Rugby Canada Womens Sevens.** Sat May 2 & Sun May 3 at Westhills Stadium. [Pending COVID-19]. [www.rugby.ca](http://www.rugby.ca)

**Mother's Day Paint-In.** Hatley Castle Park, RRU, Colwood. [Pending COVID-19]. Sun May 10. 11 am to 4 pm.

**Crown of Sound** concert at Westhills Stadium. Sat June 13. [Pending COVID-19]. Tx: [www.crownofsound.ca](http://www.crownofsound.ca)

**Lobsterfest 2020** fundraiser. Aug 22. Rescheduled from Apr 4, at Langford Legion. [www.westshorerotary.org](http://www.westshorerotary.org)



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**SEAPARC's DeMamiel Creek 9-Hole 3 Par Golf Course.** Season usually starts in April, date tba, pending COVID-19. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/facility-booking/demamiel-creek-golf-course>

**If you are returning from travel outside Canada, you are to self-isolate for 14 days.**

## COVID-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

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## SD62 names new schools with indigenous recognition

by Mary P Brooke ~  
West Shore Voice News



**SD62 Administration, Board and Community Leaders at the school names announcement event on March 12, 2020 at Belmont Secondary School** (from left): Former Superintendent Jim Cambridge, Associate Superintendent Stephanie Hedley-Smith, Superintendent Scott Stinson, Beecher Bay Elder Henry Chipps, Vice-Chair Bob Beckett, Beecher Bay Chief Russ Chipps, Chair Ravi Parmar, Trustee Allison Watson, Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull, Trustee Wendy Hobbs, Associate Superintendent Dave Strange, Project Manager Alex Samousevitch, District Principal of Capital Projects Windy Beadall, and Associate Superintendent Paul Block. **WSV**

● **The new names for the two new SD62 schools in West Langford** are Pexsisen Elementary School (K to Gr 5) and Centre Mountain Lellum Middle School (Grades 6 to 8). The names were announced on Thursday afternoon, March 12, at an event held in the upstairs Learning Commons area of Belmont Secondary School in Langford.

An event long-scheduled for that same evening — to which parents and the public were invited — was cancelled mid-day, in response to public health concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. At that point BC Health was saying that all gatherings of over 250 people were to be postponed or cancelled until otherwise advised, as a way of helping to contain community spread (the limit on events is now down to 50 people).

With actual construction of the two schools yet to begin at the Constellation Drive location at the corner of West Shore Parkway in Westhills, the schools are scheduled to open for September 2022. Land clearing is still underway, probably into October of this year. Construction is set to begin in earnest this fall, using the services of local contractors and trades wherever possible. It's yet unknown if the economy-wide interruption caused by COVID-19 could possibly delay the construction schedule.

The two-storey elementary school will accommodate 500 students and the three-storey middle school will accommodate 700 students, it was announced by SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson at the event. Stinson was excited to describe how the middle school has its glass-walled gymnasium as a central focus, a science space, wood shop, band and choral space, and rooftop teaching space. The open staircase can be used as an amphitheatre. The elementary school has a Neighbourhood Learning Space with room for an on-site child care center.

The addition of two new schools has necessitated a catchment boundary review, to which there has already been some public input. Stinson explained how the complex rearrangement of which neighbourhood areas feed into which schools includes consideration of flow through a 'family' of schools, so that students carry on from Kindergarten through Grade 12 with their peers at the same set of elementary, middle and secondary schools. **WSV**  
More: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/new-west-langford-school-names-recognize-indigenous-peoples/>

Daily news posts at

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



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

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**TRAFFIC INFO**

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■ Scheduled roadworks

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

## Expansion construction continues at Royal Bay Secondary School

West Shore Voice News



● **SD62 Trustees Margot Swinburnson, Allison Watson and Ravi Parmar (Chair)** lookin' good in hard hats during expansion construction tour of Royal Bay Secondary School, March 10. Expansion for additional 600-student capacity to open in September 2020. The expansion will increase the school's capacity to 1,400 students, making it the largest high school (Grades 9 to 12) on Vancouver Island. **WSV**

## COVID-19

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