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# West Shore Voice

v1

## News

6 pages this issue

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 Subscriber EDITION  
 Week #396

**WEST SHORE VOICE**

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**INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM**  
 What makes this west side of Vancouver Island tick? News & views on business & economy, health & wellness, education, the arts, politics, sustainability, the young Z-gen, & social trends.



Wildfires in BC [pg4]

Your weekend news digest. Go online for **BREAKING NEWS & PDF** of this week's print issue: [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

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Pacific FC coach Michael Silberbauer, Aug 20 in Langford.



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

### Friday, August 24, 2018

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## Pacific FC: New coach introduced to the Langford sport community

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News | Full length article (posted Aug 20): [https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page\\_id=13003](https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=13003)

● A new professional sports team has burst onto the Langford scene. On Monday, August 20 at City Centre Park next to Westhills Stadium it was mid-summer warm with slightly smoky skies, as the recently formed Pacific Football Club (Pacific FC) announced their new coach.

New Pacific FC coach Michael Silberbauer was introduced at the podium, welcomed by the west shore sport community, and dozens of young soccer players and their parents about 150 people in all. Langford Mayor Stew Young and council attended.

"Thank you for coming out here," said Young. "What Josh and Rob have been able to accomplish in such a short time — and to have Mike standing here in Langford — this is the talent that you have here that we wouldn't have expected. You guys have done great," the Mayor told the crowd. "It's a great opportunity for soccer and for the island," said Young.

Pacific FC president Josh Simpson is back on the island after touring as a pro soccer player in Europe. "The island is a football island, this is a football city, Langford is football. They just don't know it yet," said the upbeat Simpson to a supportive crowd. Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend thanked Stew Young and his council. Langford is one of the fastest growing communities in BC. Friend is excited about Langford's momentum to bring 2,000 more seats to Westhills Stadium, expanding a renovated seating area to 6,500 seats by next spring.

New Pacific FC coach Michael Silberbauer of Denmark has "the technical foundation to support the growth of the game in this region as well as the country, with international experience and a global perspective, and is passionate to grow the game locally in the community," said Friend. "I'm very excited to be here," said Silberbauer. It was evident right away how infectious his coaching style will be, captivating the audience with a true story of finding unconventional solutions, and how the Pacific FC team will work with the community and give back. His lilting storytelling style won over the crowd, but with punch: "Mentality beats talent. It's not the best players who make it, it's those who set their mind to it and work the hardest," said Silberbauer as part of explaining how he will build the first Pacific FC team. The team will be "built on the values of the islanders. When the fans get into the stadium they know exactly what they can expect." **WSV** See full article online.

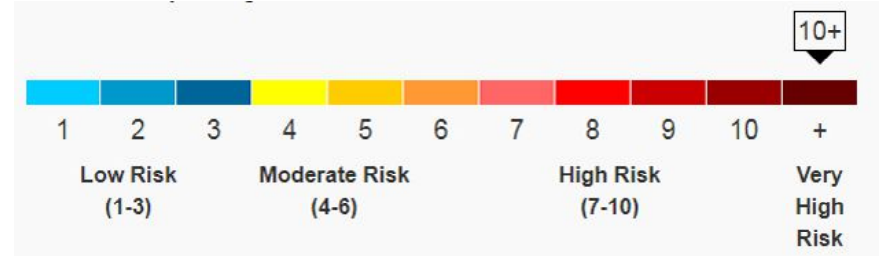


Pacific FC President Josh Simpson chats with a young player, Aug 20 in Langford.

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

## Air Quality Health Index: reaches Very High Risk Smoky skies churn up regular routines & pose health challenges

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



The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) soared off the charts this week in the West Shore and Greater Victoria. Above: At 5 pm on Tuesday evening, August 21, the AQHI was at 10+ Very High Risk (Environment Canada chart for Victoria/Saanich).

● It didn't take long for people to catch on: smoky air at high levels is a health risk, and that people should take efforts to avoid breathing too much of that air produced by the wildfires burning in BC. There are impacts on activities and resources, with a fallout on people, families, businesses, communities and the economy. From the low levels of traffic on the roads in Greater Victoria this week, to the high numbers of people visiting air conditioned public places, it was readily apparent that people were feeling the effects of high levels of wildfire smoke in the air and heeding the recommendations of health authorities.

In addition to the weather-style air quality reports from Environment Canada and BC Environment, for the past two weeks provincial and regional health authorities have issued information bulletins about health risks. And unlike other sorts of health warnings that often go unheeded, this one sunk in fast. Seniors, young children, people with cardio-pulmonary health issues, and those with other underlying health issues that challenge their overall functionality or immune system are definitely the ones needing to cut back on activities in the smoky air and where possible stay indoors. The BC Provincial Health Officer even suggested using a HEPA filter to create at least one 'clean room' in the home, for refuge in a fresher breathing space.

But when even healthy people and those who are active outdoors -- including athletes -- were told to take extra precautions (wear a mask, lessen their exertion, or not go out into High Risk smoke levels at all), that's when the awareness of the severity of this 'new' health risk reached critical mass.

Smoky skies bulletins began emerging almost daily starting August 13. Already the expectation of daily air quality updates has become a part of people's routines in homes, businesses and communities. On August 21 in the Greater Victoria area, the AQHI surpassed the 1 to 10 scale, reaching 10+. Levels of High to Very High fluctuated all week. By Friday evening, August 24, there was some relief with a "Low" level of 3 (that's still smoky) and was forecasted as going down to 2 by Saturday, August 25.

Suddenly, it seems, that the idea of outdoor air being fresh is no long a 'given'. Keeping windows closed and unfiltered air exchangers off so that air is fresher, seems to be 'the new normal'.

At mid-week there were about 560 fires burning in BC. Check the BC Environment Ministry's Air Quality page at [www.bcairquality.ca](http://www.bcairquality.ca) for updates at various times of day (organized by town or area).

WSV WILDFIRE NEWS UPDATES: on the BC page, with air quality updates on the Weather page at: [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) **WSV**

## Trudeau's cabinet retreat in Nanaimo: Day 3

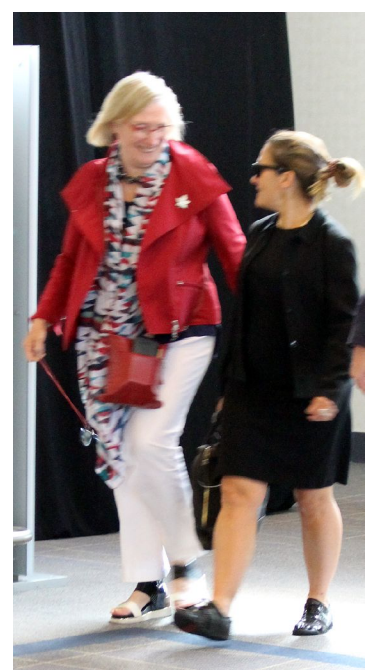
by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News | from Nanaimo August 23



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● It must have been a long hard week for the recently-shuffled federal cabinet in downtown Nanaimo for their three-day working retreat August 21 to 23 at the modern Vancouver Island Conference Centre.

By the time Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's formal media availability was held at 2:45 pm Thursday afternoon, the group of cabinet ministers was hard to hold in place in their formal pose. Everyone seemed tired. Within minutes of wrapping-up the short media Q&A with the PM, cabinet ministers were into casual clothes and sneakers, with bags in hand and heading for the door. .../



All photos: Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

After the formal media session on August 23 in Nanaimo, cabinet ministers relaxed and headed for home. From left: Melanie Joly, Maryam Monsef, Carolyn Bennett, Chrystia Freeland, Bill Blair.

**Continued on pg 2 ... /**



## 'Ottawa bubble' gets a glimpse of island life

Who knows if most of the federal cabinet ministers and Ottawa-based media enjoyed their stay on the coast of Vancouver Island this week. As we islanders know, it's quite a bit more laid back here -- with a different energy and momentum compared to Canada's big cities and 'the Ottawa bubble' of everything-political.

Editorial WSV



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR  
Editor & Publisher

Trudeau's three-day cabinet retreat at the convention centre in Nanaimo was a great opportunity to showcase the lifestyle that we islanders hold so dear. A walkable downtown, a little bit of time to say hello and enjoy some sunshine (hazy skies had almost dissipated by mid-day Thursday).

Though judging by the fatigued demeanor of many of the cabinet ministers it's apparent they worked very hard. Running a country and packing numerous decision-making priorities into a three-day stint is just part of the many long hours put in by elected leaders that Canadians normally don't see up close. MPB



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# Federal cabinet retreat wrap-up

West Shore Voice News

.../ Continued from pg 1



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Federal cabinet set up behind Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the formal media session on August 23 at the end of their three-day cabinet retreat in Nanaimo.

continued from page 1.../ Key players of the national media who regularly cover Parliament Hill -- including Evan Dyer (CBC) and Mercedes Stephenson (formerly with CTV, now with Global) -- as well as Canadian Press Senior political affairs reporter Joan Bryden, and Josh Wingrove of the Bloomberg News business network, had made the trip from Ottawa to Vancouver Island to cover this first meeting of cabinet since the July 18 shuffle. Top cabinet ministers such as Chrystia Freeland (Foreign Affairs), Bill Morneau (Finance), Jody Wilson-Raybould (Justice), Catherine McKenna (Environment) and Ralph Goodale (Privacy) were untouched in that shuffle. Bill Blair was given more scope for managing borders while still being involved in shifts that will come with the upcoming legalization of cannabis. A few of the more junior cabinet ministers were given less or different responsibilities evidently based on how things transpired in the last year.

Trudeau opened his formal remarks with an expression of support over the wildfires -- working closely with the province, indigenous communities and local authorities. He says there is now an ad hoc cabinet committee around coordination of wildfire efforts. Trudeau had made a quick to visit the fire coordination centre in Prince George in the BC interior quite early that morning. Trudeau then launched into the usual Liberal government messaging about "building an economy that works for everyone", putting people first and investing directly in Canadians. "And our plan is working" including 600,000 more people working than when the Liberals took office with unemployment being at its lowest rate in 40 years.

"We need to stay focussed on building an economy where every Canadian has a real and fair chance at success," said Trudeau in his opening remarks, saying that effort includes diversifying trading partnerships, extending tourism, and promoting Canadian exports. "Our goal will be to create new jobs and opportunities for the middle class and people working hard to join it".

What did cabinet ministers discuss the last three days? "We discussed our trading relationship with our southern neighbours," Trudeau said. "With respect to NAFTA ... we are pushing hard to modernize and update the agreement -- in a way that is win-win-win and benefits Canadian families. We are working to achieve a good deal, not just any deal."

Trudeau then answered a tight set of questions from media lined up at the microphone. Questions covered aspects of NAFTA, cyber security, the recent Conservative Party kerfuffle and recent robo-calls considered to be in bad taste, the Saudi Arabia human rights issue, the TransMountain pipeline, infrastructure and housing.

Trudeau said his government is "continuing to engage with our US partners to resolve ongoing trade issues following the imposition of unfair, counter-productive, unacceptable tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum," and will continue to "support workers and stand up for industries".

Trudeau says his government will "continue to engage diplomatically with Saudi Arabia", saying it's important to have positive relationships with countries around the world. "At the same time we have expressed our concern for defending human rights and ... will continue to stand up and minority rights and our shared universal values."

He took credit for having focussed on working well with all provinces.

Having experienced first hand the poor air quality due to the wildfires on Vancouver Island this week, Trudeau says his government was reminded of the full importance of moving forward with a real plan to fight climate change and putting a cost on pollution.

Around the Trans Mountain pipeline issue and the recent failed challenge by the City of Burnaby, Trudeau reiterated the importance of getting more oil

resources to new markets other than just the US. "Given the state of relations between Canada and the United States, I don't know many people who think it's a good idea that 99% of oil resources go to the US." He emphasized his government's aim to seeing oil products getting to new markets "while we invest in a transition of energy to a more global, greener economy".

Trudeau acknowledged that Canadians expect a greener economy. He reiterated his government's mantra that protecting the environment and growing the economy go hand in hand.

As to whether any new infrastructure projects are coming up in Western Canada, the prime minister said: "We have believed from the beginning that investing in infrastructure is not just necessary for our economy, it is the way to grow our communities and create opportunities and jobs for Canadians. And to create strong economic growth. We are pleased that the recent Parliamentary Budget Officer's report highlighted around 10,000 jobs created by our investments in infrastructure and that significant growth for the Canadian economy is linked to our plan in investing in infrastructure. But we also know there's a lot more to do. Our approach on infrastructure hasn't been to have Ottawa decide what bridge should go where in what part of the country, but to work with local municipalities and local governments on their priorities. And we will continue to respect the local experts in their determination of what is needed. We are there to be a willing, active, fulsome partner in infrastructure and we'll continue to be," Trudeau said.

Trudeau responded to the issue of housing affordability being a crisis in Canada: "For the past 10 years or more the federal government had removed itself entirely from the housing file in general and affordable housing more specifically. We think that's wrong. We are very pleased that the federal government has stepped up and moved forward with an extremely efficient national strategy on housing." He said that billions of dollars have been invested across the country in affordable housing and housing for

seniors. "Far too many middle class Canadian can't afford to live in the cities that they work in. That's simply unacceptable for a country like Canada. We're glad that the federal government will be a full and active partner to provinces and municipalities to improve the situation."

And with that, there was a ripple of spontaneous applause at the end of a long working week, and the cabinet ministers scattered. WSV

WEST SHORE VOICE

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# Thousands tour the 8th Annual Show & Shine in Langford

Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News



Aerial view shows the cars, trucks and crowds at the 8th Annual Show & Shine vintage vehicle event in Langford, August 19. Thanks to the Langford Fire Rescue team for the lift on their ladder to take this shot! [West Shore Voice News photo]

Over 17,000 people attended the 8th Annual Langford Show & Shine vintage car show on Sunday August 19 in Langford town centre. That's a record crowd, says Langford Mayor Stew Young. As well, there was a record number of vehicle entries in the show — over 300.

Several city blocks were cordoned off for the 10 am to 3 pm event along Goldstream Avenue and side streets. Next year the popular show might expand its footprint to include the area available at Veterans Memorial Park, says Young.

While there was a bit of 'smoky sky' which created a slight haze, the day was otherwise comfortably warm and dry.

This year's People Choice awards were announced: **1st** Dave and Annie Lukinuk: 1956 Chevy panel truck, **2nd** Mike Lauzon: black 1968 Chevrolet Camaro, and **3rd** Dan and Maria Madison: 1961 Ford F100 Unibody.



People's Choice winner Dave Lukinuk with Mayor Stew Young.

[See Winner's photos -- receiving awards from the mayor -- where this article was first posted Aug 19: [https://westshorevoiceneews.com/?page\\_id=12957](https://westshorevoiceneews.com/?page_id=12957)]

As a free walk-about with donations, over \$3,000 was raised for Wounded Warriors and the Goldstream Food Bank that serves the west shore area.

It was a good community draw, whether people were interested in vintage vehicles or not. Some people pored over the cars and trucks quite closely, while others strolled through to enjoy being at the event.

As a city marketing tool, the car show is effective. People walk about at eye-level to the various frontages of stores and offices that otherwise one may not notice if whizzing by in traffic. Refreshments were available for purchase from mobile food vendors as well as local restaurants and cafes.

A shout-out to the Langford Fire Department for taking media up in their ladder and bucket, to get some cool aerial shots of the event.

City staff worked very hard to set up the show, some arriving ahead of 6 am to find some cars already ready there to be parked on display! **WSV**

## The business of awarding businesses

Business Analysis  
West Shore Voice News

The WestShore Chamber of Commerce is once again presenting Best of the West Shore. It's a contest shared with and featuring their main sponsor, *Goldstream News Gazette*. Contest voting online requires 20 selections that can be done from within 44 categories. Find the link here: [www.westshore.bc.ca](http://www.westshore.bc.ca)

WestShore Chamber of Commerce executive director Julie Lawlor says 20 selections (which takes a bit of time and initiative, especially if you don't see your favourite business listed there) is intentionally a large number to try and avoid just singular or specialized vote-loading. But it can be a cumbersome process for busy people. Voting ends September 3, and the event will be held October 25.

Business participation is up to the businesses themselves. The checklists of business names therefore largely end up being comprised of who signs up as compared to shaping a reflection of the town's economic skyline.

Lawlor has been hearing concerns from various businesses. For example, there is a Best Pet Clinic category but apparently pet retail stores felt left out. In the west shore there are several pet supply retail outlets (some which also provide grooming and also adopt out pets) including Bosley's by Pet Valu both at Westshore Town Centre and in Colwood on Island Highway, Island Pet Store on Goldstream Avenue in town centre, and Pet Smart in Millstream Village. There's always the Best Retailer category to consider, but that is broad and numerically diminishes the chance of winning for all business names entered into that category.

There is no overall sport category (other than Best Sport Team), but specific categories such as Best Martial Arts and Best Place for Fitness, as well as categories for golf, fishing, hiking, beach, and yoga. Other industries are split into different areas such as seeing Best Spa/Aesthetics as well as Best Hair Salon/Barbershop. A grab-bag category is Best Professional Services which has a smattering of entrants from a wide range of business areas including HR, accounting, photography, plumbing, software, and news media -- serving as a kind of catch-all where more appropriate categories were unavailable.

The contest does help promote local businesses. However, in future years the Chamber might serve members better after stepping back to review the growing variety and mosaic of businesses in Langford and revise the category format to help every business feel as though there's a fair opportunity. **WSV**

## U-bikes in Langford

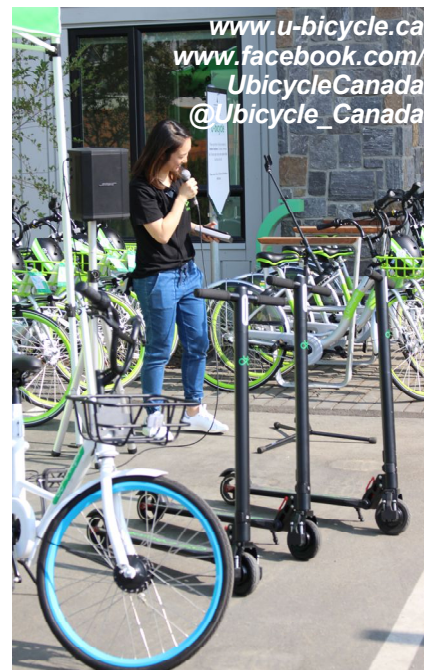
West Shore Voice  
News - MPB

U-bicycle has launched eight new bike stations city-wide in Langford, after successfully launching at Belmont Residences in May (not long after launching in Victoria). The expanded launch in Langford is in partnership with the City of Langford and Belmont Residences (each sponsoring half the bikes).

"U-bicycle provides an active, healthy, eco-friendly and affordable mode of transportation for locals, tourists, and anyone who's just curious," says Angel Fu, chief strategy officer, U-bicycle.

The multi-modal smart transportation platform promotes seamless connectivity and supporting smart city programs. Regular bicycles, electric bikes and e-scooters are now available at specific locations to support short distance commuting needs. Batteries for e-bikes are picked up at depots. Ride to where you need to go.

The U-bicycle experience begins by downloading the app at Google Play or the App Store. Rentals are pre-paid through the app, tracked by the minute. Pay as you go! There is a \$50 refundable damage deposit, then ride! A 30-minute ride is \$1. A day pass for \$15 gives you unlimited 30-minute rides for 24 hours. Annual pass: \$150. When you're done with a bike or scooter, GPS tracking lets U-bicycle know where they are for the next users, maintenance, or relocating some to popular starting points. **WSV**



Angel Fu announced bikes, e-bikes & e-scooters, Aug 16 at Belmont Residences.

# Privacy Minister Ralph Goodale: Canadians must take more personal responsibility for what they put online

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News EXCLUSIVE

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale was quickly heading to the annual meeting of the Five Eyes security alliance in Australia, right after the cabinet retreat that wrapped up Thursday afternoon August 23 in Nanaimo. "They are a very reliable stable group of countries that have had an important security alliance since World War II: Australia, NZ, Canada, the US and UK."

"We work very hard to ensure the security and safety of our own countries. But that obviously makes a major contribution to security around the world," Goodale told *West Shore Voice News*. "As a middle-size country, Canada has a very constructive broker role to play in the middle to try to find consensus, to find practical solutions to very difficult safety and security issues. It's an ongoing dialogue that takes place among these countries every day, but once a year the ministers get together to meet in person."

**Should Canadians be concerned about loss of privacy? It seems to be almost gone.** Goodale: "It's a product in many ways of technology. Canadians will have an intense debate about what information is known or not known about them by a government agency, but they'll give all their personal information over the Internet to a commercial entity or to someone at the other end of a tweet that they don't even know. So there's a very large element of personal responsibility that comes into play here. People need to recognize in this day and age of information technology that's changing and innovating quite literally many times a day, that the old assumptions about what's private are being challenged. And when the government is involved we work very closely all the time with the privacy commissioner who is very proactive and very assertive (and that's a good thing!) to make sure that the government is respecting the privacy of Canadians and that we're following all the appropriate laws and codes."

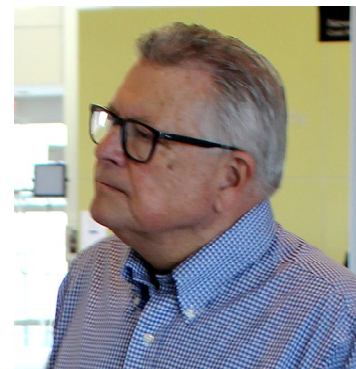
**Is this something that cabinet deals with top of mind?** Goodale: "Privacy is quite often a very important discussion. The privacy commissioner is there to be the ever-present watchdog but Cabinet ministers are very alert to this too."

**On cannabis legalization, are there any recommendations for the public?** Goodale: "The law doesn't change until the 17th of October. This is not an instantaneous event. This is a process that is transforming a legal regime that has existed for 100 years, to something that's entirely different. So it's a massive undertaking. People need to respect the process as it goes along. You can understand people wanting to anticipate all the what-if's. But make sure you're following the law in the mean time. Don't jump to conclusions before the law actually changes."

**How quickly will the legal system give pardons for simple possession?** Goodale: "We've undertaken to examine that as soon as the law does change. The discussion will be ongoing to make sure that people are being treated fairly. Obviously the old law is still the old law and all of the rules apply. When that changes on October 17th then the government will turn its mind to what steps need to be taken to treat people with fairness."

Back in April 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said threats of cyber attacks will continue to grow as the world becomes more digitized. He had met on the sidelines with the prime ministers of Australia, New Zealand and the UK during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, to solidify their position on Russia's persistent cyber warfare attacks on businesses and government institutes.

The upcoming August 2018 meeting will serve to significantly advance transnational security collaboration across a broad range of functional problems and mission areas, said Australia's Home Affairs secretary back in June. **WSV**



Privacy Minister Ralph Goodale



On the Island



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**RCMP Musical Ride: 2 sell-out shows in Sooke**

● **BC Premier John Horgan** attended the RCMP Musical Ride on Sunday, August 19 at Fred Milne Park in Sooke. Both the day before for the matinee, and for Sunday's 'sunset show', there was a full crowd.

The event was organized by the Sooke Lions Club along with other Lions/Lioness volunteers, under the coordination of Steve Wright. He said that ticket sales and donations will go toward the various projects that the Lions support in the Sooke area community.

West Shore Voice News ~ with notes from Evan Lindsay



**Extra bleachers were brought in to accommodate the crowds.**

Before the horses and riders presented their amazing show of skill and pagentry, the event opened with a musical performance by the Navy band. The emcee was Yvonne Raymond of CTV Vancouver Island News. **WSV**

Evan Lindsay ~ West Shore Voice News

Evan Lindsay ~ West Shore Voice News



**At the second of two performances of the RCMP Musical Ride, BC Premier John Horgan was accompanied by his wife Ellie, and also (from left): Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes, and T'Sou-ke Elder Shirley Alphonse.**

**Mid-week Malahat MVI**

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **A two-vehicle collision** on the Malahat section of Highway 1 (TransCanada) at 8:10 am on Wednesday August 22 produced a fatality. The southbound driver of a DBL sewage hauling truck (a 38-year-old Nanaimo man, father of a 2-month-old daughter) was deceased at the scene. The driver of a northbound blue SUV was injury-assessed by paramedics.

Sewage did not make its way into the local watershed, said HAZMAT crews, but was washed down and cleaned off the paved surfaced; what remained in the truck was pumped out.

RCMP crash investigators required time to do their work. Also attending: BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, BC Ministry of Environment, Westshore RCMP Traffic Unit, BC Ambulance, Langford Fire Rescue, and the BC Coroner.

Hwy 1 was closed in both directions about 1/2-km north of Goldstream Provincial Park for about 7.5 hours. It's pretty much the only (main) route out of Greater Victoria to points upisland, and return. The detour via Hwy 14 and Pacific Marine Circle Route (PMRC) to Hwy 18 and back to Hwy 1 involves some single-lane bridges and narrow areas. It takes a confident driver over four hours in good weather conditions.

Mainroad South Island (road maintenance team with a base of operations in Langford) decides when detours are recommended. The PMCR detour advisory is not usually initiated until it's known that the Hwy 1 delay is likely to be over 4 to 5 hours, says Mainroad South Island General Manager Rick Gill. Many motorists prefer to wait until the road opens, or try their luck getting onto the small-load Mill Bay ferry.



**Aug 22 crash site on the Malahat.**

Mainroad is the main point of contact for informing the [www.DriveBC.ca](http://www.DriveBC.ca) website with road incident updates.

Mainroad's road manager Stuart Eaton was out on the highway that day for incident management. Motorists are notified, appropriate services are provided (water and detour pamphlets as required), portable washroom setups are sometimes arranged, and emergency agencies are assisted with cleanup.

"The crash did not happen in a sharp curve -- it was in a long straight stretch before getting to the bottom," says Gill. There may have been a medical issue for one of the drivers.

Foreman Tieg Clarke (with Mainroad subcontractor SPR Traffic Services) was also on call that day managing traffic flow and flagger personnel. About 30 flaggers were out guiding motorists for that incident. **WSV**

**Wildfires burning in BC: state of emergency**



● **BC Premier John Horgan** with Federal Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, indigenous leaders & local authorities in Prince George Aug 21 <<

● **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** at the Emergency Operations Centre in Prince George, early morning Aug 23 >>

● **Due to over 550 wildfires burning in BC**, the province is under a State of Emergency so resources can be coordinated among all levels of government (federal, provincial, local) and indigenous communities.

The State of Emergency was enacted by the BC Government for 14 days starting Wednesday, August 15 (can be extended or rescinded as required). It was done on the recommendation of BC's wildfire and emergency management officials so that a coordinated response to protect the public is in place.

**Stats and conditions** change daily, but as of mid-day August 22, there were 563 active wildfires in BC with 56 fires of note; 16 of those had started just the day before, said Fire Information Officer Ryan Turcott in a media teleconference that day. Over 629,000 hectares of land have been burned in the 2018 wildfire season to date. Total cost to August 22 was \$282.6 million. As of Wednesday, there were 3,378 frontline personnel (782 from out of province) and support staff, plus 1,359 contractors. There were 239 aircraft supporting the ground areas.

**On Wednesday August 22** the Prime Minister's office announced the creation of a new ad hoc Cabinet committee to coordinate federal efforts to help the many communities affected by the wildfires raging through British Columbia. Early the next morning Prime Minister Justin Trudeau headed to Prince George for a briefing at the emergency operations centre there. BC Premier John Horgan had visited the day before.

**Evacuation orders** are to protect residents and firefighters, said Turcott. Emergency Management BC (EMBC) asks those who have self-evacuated to larger communities due to smoke, to consider returning home, to make room for those who have responded to evacuation orders.

**EMBC's Executive Director** Chris Duffy on August 22 said there were 17 reception centres open in various areas include Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson, Surrey (on standby) and on Vancouver Island. At that date there were 37 evacuation orders with 2,460 impacted properties and 4,920 people. There were 51 evacuation alerts affecting 11,407 properties and 22,940 people. People are asked to do their part by following burning bans and restrictions to prevent human-caused fires. [www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca)

**The state of emergency** gives agencies, such as the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Emergency Management BC, the fire commissioner and the RCMP, the authority to take every action necessary to fight the wildfires and protect people and communities. RCMP and the Canadian Armed Forces presently have personnel assisting. Media heard from BC-RCMP Communications Officer Dawn Roberts and Major Jeff Allen of the Armed Forces. RCMP are removing some critical case files from fire-related evacuation areas and the CAF has boots on the ground in coordination with the BC Wildfire Service.

**BC Minister of Agriculture** Lana Popham gave details about how ranchers and producers are being impacted by the wildfires. She articulated the emotional toll on ranchers and farmers under fire situations where alternative grazing areas must be found and as well as finding locations for housing animals. Two dairies are among the affected producers. About 2,000 head of cattle have been relocated; about 13,000 livestock (12,000 of those cattle, the rest including sheep, horses, pigs and goats) are in areas that are under evacuation orders or alerts, said Popham. Some cattle and other animals have been lost to flames. In last year's wildfires about 35,000 cattle were on the loose. "You don't know the losses until later in the fall when some cattle don't come home." Popham explained. **WSV**

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Horgan's summer afternoon in the Sooke sunshine

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

In Sooke last Sunday August 19, Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca which includes the Sooke area) held his annual 'Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Horgan' barbecue at Sooke River campground. About 250 people attended, hosted by the Langford-Juan de Fuca Constituency Association for buffet lunch, speeches, and cake. The weather was comfortably warm under moderately-hazy smoky skies.

Among the crowd were many long-time NDP-ers who have done some considerable groundwork to build the NDP force in the riding over the years, and some new-to-Sooke folks. Horgan chatted it up with just about everyone, acknowledging many of this long-time supporters and fixing those moments in time with spontaneous group photos and selfies.

And of course there were many local and regional political VIPs there including MLA Mitzi Dean (Esquimalt-Metchosin); District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait; Juan de Fuca Director Mike Hicks; Sooke Councillors Brenda Parkinson and Rick Kasper; former Sooke Mayor Wendal Milne (now a BC Transit board director); SD62 School Board trustees Ravi Parmar, Bob Phillips, and Neil Poirier; and former MLA Moe Sihota. Security was present, but better blended-in than ever for the local low-key event.

In his short speech after the noon-hour lunch, Horgan pitched that he's looking to roll out a 12-year or 16-year run for an NDP government in BC in order to continue "making life better for people in Sooke, Juan de Fuca, and across British Columbia". He said he's pleased with the progress made by his government in the last 13 months. "I reached out to the Green Party and to the BC Liberals," he said, noting that the current Speaker of the House is a BC Liberal MLA. The BC NDP approach is about "working with their neighbours to get a better outcome for everybody", Horgan told the crowd.

Horgan touched briefly on the upcoming referendum on proportional representation, saying that all governments but one in the last 40 years in BC have been given 100% of the power by a minority of the voter count. He suggested that the mail-in ballot process will be easy for everyone.

Horgan always takes the opportunity to promote the importance of public education. He gave a shout-out to his old basketball coach from highschool days... saying that one teacher was instrumental in setting him on the road he's on today. WSV

Premier John Horgan with the four Newmans of Sooke. >>



Three politicians pause for cake and camera! (From left): District of Sooke Councillor Rick Kasper, BC Premier John Horgan (MLA, Langford-Juan de Fuca), and former NDP MLA Moe Sihota ... at the 2018 annual Juan de Fuca Constituency Association barbecue hosted by Horgan.

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

OPINION-EDITORIAL: by Rob Fleming, BC Minister of Education

Back to school gives all students opportunities for success

West Shore Voice News

As we get our kids ready for the school year ahead – adjusting to changing schedules and new routines – I am filled with incredible optimism. After years of underfunding by the previous government, Premier John Horgan made it a priority to quickly make a number of positive changes in BC schools, recognizing no investment is more important than a quality education – it's the key to a better future and a prosperous economy.

For the students, teachers and parents who suffered through crowded classrooms for generations, we've funded the hiring of a record-breaking 3,700 new teachers and education assistants. School districts across the province are actively filling any remaining positions with a huge recruitment effort, plus we have added more spaces in teacher education programs to bring in more French, Indigenous and specialist instructors to add more highly skilled educators to BC schools. Students are now better served with more resources to help them thrive.

To support growing communities and ensure kids are safe in the event of an earthquake, we injected the highest levels of capital funds in history – fast-tracking upgrades and building new schools. Our annual \$5-million playground fund means parents can focus on helping their children reach their full potential, instead of fundraising. And, over the next year, we will change the way we fund school districts so we can make the system more fair, ensuring every learner receives the time, attention and resources they need, regardless of their background or where they live.

British Columbia is already a world leader in education, with our learners regularly ranking among the best in international assessments. But there are still too many kids who are slipping through the cracks.

The new curriculum will help to address this, and I've seen first-hand how students are benefiting from critical thinking, teamwork and flexible, personalized learning. Best of all, these strategies help kids feel more connected and engaged with what they are studying, so they have a better chance of success. To feel this important sense of connection, Indigenous students need to see schools embrace and reflect their unique heritage and perspectives. That's why we have built Indigenous content into all subjects – from math to science to literature – and we've also added 17 Indigenous languages in classrooms. Education is a powerful tool for reconciliation, and we are committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

There is no question kids have trouble learning when they are feeling stress and anxiety, or coping with addiction. Because of this, government is improving supports for mental-health promotion, prevention and early intervention. We hosted a first-of-its kind school mental health conference in May, to help build a comprehensive strategy for students and, this year, learners will have new resources focused on social media, mental health and wellness.

To combat bullying, we created a campaign to teach students that everyone deserves to be welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment, while being fully and completely themselves. No one should be excluded or bullied because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and I'm proud to be a part of a government that is dedicated to an inclusive society.

The graduation years are very important for a student's smooth transition to post-secondary opportunities, and we have to think beyond K-12 and help learners prepare for our ever-changing labour market and society. Learners will now have a better chance of success, thanks to BC's new curriculum, already in place for Grades K-9. This year, the new curriculum will be in place for Grade 10, and we will add Grades 11 and 12 next year to ensure all students are prepared for the extraordinary range of career opportunities available after high school.

We are getting it done, step by step. We are committed to making constant improvements to BC's already great education system – and to keep looking for new and innovative ways to improve the outcomes for BC's 650,000 students. ■



Education Minister Rob Fleming (File photo: May 2018)

Education Minister Rob Fleming (File photo: May 2018)

Island MP picks food-related idea for Private Member's Bill

West Shore Voice News



Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) with his riding's Create Your Contest winners Morgan Bottomly (centre) and Hannah Pachet who have won a trip to Ottawa to watch him present the bill.

Earlier this summer, Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) announced the winners of the 2018 'Create Your Canada' contest in his riding.

Two Grade 11 Chemainus Secondary students -- Hannah Pachet and Morgan Bottomly -- won with their idea for a tax credit for organic farmers. "They have been invited to watch me table their bill in the House of Commons this fall," says MacGregor who will develop a Private Member's Bill around their idea.

MacGregor said their submission was detailed yet concise, and showed an understanding of complex issues including food security, nutrition and healthcare costs, domestic availability, and international trade.

The online contest invited students in Grades 11 and 12 to brainstorm ideas and propose federal bills that they feel will make a better Canada. After this year's April 30 deadline, winners were chosen by NDP MPs across the country. 'Create your Canada' was initiated in 2009 by NDP MP Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley) and has spread across the country as members of the NDP caucus have built on its success. WSV

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Municipal Election Watch 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE

Colwood momentum

COLWOOD. Perhaps one of the biggest council turnovers will be seen in the City of Colwood race this fall. Running for Mayor are Carol Hamilton (incumbent) and Rob Martin (presently a Colwood councillor). With two councillors (Lilja Chong, Terry Trace) not running again, the playing field has opened up, seeing three new contenders: Michael Baxter, Dean Jantzen, and Aaron Weisgerber. Incumbents running again: Cynthia Day, Gordie Logan, Jason Nault. WSV



PREMIUM SUBSCRIBER EDITION

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**Coast Collective Art Centre.** *Galloping Goose: Urban & Rural Landscapes* exhibit. Aug 22 -Sept 9. Meet the artists Sat Aug 25, 1-3 pm. [www.coastcollective.ca](http://www.coastcollective.ca)

**Blood donor clinic.** Mon Aug 27. Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd. 12:30 to 6:30 pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**City of Colwood.** Mon Aug 27. Council meeting 7pm. OCP public hearing, 3rd reading and possible final approval. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**SD62 Public Board Meeting.** Tues Aug 28. At the school board office. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)


**Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament.** Thurs Aug 30. Bear Mountain Golf Course. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**Sooke Night Market.** Thurs Aug 30. 5 to 8 pm. Outdoors at the Sooke Region Museum. [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

**Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays** on Colwood waterfront. Ocean Blvd at Lagoon Rd. Fri Aug 31 & Sat Sept 1. 11 am to 7 pm. Weekly to Sept 15. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**Labour Day Weekend.** Sept 1 to 3.

June 7 to September 6, 2018



**Sooke NIGHT MARKET**

Thursdays 5 - 8

Sooke Region Museum Grounds  
Corner of Sooke Rd & Phillips Rd

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

**SD62 Back to School.** Tues Sept 4. Check with your school for schedule. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

### Island-wide Campfire Ban in Effect

## Sooke Community Choir seeks more voices: gearing up for December concert

ARTS UPDATE  
West Shore Voice News

● **Just show up and sing.** You don't have to read music or prepare. That's how Artistic Director Bruce Ruddell will conduct the try-outs for Sooke Community Choir this fall. The evening for that is Wednesday, September 5 starting at 6:30 pm, at the Christian Life Assembly Church.

"We can only handle 60 singers," says Ruddell, but they're always looking for good voices including men for the tenor and bass sections. It's a non-denominational choir, singing for the love of music and wowing their audiences. And even if you live beyond Sooke, come on out!

Now in its fifth season under Ruddell's direction, the popular choir group is getting organized for their holiday season concert. 'Winter Heart' will offer audiences a combo of classical musical and popular winter songs in four performances: Dec 2 at Oak Bay United Church and Dec 7, 8 and 9 in Sooke.

The cost to be a Sooke Community Choir member is \$125 per session (Sept-Dec 2018, Jan-May 2019). Singers in this choir are all ages, from 16 up.

"There might be some amazing singers out there who don't have an outlet," said Ruddell this week, as he begins the fall season of song. **WSV**

## Get your voice into action!

**Sooke Community Choir "Trial night".** Wed Sept 5. Just show up and try out! 6:30 pm. At Christian Life Assembly Church, 6851 W Coast Rd. Everyone welcome, even if you don't live in Sooke! [www.sookecommunitychoir.com](http://www.sookecommunitychoir.com)



Sooke Community Choir performing their 'HITS' concert in May 2018.

## SD62 facilities expansion in perspective



Two portable classrooms now in place behind Belmont Secondary School in Langford, to address capacity overflow.

● **With three main planks,** the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Strategic Plan as approved by the trustees earlier this year incorporates Growth, Learning & Engagement.

**GROWTH.** As west shore populations continue to grow, Sooke School District 62 (SD62) will continue to address its checklist for new, upgraded and replacement schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke. Under SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson who started August 1, 2018, attention paid to facilities expansion will be diligent and "in balance with the other two parts of the Strategic Plan," said Stinson this week.

**LEARNING.** The new BC curriculum will continue to be reviewed and implemented at various grade levels. K-9 curriculum is actively in place and being assessed. Grade 10 curriculum was received last year in draft form. The Grades 11-12 draft curriculum is now available with support for teachers. Getting more students successfully to Grade 12 graduation and into post-secondary is a priority for SD62, along with refining and adapting the processes of assessment including for literacy and numeracy.

**ENGAGEMENT.** Includes promoting wellness, communication, a sense of safety, and also a greater degree of employee satisfaction and morale. **WSV**

## Municipal Election Watch 2018

On the ground in Sooke

● **SOOKE.** People in Sooke, queried this week by *West Shore Voice News* at a local coffee shop and at the country market in the town of 13,000+, have contributed their concerns: bike lane improvements needed near the bridge, better downtown beautification in terms of better looking buildings and overall standards (this came from store-owners as well as 'regular folks'), a continued need for more parking, still needing more frequent #61 bus service (Hwy 14/Sooke Rd), needing more policing, seeing developers paying more into infrastructure to help the town grow, and creating a permanent local market with food-growing garden and education centre. ~ with notes from Chad Levesque **WSV**

WEST SHORE VOICE

**Elections BC - 2018 Municipal and School Trustee Nominations Period:** Sept 4 to 14 [General Voting Day Sat Oct 20]. [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

**Sooke Night Market.** Thurs Sept 6. 5 to 8 pm. Last one for this season! Outdoors at Sooke Region Museum. [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

**14th Annual Chili Cook-Off.** Sat Sept 8. Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. 10am-2:30pm. [www.westshore.bc.ca](http://www.westshore.bc.ca)

**Metchosin Day.** Sun Sept 9. 8 am to 6:30 pm. Metchosin municipal grounds. [www.metchosinday.ca](http://www.metchosinday.ca)

**'Mad Scientist'** activity for ages 5-12 at the Sooke Library. Sat Sept 15. 2 to 2:45 pm.

**\$2 Pro-D Day.** Mon Sept 17. Skate/Swim. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

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## WEATHER A cooler week, heading into Labour Day Weekend

Mon 08/27	Tue 08/28	Wed 08/29	Thu 08/30	Fri 08/31	Sat 09/01	Sun 09/02
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
LANGFORD / similar for most of the West Shore						
HIGH	20°	22°	18°	18°	18°	18°
Night	13°	13°	13°	12°	12°	13°
Feels Like	23	25	21	20	20	20
POP	10%	0%	30%	20%	20%	30%

● **After another round of smoky skies last week** due to wildfires (Air Quality Health Index off the chart at 10+ for several days), the week ahead starts with air quality at 3, and cooler temperatures. Monday August 27 shows a high of 20°C and 22° for Tuesday, but highs hovering around 18°C from Wednesday on into Labour Day Weekend with some bits of rain. **WSV**

## Dagwoods Cafe now serves Stick coffee

● **The Dagwoods Cafe** so prominently visible in central Langford has its plusses – good range of quality food items and beverages (including now coffee supplied by The Stick), friendly service, that casual 'coffee shop feel', seating both indoors and outdoors, and centrally located.

Good walkability and cycling access. Still a drawback, though, is the no-left-turn from Goldstream Ave that prevents easy access for vehicle traffic in one direction.

Open 9:30 to 6, Mon-Sat. Easy 2-hour parking alongside the building, on Goldstream. **WSV**



Dagwoods Cafe has a prominent location at 662 Goldstream Ave in Langford.

## TRAFFIC INFO

### LANGFORD ON THE MOVE



Paving on Goldstream Avenue (August 24).

**Wednesday Aug 22 to Thursday Aug 30.** McCallum Rd between Costco/Staples and Millstream Rd. Streetlight maintenance 4 am to 12 noon (crews on site to 2 pm).

**Mid-August into Sept.** Jacklin Rd (Jenkins Ave through to Sooke Rd) following several months of upgrades. Road is open, but occasional traffic delays for sidewalk, signalized light installations, and final layer of road asphalt. Detour on Division Ave through Belmont Market construction site.

**August into Sept 2018.** Along Langford Pkwy near Westhills Stadium and arena. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy.

For other short-term traffic advisories visit

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

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