

# West Shore Voice News

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And Sooke Voice News

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RBC Royal Bank

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**RBC Bank Sooke**

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Refreshments & entertainment  
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Friday, January 22, 2016 Sooke, BC

## Local RBC branch concludes nomadic journey with a party

WEST SHORE & SOOKE VOICE NEWS

● The long journey began with a fire that was started in a dumpster in the wee hours of a summer morning, July 31, 2013.

The Sooke Fire Department put out the blaze (with the support of several other fire departments from around the region), and later determined that the fire had been deliberately set behind the old RBC Sooke Branch building at 6660 Sooke Road in Evergreen Shopping Centre. No update has ever been given by the RCMP as to motive, who or why.

That big fire in 2013 that brought out many residents of Sooke that day to take a look, set the RBC Bank in particular on a long journey for a new permanent home. Other businesses were also heavily impacted by the fire including Hub Barton International (which moved elsewhere in the mall), a Black Press publishing office (which moved across the street), the Sooke Dance Studio (which hop-skipped to another location in the mall, then across the street), and a computer consulting firm (which subsequently relocated to Victoria). Among other businesses that suffered damage but were soon back up and running were the BC Liquor Store (which wiped down its products and soon thereafter re-opened for business) and a now-closed hair salon lost a few days of business (to clear soot and smoke).

Fast forward to this month, the RBC Sooke branch will hold an official grand opening on Thursday, January 28 (4 to 8pm). In their main lobby, new branch manager Chelsea Ramsay will welcome the town! There will be refreshments and musical entertainment by the Sooke Community Choir.

Their celebration follows a long sojourn that first saw the 12 RBC employees -- under then-manager of RBC Sooke, Krista Moffett -- creatively split between an upstairs office on Shields Rd (just a tad beyond town centre) and the lobby of the local Shoppers Drug Mart store. For ATM service, customers could head to the local Chevron station and use the ATM there, or further to Langford.

In December 2013 the branch staff were able to consolidate into a 'temporary' building at the corner of Sooke Road and Goodmere (across from Church Road), at the portal point to town center, soon with new manager Joanne Walsh. In that sometimes stuffy mobile trailer building there was dust from the gravel parking lot, but an awesome upclose view of the harbour to enjoy. Business sagged at the temporary branch as some people found it hard to navigate the uneven driveway surface and tended to avoid the ATM on the dark side of the building at night that was not viewable from the street. Safety deposit boxes from the old branch were housed at the Westshore branch in Langford for two years until the new Sooke branch opened in December 2015.

As the newest Sooke branch manager, the highly sociable Chelsea Ramsay inherits a new branch with an open lobby, automatic sliding doors, big-screen displays and two ATMs. A new operational process goes along with the new building. Staff don't have their own offices, but book front office space based on appointments with clients. Two general desk areas overlooking the roundabout through big windows are for quick customer service to explain services or open accounts. Staff share a large office in the back where they can spread out to focus on project work and socialize. They've concluded their journey! **WSV**



RBC staff in Sooke gathered out front of their new building at 6639 Sooke Road on move-in day in December 2015.

## Trudeau at World Economic Forum



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the World Economic Forum, January 20, in Davos, Switzerland

● Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked world leaders to "know Canada not for its resources but for its resourcefulness," on the first day of the Jan 20-23 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

While in Switzerland he commented on a January 22 shooting at a community school in La Loche in northern Saskatchewan, in which four people were killed and two critically injured: "This is every parent's worst nightmare," he said at a news briefing. He publicly thanked first responders (law enforcement and medical personnel) "who managed this very difficult situation with bravery and professionalism".

Trudeau continues to enjoy celebrity status abroad, with many people wanting to take selfies with Canada's energetic prime minister and enjoy his company before and during meetings. Some of Trudeau's meetings in Davos were with the heads of Shell and General Motors.

During the World Economic Forum event, Trudeau had a chance to meet and mingle with high-profile celebrity actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Kevin Spacey, and celebrity rock musician Bono. **WSV**

## Bank rate steady 0.5%; upcoming infrastructure investment \$10 billion

● The Bank of Canada this week held its benchmark rate steady at 0.5%, for the fourth consecutive time. "Prices for oil and other commodities have declined further and this represents a setback for the Canadian economy," said Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz on January 20. National employment remains resilient, he said, and he "expects the economy's return to above-potential growth to be delayed until the second quarter of 2016".

The household debt ratio is now around 170% including mortgage debt (but not factoring in any pension reserves) according to Canada's Parliamentary Budget Office. The housing market has continued to climb in the past few years, with Canada's two hottest markets being in Vancouver/Victoria and Toronto.

The next rate-settings will be on March 9 and April 13 -- after the first Trudeau Liberal federal budget has been rolled out, including some financial stimulus.

On January 21, the federal government announced that only existing infrastructure repair or upgrade projects would be funded over the next two years, to the tune of \$10 billion. That will deal with a "deferred maintenance backlog". New projects for expansion or further vision are not yet in the cards for funding, according to the announcement by Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi. A 10-year infrastructure plan is yet to come, to stimulate a flagging economy.

The first infrastructure funding phase will also include enhancements to municipal planning, asset management and data collection, so planners can make smarter, more evidence-based decisions as they embark on long-term infrastructure projects, Sohi said. "It's not enough to be shovel-ready," Sohi said during his speech. "Projects need to be shovel-worthy, as well." **WSV**

## Petition to change BC MSP system surpasses 63,000 signatures

● "It's time for BC to Scrap MSP Premiums" is a popular online petition that now has over 63,000 signatures. Gathering steam, the petition can be signed at: <https://www.change.org/p/christyclarkbc-abolish-msp-premiums-in-bc>

The momentum of this petition has caught the attention of the BC NDP and the Greens. Leader of the Official Opposition John Horgan told media mid-January that Medical Service Plan (MSP) premiums have been hard on BC families. For four years he has expressed public dismay at the steady premium increases.

Health care expenditures consume about 43% of the provincial budget, according to BC Health Minister Terry Lake.

It's not a matter of whether to tax for health care, but more about finding a fair process for it. In BC, MSP premiums are based on a combination of income level and how many people in a family are on one account. If the family income is over \$30,000 then premiums are the same for all -- clearly taking a larger portion of disposable income from working families of modest means. [See details, page 3]

By comparison, since 2004 in Ontario each taxpayer pays an established rate based on their income. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba there is no premium application; all residents automatically pay through general taxation. **WSV**

Trade Commissioner Service Presentation

The District of Sooke invites business owners and interested individuals to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers to hear a presentation from the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS).

The TCS assists Canadian companies to identify and to enter or grow their international presence. Their services include assistance with preparation for international markets, assessing market potential, finding qualified contacts and resolving problems.

For further information, please contact:  
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[www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

## Trade Commissioner Service picks Sooke

● The federal Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) will be making a presentation at District of Sooke Committee of the Whole on Tuesday evening, January 26. The 6pm presentation is about how the TCS assists Canadian companies to identify and to enter and grow their international presence.

"The Commissioner contacted us and they have a list of businesses in Sooke they would like to support," says District of Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan. Of the various divisions of the TCS, it is the Ocean Technologies Commissioner out of the Victoria office who made the contact.

TCS services include assistance with preparation for international markets, assessing market potential, finding qualified contacts and resolving problems.

The presentation will be available to watch by live webcast: [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca) **WSV**



**EDITORIAL** *SVN editorials aim to explore broader issues of concern to the local community, economy and society as a whole.*

## Newspapers can prevail when quality journalism comes first

● **Follow your passion**, and the money follows. One wonders if those flailing large corporate media enterprises forgot about that?

**This week** it was announced that the large Postmedia Network Canada Corporation would be cutting 90 newsroom jobs in order to help fix up their balance sheet. That will affect most if not all of their many papers across Canada including *The Sun* and *Province* in Vancouver, the *Herald and Sun* in Calgary, the *Journal and Sun* in Edmonton, and the *Citizen and Sun* in Ottawa.

**Folks who follow business news** will know that Postmedia acquired a bunch of papers in recent years (since businessman and former politician Paul Godfrey bought the company in 2010), hoping to amass a pool of advertising revenue. Never was there mention of quality journalism or a mission to inform the readers. Indeed, along with the newsroom cutbacks announced this week, there is a glaring lack of respect for journalism in the directive that the papers in Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa are to share a single editor, despite having been different publications, with distinctive styles of writing and approaching the news. The same reporters are to file articles for both papers in each city. But any attentive Canadian knows that most news is 'local', in that regional perspectives colour how and why the news is important to a particular audience.

**For Postmedia** (now in financial trouble) it was all about the ad revenues. That sadly perpetuates the old and unfortunate 'ad rag' (sell ads and run) reputation that made it tough for the rest of the quality print publications.

**One of the reasons** Brookeline Publishing House Inc now commences our eighth year of local news publications (print and online) is because we put the readers first. While the road has not been easy, providing valid news delivered with the skills of professional journalism has been the mainstay of building first *MapleLine Magazine*, which led to *Sooke Voice News* and now our newly minted *West Shore Voice News* (launched from within the Sooke news stream in November 2015). It's with the support of advertisers, subscribers and contributors who appreciate the value of real journalism that we stay afloat. Thank you all!

**As has been penned many times** in our editorial pages, a plethora of information instantly at one's fingertips via the Internet is not one and the same as news produced through the principles and practices of journalism. Journalism does just that, it journals. Issues and developments are tracked over time. Sometimes the reporting goes dormant, but the watchful eye is there. Senior editors (such as those lost from the Postmedia newsrooms this week) are essential to the depth and context of news that matters.

**A public that is hungry** for truth will always be out there in a functioning democracy. As large newspapers diminish their newsrooms, perhaps it will be, at last, the power and larger responsibility of small independent news services that will carry the banner to reliably inform the attentive citizenry. ■



**Mary P Brooke**, B.Sc., Cert PR Editor & Publisher *Sooke Voice News & West Shore Voice News*

Veronique Gagnon

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### 'Found money' for Sooke

● **There will be an estimated increase of \$77,904,308** in revenues available to the District of Sooke in 2016 based on an overall increase of 3.9% in the BC Assessment tax roll totals.

The 3.9% increase is comprised of 2.13% increase in Market Change, and a 1.76% increase in Non-Market change.

These figures are part of a report to Sooke council in their Regular Meeting agenda for January 25, 2016 as compiled by Brent Blackhall, Acting Director of Finance. *WSV*

### Goose hunt recommended

● **The population of wild non-migratory geese** in the Juan de Fuca (JdF) area is forecasted to grow to 60,000 over the next 20 years (10 times the current number), says JdF Regional Director Mike Hicks, in a letter to Sooke Council. Crop damage can be significant. Limited and restricted hunting of geese to scare them away, is the recommended action. Hicks seeks a fire arms exemption for hunters in the District of Sooke, so that geese can be selectively culled. See Jan 25, 2016 agenda, pp 79-80. *WSV*

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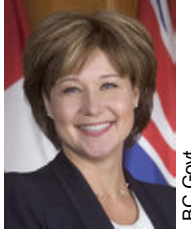
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### Coding curriculum announced at #BCTECH

● **Technology is reshaping how we do business**, transforming customer experiences and driving growth across all segments of our economy. A two-day #BCTECH Summit was held in Vancouver January 19 & 20. The goals were to "showcase BC's vibrant technology industry, build cross-sector opportunities for businesses and explore the latest ideas that will drive a competitive advantage for BC," says the BC Government. Webcast: <https://bctechstrategy.gov.bc.ca/bctech-summit-web-casts/>

The event that was announced by Premier Christy Clark on December 8 reached out to entrepreneurs, investors, industry buyers, researchers, students and government officials to make new connections, nurture existing networks and exchange fresh ideas. The Premier announced at #BCTECH that every kindergarten to grade 12 student will have the opportunity to learn the basics of computer coding as part of prep for the tech age. *WSV*



**BC Premier Christy Clark**

BC Govt

**Opinion-Editorial** HEALTH WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

### Health Care

*excerpts by Judy Darcy, Health Spokesperson, BC NDP*

● **Half-measures on national pharmacare:** Most British Columbians don't have their medications covered by the BC medical plan. Thousands of people are forced to make unacceptable choices every day about whether to pay for medically-necessary drugs or buy groceries for their families. It is good news that the federal government is expressing a willingness to engage with all provinces on a national pharmacare strategy and recognizes the benefit of economies of scale on bulk buying. But much more needs to be done to make prescription drugs affordable for all British Columbians. A national pharmacare program is a glaring hole in our public health care system, and BC should be advocating for it, instead of being satisfied with half measures. ~ Op-Ed *WSV*



**Judy Darcy, MLA** is also calling for a ban on flavoured & menthol capsule tobacco products

BC Govt

### Education

*excerpts by Rob Fleming, Education Spokesperson, BC NDP*

● **BC schools will teach computer coding** starting September 2016, it was announced this week at #BCTECH by Premier Christy Clark. But without any plan or funding to back it up with the necessary technology, this is just another empty promise. Regarding the lack of funding behind that commitment, the Minister of Education said that students don't need computers to learn computer coding. That is like telling a kid to learn to ride a bike without a bike. Premier Clark failed to give any support for the necessary technology or for building capacity to meet the mandatory curriculum changes. ~ Op-Ed *WSV*



**Rob Fleming, MLA**

Rob Fleming website

**Opinion-Editorial** BUSINESS WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

### Reducing red tape for business helps everyone

● **Ask any small business owner** what their biggest challenge is, and they'll tell you it's wading through red tape. The BC government understands that red tape costs businesses time and money and is committed to creating a regulatory environment that allows small businesses to grow and thrive.

by Coralee Oakes, BC Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction



BC Govt

Red Tape Awareness Week (January 18-22) was hosted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). It was an opportunity to reflect on our efforts to reduce red tape. Over the past 15 years, the Province has reduced regulatory requirements by 43%. That's over 155,000 requirements off the books. We've kept the number of regulations low by extending our commitment to net zero increase in regulatory requirements until 2019. A net zero increase means eliminating one existing requirement when a new requirement is needed.

It's this dedication to a more diversified economy that has earned our province seven triple-A credit ratings since 2004. And it's this dedication to making life easier for businesses and citizens that has earned us five 'A' grades in a row from CFIB. But we aren't resting on our accomplishments.

In 2015 we took significant steps to build on our commitment to reduce red tape. In July, the Premier created the new Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction to put the focus on helping small businesses. In October, the Province created Red Tape Reduction Day to highlight its commitment to regulatory reform.

Last fall we held a successful public consultation. More than 5,900 people participated and we received more than 280 ideas to improve service delivery. Review and implementation is underway. One of the major themes we heard during the consultation was the need to improve customer service.

Several people mentioned that getting to a Service BC location during their hours of operation -- especially in rural areas -- was difficult. This month, the Province launched a pilot to extend the hours of operation at Service BC offices in Maple Ridge, Vernon and Prince George. Longer hours make it easier for people to get their business done on their schedule.

Our goal is to make government services easier to access and simpler to use. Over the coming months, you'll hear about more ways we are building on your ideas to improve service delivery.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They represent more than 98% of all businesses in BC and generate 33% of our province's GDP. The growth of small business spurs innovation and creates jobs.

Our vision is simple: To be the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in the country. ~ Op-Ed *WSV*





**HEALTH BUSINESS** News of the island's west shore on Twitter: @WestShoreVOICE

**Medical services premiums penalize average-income working families**

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **"It's time for BC to Scrap MSP Premiums"** is a popular petition that now has over 63,000 signatures. Thanks to the Internet, it's easy to find the petition and sign: <https://www.change.org/p/christyclarkbc-abolish-msp-premiums-in-bc>

Pretty much everyone appreciates the immense funding that it takes to provide health care in BC. Health Minister Terry Lake says about 43% of the BC budget is taken up by health care costs. That covers everything from doctor's fees and nursing care, to hospital infrastructure, facilities administration and maintenance, health education programs, seniors and disability programs, and home care.

As with many things in life, it's not what you do but how you do it. There is a cost to health care – especially for the relatively good level of care provided in Canada. But it's a matter of political philosophy as to how those services are provided to the populace, and to what level of expenditure. This is where things vary from province to province in Canada.

Here in BC, the health premium system is based on the income of the person holding the account, together with how many people are served by that account. For example, in a family of two or more, one income earner will hold the account, and the other person(s), including a spouse, can be listed on that account. Monthly rates are itemized for one, two and 3 or more people on an account. The standard fees in 2016 that are charged to all account holders earning over \$30,000 are \$75 (1 person), \$136 (family of 2), \$150 (family of 3+). There is also a sliding scale of premium assistance for low-income persons and families. For adjusted net income between zero and \$30,000 there are diminishing rates charged. At or below \$22,000 there is full premium assistance (no charge). The problem for working families is where their income fluctuates around that \$30,000 mark. Some years they may need to pay premiums, some years not. But it's up to the cardholder to make an application for premium assistance, as it's not automatic. If people for some reason cannot pay, the collection harassment begins, and can end in a lien against one's home at the far end of the scale (causing credit rating detriment).

Behind all this are several current BC government philosophies that drill down to affect people's lives: that people will 'waste' health care resources if they don't have to pay a fee; that if people don't pay they are somehow on the same level as those in credit card default; that it's okay to further damage an individual's or family's financial situation with collections and liens (when oftentimes it is health reasons that payments may be behind); and that it's okay for the government to hire third-party non-government collectors and pay all the administrative overhead; and that it's okay to treat health care as a business.

BC: Monthly MSP Premiums (2016)

Adjusted Net Income	One Person	Family of 2	Family of 3+
\$0 - \$22,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$22,001 - \$24,000	\$12.80	\$23.20	\$25.60
\$24,001 - \$26,000	\$25.60	\$46.40	\$51.20
\$26,001 - \$28,000	\$38.40	\$69.60	\$76.80
\$28,001 - \$30,000	\$51.20	\$92.80	\$102.40
Over \$30,000	\$75.00	\$136.00	\$150.00

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/premiums>

The government may feel there is compassion in their allowable deductions to net income (e.g. for children, disabilities, seniors, etc) but so long as the program operates without fairness to working families, the process is punitive.

By comparison, in Ontario the pressure is off the individual to manage their premium level; a simple calculation is made against income at tax time. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba it's even more compassionate and quite simple -- live in the province and get health care (paid through general taxation). **WSV**

**ARTS: local music project** FUNDRAISER: January 30

**Harmony Project Sooke launches a fundraising concert**

● **Everyone who enjoys music** and wishes to support music education are invited to the first Harmony Project Sooke fundraising concert on Saturday, January 30, at 7:30pm. Admission by donation.

The concert at the Journey Middle School gym will help to kick off an exciting new project to provide music education to a wider range of children and youth in the Sooke area.

The concert will feature the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra strings, soprano soloist Nancy Washeim, Sooke Harbour String Quartet, West Coast Chamber Players, and several top local student instrumentalists.

"Harmony Project Sooke is modeled on the award-winning Harmony Project in Los Angeles, California which uses music education as an intervention tool for at-risk and



Sheila Whincup

**Harmony Project Sooke organizers** (from left): Anne McDougall (Sooke Philharmonic concertmaster), Norman Nelson (conductor, Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra), and Lorna Bjorklund, project Executive Director.

"Harmony Project Sooke will offer enriching music education to local children and youth, and -- once up and running -- will provide musical instruments and instruction free of charge to those from lower income families. Students will be offered classes appropriate to their progress (private lessons offered as needed)."

The idea was initiated by Maestro Norman Nelson of the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra, who first visited the Harmony Project in Los Angeles a few years ago.

"I found it so moving to walk into a rather downtrodden school and see the kids just gobbling up the music! They held a

**Lens technology is a big part of achieving good vision**

WEST SHORE / SOOKE VOICE NEWS

● **When choosing your eyewear**, there is style and there's technology. Lens designs come in four general types, says Dr Louise Morin at Sooke Optometry:

**Single Vision** (also called 'fixed vision'): fixes one aspect of your vision at a time. For younger wearers, this is the most common lens prescribed.

**Progressives:** Not all progressive lenses are created equal. Each design offers various benefits and fits different frame designs. New technology allows for designs that fit smaller frames and have less noticeable blur at the edges.

**Aspheric:** These lenses reduce thickness and improve vision. These designs smooth and flatten lenses to improve clarity across the entire viewing area. Enjoy better peripheral vision, more natural eye appearance through the lens, and a better fit in modern frame styles.

**Thin & Light:** Thinner, lighter-weight lenses enhance lens appearance and improve vision. There is a wide range of thin materials with lenses that allow for thickness reduction in the range of about 15% to 60%.

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**Lens also have various treatments** including anti-reflective (good for computer work and driving at night), photochromic (block UV rays), and scratch-resistant (ideal for children's use and outdoor activity). **WSV**

Material	Features & Benefits	Recommended for
<b>Plastic</b>	Comfortable, lightweight	Light to medium prescriptions
<b>High Index Plastic</b>	Lighter, thinner, scratch resistant	Higher prescriptions
<b>Polycarbonate &amp; Trivex Lenses</b>	Impact & scratch resistant, thinner, lighter	Children, sports enthusiasts, safety

Courtesy of Sooke Optometry

**Sooke Chamber of Commerce pitch was cheerfully received by Council**

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **The 2016 operational plan** of the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce was presented by this year's Chamber president Kerry Cavers to Sooke Council at the District of Sooke's January 18 Committee of the Whole meeting.

It was an short upbeat presentation covering the broad strokes -- cheerily received by Acting Mayor Kerrie Reay and council, leaving the numbers to speak from the agenda. The overall plan outlines operations for economic development, conference and convention management, resident relocation, shop-local, business education, and marketing.

The budget shows surplus being greater from advertising by members (\$3,750) than from the ticketed awards gala (\$1000). Membership dues tallying \$22,500 contribute about 28% of the annual Chamber's income, with the \$28,150 fee-for-service from the District of Sooke comprising the largest portion of total revenues, about 35.1%. Fees from administering membership benefits bring in \$12,000 (14.9% of incoming funds). The total operating budget is \$80,150.

On the expense side, the Chamber proposes to spend in 2016: \$37,000 on wages, \$9,000 on the awards gala, \$7,200 on office rent, \$6,250 on advertising, \$4,800 for honorariums, \$1,750 for equipment leasing, \$1,500 on other events, \$1,250 to maintain their website, \$900 for bank fees, \$500 for catering and \$350 for director's luncheons; and other smaller items. A bursary of \$600 is awarded each year to one or more Grade 12 grads at EMCS.

This year's board: Kerry Cavers (pres), Sean Dyble (past-pres). Returning directors: Travis Butler, Terry Cristall, Steve Grundy, Dana Lajeunesse, Karen Mason, Bryan Mooney, Frederique Philip. New directors: Pooja Baroah, Allen Krutz, Scott Votour. **WSV**

**WELCOME WAGON** SINCE 1930

New to Sooke?  
New mom?  
Bride to be?

250-642-2268

concert where for 90 minutes, child after child performed to a rapt audience of their families and the public," said Nelson.

Harmony Project's mission is to promote the healthy growth and development of children through the study, practice and performance of music; to build healthier communities by investing in the positive development of children through music; and to develop children as musical ambassadors of peace, hope and understanding among people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs.

Harmony Project Sooke will offer enriching music education to local children and youth, and -- once up and running -- will provide musical instruments and instruction free of charge to those from lower income families. Students will be offered classes appropriate to their progress (private lessons offered as needed).

"It is acknowledged that the value of playing an instrument as opposed to listening to music is the essential key," says Nelson. "We hope the parents will quickly realize the benefits of music to their children's future."

Anne McDougall, Concertmaster of the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra, will serve as Head Teacher for the project. "All students will be enrolled in ensembles -- students at all levels will be able to participate. And we hope that these small ensembles will perform several concerts during the year," said McDougall.

Inquiries: [sookeharmonyproject@shaw.ca](mailto:sookeharmonyproject@shaw.ca) **WSV**





WHAT'S GOING ON

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Who's Hooting? Guided Walk about owls, with CRD regional parks naturalist. Sun Jan 24. 1 to 2:30pm.

Fawly Towers audition. Sun Jan 24. 1 to 4pm. No appointment needed. Acting experience helpful, but training provided.

Blood Donor Clinic, Mon Jan 25. 12 noon to 7pm. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood.

District of Sooke. Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 25. 7pm. www.sooke.ca

District of Sooke. Emergency Planning Cttee. Tues Jan 26. 10am. www.sooke.ca

Global business opportunities. Committee of the Whole presentation by federal Trade Commissioner Service. Tues Jan 26. 6pm in Sooke council chambers.

Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Public Board Meeting. Tues Jan 26. 8pm at school board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooke. Sooke Program of the Arts (SPA) Cttee 9:30am. Wed Jan 27. www.sooke.ca

West Shore & Sooke Voice News ad deadline Wed Jan 27 for the Jan 29th edition. Info: 250-217-5821 www.sookevoicenews.com/advertising.htm

District of Sooke. Climate Change Action Committee 3pm. Wed Jan 27. www.sooke.ca

Scrabble Tournament. Play for Literacy. Wed Jan 27. 6:30pm to 9:30pm. EMCS Society fundraiser for literacy. www.emcsprograms.ca

WIN (Women in Need) Thrift Shop in Langford, grand opening. Thurs Jan 28. 10am to 7pm. 129-735 Goldstream Ave.

RBC Sooke Grand Opening. Thurs Jan 28. 4 to 8pm. 6639 Sooke Rd. All welcome. Refreshments. Entertainment by Sooke Community Choir.

Appetite for Art Submission Deadline. Fri Jan 29. Info from Sooke Fine Arts: 250-642-7256 (show date Mar 5 at the Prestige).

'Harmony Project' Concert. Sat Jan 30. 7:30pm at Journey Middle School. Fundraiser for music education. Admission by donation.

Hard Times Dance. Sat Jan 30. 8-11:30 pm at Sooke Community Hall. Tickets \$5. Live music by Phoenix. Tx at Peoples & Shoppers. Casual or hard-time costume. Organized by Sooke Lions.

District of Sooke. Business Licence payments due. Jan 31. www.sooke.ca

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'Renewal' art show opening Mon Feb 1 by Sooke Community Arts Council at The Reading Room Cafe.

A Taste of BC - Sat Feb 6. 7 to 9:30 pm. At EMCS, Tx \$35 at Shoppers, Peoples & EMCS. Fundraiser.

BC Family Day. Statutory holiday in BC. Mon Feb 8. Makes for a long weekend (Feb 6-8).

Education Committee of the Whole Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Tues Feb 9. 7pm. This month at Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood. www.sd62.bc.ca

Awareness Film Night presents Permaculture night, Wed Feb 10 with the film Inhabit. Panel discussion to follow. www.awarenessfilmnight.ca

Sooke Folk Music Society concert: Lynn Miles. 8pm Sat Feb 13 at Holy Trinity, 1962 Murray Rd. Tix \$15 at Shoppers, \$20 at door. www.sookefolkmusicociety.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Feb 15 at Sooke Legion. Appointments: 1-888-236-6283 www.blood.ca

This Changes Everything: film night a success

Submitted by Transition Sooke

Sooke filmgoers made a carbon-cutting commitment! Transition Sooke's energy reduction challenge at the January 13 Awareness Film Night generated a diverse range of practical commitments from filmgoers including lifestyle changes, home retrofits, transportation choices and positive activism.

Following the screening of This Changes Everything, the Avi Lewis/Naomi Klein documentary about how communities around the world are responding to climate change, Transition's Andrew Moore and Michael Tacon were joined on stage at EMCS by Sierra Club BC's Larissa Stendie and City Green Solutions' Glenys Verhulst. They urged the audience to again carefully reconsider how to cut their own energy footprints as a small but essential part in curbing carbon emissions.

More than 80 promises were posted on the branches of an 'idea tree' that Moore borrowed from the T'Sou-ke Nation for the evening. Lifestyle choices led the way, among them commitments to reduce household use of water, electricity and heat; dietary changes (more beans and less meat/dairy); grow more food in backyard gardens; regular use of canvas bags when shopping; and renewed dedications to buying local.

Ten people plan to install solar panels on their homes. Others will investigate heat pumps, switch fully to LED lighting, and install energy efficient windows. Three said they'll be stringing up clotheslines when the seasons change later this year.

On the transportation front, a dozen folks stated that they will walk and bike more frequently around town. More efficient multi-tasking on trips into Victoria, greater use of BC Transit, ride sharing with friends, and fewer airline flights were also promised. Three attendees intend to switch their gas-guzzlers for electric vehicles.

Others said they will remain interested and engaged in climate-change by reading more on the subject, sparking conversations with friends and family, writing letters to elected officials, participating in rallies, and joining related organizations (the Sierra Club, Friends of Carmanah Walbran and the David Suzuki Foundation were cited).

A crowd of about 150 was on hand for this first Awareness Film Night screening of 2016. AFN operates monthly from September through May.

On February 10, Jo Phillips of Awareness Film Night will be presenting Inhabit, a film about permaculture and the ways its methodology can be applied to agriculture, economics and other human systems. Guests at EMCS that night will include local permaculture gardener Stephen Hindrichs and, from Sooke's Cast Iron Farm, Erin Newell and Tony St-Pierre.

This Changes Everything

was shown by Awareness Film Night and Transition Sooke, at the January 13 monthly Awareness Film Night, followed by a discussion. The same film -- by author of the book This Changes Everything -- will be aired on CBC TV this winter.



Solar panels are used to convert sunlight directly into electricity, making homes, businesses or industrial buildings into net energy producers. ~ Energy BC

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Local home care business startup

Taking care of all those odds and ends for people who are homebound or elderly and living independently has been turned into a new business by Sooke resident Lorena Cordoba. She can take care of seniors on a regular basis or to help out those 'sandwich generation' adults who care for elderly parents as well as their own families.

As Senior's in Sooke Home Care, the operation can accept payments through Pay Pal online. Making crockpot meals, doing housecleaning and errands is part of it all. Services by Meals on Wheel or Chef on the Run can be arranged. Lorena is happy to bring along her Therapy Dog for extra companionship. WSV



Lorena & her dog Allie Mae

Garrison's office on the move

Local MP Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) is on his way back to Ottawa, as Parliament will reconvene on January 25. Meanwhile, Garrison's constituency office that has been in View Royal on Aldersmith Place will be relocating to a new location on Tillicum Road in Saanich. Address to be announced.

In the meantime, the constituency office can be reached at 250-405-6550 or by email at randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca.

Re-elected in October 2015, Garrison is one of six NDP MPs on Vancouver Island ~ 'the orange presence' in Ottawa. WSV



Randall Garrison, MP



Lynn Miles in concert

Saturday February 13 ~ 8 pm Holy Trinity Church, 1962 Murray Rd Tickets \$15 at Shoppers Drug Mart (Sooke), or \$20 at door www.sookefolkmusicociety.com

SD62 buses cost a lot, other ways to school

'Getting to school' was discussed with parents at two evening Transportation Forums by Sooke School District 62 (SD62) -- one for Langford/Colwood and the other for Sooke. In addition to school bus transportation in SD62 there are bike paths for walking and cycling.

The two forums this past week explored community-wide options. Bus fees have gone up the past few years -- not a whole lot, but enough to impact some families. It costs \$38,000 per year to operate one school bus; fees paid by parents contribute \$8,000 of that, leaving the school board to heavily subsidize the non-mandated service. SD62 hopes to provide parents with various options of getting their child to school.

There were 1,800 student riders in SD62 in 2014/15 but that shot up to 2,685 riders in 2015/16. Four more buses will bring the fleet total to 38.

If you missed the meetings, here is the presentation: www.sd62.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2016/01/Transportation-SafePaths-SD62-19Jan16.pdf WSV

SafeRoutes



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