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WSV

News and views for attentive,
inquisitive readers! ~ 4 pages this issue

West Shore Voice News

WSV ISSN
2368-9374
Vol.1 No.23

Breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com

SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Vol. 6 No.12

Pulling it all
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community.

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News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookline Publishing House Inc

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Friday, April 8, 2016 Sooke, BC WEB COURTESY EDITION

Referendum in Sooke & Juan de Fuca: land would at first remain as a golf course, but aiming for ball fields

WEST
SHORE
VOICE
NEWS

It's a land opportunity 'too good to pass up'. That belief is fuelling the momentum of five public information sessions about SEAPARC's goal to buy 23 acres of land in Sooke. The first info session was on Monday, April 4 at the CRD Services Building in Otter Point, attended by a moderate-size but informed crowd.

The target property at 6518 Throup Road is presently privately owned and operated as a revenue-generating golf course.

Whether the land remains as a golf course or gets developed into ball fields, for SEAPARC to purchase 23 acres for \$999,000 does seem like a good opportunity.

SEAPARC is a commission of the Capital Regional District (CRD) that operates the SEAPARC Leisure Complex at 2168 Phillips Road in Sooke. SEAPARC funding is levied 75% from Sooke taxpayers and 25% from taxpayers in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

A downpayment of \$250,000 would be drawn from current SEAPARC coffers. Now that the pool debt has been fully paid off, those monies would be used for the downpayment as well as building reserves towards exercise and weight room expansion. To cover the balance of the \$999,000 purchase, SEAPARC's referendum will ask taxpayers for permission to borrow \$750,000, to be repaid over 15 years at a fixed rate of about 3% (CRD Bylaw 4052).

The referendum is being held on Saturday, April 30 at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex (8am-8pm). Advance voting will also be available April 20 & 27 at East Sooke Community Hall and Sooke Community Hall (8am-8pm).

Mike Hicks is both chair of SEAPARC and Director of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Hicks said that if the Throup Road property is purchased, he would at first see it continue to operate as a golf course. That would bring some additional revenues to SEAPARC while offering another aspect of recreation to SEAPARC patrons. Trails could also be made available through the land, opening up a route to and from the SEAPARC rec centre. A further goal is to see the land used for ball fields. That would, in part, require approval from the Agricultural Land Commission, as the land is presently within the Agricultural Land Reserve. **WSV**



Discussions at meeting about land purchase (from left): SEAPARC manager Steve Knoke; Otter Point residents Amie Campbell and Rosemary Jorna.



Mike Hicks
JdF Director

SEAPARC serves residents of the District of Sooke as well as the geographically broad Juan de Fuca electoral area which includes East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew.



RCMP officer killed on duty: fatal crash in Langford draws national attention



As provided to media

Regimental Funeral ~ April 12

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Sadly, vehicle collisions and fatalities happen all the time on urban roads and on highways across the country. But a combination of factors has brought the spotlight of national media attention to the tragic outcome of a vehicle collision that happened in the wee hours of the morning on Tuesday, April 5 in the quiet town centre of Langford. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Heavily travelled during the day and particularly during business hours, the intersection of Goldstream Avenue and Peatt Road was where a large pickup truck made full impact upon the driver's side of an RCMP Westshore police cruiser at 3:30am that morning. It was a direct impact, and the sole occupant and driver of the police cruiser -- Cst Sarah Beckett -- was by 4am pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the pickup truck was not particularly harmed.

Cst Sarah Beckett, 32, was in her 11th year of service with the RCMP, all of those years on Vancouver Island. She had just recently returned to active duty from maternity leave. Upon her death she leaves behind her husband and two young sons, a sister, her mother, and many friends.

Beckett's sudden death on a quiet pre-dawn town centre road, doing relatively routine traffic enforcement, cast an even heavier sense of loss over Beckett's fellow officers at the West Shore Detachment. The public brought floral tributes to the detachment, which have piled up for a few days outside the building near Veteran's Memorial Parkway in central Langford.

Right away, the BC-RCMP set up a public online condolences page, available at www.bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

While the loss of any officer is certainly mourned by peers, RCMP personnel described Cst Beckett as cheerful, witty and positive, which seemed to make it additionally challenging for RCMP personnel to cope with the loss. In TV news coverage, several officers were obviously emotional shaken as they discussed aspects of the incident.

Condolences were posted on Twitter by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. BC Premier Christy Clark issued a media statement with condolences, and told TV reporters that the two young sons "won't know their mother as they should have". Langford Mayor Stew Young said it's the worst such tragedy in Langford in over 20 years. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Alcohol and speed are often considered as possible factors in a vehicle collision. The male driver in Tuesday's accident was taken into custody but later released. No charges were laid but the incident remains under investigation.

Many first responders and others lined the streets on Thursday, April 7 as police escorted the body of Cst Sarah Beckett from Victoria General Hospital to the Victoria International Airport (medical testing of the body to be done in Vernon).

A public memorial candlelight walk for Cst Sarah Beckett will take place on Sunday, April 10 at 8:30 pm, along Goldstream Ave in Langford -- from the corner of Peatt Rd where the crash happened, over to Veterans Memorial Park.

A regimental funeral for Cst Sarah Beckett will be held at 2pm on Tuesday, April 12 at The Q Centre arena in Colwood. Ahead of that, at noon, thousands of RCMP, police and military will march along Island Hwy. The road will be closed to all vehicle traffic between Wilfert Rd and Wale Rd, 11:30 am to 2 pm.

BC Ferries is offering free return-travel for first responders coming to Vancouver Island for the April 12 memorial. **WSV**

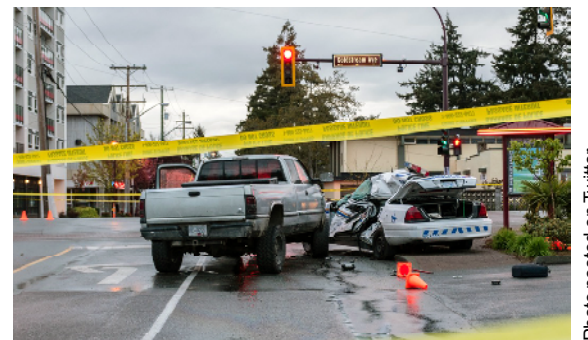


Photo posted on Twitter

Collision at 3:30am at the intersection of Goldstream Ave and Peatt Rd resulted in the death of Cst Sarah Beckett of the West Shore RCMP. The pickup truck made impact, and landed on top of the cruiser. According to a witness, only the sound of the car's horn blared in an otherwise silent few minutes before first responders arrived.

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RCMP Honour Roll
Officers who died while on duty on Vancouver Island

- Cst Christopher Colin Riglar (1991), hit on Hwy1 by a drunk driver
- Cpl Francis Eugene Jones (1983), in a helicopter crash
- S/Cst Wayne Graham Myers (1983), while piloting a helicopter crash
- A/Cst Dennis Lenard Fraser (1980), stopping suspected impaired driver
- S/Cst George David Foster (1977), while piloting a flight to Victoria
- Cst Michael Robert Mason (1971), plane crash into the Courtenay River
- Cst Reginald Wayne Williams (1964), accidental drowning at Sooke

EDITORIAL

Editorials aim to explore broader issues of concern to communities, economy and society as a whole.

Awareness raised by fallen officer

Her colleagues, family and friends cared for her deeply. But the many thousands of others in the Victoria area and throughout Canada who have offered their condolences for a fallen RCMP officer this week, didn't even know her.

Cst Sarah Beckett, 32, died on April 5 in her police cruiser while on duty. At the eerie hour of 3:30am, after much of the night has passed but shortly before dawn, she likely died pretty much on impact as a large pickup truck crashed into the front of the cruiser and reportedly landed somewhat on top. The visuals both in media photos and the mind's eye are not kind.

That Sarah Beckett was a mother of two, with her young sons and husband now robbed of her sunny presence in their lives, has pulled at people's heartstrings. That Beckett had just returned to the police beat from maternity leave is even more searing to the heart. From all accounts, Sarah she was the one who cheered up a room of colleagues and lightened the tone where things could get tense on the beat. Somehow all that radiated out to the public.

The entire mix of factors surrounding the sudden, shocking death of Cst Sarah Beckett produced a collective emotional tragedy that has quickly generated an elevated awareness of the risks taken and sacrifices made by emergency first responders for their communities every day. Even by the circumstances of her death, this vibrant young woman has further served her community.

Our culture tends to use the term 'hero' rather loosely nowadays. But in this case it seems that Sarah Beckett has sadly earned herself 'a ticket to forever', by somehow etching enhanced reverence into the hearts of many.



Editorial Condolences

by West Shore Voice News ~ MPB

BC & NATIONAL NEWS @SookeVoiceNews (BC/National)

Organic matter recycling regulation review

There will be a comprehensive review of the organic matter recycling regulation (OMRR) in BC, to ensure it remains protective of human health and the environment. Public input will be part of it.

Policy proposals are being drafted with respect to biosolids and other municipal wastewater by-products.

A policy intentions paper will be posted online by fall 2016, for public comment and feedback, said a news release from the BC Environment Ministry on April 4. Discussions will also take place with First Nations, agriculture producers and local governments. In effect since 2002, subsequent amendments to the OMRR will be made in 2017. Under review are potential new standards for organic contaminants as well as requirements for the production, management and use of biosolids.

"Public engagement will build on work already underway to improve knowledge and information sharing about biosolids," says the environment ministry. BC and biosolids management experts are finalizing a review of academic literature and research on biosolids to explore "the impacts to wildlife, aquatic life, food and human health as well as cumulative effects and alternatives to the use of biosolids."

In advance of the formal review, additional sampling will be completed this spring to assess metal and pathogen levels against current OMRR standards. The ministry will also conduct exploratory sampling of biosolids for selected organic contaminants. This sampling program expansion (committed to by the Province in June 2015) is part of the scientific review of biosolids in the Nicola Valley (review available May 2016).

Biosolids, manure and chemical fertilizers are the common soil enhancements used in BC.

"We want to ensure the rules we have in place to protect human health and the environment are based on the best available science and are continually updated," says BC Environment Minister Mary Polak.

Federal ferry funding

Funding for ferries in Atlantic Canada was announced by federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau on April 5, including \$22 million to Marine Atlantic Inc's facilities for a new ferry mooring system serving Nfld/Labrador and North Sydney. Federal support of ferries continues for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI. Budget 2016 includes \$148.6 million for small craft harbour infrastructure improvements across Canada including major capital construction projects on wharves, floats, breakwaters, and shore protection, to ensure a network of safe and accessible harbours for use by commercial fish harvesters. Transport Canada provides an annual grant to the Province of BC in accordance with a binding legal agreement, in perpetuity, signed in 1977. The grant is indexed annually to the Vancouver Consumer Price Index. The original amount was \$8 million, growing to approximately \$28.7 million in 2015-2016. Budget 2016 included a commitment to waive the 25% tariff on ferries of all sizes imported after October 1, 2015, says Transport Canada.

How can we transform Sooke into a model zero waste community?

Zero Waste



SOOKE FOCUS @SookeVoiceLOCAL

Make your vote count! The upcoming referendum asking Sooke and Juan de Fuca taxpayers for permission to borrow \$750,000 to purchase land for recreational uses comes with a \$25,000 price tag. That includes voting stations at advance polls on April 20 and April 27 (one in East Sooke, the other at Sooke Community Hall), as well as voting stations at SEAPARC on April 30. Referendum details at www.seaparc.ca.

Sooke taxpayers will see a 0.85% property tax increase for 2016, said Acting Mayor Rick Kasper at the March 29 Regular Council meeting. He also relayed that the CRD budget for 2016 shows a tax increase 2.73% for Sooke (each municipality is taxed distinctly, based on property assessment values and services rendered).

Formal meetings at the District of Sooke in April include Committee of the Whole (CoW) and Regular Council on Monday, April 11. Those meetings will be the first ones chaired by Mayor Maja Tait in 2016, now back from maternity leave.

This year, CoW and Council meetings have been running back-to-back on the same night, instead of being separated by a week's time.

The April 11 Council meeting includes recommendations from the Sooke Fire Commission for significant downward pressure on the Fire Dept budget, including an equipment purchasing freeze.

There is also a recommendation from the Sooke Program of the Arts Committee that Sooke re-engage with Communities in Bloom in 2016 (\$3,000 plus staff time), to maintain 5-bloom status.

The Sooke Saltwater Series will be seeking \$500 again this year for their off-season fishing derbies. They are requesting sponsorship funds instead of going through the grant process.

Of some recent controversy, was - with Mayor Maja Tait on maternity leave at the time - that the 2015 reappointment of Councillor Rick Kasper to the CRD board (to represent Sooke) be renewed. That matter will be up for discussion again on April 11 (item R1-3). The appointment comes with a somewhat significant paycheque.

Monday's agenda includes two public presentations. Herb Haldane will represent the Sooke Community Association about ball fields. Ellen Lewers of the Sooke Fall Fair will talk about Canada 150.

Whether or not Council wishes the District to continue in a partnership with the Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Assoc is up for discussion. The cost for this year would be \$1,500.

In building momentum toward zero-waste for Sooke, there will be an open space discussion on April 17 (all welcome, 10-3:30pm, Sooke Community Hall). Organized by Zero Waste Sooke.



West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Sooke, BC, Canada

National Library Registration:

SVN ISSN 1925-2722 | WSV ISSN 2368-9374

Mailing: PO Box 851, Sooke, BC, Canada V9Z 1H8

Tel & Text: 250-217-5821

Email: letters@sookevoiceneews.com

subscriptions@sookevoiceneews.com

advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com

Jitor@westshorevoiceneews.com

Web: www.sookevoiceneews.com

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Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc.

Editor, Writer, Layout,

Ad Sales, Online Content:

Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

Publishing & Distribution Support:

Various. Content contributors this week: various. Content: News releases & photos welcome. IT Management: Ivandafish Computing.

VicTech.ca. Printing: Brookline Publishing House Inc. Courtesy print edition: Bulk drop to various coffee shops, hotels, banks, community areas; to some residential addresses on some weekends. Online readership of PDF & breaking news: Approx 64,000 per week. Also print copies delivery direct to subscribers, community drop-off areas.

Digital subscriptions

Link version \$7.95+GST 18 wks or PDF by email: \$28+GST 18 wks

Print subscriptions

Weekly by 1st class postal mail, plus PDF by email: \$35+GST for 18 issues in grayscale, or 12 issues in colour.

Newsstand

Colour print edition \$1.95 at Shoppers Drug Mart (Sooke).

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Sampler edition (PDF), archives, breaking news: www.westshorevoiceneews.com

West Shore Voice News

NATIONAL

The federal NDP party is meeting for their 2016 convention this weekend in Edmonton

(April 8 to 10) to discuss policy and Tom Mulcair's leadership. Mulcair will address the full convention on Sunday, April 10 (9am PDT). The approximately 1,775 delegates will then have an opportunity to vote on Mulcair's leadership (results expected around 11:20am PDT).

Under Mulcair's leadership in the 11-week 2015 federal election, the election results produced on October 19, 2015 saw the NDP fall from their pre-election House of Commons seat count of 95 down to now 44 (out of 338 seats).

On Vancouver Island, six of seven seats were won by the NDP. But otherwise, several long-time and high-profile NDP MPs lost their seats on October 19. It is generally thought that the Liberals leaned left enough to win over many voters who usually cast ballots for the NDP.

Mulcair (and/or campaign headquarters) seemed more centerist than is usually expected of the NDP, including pitching for a balanced budget (just as the Conservatives did). Some youth leadership in the federal party have been looking to former MPs Megan Leslie and Paul Dewar as possible leadership material going forward.

WSV



Tom Mulcair NDP Leader

www.ndp.ca

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Off to Nanaimo for the weekend

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

• **This weekend in Nanaimo** is the annual convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), April 8 to 10. Representatives from municipalities from around Vancouver Island and coastal areas of mainland BC will come together to discuss common concerns, issues and initiatives.



Attending AVICC this weekend from the **City of Langford** will be Councillors Denise Blackwell, Lillian Szpak and Roger Wade. Langford has put forward a resolution with respect to the Island Corridor Foundation. Langford is asking AVICC to "work with impacted municipalities, Regional Districts and the ICF Board to conduct a financial and governance review of the ICF and that the review include the consideration of options to provide a cost effective transportation alternative should the costs of resurrecting rail prove too costly". The Island Corridor Foundation are the owners of the railway right-of-way in Langford. Southern Railway of Vancouver Island (SVI) are responsible for the maintenance and operations of the railway within the ICF right of way. For Langford, the two main areas of crossing concern have been the future crossing for the West Shore Parkway over the railway tracks to connect the Trans-Canada Highway to Langford Parkway and the future crossing of Leigh Road over the railway tracks to Langford Parkway.

Attending AVICC this weekend from the **City of Colwood** will be Mayor Carol Hamilton and Councillor Cynthia Day. Colwood has put forward a motion about youth in care.

Attending AVICC this weekend from the **District of Sooke** will be Mayor Maja Tait, and Councillors Rick Kasper and Ebony Logins all of whom have attended previous AVICC conventions. This year Councillor Kerrie Reay will attend, as well as Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan.

On Friday afternoon, delegates will hear from BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Peter Fassbender. There will also be a keynote address by Chief Dr Robert Joseph of Reconciliation Canada.

A full day on Saturday includes an address by UBCM President Al Richmond, a presentation about Municipal Insurance, and a presentation by FortisBC. Workshops on Saturday include Conflict Engagement and Communications, and one on 'Social Procurement: a new approach to economic development'. The City of Nanaimo will conduct a tour of their new water treatment plant.

The half-day on Sunday has a high-power lineup. Leader of the Official Opposition, John Horgan will address the convention, as well as Leader of the Green Party, Dr Andrew Weaver. And delegates will hear about *Moving forward with integrated asset management (looking after infrastructure)*. **WSV**

Lighthouse is officially a Heritage Site

• **On March 20, 2016** at the official Heritage Lighthouse site, the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society dedicated the 104-year-old lighthouse and land.

Joined by Elders of the T-Sou-ke Nation and dozens of supporters and volunteers, the Society unveiled the official plaque designating the Sheringham Lighthouse as a Canadian Heritage Site under the provisions of the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act. Unveiled by lightkeeper Jim Bruton's daughter, Elanie and Senator Pat Carney (retired) who is the original author of the Act, the plaque will be placed at or near the tower of the Sheringham Point site.



Pat Carney (left) and Elanie Bruton. Unveiling the Sheringham Lighthouse as a Canadian Heritage Site.

An impressive number of people made their way out beyond Victoria, Langford, Colwood or Sooke to the event that Sunday. About 100 people (including organizers) attended either at the hall or at the site, or both. All the food (appies, desserts and cold and hot beverages) was provided by Shirley Delicious. **WSV**

Fire & Life Safety Expo: 20th anniversary



BC Lt Gov Hon Judith Guichon addressed the Expo on April 5.



At the Fire & Life Safety Expo this week (from left): Sooke Mayor Maja Tait (and baby Ewan), Langford Councillor Lillian Szpak, Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson, BC Lt Gov Judith Guichon, and SD62 Chair Bob Phillips.

• **The 20th Anniversary of the Westshore Fire & Life Safety Expo** was held on April 5 at Metchosin Fire Hall. The event was sponsored by Colwood, Langford, Metchosin and Sooke Fire Departments. At eight stations, Grade 4 & 5 students from Sooke School District 62 learned about fire safety measures including fire extinguishers, 911, kitchen fires, and stop-drop-and-roll.

Over 20 years, about 15,000 students have attended the Expo, says Chris Aubrey, assistant Chief, Fire Prevention, Langford Fire Rescue. **WSV**



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Art volunteer: from Sooke to Sidney

by Mary P Brooke

• **The public life of Sooke** and the local arts community will not be the same without Loretta Boerkamp. She is moving from her Sunriver home of 12 years in Sooke, out to Sidney next week. Still an active senior, Loretta is moving to be closer to family.

There were few community initiatives, and certainly few art events that Loretta was not a part of. One of her favourites for nine years was helping out at the Sooke Family Arts Fair at SEAPARC, a free art event for children.

At the Sooke Community Arts Council monthly meeting at Sooke Harbour House this week, Loretta teared up as she held back from volunteering for art events again this year. At the end of the meeting she bid farewell to her many long-time peers and friends in the Sooke arts community.

"I do not believe that we will ever be able to replace such a wonderful, dynamic

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ARTIFACTS

Art Show
Apr 10 - May 29

Meet the Artists Sat, Apr 16 12-5pm

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Art pals: Brenda Parkinson (left) & Loretta Boerkamp.

volunteer," says District of Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson. "Loretta has put her heart and soul into the arts community of Sooke and she will truly be missed. I definitely will miss her friendship and the spur of the moment activities we participated in," Parkinson told *West Shore Voice News* this week. **WSV**

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• **In this fast-paced world**, people appreciate prompt service. Well, at Great Canadian Oil Change in Langford, no appointments are needed! A drive-through oil change can be done in 10 minutes. Staff are friendly and knowledgeable. Just sit in your vehicle while the work is done. It's that easy!

The Langford franchise of Great Canadian Oil Change was taken on by Tim Ball in 2014. He moved from the mainland here to Vancouver Island because he loves the fishing opportunities on this west side of the island in his spare time! Otherwise, there he is running the clean, efficient, friendly shop in busy Langford, seven days a week. Customers love it!

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WHAT'S GOING ON

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Event postings as space permits. PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

Vital Vittles Fundraising Dinner. At Holy Trinity Church, 6 pm Sat Apr 9. Fundraiser for Team Sooke / JdF Refugee Sponsorship Group. \$20 pp. RSVP required: 250-642-7342 or by email: pandm_day@shaw.ca

ARTIFACTS exhibit. Opens Sun Apr 10 at Sooke Region Museum (daily 9-5, to May 29). Meet the artists on Sat Apr 16 (12-5). www.sookecommunityarts.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Apr 11 Sooke Legion. 11:30-6:30. Appointments 1-888-236-6283 www.blood.ca

District of Sooke. Mon Apr 11. Committee of the Whole 6pm, Regular Council 7pm. www.sooke.ca

SEAPARC Public Info session (#4 of 5) on proposed land purchase. Mon Apr 11, 6 to 8pm. East Sooke Community Hall, 1397 Coppermine Rd. www.seaparc.ca

SD62 Budget. Tues Apr 12 Education Committee of Whole. 7pm at John Muir Elementary. www.sd62.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News - ad deadline Wed April 13 for the April 15th edition. Fee-based organizations get 13% off; non-profits 21% off. Visit the advertising link at www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Farm & Film Gala Evening. Wed Apr 13 by Sooke Food CHI and Awareness Film Night. Screening of Nourish (as food connects to biodiversity, climate change, public health and social justice). Local vendors. 6:45-9pm, EMCS. www.sookefoodchi.ca | www.awarenessfilmnight.ca

Sooke Free Legal Clinic. 6pm Wed Apr 13. At John Horgan local constituency office, 1-6631 Sooke Rd. 250-391-2801.

Town Hall Meeting with John Horgan, MLA (Juan de Fuca). Thurs Apr 14 on #61 bus leaving downtown at 4:05 pm. Transit riders, bring your questions.

Canada 150 Mosaic public art project. Deadline for initial sketches is Sat Apr 15. Pick up sketch grids at Sooke municipal hall. Local coordinator John Russell: 250-642-7837. www.canada150mosaic.com

5th Annual Creatively United Festival and sustainability showcase. Sat Apr 15 at Royal Bay Secondary, Colwood. 6 to 10 pm for farm-to-table dinner (\$64.20pp), dancing, live music, art show, silent auction. www.creativelyunited.org

5th Annual Creatively United Festival and sustainability showcase. Sun Apr 16 at Royal Bay Secondary, Colwood. 10 am to 5 pm. 75 exhibitors, 25 presenters, 4 films, 3 panels, E-bikes/cars. Live music, food art, repair cafe. \$10 pp (free under age 16). www.creativelyunited.org

10th Annual Family Arts Fair by Sooke Community Arts Council. Sat Apr 16. 9am to 12:30 pm at SEAPARC. For kids of all ages. Entertainment: Harmony Project Sooke; Story Teller; Sooke Youth Show Choir; Carole Cave Dancers www.sookecommunityarts.com Also a giant garage sale in the arena that same day.

16th annual Sooke Business Excellence Awards by Sooke Region Chamber, at Prestige hotel. Sat Apr 16. \$65pp. www.sookeregionchamber.com

"Talk Trash" Symposium. Sun Apr 17. 10am-3:30pm, Sooke Community Hall. By ZeroWaste Sooke. All welcome. www.zerowastesooke.ca

OPSRRA AGM. Sun Apr 17. 2pm, at the JdF Services Building. www.opsrra.ca

Singer-songwriter Jon Brooks in concert. Sun Apr 17. 7:30pm, in Victoria. www.victoriafolkmusic.ca

SEAPARC Public Info session (#5 of 5) on their proposed purchase of 23 acres. Mon Apr 18, 6-8pm. At SEAPARC, 2168 Phillips Rd. www.seaparc.ca

5th Annual Creatively United Festival part 2 - at Royal BC Museum, Victoria. Sat Apr 22 including

Try to store an emergency kit outside in a shed or garage in case you can't access your home. Juan de Fuca Emergency Program @jdfemerg

celebrity author, artist, filmmaker Victoria Sea Blind Film Premiere (7-10pm). And Sun Apr 23. Including art workshop, storytelling, music, art show (1-5pm). www.creativelyunited.org

Victoria Pet Food Bank and Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society AGM. Sun Apr 23. 5:30 pm at The Broken Paddle, 4480 C Happy Valley Rd, Metchosin. www.safars.org

District of Sooke. Mon Apr 25. Committee of the Whole 6pm, Regular Council 7pm. www.sooke.ca

SD62 Budget 2016. Tues April 26 Public Board Meeting. 8pm at school board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd. www.sd62.bc.ca

SEAPARC referendum ~ asking permission to borrow funds to buy 23 acres on Throup Rd, for recreational uses. Vote at SEAPARC Sat. Apr. 30. (Advance voting Wed Apr 20 & 27, 8am-8pm at East Sooke Community Hall & Sooke Community Hall). www.seaparc.ca

Sooke Rotary Spring Fair & Auction. Sat. Apr 30 annual fundraiser at SEAPARC. See silent auction items online at www.sookerotary.com

10th Annual Rubber Duck Race. Sat. May 7. Fundraiser by Sooke Harourside Lions. Event 12-4pm (duck race at 2pm).

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon May 16 at Church of the Advent, Colwood. 1-888-236-6283 www.blood.ca

What's Going On sponsored weekly by:



Monday to Thursday - 8am to 8pm
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Open Daily at 6716 West Coast Rd
Lots of parking
250-642-2226

Serving the Sooke community for over 25 years

Sooke Rotary: celebrating excellence

The Sooke Rotary Auction & Spring Fair theme this year is Celebration of Excellence in our Community.

Visitors to the event on Saturday, April 30 will be greeted by a Hall of Excellence, where Sooke's residents, businesses, clubs, and organizations can showcase their achievements posters and photographs.

Excellence may range from formally recognized achievements like sports trophies or ribbons at the fall fair, to business awards, or scholarships awarded at our local schools.

Or excellence may be ongoing activities that often go unnoticed, such as the countless volunteers, service groups, and non-profits in Sooke who work hard to make our community a better place.

The annual event held at SEAPARC starts with a short opening ceremony at 10am in the SEAPARC arena. That's also when bidding can begin on over 500 silent auction items that have been donated by businesses, organizations and individuals. The live auction starts at 6pm. Auction items are posted at www.sookerotary.com/auction

Swimming is free that day from 1 to 5 pm. And there's food, live music and entertainment.

Always popular are the bike sale and plant sale.

This event truly is a highlight of the spring season in Sooke. WSV

ROTARY CLUB OF SOOKE AUCTION & SPRING FAIR Saturday ~ April 30th SEAPARC LEISURE COMPLEX



The Sooke Rotary fair offers a relaxing area for refreshments, entertainment stage, and displays (this photo from 2014).

WANTED!

Sooke Rotary needs your examples of excellence for presentation at the Auction & Spring Fair.

Big projects or small random acts of kindness, it's all EXCELLENT!

The Club also welcomes nominations of the excellence of others. Please contact Deb Johnston at 250-661-6881 or debjohnston@shaw.ca for more information on poster size & content.

enues are achieved through school fees, bus fees, and Neighbourhood Learning Centre space rental.

SD62 is currently offering a survey at www.sd62.bc.ca about school bus fees for 2016-2017. The survey is open to April 15. "If more parents would consider paying a bit more each year, it could mean service would either stay the same or improve," says SD62 public relations rep Lindsay Vogan.

The next public budget discussion will be on Tuesday, April 12 at John Muir Elementary, 7pm. At that meeting, the initial 2016-2017 budget plan will be presented. Board review, debate and approval follows, up to the May 24 board meeting.

School trustees in SD62 are Bob Phillips (chair), Dianna Seaton (vice-chair), Wendy Hobbs, Ravi Parmar, Neil Poirier, Denise Riley and Margot Swinburnson. WSV

SD62 budget crunch

The Sooke School District 62 board is in the process of solidifying their budget for the 2016-2017 academic school year.

Last month at the March 8 SD62 board meeting, the 2015-2016 year's total operating budget of \$89.4 million was explored by SD62 treasurer Harold Cull as an indicator for what might come in 2016-2017. Operations in this almost-concluded academic year were budgeted for as:

- \$75.7 million Instruction (84.7%)
\$3.1 million Admin (3.5%)
\$8.5 million Facilities (9.5%)
\$2.1 million Transportation (2.3%)

The funding model for the 2016-2017 budget "is very fluid right now," Cull told trustees, staff, stakeholder reps and media at the March 8 meeting. While the expected enrolment increase for SD62 is an additional 289 students this fall, per-pupil funding from the BC government is yet unknown. "The current amount per student is \$7,166 but that may change over the course of the year," says Cull. Other revenues



SD62 Budget Series

Join the SD62 Board of Education to discuss, review and debate the upcoming 2016/17 budget.

Learn how school funding works, at one of the following Tuesday night meetings:

April 12 • 7 pm

John Muir Elementary, 7179 West Coast Rd

April 26 • 8 pm

school board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd

May 10 • 7 pm

Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd

May 24 • 8 pm

school board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd

John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

A Town Hall Meeting on Bus #61

Join John on the #61 Bus! Thursday, April 14. Leaves downtown at 4:05pm.

Tell John what you think about the economy, transit, health care or anything else that's on your mind.



Juan de Fuca Community Office

#122-2806 Jacklin Road, Victoria, BC
Monday-Friday 10am-4pm T: 250-391-2801
Email: john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
Web: www.johnhorganmla.ca

WELCOME WAGON logo. New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be? 250-642-2268