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WSV

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Friday, April 15, 2016 Sooke, BC

Women's rugby returns to Langford

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

For the second year in a row, the World Rugby Women's Sevens Series will take place in Langford, BC. The match will take place April 16 and 17, putting the west shore of Vancouver Island into a global spotlight.

In fact, Canada was selected to host the World Rugby Women's Sevens Series annually in Langford, with the inaugural event that took place April 18-19, 2015.

The HSBC Women's World Rugby Sevens Series debuted in 2012 as a successor to the IRB Women's Sevens Challenge Cup. The 2015-2016 series is the fourth for the women's teams.

The BC government invested \$135,000 to bring the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series to Langford for the second time. The two-day event features high-calibre athletes from powerhouse rugby nations including Ireland, New Zealand, England, Russia and the United States. These teams will battle Team Canada in one of the fastest growing team sports in the world. The Canadian women's team has finished second place overall this year and has already secured a spot at the sport's Olympic debut at the Rio Olympics this summer.

Last month Vancouver set a record with 60,418 fans watching the inaugural HSBC Canada Sevens Men's Series. That was the biggest crowd to watch rugby in Canada. Both the Men's and Women's World Rugby Sevens Series are Olympic qualifiers with the top four ranked teams from each series are given a placement at the Olympic Games.

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Ministry Responsible for Labour has contributed \$100,000 for broadcast production through the Tourism Events Program. The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development provided \$35,000 for staging the tournament through the Major Sport Events Program.

"The HSBC Canada Women's Sevens brings significant awareness to the game, allows local youth to experience first-hand the sport played at its highest level and simultaneously gives our national team the invaluable opportunity of world-class competition on home soil and in front of a Canada-proud crowd which is critical to augmenting their performance on the international level," says Bill Cooper, CEO, HSBC Canada Sevens, Rugby Canada.

The estimated economic impact of the women's rugby event is \$1.2 million. In 2015, there were sell-out crowds of 3,000 fans daily. Approximately 350 athletes, coaches, officials, staff and volunteers will attend the women's event.

In addition to the funding announced today, BC is investing close to \$50 million in sport and over \$90 million in the tourism sector this year. **WSV**



World Rugby Women's Sevens Series will take place in Langford this weekend, April 16-17. Photo from 2015 series: www.worldrugby.org

Kids take a hike in Tofino tsunami zone

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

About 80 elementary school children in Tofino who participated in an inaugural High Ground Hike on April 15 "went home better equipped to survive an earthquake," says Emergency Management BC (EMBC). In addition to the route familiarity achieved by taking the same route they would take to higher ground in the event of a tsunami, the students each received a free emergency kit from EMBC. It was part of Tsunami Preparedness Week.

Taking part in the hike were Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness Naomi Yamamoto, and Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne.

The 1 km route from Tonquin Beach follows the Tofino tsunami evacuation route to one of the district's high ground assembly areas. The hike highlighted the actions to be taken by coastal British Columbians who face the real threat of tsunami. A tsunami caused by a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake could hit the BC coast in as little as 15 minutes, according to EMBC.

The fun run concluded with a preparedness fair at the community hall that was attended by agencies like BC Ambulance Services, the Westcoast Inland Search & Rescue, Tofino Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Social Services, RCMP and Island Health, as well as Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Summary of Tsunami Model Results at Selected Locations

(Capital Regional District report, 2013)

Location	Maximum Water Level (m)	Maximum Water Drawdown (m)	Maximum Water Flow Speed (m/s)	Tsunami Arrival Time (min)	Time to Maximum Water Level (min)
Port San Juan (entrance near Port Renfrew)	3.5	-1.0	0.7	35	50
Sooke Harbour (entrance)	2.5	-0.2	0.6	60	75
Equimalt Harbour (entrance)	2.7	-1.2	2.0	77	96
Victoria Harbour (entrance)	2.5	-1.05	1.0	76	95
Cadboro Bay	2.0	-0.2	0.8	90	160
Sidney	2.0	-0.2	0.6	110	150

"A prepared community is also one that can offer assistance to those most in need -- something incredibly important to a resort municipality like Tofino," says Osborne. Tofino hosts thousands of tourists each year, especially in summer.

Tsunamis are a series of waves (not just one big one), most often generated by a major earthquake beneath the ocean floor. The time between crests can range from minutes to hours, and in height from a few centimetres to several metres. In the deep ocean, waves travel about 800 km/h, but start to slow in shallower, coastal waters where their heights increase dramatically.

If a tsunami threat is identified, Emergency Management BC will activate the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS), to notify local communities and agencies with information on alert levels for the province's five tsunami zones (A through E). Each zone includes all islands and inlets within it.

Communities in the capital regional district on the south island (including Sooke, Beecher Bay, Metchosin, Colwood, View Royal and Esquimalt) are in Zone D.

Emergency response plans are implemented locally as required.

To receive emergency alerts on Twitter go to @EmergencyInfoBC. More info about tsunamis and earthquakes is at www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca **WSV**

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Drug overdoses: public health emergency

A public health emergency was declared this week by BC Provincial Health Officer Dr Perry Kendall, based on the number of people who've died in BC from illicit drug overdoses in the first three months of this year. A recent surge shows 201 overdose deaths in January-March 2016 (with 64 of those associated with fentanyl). Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine. "This is a crisis," said Kendall.

"We will continue to work with our law enforcement, health, child welfare, First Nations Health Authority, and education partners to look for ways to reduce the numbers of people dying from illicit drug use," said Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe.

Many street drugs being used by people at all income levels and lifestyles are increasingly being laced with fentanyl, unbeknownst to the users. In 2015 there were 474 illicit drug overdoses. This year's tally might even reach 800 at this rate, said Kendall. **WSV**

EDITORIAL

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

Why squander political capital?

It was the talk of the town for a week or so leading up to the first Sooke Council meeting with Mayor Maja Tait back at the helm, April 11. Would Tait grab back her directorship on the Capital Regional District (CRD board) upon her return from maternity leave, and presumably in-so-doing stand up for her rights and the rights of women in the political world?

Tait came to the topic on the agenda Monday night with an offering that Councillor Rick Kasper retain the CRD director's appointment for a while longer, with Tait to take back those reins on September 1, 2016. That could be seen as a win-win for Sooke and for the mayor and her new baby. Sooke will benefit by the groundwork already done by Kasper on key files at CRD while the mayor was away, it was pointed out by Mayor Tait. But really, that just saves her a lot of work to bring herself up to speed on those issues, and frees up what would be long days at CRD board meetings -- time that many a new mom likes to spend with her baby. Sort of an extended maternity leave, part-time, by easing back in slowly.

A throng of people attended in the audience on Monday night. Many were whooped up to defend women's rights, specifically the right for adequate maternity leave and to not have things fall apart while one is away for that important family journey. Tait executed some clever politics on the CRD side and for herself as a woman in elected office. But what she failed to capitalize on was the public momentum in the room. Much of the wanna-be-supportive audience was suddenly deflated in mood, even perplexed. They rallied up their time and energy to attend an evening meeting that most people nowadays watch online from home. So caught up in the games at the council table, Tait missed an opportunity to embrace the audience that hadn't seen much of her for months. It was a waste of political capital, that in some ways may get people thinking more consciously about political games, who plays them, and why they do it. Taking political support for granted is rarely an effective strategy.

Additionally (and there is no right answer here), Tait in just about insisting that Kasper keep the directionship, flew in the face of her own husband Alex whose recent impassioned approach toward Kasper a few weeks ago (about his holding onto the CRD director's position) made headlines. How important is politics that one would seemingly undermine her own marital relationship? Maybe it got sorted out at home ahead of time (and that's nobody's business), but it sure didn't fly well in the public delivery.

The Mayor is back. And like we said on social media in recent weeks, nothing much is the same as before she left.



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

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SOOKE FOCUS @SookeVoiceLOCAL

The District of Sooke Council meeting on April 11 saw Mayor Maja Tait back at the decision-making table, after about four months of maternity leave.



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait at Council, April 11.

West Shore Voice News

Dozens of people showed up to be in the Council chambers audience to see how the issue of Mayor Tait's position as a director on the Capital Regional District (CRD) board would be handled. Last fall, during Mayor Tait's absence, the position was approved for Councillor Rick Kasper (previously the alternate), to be Sooke's rep to the CRD board.

In the previous week, a swirl of public opinion was concerned that Councillor Kasper was taking advantage of Mayor Tait's absence, in retaining the Director appointment. But that all got smoothed out, with Mayor Tait pushing through a motion that Kasper stay in the CRD spot until September 1, 2016 after which time Tait will resume the commitment. During this period, April to September, the alternate director will be Councillor Bev Berger, for any meetings that Kasper cannot attend. This appeared to take some of the steam out of those who were concerned that women's rights were being trampled (while Tait was on maternity leave).

Maternity motion. At the 2016 convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) in Nanaimo April 8-10, Mayor Tait defended a motion (put forward by Oak Bay) that Mayors and Councillors have paid maternity leave made available to them in all Councils in BC. The motion will go the the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention this fall, with the aim of achieving endorsement there.

Slam dunk.

Former Sooke councillor Herb Haldane -- in a public delegation time slot at Sooke Council on April 11 -- briefly introduced the idea of the importance of Council putting funds toward ball fields

in the area. Without much debate, several other speakers briefly supported the pitch. Council fairly swiftly approved an additional \$300,000 on top of a previous \$300,000 earmarked expenditure for ball fields.

Sign for the times? In the public delegation period at the April 11 Sooke Council meeting, Ellen Lewers made a presentation about getting yet another digital display sign put up on Sooke. Apparently it would save a lot of cost for groups that invest in roadside signs that take time to install and removed, and that often incur damage. This was a resurrected pitch from 2014. Apparently several groups in Sooke are interested in using such a joint sign on the highway. Council was uncertain about location and who would organize it. Matters of driver distraction were raised, and the fact that EMCS and SEAPARC already have LED signs on Hwy 14 that are seen by both incoming and outgoing traffic. The matter was sent back to staff for further analysis.



NATIONAL NEWS

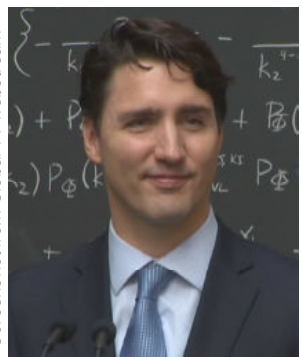
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Praise for volunteers, from Ottawa

National Volunteer Week (April 10 to 16) didn't escape the Liberal sunny ways agenda this week. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called National Volunteer Week "a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 12.7 million volunteers for the selfless work they do to help those around them".

"The theme for this year's campaign -- Volunteers are the roots of strong communities -- recognizes that volunteers are at the heart of healthy and resilient communities," Trudeau said in a statement to media.

"We each have the power to make the world a better place. Volunteers look for opportunities to contribute their time, passion, and skill to make a positive difference in the lives of others. They believe -- and know -- that better is always possible," he said.



Screenshot from Global TV webstream

\$50 million grant and a quantum physics lesson

During a visit to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo on April 15, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau highlighted the allocation of \$50 million to the institute over five years, as part of Budget 2016. In addressing reporters, he took a moment to explain some basic computing, including the difference between binary and quantum processing.

WSV

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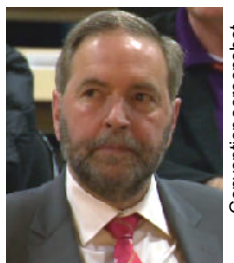
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West Shore Voice News

NATIONAL

The federal NDP party met for their 2016 convention April 8-10 in Edmonton.



Conventionscreenshot

The outcome was not so great for

Tom Mulcair continues as NDP Leader for a year.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, who ultimately saw only a 48% vote in favour of his continued leadership. The party will hold a leadership convention within 12 months to choose a new leader.

Mulcair was caught in a tough spot as he led his party into the 2015 federal election. He was tasked -- formally or otherwise -- to return as the Official Opposition or better. Gaining a broader base meant seeming not too radical to more conservative voters. That lost him the support of many die-hard NDP followers.

As was articulated during the convention, it's no small feat that the NDP won 3.5 million votes on October 19, 2015. But in a first-past-the-post system and a temperament among voters to stop the Harper Conservatives, that did not translate into enough seats.

During the convention the party seemed to wrestle with returning to its 'conscience of the people' roots vs doing what it takes to become an established mainstream force.

A push by some activists for a hard-core environmental agenda -- including Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis -- did not get far.

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Derby marketing money got hooked

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **There will now be regular annual funding** for the Sooke Saltwater Series of fishing derbies, thanks to a friendly gesture from Sooke Council on April 11.

While a Sooke Saltwater Series sponsorship of \$500 for 2016 was pitched for by Ron Nietzsche on behalf of the series organization, Councillor Kevin Pearson and others on Council quickly turned that into a line item (ongoing budget item) in the overall District of Sooke sponsorship funding profile. Sponsorship funds are expected to be applied to the marketing and advertising expenses of organizations that receive those funds.

So it looks like Nietzsche -- a fisherman by trade -- caught a big one. His request for derby sponsorship of \$500 (in fall 2015 and now spring 2016) has circumvented the usual community grants process.

Councillor Ebony Logins asked: "Can anyone come forward for sponsorships for timely events?" Mayor Maja Tait read out the motion for sponsorship line item approval, and it was approved by Council. **WSV**



Sooke Saltwater Series banner signage is on display outside of Eagle Eye Outfitters on West Coast Road.

Glass separation required for curbside pickup

● **The collection of glass containers**, as part of the CRD curbside blue box program since 1988, will continue until at least the current collection contracts expire on April 30, 2019. The Capital Regional District (CRD)

will continue to educate the public about the separation of glass for curbside collection and work in partnership with industry to communicate the benefits of returning deposit glass to depots.

To prevent broken glass from contaminating and devaluing other recyclables, residents are reminded to place glass in a separate labeled container for curbside collection. Last fall some hot-pink stickers were distributed around the CRD area that say "Glass Bottles & Jars Only". These are to be used on a reasonable-sized separate curbside container of the householder's choice.

CRD is under a 4-year contract with Multi-Material BC (MMBC) to provide packaging and printed paper (blue box) collection service, including glass containers. A 4-year contract is also in place with Emterra Environmental for curbside collection services on contract to CRD (3-stream materials collection process).

Staff will gather public feedback on curbside recycling collection and prepare a report to the CRD Board in early 2018 to provide adequate time to seek direction regarding the CRD's future involvement in packaging and printed paper (PPP) curbside collection once the current contracts expire. **WSV**

Salmon festival, & banners too!

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **The Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce** is promoting a Sooke Salmon Festival as a 'kickoff celebration' to "bring people together from near and far to showcase Sooke", as stated on their website. Salmon are considered an historical and cultural mainstay of Sooke. Culinary, arts, music, the sense of community and beautiful local landscapes are considered part of the mix for success. A second open meeting for collaboration about the Salmon Festival and a Promote Sooke Task Force has been called by the Chamber for Thursday, April 28 (2 to 4 pm at the Sooke Region Museum). The first meeting was held in February.



The Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society is holding a contest to design salmon-themed banners which will be hung on display around Sooke. Entry forms can be picked up at the Sooke Region Museum or the Charters River Salmon Interpretive Centre, or found online at salmonforsooke.ca. The banner designs are due July 1 and will be announced at this year's BC Day on August 1. The fabric banners will be 20" x 58" in size. **WSV**



Robust delivery of arts grants continues in BC

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **The most recent round of BC Arts grants** has distributed over \$7 million to 313 artists and arts organizations in 93 communities throughout BC.

From applications reviewed by an independent peer-review process October to December 2015, the following program areas were supported:

- Community Arts Councils - 70 awards; \$899,871
- Community Projects - 11 awards; \$67,954
- Creative Writing - 49 awards; \$430,000
- Early Career Development - three awards; \$32,025
- Operating Assistance - 111 awards; \$5,162,600
- Professional Project Funding - 35 awards; \$358,500
- Professional Development Funding - 24 awards; \$61,200
- Touring Initiatives - 10 awards; \$85,000

"People working in the creative sector are one of the drivers of the BC Jobs Plan," says Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Peter Fassbender. He said in a news release that the creative sector contributes to healthy and vibrant communities. "Investing in artists and arts organizations throughout the province strengthens our creative economy and helps make British Columbia a great place to live, work and play."

"A healthy arts sector is made up of a rich spectrum of creative endeavour, and the artistic excellence demonstrated by the talented and diverse BC Arts Council recipients is most impressive," said BC Arts Council chair Merla Beckerman. She thanked the award juries for their conscientious adjudication.

In 2015-16, the BC Arts Council, an independent agency funded by the BC government, provided \$24 million to help artists and cultural organizations flourish. Community arts councils, galleries, museums and individual artists receive council funding.

Last year, the BC Arts Council approved grants benefitting more than 200 communities in every region of the province.

Announced last week, grants awarded to organizations on this west side of the island (for the Oct-Dec 2015 intake period) include: Sooke Community Arts Council (\$7,248), West Shore Arts Council (\$12,241), and Sooke Region Historical Society (\$30,000). **WSV**

Regimental funeral captures the town for a day

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **A collision at 3:30am** at the intersection of Goldstream Ave and Peatt Rd in Langford on April 5 resulted in the death of Cst Sarah Beckett of the West Shore RCMP. She was in her cruiser when a pickup truck impacted her vehicle. She was pronounced dead at the scene by 4 a.m.

The sudden death of the 32-year-old mother of two young boys drew national attention. Uniformed officers came from across Canada and from parts of the USA to attend the funeral which included a procession down Island Highway to the Q Centre in Colwood where the livestreamed regimental funeral was held.

Beckett's sister had apparently asked for the ceremony to be balanced for family and RCMP. Speeches were delivered, including from Beckett's godfather who said on behalf of Sarah's husband Brad: "If you had warned me this day may come... I would still take this journey one thousand times over with you." A former colleague from Beckett's posting at Port McNeill, spoke highly of her. RCMP commissioner Paul Paulson delivered brief remarks toward the end of the ceremony, saying it was his loss that he had never met Cst Beckett.

Cst Sarah Beckett was in her 11th year of service with the RCMP, with all years served on Vancouver Island. She had just recently returned to active duty from second maternity leave. A candlelight vigil was held on Sunday evening, April 10 in Langford town centre, attended by about 3,000 people. The April 12 funeral was attended by elected officials around the capital regional district, and more people watched a live projection of the funeral as set up at Westhills Stadium in Langford.

All Sooke RCMP officers attended the funeral. Policing was covered for the day in Sooke by two officers from the Victoria police force. **WSV**

All Sooke RCMP officers attended the funeral. Policing was covered for the day in Sooke by two officers from the Victoria police force. **WSV**

Cutbacks: still safe if there's a fire?

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **In a move that was not a surprise** to those who followed the politics of the recent creation of the Sooke Fire Commission, The Sooke Fire Department (FD) now endures some restraints on how money is spent. But the Sooke FD will apparently be able to operate without interruption or impediment, despite a \$51,000 holdback from the previous fire department budget, as told to Sooke Council on April 11, in a verbal presentation by one of the three members of the Sooke Fire Commission. "The purchase of all new equipment has been frozen and all future expenditures will need signoff. This is for fiscal responsibility, accountability and compliance. We will save money and operate more efficiently," Council heard.

Until now, the Sooke Fire Chief has managed the procurement and maintenance of fire trucks and other first-responder equipment in his department. The \$51,000 will be held in Council contingency but is unavailable to the Fire Chief.

Sooke Chief Administrative Officer Teresa Sullivan defended the approach to the Sooke FD budget, to determine "whether the level is appropriate and if we need to buy new equipment," she told Council at the April 11 meeting.

Councillor Rick Kasper asked for assurances that there would be no changes or reductions in fire-fighting service. Councillors Brenda Parkinson and Ebony Logins firmly expressed their view that Council should not have been asked for even support in principle without more information. "The report is provided for our questions, but no answer are given," said Parkinson. "It's ridiculous to make an informed decision (without the information)," said Logins. **WSV**



Regimental Funeral ~ April 12

Regimental funeral on April 12 for Cst Sarah Beckett was attended by thousands of RCMP, police and military, as well as thousands from the public. The RCMP provided a livestream, watched by over 7,000 viewers at one point.

RCMP Livestream screenshot

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Event postings as space permits. PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

5th Annual Creatively United Festival and sustainability showcase. Fri 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

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

5th Annual Creatively United Festival and sustainability showcase. Sat 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. 5:30 reception, dinner 6:30pm, award ceremony starts 7pm. www.sookeregionchamber.com

Kemp Lake Music Cafe. Live music by singer-songwriter Peter Christenson. 7 to 9 pm. Sun Apr 16. \$10 at the door. 7875 West Coast Rd. 250-642-7875

Zero Waste Open Space Symposium. Sun Apr 17. 10am-3:30pm, Sooke Community Hall. By Zero Waste Sooke. Free. www.zerowastesooke.ca

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

Jon Brooks in concert. Sun Apr 17. 7:30pm, in Victoria. www.victoriafolkmusic.ca | www.jonbrooks.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

SEAPARC referendum ADVANCE VOTING (1 of 2) ~ to borrow funds to buy 23 acres for recreational use. Advance voting at Sooke Community Hall & East Sooke Community Hall on Wed Apr 20. 8am-8pm. www.seaparc.ca

West Shore Voice News ad deadline Wed April 20 for the April 22nd edition. Fee-based organizations get 13% off; non-profits 21% off. Visit the advertising link at www.westshorevoicenews.com

5th Annual Creatively United Festival part 2 - at Royal BC Museum, Victoria. Sat Apr 22 including 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 ADVANCE VOTING (2 of 2) ~ to borrow funds to buy 23 acres for recreational use. Advance voting at Sooke Community Hall & East Sooke Community Hall on Wed Apr 27. 8am-8pm. www.seaparc.ca

West Shore Voice News ad deadline Wed April 27 for April 29th edition. Fee-based organizations get 13% off; non-profits 21%. www.westshorevoicenews.com

SEAPARC referendum ~ to borrow funds to buy 23 acres for recreational use. 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

What's Going On sponsored weekly by:



Monday to Thursday - 8am to 8pm
Fridays - 8am to 6pm
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250-642-2226

Serving the Sooke community for over 25 years

Sooke Rotary Spring Fair & Auction. Sat Apr 30 annual fundraiser at SEAPARC. Open ceremony at 10am. Theme: 'Celebrating Excellence in our Community'. Displays by businesses and organizations (10am to 5pm). Plant sale, bike sale. Refreshments, live music. Live auction starts 6pm, See over 500 silent auction items online anytime at www.sookerotary.com

Mark Stuart in Concert. Sat Apr 30. Doors 7:30pm, show 8pm. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1962 Murray Rd., Sooke. Tix \$15 in advance (at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke), \$20 at the door. www.sookefolkmusicociety.com

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

SD62 Budget 2016. Tues May 10 Education Committee of Whole. 7pm at Belmont Secondary. www.sd62.bc.ca

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

One-day mobile blood clinic is a major operation

Drawing the blood of 69 donors in one day -- as done at the Sooke Legion on April 11, is a major undertaking. Setup of tables, nursing cubicles, blood-taking stations, reception and recovery areas, undertaken by an army of staff and volunteers. All of this happens at the Sooke Legion every 56 to 60 days with the goal of doing their part to maintain the supply of blood products to Canadians in need.



www.blood.ca
1-888-236-6283

Some donors have been coming faithfully for years. Like Milt Wright, this week donating blood for the 62nd time. He started donating when in university 40 years ago and never stopped. With the O- blood type, he is a universal donor; his blood can be used to support any other blood type requirement. "You never know who benefits, just do it. It's never slowed me down," says the retired archeologist and government worker.

This week, giving his sixth donation was 19-year-old Jonathan McColeman. A 2015 grad from the local Edward Milne Community School now working in carpentry and landscaping, Jonathan says "it's a good thing to do". His A+ blood type can be used by A and AB blood types.

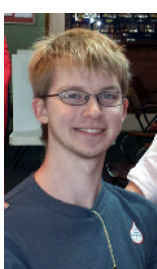
"I think I was born a volunteer," says retired nurse Maxine Nimmo. After 15 years with emergency services support in Sooke, she now does 3.5 hour shifts at the Sooke blood clinics. WSV



Upcoming clinics: Colwood May 16, Sooke June 6

After reception, a health interview with a nurse, and waiting for a while in a row of seats, Milt Wright gives blood with the help of a qualified technician.

Jonathan McColeman became a donor last year. >>



Truth-telling about life today

Just about as radical and outspoken as they come, five-time Canadian Folk Music Awards nominee Jon Brooks will perform in Victoria for one night, Sunday April 17: 7:30pm at Norway House, 1110 Hillside Ave, organized by the Victoria Folk Music Society. www.victoriafolkmusic.ca



The Smiling & Beautiful Countryside

He performed earlier this week on Denman Island, and Tweeted "Strange and beautiful and singular #Denman Island... you are your own place."

Snippets of Jon's work are online at www.jonbrooks.ca | Twitter @jonbrooksmusic WSV

Sooke Fall Fair Market

Sat April 30 10am to 2 pm

PIE SALE

at Sooke Community Hall



Homemade pies: local fruit, pumpkin, lemon meringue, sour cherry rhubarb strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, gluten free. Orders taken. Call 250-812-2830 to custom order pies or 250-474-5771 to book a table.

People's Choice award in Sooke

While all the other category winners are known to the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce organizers, the People's Choice Award is about generating an element of surprise for the evening Business Excellence Awards event on Saturday evening, April 16 at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort.

The People's Choice award winner will be chosen by business peers and 'the esteemed guests in attendance', says the Sooke Region Chamber.

"The winner is acknowledged as the favourite amongst Sooke's business community and will receive an engraved crystal award.

The sold-out event has included the offer of a special room rate that night at the Prestige. WSV

Weed management on SD62 properties

Weed growth around fences and on playing fields in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) is currently controlled with a combination of 'green' and commercial products, says SD62 Treasurer Harold Cull.

Echoclear is a green product that uses a vinegar base (acetic acid) to kill top growth but not roots, necessitating repeated application to control the weeds. "The cost is 10-15 times that of the chemical product because of the frequency of application. Non-selective chemical products kill the entire plant and provides longer term results," Cull says.

There is also weed control for lawns and playing fields but the frequency of application varies based percentage of weeds on the field. Some fields haven't been treated for years due to low weed counts as per the Board's Pest Management Plan.

The SD62 Board heard about the health risks of chemical herbicides from Bob Liptrot, a Sooke-area beekeeper who facilitates beekeeping management training at Royal Roads University. The board may update its herbicide use policy after reviewing a science-based report that Liptrot presented to SD62 at Education Committee of the Whole on April 12, says Cull. WSV

Transitions both into & out of K-12

As much as what is taught in schools, there is heightened awareness about the challenges of transitions into and out of the K-12 school system.

The SD62 board explored aspects the transition from 'early years' to Kindergarten, and from high school to post-secondary, at their April 12 ECoW meeting.

A presentation by Vivian Collyer, SD62 District Principal, Curriculum & Programs, together with Nicky Logins of the Sooke Family Resources Centre, took a further focus on the transitional challenges of children and youth in care. Of note, the current provincial government foster care system does not list or track which schools are being attended by foster children. School transitions can be frequent for some children in a short period of time. WSV

WELCOME WAGON logo with text: New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be? 250-642-2268