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News and views for attentive, inquisitive readers! ~ 4 pages this issue v2

West Shore Voice News

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Breaking news: www.westshorevoicenews.com

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Pulling it all together on 'this side of the island': people, business, politics, health, education & community.

- News for inquisitive readers on Vancouver Island since 2011 News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookline Publishing House Inc
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Friday, May 6, 2016 News of 'the west side' | Vancouver Island

Earthquake simulator coming to Sooke May 22

by Mary P Brooke

A shake zone earthquake simulator is coming to BC. There will be many stops in the BC lower mainland, and at various points on Vancouver Island. It's part of Emergency Preparedness awareness being generated in Emergency Preparedness Week (May 1 to 7 across Canada).

The portable earthquake simulator that is coming to BC is operated by Quake Cottage. The unit coming specifically to Sooke will allow people to safely experience an 8.0 magnitude earthquake.

The major earthquake for which Natural Resources Canada says there is a 30% chance of striking BC in the next 50 years, will be over 9.0 Magnitude. "There is a huge difference between an 8.0 quake and 9.5," says Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen. Every point increase is an amplification by 10. A study in 2013 by the Insurance Bureau of Canada indicated that 'the big one' could result in \$75 billion in overall economic losses.

The 3-seat 8.0 Magnitude Quake Cottage coming to Sooke on Sunday, May 22 from 10am to 4pm will be set up out front at the Sooke Fire Hall, 2225 Otter Point Road. It can handle about 100 people per hour.

"We expect a very high turnout to try out the Quake Cottage," says Sooke Fire Chief Sorensen. Taking part in the earthquake experience requires wearing a seat belt. No objects will toss around (that aspect will be displayed on a video). But before getting into the simulator, a waiver must be signed. "People who are frail or have serious health conditions may not wish to participate inside the Quake Cottage," says Sorensen.

There will be refreshments, and the bouncy house for kids. WSV

Hooked on BC: film tax credits being reduced

BC has become a popular destination for film and TV production. So much so, that in 2015-2016 the BC Government paid out almost \$500 million to the film-making industry. That follows on the heels of an average of \$313 million over the past three years, and an average of \$182 million paid out over five years prior to 2012-13. As of October 1, 2016 the tax credit rate (BC labour portion) will go down from 33% to 28%. The vibrant digital animation and video effects (DAVE) industry in BC will also see a reduction in their tax credit rate. DAVE credits will go down from 17.5% to 16%, effective October 1, 2016.

A film called The Convenient Groom was in production this week in Sooke at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort, making a bit of a local splash with actors Vanessa Marcil (General Hospital, Beverly Hills 90210) and David Sutcliffe (Gilmore Girls). WSV



Get a good shaking at 8.0 Magnitude in the Quake Cottage: May 22 in Sooke.

Quake Cottage website

Ground-breaking for family services in Colwood

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

by Mary P Brooke



West Shore Voice News

Side-by-side for the symbolic ground-breaking of semi-smoothed-out soil under sunny skies on May 5 (from left): Colwood Councillor Cynthia Day (who frequently champions youth issues) and Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton.

After speeches by Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton and Langford Acting Mayor Lanny Seaton, the ground was blessed with a First Nations ritual dance and a Coast Salish prayer. Attending were also the Mayors of Highlands and View Royal.

Building architect Richard Iredale says the pedestrian-friendly building design has a nice scale and west coast features such as wood and stone.

The Centre for Well-Being -- with land purchase and construction supported with funds from the sale of another building -- will be one of several new developments in the area along Sooke Road between Goldstream Avenue and Wale Road. Other recent developments include the new Holiday Inn Express & Suites, and the Rexall and Royal Bank building.

"The City of Colwood is excited that PCFSA has purchased land to build a facility in our community. We have supported their youth programs for over 30 years and see how effective and cost-saving their service is," says Colwood Councillor Cynthia Day.

The new building on the 2-acre property will have 15,000 sqft of program space based on trauma-informed design. PCFSA will occupy the second floor and provide 7,200 sqft of street-level space for rent by other health and wellness professionals.

The property backs directly onto the West Shore Child, Youth and Family Centre on Wale Road, where PCFSA currently delivers their services. WSV

www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org

SD62 Budget Series Join the SD62 Board of Education to discuss, review and debate the upcoming 2016/17 budget. May 10 • 7 pm Belmont Secondary May 24 • 8 pm SD62 school board office

Sometime next summer, family services will be happening from a new building in the core commercial area of Colwood. For now the rough terrain at 324 Goldstream Avenue has been the site of an official ground-breaking ceremony.

On Thursday, May 5 about 80 people gathered there to celebrate the beginnings of the new Centre for Well-Being that is being built by the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA).

"This is a momentous occasion," said PCFSA chair Dave Bennett. "We put families first. We put our words into action," Bennett told West Shore Voice News.

The crowd that sat in rows of chairs and stood about in the sunshine for the mid-afternoon gathering was comprised of municipal, business, education and community leaders. PCFSA Executive Director Mitzi Dean said: "We're going to create a wellness hub that's a really therapeutic environment. This building will meet demands for services and support revitalization of our community," she said.



West Shore Voice News

"This is a great addition to our community, and long overdue," said Langford Acting Mayor Lanny Seaton at the microphone, as PCFSA Chair Dave Bennett looked on.

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Danger set at High

Campfires are still permitted in Sooke this weekend, and open burning is ok. "But we may cancel that next week if it stays hot. This is the earliest I remember hitting the High fire danger rating," said Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen on Friday, May 6.

In Langford, the higher danger rating is also early this year. "The forecast is for drought conditions to be worse this year than last. The higher danger ratings so early this year would seem to confirm

that," says Langford Assistant Fire Chief Chris Aubrey. "Yesterday we were at Moderate but I expect to be back to High by the weekend if there's no precipitation."

To be FireSafe, eliminate dry leaves and branches, woodpiles and long grass from within 10m of your home. "What remains, keep it watered and green," says Aubrey.



WSV

EDITORIALS

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

Mother's Day: hats off to every mother

Each of us has a mother. She was our 'arrival ticket' to this life. Giving birth is no small thing, on many levels. Thank your mother for that, if nothing else.

Good mothers are hard-wired to always watch out for their children, no matter the children's situation or their age. Mothers care. We can be thankful for that.

Motherhood today comes in all shapes and sizes. It can get really complicated in blended families, and when youth are in the care of the state. The one who looks out for you for the long term, whether birth mom or not, she's your Mom.

In some ways, motherhood is a thankless task Those who are without children in their care (by choice or otherwise), miss those moments to put the immediate well-being of children first. It's a weird and wonderful kind of selflessness.

Prenatal care has made significant advancements in the last 50 years. Most women in Canada have a very good chance of delivering a healthy newborn, outside of unforeseen factors. Maternal nutrition is the biggest key to a healthy fetus and infant. But right up there is also the avoidance of stress during the pregnancy, and having a supportive network of family and caregivers -- pre-natally, during the birthing (or adoptive) process, and in those important first days, weeks and months of caring for a new baby as a new member of the family.

In a day and age when 'family' is quite broadly defined, we look to friends as well as family to be part of our supportive network.

Grandparents often get quite excited that they don't have the 'heavy lifting' to do, that the burden of daily childraising is on the parents. But not far below the surface of that jubilation is their awareness of the magnitude of everyday decisions when raising children. There really is no safety net for the daily experience of living.



Veronique Gagnon

Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR
Editor & Publisher
West Shore Voice News
Mary is the proud mother of 4 grown children.


'Letter of the law' is not enough

Those of us who fussed about the absence of a meaningful 2016 budget discussion with Sooke taxpayers are absolutely right. There is more to providing financial information to taxpayers than meeting broad legislated requirements to 'provide information'.

Formal bits at Council meetings (singular portions of the budget perhaps broadly mentioned) and print-outs of the budget at community fairs are clearly not enough. That manner of presentation about financial management has been perceived as opaque. It has had a flavour of 'this is above or beyond the average taxpayer', or that something is being hidden.

How government leaders handle matters of importance is judged through a filter of 'did they get it right?'. Next year, District of Sooke will move the 'doing it right' needle closer to Yes, if they return to doing public open houses about the Five-Year Financial Plan with display boards and real explanations.

"In recognition of International Fire Fighters Day, I want to say how grateful I am to all of the Sooke Fire Fighters, support staff and all the volunteers for everything that you do to keep our residents, visitors and our community safe. You are all amazing and much appreciated."



Councillor Brenda Parkinson
District of Sooke

REGIONAL NEWS @WestShoreVOICE west side of the island

Greater Victoria: Super-hot housing market

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

MLS property sales in the Greater Victoria area "continue to exceed expectations", says the Greater Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB). Prices have been skyrocketing upwards for about two years. The raw average of single family homes sold in the overall Greater Victoria area was \$756,143 in April 2016.

The current situation is certainly nothing short of a ballooning market based on market forces, not the material value of the house itself. Growth of any kind usually reaches a plateau or a breaking point.

Those with enough money are buying up properties at low interest rates in the currently inflated market. It's difficult for normal wage-earners to buy into the market. Not only is VREB suggesting that first time buyers look to townhomes and condos, the demand for rental accommodation is up as well.

In the past 10 years, the single family home HPI in Greater Victoria went up from about \$350,000 to the current \$568,100. Townhomes went from about \$300,000 to \$400,000. Condos rose from about \$200,000 to around \$300,000.


In April, 1,286 properties sold in Greater Victoria. That's up 53% compared to 840 sold in April last year. It's also the highest number of properties ever sold in any month under the VREB.

Inventory levels remain lower than the previous year, with 2,594 active listings for sale on the VREB MLS at the end of April (34% below 3,945 active listings at the end of April 2015.) The MLS HPI (data-adjusted) value for single family homes in the Victoria Core was \$581,700 in April, up 17.7% from \$684,900 in April 2015. Compare to the west shore (April 2016):

- HPI vs raw average / # of sales:
- View Royal \$573,400** / \$579,645 / 22
- Colwood \$499,800** / \$577,791 / 30
- Metchosin \$637,400** / \$629,875 / 8
- Langford \$449,500** / \$530,055 / 114
- Sooke \$374,300** / \$455,367 / 56 **WSV**

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To my mom, and mothers everywhere.



District to Adopt Financial Plan and Tax Rate Bylaws

The Council of the District of Sooke intends to adopt the following bylaws at a **Special Meeting of Council on May 11, 2016:**

- Bylaw No. 639, Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2016
- Bylaw No. 640, Property Tax Bylaw, 2016

Copies of the bylaws are available at the Municipal Hall during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, except statutory holidays.

www.sooke.ca

SOOKE FOCUS @SookeVoiceLOCAL

Anyone's last chance to provide input or ask questions about the 2016 District of Sooke budget and Five-Year Financial Plan will be at the May 9 Regular Council Meeting (7pm, council chambers). Comments by the public can be about 2 or 3 minutes in length, depending on the determination of the chair. A response is not required or guaranteed. You can see why most people don't bother to try and participate in community matters, when the pathway in is so tight. Realistically, anything said within minutes of budget approval (whether that's May 9, or at the Council's special meeting on May 11) is almost a wasted comment. A couple of months of meaningful opportunity to review and understand the budget and its implications for taxpayers -- to have it explained 'in pictures' (with examples and where certain expenditures meet up with stated policy) -- is what modern citizens expect, especially in times that remain financially challenging for individuals and small businesses.

For die-hard political followers, a heads-up about the Community Grants Review Committee meeting coming up Wednesday, May 11 (7pm) in Council chambers. There is no webcasting of committee meetings.

A citizen satisfaction survey that was on the District of Sooke website last Friday, April 29, was offline about 24 hours later. Although the questionnaire was accessible to anyone who visited www.sooke.ca, it had apparently been online only for use by the municipality at their booth at the one-day Sooke Rotary Spring Fair on April 30. District of Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan says a more in-depth survey is to come in September.

Sooke and Juan de Fuca taxpayers will 'see no change' to their tax levied for SEAPARC recreational services, even with a pending new borrowing commitment of \$750,000 to buy a 23-acre golf course on Throup Road. The April 30 land-purchase referendum produced a Yes result of 82%. "Our goal was to buy these 23 acres to preserve it for children to play sports on," says SEAPARC chair Mike Hicks. Meanwhile, the existing centrally-located golf course facility will change hands from private ownership soon, and

West Shore Voice News
About 10% of Sooke/JdF voters cast a ballot in the SEAPARC referendum.

be operational under SEAPARC by mid-June, says Hicks. He emphasizes the golf course will be operated on a break-even basis. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

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West Shore Voice News

NATIONAL

A major wildfire that has decimated the urban service area of Fort McMurray in north-east Alberta sent 88,000 area residents on a slow flee from their town starting May 3. Two days later, over \$11 million had been donated by Canadians to the Canadian Red Cross, to help with support efforts. The federal and Alberta governments are matching individual donations.

Fort McMurray in the Athabasca oilsands surrounded by boreal forest is a key economic hub for the oil industry that contributes to the economic well-being of the rest of Canada.

The Bank of Montreal estimates insurance claims from this disaster to reach \$9 billion.

Some evacuees have wondered why it took so long for fire officials to advise evacuation. The fire started on Sunday, May 1 (called in around 4pm), and grew rapidly in dry, hot, windy conditions. Temperatures over 30°C, low humidity, and winds 30 to 50 kph contributed to the spread of the blaze in the first few days.

Wrapping up the Western Premiers Conference in Vancouver May 6, BC Premier Christy Clark summarized what the premiers/deputies of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Yukon covered in their talks: wanting federal health transfer payments back up to 25%; supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership; getting oil pipelines built (east and west); and urging the federal government to do a better job of disaster relief in the rebuilding phase (such as after fires and floods). Manitoba is not officially yet a member of the Western Premiers group, but hopes to be. **WSV**



Making donations to the Fort McMurray wildfire support effort

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Donations to the Canadian Red Cross have been rolling in fast from across Canada, to help support the evacuees of the massive Fort McMurray wildfire in Alberta. Firefighting began around 4pm on May 1 and evacuation began May 3. As of day's end May 6, \$11 million had been donated. Both the federal government and Alberta government are matching each dollar with \$1 of their own. That makes every \$1 from individuals into \$3.



What started as a small brush fire, by May 3 had grown to 75 sq km. Many wildfires these days are started by human action or mishap, and the rest pretty much by lightning. There was no bad weather or lightning when the flames got started. High temperatures, low humidity and moderately strong winds fuelled the flames in the dry boreal forest around Fort McMurray that had not recovered enough moisture since last summer's drought. By May 6, an estimated 1,010 sq km of land area had been contacted by the flames. At one point mid-week the fire was moving at 5 km per hour.

Over 88,000 people have been forced out of the oil-production town by the fire, on mandatory evacuation orders. Of those, 25,000 went north to oil worker work camps to escape the flames; only starting May 6 were many residents were creeping their way down to Edmonton (back through the Fort McMurray flames, along Hwy 63) in convoys of 50 vehicles at a time. About 1,400 people got out on Friday that way. Others of the 25,000 were flown out. That effort will continue over the next few days. Evacuation centres have been set up in Edmonton, 430 km away from Fort McMurray. Some evacuees are going as far as Calgary, and others have left the province. Even if people are staying with relatives or friends, they are encouraged to register at an evacuation centre or online at www.redcross.ca, so that overall needs for the recovery phase can be better calculated, said Alberta Premier Rachel Notley in a media announcement this week.

By May 6, about 490 firefighters have been working the blaze, along with 11 helicopters and 16 air tankers. Support is in place or on its way to Alberta from Ontario, Quebec, and other jurisdictions. BC has sent some airtankers, but BC firefighters are needed here, as wildfire season is already picking up.

Donations to the Canadian Red Cross can be made online at www.redcross.ca. Donations can also be made at BC Liquor Stores to support Red Cross relief efforts for Fort McMurray evacuees. As of May 4, BC Liquor Stores have been accepting donations \$2, or \$5 or more to help the Red Cross in Alberta reunite family members, provide evacuees with shelter, food and water, and later, assist with longer-term needs as the community rebuilds.

Coralee Oakes, BC Minister of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch said in a news release May 4 after announcing the donation option at BC Liquor Stores: "British Columbia knows all too well the devastation of wildfires, and our thoughts are with Fort McMurray during this difficult time."

BC Liquor Stores customers and employees have supported Red Cross disaster relief for humanitarian crises at home and abroad since 2003, when stores first collected donations to support victims affected by catastrophic wildfires raging in British Columbia. Since then, more than \$2 million has been raised for Red Cross humanitarian crises in Nepal, Haiti, Pakistan, Japan, Africa and Syria, as well as for disaster relief efforts in New Orleans and Alberta. In 2013, BC Liquor Stores collected more than \$170,000 for Alberta Flood Relief.

Donations made to the Red Cross in BC Liquor Stores April 27 to May 3 will be directed to Ecuador earthquake recovery, as originally planned.

Iraqi family coming to Sooke REFUGEE UPDATE

Team Sooke/Juan de Fuca is moving forward with their refugee sponsorship project. On April 28 they were connected with an Iraqi family of four, struggling to survive as refugees in Lebanon.

As of May 6, the group has fundraised about \$36,500 through events and by accepting donations online at www.teamsookejuandefuca.ca. Donations are 100% tax deductible. The group now begins the process of helping the family work through all the paperwork and security checks required for their arrival in Canada. This could take up to a year. Meanwhile, members of the group are using Skype to get to know the family and help them learn English.

Team Sooke/Juan de Fuca is continuing to raise funds for supporting the family once they arrive in Sooke; their goal is \$50,000. A list of other needs is listed on the website.

Lorna Vanderhaeghe products are here in Sooke!

Some things are just made to suit women. That includes the 'pink' products for women's health at West Coast Natural Foods.



Lorna Vanderhaeghe, B.Sc.

A quality line of well-formulated nutritional supplements by Lorna Vanderhaeghe includes MultiSmart (multi-nutrients packets, gluten-free), IronSmart, EstroSmart, ImmunoSmart. All for women. Ideal for Mother's Day! Or any day!

Whether you begin to explore the types of natural supplements that are appropriate for your stage of life, or come right in to get a 10% Mother's Day discount on these products in May, it's all good!

Ask for details from Karam at West Coast Natural Foods, 6716 West Coast Road in Sooke. Open Mon-Sat. Phone: 250-642-4011.



WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

West Coast Natural Foods, 6716 West Coast Rd, Sooke

Annual spring fair draws a crowd

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

The annual one-day spring fair fundraising and auction by the Sooke Rotary Club at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex was on April 30 this year. It was an opportunity for businesses to promote their products and services. With displays, community groups explained what they do.

CRD had a booth about water services and recycling. The District of Sooke had a booth about their services to taxpayers.

Turnout seemed a bit busier this year, says Rotary rep John Bridal. "A big shout out to all the volunteers who make the event run so smoothly," he said this week. "The auction did quite well, but no totals yet," he said. "Thank you to all the donors, sponsors and guests for making it such a great event," says Bridal.

Several displays about 'excellence in Sooke' were assembled by Rotary volunteer Deb Johnston, using newspaper clippings from the past year.

About 2,000 people come out each year to the high-profile fundraiser. People look forward to the silent and live auctions (items donated by businesses and organizations), the bike sale and plant sale.

This year's Rotary president is Trevor Colley. WSV



'Excellence in Sooke' displays were part of the entry experience.



Colourful eye-popping display by the Sooke Community Arts Council.



Cathy Rogers helped with the silent auction.



Rows and rows of silent auction items for people to view.



Councillor Bev Berger (left) & CAO Teresa Sullivan were among many reps at the municipality's booth.



Refreshments for sale outdoors, and also indoors.

<< Councillor Bev Berger (left) & CAO Teresa Sullivan were among many reps at the municipality's booth. WSV

On March 20, 2016, the Sheringham Point Lighthouse and Land at #1 Sheringham Point Road was officially dedicated as a Canadian Heritage Site.

Thank you to all who attended, participated and celebrated this historic occasion!



This plaque commemorates the designation of Sheringham Point lighthouse under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act.

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District of Sooke Mon May 9 Committee of the Whole 6:30 pm, Regular Council 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
Sooke Roundabout Final Completion Ribbon Cutting. Tues May 10, 10am. www.sooke.ca
SD62 Budget 2016. Tues May 10 Special Board meeting & ECoW. 7pm at Belmont. www.sd62.bc.ca
West Shore Voice News ad deadline 5pm Wed May 11 for May 13th edition. Fee-based organizations 13% off, non-profits 21% discount. www.westshorevoicenews.com
District of Sooke Wed May 11, Special Council Meeting to pass the budget, 6pm. Community Grants Review Committee 7pm. www.sooke.ca
Awareness Film Night. 'Haida Gwaii - on the edge of the world.' Film & discussion about creating a sustainable world. Wed May 11, 7 pm at EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca
Sooke Community Choir. 1970: All You Need is Love. Fri May 13 & Sat May 14 (8pm), Sun May 15 (2pm). www.sookecommunitychoir.com

ART EXHIBITS

ARTIFACTS. Tues-Sun to May 29, 9-5 at Sooke Region Museum, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. www.sookecommunityarts.com
ARTISTS FRIENDSHIP SHOW. Daily to June 4 The Reading Room Cafe, 6660 Sooke Rd. Watercolours [Linda Anderson, Pat Phillips, Louise Morin, Brenda Parkinson], jewellery & glass [Rae Williamson].
SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW. 30th annual juried exhibit at SEAPARC in Sooke. July 22 to Aug 1. www.sookefinearts.com

Post your Art Exhibit here & on the EVENTS page at www.westshorevoicenews.com for just \$15.95+GST/month.

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Sooke is missing a few

Every household in Canada was to receive a Census 2016 form by postal mail this week.

West Shore Voice News confirmed on May 6 that not every residential address in Sooke received a census package (long form or short). Some addresses were simply missed in the batches received from Statistics Canada at Sooke Main Canada Post.

"We did our best" to deliver all the census forms that did arrive, says the Sooke postmaster. But addresses were missing in the batches that were received. Some came with VOS still in the postal code, which may have caused confusion.

All the census envelopes that did arrive at Sooke Main were delivered on Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3. That included even going to a person's door if the mailbox in front of their house was blocked or unavailable for some reason.

Anyone who collects their mail from a community mailbox will have received their census form by now (if one was sent to their address). The forms are sent to addresses, not names at addresses.

If you got missed (or you prefer digital), the 2016 census can also be completed online: http://www.census.gc.ca

The official census date May 10, 2016 is a snapshot in time about the Canadian population. Submissions a few days late will be accepted, says Stats Canada.

WSV

Juan de Fuca Emergency Preparedness Program invites you to participate in

Quake 8.0 Magnitude Cottage 10am to 4pm

Find out what it feels like to experience an earthquake Sunday, May 22 at Sooke Fire Hall 2225 Otter Point Rd.

www.prepareyourself.ca

Sooke Bear Day by Wild Wise Sooke. Family event Sun May 15 at SEAPARC, 12-3 pm. facebook.com/wildwisesooke

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

Country Music Performance by Ryan Laird. Wed May 18 at EMCS, 1 pm.

McKenzie Interchange open house. Wed May 18 at 753 Burnside Rd W, 3:30-7:30 pm.

West Shore Voice News ad deadline 5pm Wed May 18 for May 20th edition. Repeat-advertiser & non-profit discounts. www.westshorevoicenews.com

Zero Waste Sooke monthly meeting. Wed May 18 at Sooke Library. 6:30-8pm. New members welcome. www.zerowastesooke.ca

Quake Cottage Earthquake Simulator. Sun May 22 at Sooke Fire Hall, 2225 Otter Point Rd. 10am to 4pm. Experience what an 8.0 quake would feel like. Info from Sooke fire dept: 250-642-5422.

Victoria Day. Mon May 23 Statutory Holiday. District of Sooke Tues May 24 Cttee of the Whole 6pm, Regular Council 7pm. www.sooke.ca
SD62 Budget 2016. Tues May 24 Public Board Meeting. 8pm, 3143 Jacklin Rd. www.sd62.bc.ca

WSV

All you need is love...

by Laura Lucina

Mamma Mia! It's a phrase some people say when surprised. And it's the name of a song and a movie. In their upcoming concert, the Sooke Community Choir will be performing '70s hits in four-part harmony. They hope you will be surprised and entertained by hearing old favourites in an entirely new way.

When it comes to popular music, the 1970s are considered the most creative decade for producing the pop genre.

Join the choir next weekend to hear songs from The Beatles, The Eagles, Billy Joel, Queen, ABBA, Neil Young, John Denver, Stephen Sondheim, Simon and Garfunkel and Carole King.

Sooke Community Choir artistic director Bruce Ruddell will conduct. And you won't want to miss the solo piano performance of All That Jazz from the '70s musical CHICAGO by accompanist Kathy Russell. Special guests will be Victoria musicians Al Sabourin on guitars, Steve Duben on bass and Malcolm Cooley on drums. There will also be a surprise song chosen for a singalong.

Don't miss the 1970s - ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE at Sooke Community Hall with 8pm evening shows Fri May 13 & Sat May 14 (8pm), and a 2pm matinee May 15. Tix \$15, available in Sooke - at Shoppers, The Stick, or at the door (under 29 get in free). Arrive early if you need the elevator. Door prizes from local businesses. www.sookecommunitychoir.com WSV

Acupuncture, for 'love'

Stillpoint Community Acupuncture (offices in Langford and Vic West) held their 2nd annual Love Your Community Awards over the past two months. People in the community nominated businesses and volunteer organizations that they appreciate. Stillpoint presented each of the 50 nominees with a certificate, the positive reviews from their community, and free treatments for their entire staff and volunteers! WSV www.stillpoint-clinic.com

Changing it up

New items on exhibit, and various already-hung pieces in new locations in the gallery -- the 2nd annual ARTIFACTS has done their mid-point changeover! The exhibit of artworks by members of the Sooke Community Arts Council represent impressions of the Sooke region. The show runs through May 29 upstairs at the Sooke Region Museum. Free admission. WSV

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Sooke Night Market. Thursdays June 2 to Sept 1 on the Sooke Region Museum grounds. 5 to 8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Edward Milne Community School Graduation. Sat June 4, 1-4pm, UVic auditorium. www.emcs.sd62.bc.ca

Sooke Secret Garden Tour. Sun June 5, 10-4 by Sooke Philharmonic Society. www.sookesecretgardens.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon June 6, Sooke Legion. Appointments: 1-888-236-6283 www.blood.ca

Belmont Secondary Graduation. Sun June 12, UVic auditorium, 11am-1pm. belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca

Royal Bay Secondary Graduation. Sun June 12, UVic auditorium. 3-5pm. www.royalbay.sd62.bc.ca

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Country music power

A performance by country recording artist Ryan Laird will be held at Edward Milne Community School, on Wed May 18 (1pm). Laird's performance will include his top-rated Canadian charting song, I'm Your Man. In 2014, Ryan helped found Bigger Than That!, a youth empowerment program based on demonstrating a real life success story. Since then he has visited over 250,000 youth across Canada and the USA. WSV

ARTIFACTS Art Show Apr 10 - May 29 Changeover NEW ART NOW HANGING SOOKE REGION MUSEUM UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY 2070 PHILLIPS RD FREE ADMISSION