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

Two capital  
region doctors:  
making changes Pg  
3

WSV

# West Shore Voice News

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Breaking news: [www.westshorevoiceneews.com](http://www.westshorevoiceneews.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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Capital Regional District

### Micro/Drip Irrigation Workshop (FREE)

The CRD is hosting a FREE Micro / Drip Irrigation Systems intro workshop for residential homeowners!

When: Sat, May 28th, 2 - 5pm  
Location: Sooke  
Space is limited. Pre-register by calling 250.474.9684.



Friday, May 13, 2016 News of 'the west side' | Vancouver Island

## BC government takes over the reins of south island wastewater

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **Behind closed doors, the proverbial axe fell.** On that sunny Wednesday afternoon, May 11, BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Peter Fassbender addressed the large board of the Capital Regional District (CRD).

In short order, the BC government took charge of the long-suffering sewage treatment decision-making process that a collection of Victoria-area municipalities had been struggling with for about 10 years. The politically-complicated process of a series and myriad of committees, proposed plans and failed design options were put to rest by sidelining the CRD board.

Afterward, former CRD chair Nils Jensen called the action a 'seismic change', saying: "The Minister made it clear that there were just too many committees, too many interests. And what we need to do is focus."

"We have struggled to come together and move forward," said current CRD chair Barb Desjardins.

Replacing the most recent set of CRD wastewater committees -- one each for Core area, East and West sides -- is

**New sewage board to make decisions**

**'Too much politics, not enough decision-making'**



**BC Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development Peter Fassbender** brought down the hammer on CRD this week.

now to be a committee of BC officials and industry professionals.

One CRD rep will be on the new sewage board (but that won't be a politician). That board setup is, oddly, to be approved by the CRD. That is to happen in about two weeks.

The eventual locational recommendations of the BC sewage treatment decision-making board will be taken back to the CRD board in September for approval.

A final go-forward plan for sewage treatment is required by September 30, 2016. The deadline has to do with avoiding the risk of losing about \$500 million in federal and provincial funding.

Sooke and the Saanich Peninsula have already had oceanside sewage treatment in place for years; as such they were not involved in the sewage treatment decision-making debacle, other than through their reps that sit on the full CRD board. **WSV**

## Pets in hot vehicles: no legislation forthcoming


● **The Distressed Animals Act** was put forward by NDP MLA Selina Robinson in the BC Legislature May 3; it would take concrete steps to protect pets from dying in hot vehicles. But the Liberal majority will not allow it to move forward, Robinson said in a news release. In 2013, the BC SPCA received 850 calls regarding animals left in hot cars, and over 1,000 in 2014. **WSV**

**NDP** Randall Garrison MP hosts a Townhall on

## Finding Practical Solutions to Climate Change

Friday May 27, 2016 from 7:00-8:30pm  
Esquimalt High School Theater  
847 Colville Road

Check out the PowerPoint presentation *Tackling Climate Change* before attending:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ClimateChangeTownhall>  
(The presentation is under 'Available examples' on the right of the web page.)



**Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE**  
250-405-6550 / 2904 Tillicum Road, Victoria BC V9A 2A5  
[Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca) / [www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca](http://www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca)



## Shake It Up in Sooke!

ARE YOU PREPARED?

ACCEPTING DONATIONS to the Canadian Red Cross for the Fort McMurray Relief Fund



The District of Sooke and the Sooke Fire Department invite you to learn more about earthquake preparedness, and to try out the Quake Cottage earthquake simulator.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016**  
10am to 4 pm at the Sooke Fire Hall  
2225 Otter Point Road

- The Quake Cottage will simulate an earthquake of 8.0 Magnitude. A waiver must be signed before entering the simulator.
- Come join the many hundreds of people who are expected to take part in this emergency preparedness learning experience.
- It's free! There will be emergency preparedness exhibits, refreshments, and the bouncy house for kids to play in.

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

Info from the Sooke Fire Chief: 250-642-5422 | [ssorensen@sooke.ca](mailto:ssorensen@sooke.ca)

## Getting a little shook up: 8.0 Magnitude

● **It's somewhat 'the talk of the town'** that a shake zone earthquake simulator is coming to Vancouver Island.

In the Greater Victoria area, Sooke gets the last stop! That will be on Sunday, May 22 (10-4 at the Sooke Fire Hall, 2225 Otter Point Road).

Ahead of that, the quake simulator on its Shake Zone Island Tour 2016 will be in Sidney at the Mary Winspear Centre on May 15, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital on May 16, at the UVic Library May 18, at Esquimalt Town Square on May 19, at Victoria General Hospital on May 20, and at Mayfair Mall on May 21. These are places where people might assemble following a real earthquake.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for residents in our municipalities to experience first-hand what it feels like to be in an earthquake of 8.0 magnitude," says District of Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan. "This will serve as a reminder to our residents to be prepared for a worst possible outcome," she said this week.

The 'big one' may in fact register over 9.0 Magnitude. Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen explains that every Magnitude point increase is an amplification by 10. Sorensen hopes that as many as 100 people per hour can try out the simulator during its 6-hour run on May 22. A waiver must be signed in order to be inside the simulator for a short shake-up. And you'll wear a seatbelt!

Emergency preparedness information and displays will be set up for the day, and refreshments will be available, including hot dogs! The popular bouncy house will be set up for young children to play in.

Donations will be accepted that day for the Canadian Red Cross fund in support of Fort McMurray wildfire evacuees. For the past 10 days a fireman's boot at the Sooke fire hall has been the collection vessel for donations that have been rolling in. **WSV**



**Teresa Sullivan**  
Sooke CAO



**Steve Sorensen**  
Sooke Fire Chief

## No open burning

● **Open burning is now banned** throughout the Coastal Fire Centre -- all of Vancouver Island except the fog zone; Gulf Islands, Lower Mainland, and Haida Gwaii -- effective May 13. BC Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations gave 48 hours notice. The ban lasts to October 21.

Fire bans can be modified by municipal fire departments. But all of Sooke, Otter Point and Metchosin already banned open burning this week due to dry conditions. Campfires up to 2 sqm are still allowed.

**New regulations in BC** this year see a \$1,150 fine for failing to comply with an



Coastal Fire Centre (outlined)

open fire prohibition. Wildfires can be reported on a cell phone at \*5555 or toll free 1-800-663-5555. **WSV**



## EDITORIAL

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

### Enough is enough: sewage moves forward

• The 'stupid sewer stuff' of the past 10 years has gone on way too long. All the back and forth of picking locations for sewage treatment facilities in the Victoria, Saanich, Esquimalt, and west shore areas -- then finding out the politics of those locations wouldn't work, was really a not even a comedy of errors. It was a travesty of failed process. NIMBY (not in my back yard) was at its height as directors of the Capital Regional District (CRD) found ever-new ways to not get on with action. Dumping raw sewage into the ocean not far from our beautiful south Vancouver Island shores just kept on, and on.

Political stripe aside, it's a relief to see politics of conviction in action. This week the BC government stepped in. One of their most powerful players, Peter Fassbender (presently Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and previously Minister of Education), made a brief visit to the CRD board this week. Behind closed doors he took power from the regional politicians, announcing to them the creation of a new sewage board comprised of BC government reps and wastewater professionals. It might have seemed harsh, but frankly, Fassbender ultimately helped the CRD politicians save face.

A sewage treatment solution (design, plan and location) will be presented back to the CRD board in September. CRD is to rubber-stamp the provincially-developed decision. Without a plan in place, about a half-billion dollars in federal and provincial project funding would be lost. That on top of the \$85 million already entirely wasted due to political wrangling all these years.

No wonder some folks persist in calling for amalgamation of the 13 municipalities of the Victoria capital area. That's not likely to ever happen, due to valid regional disparities. But one hopes that high-level politicians know when they're expected to pull together for a greater cause. ■



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

## EDUCATION NEWS @WestShoreVOICE west side of the island

### SD62 faced with cuts for 2016-2017: staffing takes the hit

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

• In an effort to spare further direct cuts to classrooms, the Sooke School District (SD62) Board has leaned toward making up a nearly \$1.7 million shortfall in their \$110,877,186 budget by cutting or reducing positions in administration, support staff, and teaching positions.

SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge and Treasurer Harold Cull have done a thorough job of informing parents and families throughout the process -- including emails with detailed PDFs and with budget graphics posted online over many weeks. Included in the explanations is how personnel are taking cuts, and why a \$50 increase in per-student bus fees is part of the budget realities for 2016-2017.

- Cuts to management in the amount of \$456,000. That includes removing one vice principal and one District Principal. There will also be reductions in speech and language pathologist services.
- Cuts to support staff in the amount of \$405,000. That will include reducing expenditures on youth & family counsellors, education assistants, IT support, and custodial.
- Cuts to teachers in the amount of \$816,000. That will include reductions in curriculum coordination, deaf and hard of hearing support, hospital and home bound, and non-enrolling school-based staff.

Reductions in SD62 personnel expenditures for 2016-2017



The board meets again on May 24 for final approval to their budget. Board chair is Trustee Bob Phillips, vice chair is Trustee Dianna Seaton. **WSV**

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## SOOKE FOCUS @SookeVoiceLOCAL

• The SEAPARC land purchase referendum on April 30 (including two advance voting opportunities in weeks preceding) cost Sooke and Juan de Fuca taxpayers about \$22,000.

About 9.6% of the eligible voters cast a ballot, and with an estimated population of 12,000, that means about 1,152 people voted. So the cost per vote achieved was about \$19.09 per voter.

These figures may vary from numbers recently reported elsewhere.

SEAPARC Chair Mike Hicks says all expenditures are not in yet (he had previously estimated \$25,000 to be the cost of the referendum).

Carrying out any exercise of democracy has a financial cost. Considering the good value of the land (23 acres of operational golf course for \$999,000), the \$22,000 overhead to get citizen permission might be considered fair.

The other option would be for elected officials to go ahead and do what they want, without asking the taxpayers. In the case of borrowing funds for big projects, they aren't allowed to. The option for citizens to say no comes at a cost to all.

• Sooke Community Hall could be in for a facelift. The idea of refurbishing the old, well-used town-centre building was pitched to Sooke Council at their Committee of the Whole on May 9. The proposal came from Lee Boyko who chairs the Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee. Changes would include improving the kitchen, moving out some infrequently used items, and expanding the building footprint out the parking lot side. More space is sought for activities of seniors and youth. Mayor Maja Tait and Councillors liked refurbishing idea. Constructing a new community facility would be more costly than adapting what is already there.

• Sooke boat launch parking management will be done in-house by the municipality. On May 9 Council decided to not renew a previous private contract that absorbed all revenues. **WSV**

## West Shore Voice News

### The Sooke Voice News

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Sampler edition (PDF), archives, breaking news:  
[www.westshorevoiceneews.com](http://www.westshorevoiceneews.com)  
West Shore Voice News

## Support for Fort Mac evacuees

• The major wildfire that impacted Fort McMurray saw 2,400 homes destroyed and displaced over 94,000 people (area residents and some oil production facility workers) during an evacuation that started May 3.

People across Canada donated to the Canadian Red Cross, to help support relief and recovery efforts of displaced families and individuals. With federal and Alberta governments matching donations from individuals, the Canadian Red Cross announced May 11 that it would be providing immediate financial assistance totalling \$50 million, to more than 80,000 who registered. Adult evacuees get \$600 each, and children will receive \$300 each. In many cases, funds are transferred electronically, for immediate availability. [www.redcross.ca/firesfaq](http://www.redcross.ca/firesfaq)

The Alberta government is issuing debit cards of \$1,250 to each adult and \$500 to each dependent. People had to line up for the cards at evacuation reception centres in Edmonton, Calgary and Lac La Biche.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau toured over the damaged and still-standing areas at Fort McMurray on Friday, May 13 and afterward met with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley.

Fundraisers are being held across the country. Locally, the District of Sooke has pledged to match donations that can be made by individuals at the Sooke Fire Hall. And on Saturday May 14 a Fort Mac 'burger & beverage' fundraiser is being held at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort.

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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[SheringhamLighthouse.org](http://SheringhamLighthouse.org)

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## A Defence Policy Review Discussion

Seeking your input on Canada's future defence policy

Thursday May 26, 2016  
2pm to 4pm  
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Please read the Review Discussion Paper before attending:  
<http://tinyurl.com/DefencePolicyDiscussion>

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# West Coast Lifestyle

# 21st Century Living

Daily news updates:  
www.westshorevoicenews.com

## Two docs, big goals

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc.

Two young emergency room doctors in the Victoria area are frustrated with seeing the health care system breaking down.

"ER becomes the dumping ground," says Dr Christopher Tetley. "People come to the emergency department by default, often with non-emergency problems. There was nowhere else for them to go at the time."

Since December, more family doctors have closed their practices in Greater Victoria, says Tetley. The average age of remaining family doctors is 51. "There's a mass exodus of family doctors and it's only going to get worse." They quit (or never get started) for a variety of reasons. It's not a well-compensated speciality. New graduates are not going into family medicine. GPs deal with everything. They're the backbone of the health system." Tetley says some current or would-be family doctors conclude: "Why bust my butt and not be appreciated?" There have been some initiatives in BC in last few years, with some new funds around supporting complex and continuing care – such as for diabetes and congestive heart failure. "But it comes with a lot of paper work and red tape and extra work."

"The two of us have talked about things, big picture things, a lot over the years, says Tetley, including his working partner Dr Jonathan Wallace in that. Together they are launching Capital Physicians Group, as "maybe a better way to help out some of the population". They hope to provide better access to family doctors and quality home care services. "One of the big things is access to care after hours," says Tetley. [www.capitalphysicians.ca](http://www.capitalphysicians.ca)

In 2010, when the BC government first made a promise to provide a family doctor to every person, there were 615,000 residents in BC without a family doctor; of those, 176,000 were actively searching for one. By 2014, the number had increased to about 700,000 with 200,000 actively looking. **WSV**

## Funding for music, gardens, fishing & youth

With due consideration, \$30,500 was handily spent by the District of Sooke Community Grants Review Committee on Wednesday evening, May 11.

That amount could go up to \$34,700 if Council also wishes (at their upcoming meeting, May 24) to reconsider two other requests.

Groups that received the thumbs up from the grants committee:

- **Harmony Project Society** [\$7,000] to buy musical instruments for use by local youth.
- **Rotary Club of Sooke** [\$3,000] to support the educational garden at John Muir Elementary.
- **Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard** [\$5,000] to help with some winterizing renovations to the dining facility.
- **Sooke Saltwater Series** [\$3,500] to help with marketing their three fishing derbies.
- **Sooke Region Community Health Network** [\$7,000] to help with improvements to their community garden.
- **Sooke River Bluegrass Festival** [\$5,000] to help with facility costs at Sooke Flats.

These were declined:

- **Communica: Dialogue and Resolution Services** [\$3,000] seen as 'downloading' of health costs for services that the committee feels should be covered provincially.
- **Sooke Transition Town Society** [\$1,200] Reskilling project description was considered to be too vaguely outlined.

The committee is chaired again this year by District of Sooke Councillor Kerrie Reay. The other Sooke Councillor on the committee is Bev Berger. New committee members are Coleen Heenan and Michelle Stafford.

About 25 people attended, mostly presenters and supporters of the grant presentations. Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Norman Nelson attended to support the Harmony Project presentation that was made by Anne McDougall. Ron Neitsch and Eldon Smith of the local fishing community were there to make the Sooke Saltwater Series presentation. Jeff Bateman and Michael Tacon delivered the Transition Town presentation. Christine Bossi represented the Sooke Region Community Health Network, with Loretta Deutscher accompanying.

Sooke River Bluegrass Festival reps seemed quite pleased to receive funding support this year, after their organization having been turned down twice before. Scouts Canada was gently reproached for not having asked other municipalities for funding support and was encouraged to do so for next year; scouts attend events at Camp Barnard from all across the south island region.

For Category B (project) grants in 2016, \$50,000 is available. With \$30,500 presumably spent at this juncture, that leaves \$19,500 for September. **WSV**

## BC Hydro buys flood-risk land from CRD

BC Hydro has purchased lands and land-rights in the Jordan River area (west of Sooke), paying \$3.13 million to the CRD for areas affected by a potential flood inundation -- a nearby BC Hydro dam could break as a result of an earthquake. CRD is retaining some oceanfront lands within the inundation zone and south of West Coast Road, including the campground and beach used by surfers. "The land acquisition helps to address public safety concerns in a region where seismic risk is much greater than previously understood," says Chris O'Riley, Deputy CEO, BC Hydro.

An early warning system will be paid for by BC Hydro. **WSV**



Dr Jonathan Wallace and Dr Christopher Tetley are based at Saanich Peninsula Hospital. They grew up in Victoria, went to med school at UBC, and "came back home to roost". After 10 years, they're frustrated.

Ardie Clark

## Prepping a bit more for a quake

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

People on the west coast are beginning to undertake earthquake preparedness. None of the steps are all that difficult, but involve attention to detail and buying some extra things. But most of all, it's remembering or deciding to do it.

The most basic step is to have an emergency kit ready. Not just at home, but also in the family vehicle and at your place of work. And also not just for yourself, but one for each person in the family, including pets.

**Becoming adjusted**

**Juan de Fuca Emergency Preparedness Program**  
invites you to participate in

**Quake 8.0**  
Magnitude

10am to 4pm

**Cottage**

Find out what it feels like to experience an **earthquake**

**Sunday, May 22 at Sooke Fire Hall**  
2225 Otter Point Rd.

[www.prepareyourself.ca](https://www.prepareyourself.ca)

[@jdfemerg](https://twitter.com/jdfemerg)

to the fact that an earthquake will, eventually, happen on Vancouver Island is the biggest hurdle. After that realization sinks in, it's easier to start buying up extra food for the pantry and making sure there is always enough gas in your car.

At the various exhibits about emergency preparedness be sure to pick up the OK/Need Help signs, brochures, and more ideas. **WSV**

## Grad season just around the corner

Getting ready for high school graduation is a big process. Step by step, the graduating student and the parents and family go through the transition. Then it seems almost 'in an instant' that the young person is into adulthood. High school grad is perhaps one of the few formal markers that our society has for bidding farewell to childhood.

Many fresh starts come with grad. New place of education if off to post-secondary. New place of employment if taking a summer job or apprenticeship. Often, also a new place to live -- either in town, farther away, or very far away.

Grade 12 students on the threshold of this journey will be graduating from three high schools in Sooke School District (SD62) next month. **Edward Milne Community School (EMCS)** will hold their grad ceremony on Saturday, June 4 (1-4pm). **Belmont Secondary** will hold their grad on Sunday, June 12 (11am-1pm), followed by **Royal Bay Secondary** with their grad also on June 12 (3-5pm).

## NDP still pursues party bus safety

Due to minimal regulation around the delivery of party bus services some dangers evolve, says NDP MLA George Heyman (Vancouver-Fairview).

This week in the BC Legislature Heyman reintroduced his Bill that calls for stricter regulations on how party buses operate. He has met with the families of young people who have died due to lack of attention to safety on party buses. He is passionate about changes being made in BC.

These bus services are used for grad parties, by university students, and for adult parties. Businesses offering the ride-and-party services are located primarily in the lower mainland and Victoria areas.

"It's probably exciting to get around a have a fun party -- to bar hop," says Heyman. "But there are inherent dangers. There is a lack of attention to young people who may be very intoxicated or unsafe conditions on the bus itself."

"The driver needs to focus on driving the vehicle. Another person is required on the bus to watch out

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Each of those formal events will be held at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium.

Graduate names, and the names of grads receiving scholarships, bursaries, grants and awards will be listed in four upcoming editions of *West Shore Voice News* (June 3, 10, 17, 24). Not only does this publicly honour the students for their achievements, it is a way for families and the community to share their pride for their part in helping the students to this important transition point. More info next week.

Any special stories about student achievement are welcome. Write to: [editor@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:editor@westshorevoicenews.com) **WSV**

for passenger safety," he said in an interview with *West Shore Voice* this week.

Last year 23-year-old Chelsea James fell out of a party bus in Vancouver and died when the very bus she was riding in ran over her.

Consumption of alcohol aboard any moving vehicle is illegal in BC, says Heyman, but adds that the party bus industry is "fuelled by alcohol". **WSV**

**John Horgan, MLA**  
Juan de Fuca

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**Sooke Community Choir.** 1970: All You Need is Love. Fri May 13 & Sat May 14 (8pm), Sun May 15 (2pm). www.sookecommunitychoir.com

**Sooke Country Market.** Sat May 14. 10-2, at Otter Pt Rd & Eustace in town centre. Every Sat to Oct.

**Artists Friendship Show** 'meet the artists'. Sun May 15 at The Reading Room Cafe. 12-2 pm.

**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.westshorevoiceneews.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 Ctte 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

**Defence Policy Review Discussion.** Seeking public input on Canada's future defence policy. Thurs May 26. 2 to 4 pm. Hosted by Randall Garrison, MP at Esquimalt Legion, 622 Admirals Rd. 250-405-6550

**Climate Change Town Hall.** Finding practical solutions to climate change. Fri May 27. 7-8:30pm Hosted by Randall Garrison, MP at Esquimalt High School Theatre, 847 Colville Rd. 250-405-6550

**Cabaret Sooke** presents 'Tight Squeeze'. Roaring 20s costume party, age 19+. Fri May 27 & Sat May 28 7pm-1am at Prestige hotel. \$25 tix at The Stick, Sooke Museum, Shoppers (Sooke). FB: cabaretboitenoire

**Sooke Region Health Summit 2016** at Sooke Community Hall. Sat May 28, 1-4pm. Speaker Dr Richard Stanwick. Info: www.sooke.ca

**Efficient Micro/Drip Irrigation.** CRD workshop. Sat May 28. 2 to 5 pm in Sooke. Reserve a space: 250.474.9684

**Edible Weeds.** Compost Education Centre workshop. Sat May 28. 2 to 4 pm at 1216 N Park St, Victoria. \$20 (\$15 members). www.compost.bc.ca

**Sooke Night Market.** Outdoors Thursdays June 2 to Sept 1, Sooke Region Museum. 5-8pm. 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. Fundraiser by Sooke Philharmonic. 10-4. www.sookesecretgardens.com

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

**Creating a Herbal First Aid Kit.** Compost Education Centre workshop. Sat June 11. 2 to 4 pm at 1216 N Park St, Victoria. \$20 (members \$15). www.compost.bc.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

**Growing Local: Bean there, doing that!** Sun June 26. Farming history exhibit opening at Sooke Region Museum (to Sept 5). Also annual museum open house & bbq.

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New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be?

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**CABARET SOOKE** 19+

PRESENTS "Tight Squeeze"

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A Roaring 1920s Cocktail, Costume & Cabaret Party 7 PM till 1 AM

IN THE **PRESTIGE OCEANFRONT RESORT BALLROOM** 1029 W Coast Rd

**\$25** Licensed Event

COME IN COSTUME GET \$5.00 BACK AT THE DOOR

BUY TICKETS AT The Stick in The Mud Sooke Museum Shoppers Drug Mart

## CURRENT 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, Louise Morin, Brenda Parkinson Pat Phillips], jewelry & glass [Rae Williamson].

Post your Exhibit here & on the EVENTS page at

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## Camping season at three regional parks

There are three park campgrounds in the Capital Regional District (CRD). Island View Beach, Jordan River and Sooke Potholes each offers affordable, self-contained RV and tent camping with water views, says CRD.

The Spring Salmon Place Campground (KWL-UCHUN) at Sooke Potholes Regional Park has opened May 13 (to Oct 3), operated by T'Sou-ke Nation. The 67-site RV and tent campground on the Sooke River, and adjacent to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, offers hiking, swimming, fishing, cycling. Parking fees.

Island View Beach Regional Park Campground on the Saanich Peninsula, offers a long sandy beach and panoramic views. It is close to ferries, airport, downtown Victoria, and the Lochside Regional Trail. The 23-site RV and tent campground will be open May 20 to September 5.

West beyond Sooke, the Jordan River Regional Park Campground, along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, offers views of the Olympic Peninsula and hiking trails through hemlock and cedar forests to Sandcut Beach. The 22-site RV and tent campground is open year-round. WSV

## Communities in Bloom on for summer 2016



All around town, people are starting to spruce up their gardens and store frontages. Communities in Bloom is coming!

After one year off from the exercise of independent judges coming to Sooke to assess town beautification, the CiB program is back on. "To maintain the 5-bloom status that we earned in 2014, we could only take one year off," says Councillor Brenda Parkinson who has been a primary force behind the project for the last few years.

Last year the centre of town was pretty torn up with construction of the roundabout on Sooke Road (Highway 14). A work of beautification in progress!

The Sooke Program of the Arts Committee (SPA) is coordinating Sooke's CiB effort this year, chaired by Drew Johnston.

In 2013 and 2013 certificates of recognition and decorative decals were issued to businesses and organizations that helped beautify the town. In 2014 an outdoor lunch was held at Sunriver Community Gardens.

CiB judges will be in Sooke on July 22. Between now and then, beautification is the name of the game for all of Sooke! WSV

### New 'Y' in Langford

The new YW/YMCA Langford Aquatic Centre nestled in the Westhills development in Langford is holding its official grand opening on Saturday May 14 (12-3pm), including tours after the official ribbon-cutting. The facility includes a lap pool, lazy river, warm water therapy pools, waterslide, health & fitness facilities, and a daycare. WSV

## Mother's Day traffic was steady

Convenience is the name of the game at Great Canadian Oil Change. No appointments are needed! A drive-through oil change can be done in 10 minutes. On Mother's Day last weekend the flow-through was steady all day, said staff at the Langford location.

Staff are friendly and knowledgeable -- not just about oil changes but other aspects of your vehicle as well. Just sit in your vehicle while the work is done. Easy!

The spacious well-ventilated Great Canadian Oil Change in Langford handles three vehicles at a time. Owned and operated by Tim Ball and Chris Neff, their clean, efficient, friendly shop is open seven days a week. Free coffee & newspapers while you wait!



Open daily ~ in Langford Mon-Sat 8-6 & Sun 10-5 Many oil products on hand



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## Small businesses need tax cut, says CFIB

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) has called on the federal government to reinstate the promised small business tax cut after a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) report has found that freezing the rate will cost the economy \$300 million per year, and cost small business a lot more (over \$2 billion in the next five years).

Small businesses currently pay a 10.5% tax rate for 2016. During the federal election all three major parties promised a drop to 9%; in fact, the Conservatives had legislated the drop to 9%. The Liberals in their 2016 budget have retained the 10.5% rate for small business, meanwhile reversing the legislation.

The small business tax rate is "to allow small firms to reinvest their earnings back into their businesses," said CFIB president Dan Kelly this week ahead of his presentation to the House of Commons finance committee.

"Freezing the rate handcuffs middle class entrepreneurs' ability to grow the Canadian economy. The long-term impact on employment will be even more significant; small firms are so much more labour intensive than larger ones." WSV

### Roundabout: landscaping and signs

The roundabout on Hwy 14 in Sooke town centre is a bit of a town jewel (landscaping in progress). What can be placed there is up to the BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI). MOTI is working with the District of Sooke on a landscaping plan which may limit the presence of temporary signage. WSV



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