

West Shore Voice News

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Friday, May 20, 2016 News of 'the west side' | Vancouver Island

\$45 million 'fix it fund' for school repairs in 124 BC schools

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

Supporting BC
education through
infrastructure

● **BC will invest \$45 million in school facility upgrades this year.** "We're calling it our 'fix it fund'," said BC Education Mike Bernier in an announcement at the BC Legislature on Thursday, May 19. There will be 80 projects done in 124 schools throughout the province.

"We have a strong economy in BC, and have the opportunity of making investments like this," Bernier said. The work will include 21 roof replacements; the upgrading of heating and ventilation systems; windows, lighting and electrical system upgrades; and fire protection safety enhancements.

School districts applied to the Ministry of Education in spring 2016 and successful projects were chosen based on need, priority and supporting student learning. Another requirement was that projects had to cost more than \$100,000.

Joining Minister Bernier for the announcement was Greater Victoria School Board (SD61) Superintendent Piet Langstraat. "Today's announcement is about investing in buildings," said Langstraat. "But it's much more than that. It's about investing in safety. And more than that ... it's about investing in the lives of these young students. Not only for today, for for the years to come."

Also speaking at the BC government announcement to media was SD62 Board Chair Bob Phillips, a long-time trustee in Sooke School District 62 (SD62). Phillips announced that the only high school out in the town area of Sooke -- Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) -- will be getting almost \$465,000 for roof repairs and envelope upgrade. It's \$464,380 to be exact.

EMCS will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary. The present school building opened in 1996, replacing an earlier structure. It is the only high school in the immediate Sooke area. The other two high schools in SD62 are Belmont Secondary in Langford and Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood.

"We are very excited and very grateful to be receiving this support from the ministry for the replacement of our roof," says EMCS Principal Pat Swinburnson. "It is the 20th anniversary of our building next year so the timing couldn't be better," he said today.

"For a number of years now our school district facilities staff have worked very hard through the rainy season trying to keep us drying with multiple patchwork efforts," says Swinburnson. There are student tales of rainwater dripping into buckets in the computer lab. "So it's a great relief to all of us that this much needed roof replacement is going ahead," Swinburnson said.



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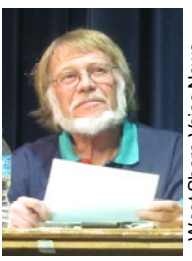
Edward Milne Community School in Sooke will receive \$464,380 for roof repairs and envelope upgrade.



BC Minister of
Education
Mike Bernier



SD61
Superintendent
Piet Langstraat



SD62 Board Chair
Bob Phillips

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School upgrades in the south island region

SD61 Greater Victoria

Victoria West Elementary - \$355,000 for automatic fire sprinkler installation and fire alarm upgrade

SD62 Sooke

Edward Milne Community School - \$464,380 for Phase 1: Roof replacement and envelope upgrade

SD63 Saanich

Bayside Middle School (Brentwood Bay) - \$3,000,000 in provincial funding and \$1 million in school district funding for Phase 1: Roof replacement (\$3.1 million next year in provincial funding for Phase 2: Roof replacement)

Prospect Lake Elementary (Saanich) - \$325,000 in provincial funding and \$83,000 in school district funding. Phase 2: Replace outdated heating equipment with new heat pump system

SD64 Gulf Islands

Gulf Islands Secondary School and Salt Spring Island Middle School (Salt Spring) - \$243,500 for wood shop dust extraction system upgrades

WSV

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Island MP stands up for natural salmon

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

by Mary P Brooke

● **With an active fist for emphasis,** Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) addressed the House of Commons on May 19 regarding genetically-modified salmon being a problem for consumers. The GMO salmon will not be labelled as such.

"There are 90% of Canadians who have said that they want genetically-modified products to be clearly labelled. And salmon producers are concerned that consumers will stop buying salmon altogether if they cannot tell which ones have been genetically modified" said MacGregor in the House.

This followed an announcement earlier that day (by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency), that genetically-modified salmon has been approved for sale as food in Canada. The producer in Prince Edward Island (PEI) -- AquaBounty -- said it will be at least a year before the salmon will be available in stores.

The salmon are grown to full size at an AquaBounty facility in Panama, using the eggs that are produced in PEI. By introducing a growth hormone gene from Chinook salmon into the eggs of ocean pout (an eel species), AquaBounty is able to grow Atlantic salmon to market size in 20 months (normal growth period is apparently 40 months).

The impact that engineered salmon could have on wild salmon stocks, human health and the fishing industry is unknown.

Earlier this week, Alistair MacGregor told *West Shore Voice News* in an exclusive interview that as a new MP there is "quite the learning curve, as it is with any new job". But he did work with Jean Crowder, MP for seven years here on Vancouver Island. "I knew what I was going to be experiencing. But nothing prepares you for the actual thing. It's good to have experienced colleagues to help out. The more you practice the more you learn," said MacGregor, who celebrated his 37th birthday this month.

In March, MacGregor introduced his first Private Members bill in the House of Commons, to have Shawnigan Lake added to the scheduled list of bodies of protected waters that fall under the Navigation Protection Act. This had to do with the BC Ministry of Environment in May 2013 having granted a permit allowing 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil to be dumped onto the Shawnigan Lake watershed each year for 50 years.

MacGregor expressed concern on Tuesday that debate on Bill C-14 (having to do with medically-assisted dying) was being closed at second reading. On Wednesday the NDP essentially filibustered progress of a motion that would have closed off debate. That, and due to a disruptive tussle in the House in an extended session that evening, could jeopardize the progress of Bill C-14 toward being passed before a Supreme Court of Canada deadline of June 6.

The Cowichan-Malahat-Langford riding is geographically expansive. "But many issues are the same throughout the riding," says MacGregor. He itemizes seniors with pensions, EI issues for people who have lost their jobs, and problems with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

MacGregor's home base with his wife and twin daughters is in Duncan, where his main constituency office is located. He will officially open his second constituency office 4pm to 6pm on Friday May 27 at 3202B Happy Valley Rd (at the corner of Sooke Rd) in Langford. Speeches at 5pm, including from BC NDP Leader John Horgan.



Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) spoke May 19 in the House of Commons about GMO salmon.

NDP

Allstair MacGregor's Open House!

MAY 27

Come celebrate the opening of my Langford community office!

Where: 3202B Happy Valley Rd (at Sooke Rd)

When: Friday, May 27th
Time: 4pm - 6pm

Alistair MacGregor, MP
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alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca | 1-866-609-9998

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Publisher's Note

The first weekend of 'summer'

Although the weather has been a bit cool this week and is continuing to be moderate as we head into the May long weekend, it's a weekend that pretty much everyone looks forward to. The unofficial 'first weekend of summer', for downtime and travel time and otherwise good times away from the grind.

Whatever strikes your fancy... road trip, fishing, gardening, community events... have a happy May long weekend, everyone! ■

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

May 2016 Artists' Friendship Show

Come take a look!



Exhibit on now through June 5

Watercolours, glass, jewelry

Our local artists have come together in friendship to collaborate for this warm, bright showing! This show features watercolour art by Brenda Parkinson, Pat Phillips, Louise Morin, & Linda Anderson, with dimensional glass art & jewelry by Rae Williamson.

At the Reading Room Cafe in the Evergreen mall, 6660 Sooke Rd

BC HIGHWAY NEWS



@WestShoreVOICE ~ west side of the island

Highway 14 gets a sign and some study

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS by Mary P Brooke



West Shore Voice News

Highway 14 is the 'one road in, one road out' for the growing community of Sooke. [Photo: heading westward to Sooke, summer 2015]

A new digital sign will provide drivers travelling west on Highway 14 with up-to-date information on road conditions, lane closures and commuting delays, it was announced today by BC Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) Minister Todd Stone.

MOTI will also begin a study to identify future priorities for Highway 14 improvements. Despite some public speculation earlier this week, the idea of four lanes all the way to Sooke is not confirmed.

"The number of lanes has not been determined," says MOTI public affairs officer Kate Mukasa. "As part of the study, we will be looking at a variety of factors including current and future traffic volumes that will help determine possible upgrades for the corridor such as future lane requirements," she said on May 20.

"The Highway 14 corridor is a critical link on southern Vancouver Island that serves a wide variety of people including commuters, commercial drivers, tourists and cyclists," said Stone. "In response to discussions with local community leaders, we will be looking at ways to improve this route and the new overhead sign is an important first step."

The overhead changeable message sign will be located near Awsworth Road, approximately 500 metres west of the future connection to the new West Shore Parkway extension on Highway 14, and will face drivers heading westbound toward Sooke.

Work is already underway on the nearby Glenshire Business Park, a project by Keycorp Developments of Langford. Easily visible as one travels on Sooke Road, the commercial/industrial park will offer lots from 1 to 20 acres in size.

Work on the roadside changeable message sign will begin in late May 2016, and is expected to be finished during the summer. The sign will cost approximately \$250,000, and will provide timely information regarding delays, road closures and current road conditions to the approximately 7,000 vehicles travelling from Langford to Sooke each day. Information will be provided from the DriveBC traveller information system, which is also available online at: www.DriveBC.ca

CHM2M Hill has been awarded the \$130,000 contract to assess possible future improvements to Highway 14 between Langford and Sooke. This technical study will review the current condition and performance of the highway, examine potential upgrades for both the short and long term, and examine ways to promote greater transit use and to encourage cycling.

The idea of widening Highway 14 to four lanes all the way between between Langford and Sooke has not yet been confirmed. But Langford Mayor Stew Young says that if in fact Highway 14 were to be widened to four lanes, it would improve traffic flow between Langford and Sooke and be good for the Sooke economy and commuter convenience.

The study will begin during the summer of 2016 and the final report is expected to be available in the spring of 2017, says MOTI.

Many people in Sooke are keen about the upcoming roadside announcement sign.

"The Mayor has been writing letters to Minister Stone every time there has been an accident on Highway 14," says District of Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan.

"Mayor Tait and I met with MOTI officials last month who informed us they were considering the sign and would be conducting the improvement study this year. Mayor and Council are thrilled this work is moving ahead and look forward to receiving the results of the study in 2017." **WSV**



West Shore Voice News

Some paving for a smoother ride, and shoulder-widening for cyclists was done in summer 2015 in some portions of Highway 14 (Sooke Road), including a section just west of the 4-lane stretch.

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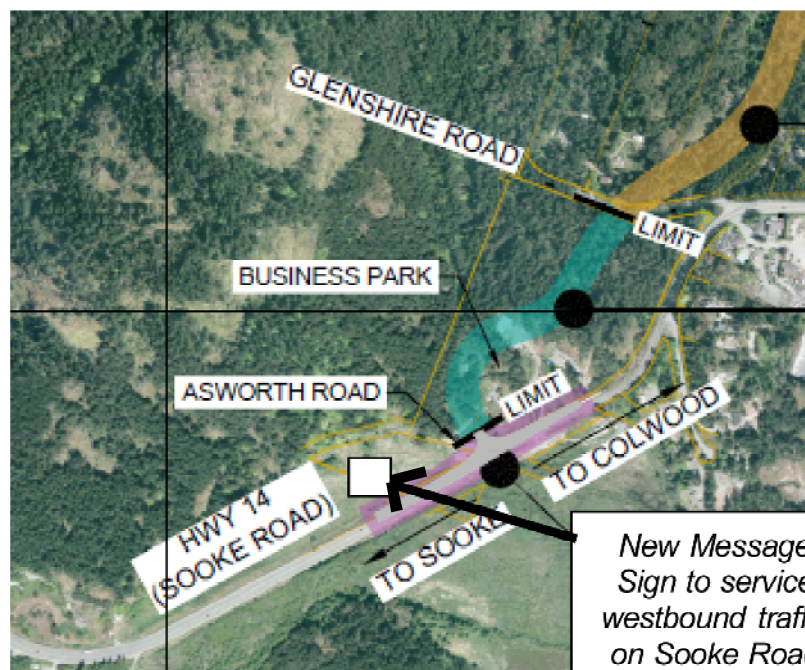
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New Message Sign to service westbound traffic on Sooke Road

Graphic update by West Shore Voice News



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Bright new Langford library now officially open

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● On a cool but sunny Tuesday afternoon May 17, dignitaries, staff, families, guests and media attended the official opening of the Langford Heritage Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL).

Langford Mayor Stew Young cut the ribbon along-side GVPL Board Chair Councillor Kevin Murdoch from Oak Bay, GVPL CEO Maureen Sawa, and Kyle Douglas from Island Savings.

The Langford Heritage Branch at 102-1314 Lakepoint Way in the Westhills development will be an important asset to support the City of Langford's continued growth and success. Langford Mayor Stew Young is pleased about the popular library and the YM/YWCA in the same building (officially opened last weekend). Both of those are also co-located with the Victoria Conservatory of Music in a unique facility that nurtures the mind, body and spirit.

About 175 people attended the opening, with ribbon-cutting and kids' activities. That was in addition to people using the library as on a regular day.

The 4,000 sq ft branch with an open-space design is bright and colourful with direct sunlight through many windows. There is a station especially for children, one for teens (with faster computers than in other parts of the library), and areas for using wi-fi devices and reading magazines.

For children there was a magic show, as well as crayon colouring (donated by White Spot West Shore), storytime on the Langford Trolley (provided by the City of Langford), and crafts and face painting (provided by Island Savings). Two large cakes were donated by Quality Foods West Shore. Coffee and timbits by Tim Hortons Westshore Town Centre.

"Those at the opening heard that libraries are more relevant than ever in the digital age," says GVPL communications officer Jessica Woollard. She says the Langford branch showcases the best of traditional libraries as well as 21st-century innovations such as the first library vending machine on Vancouver Island. "Libraries have staff who can help people navigate the complex world of information and provide reading recommendations."

Dignitaries at the opening: **Langford Mayor Stew Young & Langford Councillors Denise Blackwell, Matt Sahlstrom, Lanny Seaton, Lillian Szpak; View Royal: Mayor David Screech & Councillor John Rogers; Oak Bay Councillors Kevin Murdoch (GVPL chair), Tara Ney; Highlands: Councillor Karen Burns; Metchosin: Councillor Moralea Milne; Esquimalt: Councillor Lynda Hundleby.** WSV



Greater Victoria Public Library

Langford Heritage Branch ribbon cutting! (From left): Kyle Douglas from Island Savings, GVPL CEO Maureen Sawa, GVPL Board Chair & Oak Bay Councillor Kevin Murdoch, and Langford Mayor Stew Young.

WSV WEB COURTESY EDITION



Greater Victoria Public Library

Langford Heritage Branch supervisor Eileen Fedderly is proud of the 15,000 item collection at her branch.



Greater Victoria Public Library

The Langford Heritage Branch opening included kids activities.

McKenzie Interchange open house: proceeding with the cloverleaf

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● It was the third public open house in seven months, but the turnout was strong. The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) wanted the public to see the selected 'partial cloverleaf' design option for the upcoming McKenzie-Admirals Hwy1 Interchange. And there was more information about the handling of environmental impacts.

In addition to the



West Shore Voice News

A full house at the May 18 McKenzie Interchange public open house. The public could view all the display boards, ask questions of Ministry reps, and provide their feedback to personnel or using printed forms or tablet workstations.

primary goals of reducing the commuting time for drivers in their vehicles on their way to work or school (Victoria <-> West Shore) and improving safety, the project will include bus-on-shoulder lanes for bus priority. Transit stop locations will be coordinated with cycling and pedestrian facilities.

The Galloping Goose Trail will go over McKenzie (5.6 m wide at that point), for safe and secure access. There is a mix of sidewalks, multi-use pathways and shoulders.

Public input is being considered along with technical and financial information, says MOTI. WSV

Langford Mayor, full steam ahead

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



Langford Mayor Stew Young

● There's never a dull moment for City of Langford Mayor Stew Young, who says the city will soon be accepting public input on a new 5-year plan for more area development.

New projects include more recreational and arena space. "We don't want to miss the opportunity while interest rates are low," Mayor Young told West Shore Voice News this week. "We're moving ahead with a full schedule. There's a bit of a boom going on right now," he said, referring to the continued buildout of the Westhills development and other housing.

Weighing in on the sewer debate that has been dragging on and on in the Greater Victoria area for over 10 years, Stew Young says he wasn't surprised that the BC government finally stepped in and is directing the sewer debacle that CRD has mismanaged through endless politic wrangling. "I thought they would move on it earlier," he said. "People should be shocked at \$80 million wasted."

WSV

Friends who paint and share their art



West Shore Voice News

Hosts of the Artists Friendship Show posed with their art pieces, during their Meet the Artists event at the Reading Room Cafe, Sunday May 15 (from left): Linda Anderson, Rae Williamson, Brenda Parkinson, Louise Morin. Other host not available: Pat Phillips.

A group of Sooke ladies who work with art as a way to escape, rejuvenate or reinspire were proud to display their works at their exhibit at the Reading Room Cafe. Being tutored in water-colour painting by Linda Anderson are Louise Morin, Brenda Parkinson and Pat Phillips. Rae Williamson works with dimensional glass and makes jewelry.

WSV

What a windfall!

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



Brian Roth

Windfall sailed to her new home in Sooke on May 14.

WSV WEB COURTESY EDITION

The Sooke Sailing Association has a new sail boat. They call her *Windfall*. She is a Catalina 22 keel boat. While sailing *Windfall* home on May 14 from the Canadian Forces Sailing Association in Esquimalt, they stopped at Pedder Bay due to high winds. The new vessel was donated by Wendy O'Connor and Chris Vanier of Sooke, to assist with Youth/Adult Keel Boat Sailing Programs. Sooke Sailing Association President Gord Fulcher says the association is a co-op, in its third year. Photo by another Sooke sailor, Brian Roth. www.sookesailing.com WSV



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

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Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca / www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

New Sooke Library ready by October 2018

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

It was quietly surfaced in a brief verbal report by Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan at the May 9 Council Meeting... that Sooke is looking at "having it built in September-October 2018". As in completed. Just in time for the municipal election.

She was referring to the new Sooke library building, destined for a location on the recently purchased property at Wadams Way.

A partnership agreement with the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) board is still in process. Councillor Kerrie Reay represents Sooke on the VIRL board.

"Community consultation this fall, aiming for shovels in the ground January 2017," Sullivan told *West Shore Voice* this week. **WSV**

SOOKE COUNCIL NOTES

Note: Committee of the Whole that was scheduled for 6 pm on May 24 has been cancelled.

- District of Sooke council meeting on Tuesday, May 24** after the May long weekend, starts at 7pm in council chambers. Some tidbits:
 - Council will consider for approval the recommendations of their **Community Grants Review Committee**. At their May 11 meeting, the grants committee looked at eight grant applications and approved six of them, coming to a total expenditure of \$30,500. One of the unsuccessful applicants -- Transition Sooke -- had been invited to appear before council on May 24, with more detailed cost and expense information regarding their \$1,200 bid for their Reskilling Workshop.
 - Council will consider a motion put forward by their CAO, to provide six months notice to **terminate the present parks maintenance service contractors** (no later than June 30, 2016). The District would then bring parks maintenance services in-house beginning January 1, 2017. Two additional full-time employees would need to be hired, and two seasonal employees. Equipment would need to be purchased. All of this to apparently save \$4,146 per year -- monies that were otherwise providing income to local Sooke businesses. The CAO states that an in-house parks department would allow faster response times to public complaints and allow emergency back-up.
 - Sooke council will possibly weigh-in on the matter of **whether Greater Victoria can sustain a second casino**. View Royal and Langford have said the View Royal Casino already in place is enough for the region. BC Lottery Corporation sees otherwise, and looks to authorize a second one in Victoria. In 2015, View Royal Casino revenues were shared with these municipalities: View Royal \$1,838,325; Langford \$1,234,418; Colwood \$317,008; Esquimalt \$318,187; Highlands \$41,263; Metchosin \$93,690; Sooke \$242,275. **WSV**

Top doc coming to Sooke: Island Health's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr Richard Stanwick to address Sooke community

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

A shortage of GPs in BC -- and what to do about it -- is just one of the issues that concerns Sooke residents. It's a topic that has been discussed before at health forums in Sooke.

Coming up on Saturday, May 28 is the Sooke Region Health Summit 2016. It will be a 3-hour gathering of community leaders and the public, 1 to 4 pm at Sooke Community Hall. Open to everyone, no fee to attend.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Richard Stanwick. He's been the Chief Medical Health Officer for Island Health since the end of 2001. So now almost 15 years on the job, he will offer his perspective on the issues at hand.

Dr Stanwick is responsible for communicable disease prevention and control in the community. He provides evidence-based opinions to physicians, Councils, Boards and the community on a wide variety of health issues including communicable diseases, environmental health issues and complex health related social issues. He is also responsible for monitoring and assessing the health status of the community, making strategies to address health issues, and implementing immediate actions when necessary to protect the health of the public.

Dr Brendan Carr is the president and CEO of Island Health. In that role he has been overseeing the delivery of health systems throughout Vancouver Island since August 2013. He is a medical doctor and health care business executive. Island Health says Carr is "an advocate for transformation in health care".

The symposium in Sooke next weekend has been spearheaded by Sooke Mayor Maja Tait. She said in her verbal report at Council on May 9 that four roundtable discussions will take place about how to improve health and well-being services in the Sooke region "through our own initiatives", and that the public is welcome to take part.

Four rotating roundtable discussions healthy communities, helping ourselves & helping each other, medical services & infrastructure, and community advocacy and engagement. Associations will be invited to sit at certain tables to contribute to the discussion. Tait says there has been a lot of planning and details prepared for the day. Discussion topics include: xray, seniors issues, youth and child mental health, and community spaces. **WSV**



Dr Richard Stanwick, Island Health CMHO

Web source: CBC



Dr Brendan Carr, Island Health Pres & CEO

Island Health



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait at Council (April 11).

West Shore Voice News

LETTERS

letters@westshorevoiceneews.com

Sooke Focus

More to a community center than refurbishing Sooke Community Hall

We at the Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee not only wanted the community hall refurbished, but wanted to create a safe town center in the area of Eustace Road between Otter Point Road and Shields Road.

We see doing that by closing off Eustace at Otter Point and creating an open space where there could be a country market, orchestra recitals, outdoor choir, seating areas under trees, flowers and just a general safe center for folks to congregate.

The seniors would have easier access, through the property next to the cenotaph as that would be the new library/art center. There would be a more level walkway for folks from Ayre Manor to travel to the center, as the sidewalk on Ayre Road is long and all uphill. The tin grotto and houses behind, would become a parking lot for events happening in the area, whether for Legion or Community Hall or Library. There would be access holes in the pavement to allow for tents to set up and the power lines would be under ground and the curbs removed to allow for easier movement.

The community hall would have a true community kitchen, fully stocked with kitchen equipment, including a dishwasher. Everything would be labeled where it belonged and those who used the kitchen would be responsible for leaving it in the best condition. There would be a walk-in coolers and fridges and there would be a dumb-waiter for food service to the upstairs for weddings, banquets etc. These improvements would go a long way toward creating a vibrant downtown in Sooke.

~ Ellen Lewers, Sooke

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Orwellian doublespeak at Sooke municipal hall

There has been a major policy shift at Sooke municipal hall that is going to cost taxpayers a lot of money. It has happened with no public discussion that I am aware of, and runs completely counter to common sense, not to mention past performance. The District is firing private sector service contractors and replacing them with union staff positions on the pretense that it will save money. Fiscal Sustainability. Check. Excellence in Management and Governance. Check. Enhancement in Community Livability. Check. Orwellian Doublespeak. Check.

This is nothing more than bureaucratic empire building at the expense of the taxpayer, and the entire council (with the apparent exception of Councillor Pearson) seem to be enjoying a warm and fuzzy group hug while it goes on. In the paraphrased words of various councillors at the May 9 meeting, "we trust our senior staff."

"Trusting" is a complete repudiation of the job council was elected for. It certainly shouldn't, and doesn't have to be hostile and antagonistic divisiveness, but council's job is skeptical and critical oversight on behalf of the taxpayer; confrontation of vested interests backed up by firing people when necessary. This is no 'temporary trial.' Once a union position is established, the union will put the taxpayers on their knees before it will allow it to be rolled back.

The first casualty of the boat launch contract is a full time student summer job position for July and August. My meeting with our new CAO, initiated by me and intended to be a private meeting to get acquainted, resulted in my being ambushed by the very staff member responsible for the cost overrun in the boat launch contract, and concluded with the CAO declaring "the decision is not up to council," dismissing the discussion as "way too operational," and walking out of the meeting.

How much more do union staff make than employees of the private contractors to do the exact same job? Do the contractors get paid as much as senior staff to manage their employees? Trust that.

~ Terrance Martin, Sooke

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WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

New to Sooke?
New mom?
Bride to be?

250-642-2268

MAY LONG WEEKEND!
May 21-23

Fort Mac fundraiser in Sooke nets \$800

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

The Fort Mac fundraiser held by West Coast Grill at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort last Saturday (May 14) raised \$800. Proceeds are being donated to the Canadian Red Cross, toward supporting families displaced by the wildfire at Fort McMurray.

"The support we received from the community and businesses in the area has been overwhelming," said Tracy Snow, West Coast Grill General Manager.

"For an event that was put together with such short notice, we couldn't be sure what sort of response we would receive. But happily we saw lots of people on the day and were blessed with sponsors who donated supplies, time and energy to help us bring the event together," she said.

Businesses and people that sponsored the event include Jean Bedard providing acoustic music; Little Vienna Bakery, Red Rooster Winery, Vancouver Island Brewery, Sysco Victoria, Village Food Markets, and Freshpoint providing food; and *West Shore Voice News* and other local media using their reach to get the word out.

Donations can also be made online at the Red Cross website: www.redcross.ca **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!



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Getting a little shook up: WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

8.0 Magnitude coming to Sooke on May 22

● The 'big one' may in fact register over 9.0 Magnitude. But this weekend Sooke will get a taste of what 8.0 Magnitude feels like. In a simulator.

Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen explains that every Magnitude point increase is an amplification by 10.

Sorensen expects that as many as 100 people per hour can try out the Quake Cottage (Shake Zone) simulator during its 6-hour run on Sunday May 22, out from of the Sooke Fire Hall, 2225 Otter Point Road.

A waiver must be signed in order to be inside the simulator for a short shake-up. And you'll wear a seatbelt!

"The simulator is owned and operated by a US company. They supply everything," says Sorensen. There may be a minimum age for children to experience the simulator, he added.

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.

On that day, 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.

Fire Danger Rating is HIGH in Sooke

Campfires ok, but open burning banned WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● Some additional signage out the front of Sooke Municipal Hall and the Sooke Fire Hall make it abundantly clear.

The Fire Danger rating is at High. And there is no open burning allowed from June 1 to Sept 30.

Last summer's drought, followed by winter 2015 which had lower than usual precipitation, served to start off the 2016 spring season already behind the moisture 8-ball. In this first part of 2016 there has also been sub-normal amounts of rain in the south Vancouver Island area.

Ahead of mid-May, all of Langford, Metchosin, Otter Point and Sooke raised their Fire Danger ratings to High at an earlier point this year, than in any previous year.

Temperatures for last seven months have all registered hotter than any previous records in southern BC.

Last week the BC Ministry of Forests banned open burning for across BC, up to October 21 unless otherwise stated by municipalities. **WSV**



Fire Danger rating is posted in front of the Sooke Fire Hall (shown above on May 16) as well as at the Hwy14 entry point to Sooke.

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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**

Security stepped up at Sombrio Beach this May long weekend

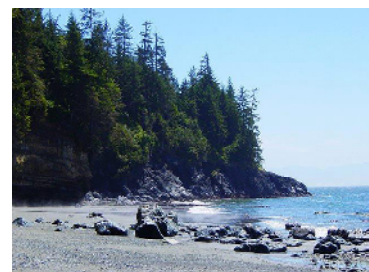
● Access to the parking lot at Sombrio Beach will be temporarily restricted for safety measures over the May long weekend to discourage illegal activities, such as parties and vandalism, which have occurred in past years.

The 2.5 km gravel access road leading from Hwy 14 to the parking lot at Sombrio Beach trailhead will be closed to vehicle access from Friday, May 20 at 7 am to Monday, May 23 at midnight.

BC Parks will close vehicle access to Sombrio Beach with the support of the Conservation Officer Service and the RCMP. "Unauthorized activities within the park can impact the social, economic, cultural and ecological sustainability of both the park and the local communities," said the BC Government in a news release on May 16.

All locations within Juan de Fuca Park, including the designated campsites and access trail at Sombrio Beach and the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, remain open to the public. The three remaining trailheads to the Juan de Fuca at China Beach, Parkinson Creek and Botanical Beach are still vehicle-accessible.

BC Parks says it wants all visitors to peacefully and safely enjoy recreational activities at the park such as hiking, camping and day use at Sombrio Beach and in the Juan de Fuca Provincial Park. **WSV**



Sombrio Beach is within the Juan de Fuca provincial park, at approximately km-29 of the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail.

BE PART OF THE GRAD EXPERIENCE

2016
Include your message in the 2016 grad issues of West Shore Voice News. See pg.6



Randall Garrison MP and the Esquimalt Legion co-host

A Defence Policy Review Discussion

Seeking your input on Canada's future defence policy

Thursday May 26, 2016

2pm to 4pm

Esquimalt Legion, 622 Admirals Road

Please read the Review Discussion Paper

before attending:

<http://tinyurl.com/DefencePolicyDiscussion>



Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE

250-405-6550 / 2904 Tillicum Road, Victoria BC V9A 2A5

Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca / www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

Randall Garrison shares LGBT Bill C-16 limelight with Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● Randall Garrison, MP (NDP) achieved some broad-strokes political success in the House of Commons this week. The wording of his previous bill for transgender rights was incorporated into Bill C-16 that the Liberals introduced this week, on May 17.

The proposed legislation was introduced by Liberal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould. She says the legislation would "ensure that Canadians will be free to identify themselves and to express their gender as they wish while being protected against discrimination and hate".

Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould invited Garrison (NDP) to join her for the media announcement of the proposed legislation. Garrison is a long-time advocate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community. "The LGBT community is about 150,000 to 250,000 people in Canada, but they are not a listed group," Garrison said this week.

Garrison had made several attempts over the last few years to introduce similar legislation through private members bills. "This is the seventh time in 10 years that this bill has been introduced in the House of Commons," said Garrison. But it's the first time it has been a government bill. Former NDP MP Bill Siksay introduced similar legislation in three previous parliaments starting in 2005. Garrison introduced it in 2011 and again in 2015. The bills passed the House of Commons twice (in 2011 and 2013), then were delayed, or not acted upon in the Senate.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose opposed similar legislation in the past, but said that day she would vote in favour of the government bill. She said her caucus is free to vote as they wish. **WSV**

WHAT'S GOING ON

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Serving the Sooke community for over 25 years

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 Regular Council 7pm. (6pm Committee of the Whole cancelled) www.sooke.ca
SD62 Budget 2016. Tues May 24 Public Board Meeting. 8pm, 3143 Jacklin Rd. www.sd62.bc.ca

Sooke Program of the Arts Committee meeting. Wed May 25. 9:30 am. Council chambers. www.sooke.ca

West Shore Voice News ad deadline 5pm Wed May 25 for May 27th edition. Repeat-advertiser & non-profit discounts. www.westshorevoiceneews.com

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 http://tinyurl.com/DefencePolicyDiscussion

Alistair MacGregor, MP Constituency Office Opening in Langford. Fri May 27. 4 to 6pm. All welcome. 3202B Happy Valley Rd (at the corner of Sooke Rd). info: 1-866-609-9998

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 http://tinyurl.com/ClimateChangeTownHall

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

Water Wise Landscaping for Food Growing. Hands-on workshop at InishOge Farm, 6698 Helsen Rd, Sooke. Sat May 28. 9am-12 noon. \$30. RSVP: LittleSideRoad@outlook.com

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

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

Efficient Micro/Drip Irrigation. CRD workshop. Sat May 28. 2 to 5 pm in Sooke. Reserve a space: 250.474.9684. www.crd.bc.ca/events

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 Grade 12 Graduation. Sat June 4. 1-4pm, UVic auditorium. www.emcs.sd62.bc.ca

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

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon June 6, Sooke Legion. 11:30am to 6:30 pm. Appointments: 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

Sooke Roundabout Final Completion Ribbon Cutting. Wed June 15. (pending landscaping completion).

Purina Walk for Dog Guides. Sun June 19 at Whiffin Spit. Sign-in 10:30am, walk 11am. Register or donate: www.purinawalkfordogguides.com

SD62 Bus Registration Deadline Fri June 24. Register online for 2016-2017 school year: www.sd62.bc.ca/about/transportation

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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Canada Day. Fri July 1. Celebration at Sooke Flats, organized by the Sooke Lions.

Philharmonic Fling! Sun July 10. Pops in the Park outdoor free family concert at Ed Macgregor Park, Sooke. Gates 1 pm, concert 2:30 pm. www.sookephil.ca

Show & Shine Swap & Shop - car show. Sat July 16. 10am to 2 pm at Sooke River Campground, 2259 Phillips Rd. Register at www.sookefallfair.com

Communities in Bloom. CiB provincial judges will be touring in Sooke on Friday, July 22

Rock The Shores outdoor concert. July 22-24. Juan de Fuca Rec, Colwood. www.rocktheshores.com

WSV WEB COURTESY EDITION

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 www.westshorevoiceneews.com for just \$15.95+GST/month advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com Tel: 250.217.5821

Annie in Sooke



The family musical **Annie** is coming to Sooke. It will be on stage later this year on November 27, 28, 29 and December 2, 3, 4. But first there are auditions.

Sooke Harbour Players is seeking actors, band members and crew. The cast will include 2 male leads, 4 female leads, 10 ensemble members, and 12 youth/children.

Auditions will be held at EMCS Community Theatre at 6218 Sooke Road, on these dates:

Children (5-15yrs) either June 3rd 7-9pm or June 5th 10am-1pm;

Adults & youth (ages 16+) either June 2nd 7-9pm or June 5th 2-5pm.

For more info or to book another time, write to: annieinsooke@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/anniesooke

www.sookeharbourplayers.com WSV

When it comes to learning, does size matter?

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Class sizes in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) are slightly above the provincial average for all grades except Kindergarten.

	Gr K	Gr 1-3	Gr 4-7	Gr 8-12
SD62 Average Class Size	19.2	22.4	27.4	24.7

BC Average Class Size (public schools)	19.7	21.8	26.0	23.4
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Source: BC Ministry of Education

SD62 expects their base to grow by about 300 students per year, or about 2,000 over the next five years. "We have no idea if or when we will get new schools, but we have asked," says SD62 communications rep Lindsay Vogan. Most SD62 schools are nearing capacity, but portables can be brought in.

In one school alone -- Sooke Elementary -- there were about 30 new students in 2015-2016. Among other things, it meant that a long-time child care center that has operated out of the school was told to relocated before September 2016.

The Langford, Colwood and Sooke areas that are served by SD62 are increasing in population. Generally this is due to housing prices being lower in these western communities compared to the core areas of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay.

With home prices surging upward in the Greater Victoria area over the past two years, it is increasingly difficult for young families to become first-time home buyers. In Greater Victoria overall, the benchmark value for a single family home went up 13.5% between April 2015 and April 2016

(condos up 9.3% & townhomes up 9.6%). In that same time period, single family homes values went up 5.9% in the Westshore area.

Class size is generally thought to impact how students learn. "After a certain size is reached, the dynamic of classroom delivery changes," said Assistant Superintendent Dave Betts this week. WSV

Gr 12 grad season

Grade 12 students will soon 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).

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

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

Any special stories about student achievement are welcome: editor@westshorevoiceneews.com

To place a congratulatory greeting in the grad issues, write to advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com or call 250-217-5821. WSV

Licence to fish

Going fishing? The Dept of Fisheries & Oceans Canada requires licences to be taken out for recreational fishing in tidal waters and freshwater. There is also a special licence required to fish for halibut. The annual licence fee for BC residents is \$22.05 (\$11.55 for seniors, under age 16 free). Just for one day: \$5.51 per person. www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca WSV

2016

BE PART OF THE GRAD EXPERIENCE



You are invited to include your message in the 2016 graduation issues of *West Shore Voice News*. These editions will be 'keepers' for families and communities, including names of grads and scholarship recipients from all 3 high schools in SD62 (EMCS, Belmont, Royal Bay), and interviews with leaders in education and community.

GREETINGS TO GRADS price/week

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GRAD ISSUES (Fridays):

- ✓ June 3: EMCS grad list
- ✓ June 10: EMCS scholarships
- ✓ June 17: Belmont & Royal Bay grad list; EMCS awards
- ✓ June 24: Belmont & Royal Bay scholarships/awards

To be part of this feature, call 250-217-5821 or write to: advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com