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WSV

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

v1

Grad season!  
Congratulations to  
grads & families!

## West Shore Voice News

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How much strain to produce action? [Editorial]... 2  
Sooke bringing maintenance services in-house ... 2  
Retiring when the time feels right ..... 3  
Safe travels by limousine at grad time ..... 3  
Celebrating the EMCS gym mural: June 6 ... 4

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Friday, May 27, 2016

News of 'the west side' | Vancouver Island

Good turnout  
for a good  
shakeupWEST  
SHORE  
VOICE  
NEWS

Over 500 people got a better sense of what it would be like to experience a major earthquake, inside the Quake Cottage simulator during the May 22 Shake Zone event at the Sooke Fire Hall.

At a steady pace, people took a 1-minute 'ride' in the simulator. The operator could vary the intensity, up to the equivalent of an 8.0 Magnitude quake.

While safely seated for the short shakeup, it was informative for realizing that it would not be possible to stand up during that sort of shaking.

In the Sooke coastal area, if you can't stand up during a quake, then a tsunami is likely imminent within 60 minutes (according to modelling published by the CRD in recent years).

"The event was so successful that the Insurance Bureau of Canada is already thinking of bringing it back again in 2017," says Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen. He felt it was a good opportunity for people to be better prepared for disasters of all types, and was impressed with the number of Sooke fire department volunteers who took time from their long weekend to help out at the event. Information tables and refreshments were provided.

Juan de Fuca Emergency Preparedness coordinator Jeri Grant was pleased at the family aspect of the day and

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



West Shore Voice News

The bouncy house is always a favourite children's attraction at Sooke Fire Hall events. In the foreground, 22-month-old Isaac joined his parents at the earthquake simulator event on May 22.



West Shore Voice News

Three people at a time were asked to hold on as the simulator was put into motion.

that people came from Langford, and other areas to take part. In the relaxed atmosphere there was time to talk with people at the information tables. "I was impressed with how many children knew to 'drop, cover and hold on' during a quake," said Grant. "The message is getting out there, thanks to ShakeOut BC every year and schools being engaged in doing earthquake drills." WSV

## CRD water tours open to public

WEST  
SHORE  
VOICE  
NEWS

The Capital Regional District is offering public tours of their water supply system that serves the broader Greater Victoria area. Registration online.

• **Source to Tap** is a 5.5 hour tour (9:30am-3pm) that follows the flow of water starting at the north end of the Sooke Lake Reservoir, through forests, water supply and treatment facilities. Age 12+. Upcoming dates include June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22. • **Behind the Red Gate** is a 3-hour tour (1-4 pm) in protected watersheds and water supply facilities, including the Sooke Reservoir & Goldstream Lake Reservoir. Age 12+. Upcoming dates include June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23. • **Family Tours** are 3 hours long for all ages (9:30am-noon). Upcoming dates include June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23. [www.crd.bc.ca/watertours](http://www.crd.bc.ca/watertours) WSV

## Zika-tech at UVic

A chemist at the University of Victoria has received \$50,000 to help tackle the Zika virus outbreak. Using nanotechnology, Alexandre Brolo and his team are creating low-cost strips that detect the presence of arboviruses (such as Zika) in saliva, for use by on-the-ground health workers to detect infection trends. Zika produces microcephaly in fetuses and newborns.

WSV

SD62 budget cuts  
draw a crowdWEST  
SHORE  
VOICE  
NEWS

About 30 parents and educational stakeholder reps showed up to the Sooke School District (SD62) board meeting May 24, expressing frustration about school board expenditure cuts.

With details from SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge and SD62 Treasurer Harold Cull, the board explained to parents and reps of CUPE

New BC  
CurriculumSupporting BC  
education through  
new curriculum

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

Big changes are being made in the BC education system. "Connecting students with the skills they need to succeed in our changing world is the priority for British Columbia's new curriculum," said Education Minister Mike Bernier on May 26 in a news release. "Changes are coming to BC's education system to boost that connection."

Designed by teachers, BC's new curriculum will teach students the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic in a way that connects them to collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills that they will need to succeed after high school. New curriculum will be fully implemented in the K-to-9 years this fall, and will be available in

With redesigned curriculum being implemented, we need to ensure how we measure student success keeps pace. That's why changes are starting this coming school year to our assessment practices, reporting and graduation program," said Bernier. Key changes include:

- **Provincial exams:** Starting 2016-2017, previous five exams being replaced with assessments of the core math and literacy skills that are the foundation for all subjects. During their graduation program years, students will write provincial exams of both math skills and literacy.
- **Classroom assessment:** Student progress in subjects like science, social studies, and language arts will be assessed in the classroom.
- **Report cards:** From late June to October, parents will be consulted on what they want to know about their child's progress and how they want to get that information.
- **Career Education:** Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, students will take this course to graduate. What they learn will show them the link between the classroom and their opportunities in life.

Post-secondary institutions in BC and outside the province have been consulted about the new curriculum. The changes will improve the seamless path for students headed to university, college and trades training.

"As BC enters Year Two of the three-year transition to new curriculum, BC is building on some of the best student outcomes in the world to make them better," the BC Ministry of Education stated in their news release. "The new curriculum fits in with the key goals of BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint to re-engineer education to ensure young people have the skills they need for in-demand careers."

Parents, grandparents and guardians can check out the entire new curriculum – by grade, by subject, as well as assessment and graduation at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>. Parent engagement will begin in Fall 2016. The BC government will accept public feedback on what they want to see changed in formal and informal reports.

"We owe it to parents and to the next generation to make sure we are setting up a clear path for kids to follow their dreams and succeed," says Bernier. "Whether they want to design computer programs, build skyscrapers, or start a business, our new curriculum and our incredible teachers will help students build the foundation they need to make that happen."

The president of BC School Trustees Association, Teresa Rezansoff, called the Ministry's announcement "another positive step toward ensuring BC's education system is reframed to meet the needs of students over the next 40 years, not the last 40 years."

Sooke School District (SD62) Superintendent Jim Cambridge said: "The changes are very welcome by the District. Teachers, principals and district staff have been involved in the development over the last few years. The next two years will transition from the grad 2004 program to the grad 2016 program. We think parents and students will like the changes." WSV

and teachers that in having to produce a balanced budget to \$110,036,802 there needed to be cuts. Their deficit calculation was almost \$1.7 million. That is due, they said, to inadequate revenues and an increased expenditure load.

Most of the revenues of the school district come from the BC Government by way of per-pupil funding formula (\$7,158 per full-time student in 2015-2016). Other revenues are achieved through facility rental, International student programs, and bussing fees.

The 2016-2017 operating budget is \$94,775,109 which is up 6% from the 2015-2016 operating budget of \$89,334,524. Of the operating budget, \$75.7 million or about 85% is spent on instruction, with \$8.5 million (9%) on facilities, \$3.1 million (4%) on administration, and \$2.1 million (2%) on transportation.

In 2016-2017, SD62 will provide educational delivery for a projected 9,804 students (perhaps reaching 10,000, says Cambridge). That's continued on... pg2/

**Editorial**

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

**How much strain will produce needed action?**

● **This week at the Sooke School District (SD62) board meeting**, board chair Bob Phillips said that it's up to parents and the public now, to put pressure on the BC government about the funding of public education.

School district boards around the province must by law deliver balanced budgets. So if their expenses go up, they must still make do with the revenues at hand. Most of their revenues come from the BC government through a per-pupil funding formula. Creativity has come into play in SD62, with some additional revenues being generated through facility rentals, international student fees, bussing fee increases and charging for sports academies.

But when the provincial government downloads things onto each school district like annual rate increases from BC Hydro and the Medical Services Plan (as well as a portion of the cost to install a province-wide internet network), there is pressure to cut in other areas. The per-pupil funding pot cannot absorb these additional expenses (in SD62 it's a 6% increase in operating expenses for 2016-2017 over 2015-2016) and still hope to support production of the same results in the day-to-day classroom.

In SD62, this year the cuts were 'chosen' (deliberated with much careful debate) to occur as staffing reductions or eliminations -- across the board in administration, support staff and some in-class instructors. Although 10 more classroom teachers will be hired to cover the influx of almost 500 more students for 2016-2017, the near-surgical extraction of staffing in various key support areas will begin to show wear and tear for teachers, students, parents and the remaining support staff who will carry the load.

How far does a school board cut before there is the proverbial 'blood all over the floor'? That bleed would include special needs students and gifted students who will get less direct attention, and students who seek the input of counsellors but won't get timely or better-than-superficial attention. All of that contributes to a waste of human potential and creates a pall upon families who in many cases are already strapped for suitable support for their children in BC schools.

Underlying all of that is the financial struggle of many families. Indeed many children in BC are living in varying degrees of poverty.

It remains to be seen how much of this strain on the public school system it will take before parents -- with sadly all the many burdens already on their plate -- rise up to their government and ask for a resynthesis of how schools are funded in BC. They will need to be armed with facts and a cool head. ■



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

**SOOKE FOCUS @SookeVoiceLOCAL**



**Damaged traffic lights at the intersection of Sooke Rd (Hwy 14) and Otter Pt Rd** were being replaced on Wednesday, May 25. At the same time, the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) crew replaced the traffic-sensing loops that are under the asphalt. The intersection will operate in the same manner as before, says MOTI.

**Bluegrass fuss, & no to a second casino** *Sooke Council May 24, 2016*

● Council bounced about the idea of providing grant funding to the **Sooke River Bluegrass Festival**, changing it up to a final grant of \$2,650 instead of \$4,746 (as was the impression left with the applicants at the May 11 grants meeting).

● Sooke Mayor Maja Tait will write to BC Lottery Corp on behalf of council opposing a **second casino** in the Greater Victoria area. The idea is that there isn't enough revenue to municipalities to go around, that the one casino in View Royal is all that the region can sustain.

● Council voted to cancel seven **parks maintenance contracts** as of year-end, and to hire in-house for greater management efficiencies. Councillor Brenda Parkinson opposed the motion, as the current contracts support small local businesses. Public comment by Gail Hall was also in support of retaining small business contracts.

● The **SEAPARC** land purchase referendum results were accepted by Council, bringing that fee into the annual tax levy for Sooke taxpayers.

● **Building permits** in Sooke are up 70% this year amidst a region-wide housing sales boom, said CAO Teresa Sullivan. *WSV*

**EDUCATION NEWS @WestShoreVOICE west side of the island**

**SD62 budget cuts... continued from page 1**

up from 9,515 students in 2015-2016. SD62 serves students and families primarily in the areas of Langford, Colwood and Sooke (and also Highlands, Metchosin and Port Renfrew). More school space is needed, but for now portables will be relocated around the school district as required to accommodate the influx of more students this fall.

This year's cuts of about \$918,000 are seen almost entirely in staffing -- administrative, support, and instructional. This is largely in response to the BC Ministry of Education's directive to find 'savings' in administrative budget areas. Parents present at the May 24 board meeting were primarily concerned about

cuts to programs that require specialized teachers who deliver support to students who require individualized attention outside the larger classroom.

Superintendent Cambridge pointed out that 10 new classroom teachers are being hired for 2016-2017 to help with expansion of the student numbers in SD62. But non-enrolling support staff numbers are being cut back. "When something right happens (increased funding from the government), we can add back in the educational assistants and classroom support mid-year," said Cambridge. "If money comes in we have a place to spend it right way. We know where our cuts are." Cambridge said that a per-pupil funding formula is inadequate in particular for school districts with expanding student populations, such as Sooke.

The board passed a motion to send a letter to the BC Ministry of Education to outline the hardship on students and the learning environment by having to balance a budget that the see as inadequate on the revenue side. Notably, having to pay BC Hydro increases, MSP increases and a portion of the province-wide Internet network expansion were considered onerous to the school district. The teacher's union and CUPE, the SPEAC parents organization, and other stakeholders will be invited to sign the letter.

Board Chair Bob Phillips and Trustee Ravi Parmar were particularly vocal at the board table about the downloading of costs such as utility and MSP increases onto the local school board budget. Trustee Wendy Hobbs said she felt that there were too many waivers for families who claim they cannot pay the per-rider bus fees, and asked for more accountability in that regard. *WSV*

**BC NDP: gearing up**

● **In the world of politics**, the next provincial election in BC is right around the corner. Aiming to form the next government in 2017, the BC NDP are already pitching: "An NDP government will work on behalf of all British Columbians, not just the wealthy few," BC NDP leader John Horgan told supporters in email this week. "We'll fund our kids' education -- not starve schools for money and pick fights with teachers. We'll tackle the affordability crisis instead of burdening families with higher utility bills."

Horgan will address those gathered at the federal NDP office opening of Alistair MacGregor, MP on Friday evening, May 27. *WSV*

**BC Ferries: Pre-peak add-ons**

● **Vehicle traffic is up by about 6%** on major routes, announced BC Ferries this week. They have added 46 additional sailings on the major routes for June, including the Vancouver-Victoria service route between the Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay terminals (32 more sailings on Thursdays, Saturdays and Mondays).

Full summer schedules go into effect at the end of June for the peak season. [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com)



**District of Sooke Meeting Schedule JUNE 2016**

In Council Chambers, 2225 Otter Point Rd, Sooke

- **Parks & Trails Committee** Tuesday, June 7 at 1:00 pm
- **Committee of the Whole** Monday, June 13 at 6:00 pm
- **Regular Council Meeting** Monday, June 13 at 7:00 pm
- **Sooke Community Centre Advisory Committee** Thursday, June 16 at 10:00 am
- **Climate Change Action Committee** Thursday, June 23 at 3:00 pm
- **Committee of the Whole** Monday, June 27 at 6:00 pm
- **Regular Council Meeting** Monday, June 27 at 7:00 pm
- **Sooke Program of the Arts (SPA) Committee** Wednesday, June 29 at 9:30 am

This schedule is subject to change. Please call 250-642-1634 to confirm meetings.

**Council & CoW meetings are webcasted.** All meeting agendas at:

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

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## Retiring when the time feels right

by Mary P Brooke  
WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **“Education has been a wonderful experience for me.** This has been my third career, working in three different school districts over the years,” says Sooke School District (SD62) Assistant Superintendent Dave Betts on the eve of his self-prescribed retirement.

Recently given the honorary Coast Salish aboriginal name of “Xoeyle” (pronounced ‘Yakola’) meaning “one who sees into the distance, the eagle”, Betts precipitated his own early retirement at age 59. He will wrap up at SD62 at the end of June.

One of the most powerful realizations and motivators for Betts during his six years in the role of Assistant Superintendent is this: “Next to a parent, in education you have the most influence on youth. There is no job in the world like being in education. You can built up a person’s life, simply with words,” said Betts in an exclusive interview with *West Shore Voice News* last week. “Helping point people in the right direction can change their lives.”

In today’s world, Betts feels that youth need social skills to understand how systems work and have their best shot in life. “Figuring out where you’re going and how to get there makes it easier to make decisions,” he says with conviction.

Six years is the longest Betts has ever spent in one particular job. Previous to his teaching and education administration career, he was



West Shore Voice News

**‘The golden handshake’**

**SD62 Assistant Superintendent Dave Betts** (left) is retiring in June, to seek new horizons.

**West Shore Learning Centre principal Paul Block** (right) will be the newest Assistant Superintendent at SD62, starting in July.

the two-term mayor of Slocan, and before that a Red Seal carpenter and logger. This summer he will ride to Utah on his motorcycle to just relax. He has already had several contract offers for when he returns.

“How you leave your career will influence you for the rest of your years,” is the insight that Betts offers about retirement. He thought about “his own time to go” for about a year and a half.

But Betts’ achievements at SD62 will remain as his legacy, including his input to a visioning project to help the school district find clarity for the future. “It’s hard to get anywhere if you don’t know where you’re going,” he offers. His mark left on SD62 is having better instituted the importance of relationships, choice, respect, integrity, trust and safety in the educational environment. **WSV**

## Learning outside the mainstream

by Mary P Brooke ~ WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **“Question everything. If you don’t, who will?”** That’s what drives West Shore Learning Centre principal Paul Block, who in July will shift over to being the newest Assistant Superintendent at Sooke School District 62 (SD62).

Block has been guiding the expansion of the ‘alternative’ school component of SD62 for six years. The collection of small-class locations that he has fostered in the west shore area that is served by SD62 (including a larger presence in a building at 2139 Sooke Road in Colwood) has really caught on with youth who need additional attention or specialized guidance.

Over the years in his teaching and administration career, Block has developed a reputation that he’s proud of: “If you have a kid you didn’t know what to do with, go see Paul,” he told *West Shore Voice News* last week.

Students who are not flourishing in the mainstream system have often found their niche at West Shore Learning Centre.

Outgoing Assistant Superintendent Dave Betts is pleased that Block will be coming into the role of Assistant Superintendent at SD62 starting for 2016-2017. “Paul is 120% engaged. It’s important to have someone who cares that much, working with kids.”

“The vast majority of kids are going to be fine. Non-traditional schools work with students who need that extra nudge,” says Betts.

Success at the West Shore Learning Centre is largely a result of the client-centered approach fostered by Block, who feels the alternative learning division of SD62 has come a long way. “We let students chase their passion under the context of curriculum,” he is pleased to say. **WSV**

## Backing up the boss

WEST SHORE VOICE

● **Guiding the educational process** of almost 10,000 students in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) -- plus all the teachers, support staff and facilities -- is a big job. As SD62 Superintendent, Jim Cambridge has the support of two Assistant Superintendents who report directly to him and act in his place when he’s away.

“Specifically in Sooke, one Assistant Superintendent is responsible for all elementary schools and the other all middle, secondary and adult programs,” says Cambridge. Each has major and minor portfolios. Roberta Kubik oversees Student Support Services and Curriculum, and Dave Betts oversees Aboriginal Education and IT / Staffing. As well, they have minor portfolio assignments such as Healthy Schools Initiatives and Learning Improvement Funds, explains Cambridge.

Assistant Superintendents have achieved some distinct accomplishments in SD62 in the last couple of years, says Cambridge: “Dave has significantly revamped the dual credit and careers programs and had responsibility in developing the learning spaces in the new secondary schools. Roberta has developed the previously small areas of healthy schools and child and youth mental health and made them integral considerations in all schools and departments.”

“In SD62, the executive team works through a collaborative process for decision making and all voices are important in that conversation. To say we are a team is an understatement of the power of our collective work,” Cambridge told *West Shore Voice*.

Assistant Superintendents regularly interface with the school community. They are typically in schools every week, meeting with staff and principals. “They carve out deliberate times to school visit and stick to them,” says Cambridge.

Something of a project-oriented role, there is no schedule to the coming-and-going of Assistant Superintendents... changeovers happen through retirements and promotions. In the last six to 10 years in SD62, the Assistant Superintendent roster has been: Dave Betts, Roberta Kubik, Ron Warder (retired), Jim Cambridge, Gloria Metzger, and Terry Corcoran. **WSV**



School District 62

**SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge**

## Safe travel by limousine at grad time

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **When educational efforts** like Dry Grad are high-profile during the high school graduation season, people are increasingly recognizing the importance of making safe choices around activities, parties, and transportation. That includes students, parents and service providers.

Some tragedies in recent years having to do with party buses (mostly in the BC lower mainland area), have resulted in regulatory changes.

At the Alpine Limousine service in Langford, they are now close to being fully booked for grad season transportation services. Every limo is booked on grad night. In part, that’s because Alpine offers ‘a bit more’. “With a limo driver you get a chaperone. We ask parents to be there to get the grads on and off safely,” says Alpine owner Stew Young. “If we find any kids with alcohol we take it away and tell the parents. We end the ride if the kids are drinking.”

Last year Alpine sold their party bus, following a February 2015 announcement that ‘special authorization’ licences would be required by May 1 of that year. “Now we just provide transportation from A to B, with our seven limousines,” said Young.

Last year, NDP MLA George Heyman had said that regulation changes were positive, but wished government had acted more quickly. This year he introduced legislation asking for chaperones on party buses, but that legislation did not find success.

Drinking alcohol in any type of vehicle is illegal in BC, said BC Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Todd Stone last year when new fines were introduced.

Alpine Limousine also feels that parents must keep a watchful eye and not in any way facilitate alcohol to their teens on grad night.

In BC if minors are caught with liquor under any circumstance, they can be fined \$230.

Under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (current to May 18, 2016) there are steep fines that can be levied against drivers (\$10,000) and companies (100,000) if liquor is deliberately provided in any unlicensed place of business. **WSV**

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The CRD public tours are back and now there are more opportunities than ever to book and enjoy one yourself or with your entire family! During the tour you’ll discover the natural landscapes and water supply reservoirs. You’ll also learn about the disinfection process that provides Greater Victoria with high-quality drinking water.

There are several tour options running from May to July 2016. For the detailed schedule and online registration visit [www.crd.bc.ca/watertours](http://www.crd.bc.ca/watertours) and book your spot on the bus today! For more information call 250.474.9627

Visit [www.crd.bc.ca/watertours](http://www.crd.bc.ca/watertours) for more information.

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

**Edible Weeds.** Compost Education Centre workshop. Sat May 28, 2 to 4 pm, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. \$20 [www.compost.bc.ca](http://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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/events)

**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](mailto:LittleSideRoad@outlook.com)

**SD62 Aboriginal Grad.** Sat May 28. At Camosun College Lansdowne campus, 1 to 4pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Honey Bee Awareness Day.** Sun May 29. Tugwell Creek Honey Farm & Meadery, 8750 West Coast Rd.

**West Shore Voice News ad deadline 5pm Wed June 1** for June 3rd grad edition. Repeat-advertiser & non-profit discounts. [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

**Sooke Night Market.** First night of the season. Thurs June 2 on the Sooke Region Museum grounds. 5 to 8 pm. [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

**Annie in Sooke - auditions.** Adults June 2 (7-9pm) or June 5 (2-5pm). Children age 5-15 yr on June 3 (7-9pm) or June 5 (10am-1pm). Inquiries: [annieinsooke@gmail.com](mailto:annieinsooke@gmail.com)

**Edward Milne Community School Grade 12 Graduation.** Sat June 4, 1-4pm, UVic auditorium.

**Sooke Horseshoe Pitch official opening.** Sat June 4. Sooke River Road Park. 10:30 am

**Sooke Secret Garden Tour.** Sun June 5. Fundraiser by Sooke Philharmonic, 10-4 rain or shine.

**Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon June 6. Sooke Legion. 11:30am-6:30 pm. 1-888-236-6283 [www.blood.ca](http://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. [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)

**Belmont Secondary Graduation.** Sun June 12. UVic auditorium, 11am-1pm. [belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca](http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca)

**Royal Bay Secondary Graduation.** Sun June 12. UVic auditorium. 3-5pm. [www.royalbay.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.royalbay.sd62.bc.ca)

**District of Sooke Mon June 13 Regular Council 7pm.** (plus 6pm Committee of the Whole) [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**Sooke Region Health Summit 2016**

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**Sooke Community Hall**  
**Saturday, May 28th ■ 1 to 4pm**

**Key Note Speaker Dr. Richard Stanwick**  
Chief Medical Health Officer, Island Health

Concession stand hosted by Journey Middle School Band

For more info see [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)  
or contact Sooke Mayor Maja Tait at [mtait@sooke.ca](mailto:mtait@sooke.ca)

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If you spend a lot of time in your car or boat you need to store a grab and go kit there too!

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

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**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](http://www.purinawalkfordogguides.com)

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

**Canada Day.** Fri July 1. Activities at Sooke Flats.

**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](http://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](http://www.sookefallfair.com)

**Communities in Bloom.** CiB provincial judges will be touring in Sooke July 19-21

**Rock The Shores** outdoor concert. July 22-24. Juan de Fuca Rec, Colwood. [www.rocktheshores.com](http://www.rocktheshores.com)

**Sooke Fine Arts Show.** 30th annual juried exhibit at SEAPARC, 2168 Phillips Rd. July 22 to Aug 1. [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)

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## ONGOING EVENTS & SHOWS

● **ARTIFACTS.** Tues-Sun to May 29, 9-5 at Sooke Region Museum, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. [www.sookecommunityarts.com](http://www.sookecommunityarts.com)

● **ARTISTS FRIENDSHIP SHOW.** Daily to June 4. Reading Room Cafe, 6660 Sooke Rd. Watercolours [Linda Anderson, Louise Morin, Brenda Parkinson, Pat Phillips], jewellery & glass [Rae Williamson].

● **SOOKE NIGHT MARKET.** Thursdays June 2 to Sept 1 at Sooke Region Museum. Also daily: Farming History exhibit (upstairs).

Post your Exhibit here & on the EVENTS page at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) for just \$15.95+GST/month [advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com) Tel: 250.217.5821

## EMCS mural: June 6

● A 1,500 sq ft mural in the gym at Edward Milne Community School was completed last year, but will be celebrated at a short event on Monday, June 6 (4-5pm), in the gym, aka *the Wolverine's den*. Everyone is welcome to attend. Funding to create the mural was received from throughout the community. **WSV**

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## Work-life balance in the news

WEST SHORE VOICE

● The idea of practicing work-life balance made international news this past week, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau -- in Japan for the G-7 summit -- answered to Canadian media that he was taking a day off between meetings to spend his wedding anniversary with his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau. They reportedly had a traditional Japanese cottage for the day. Trudeau called



it time for work-life balance, as a healthy part of being in service to his country.

Trudeau clearly stated that the special day with his wife was being paid for with his own funds. **WSV**

## Growth in SD62



● Sooke School District SD62 expects their base to grow by about 300 students per year, or about 2,000 over the next five years.

The school population may reach close to 10,000 in 2016-2017 (up from 9,515 this year), said SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge at the SD62 May 24 public board meeting.

"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 or relocated.

In one school alone -- Sooke Elementary -- there were about 50 new students in 2015-2016. Among other things, it meant that a long-time child care center that has operated out of the school had to relocate in December 2015. **WSV**

## Gr 12 grad season

● Grade 12 students will soon be graduating from three high schools in Sooke School District (SD62) next month.

These formal events will be held at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium: **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).

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@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:editor@westshorevoicenews.com)

To place a congratulatory greeting in the grad issues, write to [advertising@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com) or call 250-217-5821. **WSV**

## Sooke Region Volunteer Centre: Change at the helm

● "It's time for a change in leadership," said Marlene Barry on May 10, as she announced her departure from her long-time role as Sooke Region Volunteer Centre coordinator. "We are ready for new ideas and energy, and are pleased to announce the hiring of Dawn Humphreys as the new part-time coordinator."

Humphreys has served on 15 volunteer boards including for youth, the arts, and mental health. [www.sookeregionresources.com](http://www.sookeregionresources.com) **WSV**

## 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.

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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@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@westshorevoicenews.com)

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