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

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News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookline Publishing House Inc

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Friday, August 19, 2016 News of the west side of Vancouver Island

Low-key election kickoff: Horgan's 11th BBQ

Editor, West Shore Voice News

It was a low-key affair, the 11th annual casual family-style BBQ hosted by John Horgan, MLA, at Sooke Flats on August 14.

Over the years many of the same people have attended the NDP-heavy event. This year a few new folks showed up. The burgers, salads and cake were good.

"I will need all of you to do your work for me in Langford-Juan de Fuca," the 3-time elected MLA since 2005 (and Opposition Leader since 2014) pitched to the crowd. Horgan will be out on the hustings throughout BC during the campaign leading up to the May 2017 provincial election, as if the life of the BC NDP depends upon it. Which it probably does.

The BC Liberals have been rolling out one thing after another throughout the province in the last year or two. Big money through BC on the Move for road improvements has been a high-focus initiative. No doubt this is needed infrastructure, and it does make people think BC Liberal when it comes time to vote.

ELECTION RACE WARMUP



Walking his talk. Horgan wore runners with NDP-orange stripes.

Horgan's challenge will be to remind voters that improvements to social support initiatives have often come by way of pressure from the NDP as the Official Opposition, and that an NDP government would not wait to be pressured to take pro-people actions. Also, that for the last

15 years under the BC Liberals much of the middle class has been diminished to just barely (or not even) making ends meet. Many people struggle under the weight of increasing fees for electricity, a convoluted Medical Services Program, clawbacks on some social support systems, fees for completion of adult Gr12 graduation, and more.

A recent handful of education goodies from the BC government includes \$25 million which school boards 'found' in their budgets will be released back. And last week another \$14.7 million was made available to school boards, saying no student in their own catchment area should pay for the bus to school. Bus fees were implemented by school boards years ago, as one of few ways to generate revenue (over and above what BC pays per student), as the cost of instructional staff and operations steadily increased.

Horgan reminded his BBQ audience on Sunday that "public education is the great equalizer". Horgan told West Shore Voice that the NDP is about removing barriers to education, social



The Langford-Juan de Fuca riding for the May 2017 provincial election includes Highlands, Langford, Sooke, East Sooke & Juan de Fuca up to Port Renfrew.

programs and financial stability. "Public education is one of the best investments we can make," he said.

Horgan loses Metchosin voters in the newly boundaried Langford-Juan de Fuca, which disappointed some folks at the BBQ. NDP MLA Maurine Karagianis of the newly boundaried Esquimalt-Metchosin represented the Metchosin area in her first two terms.

John Horgan and his wife Ellie have taken a personal road trip in the BC interior this week, ahead of the campaign ramp-up. WSV

Fatality at Sooke Potholes

West Shore Voice News

Sitting on a rocky ledge at Sooke Potholes with her spouse, it was then tragically that Alysha Buzzeo, 28, of Sooke lost her footing as she went to stand up on a ledge near the upper parking lot that was covered with dry grass and moss. She fell over the rocky ledge, down about 12 meters to the rocks below.

That was on the early evening of Saturday, August 13. Around 8:20 pm, Sooke Fire Rescue received the call through 911 to attend the scene. Buzzeo was deceased at the scene. Her name was released by the BC Coroner on August 15.

Attending the accident scene were Sooke RCMP, BC Ambulance, and the Sooke Fire Dept assisted by the Metchosin Fire Dept. Specifically, a 4-person trained rope-climbing crew was dispatched from the combined Sooke-Metchosin volunteer firefighter crews that train together.

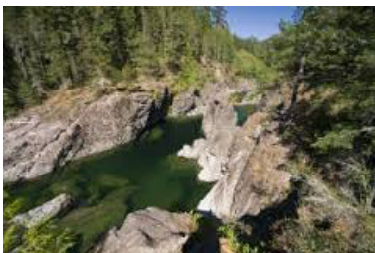
Joint training allows for crew members to know each well, which is important when dealing with emergency situations in real-time, explains Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop.

"Sooke Fire Rescue personnel remained at the scene until the arrival of the BC Coroners Service and until such time that we were directed to recover and remove the deceased," says Interim Sooke Fire Chief Russ Cameron.

On Sunday morning, August 14, Chief Cameron, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait and Council issued condolences to the family of the deceased.

Alysha Buzzeo had moved to Sooke from Edmonton in 2015; she apparently enjoyed the various parks, trails and beaches here. Details of a funeral or memorial service are not yet public.

Sooke Potholes Regional Park is a recreational wilderness park owned by the Capital Regional District (CRD). This summer the camping facility there is being operated by T'Sou-ke Nation. WSV



Sooke Potholes Regional Park is a popular camping destination with great views.

Dangerous views

West Shore Voice News

By some strange coincidence to the fall in Sooke last weekend, this week the federal Explore Canada tourism promotional service (formerly Canadian Tourism Commission) was marketing cliff-top hiking views on their Twitter feed. They show a woman sitting with her feet over the edge of a cliff at Mount Carleton in New Brunswick, beyond which was a steep drop. The



This photo was posted on @ExploreCanada this week, promoting great views from cliff-tops.

photo cutline on Twitter at @ExploreCanada included: "For one of the best views." In future, this sort of marketing idea may well be discouraged by safety professionals. WSV

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Abandoned rabbits = big dollars for taxpayers

Editor, West Shore Voice News

Saving rabbits and saving money don't seem to go hand in hand. The BC government estimates the cost as \$38,000 to have removed an original colony of about 100 rabbits from the Helmcken Interchange area ... continued on pg 2 .../

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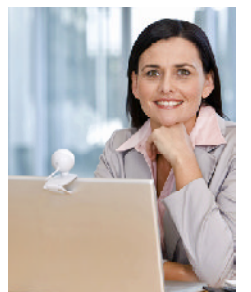
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EDITORIAL

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

Hot & dry enough for you?

● **Temperatures of 30°C or more** on the west side of Vancouver Island have been a regular thing until recent years, even in August. Indeed, NASA says that last month was the hottest July on record for planet Earth, in fact was the hottest month, period. Even if you're not a climate change 'believer', this is a concerning fact.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Extreme heat means that electricity consumption goes up (for air conditioning and the like), work productivity probably goes down (siesta!), summer water supplies are further challenged, and vegetation (including food crops) may wither or perish.

So many people took what time they could on Thursday, August 18 to enjoy the extreme heat that in the afternoon reached 33° in Langford and Sooke. Just too hot to work, just too hot not to enjoy the outdoors. As we've said in various editorials over the years, people in our busy culture are stressed. Every opportunity for a break is taken. Heat wave is right up there with statutory holidays!

This second summer drought in a row sees some trees and plants suffering for it. One hot spell was 'enough', but two is tougher. CRD recommends micro-irrigation (drip, drip) for big trees. Plants in established gardens can be watered by hand or with a hose with controlled nozzle.

This hot dry summer, chasing after last, is convincing. Environmental conditions are changing in some ways that can't be turned back. ■

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BC & Regional News

Daily news updates:
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Coastal Fire Centre campfire ban: Aug 17 to Oct 21

● **Campfires and open burning** are now prohibited in the Coastal Fire Centre on Vancouver Island, as of Aug 17 (except for Haida Gwaii and the Fog Zone). Unless otherwise stated, the ban lasts to Oct 21. Municipal bylaws can override the directive, but most municipalities – including Sooke and Metchosin with rural areas – are following the restrictions in this hot dry summer. www.bcwildfire.ca **WSV**

Rabbits cost big dollars for taxpayers

● **.../ continued from pg 1** WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS
... cost estimate by the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) includes trapping and transport of the original colony of rabbits to interim local facilities, additional signs coming soon to remind 'no rabbit abandonment here', and a surveillance camera for the same purpose – to deter rabbit drop-offs.

The grassy medians that somehow became the favoured point of no return for unwanted household pet rabbits are an unsafe location for the rabbits as well as their abandonners and the highway travellers. The rabbits have handily burrowed, and now the infrastructure repairs will cost several more thousands of dollars. Repairs need to be done to sidewalks, embankments and landscaping. Rabbits are cute but when abandoned the costs to other people (through government expenditure) are not.

Additionally, animal rights activist groups like the Victoria Pet Food Bank & Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society (aka SAFARS) have expressed concerns about the fate of trapped rabbits, proposing they may have ended up as live prey for raptors at Wild ARC. See the SAFARS Facebook page for more details on that: www.facebook.com/feralcatrehabilitationcenter

However, wildlife specialist Christina Carrières at BC Wild ARC has assured *West Shore Voice* that the 100 rabbits (which spent some time at Wild ARC in March/April because some temporary space was available) had been spayed and neutered and then shipped mid-April to an animal sanctuary in Texas.

Dr Laurie Gaines, a veterinarian at Hillside Veterinary Hospital, in 2015 initiated the efforts to collect up the abandoned rabbits. The trapping was done in February 2016, followed by spaying/neutering, and then shipping to the sanctuary. This week she said she was shocked and saddened that people continue to abandon rabbits at the Helmcken overpass site; about 20 new rabbits were seen there recently. Feeding the rabbits is also unacceptable, she says.

The BC government says under the BC Wildlife Act there is a \$345 per offence for releasing or abandoning animals. The government says that financial resources contributed by the Province and also by volunteers who took time to help rescue the rabbits are limited. "In the future, the Ministry will be forced to consider other solutions, which may include euthanization for any new rabbits found at the Helmcken Interchange," said the MOTI news release.

On August 18, SAFARS observed more rabbits near the highway. **WSV**

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Health News

Midwifery suit settlement

● **A Vancouver Island mother** is receiving over \$3 million through a lawsuit against a Cowichan-area midwife, Island Health and two nurses. The woman's son incurred injuries during delivery at Cowichan District Hospital in 2011. He now has severe cerebral palsy and intellectual impairment, requiring extensive care for the rest of his life. With additional annual payments during the boy's life, the final cost to the BC Government could reportedly be well over \$10 million.

The cost of malpractice insurance that midwives in BC must carry was dropped by half in 2007, and reduced again in 2014 based on "the excellent record that midwives currently hold in relation to large claims," says the Midwives Assoc of BC. **WSV**

Busy midwifery service in Sooke

● **Sooke Midwifery expects to handle about 69 deliveries this year.** "Most women contact their midwife as they discover being pregnant," says Uta Herold of Sooke Midwifery. Or they come later in care (10 to 12 weeks) or even in their second or third trimester if they're switching providers for some reason.

"We order all tests including ultrasound and lab work, as indicated by maternity guidelines. We collaborate with obstetricians or other specialists as indicated," says Herold, who has been a midwife in BC since 1981. She opened the Sooke Midwifery office in 2010 where currently about 90% of clients are from the Sooke area. All appropriate liability insurance is carried.

Uta Herold along with Paula Schikkerling – also a registered midwife – on average see their clients two to 15 times during the pregnancy.

Home visits are frequent, including one for sure at the end of the third trimester, and when they are in early labour. About six home visits take place within the first two weeks after birth. By over six months post-partum the client has been seen about 10 times.

"The father is always involved if circumstances allow," says Herold. Children are not usually present during a birth, but the family will be supported if they wish siblings to be present.

Midwifery services in BC are fully covered by the Medical Services Program. **WSV**

Monk Office: 50+ years and doing fine

● **The largest independent office stationery provider** and largest provider of office products on Vancouver Island is Monk Office. That includes office furniture and equipment.

The company is over 50 years old. About 10 years ago they were flagging in the shadow of competition from Staples and other larger providers. But in recent years they have remarkably turned things around.

"We live and breathe office products, so you don't have to" is one of their slogans. All the personnel throughout the entire enterprise are keenly engaged, putting people first. Whether at their retail outlets, print shops, online or over the phone, help is readily available in a way that is cross-platform. The knowledge in what you'd think are separate departments is pretty deep about the entire company.

Commercial accounts are available for businesses. Over 38,000 office products are available. They will ship to just about 'anywhere'.

www.monk.ca **WSV**

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The Sooke Voice News

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Sampler edition (PDF), archives, breaking news:

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West Shore Voice News

Inspecting those gadgets!

● **At Metchosin Fire Hall this week**, people could see and learn more about emergency preparedness gadgets such as solar lights that flash SOS in Morse code, inflatable beds, solar charging units and flameless stoves.

"We explored some interesting and unique disaster survival items," says Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop.

Each month, info sessions at Metchosin Fire Hall draw about 20 to 50 participants. **WSV**

In BC: 42% of water activity deaths are alcohol-related



● **Alcohol is a contributing factor** in 25% of all deaths involving injury in BC, said the BC Liquor Distribution branch this week. Of those deaths, most occur in July and August.

In BC, 48 people die and 160 are hospitalized with injuries on average each year due to water activities. Of those, 42% are alcohol related. Exposure to sun and open water can accelerate intoxication due to dehydration and increased body temperature.

On the road, half of all of BC's impaired driving fatalities happen during June to September, according to ICBC. **WSV**

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Art in the Park: fun day

ART in the COMMUNITY

● **Art is life** with a different name tag on it. Or, as the saying goes, "art reflects life".

And so there was a day at Ed Macgregor Park last weekend where art was the draw, and the rest was life ... music, food, mingling, entertainment, finding that perfect item to buy for your collection.

The 10-hour event was organized by the Sooke Community Arts Council (SCAC), under the guiding hand of their 2016 president Caryl Wilford and her supportive team.

It's a massive undertaking to set up a full-scale event for just one day: permits, tents, vendor applications, entertainment bookings, marketing, food services, and more.

For a little town, Sooke looks good to have such a strong arts community that pulls off major events like this.

WSV



SCAC President Caryl Wilford (left) at Fiona McDannold's booth of handwoven wares.



Active crowds all day for Art in the Park on August 13 at Ed Macgregor Park.

Linda Abraham

Linda Abraham

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Upgrade! For Grade 12 completion or post-secondary pre-requisites

West Shore Voice News



● You may have discovered that you need some additional high school courses in order to obtain your Grade 12 diploma (which in BC is called The Dogwood). Or a particular post-secondary program that you plan to take will require one or more high school prerequisites that you don't have.

This is where the Westshore Centre for Learning & Training (operated by Sooke School District 62) comes in. They offer courses that fill these specific gaps. The courses can be taken instructor-led in the classroom at the Langford campus at 814 Goldstream Avenue as well as online, depending on which ones and if class sizes are large enough. Customized morning, afternoon and evening study schedules can be put together. Face to face classes start September 6. Online courses can be started anytime, says Heather Lait, Principal, WCLT.

Even students who are still 18 years of age who have recently graduated can take courses that they may still require (for those students the courses are available without a fee). Details are online at www.westshorecentre.com or call 250-391-9002 for more information.

WSV WEB COURTESY EDITION

Donating to families in need

West Shore Voice News

● **Two thrift shops** on this west side of the island are thriving due to demand.

The Women in Need shop at 129-735 Goldstream Avenue in Langford town centre and the Sooke Family Resource Centre Thrift Shop at 6715 West Coast Road in Sooke town centre are each backed by non-profit organizations driven by social improvement for women, children and families.

Organizing the process of donations of clothing, housewares, furniture and other items is a project in itself.

■ The **WIN store in Langford** is presently jam-packed, and not accepting donations due to limited storage space. Donations of clothing, household items and furniture can be taken to the other three WIN stores (Cook St, Pandora Ave, Wilson St), see www.womeninneed.ca.

■ Donations are accepted at the **Sooke Family Resource Centre thrift shop** Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 3pm. Clothing must be washed and in good repair. Household items must be in working order and clean. They will take high chairs and car seats that are within their expiry dates. Crib mattresses still in the original plastic wrapping will be accepted. If the sign out front says 'no more donations', then they are temporarily packed to the rafters and would appreciate people coming back another day with their donations.

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Peoples (Sooke): A compounding pharmacy, for people and pets

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **Taking the big leap** from working at a Walmart pharmacy outlet, pharmacist Stephanie Yeboah bought the Peoples Drug Mart franchise in Sooke earlier this year, together with business partner and pharmacist Maria Kwari.

"Big box stores are gobbling up some of the smaller pharmacies," says Yeboah. "But with more control over what we sell, we can bring in more of the products that people want," she told *West Shore Voice News* this week.

Success at the Peoples Sooke outlet is based on "spending more time with people, and being really flexible and accommodating," the 2012 University of Saskatchewan pharmacy graduate says. Yeboah grew up in Saskatoon and studied there. She relocated to Metchosin three years ago.

Since acquiring the Sooke franchise from former long-time owner Ron Kumar in March 2016, Yeboah feels that the small store has already achieved increased sales per square foot and is providing good service.

One of the areas of expansion is in compounding. They will do custom blister packs and accommodate various billing situations.

They also provide veterinary compounding. Cats, dogs, horses, parrots, rabbits ... all of these animals are benefitting by products made at the Peoples pharmacy in Sooke.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

"We do allow animals into the store," says Stephanie. "Dogs on leashes, guided by their owners, are learning that treats are available here for good behaviour."

WSV



Stephanie Yeboah, pharmacist co-purchased the Peoples Drug Mart franchise in Sooke earlier this year.

Peoples Drug Mart

Shoppers Optimum Points system in glitch-mode this week

WEST SHORE VOICE

● **Ah, the joys and agonies of dependence upon computers!**

The Shoppers Drug Mart point-of-sale Optimum Points loyalty program has not been recording points properly at Shoppers Drug Mart stores since Friday, Aug 5 – all across Canada. The reason given? Major IT issues.

A lot of concerned customers have been tying up the Optimum Points call-in-centre lines in Toronto.

Coupon redemptions are sometimes entirely missed and/or not visibly recorded on receipts from the cash register, and points balances are becoming cumulatively out of whack.

Transactions can in fact be seen on the main computer system by head office operators, but the receipts at stores and that show on a customer's online Shoppers interface are notably incorrect.

No 'fixed-by' date has been given for seeing the system operating smoothly again. The only info given so far is that IT programmers are working on it.

● Redeem 22,000 points to get **\$30** off your purchase.

● Redeem 38,000 points to get **\$60** off your purchase.

● The computerized Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum Loyalty Point system is almost an economy unto itself. In these tough economic times a lot of people probably depend upon points redemption to make ends meet.

SHOPPERS OPTIMUM POINTS®

"Our understanding is that points awarded from Aug 5 to now are not visible on customers points balances and that coupons loaded to optimum cards via the app are not being rewarded," says Marcus Farmer, store manager at Shoppers in Sooke. "We are confident that all points balances will be properly updated as soon as possible. The simple thing to do at this point is to hang onto receipts and plan to check once the computer network is back up and running," says Farmer.

The coupon system has become increasingly complex since becoming digital-only last year. Buy this, get those points, get more points if you spend this amount or that. It's a Rubik's cube that perhaps has overloaded the computers this week. Customized coupons have this year in particular tilted more toward what you've already recently purchased than what Shoppers might like to suggest that you purchase. But if you've already just bought something, why would you buy it again right away? The programmers and marketers may need to combine forces on their strategies while the IT mechanics are being sorted out.

WSV WEB COURTESY EDITION

Separate your glass.

GLASS NOT PROPERLY SEPARATED CAN CONTAMINATE AN ENTIRE LOAD.

Glass bottles and jars are now required to be separated from other recyclables into a separate blue box or similar sized container to quality for curbside pick up. Separating your glass ensures other blue box materials are not contaminated with broken glass, and more importantly, keeps you and the drivers safe from broken glass. For helpful separation and safety tips visit www.crd.bc.ca/glass

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Beach Food at the Colwood Waterfront. Sat Aug 20 on Ocean Blvd. 11am-7pm.

TELUS Fun Day at Tom Harris Cellular. Sat Aug 20, 11am to 3pm. 147-2401C Millstream Rd, Langford. BBQ, bouncy house for kids, prizes. Draw to win 4K TV.

Harmony Project Sooke bottle drive fundraiser. Sat Aug 20, 9:30 am to 2 pm at Sooke Elementary.

Learn to Make a Re-Usable Bag. Sat Aug 20 at the Zero Waste Sooke booth, 10am to 2pm, Sooke Country Market (Otter Pt at Eustace). www.zerowastesooke.ca

Sooke Harbour Festival. Sat Aug 20 Kayak race from Coopers Cove at 10:30am, to Ed Macgregor Boardwalk. Music & food 10:30am to 4pm, plus 30-min harbour tours by kayak. www.emcsprograms.ca

Music in the Park - 'Maureen Washington Quartet'. Sun Aug 21. Free 2-4pm. Veterans Memorial Park. www.cityoflangford.ca

Beach Food at the Colwood Waterfront. Fri Aug 26 & Sat Aug 27 on Ocean Blvd. 11am-7pm. Last Beach Food days of the 2016 summer season.

Courtesy online edition

Sooke Fall Fair Market. Sat Aug 27 at Sooke Community Hall, 9am to 2 pm. www.sookefallfair.ca

Organic Plant Sale. Sat Aug 27 Victoria Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. 10am-2pm. www.compost.bc.ca

Music in the Park - 'Rukus'. Sun Aug 28. Free concert 2-4pm. Veterans Memorial Park. www.cityoflangford.ca

Sooke Legion Burger & Beer Night. Sun Aug 28. Fundraiser for painting the building. 5-10pm. \$25pp, kids age 6-10 \$10 (under 6 free).

District of Sooke - Special Council Meeting. Mon Aug 29, 7pm. Agenda & webcast: www.sooke.ca

District of Sooke ~ Sooke Program of the Arts Ctte. Wed Aug 31, 9:30 am. Agenda: www.sooke.ca

Sooke Night Market ~ last of the season, Thurs Sept 1. 5 to 8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Beach Art. Sat Sept 3. Free outdoor creative art event. Build art from what you find on the beach! At Whiffin Spit. Registration starts 11 am, judging starts 2 pm, winners announced at 3 pm. www.sookecommunityarts.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Sept 5, 510 Mt View Ave, Colwood. Register at www.blood.ca

Back to School (SD62 - Langford, Colwood, & Sooke). Tues Sept 6. Check schedules: www.sd62.bc.ca

Sooke Community Arts Council AGM Tues Sept 6, 7pm, Sooke Harbour House: www.sookecommunityarts.com

Exhibits
Post your exhibit here (& online) for total of just \$15.95+GST. Call 250-217-5821 or email: advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com

Growing Local: Bean there, doing that! To Sept 2 www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Destination Victoria Aug 3 to 28 at Coast Collective. www.coastcollective.ca

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www.prepareyourself.ca

Taste of SEAPARC. Tues Sept 6 to Sat Sept 10. Try some programs free! www.seaparc.ca

Annual Sooke Fall Fair at Sooke Community Hall. Sat Sept 10 & Sun Sept 11. Displays, Sookeini Race, lots of family fun. Info on Year of the Pulse (beans & lentils). Category winners announced on Sun. www.sookefallfair.ca

District of Sooke Committee of the Whole 6pm & Regular Council 7pm. Mon Sept 12. Agenda & webcast: www.sooke.ca

WEB COURTESY EDITION Pop-Up Markets

Sooke Night Market. Thursdays. Sooke Region Museum, 5 to 8pm (to Sept 1). www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Sooke Country Market. Sat. 10am-2pm. Otter Pt Road at Eustace, Sooke (to Oct)

Goldstream Farmers Market. Sat 10am-2pm. Veterans Memorial Park, Langford (to Oct 15).

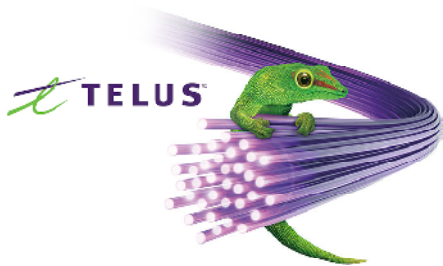
Metchosin Farmers Market - Sun. 11am-2pm to Oct 30. 4450 Happy Valley Rd

Shirley Country Market Sun 10-4, Pioneer Park, Shirley (to Sept).

Campfire Ban on Vancouver Island: Aug 17 to Oct 21 • **Fall 2016 ~ Royal Visit in BC & Yukon ~ William & Kate, with Prince George & Princess Charlotte: dates tba**

TELUS fun day in Langford, August 20

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



● **Fun for the whole family this Saturday**, August 20 at the Tom Harris Cellular store location in Langford. BBQ, bouncy castle, and giveaways. 11am to 3 pm. Enter a draw to win a 4K TV.

TELUS is sponsoring the event as part of their summer-long promotion of their Optik TV highspeed service in the west shore and Sooke areas. **WSV**

Beach Food in Colwood this weekend and next

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **Beach Food on the Colwood waterfront**, continues this Friday (Aug 19) and Saturday (Aug 20), as well as next Friday and Saturday (Aug 26 & 27).

All summer this has been an opportunity for area food vendors to strut their stuff and for beach visitors to enjoy the tasty fare!

On Ocean Boulevard, 11am to 7 pm on each of those dates. **WSV**

Organic plant sale by several farms: Aug 27

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



● **Getting some organic plants into your garden** or greenhouse for the winter is made easier by the Victoria Compost Education Centre. They are hosting an Organic Plant Sale on Saturday, August 27 at 1216 N Park St, Victoria, 10am to 2pm. The plants for

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Kayaking, bottle drive, reusable bag-making in Sooke: Sat August 20

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



WEB COURTESY EDITION

Gearing up for the Sooke Harmony Project Bottle Drive. From left: Shae-Noelle Ottesen, Ryan Ottesen, Sonya Cook, and Sooke Harmony Project Treasurer Paul Martin.

● **The second-last weekend of summer in Sooke** sees a collection of fun and supportive activities on **Saturday, August 20.**

■ The first-ever **Sooke Harbour Festival** starts with a kayak race from Coopers Cove over to Ed Macgregor Park boardwalk, and then the fun begins with music, food, and 30-minute kayak tours from 10:30 am to 4 pm. Organized through the EMCS Society. www.emcsprograms.ca

■ The **Sooke Harmony Project** which supports music learning (such as the Gr 2 & 3 beginners strings class this fall, and a drumline class for Gr 6-8) is holding a bottle drive at Sooke Elementary, 6560 Sooke Rd, 9:30am-2pm. www.harmonyprojectsooke.ca

■ Need another re-usable bag, or want to learn how to make one? Drop by to the **Zero Waste Sooke** booth at Sooke Country Market (Otter Pt Rd at Eustace in town centre), 10am-2pm. www.zerowastesooke.ca **WSV**

sale will have been grown on site, and also by four local organic farms: Saanich Organics, Ravensong, Metchosin Farm, and Fiddlehead Farm. Price depends on size and type of plant. Most containers are 6-packs for around \$4 each. Look for kale, broccoli, cabbage, arugula, winter lettuce, cilantro, parsley, and more. www.compost.bc.ca **WSV**

Young prince & princess along for BC & Yukon trip

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

● **It was announced this week** that Britain's young Prince George, 3, and his baby sister Charlotte, 15 months, will be along on the trip to BC & Yukon with their parents William and Catherine, the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge.

Apparently William and Kate did not want to be apart from their children during this trip, despite the obvious challenges of travelling with small children.

The itinerary has yet to be announced, but it reportedly to include plenty of outdoor time in the natural wilderness of BC.

Reportedly their travel to BC will be by a direct commercial flight to Vancouver, not by private jet. The BC outdoor time reportedly will be in the mainland interior with access to fresh water lakes and rugged mountainous beauty. **WSV**



This is the personal flag of The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) for use when he is Canada. He is second in line to the throne after his father Charles, Prince of Wales. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Sooke Community Arts Council

BEACH ART

GREAT FAMILY FUN! **Saturday September 3** **Concession: Sooke Harbourside Lions**

Registration: 11:00 a.m.
Judging: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

creating art, using only found items from the beach at Whiffin Spit

NOTHING CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE SITE!!
Cookies by donation with proceeds to the Food Bank.

www.sookecommunityarts.com Facebook: Sooke Beach Art