

Meaningful news for community-minded readers "on the west side"
 News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online)
 by Brookline Publishing House Inc

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Week #299 of The Voice

Colour print edition on newsstand at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke

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

4 pages this issue

The Voice Since 2011

Storms Rule!
 Rain & wind 3 times this week

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West side of Vancouver Island

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West Shore Voice News

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Friday, October 14, 2016 WEST SIDE OF VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC

20 years, coming together to learn

by Mary P Brooke
 West Shore Voice News

Heavy rainfall and strong winds didn't keep the crowds away from this event on Thursday evening, October 13.



West Shore Voice News

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Tours of the school were given by leadership students. The outdoor mural sets an upbeat 20th anniversary tone.

About 200 people came out to celebrate 20 years of education and community activity at Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) in Sooke.

"Tonight is about acknowledging the people who had a hand in building this building," said EMCS Principal Pat Swinburnson in his opening remarks in the school theatre. He also addressed the philosophy that he firmly believes and has often repeated in his five years as principal for the Grade 9 to 12 students at EMCS, that enhancing the student sense of belonging and sense of ownership ultimately translates into better achievement. Swinburnson itemized how of the 2016 graduating class, 44% went on to post-secondary (11 of those to UVic with entrance scholarships). Scholarships won by last year's grads tallied to about \$90,000. There will be 178 graduates coming up in June 2017, half of whom will have taken dual-credit courses for credit in first-year classes at Camosun College.

Speeches by invited dignitaries were laden with historical detail and accolades. The crowd of about 100 people who stayed for the formal portion after a walkabout reception in the school commons, heard from Sooke historian Elida Peers, the first EMCS school coordinator Phoebe Dunbar, and Del Clarke who was the principal when the school opened in 1996.

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A broad range of the community intermingled in the commons area including students, alumni, administration, staff, SD62 trustees, a few District of Sooke councillors, and the general public. There were student showcases of robotics, music, theatre, and visual arts. Culinary arts students moved about the commons and lobby areas offering apps to the guests.

Tours of the school were led by students, exploring the school's four 'pods', one each for academics, science, music and theatre, and athletics. The theatre is central to the building for hosting the community and for revenues (by way of theatre rentals by the EMCS Society), filled with 350 seats that were donated at \$300 each back when the school was coming together for its opening. In the school commons, central to the eye, are the assembled bones of a grey whale, hanging from above. That whale had a significant impact on the architectural design of the building, including open spaces and the pod areas.

A wrap-around 90 ft mural that was installed this month on the outside of the west wing of the building represents both the history and the future of the school. Several panels painted on marine-grade plywood comprise the full visual experience. Placed at eye-level, its impact is both entertaining and embracing.

At the end of the evening, T'Sou-ke Nation elder Shirley Alphonse blessed the EMCS building for its history, its present activities, and what it will be and offer in the future for students and the community.

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SD62 Board Chair Bob Phillips in the EMCS Theatre: "The school system tries to bring something special to each student."



Anniversary crowd in the EMCS commons.



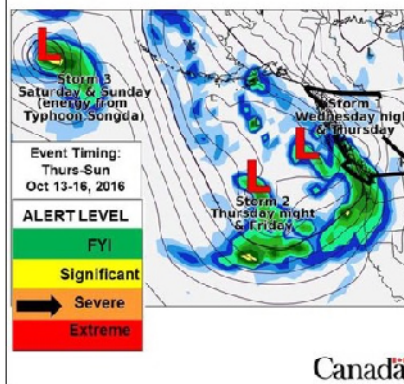
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EMCS Principal Pat Swinburnson and EMCS Career Coordinator Susan Percival at the donor board for the school's gym mural.

Storm triad Windy weather

West Shore Voice News

Early Notification for Emergency Management
Heads Up
 Intense Storm Cycle
 Across South Coast



It was a blustery day on Friday, October 14, with rain, and the evening before delivered buckets of rain, as did Wednesday evening. Three days in a row and counting. Another storm is expected on Saturday night, October 15.

Environment Canada predicted earlier in the week that three storms would follow in fast sequence, one starting Wednesday night, another on Thursday/Friday and the last – with remnants of a typhoon – coming on Saturday/Sunday leading possibly into Monday morning, October 17.

Based on that warning, earlier this week the District of Sooke offered sand and bags, that people could fill using their own shovels. If strategically placed, sandbags can help redirect streams of rainwater in directions leading away from houses to help prevent flooding. For access to the sandbag supplies, visit the Sooke Public Works Yard at 2060 Kaltasin Rd weekdays 8:30am-4:30 pm or on Sat/Sun October 15 and 16, by calling 250-415-3475.

With the idea of excessive rain and wind, people on the west side of Vancouver Island were this week preparing their yards for winds by putting away loose items, as well as shoring up their emergency supplies. Apparently there was a run on flashlights and batteries at Sooke Home Hardware on Friday afternoon, in the wake of a wake-up call – literally – at 5 am on Friday morning with flashes of sky-brightening lightning and crashes of dish-rattling thunder.

"As with any autumn or winter storm, residents should make sure eaves troughs and drains should be cleared," says Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Coordinator Jeri Grant. "Secure any loose items outside. Have electronics like cell phones fully charged. Check your emergency kit to make sure batteries for flashlights and radio are fresh," she says. "It's a good idea to have car gas tank is above half full. There's nothing worse than having a near-empty tank and the gas station is without power," said Grant this week.

"Hopefully the projected landfall for the third storm is still Washington State and not Vancouver Island," says Jeri Grant. The third of this week's three storms is projected to be stronger than the one on Friday.

Trees falling across hydro lines can cause damage and outages. Always remain far back from downed lines. Removing loose limbs from trees can be a wise move ahead of a predicted strong storm.

Mayor's Open House

On behalf of Mayor and Council, the Mayor wishes to invite you to an open house.

Monday, October 17, 2016

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Sooke Community Hall
 2037 Shields Road



This is an opportunity for Sooke residents to learn more about the municipality's strategic priorities, future plans and initiatives.



www.sooke.ca

EDITORIAL

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

Reminders are blowing in with the wind

With the spectre of planning for three powerful rain and wind storms this week, many of us were reminded to prepare our homes inside and out for what might come. You never really know for sure. Forecasts can be inaccurate, but the exercise of preparation is a good reminder for life in general.

Also this week, reminders of how short life can be. The sudden death of former Alberta Premier Jim Prentice in a plane crash this week reminds us how we never know when the inevitable will come. Prentice was only 60 years old, presumably in good health and enjoying the comforts of a full active life.

A reminder that time marches on. The 20th anniversary celebration of a school that has beat somewhere in the heart of just about everyone in Sooke in some way or another seemed more moving than one might expect. Laden with a lot of dry details more meaningful to those who lived it than those who were in the room on Thursday night, historical speeches by those who helped pull Edward Milne Community School together for its 1996 opening somehow made-still an important moment in time.

The early-onset winter storm season sees hundreds of people moving indoors off the streets into emergency shelters throughout BC. How blessed we are in our homes, with a source of income and a family life routine.

The wind itself reminds us of the ultimate power of mother nature. A prized garden made mulch by a fallen tree. Or we lose access to handy electronics and convenient appliances by a lack of electricity due to downed power lines. Not to mention the power of water, flooding its way into the domain of modern life.

None of us can remain on high alert at all times. But these times of urgent



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

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preparation, respectful remembrance and stark reminders are powerful moments that serve as bookends to the regular routines of everyday lives.

editor@westshorevoiceneews.com

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Health care assistants deal with a wider range of seniors' needs compared to previous years.

WorkSafeBC, who coordinated the conference committee. Speakers were Kath Murray, RN, educator and author, *Strength Training for HCAs*; Elizabeth Causton, MSW, *Baggage and Boundaries: Foundations for Compassionate Care*; and Brenda Robinson, trainer and speaker, *Energy for the Day*. On hand were reps from Beacon Community Services, Camosun College and Home Instead Senior Care who presented on *The Dementia Experience*.

"HCAs have an incredibly challenging job. There are things within the client population that make their job harder," says Symon. He says that more clients in residential care have dementia, plus complex medical needs beyond that. "We have an aging worker population and an aging population as a whole. It makes for a difficult working environment."

HCAs work throughout BC. Some are hired directly by health authorities, others at private non-profit and home care agencies. They are primarily working in long term care and home care facilities. And in the last few years, their numbers have increased in acute care settings in hospitals.

There is growth in the home care industry, and WorkSafeBC payroll stats show the dramatic increase. "The Ministry of Health's position is that receiving care in your home versus getting put into a residential care facility is a better type of care for the individual and for the family," says Symon.

The HCA industry produces the largest number of WorkSafeBC claims throughout the province. "This is an at-risk group. It's more difficult for us to reach out as they don't have a professional association. So far, there's no common way to contact or reach out to all of them," Symon says.

The October 6 conference was a way to invite facilities to select individuals to come to attend the sessions. In the past, more of the professional development opportunities around health and safety were focussed on care facility owners, managers, supervisors.

HCAs become qualified by taking a six-month post secondary diploma program that is offered at more than 25 institutions in BC. Sprott Shaw College and Camosun College were actively involved in the conference committee.

The conference provided HCAs with some opportunities, tips, tools, and resources for creating a safer work environment for themselves and ultimately an environment that promotes consistency of care.

ShakeOut BC: drop, cover and hold on!

Are you ready for the big one? It's not a matter of if a 9.0 Magnitude earthquake will occur along the west coast of BC, but when. That's the science of it.

A practice opportunity is coming up at 10:20 am on Thursday, October 20. No matter where you are in BC, you can take part. Individuals, schools, businesses and offices can all register to take part. Over 720,000 participants have registered as of October 14. Last year there were 770,000 participants. There is still time to register! It just takes a few minutes online: www.shakeoutbc.ca

The Shakeout BC website has lots of information about why 'drop, cover and hold on', and how to participate in drills. There's information on tsunamis, which are a series of waves. For the west side of Vancouver Island there'll 30 to 60 minutes to get to higher ground, depending on your location.

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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Health care assistants making lots of claims

West Shore Voice News ~ Exclusive

One of the most dangerous jobs in the province is being a tree faller. They have a higher injury rate than those working in long term care.

"But the unique thing with health care assistants is that there are more time loss injuries than any other occupation in BC," says Stephen Symon, Manager, Independent Living Systems (ILS), WorkSafeBC. "It is a large workforce, with more injuries than what they represent in percentage of payroll. More than 1 in 10 will get injured," he told *West Shore Voice News* this week.

HCAs are the frontline caregivers who provide personal care to clients and patients with increasingly complex care needs in homes, residential facilities, and hospitals. According to WorkSafeBC statistics, Health Care Assistants experience the highest number of injuries of any occupation in BC. WorkSafeBC accepted more than 15,000 time-loss claims in the last five years in this occupation mainly caused by overexertion, violence, infectious disease, motor vehicle incidents, and slips, trips and falls.

The first conference in BC to support the well-being and soft skill development of Health Care Assistants (HCAs) was held on October 6 in Esquimalt. The one-day conference attended by over 150 HCAs and employers was sold out. It focussed on workplace safety education from a psychological/social perspective; topics ranged from proactive dementia care strategies to how to avoid compassion fatigue, survivors' guilt and burn out. "There was clearly a need and an appetite for this information," says Heather Middleton, Industry Specialist, Health Care with

Mammography technologist award highlights quality screening care

The 2016 Screening Technologist of the Year Award of the BC Cancer Agency's Screening Mammography Program has been awarded to a mammography technologist on Vancouver Island. The award was given to Barb Nugent of Duncan. Annually one technologist in the province is recognized for excellence in mammography professionalism and patient care.

A screening mammogram consists of four images (two of each breast) that look for hidden cancer in women who are healthy (no evident symptoms) and have never had breast cancer. Mammograms are used to help detect cancer in its earliest stages. The BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) says that with early detection there are more treatment options and a better chance for successful treatment. Women who had their mammograms performed by Nugent participated in the nomination, citing how comfortable she made them feel.

BCCA says that with more than 30 years of experience performing mammograms, Barb Nugent is one of the many knowledgeable technologists who perform mammograms at Screening Mammography Program clinics across the province. Since May 2005, Nugent has been a dedicated member of the mammography team at the Cowichan District Hospital. The mammography clinic in Duncan operates weekdays with a number of highly skilled technologists.

The Screening Mammography Program of BC offers screening mammograms to women age 40 to 74. Women can decide whether screening is right for them with info at www.screeningbc.ca/breast. Those without a family history of breast cancer can have a mammogram every two years, and women ages 40-74 with one first-degree relative (mother, sister, or daughter) with breast cancer should have a mammogram every year. A doctor's referral is not required. There are 36 fixed screening mammography centres throughout the province. Clinic locations are listed at www.screeningbc.ca/breast. There are also three mobile screening units (aka 'Mammovans') that serve more than 150 rural and remote communities in BC. One of those mobile clinics came to Sooke earlier this year, supported with a high-profile campaign by the local Shoppers Drug Mart store.

Last year, 255,536 screening mammograms were done in BC and 1,406 breast cancers reported (5.5 per 1,000 exams). BCCA says research shows a 25% reduction in deaths from breast cancer among women who are screened through the Screening Mammography program. The program was established in 1988.

WSV

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SHAKE it up on Oct 20



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registered as of Oct 14.

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More schools needed:

Student population surges on the west side of Vancouver Island

West Shore Voice News

Over 500 more K-12 students are now attending school in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) for 2016-2017 compared to last year. The total student count is now almost 10,000.

More families are moving to the west shore in search of relatively affordable housing. Larger housing developments in Langford and Colwood are booming, and smaller housing projects are popping up around Sooke.

The message from SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge is that without additional classrooms, it's been a challenge to find spaces for every student.

This week the SD62 board heard the official student numbers from Assistant Superintendent Paul Block. He released the specifics at this month's Education Committee of the Whole, held October 11 in the open-space library at Edward Milne Community School in Sooke.

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There are 9,551 students in K-12 this year. And when adding in the alternative learning stream and distributed learning students, the tally comes to 10,019 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students in SD62 for the 2016-2017 school year. That's an increase of 518 K-12 FTE's over last year, and in total including alternative and distributed learning, the increase is 468 FTE's over last year.

On that stormy Wednesday night of October 12 there was an SD62 mixer with the West Shore Chamber of Commerce held in the beautiful new commons area of Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood. At that gathering, SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge addressed about 50 business people and school administrators, staff and teachers about the practical and financial challenges to accommodating so many new students. Part of the solution is in planning for expansion and pitching to the provincial government for more classroom spaces in existing schools or even for a new school or two. It takes at least three years to project classroom space requirements, make the plans, discuss those plans with the Ministry of Education, and get a school built, sometimes longer.

The SD62 board became well versed in school construction in recent years. They planned and went through all the many steps to get two new high schools opened for September 2015. Yet Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood and the new Belmont Secondary in Langford are already full due to the recent influx of residents to the west shore area. Four portables were installed out the front of Royal Bay for September 2016 and Belmont will need a portable too. A new classroom is being built at Happy Valley Elementary in Langford. The board bought themselves some time with the expected surge in student population by shifting the Langford and Colwood families of schools to a Gr 6 to 8 configuration for middle schools for September 2015, easing up some room in elementary schools that now 'graduate' their students at Gr 5.

This is a hands-on board of trustees at SD62 who – with their senior staff – know their school district inside and out. They visit, consult, listen and act in all areas of the school district. More than half of the seven trustees have held their seats for several terms. They've seen and lived a lot of the history of SD62 which serves families and students in a wide swath of the west side of Vancouver Island: View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Langford, Colwood, Sooke, the Juan de Fuca electoral area, and out to Port Renfrew.

The October 13 event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Edward Milne Community School in Sooke was attended by SD62 Board Chair Bob Phillips and Vice-Chair Dianna Seaton, as well as SD62 Assistant Superintendent Dave Strange.

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SD62 is the largest employer on the west side of Vancouver Island. WSV

SD62 Student Population Increase Expected in 2017 to 2026 by municipality

Langford 1,630
Colwood 681
Sooke 447
JdF EA 170
Highlands 123
Metchosin 17



West Shore Voice News

<< SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge addressed the West Shore Chamber of Commerce Oct 12

'Master of Disaster' for Grade 6 kids

West Shore Voice News

A new emergency preparedness education program aimed at students "to do their part to prepare BC families and communities for emergencies" is now available in BC classrooms, as announced by Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness Naomi Yamamoto on October 14.

The 'Master of Disaster' program is a three-module learning resource, available in English and French. It's designed to help Grade 6 students learn about emergency preparedness from a proactive and interactive all-hazards perspective.

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To become a Master of Disaster, students gain the knowledge necessary to prepare for the worst should disaster strike, as well as the skills to create more resilient and connected households and families that understand the importance of working together before, during and after an emergency.

The program was first introduced by PreparedBC as a pilot in five schools in April 2016. Feedback from teachers and students who participated in the pilot has been incorporated to enhance the program in preparation for the launch.

The program was developed in collaboration with public, independent and



MASTER OF DISASTER

Targeting Grade 6 for emergency preparedness leadership.

First Nations school teachers across BC, emergency program coordinators, parent advisory council members, school administrators and the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

The learning materials are available to all BC schools including public, independent, francophone and First Nations schools, as well as home study.

The program aimed at Grade 6 is flexible and adaptable and can be used for a variety of school-age children.

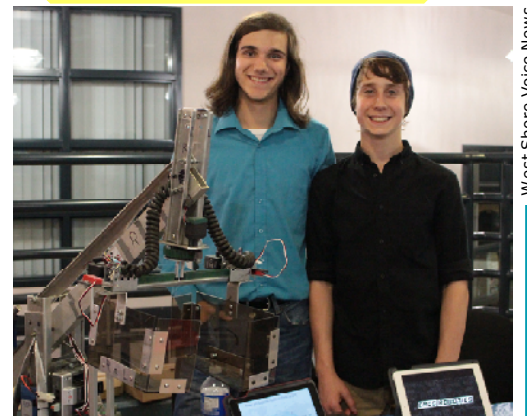
Each Master of Disaster module is aligned with the new provincial curriculum and supported by worksheets, learning plans, a multi-media library and a role-playing game featuring a colourful cast of community characters. WSV

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Robotics at school

EMCS Robotics is a student club that develops robotics on a competitive level. Skills Canada tests students who invest effort in a developing industry such as joinery, robotics, animating, and graphic design. The club's goal is to compete annually in the Skills Canada robotics division.

The club has also started the EMCS ReUse Program to reduce E-Waste. The community is invited to bring old computers and handheld electronics to the EMCS School office, from where they will be sent to appropriate recycling destinations. WSV



During the EMCS 20th Anniversary event on Oct 13, EMCS students Triston Line (left) & Justin Tomlinson demonstrated a robot made by EMCS Robotics. WSV

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District of Sooke community events for public input to the Official Community Plan.

- Oct 1-31 - Drop-In Comment Station, SEAPARC (during their regular hours)
- Oct 17 - Mayor's Open House, Sooke Community Hall, 6:30 to 8 pm
- Oct 20 - Talktober, Sooke Community Hall, 7 to 9 pm
- Nov 2 - Environmental Focus Group, SEAPARC 2:30-7:30 pm
- Nov 15 - Social Community Focus Group, SEAPARC 2:30-7:30 pm
- Dec 1 - Built-Form & Infrastructure Focus Group, SEAPARC 2:30-7:30 pm

All events are drop-in

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Who's Hooting? Nature walk at Mill Hill, Langford. Sun Oct 16. 1 to 2:30 pm. Learn about owls in the area. Age 5+. www.crd.bc.ca/about/events

District of Sooke Mayor's Open House Mon Oct 17. 6:30 to 8 pm at Sooke Community Hall. Meet with the mayor to discuss strategic priorities, future plans & initiatives. Everyone welcome. www.sooke.ca

Twoonie Tuesday. Tues Oct 18. Donations for Sooke Food Bank collected around town by Sooke Harbourside Lions.

West Shore Voice News - AD DEADLINE 5pm Wed Oct 19 for Oct 21 issue. Ad rates online (discounts for non-profits): www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Great BC Shakeout. 'Drop, cover and hold on' at 10:20 am for BC-wide earthquake drill Thurs Oct 20. Register at www.shakeoutbc.ca

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"Talktober" - District of Sooke Official Community Plan Open House. Drop-in to review and discuss draft OCP, economic development, budget 2017, alternative housing. Thurs Oct 20. 7 to 9 pm, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd. All welcome. www.sooke.ca

Non-Instructional Day for public schools (BC-wide). Fri Oct 21. www.sd62.bc.ca

Juan de Fuca Search & Rescue Open House. Sat Oct 22. 10-2. In East Sooke at 1397 Coppermine Rd. Food, scavenger hunt, prize draw. www.jdfsar.ca

Halloween Dog Dress-Up Party. Sat Oct 22. Fundraiser for The Boneless Project, at Speedsource Fitness, 2197 Otter Point Rd, 11-3. Bring dogs in costume. Treats/beverage by donation. www.safars.org

Welcome Back Week Vancouver Island Regional Library. Oct 23-29. Late fees will be waived.

District of Sooke Committee of Whole 6pm; **Regular Council** 7pm. Mon Oct 24. www.sooke.ca

District of Sooke Program of the Arts Committee. Wed Oct 26. 9:30 am. www.sooke.ca

Fighting in Flanders. Sept 16 to Dec 2. Travelling exhibit from the Canadian War Museum. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Art & Poetry Pairings. Oct 5 to 30. www.coastcollective.ca

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It's #ShakeOutBC week! Take time to update your emergency plan & kit.

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Prepare for the ShakeOut

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www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/prepare-your-home

www.prepareyourself.ca

BC Ministry of Education community meeting for Greater Victoria: Thurs Oct 27 at Central Middle School, 1280 Fort St, Victoria (5-8 pm). www.engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress

Sooke Folk Music Society concert with Cindy Church & Nathan Tinkham. Fri Oct 28. 8pm at Holy Trinity, 1962 Murray Rd. Tx \$15 Shoppers, \$20 at door.

Halloween. Mon Oct 31

District of Sooke Parks & Trails Committee. Tues Nov 1. 1pm. www.sooke.ca

District of Sooke Environmental Focus Group Wed Nov 2 public drop-in at SEAPARC 2:30-7:30 pm

SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Nov 8. Crystal View Elementary. 7pm.

Remembrance Day. Fri Nov 11.

Schools in stormy weather

Weather on Vancouver Island is usually mild, but at times there are storms, power outages, and days that are particularly cold and even snowy.

In Sooke School District 62 (SD62) the decision to close a school due to a power outage is made on a case-by-case basis, taking all factors into careful consideration.

SD62 schools will do its best to be open for students and staff on all prescribed school days to provide duty of care. The safety of students and staff is the school district's first priority. Circumstances involving snow, flooding, or a power outage could cause disruption to a normal school day. TAny decision to close schools or cancel school buses is made by Superintendent Jim Cambridge.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

In all cases, announcements are made to parents, students and staff as close to 6:30 am as possible by way of the SD62 website at www.sd62.bc.ca and on the SD62 Twitter and Facebook streams. Direct emails are sent to parents. Regional media picks up the info for redistribution.

School bus transportation may be cancelled when the Superintendent is advised by the Transportation Department that roads are in poor condition and not safe. The Superintendent will then make the decision to open schools as normal or close them. If buses are cancelled, but schools are open, children may get to school by parent/guardian choice, but schools will not conduct a normal instructional day due to the decrease in students and staff.

Sometimes there is a school closure outside of school hours. Depending on the severity of the weather, the Superintendent may make a decision to close schools for students or for both staff and students. In rare circumstances, some schools may be kept open because of location and the need for a safe place for students.

School closure during school hours may occur if weather conditions create a concern for safety. The school principal may close the school after consulting with the Superintendent. While every effort will be made to keep schools open, parents are encouraged to establish a plan for their children in the event of early dismissal or school closure. Closure announcements will be made by website, social media, email and through the professional media. **WSV**



Bus registration wraps up: over budget, but refunds coming

School bus registration in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) will close for the rest of the 2016-2017 school year at 9pm on Monday, October 17. www.sd62.bc.ca/2016/10/13/sd62-bus-registration-closure-refunds-and-passes/

There are about 3,025 school bus riders in SD62 this school year (up from 2,800 last year.) Of those, 75% are in the Royal Bay and Belmont school families (in Colwood and Langford), with 25% in the Sooke-area family of schools.

Due to high ridership volume, SD62 buses are at or near capacity. All registrations must be completed online and will be placed on a wait list. See www.sd62.bc.ca/about/transportation or send questions to emailbussing@sd62.bc.ca

Those who registered outside of the registration window last spring are wait-listed and may be asked to move to a different bus if the bus they currently ride is full. Riders not registered will not be allowed on the bus.

SD62 administration aims to have all refunds completed by October 31. Their Finance Department has processed over 1,000 refunds, with nearly 1,000 more to go. "The system was not designed to handle so many refunds at once, so there are daily limits to what we can put through for refunds," says the school board in an online release. "As a result, you may receive more than one refund." Refunds will come via the same method as they were paid (credit card or e-cheque).

Students in middle and secondary schools need to show their bus pass each time they board an SD62 school bus. Permanent bus passes will be issued to registered riders over the next few weeks. Until then, students are to use the temporary bus passes that have been issued. Apparently the bus drivers will be diligent in checking for these.

The school bus rider registration fee refunds have resulted for anyone who already paid the fees or set up an auto-payment arrangement ahead of September. In the summer, the BC Ministry of Education suddenly announced that funds would be available to all school boards to cover the cost of bussing for students attending schools in their catchment areas. In this regard, SD62 had a few wrinkles to sort out, as many students travel to schools outside their catchment area based on overcrowded schools and course selection.

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Even with \$358,000 coming from the BC Government, earmarked for bussing, the SD62 board determined that to absorb all bus transportation costs they will need to carve \$115,000 from elsewhere in their \$94 million 2016-2017 budget (about \$83 million is committed to salaries). The board is proceeding with full bus fee coverage for all students because it was in the spirit of the provincial fund conditions, and that in the case of overcrowded SD62 schools, sorting out the complexities of who is attending schools in-catchment and for what reason would have been administratively onerous. **WSV**

Talktober



On behalf of Mayor and Council, the Chief Administrative Officer wishes to invite you to the 'Talktober' community event.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Sooke Community Hall
2037 Shields Road



This is an opportunity to talk about the Official Community Plan, Economic Development, Budget 2017, and Alternative Housing.

Online surveys also available for your input: www.sooke.ca

More Plan Sooke info at www.sooke.ca

91% of Canadians say no to increased government-involved gambling

Provincial government lotteries and casinos generate about \$14 billion in annual revenue (about 5% of total revenue across all provinces), said the Angus Reid Institute this week. They found that 91% of the Canadians surveyed would not want to see expanded government involvement in gambling (and 38% would like to see in-

creased). In the recent survey, 82% of households had purchased a lottery ticket in the past year. Of anyone who had gambled over \$100 in the last 30 days, 15% had played at a casino, 10% had played video lottery terminals at a pub or bar, 10% had gambled online, 8% bet at a race track, 6% bet on sports, 5% bought lottery tickets, and 3% spent the money on charitable gambling (50/50, bingo). **WSV**

John Horgan, MLA
Juan de Fuca



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