Fresh cut Christmas trees for sale! Staff and students of the Westshore Centre for Learning and Training (WCLT), a division of Sooke School District 62 (SD62), are holding a 13-day fundraiser every wintry night up to December 13. It’s to support the Colwood campus community garden and the WCLT grad event in June 2017.

From left: Dermott Crofton, teacher; Kiarhara Iverson, Gr 12 student; Cheryl Sandhar, EA; and Catherine Reynolds, school secretary.

The trees are purchased from a time. Fun stuff. Even the most die-hard of no-freshcut-trees may want to have one or two. They’re hosting the 2nd annual Xmas Tree Sale as a fundraiser for the Westshore Centre for Learning & Training (WCLT), a division of Sooke School District 62 (SD62).

Pretty much every student, teacher and staff person is involved in the venture.

“We’re fundraising to support our Grad in June,” says teacher Dermott Crofton. He explains that the trees are not priced like a person is involved in the venture.

It’s a toss-up for Realtors... time away from family making the sale or a chance to top up the year’s revenue.

Here’s a look at benchmark prices on this west side of south Vancouver Island (November 2016 stats of the Greater Victoria Real Estate Board MLS):

- Langford $505,000 ($432,500 a year ago), raw sale average $659,059 (50 sales)
- Colwood $561,700 ($466,400 a year ago), raw sale average $551,720 (15 sales)
- Metchosin $748,500 ($588,300 a year ago), raw sale average $724,257 (7 sales)
- Sooke $420,900 ($359,100 a year ago), raw sale average $502,775 (20 sales)
- Victoria area $629,100 ($417,400 a year ago), raw sale average $652,590 (299 sales)

West Shore Voice News

Fresh-cut tree this Christmas: will you or won’t you?

by West Shore Voice News

While many people are busy with the festivities of the Christmas season, some people need to buy a house at this time of year. Lots of reasons... relocation, death in the family, separation or divorce. Or maybe because prices ebb low during the low-demand season. It’s a toss-up for Realtors... time away from family making the sale or a chance to top up the year’s revenue.

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Christmas tree season is here! Now that’ll be a holiday gift to the whole community!
The slow slide to home base

As everyone ramps up their holiday planning and festivities, attention to masters of the busy world begins to slowly slide. The postponed call, the rescheduled meeting... often more instinctive than deliberate, it’s all part of the eagerly anticipated pause of the season.

BC NEWS

New therapeutic health care college for BC

Specialized health care professionals like clinical perfusionists (using heart-lung machines during cardiac surgery) would be overseen by proposed new BC health care college.

- A new college of diagnostic and therapeutic health professions is being proposed by the BC government. The idea is to enhance patient safety and quality of care in British Columbia. 

**WEB COURTESY EDITION**

The BC Ministry of Health in a release on Dec 9 said the new college would initially oversee four types of health care professionals: respiratory therapists, radiation therapists, clinical perfusionists and medical laboratory technologists.

The diagnostic and therapeutic health profession is an integral part of our health system,” BC Health Minister Terry Lake said. “They provide a number of functions to support diagnosis and treatment of patients. For example, running the bypass machine during cardiac surgery or providing support to make sure a patient’s airway is open while being treated for trauma in intensive care. Creating a new college for these professions will help further support high standards of care and provide greater oversight focused on patient safety.”

The new college is proposed following extensive consultation with stakeholders. Eleven diagnostic and therapeutic health professions were examined. Self-regulation under the Health Professions Act has been recommended by an expert panel. The college will be open to any diagnostic and therapeutic health professional, and acts in the public interest at all times, providing the four occupations that will form a new college are posted for feedback until March 9.

What’s in those xmas gifts?

- “One way or another, every British Columbian relies on mining,” says BC Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett.

**WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Because it’s in Sooke to give

- Bring a friend, family member or colleague along and help us meet the Christmas season. The pause that refreshes.

The BC Ministry of Health in a release on Dec 9 said the new college would be overseen by proposed new BC health care college.
2016: Biggest Little Craft Fair

This year’s ‘Biggest Little Craft Fair’ by Sooke Fall Fair on Nov 26 saw about 40 vendors in place and a sizeable crowd coming out to Sooke Community Hall. “There was an excellent variety of products at good prices,” says organizer Ellen Lewers. It was a fundraiser for Sooke Marine Search & Rescue and the Sooke girls soccer team. Swags were made by the soccer team to help decorate Sooke.

BC NDP candidate Mitzi Dean

Running as the BC NDP Candidate in Esquimalt-Metchosin for the May 9, 2017 provincial election is community service organizer Mitzi Dean. “Only one other thing could have tempted me away from the work I do at Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA).” And it came up. Being the MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin would allow me to try and do more,” says Dean who is the executive director for PCFSA.

Dean will soon be coming up to her 10-year anniversary at PCFSA. She has much to look forward to there – opening the new 15,000 sq ft PCFSA building at 324 Goldstream Ave in summer 2017, the 50th anniversary of PCFSA in 2018, and an affordable housing project in 2019.

But being a provincial MLA “would bring a rounded and comprehensive perspective to representing our community,” Dean told West Shore Voice News this week. “The economy and local business is important as well (as social aspects),” she explained, saying there would be a chance to also effect change that impacts affordability and transit.

“I would like to do even more for the community,” says Dean. She’ll do some canvassing in January, and ramp up the full campaign closer to spring.

Protecting veggies in winter

The Compost Education Centre in Victoria teaches composting and plant-growing techniques. In the summer they tend to fruits, veggies, herbs, native plants as well as bees and bugs! How do they protect their veggies through the winter? “First, I always choose to grow from seed that is locally produced and therefore adapted to our climate,” says Site Manager & Community Education Coordinator Alysha Punnell.

“To protect roots from damage caused by freezing soils, I insulate winter vegetable gardens with six to ten inches of dried leaves or straw. Soils around perennial plants are also covered with at least six inches of mulch. “Lastly, I use protective covers such as plastic or remay to cover more tender plants when cold weather really hits. It’s important to note that plants will freeze and lock wilted, but often are not dead and will perk back up if you just let them thaw out,” says Punnell.

Grocery Prices This Week

Lean ground beef (small pkg, per kg) $11.88 $11.88
Range eggs (1 dozen) $5.50 $5.49
White Rice (2 kg bag) $5.99 $5.99
Green leaf lettuce (1 head) $1.89 $1.99
Tomato (on vine) (per lb) $2.69 $2.49
Milk, 2% (per L) $5.59 $5.79
Apples (6 pack) $2.39 $4 for $5.00
Wheat Bread Loaf (white, sliced, 570g) $2.39 $1.99
Broccoli crowns (per lb) $1.99 $1.99

* = This is a news service (not a paid advertisement).

Erosion Control: approximately $18,700

This is a news service (not a paid advertisement).

Restoration of the causeway to the Sheringham Lighthouse tower is well underway. The west side has been completed with boulders and riprap.

causeway. This project is part of the overall plan to restore, protect and preserve the heritage lighthouse site at 1 Sheringham Point Rd. Funds for this portion of the restoration are from dozens of personal donations to the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society and from private foundations. Photo: View of the east side, with workers creating a concrete form to pour materials to reinforce the cliff and increase stability of the cliff.

Looking for the special membership envelope in your mailbox?

Please take a moment to help the society restore the heritage site and protect the trails and public access. For more information, go to: sheringhamlighthouse.org

ERSION CONTROL: approximately $18,700

Look for this feature next week at www.westshorevoice.com
**Common sense winter driving**

*If driving isn’t necessary, the best choice is to either stay home during winter snow storms, or take another form of transportation.*

Motorists are encouraged to please check DriveBC, for regular updates on their routes at www.drivebc.ca. For local traffic advisories, see the traffic updates page at www.westshorevoicenews.com

MOTI will advise of road conditions using digital message signs, particularly in the Greater Victoria area to/from upisland.

Snowfall in the south Vancouver Island area this week has revived up people’s snowday action plans.

Friday, Dec 23 - 9am-5pm

Monday to Thursday: 8am-8pm

Sundays/Holidays: 10am-5pm

**WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Drivers are reminded to adjust their driving to the winter conditions they encounter. This includes slowing down, increasing following distance to at least four seconds, and using extra caution.

**WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Here in the south island area, winter tires are mandatory on the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1) Malahat section, and on Hwy 18 in the Cowichan Valley area on Sooke West Coast Road (Hwy 14) west of Sooke.

The Malahat on Hwy 1 is well known for challenging driving conditions even in good weather. It is an unavoidable section of highway if travelling from/to the Greater Victoria area to/from upisland.

Highway 18 is a short, 42 km long main vehicle route in the Cowichan Valley Regional District on Vancouver Island, connecting the city of Duncan on the Trans-Canada Highway with the community of Youbou, on the north shore of Lake Cowichan.

Highway 14 (Sooke Rd / called West Coast Rd in the section that west of Otter Point Road in Sooke town centre), requires winter tires anywhere west of the Grant Rd W intersection (heading west to Kemp Lake and beyond).

In anticipation of this weather event, Mainroad winter operations will be in effect on all Highways. Their regular winter crews are on shift 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

*Extra manpower and equipment are brought in as conditions warrant and will continue until the conditions change and highways are back to normal,* says Leon Bohmer, Operations Manager, Mainroad South Island Contracting LP.

“During winter driving conditions we’re reminding everyone to please drive extra cautious and safe especially when approaching a highway maintenance vehicle,” says Bohmer.

“Our 24-hr communications centre will pass on all observations and concerns to our crew.” Mainroad 24hr Hotline: 1.877.391.7310

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**Sooke Library joins all VIRL branches for holiday hours**

The Sooke Library will be open Dec 24 from 10 am to 4 pm, then closed Sun Dec 25 through Tues Dec 27 for the Christmas break. All branches in the Vancouver Island Regional Library will be following the same hours, says Sooke Library manager Adrienne Waas.

Then on Wed Dec 28 they’re open at 10am through to 8:15 pm. Plus Thurs & Fri 10 am to 4pm. On Sat Dec 31 the Sooke Library will be open 10-4, closing early for New Year’s Eve. Like most other places, then start off 2017 at 10am on Wed Jan 3 with normal hours. WSV

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**Sooke Library**

**Open Daily**

**Monday** to **Sunday**, 9 am - 5 pm

**Holiday Open House**

Monday December 19 :::: 4-6 pm

at the Constituency Office

2904 Tillicum Road (at Gorge)

All welcome. Lots of parking at the back of the building.

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**Ask a Doctor**

On Facebook

Dr. Joslin*, Dr. Morin* &

Doctors of Optometry

Providing comprehensive eye health and optical services in Sooke and the west shore for over 20 years.

**Sunday**

**December 18**:

*5-6:30 pm: West Coast Rd in Sooke*

*Phone: 250-642-4311*

**OPEN MON-Sat** (open late on Thurs)

**December 19**:

*10:30-11:30 am: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-474-4567*

**December 20**:

*11:15-12 pm: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-465-3355*

*2-3 pm: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-474-4567*

**December 21**:

*11:30-12 pm: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-474-4567*

**December 22**:

*11:15-12 pm: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-474-4567*

**December 23**:

*10-11 am: Gorge Road in Langford*

*Phone: 250-474-4567*
The 2016 Sooke Santa Parade on the evening of Sunday December 4 brought out a sizeable enough crowd, but not as large as in previous years. Perhaps it was the cold, or the lag from having attended Christmas parties the night before or the snowman-making event that day.

The lineup started with about 40 cadets walking at the head of the parade. They were followed by Sooke Mayor and Council. Then the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and the RCMP with a vehicle and trailer.

Ho Ho Ho! There was more Harmony Drumline, Home Hardware, mini horses, REMAX, BC Nurses, Ogilvie Creations, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, Seashawks Football team, Sooke Boxing, Juan de Fuca Search & Rescue, 2 Reel Fishing Adventures, Sooke Dance Studio, Sooke Food Bank, Your Perfect Gifts, Sooke Soccer, BC Ambulance, Sooke Fire Rescue, Silver Streak boats, A Sea of Bloom, Sooke Saltwater Series, Sooke Community Association, Butler Bros, 424 Wear, Oceane Breeze Dryswall, 4 Seasons Fishing, Metis Nation, P & D Closet, RCM SAR, Sooke Rotary, A-Line, McDermaids, RBC Sooke, Henry Vasey, Sooke Lions Club and Santa, Sooke Sailing Association, and Horse’n Around!

This year’s parade was organized by the Sooke Lions Club with lots of support from the leadership class at Edward Milne Community School (EMCS). The District of Sooke provided funding. Hot chocolate and other treats were served by Boy Scouts and EMCS leadership at booths around the kiosk at Evergreen Shopping Centre. Many dogs were at the parade!

The route started at Sooke Elementary School and made its way along Sooke Road into town centre to greet many along the roundabout. Then wrapped up on Otter Point Rd just past the corner of Sooke Rd.

It took a few extra minutes for the tree-of-lights in the roundabout to be lit at the start of the parade but it will likely achieve iconic status as the mainstay of parades in the years to come. Seasonal banners (birds in snow) and decorative lights along Sooke Rd and Wadams Way were up in November, with the lights on starting Dec 4 (on til mid-January).
Keeping Pace with Christmas. By SD22 PACE musical theatre students. Dec 14 at 7pm, Dec 15 & 16 at 3pm and Dec 17 at 2pm. VES Theatre. Wadams Way, Sooke. 250-642-2268

A Celtic Christmas’ by Sooke Community Choir: Fri Dec 16 & Sat Dec 17, 7-30 pm. Sun Dec 18, 3pm. Sooke Community Centre at door $20; $15/20 for seniors. Free < 18. 250-642-0302

Notley & Horgan discuss pipelines

This week BC NDP Leader John Horgan had dinner with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley. Two NDP leaders, now dealing with the pipeline issue from different perspectives. They each expressed some degree of interest in distinguishing themselves from their respective constituencies. Notley has looked to line up some of the offshore producers as job-seekers in Alberta, and Horgan sticking to his guns for environmental protection. “It was still a good discussion,” said Horgan about all that as he mingled at his annual Christmas open house on December 7 at his constituency office in Langford.

Harmony: music & film

The Sooke Harmony Project is creating a music & film project that helps provide musical instruments to students in schools will be the fundamental subject line of a film night by Awareness Film Night on Wed Dec 14 at EMCS Theatre. By donation. 250-642-0302

23rd annual Sooke Santa Run

Decorated firetrucks will be driven around Sooke on Saturday evening December 10, with firefighters of the Sooke Firefighter’s Association and IAFF Local 4841 collecting your donations of food items and cash for the Sooke Food Bank’s Christmas Bureau helpers.

It’s a holiday tradition for many families in Sooke. See #202-2309 Otter Pt Rd, at 7pm. Sooke Santa Society.

Keep the Xmas tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles and even the TV!

10:30 am at the school, 6522 Throop Rd. Christmas Greetings Issue of West Shore Voice. Fri Dec 16 at 10am. Free.

Keep the Xmas tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles and even the TV!

The federal government did not approve the Northern Gateway project that would have consisted of two pipelines that would have transported oil from Alberta to Kitimat.

The Sooke Har-Region Museum. Fri Dec 9

A ‘Nutcracker in a Nutshell’ by Sooke Dance Student at the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke constituency office, 2504 Tillicum Rd. 4 to 6pm

Welcome Wagon: Shop Local! East Sooke Rd. 4 to 6pm

Tours and Games, outdoors at 2139 Sooke Rd, Colwood. Mon-Th 3-7pm, Fri & Sat 10-8pm, Sun 10-6.

Gelves: ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’ Dec 12 fundraiser for EMCS Robotics. At EMCS. 6:30 pm

Town Hall on the Bus with John Horgan, MLA. Tues Dec 13, Talk to John about the economy, education, health, transit and more on the #61 bus. Leaving Government & Superior at 4:08 pm, back to Sooke.

Christmas Tree Sale. Daily (from Dec 1) to Tues Dec 13. Fundraiser by Westshore Centre for Learning & Training, outdoors at 2139 Sooke Rd, Colwood. Mon-Th 3-7pm, Fri & Sat 10-8pm, Sun 10-6.

A ‘Nutcracker in a Nutshell’ by Sooke Dance Studio will also be posted on Facebook at Sooke Fire Rescue Service and on Twitter @SookeCa with the hashtag #SookeSanta.

If you or someone you know is affected by HIV/AIDS, there is help available!www.westshorerecreation.ca www.westshorevoicebc.ca www.awarenessfilmnight.ca By donation. 7pm. www.sooke.ca/santa

Leadership & Superior at 4:08 pm.

Royal Bay Dance Academy Show. Tues Dec 13 Royal Bay Secondary, Cowichan. 7pm

Senior class members will also be posting on Facebook at Sooke Fire Rescue Service and on Twitter @SookeCa with the hashtag #SookeSanta.

Keeping Pace with Christmas. By SD22 PACE musical theatre students. Dec 14 at 7pm; Dec 15 & 16 at 3pm and Dec 17 at 2pm. VES Theatre. Wadams Way, Sooke. 250-642-2268

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