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by Brookline Publishing House Inc

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West Shore Voice News

6 pages this issue

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www.westshorevoiceneeds.com



Friday, December 23, 2016 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

Treats to BC voters before Xmas

Interest-free down payments for 1st-time home buyers

"We believe every British Columbian deserves a place to call home," said Premier Christy Clark in a news announcement December 15.

"We've invested in affordable rental housing, we've invested in transitional and emergency housing, and now we're partnering with first-time buyers to make the purchase of their first home more affordable."

Saving for a mortgage down payment can be hard for first-time home buyers. The BC Home Owner Mortgage and Equity (HOME) Partnership program contributes to the amount first-time home buyers have already saved for their down payment, providing up to \$37,500, or up to 5% of the purchase price, with a 25-year loan that is interest-free and payment-free for the first five years.

Through BC HOME Partnership, BC is investing about \$703 million over the next three years to help an estimated 42,000 BC households enter the market for the first time. Applications will be accepted starting January 16, 2017.

"This partnership can help lower monthly costs in the first five years, and help make home ownership more affordable," says Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing, calling the program 'another important way to take action on housing affordability'.

During the first five years, no monthly interest or principal payments will be required as long as the home remains the homebuyer's principal residence. After the first five years, homebuyers begin making monthly payments at current interest rates. Homebuyers will repay the loan over the remaining 20 years, but may make extra payments or repay it in full at any time without penalty. The loan must be repaid in full when the home is sold or transferred to another owner.

To be eligible, buyers must be pre-approved for an insured high-ratio first mortgage (mortgage down payment is less than 20% of the home price). On completion of the sale, program funds will be advanced and the loan will be registered as a second mortgage on the property's title.

Other programs to help first-time buyers include: a) First Time Home Buyers Program (save first-time buyers up to \$7,500 when purchasing a home valued up to \$475,000); b) first-time buyers can access the Newly Built Homes Exemption to save up to \$13,000 in property transfer tax when buying a newly constructed or subdivided home worth up to \$750,000.

Critics have said that the program is likely to drive up home prices, and that the program encourages the taking on of debt. Supporters say it's a lucky break for getting into the housing market. **WSV**

Per-pupil funding increase for BC schools

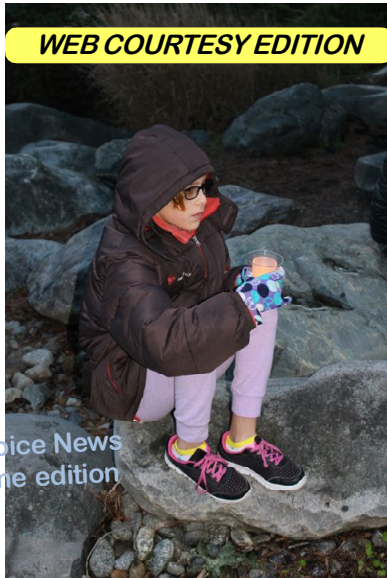


The Province of BC is providing \$46.7 million more to school districts to support enrolment increases, it was announced December 21 by the Ministry of Education.

Of 60 BC school districts, 42 saw enrolment increases this year, most notably in Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, Sooke and Comox.

... more on page 4...

Pipeline protests in BC just getting started



Braving the cold with candle lit.

In the wake of the recent federal Liberal approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the not unexpected protests to support protection of BC coastal waters have begun.

On Wednesday, December 21 – using the occasion of the winter solstice (from out of the dark comes the light) – the Dogwood Initiative organization pulled together a strong Sooke-based crowd for an outdoor protest in the cold.

Gathering at the roadside of Highway 14 (Sooke Road) were over 70 people of all ages, steadfast in their commitment to making sure there is no increase in tanker traffic off the shores of Vancouver Island.

Several commuters in their vehicles on their way home from work honked in support of the roadside protesters who positioned themselves just beyond Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) at dusk.

Before the roadside sign-waving, the group had heard speeches of varying lengths and intensity from local activists including Diane Bernard, Mark Ziegler and Ralph Hull.

Diane Bernard (a previous director of the Juan de Fuca electoral area) who operates a company dependent on seaweed culled from the ocean, pitched to the crowd: "I expect to have him (Prime Minister Trudeau) change his mind. The battle is not over." She feels that Justin Trudeau "as a young west coaster" has let down the people of BC. She lauded Sooke Mayor Maja Tait for taking the protest against increased tanker traffic to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to bring province-wide attention to the issue. She said there is one BC political party that is standing for the cause of the environment but didn't specify.

Mark Ziegler, formerly a federal government economist, said in a short statement: "I don't think it's fair that our coast is a bargaining chip," proposing that Trudeau has chosen Alberta over BC, i.e. oil economy over environment.

Ralph Hull, a retired boat captain – who long ago was instrumental in helping generate a 30-year moratorium on tanker traffic off the BC west coast (working along with then Fisheries & Oceans Minister David Anderson) – inspired the crowd to keep on fighting.

Another speaker, one of the Dogwood organizers, said: "It's the beginning. It's going to be a long process. Watch this space, there will be more."

People held lit candles in the dark. There was a short singalong before 'hitting the road' to stand in near-zero temperatures along the highway.

Other longstanding community leaders were among the crowd including Jeff Bateman (of Transition Sooke), Jo Phillips (of Awareness Film Night), John Boquist (chair of the recently completed District of Sooke Parks & Trails Committee), Frederique Philip and Sinclair Philip (of Sooke Harbour House for over 30 years), Heather Phillips, Rosemary Jorna, Dana LeComte, Gord Fulcher, Lis Johansen, Deb Wood, and Nicky Logins. Several youth from the local high school had made signs and took part in the event. **WSV**

Main Branch Open regular hours til 5pm Dec 24. Closed Dec 25, Dec 26 & Jan 1.

SpeedStick Open 8-1 daily to Dec 24, closed Dec 25. Open 8-2 Dec 26 & Jan 1.

250-642-5635

www.stickinthemud.ca

The Stick 6715 Eustace in Sooke



Frederique Philip (in red coat) was among those at the December 21 rally who have been long committed to protection of coastal waters.



Out in the cold to protect coastal waters.

At the Highway 14 roadside at dusk on December 21, a peaceful statement by over 70 people against the federal pipeline approval that would see more oil tanker traffic through BC coastal waters.

Signage messaging included: Climate Change; No Pipeline; No More Tankers; Think outside the oil barrel; Who will speak for us; Because our coastline supports many lives; Taking Back our Ocean; Justin - Water and life, please protect it; Keep it in the ground; We Vote No. **WSV**

Publisher's Note



VIEWS FROM THE WEST COAST



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

A Christmas wish for all

When I tell you that my Christmas wish is for the continued freedom of the press in Canada, you might think that is not a wish for everyone. But it is.

Without a thirst among media for shining a light on what's really going on, or among the citizenry to have the truth revealed to them, we would be in a sorry state of affairs. Indeed, the state and big business would be running all matters of politics, government, business, health, education, economy and living.

We need law and order, and we should expect a sensible and properly enforced balance between security and privacy. But if society loses the desire to truly know what is going on, and to stand up for the right to know (and to support the media industry which delivers that service), we would be edging dangerously close to losing the lifeblood of humanity, which is truth.

As we saw in the US presidential election cycle this past year, the idea of 'fake news' and more astonishingly that people couldn't in many cases tell the difference between fake stuff and real news, is a serious wakeup call. Media literacy is the golden nugget that will serve everyone well in the new year and beyond.

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Your political stripe aside, we are so very fortunate to have a Prime Minister of this country who actively stands up for the rights of journalists and is not afraid to say so.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Canadian Press reporters in Ottawa this week that the freedom of the media to go unscrutinized in the course of their work "is something that I believe in fundamentally". He articulated: "The only way democracy gets to work is if there is an informed population holding their political parties and leadership to account and that happens through a strong, independent free press." Trudeau also indicated that there are nagging questions about whether CSIS has used its considerable powers to monitor media members without a warrant.

The proliferation of social media confuses many... what is the difference between an opinion, a promotion, a marketing pitch and a news story? Everyone has the act of publishing at their fingertips... whether by Twitter, Facebook, their own website or bulk email. Professional journalists are the ones who keep their nose to the news, and their attention to matters of the broader picture. Professional journalists help readers better understand the issues of the day.

As we arrive in 2017 at the 150th anniversary of this wonderful country, there will be fireworks, parties, festivals and commemorative events. The best celebration of all will be the continued well-being of the Canadian free press.

The Arts in BC

More news and breaking news: www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Music industry in BC gets a boost WEB COURTESY EDITION

On December 15, the Province of British Columbia and Creative BC announced the allocation of \$3.8 million from the BC Music Fund with the opening of three new funding programs.

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Prem Gill, CEO of Creative BC, and industry representatives, made the announcement at 604 Records. Songs were performed by Frazey Ford, one of BC's celebrated songwriters.

A total of \$2.5 million has been dedicated to support the Live Music program. BC-based festivals, venues, live music presenters and event producers can apply for funding aimed at increasing the number of live music performances within the province. Funding will support business development activities that directly contribute to the growth and sustainability of live music events, such as infrastructure improvements, new marketing initiatives and strategy development. The deadline for the first program intake is February 1, 2017. There will be a second intake in June 2017.

In addition, \$1 million will be provided for the new Industry Initiatives program which will support industry events and export activities, including industry conferences, trade missions and collaborative export marketing, to further grow and showcase BC's music industry. Funding will also support training activities that will further develop the business knowledge of artist-entrepreneurs and industry professionals.

As well, \$300,000 will be allocated toward research program funding and will support projects that increase knowledge and inform the growth, evolution and innovation of BC's diverse and distinct music sector. This includes data collection on economic impact, development of new products, researching export opportunities to new markets, consumer behaviour research, feasibility studies for new initiatives within the music industry and other research.

Eligible applicants for the Industry Initiatives and the Research programs include industry associations and business collaborations. Applications for these two programs will be accepted on a rolling intake until funds have been allocated.

From January through March 2017, the BC Music Fund will launch additional programs to support BC's diverse music industry. The fund will support seven programs, including Sound Recording, Live Music, Industry Initiatives, Research, Careers of BC Artists, Music Company Development, and Innovation.

The BC Music Fund is hosting a series of public regional-outreach meetings to share information about new programs and build relationships with music industry partners throughout BC. Meetings will be held in Victoria, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Prince George, Smithers, Nelson and Merritt in January and February.

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour says: "British Columbia's music sector has seen immense growth and success, thanks to the contributions of our many talented artists. The funding announced today from the BC Music Fund will serve to further support artists and live music-related businesses, including festivals, venues and event producers, ensuring a strong sector for years to come."

www.bcmusicfund.com | www.creativebc.com | www.musicbc.org WSV

Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas! TD Bank Sooke Branch Open daily 6670 Sooke Rd | 250-642-1230 Closing at 4pm on Dec 24 & Dec 31 Closed Dec 25, 26, 27 & Jan 1 & 2

Cookies & more! Open Xmas Eve ~ Monday to Saturday ~ 7-6716 West Coast Rd, Sooke Kelz Sweet & Savory Bake Shop 778-352-4444

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The full connect The CRTC this week declared broadband internet as a basic service for all Canadians. WSV

BC arts grants: youth engagement & festivals

A current round of grants for youth engagement and festivals is still open. The BC Arts Council is accepting applications from arts and culture organizations for two funding programs with deadlines in January.

The Youth Engagement Program provides support for organizations taking innovative and inspiring approaches that engage BC's young people in arts and culture. The application deadline is Monday, January 16, 2017. www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/youth/youth_engagement.html

Project Assistance for Community Arts Festivals supports community-based arts and cultural organizations in B.C. that produce local arts festivals. These awards assist with fees for professional artists and technicians engaged for the festival. Priority will be given to festivals that feature British Columbian and Canadian artists. The application deadline is Monday, January 30, 2017. www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/organizations/festivals/comm_arts_fests_project_assistance.htm

The Government of British Columbia is investing approximately \$60 million in arts and culture again in 2016-17 to further support a thriving creative economy. Supported within this funding, the BC Arts Council is providing \$24 million to help artists and cultural organizations flourish in more than 200 communities throughout the province. The BC Arts Council draws upon the expertise of British Columbia's arts and culture community to provide an independent peer-review adjudication process. www.bcartscouncil.ca WSV

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BC Music Industry Facts

Source: BC Government

- BC has the third-largest concentration of independent labels, sound recording studios and other music businesses in Canada. There are over 80 independent record labels, 123 sound recording studios and hundreds of music publishers, managers, talent agencies, marketing and other businesses that support the development and delivery of music.

- There are over 6,400 artists in BC including 600 conductors, composers or arrangers and 5,825 musicians or singers.

- BC's music industry contributed over \$400 million in revenue to the provincial economy.* (* = time frame not identified)

- The industry generates revenue from multiple streams that include record-label production and sound recording (\$52.7 million), live music performances (\$87.8 million), music publishing (\$13.7 million) and artist income (\$255 million). WSV



"Art is the expression of our collective soul. It's the expression of our humanity." ~ Frazey Ford, songwriter/musician

News Updates WEST SHORE VOICE www.westshorevoiceneews.com



Helijet, ho ho ho!

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Thanks to the 'magic' of helicopter travel by Helijet, Santa was able to make some quick trips to visit children at Victoria General Hospital and Nanaimo Regional General Hospital on Tuesday morning, December 20, with air support from BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS).



Helijet.com

Each 45-minute stop of the Toy Run in an air ambulance helicopter allowed time for Santa to meet with children at the hospitals. The event was coordinated and supported by Island Health.

"We're thrilled to once again assist Santa on his air ambulance toy run to visit children in hospitals this holiday season," said Helijet President and CEO Danny Sitnam. "Throughout the year our dedicated Helijet staff works closely with BCEHS paramedics to provide 24/7 helicopter service for hundreds of critically-ill patients across BC. Many of our patients are children, so all of us at Helijet are happy to help make this Christmas season special for these courageous kids and their families."

The trip then carried on to Vancouver, New Westminister, and Surrey.

For paramedics and flight crews who often meet patients and their families during medical emergencies it's a happier environment. **WSV**

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Consuming alcohol in a vehicle is illegal

Police will be monitoring limousines and buses during the holiday season. The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) earlier this month said that operators who allow the consumption of alcohol in their vehicles will be penalized and passengers in these vehicles also have a responsibility to adhere to the liquor laws.



Wweb-source

Police will be enforcing the Motor Vehicle Act and Liquor Control and Licensing Act to help prevent tragedies and ensure a safe ride home.

Operators who do not comply with liquor laws run the risk of losing their licence, and minors in possession of alcohol are subject to a \$230 fine.

With the holiday season in full swing, the BC government reminds British Columbians to celebrate safely and make good decisions when riding in limousines, including limo buses, during celebrations.

"Christmas is a time to celebrate the holidays and enjoy time with family and friends," said Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone. "Travel is often part of these celebrations, and we encourage everyone to think ahead about getting home safely by choosing a transportation option that will ensure a safe conclusion to any holiday gathering."

Operators of limousines and buses with perimeter seating must have a Passenger Transportation licence plate and decal, or temporary operating permit, for every vehicle in their fleet. This allows government and law enforcement to better enforce the industry and motivate operators to provide a service that is safe and compliant with provincial laws.

Consuming alcohol in any vehicle is illegal and unsafe. Advertising for limousine and bus services cannot allude to the consumption of alcohol in a company-operated vehicle. Consumers, especially those booking trips for minors, are encouraged to look for companies that advertise strict policies related to drinking in vehicles.

"We all have a role to play to ensure that holiday festivities, formal or informal, are safe, including the transportation to and from these events," said chief constable Neil Dubord, chair of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee. Consuming alcohol in any private or commercial vehicle is illegal in BC, whether the vehicle is moving or not. **WSV**

Changes coming on BC Ferries in 2017



BC Ferries

- no smoking
- can't remain in vehicles on closed decks

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BC Ferries revealed two developments this week, that will be officially announced in January. They plan to ban smoking on all of their vessels and to not allow passengers to remain in vehicles on lower fully enclosed decks while vessel sailings are underway.

BC Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall says about the smoking ban: "We are currently reviewing our policy with an aim to offer a smoke-free environment in the future. The Province recently changed regulations regarding smoke free zones to from 3 to 6 metres away from a door or opening window. This proves challenging on a ship."

With regard to car decks, Marshall says: "We are working to fully implement Transport Canada regulations limiting passenger access to closed car decks while ships are underway." Closed decks are the lower vehicle decks on the larger ferries. Transport trucks and buses are parked on the lower deck; cars are also parked there when the upper deck becomes full. Customers will continue to be permitted to stay in vehicles on the upper (open) car decks.

"We will be fully implementing Transport Canada regulations to limit passenger access to closed vehicle decks while ships are underway. Closed decks are the main car decks. Customers will continue to be permitted to stay in vehicles on the upper (open) car decks," Marshall said. **WSV**

SEAPARC upgrade still in the works

West Shore Voice News



West Shore Voice News

Mike Hicks

"It would have been nice to get that grant," says SEAPARC Chair Mike Hicks about a \$500,000 Canada 150 recreational infrastructure grant application that didn't produce. It delays the leisure complex board's plans for expansion of the facility by about a year, said Hicks this week.

SEAPARC holds onto about \$400,000 each year for capital projects from the annual intake of about \$750,000 in tax revenues from Sooke and Juan de Fuca residents. "We'll just wait a little longer. We're not going to borrow the money," says Hicks.

The goal is to undertake a 4,000 sqft expansion of the building at 2168 Phillips Road to include a fitness gym with equipment, more activity rooms (for yoga, meetings, etc), and more change room areas. **WSV**

Recycling at Christmas time

West Shore Voice News

Have you checked to find out when the CRD bluebox pickup is happening in your area this holiday season? Normal pickup dates apply, unless they fall on Christmas or New Year's Day. In the event recycling collection is affected by extreme weather conditions, an attempt will be made to service missed neighbourhoods the following day, says CRD.

Here's the good news of seasonal items that you CAN include in the bluebox: paper gift wrap, paper gift bags, greeting cards, shipping boxes, corrugated cardboard boxes, plastic trays and tops, cookie tins, milk/egg cartons, paper cups, aluminum foil and foil trays. Be sure glass bottles/jars are separated.

"But you better watch out..." (as the xmas song goes)... here's what you CANNOT include in your curbside bluebox: foil gift wrap, Christmas lights, toys, batteries, ribbons & bows, padded envelopes, old electronics, compostables.

Items such as foam packaging, decorative light strings and electronics can be dropped off free of charge at many recycling depots located across the region. Find your closest Multi-Material BC (MMBC) recycling depot with the search tool at <http://recyclinginbc.ca/mmbc-depots/> **WSV**

Use the search tool at www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/reduce-reuse-recycle/blue-box-program to confirm bluebox pickup dates for your area.

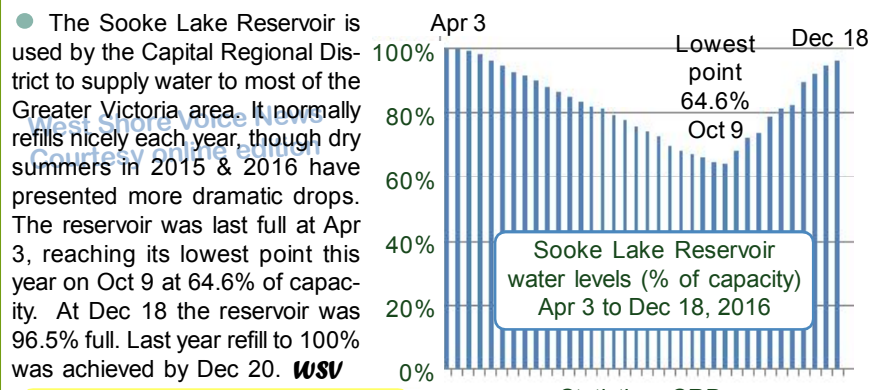


NEXT REGULAR BLUEBOX PICKUP

SOOKE: Jan 2
COLWOOD: Jan 3

Sooke Lake Reservoir Levels:

The 2016 story Graph & analysis by West Shore Voice News



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Festival of Trees on til January 4

● The annual Festival of Trees fundraiser for BC Childrens Hospital is set up in the lobby of the SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke.

About 12 trees this year were decorated and ready go on December 4, done by various groups, organizations, businesses and schools.

You can browse through the holiday displays and donate to vote for your favourite trees.

"The event offers sponsors an invaluable opportunity to demonstrate community leadership, show their creative talents and support child health," says organizer Elizabeth Olsen.



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Decorated Christmas trees in the lobby at SEAPARC.

Trees displays this year are in Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Osoyoos and Oliver.

The decorated trees are on display in Sooke until January 4 during SEAPARC hours of operation. That includes Christmas Eve (Dec 24) 8 am to 3:30 pm. SEAPARC will be closed Dec 25 & 26, reopening December 27 to 30 for regular hours, and open New Year's eve 8 am to 3:30 pm. They will be closed New Year's Day. www.seaparc.ca WSV

More money to BC schools

● The BC Ministry of Education has issued more funds to cover the costs of an increased number of students in 42 of 60 school districts in BC this 2016-2017 academic year.

On December 21 the government announced the additional \$46.7 million that will be issued to school districts to support enrolment increases.

Of 60 BC school districts, 42 saw enrolment increases this year, most notably in Surrey (993), Langley (697), Abbotsford (484), Sooke (572) and Comox (427).

The SD62 school board now serves 10,087 students (6% more than last year) in a broad region that includes Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Highlands, Metchosin, Port Renfrew. and parts of Juan de Fuca They've kept a close eye on their enrolment numbers over the past few years. SD62 projects that they will be serving a student population of nearly 15,000 by the year 2026. A plan for five new schools (in Langford/Colwood) is part of the strategy to accommodate the population increase.

The age-5 population coming into the K-12 system will increase from 935 to 998 in the next decade, although the school age population as a percentage of total population will be fairly stable at around 14.6%, an SD62 report claims. Overall, more than 2,921 new student spaces will be required.

Some of these details were shared with municipal representatives of Langford, Colwood and Sooke last month, to help maintain an awareness in those jurisdictions about how

SD62 Enrolment numbers for 2016/2017 as submitted to the BC Ministry of Education in September 2016

K-12 FTE: 9094.2575 (15/16)
9612.4375 (16/17)
increase of 518 FTE

Total FTE: 9551.4374 (15/16)
10,019.6250 (16/17)
increase of 468 FTE

By Level: (in FTE)
Elementary: increase of 167
Middle: increase of 171
Secondary: increase of 181

FTE = full time equivalent

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housing development and population growth will impact the education system.

The BC government says that the province-wide "record-high average per-pupil rate will increase to \$8,969 for this school year". However, SD62 Board Chair Bob Phillips says that while he is of course pleased about the funding increase, that most of the education budget is for salaries (and employee benefits like MSP premium payments) and that the per-student amount therefore remains the same at \$7,218 for local budgeting purposes in SD62.

"So basically there is not a lot of any new money to be spent, except for more being applied in the area of special needs," said Phillips. WSV

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Seniors at Christmas

● The following statement was issued December 22 by Darryl Plecas, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to the BC Minister of Health, in support of seniors during the holiday season:

"For many, the holiday season means being with loved ones and celebrating traditions. However, we know that there are those, including seniors, who will be spending the holidays alone. I encourage British Columbians to think about ways they can help to make those around them feel more connected at this time of year. This could include inviting someone to your home for coffee and conversation, or even dinner.

Something as simple as a call can lift spirits. Paying a visit to someone living alone or in a care home can make a difference during the holidays and throughout the year.

There are also steps seniors can take if they are feeling the holiday blues, such as seeking out activities at the local community centre, volunteering for a charity, or getting a group of friends together.

I attended a meeting a year ago in Courtenay to increase the understanding of seniors' social isolation and ways it can be addressed. This ideas exchange was very informative, as those in attendance examined approaches to address the matter, including means of transportation to support seniors' social inclusion. Community members commented on how the event strengthened their network of contacts.

Working on this work, in September 2016, Health Minister Terry Lake and his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts met in Vancouver to discuss a wide range of issues, including social isolation of older people. The ministers agreed to circulate an innovative toolkit that provides hands-on resources for groups or individuals such as seniors, community organizations, governments and businesses. The toolkit will be available online in the coming months.

Seniors are our next-door neighbours, our co-workers, our aunts and uncles, parents and grandparents. I can think of nothing better than reaching out to spread some holiday magic and putting a smile on someone's face."

SeniorsBC: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/seniors

Better at Home:
www.betterathome.ca WSV

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www.langfordoptometrists.com

#105-814 Goldstream Ave in Langford

Phone: 250-474-4567

*denotes optometric corporation

A COMMITMENT TO HOUSING ACTION

BC Government ~ December 2016

● The Province of BC says its commitment to housing action is driven by six key principles:

- Ensuring the dream of home ownership remains within the reach of the middle class
- Increasing housing supply
- Smart transit expansion
- Supporting first-time home buyers
- Ensuring Consumer Protection
- Increasing rental supply

The BC government has committed \$855 million over five years, including \$575 million this year, to support the construction or renovation of 4,900 units of affordable housing throughout BC.

Since 2001, the BC government has invested \$4.9 billion to provide affordable housing for low income individuals, seniors and families.

More than 104,000 BC households benefit from a diverse range of provincial housing programs and services.

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LINKS: **Courtesy online edition**
https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Housing_Campaign_HOME.pdf
<http://housingaction.gov.bc.ca/>
<http://housingaffordability.gov.bc.ca/>

BC Home Owner Mortgage and Equity Partnership program, BC Housing:
Phone: 604-439-4727

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Thoughts on the Winter Solstice

West Shore Voice News



**" Hello darkness, my old friend,
I've come to talk with you again. "**
~ 'The Sound of Silence', Simon and Garfunkel, 1964



West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition

" There is a tendency to want to hurry from autumn to spring, to avoid the long dark days that winter brings. Many people do not like constant days bereft of light and months filled with colder temperatures. They struggle with the bleakness of land and the emptiness of trees. Their eyes and hearts seek color. Their spirits tire of tasting the endless gray skies. There is great rejoicing in the thought that light and warmth will soon be filling more and more of each new day.

But winter darkness has a positive side to it. As we gather to celebrate the first turn from winter to spring, we are invited to recognize and honor the beauty in the often unwanted season of winter. Let us invite our hearts to be glad for the courage winter proclaims. Let us be grateful for the wisdom winter brings in teaching us about the need for withdrawal as an essential part of renewal. Let us also encourage our spirits as Earth prepares to come forth from this time of withdrawal into a season filled with light.

The winter solstice celebrates the return of hope to our land as our planet experiences the first slow turn toward greater daylight. Soon we will welcome the return of the sun and the coming of springtime. As we do so, let us remember and embrace the positive, enriching aspects of winter's darkness. Pause now to sit in silence in the darkness of this space. Let this space be a safe enclosure of creative gestation for you. "

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An abbreviated excerpt of 'A Celebration of Winter Solstice' from *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr.

WSV

Randall Garrison looking into green tech jobs

West Shore Voice News

● **About 100 people showed up** to share some holiday cheer at Randall Garrison, MP's annual holiday open house on December 19. There were light refreshments.

Garrison's new constituency office that opened earlier this year at 2904 Tillicum Road (corner of Gorge Rd) is more spacious and adaptable than the previous office, including a board room, private office space, and plenty of storage area. Lots of parking too.

Garrison has told *West Shore Voice News* that his staff is busy compiling some facts and figures regarding how much green-tech/sustainability employment is already happening in the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke riding and overall in BC. More on that in the new year. **WSV**



Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke)

Next week:
Year-End message by Randall Garrison, in the Dec 30th issue of West Shore Voice

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Wind caused outages in west shore area Dec 20

West Shore Voice News

● **A wind storm on Tuesday,** December 20 that whooped up speed starting around 4:30 am, by noon ended up causing power outages for about 10,402 BC Hydro customers (approx 30,000 people) in the south Vancouver Island area.

That included 2,321 in the Walfred/Metchosin Rd area (Colwood/Langford); 2,056 north of Hwy 1 (Saanich/Langford); 1,812 east of West Coast Road and west of Otter Point Rd; 417 in the West Coast Road area (west of Sooke); 2,826 in Esquimalt/View Royal; and locations in Duncan.

BC Hydro crews were dispatched at various times. A few of the earliest outages from early this morning (in the Sooke and Langford areas) were restored before the mid-morning outages saw crews relocating to other areas.

In conditions of high winds (Environment Canada had issued a wind warning -- west 40 km/h except 70 gusting to 100 near Juan de Fuca Strait), trees were down across BC Hydro wires. That and other wind-related issues caused the outages.

Outage info is posted by BC Hydro at: www.bchydro.com **WSV**

Sharing a new recipe at Christmas

● **An Iraqi refugee family of four** (waiting in a refugee camp in Lebanon) is expected to arrive in Sooke in March 2017. The parents and their two daughters have been privately sponsored by Team Sooke Juan De Fuca. Over \$50,000 has been raised to support the family through their first year in Canada.

The mother in the family has sent ahead a favourite family recipe from Iraq. Perhaps a few people in Sooke/Juan de Fuca will give it a try this Christmas season.

Basic Lentil Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 cups green lentils
- 5 cups water
- 2 medium onions
- 2 Tbsp butter or ghee*
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 vegetable bouillon cube
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste

* ghee is clarified butter

Preparation

1. Rinse lentils and soak overnight in 5 cups of water.
2. Bring lentils in their soaking water to a boil; simmer 20 minutes, or until soft.
3. Meanwhile, gently fry onions in butter until soft.
4. Chop the tomatoes. Add them to the onions, and cook until soft.
5. Add onions, tomatoes, cumin, bouillon cube, and tomato paste to the lentils.
6. Stir on medium heat until well mixed. About 5 minutes.

Presentation

Garnish with chopped parsley and serve with flatbread. Serves six.

Variation

- The mixture can be thinned a little then pureed to make a pottage.
- Serve with butter or ghee as a topping.
- Goes well with rice and vegetables.



YouTube

Ttariqet a 'mal el a'ds
Lentil soup with onions & parsley

Supporters:

● **Team Sooke/Juan de Fuca thanks the following individuals and organizations for their support:** St. Rose of Lima (Sooke) Parish; Rotary Club of Sooke; Journey Middle School; Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; John Horgan, MLA; Randall Garrison, MP; Butler Brothers Supplies Ltd; SeaFlora; Chris Bryant, Inc; Dr Anton Rabien; Sooke Baptist Church; Christian Life Assembly; Sooke Region Food CHI Society; Royal Canadian Legion #54 Sooke; Sooke Bahá'í Community; Holy Trinity Anglican Church; Vital Vittles; Knox Presbyterian Church; Sooke Fall Fair Committee; Our Lady of Fatima Parish; United Church of Canada; and many individuals who have donated funds and expertise. **WSV**

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Please join our many sponsors who appreciate the opportunity to support thoughtful insights and analysis that contribute to positive change on south Vancouver Island.

At www.westshorevoicenews.com you can still find each week's issue. Also in our posts on Twitter & Facebook. The print version is in coffee shops and the lobbies of the many businesses who support us.

Wishing SD62 families a wonderful holiday & Happy New Year!

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Open Dec 31 ~ 7am to 6pm
Open New Year's Day ~ 8am to 5pm

WHAT'S GOING ON West Shore Voice News

Ad deadline is Dec 28 for the Dec 30 issue

Events & Christmas Store Hours

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Christmas Eve Skate Sat Dec 24 at Juan de Fuca Rec. 12-1:30 pm. \$2. www.westshorerecreation.ca
SEAPARC Leisure Complex open Sat Dec 24 8am-3:30pm, closed Dec 25 & 26. www.seaparc.ca
Mom's Cafe. Sat Dec 24 open 8 am to 3 pm. Closed Dec 25. Prime Rib Night Jan 6.
Sooke Library open Sat Dec 24 10am to 4pm. Closed Dec 25 to 27. Re-opens Dec 28 (10 am to 8:15 pm). www.virl.bc.ca
The Stick in the Mud Coffee House. Open to 5pm Sat Dec 24, closed Dec 25 & 26. www.stickinthemud.ca
Speedstick open 8am to 1pm Sat Dec 24, closed Dec 25. Open Mon Dec 26 8am to 2pm. 6715 Eustace
Peoples Drug Mart (Sooke) open Christmas Eve Sat Dec 24 8am-8pm; closed Xmas Day & Boxing Day.
TD Sooke Branch closing early Sat Dec 24 at 4pm. Closed Dec 25, 26 & 27.

Shoppers Drug Mart (Sooke) open Sat Dec 24 8am to 8pm. **Open Xmas Day** Sun Dec 25 9am to 5pm. Open Boxing Day 8 am to 10 pm.
Western Foods SOOKE: Dec 24 7am-7pm; closed Xmas; open Dec 26 8am-6pm.
Western Foods LANGFORD: Dec 24 7:30am-7pm; closed Xmas; open Dec 26 8am-7pm.

Christmas Day. Sun Dec 25. Merry Christmas!
Open in Sooke Dec 25:
 Shoppers Drug Mart 9-5.
 Castle Liquor Store 9-6.

West Shore Voice News
Boxing Day. Mon Dec 26.
Sooke Saltwater Series fishing derby. Mon Dec 26. www.sookesaltwaterseries.ca
Sooke municipal hall closed Dec 26 & 27.
Sooke Main Post Office closed Dec 26 & 27. Mail deposited Dec 23 or Dec 24 will not be processed before Dec 28. **West Shore Voice News** 4pm. Closed Sun Jan 1 & Mon Jan 2.

Mom's Cafe. Mon Dec 26 open 9am to 4pm. Prime Rib Night Jan 6.
Blood Donor Clinic Mon Dec 26. 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. 12 noon to 7 pm. www.blood.ca

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ONGOING TOPICS OF FOCUS IN WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS:
 HEALTH
 EDUCATION
 SUSTAINABILITY
 COMMUNITY



Christmas Eve Sat Dec 24
 Christmas Day Sun Dec 25
 Boxing Day Mon Dec 26

Merry Christmas!

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Thank you to all our advertisers and loyal subscribers throughout the year! Happy Holidays!

Winter Break Camp at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, 1767 Island Highway. Wed Dec 28 to Fri Dec 30. Some spots may still be available Age K-Gr6. 8am to 5:30pm. 250-478-8384 | www.westshorerecreation.ca
TD Sooke Branch closing early Sat Dec 31 at 4pm. Closed Sun Jan 1 & Mon Jan 2.
New Year's Eve Skate. Sat Dec 31 at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. 12 noon to 1:30 pm. \$2. www.westshorerecreation.ca
Sooke Mayor's New Year's Levee. Sun Jan 1 in council chambers, 2225 Otter Pt Rd. Everyone is invited, children welcome. Refreshments. www.sooke.ca

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SPECIES AT RISK in BC

SURVEY RESULTS - Nov 2016



Species at Risk Engagement

West Shore Voice News
 Courtesy online edition

• **Hundreds of comments, ideas and new ways to protect BC's species at risk** were submitted at the BC Species at Risk Engagement website over six weeks ending November 30, 2016.

The survey portal was visited over 4,390 times by people from around BC the majority from Vancouver Island and the Coast (22%), the Lower Mainland (22%), the Kootenay region (12%) and the Thompson-Okanagan (12%).

The 461 comments received represented a broad range of stakeholders, says the BC Ministry of Environment, including local government, First Nations, interest groups, academia and industry, as well as the general public.

There were four main topic areas for discussion:

- Principles for the protection of species at risk
- Provincial protection of species at risk
- Protection of species at risk on private land
- Funding for species and ecosystems at risk

Comments and feedback can be viewed online at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/SpeciesAtRisk>

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The feedback will be used "to strengthen BC's species at risk program by informing options to improve programs, policies or legislation as part of BC's Five-Year Plan for Species at Risk".

BC Environment Minister Mary Polak said that recovering and protecting BC's species at risk is a shared responsibility. **WSV**

Trudeau on the overdose crisis this week

• **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in Vancouver** on December 20.

Speaking on CKNW Radio, he said about the drug overdose problem in Canada: "It's a challenging problem that is spread well beyond challenged communities." He had spoken with BC Provincial Health Officer Dr Perry Kendall earlier in the day and learned that opening up more harm reduction sites would be helpful. "It's a complex problem with a sophisticated response."

Trudeau then spoke with media on News 1130 radio. He said his government is trying to reverse decisions of the previous government that tried to make it much more difficult to set up harm reduction sites.

Trudeau said that restrictions on pill presses and providing support to first responders and police will help, as well as investments in national housing strategy, mental health and addictions. "This will help people through this crisis and out the other side to a place of safety." **WSV**

Wishing everyone a Happy & safe Christmas weekend!



Juan de Fuca
 Emergency Program

www.prepareyourself.ca @jdfemerg

Maker Space

West Shore Voice News

• **A new venture called Sooke Makerspace** says it will promote, support, and advance technical, scientific, and artistic skills, innovations, and invention. That will be done through individual and collaborative projects, community building, access to tools and equipment, and education and mentorship. They aim to encourage development of entrepreneurial opportunities in the Sooke region. It will operate out of Edward Milne Community School (EMCS). www.sookemakerspace.ca **WSV**

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Sooke Region Museum gets ready for winter break

West Shore Voice News

• **December has been a busy month for the Sooke Region Museum** and visitor information centre. On December 2 they wrapped up their multi-week exhibit from the Canada War Museum. It had been on display in the upstairs gallery area since September 16.

On December 4 the museum hosted their annual Moss Cottage Christmas including the upbeat family festivities around snowman-building on the front lawn. Then there was the first year of a Sooke Winter Night Market outdoors but the rain those two days (December 9 & 10) dampened the spirits of would-be shoppers.

The museum will be open to and including Christmas eve Dec 24, and then will close for the winter holidays, reopening Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

During January their Tuesday through Sunday hours will be 10 am to 5 pm (instead of the usual 9am to 5 pm). Closed on Mondays during the winter.

Many times when you walk into the museum entry area to find tourism brochures or browse in the gift shop, you will hear the helpful staff assisting visitors with ideas for activities and directions to various sites and services in the Sooke region. It's a good first-impression of our town.

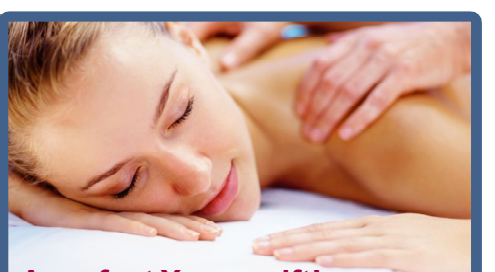
The museum maintains an extensive collection of archived items, not all of which are on display all the time.

Sometimes people donate items to the museum, and there is an administrative intake process for that. During the year the museum hosts lunches for tour groups that come to visit the Sooke area. The lunches are prepared by Sooke Historical Society volunteers, says Director of the Sooke Region Museum is Lee Boyko.

In the spring things will be 'coming up roses' (well, tulips), as 1,000 red and white tulip bulbs – planted in front of the museum by the Sooke Children's Garden Club mid-November, will sprout to help kick off Canada's 150th Birthday in Sooke. **WSV**



Moss Cottage Christmas: family fun building a snowman on the front lawn of the Sooke Region Museum!



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