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

West Shore Voice News **WSV** 4 pages this issue
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WEB COURTESY EDITION

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Week #310 of the Voice
 Colour print edition on newsstand at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke **\$1.95**
 Pulling it all together on this west side of the island: people, business, politics, health, education & community.
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 West side of Vancouver Island

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Friday, December 30, 2016 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

News highlights of 2016 West Shore Voice News

Three-year-old Prince George of Cambridge was bid farewell by Governor General David Johnston, October 1 at Victoria Inner Harbour.
 A child's realization of something bigger.

Hillary Clinton: she might have been the first woman president of the USA.

After accepting his win of the US presidential race on November 8, 2016 president-elect Donald J Trump gave some pointed credit to his campaign manager Kellyanne Conway. She has since been appointed to be one of his closest advisors in the White House. >>

^^ This week US President Barack Obama sent 35 Russian intelligence operatives packing, giving them 72 hours to leave the United States, over their involvement in hacking US political groups during the 2016 presidential election.

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Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen retired this summer after 35 years with the Sooke Fire Dept.

<< Impactful Canadian singer-poet-songwriter Leonard Cohen passed away Nov 7 at the age of 82. He had just released his most recent album for troubled times: You Want It Darker.

<< Possibly one of the most original, eclectic and prolific music creators of recent decades, Prince died from a fentanyl overdose on April 21 at the age of 57.

Regimental Funeral for Cst Sarah Beckett on April 12. The mother of two young children died April 5 in her RCMP cruiser while on duty in Langford.

Gravitational waves discovered 100 years after Einstein predicted them with math. >>

2016

OLYMPIC GOLD, POLITICAL PROCESS & GORD DOWNIE:
 The high points of 2016 involved a young lady named Penny blazing through the pool in Rio, the fact that the USA can change leadership without a coup (whatever you may think of that change) and The Tragically Hip going across the country to entertain us with Gord using his pulpit to bring awareness to our collective and ongoing failure as a nation.

WEB COURTESY EDITION
Official Welcome of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge, BC Legislative grounds ~ September 24, 2016
 From left: Sharon Johnston; Duchess of Cambridge; Duke of Cambridge; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Sophie Grégoire Trudeau; BC Premier Christy Clark.

Your thoughts as we head into 2017 West Shore Voice News

As the year 2016 wraps up and 2017 looms large on the news horizon, we asked our West Shore Voice News readers and supporters for their views on the highs and lows of 2016. Here are some responses:

JAZZING UP COLWOOD:
 "Why do we need so many mayors in Victoria/Sooke/West Shore? I think the number is 13? I would like to see amalgamation of Colwood and Langford, there would be more accomplished with business development, housing, and the sewage processing/treatment plant. Colwood needs a progressive Mayor like in Langford. We need lighting on Veteran's Memorial Parkway, traveling from Sooke Road down to the bottom of Latoria Road. This is dangerous in the rain, can't see lines on road, need illuminated reflectors. Get City Centre cleaned up, Onni Group owns it – how about cleaning this up and get rid of the eyesore, junk junk and more junk, rusted-out protruding rebar. They took this over in 2015 we are now going into 2017. Let's get things moving!!!!" ~ Colwood resident (name withheld by request)

TRUMP DISMAY:
 "One singular low point of 2016 – the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States." ~ Danny Gilbey, Sooke

LOW-BROW THUGGERY:
 "Low point: thugs invading the home of the District of Sooke's Chief Administrative Officer." ~ Sooke resident (name withheld by request)

THE LOWS involve a complete failure by the powerful to even try to end the carnage in Syria and the massive relocation crisis that is happening as a result, the fact that our goofy attitude towards addiction and treatment of the down-trodden in this country now involves letting everyone die at the hands of their dealer, and attending my mother-in-law's funeral... God rest her soul.
 ~ Marcus Farmer, Sooke

Wishing everyone a happy & safe 2017 New Year's weekend!
 Will this be the year you prep all your emergency kits? House, car, office & one for each member of your family including pets.
Juan de Fuca Emergency Program
www.prepareyourself.ca

One year ago EARTHQUAKE
 It was one year ago (11:39 pm on Dec 29, 2016) that a 4.7 Magnitude quake shook south Vancouver Island. In Sooke the shaking lasted about 10 seconds. While it might have been a wake-up call, it's uncertain how much further preparation (e.g. emergency kits, evacuation plans) has been done by individuals, businesses, service providers and communities.
WSV

AWARENESS FILM NIGHT
 An evening with author & journalist Andrew Nikiforuk plus short film Last Stand for Lelu
LNG in BC Strike Gold or Strike Out?
 Admission Wed January 11 by donation 7 pm
 Edward Milne Community School theatre
www.awarenessfilmnight.ca
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www.transitionsooke.org

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EDITORIAL VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Views to 2017: forging like steel

● So many global celebrities in acting, music and film passed away this year. Going out on a limb here... so much sadness, worry and despair in the air leading up to and following the election of Donald Trump as president of arguably the most powerful nation on earth has shattered some sensitive souls. All events have a ripple effect, as was in fact proven by science this year... 100 years after Einstein proved it with math.

There is a now a palpable sense of worry below just about everything people do. Every news pundit has visited 'the Trump effect' in their consideration of changes to global, national, regional and even local politics and economies. Maybe it's time to revisit how powerful one person should be in holding the office of US president. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seems to have lost interest or momentum with his promise to change the electoral system in Canada. Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef handled the consultation process without skill, and there seemed to be no propping up there from the PMO. Perhaps it's more important in this troubled world to deal with the economic crisis that is Canada. The national economy is fragile at best. The middle class implosion of the last 30 years continues despite the best efforts of the federal Liberals with their adjustments to tax levels and child tax credits. Just wait until interest rates start going up and we'll see ripped wide open the landscape of how tough things really are out there for most people. Trudeau is likely compelled to deal intensively with the complexities of immigration, so that Canada ultimately and intelligently boosts its population and economy, to avoid battling it with unsustainable additional costs and commitments. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

And then there's the matter of creeping 'Trump-style politics' into the Canadian sphere. One thinks of Conservative leadership candidate Kellie Leitch and her proposed 'Canadian values test' of immigrants... a point at which to only begin worrying where things could trend in our country where most people still value peace, fairness and a 'live and let live' approach to most matters. If we could only stop seeing the bleed of people's financial well-being still heading upward into the pockets of the 1%. Then people could turn their attention to larger important matters. But there is no evidence that the trend of the rich getting richer (and everyone else struggling more) has at all changed.

As a Canadian, one can be optimistic that we live in the most even-handed, moderately-tempered, balance-seeking nation on Earth. Happy New Year to everyone who hopes to contribute to the continued success of this truly remarkable cultural milieu. Oh Canada, here's hoping that celebrating the 150th birthday of this country is one way to forge the better angels of our nature like steel. ■



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

Here's to an awesome 2017!



Health News

More news and breaking news:
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Blood supplies a challenge in the holiday season

● Over the Christmas long weekend there was news across Canada about how inclement weather on top of holiday season distractions was reducing the number of active blood donors.

Trauma injuries (such as from car crashes) and cancer treatments produce the need for a significant amount of blood products at any time of the year, for surgeries and treatments. So when supply dwindles but demand is consistent, the resultant shortages can lead to medical challenges.

There have been overall efforts to increase donor supply by removing the upper age limit (it had been 71 years) and reducing the number of years that sexually active homosexual men must wait to donate (reduced from five years to one year). But that has been countered by a new restriction on women that started December 10, where blood can be donated no more frequently than every 84 days (up from 56 days) as a way to protect iron supplies in female donors.

On the west shore of Vancouver Island there was a heightened push for donors to attend the holiday season clinic in Sooke (where donors have a reputation for sustained and repeat participation) and in Colwood.

The Sooke clinic on December 19 collected 44 units which was 66% of the Canadian Blood Services target for that day's clinic. The Colwood clinic on December 26 collected 61 units, which was 91% of the target.

"Each donor stands for one unit and considering the holiday season and the busy vacation schedule of our donors, we are always grateful to have people in the community come out to donate on these days," says Ann Chabert, Territory Manager Vancouver Island, Canadian Blood Services.

"For the next upcoming week our province is needing to fill another 1,400 open donor spots across the board," said Chabert on December 30.

To find a nearby blood donor clinic, visit www.blood.ca. The next clinic in Sooke is on January 16, the next one in Colwood is on February 20. **WSV**

Look for this post card 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 www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

Pilgrim Coffee House on Facebook. Open 7 days a week. 105-1910 Sooke Rd Colwood. 778-265-5577. Wishing everyone an amazing year in 2017! Closed Fri Dec 30. Open Sat Dec 31 ~ 7am to 6pm. Open New Year's Day Sun Jan 1 ~ 8am to 5pm ~

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West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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Mother and daughter, inextricably bound

West Shore Voice News

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." ~ Shakespeare (*The Tempest*)

● A deeply personal moment became profoundly public... love, cosmos and wonder... the sudden passing of Hollywood star Debbie Reynolds, 84, on December 29 from a stroke, just one day after her celebrity daughter actor, screenwriter and author Carrie Fisher, 60, had died following a sudden heart attack.

"I want to be with Carrie," were Debbie Reynolds' last words, said her son Todd Fisher. The breaking heart of a mother, painted large for the world to see. A more poignant script-ending could not have been penned.

Fisher was quoted in earlier years saying she was "the product of Hollywood in-breeding" and that she suffered in the tremendous shadow of her mother's celebrity and starlet good looks.



Actor Carrie Fisher (left) with her Hollywood star mother Debbie Reynolds: complexities of celebrity life.

The duelling duet leave behind a third generation actor in the family – Billie Lourd, 24 (Carrie's daughter by Hollywood agent Bryan Lourd).

Carrie Fisher's father singer Eddie Fisher died in 2010 at the age of 82. **WSV**

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Internet: a basic right

● Can you imagine your life without Internet access? Mobile and wired Internet (broadband) as a "multi-dimensional communications medium" is now a basic service for Canadians, as declared by the CRTC on Dec 21. Business, education and health care as well as public safety were sectors/services said to be supported of necessity by broadband. <http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet> **WSV**

Babies by the numbers

● Over 44,000 babies are expected to be born in BC in 2017. The first birth of 2017 will be shared on Twitter at 8am Pacific Time on Sunday, January 1 at @BCGovNews.

The top baby boy name in 2015 was Oliver and it looks like Lucas will be tops for 2016. For girls the top baby name in 2015 was Emma with Olivia looking to top the 2016 list.

The top names list is traditionally based on the exact spelling of names. However, when looking at different spellings of the same name, there are some new additions. For girls, the top five names are Emma, Olivia, Sophia/Sofia, Emily/Emilee/Emilie, and Amelia/Emelia/Emilia. For boys, the top five names are Jackson/Jaxon/Jaxson, Lucas/Lukas, Oliver, Ethan and Liam. Only names occurring five or more times are listed.

There were 44,405 babies born in BC in 2015: 22,819 boys (51.4% of births) and 21,586 girls (48.6% of births).

While the number of births overall in Canada has increased

Top Baby Names in BC (2015)

Girls	Boys
Emma	Oliver
Olivia	Ethan
Emily	Liam
Sophia	Benjamin
Ava	Lucas

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by about 3.6% over the past 5 years (biggest increases in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; drops in Atlantic Canada and NWT), the BC tally has remained fairly consistent. **WSV**

Web-source

Data source: BC Vital Statistics

Langford forging further in 2017

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News



Langford Mayor Stew Young

● **We're going to make Langford even better in 2017,**" says Langford Mayor Stew Young.

"The number one goal of Langford Council for the next couple of years is to enhance the jobs in Langford for people who live here," says Young. To do that he says that property needs to be zoned to attract businesses and investment to the City of Langford. "We need to allow for job creation at the same time that we support development for housing. When people move out to live here, they hope to find a job," he says, adding that creating more higher paying jobs is a goal.

Young insists that commercial development and business parks with roads, sewer and water service in place are good for all of the west shore. It's key to have that sort of infrastructure in place before a lot of housing is built.

Langford Council has taken a business approach to developing the city, for 10 to 15 years now. While that's always been the default approach, "the business approach is now a number one priority," says Langford's long-time mayor.

Recreation is a big part of the next five years for Langford. They're looking for someone to put in another arena, and ball fields for baseball and soccer. Opportunities for public input will be coming up in the new year.

Transportation is key, especially for commuters. Stew Young hopes there will be a good business case for the E&N corridor for public transit, whether buses or just a multi-use trail. He feels strongly that a non-profit association (presently the Island Corridor Foundation) should not be overseeing that project. "They haven't been able to run a train in 5 years." Young says the BC government should run a large operation like that, and thereby be financially accountable to the taxpayers. That will also make it easier to get provincial and federal grants.

A regional public transit line would be an additional boon to the west shore economy and level of public service. "We need expertise to manage it or provide

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Randall Garrison, MP: year-end statement

"WHILE LIBERALS DISAPPOINT, NEW DEMOCRATS DELIVER RESULTS"

● **After a year of working hard to deliver results for Canadians,** New Democrats are becoming increasingly frustrated with the Liberal government's growing list of broken promises. In Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke, we have been especially disappointed with the Liberal's broken promises on electoral reform, health care, and a new nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations. I have also recently heard from record numbers of constituents who want the Canadian government to do more to help bring peace to Iraq and Syria and to provide adequate support for refugees. Add to this the ongoing cash-for-access scandal where the Liberals are breaking their own guidelines, and many Canadians are beginning to lose trust for the Trudeau government. The Liberals seemed to promise everything to everyone in the election campaign, and, a year later, it is clear that they have failed to deliver.

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In another about-turn from an election promise, the Liberals recently approved the Kinder Morgan pipeline under the same industry-dominated process that the Conservatives used. This pipeline would have its terminus in Burnaby and trigger a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic through our local waters. These tankers would put the integrity of our coastal environment and the tourism, fishing, and other marine harvest industries at risk of being decimated by an oil spill. This is especially troubling given that current standards for oil spill cleanups see only 10% of the oil removed, and there is no reliable data on bitumen clean ups. It should be noted that bitumen more closely resembles asphalt than oil and sinks in water. Another concern that the people of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke have is the imminent risk to our iconic and endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. The increase in tanker traffic would interfere with the ability of these orcas to use their sonar system to hunt for fish, without even considering the impacts of a spill.

During the flood of Liberal broken promises, our New Democrat team has continued to fight on behalf of Canadians. From standing united against Kinder Morgan, to securing equal pay for women, to defending First Nations children, to clearing a path toward a proportional voting system were very vote counts, we accomplished a lot.

This past year, I was also busy in the House of Commons. Among other things, I reintroduced my transgender rights bill, and I subsequently was able to get the Liberal government to put it forward as a government bill and have it pass quickly through the House of Commons. This exact same bill had been passed by the House twice before, and once again, we are waiting for the unelected Senate

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Conservative leadership close to home

● **Federal Conservative leadership candidate and former Minister of Veterans Affairs Erin O'Toole, MP (Durham)** will be the feature guest at a Conservative Party of Canada meet-and-greet in Colwood hosted by the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke Conservatives on Friday January 20 at 6 pm.

WSV

3rd Quarter economy stats, in a nutshell

● **According to Stats Canada** household disposable income grew 2.2% in the 3rd quarter of 2016. And net property income of households rose 5.1%. But did you feel any upward relief? More next week.

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funding. No government should give a non-profit organization \$20 to \$40 million to run a train service, with no real accountability or business expertise."

The Westshore Parkway (under construction since mid-2016) will join up Hwy14 (Sooke Rd) to Hwy1. "That's a great asset for Langford and people in Sooke," says Young. It will cut down on travel time to/from the Malahat and beyond, and open up interest for housing and business development along the 3.5km route. Bike lanes and sidewalks (in residential sections) are part of it all.

WSV

Sooke Mayor looks to broad issues in 2017

West Shore Voice News

● **As 3rd vice-president** of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), Sooke



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait

Mayor Maja Tait sees an opportunity to impact environmental, health and First Nations issues for all communities, saying it's good for Sooke to have a voice at that larger table.

Tait sees housing affordability and rental availability as key issues toward social and family stability.

Mayor Tait was recently appointed to the BC Transit Commission which oversees bus service around Greater Victoria where she hopes to keep Sooke's needs addressed within the larger picture.



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to act. I also continued to press the Liberals to take immediate action to protect our endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales, instead of making deferred promises for future action. I continued my work raising concerns about human rights in Tibet as co-chair of the Canada-Tibet parliamentary Friendship Association, and I again called on the Liberals to act on their promises to raise human rights issues with China.

As Defence Critic for the NDP, I recently attended a NATO conference in Washington DC and I continue to work hard, advocating for our Armed Forces. This year, upgrades to the Esquimalt Naval Base have provided many local jobs and will provide both much needed infrastructure improvements for our Navy and a clean-up of Esquimalt harbor. I have also been closely watching the National Shipbuilding strategy to make sure that it doesn't get cut back or further degraded, and I continue to advocate for funding that provides needed upgrades and local jobs. In 2017, I will continue the work of advocating for those who signed up to serve Canada, by supporting proper recruitment, training and equipment updates for the Canadian Armed Forces, and proper funding for services for Veterans.

I look forward to another year working for the people of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke. ~ Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) WSV



Supplied photo

Randall Garrison (second from left) with NATO Parliamentary Association Delegation at in Washington, DC in November 2016.



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Events & New Year's Eve Store Hours

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
TD Bank (Sooke) closing early Sat Dec 31 at 4pm. Closed Sun Jan 1 & Mon Jan 2.
Canada 150 Event & Fireworks. Sat Dec 31. 5 to 9:30 pm at Victoria Inner Harbour. Fireworks 9 pm.
Shoppers Drug Mart (Sooke) open Sat Dec 31 8am to 8pm and open Sun Jan 1 10am to 6pm. Back to regular hours Mon Jan 2 (8 am to 10 pm).
Western Foods SOOKE: Sat Dec 31 7am-7pm; Sun Jan 1 8am-6pm. No deliveries: Dec 31 & Jan 1.

Western Foods LANGFORD: Sat Dec 31 7:30am-9pm; Sun Jan 1 9am-7pm
Mom's Cafe. Sat Dec 31 8am to 3pm.
Sooke Library. Sat Dec 31 10am to 4pm.
New Year's Eve Sat Dec 31.
Happy New Year! Sun Jan 1
Sooke municipal hall closed Jan 1 & 2.
Sooke Mayor's New Year's Levee. Sun Jan 1 in council chambers, 2225 Otter Pt Rd, 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is invited, children welcome. Refreshments. www.sooke.ca followed by **Sooke Legion New Year's Levee.** Sun Jan 1 at 12 noon.
West Shore New Year's Day Levee Sun Jan 1. Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave, 12 to 2 pm.
Stat Holiday observed Mon Jan 2 because New Year's Day (Jan 1) falls on a Sunday.
SD62 School re-opens Tues Jan 3 after winter break.
Sooke Community Arts Council monthly meeting. Tues Jan 3. 7 pm Sooke Harbour House.
Sooke Region Museum. Reopens Wed Jan 4 after winter break. January hours: Tues-Sun, 10-5.
Mom's Cafe Prime Rib Night. Fri Jan 6. 10oz prime rib dinner. \$24.95 pp. 2036 Shields Road, Sooke. From 4 pm to 8 pm. 250-642-3314

New Year's Eve
 Sat Dec 31
New Year's Day
 Sun Jan 1
Stat Holiday
 Tues Jan 2

Happy New Year

West Shore VOICE News
New Year's issue
 Jan 6

2017

www.westshorevoicenews.com

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

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 9, 7 pm in council chambers. www.sooke.ca
City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Mon Jan 9, 7 pm in council chambers. www.colwood.ca
SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Jan 10, 7 pm at Millstream Elementary. www.sd62.bc.ca
Awareness Film Night about LNG in BC. Wed Jan 11 EMCS, 7pm. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

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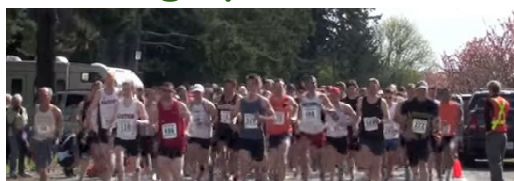
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CBC chooses Trump as 2016 Newsmaker

Turning the USA on its ear, Donald Trump won the 2016 US Presidential Election using various 'new' political ways and means, and a loose use of Twitter to capture the populist momentum based on dissatisfaction about jobs and the economy in the United States. For this, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's news show *Power and Politics* chose Trump as political newsmaker of the year. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the runner-up. www.cbc.ca/news/politics/top-5-newsmakers-2016-1.3909360 WSV

Gearing up for 10K in Sooke



The Sooke River 10K marathon race (photo shows the 2012 race), makes its way along paved surfaces on Sooke River Road.

The Sooke River 10K, the third race in an eight-race Island Series, will be held in 2017 on the morning of Sunday, February 5. Starting and finishing at Edward Milne Community School (EMCS), it is expected to attract about 500 runners from across Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Gulf Islands.

The Sooke River 10k follows an undulating, scenic course on paved roads along Sooke River Road.

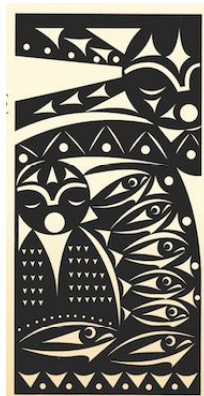
The Victoria Marathon Society will host the race but the organization says it needs local participation to make this event successful.

The Sooke RCMP Detachment has already agreed to assist with traffic management, says local organizer Mark Ziegler.

Ziegler is seeking local volunteers for the morning of February 5. "The Sooke River 10K raises the profile of our community and provides an opportunity to meet new and interesting people," says Ziegler. Refreshments served after the race.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Mark Ziegler at 250-642-5784 or markziegler@shaw.ca WSV

Public art coming to SEAPARC



A metal sculpture based on this design will be installed at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex ahead of the 2017 Sooke Fine Arts Show.

The Victoria Foundation has partnered with the Sooke Fine Arts Society on their Legacy Sculpture Project. Fundraising by the Sooke Fine Arts Society continues. Donations of \$10 or more can receive a charitable tax receipt, with the theme of \$30 for 30 years (anniversary) continuing. Salish artist Chris Paul's *Transformer & the Blind Old Man* metal sculpture will be installed at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in May, prior to the 2017 Sooke Fine Arts Show (July 28 to August 7). WSV

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Recycling the seasonal stuff

In the event that CRD's bluebox recycling collection is affected by extreme weather conditions, an attempt will be made to service missed neighbourhoods the following day.

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.

Not for inclusion in the curbside bluebox: foil gift wrap, Christmas lights, toys, batteries, ribbons & bows, padded envelopes, old electronics, compostables.

Items such as foam packaging, decorative light strings, batteries and electronics can be dropped off free of charge at many recycling depots in the region. Recycling depots: <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.

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WSV & the news

West Shore Voice News



ONGOING FOCUS IN WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS:
HEALTH
EDUCATION
SUSTAINABILITY
THE ECONOMY
COMMUNITY

This weekly print/PDF publication called *West Shore Voice News* (WSV) began as *MapleLine Magazine* (quarterly 2008-2010) and then emerged weekly as *Sooke Voice News* (2011-2014). Since 2015 the print/PDF versions of *West Shore Voice News* have established a growing readership throughout the south island area as well as around Vancouver Island and across BC.



A continued strong readership is also reflected in the continued base

What makes us different from other newspapers is our willingness to say what needs to really be said, with responsible regional reporting and respectful, thought-provoking editorials.

Daily news on Facebook: [WestShoreSookeVoiceNews](https://www.facebook.com/WestShoreSookeVoiceNews)

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Science rocked the world in 2016

The scientific landscape made huge strides in 2016. This was the year in which gene editing reached new heights, a cancer vaccine has come within reach, and a new world record was set for converting sunlight to electricity. And a big high-five to Albert Einstein, who 100 years ago wrote the math that proved the very fabric of the universe – gravitational waves – detected now for the first time.

It's been over 13 years since the human genome has been fully sequenced. But in 2016 a way has been developed to cut-and-paste genes to and from strands of DNA. This allows certain diseases and conditions to be specifically targeted, allowing human bodies to soon be healed from the inside out.

Gene editing using a protein known as Cas9 is showing promise in combating blindness and HIV and is playing a role in identifying the Zika virus. CRISPR-Cas9 was used to remove an immune-system-suppressing gene often triggered by cancer cells in the hopes that the re-engineered cells can battle tumors without fail (study to conclude in April 2018).

And as any two people with a 'connection' or attraction already know, energy transmits between people. Gravitational waves have now been proven to carry that energy over any distance.

These are remarkable times, heading into 2017. WSV

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