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Friday, December 8, 2017 RELEASE DATE December 9, 2017

# Langford Mayor Stew Young and council recognized by Premier

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice

● **After hosting his own holiday season open house** at his constituency office on Monday evening, December 4, BC Premier John Horgan dropped by to the nearby Langford council seasonal get-together.

Saying he moved to Langford 25 years ago, Horgan says Langford has been "transformative" for him: "I raised my family here, became a member of legislature here, and became the premier here."

As part of recognizing 25 years of municipal service by Mayor Stew Young and Councillors Denise Blackwell and Winnie Sifert, the premier called Langford's success "an extraordinary accomplishment".

"It's absolutely unparalleled to have that much dedication and commitment to your community," said Horgan about Langford's mayor and council. He said that Langford has demonstrated "the things that you can do when you work together and have a vision, and have a community this inclusive."

Horgan noted Langford's amenities for young families such as good schools, good sports, great arenas, the YMCA, and libraries. "It just keeps getting better, month after month, year after year. It's been an extraordinary 25 years in Langford, I have a great deal of gratitude for you," said Horgan to Mayor Young, Langford council, and city staff.

"People are coming and bringing families here, starting businesses here, and creating opportunities for themselves. It is all because of the work that you do in this room," Horgan said.

Mayor Young thanked the Premier, and acknowledged Langford's team effort. "We've got a lot of great workers in the City of Langford. Everybody's excited to apply and get a job in Langford." People see leadership here: "Everybody sees how well we work together with our council and our staff. We're always able to do great things in Langford when we all work together like that," said Stew Young, noting how his city is known for an open door policy to business.

"It's one of the things our council prides itself on. Helping everybody who's in business," said Young, noting how using the services of local businesses is key. "The business community comes to our community."

Noting his 25 years on Council (24 of those as Mayor), Stew Young said he is happy and proud to have a team behind him that works so hard to improve the community where he was born and grew up.

Guests this evening included local developers. Horgan gave a nod to that sector of the business community -- along with further acknowledgement to the efficiency and foresight of development by Langford as a municipality -- reporting that in a recent speech to the Urban Development Institute in Vancouver, he had highlighted how well things get done by the City of Langford to speed along with building permits and the growth of the community. **WSV**



Langford Mayor Stew Young recognized for "unparalleled dedication and commitment" to the community that is his lifelong home.



Langford Mayor and longtime Council: (front, from left): Winnie Sifert, Mayor Stew Young, Denise Blackwell; (back): Matt Sahlstrom, Lillian Szpak, Lanny Seaton, Roger Wade.

## Celebrating with snow

● **About 40 snowmen** were created on the grounds of the Sooke Region Museum on Sunday, December 3 as part of the museum's 40th Annual Moss Cottage Christmas. There was carolling and hot food, and prizes for every little snow-person maker. Snow was provided by local mechanical means, as so far in 2017 the west side of Vancouver Island has been enjoying a green holiday season. **WSV**



## BC's minimum age is 19 for recreational cannabis use

West Shore Voice News

### Cannabis in BC

As announced Dec 5, 2017

- **Minimum Age 19**
  - Wholesale through BC Liquor Distribution Branch
  - Retail through both government-run outlets & private businesses
- Retail model will be unveiled in late January or early February

● **Key decisions on recreational (non-medicinal) cannabis regulation** in BC were released this week by the provincial government. The following policy decisions announced December 5 were said to be shaped by feedback provided during just over five weeks of public engagement Sept25-Nov1 on a range of issues including minimum age, personal possession, public consumption, drug-impaired driving, personal cultivation, wholesale distribution and retail models (participation by 48,951 individuals, and 141 local and Indigenous governments):

- **Minimum age** – the minimum age to possess, purchase and consume cannabis will be 19 years. That's consistent with BC's minimum age for alcohol and tobacco and with the age of majority in BC.
- **Wholesale distribution of cannabis** – Like other provinces, BC will have a government-run wholesale distribution model. The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) will be the wholesale distributor of non-medical cannabis in BC.
- **Retailing of cannabis** – The Province anticipates establishing a retail model that includes both public and private retail opportunities and will share details regarding the model in early 2018.

Legalization of non-medicinal cannabis in Canada is anticipated to start July 1, 2018 following the passage of federal legislation in the new year. The retail model for BC will be unveiled in late January or early February, said Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth

"It's clear that British Columbians support the priorities of protecting young people, health and safety, keeping the criminal element out of cannabis and keeping roads safe, which will guide the Province in developing BC's regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis," said Farnworth. In a December 5 news conference he told media that BC expects the federal government to have "a comprehensive campaign in place" as "they are the ones who are legalizing."

Most of the public input was received online. Feedback was also received from the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR) and are endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities executive.

Farnworth said public opinion will continue to be considered as policy and legislation is developed. "A made-in-BC approach to the legalization of non-medical cannabis will keep our roads and communities safe, protect young people, and promote public health and safety," said Farnworth. The provincial government says it still has a number of key decisions to make as it prepares for cannabis legalization. Local and Indigenous governments and other key stakeholders will be able to provide further input. The report: **Cannabis Regulation in BC: What We Heard**: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/BCcannabisregulation/> **WSV**

## BC backs national figure skating

West Shore Voice News

● **Tipping a hat to Canadian winter sport**, this week the BC Government announced a contribution of \$110,000 to support the upcoming national skating championships by helping bring some of the biggest names in Canadian figure skating to Vancouver.

Taking place at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre at the University of British Columbia January 8 - 14, 2018, the week will also be high-profile exposure for Vancouver and Canada's west coast and a winter tourism draw for people from all over BC (tx \$19.99/day Jan 8-11 up to \$40-75 for final days; \$10 at the gate to watch junior and senior practices).

The event is an Olympic-qualifier for Canada's team at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in South Korea. The championships will feature about 250 skaters, competing in the men, women, and pair ice dance disciplines. About 8,000 spectators are expected to attend, with thousands more throughout Canada watching via CTV's live broadcast. The anticipated economic activity generated by the competition is approximately \$6 million, said a Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture news release on December 8. **WSV**



Canadian skaters Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir in Vancouver in 2010 (during Compulsory Ice Dance at the Pacific Coliseum).

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**Editorial**

IEWS & INSIGHTS  
FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST  
SHORE  
VOICE



**BC's Christmas came early, in July**



**Mary P Brooke,**  
B.Sc., Cert PR  
**Editor &  
Publisher**

● **The best Christmas gift** that BC voters could have given themselves has already been received. It happened on May 9 (delayed effectively to July 18 for the swearing-in of BC Premier John Horgan and his gender-balanced cabinet) by voting in the BC NDP government that -- with the healthy sober balancing provided by the BC Greens in the legislative assembly -- has already softened and humanized what it means to live in this most beautiful province in this best country in the world.

So long as Horgan and his government keep in view and in fact the essentials of smart budgeting, generating real jobs in sustainable industries, and engaging the business and development communities with profitable opportunities, the relief that is already felt by individuals and communities in many ways is a remarkable progressive achievement in modern politics. Quietly achieved by everyday folks over many years of politicking, 'the new BC' -- led by a being-of-service Premier -- serves the people with an authentic awareness of what people really need and taking the action to make it happen. For ushering in this new era of action with grace, nicely done.

**BC & CRD News**

West Shore Voice News

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**BC NDP Government protects renters from geographic rent increases**

● **BC is beefing up protection for renters** by closing a loophole that some landlords have used to seek inflated and unfair increases in hot rental markets. On behalf of Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Selina Robinson, Vancouver-West End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert announced

on December 9 that the geographic rent increase clause in the Residential Tenancy Regulation and in the Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Regulation will be eliminated almost immediately (Monday December 11). "Renters have been threatened

with huge rent hikes under the existing rules," said Chandra Herbert. "Since 2008, I've been working to stop this, so that renters can have the more secure housing they need. I'm pleased our government has delivered for renters today."

The annual allowable rent percentage for 2018 is 4%. **WSV**

**\$9.3 million in Community Gaming Grant funds to public safety & environment**

West Shore Voice News

● **The Government of BC** announced their current Community Gaming Grant funding this week. The public safety sector, 137 organizations will in total receive \$5.8 million. In the environmental sector 110 organizations will receive in total \$3.5 million. About 100 communities around BC will benefit from that overall injection of \$9.3 million. The funding is part of the \$140 million that the Community Gaming Grants program provides annually to about 5,000 not-for-profit organizations.

"British Columbians from every corner of the province benefit from safe communities and a healthy natural environment," said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Through the Community Gaming Grants program, our government is proud to support the excellent work of not-for-profit organizations that help protect our environment and literally save lives, from flood zones to mountaintops to wildfire emergencies."

Municipalities also rely heavily on BC Gaming Grant revenues for various projects in their communities. Gaming funds are raised through the sale of lottery tickets and the operation of casinos.

Grants can be received once a year. Local organizations can receive up to \$100,000 per year. Regional organizations can receive up to \$225,000 per year. Province-wide organizations can receive up to \$250,000 per year.

How to apply for a BC community gaming grant: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/community-gaming-grants> **WSV**

**BC Bid needs an overhaul**

West Shore Voice News

● **"BC Bid is 20 years old;** it's time to bring it up to date. By making the system more nimble and user friendly, we are making it easier for all companies, especially small- and medium-sized ones, to do business with government," said Minister of Citizens' Services Jinny Sims in a statement December 6.

"This is the first step in overhauling the government's approach to procurement and will help ensure that companies from every region of British Columbia have the opportunity to compete for the Province's business," said Sims. The BC government is seeking to implement innovative ways to engage and work with BC contractors and companies. Government says the new BC Bid will ensure ease of access and improved transparency in the procurement process.

Companies able to provide a new, automated procurement application with standardized processes are encouraged to participate. The aims are to: offer a modern user experience on a reliable application; save time, reduce complexity and increase the number of vendors competing for and ultimately winning BC government contracts; and make it easier for companies to do business with the B.C. government. The new BC Bid application is expected to be up and running in 2019.

Bids can be submitted up to January 26, 2018. Government will thoroughly review the applicants and assess the best fit for British Columbians. **WSV**

**WorkSafeBC: ladder safety reminders**

West Shore Voice News

● **WorkSafeBC has released six new ladder safety videos** to remind workers, employers and homeowners to use ladders safely, both on the job and while decorating at home for the holidays.

"Last year, more than 1,000 workers were seriously injured in falls from height, including while using step ladders, extension ladders and scaffolding," says Dan Strand, Director of Prevention Field Services, WorkSafeBC. The new videos and resources illustrate how the right ladder, the correct positioning and hazard assessments could prevent a serious injury or death. [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)



**Ladder safety at Xmas time.**

From 2012 to 2016, six workers died and there were 4,920 accepted time-loss claims -- including 1,634 serious injuries -- as a result of falls from ladders across all industries in BC.

**Ladder safety tips:** • **Select the right ladder** for the job. It should be long enough to extend 1m above the upper landing. • **Place the ladder** on a firm, level surface and inspect it before each use to ensure it's in good working condition; look for cracks or loose rungs. • **Always maintain three points** of contact while climbing a ladder: two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot. • **Don't carry heavy or bulky objects** while climbing up or down a ladder. • **Don't work from the top two rungs** of the ladder or have more than one worker on a ladder at once. • **Wind, rain, and snow** may pose additional hazards that need to be mitigated. • **Check for power lines** and ensure a minimum distance of three metres can be maintained at all times before starting work.

WorkSafeBC serves about 2.3 million workers and 231,000 employers throughout BC. In administering the Workers' Compensation Act, the organization is accountable to the public through the BC government. **WSV**

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**West Shore Voice News**

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**CRD to take fresh look at solid waste management, seeks committee members before Christmas**

West Shore Voice News



**Working the materials at Hartland Landfill.** About 114,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste are received at the facility each year. The Capital Regional District projects the current landfill setup being full by 2049.

● **It's a busy and distracting time of year to think about new political structures.** But the Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking members from the Greater Victoria community to serve on a new Solid Waste Advisory Committee. The committee will operate 'twice removed', i.e. report to the CRD's Environmental Services Committee, which in turn would report to the full CRD board.

The new Solid Waste Advisory Committee will provide input on solid waste management matters, advise on the development of a major revision of our region's Solid Waste Management Plan, and monitor implementation of the new plan once it is approved.

The advisory committee will include representation from a wide range of stakeholder groups including First Nations, private sector and municipal waste management service providers, non-profit organizations, businesses groups, the environmental community and the general public. Participation is voluntary and members will be asked to commit to meeting (minimum once a month) for up to three years.

Residents are invited to apply by submitting a brief summary about themselves and who they represent, any relevant experience and why they would like to serve on the committee. The application deadline is December 29, 2017. [www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/solid-waste-management](http://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/solid-waste-management)

The new solid waste management committee's main focus for 2018 will be on planning. That will include reviewing current programs, identifying issues and opportunities, and assisting in developing and evaluating a variety of options and strategies based on the 5R hierarchy (reducing, reusing, recycling, recovery and residuals management). The committee will contribute to the development of the plan's principles, goals and targets.

The CRD established a local service for solid waste disposal in 1973. The Environmental Resource Management (ERM) division is responsible for municipal solid waste management, including waste reduction, recycling programs and the operation of Hartland Landfill. ERM reports to the Environmental Services Committee who make recommendations to the CRD Board.

Waste and recycling in the CRD region includes curbside box-blue collection; programs to reduce, reuse and recycle; as well as kitchen scraps and composting. **WSV**

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## Colwood lightup attracts big crowd

West Shore Voice News

Over 1,000 people turned out on a cold but dry night, Wednesday December 6, for the annual Christmas lightup at Colwood City Hall.

Indoors and outdoors, the municipal hub was buzzing with activity including the lights, food carts, and choir outdoors, plus Santa and craft room indoors. In council chambers there were detailed displays about Colwood's year-long public engagement and new draft Official Community Plan, with questions being answered by members of the Planning staff.

Mayor Carol Hamilton was pleased with the turnout, probably the biggest yet! **WSV**



The entry-way to Colwood City Hall, all lit up and welcoming to hundreds of visitors.

## Tippy is all better!

West Shore Voice News



Mid-November, Tippy was still a bit sad but bravely recovering from deer-inflicted wounds.

Everyone who goes to Big O Tire Westshore at 1705 Island Hwy gets to meet Tippy.

She is the black Lab who spends her days with Don Swindell and his team as they fix cars at the popular auto repair shop.

Tippy made high-profile news several weeks ago for having suffered an injurious run-in with the antlers of an agitated deer in Saanich. Her wounds have now healed, and last week Don and his staff celebrated... they held a big party for Tippy. With Big O staff and friends she was treated to venison stew and cake for her 13th birthday! **WSV**

## Big lottery win before Christmas



A Kelowna man won \$16.7 million in the Lotto 6/49 draw this week. Clifford Britch and his wife say they will share their prize with their children and grandchildren, then travel after Christmas. He told BC Lottery Corporation that he had been in the habit of buying a ticket each time he visited the local mall. **WSV**

## Supreme Court rules text messages private

West Shore Voice News

Canadians have the charter right to be protected against unreasonable search or seizure. So it's big news that an Ontario man convicted of trafficking handguns has been acquitted with a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that found the text messages used to charge and prosecute him should have been considered private.

In a 5-2 ruling announced December 8, the majority of justices found the accused, Nour Marakah, had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the messages sent to his accomplice.

Lawyer Christine Lonsdale representing the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (an intervener in the case) said the ruling has "very broad and important implications" for the public. She said it means all Canadians can expect that all text messages, when sent or received, are considered private. Previously, without this court ruling, someone who sent an intimate message that was then shared could be "out of luck" in seeking a remedy, she said.

In today's high-tech world it is still, however, the case that texts, emails and social media messages are easily hacked or tracked by those who might try. **WSV**

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## Sooke celebrates new turf

West Shore Voice News

Last Sunday, December 3, a gathering of Sooke sport enthusiasts and VIPs celebrated the new artificial turf on the ball field at Fred Milne athletic park.

Sooke Councillor Rick Kasper said afterward that "the leadership of Sooke Community Association and Sooke Soccer has created a lasting legacy our community can be proud of."

The \$1.5 million project saw \$1 million sourced from Gas Tax Funds through the District of Sooke and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; the rest was provided by community groups and in-kind donations.

The City of Langford donated the turf (removed from their now-upgraded Westhills Stadium field). At the event in Sooke, Langford Mayor Stew Young commended everyone's contributions. "The turf field is good for the region," Young told *West Shore Voice News* this week. "All the work of volunteers built a great facility." At Langford Council on December 4, Mayor Young said: "In a wet island region, the field will allow more opportunities for more kids and adults to get involved in activities without having cancellations due to bad weather."

The outdoor event last Sunday was also attended by District of Sooke Councillors Ebony Logins, Brenda Parkinson, and Kevin Pearson; T'Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes and T'Sou-ke spiritual leader Shirley Alphonse; Premier John Horgan, MLA, Langford-Juan de Fuca; and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks.

"This was an incredible partnership between the Juan de Fuca residents, District of Sooke, volunteer trades, Sooke business and Sooke Community Association that resulted in a beautiful playing field for our kids," said Mike Hicks. For years he has seen Juan de Fuca and Sooke youth heading into Victoria and beyond to take part in soccer games. Now they can stay in Sooke.

Councillor Pearson told TV media on Sunday: "It's absolutely a huge day for Sooke and said "the real heroes are the volunteers".

Former District of Sooke Councillor Herb Haldane -- a big community association and sports supporter -- was present on Sunday. District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait was not present at this event. **WSV**

## Long-time front-line staffer recognized by Langford Council

West Shore Voice News

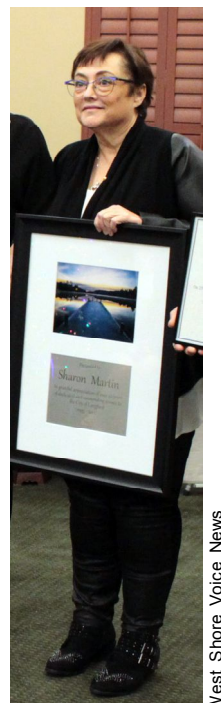
When you arrive at the front reception area of the City of Langford administrative office, there she is. Sharon Martin. Quiet and friendly, Sharon is probably the first person you meet. Through her longevity with the city and easy people-skills she provides a key connecting thread for the municipality.

"I started in the Building Inspection Department in 1993," says Martin. "There were about 10 of us in a trailer on Carlow Road. As more staff got added we pulled apart the trailer and added another piece until we moved here (to the present city hall building on Goldstream Avenue) in the early 2000s," she told *West Shore Voice News* this week.

Martin reminisces: "Watching the traffic light at Millstream and Trans Canada Highway turn into Veterans Memorial Parkway, the transformation of Hulls Field into the industrial area we now enjoy, beautiful Westhills, and the development of the Downtown Core -- this is only a minute part of the transformation I have seen in my 25 years working for the City that I now call home."

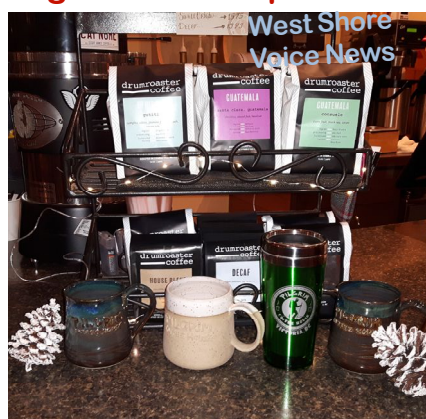
Martin received a framed photo and recognition plaque awarded by Langford Mayor Stew Young in a brief presentation at the December 4, 2017 council meeting. **WSV**

[Also recognized for over 20 years of service to the City were Matthew Baldwin and Trina Cruikshank -- profiles coming in next issue.]



Sharon Martin recognized for over 20 years service with the City of Langford.

## Pilgrim does it up for Xmas



Pilgrim Coffee House owners John and Jan Krottner love the excitement of the holiday season at their popular coffee shop at 1910 Sooke Road in Colwood. Lots of special gifts

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: Wednesday Dec 13 for the WSV Dec 15th Issue

West Shore Voice News

Xmas Fun!

Santa Run in Sooke. Sat Dec 9 starting 5pm. Four routes by Sooke Fire Dept in decorated trucks, collecting food bank donations. #SookeSanta



Candy Cane Run by Otter Point Volunteer Firefighters collecting food bank donations. Sat Dec 9 - 5 pm. www.otterpointfire.bc.ca

'A Classic Christmas' by Sooke Community Choir. At Sooke Community Hall. Sun Dec 10 at 2 pm. \$20 (\$15 sr/student), <16 free. www.sookecommunitychoir.com

City of Langford Planning Committee, Mon Dec 11, 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

City of Colwood Committee of the Whole, Mon Dec 11, 6 pm. www.colwood.ca

District of Sooke. Regular Council Meeting. Mon Dec 11, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca

TRAFFIC: Lane Closure Millstream Ave (between Trans Canada Hwy and Treanor) Tues Dec 12 for meridian maintenance. 7am to 1 pm.

Public Drop-in Flu Clinic by Island Health. Sooke Child Youth & Family Centre, 104-6672 Wadams Way. Tues Dec 12 1-4. www.viha.ca/flu/

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Dec 12 at the school board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd, 8 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

Public Drop-In Flu Clinic by Island Health. Colwood Pentecostal, 2250 Sooke Rd. Wed Dec 13, 1:30 to 6pm. www.viha.ca/flu/

Generation Zapped exposure to electromagnetic fields from wireless tech. Wed Dec 13, 7 to 9pm EMCS, admission by donation. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

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Cold weather is hard on car batteries.



Check older batteries. Be sure connections are clean and tight.

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10,000 Tonight Food Drive. Wed Dec 13. SD62 high schools collecting non-perishable items door to door for food banks. 5-10 pm. You can also take donations to: Royal Bay, 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way; Belmont, 3041 Langford Lake Rd; EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd (5 to 9 pm).

Ad Deadline Wed Dec 13 ~ 5pm for big Dec 15th Season's Greetings Issue of West Shore Voice. Call 250-217-5821 or email advertising@westshorevoicenews.com

Holidays at Hatley. Wed Dec 13. Seasonal celebration by West Shore Chamber at Hatley Castle. Tx \$35 members, \$40 non-members. www.westshore.bc.ca

Alistair MacGregor. MP Holiday Season open house Wed Dec 15. 4-6 pm, Duncan United Church Hall. Also attending: Murray Rankin, MP. Email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca

Victoria Christmas Bird Count. Sat Dec 16 (Dec 28 in Sooke). In a group or count in your own yard: www.christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi/feederwatchbrochure.pdf

Winter Wonderland Skates Dec 16-20. JdF Arena in the west shore. www.westshorererecreation.ca

Metchosin: Breakfast with Santa. Sun Dec 17. 10am-1pm. Bring food bank donation. www.metchosinfire.ca

2017 Santa Go Round with Colwood Firefighters. Sun Dec 17. 9am-3pm. Thru Colwood neighbourhoods. Accepting food bank donations. www.colwood.ca

Evedar's Bistro gearing up in festive season

West Shore Voice News

Evedar's Bistro in central Langford offers seating styles for coffee, dining and lounge. Under the creative eye of new manager Laurie Tomin, the 78-seat eatery is proud of a



Cozy dining area within the meandering floorplan at Evedar's Bistro.

varied menu and being a venue for live music coming up in 2018.

On Thursday evening, Tomin -- herself a master cheesemaker -- hosted a high-end evening of wine and cheese pairing. The following day she and her staff hosted members of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and members of the business community in the afternoon for hot cider and hearty culinary treats.

Evedar's will feature a Christmas-eve brunch on Sunday December 24, from 10 am to 2 pm. Located at 2829 Peatt Road, street parking. WSV

Fresh tree for you?

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It's sort of a low-key urban debate each holiday season... fresh cut tree or manufactured? Some buildings no longer allow fresh trees (water leakage and fire hazard). And do you want to hack down a living tree when plastic or metal will do?

Nonetheless, each year an Xmas Tree Sale fundraiser organized by environmental studies teacher Debbie Lodewijk at SD62's Colwood Campus does well. Her team of teachers, students and helpers hopes to top last year's count and sell 500 trees this year.

The brightly lit setup with oodles of parking at 2139 Sooke Rd is open daily Mon-Thurs 3-7 pm, Fri-Sat 10am-8pm, and Sun 10am-6pm through to December 17. WSV

PHARMASAVE Canada's community pharmacy. Open Daily at 6716 West Coast Rd in Sooke. Your Medication & Compounding Experts for People and Pets. Monday to Thursday: 8am-8pm, Fridays: 8am-6pm, Saturdays: 9am-6pm, Sundays/Holidays: 10am-5pm. Phone: 250-642-2226

30,000 food items to be collected in one night! Belmont students do 10,000 Tonight. High school students in the west shore and Sooke will again this year combine forces to collect non-perishable food items for the annual 10,000 Tonight Food Drive in Sooke School District 62 (SD62).

Festival of Trees in SEAPARC lobby. Decorate trees are festive in the lobby at SEAPARC in Sooke [December 2015]. The number of tree sponsors in the Festival of Trees in the lobby at SEAPARC Leisure Complex has dwindled over the years. But still standing proud are the following nine tree decorating groups.

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Count some birds! On Saturday Dec 16 in Victoria (& Dec 28 in Sooke), over 200 novice-to-expert birdwatchers with Victoria Christmas Bird Count Circle are headed to the streets, parks and beaches to count all the birds they can find. People can contribute by reporting the birds from their own backyards. See the brochure online with photos of 28 of the most common species likely to be seen including robins, wrens, flickers, pigeons and crows. WSV