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Happy 150th Birthday Canada!  
Send us photos/stories see pg 2

**West Shore Voice News** **WSV** 4 pages this issue

Additional breaking news & PDF of this week's issue:  
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Week #312 of the Voice

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West side of Vancouver Island

Friday, January 13, 2017

SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

**22 more teachers for SD62**

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice

● Out of \$50 million being issued by the BC Ministry of Education soon to schools in BC, about \$900,000 of that will be received by Sooke School District 62 (SD62) to hire more teachers.



Sooke School District Superintendent Jim Cambridge (left) and SD62 Board Chair Bob Phillips took in a Grade 3 choir presentation at Education Committee of the Whole (Millstream Elementary, Jan 10). K-12 system". He adds: "We're excited about losing LIF restrictions. There is no need to find some new \$80 million that is already in place going forward in the BCTF 5-year collective agreement," Phillips says.

About 1,100 teachers will be hired province-wide. About 22 of those (Full Time Equivalents/FTEs) will be hired in SD62 (Langford, Colwood, Sooke) where student numbers have been increasing in recent years.

SD62 will soon receive that estimated \$900,000. Hiring is set to begin just as soon as the 27 schools in SD62 determine (at the school level by principal, vice principal and staff) what their priorities are for more teachers. Options include additional part-time teachers for full classrooms, teacher-librarians, education assistants (EAs), counsellors and other positions.

This first portion of funding comes as the BC Government continues its negotiations with the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF). A recent Supreme Court of Canada decision declared the BCTF contract was unsuitably altered by the BC Government back in 2002. This is now catch-up.

Cambridge explained that smaller schools like Colwood Elementary will get 0.4% of an FTE. Bigger elementary schools will get almost a full-time person. The largest high school in SD62 (Belmont Secondary) will get 2.8 FTEs.

A second 'payout' will come after further negotiations. That further amount has been estimated by some as about \$300 million. However, SD62 Chair Bob Phillips says: "\$80 million in Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) money is already in the



Three Millstream Elementary French Immersion students gave a presentation on stress management, to the SD62 Board and staff at their Jan 10 ECOW meeting.

**High demand at Emergency**

● Flu season is putting a strain on Emergency Department loads. So Island Health is asking Island residents to do their part to ensure they use Emergency Departments appropriately.

"When people use our Emergency Departments wisely it goes a long way in helping dedicated emergency room physicians, nurses and clinical staff to provide timely, quality care to patients who truly need emergency care," said Jeremy Etherington, Executive VP and Chief Medical Officer, Island Health. "Emergency rooms triage patients and those in need of emergency or urgent care are seen first, meaning potential longer waits for those with non-emergency or urgent needs, such as a prescription refill."



end and/or holidays, if necessary, to avoid long wait-times at Emergency • Note the weekend and holiday hours of your local pharmacy/drug store, and ensure your prescriptions are up to date • Have basic pharmaceuticals on hand to control children's fever and pain • Become familiar with local walk-in clinic locations/hours • Wear a seatbelt when in a vehicle • Don't drink & drive • Wear the right footwear to

**Lt Governor to visit 3 Sooke schools**

West Shore Voice News

● BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon is scheduled to visit three schools in Sooke on Wednesday, January 18.



SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge was excited to announce the three-school visit during an Education Committee of the Whole meeting January 10 in the school library at Millstream Elementary.

As part of launching Canada's 150th Birthday celebrations, on January 18 Her Honour will be attending an assembly at Sooke Elementary at 9am, followed by 10:30 am participation at an assembly at Journey Middle School, and then at Edward Milne Community School at 1:30 pm.

**SOOKE SCHOOLS 62**  
Shaping Tomorrow Today

**Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-2018 academic year**  
**January 23 to 27**  
starting at 8:00 am

**Kindergarten, French Immersion K or Nature K!**

Registrations are first-come, first-served online at [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) or at your neighbourhood school.

More details: [www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/kindergarten)

**SD62 grad rates up, down across BC**

● Graduation rates in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) are up over the past few years, by 1.5% since 2013-2014. Higher adult and Aboriginal grad rates are part of the success trend. The good news was part of a presentation by SD62 Assistant Superintendent Paul Block at a meeting Jan 10.

Trustees and staff expressed how pleased they were about student performance through the tough economic times (for both the school system and families) that were experienced over the last several years.

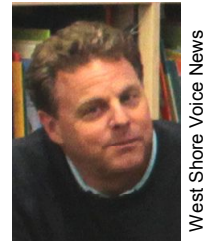


SD62 Assistant Superintendent Paul Block

In 2015-2016 the overall grad percentage (students who completed Grade 12) was 76.1%, up from 74.6% and 73.5% in the two preceding academic years (i.e. 2014-2015 and 2013-2015 respectively). Those numbers still fall short of the down-trending BC provincial average (public and private schools combined), that shows a grad rate of 83.6% in 2015-2016 (and 83.9% and 84. % in the two years preceding). "There's lots of room to improve but we're certainly heading there," commented SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge. Block pointed out that female grads outnumber their male peers.

**SD62 Academies a roaring success**

● Sport academies in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) are highly popular. Sign-up rates have increased steadily over the past few years. it was learned during a presentation by Wayne Kelly, SD62 District Vice Principal for Academies, at Education Committee of the Whole on Jan 10. In this 2016-2017 year over 750 students are enrolled in academies for soccer, rugby, lacrosse, hockey, baseball/softball, equine studies, and dance. That's up from about 500 in 2014-2015. The expectation is 850 for 2017-2018; registration starts online at 6am on Feb 1.



Wayne Kelly, VP Academies

Fees for a year range between \$550 and \$1,500. Funding support is available through Jumpstart (for sports but not dance). Langford-based students can be eligible for some municipal-based sports funding.

A parent info night will be held Thurs Jan 19 at Belmont, 6 to 7:30 pm.

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EDITORIAL

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Eccentricities should not blind the public to committed service

When a rich kid from Ottawa/Montreal rolls up his sleeves and takes on the leadership of arguably the best country in the world, political pundits need to cut a bit of slack when petulance peeks out from behind the political correctness.

So Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took his family on a trip that few of us will ever be able to afford. And the trip was paid for by someone affiliated with an agency that lobbies the government, but is also a long-time family friend. They took a helicopter to a private island – how exotic! Would you turn down such a trip?

Notwithstanding some of the economic and political challenges that may lie ahead over some of Trudeau's political decisions (like longstanding deficit spending, faltering on prompt delivery of democratic process reform, and what seemed like a casual threat to the oil industry in a town hall meeting this week), Canada is the coolest place on earth. No wars in our backyards, deliberate attention to matters of social well-being and environment, and a business sector that somehow wants to keep on trying in a flatline economy.

Thank your lucky stars and cut a break for people who devote themselves to public service when really they don't have to.



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

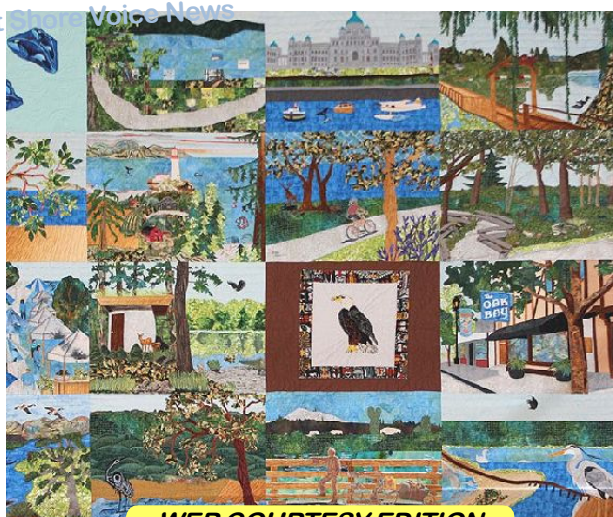
REGIONAL NEWS

@WestShoreVOICE

Regional quilt on display

A regional quilt created by a team of volunteers as part of the CRD's 50th anniversary is now on display at CRD head office in Victoria, announced last week.

Each municipality and electoral area that makes up the CRD is represented by a block of the quilt; a duplicate framed block will be gifted to municipalities and electoral areas. Made by 33 members of the quilting community creating 28 unique blocks, the final quilt weaves a tapestry of the region's landscapes and communities.



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CRD gears up for 2017

"2016 was a year of progress as we focused on delivering on strategic priorities that benefit the region while continuing to provide cost-effective core services," said Chair Barb Desjardins at the Jan 11 CRD Board meeting. "There are many significant and exciting projects ahead." Climate change remains a top strategic priority as a Regional Climate Action Strategy is presented to the Board early this year. The

Advertisement for Garbage Warrior Junk Removal, serving Sooke to Victoria, offering free estimates at 250-885-5103.

Special Task Force on First Nations will move forward to establish an inclusive model of governance and continue to undertake initiatives that respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

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West Shore Voice News

TIME CAPSULE

Canada's sesquicentennial (150th birthday) is being celebrated in 2017, likely peaking with July 1st Canada Day celebrations.

All year long, we welcome your stories & photos... how you've seen the world change since Canada's centennial in 1967, and your views for beyond 2017. Write to news@westshorevoicenews.com



Meryl Streep

with reference to the media covering the upcoming presidency of Donald J Trump, in her Golden Globes award acceptance speech, January 8, 2017

Quote of the Week

"We need the principled press to hold power to account, to call them on the carpet for every outrage."

Full transcript posted at www.westshorevoicenews.com WSV (Jan 8)



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

About \$3 million in Royal Tour costs shared by federal, BC, local governments

The BC government paid in total \$613,363.93 for their share of costs for the Royal Tour 2016, when their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and their children, visited BC during their second official tour of Canada.

BC's costs were primarily for administrative services and supplies, hospitality, media operations and services, and travel for BC government officials and staff. The Sept 26 reception at Government House cost \$20,854 where the royal couple met notable British Columbians including politicians, First Nations, philanthropists and veterans.

The federal government paid about \$2 million for RCMP policing costs including overtime. Other policing costs (Victoria & Vancouver) came to about \$73,000.

Yukon's Department of Tourism and Culture reported costs of \$11,754.76 for the Royal Couple's visit to Whitehorse.

From Sept 24 to Oct 1, 2016, the Duke and Duchess used Government House in Victoria as a home base. They visited Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Bella Bella and Haida Gwaii, attracting large crowds throughout their tour, including 15,000 British Columbians for their official welcome to Canada at the Parliament Buildings.

There were over 25 engagements highlighting social support initiatives, mental health, youth, and the Great Bear Rainforest.

The eight-day royal tour



Crowds overflowed from the BC Parliament Building grounds into downtown Victoria during the Official Welcome, Sept 24, 2016.

attracted global attention to BC with more than 435 accredited media (including 64 UK & 31 international). The media coverage spread exposure to millions of people, with a boost to BC tourism among the desired outcomes.

With a total expenditure of about \$3+ million, the tour expended about 64 cents per British Columbian (population 4.7+ million).

John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca



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## What the frack?

West Shore Voice News



WEB COURTESY EDITION

Crowd at AFN event on fracking.

● About 90 people showed up to the Jan 11 Awareness Film Night to hear energy economics journalist Andrew Nikiforuk explore fracking (a key function for the extraction of LNG) and overall the goings-on of the oil and gas industry.

Much of his talk was to give context to material and information gathered by Jessia Ernst who as an environmental consultant discovered and heard things that

compelled her to break open the generally maintained silence about the impacts of fracking.

Calling it 'brute force', fracking was described by Nikiforuk as not only a source of quakes in the range of Magnitude ranging from 4 to 4.8, but also as an oil and gas extraction method that is contaminating ground water with methane and hydrocarbon components and residue.

"The industry cannot control the direction of its fractures," said Nikiforuk. So perhaps the most striking aspect of the 1-hour presentation was the news that many people whose land has been negatively affected by fracking have been asked to sign confidentiality agreements. But also that if fracking to uncover natural gas is done in the future in BC, the fracking process would be

undertaken in a geographical zone that is already prone to quakes and along pristine coastal and forested areas.

Nikiforuk gave a basic technical overview of fracking. Pumping high-pressure water or hydrocarbons between cracks in what are usually depleted oil well extraction areas is done with the hope of pushing out oil or natural gas. But the return of good quality product is not great, perhaps modest or even minimal at best. Yet the oil and gas folks keep seeking hydrocarbons because they have investment creditors to pay.

The event was co-organized by Transition Sooke. **WSV**

## Canada 150 banners for Sooke

West Shore Voice

● Some Canada 150 banners to help dress up the town core area in Sooke in

2017 have been approved for purchase by Sooke Council. Up to \$10,000 will spent to purchase and securely install the banners.

The motion surfaced at council on January 9 after it was announced that an application submitted for a federal Canada 150 grant by Elida Peers and others who were hoping to organize a Salmon Festival theme around it, had been declined. While Councillor Ebony Logins said she felt the funding request should wait until April when other project grants come forward, Council considered this as serving more than one group. Canada 150 is a full community celebration.

Funds will come out of the 2016 Sooke Program of the Arts budget in which \$10,000 remained from that committee's cancelled Mosaic 150 project. **WSV**

## Decorated trees at SEAPARC net \$1,640 for kids

West Shore Voice News

● The Festival of Trees fundraiser for BC Children's Hospital that filled the lobby with holiday cheer at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke in December (wrapping up Jan 4) produced \$1,640.

The funds were raised by public donations and tree sponsorship, says SEAPARC's aquatic coordinator Liz Olsen. Olsen has organized the fundraiser over several Christmas seasons. **WSV**



Many bear stuffies and ornaments in the Festival of Trees at SEAPARC, Dec 2016

## Sooke Council Notes

Jan 9 West Shore Voice News

● It was a busy night at Sooke Council on Monday, January 9 but there was an odd energy. Things just didn't slip into the usual energetic gear.

Perhaps it's because it was the first meeting back after the holidays, mused long-time community activist Diane Bernard afterward. But the jarring factor was likely the opening remarks by Mayor Maja Tait ahead of the regular agenda. She blew the water open on public input, saying she wasn't hearing enough of it and rhetorically asked Council to go along with her declaration that there will be at least two public input sessions this month, apart from the formal Council process. Councillors appeared unprepared for this.

This offset was followed by a string of unrelated delegations. A new technology facility by Mouck Marine Energy is coming to the Sooke area. Homelessness concerns were touched upon by Margarita Dominguez of the Victoria Pet Food Bank and Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society, saying the homeless should have a right to sleep in Sooke parks; she also pitched for funds to relocate the group's vandalized shelter from Throup Rd. Two presenters addressed their support for the use of firearms/bows on agricultural lands (opposing perceived restrictions in proposed Bylaw 659).

On Monday night Council did not reconsider its proposed Firearms Bylaw 659 which would impose greater distance restrictions upon agricultural land owners in the use of firearms and bows with arrows. That has been left for another day.

New Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount who started January 1 was introduced but only briefly, and similarly a brief thank you went to Interim Fire Chief Russ Cameron who had filled in since last summer. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

There was some further discussion over the again-postponed Knox Centre development... this time over a bus stop requirement. BC Transit pays for bus stops but usually it's the municipality that provides the space and preparations. In this case, Knox has been asked to manage bus stop installation, across the street from their building. Councillor Kevin Pearson reiterated his concerns (from over the years, including when he chaired the Land Use Committee) that CD zoning is too specific and can lead to issues for future owners of the property later on.

Council voted in favour of working collaboratively with the City of Colwood to review the CRD's transportation service proposal. **WSV**



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait (shown here at her levee on Jan 1) announced two opportunities for public input to Council: Jan 23 (6 to 6:40pm) & Jan 30 (7pm).

## Malahat-area users pulling out of West Shore Rec

● Only about .2% of passholders for services by West Shore Parks & Rec (WSPR) at the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre in Colwood are Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) residents.

"A couple of hundred residents in the Malahat area participate in the West Shore Recreation service," says JDFEA director Mike Hicks. "Due to traffic congestion issues on the Malahat and in the West Shore, most or all residents are not using the service. Many travel in the opposite direction to Cobble Hill and Duncan for recreation."

"The Malahat residents have asked that I remove them from the service and I have given notice that they will be leaving at the end of 2017. The Malahat resident's tax requisitions will be reduced by the full amount," Hicks said this week.

"The remaining JDF residents are partners with Sooke in the SEAPARC Recreation Center in Sooke," says Hicks. **West Shore Voice News**

Of WSPR pass holders in 2015, 24.2% were from Colwood, while 41.5% were from Langford, and just 0.2% from JDFEA. "These numbers don't account for all the programs, just pass holders. But it gives a sense of the distribution," says

Colwood communications manager Sandra Russell.

Budgetwise, the 2015 JDFEA Electoral tax requisition was small (\$21,406) compared to Langford (\$2,511,736), Colwood (\$1,110,077) and Highlands (\$177,304).

In theory that frees up \$21,406 in the JDFEA budget for 2018. **WSV**

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JdF Rec Centre arena entry area.



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# WHAT'S GOING ON

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# West Shore Voice News

**Canadian Blood Services donor clinic.** Mon Jan 16 at Sooke Legion. 11:30 am to 6:30 pm. Book appointment: [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**SPEAC Meeting.** Wed Jan 18, 7 pm at school board office. [www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/)

**SD62 Sport Academies Parent Info.** Thurs Jan 19, 6 to 7:30 pm, Belmont Secondary. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**SD62 Kindergarten Registration.** Mon Jan 23 (8 am) to Fri Jan 27. [www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/childergarten](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/schools/childergarten)

**District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting.** Mon Jan 23. 7pm in council chambers. NOTE: public input 6 to 6:40 pm ahead of the regular council meeting. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

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**Parenting Teens through Hard Times.** Mon Jan 23. 6:30-8:30pm, 345 Wale Rd. Free. Guest Speaker: Shauna Janz, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria. RSVP by Jan 19 for child care: 250-217-4929

**SD62 Board Meeting** Tues Jan 24. 8pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Sooke Region Chamber Breakfast.** Guest speaker Langford Mayor Stew Young. Wed Jan 25, 7am. Register: [www.sookeregionchamber.com](http://www.sookeregionchamber.com)

**Tsunami the Inflatable Dragon in the Pool.** Fri Jan 27 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex. 1 to 2:45 pm. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Making Waves 'Big Ideas Fair'** Sat Jan 28 9am-4pm (drop in). Interactive family-friendly opportunity for public input to City of Colwood. At Royal Bay Secondary. [www.colwood.ca/events](http://www.colwood.ca/events)

**Family Learning Tour.** Sat Jan 28 at various west shore locations. Storywalk, blackberry painting, scavenger hunt, more. 10 am to 1 pm. [www.westshoreliteracy.ca](http://www.westshoreliteracy.ca)

**District of Sooke Committee of the Whole.** Mon Jan 30. 7pm. Public input. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**SD62 Sport Academies Registration** for 2017-2018 starts at 6am online Wed Feb 1. [www.sd62.bc.ca/academies](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/academies)

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## Norovirus infections from undercooked oysters

West Shore Voice News

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is warning the public to fully cook oysters following a spike in acute gastrointestinal illness associated with the consumption of undercooked oysters.

On January 13, BCCDC reported that since early December 2016, over 70 cases of oyster-related illness have been reported to BC health authorities including Island Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health and First Nations Health Authority. "The outbreak is ongoing and more cases are expected."

People who have been ill have reported eating raw oysters or lightly-cooked oysters in restaurants or prepared at home.

"Testing in several of the cases confirmed the presence of norovirus, and we suspect norovirus in the others," said Dr. Eleni Galanis, epidemiologist at the



web source

BCCDC. "In order to kill norovirus and other bugs, people need to cook oysters thoroughly, to an internal temperature of 90 degrees Celsius for 90 seconds."

Dr. Galanis says oysters can make people sick at any time during the year. While raw oyster consumption during the summer months is linked to an increased risk of illness from "Vibrio" (*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*), other microorganisms like norovirus can be present all year. The investigation is ongoing, says BCCDC.

Long-time west shore resident Dianna Seaton says: "My brother owned an oyster farm and warned that we should NEVER eat raw oysters at any time of the year."

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Anyone becoming ill with diarrhea and vomiting after eating shellfish should call BC HealthLink at 811. If symptoms are severe or persist, they should see their physician, says the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Norovirus: [www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/norovirus-norwalk-like-virus](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/norovirus-norwalk-like-virus) | Safe consumption of fish and shellfish: [www.bccdc.ca/health-info/food-your-health/fish-shellfish](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/food-your-health/fish-shellfish) WSV

## Flu season in full swing on Vancouver Island

West Shore Voice News

Influenza and flu-like illness is seeing a seasonal peak on Vancouver Island. "It's quite common to see an increase in patients at this time of year," says Kellie Hudson, Media Relations, Island Health. "There has been an increase these last few weeks. It's too soon to tell if we have reached the peak of influenza/influenza-like activity."

As of January 10, a total of 181 flu patients diagnosed between Sept 1, 2016 and Jan 10, 2017 were admitted to Island Health acute care facilities. Of those were found to be for 180 influenza A (H3N2) and 1 with influenza B. As of January 10, there were 66 patients still in hospital.

H3N2 is a targeted virus in this year's flu vaccine. West Shore Voice News

"Five people have died (this season) with confirmed influenza in Island Health facilities," says Hudson. "While they were diagnosed with influenza, it may not necessarily have been the cause of death."

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Seniors are most likely to get complications from H3N2 and require hospitalization. "Right now the average age of people admitted to Island Health hospitals for flu is 81 years, which is quite old," says Dr Dee Hoyano, Medical Health Officer, Island Health. In hospital patients can be rehydrated and given appropriate medications. "Young people have the benefit of being healthier and usually recover at home. Very young children may sometimes require hospitalization from flu."

Dr Hoyano also notes that in October 2016 more people were reporting respiratory illness (not necessarily flu) than usual. "This flu season has come a bit early this year compared to average. I hope it will be over in a few weeks," says Hoyano. In 2016 the flu season lasted longer into March.

**OVERFLOW.** As a result of increased patient volumes, overflow areas have been opened. This is usual practice. Additional patients can be accommodated, with a temporarily increase in room capacity as necessary. When using overflow areas, appropriate measures and infection control practices are used to ensure adequate space between patients to reduce risk of infection.

**POSTPONED SURGERIES.** The seasonal spike in respiratory illness led to about 13 surgical postponements last week and some into this week as well across the island due to bed availability. Surgical postponements are always considered a last resort as site capacity is managed. Postponement may occur based on: the acuity of the patient, cancer diagnosis, patient is from out of town, the patient's surgery been previously postponed, other mitigating factors. As much notice is given as possible. "We work with the surgeon to reschedule the patient on a timely basis," says Hudson. West Shore Voice News

**PEOPLE ARE NOT TURNED AWAY.** While it is a busy time at the hospitals, the public is reassured by Island Health that they are open and ready to take care of anyone who shows up at the hospital. Island Health facilities continue to have capacity to respond to critical and emergency cases. Depending on urgency, there could be a longer wait due to the high patient volumes. People are asked to be patient when waiting to be seen in the Emergency Department; patients are seen and treated based on the urgency of their needs. The goal is always to deliver high quality care in an environment of continuous improvement. WSV

### PREVENTING FLU

Everyone should wash their hands frequently during flu season and remember their cough/sneeze etiquette. Stay home if you are ill. Keep shared surfaces clean.

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Strategies for managing successful teams in the workplace. Problem-solving and team-building.

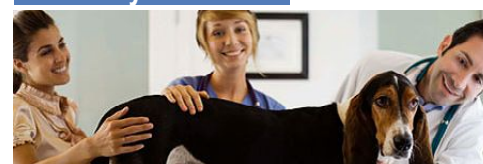
### Word 2007 | Excel 2007



These & other computer courses. \$139 each

Introduction to Word 2007: create & modify documents. Introduction to Excel 2007: set up formatted worksheets.

### Veterinary Assistant



Prep to work in a vet hospital. Learn about vaccinations, pet nutrition, spaying & neutering, pet loss, duties on the job.

These and other courses are achieved in 24 hours over 6 weeks. Instructor-led sessions also available.

See the full catalog & view demos | Registration 24/7

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