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West Shore Voice News **WSV** 6 pages this issue

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Langford mayor proposes shared economic development ...	1	WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Siren call to keep Canadian journalism afloat [Editorial] ...	2	Vol.2 No.13
Langford Fire: importance of escape planning	3	SVN ISSN 1925-2722
Emergency planning strategies: Juan de Fuca & Sooke ...	4	Vol.7 No.2
Ayre Manor: two new rooms for palliative care	5	

Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, January 27, 2017 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

Dash on duty!

West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition

● **Five-year-old Dash** is being formally introduced to the community by West Shore RCMP. The German Shepherd is a member of their canine unit.

"Dash is quite excited to be working at West Shore Detachment with his handler Cst Daryl McDonald," says West Shore Media Relations Officer Cst Alex Bérubé.

Dash's duties include search for and detection of drugs and firearms, and tracking fleeing criminals. Dash is also involved in searches for lost children and missing persons.

Dash was born in Innisfail, Alberta and undertook an intensive 6-month training program before being assigned to the West Shore where he now patrols whenever needed, day and night.



Dash of the West Shore RCMP canine unit is a 5-year-old German Shepherd.

So far, these readers have liked our story about Dash on Facebook at WestShoreSookeVoiceNews: Shannon Babbage, Cendra Beaton, Heather Bond, Lisa Drover, Wendy Geib, Mona Hazeldine, Michele Isacc, Derek Lewers, Oakwood Property Management Ltd, Jean Slick, Sherri Paget Smith, June Ellis Spicer, Carol Thompson, Samantha Swain.

Dash is popular with children when he does school talks and he enjoys playing around with his handler. "We have an incredible bond, says Cst McDonald, of the Police Dog Service (PDS) of West Shore RCMP. "I trust him with my life."

West Shore RCMP provides policing services to: City of Langford, City of Colwood, Town of View Royal, District of Metchosin, District of Highlands, Songhees First Nation and Esquimalt First Nation. **WSV**

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Langford reaching out to Sooke

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **About 30 people** attended a Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on January 25, to hear Langford's long-time Mayor Stew Young on matters of regional economic development.

Young touched on the importance of improvements to Highway 14 as a key step in opening up economic interactions between Langford and Sooke.

"Sooke is where Langford was 20 years ago," Mayor Young pitched, in the context of Sooke being ready for commercial growth and further expansion of not just housing but also community services like recreation. He said that a growing community requires fresh investment capital in addition to its residential and business tax base. And he was quick to add that Langford does not charge an annual renewal fee for business licences, as one way that a municipality can tip its hat toward local businesses as job creators.

Young proposed that economic growth and changes for both Langford and Sooke will become increasingly intertwined in the years ahead. He said the two municipalities could benefit by integrating more on matters of business development and economic growth. Himself a successful business man, Young stressed the importance of business people having more direct input to Council, whether as members of Council or as members of committees like Economic Development.

Mayor Young told his audience that increased capital investment in a small town can allow people to work and raise families in their community which strengthens all aspects of the community. He suggested that efficiency at municipal hall — especially for development permits — is a way to help attract investment. **WSV**



Longtime Sooke region promoter Frederique Philip of Sooke Harbour House shared ideas with Langford Mayor Stew Young at a Sooke Chamber event in January 25.

Sooke EDC in the works

● **District of Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan** says she is in the process of setting up an economic development committee (EDC). Sullivan is hand-picking the committee members. They will report to her, and she will report any findings or recommendations to Council. **WSV**

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Report calls for boost to news media

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **In a report requested by Canada's Heritage Minister** Mélanie Joly lies some hope for a flailing news media industry. *The Shattered Mirror* report by the Public Policy Forum (PPF) pulls no punches about the rapidly changing landscape in Canadian media that has cost journalists their jobs and some communities their newspapers. Most notably in recent years, media mogul Postmedia has carved away at even its own newsrooms in cities across the country.

Under threat by 'fake news' and the proliferation of no-fee information on the Internet, journalism as both a communications profession and a civic service has lately been more clearly recognized for its essential role in helping maintain a healthy democracy. In particular, the report noted the role of local media for its responsibility to cover local municipal politics.

A PPF release says its recommendations are "aimed at ensuring the news media and journalists continue in their role as the watchdogs over our elected representatives and public



NEWS, DEMOCRACY AND TRUST IN THE DIGITAL AGE

institutions and the connective tissue within our communities."

Recommendations include creation of a federal fund (up to \$400 million) to help boost local journalism and other aspects of the news-reporting profession and news-delivery industry. A seed fund of \$100 million is recommended, ahead of federal Budget 2018 discussions. Recommendations also include creating a new local non-profit mandate for The Canadian Press, as well as restricting the taxpayer-funded CBC from selling online ads.

Author of the PPF report, Edward Greenspon, said in a news conference Jan26 that Canada's news industry finds itself in deep crisis, brought on largely by a shift in advertising to digital media sites that has served to pose a legitimate threat to the health of Canada's democracy, **WSV**

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EDITORIAL VIEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Siren call to keep Canadian journalism afloat

First off, let's credit the Trudeau federal government for commissioning a report to examine the state of media wellness in Canada. The freefall of credible information on the wide-open Web has created a survival challenge for truthful and reliable news being available to the citizenry.

The financial health of the news media industry (which enables the delivery of professional journalism) is similarly challenged by the technology of the Internet. Everyone with a website (professional media or otherwise) battles for online ad revenues. Overlay that challenge with the lure of tax-free ads available through foreign corporations (e.g. Facebook, Google), and the death-knell for the traditional newspaper business model is at hand.



Mary P Brooke BSc, Cert PR Editor & Publisher West Shore Voice News

Business is one thing -- create a product, market it, sell it, make a profit. So let's not be shy about it -- media enterprises are businesses. They have expenses and must make ends meet, support their workers and generate a profit, in order to thrive. But media enterprises are also a different kind of cat. After ads are sold and news stories printed (or digitized), professional news services are rightfully charged with a loftier goal. They must deliver fair, balanced and accurate reports to the citizens of the communities they serve.

Let's hope an intelligent process can be achieved by which Canada's elected officials can protect the very group -- journalists -- who are charged with challenging the ones who are elected to positions of political power. Some if not all of the recommendations in the Public Policy Forum report 'The Shattered Mirror -- news, democracy and trust in the digital age' have merit. Adopting any of these recommendations would be evidence that the federal government would be propping up -- at arm's length -- the Canadian news industry as the instrument of truth-delivery that it is intended to be.

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No media company would get rich and no journalist would make a run to the bank with any of the funding or suggestions that are proposed in the report. At the very least, emerging from this report is some real moral support for the media

BC NEWS West Shore Voice News @WestShoreVOICE

BC's agrifood sector up by 6,100 jobs in 2016

BC's agrifood and seafood sector had 6,100 more employees in 2016 according to Stats Canada, the BC government was pleased to boast this week.

"The sector's growth to 62,900 employees in 2016 follows BC agrifood and seafood companies record revenue of \$13 billion, and record exports of \$3.5 billion in 2015," as stated in a release from the BC Ministry of Agriculture on January 26.

Statistics Canada numbers indicate 2,200 more British Columbians with jobs in primary agriculture like farming and ranching compared to a year ago, and 3,900 more have jobs with BC's growing value-added processing companies. BC Agriculture says the data suggests "the growth follows a period of stability in the sector, which had about 56,000 employees on average over the three previous years".

"Job growth was impressive throughout the province, with about 2,800 more employees in the Vancouver Island-Coast Region than 2015, followed by an estimated 1,100 more in the Lower Mainland, 900 in the Okanagan, and 1,100 total in the Kootenays, Cariboo and North."

"The BC government's Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan supports the building of domestic markets and maintaining a secure food supply. The plan is a component of the BC Jobs Plan, and the roadmap

to leading the agrifoods sector to becoming a \$15-billion-a-year industry by 2020."

BC says their jobs plan builds on the strengths of the province's key sectors and an educated and skilled workforce.

"BC families are doing more than turning to our growing agrifoods sector for fresh and local meals -- they are joining it for jobs, to invest in new businesses, and to begin or advance their careers," says Norm Letnick, BC Minister of Agriculture "With the BC government's focus on continuing to build markets, invest in innovation and new technology, and support entrepreneurs, the opportunities for more jobs are on the way."

"The agrifoods and seafood sector is a key economic driver for the province and has seen major growth since the launch of the Jobs Plan, with record revenue levels of \$13 billion and record exports of \$3.5 billion, employing almost 63,000 people," says Shirley Bond, BC Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour. WSV

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Zero-emission vehicle incentives

Up to \$385,000 in incentives are being offered by the BC Government toward the purchase of zero-emission specialty-use (ZESU) vehicles. The aim is to help businesses and vehicle fleets lower their fuel costs and reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Specialty-use vehicles are used in factories and warehouses, on campuses and city streets, at parks and resorts, malls, airports and dockyards.

Eligible vehicles include electric or hydrogen fuel cell motorcycles, low-speed utility trucks, heavy duty transport trucks, passenger buses, and airport and port service vehicles.

Incentives range from \$2,000 to \$50,000 (depending on vehicle type and retail price) for eligible applicants who buy or lease approved, new ZESU vehicles.

Zero-emission versions of common specialty-use vehicles cost about 40% to 600% more than traditional gas or diesel.

WSV

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industry to keep its principled head above water while the matter of establishing viable business operations is sorted out.

Underscore this: it is perhaps 'only in Canada' that a government would commission such a report to begin with, let alone have a prime minister who has repeatedly espoused the value and essential nature of journalists who are expected to ask the tough questions.

Real news is at risk. 'The Shattered Mirror' report is available for download at: www.shatteredmirror.ca

Publisher's Note

Modern life offers many conveniences and delightful experiences. But the fragility of the modern ecosystem can be shaken up at any time. No one really wants to dwell on that, so it's important to make plans, then get on with daily living while keeping preparations fresh. In the more remote and rural

EMERGENCY PREPARATION & PLANNING

areas of this west side of Vancouver Island there are additional considerations, including 7 days, not 72 hours, for suitable emergency prep duration. This week's issue is dedicated to the hardworking organiza-

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tions and volunteers who do not waver from keeping community safety top of mind.

2017 Order of BC nominations open

Nominations are now open for the Order of British Columbia (OBC). It's the Province's highest honour for those who have served with great distinction or excelled in any field. Anyone may nominate inspiring individuals who have left a lasting legacy in their respective fields. www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca



The OBC is one way of rewarding and recognizing those British Columbians whose extraordinary contributions and achievements have contributed to a better quality of life in the province and beyond.

Since 1989, there have been 402 British Columbians recognized from a variety of sectors including business,

volunteer, the arts and sport. Nominations are due by March 3, 2017.

More hospice spaces on Vancouver Island

West Shore Voice News

Over \$630,000 for improved access to palliative care on Vancouver Island was announced in a joint release this week by the BC Ministry of Health, Island Health, and the BC Centre for Palliative Care.

Allocation of the \$637,798 for hospice palliative care on Vancouver Island, includes: Campbell River Hospice Society in Campbell River has received \$90,000 toward four new hospice beds at Yucalta Lodge. Target completion date March 2017. Comox Valley Hospice Society has received \$120,000 toward two new hospice beds to support care in the community. Target completion March 2018. Cowichan Valley Hospice Society in Duncan has received \$280,000 toward five new hospice beds to build capacity. Target completion date March 2019.

Sooke Hospice Society has received \$50,000 toward two new hospice beds that will be located at Ayre Manor. Target completion March 2017. (More about Ayre Manor and Sooke Hospice on page 5). WSV

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WEST SHORE VOICE



Don't wait to get your kit ready

By Charla Huber, Metchosin Emergency Program

● **We are all busy** and there is always something popping up that is important and needs to be dealt with right away.

If you are waiting for all your daily duties to be completed before focussing on Emergency Preparedness, unfortunately you may never get around to it.

If you don't have an emergency kit at either your home or work, now is the time to start working on this. It won't take long for you build a kit, even a couple purchases a month could soon become a very effective emergency kit.

In the event in a major disaster, it's important for you to have supplies that are in a place that is easy to access and all together. If your emergency food and cooking supplies aren't stored together, when it comes down to using your emergency kit, things will be more complicated than you want them to be.

Food and water are essential contents for your kit. Each family member will require at least two litres of water per day. You can store bottles of water or purchase one of the many types of water purification systems.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Winter-Spring 2017

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structural engineering
- Apr 18 **Pure Pharmacy**
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- May 16 **BC Forest Services**
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Metchosin Emergency Program
All sessions are held at 7 pm at
Metchosin Fire Dept,
4440 Happy Valley Rd.

www.metchosinemergencyprogram.ca

West Shore Voice News Keeping non-perishable food items is a simple way to stay prepared. Most canned goods and wrapped items such as granola bars will have an expiry date of about a year after you purchase them. You will need to rotate the stock in your kit. There are freeze-dried food available at outdoors stores or emergency preparedness stores. Some of these items have a shelf life of up to 30 years, which reduces the rotation requirement.

First aid supplies, candles or flashlight with extra batteries, a radio, essential prescription medication, cash and clothing are just some ideas for what you can store in an emergency kit.

At the Metchosin Emergency Program we are here to help people learn and understand more about emergency preparedness, especially for people living in rural or more remote areas like Metchosin.

The following steps should be taken in emergency situations:

- Follow your emergency plan.
- Get your emergency kit.
- Make sure you are safe before assisting others.
- Listen to radio or TV for information from local officials and follow their instructions.
- Stay put until all is safe or until you are ordered to evacuate.

Escape Planning: especially important in modern homes

By Chris Aubrey, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention, MIAAI, Langford Fire Rescue

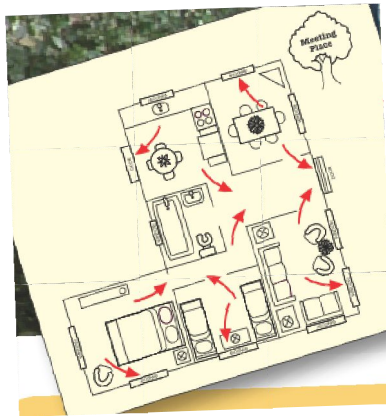
● **It's important to do some Escape Planning** in the event of a fire or other household emergency.

As modern homes burn faster than older homes, it is important to be prepared and have a plan to escape.

Seconds count! Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds.

Here are some helpful tips to be prepared:

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area.
- Install alarms on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan.
- Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes.
- Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of the home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety in a non-threatening way.



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Practice the plan! Firefighters practice continually to make sure that we can stop a fire when one happens. And families should also practice their escape plan at least annually to make sure that everyone knows what to do if there is a fire and how to get out safely.

If you have any questions on Escape Planning or how to keep your family safe from fire, contact your local fire department.

MORE TIPS for SAFETY PLANNING

- **Designate an outside meeting place** that is a safe distance from your home -- like a tree, lightpole or mailbox -- where everyone should meet.
- **Close doors behind you** as you leave a burning home.
- **Try also practicing your escape plan at night**, with everyone home. Do it twice a year.

What's with those 'modern home materials'?

• **When heated**, modern plastics, glues and hydrocarbon-based products cause a faster fire growth rate.

• **In a closed space**, there is greater exposure to the products of melting plastics and glue including carbon monoxide gas and cyanide smoke.



As soon as the smoke alarm goes off, leave your home immediately. Don't delay.

West Shore Voice News

New Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount: an instant fit

By Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● **Starting his new year with a bang**, Kenn Mount became the District of Sooke's new fire chief as of Jan 1.

From knowing the equipment inside and out to building a team, the job of a municipal fire chief has a broad scope. Coming to a new location has the overlay of getting to know various parts of the fire service area such as the terrain and types of buildings.

Having previously been a regional fire chief in the BC interior, what's not to like about the mild winter weather on Vancouver Island's west coast? And there was an additional drawing card for Mount... the proximity of the Victoria Academy of Ballet where his daughter can be part of the professional division, and university for his son in Victoria.

However, milder weather in winter is not entirely new for Chief Mount. He got hooked on firefighting while living in California for six years. He had worked there in public safety and geographic info systems. But then, as fate would have it, he was an evacuee from the 'Fire Siege of 2003'. That year, from Oct 21 to Nov 4, there were 14 major fires burning from as far north as Santa Barbara County (northwest of LA) to as far south

as the US-Mexico border. Also dubbed the '2003 Firestorm', that event scorched more than 750,000 acres, destroyed thousands of homes and killed 24 people. "That was my first taste of the fire service, being an evacuee," says Mount.

Upon returning to Canada, Mount was keen to become a volunteer firefighter. He served as a training officer, deputy fire chief, and then full time regional fire chief. He's done consulting work with respect to pre-incident planning for disasters, including rapid damage assessment. "I've blended public safety with being a boots-on-the-ground firefighter," he told West Shore Voice News this week.

Something that has caught his attention about Sooke is that "a lot of people are burning a lot of wood compared to the interior", which he finds interesting because it's so much warmer here. There were some chimney fires during the cold snap earlier this month, which he attributes to people needing to do a bit more chimney maintenance and needing to burn the right wood.

Action is already underway for Sooke firefighters to do some public education, such as making fire prevention information available at the upcoming Sooke 10K Run on Feb 5.



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Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount started on January 1. "It's been an instant fit," says Chief Mount, who has been out with his crew for training and service calls.

Chief Mount has also started rounds of fire inspections. "I'm speaking to people one on one and learning about the community."

He's already been out with his crew to attend a motor vehicle incident (MVI). He's gone down to the Sooke RCMP detachment to meet the officers. As for emergency preparedness, yes indeed, for this area being prepared for seven days of self-sufficiency is a good goal. "Be as prepared as possible. If you can go beyond the guidelines

you're being more prudent and bettering things for yourself and your family."

The Sooke Fire Rescue Service has 31 fire-suppression personnel (four paid staff, 27 volunteers). Eight new recruits are in training.

The fire suppression team is supported by nine Emergency Support Services volunteers who have a wide range of responsibilities including rehabilitation of firefighters during longer duration events, and communications.

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Juan de Fuca Electoral Area: The Emergency Preparedness Context

Submitted by Jeri Grant, Coordinator, Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Like communities across Vancouver Island, the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) is vulnerable to disasters and emergencies.

Here is some essential information required for emergency and disaster planning in the JDFEA communities. We'll highlight the needs most critical to the people and communities of this area.

Area Background prepared by
Royal Roads University: [West Shore Voice News](#)

The JDFEA stretches from the rugged, low-lying, and exposed western coastline of Vancouver Island to the near-impenetrable interior of the island. Two fault zones run through this area, which happens to be the BC landmass that is closest to the Cascadia subduction zone.

Earthquakes and tsunamis are infrequent but not negligible threats, while abundant rainfall often results in flooding and landslides, often accompanied by strong winds which exacerbate the incidents.

These types of natural emergency events are of concern because the JDFEA hosts elements of infrastructure that are critical for southern Vancouver Island:

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- The Sooke Reservoir** (operated by the Capital Regional District/CRD as the main water supply for Greater Victoria) and the watersheds that feed into that Sooke Reservoir;

- A portion of the Trans-Canada Highway / Hwy 1** (the only paved road connecting Victoria to northern Vancouver Island, including the Malahat section that is even more likely to be a challenging section after an emergency); and

- The Jordan River Dam** (a major source of hydro power for Greater Victoria).

In addition, the area's outdated hydroelectricity infrastructure is being slowly improved, transportation infrastructure is inadequate, and the efficiency and reliability of telephone, television, radio, and other communications media are doubtful in a major disaster scenario.

[West Shore Voice News](#)

While the 1,500 square km area is sparsely populated, with only an estimated 4,400 residents, including just over 400 in the Native population, tourists swell the population in summer. The median age of residents is 44 years, and less than one-fifth of the population is younger than 15 years.

The communities are rural and underdeveloped both agriculturally and commercially; however, most residents are educated, prosperous, and living in single-family homes. Many commute to work in Victoria, and local commerce is predominately home-based. The seven distinct settlement areas, for the most part, have good harbours, water supply, and well-drained land. Education facilities (K to 12) are adequate for emergency readiness, but medical facilities are scarce. Although these areas are remote from each other, social networks are fostered by social organizations, schools, churches, and civic organizations such as volunteer fire departments.

Taking emergency preparedness seriously in Sooke

Submitted by Jeff Bateman,
Transition Sooke

It's been a couple of years now, but a substantive set of notes emerged from an emergency preparedness discussion during a Transition Sooke Open Space event held in October 2014 at Sooke Harbour House. The group moderator was Ron Belinsky.

The question posed to participants was: "How do we get the majority of people in Sooke to take emergency preparedness seriously?"

Here are the findings as published in the final open space report:

- 1. Need a Council liaison** for Sooke branch of Emergency Social Services.
- 2. Create a neighborhood 'pod' program** as an effective way for neighbours to know and support one another in many ways, not least of which to gather resources to survive for 7+ days in the event of an emergency.
- 3. Coordinate ESS activities** with other local groups including Camp Bernard (potential emergency centre?); Red Cross; Religious groups; Fire Dept; mountain bikers (Sooke Bike Club mobile emergency corps); trail groups (exit route map in event of road closures);

Sooke Food CHI; Transition Sooke.

- 4. District must provide more money** to ESS for supplies and equipment. Currently \$5,000 per year.
- 5. Develop an effective community emergency plan:** continue training ham radio operators and funding for hand-helds (\$50 each); texting and laptop communications; a centrally located alarm warning system (siren).
- 6. Identify tsunami zones:** street signs to include elevations.
- 7. Emergency radio frequency station** located at Stickleback Restaurant/Rush Adventures.
- 8. More volunteers!**
- 9. A paid ESS position.**

The full report can be found at: <https://transitionsooke.org/in-the-press/minutes-and-reports> **WSV**

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Earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, avalanches, fires, severe storms, and hazardous material spills are just some of the potential emergency events affecting residents and visitors. Management of these and other emergencies is covered by the JDFEA Emergency Management Program (EMP). which has about 50 volunteers and three part time/volunteer contractors to carry out its functions.

Because of the area's geographical size and widespread population, the EMP also has six community coordinator volunteers who engage citizens in emergency management, act as community liaison for EMP, and maintain pre-positioned emergency supplies. Associated organizations include Volunteer Fire Departments (5), Marine SAR (search and rescue), Ground SAR, BCAS (1 to 2 vehicles at two locations) and an RCMP section supplemented when necessary by civilian officers. **WSV**

Get that plan into your head

by Mary P Brooke,
West Shore Voice News



JdF Emergency Program Coordinator Jeri Grant (left) and co-worker Barb Broster, providing info to the community (2015).

Emergency planning is a key part of emergency preparedness. You can have your kit, and remember to Drop, Cover and Hold On. But until you have a plan in your head, it's likely you'll forget some of the required actions when a real emergency happens. "For individuals, make your physical plan but then remember it -- keep it in your head," says Juan de Fuca Program Coordinator Jeri Grant.

It's a key point that is starting to sink in about emergencies ... you really don't know where you'll be when it happens. Just writing down a list of your likely locations can help: at home, in the car, at the office, at school, kids at school. What would your route be if you needed to gather up your loved ones after a major event?

And will your own house be safe to shelter in after an emergency? Think through what would happen to your home in the event

of a flood, nearby wildfire, windstorm (with no power), earthquake or tsunami.

Jeri Grant recently took a specialized hazard risk and vulnerability analysis course -- over the holiday season, no less! The course was offered through Emergency Manage-

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Preparedness videos on YouTube:

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- Home
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Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Watch for JdF Emergency activities in the community in 2017!

1. Open houses

Starting mid-February to promote emergency preparedness and recruit volunteers for:

- Neighbour Pod Program
- Emergency Support Services (ESS)
- Communications
- Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

[West Shore Voice News](#)

2. Public Education Workshops:

- Personal Emergency Preparedness
- Water and Sanitation
- Build a grab & go bag
- Neighbourhood Damage Assessment (NDA)

www.prepareyourself.ca

ment BC. Jeri says it was one of the most interesting courses she's ever taken. A community-based approach provided a different way of looking at things, instead of just having specific contacts in established service departments.

"We colour-coded a map to show where particular hazards might occur." And then they considered broader hazards that are not geographically based, such as a health pandemic. "All of a sudden you're possibly working outside your regular silo."

"An emergency overwhelms the day-to-day operations of a town. You can't function the way you normally would. It's hard to plan for that," says Grant.

It's important to have teams in various areas. Neighbourhood damage assessment information, when shared, can be very helpful. Getting to health facilities over broken or around blocked roadways will be a challenge. **WSV**



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A smattering of public input from Sooke community leaders

JANUARY 23
Public Input

West Shore Voice News

● **Sooke Mayor Maja Tait invited public input** of an open and free-flowing nature to take place at a 40-minute session ahead of the January 23 Regular Council Meeting. She had said at the January 9 council meeting that she was looking for more public input outside of the formal council meeting structure.

A moderately full audience in Sooke council chambers heard from only four members of the public: Ellen Lewers, Loretta Deutscher, Jeff Bateman, and Christa Rossner. Councillors in attendance were Kevin Pearson, Kerrie Reay and Rick Kasper. CAO Teresa Sullivan also sat in. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Several persons who are generally community-active did come to listen but did not provide any input at the microphone. **West Shore Voice News**

Ellen Lewers provided the most public comment of the evening. She pointed out the dangers of motorists making a left hand turn out of the PetroCan station at Otter Point Road and Sooke Road which sees them crossing three lanes of traffic close to the main intersection (comparing that to not being able to turn left from nearby Townsend onto Sooke Road). Lewers also mentioned about the questionable location of a crosswalk at Townsend Road and Sooke Road... motorists are often slamming on their brakes as pedestrians use the crosswalk at Townsend.

Lewers also remarked about the high cost of water for farmers within the region, who are first billed at the residential rate until a certain cutoff point to a lower farm rate kicks in. She sees this as an impasse to anyone who might try to make a living from farming in the District. Lewers told the Mayor about mortgage insurance issues with regard to selling fresh meat at the farm. **West Shore Voice News**

Jeff Bateman asked the mayor about Official Community Plan updates, use of 'the library lands' (5 acres at Wadams Way & Anna Marie Rd of which about 1 acre will be used for the new Sooke Library), and whether seven recommendations from the now-defunct Community Centre committee were being considered by Council. Bateman wondered why the still fairly formal process of the meeting; he thought the public input would have been in an open house setup.

Christa Rossner represented the Sooke Fine Arts Society, and told the room about the legacy art project that has been known about for months in the community. As most recently reported in the December 30, 2016 issue of *West Shore Voice News*, the art piece received some funding from the Victoria Foundation as well as private donations since the Sooke Fine Arts Show in summer 2016. The metal sculpture by First Nations artist Chris Paul will be installed out front of the SEAPARC Leisure Complex ahead of the 2017 Sooke Fine Arts Show which is held each year at that venue. **West Shore Voice News**

Loretta Deutscher simply thanked the Mayor for "a great opportunity to speak" that evening. She lauded Mayor Tait for specifically opening the January 1 Mayor's Levee to children and families, and First Nations. **WSV**

Community grants approval process back in Council's hands

Council report by West Shore Voice



Sooke Council was chaired on Monday night, January 23, by Acting Mayor Rick Kasper (left). Also attending: Councillors Kevin Pearson, Kerrie Reay, Bev Berger (and Brenda Parkinson, not in photo range). Mayor Tait had excused herself after the earlier public input session, for dealing with the flu. **West Shore Voice News**

● **On January 23, Sooke Council agreed to restructure their community grant process.** The deadline for all grant applications is set to become March 15. Details are still being ironed out, pending a further refined staff report.

Council heard from Corporate Officer Gabryel Joseph (and through his report) that a streamlined process would save staff time and allow for a broader view of where grant funds have been going over the past many years. With all of Council hearing the grant applications, no Councillors would be out of the loop.

Joseph suggested that grants repeating for as many as 10 years might be better administered as regular line items in the annual Sooke budget, which dovetails into the 5-Year Plan. **WEB COURTESY EDITION**

Grant categories (such as the current Category A for operations and Category B for projects) are likely to be dropped.

Councillor Kerrie Reay who chaired the Community Grant Review Committee for the past several years cautioned her fellow councillors to be aware of where funds are being requested for salaries or wages, and where 'provincial downloading' might be shifting responsibility to the municipality.

Final approval of community grant policy changes can be expected at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on Tuesday February 14 (after the Family Day long weekend). After that, full notice will be given to the community.

Council members were invited by staff to submit further ideas and comments as the policy become refined in the days ahead. During the meeting Councillor Brenda Parkinson stood up for the arts, proposing that arts funding applications be heard separately by the Sooke Program of the Arts Committee. However, all committees (other than required standing committees) were disbanded in December 2016. **West Shore Voice News**

Several people in the audience attended to hear about changes to the grants process — particularly from the arts community.

There was no dispute that the Sooke Food Bank and other inarguable groups would continue to receive funding.

In a separate motion this evening, the Sooke Lions Club retroactively received an honorarium of \$5,000 for pulling off the Sooke Santa Parade in December 2016. Other than the total, no financial details were provided. EMCS leadership students and others also volunteered to help organize the evening parade. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Two new beds at Ayre Manor for palliative care

West Shore Voice News

WEB COURTESY EDITION

● **The Ayre Manor seniors care residence** in Sooke is getting two new rooms to be used by Sooke Hospice for palliative care. The new spaces are being made possible with \$50,000 in capital funding from the BC Government.

The announcement for these two rooms and others on Vancouver Island was finally made this week by the BC Ministry of Health (along with Island Health and the BC Centre for Palliative Care) after months of planning. [See pg 2]

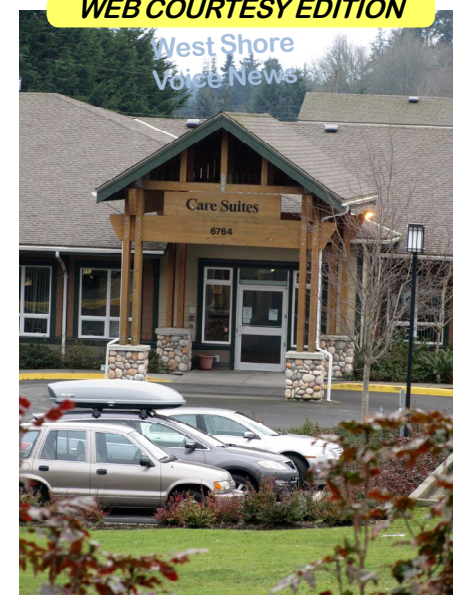
"We will have one room available for March 31," said Sandy Pedneault, Chair, Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society (SECHS) this week. SECHS owns and operates Ayre Manor.

"We are actually constructing a new room that takes some room away from one of the lounges in Complex Care. In order to have the hospice beds we have given up two unfunded private pay Complex Care beds. **West Shore Voice News**

"We will be receiving funding for LPN positions to service the hospice rooms, and will round out our staff of one RN 24/7 and Care Aids for the Complex Care and hospice beds," said Pendeault.

Ayre Manor is at full capacity with 75 residents living on the property. About 50 to 55 staff are on payroll including admin, RNs, LPNs, care aids, housekeepers and kitchen staff. More LPNs will soon bring the staff total to 61.

"Sooke Hospice does a great job in caring for the community's families going through the loss of a loved one, in supplying volunteers, special beds, and other equipment in that most patients



Two new rooms for use by Sooke Hospice will be ready in the Complex Care building at Ayre Manor by March 31.

choose to remain at home in Sooke near family and friends," says Pedneault. "We will still receive funding for empty beds but (if the beds are empty) we will lose the per diem which is approximately \$238 per day per bed (same as for the Complex Care beds).

But having the beds in Sooke will mean that hospice patients won't have to relocate to hospice care in Victoria. Proximity within Sooke will make it easier for spouses, family and friends to be close to the patient who is in palliative care, explains Sooke Hospice Society president Pat Brooks. "We are very pleased to be getting two hospice beds finally," said Brooks this week. **WSV**

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Make a medical plan as part of your kit

Info submitted by Island Health

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

● **For people who have special medical needs**, preparing for emergencies and natural disasters can present additional challenges. Reaching out to those who may need extra help - whether they are family, friends or neighbours - will go a long way in helping to plan for an emergency.

Consider regularly-used medicines or medical supplies. Talk to hospitals, medical clinics, transit and other service providers about emergency plans. If electricity is necessary to operate medical equipment, ask providers what to do during power outages. Enlist family and friends as a support network, share emergency plans, and make sure another family member or friend has a key to your home. Here are some specific things to get organized:

- **Keep a contact list** for your doctor, pharmacy, service providers and medical facilities.
- **Keep a list of your prescription medicine** and medically prescribed devices. • **Make hard copies and electronic versions**, including a portable thumb drive containing your medical prescriptions as well as doctors' orders for medical equipment, medical supplies and assistive devices that you use (include the style and serial numbers and where you purchased them). Include copies of your BC Care Card, medical insurance information, a list of your allergies, and your health history.
- **Update the information regularly** and every time there are changes in your treatment or care plan. **West Shore Voice News**
- **Medical alert tag** or bracelet: if you have one, wear it.
- **Stock extra over the counter and prescription medicine** when possible, as well as oxygen, insulin, catheters, feeding tubes, cannulas, tubing, wipes, pads, undergarments, ostomy supplies, and other medical supplies you may need.
- **Life sustaining medical treatment.** If you require treatments such as dialysis, oxygen, or cancer treatments, work with your care provider BEFORE an emergency to identify alternative locations where you could continue to receive treatment if you can't get to your regular medical provider.
- **If you receive home support services** or other in-home/personal assistance work with your service providers to develop a backup plan for continued care. **WSV**



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WHAT'S GOING ON Ad deadline Feb 1 for Feb 3rd issue of WSV West Shore Voice News

District of Sooke Committee of the Whole. Mon Jan 30, 6pm. Public input on business licences & Official Community Plan (OCP). www.sooke.ca

SD62 Sport Academies Registration for 2017-2018 starts 6am online Wed Feb 1. www.sd62.bc.ca/academies

Prime Rib Dinner Night at Mom's Cafe. Fri Feb 3. \$24.95pp. From 4 pm to close. 250-642-3314

Workshop on Veggie Garden Planning. Sat Feb 4. 1 to 3pm at Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. \$20. www.compost.bc.ca

A Taste of BC. Sat Feb 4. 7 to 9:30 pm at EMCS. \$35. Fundraiser for Sooke Harbourside Lions.

Sooke River 10K Run. Sun Feb 5. By Victoria Marathon Society. 11am. www.islandseries.org

SuperBowl 51. Sun Feb 5. 3:30 pm PST

Threats to Orcas in BC. Sun Feb 5. Presentation by Dr Richard Dewey, Science Ocean Networks Canada. Sooke Region Museum, 2:30 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Awareness Film Night. Wed Feb 8. Film on vaccines & autism: *Vaxxed: From CoverUp to Catastrophe*. EMCS, 7 pm. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

BC Family Day. Mon Feb 13. Statutory holiday.

BC Family Day at SEAPARC. Mon Feb 13. Free admission all day. Pool open 12-6pm, Family Fun Skate 12-3pm, Family & Friends Hockey 3:15-5pm. www.seaparc.ca

Family Day Skate Mon Feb 13 at JdF Arena, regular admission. 1:00-2:30 pm. www.westshorecreation.ca

SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Feb 14. Sooke Elementary, 7pm www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Tues Feb 14. Council chambers, 7pm www.sooke.ca

Young Women in Trades at the Interurban Campus of Camosun College. Wed Feb 15

Seedy Saturday Victoria. Sat Feb 18. 10 am to 4 pm. Victoria Conference Centre. \$7 cash at door, under 16 free.

Blood Donor Clinic Mon Feb 20. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View, Colwood. 12-7pm. www.blood.ca

Pink Shirt Day. Wed Feb 22

Approaches to Managing Youth Anxiety. Wed Feb 22. Free session for parents. 7 to 9pm, Royal Bay school. www.forcesociety.com/intheknow

SD62 Non-Instructional Day. Fri Feb 24. www.sd62.bc.ca

Seedy Saturday Sooke. Sat Feb 25. 10 am to 3 pm, Sooke Community Hall. www.sookefoodchi.ca

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Mon Feb 27. council chambers, 7pm www.sooke.ca

RRSP Deadline Wed Mar 1.

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Fire Rooster: celebrating this weekend

West Shore Voice News

● **Celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year** has been getting a lot of press this year, as awareness grows in Canada about the traditions of other cultures. This is the Year of the Fire Rooster, a bit cocky for sure!



If you were born in 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, or 2005 you are of the Rooster sort!

A keen sense of social perception and a natural ability to lead the crowd, Rooster-born folks by temperament are usually happy enough to go with the flow and let the crowd follow along in the pathway of their appealing personality. Things just seem to fall into place for Roosters.

There are 12 signs in the Chinese zodiac, passing through a 12-year cycle. With each cycle the element (Earth, Fire, Air or Water) changes for each of the signs. Anyone born in 2017 will be a Fire Rooster... showing an inclination to be particularly keen to set off social fireworks in their sphere! The animals of the 12-year cycle are, in this order: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit (or cat, in the Vietnamese system), dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. **WSV**

Veggie garden planning at the Compost Education Centre

West Shore Voice News

Planning Your Year-Round Veggie Garden is a workshop coming up at the Victoria Compost Centre (CEC) on Saturday, February 4 (1 to 3 pm, 1216 N Park St, Victoria). Good planning makes it possible to harvest produce from gardens every month of the year. Find out when to sow seeds, and about crop rotation.



Alysha Punnett
 Site Manager,
 Compost Education
 Centre

The workshop instructor is CEC site manager Alysha Punnett who has a BSc in environmental management, a Permaculture Design Certificate, and an Organic Master Gardener Certificate. She practices organic gardening and permaculture in the gardens at CEC right there in the city core.

Workshop fee is \$15 for members, \$20 non-members. www.compost.bc.ca **WSV**

WEB COURTESY EDITION

Talks at Sooke museum to feature UVic speakers

West Shore Voice News

www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

● **Tea, Talk & Treats** is a series of Sunday afternoon talks at Sooke Region Museum in cooperation with the University of Victoria. As the trend goes, snacks are paired with the talks. February 5: Threats to Orcas in BC. Threats to these marine mammals include food availability, pollution and noise. Speaker: Dr Richard Dewey, Associate Director, Science Ocean Networks Canada. March 5: A Guide to Seaweed

Identification & Food Preparation. Seaweed identification, health benefits and tips for sourcing seaweed. Speaker: Sara Wickham, grad student, School of Environmental Studies.

April 2: Deconstructing 007: James Bond, Beyond the Movies. Why the fascination? Speaker: John Threlfall, Special Projects & Communications Officer, Dept of Writing.

The free talks start at 2:30pm. Donations welcome for snacks. **WSV**

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Rooster stamp at Canada Post

West Shore Voice News



● **Each year** Canada Post releases a new domestic postage stamp collector set featuring the year's animal of the Chinese zodiac. For 2017 that's the Rooster.

In the upper right corner of the stamp is the Chinese character *ji*, meaning rooster. The Year of the Rooster begins January 28, 2017 and runs to February 15, 2018.

The tenth of 12 animals in the Lunar Calendar, the Rooster is considered a sign of good fortune because its name is pronounced similarly to the word *ji*, meaning lucky or auspicious. **WSV**

BC-NDP shuffles their top team in run-up to May 2017 election

● **BC NDP Leader John Horgan has announced changes** to his shadow cabinet.

This is ahead of the coming legislative session (Throne Speech Feb 14), and soon after that the BC provincial election on May 9.

Horgan says it's "a strong team that will be working for all British Columbians".

"My team is ready to build a better BC that puts people first," Horgan said after announcing the changes during a caucus planning session in Vancouver, January 27.

As spokesperson for early childhood development and child care, Jodie Wickens (Coquitlam-Burke Mountain) will lead the charge to provide "universal, affordable, quality child care for every family who wants it as we work towards \$10-a-day child care," said Horgan.

Selina Robinson (Coquitlam-Maillardville) will be responsibility for mental health and addictions, in addition to her current role as spokesperson for seniors and local government. Judy Darcy (New Westminster) still covers health.

Education spokesperson Rob Fleming (Victoria-Swan Lake)

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will have an expanded role to include universities and colleges. Agriculture and foods spokesperson Lana Popham (Saanich South) will now also cover small business.

North Coast MLA Jennifer Rice will be the spokesperson for northern economic development in addition to northern and rural health.

David Eby (Vancouver-PointGrey) continues to handle a whack of critic portfolios: Housing; Liquor; Gaming; Translink; BC Housing; and BCLC. **WSV**

John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca



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