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Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

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Friday, February 3, 2017 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

Sooke Region Museum: many clicks at the door

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News



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Over 37,000 people came through the front door of the Sooke Region Museum and Visitor Information Centre last year (Nov2015-Oct2016), finding an enchanting collection of giftware and souvenirs, and significant historical exhibits.

The quaint log-cabin exterior modestly underplays the significance of the Sooke Region Museum upon the local economy. It's big action in there!

The gift shop holds a wide range of local and regional items including giftware, outerwear and books. Exhibits feature fishing, farming, forestry, and more. Upstairs is a loft-style gallery for local art exhibits, bright with natural light. Tour groups are hosted for lunch.

"There's been a six-year growth trend in our visitor numbers," says Sooke Region Museum director Lee Boyko. He says the tally of 37,620 people through the front door last year

is up 433 over the previous 12 months.

Over the past few years the museum's focus has been on their heritage mandate and collections inventory management. Going forward there will be some refurbishing of exhibits and making information accessible to the public online about specific items in the collection.

The museum's 40th anniversary celebration (coming up June 25 at the annual salmon BBQ), will feature a refurbished train car that's being relocated this spring to the museum grounds from the nearby Kaltasin work yard.

"Visitors often remark on the friendliness of our staff," says Boyko. WSV

Snowfall this weekend

West Shore Voice News

On Friday afternoon Feb 3, Environment Canada issued a snowfall warning for Greater Victoria: total snowfall of 15 to 25 cm starting Friday, Feb 3 and into Saturday morning Feb 4.

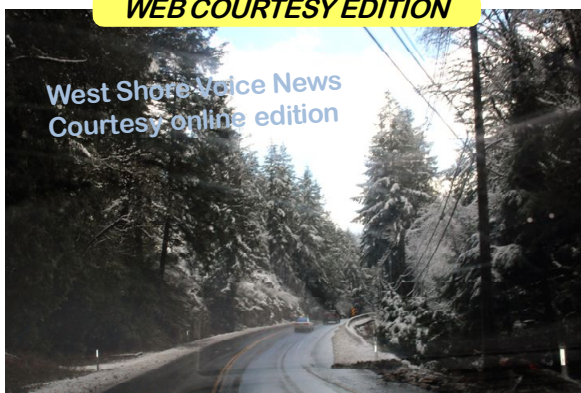
"A low pressure centre is bringing heavy snow to the inner south coast tonight.

5 to 10 cm of snow has fallen since this morning. An additional 5 to 15 cm of snow is expected by early Saturday morning." Temperatures are hovering around zero, so some of the snow may fall as very wet flakes or at some point as rain at lower elevations especially near the Strait of Georgia overnight.

"Be prepared to adjust your driving with changing road conditions. Surfaces such as highways, roads, walkways and parking lots may become difficult to navigate due to accumulating snow."

During the day on Friday there were a few vehicle crashes on the Malahat mostly due to weather-related road conditions.

Winter tires are mandatory on the Malahat, and on Hwy 18 in the Cowichan Valley area, as well as on West Coast Road (Hwy 14) west of Sooke. WSV



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Heading to Sooke: light snowfall on Hwy 14 (Dec 2016)

BC-SPCA gets a \$5 million boost

West Shore Voice News

An additional \$5 million to support BC SPCA's eight-year Facilities Development & Service Plan to replace or renovate aging shelters was announced Jan 31. A new Vancouver campus will include a Community Animal Centre, full-service veterinary hospital, education centre, and BC SPCA's provincial office. "This will increase their capacity to serve as the Lower Mainland's primary hub for surrendered animals, and support rescued animals," it was stated in a Ministry of Agriculture release. WSV

Real estate market levels-off, for now

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

The real estate market is landing softly at its new high level. The robust level of sales transactions and persistent steep price increases in 2016 (on the heels of many years of price increases) were of course not sustainable.

Greater Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB) president Ara Balbanian says this: "Over the last few decades, the historic cycle in Victoria is longer periods of stable activity and price followed by a rapid rise in activity and property values over a relatively short period of time."

Look where prices have arrived as of January 2017 (VREB figures). The benchmark (data-adjusted) for single family homes in Greater Victoria overall was \$636,100 last month, which is up by \$111,000 over the figure for January 2015 (note, the average of actual sales was \$804,558 last month). In the west shore area, the benchmark was \$515,700 last month, which is \$88,000 higher than a year ago. Nothing else in the economy comes anywhere close to that level of inflation.

Langford's single family home benchmark was \$516,100 in January 2016, with Colwood at \$565,000 and Sooke at \$436,100. All of those are peak price points.

A total of 478 properties sold in the VREB region last month, which is 11.3% fewer than the 539 sales transacted in January 2016. It's worth noting the reverse trend in the western communities: in Langford, Colwood and Sooke combined, sales volume in January 2017 was steady, and a bit higher than in December. Comparing Langford and Sooke, there were more sales in January 2017 compared to a year ago, not fewer. This can generally be attributed to relative housing affordability compared to the Victoria/Saanich/Oak Bay core.

Condos are not frequently

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS
Single Family Home Sales
 January 2017 ~ Focus on the West Shore Communities

Area	ONE-YEAR COMPARISON	
	Avg Jan 2017	Avg Jan 2016
# of sales	\$ HPI Adjusted	\$ HPI Adjusted
Langford	\$644,246 (45) \$516,100	\$535,300 (35) \$436,500
Colwood	\$567,780 (10) \$565,000	\$562,763 (14) \$474,100
Sooke	\$456,833 (31) \$436,100	\$383,602 (21) \$355,000
REGION 3 areas	\$556,286 (86) \$505,733	\$493,888 (70) \$421,867
Greater Victoria	\$804,558 (204) \$636,100	\$696,368 (250) \$524,000

Selected comparison by West Shore Voice developed from data at www.vreb.org

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available in Sooke, and only three sold in Colwood last month. But in urban-style Langford last month there were 23 condo sales at a raw average sale price of \$287,478 (and with a benchmark notably pumped up to \$325,300 as an indication of where market interest is heading).

It remains that those already in the housing market are generally doing fine by their investment (usually so long as they don't try to 'buy upwards' in the market upon resale), while affordability for others appears to be continually out of reach.

The 'new normal' in Canada's housing market appears to be that there are those who play the homeownership game and those who simply don't. And it's something that some demographic are getting used to. WSV

The millennium generation (adults in their 20s and early 30s) has in large part been forced into a renter's lifestyle, where investments are instead made in wellness, travel and technology rather than the overhead of home ownership maintenance (and oftentimes becoming landlords with secondary suites to deal with). Seniors finding themselves without adequate pensions may oddly find themselves taking up the trademark millennium work-and-get-by-on-less lifestyle by default. WSV

Many things stirred up by Trump in 14 days

Since becoming President of the United States on January 20, Donald Trump has taken charge from the top with the signing of at least 17 executive orders including: repealing the Affordable Care Act; instituting a country-specific 120-day travel ban (since put on hold by a federal judge); building a border wall; defunding 'sanctuary cities'; a hiring freeze on civilian government employees; reinstating the policy to stop funding NGOs that offer abortion services); withdrawing from TPP; renewing the pipeline construction process for the Keystone XL and Dakota Access; government-wide freeze on regulations; expanding the military; ban on admin officials from ever lobbying the govt and 5-yr ban on people lobbying the agency they previously worked for; two regulations to be removed for every new regulation added; deregulating the banking industry (back toward pre-2008). WSV

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EDITORIAL

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

A bit of snow... how lucky we are

● **A little bit of snowfall** on this lovely west side of the island this week, and people are rattled enough to change plans. Road safety is of course of the utmost importance, and if people's driving skills or vehicles are not up to snuff for handling snowy, slippery roads then cancelling or changing travel plans is of course the responsible thing to do.

But it's a reminder (perhaps an annual one) that we enjoy the blessing of mild weather virtually year-round. Unprepared as most of us are for snow or cold weather produces a chuckle (or chagrin) for most of the rest of Canada where sub-zero temperatures and months of weather-imposed inconvenience is the name of the game every winter.

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This region is flocked to by many, but how many truly handle well the cost of it? South Vancouver Island is one of the costliest of Canadian regions. In the island cost-of-living (takes bucks to ship or fly things here) we pay dearly for the breathtaking views, the mostly non-interruptive weather, the long garden/crop growing season, the wonderful seaside air, the opportunity for outdoor recreation on a moment's notice, and remoteness from the mainstream.

During a lengthy power outage in New Brunswick this past week several people died. Died right there in their homes, from the extended cold (well, mostly from the fumes of generators and gas BBQs that were being inadvisedly used for heating and cooking). If there were ever an extended power outage on this west side of this island in winter, well... it would be mighty uncomfortable, but if prepared, people could survive the temperatures for a week or more if properly sheltered and prepared with their emergency kits and stocked pantries.

Canada is a country of shared values of fairness, compassion, and oh yeah our worldwide reputation to be oh-so-polite. But regional economic disparities are becoming starkly clear -- whether as seen in astronomical housing prices in the most sought-after cities (Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria), or evidence of failing infrastructure that challenges the basics of living (as seen in the NB outages). Stabilizing people's economic well-being and building up community infrastructure hopefully remain as top priorities for leaders across Canada.



Veronique Gagnon

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



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Incentives continue in BC for purchase of zero-emission vehicles

West Shore Voice News



Each electric vehicle on the road displaces four tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

Image: www.wearthtimes.org

● **On Feb 3 the BC Government has announced an investment of \$40 million** to encourage the switch to zero-emission vehicles, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support investment in made-in-BC green technology.

"Zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) are clean, quiet and reliable, and help drivers reduce fuel and maintenance costs and tailpipe emissions and are a growing economic sector in the province," said Bennett. "Additional funding of \$40 million for the Clean Energy Vehicle (CEV) Program will help make zero-emission vehicles more affordable for British Columbians and build out charging infrastructure at residences, businesses and along our roads and highways."

The CEV funding will be distributed over the next three years to support continued point-of-sale purchase incentives of up to \$5,000 for battery electric vehicles and \$6,000 for hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. When combined with SCRAP-IT program incentives, total savings could be up to \$11,000 for a new electric vehicle. Vehicles priced over \$77,000 are ineligible for the incentives.

Eligible electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles displaying an official decal are allowed in high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes throughout BC regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

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Not all of the \$40 million is new money. Some programs funded within the \$40 million have already been announced, such as the continuation of purchase incentives for specialty-use vehicles in fleets such as light-duty zero-emission trucks, buses and motorcycles (see *West Shore Voice News*, Jan 27).

The funding includes incentives of \$500 for bikes, electric bikes, electric scooters, car share credits and transit passes when an older vehicle is scrapped.

"Transportation accounts for nearly half of the emissions by the average BC family, and light-duty vehicles account for 14% of BC's overall emissions. Encouraging people to buy or lease a zero-emission vehicle is one of best ways we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure British Columbia remains a climate action leader," said Minister of Environment Mary Polak.

Of course it should be remembered that the price tag for electricity in BC has increased by leaps and bounds in the past few years, and will all but certainly continue to go up for years to come.

Over 4,800 ZEVs are on the road in BC. The charging network includes over 1,100 public Level 2 charging stations and 30 fast-charging stations.

BC is developing regulations to allow local governments to require new buildings to install adequate infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging. **WSV**

Not enough being done for seniors, says NDP

● **The BC Care Providers Association report** released Jan 24 "really underscores what we in the NDP opposition and the BC Seniors advocate have been saying for many years... that care for seniors is woefully inadequate," says BC NDP Health spokesperson Judy Darcy, MLA. She says that 82% of care homes in BC are not meeting the government's own standard of 3.36 hours of care per day. "Seniors deserve better than this -- they have built our communities, our province and our country," said Darcy.

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Among the 30 recommendations in the *Strengthening Seniors Care: A Made-in-BC Roadmap* report is a call for increased provincial funding for seniors care, up to \$337 million per year for the next five years. Some would be new spending and some would reallocate existing dollars, such as shifting seniors from costly acute-care beds to care in the community. **WSV**

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A meeting of the mayors

West Shore Voice News on the beat

● **A meeting of western community mayors** and other municipal leaders was a meeting of the minds... about 25 of them, gathered in Colwood to hear a presentation by Circle Square Solutions on the near-final draft of their Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative report. The consultation was requested last year by the BC Government in response to some long-term public interest in amalgamation of the 13 municipalities and electoral areas of Greater Victoria.

The January 24 evening gathering was an opportunity for casual but pointed debate. It was an opportunity for response to the nearly-ready report that -- once in the hands of the provincial government -- could tip some potential decision-making toward more integration of services among the various 13 municipalities of the Greater Victoria area, or even a call for amalgamation (perhaps as Core, Western Communities, and Peninsula). The report looked at key governance and service issues including both opportunities and barriers to integration.

Most vocal in the room was the longest-serving of the mayors -- Langford Mayor Stew Young -- who sensed how impactful the wording and recommendations of the final report might become.

Among those also in attendance were Esquimalt Mayor (and Capital Regional District Chair) Barb Desjardins, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton, Highlands Mayor Ken Williams, View Royal Mayor David Screech, and District of Sooke Councillors Rick Kasper and Kerrie Reay.

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It was recognized by the presenters that the leaders in the room are already open to cooperation with other municipalities wherever it makes financial sense or expediency of service to residents. But it was also clear that they would be steadfast in their resistance to changing basic municipal structures that would in any way change the essential natures of the distinct communities of particularly Langford, Sooke, Colwood, Highlands and Juan de Fuca.

Consultant Dale Wall agreed: "The west shore is different. There's a rapid growth rate, different service delivery models, and development happened more recently (compared to more longer-established core municipalities)."

The report recognizes that residents of the west shore communities see themselves as "citizens of both their local community and the region," said Wall.

Mayor Screech said "residents don't realize how much integration there already is."

Mayor Young sees transportation as the priority regional issue. **WSV**

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National

6 people killed at a mosque in Quebec City

● **A mass shooting** at a Muslim mosque in Quebec City last Sunday, January 29, saw six men in prayer gunned down. Prime Minister Trudeau attended two memorial services this week to honour the victims. Support for the families has been shown in various ways by people across the country. **WSV**

O'Leary misses the mark

● **Even though** Conservative leadership candidate Kevin O'Leary was aiming to show off his marksman skills in a video done at a shooting range in Florida last year, the video was re-posted on Twitter this week in the same time zone as shock and reaction to the killings in Quebec City. With that misstep (perhaps posted to Twitter by campaign staff), high-profile O'Leary likely missed the mark of positive public opinion with most Canadians. **WSV**

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TECH TALK: Microphones & camera at Sooke Council meetings

by West Shore Voice News

AUDIO

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The public and the media rely upon a full audio record of proceedings. Microphones are provided for each member of Council, as well as for senior staff and at the public presentation desk. Microphones are made active by pushing a red button on the base of the microphone.

West Shore Voice News Courtesy online edition

Our February 1 posting on Facebook at WestShoreSookeVoiceNews about Sooke council webcasting has generated a lot of interest:

“The webcasting process is valuable and handy for Sooke residents who wish to view Council proceedings remotely on their computers or hand-held devices.

But in future if senior staff (or the Chair of the meeting) make sure that all members of council make their remarks with active microphones, it would better serve the public to hear the full proceedings.

Webcasting is increasingly relied upon (and hopefully provided as) a service to an informed citizenry. If a Councillor happens to make statements while their microphone is off, they should be asked to repeat their statements for the video record.” WSV

Upcoming Meetings of Sooke Council in 2017

[at 7pm on Mondays, unless stated otherwise]

February 14 (Tues) & 27	June 12 & 26	November 14 (Tues) & 27
March 13 & 27	July 10	December 11
April 10 & 24	September 11	
May 8 & 23	October 10 (Tues) & 23	

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First-level discussion about Sooke business licences & OCP

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

January 30 ~ SOOKE Committee of the Whole

Neither directly-related nor simple topics, discussion about both business licences and the Official Community Plan (OCP) were given a light touch at the District of Sooke’s January 30 Committee of the Whole meeting.

More than providing any significant content to the public, the discussion showed evidence of strain among Council members and also between staff and Council. The tug of war just below the surface was not about desired goals for the municipality. All seemed on board for clarifying objectives and finding solutions.

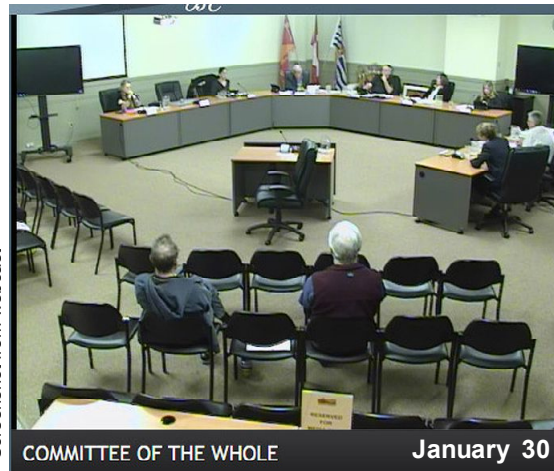
The dissonance had more to do with neither side being seen to have fully done its homework. Giving this the benefit of the doubt, let’s say the 1.5-hour meeting was approached by both sides as being an exploratory opportunity.

On the matter of business licences, there were comments from Council about not knowing what goes on in other municipalities with regard to business licences even though that information has been published in recent news articles and is readily accessible on various municipal websites. As recently published by West Shore Voice News (in December 2016), in Langford and Colwood there are one-time perpetual licences (sign up once, and no further renewal fees). All other municipalities have business licences, and virtually all of them charge fees in varying amounts. Business licences are required for most higher-level business actions such as obtaining credit or applying for other strategic business dealings.

There seemed to be some deleterious concern over apparently an increasing number of businesses not obtaining or renewing their business licences. It was pointed out during discussion that there is little to no enforcement of whether a business obtains or holds a licence. Without enforcement, a natural erosion of compliance is not a surprising result.

It was also pointed out that the current business licence bylaw was established in 2007. Now 10 years later, much has changed both in the municipality itself as well as in the community as impacted by changes in demographics and the economy.

Discussion of business licences did not go very deep. There was no significant debate about categories (which presently includes home based, commercial small/large, daily, direct-seller, peddler, non-resident and intermunicipal) other than



Screenshot from webcast

VISUAL

So much of the audience is on display that Sooke Mayor and Council are not easily seen on the live webcasts. And all those empty rows don’t make a good (or even accurate) impression, as only one side of the room is shown. << Screenshot of the January 30, 2017 District of Sooke Committee of the Whole meeting

In a discussion this week with Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, it was learned by West Shore Voice News that the camera position for Sooke council meeting webcasts had been adjusted in recent months, to show audience size as well as full scope of Mayor and Councillors in action after their seating changed.

However, the view is from so far back from Council members that it’s often difficult to determine who is speaking and how they are reacting to an issue -- additionally so if the audio portion is not active (due to microphones not on).

At the January 30 Committee of the Whole meeting the audience appeared to be comprised of two people. Lots of empty seats were in view. Apparently there were more people seated in areas out of view, but this likely explains why the public tends to cluster in the back left corner of the room -- camera shy!

The main point of the meeting webcasts is to observe the proceedings and hear the statements and discussion thread of Mayor and Council. Webcasting would then be best fulfilling its purpose of allowing busy Sooke residents to gain access to the meetings in the evenings, without having to attend in person. People likely appreciate being home with their families while still being able to participate as a citizen of the community.

Chief Administrative Officer Teresa Sullivan says she will forward a request for camera-adjustment to staff. It’s apparently not a quick thing ... requires opening up the ceiling to get access to the camera. WSV

to zero-in on intermunicipal licences as if they were all the new craze. Most municipalities have had inter-municipal licences for many years.

On the matter of a new or ‘refreshed’ Official Community Plan (OCP), the waters were muddier. Mayor Maja Tait, and Councillors Rick Kasper and Bev Berger were on Council when the current OCP was finalized in 2010. They had varying degrees of recollection of process and detail. Councillors Kevin Pearson and Kerrie Reay pointed out that bylaw development has often been challenged or thrown into confusion when viewed through the lens of the current OCP. Councillor Pearson attempted to assuage the feelings of the community members who feel their work has been disregarded in various ways over the past seven years. He suggested that this new OCP revision process be seen as a process to “refresh” the existing OCP. However, based on the amount of public input gathered by staff (mostly under the management of Danica Rice, Planner II, over about four months in Fall 2016), it appears an entirely new OCP could be the likely outcome.

So here’s where it became more complicated. Rice made a brief verbal OCP presentation, saying her preliminary findings from a significant amount of public input was to demonstrate the community’s vision for the future. She made it clear that she was asking Council for their input and direction. She has a lot of data, which she has organized to a first-level of commonality. But she was seeking policy indications from Council as to how to further sort and direct the information toward more definitive statements. Council essentially balked at this, implying that more composition or writing should be done by staff before bringing it before Council (something not easily done without a long experience of the municipality). At the end of a lengthy debate, it was determined that Councillors would approach staff with more ideas, so that a first draft OCP could be pulled together for the next step of public consideration.

While public input is vital to a community official plan process, it seems that Mayor and Council are reluctant to really lead the charge. This OCP will likely be the result of political response to a bulk of data (from multiple surveys and open houses) more so than a vision of Council being brought to the people. Kind of an OCP by default, it would seem so far.

Based on the community input gathered, Rice summarized “the three big goals” of the new OCP direction as:

- protecting the environment
- celebrating community and culture (including First Nations, the arts, heritage, volunteers and services)
- the economy – being open minded and focussing on opportunity (Rice said this would naturally flow from successful achievement of the first two).

“What is the next step?” Overall, Council indicated to staff that it is hoping for a simpler, more streamlined high-level document that sets out a vision, but which does not go too deep into practicalities that either conflict with current bylaws or end up impeding development progress in the community.

Council decided on January 30 to hold more public meetings about the OCP, perhaps drilling down to focus on one or two topics each evening. Whether Sooke residents have the time to participate in a further input process is debatable. After completing surveys and attending several open houses last fall the public might just be hoping that both Council and staff will now roll up their sleeves and produce a substantive document that moves the process along. Politicians are elected and staff hired to do this sort of work.

Public input at the level of raw data (comments) has already been received in spades. More could be worthwhile but will likely only be actively provided by the public in response to a firmed-up document. WSV

New fire chief in Colwood

As available from the City of Colwood website

John Cassidy is the new Colwood Fire Chief. He has been with the department since 1999 when he took on the role of fire inspector. His dedication to the safety and protection of the community was noted in responding to emergencies, as well as in building relationships with the business community and promoting public safety through fire safety legislation. He had served under past Chief Russ Cameron. Chief Kerry Smith recently retired. WSV



City of Colwood

Officially recognizing the new Colwood Fire Chief John Cassidy were Mayor Carol Hamilton (left) and Councillor Cynthia Day who chairs the Colwood Protective Services Committee together with members of the fire department, family, friends and colleagues.

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WHAT'S GOING ON Ad deadline Feb 8 for Feb 10th WSV West Shore Voice News

Sooke River 10K Run. Sun Feb 5. By Victoria Marathon Society. 11am. www.islandseries.org
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
SuperBowl 51. Sun Feb 5. 3:30 pm PST
Awareness Film Night. Wed Feb 8. Film on vaccines & autism: *Vaxxed: From CoverUp to Catastrophe*. EMCS, 7 pm. www.awarenessfilmnight.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 at JdF Rec Mon Feb 13 regular admission. Free skate 1-2:30 pm, Free Swim 1 to 4:30 pm, free golf all day. www.westshorerecreation.ca
Valentine's Day. Tues Feb 14.

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
EMCS Students vs Staff Hockey Game. Fri Feb 17 8:35 am at SEAPARC. www.emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca
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
First Aid: strains, sprains & breaks. Tues Feb 21. 7pm, Metchosin Fire Dept, 4440 Happy Valley Rd. Free session.
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
Edward Milne Community School Open House. Thurs Feb 23 6:30-8:30 pm. www.emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca
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.
Jon Brooks in Concert. Sat Mar 4. 8pm at Holy Trinity, 1962 Murray Rd. Tx \$15 at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke, \$20 at the door. www.sookefolkmusicociety.com
Seaweed Identification & Food Prep. Sun Mar 5. Health benefits, sourcing. 2:30 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Be visible to motorists & pedestrians, both coming & going. Especially in snowy or rainy conditions. Keep those headlights on!

WINTER DRIVING TIP!
 Drive with headlights on!
 Daylight driving lights are only active in the front, tail lights don't come on.

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program @jdfemerg
www.prepareyourself.ca

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WEB COURTESY EDITION

Sooke Seedy Saturday

West Shore Voice News

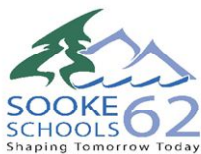


The 8th annual Sooke Seedy Saturday is coming up Feb 25 at Sooke Community Hall (10 am to 3 pm). Organized by Sooke Region Food CHI and billed as Sooke's premier seed and local food growing event, the family-friendly day will feature a seed exchange and trading table, a diverse range of seed and plant vendors, local wild harvesters and food artisans, information from local non-profits working to enhance food security, and workshops. **WEB COURTESY EDITION** Sooke Fall Fair Society members will provide lunch and a market on the downstairs level. As for being a vendor at the one-day event, Sooke Food CHI welcomes local seed producers and growers who produce ecologically grown, GMO-free seeds and plants (or at least clearly indicated if not). There's a wait list for vendors selling other products. Contact: seedysaturday@gmail.com **WSV**

SD62 is almost finished hiring new teachers

West Shore Voice News

In Sooke School District 62 (SD62) about 22 FTE positions were enabled in recent weeks, following the announcement of new funding from the BC Government last month. SD62 administration and the Sooke Teachers Association (STA) acted quickly to do the hiring. It was left up to each school (with final approval by SD62 and STA) to determine their specific needs. "The positions have all been identified by individual schools, management and the union approved the positions they have all been posted," said SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge this week. "Many of the positions have been filled and the HR department is working through the normal trickle-down effect and



SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge



re-posting of some of the positions now," he said on January 30. The 'new' funding was not policy-driven. It was issued by the provincial government as a legal requirement in response to a Supreme Court of Canada decision that essentially reversed the BC Government's contract changes with the BC Teachers Federation that had eliminated class-size and composition aspects of the contract since 2002. **WSV**

Extra sailings on Family Day weekend

West Shore Voice News

BC FAMILY DAY: Mon Feb 13

Expecting heavy traffic between Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver on BC Family Day long weekend, BC Ferries has added more sailings during peak travel times on their busiest routes during February 10 to 13.

Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route:
Depart Tsawwassen
 Fri Feb 10 – 10 am, 2 pm and 6 pm
 Sat Feb 11 – 8 am and 12 pm
 Sun Feb 12 – 2 pm and 6 pm
 Mon Feb 13 – 10 am, 2 pm 6 pm
Depart Swartz Bay
 Fri Feb 10 – 12 pm and 4 pm
 Sat Feb 11 – 10 am and 2 pm
 Sun Feb 12 – 4 pm depart
 Mon Feb 13 – 12 pm and 4 pm
>> Departure Bay – Horseshoe Bay route:
 Mon Feb 13– 7 pm depart Departure Bay
 Mon Feb 13 – 9 pm depart Horseshoe Bay



Ferry travelers are advised to check www.bcferries.com for current conditions.

WEB COURTESY EDITION
WSV

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

WELCOME WAGON SINCE 1930
 New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be?
 250-642-2268

More BC jobs based on innovation

BC NDP Leader John Horgan is promoting job innovation. "There are a whole lot of things people can do to create jobs in BC," said Horgan during an interview with Global TV out of Vancouver this week. He listed off manufacturing, film, high tech, and info tech industries as job generators in the Lower Mainland. "It's happening almost organically because of the innovative nature and dynamism of our population."

He added: "We need to do something about the challenges in rural BC." Horgan said that job-creation solutions of the present government have been ineffective. **WSV**



BC NDP Leader John Horgan is the MLA for Juan de Fuca

Regional Breaking News: www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Is there a vaccination-autism connection?

Ever wonder if there's a connection between vaccinations and autism? **WEB COURTESY EDITION** Here's a chance to discuss that topic following a 90-minute film called *Vaxxed*. It's happening on Wednesday, February 8 at this month's Awareness Film Night... an evening event at Edward Milne Community School in Sooke, 7pm. Admission by donation.

The *Vaxxed* documentary released in 2016 is directed by Dr Andrew Wakefield, the British gastroenterologist who first proposed in 1998 that the MMR vaccine may cause or contribute to autism. www.awarenessfilmnight.ca **WSV**

AWARENESS FILM NIGHT

Film examines possible link between autism and vaccines.

VAXXED From coverup to catastrophe

Admission Wed February 8 by donation 7 pm
 Edward Milne Community School theatre
www.awarenessfilmnight.ca

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