

Meaningful news for community-minded readers "on the west side"
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WEB SAMPLER EDITION

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West Shore Voice News

6 pages this issue

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www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Friday, February 24, 2017 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

Budget 2017 sets BC election in motion

West Shore Voice News

ELECTION 2017



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Screenshot selection from BC Hansard livestream

BUDGET DAY [clockwise from top left]: Premier Christy Clark, Finance Minister Michael de Jong, NDP Finance Spokesperson Carole James, and BC NDP Leader John Horgan.

DEBATE ON THE BUDGET

It might seem like dry stuff, all this budget talk. But delivery of Budget 2017 on February 21 by BC Finance Minister Mke de Jong served to really set the election campaign in motion toward May 9.

NDP spokesperson Carole James came out punching for the people with her preliminary response to the budget. BC NDP Leader John Horgan said in a media session afterward that a full launch of the NDP election campaign would get rolling in the coming days after the budget has been fully analyzed.

De Jong is a masterful speaker, lifting words from the printed page with near-theatrical muse. He was pleased to announce a 5th consecutive balanced budget with this year a surplus of \$295 million (not factoring in the debt), highlighting the cost-saving importance of the province's triple-A credit rating.

Sitting next to de Jong, Premier Christy Clark listened attentively, and seemed relieved when the hour-long delivery was complete.

What seemed like the biggest promise of the day was a pledge to eventually eliminate Medical Service Program (MSP) premiums, starting with a 50% cut in January 2018. These are reductions on fees that steadily increased over the past few years. No promises as to when full elimination would happen (it will depend on how the economy is faring, said Premier Clark to media later in the day), and no mention of changing the requirement to apply for MSP coverage, and not the punitive

system of collection if people default. No other province in Canada runs their health care funding in such a privatized way.

The funding of several social programs was mentioned, though some of it coming much too late for people who've suffered at the low end of the economy for many years.

Overall the funding goodies in the budget were a strong message of support to business and the corporate sector. Even the MSP reduction will help employers who won't have to match with their share. The PST reduction (starting this October, toward elimination by April 2019) on hydro billings is only for businesses and industry; usage rates will continue upward. Small business will see a reduction of the tax rate from 2.5% to 2.0% effective April 1, 2017.

For families and outdoor enthusiasts there are 1,900 new campsites, and more park rangers coming on stream.

There was really nothing specifically targeted at appealing to seniors. If any seniors fall into low-income, disability-income supported or in need of the health care system, then that's where their support surfaces.

Youth got a bit of a break in that interest rates on student loans will be set at prime as of August 1, 2017 instead of the present prime plus 2.5%. NDP Leader Horgan gave the government credit on that one, to finally not apply the weight of additional debt to youth who are trying to get a post-secondary education.

For the rest of the week, the Premier, Minister de Jong and other Ministers gave speeches at various chamber of commerce and other events to pitch the merits of the budget.

Court system staffing challenges lead to unheard cases

West Shore Voice News

For the second time in less than a week an accused drug dealer has walked free because of BC Liberal cuts to courtrooms, says New Democrat public safety spokesperson Mike Farnworth.

"Christy Clark is too busy working for the people at the top to focus on the things that matter – like getting drug dealers off our streets," said Farnworth.

In Question Period at the BC legislature on February 23, Farnworth challenged Attorney General Suzanne Anton to explain why accused drug dealers are being released.

Anton said the situation referred to by Farnworth "is unsatisfactory". Her statement in the House: "Nobody likes to see a case go unheard and untried. That is why the different components of the justice system work so hard to make sure that our courtrooms are staffed and running smoothly. We do need to have public confidence in the system. I am pleased to be able to report that we do have money for new sheriffs. There's \$2.67 million in the budget. We have a strong financial position in the province right now, and I have an additional \$2.67 million so that we can have two classes of sheriffs go through the Justice Institute this year."

Farnworth said there were 500 sherrifs four years ago, a number that sank to 420. Anton said there will be 24 new sheriff graduates in May, and 24 more in October, adding to the current number of 481 sheriffs in BC.

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In the BC Legislature February 23

Screenshots from Hansard video

BC Attorney General Suzanne Anton

NDP Public Safety Spokesperson Mike Farnworth

Pushing for contrast in election season, Farnworth says: "Christy Clark was warned for years that her cuts to courtrooms would lead to drug dealers and other criminals walking free. But she chose to give a billion dollars in tax breaks to millionaires instead of hiring sheriffs to keep our courtrooms safe and ensure justice is done."

An accused heroin dealer was released in Victoria on Feb 22 because there was no sheriff to staff his trial. Last Friday an accused cocaine dealer was similarly released, says an NDP release.

Sooke's OCP to be explored at JdF Community Trails Society AGM

West Shore Voice News

The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society will be holding their 2017 AGM on Tuesday, February 28. The group has invited District of Sooke planner Danica Rice to talk about the municipality's Official Community Plan. Extensive public input toward the Sooke OCP was undertaken September to December 2016, and the final document is yet months away.

JdF Community Trails is excited about a new community trail being built between Horne Rd and Goodmere Rd with the help of some of their volunteers.

They are also following TimberWest building a road in their Private Managed Forest north of Otter Point Road near Sooke. This will be ongoing through April.

More details on both of these projects at www.jdftrails.ca

Juan de Fuca Community Trails AGM



Hear Danica Rice speak on the Sooke OCP

Everyone welcome

Tuesday, February 28 7pm

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www.jdftrails.ca

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EDITORIAL

IEWS & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Keeping track of Trump in an anti-bullying decade

WEB SAMPLER

Never thought I'd be saying this anytime soon: US President Donald Trump is starting to become predictable. He will predictably single out one or two people or groups from among their peers, and haul them on the carpet. It's a form of intimidation and bullying.

At his grand old age of 70, Trump is like an old dog who isn't going to want to learn any new tricks. This is what he does. He bullies. Once he has done the age-old 'divide and conquer' then he tries to shake up the remaining pack while they are in a state of disorientation or fear. Really scummy, and starkly sociopathic. The fine 'art of the deal' is being used to rough-up each segment of society, one after the other. If the rest of us are smart, not only will we stand up to bullying and fear tactics but we will learn to see them coming before they can affect us. Or learn how to powerfully deflect them if they happen -- kinda like Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did by pre-planning a deflective handshake for the day he first met Trump, at the White House.

WEB SAMPLER

This week Trump picked on journalists, again. But a different tactic this time. He singled out reporters from mainstream media outlets CNN, The New York Times, and The LA Times and made sure they were blocked from attending one of his media briefings. [Footnote: Wouldn't want the karma of being one of Trump's event handlers. If you help someone intimidate another person or pull off a ruse, you are also a perpetrator. Gang leader, gang member... same territory.]

Anyhow, Pink Shirt Day -- which takes place each year on February 22 -- is an opportunity to speak up against public taunting, bullying (including cyber-bullying), social shunning, intimidation and discrimination. Fortunately, it's becoming the bumper sticker of this decade to appreciate and respect people's differences as a way of making our communities stronger.

As posted by West Shore Voice News on Facebook after Pink Shirt Day, we are inviting readers everywhere to submit anecdotal stories: stuff that really happened to you, a friend, neighbour or colleague -- a situation in which you wished you or someone else had done better about respecting some who was bullied, intimidated, ripped off or worse. Anonymous publication of your letter is fine, but we need some kinda way to validate your story so don't be too tricky!

Send your anecdotes or thoughts about bullying by email over the next few weeks to news@westshorevoicenews.com or by snail mail to West Shore Voice News, PO Box 851, Sooke, BC V9Z 1H8.

WSV WEB SAMPLER



WestShoreSookeVoiceNews



Veronique Gagnon

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

West Shore Voice News



CHANGES TO COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

District of Sooke Council has approved amendments to Policy 5.1 Community Grants Program Policy.

These changes affect existing Community Grant recipients and non-profit community groups who may consider applying for funding.

Existing Category A grant recipients will be automatically considered for 2017 funding, without the need to reapply. All other local not-for-profit groups seeking Community Grant funding for 2017 must submit an application by March 15, 2017.

For further information, please see www.sooke.ca or contact the Corporate Services department at 250-642-1634.

www.sooke.ca

Regional News

@WestShoreVOICE

Alistair MacGregor pleased with Shawnigan Lake dumping victory

West Shore Voice News

Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) said on February 23 that he is elated that after several years of public pressure, the BC Liberal government has finally and permanently this week revoked the permit for the toxic soil dump near Shawnigan Lake.

MacGregor has stood in solidarity with the Shawnigan community and has supported its work in the fight against the toxic soil dump over the years. As a new MP, MacGregor introduced a bill (his first) in the House of Commons in Ottawa which would have brought federal protection to Shawnigan Lake under the Navigation Protection Act.

"Not only was the entire process that allowed the toxic soil dump permit flawed from the onset, but during the first serious rain event of its existence the

project failed and discharged contaminated soil directly into the watershed," said MP Alistair MacGregor.

"It shouldn't have taken this long for the BC Government to put an end to this irresponsible and dangerous soil dump that risked inflicting irreparable damage to the Shawnigan watershed and its aquatic life," MacGregor said.

"I want to specifically thank the Shawnigan Lake Residents Association and the Cowichan Valley Regional District for their hard work and diligence on this issue," said



NDP

Alistair MacGregor, NDP MP Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

To do the best job possible with lighthouse restoration, Society volunteers are asking how the community is using, and what the vision is for the heritage site.

Please go to sheringhamlighthouse.org and click on COMMUNITY/VISITOR SURVEY

This survey is a part of an effort partially funded by Parks Canada and the Government of Canada. We gratefully acknowledge their participation and assistance.



WSV

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Sooke taking a look at joining CRD Arts

West Shore Voice News

Over \$2 million in 2017 operating grants is being issued to a total of 29 arts organizations in the Greater Victoria area.

Sooke was not part of the deal, as it requires the municipality to be part of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Arts Development Commission.

West Shore Voice News asked District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait about intentions for Sooke to get on board with this program. It would be a change of seismic proportions for the Sooke regional arts community.

"We had a brief conversation a few years ago and it was too expensive to join, I think it was around \$30,000," says Tait. "But since then the structure has changed and it's timely for Council to be apprised. So we're looking to coordinate a proper presentation," she said this week.

At present, the eight municipalities on the CRD Arts Development roster are Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Metchosin, Highlands, View Royal and Sidney.

This year's total of \$2,153,060 in CRD arts grant funding is intended to help generate economic and social benefits for the Capital Region. One of the largest amounts goes to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, with Pacific Opera Victoria and Belfy Theatre receiving the next two largest grants.

same evening, the US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 4.2 earthquake occurring off western Washington State about 54 km west-southwest of Seattle. So it made an impression that there was a third quake -- this one at 4.7 Magnitude -- just two days later on Friday, February 24 and also off the Vancouver Island (158 km southwest of Port Hardy), also at a depth of about 10 km.

There were 370 earthquakes in Canada between Jan 24 and Feb 24 (most in BC, Yukon and NT): 310 were Mag 2 or less, 52 were in the Mag 3 range, six were in the Mag 4 range, one was Mag 5, and one was recorded at 5.3 Mag.

The west coast region is prone to earthquakes. Seismologists are predicting there's a 1 in 10 chance of a 9.0 Magnitude quake (which will produce a tsunami) here in the next 50 years.

Residents are now continually reminded by emergency preparedness programs to be prepared. Have a kit (or two), have a plan (including coordinating the location of family after the shakeup), and practice the plan (including participation in ShakeOutBC every October ~ www.shakeoutbc.ca).

Town hall for veterans

West Shore Voice News

A town hall on veteran's affairs will be held in Langford on Thursday, March 2, hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford). Featured presenters will be NDP critic for Veteran's Affairs Irene Mathysen (London-Fanshawe) along with NDP critic for national defence Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke). Anyone concerned about the issues facing veterans and their families is encouraged to attend. Event will be at Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 91, 761 Station Ave, at 6pm.

MacGregor. "Our collective action is what makes our communities vibrant and strong, and this has finally forced the BC Liberal government to correct their mistake."

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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Mailing: PO Box 851, Sooke, BC, Canada V9Z 1H8

Tel & Text: 250-217-5821

Email: letters@westshorevoicenews.com advertising@westshorevoicenews.com editor@westshorevoicenews.com subscriptions@sookevoicenews.com

Web: www.westshorevoicenews.com

Twitter: @VancIslandVOICE (BC / national) @WestShoreVOICE (island west) @SookeVoiceLOCAL

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West Shore Voice News Member: West Shore Chamber of Commerce | FourthEstate.co

Pair of quakes, + 1

Two 4+ Magnitude earthquakes occurred off the west coast on Wednesday night, Feb 22. One was a 4.8-magnitude event off the west coast of Vancouver Island southwest of Port Alice at a depth of about 10 km. No damage reported or expected. That

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Seismic upgrades at two west shore schools

West Shore Voice News

EDUCATION
INFRASTRUCTURE



Dunsmuir Middle School in Colwood



Ruth King Elementary in Langford

WEB SAMPLER EDITION

● An event at Dunsmuir Middle School in Colwood on February 20 served to celebrate the recent completion of a \$11.8-million seismic mitigation project there. As well, it was an opportunity to announce \$4.2 million in new provincial funding to seismically upgrade Ruth King Elementary in Langford.

Education Minister Mike Bernier announced the completion of Dunsmuir and the new funding for Ruth King Elementary, alongside Sooke School District 62 (SD62) officials, staff from both schools and Dunsmuir students. There was a performance by the Dunsmuir school band and a tour of the seismic upgrades.

Bob Phillips, SD62 Board chair, says about Ruth King Elementary: "Over the years, the school has had additions, renovations and a name change. Children really 'rock' for education at this school," says Phillips. "SD62 is so pleased Ruth King Elementary will be getting a good seismic re-fit in preparation to serve another generation of West Shore children."

Among the other SD62 trustees at the event were Dianna Seaton (Board Vice-Chair), and Denise Riley.

The project at Dunsmuir upgraded the entire building to protect students, teachers and staff in the event of an earthquake. Work included reinforcing walls, strengthening foundations and upgrading the roof and sprinkler system. Improvements were also made to the parking lot to improve traffic flow.

The Dunsmuir project was funded with \$11 million from BC's Seismic Mitigation Program and \$800,000 from Sooke School District (SD62). Construction started in May 2015 and was completed in late 2016, working around classroom activity during the school year and going full-bore during the summers. The BC government says about 36 jobs were created.

Construction began February 1 on the Ruth King Elementary seismic project a few weeks ago, to seismically upgrade the entire two-storey portion of the school and the gym. In 1999, the single-storey south portion received a seismic upgrade as part of a previous renovation project. The school was first built in 1948. The current work includes upgrading the roof, gym, foundation and windows, and reinforcing interior and exterior walls. Construction completion is expected in December 2017. It is anticipated that this project will create 13 local jobs.

"Student safety is our top priority," says Minister Bernier. "The government is committed to seismically upgrading or replacing all high-risk schools throughout the province to protect and support students, teachers and staff so they have safe learning spaces for generations to come." Over the next three years, the government intends to invest \$1.7 billion to replace and renovate aging school buildings and add more student spaces in growing communities.

Other investments in the west shore area have included \$60.1 million for the new Belmont Secondary in Langford (2015) and \$41.2 million for the new Royal Bay Secondary in Colwood (2015).

Hearing protection important on the job

West Shore Voice News

● New 2016 data from WorkSafeBC indicates young construction workers are less likely to wear hearing protection at work compared to other age groups in the same industry.

Also, young workers in construction are apparently less likely to wear hearing protection compared to young workers in other industries like manufacturing and primary resources.

Among construction workers age 21 or younger, 24% reported not wearing hearing protection compared to 13% of workers age 50+, and 11% workers in all other age groups. The data was collected in 2016 from more than 160,000 hearing tests conducted by BC employers as part of hearing loss prevention programs.

"Noise-induced hearing loss needs to be taken very seriously," says Sasha Brown, WorkSafeBC occupational audiologist. "It can be caused by a single exposure to loud noise or more typically by repeated exposures to consistent noise. While the damage may be painless, it is irreversible and may go unnoticed for years or even decades until it reaches a point where it has a significant effect on one's quality of life."

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and Guidelines, employers are required to provide hearing loss prevention programs, monitor noise levels and conduct annual hearing tests for workers exposed to hazardous noise to prevent noise induced hearing loss and permanent hearing damage. All workers are responsible for wearing appropriate hearing protection and to take part in their employer's hearing loss prevention program. Hazardous noise levels are defined as 85 decibels in the 'A' scale for eight hours or the equivalent; the A scale is used for measuring environmental noise.

Hearing loss can go unnoticed by a worker for years or even decades after the initial exposure or series of exposures. Since 2006 there have been more than 37,000 accepted claims for noise-induced hearing-loss in BC, says WorkSafeBC.

See www.worksafebc.com for info on hearing loss prevention programs.

www.westshorevoicenews.com
Regional Breaking News:



MAYOR'S CORNER



District of Sooke Mayor Maja Tait at her Mayor's Open House (Oct 2016)

'FOCUS on HEALTH'

This feature is penned by the Mayor of Sooke for the interest of readers in the Sooke region.

● In December 2013, A GP For Me community engagement forum was held to assess the need for primary health care services in the Sooke Region, including the need for family physicians.

Following the success of the forum, the Primary Health Working Services Group was formed. Comprised of local health care professionals and chaired by Mayor Milne, the Working Group agreed to meet for one year to create an action plan that identified and addressed health care service gaps and priorities in the Sooke region. A Community Forum was held in November 2014 to engage additional stakeholders.

Since then the Working Group continues to meet and has established new connections with the South Island Division of Family Practise for physician recruitment, completed an X-ray and diagnostic imaging study, advocated for Ayre Manor for funded 'end of life' beds, and so forth.

The Working Group hosted a Community Forum in May 2016 to both report out and to identify where the Working Group needs to prioritize, focus and advocate. Outcomes of the **Let's get healthy together** 2016 Summit include:

- Healthy food accessibility;
- Medical facilities and infrastructure;
- Social and Physical activities;
- Special populations.

Since then, the Working Group has been examining the gems, issues, solutions and status and will conclude findings in a report in the coming weeks.

With recent Census data posting Sooke's population at 13,001 (a 13.6% increase since 2011) and 4,266 new residents (a 48.8% increase since 2002), we've seen significant growth since incorporation back in 1999.

The Working Group looks forward to sharing our report and continuing work on priorities like physician recruitment, a modern X-ray service and a Community Health Centre.

Maja Tait, Mayor
District of Sooke

Published February 24, 2017 in West Shore Voice News

www.sooke.ca

Special council meetings for Budget, grants

West Shore Voice News

● The District of Sooke will hold at least four

SOOKE BUDGET 2017

Special Council Meetings to focus on their 2017 Budget and 5-year financial plan. The first two meetings are on Wed March 8 and Thurs May 9. Then on Wed 22 and Thurs Mar 23 council will hear community grant applicants make their presentations. If required, there will be two more budget meetings on Wed Mar 29 and Thurs Mar 30. All meetings start at 6:30 pm in council chambers. Community grants are due March 15 for groups that would have applied for 'Category B' project/capital grants in previous years. Previous annually-renewed operating grants (previously 'Category A') do not require a further application this year.

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John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca



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BC Budget 2017: some key points

QUOTES from the BC BUDGET SPEECH 2017
As delivered by Finance Minister Michael de Jong in the BC Legislature, February 21, 2017

West Shore Voice News

● **When I became finance minister** back in the fall of 2012, the global economy was still recovering from what was probably the single biggest financial and economic downturn most of us have seen. While British Columbia weathered that storm better and recovered faster than the others, we were still facing a projected deficit of \$1.2 billion.

● **We have worked to take BC away from feast-or-famine** budgets in favour of steady, solid growth, and managed spending on the priorities of British Columbians.

● **We've built schools,** roads, health facilities and countless other projects. These are just some of the dividends that accrue to the people of British Columbia who have worked hard and continued their commitment to balanced budgets year after year.

● **World markets are still in flux,** resource prices have not yet recovered, and political changes in our neighbours to the south have us cautious about making too many assumptions about the future.

● **The budgetary plan for 2017-2018 anticipates:**
Total spending of \$50.2 billion
Total revenues of \$50.8 billion
A forecast allowance of \$350 million
A budget surplus of \$295 million

● **On the debt side,** a balanced budget for the next three years with forecasted modest surpluses will help us keep our debt affordable and reduce our operating debt.
2017-2018 \$295 million surplus
2018-2019 \$244 million surplus
2019-2020 \$223 million surplus

● **We're going to continue to pay down the operating debt,** and because we've worked hard to pay that debt, taxpayers will save more than half a billion dollars in interest costs over the fiscal plan period.

BC Budget: what people are saying

● **BC NDP Leader John Horgan** said after the budget delivery on February 21 that it's been 16 years of neglect under the BC Liberals, with cutting budgets, and reducing services to people. "An entire generation of kids have been neglected because of promises the Liberals had to keep to the wealthy and well connected."
"The people of BC are not going to forget the neglect of the past 16 years," Horgan told media.

● **BC Green Party** candidate (New Westminster) and education spokesperson Jonina Campbell says she is at a loss over a government that just lost a lengthy court battle to then have Minister de Jong declare that education is "the single most important service that government operates and funds".
Campbell says the government has "failed to adequately

Sooke Chamber award nominations underway

● **The 2017 Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce** business excellence award nominations process is now underway.

Anyone (individual, business or group) can nominate any business even if they're not a member of the Sooke Region Chamber. It's a way of involving everyone and fostering economic development in the region.

Only one business can be nominated per category and a reason for nominating must be provided.

Nomination forms and more details are online at www.sookeregionchamber.com (Events section). The submission deadline is March 5.

- Here are the categories:
- Professional Services
 - Manufacturing and Industry
 - Trades and Skilled Labour
 - Retail and Services
 - Dining and Hospitality
 - Home-Based Business
 - Not-for-Profit Organization
 - Business of the Year
 - New Business of the Year
 - People's Choice Award

Unlike in previous years, the ballot box loaded up for any one business will not gain favour by volume. Judges will be reading the reasons for the nominations.

Anyone who is nominated will be asked to support their nomination

Nominations due Sunday March 5



with a point-form letter detailing their achievements.

"Nominations and accompanying support letters will be judged, and winners chosen, by an impartial panel of esteemed business professionals not affiliated with the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce," says the Chamber.

You can submit nominations online, or take your hard copy form to one of the drop boxes at the grocery stores in Sooke: Western Foods and Village Food Markets. Or, if you prefer to email your nomination, send it directly to the Chamber office at info@sookeregionchamber.com or drop it off at the Chamber office at 1A-6631 Sooke Road (across the street from Evergreen Shopping Centre).

The awards banquet to announce the winners will be on Saturday, April 1 at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort starting at 5:30 pm. Tickets available to March 24 (early bird to March 5).

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Heart health at the ferry terminals

West Shore Voice News



Supplied photo

AED at the Long Harbour ferry terminal.

● **BC Ferries has installed an additional 24 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** at minor terminals for use in the event of a medical emergency.

Heart disease and stroke take one life every seven minutes. February is Heart and Stroke Foundation's 'Heart Month', a key time to reach millions of Canadians and alert them to the risks of heart disease and stroke. The Heart and Stroke Foundation has supplied BC Ferries with the signage and cabinets for this potentially life-saving equipment through the BC Public Access to Defibrillation Program (BC PAD).

With the advent of increasingly easy-use AEDs, BC Ferries says they saw an opportunity to improve the possibility of treating a customer or employee at remote locations in a timely manner. Training not required to use the fully-automated AEDs. All locations are registered with the BC PAD AED registry; if there's a 9-1-1 call from a site with an AED, the dispatcher can direct the caller to the location of the equipment.

"The safety of our customers and our employees is a top priority at BC Ferries and with 20 million people travelling throughout our system each year, this is another important way we are striving to become a world-class safety organization," said Corinne Storey, Vice President of Customer Services, BC Ferries.

"The chance of survival from sudden cardiac arrest decreases by 7% to 10% for each minute that passes," says Adrienne Bakker, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation, BC & Yukon.

The major terminals (Tsawwassen, Swartz Bay, Horseshoe Bay, Departure Bay, Duke Point, and Langdale) as well as the vessels have had AEDs available for use by BC Ferries' Occupational First Aid Attendants for a number of years. The AEDs for Denman Island East, Denman Island West and Hornby Island terminals will be installed later this year due to construction on the waiting rooms, which will bring the number of terminal locations up to 37. BC Ferries was not able to install the equipment at some minor terminals that do not have a secure waiting room.

Automated external defibrillators now available in the event of an emergency at the following terminal locations: Tsawwassen | Swartz Bay | Horseshoe Bay | Departure Bay | Duke Point | Langdale | Port Hardy | Prince Rupert | Skidegate | Bella Bella | Ocean Falls | Klemtu | Port McNeill | Sointula | Alert Bay | Campbell River | Quathiaski Cove, Quadra Island | Heriot Bay, Quadra Island | Whaletown, Cortes Island | Buckley Bay | Litte River | Westview, Powell River | Blubber Bay, Texada Island | SALTERY Bay, Powell River | Earls Cove | Nanaimo Harbour | Descanso Bay, Gabriola Island | Chemainus | Long Harbour, Salt Spring Island | Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island | Otter Bay, Pender Island | Village Bay, Mayne Island | Sturdies Bay, Galiano Island | Lyall Harbour, Saturna Island

Looking at the SEAPARC property for the new Sooke Library

Will they or won't they?

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Land adjacent to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Phillips Road in Sooke used to be a septic field. An architect has told the Vancouver Island Regional Library board that although it's less than one acre in size, that land area could accommodate a new Sooke Library so long as parking could be shared with SEAPARC.

● **A new library for Sooke is still a priority** of the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board. And with the lease at the current Sooke Library location on Anna Marie Road coming up to expiry in December 2018, it's time to keep looking for a location. *West Shore Voice News*

A year ago -- on February 29, 2016 to be exact -- the District of Sooke and VIRL co-announced the District of Sooke's purchase of 5 acres of land on Wadams Way. It was being earmarked for the library as well as other future purposes.

The proposed 10,000 sq ft new Sooke Library requires at least one acre of land. VIRL's business model is that the municipality or town that gets a new library at no cost should provide land at no cost to VIRL. *West Shore Voice News*

Some land next to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex (owned by the Capital Regional District) was recently reviewed by VIRL with an architect. It was determined that the area -- which is less than 1 one acre -- could still accommodate a new library for a community the size of Sooke. That's because parking would be available in the SEAPARC lot. *WEB SAMPLER EDITION*

As to whether a firm arrangement for parking in the SEAPARC lot would be possible: "Our discussions with VIRL have included parking in our existing parking lot. It won't be a problem," says Mike Hicks, SEAPARC Chair.

Mayor Maja Tait spoke with a bit of exasperation at Council on February 14 over the pushback on social media about the SEAPARC location being too far from Sooke town centre. Tait sees the December 2018 deadline looming.

David Carson, VIRL Divisional Manager of Communications, told *West Shore Voice News* on February 24 that if a new Sooke library isn't built by December 2018 that the fall-back option is to rent some retail space for the short term. Not only would that be costly, Sooke rarely if ever has any retail space big enough to accommodate a library. *West Shore Voice News*

"Libraries are a community hub," says Carson. He says they take a holistic approach to welcoming the broadest range of the community including seniors and youth.

The District of Sooke's rep to the VIRL board is Kerrie Reay; this year she sits on their executive committee. Reay did not reply this week to a request for comment about the furtherance of the SEAPARC land possibility.

This week there has been criticism around town and on social media that the 5-acre purchase on Wadams Way was probably ill-founded if the library doesn't end up there. However, land-banking of valuable town centre property is not in any way a waste of funds. *West Shore Voice News*

There are many possible uses for the Wadams Way land which is level and has roadway access. Not the least of which could be the long-awaited seniors/youth centre or even some day a much-needed health clinic or small hospital (population needs to be 20,000+ to qualify for a hospital). And the District of Sooke itself could probably do with a relocation of their municipal hall to something within the heart of town centre. As well, last year there was talk at the Sooke Program of the Arts committee about the possibility of a Town Square, with a clock tower to boot (shades of *Back to the Future*)!

Failing any municipal construction on the Wadams Way property, resale of the land at future commercial land prices could be lucrative. *WSV*

Two new beds at Ayre Manor for palliative care

West Shore Voice News | first published Jan 27, 2017

● **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 came in the last week of January from the BC Ministry of Health (along with Island Health and the BC Centre for Palliative Care) after months of planning.

"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. *WSV*

Volunteer firefighters in BC get tax credit starting 2017

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount observes firefighter gear at Sooke Fire Hall #1.

● **Volunteer firefighters** and search-and-rescue volunteers in BC are now eligible for a provincial tax credit.

An announced on February 11, 2017 -- and given high profile in the BC Budget Speech on February 22 -- a new non-refundable volunteer firefighter and search-and-rescue volunteer tax credit has been introduced. *West Shore Voice News*

It's available to British Columbians who provide at least 200 hours of volunteer service to either a volunteer fire department, an eligible search and rescue organization, or a combination of both.

The credit amount is \$3,000, providing a tax benefit of up to \$151.80 per eligible taxpayer. The tax credit is available for the 2017 and subsequent taxation years. *West Shore Voice News*

"This was a categorical announcement that is trying to differentiate full time Fire Departments to Volunteer," said Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount this week. "It's a similar measure to the Federal one."

"My advice to all volunteer firefighters is to consult with a tax advisor to ensure that either the choice of the \$3,000 credit or \$1,000 deductions makes best sense, since most volunteers receive some small honorarium," says Mount. He adds: "We as a District can support the documentation for proof of hours served."

When Finance Minister Michael de Jong spoke of the \$3,000 tax credit in his BC Budget Speech on Wednesday, he said it was one way "to acknowledge and give back" to firefighters and search-and-rescue volunteers.

Locally, BC Liberal candidate Cathy Noel (Langford-Juan de Fuca) says: "I was proud to vote for this policy initiative at our convention last fall".

For a plain-language overview of Budget 2017, see: http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2017/highlights/Balanced_Budget_2017_Highlights.pdf *WSV*

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Hwy 14/West Coast Road: maintenance Feb 27-Mar 10

● **There will be some Highway 14 (West Coast Road) maintenance** going on in the Jordan River area, February 27 to March 10 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm). Expect some minor delays as there will be single-lane alternating traffic. Use caution around the construction site, says Mainroad South Island. *WSV*

WEB SAMPLER EDITION

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

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WHAT'S GOING ON Next ad deadline: Mar 1 for Mar 3rd WSV West Shore Voice News

Seedy Saturday Sooke. Sat Feb 25, 10 am to 3 pm, Sooke Community Hall. www.sookefoodchi.ca
District of Sooke Council. Mon Feb 27, council chambers, public input 6 pm, regular meeting 7pm www.sooke.ca
SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Feb 28, 8 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca
Juan de Fuca Community Trails AGM. Tues Feb 28, 7pm. JdF Services Building, 3220 Otter Point Rd. www.jdftrails.ca
Town hall on veteran's affairs. Thurs Mar 2 at Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 91, 761 Station Ave, Langford. 6pm. Hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP.
Prime Rib Dinner Night at Mom's Cafe. Fri Mar 3. From 4 pm to close. \$24.95 pp. 250-642-3314
Jon Brooks in Concert. Sat Mar 4, 8pm, 1962 Murray Rd. Tx \$15 Shoppers, \$20 door. www.sookefolkmusicsociety.com
Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce 2017 business excellence nominations due Sun Mar 5 (awards event is on April 1). Anyone may nominate any business. Info and nomination form: www.sookeregionchamber.com
Seaweed Identification. Sun Mar 5. Talk & treats. 2:30 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca
District of Sooke Committee of the Whole. Mon Mar 6, public input 6 pm, www.sooke.ca
2017 Flower Count March 6 to 12. Join the counting effort and put your Greater Victoria community on the map! Twitter: @FlowerCount
Awareness Film Night. The Toad People: saving BC species at risk. Wed Mar 8, EMCS, 7pm. By donation. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca
District of Sooke Special Council Meetings on the BUDGET. Wed Mar 8 & Thurs Mar 9, 6:30pm, www.sooke.ca

Appetite for Art. Gala Thurs Mar 9 7-9 pm. Gallery open to public by donation on Fri Mar 10, 12-9pm. www.sookecommunityarts.com
Art Battle Victoria. Fri March 10 including Linda Gordon and Marilyn Montag. Victoria Event Center, 7pm.
Sooke River 10K Run. Sun Mar 12, 11am start at ECMS. www.islandseries.org
Blood Donor Clinic Mon Mar 13, Sooke Legion. 11:30am-6:30pm. Appointments: www.blood.ca
District of Sooke Council. Mon Mar 13, council chambers, public input 6 pm, regular meeting 7pm www.sooke.ca
SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Mar 14. David Cameron Elementary, 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca
District of Sooke Community Grant Application Deadline. Wed Mar 15. Details/application: www.sooke.ca
SD62 last day of classes before 2-week spring break. Fri Mar 17. Back to school Apr 3.
Earthquakes & Your Home: structural engineering. Tues Mar 21, 7pm, Metchosin Fire Dept, 4440 Happy Valley Rd.
District of Sooke Special Council Meetings - BUDGET - community grant applicant presentations & review by Council. Wed Mar 22 & Thurs Mar 23, 6:30pm, www.sooke.ca
ARTIFACTS Call for Artists deadline Mon Mar 27. Show Apr 28-May28. Info: www.sookecommunityarts.com
District of Sooke Council. Mon Mar 27, council chambers, public input 6 pm, regular meeting 7pm www.sooke.ca
District of Sooke BUDGET Meetings. Wed Mar 29 & Thurs Mar 30 (if required), 6:30pm, www.sooke.ca
Sooke Region Chamber Excellence Awards. Sat Apr 1. Nomination info & tickets: www.sookeregionchamber.com
Tea, Talk & Treats: James Bond, Beyond the

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

Visit our Events Page at
www.SookeRegionChamber.com

Movies. Sun Apr 2 at Sooke Region Museum. 2:30 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca
SD62 Back to School after spring break. Mon Apr 3. www.sd62.bc.ca
Easter long weekend. Apr 14-17.
Sooke Rotary Auction. Sat Apr 29 at SEAPARC, 10am-8pm. www.sookerotary.com
BC Provincial Election. Tues May 9. Mark your calendar, learn about the candidates, and remember to vote! WHICH RIDING? If you live in Sooke, Langford and the Juan de Fuca area you'll be voting in Langford-Juan de Fuca. If you live in Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood or Metchosin, you're in Esquimalt-Metchosin. www.elections.bc.ca

WEB SAMPLER EDITION

Kelz Bakery introduces new products



West Shore Voice News

● **Hot cross buns are selling like hot cakes** at Kelz Sweet & Savory Bake Shop in Sooke! The little shop at 7-6716 West Coast Road (heading west that's just past the intersection of Sooke Road & Otter Point Road) has been going strong for over three years now. They're open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

Those hot cross buns must be pretty tasty! Already, 36 packages sold in just the first three days of counter-top display in the bright little shop. All the baked goods at Kelz are made in-house by bakery owners Kelly and Yvonne -- all of them fresh and some mighty original!

Some of their newest products include coconut buns, maple currant scones, apple-raspberry turnovers, and pure almond bear claws. All being enjoyed by long-time customers and new customers alike! **WSV**

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS



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Acupuncture with a spiritual twist

● **Acupuncture is about helping your body heal itself** on a physical, emotional and ultimately spiritual level.

On a physical level, vitality, strength and energy often improve. Emotional balance and stability is a simultaneous natural outcome.

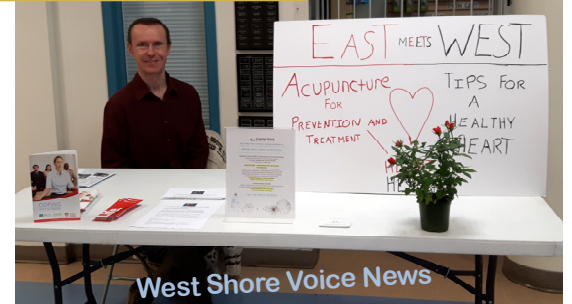
"On a spiritual level, connection and awakening into one's 'true nature' or authentic self can also be a natural and progressive development within the healing process," says Michael Cruickshanks, who is a registered acupuncturist.

"Healing of the mind and body is not a separate process. However when the spiritual component is considered I have found the space is created for healing to occur at a different level," says the acupuncturist practitioner who works out of the Coastal Roots Health studio on Townsend Road in Sooke.

Cruickshanks says the approach during his treatments "weaves together resistances in life (in the body and mind), assisting the client in to openness, creativity, and authentic living."

For acupuncture information or meditation workshops: mjcrucickshanks@gmail.com **WSV**

WEB SAMPLER EDITION



West Shore Voice News

Registered Acupuncturist Michael Cruickshanks discussed heart health with visitors to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex lobby this week.

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