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West Shore Voice News v2
4 pages this issue

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www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Friday, March 10, 2017 RELEASE DATE MARCH 11, 2017

Horgan asks voters to remember hardship under the BC Liberals

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



John Horgan rocked the house with humour and plenty of local nuance, together with deep jabs against the BC Liberals management of the economy for working people. T'Sou-ke elder Shirley Alphonse (left) set the tone in her opening remarks to the crowd, calling Horgan a true friend.

● **BC NDP Leader John Horgan** held his local Langford-Juan de Fuca campaign launch on Saturday morning, March 11, at the Langford Legion.

It was a rainy day, but over 400 of Horgan's closest supporters were on hand for the event. That included residents from throughout the riding, several MLAs (including Melanie Mark and Jodie Wickens who came over from the mainland), two local NDP MPs (Randall Garrison and Alistair MacGregor), some local municipal leaders, many campaign workers and some media.

In his 30-minute speech, Horgan cut into Christy Clark's BC Liberals and chastised the current government for the hardship imposed on regular working British Columbians. Horgan urged teachers, health-care workers and seniors not to forget how the last 15 years in BC have been hard on them and most British Columbians who are not "wealthy or well-connected".

Horgan said an NDP government would "increase the minimum wage to \$15, so in the most unaffordable place in the country, you can have a least a little bit of money in your pocket to make your life a little bit better". He added: "What's the Liberal response to that?... 'we can't afford it'".

He resurrected remembrance of the ground-breaking work of 1970s NDP premier Dave Barrett for having started ICBC as an affordable auto insurance entity, not as it is used today as a 'cash cow', said Horgan.

"For 16 years, the wealthy and the well-connected have had the best bought-and-paid-for government they could ever hope for," pitched Horgan. "How about we all make a commitment here today, that for the next four years we have a government that's focusses every single day on the people who work so hard to make this province great...the people in this room, the people in this community, the people in this province deserve better than we're getting... it's time for change... let's make that happen." And for that there were big cheers.

T'Sou-ke First Nations elder Shirley Alphonse gave her absolute support to John Horgan as a friend, as part of her opening blessing.

Horgan was officially nominated as the NDP's candidate for Langford-Juan de Fuca by Ravi Parmar, who is a school board trustee with SD62. Retiring MLA Maurine Karagianis got an upbeat shout-out from her party leader.

The upbeat event included remarks from NDP finance spokesperson Carole James and education spokesperson MLA Rob Fleming along with

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NDP candidate for Esquimalt-Metchosin Mitzi Dean.

Again railing hard, Horgan said the overheated housing market in Vancouver has turned that city into "a play place for the wealthy, not a place for families to grow and for our great economy to thrive and prosper." WSV

Pet supply franchise coming to Sooke

● **Bosley's by Pet Valu** is coming to the Evergreen Shopping Centre in Sooke.

The store will officially open on Thursday, May 11, says mall owner Partners REIT.

A few weeks ago, large posters announcing Bosley's were slapped up in the windows at the unit previously occupied by The Reading Room Cafe & Bookstore (next to Western Foods).

Bosley's has 36 outlets in BC, including stores in Victoria, Colwood and Sidney. The Sooke store will be their fourth on south Vancouver Island. They have



A new Bosley's by Pet Valu retail store is scheduled to open May 11 at the Evergreen Shopping Centre, next to Western Foods.

three stores in Nanaimo. They sell pet food, treats, toys and accessories, saying their retail staff are trained in pet care and nutrition.

Bosley's is a part of the Pet Valu family of stores, which includes Pet Valu and Paulmac's Pet Food. Collectively they are "one of the largest retail operations in North America dedicated to providing families with food and supplies for dogs, cats, companion birds, wild birds, fish, reptiles and small animals", according to their website.

Sooke has long been served by the Wiskers & Waggs pet store on West Coast Road owned by Tia Arden. Wiskers & Waggs also has a busy and successful pet grooming service and helps support the animal welfare community. WSV

Sooke property tax increase set for 5.58%

● "We held taxes at or near zero for several years. What did people expect?" That was Sooke Mayor Maja Tait's response after the March 8 budget meeting when asked about the 5.58% tax increase pending for Sooke property owners.

SOOKE BUDGET 2017



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait

Not only is that a big jump, it will be assessed on higher property values due to increases in BC Assessment valuations this year. In the budget discussions the non-market revenue increase was called 'found money'.

"We're still taking a frugal approach in a growing community," Tait told West Shore Voice News. Roads need repair, there are drainage issues, and the public wants more sidewalks.

During budget discussions March 8 & 9 it was said that money has been saved by bringing wastewater management in-house as well as landscaping/works contracts. Final budget approval comes in May. WSV [More budget details page 3]

REGIONAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Langford-Juan de Fuca

Includes Langford, Sooke & Juan de Fuca (up to Port Renfrew)



BC NDP Leader John Horgan, MLA (Incumbent)



BC Liberal Candidate Cathy Noel



BC Green Candidate Brendan Ralfs

Esquimalt-Metchosin

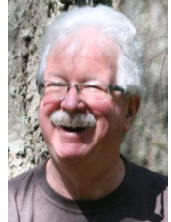
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BC NDP Candidate Mitzi Dean



BC Liberal Candidate Barb Desjardins



BC Green Candidate Dr. Andy MacKinnon

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EDITORIAL

WEST SHORE VOICE

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

Will Millennials tip the vote? *West Shore Voice News*

● It is well known in political circles that people in business and older folks are more likely to head to the voting booth on election day. Business folks drive the economy, so it's in their interest to integrate with the political realm. As for the older voter -- say, people over 45 -- they have lived varying degrees of the wars of life to make a living and raise families, and it hardens their voting inclinations.



Veronique Gagnon

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

It is always interesting how political parties really, in the end, are going after the independent voters: the people who watch, listen, read, and decide for themselves. How much can they really be swayed? And do they realize their power?

Youth have for several decades really fallen off the list of those who are 'likely to vote'. But if you go after them via social media (i.e. talk their lingo), one might make a dent in the traditional voting pattern. A regional case in point: the federal NDP on south Vancouver Island drove their 2015 campaign budget in the direction of social media and phoning (vs traditional TV and newspaper advertising). They managed to hold onto Vancouver Island as an NDP stronghold in Canada while youth, the left and independents across the country tipped their hat to the red federal Liberals.

Millennials in BC could change the tide of assumption that the BC Liberals have the upcoming May 9 election in the bag. They might just set the trend for a resurgence of political interest, the kind that makes a difference. After all, they are the generation that has been underserved for education and jobs in the last 15 years in BC. Young adults presently around ages 19 to 30 have been set back from the starting gate of the race of adult life. It's pretty tough to settle down, start a family and build a career if you can't get a stable job or an affordable place to live. Add to the disillusioned Millennials the vote of their aging parents, who in many cases are still supporting their adult children in various ways, due to serious gaps in the BC economy (particularly on Vancouver Island).

There is always the danger of vote-splitting in BC, if philosophy overrides political necessity. The BC Green Party is pulling in a slate of highly qualified candidates -- not necessarily in the sense of political experience, but in fields of endeavour that support the trend to a more wholesome society. After May 9 will some folks blame the BC Greens for another BC NDP defeat?

What often lacks in politics is authenticity. And that's a big turnoff for people who are genuinely interested in the betterment of their communities. Mimicking what you think are other people's techniques for success doesn't truly work (well, maybe in the short term, but eventually it will unravel your gains). The BC NDP may want to be careful there. After the Alberta NDP won in May 2015, NDP leaders across the country flocked to meet with Rachel Notley to presumably find out what she did right. And politicians of all stripes have tried to emulate the federal Liberals October 2015 election success that was achieved by embracing diversity.

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Expediency to win at all costs is antithetical to the principled generations of now middle-age adults who were raised by boomers, and the Millennials who were raised by post-boomers.

The under-30 vote could very likely decide this election. Go for it Millennials! Ferret out the authenticity in our political system, and then back it with all your heart, and seal it with your vote at the ballot box. Change our world! ■

BC NEWS

West Shore Voice News

[@WestShoreVOICE](https://twitter.com/WestShoreVOICE)

Teachers agree to government offer

● "A few generations of BC youth have graduated from high school not even realizing what they missed. #bctf #bcpoli westshorevoiceneews.com" ~ That's what *West Shore Voice News* posted as a cover Tweet for the full March 10 official statements by the BC Ministry of Education and BC Teachers' Federation (see www.westshorevoiceneews.com). It got Retweeted several times, notably by the BCTF to their 20,800+ followers.

And here's a hot a reply to our Tweet (posted by Andrina D): "My son was born in '02 & is now in Gr 9-he's been ripped off for his entire education [angry face emoticon]. I'd slap her if I saw her."

So yes, after 15 years and a Supreme Court of Canada ruling, teachers in BC are back on the right side of things. They have regained control of class size and composition, and well over a thousand new teachers will soon be in place in classrooms and other support roles. School districts are seeing funds flow in for the hiring process. Operating budgets are getting eased up with other funds as well (for equipment, bussing, etc). For a while it will be like coming out of a trench after a ceasefire ... systems will get better, moderately at first.

BC Education Minister Mike Bernier said in a news release (excerpts): "The parties had to deal with some very complex issues. The challenge was how to restore nearly 1,400 old clauses across 60 different collective agreements within the context of an education system that evolved dramatically over the past 15 years. ... Teachers will see reduced workloads and will be welcoming thousands of new colleagues into the system over the coming months. ... Government and the BCTF are working collaboratively on files, such as the new curriculum and Aboriginal education. If we continue in a spirit of collaboration, I am confident we can deliver even better results for our students in the years ahead."



BC Government

BC Minister of Education Mike Bernier



BCTF/Twitter

BCTF President Glen Hansman

BCTF president Glen Hansman posted on the BCTF website (excerpts): "With 21,156 BC Teachers' Federation members participating, 98.4% voted in favour of ratifying the agreement to implement their restored collective agreement language. The agreement will see all the substantive working conditions that were unconstitutionally stripped from teachers' collective agreements

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Getting it straight about Liberals

INSIGHTS by West Shore Voice News

● In election season in BC -- whether it's provincial or federal -- there always seems to be the need for clarification about 'what is a Liberal' in this province.

The federal Liberals are a party of the center, they lean right (or more accurately 'mainstream') or left (interests of the broader social justice) as required to maintain their 'right to rule' stance in the Canadian political spectrum. Their party theme colour is red.

The provincial BC Liberals are a party of the right. They are pro-privatization, by philosophy aiming to serve large corporate interests ahead of policy for broader social need. Their party theme colour is dark blue.

If you voted Liberal federally in 2015 because you wanted to support Trudeau (or vote against the Harper Conservatives), then you are likely left-leaning. To vote for the BC Liberals in this province is to vote to the right.

Sometimes you see BC Liberals 'show a bit of red', when they back certain social programs with funding. But there is always the benefit of corporate interests in the formula, or evidence of a lag time that served profit first.

Financial stability of a province or country is absolutely essential. In our capitalist society, corporations and entrepreneurs are the battery power of an economic engine. That isn't about to change anytime soon. When right-leaning governments get generous with grants and funding at election time, they are hoping to woo the people with money that has been recycled many times over in the higher levels of the political and business systems before it makes its way to benefiting the broader compassionate needs of society.

Where BC NDP governments have sown the seeds of their destruction in the past is to put people first at the expense of financial stability. Their primary goal to get elected back into power in May 2017 would therefore sensibly be to give assurances to the business community about the capability for financial management coupled with reaching and locking down the under-age-35 vote.

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Reality is a messy business and harnessing the might of big business to serve the will of the people is tough stuff. But ideally there will be a shift in Canada and BC in the years ahead to pro-actively balancing human well-being with financial management.

To their credit, the BC Liberals do come through with well-funded social programs, but only when they're pushed politically by the NDP and broader public opinion. Not often has BC had a government that by choice and definition has set out to serve the people first. **WSV**

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restored. With this vote, BC schools are finally on the verge of having better working and learning conditions back in place... BC schools, students, and teachers will see significant improvements in class sizes, support levels for children with special needs, and access to specialist teachers this September. ... a whole generation of students have gone without the frontline service they ought to have had during the entirety of their K-12 experience, but we are proud that we're able to turn our Supreme Court of Canada victory into positive change so quickly. We can never forget, though, what happened."
NDP education spokesperson

Rob Fleming, MLA told *West Shore Voice News* that the BC Liberals' approach to public education the last 15 years has been "completely at odds with the economy and social development strategy". And one of the newest BC NDP MLAs, Jodie Wickens, has told *West Shore Voice*: "Some of the teachers don't know what it was like (before the cuts)", referring to only one way it will take time for the education system to be restored.

BC NDP Leader John Horgan said at his local campaign launch in Langford: "Teachers, do not forget that your rights were taken away from you."
WSV

Sooke's population growth pushes everything along

by Mar P Brooke
West Shore
Voice News

SOOKE BUDGET 2017

● District of Sooke Council began examining each aspect of their proposed 2017 Budget and 2017-2021 Five-Year Financial Plan, in meetings March 8 and 9. More to come at the council meeting on March 13 (and two meetings devoted to community grants, on March 22 & 23). Meeting dates for March 29 & 30 have been aside, if required.

On March 6, Sooke CAO Teresa Sullivan pre-pitched the budget by Director of Financial Services Brent Blackhall as "one of the best municipal budgets she has ever seen".

Operating expenses are now shown under the departments that incur them. Regular expenses have been given their own line items. Some higher-level strategies have been put into place, to help keep up reserves and surpluses for unforeseen expenditures. Highlights:

A property tax increase of 5.58% is proposed for 2017 to cover expenses of a growing community (now over 13,000 people), including sewer expansion and more roadwork.

The purchase of Lot A was financed instead of being paid out of the District's surplus. That way there is some cash in reserve for any sort of emergency, such as repairs after an earthquake. The loan for one year has cost about \$2,400.

An electric charging station 'somewhere in Sooke town centre' (location undecided) to cost \$20,000.

Records management and off-site data storage sees \$19,000 in the budget for getting the municipality's files in order. Costs include digital storage and labour to properly archive it so it's easily retrievable. Only 2.2% of the documents at municipal hall have apparently been suitably retained in 'corporate memory'.

Another RCMP officer has been budgeted for (cost of an officer is about \$102,000 including benefits), for a position to start as available, bring the municipally-funded officer tally to 13 (four more are provincially funded). That decision resulted, in part, from a presentation by RCMP head office administrative staff to Council on March 6.


Lease revenue will be lost at the public works yard on Kaltasin Rd as of October 31, when Accumulated Ocean Energy Inc moves out.

The municipality's one IT person is 'mission critical', now that wastewater management is operating in-house. A contractor had been on backup, just in case. Now a part-time person will be hired to be more integrated with the processes. Total department budget (salary, software and equipment) is \$372,826.

Another front-desk person has been budgeted for. At present, when the one receptionist is on lunch or otherwise unavailable, another staff person has had to come from a more specialized department to cover that important frontline service.

A surplus of \$2 million in 2016 was used in part to pay for debt-servicing, including for the municipal hall (final payments this year), and the Lot A purchase. The ongoing surplus also goes into reserves for emergency requirements... sort of a rainy day fund.

Total revenues in 2017 are projected as \$2,568,406. Sources include building permits, business licences, subdivision and rezoning fees, and penalties on late property taxes, plus grants as available. Development Cost Charges from new development go into a reserve fund. Once the casino in View Royal is met with competition from a second casino in Victoria, the share of gaming revenues to Sooke will go down.



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS on the Budget

Wednesday, March 8 & Thursday, March 9
6:30 pm
Budget 2017 & 2017-2021 Five-Year Financial Plan

Wednesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 23
6:30 pm
Community Grant Applications will be heard by Council

Wednesday, March 29 & Thursday, March 30
6:30 pm
Budget 2017 & 2017-2021 Five-Year Financial Plan
[these meetings are tentative, pending necessity]

Agendas & webcasting at
www.sooke.ca
Inquiries to Corporate Services department at 250-642-1634
www.sooke.ca

Green light for E&N working group

by Mary P Brooke,
West Shore Voice News

● The E&N railway project seemed to be going nowhere. The Island Corridor Foundation has been charged since 2003 to look preservation and use of the rail line.

However, leaving a business decision to a non-profit group (even though it collects crossing agreements and licenses of occupation from municipalities) may have been part of the reason for the eventual go-nowhere quagmire.

Particularly frustrated by the scenario over recent years has been Langford Mayor Stew Young. Commuters in Langford are facing increasing commuter delays due to McKenzie Interchange construction over the next two years, on top of already congested highway flow on Highway 1 to/from Victoria and Saanich.

While regional TV media described a railside news announcement on March 9 as a letdown over 'nothing but another study', there may well now be a way forward through a new working



All smiles from Langford Mayor Stew Young (right), thanking MOTI Minister Stone, at the railside announcement March 9.

group to look at safety, sustainability, affordability, and perhaps produce a costed business plan. The province-led working group as announced by BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone will consist of representatives from the ministry, local governments, BC Transit and the BC Safety Authority.

A grateful handshake and a big smiling thankyou from Mayor Young clearly showed the enthusiasm for opportunities... possibly some train travel on the 15 km of Langford-to-Victoria existing track, sooner than later. **WSV**

Clean up done, Gabryel moving on

West Shore Voice News

● The position of Director of Corporate Services at the District of Sooke has been posted for a new hire.

The position is presently held by Gabryel Joseph who aims to move on to other opportunities. Joseph started in that senior position on February 1, 2016.

The current job opening was posted on the District's website on March 7; the closing date is March 22.



Gabryel Joseph
Director of
Corporate Services
District of Sooke

The list of job requirements is long, but is headed up with this: "Provides overall leadership and direction to Corporate Services staff, including work planning, scheduling, staff mentoring/coaching and monitoring of working conditions. The Director of Corporate Services reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)."

Joseph has also carried the title of Corporate Officer, which is a statutory title under the charter and is conferred by Council. It is not the name of a position. This coming week Sullivan will be away, leaving Joseph to serve as Acting CAO until her return.

At the March 9 Special Council meeting about the 2017 District of Sooke budget, Gabryel Joseph outlined in detail how the records management processes at the municipal hall are woefully behind schedule and do not meet expected standards. He also reported to Council on Monday night that in the past year he has overseen the revision of all staff job descriptions toward ensuring a lining up of actual job activities and the on-paper description. **WSV**

More funds for seniors care

● An investment of \$500 million over the next four years was announced March 9 as part of a Health Ministry action plan to improve care for seniors across the system, including increasing direct-care hours for seniors in residential care. **WSV**

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West Shore Voice News

Always a festive window at Sooke Optometry on West Coast Road... this month it's for St Patrick's Day!

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: March 15 for March 17 WSV

West Shore Voice News

TELUS Future Home. Continues this weekend: Sat Mar 11 & Sunday Mar 12, free daily tours, 11am to 7pm. In the parking lot at Juan de Fuca Rec, 1767 Island Hwy, www.telus.com/westshore or www.telus.com/sooke

Daylight Savings Time starts 2 am Sun Mar 12.
Sooke River 10K Run. Sun Mar 12. Registration 9-10:30 am on site, or online www.islandseries.org. Race 11am start at ECMS, 6218 Sooke Rd.

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 Public Board Meeting. Tues Mar 14. School board office, 3143 Jacklin Rd, 8 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

District of Sooke Community Grant Application Deadline. Wed Mar 15. Details/application: www.sooke.ca

Tankers, Pipelines and Dogwood. What Now? What Next? Dogwood Initiative meeting featuring David Anderson and Dogwood leaders. Wed Mar 15, 2191 Townsend. 7 pm.

SPEAC Meeting Wed Mar 15. 7 pm at Happy Valley Elementary. www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/

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 FD, 4440 Happy Valley Rd.

District of Sooke Special Council Meetings. Community grant applicant presentations & review by Council. Wed Mar 22 & Thurs Mar 23, 6:30pm, www.sooke.ca

Agricultural Planning: From Balcony to Back 40. Workshop Sat March 25. Compost Education Centre, Victoria. 1-3 pm. \$20. www.compost.bc.ca

ARTIFACTS Call for Artists deadline Mon Mar 27. Exhibit Apr 28 to May28, Sooke Region Museum. 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

Canada Day Challenge (creative contributions accepted from youth ages 8-18). Deadline Fri Mar 31. http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1449088858795

BC Hydro Rate Increase. Sat Apr 1. Electricity rate goes up 3.5%. www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc.html

Sooke Region Chamber Excellence Awards. Sat Apr 1. Event info & tickets: www.sookeregionchamber.com

Tea, Talk & Treats: James Bond, Beyond the Movies. Sun Apr 2 at Sooke Region Museum. 2:30pm. By donation. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

SD62 Back to School after spring break. Mon Apr 3. www.sd62.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News ad deadline Wed Apr 5 for the April 7 issue. advertising@westshorevoicenews.com

SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Apr 11. Savory Elementary, 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

SD62 Thurs Apr 13. Non-instructional day.

Easter long weekend. Fri Apr 14 - Mon Apr 17.

Pure Pharmacy: medication supply for emergencies. Tues Apr 18, 7pm, Metchosin Fire, 4440 Happy Valley Rd.

11th annual Family Arts Fair Sat Apr 22. Activities for the whole family including music, dance, acting, writing & visual arts. 9-12:30 pm at SEAPARC. Free.

ARTIFACTS Exhibit Apr 28 to May28. Upstairs Sooke Region Museum. Info: www.sookecommunityarts.com

Sooke Rotary Auction & Spring Fair. Sat Apr 29. SEAPARC, 10am-8pm. www.sookerotary.com



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

www.westshorevoicenews.com Campaign Updates:

BC Provincial Election. Tues May 9. Mark your calendar, learn about the candidates, and remember to vote! WHICH RIDING? See www.elections.bc.ca

- If you live in Sooke, Langford or 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 voting in **Esquimalt-Metchosin**.

Appetite for Art steady-state at 200

West Shore Voice News

With about the same turnout as last year, 200 people came out to mix and mingle at this year's Appetite for Art. The one-night food-art pairing event on March 9 (with art remaining on display the next day for public viewing) brought repeat patrons who brought their friends. Organized by the West Coast Grill restaurant at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort, the event is supported by the Sooke Fine Arts Society and the Sooke Community Arts Council. Each year proceeds are split to

support the Sooke Food Bank and a Gr 12 scholarship for an arts student at Edward Milne Community School. This year there were nine food vendors. Their products were paired with the works of 44 artists. There were 80 pieces of art, matched into 70 pairings, says West Coast Grill manager Dan Houle. Meanwhile, Sooke Community Arts Council president Caryl Wilford resigned this week, citing lack of volunteer support for her efforts. **WSV**

Orca survival is challenged

West Shore Voice News

Can you imagine the BC west coast without orca whales? Marine biologists say that's a distinct possibility, pointing out for years now that the South Island Resident Killer Whales are an endangered species. It's unclear what sort of further alarm still needs to be sounded to produce critical protective attention to this matter. Since 2012, local MP Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) has been carrying the banner for the whales in the House of Commons. He's been calling for a plan with concrete actions including to immediately restore funding to NGOs for restoring on-the-water monitoring by those organizations that have only have the interests of the whales as a mandate. As well, he wants to see a local emergency summit on Southern Resident Killer Whales with First Nations, whale experts, whale watchers, whale scientists, and local anglers to identify immediate actions to improve the viability of the whale populations and for the federal government to allocate funding to those initiatives. Immediate actions might include habitat protection and restoration projects, salmon enhancement and sanctuaries from commercial activities. **WSV**



Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke)

Peoples bought out by Pharmachoice

West Shore Voice News EXCLUSIVE

It wasn't all that long ago that Peoples Drug Mart in Sooke got a brand new backlit sign out front, bigger than the previous one. End of November 2016 in fact. Meanwhile, it was learned this week by West Shore Voice News that company-wide Peoples Drug Mart programs and services have been bought out by Pharmachoice/Pharmasave.

As Peoples has been an independent pharmacy chain, owners were given the freedom to choose a banner which best suits their communities. The local Peoples in Sooke has chosen the Pharmasave name, which is already known in other parts of Greater Victoria.

The changeover to the Pharmasave name in Sooke becomes effective April 1, 2017.

The store at 6716 West Coast Road (i.e. Hwy 14/Sooke Road just west of Otter Point Road) will have the same owners, staff and good service. "Same everything with a new name!" is how the store management puts it. They look forward to the continued support of their regular customers and welcoming new customers. **WSV**



A new PEOPLES overhead sign was installed on November 28, 2016. It will soon be changed to a PHARMASAVE sign.

SD62 parents: hot topics

The Sooke Parents' Education Advisory Council (SPEAC) will hold their next meeting on Wed March 15 (7pm at Happy Valley Elementary).

They will be discussing four topics as raised by PACs: wait times for facilities; school safety; parent/student advocacy; and fundraising for capital assets.

The evening will include a presentation by Amber Leonard, president, CUPE 459. www.sd62.bc.ca/parents/speac/ **WSV**

Tankers, Pipelines and Dogwood

What Now? What Next?

Wednesday, March 15
7 to 9 pm
St Rose of Lima Church
2191 Townsend Rd, Sooke

Featured speakers:
Will Horter, founder of Dogwood BC
David Anderson, former federal Environment Minister
Charles Campbell, Communications Coordinator, Dogwood BC
Gail Armitage, Sooke team lead, Dogwood BC

An evening of updates and forecasts about one of the critical issues of our times. Learn how you can make a difference.

Presented by the Sooke chapter of Dogwood BC
Admission free or by small donation

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