

Dr. Joslin*, Dr. Morin* & Associates: Doctors of Optometry

Open 6 days a week

www.sookeoptometrists.com

#5-6726 West Coast Rd, Sooke
Phone: 250-642-4311
Email: sookeod@shaw.ca

www.langfordoptometrists.com

#105-814 Goldstream Ave, Langford
Phone: 250-474-4567

* denotes optometric corporation

Meaningful news for community-minded readers on the west side of Vancouver Island

West Shore Voice News



WEST SHORE VOICE 4 pages this issue

HOT WEATHER ISSUE
Additional breaking news & PDF of this week's print issue:
www.westshorevoiceneeds.com

Week #337 of the Voice

Colour print edition on newsstand at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke \$2.25

2017 v1

News in support of successful living: business & economy, health & wellness, youth, education, the arts, politics, sustainability, Millennials & social trends.

The Voice serving readers since 2011

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

250.217.5821 Advertisements

@WestShoreVOICE @VancIslandVOICE @SouthIslVOICE @SookeVoiceLOCAL

Breaking News daily: www.westshorevoiceneeds.com

Graffiti tells a deeper story [Editorial]	2	WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Canada Day 150 a success in Sooke	3	Vol.2 No.36
Blood donors in Sooke on a holiday Monday	3	SVN ISSN 1925-2722
T'Sou-ke Chief: "the land is ours for time immemorial" ...	4	Vol.7 No.25
Canada Day fire drives seniors out of their home ...	4	

News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online) by Brookline Publishing House Inc

Friday, July 7, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

FOREST FIRE

West Shore Voice News Courtesy online edition

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **White billowing smoke** above the Sooke Hills was visible on Tuesday afternoon, July 4. A wildfire on Mount Quimper was well underway by that time.

By 1:30 pm firefighters were making their way up the trail into the forested area. Fire-suppression helicopters were dropping water onto burning forest.

The sight of smoke was first called in to Sooke Fire Rescue around 1:15 pm, says Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount. The half-acre forest fire was considered partially contained by about 4 pm.

On-scene to extinguish the blaze were at least seven Sooke firefighters and crews from the BC Wildfire Service (nine members) and Capital Regional District Parks (seven members).

Including the integrated command, there were over 25 personnel plus the two helicopter teams called out to deal with the Rank 2 blaze, which by 5 pm had come close to being Rank 3.

Rank 2 presents as a vigorous surface fire that is starting to move into the ladder fuels on the tree. Rank 3 means there are signs of crowning — i.e. the fire is then jumping from treetop to treetop.

It took 30 minutes for Chief Mount and one other fire official walking up the hill to reach the site of the blaze, to determine the extent of fire and how to handle it. Crews had to make their way up the hill on that hot day (over 23°C), dragging fire hoses behind them. There is no fire hydrant at Harbourview Rd. Water had to be trucked in by the Sooke Fire Department.

Ahead of that, initial crews on site used tools to build a hand guard... a line where the surface fire can creep along. The line is dug down to the mineral soil so the fire can no longer grow. "A wet guard was not possible until water could be brought up the hill," says Chief Mount.

At 6 pm on Tuesday evening, crews were doing a bit of rehab, said Mount, before reattacking the fire that evening. "People can still expect to see smouldering by Wednesday morning," said Sooke Fire Chief Mount.

Mount Quimper is a popular hiking destination in the Sooke Hills, just east of Sooke (about 9 km from the town core). No residences or other buildings in the area were threatened.

This is the 40th fire so far this summer on Vancouver Island considered to be caused by the interaction of people with the natural terrain. The carelessness of hikers and others in the woods is beginning to exasperate some firefighting leadership, who feel that most of these fires could have been avoided.

The Fire Danger Rating for most of Vancouver Island was at High on July 4 (up from Moderate on the Canada Day long weekend). As of noon July 6, an island-wide coastal area campfire ban was put into effect by the BC Wildfire Service, with the exception of the 2km-wide fog zone in Tofino and northern areas of Vancouver Island.



Another human-caused fire. What ended up burning out about 1.5 hectares of forest after two days, the Mt Quimper hillside fire required extensive firefighting resources in hot weather. Cigarettes, campfires & ATVs can spark fires.

Rick Armour

Premier-Designate John Horgan: July 1 evening in Sooke

by Mary P Brooke | West Shore Voice News

● **No speeches, no fanfare.** Premier-designate John Horgan arrived unceremoniously at 'Sooke Flats' on Saturday evening, July 1.

His staff didn't think he could make the trek over from the mainland in time, after spending the day at 'Canada Day 150' community events in Port Moody and Surrey. But Horgan made a point of it.

Sooke is a soft-spot for the NDP leader who has been MLA for the region (under various riding names) since 2005.

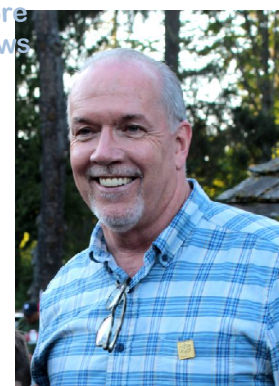
Quick to follow Horgan into the riverside campground area just after his 8pm arrival was the Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander. S/Sgt Jeff McArthur pushed the nose of his cruiser slowly into the area where Horgan would be mingling with the crowd. The engine was left running.

Several other police officers from the Sooke RCMP detachment were on hand for the evening in the park as Horgan mingled with a natural ease among everyone who approached him. Handshakes, conversations, photos with fans, and selfies ... the star-power was there.

People seem to have a natural fascination for the 57-year-old NDP politician, for whom Vancouver Island has always been home. People of all ages just naturally approach him and he is open to all. Some folks were wide-eyed to watch or meet the premier-designate down by the river that night.

After about an hour-and-a-half of accepting congratulations from long-time politicians and a wide range of people from the community, Horgan had finally worked his way toward the bandstand with his lawn chair to find a spot ... to sit in the cool night air, listen to the live band, and watch the fireworks among the people.

Being in the heart of the Premier's riding is a big deal for Sooke. No doubt there will be benefits and perks for the community of 13,000. But small prices will also be paid. Here's one small example: the promised extra-big fireworks display for Canada's 150 Birthday was disappointing for the crowds that have traditionally gathered along the Sooke Bridge area. Trees along the river this year blocked the view as the fireworks discharge location had been moved across the river, farther away from the Premier-designate.



BC Premier-designate John Horgan arrived at Sooke Flats after 8pm on Canada Day 150.

West Shore Voice News



Just walking through the crowd, Premier-designate John Horgan generated a natural fascination among folks at the Sooke River Campground on Canada Day.

Horgan to be sworn in as premier July 18

● **It was announced on July 6** that Premier-designate John Horgan (Langford-Juan de Fuca) will be sworn in as the 36th Premier of BC on Tuesday, July 18 at 2 pm at Government House in Victoria.

By then he will also have hand-picked his cabinet -- the group of MLAs who will also be sworn in on July 18. The NDP leader has indicated that his cabinet will not be comprised exclusively of NDP MLAs. Horgan is offering cabinet seats to BC Liberal and BC Green MLAs, as part of his commitment

to maintaining confidence of the house. This follows his promise of confidence to Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon on June 22 after a slim majority vote in the legislative assembly that defeated the BC Liberal government (vote count: 44 NDP & Greens, vs 42 Liberals).

Top staff are being appointed. Meanwhile, speculation is that Carole James (a former NDP party leader and -- like Horgan -- also a Vancouver Island MLA) will become deputy-premier and possibly finance minister.

Transportation, health care, education, and child care are stated priorities for Horgan in his first term. The legislative session will resume in Sept.

West Shore Voice News

WSV

News in support of successful living: business & economy, health & wellness, education, youth & Millennials, the arts, politics, sustainability & social trends, with a 'west side of the island' twist.

Time to jump on board!

Request billing by email, write to: news@westshorevoiceneeds.com

Or call 250-217-5821 to pay by credit card

Direct Link to Web Version (Sponsor): by email for 52 wks \$23.45+GST = \$24.62

Premium Colour PDF by email for 18 wks \$28+GST = \$29.40

Colour Print by postal mail; includes PDF by email by 12 wks \$39+GST = \$40.95

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

EDITORIAL

IEWS & INSIGHTS
FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST
SHORE
VOICE

Graffiti tells a deeper story

● **Political pundits have pondered if**, when and to what degree the dark edge of Trump's hard-right America would filter into Canada. Well, this week in small-town Sooke, we saw likely evidence of it. That's a deep reach into what many still believe is an oasis of human progress here in Canada. The spark of angry thinking is like a small flame in a forest. It can rapidly spread, depending on how dry the forest is. How flame-ready is our culture, for this sort of anger to erupt?

Well, right in your face! Graffiti was spray-painted in thick acrylic dark blue paint on one of the most prominent surfaces in town... the front of Sooke Community Hall. Owned by the Sooke Community Association, the vintage building proudly bears a long history of fall fairs, craft markets, political meetings, civic events, concerts, weddings, memorials, performances and dances. Even if not deliberately hand-picked



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

Writing about the west shore of Vancouver Island, from out of Sooke, since 2008.



<< District of Sooke Councillor Rick Kasper was out at Sooke Community Hall on a hot summer Thursday afternoon, July 6, starting some of the graffiti removal from the front of the building.

as a convenient and wide-open canvas for civil disobedience, that location served the purpose of the perpetrators... a message placed front and center.

Let's look at the composition of the defacement. Blue in colour, the word or letters 'DEMS' (reference to Democrats, or leftist politics), and five-corner stars (probably not the Christmas variety). Blue is the party colour used by Democrats in the USA. This could very well be a push-back against the province now being in the hands of the progressive NDP. One or more persons in Sooke doesn't like this new direction. This is scary stuff, for it indicates just under the surface a deep strata layer of resistance to change and the democratic process. And not just that, but an angry thread of it. The community may take heed that not everyone is of one and the same mind for how society might evolve. Generally, we know that, but rarely does it streak with fire across the community sky.

There is always a flip side to a bad scenario, the silver lining if you will. Community volunteers spontaneously came out to begin removing the paint this week. They started by scratching the surface of the vinyl siding with steel wool to remove some of the paint. This incident has also scratched the surface of what lies beneath in the community psyche -- so early in the BC-NDP term of government and in Horgan's home riding -- should be of significant concern to community leaders. This is reminding British Columbians as a whole that we are quite obviously not all of one mind in this province. Sure, the municipality will probably step-up the private security services that patrol around Sooke at night (where were they are on Tuesday night?). But reaching out to all the people of BC -- as Horgan says he will do -- is now evidently a project ready and waiting.

People who enact such aggression against public property but also against the public mind are not likely readers of this attentive editorial space. It's up to the rest of us to set fine examples of real and honest community leadership, support and interaction, and to keep that beat going strong.

And as a footnote, here is an opportunity to look at how many people toss out that casual off-the-cuff phrase about graffiti or senseless damage to public property being "oh it's probably just kids (being reckless)". Have you ever watched the faces of youth if that's said within earshot? It's a careless thing to say, to lump all teens or young people into the default group for reckless behaviour, as if all of them by virtue of their age are irresponsible and open to taking part in willful acts of damage. The graffiti incident in Sooke this week should make it clear that people have some people in town have deeper motives for creating disturbance. Given the depth of the message it's very likely some intently-motivated adults who have done this, and that should be of concern to public officials. ■

MonkOffice

More than just office supplies. We are Office Outfitters™.

Think Monk...BUSINESS | RETAIL | INTERIORS | TECHNOLOGY

sales@monk.ca | monk.ca

www.monk.ca



This week's lyric feature, for all the parents of grads who are feeling the twinge of empty-nest:

“What do you do when a chapter ends? Do you close the book and never read it again? Where do you go when your story's done? You can be who you were or who you'll become.”
~ lyrics from 'Just Hold On' by Steve Aoki & Louis Tomlinson (2016)



Serving Drumroaster Coffee

Open 7 days a week 105-1910 Sooke Rd Colwood 778-265-5577

PILGRIM COFFEE HOUSE

Clarification

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

● **Last week** (June 30, 2017 *West Shore Voice News*) our article about Ravi Parmar's acclamation to the position of SD62 board chair included the names of several other SD62 trustees. We did not say that Trustee Margot Swinburnson is a member of the BC-NDP party, only that she has been openly supportive of John Horgan in his work in the community. Fully so, the clarification in Margot's own words:

“I wish to make it very clear that I am not a member of any political party. I refuse to join because as a school trustee I personally feel it is important that I be politically neutral. This is something I have stated publicly many times. I will also state I support John Horgan because he has been hands down the most responsive and accessible MLA I have ever had as a citizen.” ■ *West Shore Voice News*

Awards to support studies in law advancement

● **From among 15 recipients** across Canada, two UVic PhD students have won a top Canadian award. Ryan Beaton and Ryan Tonkin are each receiving three-year doctoral scholarships as announced July 5 by the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. It is Canada's most prestigious doctoral award in the social sciences and humanities. In total the two awards come to at least \$250,000.

Ryan Beaton, with a Harvard law degree, aims to propose concrete changes to the courts that would further the stated aim of aboriginal reconciliation, and to make the legal process more accessible to the general public to support broader democratic debate.

Ryan Tonkin will focus his doctoral research on doctrines of justice in the context of taxation and income inequality. At one point years ago he was homeless. Now he has a Harvard law degree. *WSV*

INDIGENOUS TO THE STICK

Yeti
DARK BLEND

Whole bean coffee. Roasted every day. Well, almost every day.

Est. 07.07.07

250.642.5635 • www.stickinthemud.ca

10 years. Deep roots. New blend. Available July 15 Only at The Stick.

www.stickinthemud.ca/yeti

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

Published by Brookline Publishing House Inc., Sooke, BC, Canada
National Library Registration:
SVN ISSN 1925-2722 | WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Mailing: PO Box 851, Sooke, BC, Canada V9Z 1H8

Tel & Text: 250-217-5821

Email: letters@westshorevoiceneews.com
advertising@westshorevoiceneews.com
news@westshorevoiceneews.com
subscriptions@sookevoiceneews.com
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Twitter:

@VancIslandVOICE (BC / national)
@SouthIsldVOICE (CRD region)
@WestShoreVOICE (island west)
@SookeVoiceLOCAL

WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

Publisher: Brookline Publishing House Inc. **Editor, Writer, Layout, Ad Sales, Online Content:** Mary P. Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR. **Publishing Support Specialist:** Jennifer Brooke. **Contributors this week:** Rick Armour. **Distribution:** PDF/web, print, Twitter, Facebook. **IT Support:** Les Oberg. **Printing:** Brookline Publishing House Inc. **Courtesy print:** Bulk to coffee shops, reception areas business/community. **Online PDF & breaking news (web & FB):** ~64,000 page visits/wk. Print subscribers, community depot areas. Social media (web, TW, FB).

Digital subscriptions

Link version **\$23.45+GST** 52 wks OR PDF by email: **\$28+GST** 18 wks

Print subscriptions

Weekly by 1st class postal mail, plus PDF by email: **\$35+GST** for 18 issues in grayscale, or **\$39+GST** for 12 issues colour.

Newsstand

Colour print edition **\$2.25** Shoppers Sooke **Courtesy edition (PDF), archives & breaking news:** www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Letters published in *West Shore Voice News* do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher, editor, staff, or affiliates. The publisher reserves the right to decline any articles, photos, ads or other contributions.

West Shore Voice News
Member: West Shore Chamber of Commerce

Avoiding nuclear war

● If you're looking to catch up on details and nuances of how US President Trump is handling relations with North Korea, check out *The New York Times*. Brett Stephens in his July 7 article comes to this conclusion: "The right answer is that we want the Kim regime out of North Korea. It isn't the nukes that ought mainly to worry us. It's the hands that hold them." *WSV*

Bentley at the Prestige

West Shore Voice News

● **The Prestige Oceanfront Resort** in Sooke is of course in its busy season. Now in their sixth year of operation, this is the peak season for destination weddings, guests visiting from around the world, and regional visitors out to enjoy the on-water and hiking recreational opportunities.

A new service at the 122-room hotel is the availability of a large upscale passenger vehicle affixed with the Prestige brand name. The 2008 Bentley Continental Flying Spur is prominently parked just out front of the hotel front door, ready for use. "The car is used to transfer



Courtesy car at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort.

guests if requested," says Prestige Oceanfront Resort general manager Jacob Cramp. It's a user-pay service. **WSV**

Parking those boat trailers

● **The Sooke boat launch** is at the foot of the Prestige driveway. Overflow parking for the boat launch is provided by the District of Sooke off Maple Ave South (with a bit of a hike along a trail, back to the hotel and docks). Parking there is free for users (though the cost to Sooke taxpayers for leasing that parking area is \$24,000 per year).

Parking along West Coast Road continues, despite challenges for pedestrians and cyclists to get past the parked cars, trucks, and boat trailers. **WSV**

COURTESY WEB VERSION

Canada Day 150 in Sooke

West Shore Voice News

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

● **There was a strong turnout** for the 9 am pancake breakfast and kids activities at Sooke Flats on the morning of Canada Day 150, July 1. That generated a good number of people to be there ahead of the noon-hour official ceremony. After 1 pm when all the official cake-cutting was done. Some people stayed on, joined by more arrivals in the early afternoon for musical entertainment, food, and chatting with friends and neighbours.

Skies were bright with a light breeze, and no chance of rain. Perfect for Canada's sesquicentennial on the west coast of Vancouver Island!

During the opening ceremony -- after the singing of O Canada by the day's Elvis impersonator (great voice!) -- the crowd was in good spirits to hear a few speeches from the dignitaries on the outdoor stage. T'Sou-ke elder Shirley Alphonse gave a blessing, including thanks for local MLA John Horgan becoming Premier of BC.

Chief Gordon Planes of T'Sou-ke Nation recognized the 150th year of Canadian confederation but also said that for the First Nations, the land is "ours for time immemorial". Planes emphasized the importance of maintaining the environment for generations to come "so this place will never change for another 150 years".

A bit tongue-in-cheek, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks declared himself the senior statesman on the stage this year. As in previous years, Hicks has always tipped his hat in good humour to BC-NDP Leader John Horgan as the elder statesman and more eloquent orator. About Horgan, he said: "What an incredible experience that one of our own can be the Premier".

Premier-designate John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca) arrived later, just after 8 pm. He had been spending the day on the Lower Mainland for Canada Day community celebrations in Port Moody and Surrey.

Fireworks were set to begin after 10 pm.

Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) hadn't made a speech in

Sooke in a while (that opportunity was unavailable at the last Sooke Fall Fair). He had the opportunity to remind the crowd that he was the driving force in getting name of the riding changed several years ago to include Sooke. "So people will know where they are voting," he had said back at the time.

Garrison says Canadians can work together to make a better country, that Canada Day is a time when we can look back as well as look forward. "A window to the future for the next 150 years includes the challenges of climate change and increasing instability in the world," said Garrison.

"If we all rise to meet these challenges, that will make us all proud to be Canadians." He noted fairness and solidarity as common values among Canadians. Garrison emphasized the need to be more inclusive of indigenous peoples who "have allowed us to live on their land".

Sooke Mayor Maja Tait thanked the Sooke Lions Club and Sooke Community Association for organizing Sooke Canada Day again this year. She noted about people in Sooke: "...how we care for each other and give our best in times of need".

In the context of 150 years for Canada, Tait acknowledged over 100 years of dedicated by the local Sooke Fall Fair and Sooke Fire Department. Afterward, Mayor Tait said she enjoys the annual Canada Day Sooke event as a way to enjoy meeting everybody and catching up. "And enjoying the sunshine, especially after such a long winter!" Tait was accompanied by her husband and young son.

In addition to Mayor Tait, Sooke Councillors who made it out to the Sooke Flats for today's events included Bev Berger, Rick Kasper, Brenda Parkinson (who emceed the official event on stage), Kevin Pearson, and Kerrie Reay.

There was a bit more of a noticeable police presence this year during the late morning and during the official ceremony. This was the first Sooke Canada Day for Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander Jeff McArthur. **WSV**



Sooke Mayor Maja Tait and Randall Garrison, MP with cake (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke)



People gathered around displays, vendor booths and food areas.



Huge Canada Day cake, enough for hundreds of people to enjoy.

Blood donors in Sooke on a holiday Monday

West Shore Voice News



● **It was a quiet day** around Sooke on July 3 Monday. For those who'd come out to enjoy hiking, fishing and the outdoors it was a travel day back on the highway. Locals were probably out enjoying the last of the Canada Day long weekend in their gardens and the community.

But with their notable regularity, the Canadian Blood Services clinic at the Sooke Legion (always held on Mondays), carried on. Usual hours: 11:30 am to 6:30 pm

As of last week before, there were still 14 open time slots after regular donors had made their appointments, said Ann Chabert, Canadian Blood Services territory manager. But with people getting suddenly busy or distracted on a holiday weekend, it's always possible that spots open up. So the word went out that drop-in donors were welcome (as they always are). There is no upper age limit on donors anymore.

Blood and plasma products are always in demand for surgeries and medical treatments including cancer recovery.

On that bright sunny holiday Monday, the Canadian Blood Services van was parked outside the Sooke Legion on Eustace Road in Sooke town centre. The van carries all the gear to set up the mobile one-day clinic. A smaller temperature-controlled van is used for transporting the blood donations back over to the mainland for processing. **WSV**

Sooke Fine Arts Show gearing up for 31st season

West Shore Voice News



● **Each year** the Sooke Fine Arts Show showcases the work of the finest artists from Vancouver Island and BC's coastal islands -- this year, their 31st exhibit and sale!

The 11-day event draws 8,000+ people from Canada, the US and abroad. It's held in a 'transformed' 16,000 sq ft arena at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke. Over 375 works of original art are on display. Daily artist demonstrations, talks, guided tours, live music, gift shop and bistro round out the events, including a day for kids & youth.

Each year the tastes and insights of the jurors set the overall tone of the show. This year's three jurors are: **Richard Hunt** is a Victoria-based aboriginal artist. with work in carving, serigraphs, engraved jewelry, wood sculptures and ceremonial works. His many awards include the Queen's Jubilee Diamond Medal in 2012. **Carol Koebbeman** is a Victoria artist best known for her contemporary portrait and figurative oil paintings; she has a BFA in fiber arts, with a focus on sculptural wall pieces. **Jock Hildebrand** is a Duncan-based sculptor who does large-scale projects in stone and bronze, including public artworks installed throughout Asia, Europe, North and Central America; he is also a painter in oils, acrylic and watercolor. www.sookefinearts.com **WSV**

This year there are 80 Sooke Fine Arts Show sponsors supporting the 11-day show at various contribution levels.

(Photo: 30th SFAS show in 2016)

NDP

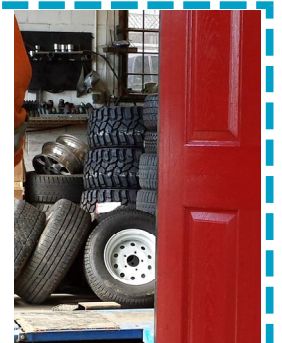
Helping constituents with Federal government programs and services.



Randall Garrison, MP
ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE
2904 Tillicum Rd, Victoria / Mon-Thurs 10-4
Tel: 250-405-6550
Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca
www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

Grad Family Gift Coupon
\$20.17 off your next vehicle service!

2079 Otter Point Rd in Sooke
Open Mon-Sat
250.642.6665



DUMONT TIRECRAFT
Auto Center

One per customer, valid to Sept 8, 2017

WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: July 12 for July 14 WSV

West Shore Voice News

LIST YOUR SUMMER EVENTS! Send info to news@westshorevoicenews.com

Have a safe summer!

The Stick in the Mud Coffee House. 10th anniversary. 6715 Eustace Rd, Sooke. Fri July 7.

Composting. Sat July 8. Demo by Compost Education Centre, at Sooke Country Market (Zero Waste Sooke booth). Otter Pt Rd at Eustace, 10am-2pm.

Sooke Philharmonic Fling. Sun July 9. 2:30 pm. Outdoor concert. Ed Macgregor Park. www.sookephil.ca

City of Langford Planning & Affordable Housing Committee. Mon July 10. 5:30pm.

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Mon July 10. 7pm. www.sooke.ca

CRD Strategic Plan for the Greater Victoria Water Supply System. Open house Thurs July 13 at Juan de Fuca Rec, 1767 Island Hwy, Colwood. 5-7pm. www.crd.bc.ca/waterplan

Sooke Night Market. Thurs July 13. 5-8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

'Sandy Shore Explore' guided walk, Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin. Fri July 14, 1 to 2:30 pm. All ages. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Economic Forum 2017. Free seminar on Innovation & Sustainability Action. Sat July 15 with architect/planner Dr Avi Friedman. Sheraton 4 Points, Langford. 10am-noon. Co-sponsored by Langford www.cityoflangford.ca & West Shore Developers.

Eats & Beats at the Beach. Esquimalt Lagoon. Sat July 15. 1-9pm. Free to attend. Live music. Food for sale at mobile food trucks. www.colwood.ca

GIS Mapping & Drones. Free info session and dmeo. Tues July 18, 7 to 9 pm. Metchosin Fire Hall. www.metchosinfire.ca

Business Boost. Wed July 19 and every other Wednesday at Sooke Region Chamber office, 9am-1pm. www.sookeregionchamber.com

Sooke Car Show and Shop & Swap. Sun July 23 by Sooke Fall Fair. at Sooke Flats. 10-3. www.sookefallfair.ca

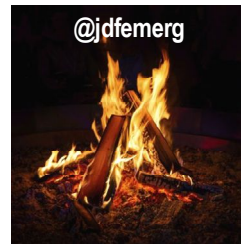
31st Sooke Fine Arts Show. July 28 to Aug 7. At SEAPARC. www.sookefinearts.com

Sooke Salmon Enhancement Chinook Salmon Derby. Sat Aug 5 & Sun Aug 6. \$60/rod. Awards dinner. www.sookosalmonenhancement.com

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon Aug 7. 510 Mt View Ave, Colwood. 12-7pm. www.blood.ca

7th Annual Langford Show & Shine. Sun Aug 20. 10am-3pm. On Goldstream Ave in Langford city centre. No registration fee: bring non-perishable food & financial contributions for Goldstream Food Bank and/or Wounded Warriors. www.cityoflangford.ca

Camping this weekend?



Make sure your campfire is completely extinguished & the embers are cold before leaving your campsite.

www.prepareyourself.ca - Juan de Fuca Emergency Program



Welcome to **Pharmasave Millstream** in Langford, the newest location where you can buy the colour print edition of **West Shore Voice News** each week.

'Seeking Salmon' exhibit. Sooke Region Museum. Sun June 25 to April 2018. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Sun protection: a wide-brimmed hat, full-coverage UV-eyewear and high-SPF sunscreen, plus long sleeves.



Daily local & regional news 'This west side of the island' WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

PHARMASAVE Open Daily at 6716 West Coast Rd in Sooke

Canada's community pharmacy

Your Medication & Compounding Experts

Monday to Thursday: 8am-8pm
Fridays: 8am-6pm
Saturdays: 9am-6pm
Sundays/Holidays: 10am-5pm

Phone: 250-642-2226

Ideas for housing innovation & sustainability

West Shore Voice News

The City of Langford is hosting an Economic Forum next weekend. The featured speaker to lead a discussion on innovation, sustainability and housing action is world-renowned architect Avi Friedman, Ph.D.

The presentation is free and open to the public, at the Four Points Sheraton, 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday July 15.

The event is co-sponsored by the City of Langford and the West Shore Developers Association. Both sponsors have been on the forefront of facilitating and developing more housing in the fast-growing Langford area of Vancouver Island's west shore.

Overall, the Greater Victoria area has been challenged to keep up with the demand for what might be considered affordable housing. Oftentimes, delays or failed attempts to provide more small-size housing and rental units has had to do with municipal bylaws that might be outdated for today's socioeconomic needs, as well as red tape that developers and builders sometimes have to wade through.

Langford has a positive reputation for encouraging housing construction by working cooperatively when it comes to land and development. Sooke is attempting to head in that direction; their new Development & Engagement Committee aims to identify the problem-areas that have effectively stymied responsive home-building in Sooke for many years. WSV

Housing affordability: it's all relative

West Shore Voice News REAL ESTATE ANALYSIS

Housing affordability is a relative determination, based on incomes, goals, and other factors. Even in Sooke -- considered to be one of the most affordable areas of Greater Victoria, the average home sale price is inching up to half a million dollars. Here are some key June 2017 stats:

LANGFORD: The actual average house sale price of 96 properties in Langford was \$679,155 (data-adjusted HPI was \$579,900). Langford's population is booming, based on the city being considered more affordable within overall Greater Victoria (average GV area sale price of 476 properties last month was \$885,281 with HPI \$691,100). **SOOKE:** Considered the most affordable area, there were 38 sales averaging at \$469,322 (HPI \$463,500). The gap between the raw sales average and HPI has recently tightened up, which is surprising considering the cost of distance from major services, inadequate transportation support (bus and highway shortfalls), health care limitations, and a modest range of organized recreation. All those factors are a challenge to full-spectrum living and certainly pose challenges to any business that is dependent on a population strong in both numbers and income level. **COLWOOD:** The average sale price of 19 properties was \$672,589 (HPI \$650,700). **ESQUIMALT:** The average of 12 property sales was \$686,000 (HPI \$582,800). Stats source: www.vreb.org

Sales throughout the Greater Victoria area are occurring over the list price, still many with multiple offer scenarios, with properties frequently selling in one to two days. WSV

Changeover at the Sooke Library

West Shore Voice News

LIBRARIAN: A few weeks ago, long-time Sooke Library branch manager Adrienne Wass hung up her librarian's hat and is now working in landscaping. Among the group of folks who regularly utilize the library's computer centre is off-the-grid novelist Eric Anderson (aka Hum), who says of Adrienne's departure: "I'm always impressed when people, at any age, can jump out of their box for another/deeper experience to nourish their soul." For the time-being Stephen R Warren (Library Manager, Cowichan & Cowichan Lake Branches) is attending to the manager's role at the Sooke Library on Fridays until a new full-time manager is in place.

BUILDING: As for changeover of the library building itself (from the leased space on Anna Marie Road over to District-owned land on Wadams Way): a 6-week promise by Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) executives in early May to return with an architect's sketch has come and gone. VIRL communications manager David Carson says there is no fixed date yet for an update to the Sooke community about the design or layout of the new 10,000 sqft Sooke library. Construction is expected to be underway in 2018, with a target opening date of January 2019. WSV

House fire July 1

West Shore Voice News | Langford beat



For one family it was not a very happy Canada Day. Their small home in Langford somehow caught on fire.

About a dozen firefighters from the Langford Fire Department, several fire engines and rescue vehicles, a few RCMP officers, and other resources were on scene and required to deal with the mid-afternoon fire.

A neighbour had seen smoke and called the fire department. The blaze was deemed to have started in the attic of the older home.

The elderly owners sat in lawn chairs with their dog, watching their house continue to burn. They said they were sure their back yard garden would never be the same, after being exposed to the necessary fire-retardant chemicals and impact of the firefighting action. Several neighbours were standing around in support.

At one point, a hole had to be cut into the roof of the house, to fully deal with putting out the fire at the house on Lequesne Ave just off Jacklin Rd near Goldstream Ave.

At least a dozen vehicles were parked in close proximity to the burning home, around which firefighters did their work. Firefighters were on scene for at least two hours. They went through a lot of bottled water in the heat in all their heavy gear. Langford Protective Services Chair Lillian Szpak often states how she is proud that the city provides the equipment, resources and training that is needed by the fire department to do their job. WSV

"For time immemorial"

West Shore Voice News



T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes and Premier-designate John Horgan caught up on things at the Canada Day 150 event in Sooke, July 1, 2017.

On Canada Day evening, July 1, at Sooke Flats, T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes had a chance to chat with local MLA John Horgan (now BC Premier-designate).

Chief Planes earlier in the day in a brief speech to a noon-hour crowd recognized the 150th year of Canadian confederation but also said that for the First Nations, "the land is ours for time immemorial".

Planes emphasized the importance of maintaining the environment for generations to come "so this place will never change for another 150 years".

T'Sou-ke elder Shirley Alphonse gave a blessing ahead of the festivities, including thanks for local MLA John Horgan becoming Premier of BC. WSV

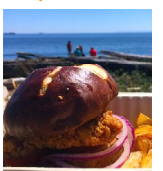
WELCOME WAGON SINCE 1930

New to Sooke? New mom? Bride to be?

250-642-2268

YOUR TINY AD COULD BE HERE! Call 250-217-5821 for details

Campfire ban in Coastal Fire Centre from July 6 to Oct 17, 2017. All open fires are banned right now (HIGH Fire Danger Rating). www.bcwildfire.ca



JULY 15 Eats & Beats 1-9pm www.colwood.ca