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Week #338 of the Voice

WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

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Friday, July 7, 2017

INSIGHTS FOR WEEKEND READING

Traffic-interrupt by fire

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● Due to a brush fire on Wednesday afternoon, July 12, that one road in-and-out of Sooke (Highway 14 / Sooke Road) was closed to through-traffic. Both eastbound and westbound, from about 3:30 to 7 pm.

The relatively small wildfire ended up consuming a relatively small forested area -- 1.5 hectares according to the BC Wildfire Service. The fire was being dealt with in the 4700-block Hwy 14 (near West Coast Tire), just east of Kangaroo Road. One small cabin to become damaged beyond repair. No persons, pets or livestock were harmed.

About 30 personnel from five fire departments (Langford, Sooke, East Sooke, Otter Point, Metchosin) including BC government forestry workers, were under incident command by Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop. Two fire-suppression helicopters were used. BC Ambulance, BC Hydro, Mainroad South Island, and RCMP were on site.

There are few if any fire hydrants in isolated rural areas. In support, Sooke Fire Rescue provided a water tender and an Engine, said Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount.

A winding traffic detour was available along Happy Valley Road, Rocky Point Road and Gillespie Road.

Cause of the brush fire was still under investigation on July 13. However, during the incident some drivers reported that a motor home



On Wednesday July 12, westbound traffic could not get past this portion of Hwy14 near Kangaroo Road. Traffic was re-routed for several hours as firefighters dealt with a brush fire in the area. [Photo taken a day later, all quiet on the Hwy 14 front]

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had been dragging something along the highway, giving off sparks along about 2km of the highway. Chief Dunlop saw 20 to 30 spot fires when she arrived on scene.

Similarly, back in July 2014 a fire in 5100-block Sooke Rd was likely caused from sparks by the use of power equipment in a dry wooded area. That fire brought all traffic to a standstill for over five hours creating havoc for anyone with commitments for travel bookings, medical appointments or child care pickups.

Highway 14 is heavily traveled on weekdays by commuters, as well as mobile business service providers, transport trucks, tourists with recreational vehicles, and marine enthusiasts with their boats pulled behind on trailers.

The fire departments of Sooke, Langford and Metchosin just this week agreed among themselves to provide mutual aid to each of the others' municipal areas, in case of a personnel shortfall. Due to a high number of wildfires in the BC interior

Crossing paths: outgoing & incoming Premiers in Kamloops last weekend

West Shore Voice News

● A BC-wide state of emergency due to wildfires is what brought both Christy Clark and John Horgan to Kamloops last Sunday, July 9. They both visited emergency operation centres and assessed on-the-ground emergency support actions.

As Premier, Clark told media about a \$100 million in relief funding from the BC government for evacuees and how all emergency management systems were in play to deal with the over 200 fires burning in BC forested areas and areas where the forest interfaces with communities.

As Premier-designate, Horgan told media that he had chatted with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau by

(on the mainland), some firefighters may be called to deal with that, leaving Sooke, Langford and Metchosin potentially short-staffed.

Some firefighting personnel left the island on July 11 for the BC Interior: firefighters from North Saanich, Sidney and View Royal will be doing shifts of 6 to 14 days in the interior region.

Earlier this week, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations announced that one of the reasons 300 firefighting personnel have been brought in from other parts of Canada is to give BC firefighters occasional breaks. That's to help pace the firefighting resources (personnel and equipment) through what is expected to be a high-incidence summer fire season.

As of July 12, there were 183 wildfires were burning in BC. That was down from over 200 the previous weekend. Of this week's fires, about 20 are 'of note' (large enough to cause concern for possible danger to persons and property, and potentially requiring evacuation). www.bcwildfire.ca

Sooke FINEARTSSHOW
PURCHASERS PREVIEW
www.sookefinearts.com
Thurs July 27 • 7-10pm • \$30

speaker phone at an airport in Kamloops, being assured that federal emergency support resources (military in particular) were at the ready, as required. "The federal government stands ready," said Horgan. He added: "The outgoing government has been very cooperative. This is British Columbians coming together to help each other — as they often do, in times of distress."

Some areas of the BC Interior are under evacuation orders due to fire proximity as a danger to property, life and health. Smoke levels can be dangerous for people with pre-existing conditions like asthma and diabetes, explained BC Centre for Disease Control rep Sarah Henderson, in a media conference July 12.

Premier-designate John Horgan will be sworn in as Premier on July 18, 2017 along with his new cabinet (names yet to be made public). The swearing-in will take place at Government House in Victoria, at 2pm.



Christy Clark at an Emergency Operations Centre in Kamloops July 9, still serving as Premier.



John Horgan at an Emergency Operations Centre in Kamloops, July 9, as Premier-designate.

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West Shore Voice News

EDITORIAL

VIEWES & INSIGHTS
FROM THE WEST COAST

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West side, how do your communities grow?

by Mary P Brooke

● **Communities on the west side of Vancouver Island** are growing robustly. Some are growing faster than others, and each with their own style. In the fastest growing areas it's not surprising that some factions are 'crying foul' over changes such as increased traffic, the noise and dust of construction, and generally 'it's not how it used to be'. No, it's not the same, it's growing, and that requires activity (some of it messy).

People are increasingly coming to Langford and Sooke for the relatively affordable living accommodations. Demand still outstrips supply. A juggernaut in many municipalities is the zoning and permitting process. Sooke is finally trying to sort that out, so they can step out of the way of the housing supply process. Langford cleared that pathway years ago, and now with recessionary limitations behind them, there is active construction of many multi-family buildings including duplexes, townhomes, condos, rental apartments and affordable housing. Colwood and Metchosin have higher price brackets, with Colwood leaning in a laid-back cosmopolitan direction with their Official Community Plan (OCP) changes, and Metchosin remaining



Mary P Brooke
B.Sc., Cert PR
Editor & Publisher
West Shore Voice News
Writing about the west shore of Vancouver Island and BC socioeconomics since 2008.

Guest EDITORIAL

VANCOUVER ISLAND VIEWS

WEST
SHORE
VOICE

Horgan faces a trial by fire

by John Twigg | Special for West Shore Voice News

BC POLITICS

● **Talk about a trial by fire!** The ones facing incoming BC Premier John Horgan are both literal and figurative.

Though Premier-designate Horgan won't have any powers to act until he and his cabinet are sworn in next Tuesday (July 18) he did look more or less ready to govern last Saturday when he dropped in to Kamloops for a first-hand look at government responses to the dozens of wildfires that broke out in the Cariboo and Okanagan regions, burned dozens of homes and required the evacuations of thousands of people.

Horgan told reporters he had already spoken to the Prime Minister and a federal cabinet minister who had promised support and meanwhile said he is satisfied that Premier Christy Clark and John Rustad, the minister responsible for emergency responses, had the situation well in hand, which perhaps knowingly telegraphs that Horgan intends to be a hands-on leader.

"I'm confident that all that can be done is being done," said Horgan after Clark announced a \$100-million allocation to the Red Cross system for the support of the droves of families forced to flee to Kamloops, Prince George and other communities.

"This is not a partisan affair, this is British Columbians coming together," said Horgan, taking a stance that may bode well for the province's well-being under the coming NDP regime and soon for the NDP-Green alliance's razor-thin Majority in the Legislature that no doubt will soon be tested when the Legislature reconvenes in September, especially with interim approval of the Liberals' budget expiring at the end of September.

Even Clark looked more statesmanlike in the fires matter, which is a major improvement from her tawdry clinging to power after the May 9 election, but one expects the usual partisan bickering will soon return.

When Horgan does at last take power he will have the advantage of having been there and done that, not only as a veteran MLA but also because he was a very senior aide to several senior ministers during the Harcourt-Miller-Clark-Dosanjh era of NDP governments in the 1990s.

That's a good thing because despite Clark's claims that BC's finances and economy are in relatively great shape the truth is that the province and its governments are still beset by many serious problems and challenges, now not least the need to recover from the devastating fires in the Interior.

But even that may have some benefits if it highlights the need for the Province to do more to reduce the risks of wildfires in so-called interface areas, as recommended by the Filmon inquiry following the devastating fires around the edges of Kelowna in 2003, which recommendations were more or less ignored by Clark's predecessor Gordon Campbell.

The benefit angle comes from the fact that clearing flammable brush away from residential areas is a type of work requiring many laborers and BC has tens or even hundreds of thousands of such people who are now unemployed or underemployed but most of whom would work if they could find a job they could do.

Indeed the need for many many more jobs for lesser-skilled people was one of the main factors behind the rise of affordability issues in the campaign leading up to BC's May 9 election, so now it's Horgan's job to not only help stimulate private-sector job creation but also boost public-sector job creation too. That can reduce welfare costs, boost grocery sales and generally help society.

A new jobs corps to reduce fire risks and respond to fires when they do break out would now seem to be a worthwhile action from the new NDP regime but the same could be said for increasing in-home care for seniors, building more basic housing for homeless people and for many other public-good activities such as shoreline cleanups, urban security and more. As well as in Health, Education, the courts, transportation and inside government itself, notably for more auditors to reduce the cash leakages allowed by the Liberals! (Not to mention the methane leaks from working and abandoned well-heads and the toxic leaks from various working and abandoned mines.) BC has gone 16 years under the BC Liberals with parsimony for public-sector services and gross generosity for major private-sector businesses (especially if they donated to the party) and now at last it is time for better ways.

It will be a big challenge for Horgan to turn things around on such issues but his coming-out at the Kamloops fire-response scene bodes well for progress.

John Twigg is a long-time independent journalist and communications consultant who until recently was leader of the BC First Party and ran as a candidate in North Island in the recent 2017 BC election.

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steadfastly rural with large acreages.

Like individuals -- each with their quirks and idiosyncrasies -- communities will each have their way of doing things. Different housing styles and neighbourhood goals will be sought as guided by each community's OCP but also -- if we're lucky -- by business smarts. Thankfully there's now a conscious realization among most municipal decision-makers of a simple fact: people need places to live, and those dwellings don't have to be fancy or high-end. Not everyone can or wants to use the roof over their head as an investment vehicle. At today's prices in the 'new economy', home ownership comes in many sizes and styles, to meet the various levels that people can afford. Many folks are resigned to renting, or actually prefer it. Millennials in particular have for years directed their investments toward other pursuits like technology, entertainment and travel.

If we're finally shaking loose those 20th-century ideals about the big house with a big back yard as the 'best' way to live (and primary way to set aside a nest-egg), then on the west shore there will be more homes sooner than later.



This week's feature lyric covers off two things ... the angst of transition in BC politics and the carelessness with which people's outdoor activities can easily spark forest fires in hot dry weather:

**"We're running out of time
Chasing our lies...**

Put out the fire before igniting...

**Next time you're fighting
Kill 'em with kindness..."**

~ lyrics from **'Kill 'Em With Kindness'**
by Selena Gomez (2015)

Next Governor General of Canada: Julie Payette

West Shore Voice News



Julie Payette, Canada's next Governor General

● **Former astronaut Julie Payette**, 53, who was twice assigned to the International Space Station and served as chief astronaut at the Canadian Space Agency for seven years -- will be the Queen's new representative in Canada.

Payette is a computer engineer with a commercial pilot licence, a scuba diver, and an orchestral singer. Fully bilingual in French and English, she is also conversant in Spanish, Italian, Russian and German.

A Montrealer who brings instant name-recognition to the role, Payette was named the 29th governor general on July 13 in Ottawa, in an announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau said that Payette has "dedicated her life to discovery and dreaming big". In just being who she is, Payette's appointment supports key Liberal government priorities and themes including Trudeau's high-profile feminism (particularly in business) and Canada's growing science and technology sectors.

Where Canada is overshadowed by other countries in terms of military might and economic/population size, Canadians continue to pull into the lead in terms of innovation and creativity. These are natural-born inclinations that cannot really be taught. It's simply smart economic policy to foster a Canadian future around science, technology and innovation that is both technical and creative. As well, the triumph of the human spirit is reflected in Trudeau's grasp on human rights and 'doing what's right'. This posits Canada further into the world spotlight.

The Governor General's position comes with a \$290,660 annual salary and official residence at Rideau Hall. Payette will succeed outgoing Governor General David Johnston who has held the position since 2010 (extended past the usual five years in part to officially participate in Canada 150 events).

The official transition will take place this fall after Johnston has 'had leave' with Queen Elizabeth later this month. Payette will spend time with the Queen at Balmoral Castle this summer, in a get-to-know visit. After the July 13 announcement, Johnston (presently in China) issued a statement congratulating Payette and welcoming "a Canadian of extraordinary achievement, admired by all". Payette is married to RCAF Lt Col Billie Flynn, and has two sons. **WSV**

Langford Planning: more housing units

West Shore Voice News

● **Charging ahead** to continue building more homes in Langford, the Langford Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee on July 10 dealt with five agenda items. In about 45 minutes, approvals included rezoning to allow for 100 townhomes at 1300 Glenshire Drive, five small lots at 967 Walford Road, and a 6-storey residential building on Meaford Ave. In terms of fostering economic activity, there was an approval for an 18-month use permit for Victoria Hyundai (presently on Gorge Rd in the Victoria core but looking for west shore property) to have a vehicle showroom in a trailer at West Shore Town Centre. Also, allowance was given for the Cherish seniors living centre on Jacklin Road for a happy-hour and dinner liquor licence. These recommendations go to Langford Council for approval at their July 17 meeting. The planning committee is chaired by Langford Councillor Denise Blackwell and co-chaired by Councillor Roger Wade. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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West Shore Voice News

Member: West Shore Chamber of Commerce

Garbage can be a fatal attraction for Sooke's black bears

by Jeff Bateman, **Wild Wise Sooke**
West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERFACE

● **With 156 local activity reports** phoned in to the BC Conservation Officer Service since April 1, the 2017 bear season in Sooke has been exceptionally busy and it's guaranteed to get busier still as our town's favourite omnivores satisfy their voracious appetites.

Poor garbage storage in a small but significant number of area homes is, as ever, the prime reason local bears abandon natural diets and develop what can sadly but inevitably become a tragic taste for trash, reports Sooke-based Conservation Officer (CO) Rick Dekelver. [West Shore Voice News](#)

As of July 9, four garbage-conditioned "problem bears" have had to be euthanized in the District so far this year, one more than was put down in all of 2016 (compared with 11 deaths in 2015). The latest was on June 27 near Grant Road and Maple Ave South.

In British Columbia as a whole, more than 700 black bears in total were put down in 2015 and 2016, mostly because of habituation to human food sources according to Mike Badry, wildlife-conflict manager for the province. This includes 85 on Vancouver Island. The stats represent a 30% decline from the number of bears killed annually about a decade ago in the province, but they're still the predator most likely to come into conflict with people. [West Shore Voice News](#)

"It's a tragedy every time a bear is killed and the frustrating thing is that it's entirely preventable," explains Debb Read, coordinator of Wild Wise Sooke, a proactive conservation and education program with the goal of keeping bears wild and citizens safe. "Most people are doing a great job, but there are just enough irresponsible homeowners out there to make this a perennial problem. It'll only be solved when every last one of us gets serious about it." [West Shore Voice News](#)

Bear hot-spots like Revelstoke, Kamloops, Port Coquitlam, Whistler, Squamish and Port Alberni have crafted effective municipal garbage bylaws that eliminate the temptations that lead bears astray. The District of Sooke currently has no waste management legislation but staff are investigating bearwise bylaws following a request last fall from Transition Sooke, which serves as Wild Wise Sooke's fiscal host.

Adult black bears require up to 20,000 calories a day, says Dekelver. There's no easier way for them to carbo-load than by raiding outdoor garbage bins, compost piles and trash left roadside overnight prior to pick-up. They enjoy pet food, birdseed, greasy barbecues and even hummingbird feeders. Chickens if unprotected by an electric fence, are easy prey.



Al Grillo / The Associated Press

Household garbage provides an easy food-opportunity for black bears.

But it's when bears become hooked on garbage that they lose their fear of humans and become increasingly aggressive. That's when COs like Dekelver, a 10-year veteran of the service, are forced to take action.

The unfortunate bear put down late last month had been struck by a car last year. Its injured leg had healed badly and she moved awkwardly with a limp. Worse still, the bear had a reputation as a garbage hound on Sooke's west side.

Dekelver and his colleagues had been closely monitoring the situation. The bear gave birth in the spring and, in recent weeks, had begun an alarming new behaviour by leaving her youngster behind and heading out in search of trash, which she'd then bring back to feed the cub. As a result, there was a strong risk that unwary humans might come between the mother and her offspring, a situation in which a bear can predictably turn dangerous. [West Shore Voice News](#)

"It's never easy for us and we don't make these decisions lightly, but we had no choice but to put her down," says Dekelver. The orphaned cub has been relocated to the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre in Errington east of Parksville. Cubs are fed a 'bear milk' replacement (cottage cheese, puppy chow, rice pablum, apple sauce and liquid fish vitamins) until they can start eating natural foods. They're raised with minimal human contact, then released into the wild at adolescence. [West Shore Voice News](#)

Garbage-conditioned bears have become a province-wide concern. In May alone, 119 bears were euthanized in BC, double the number for the same month last year. As housing developments sprawl, wilderness habitat is being lost and bears are straying into communities in search of food.

"The problem is that bears find unnatural food sources, discover they're replenished regularly and start hanging around for the free meals," says Read, who ran the local WildSafe BC program prior to launching Wild Wise in 2015. "Garbage is manna to bears. With their incredible sense of smell, it's a huge temptation." [West Shore Voice News](#)

The District of Sooke uses bear-proof containers in their parks system. So the root of the issue lies with a small number of homeowners who store garbage outside, leave compost containers within easy paw's reach, or put trash bags curbside far earlier than necessary for effective pick-up, says Read.

Garbage-related reports are on the rise this year, in part a result of cool weather that has prevented berries from ripening on schedule. Now that wild fruit is more readily available, he expects bears that haven't become garbageholics will be drawn back to traditional food sources for the rest of the summer. Things will heat up again in the fall as bears focus on apple trees before the salmon return in October and November.

Wild Wise Sooke coordinates its activities with Read, Dekelver and representatives from the municipality, RCMP and Transition Sooke. [West Shore Voice News](#)

Debb Read keeps busy year-round offering educational talks, posting yellow "Bear In Area" signage in problem neighbourhoods and responding to complaints with home visits. Anyone interested in learning more or volunteering with the Wild Wise program can reach Debb at wildwisesooke@gmail.com. [WSV](#)

www.wildwisesooke.com
www.facebook.com/wildwisesooke

'This west side of the island' WestShoreSookeVoiceNews

Legacy art unveiling July 20

West Shore Voice News

● **There will be an unveiling** by the Sooke Fine Arts Society (SFAS) of the first in a series of public art pieces. It's called 'The Gift of Salmon', a steel sculpture by Coast Salish artist Chris Paul. The public unveiling of this beautification project -- to which the full community is invited -- will take place at the front entrance of SEAPARC Leisure Complex on Thursday, July 20, from 1 to 2 pm.

The Legacy Public Art Project was launched during last year's SFAS, to mark the show's 30th anniversary and thank the many volunteers, sponsors, donors and artists who have contributed to the show since 1986, as well as arts patrons who have attended the festive, high-profile show each year. [West Shore Voice News](#)

The unveiling ceremony will mark the culmination of two years of efforts that started with a vision, a Call to Artists, fundraising and awareness-raising, and working with various entities and contractors.

"This first sculpture pays tribute to a local Coast Salish legend that explains how our local waters became so bountiful with salmon," says SFAS executive director Christa Rossner.

The original story behind the sculpture -- *The Transformer and the Blind Old Man* -- resonates with people of all ages. The sculpture is a celebration of place, people, and the power of art to connect across all boundaries. It highlights the region's dynamic arts and culture sector. [West Shore Voice News](#)

"Performers from the T'Sou-ke Nation will be dancing and drumming at the unveiling ceremony and there will be a reading of the original story," says Rossner. Chris Paul will be available to answer questions about his rendering of the legend, and his processes. "The Society is very excited about this undertaking and hopes it opens the door to many such collaborations with the T'Sou-ke Nation and others for art projects throughout our community," Rossner said this week.

The sculpture was funded by the Victoria Foundation; the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area of the CRD; the Province of BC through a multiculturalism grant; and by donations from Sooke Fine Arts Society members and community friends. [WSV](#)



'The Gift of Salmon' has been sculpted from steel by Coast Salish artist Chris Paul. The official unveiling will be at 1 pm on Thursday July 20 outside the SEAPARC Leisure Complex.

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Moonfist gets an honorarium

West Shore Voice News



West Shore Voice News

Moonfist has undertaken his self-initiated cleanup project for over seven years, shown here cleaning up in Sooke town centre at Otter Point Rd and Sooke Rd. [WSV file photo from 2011]

● **For his many years of tireless cleanup** of the roadsides around Sooke and region, Sifu Moonfist was awarded an honorarium of \$500 by District of Sooke council at their July 10 meeting. [West Shore Voice News](#)

In addition to unceremoniously doing the work himself for many years (as far back as 2010), Moonfist has also on many occasions led or helped coordinate other volunteers and cleanup crews on extended roadside cleanup projects. One of the recent coordinated efforts was with the Zero Waste Sooke group on Earth Day in April this year -- several teams cleaned up roadside areas for a few hours, including in the Sasseenos, West Coast Road, and Whiffin Spit areas before it started to rain. [West Shore Voice News](#)

A few years back, Sooke council did authorize the provision of a safety vest for Moonfist as well as other supplies to do his work. But he has never been paid. [WSV](#)

WHAT'S GOING ON

Ad deadline: July 19 for July 21 WSV

West Shore Voice News

Have a safe summer! Be fire smart!

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

The Stick. Launching their new 'Yeti' coffee brand. Sat July 15. www.stickinthemud.ca/yeti

Eats & Beats at the Beach, Esquimalt Lagoon. Sat July 15. 1-9pm. Free admission. Live music. Mobile food trucks. www.colwood.ca

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

Swearing-in: new BC Premier & Cabinet. Tues July 18. At Govt House. 2pm. www.leg.bc.ca

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

Sooke Fine Arts Society Legacy Project Unveiling. Thurs July 20. 1-2 pm at SEAPARC Leisure Complex. Everyone welcome. www.sookefinearts.com

Sooke Night Market. Thurs July 20. 5-8 pm. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

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

Pre-Show Sale & Gala - Sooke Fine Arts Show. Thurs July 27. At SEAPARC Leisure Complex. 7 to 10 pm. \$30. www.sookefinearts.com

31st Sooke Fine Arts Show. Fri July 28 to Mon Aug 7. At SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke. 375 art pieces on exhibit / for sale. Also 200-piece youth art gallery. Gift shop, live entertainment, food. Admission: 1-day pass \$10. Youth age 13-18: \$8 day pass. Seniors 65+: \$8 day pass. \$20 show pass. Purchasers Preview: \$30. Kids < 12 free. More info: www.sookefinearts.com

Artists Celebration - Sooke Fine Arts Show. Sat July 29. At SEAPARC Leisure Complex. By invitation only. 7 to 10 pm. www.sookefinearts.com

Artz4Kids. Tues Aug 1 at the Sooke Fine Arts Show, at SEAPARC. 2-4 pm \$2 admission! **Artz4Youth** live teen music performances, 4-7 pm. \$2. www.sookefinearts.com

Seniors Teas Wed & Thurs Aug 2 & 3. 2-4 pm. Included with admission for Seniors 65+ / \$3 under 65. www.sookefinearts.com

BC Day Long Weekend. Sat-Mon Aug 5-7

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

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

Sooke Music Festival. Sat Aug 12. Free live music festival. www.sookemusicfestival.com

Farmer's Markets: EVENTS www.westshorevoicenews.com

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

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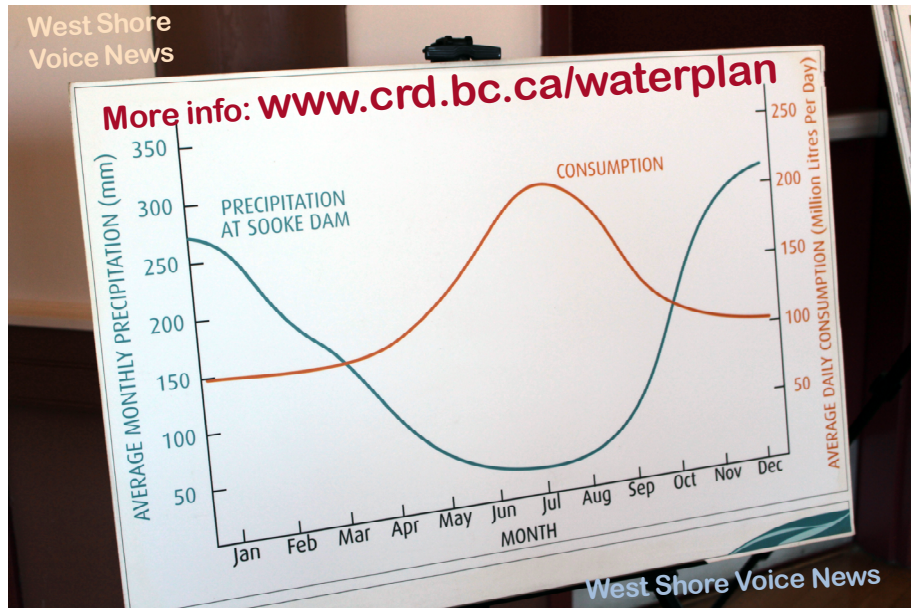
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Water conservation in summer

West Shore Voice News



The highest level of water consumption in Greater Victoria occurs in spring to early fall -- for landscaping, agriculture and recreation in addition to regular household and business use. The Sooke Lake Reservoir refills in the usual rainy season between October and March.

In this summer heat, water consumption goes up due to usage by most households, as well as agricultural enterprises. Level One water conservation is again in effect this year (May 1 to Sept 30), as every year since the dam was raised at the Sooke Lake Reservoir in 2003. That includes watering lawns just twice a week (alternating based on even/odd household address) and watering with a controlled-nozzle hose or handheld container for vegetable gardens and established plantings. www.crd.bc.ca/education/water-conservation

Treated water is supplied to over 370,000 customers in the Greater Victoria

Early morning assault on trail

A robbery and assault July 12 on the trail system in the 1700-block of Island Hwy (in Colwood near View Royal, near the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre) is being investigated by West Shore RCMP. That Wednesday morning around 8am a concerned citizen notified police about a woman with visible facial injuries who said she'd been robbed while on the trail. Her purse was later found by police dog Dash. The woman was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. **WSV**

Fire started in a flower pot

The Langford Fire Dept has determined that the July 1 small house fire on Lesquense Ave in Langford (see July 7 WSV, page 4), originated in a flower pot. A cigarette had been placed into the pot some time before the fire, says Langford Fire Chief Chris Aubrey. "It smoldered for some time before igniting and spread to a wooden deck and then unfortunately to the rest of the house," says Aubrey.

Discarded cigarette butts are becoming a major cause of fires in urban areas, frequently being tossed into bark mulch in outdoor areas and also in the woods by hikers. The results are dangerous and costly. **WSV**

Seniors co-housing gets initial nod

What could be the second seniors co-housing project in Sooke got the initial go-ahead from District of Sooke Council on Monday night, July 10. Bylaw 678 achieved 1st and 2nd reading for the property at 6603 Sooke Rd (roadside near Mariner's Village) to be rezoned from large lot R1 to RM4, potentially allowing for West Wind Harbour Cohousing to build 32 multi-family units. Councillor Rick Kasper worked hard to make the point that at least one unit in the complex is to be available for sale at below-market rate (i.e. somewhat meeting standards as affordable housing). Public hearing to be held at Council on Sept 11. **WSV**

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

region by Capital Regional District (CRD) Integrated Water Services. For this there is a strategic plan for the regional water supply system.

Five public open houses to inform the public about regional water supply were held around the region in recent weeks. The last one was on July 13 in the west shore.

Displays included an emphasis on the three CRD Water 2017 Strategic Plan commitments to provide: high quality, safe drinking water; an adequate, long-term supply of drinking water; and a reliable and efficient water transmission system.

Attention to seismic resilience is part of the planning, as is maintaining an inventory of all water mains and transmission infrastructure. As a cost-saving measure, CRD is aiming for 2050 as the earliest date that water reservoir capacity expansion is required.

Expansion of the number of households in the municipal west shore is putting further demands on the water supply system, but this is accounted for in the supply plan.

Water supply and delivery to residents of the Capital Regional District requires about 10% of the overall CRD operational budget. **WSV**

25 yrs of regional compost education: bubbles & bees



Compost Education Centre

The Victoria Compost Education Centre (CEC) celebrated 25 years of composting and conservation education with a Bubbles and Bees themed anniversary garden party on June 24. Guests strolled through the luscious teaching gardens, listened to cool jazz under the hot sun, sipped bubbly and watched the bees work their pollination magic. Since 1992, CEC has provided educational programs for all ages on composting, soil conservation and environmental stewardship throughout the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Organic and ecological gardening practices, as well as promoting the health, environmental and social benefits of soil conservation and local food production are top of mind! Fun, interactive workshops are taught in the classroom, throughout the community, and at CEC at 1212 North Park Street in downtown Victoria.

"We reach over 185,000 CRD residents annually with educational services and practical solutions for living more sustainably and in harmony with nature," says CEC executive director Marika Smith. **WSV** www.compost.bc.ca

WSV
West Shore Voice News is pleased to be a sponsor of the Sooke Fine Arts Show again this year.
2017
Image: "The Crow and Arbutus" from a painting by Matthew Miller (Grade 11), as was displayed in the Youth section at the 2016 Sooke Fine Arts Show.

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