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Publisher's Note

GROWING:
10 years strong

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

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Attention to community and all that makes it tick

● **It's tougher than you might think** to accept recognition for a long-standing commitment to something that not everyone sees as important. Yep, we're talking about following the news thread of a region that finds itself bound together



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher
WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

— loosely or otherwise — by a fresh view of living found almost nowhere else in Canada. Here we all are, doing this new lifestyle, on the west shore of Vancouver Island (you can't get much further west than that in urbanized Canada)!

Thank you to everyone -- comments published in this issue or otherwise -- who have acknowledged, supported and fostered the *West Shore Voice News* pursuit of editorial excellence and attentive news coverage of the west shore communities that collectively generate a unique way of life in BC. In these challenging socioeconomic times, I can think of few more valuable contributions to community than a news service that follows the pulse of the times. Format is secondary to the mission, but we do both print and online to reach the widest possible readership demographic in a variety of ways.

This insight-journalism venture began in Sooke in 2008, expanded to cover Juan de Fuca, and in recent years has emerged to being Langford-centric while covering the broader west side of the island including Colwood, Metchosin, and Highlands. Plus there's a touch of View Royal when their straddling geographical position connects them with the west shore thread. And we'll also be taking a look at things in Esquimalt, where many west shore commuters head daily and where the west side's sewage treatment plant is under development. Of course, impacts of the Capital Regional District (CRD) and provincial and federal politics play into everything west shore one way or another, and hence our pen to that. And it will be a privilege to write more about T'Sou-ke Nation and Beecher Bay.

Journalism and responsible publishing have at their core the recording and packaging of thoughts, actions and dynamics of communities into reliable news formats — for the moment at hand, and forever online. ~ Mary P Brooke ■

10 years of regional insights

MapleLine Magazine
2008-2010
Sooke Voice News
2011-2014

West Shore Voice News
Since November 2014
Stuff that matters

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Congratulations to the West Shore VOICE News and Mary Brooke for their dedication to top flight journalism and community service.

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Comments & Congratulations 10 years

● **"I just want to personally thank you** for your cooperation, enthusiasm and support that you provided to me both as the Deputy Chief, Sooke Fire Rescue Department and Emergency Support Service Coordinator for the District of Sooke. Over the years, you have provided coverage for our Open Houses, special celebrations, emergency incidents, and fundraisers not to mention personal interviews on numerous topics. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication. Best wishes for the next 10 years of your journalism career!!"

~ Rick McLeod, Emergency Support Services Coordinator, District of Sooke

● **"Time flies! Ten years -- fantastic!** Warm congratulations to *West Shore VOICE News* and Mary Brooke for a job well done. Most importantly, you have kept the quality, journalistic principles, and broad array of critical coverage intact from inception to now. Thank you for what you do for the community."

~ Michael Galizio, president, Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

● **"I have always admired Mary's tenacity** in giving us more than 'surface news and reports'. She does her research which is a lot of work. I especially value her reporting on SD62 events and activities and attending Board meetings."

~ Bob Phillips, SD62 school board trustee

● **"Congratulations are in order** for this 10th Anniversary issue. As I was contemplating a comment, one of my favorite quotes came to mind from Jef Mallett: "Writing well means never having to say, 'I guess you had to be there.'" Luckily, with the *West Shore Voice News*, that has never been a concern! The local content in *West Shore Voice News* is insightful and engaging. Thank you to Mary and her team for their investment and energy in our community. You are an important part of what makes the Westshore great! I'm looking forward to the next 10 years!"

~ Rob Martin, Colwood Councillor

● **"Congratulations for 10 years** of informative news served with colourful creative presentations! You are a survivor. Good luck for another 10 years!"

~ Shirley Lowe, retired senior, Sooke

● **"Alternative news media** like *West Shore Voice News* have proven a valuable information source in an era of BigNews that largely ignore local matters in small communities. The result is that I largely ignore BigNews media."

~ Terrance Martin, Eigenvector Consulting, Sooke

● **"Congratulations on 10 years of excellent reporting**, starting in Sooke then extending into the Westshore. Not just local news but Provincial and Federal stories that would affect us. As an emergency manager I appreciate the time and space you have dedicated in your paper to reporting on emergency preparedness and preparedness education. Thanks for your hard work."

~ Jeri Grant, Juan de Fuca Emergency Coordinator

● **"Many congratulations Mary**, on a really great job!"

~ Jan & John Krottner, owners, Pilgrim Coffee House

● **"Congratulations on 10 years** of serving our community." ~ Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) & Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity

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The Sooke Voice News

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● **"West Shore Voice News** (and its previous iterations of *MapleLine Magazine* and *Sooke Voice News*) have helped spur many thought-provoking discussions in the Sooke community over the past 10 years. Political issues have been a mainstay of this publication, and the editorial pieces provide perspective and in-depth analysis of government matters. Thank you for your dedication over the past decade."

~ Maja Tait, Mayor, District of Sooke

● **"Over the years** I had the great pleasure to observe how the paper that some men called 'little', valiantly rose like a flamboyant star or flag. In the name of all the women who lack confidence to fight for equality, thank you! Your magnificent writing skills, your vision, your wit, and your artistic touch make your paper a weekly treasure which we are all lucky to have. So, due to its richness, like French perfume, it can only come in tiny quantities. One of my university professors used to say that "it is more difficult to write a small note than to write a letter."

~ Margarita Dominguez, animal rights activist, Sooke

● **"Congratulations to Mary Brooke** and her news publications over the years that have devoted so much to putting Sooke on the map by exploring our community's efforts to grow yet stay the same amidst the pressures of a changing world."

~ Herb Haldane, District of Sooke Councillor (2008-2014)

Editorials

Hoping for better

VIEWS & INSIGHTS
FROM THE WEST COAST

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The pause that refreshed

● **Now that the BC Liberals have a leader again**, the six or so months without mean-spirited politics in BC was a refreshing pause. Within days, there were tweets twisting the obvious truth -- e.g. saying Premier Horgan was not exhibiting adult behaviour over the pipeline issue, when in fact it was Alberta that started the mud-slinging with a trade war against the unsuspecting wine industry. Horgan stepped aside and let the mud fly by... the mature thing to do.

In the legislature this week, BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson seemed a bit surprised at the power of thoughtful politics from the NDP government side of the aisle, fielding inquiry from Attorney General David Eby about how the previous BC Liberal government mishandled ICBC.

Upon the BC Liberals winning the Kelowna-West byelection February 14, they now have 42 seats in the legislative assembly, one more than the NDP at 41. The NDP is shored up with 3 BC Green MLA seats, in that agreement signed last summer with the blessing of Lt Gov Judith Guichon. May the progressive bond of NDP and Green maintain an even keel so that further efforts toward achieving affordability for the broadest range of BC residents have a good shot at being achieved. ■

No place for blind belief or vigilante justice in #MeToo

● **People deserve support** if they have been victimized. But how is it that society has in the past year or so allowed for a huge chasm to manifest between emotional support and a process of determining the facts? Just because someone says something happened doesn't mean that it did. And even with any validation there is still the need to explore context.

This comes sharply to light with the pushback by renewed Ontario PC leadership contender Patrick Brown whose self-restoration to running in that province's June 7 election is a poignant example of someone having the courage to stand up to what may well be found out to be malintent. Put in that same camp the highly talented Canadian rock band Hedley whose entire sparkling career has in one short week been sent tumbling down without any confirmation of the facts.

Yes, the #MeToo movement has evolved as a backlash for the torturously long time that women have suffered in the modern workplace at the hands of a subculture that allows for the emotional and sexual aspects of human nature to be preyed upon. It's been women in most cases bearing the brunt of this horrible phenomenon, in terms of lost opportunity and income if not also reputation and well-being.

We live in a culture that promotes enhanced personal appearance, a form of visual playfulness. But bottling up the natural inclinations of people by this -- combined with the pathological thirst in North America for political correctness in all things -- is just asking for the sort of trouble that workplaces and institutions across North America struggle with now.

The well-intentioned #MeToo movement has gone too far when people just stand back as lives are seriously impacted and damaged by the whim of others who hurl unsubstantiated accusations and those who bleed their hearts out with 'we believe you'. An intelligent cultural approach will seek the facts from both sides, and follow a process of ascertaining what may have really happened. ~ MPB ■

SD62 Board chooses their next Superintendent

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke School District 62 (SD62) Board of Education on February 15 announced their selection of Scott Stinson as the new Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer of SD62, effective August 1, 2018.

Stinson will replace Jim Cambridge who has been SD62 Superintendent since 2009. Cambridge will wrap up his 36-year education career in August.

"We're really excited to welcome Scott back to our school district," says SD62 Board Chair Ravi Parmar. "The Board of Education collaborated extensively with different groups to find the best fit for our rapidly growing and successful school district," says Parmar. "We're confident Scott will be a great leader as we continue to build on the successes of both the students and the district." SD62 says it conducted a nation-wide search, mostly through an internal education system advertising network.

For more than 30 years, Stinson has worked in education throughout the Victoria area. Previously, he was Principal at David Cameron Elementary and also SD62's District Principal of Student Support Services before moving to his current role as Assistant Superintendent with Saanich School District 63 (SD63).

"I'm thrilled and honoured to accept this position and I'm really happy to return to SD62," says Stinson. "I can't wait to work with the Board of Education, staff, Aboriginal and partner groups as well as stakeholders to continue offering students rich learning opportunities in such an innovative school district."

Back in October 2017, current SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge told West Shore Voice News that modernization of the school system as well as acquiring land and buildings will almost certainly need to be the focus of SD62 for the next decade or so. SD62 delivers public education to families in the fast-growing urbanized Langford and Colwood, the suburban/rural areas of Highlands and Sooke, and the fully rural areas of Metchosin and Juan de Fuca.

Cambridge says modern teaching recognizes that students learn in a variety of ways, and that teaching is now about facilitating, not lecture-style. **WSV**



Scott Stinson will start as the new SD62 Superintendent on August 1, 2018.



SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge will retire in August 2018. Since 2009 he has overseen the building of two new high schools and guided many broad decisions affecting school communities (teachers, staff, students, families) and funding policies.

Groundbreaking coming up for 440 housing units and commercial market

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Roadwork & improvements on Jacklin Road at Jenkins Avenue began February 13 on schedule, alongside the upcoming Belmont Residence and Belmont Market.

● **Belmont Residences**, a new 24-acre, 440-unit multi-phase development at Jenkins Avenue and Division Avenue in Langford, will officially break ground on Thursday, March 1. Members of the Ledcor Property Development team will be joined by representatives from the City of Langford for the ground-breaking ceremony.

Belmont is a new 24-acre community being created on southern Vancouver Island's west shore. Belmont Residences will comprise seven residential market and rental buildings targeting first-time home buyers, working professionals, and downsizers. The development is enhanced by 220,000 sq ft of commercial amenities (being developed by Crombie REIT), including a landmark Thrifty Foods grocery store spanning 52,700 sq ft.

Adjacent to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail and numerous parks, lakes, and outdoor spaces, Belmont Residences is set to become a vibrant centre for the City of Langford. Promoting themselves as the new heart of the west shore, Belmont Residences will be marketed as the 'it' place for those seeking a healthy, urban-meets-suburban living.

The entire site is across the street from the longstanding Westshore Town Centre, and on the land where the former Belmont Secondary School used to be before the land was sold by SD62. The new 'Belmont 2.0' high school opened at its new location on Langford Lake Road in Westhills in 2015.

Jacklin Road traffic is now being detoured until mid-summer through the Belmont housing and commercial construction site, along the new Division Avenue that has access points on both Jacklin Road and Jenkins Avenue. **WSV**

Premier Horgan creates Gender Equity portfolio, hands it to Mitzi Dean, MLA

West Shore Voice News

● **Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA Mitzi Dean** will serve as BC's first Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Premier John Horgan announced on February 15

"Mitzi Dean has devoted her career to justice, fairness and support for the most vulnerable," said Premier Horgan in a news release.

"Dean is uniquely qualified to promote gender equity and the advancement of women in her new role as Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity," Premier Horgan said.

"I am honoured to be taking on the role of Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. I will be working to ensure that gender equity is part of the decision-making process as we deliver on our commitments. This isn't just my job, it's everyone's job in government. Together, we can work to end gendered violence and discrimination."

Dean is a first-time MLA. She will serve in this new role of Parliamentary Secretary under the direction of Minister of Finance Carole James. Responsibilities will include: ensuring gender equity is reflected in government budgets, policies and programs; coordinating cross-government action on gender issues, including gender violence, gender equality and women's economic empowerment; tracking progress on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women; liaising with feminist and women's organizations; and promoting gender equity and leadership at senior levels in the public and private sector.

Mitzi Dean has a social work career background from Britain, her home country. She worked for about 10 years at the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) in Colwood, most recently as their executive director before running as the NDP candidate in Esquimalt-Metchosin in 2017. PCFSA serves the west shore including Langford which helps fund various counselling and outreach programs at PCFSA, as well as providing satellite services in Sooke.

Dean has also been serving as an envoy in the region to gather information on transportation issues focusing on concerns in the west shore for commuters heading and from major employment and post-secondary in the core areas of Greater Victoria. **WSV**



Mitzi Dean, MLA (Esquimalt-Metchosin) is BC's first Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity

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Tight housing market increases demand for property management specialty services

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **As the rental crunch** in Greater Victoria continues at a fever pitch, there is even more of a demand for well-maintained and well-managed rental properties that are priced right for both renter and landlord.

Taking this long-term approach to generating quality on the supply side, property management specialist George Holmes focuses on building a stock of rental opportunities within single family homes and apartment buildings.

Holmes deals directly with property owners to determine the best fit for their property as part of the booming rental market, particularly in the west shore and Sooke.

For strata complexes, Holmes under Sutton manages the financial operation and maintenance for the owners under the Strata Property Act.

Working out of the Sutton Advantage Property Management office in Saanich for the last seven years, in total Holmes has over 30 years property management experience including in the non-profit housing market. He has seen the west shore market mature in

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Throne Speech introduces affordability theme

Watch the BC Budget 2018 speech live at 2pm, Tues Feb 20 at www.leg.bc.ca



BC Premier John Horgan in the BC Legislature on Tuesday, February 13. Finance Minister Carole James (left) will deliver BC Budget 2018 on Tuesday, February 20.

Excerpts from the BC Throne Speech February 13, 2018

“This session, BC will move in a new direction, with new investments in people and new opportunities for the future. Government will take steps to address the challenges facing families today and put people first, regardless of who they are or where they live.”

“When life is unaffordable, there is less opportunity. When someone works two or three jobs to make ends meet, the chance to get a basic education, or train for a better career is further out of reach. Or when people pay more for housing, child care and other essentials, there is less available for the things that enrich our lives. We cannot build a better future if British Columbians can't afford to be part of that future. Our challenge is to increase the opportunities available to people, and give them relief and a life they can afford. Government's first steps to make life more affordable are already making a difference.”

Itemized toward affordability:

- cutting MSP premiums in half
- removing bridge tolls in the Lower Mainland
- cutting student loan interest by 2.5%
- free tuition for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning
- a freeze on hydro rate increases for the next year

... advances in technology. There was absolutely no mention of LNG in the budget, which later BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver said was "refreshing" as LNG is "not profitable" in a world market that is glutted with natural gas (mentioning that the USA and Russia have ample supply of their own).

All references in Tuesday's speech to fast-growing communities and transportation challenges were to the Lower Mainland, but oddly (as Langford-Juan de Fuca is the Premier's own home riding) there was no mention about the west shore of Vancouver Island that is booming and in need of more housing, schools and transportation resolutions. However, in recent weeks there has been ample news about addressing transportation issues on the west shore as well as a cobbled-together announcement about funding for two government-supported affordable housing projects that are already well underway (one in Langford, one in Sooke).

The BC NDP government says it is working toward a sustainable, diverse economy. "Your government's vision for a fair and inclusive society will be built from the foundation of a healthy, growing economy, and from a clear understanding that we must create wealth in order to share it," it was stated in the Throne Speech.

To media afterward, Premier Horgan reiterated his position about consulting with the people of BC as well as industry, communities and First Nations about the environmental protections that are needed for BC's environment that is so entwined with the economy of this coastal province.

Eluding to the threats of further economic sanctions by Alberta against BC (over BC's intention to consult with stakeholders and the public about the environmental impact of bringing more undiluted bitumen across BC lands and waters through a twinning of the TransMountain pipeline) Horgan said he looks forward to "cooperative not coercive" actions between provinces. "All British Columbians want to see cooperative not coercive federalism. BC will continue to be cooperative equal partners in Canada," said Horgan. *WSV*

“When people can't find an affordable home, that safety and security is taken away. We become uncertain about the future and our place in it. This is how far too many families in British Columbia live today. Government's comprehensive housing strategy addresses demand, supply and security. Government's first step must be to address demand and stabilize BC's out-of-control real estate and rental market.”

Itemized toward addressing housing:

- Crack down on speculation in real estate; fair share required of short-term and vacation rentals; crack down on tax fraud/evasion and money laundering.
- Investment in affordable housing including social housing, student housing, seniors housing, Indigenous housing and affordable rentals for middle-income families.
- Enabling local governments to plan for affordable rental housing through zoning.
- A new Housing Hub to work with faith organizations and non-profits who have available land.
- Stronger protections for renters and owners of manufactured homes, and protections for renters facing eviction due to renovation or demolition.
- New on-campus student housing to free up accommodation options in communities.
- Retrofits and renovations of social housing that will reduce home-heating bills.

“BC is now firmly heading down the path of affordable, quality child care for all. Safe, affordable, licensed care will become BC's standard, giving parents the peace of mind they need and quality care they can rely on.”



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Congratulations West Shore Voice News, on your journalism achievements in the region.



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Congratulations to West Shore Voice News on 10 years journalism in the west shore!

Congratulations to Mary Brooke on 10 years of superior journalism in Sooke & the west shore region! ~ from the Gilbey family in Sooke

BC-led digital tech cluster to create jobs

West Shore Voice News

● **BC's innovation ecosystem** received a huge boost with the selection of a BC-based digital supercluster consortium to share a portion of \$950 million in federal innovation funding, it was announced on February 15 by Jobs, Trade and Technology Minister Bruce Ralston. Each of the five winning superclusters across Canada will receive between \$150 million and \$250 million, according to Navdeep Bains, federal Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development.

"Today is truly a landmark day for tech and innovation in our province," said Ralston. "From new and emerging technologies like AR/VR and quantum computing, to traditional industries like natural resources and manufacturing, the digital supercluster will help grow our tech sector and create economic opportunities," he said. The BC government intends to "continue to champion tech and innovation as a path to prosperity."

Led by TELUS, Microsoft, Teck, Canfor, Shoppers Drug Mart, Providence Health Care and the University of British Columbia, the bid is supported by the BC Tech Association and over 200 other partners including 25 post-secondary institutions. Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster has over \$500 million in committed private-sector innovation funding. The supercluster is expected to generate spinoff benefits for all of BC to take part in the 21st-century digital economy.

In support of that: "BC is making a multi-million dollar investment in 2,900 additional tech spaces for students," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. "More homegrown tech talent will help to meet the demand from the growing tech sector for a skilled workforce," she said this week.

The digital supercluster includes augmented reality and virtual reality technologies as a major focus for Microsoft. Other projects include a secure health and genomic platform that will create advanced, personalized treatments for cancer patients. An 'Earth Data Store' will facilitate and improve data collection and visualization for the resources sector, among other stakeholders. A digital learning factory project will develop virtual environments for use in design, rapid experimentation, and testing of cost-saving approaches in modern manufacturing.

Bains described superclusters as job-creating regions with strong distinct economies (like Silicon Valley). Through the Superclusters Initiative, partnerships have been created between government, the private sector, academia and communities. The collaborative approach is considered essential in today's knowledge-based economy. *WSV*



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Seeking Salmon exhibit soon wraps up 8-month run

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **Like the life cycle of salmon**, the Seeking Salmon exhibit cycles through pretty much every aspect of salmon in the Sooke region. Bright and open, the exhibit upstairs at Sooke Region Museum explores species identification, salmon lifecycle, healthy streams, threats to salmon, bycatch, sea pens, the First Nations relationship to salmon, organized salmon enhancement efforts, salmon-themed art around town, cooking salmon, canning of fish, and recreational fishing.

For kids there is a colouring sheet and for everyone there is a 'salmon tree' to which you can add your comment about what salmon mean for you.

Featured is a metal sculpture of salmon and ocean foliage set on a base of round rocks, which has served as a theme art piece for the exhibit.

The show opened in June 2017 on the same day as the annual Salmon BBQ at which salmon is cooked outdoors in the traditional indigenous way in vertical grills over an open smoky fire.

Are you ready? Emergency preparedness in Sooke

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● **In the wake** of last month's tsunami alert, there will be an Emergency Preparedness Open House in Sooke at Sooke municipal hall (upstairs), 2225 Otter Point Road on Tuesday Feb 20 (7:30 to 8:30 pm).

Learn about emergency preparedness, bring questions and meet the Sooke Emergency Support Services (ESS) team. "A proactive community is a resilient community" says ESS coordinator Rick McLeod. "It's up to you... are you ready?", says McLeod. "Know the risks, get a kit, and make a plan."

On January 23 there was a tsunami alert for most of the west coast of Vancouver Island following a 7.9 earthquake off the coast of Alaska. One of the most important things learned by both residents and municipalities is that people need to know whether or not their location is in a low-lying area that would be affected by tsunami waves or the subsequent flooding.

For many years, ESS sessions held by the Sooke Fire Dept have stressed having an emergency kit in home, car and workplace. As well, you should find out if your home is in a low-lying area that would be affected by tsunami waves. And become aware about the dangers of debris that will wash onshore by waves after a major quake in this region. **WSV**

Kingfisher Preschool makes positive impact for decades

West
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News

● **Kingfisher Preschool in Sooke** will celebrate their 30th birthday this spring. More than a thousand children have passed through the doors over the years and gained valuable life skills thanks to this Sooke Family Resource Society (SFRS) program.

At Kingfisher Preschool parents have always been welcomed to participate as part of the SFRS community.

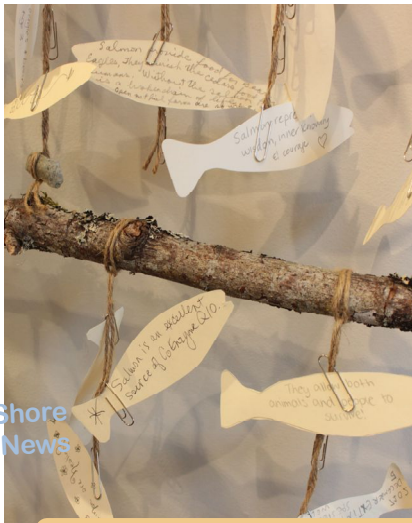
Many Sooke mothers remember how much their children enjoyed the program and their preschool teachers.

Teachers at Kingfisher Preschool still follow up with their former students who are still in Sooke, with small gifts and cards when they graduate from middle school and high school.

Kingfisher Preschool -- a program of the Sooke Family Resource Society www.sfrs.ca -- is seen as a place of nurturing and development through play exploration and relationship building.

With morning and afternoon classes at the 6672 Wadams Way location, Kingfisher is licensed by the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Services meet the standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Kingfisher Preschool is recognized by the BC Government as an Early Years Centre. Families may be able to apply for a childcare subsidy provided by the BC Government. www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare **WSV**



The bright spacious Seeking Salmon exhibit welcomes your comments about salmon on little pieces of paper. Easy & fun!



Five species of salmon in BC: Sockeye, Coho, Chinook, Pink, and Chum

The Seeking Salmon exhibit was curated last year by then-Manager of Collections and Exhibits, Brianna Shambrook, who after several years with the Sooke Region Museum has since moved on to other career pursuits.

Originally billed as remaining open until April, the exhibit may have run its course, with visitor numbers possibly having peaked. The show will remain open to at least the end of February, says Sooke Region Museum Director Lee Boyko, maybe a bit longer. **WSV**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Testing tsunami sirens in Juan de Fuca this weekend

West Shore
Voice News

● **Siren testing** for earthquake and tsunami early warning systems at Port Renfrew, Pacheedaht First Nation and Jordan River Regional Park started on Thursday, February 15 and continues to Sunday, February 18, 2018.

People in the area can expect to hear loud intermittent warning sirens while testing is underway, said the Capital Regional District this week.

"These are exciting times," says Jeri Grant, Juan de Fuca Emergency Coordinator. "It will be noisy in Port Renfrew this weekend," she said on Friday February 16.

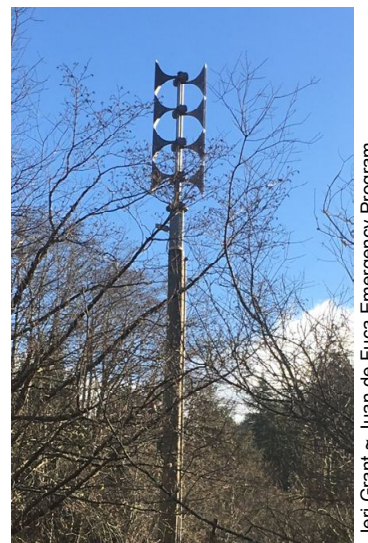
The systems are in the process of being set up and are expected to be operational this year. The Jordan River system took a couple of years to setup. The Port Renfrew system was done more quickly, over about eight months from time of funding to final installation in December 2017.

Testing over this weekend is scheduled as follows:

■ **Jordan River Regional Park:** Thursday, February 15. Testing of the warning system took place between 11am and 1pm.

■ **Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht First Nation:** Thursday, February 15 – Saturday, February 17. The siren will sound intermittently between 9am and 5pm as system settings are adjusted, followed by a full test on Sunday, February 18 at 11:30am.

The sirens were not used during the tsunami alert that occurred in the early morning hours of January 23 following a 7.9 quake off the coast of Alaska. "We determined there was minimal risk," said Juan de Fuca Electoral Area director Mike Hicks at the time. **WSV**



Tsunami warning sirens in the Port Renfrew area will be tested this weekend. Sirens are strategically located, including near the hotel in Port Renfrew and at Port Renfrew community hall.

Jeri Grant ~ Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

WEST
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Nicky Logins (left) back in the 1990s with the children of Kingfisher Preschool in Sooke.

Kingfisher Preschool

MAY 26, 2018
Save that date!
Family Fun Day
celebrates
Sooke Family Resource Society and
30 years of Kingfisher Preschool



Save the date! On May 26, 2018 the Sooke Family Resource Society will celebrate caring for our community since 1984. **SFRS wants to hear from you!** Send your SFRS stories and experiences about any one of our 20 programs to info@sfrs.ca ■

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

OPEN HOUSE
FEBRUARY 20TH | 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

"It's up to you... Are You? Ready"

Council Chambers – 2225 Otter Point Road
Richard McLeod, ESS Coord: 250-642-5422

Learn, bring questions and meet your hosts, the Sooke Emergency Support Services (ESS) team.

Know the risks Get a kit Make a plan

A proactive community is a resilient community | www.sooke.ca

International Rugby - Canada vs Brazil. Westhills Stadium, Langford. Sat Feb 17. Kickoff 6:30pm. Tx: events.rugbycanada.ca. Also on TSN.

Hatley Castle 8k Run. Sun Feb 18. 9 am to 10:30 am at Royal Roads. www.islandseries.org

City of Langford Council Meeting. 5:30 pm Mon Feb 19. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

BC Budget 2018. Tues Feb 20. 2pm. www.leg.bc.ca

Bear Safety. Reducing human-bear conflicts. Info Session at Metchosin Fire Hall, Tues Feb 20. 7pm.

District of Sooke Emergency Preparedness open house, Tues Feb 20. 7:30 to 8:30pm, 2225 Otter Pt Rd. www.sooke.ca

Pink Shirt Day. Thurs Feb 22. Anti-bullying day.

SD62 Non-Instructional Day. Fri Feb 23.

Sooke Seedy Saturday. Sat Feb 24. 10-3. Sooke Community Hall. By donation (\$5). www.sookefoodchi.ca

PyeongChang 2018 Olympics closing ceremony. Sat Feb 25 televised on CBC at 3 am Pacific.

Federal Budget 2018. Tues Feb 27.

Rugby Canada Training Centre official opening, Langford. Tues Feb 27.

SD62 Public Board Meeting Tues Feb 27. At the school board office. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News Spring Break & Easter Issues - special 5-week ad package (weekly in March). Advertising deadline Wed Feb 28. Call 250-217-5821

Juan de Fuca 55+ Spring Craft Fair. Sat & Sun March 10 & 11. 9-3. Jdf 55+ Activity Centre, 1767 Island Hwy.

Royal Bay Secondary School student career day. Wed March 14. <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca>

Sooke Mayor & Council Open House. Thurs March 15 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Council Chambers. www.sooke.ca

SD62 School Spring Break west shore & Sooke. Sat March 17 through Easter Monday Apr 2. Schools re-open Tues Apr 3.

Easter Long Weekend: Fri Mar 30 - Mon Apr 2.

Sooke

SEEDY SATURDAY

Sooke Community Hall
2037 Shields Rd (opposite the Legion)
Saturday, February 24, 2018
10 am – 3 pm

Sooke Region Food CHI SOCIETY

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Sooke NIGHT MARKET

Thursdays 5 - 8

Sooke Region Museum Grounds
Corner of Sooke Rd & Phillips Rd

Vendor & busker applications now available online for the 2018 Sooke Night Market.
www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

4th year for the popular Sooke Night Market

Walking around the grounds of the Sooke Region Museum for the pop-up market on Thursday summer nights has become a popular thing to do, rain or shine.

The 4th annual Sooke Night Market will run from June 7 through September 6.

Things to see and buy include fresh produce, art and crafts, clothing and collectibles, as well as tasty food from the vendor trucks.

Applications for vendors and buskers are now available online at www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

WSV

TRAFFIC INFO **LANGFORD ON THE MOVE**

Tues Feb 20 to Thurs Feb 22. Traffic delays on Langford Parkway just west of Jacklin Rd, for drainage repairs. 7am to 3pm.

Current, to Apr 30. Construction of improvements to the Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Some traffic closures/delays (except Fridays ahead of long weekends, and Mondays of long weekends).

Current, to mid-June/July. Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont Market construction site on the new Division Ave.

Current, to summer 2018. Leigh Road at Langford Parkway Railway Crossing. Completion of Leigh Road Railway Crossing to Langford Parkway.

Current, until mid-summer. Traffic interruptions for sewer installation along Bray Ave, Carlow Rd, Linda Lane (west of Jacklin Rd & Goldstream Ave).

For other short-term traffic advisories, visit www.langford.ca **WSV**

Affordable rental units under construction in Langford

Construction of 73 units of main street affordable housing is well underway at 616 Goldstream Avenue in fast-growing Langford.

The Oak Park redevelopment project received a provincial injection of \$7.5 million toward the two-phase construction of 61 apartments and 12



Construction underway at 616 Goldstream Ave in Langford.

townhomes, to be operated by Pacifica Housing. Phase One completion is expected by the end of this year.

Expected monthly rent levels: studio \$800; 1 bdrm \$1,020; 2 bdrm \$1,200; 3 bdrm \$1,550; 4 bdrm \$1,700.

WSV

Snow expected this Sunday

Snow is expected in the south Vancouver Island area starting Sunday morning, February 18, says Mainroad South Island.

The road maintenance company will be pre-salting service area highways and roads while monitoring road conditions closely.

"Mainroad crews are on high alert and standing by, ready to respond as the event develops," says Mainroad South Island Manager Rick Gill. Mainroad is working with a snowfall forecast of about 5 to 10 cm, down to sea level, with icing concerns on Sunday night and Monday morning.

Drivers are reminded to slow down, drive carefully, and use extra caution with driving near roadside



Mainroad South Island has equipment and signage ready for Sunday's expected snowfall.

crews and equipment.

The Mainroad 24-hour emergency hotline number is 1-877-391-7310. **WSV**

Got Real Estate Questions?
Stop in for a coffee to talk about what is likely the biggest financial decision of your life!

The way we do Real Estate in BC is changing

As of June 15, 2018 in BC, your Realtor may represent the seller or the buyer, but not both.

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Thank you for following West Shore Voice News. Subscriptions & ads welcome.

SUSTAINABILITY Sooke Seedy Saturday: Feb 24

Foodies, seedies and gardeners come to Sooke Seedy Saturday each February, this year the 9th annual on February 24, from 10 am to 3 pm at Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd.

Organized by Sooke Food CHI, the one-day seed and local food growing event showcases seed and plant vendors, a seed exchange table, plus displays featuring information on everything from composting to keeping bees, plus workshops, a Kids Zone, and raffles (proceeds this year to Harmony Sooke Project).

A healthy lunch will be provided downstairs, hosted by the Sooke Fall Fair that supports family farms in the region.

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Congratulations to West Shore Voice News on 10 years of insightful west shore journalism, first generated out of Sooke.

"Our local Seedy Saturday is a fun and exciting community event that kicks off spring and gardening," says Sooke Food CHI board member Anita Wasiuta.

Sooke Food CHI is a local non-profit food security group working to create vibrant, sustainable food systems for the region. Volunteers always welcome. www.sookefoodchi.ca **WSV**

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