

Editorial

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A welcome shift this International Women's Day

● This has been one of the more interesting years for marking International Women's Day. On March 8 there was the usual round of statements from governments, politicians and women's groups. At the federal level there was the announcement of the first woman (other than the Queen) to be featured on a Canadian banknote, followed the next day with an announcement of the first woman to hold the post of RCMP Commissioner. In BC, a new initiative to promote and support women being trained for and working in the trades was announced, on the heels of BC creating a Gender Equity Parliamentary Secretary portfolio last month.

All good for this day being used to further the cause of seeing women fairly represented in the productive and directive levels of Canadian society. The shift to more structured integration of efforts to see women take their rightful place as full participants in government leadership, business involvement and educational directions is inarguably long overdue.

The welcome part this year is how nearly normalized the recognition of women as full adults in society has become. This might seem like an odd thing to say, but it was only 89 years ago that women were first recognized as persons in Canadian law. In fact, the fight ended up in the British Privy Council because Canada's Supreme Court turned it down. Yes, the battle led by five women -- Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards of Alberta, and Nellie McClung of Winnipeg -- that started in 1916, was shot down in Canada in 1927 despite support by women across the country, and was finally won by going back to Britain with the legal case in 1929. This was of course before Canada had its own constitution and Charter



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher
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REGIONAL NEWS

/... continued from pg 1

West Shore Parks & Rec heading into a bit of a shakeup

“We are ready for the next round of recreation in Langford, with a new arena, ball fields and stadium expansion. Residents and athletes will know that in Langford we have the best opportunities for sports and recreation.”
~ Stew Young, Mayor, City of Langford

2018 Municipal Payments to West Shore Parks & Rec
Langford \$2,541,306
Colwood \$1,091,459
View Royal \$776,163
Metchosin \$389,010
Highlands \$171,008
TOTAL \$4,968,945

2018 Budget Summary West Shore Parks & Rec (not yet approved)
Revenues \$5,953,298
Expenses \$11,643,688
Transfers \$721,445
Requisitions \$4,968,945

But as a community service with perceived value to all residents, the municipalities contribute taxpayer dollars that make up the difference. “It's a subsidy paid by municipal governments to provide recreational services to their communities,” says Watson. He notes that the partner municipalities could also apply for grants (such as the Federal Gas Tax funds) to help boost WSPR funding.

As the 30-year agreement of the now five municipalities comes up to its end date in a few years, it's no surprise to see political shuffling toward rejigging the balance of contribution. Indeed, there could be an overall review of operations and possibly even the mission of WSPR to the region. Independent consultant Jonathan Huggett has been engaged to review the full scope of factors and implications. And so far, Langford in particular has agreed to stand by the conclusions and recommendations.

In her March 1 statement, Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton said: “Colwood is fighting for West Shore Parks and Recreation's survival by advocating for a sustainable financial plan. We risk losing West Shore Parks and Recreation if owner municipalities act in their own interests rather than honouring their contractual obligations.”

Langford sees a need for assessment after having built seven recreation amenities in the last seven years (after what Langford Mayor Young experienced as political frustration for far too long at WSPR). Young sees taking timely action to serve the needs of the bustling growing Langford as fully justifiable. He says he looks forward to the consultant's report which could provide a new formula that recognizes the mix of recreation use ‘across municipal borders’ so to speak, in balance with recreation amenities used by residents in their own municipality. Gathering statistics to support this will likely be key. **WSV**

Langford has for a few years now has raised a red flag over WSPR operational expenditure increases as pointing to inefficiencies and a need for reviewing internal operations. And increasingly, Langford's mayor has pointed out that Langford's financial contribution to WSPR has increased (due to population increases under the current formula) even though Langford continues to expand its own recreation infrastructure footprint.

Frustrations are mounting. Councils in both Langford and Colwood declined to approve the 2018 WSPR budget. “Langford cannot be a cash cow for something that is not managed properly,” Langford Mayor Stew Young said March 2. Colwood essentially claims, in part, that they do their fair share (in addition to the requisition payment), noting in their March 1 release that Colwood waives WSPR property taxes (this year \$736,267).

Here are some WSPR 2018 budget numbers. Revenues (e.g. facility rentals, activity fees and rec passes) are projected as \$5,953,298 while expenses are nearly double that at \$11,643,688. The requisitions paid in by the five member municipalities amount to \$4,968,945 which (with ‘transfers in’ at \$721,445) brings the spreadsheet to balance at zero.

As much as \$225,000 may need to be transferred in from capital reserves said Metchosin Mayor John Ranns this week, to maintain WSPR in 2018. That concerns some mayors; the use of reserve capital funds was also the subject of brief discussion at the March 8 WSPR board meeting which is attended by municipal Councillors as reps (not the mayors) as well as volunteer community appointees. The reserve fund of over \$2.1 million has been built up to pay for infrastructure repairs and upgrades. WSPR chair Ed Watson itemizes arena floor repairs, repairing the skin of the pool, upgrading the arena including the washrooms, and upgrading the pool washrooms.

A wild card for the 2018 budget is whatever the result will be from CUPE negotiations, with pay increases expected to push up the level of expenses for WSPR.

As for anyone who pays into anything, there needs to be a sense of value for payment. From a business model standpoint, WSPR could be seen as operating at a significant loss (i.e. expenses far outstrip revenues).



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A hopeful intention for International Women's Day 2019 would be that everyone in Canada know the names of Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards as much as they know John A MacDonald or Justin Trudeau. Historians and educators need to be held accountable for this, and with the support of politicians, filmmakers and news media it could happen. ■

LETTER

Parties cannot be trusted on electoral reform

● Both the BC-NDP and the BC Liberals have said they will openly campaign for their own preferences on the upcoming referendum on electoral reform. Is this driven by dedicated altruism and principle in trying to influence what they perceive to be the best system for the management of the province and its' citizens welfare? Given their record of behaviour only the most naive would think so. It is driven in both cases by what they perceive to be in the best interest of their political party.

The NDP has been militantly committed to a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system for decades, largely because under this system their seat counts in the legislature would have been routinely higher due to the proportional aspect of the vote. It must be noted however, that it appears they are approaching the fall referendum in a fair and balanced way.

The Liberals advocate keeping the existing First Past The Post (FPTP) system not because it is best for British Columbians, but because it is the best means of continuation as the dominant governing party of BC. In the past they have formed governments not always with a majority vote, but by usually out-margining the NDP in more seats than not. In many cases this resulted in claiming huge majorities of seats despite being only slightly ahead on votes cast. Not very proportional.

But in the past both parties have demonstrated untrustworthy behaviour on electoral reform. On the 2009 second STV referendum, the then Liberal Attorney General Wally Oppal

funded two entities; one to oppose it and the other to advocate for it. Unbelievably the opposition group he chose was headed by a Mr. Bill Tieleman who is almost exclusively associated with the NDP and union interests as the principal of a left-oriented, media savvy public relations firm. Mr Tieleman was a strategist in NDP Premier Glen Clark's government. This hard barking issue spinner set out to smear and demonize STV much in the same manner as the Liberals are now smearing and demonizing anything and everything proportional.

Mr Oppal chose a group called Fair Vote BC to advocate for STV; a hapless and effete organization which was very non-media savvy. I say this based on personal experience as a liaised independent advocate. It was the Barracuda against the Guppies.

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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Both political parties wanted to kill the program and they did. And now Tieleman is at it again, colluding with the Liberals to defeat any change to FPTP in the upcoming referendum.

So, with this demonstrable cynicism where they in fact became collaborators to defeat a system outside their preferences, they cannot be trusted. They want what they want, and power is what they want first and foremost. And keep in mind MLAs will support the party line as always.

It is clear that we are on our own in this choice, so beware of party rhetoric and exercise due diligence in informing yourself. Study hard; because if you feel it is time to abandon anachronistic ways and give something else a chance, this will very likely be your last chance.

~ Roy Roope, Summerland BC

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Royal Bay 2018 Career Day

West Shore Voice News



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● **Royal Bay Secondary School's first ever Career Exploration Day** boasts almost 75 presenters in careers as diverse as acrobat to anesthesiologist!

Four career staff at the fairly new high school in Colwood that opened in 2015 have developed the event. "They have been working closely with the provincial curriculum redesign," says Royal Bay Principal Windy Beadall.

The career day on March 14 is open to all students Grades 9 to 12. Grade 9 students also have a one-day work day with a parent at some point during the year.

"We could not be more grateful to our presenters," says Royal Bay careers and social studies teacher Danielle Huculak who is spearheading the event. "We are honoured to welcome presenters in the fields of business, law, education, technology, trades, fine arts, athletics, health care, human services, media, and sciences."

The entire student population will be participating. Students and parents found out about Career Exploration Day through the school's weekly newsletter and was discussed in career education classes. The students had an electronic form to self-select their choices for the event.

"We believe this event will help to guide our junior students as they begin to explore career pathways, and help our senior students solidify areas of interest," says Huculak.

"We hope that the greatest take-away from this event for students will be an understanding that one's career journey is not always straightforward and that change is a normal part of our employment path," Huculak said.

"Even some of the Sooke School District (SD62) senior staff will be participating, talking about their education careers and other things they have done," explained Principal Beadall.

The Royal Bay culinary arts students will be helping support the food services aspect for presenters at the career day.

There are presently 1,085 students at Royal Bay this 2017-2018 academic year. The official school capacity is 800, so there are also

SD62 March 13th: presentations, costs & approvals

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● **Coming up at the March 13 Sooke School District (SD62) public board meeting** will be a presentation from Canadian Parents for French, a presentation about SOGI (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity) by Karen DeCicco, and an approval pitch for a trip by Belmont music students heading to Calgary in May.

SD62 is considered among the more innovative school districts. This month some more new courses are up for board approval, including Robotics 11/12, English Inquiry 12, and Electronic Music 10. Revisions to the 2018-2019 school calendar are up for approval. On April 26, 2016 the Board of Education had approved calendars for the next three years.

The annual approval of school fees is up for discussion (that includes the student activity fee of \$20 for student council, student ID, locks and first aid), an optional \$55 yearbook fee, sport/dance/arts academies (e.g. Hockey \$1,585; Baseball/Softball each \$685, dance costume fee \$150). Rugby travel tournament fees and insurance costs are not yet listed.

Activities outside the building for Active Living and PE 11/12 classes come at a cost. Environmental/outdoor education activities outside the building require a fee, as do woodwork and metalwork consumable products for projects taken home. Uniforms for cheerleaders, football team registrations, and a general 'athletic participation' fee are on the list. Food Safe courses are offered through SD62 at a fee. Workbooks primarily for math and science can be used in the classroom if not written in, but otherwise carry a fee of \$5 to \$25 if written in, or are lost/damaged. Principals may use discretion for low-income family situations when it comes to fees.

Upcoming events being attended by Trustees and/or senior staff include *High Ground: Communities for All* conference (March 23 & 24, Vancouver) and the BC School Trustees Association AGM with a theme of *Working Together for Successful Student Transition* (April 26-29, Richmond).

Last month a significant motion was passed by the board to waive School Site Acquisition Charges for the Knox Vision Society's affordable housing project in Sooke (see March 2, 2018 *West Shore Voice News*, pg 2). Some followup discussion about the impact of that decision might come up. **WSV**

The speakers

Dozens of presenters are gearing up to participate at 2018 Royal Bay Career Exploration Day.

David Andersen
Molly Atkin
Nolan Beise
Nathan Bird
Fran Bitonti
Paul Block
Mary P Brooke
Keith Brooks
Carly Bryson
Lorraine Burtoi
Jim Cambridge
Matthew Carlson
Brandon Cheng
Lilja Chong
Hayley Clarke
Dr. Chris Collis
Debbie Cooper
Paul Cornie
Hans Crijenkovic
A.J. Cruze
Michael Davie
Raj Easwaran
Robin Farrell
Desiree Fernando
Brett Finlayson
Sean French
Ben Haber
Jim Halvorson
Tim Hamblin
Melissa Hawboldt
Dave Haydar
Stephanie
Hedley-Smith
Greg Holmes
Mike Huck
Aharon Y Ittah
Eric Jordan
Katie Keleher
Jason Leslie
Dr. Sarah Macoun
Sydney McCabe
Liam McDonald
Nicole McLellan
Heather McKenzie
Sarah Miller
Sheri Onushko
Camille Ottenhof
Tara Parks
Ravi Parmar

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Dr David A Schaafsma
Sarah Scheunhage
Chuck Simms
Christon Smith
David Strange
Shazia Suleman
Rashid
Thor Tandy
Emma Taylor
Laurie Anne Tomin
Kelly Twordik
Daintry Van Cleave
Ivanka Vaudry
Paul Wainwright
Dr Sara Waters
Mike Waters
Chris Williams

● 10 portable classrooms on site to help with the overload.

SD62 trustees heard from SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge at the February 27 board meeting that design and planning is underway for the Royal Bay expansion, pending approvals from the Ministry of Education. **WSV**

GardenWorks: fresh look ahead of Spring Fling weekend

West Shore Voice News



GardenWorks trim in transition... paint job by Envision Painting Ltd this week at the Colwood store: from green to grey.

● **Getting spruced up** for spring, there was some professional painting going on ahead of next weekend's Spring Fling at the GardenWorks store at 1859 Island Highway in Colwood.

The weekend event March 17 and 18 will include workshops, free seminars and displays. And some giveaways! From 9 am to 5pm. It's the

Green shades of NAFTA: environmental cooperation

West Shore Voice News

● **Canada, the USA and Mexico** collaborate to foster environmental conservation, protection and enhancement through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) uses that agreement as a mission statement to help increasing economic, trade, and social links.

Characterization and Management of Organic Waste in North America, a 2017 report released this week, says residents and businesses divert about 28.3% of an estimated 265 million tonnes of organic waste each year, through composting and recycling [diversion rates 32% Canada, 32% US, 7% Mexico]. The rest ends up in landfills. Despite educational efforts, the report shows that residential food, yard and paper waste increased from about 230 kg/person in 2002 to almost 300 kg by 2012.

Excluding paper, Canada has the highest diversion rate of food, yard and wood waste, at about 25%; the US diversion rate is a little over 17% and Mexico's is 6%.

Among other things, CEC concludes that governments have a role including coordinating the handling of organic garbage from households and helping to create markets for recycled waste products. In Greater Victoria, the CRD has an Environmental Services Committee, recycling services, and public education programs. **WSV**

Alistair MacGregor, MP seeking youth input from the west shore area

West Shore Voice News

● **As the MP for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford**, Alistair MacGregor is keen to see what Grade 11 & 12 students in the south Vancouver Island area come up with for new federal legislation. Whichever ideas become developed into a Bill, will see the student(s) who suggested it getting a trip to Ottawa to witness First Reading in the House of Commons.

MacGregor is presently promoting the country-wide **Create Your Canada** contest that gives Grade 11 & 12 students the opportunity to engage in making Canada a better place by creating an idea for a Private Member's Bill.

"I am very excited to give students in my riding the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and participate in law-making firsthand," said MacGregor. "The young people of this country are our future, and I am thrilled to have this chance to encourage our youth to get involved in politics and think about how we can create a better Canada."

The deadline for submissions to the *Create Your Canada* contest is **April 30, 2018**. Students may enter individually or in groups of two. More info: <http://alistairmacgregor.ndp.ca/create-your-canada-contest>

Earlier this week, MacGregor hosted national NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh for a community meet-and-greet, in Duncan March 7. **WSV**



Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) & NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.

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Shaking up the ticket industry

West Shore Voice News

BC to legislate online ticket-sale 'bots'

● "Live events should be an enjoyable experience for British Columbians, not a windfall for scalpers," said BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth. "The action we're taking is aimed at protecting people from unscrupulous scalpers



BC legislation coming Fall 2018 to protect consumers in the event-ticket purchase process.



Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

and unfair practices that shut average people out from events in BC," he said.

That was part of a government announcement March 6. BC is now "moving to clamp down on high-priced ticket scalping to make live-event tickets more affordable for British Columbians", and may even ban automated 'bots'.

A three-week survey (March 6 to about March 26) is online at www.engage.gov.bc.ca/ticketbuying where BC residents may indicate their experiences with ticket buying, reselling, and buying from resellers. Survey results available later in the spring will be used to develop recommendations and ultimately legislation this fall to improve affordability, fairness and transparency.

"British Columbians are frustrated by ticket price gouging, and want action," said Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA (Vancouver-West End.) "Working with the people of BC, our government is acting and will develop and bring forward new consumer protections to help make the ticket-buying experience fairer and more affordable."

The 30-question survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. It's aimed at people who buy tickets for live events, and those who resell their tickets, to ensure that changes will improve fairness and transparency in how tickets for live events are bought and sold.

Public consultation will look to find out specifics on how people feel about parts of the ticket-buying process, such as: how often they purchase event tickets (from resellers, online, through a venue, etc); experiences reselling tickets; and what changes would improve the fairness in the buying and selling process.

British Columbians have many opportunities to see sports, concerts, live theatre and other cultural or recreational events throughout the province. This survey will help shape the way government gives everyone a fair chance at getting tickets for their desired events.

Alberta and Ontario have passed legislation and had public consultations on ticket-buying practices. A Canada-wide Angus Reid poll showed that four in five Canadians would agree with outright banning of software (bots) to jump the queue when tickets go on sale; that poll showed that 50% of Canadians feel it's up to governments to make the necessary changes to protect Canadians. Additionally, the poll said most Canadians see ticket reselling as a significant problem, and 80% believe that purchasing tickets with the specific purpose of reselling them is unfair. **WSV**

Ticketmaster tips

West Shore Voice News

● Major online ticket retailer Ticketmaster says there can be sometimes be thousands of people all trying to buy tickets at the same time for popular events. If no luck on your first try, they suggest checking back closer to the show date, as more tickets could be released once the stage layout has been confirmed. Some of their tips for better online ticket-buying results: create a Ticketmaster account in advance; check password and billing details ahead of time; don't load the site in more than one browser window; and use a steady internet connection. **WSV**

Higher cost to stay connected

COURTESY

Rogers & Bell increasing rates

West Shore Voice News

● Two of Canada's largest mobile data providers will be increasing some of their retail package pricing in some regions starting Monday, March 12.

Both Rogers and Bell reported out that the price adjustments will help fund improvements in the reach and capabilities of their networks. It is frequently stated by economic pundits that it's the vast geography of Canada that adds to the cost of wireless delivery by national companies.

Rogers Communications will raise monthly subscriber prices for most of its current internet service plans by \$8/month, starting Monday. For its lowest-price plan, there will be a smaller increase of \$4/month for a package that delivers speeds of less than 20 MB/sec.

In April, Bell Canada is set to increase its internet prices by \$5/month for Ontario customers and by \$3/month for customers in Quebec. Bell will also increase Internet overage charges to \$4 per extra GB, from \$3/GB.

TELUS ended its bundle discount of \$3/service at the end of January but told CBC News that it has no current plans to raise internet data prices.

Rogers, Bell and TELUS also increased prices on some data plans in 2017. In the west shore last year, Freedom Mobile (formerly Wind Mobile, and owned by Shaw), brought in more tower capacity to the Langford area to help contribute to providing additional coverage at competitive rates. The same effort to bring in more capacity in the Sooke area met with local resistance.

Just before Christmas 2017, Freedom Mobile turned the three big wireless players (Rogers, Bell and TELUS) a bit on their ear, shaking up the cost of data with low-price special. In response, the big players offered a special rate for a short period of time, making national news. Such is the impact of competition.

Canadian households spent an average of \$594 on internet services in 2016 according to Statistics Canada. That's a 35.6% increase compared to 2012.

In 2016, the CRTC declared broadband internet as a basic telecommunications service. In a ruling handed down December 21 that year, the national regulator ordered the country's internet service providers (ISPs) to begin working toward boosting internet service and speeds in rural and isolated areas. With that ruling, the CRTC set new targets for ISPs to offer customers in all parts of the country download speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of at least 10 Mbps, and to also offer the option of unlimited data.

CRTC requires providers pay into a fund that's set to grow to \$750 million over five years (2017-2021). The companies will be able to dip into that fund to help pay for the infrastructure needed to extend high-speed service to areas where it is not currently available. So it may not be clear what these rate increases in 2018 are directly for, if there is already a fund for infrastructure needs.

"If we want Canadians to be able to participate in the digital age, we need to ensure there's actual packages there that make sense for Canadians in terms of pricing," said Katy Anderson of the consumer advocacy group OpenMedia.

Rogers says it's already helping low-income Canadians by offering a \$9.99/month basic Internet plan to more

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than 150,000 people living in social housing. TELUS offers a similar \$9.95 deal to more than 33,000 single-parent families receiving financial or disability assistance in BC and Alberta.

But this does not help affordability for the average or middle income earner in an economy still said to be maxed out in terms of household debt (average of 171.1% including mortgages). **WSV**

Dave Barrett remembered

State memorial well-attended

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● Over 800 people attended a light-hearted but respectful State Memorial for former BC Premier Dave Barrett (1930-2018), last Saturday, March 3 at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium. It was a sunny dry day, some relief after rainy days.

NDP supporters, VIPs, family, friends and media heard how Barrett spearheaded some of the most impactful, longstanding changes to living in British Columbia. That was back in 1972-1975, a short term in office that changed the face of BC forever. It was under that first-ever NDP government in BC that the Agricultural Land Reserve was created, as well as public auto insurance (ICBC) and Pharmacare for seniors. Barrett brought Question Period and Hansard (verbatim record of legislative proceedings) to BC governance.

Speakers delivering tributes included BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, Premier John Horgan, retired Roman Catholic Bishop Remi J de Roo, former BC Minister of Labour Bill King (Shuswap-Revelstoke), former BC Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources Bob Williams (Vancouver East),

former BC Cabinet Minister and MLA (Vancouver-Hastings) and now Chair of ICBC Joy McPhail, and Marc Elisen who was Barrett's Deputy Minister and Planning Secretary.

Lt Gov Judith Guichon acknowledged Barrett as BC's first NDP premier, calling him a champion of the underdog. "He is part of the very fabric of the province," Guichon said, noting that 357 Bills were passed in the Legislature during his time in office.

Beaming and cheerful on stage as he heard the tales from old NDP loyalists -- BC Premier John Horgan addressed the crowd with this: "He captured the hearts of each and every one of you (who knew him)." Remarking further on Barrett's power of oratory, Horgan noted in particular Barrett's "passion and power of the message of social justice". Horgan declared that no one will ever forget Dave Barrett.

Barrett's three grown children spoke about their father with memories, fondness, and emotion. Dave Barrett's widow Shirley attended on stage as well.

Emcee for the 1-hour-20-minute occasion was BC Finance Minister and Deputy Premier Carole James.

Light refreshments were served afterward, people mingled. **WSV**



A simple but powerful celebration of life for former BC Premier Dave Barrett who passed Feb 2, 2018.

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

SERIOUS COFFEE

VIEW ROYAL 778.430.5282

Monday-Friday | 5:30 am to 7 pm
Saturdays | 6 am to 6 pm
Sundays | 6:30 am to 6 pm

Spring weather, longer days!
Stop by for coffee, tea and snacks,
before heading out on errands, to
the office, or the great outdoors.

OPEN DAILY | 1703 Island Hwy

Internet reimagined.

Internet 250/250 has arrived.

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West Shore Voice News: *regional* news

2018 Annual Readership Survey [March 7 to 21, 2018]

➤ Fast & easy online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y6ZG36B>

➤ Or send your answers in email to news@westshorevoicenews.com

➤ Or if you're reading the print edition, fill out this page and send by postal mail to: West Shore Voice News, 2969 Alouette Dr, Victoria, BC V9B 0M6

1. We started in 2008 as *MapleLine Magazine*, then morphed into *Sooke Voice News*. Since 2014 we've been *West Shore Voice News*, now based in Langford. How long have you engaged with *West Shore Voice News* (this 10-year news stream) as a reader, advertiser or subscriber?

- ☐ I'm new! Been following *West Shore Voice News* for up 1 year.
- ☐ 1 to 3 years
- ☐ 3 to 5 years
- ☐ Long-time fan! Over 5 years!

Thank you!

2. We're multi-platform! How do you usually find and read *West Shore Voice News*? [check all that apply]

- ☐ Weekly edition - Premium PDF as a paying subscriber via email
- ☐ Weekly edition - Courtesy web link online - as a paying Link Subscriber via email
- ☐ Weekly edition - Courtesy web link online - as a visiting reader
- ☐ Weekly edition - colour print edition by subscription or newsstand purchase
- ☐ Weekly edition - greyscale coffee shop free copy
- ☐ Breaking news online at www.westshorevoicenews.com
- ☐ Breaking news online on Facebook at WestShoreVoiceNews
- ☐ Breaking news on Twitter at @WestShoreVOICE
- ☐ Breaking news on Twitter at @VancIslandVOICE

3. What are your favourite sections of the *West Shore Voice News* print/PDF edition [rank from 1 to 5]

- ☐ Front page news
- ☐ Editorials
- ☐ Regional news (e.g. Langford, Sooke, Metchosin)
- ☐ Societal news (e.g. education, health, food & sustainability)
- ☐ Political news (local, regional, provincial, federal)
- ☐ Events & Activities
- ☐ Arts & Entertainment
- ☐ Letters
- ☐ Guest Opinion-Editorials

4. Can you recall a topic or specific article that really caught your attention, and possibly increased or changed your understanding of an issue?

- ☐ yes ☐ no
- ☐ if yes -If you chose 'Yes', what the title or topic of the article that sprung to mind? _____

5. Of all the reasons to choose a news source, what brings you to *West Shore Voice News*? [check all that apply]

- ☐ Current news
- ☐ Reliable news
- ☐ Editorials
- ☐ Focus on education, health and sustainability
- ☐ Regional perspective for the west shore
- ☐ Writing quality - easy to understand
- ☐ Range of topics
- ☐ Both weekly as a newspaper format, and daily online (web & social media)
- ☐ Events
- ☐ Interesting news bits that I don't find anywhere else
- ☐ Easy to find online - www.westshorevoicenews.com
- ☐ Easy to find online - Facebook at WestShoreVoiceNews
- ☐ Getting the Premium PDF weekly by email ahead of online release
- ☐ Getting the courtesy web link by email
- ☐ Informative ads from local businesses, organizations and elected officials
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

6. What is your range of local and regional news sources? [check all that apply]

- ☐ *West Shore Voice News* (print or online)
- ☐ other weekly newspaper in the west shore
- ☐ daily city newspaper (Victoria)
- ☐ 'Google' (whatever comes up)
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ TV - local/regional
- ☐ TV - national
- ☐ Radio

7. What do you feel is the role of a professional news service in today's Internet-driven world? [choose as many as apply]

- ☐ Reliable professional journalism
- ☐ Current news
- ☐ Tracking a story as it develops
- ☐ Digging up news that is of service to readers
- ☐ A platform for business advertising and marketing
- ☐ Knowing the theme and editorial perspective of the publication
- ☐ Direct communication with readers (as subscribers, regular page visitors)
- ☐ Knowing the source is local/regional or community-specific
- ☐ That it is *not* fake news

WEST SHORE VOICE NEWS

2018 - Annual Readership Survey

Online March 7 to 21 at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y6ZG36B>

Takes about 7 minutes online

anonymous - one reply per IP address

8. In the recent federal Budget 2018, there is now a fund to now support *non profit* news services as a way to help support journalism. This does not help the overall newspaper/news service industry... regular businesses that operate newspapers must still compete with online social media (most of those businesses out of the USA -- e.g. Google, Facebook -- which do not pay tax in Canada) and now compete with non-profits who won't have to worry about generating revenue. What is your view on this? [Check all that apply]

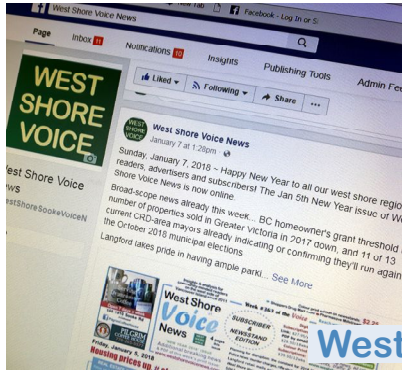
- ☐ Non-profit newspapers will pose an unfair business advantage to regular newspaper publishing companies.
- ☐ As a democratic function, journalism must be independent of government-funded revenues.
- ☐ Governments could choose to advertise in Canadian print and online newspapers, instead of sending ad dollars into US-based social media.
- ☐ Government could launch an educational or promotional campaign asking Canadians to read and support their local and regional newspapers.
- ☐ It's important for newspapers (which includes news services online) to have experienced journalists and editors.
- ☐ Social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) should be required to meet the same ethical standards as newspapers, as one way to prevent the proliferation of 'fake news'.
- ☐ If governments advertise in international social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) they should put a small percentage into a reserve fund. That fund would be shared annually among centrally-registered professional news services.

9. Here are some recent articles in *West Shore Voice News*. Which ones did you read? [check all that apply]

- ☐ EXCLUSIVE: Premier John Horgan reflects on the 2018 budget
- ☐ Get that blood pumping! Blood donors needed.
- ☐ New Save On Foods in Langford
- ☐ GROUND BREAKING! Belmont Residences get started in Langford
- ☐ World class rugby training centre now open in Langford
- ☐ Unintended consequences of the speculation tax [Editorial]
- ☐ SD62 Board waives site acquisition charges for Sooke affordable housing project
- ☐ Millstream Overpass lane changes
- ☐ Full house at Sooke post-tsunami alert info session
- ☐ Colwood slams Langford over rec centre funding
- ☐ Other: _____

10. These are the reasons I would choose to advertise my business, organization or event in *West Shore Voice News*. [check all that apply]

- ☐ Regional readership in the west shore - reach a wide audience
- ☐ Reader demographic across a broad socioeconomic range - get message to many levels
- ☐ Format is print and online - available in many ways and locations
- ☐ Easy to find the publication online (web and social media)
- ☐ Readers like seeing advertisers who support independent journalism
- ☐ I want to make sure that attentive readers see my business/organization message
- ☐ It's important to support small business
- ☐ Other



10 years of regional insights

10

MapleLine Magazine
2008-2010
Sooke Voice News
2011-2014

West Shore Voice News

Since November 2014
News that's worth your time.
Stuff that matters.

WestShoreVoiceNews

www.westshorevoicenews.com

WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

Daylight Savings Time. 'Spring forward'... turn your clocks ahead one hour on **Sun Mar 11** at 2 am (or before bed on Sat night). Most electronic devices will do this automatically.

**COURTESY
WEB EDITION
Link-Subscriptions
\$27.95/year**

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. **Mon Mar 12**, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. **Mon Mar 12**, 7 pm. www.colwood.ca

Brookes Westshore school info session. **Tues Mar 13**, Kinsmen Fieldhouse behind JdF Arena, 1767 Island Hwy. 6:30-8:30 pm. <https://westshore.brookes.org/january-information-night/>
Royal Bay Secondary School student career day. **Wed March 14**. <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca>

Bloom Art Show. **Mar 14 to April 1**. www.coastcollective.ca
EMCS Grad Fashion Show **Wed Mar 14**, 7pm.

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**.

Worldwide Quilting Day. **Sat Mar 17**. Free quilting all day at The Cloth Castle, 786 Goldstream Ave. Just purchase a small kit and have fun. www.clothcastle.com

15th Annual Gardenworks Spring Fling garden planning & prep. **Sat Mar 17 & Sun Mar 18**. Colwood store at 1859 Island Hwy. 9 to 5. www.gardenworks.ca

Valdy in concert. **Fri Mar 23**. Holy Trinity Church, 1962 Murray Rd, Sooke. \$25 at door (\$20 in advance at Shoppers Sooke). www.sookefolkmusicsociety.com

**Spring forward!
Change your clocks...
forward one hour
at 2 am on
Sunday March 11.
Also check the batteries
in your home and office
smoke detectors**



@jdfemerg

www.prepareyourself.ca

**Juan de Fuca
Emergency Program**

Soil contaminant testing offered to food growing households in the west shore

by Sophia Romanchuk
for West Shore Voice News

● **The Compost Education Centre**, in Victoria is a non-profit organization which celebrated its 25th year anniversary last year. With an overall mandate of providing composting and ecological gardening education to residents in the Greater Victoria area, it is a gardening and compost haven for gardeners at all stages of experience.

The Centre runs educational workshops in schools across the districts from Victoria to the Cowichan Valley, as well as classes for the public, and organic plant sales year-round. Their bread and butter is small-scale backyard composting.

Many are preparing to begin planting their gardens, and CEC executive director Marika Smith says that the most important thing to know is how to "grow your soil before you grow your food". Most of the commonly asked questions heard at CEC are around how to compost in backyards and in apartments.

"The best soil amendment is your own compost," says Smith. But as there are few regulations on commercial compost it's difficult to know its quality. Producing compost takes time, and it can't be sped up although a greater volume of compost material can help create heat which can help speed up the decomposition process, but ultimately, it will still take time.

If you live in an apartment or have a small townhome patio, worm composting bins are a great alternative to look into for supplementing your balcony gardens.

Applying compost to your garden every season will produce increasingly healthier soil, which in turn supports better garden growth. Most often when a garden doesn't flourish, poor soil quality is to blame.

Basic soil nutrient analysis is available at CEC by donation. Soil contaminant testing can be pricey but is also recommended.



Sophia Romanchuk - West Shore Voice News

Valdy in Sooke

West Shore Voice News

● **Long-time Ottawa-born singer-songwriter** Valdy returns to Sooke for an encore performance on Friday March 23.

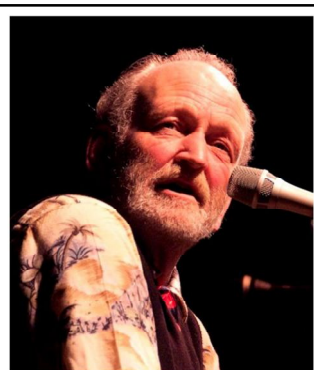
Valdy's first mainstream single *Rock and Roll Song* released in mid-1972 set his solo career afire.

Perhaps this quote from Valdy's website sums up why he has enjoyed lasting success in the Canadian music industry: "Assume anyone you meet is decent, thoughtful, and worthy of your time. You will be right about most people, and the rest deserve a chance to rise to your expectations." **WSV**

Sooke Rotary shifts to dinner

West Shore Voice News

● **Instead of the enormous effort** that the annual Spring Fair & Auction held in the SEAPARC arena has been each year for at least the last 10 years, Sooke Rotary organizers are this year opting for an evening dinner event at the Prestige Hotel. Proceeds from \$60 tickets and from live/silent auctions (items donated by Sooke and west shore businesses) will be directed to their many community support projects, says Sooke Rotary president Roger Temple. **WSV**



The Sooke Folk Music Society Presents

VALDY

In Concert at Holy Trinity Church, 1962 Murray Rd, Sooke.

Friday, March 23rd

www.sookefolkmusicsociety.com

Achieve a distinct marketing reach in West Shore Voice News. 250.217.5821

Craft sale JdF Arts & Crafts Guild. **Sat Mar 24**. 500 Admirals Rd, 10-4.

Earth Hour. Electricity usage reduction for 1 hour **Sat Mar 24**. 8:30-9:30 pm.

Healing City Soils. Free contaminants testing (View Royal, Colwood, Langford), apply up to **Mar 27**. www.compost.bc.ca

Easter Long Weekend: **Fri Mar 30** (Good Friday) thru **Mon Apr 2**.

Bear Mountain Bike Festival. **Mar 30-Apr 1**. viaribikerace.com

Easter Eggstravaganza **Sat Mar 31**. 10:30 am to 12 noon at SEAPARC in Sooke. Crafts, bouncy house, Easter egg hunt 10:30 am (age 1-4), 11:15am (age 5-7). Entry by donation to Sooke Food Bank.

17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. **Sat Mar 31** on grassy area behind JdF library, 1767 Island Hwy. 10am. Kids up to age 13.

SD62 schools (Langford, Colwood, Sooke) re-open **Tues Apr 3** after break.

Highlands Music Coffee House. **Sat Apr 14**. Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1980 Millstream Rd. 7 to 9 pm

Electricity in Your Home. Emergency prep info session, **Tues Apr 17**. Metchoshin fire hall. 7pm. www.metchoshinfire.ca

West Shore Parks & Rec board meeting, **Thurs April 19**. JdF Library. 7pm.

Children's Art Show. **Fri Apr 20**. 3:30 to 5 pm. Coast Collective Art Centre. www.coastcollective.ca

Victoria Home & Garden Show. **Apr 20-22**. JdF Rec, 1767 Island Hwy.

West Shore Arts Council silent auc-

Free soil tests for gardeners



These tests will look for CONTAMINANTS

2018: View Royal, Colwood, Langford

Applications open to March 27:

www.compost.bc.ca/healing-city-soils/

<< **Rotating-style compost bin is demonstrated at the Compost Education Centre.** Composting goals are to breed beneficial bacteria, fungi and other microbes that work in the soil to make nutrients readily available to plants. As well, compost creates a full-spectrum nutrient and mineral resource to enrich garden soil. ■

Now in its third year, CEC's Healing City Soils (partnered with Royal Roads University) is reaching out in 2018 to Colwood, Langford, and View Royal.

The program is creating a region-wide soil quality map by collecting and analyzing 100 soil samples for contaminants each year. Sampling sites are volunteered by homeowners who are intending to grow food. Testing runs from mid-March til mid-May.

It's a way to receive a normally costly soil contaminant analysis for free. Results are confidential. Soil remediation info and followup workshops are available. Applications available to March 27 at www.compost.bc.ca/healing-city-soils/

Upcoming workshops include Backyard Rainwater Management March 24, and Composting Basics April 7. Fact sheets, workshops, and info can be found online: www.compost.bc.ca **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

Friday, March 9, 2018 :: WEST SHORE VOICE

Cloth Castle

www.clothcastle.com

Saturday March 17

Free quilting classes all day long!

Just purchase a small kit



**786 Goldstream Ave
250-478-2112**

The Cloth Castle, your one-stop sewing and quilting shop in the heart of The Westshore.



tion fundraiser. **Sat Apr 21**. 7 pm. Royal Colwood Golf & Country Club. www.westshorearts.org

Earth Day. **Sun Apr 22**.

Viva La WestShore 2018. **Fri Apr 27**. 7 to 11 pm. Olympic View Golf Club. www.westshore.bc.ca

HSBC Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament. **May 12-13**. Westhills Stadium, Langford. www.worldrugby.org

Sooke Rotary annual fundraiser. Dinner at Prestige Hotel with silent auction. **Sat May 12**. Tx \$60 at Little Vienna Bakery or email rogetemple48@gmail.com

Kingfisher Preschool Family Fun Day. **Sat May 26**. Sooke Family Resource Society, 6672 Wadams Way. Send your SFRS stories to info@sfrs.ca

WEST SHORE VOICE

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y6ZG36B>

Copper wire theft at West Shore Parks & Rec

West Shore Voice News

● **On Thursday, March 8** a discovery of copper wire theft was made on the grounds of the West Shore Parks & Recreation, behind the main building on Island Highway. "I don't have a cost estimate yet," says Wade Davies, Manager of Operations. "The main run between the three light standards was cut and removed, and the lines that went up one of the light standards was also ripped out. It was only standard 12-gauge wire so I'm still confused, it wouldn't have been worth that much as scrap," Davies said. **WSV**



Light standard was opened and copper wiring removed.

Wade Davies

Otter Point making history

West Shore Voice News

● **The second edition** of the Otter Point History was a large project, recently completed, says long time Otter Point resident Arnie Campbell who has worked on the project. "The first was done several years ago as part of the Otter Point Official Community Plan," he says. "This one was done in collaboration with Elida Peers, the Sooke Region Museum and the CRD. It's interactive, and will soon be on the museum's website." **WSV**

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Langford

1045 Dunford Ave
Mon-Sat: 8-4:30 PM
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www.alpinegroup.ca