

West Shore Voice

News 4 pages this issue

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Friday, March 22, 2019 RELEASE DATE MARCH 24, 2019

- West Shore Parks & Rec: curling rink nixed for wider range of activities 1
- Reporting of measles immunization to be mandatory starting Sept 2019 ... 1
- Federal Budget 2019: Municipalities could now deliver faster on infrastructure ... 2
- FEATURE INTERVIEW with Randall Garrison, MP: running for a 3rd term 3
- SD62 enrolment projections for 2019-2020: more students in growing area 3

All roads lead to Westhills Stadium



Web-Posted Watermarked EDITION

● Construction continues on the Leigh Road extension over to Langford Parkway. It will soon be possible to reach Westhills Stadium on Langford Parkway from three major arteries: West Shore Parkway, Leigh Road and Jacklin Road. **WSV**

New sports turf almost ready at Belmont Secondary

West Shore Voice News



● Surface preparation of the newly-installed sports turf at Belmont Secondary School in Langford was actively underway this week. An official turf celebration will take place in April. **WSV**



Measles immunization 'encouraged' through schools starting April 1

West Shore Voice News

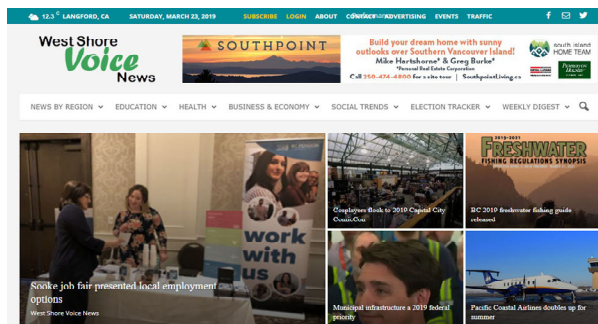
Mandatory reporting to start in September 2019.

● All public and independent schools in BC will be asked to participate in a push by BC Health for greater measles immunization levels among children in Kindergarten to Grade 12. That starts on April 1, right after spring break. Health Minister Adrian Dix held a media conference about it this week.

Immunization levels were at 88% in recent years in BC but by 2018 had fallen to 82%. "That's not good enough," said Dix, who says there is no reason for measles to be active when 'herd immunity' (i.e. enough people immunized that the disease is effectively eliminated -- as achieved in 1998) can be achieved at 95%. As of March 22, there have been 20 cases of measles in BC (outbreaks were in Greater Vancouver, none on Vancouver Island). This has been the impetus for reinforcement of the immunization message. "It's a catch-up campaign focused on parents and children who have not been immunized," said Dix.

"We want to do as many as possible then get a report on how successful it is," he said. BC Health will want feedback from school districts on May 1, June 1, and July 1, ahead of a new mandatory reporting system coming September 2019.

Children may receive the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine at 12 months and 4 years. People born before 1970 are generally assumed to have acquired immunity to measles from natural infection, and therefore the MMR vaccine is not recommended, says BC Health. Measles immunity is not passed along through breastmilk. For anyone born after January 1, 1970 (i.e. younger than 49 years), two doses of MMR are recommended. If travelling, vaccination is recommended. <https://immunizebc.ca/travellers> | More info: www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/measles | More will be posted at www.westshorevoicenews.com **WSV**



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Curling rink nixed to liberate wider range of activities

by Mary P Brooke West Shore Voice News

● "Recreation doesn't stand still, there's always something new happening. And it's also about value for money."

That's the overall thrust of why the West Shore Parks & Recreation (WSPR) curling rink has been permanently closed, says municipal project consultant Jonathan Huggett.



West Shore Parks & Recreation curling rink: soon a thing of the past.

With the ice removed, the 18,720 sq ft space will be used for a wide range of dry floor activities including trade shows, garage sales, child care, and other recreational programming. And, if the space gets artificial turf, then also for indoor team sports activities. That was announced March 19, during speak break.

Huggett was brought on last year by the five municipal owners of West Shore Parks & Recreation -- Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin and View Royal -- to help them revise their agreement which expires June 30, 2019.

In the interim, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)'s of the five municipalities have been running the ship, while a new governance model is determined for the recreation facility board. "They're used to public service, public administration, know how to run a meeting, how to make decisions, and know what's required," said Huggett in an interview with *West Shore Voice News* this week.

From there, are new possibilities for the range of activities and services, as well as increased revenues for WSPR which currently falls short by about \$5 million per year. That shortfall is covered by the municipalities based on a funding formula that is based on a per-capita payment. Due to their larger populations that sees Langford and then Colwood paying the largest share each year.

Langford's argument has been that with a range of their own recreational facilities within their municipality, that they also shouldn't be having to carry the lion's share of funding for the WSPR which is located some distance away. None of the municipal owners disputes the value of recreation, or expects it to produce profit. It's a service to community but should function with financial smarts.

The previous WSPR board -- suddenly dismissed in a public meeting on June 14, 2018 -- had been comprised of elected councillors from each of the five municipalities as well as appointed public members. That 15-person board was cumbersome, says Huggett. It also appears that financial sustainability was not emerging from their decisions over the years, including not seeing the best possible use for various components of facility assets, such as the curling rink.

"While participation in many sports is increasing steadily, curling accounts for about 3.4% of all sports participation and is not growing in lockstep with population growth, according to provincial and national data," it was stated by WSPR's acting administrator Sandy Clarke. She explained that of the 520 curling club members, about half live in the west shore area; few are youth. The curling rink is booked for just over 20% of available operating hours, leaving the space unused 80% of the time. The lounge space above the curling rink has also been sitting empty much of the time, said Clarke.

Low usage rates translate into high operating costs. For each person that comes to curl, it costs West Shore Parks & Recreation \$11.24 to sustain the facility and operations. By comparison, the subsidy per usage for the main JDF arena is \$4.26 and the JDF Pool is subsidized by \$2.07 per user.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for the West Shore Parks & Recreation owners and board of directors," said Huggett. "With limited resources and a growing population, West Shore Parks & Recreation facilities and programs must be designed and multi-purposed to provide for the greatest number of west shore residents to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle."

"We're not trying to make a profit. This is a social service. We have a duty to spend the money appropriately," says Huggett. Re-purposing the upstairs lounge for child care is one option which could benefit many families.

"WSPR is a good facility and there's a lot happening down there. That message was not getting out somehow," says Huggett. Closing the apparent disconnect that developed over the years between owners, board, administration and operations is a big part of getting a new agreement. Huggett expects the agreement to go before the five municipal councils by early June.

New board members will ideally collectively provide skill sets such as financial management, knowledge of recreation, and knowledge of the communities they serve.

Some other rec centres in Greater Victoria -- such as Panorama in North Saanich and SEAPARC in Sooke -- are owned and operated by the Capital Regional District (CRD). **WSV**

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EDITORIAL

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TIMLEY TOPICS OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

Spring break: the big reveal for a rethink

West Shore Voice News

Editorial



by **Mary P Brooke**
Editor & Publisher

● **Spring break is dragging into its second full week.**

School boards for the west shore and Greater Victoria seem to have defaulted these past few years to standing by their two-week chunk of time off for teachers, administrators, students and families in March.

But every year there is a bit of disconsternation from various sectors of the community. Here's the disconnect: spring break works for those with financial options, and less so for those who end up covering the back end for additional child care so they can go to work. It also affects smaller and mid-size businesses who rely on employees and customers,

fewer of whom are around during the break injected by the public education system. The usual buzz of the business community -- and literally the noise and bustle on roadways and pathways -- is diminished. Communities on pause.

It's yet another indicator of the increasingly deep divide between the have's and the have-nots, as well as between those who are comfortable in the institutional world versus the everyday world of many struggling families and businesses in the community. This is hopefully a wakeup call to school boards that they have more of an impact on the broader community and local economy beyond their own administrative bubble than they often realize.

Some constructive action might be subsidized child care or more activities for families with young children, more organized events for teens during these two weeks, and perhaps an annual stipend from government to local businesses whose employee and/or regular customer base is impacted by the two-week interruption. Longer-term, school districts may wish to re-examine the idea of a more balanced academic calendar rhythm with shorter but more frequent breaks during the calendar year (e.g. one week for spring break to enjoy the weather, perhaps one week in November to recuperate from the solemnity of Remembrance Day, and then offer

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

West Shore Voice News

Federal budget offers opportunities for municipalities to deliver faster on infrastructure projects

West Shore Voice News

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● **Mayors across Canada seem pleased with the one-time doubling of Federal Gas Tax funds** for eligible infrastructure projects as announced March 19 by Finance Minister Bill Morneau in Budget 2019.

Delivery of federal funds into infrastructure projects across the country has been a challenge in the past four years, despite federal efforts. Municipalities have not always had enough of their own funds and/or been able to secure partnerships with provincial governments. Municipal budgets don't always allow for the preparation of projects (through design and zoning/planning) to have shovel-ready projects available and waiting for funding as it sometimes comes suddenly available.

Federal infrastructure funds will now go directly to municipalities without having to be distributed through a provincial government. This likely speeds up delivery of the funds and sidesteps potential conflicts over project priorities, but could also put more strain on municipalities if they end up carrying more of the funding load. But projects-in-waiting may become activated sooner, and that is the overall goal in the federal interest in supporting Canadian communities in this election year.

"People depend on every order of government to work together to deliver the infrastructure projects they need -- from expanding highways, to improving public transit, to building new recreational centres," it was stated March 21 in a news release from the Prime Minister's office.

There will be a one-time transfer of \$2.2 billion through the federal Gas Tax Fund to address short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities who will be able to use the funds to complete projects currently underway, create well-paying jobs, and make their communities better places to live.

Projects under the Municipal Top-Up Fund can be used for: **Productivity and economic growth** -- including highways and local roads, public transit, and regional and local airports; **Clean environment** -- including drinking water, wastewater, and community energy systems; **Strong cities and communities** -- including sport and recreation, cultural and tourism, and capacity building.

Langford Mayor Stew Young is pleased about this opening up more funds directly to local governments: "This way, BC is not left out of the funding we are desperate for." He says less infrastructure money has been distributed in BC than in Ontario and Quebec since 2015. He hopes there will be alignment with infrastructure projects that can and do also receive BC government grants. "It should help get much needed money to our city."

Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins says it's exciting news which can "benefit significantly given the right criteria". She says that "in Esquimalt we have several projects coming forward as we look at the amenity fund public feedback." Desjardins says: "We are also hopeful of our application for a new sport field and multi-purpose building at Esquimalt High which is an application that was submitted by Songhees Nation in partnership with Esquimalt and SD61."

View Royal Mayor David Screech says he doesn't know yet what this will mean for View Royal. "But, obviously any increase in funding for infrastructure projects is very welcome!" Sooke Mayor Maja Tait had no comment about how that growing municipality might benefit.

In national news coverage, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson (who chairs the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors' Caucus) said mayors like the direct one-time transfer. "There are always more projects than revenues," Iveson says, adding that municipalities are "the most effective delivery agent" for getting projects done. Iveson says municipal councils "decide among competing priorities" all the time. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/mayors-happy-with-one-time-doubling-of-gas-tax-revenue/>

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regular-session academics through summer).

The school system has long-favoured hard-working teachers and diligent administrators who likely do feel fortunate about their long summers off (a seasonal feature leftover from an agrarian society when children were needed as cheap labour in the fields).

Some realistic 21st-century adjustments would inject more equity and common sense into public education -- options for families and community, fewer learning interruptions, flexibility for businesses, and greater availability of downtime for an over-stressed population. ■

Flashing crosswalk costs more, slows traffic, but worth it

West Shore Voice News

● **Safety is always a municipal priority.**

A new crosswalk is being looked at for busy Happy Valley Road at Walfred Road in Langford.

At the March 12 City of Langford Transportation Committee meeting (chaired by Councillor Roger Wade; attended by Councillor Norma Stewart, and public members Nicholas Johal and Brad Sifert), a motion was approved for recommendation to Council to fund a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk about 7 to 10 meters north-east of the intersection. Price tag: \$27,000. Council said yes on March 18.

To install just a standard crosswalk with pavement markings, side-mounted signs, curb cuts and sidewalk connectivity -- that costs \$7,000. Upscaling that to include pedestrian-controlled flashers (with concrete bases and posts) takes an additional \$20,000. Conditions for crossing at that intersection are considered significant enough to include the flashers.

ICBC will be approached for a portion of the funding, and the rest will come from the city's Small Roads Improvement budget. Langford meets with ICBC every spring to review projects; ICBC funding is based on how many pedestrian-

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-vehicle conflicts can be prevented at any given location. The Happy Valley area is growing, with children and families walking and cycling to school there.

Flashing crosswalks do slow down traffic which has to wait longer for flashing to stop before proceeding, explains George Henshall, Deputy Director of Engineering & Public Works. **WSV**

Developers given more guidelines by Langford

West Shore Voice News

● **It's all about the details.** In Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw 1817 (given first three readings at Langford Council on March 18), developers will see a new approved product list, landscaping approvals on rock walls going through just the Parks Manager (not Director of Engineering), clarification of sidewalk backdrop grade and post tops for streetlights, a requirement for white reflective street name signs on all collector roads, adding the bikelane paint drawing, and no corrugated pipe allowed for storm drains. All manhole lids must say Langford, and deeper manholes are bigger. Backup generators at lift stations must run simultaneously, not just start simultaneously. **WSV**

NEWS

POLITICS | EDUCATION

News updates any time: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Randall Garrison, MP: NDP MP turnover is "natural churn"

FEATURE by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● About one-third of the current federal NDP caucus will not be seeking re-election in the October 2019 election. That's 13 of 40: www.ndp.ca/team

The new ones who first became MPs in 2015 are running again. The attrition is just "natural churn" says Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke).

"They're retiring" says Garrison, with reference to NDP MPs who were first elected in the orange-wave of 2011 or even before that. "It has nothing to do with Jagmeet's leadership, it's normal turnover." Some have served eight to 15 years. New candidates are coming forward where people are retiring. I'm not at all worried."

The political buzz since NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh became party leader in October 2017 that he would need a seat in the House of Commons in order to gain greater visibility with the Canadian public. Singh achieved that, handily winning the recent Burnaby South by-election on February 25.

"People who see him tend to like what they see," says Garrison, who was instrumental in helping Singh work his way to the top of the leadership race two years ago. "He's only been here a few days in the House," said Garrison by phone from Ottawa on Wednesday March 20. "Winning the by-election got him the visibility. He is clearly offering the alternative."

Garrison looks to recent opinion polls that show the NDP party is currently making favourable gains with the public, notably among Millennials who now show a three-way tie for the three major parties (Liberal, Conservative, NDP). This is in the wake of the current political woes of the Liberals and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as the political scene over former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould's missives against the Prime Minister and his office and the overall SNC-Lavalin controversy continues to kick up dust.

"The NDP has made significant inroads among younger voters," says Garrison. The party is promoting universal Pharmacare, low-cost or free post-secondary tuition, pro-environmental policies, and various equity-related policies.

Randall has served two terms in office here on south Vancouver Island (first elected in May 2011, then again in October 2015) and is running again in the October 2019 federal race. He has a high profile throughout the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke riding. He makes a point of trying to return from Ottawa every Thursday evening when the House is in session to be in his constituency office on Tillicum Road on Fridays and around the community on weekends.

Garrison says he's done a lot as the NDP Defence critic. He was in West Africa in February where in Mali he witnessed first hand the peacekeeping operations that he says "offer the best chance for a society to emerge from prolonged conflict by creating the necessary political, socio-economic, and security conditions". Locally, Garrison has been helping people in the Canadian forces get equipment, training and support that they need for doing their jobs. He's defending the ship-building program, saying vessels should be built in Vancouver and Victoria jointly. He helped to keep that on track.

As well, Garrison has done extensive effective case work in his riding (some of that is high profile, but some is not so high profile though its effective work for individuals and sectors of the community). His constituency office has seen over 1,000 Phoenix pay cases. "It's taking two to three years to get them solved," he said about the debacle of the computer pay system that failed miserably by paying federal service workers incorrectly for long periods of time.

As the NDP LGBT spokesperson a few years ago, Garrison is proud for his part in seeing transgender rights now being enshrined in the human rights code and in the hate section of the criminal code. His efforts were first scuttled by the Harper government but when Garrison reintroduced his LGBT2Q rights bill when he "came back in 2016" and it got passed under this Liberal government.

Garrison lives in the west shore in Colwood. He's excited that the proposed Westshore Express Ferry from Colwood to downtown "would be feasible", including the application of federal infrastructure funding if BC Ferries "doesn't have the capital", he explained. "It would be one way to cut down congestion in the west shore," Garrison told *West Shore Voice News*. In response to hearing about Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps saying she hopes a west shore ferry wouldn't impact how much people use buses, Garrison responded: "That shows she's not very familiar with west shore and how full the busses are." He adds that the "lack of a regional transit entity and plans is still a problem".

Garrison was in Sooke last week to tour the T'Sou-ke Nation food sustainability project. T'Sou-ke Nation is switching from producing wasabi as a specialty project to instead producing food for local consumption. "It could be a million oysters per year," says Garrison. T'Sou-ke Nation became energy self-sufficient in 2008 with the installation of solar panels, with additional energy being sold back into the BC Hydro grid. Under the leadership of T'Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes there will soon also be a Tim Hortons/PetroCan combination enterprise at the entry point to Sooke. "These are very impressive projects for local sustainability. I commend them for being leaders and creating local jobs," said Garrison.

Environmentally conscious, Garrison says he can't get around the fact that he must fly to and from Ottawa on a regular basis. To do his part, he buys carbon offsets through Air Canada, through a program that contributes to tree planting and other sustainable projects. For his own car he was driving a plug-in hybrid starting in 2013, then in December 2018 bought a fully electric car. With a battery delivery range of 400 km range capacity his "range anxiety is gone".

And with that, the MP who is enthusiastic about political process was off to the House of Commons for all-night voting as part of an Opposition effort to filibuster discussion of the federal budget as a way of protesting the ongoing SVN-Lavalin legal/ethical debate. **WSV**

SD62 enrolment projections released for 2019-2020

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● Year by year since 2014, the number of students enrolled in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke has increased. Among other operational and resource stresses on the system, there is a need for more portables while facilities construction (including land acquisition) catches up.

At the March 12 SD62 board meeting, enrolment numbers for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 were presented in support of projections for 2019-2020: as many as 11,300 FTE's (full time equivalent) are possible.

In 2017-2018 enrollment was 10,026 in K-12, with an additional 451 students in alternative streams and distance learning for a total of 10,477 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). This year in 2018-2019 that increased to 10,446 in K-12 plus 413 in other streams for a total of 10,860 FTEs. The projection for 2019-2020 is 10,784 in K-12 plus 385 other, for a total of 11,170. That's about 338 more K-12 students expected in September 2019 as the west shore and Sooke regions continue to grow.

Exploring those numbers is in the context of determining the 2019-2020 academic year budget, which SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson says requires "a look at emerging priorities -- what we'd like to spend on and where we have been spending". He reminded the board and public: "We can't just add to the budget." School boards are required to submit balanced budgets to the BC Ministry of Education.

Trustee Margot Swinburnson expressed concern about more detailed budget discussions happening first at the Resources Committee (where not all trustees are present) -- next meeting April 9, with less detail



SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull (left) and SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson at the March 12, 2019 SD62 Board Meeting.

coming to the board meeting. She noted that the declining numbers of alternative and distance-learning students in the past few years can be seen as success in retaining students within the mainstream school system.

Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull has provided a budget overview at each of the last few board meetings. But specific 'cost pressures' have not been discussed publicly in detail yet. Those are the areas that will require debate among stakeholders (which includes teachers, principals and vice-principals, CUPE, parents and others) and ultimately the decision-making by trustees. About \$10 million will be open for discussion as 'discretionary' expenditures.

Trustee Bob Phillips noted that SD62 budgets used to be outlined by function (e.g. transportation) but now take a more global approach.

Superintendent Stinson said he likes seeing teachers from both elementary and secondary sharing Professional Development time together. "Developing professionalism in new and incoming teachers is a visionary program in our school district," he said in his verbal report.

Stinson was pleased to report that an increasing number of SD62 students are enrolled in Advance Placement (AP) courses; SD62's standing in that regard is in the top 10 out of 373 school districts in Canada and the USA. **WSV**

SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 (SD62) ENROLMENT DATA COMPARISON				
SD62 Enrolment	2017/18	2018/19	Projections for 2019/20	Variance (2018/19 to March 2019)
Elementary	4,812	5,012	5,232	240
Middle	2,237	2,356	2,456	100
Secondary	2,977	3,078	3,076	-2
K-12 Subtotal	10,026	10,446	10,784	338
Alternative, Westshore, Distance Learning	451	413	385	-28
TOTAL	10,477	10,860	11,170	309

<http://www.sd62.bc.ca/board-of-education/public-meetings/201617-budget-series/>

Belmont robot attends SD62 board meeting

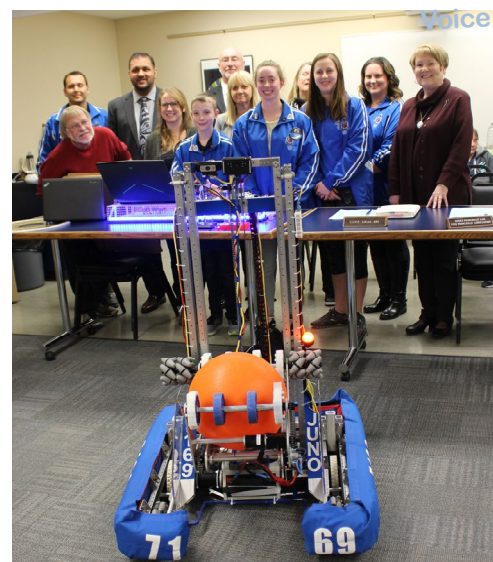
West Shore Voice News

● A robot constructed by students at Belmont Secondary School had participated in a competition at the Save On Foods Memorial Centre March 7 to 9 in Victoria.

The Belmont Bytes team advanced to the semi-finals during the competition. They took home the Industrial Design Award.

The high-profile robot named Juno -- and its team of teenage creators -- treated SD62 trustees, staff and public and at the March 12 SD62 board meeting to an active demonstration of its whizzing ways. Juno can throw a ball and move around the room as directed.

Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca) did a photo op with Belmont Bytes during the competition. **WSV**



Juno, its creators, and SD62 trustees had some fun ahead of the March 12 SD62 board meeting.

Supplied



Randall Garrison in Mali last month. He visited the Canadian Forces "who are doing such amazing air medical evacuation work supporting the UN peace-keeping and stabilization mission".

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News (stats: SD62)

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

March 25 to 31 Spring break

CleanBC Telephone Town Hall (Vancouver Island). Mon Mar 25, 7 pm. Info & registration: www.cleanbc.ca
City of Colwood Council. Mon Mar 25, 7 pm. www.colwood.ca
District of Sooke Council. Mon Mar 25, 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
LEGO Block Party. Wed Mar 27, 4 to 4:45 pm. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.
Brilliant Butterflies. Wed Mar 27, 1-2:30pm. Guided walk age 8+. Mill Hill, Langford. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events
Art & Word Poetry Reading. Sat Mar 30, 12 to 2 pm. Part of ARTIFACTS Mar 22 to Apr 28. Sooke Region Museum. www.sookecommunityarts.com
Salmon Saturday. Sat Mar 30, 11am-2pm. Charters Interpretive Centre, 2895 Sooke River Rd. Drop-in, all ages. Hatchery, displays. Explore along river with CRD Regional Parks naturalists. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events
Popsockets for Mobile Phones. Make one at the Sooke Library. Sat Mar 30, 1:30 to 2:15 pm. Age 12-18 yr. 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.
Earth Hour. Sat Mar 30, 8:30 to 9:30 pm. www.earthhour.org
PUBLIC INPUT - Changes to BC's Employment Standards Act - first update since 1994. (From Feb 28) to Sun Mar 31. Submissions by email. More info: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/modernizing-the-employment-standards-act/>

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/events/>

Spring Safety Tip

When using a ladder to clean eavestroughs or paint, place ladders on a solid footing and have a spotter. Have tools close at hand, easy to reach.



@jdfemerg

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program www.prepareyourself.ca

April

Back to School. Mon Apr 1. www.sd62.bc.ca
Status of Our Salmon. Presentation by Dr. Brian Riddell, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Thurs Apr 4, 7pm. EMCS Theatre, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation.
Spring Garden Show. Sat Apr 6, 1 to 3 pm. By View Royal Garden Club. Esquimalt United Church, Wheeley Hall, 500 Admirals. \$5 admission.
SD62 Adolescent Health Survey results workshop. Wed Apr 10. Dunsmuir School. 4 to 5:30 pm.
12th Annual Farm & Film Gala Wed Apr 10. Sooke Region Food CHI & Awareness Film Night. EMCS Theatre. Vendors 6:30-7:45, film to 9pm. By donation.
Backyard Rainwater Management. Sat Apr 13, 1 pm. Compost Education Centre. www.compost.bc.ca
PUBLIC INPUT: Active Transportation online to Mon Apr 15 at 4pm. Online at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation/>
DeMamie Creek Golf Course in Sooke. Season opens Wed Apr 17. www.seaparc.ca
South Island Prosperity Index Update. Business Leaders Lunch. Thurs Apr 18, 11:30 am to 1 pm. Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour, 728 Humboldt St., Victoria. www.victoriachamber.ca
Eggstravaganza. Easter Bunny at SEAPARC. Sat Apr 20. Age 1-4 at 10:30 am, age 5-7 at 11:15 am. Admission by donation to Sooke Food Bank. www.seaparc.ca

SAC 5th Annual
Sooke Arts Council

ARTIFACTS

Sat. Mar 30

Noon-2:00 Pavilion
Art upstairs to 5 pm

ART & WORD

Art & Word Anthology
EMCS Scholarship

POETRY READINGS IN PAVILION

March 22 - April 28
Schedule of Events: SookeCommunityArts.com

SOOKE REGION MUSEUM
UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY 2070 PHILLIPS RD

www.sookecommunityarts.com

District of Sooke, BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SOOKE REGION

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Sheringham Point Lighthouse | Winter hours 9 am to 4 pm | www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

ARTIFACTS Exhibit | 9 to 5 | Mar 22 to April 28 | Sooke Region Museum | www.sookecommunityarts.com

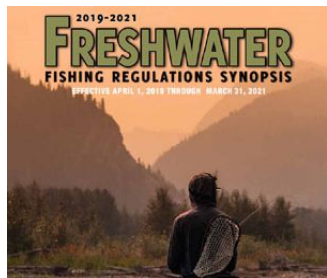
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Freshwater Fishing update now available online

West Shore Voice News



● **The 2019-2021 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis** is now available online and printed copies will soon be available at FrontCounter BC, Service

BC and stores that sell fishing licences.

The updated document is a comprehensive guide to the regulations, policies and practices that guide freshwater fishing in BC. The Province updates the synopsis every two years and regularly posts updates online. The new guide comes into effect on April 1, 2019.

Content: angling-related articles, information on catch-and-release best practices, preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species, and tips on keeping aquatic ecosystems intact and healthy.

Freshwater fishing generates almost \$1 billion annually towards the provincial economy.

The Province collects \$10 million each year from licence fees which goes directly to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC which supports angling-related research, conservation, education, stocking and improving angler access.

Under the federal Fisheries Act, the Province is responsible for non-salmon freshwater fisheries, including sea-run steelhead, trout and char. The federal government is responsible for commercial and recreational fisheries in tidal waters and salmon fisheries. **WSV**

Sooke Job Fair: regional employers searching

by Chelsea Kirkpatrick
West Shore Voice News

● **Spring is here**, and finding a job for summer or beyond is part of the action.

For hiring within the Sooke area, a job fair was held on March 20 by WorkLink BC. From 9:30 am to 12 noon the walk-about event in the lower lobby at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort was an exploratory opportunity for employers and job seekers.

Part of the goal was also to help encourage employment within the Sooke local community.

There was an easy-going vibe to the event. About 110 people attended in a wide age range — from teens to older folks, viewing 22 employer displays.

Among the employers there to meet with prospective employees: Academy of Learning, AdrenaLine, Allied Universal Security, Alpine Group, BC Pension, BC Transit, Knappett Pacific Inc, P & R Truck Centre Ltd, Prestige Oceanfront Resort, Rhino Labour Temp Services, RLC Park Services, SD61 (Greater Victoria), Seaflora Skin Care, Sooke Family Resource Society, Sooke Options for Community Living Association, Village Food Markets, Wenstob Timber, West Coast Grill, and Wild Renfrew.

WorkLink provided a work area for people to write up resumes 'in the moment' as required. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/sooke-job-fair-presented-local-employment-options/>



The BC Pension booth at the March 20 Sooke Job Fair.

Chelsea Kirkpatrick | WSV

SD62 to handle measles reporting requirements

West Shore Voice News

● **It's still spring break**, so the trustees at SD62 have still not seen the Ministry of Health's information about the measles immunization 'catch up' campaign (see pg 1).

SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar has told *West Shore Voice News* this weekend: "The Board appreciates the interest the government has taken on this file and hopes the proper supports and resources will be provided to school districts to achieve the goals outlined." **WSV**

Events can be posted in West Shore Voice News through the links on our Events page:

www.westshorevoicenews.com/events

Or send details (event name, date, time, location, link) by email to news@westshorevoicenews.com

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