



COMOX VALLEY Record

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COFFEE WITH... 'Super' Sue 7

NEWS

Pump station not a health threat

In the latest instalment on the Comox 2 Pump Station, possible health risks associated with living in close proximity to a pump station are addressed. **3**

Health forum in Comox

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And then there were four

The British Columbia Conservative Party announced its endorsement of health professional Leah McCulloch to be its candidate in the Courtenay-Comox Electoral District Monday, giving voters a fourth option in the riding. **6**

Musical theatre grows up

A new production company is bringing musical theatre to Courtenay, targeting adult audiences and thespians. The premier production, *Guys and Dolls*, opens next week. **14**

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Local runners brave the ice

Nineteen members of the Comox Valley Road Runners braved another stormy day at the annual Bazan Bay 5k race in Sidney March 5. Despite icy-cold conditions, several local runners once again turned in impressive finishes. **25**

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PHOTO BY ERIN HALUSCHAK

Capt. Brent Handy is getting ready to strap into a replica aircraft and participate in a flyover with other pilots as part of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy in France.

Vimy Ridge memorial flight set for take-off

Erin Haluschak
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One hundred years ago, young Canadian military members with around four hours of flying experience went to fight in the First World War, in single open cockpit airplanes.

With more than 4,000 hours of flying experience to his credit, Capt. Brent Handy is getting ready to re-enact that experience. Next month, he will strap into a replica aircraft and participate in a flyover with other pilots as part of

the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy in France.

"I can't even think of the words to describe how incredible it is to fly over the skies that our first fighter aces flew 100 years ago," the RCAF pilot explained at 19 Wing Comox Monday, as the team was disassembling, packing and loading the aircraft onto a CC-177 Globemaster III with the assistance of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The RCAF will transfer the two Sopwith Pups, four Nieuport 11s and one

SE5 to Lille, France on behalf of the Vimy Flight Association, where they are expected to arrive on March 17 in time for the celebration over Vimy April 9.

"I honestly felt like I won the lottery when I found out that I was assigned to the program. My experience is that I'm a fighter pilot in the RCAF; I've flown the F-18, I've flown with the Snowbirds. To me, the biggest honour as a fighter pilot is to participate in this kind of commemoration."

See Flight Page A4

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NEWS



PHOTO BY PAM LARIVIERE

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Pam Lariviere sent in this close-up of an eagle that has taken residency around the beach at Point Holmes for a couple of weeks now. "I heard conflicting stories that he is injured or just ill but he just sits there for long periods of time," said Lariviere. "Perfect opportunity for me to get some great shots." She added she remained a safe distance away and used a powerful zoom lens to get the photo.

'Very little health concern' with pump stations

Scott Stanfield
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In a series of articles, Record reporter Scott Stanfield delves into the contentious sewage issue.

Opponents of the proposed No. 2 Pump Station in Area B suggest the project poses health and safety risks in terms of potential contamination to residential wells, and by compromising the neighbourhood's quiet, rural setting. Some residents claim the stress of the situation has already caused one person to move from the neighbourhood. Another has tried — but failed

— to sell his property.

The Station 2 project is estimated to cost \$10,700,500. Construction will take about two years. Although the Valley contains two pump stations, the Comox Valley Regional District says a third is required to meet the needs of the growing community.

Young Street resident Dr. Don Blacklock said the vibration during construction of the Craigflower Pump Station in Victoria caused pictures to fall from the walls of neighboring houses, even some that were 100 metres from the site.

"It's extremely noisy, because they go down about 30 feet," he said.

But the CVRD has committed to "zero discernible noise" — or odour — at the property line of the proposed site at Beech Street in the Croteau Beach neighbourhood, just east of Comox.

From Island Health's standpoint, risks associated with sewage pump stations are negligible.

"From a public health perspective, there is very little health concern from sewage pump stations, and associated distribution lines that are appropriately designed, constructed, located, maintained and monitored," Medical Health Officer Dr. Charmaine Enns

See Sewage, Page A4

City hosting party, renaming legacy fund

Courtenay's Centennial year wrapped up in 2015, but the Centennial Committee is planning one last hurrah in honour of a well-loved and greatly missed member of our community.

"Randy's Perogy Party" is happening on Saturday, April 15 at the Florence Filberg Centre Conference Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and perogy dinner at 6:30 p.m. Musical guests The Impalas will have the crowd on their feet dancing to classic rock favourites.

The event is being held in honour of the late Randy Wiwchar, the City of Courtenay's former director of community services and one of the key organizers of the centennial celebrations, among many other community events and initiatives. Randy passed away in June 2016 after a battle with cancer.

The Centennial Committee is also announcing a permanent name change for their fundraising initiatives. The City of Courtenay Centennial Legacy Fund has been officially renamed the Randy Wiwchar Legacy Fund.

Centennial Committee member Rod Hunter said the committee wanted to find a way to honour someone who gave so much to his community.

"Randy put his heart and soul into the Centennial, and so many other community initiatives, yet always somehow managed to avoid the spotlight. It means a lot to be able to have Randy's name permanently remembered through this fund."

Randy's Perogy Party is a nod to Wiwchar's Manitoban roots, where fundraising socials are a way of life.

"Just like last year's Spring Social event, we're basing this on a fun, casual Manitoba Social," said Hunter. "The Comox Valley Ukrainian Cultural Society is serving up the perogies — Randy's favourite — and a lot of his other guilty snacks, along with fantastic live music. Whether you knew Randy or not, come celebrate with us and have a good time."

Tickets for Randy's Perogy Party are \$35 and are available at the Courtenay Recreation Lewis Centre, Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay City Hall, and Billy D's Pub.

All funds raised from the event will help enhance the newly-named Randy Wiwchar Legacy Fund. The fund supports the development of local children and youth through their participation in academic, athletic, cultural, recreational, vocational and other activities provided by non-profit organizations in the Courtenay area where funding is a barrier to participation.

For more information, call 250-334-4441 or visit www.courtenay.ca

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VANCOUVER to NANAIMO Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay	Effective Until March 31, 2017 Daily: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm
NANAIMO to VANCOUVER Duke Point to Tsawwassen	Effective Until March 31, 2017 5:15am* • 7:45am* • 10:15am • 12:45pm • 3:15pm • 5:45pm • 8:15pm** • 10:45pm** *Daily except Sun ** Daily except Sat
VANCOUVER to NANAIMO Tsawwassen to Duke Point	Effective Until March 31, 2017 5:15am* • 7:45am* • 10:15am • 12:45pm • 3:15pm • 5:45pm • 8:15pm** • 10:45pm** *Daily except Sun ** Daily except Sat
COMOX to POWELL RIVER Little River to Westview	Effective Until March 31, 2017 6:20am • 10:00am • 3:15pm* • 6:50pm** • 7:15pm* *Sun-Tue, Thu-Fri, Mar 18 & 22 only **Wed & Sat, Mar 18 & 22
POWELL RIVER to COMOX Westview to Little River	Effective Until March 31, 2017 8:05am • 11:50am • 5:15pm* • 8:45pm *Sun-Tues, Thur-Fri, Mar 18 & 22 only

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Flight: Participation in Vimy memorial event is 'a true honour'

Continued from Page A1

Handy will be flying one of the Nieuport 11s, and explained the amount of aviation innovation which has taken place over the past century is "absolutely breathtaking."

"These were the top line fighters of 1917. These are like the F-35, F-22, Super Hornet of its day. When I got to fly it last week in my training, we've learned a lot over the last 100 years, let's just put it that way. But it's really thrilling. It's a single cockpit airplane as well, so only one seat, so you have to teach yourself how to fly."

Handy noted pilots had only a handful of flying hours before they left for war, and described the courage it took to fight is an inspiration not only for him, but to all Canadians.

"They probably had about

a grand total of four hours of flying experience, and they're strapping these things on their back and heading out over the horizon to fight a war for us. To me, this experience is all about perspective - it's just really opened my eyes as to what we've accomplished as a nation in 100 years, and what these veterans did for us."

Retired Maj. Dale Erhart is the flight safety officer and lead pilot involved in the flight, and said participating in the memorial flight is "a true honour. It's something that I never imagined in my life ... it has such emotional significance for Canadians."

"I think I have to pinch myself to think it's still true. We've worked so hard and have had so many hurdles, financial hurdles. It's very difficult to get people to understand what we're trying

"To me, this experience is all about perspective - it's just really opened my eyes as to what we've accomplished as a nation in 100 years, and what these veterans did for us."

CAPT. BRENT HANDY

to accomplish, believe what we're doing and to generate enough interest into what we're doing."

Erhart was one of the first pilots to fly the F-18, and following his military career, he became a civilian commercial and business pilot. Years ago, he ran into an ex-air force colleague flying business jets, and the pair had a layover in Paris.

"We rented a car and went to see Vimy. We were abso-

lutely shocked and amazed at what we saw, and it really changed our lives. To understand Canada's contribution is well written and documented, but what is not well written and documented is the fact the air element provided so much preparation and intelligence through aerial reconnaissance and aerial mapping, that it really did change the outcome of war in the Western Front."

After the celebrations in France, the team will return to Halifax and embark on a cross-Canada aerial tour, crossing from Shearwater, N.S. to the Comox Valley between May and November. The flight will include a flypast over the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa on July 1 during the 150th commemoration of Canada.

For more information, visit vimyflight.ca.

Sewage: Residents fear pump station will contaminate wells

Continued from Page A3

feels projects such as Comox 2 "put a lot of pressure on people right there." He



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notes, for instance, that Stafford Street resident Paul Horgen, who is blind, and his wife Ilona had a specially-designed house constructed in a quiet area.

"In terms of the general health of the whole thing, with the problems they're having down in the strait, having to put danger labels on oysters because they're getting infected with various things, most of them are probably from some sort of sewage

exposure from somewhere," Blacklock said. "Whether that's septic fields down the way, or from pipes that are leaking... I am a big believer of not having sewage going down an estuary."

"Just asking for trouble. And there's going to be trouble. There was a big fight about this way back in 1981, '82 about them putting them there in the first place."

The CVRD says the Beech Street parcel does not contain any sensitive ecosystems. But residents fear the pump station will contaminate wells with bacteria, chemicals and/or construction residues, and could damage or divert the aquifer that is the source of local well water.

Horgen says hydrogeologist Gilles Wendling has advised that the sewage station would put wells and aquifers at high risk.

Wendling later conducted a study for the CVRD.

"When we first bought the property, the residents did hire Gilles, to let them know what the results of a failure of the pump station would be to the groundwater in the area," said Marc Rutten, the CVRD's

general manager of engineering services. "I think the focus of the residents was, 'What if the station fails? What if there's a big spill? What's that going to do to our groundwater?' (Gilles) concluded that a big spill would definitely be an issue."

The district hired Wendling to focus on trenching, and pipe and wetwell installation.

"What's the effect of the construction of a pump station?" Rutten said. "In our mind, failure of the pump station — a spill — is not an option. You don't design for a spill, you design to make sure a spill can never happen. Just a bit of a different focus on the study work."

According to the CVRD, the project will not proceed without ensuring that residents will have continued access to safe, potable water. Pre-implementation work includes further assessment of the Beech Street site, in terms of groundwater assessment and geo-technical conditions.

For more information about the Comox No. 2 Pump Station, visit bit.ly/2mnIZ6q

For a video and risk assessment of the current Willemar line, visit bit.ly/2eljqg8

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Health critic discusses privatization, MSP

Erin Haluschak
erin.haluschak@comoxvalleyrecord.com

From primary to residential care, provincial NDP health critic Judy Darcy offered up her party's stance on the challenges of health care for B.C. residents Saturday in Comox.

During a health care forum at the Little Red Church Hall, Darcy spoke about her party's plans to reform health care in the province, then answered questions and took comments from a crowd of about 50 people for more than an hour.

"We do not believe in further privatization of health care. We think there are services that are not provided now that ought to be provided for so that people don't go out of pocket," she noted, and added the NDP believe in eliminating the Medical Services Plan so that people don't face "an affordability issue" which leads to privatization and two-tier health care.

Last month during the provincial budget, the Liberal government announced



PHOTO BY ERIN HALUSCHAK

Provincial NDP health critic Judy Darcy spoke to residents Saturday in Comox.

changes to MSP premiums which are set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2018. Changes include cutting the premiums in half for residents who qualify as a first step to what the government noted is the

process of eliminating the premiums.

Darcy emphasized funds from MSP should go into care, not into profit, and addressed the issue of 'pay for plasma,' a topic mentioned by

attendees.

Pay-for-plasma clinics, which operate in provinces across Canada, offer eligible donors a rate for blood donations. Private blood and plasma collection has been banned in Ontario and Quebec, and Darcy explained she introduced a private members bill to ban the service in B.C.

"The government has refused to do that."

Darcy also spoke to investing in public mental health and addiction services, "because we have a complete two-tier system when it comes to mental health and addictions.

"The people on the front lines on the fentanyl crisis will all say we have to do more as far as harm reduction and more support for people on the front lines but we also have to have treatment available for people if they are willing and are able to go into treatment, and we don't have it."

She added there is no support for people to break their addiction when wait times for treatment are six or

eight weeks, or only available to those who can pay out of pocket.

Afterwards, she touched briefly on topic of hospices, and noted she sat on a committee which developed a bipartisan report on dying with dignity prior to the federal law being passed.

"... We need to ensure this right is available through the continuum of healthcare ... the Comox Valley shouldn't be different than other communities."

The provincial election is set for May 9.

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BC Conservatives enter Courtenay-Comox race

Leah McCulloch named first MLA candidate for provincial party

The British Columbia Conservative Party announced Monday its endorsement of health professional Leah McCulloch to be its candidate in the Courtenay-Comox Electoral District.

"We are thrilled that a candidate of such passion and talent is stepping forward to represent the people of the Comox Valley," said party president Corbin Mitchell.

McCulloch and her family have been residents of Comox for almost two years after she retired from her 24-year career in several health-care positions, most recently implementing a ground-breaking program for the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority in the Lower Mainland, which saved both money and lives.

"Leah is exactly the type of person needed so badly now in B.C. politics," said Mitchell, noting how she is a strong communicator who cares deeply for people, is willing to fight for what she believes is right, and will give residents an opportunity to vote for someone who truly can deliver a new and better style of politics.

McCulloch spent her early years in Port Hardy before moving to the mainland. She has a B.Sc. from UBC and

was trained as a dietitian at Vancouver General Hospital. She began her career helping pregnant women in poverty and addiction in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, which she did for 10 years, then shifted to wellness consulting for corporations, health promotion, eldercare at Peace Arch Hospital and ultimately working for seven years to make a health authority more cost-effective by decreasing patient complications due to smoking.

"I feel called and compelled to run for office at this time because B.C. so obviously needs strong people to not only be good shepherds of the land and economy, but also to stand up and fight for the best interests of all our citizens," said McCulloch, who is also an avid outdoor enthusiast, and volunteers at the local soup kitchen and Celebrate Recovery (an addiction recovery program).

"I love the Comox Valley and I want to serve its people, which I will do as MLA by responding quickly to their needs and concerns while also advocating for good government provincially. I want to see government done differently and lean away from the divisive tactics that are unproductive, or the 'big money' campaigning that makes citizens question who owns their government and province. I believe that the government should serve the people with the best interests of all in mind. It's really quite simple.

"I'm proud to be part of the



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Leah McCulloch has been named the first MLA candidate for the BC Conservatives. She will run in the new Courtenay-Comox riding.

B.C. Conservative Party and potentially a new chapter in B.C. politics. A good MLA is someone who is a good listener, who can understand the needs of a large variety of residents and proactively help find solutions to genuine issues – that's something that I am highly qualified to do as I have spent my entire career serving the needs of British Columbians."

"Leah is the 'Right Choice – Right Now' for Courtenay and the Comox Valley," said her campaign manager, Ian MacDonald, a veteran party activist who will work closely with McCulloch from her new campaign office at 1599 Cliffe Ave., Unit 4. For more information, call the campaign office at 250-897-1857.



PHOTO BY ERIN HALUSCHAR

BURSARIES AT THE MARKET

Jace Pierson, Sun Life Advisor, donated two \$500 cheques Saturday at the Comox Valley Farmers' Market as part of their New Farmer Bursary program. Pictured, Lentelus Farm received one bursary from Pierson, alongside CVFM executive director Vickey Brown. Savanna Farm received the other bursary from Pierson.

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'Super' Sue Finneron

Scott Stanfield
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Sue Finneron was pretty much born into the car business. At age 12, not long after becoming a Valley resident, the Nanaimo-born girl was washing cars and performing janitorial duties. Now, she's the general manager at Finneron Hyundai in Courtenay.

"That's all I've ever done is the car business," she said. "This is my 25th year of full-time, this spring."

Finneron is also known as 'Super Sue,' a name that stemmed from a super-hero based advertisement.

"We used to work with a marketing company. They did up caricatures for us. It just stuck. I think the alliteration just works. So I've been Super Sue ever since...And at home they just call me 'Super'."

Finneron Hyundai has been open since 2009, but Sue's father, Mike — the dealer principal — started the General Motors store in 1979, at the same spot on the Old Island Highway.

Finneron Hyundai earned a nomination in the business leadership category at the most recent Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Awards. Previously, it has received several business-of-

the-year nominations, and won the category in the 90s.

"It's always nice to be recognized for what we do by our peers," Finneron said. "The business has been nominated many times. Sometimes I feel like Susan Lucci. You've been nominated so many times and never won."

Finneron considers herself fortunate because has the "best team ever" and loves coming to work.

"I'm so lucky," she said. "We wouldn't be where we are today without all of them."

Super Sue is a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise-Courtenay.

And twice a week, she teaches a spin class at Fitness Excellence.

"It was just something that I liked to do, so I learned how to do it. I went and got certified to teach. Obviously when you teach it makes you get there. Otherwise, I'd just stay at work."

She grew up skiing at Mount Washington in winter, and paddle boarding in summer. Her latest challenge is learning how to golf.

She also likes knitting.

"There's some weird facts. What an exciting nerd," Finneron said with a laugh.

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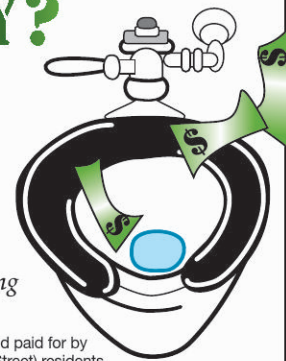
The proposed Pumphouse#2 is in Area B, there is no representation on the Sewage Commission.

"We have a problem in Courtenay and Comox, and we decided as a Regional Board to go into somebody else's neighbourhood, dig up their roads, and stick a giant sewage pump in there to solve our problem. That does not sit right with me."

- Councillor E. Eriksson, March 1, 2016 Sewage Commission meeting

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A rescued eagle at the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society dines on a herring brought in by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The DFO donated 1,100 pounds of herring last week, from its test fishery.

DFO brings herring to MARS

The commercial herring roe fishery is a significant, short-lived event that occurs off the coast of Vancouver Island each spring.

"The Pacific coast herring are considered high quality and the roe is highly desired, especially in Japan," said Nancy Marshall, a former herring fish boat owner and MARS volunteer. "Sometimes the run is so strong fish boats can reach their quota limits in one hour or less."

The fleet total allowable catch is determined each year by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. And it is Fisheries and Oceans that determines when the fishery will open. The opening of the fishery depends on the roe.

Brenda Spence has been with Fisheries and Oceans for 30 years and is manager of the resource.

"We set the total catch limits for the fishery to ensure the resource is sustainable, and we test the age classes and the quality of the roe to determine when we can open the fishery," she said, from the Coast Guard

vessel Neocaligus. "The roe is at its peak just before spawn. To test the roe, we put out a seine net, and from the net we take a small hoop net and then a bucket of herring – that's what we test."

When the roe is ready, the fishing begins until the quotas are reached. This is a labour-intensive fishery that includes processing the roe before export. The continuation of the fishery depends on the catch limits set by Fisheries and Oceans.

Herring are a long lived (up to 15 years) fish species that do not die after they spawn and can reach lengths close to 50 centimeters. The older and larger the fish get, the more eggs they lay. Herring move in vast schools, sometimes kilometres long, and migrate to shallower waters annually to spawn.

Herring are also an extremely valuable food source for several species of duck, auklets and birds of prey, as well as several species of seals, sea lions, whales, salmon and other fish.

It is also a highly valued food source by First Nations where they collected herring spawn through a method called spawn on kelp.

With this method, none of the herring are killed and only the eggs are taken.

For more than 10 years, the herring caught in the test fishery are delivered to MARS to help feed the many injured eagles and herons under care. "Many of the fishers that run the test program for us want to support MARS," said Spence. "And they go out of their way to take the buckets of herring to dock for MARS staff."

The gift of the herring represents a valuable donation for the team at the wildlife rescue centre.

"Last year we looked after 39 eagles and 13 herons," says Warren Warrtig, president of MARS Wildlife Rescue. "And these birds need five or six herring every day. The delivery of 1,100 pounds of fish makes a big difference for us and will last us most of the year."

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To advertise your meeting, concert or other event on the *Record's* “7 Days... or more” page, please send the announcement to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com and put “7 Days” in the subject line. Please keep your event listing to 75 words or less.

Art

PEARL ELLIS GALLERY welcomes spring with the Monday Bunch Spring Art Show and Sale. The show opens on Tuesday March 14 and runs through to April 1. Open Tues – Sat from 10 am – 4 pm, Closed Sunday - Monday. Free Admission. Located at 1729 Comox Avenue. FMI and to see a virtual gallery of the current show go to www.pearlellisgallery.com

Theatre

OH, NURSE - Evergreen Club's Second Stage Players present this rollicking comedy set in a pub and hospital. Performances at the Filberg Centre go Wednesday, March 22 at 21:30 p.m. and Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Our local playwright Betty Annand has outdone herself with this play! Not only will we entertain you, but we'll even give you a nice cup of tea and a cookie. Doors open at a half hour before the show. Tickets available at the door or at the Filberg office for \$10 each. FMI call 250-338-1000

Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 16
CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING Comox Valley Branch meets the third Thursday of every month, September through June, from 10 a.m. until noon in Room A at the Comox Valley Rec Centre. Coffee and goodies are provided. Everyone is welcome. For more information email cvhardofhearing@gmail.com or phone Marion: 250-334-4886 or Mary: 250-339-4706

WRITERS MEET - The Comox Valley Writers Society will hold its general meeting at Valley View Elementary School in Courtenay. This free event

begins at 7 p.m. in the school library.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
A WEE TASTE OF IRELAND - The Evergreen Club is thinking 'green' for St. Patrick's Day. Come celebrate the 'Green Isle' with us at "A Wee Taste of Ireland" which includes a luncheon of Irish Stew, red and green slaw, biscuits and Black and Tan brownies for dessert. At the Filberg Centre. A leprechaun may magically make our beer green! =PQ1Y Following the luncheon there will be a concert featuring Mary Murphy who will be sharing her many talents and knowledge of Ireland. Mary will have her CDs and children's books available. members \$20, non-members \$22 FMI call Filberg office at 250-338-1000.

4R'S FUNDRAISER - 4R's Education Centre is hosting an Irish Ceilidh at Native Sons Hall (7:30 p.m.) and you are invited. Silent Auction, door prizes, laughter and Irish frivolities along with the incomparable Kenny Shaw. Guaranteed to be FUN! Tickets on sale now at 4R's office, Benjamin Moore House of Color, Long & McQuade and Planet Kids (Comox). FMI – 250-338-4890.

LIVE AT BILLY D'S - Billy D's ongoing Friday night music series presents How Could I ... exciting young band from Campbell River. Show runs 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. 268 Fifth St. Courtenay 250-334-8811

55+ DANCE - Amigos supplies the music for tonight's dance! Come out and join our 55+ crowd as we have a fun time together dancing and listening to music. You'll find us at Courtenay's Recreation's Florence Filberg Centre downstairs in Rotary Hall. Doors open at 6:30 pm. dancing is from 7:30 -10:30 p.m. Cost for Evergreen members is \$7 at the door; \$9 for non-members FMI call the Filberg Office at

250-338-1000.
ST. PAT'S IN FANNY BAY - Come celebrate St Patrick's Day with the return of the band, Celtic Chaos. Great music, humour, and tall tales at Fanny Bay Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. Dancing (or just come and listen) 7:30 to 10:30 .pm. Snacks and cash bar through the evening. Tickets \$25 advance only. At Laughing Oyster Books, Weinberg's and Salish Sea Market, Bowser. FMI call 250-792-2219'

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
DRAGON BOAT RECRUITS - Hope Afloat dragon boat team is recruiting for the 2017 season. Saturday practices on Mar. 11, 18, 25 will be open to any female cancer survivor wishing to try this sport. PFDs/paddles are supplied. For practice information re: time, place, what to wear & your expressed wish to attend, it is essential to call: Gaetane 250-890-9316 or Marcy 250-338-2112.

FIDDLE DANCE - St Patrick's Day called Fiddle dance at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. All welcome, no partner needed. Everything green, spot dance prizes, lively fun. Doors open 7 p.m., the dance starts at 7:30. \$10 adult, \$5 youth.

UNNION BAY FLEA MARKET - Flea Market and garage sale 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Union Bay Community Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
PERSIAN NEW YEAR - Come celebrate Persian New Year on Sunday March 19th at the Abbey Studio in Cumberland and support the Comox Valley Simorgh Dance Collective. Persian New Year aka Norouz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the Iranian solar calendar. The evening will feature dance performances, a silent auction, bazaar table, homemade Persian sweets, savoury snacks and chai. This family friendly event runs from 7-10PM. Suggested donation \$5-10 at the door. FMI call (250) 218-0704

MONDAY, MARCH 20
ELDERS TAKE ACTION - Third Monday of every month. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Courtenay Library. An opportunity to meet with other seniors and discuss issues of interest. This month, Sabina Acheson, co-ordinator of Comox Care Society- Care-A-Van will speak to our E.T.A. Group about the work of their society. FMI Jennifer 250-334-2321, passj@telus.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR - Bahá'í New Year celebration at the Little Red Church, 2182 Comox Avenue, Comox. Doors open 12:45 p.m; program starts at

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1 p.m. All are welcome at this free event. More information: Bahá'ís of Comox at 250-702-3041 or Bahá'ís of Courtenay at 250-702-0574.

HORTICULTURE SOC. MEETING - welcome herbalist and horticultural therapist Chanchal Cabrera, who will introduce us to the Japanese art of Shinrin Yoku, taking in the forest atmosphere, or forest bathing. She will discuss traditional and historical uses of trees in healing, modern science and research. This meeting is “Spring a Friend” and guests are free; come join us at the Courtenay Filberg; doors open at 6:45 p.m. Membership brings many benefits. See www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca

JULY 1ST COMMITTEE – Courtenay July 1st Committee meets the third Monday of each month at the Florence Filberg, Soroptomist Lounge at 7 pm. We welcome anyone wishing to volunteer for the Best Free Event in the Comox Valley! contact Edwin Grieve at “edwingrieve@shaw.ca” for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
TALK 'N TUNES - Every Tuesday evening, Billy D's presents Talk ' Tunes with Anela Kahaimoe and Doug Biggs. This week, local crooner Ralph Barrat. Show starts at 7:30 268 Fifth St. Courtenay 250-334-8811.

MYELOMA SUPPORT - The North Island Myeloma Support Group is meeting in the private dining room at the Courtenay White Spot Restaurant from 1:30-3 p.m. You are also most welcome to join us for a self pay lunch at 12:15 p.m. Keep up to date on the latest information about Myeloma and learn from the experiences of others. Bring your caregiver or friends too.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
ROOTS AT THE CUMBY - Doug Cox, Jess Lee and Ryder Hawkins take you on a musical journey of folk, country, blues and roots music at the Cumberland Hotel. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
CUMBY MUSEUM AGM - Members and friends of the Cumberland and District Historical Society (Cumberland Museum and Archives) are invited to join us for our Annual General Meeting taking place

WINNING NUMBERS
FRI MAR 10 2017
LOTTO MAX
01 11 15 20 36 41 47
Bonus 22
Extra 17 29 31 63
BC/49
25 32 33 36 37 43
Bonus 24
EXTRA 27 69 80 93

SATURDAY, MAR 11 649
06 10 11 23 42 47
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OH, NURSE
The Second Stage Players from the Evergreen Club's drama group is hard at work rehearsing *Oh Nurse* and are keen to share their play with Comox Valley audiences. Written by Betty Annand, a local author and playwright, *Oh Nurse* is a rollicking comedy, centered on a pair of misfit 'nurses' played by actors Ivan Whitelaw and Roy Storey (pictured). Kick off spring by seeing one of the two performances; a matinee show Wednesday March 22 at 1:30 p.m. and an evening show March 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. FMI call the Courtenay Recreation's Filberg office 250-338-1000.

6:30 p.m., at the museum, 2680 Dunsmuir Avenue. Hear updates from 2016 and learn how you can become involved in coming events and outreach initiatives.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
55+ DANCE - The crowd favorite DAN HUGHES BAND is coming to town to and you definitely do not want to miss out! Come out and join our 55+ crowd as we have a fun time together dancing and listening to music. You'll find us at Courtenay's Recreation's Florence Filberg Centre downstairs in Rotary Hall. Doors open at 6:30 pm. dancing is from 7:30 -10:30 p.m. Cost for Evergreen members is \$7 at the door; \$9 for non-members FMI call the Filberg Office at 250-338-1000.

LIVE AT BILLY D'S - Billy D's ongoing Friday night music series presents The P Nut Gallery ... teaspoon of pop, dash of rock, dollop of humour. Show runs 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. 268 Fifth St. Courtenay 250-334-8811

COMOX MUSEUM AGM - The annual general meeting for the Comox Archives and Museum will be held in the Lion's Den (1729, Comox Ave., underneath CAMS), from 2-3:30 p.m.

Historian Judy Hagen will be the guest speaker. Topic: The three faces of faith in the Comox Valley, 1862-First World War. Refreshments will be served.

QUEEN OF KATWE - Comox United Church will present the film “Queen of Katwe” 7 pm. Admission is by donation. This 2016 Disney film tells the true story of a 11 year old girl from an Ugandan slum, who learns to play chess, and goes on to become an international champion. The film shows the gritty reality of slum life, and the inevitable culture clash she experiences in the world of international chess championships.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
MERVILLE AGM - The Merville Community Association is having its annual general meeting at 7 p.m. at 1245 Fenwick Road, Merville.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
TALK 'N TUNES - Every Tuesday evening, Billy D's presents Talk ' Tunes with Anela Kahaimoe and Doug Biggs. A different special guest each week. This week it's choir leader Jenn Forsland. Show starts at

7:30 268 Fifth St. Courtenay 250-334-8811.

MUSEUM BOOK SIGNING- “Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer” lecture and book signing with co-author Randolph Eustace-Walden. Presentation begins 7pm at the Courtenay and District Museum. Tickets \$6 (plus GST). Advance tickets recommended. FMI and to purchase tickets: 250-334-0686 ext. 5.

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THE COMOX VALLEY Record

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Editorial Opioid crisis affects more than the addicts

Given the number of overdose deaths recorded in the North Island (23), on Vancouver Island (155) and across B.C., in 2016, most would agree that the fentanyl-fuelled health crisis here has reached a critical stage.

The potency of this drug, often contained within such substances as heroin or available in pill form, has caught many people by surprise, from the users themselves to the emergency responders who must attend to them when things go terribly wrong.

While not everyone can empathize with the person who risks so much to achieve a high, more people might feel for the emergency responders who attend to overdose calls and whose goal it is to keep people alive long enough to get them to hospital.

The potential for the worst to happen increases the moment that users put the drugs into their bodies.

But with more people dying or sustaining brain damage from overdosing on high-octane opiates – people from various socio-economic groups – it has to have an effect on the people who attend to them in emergency situations.

There are logistical consequences from this new wave of emergency calls. Doctors are having to spend more time with patients, due to the extreme effects of fentanyl-laced drugs. That can ultimately lead to longer wait times for individuals requiring immediate medical care for other reasons.

But the trauma of seeing people die, many in the prime of their lives, has to wear on an emergency responder, regardless of how steeled they are for such situations. Taking steps to reduce the number of overdose deaths is critical. But paying attention to the effects this crisis has on the first responders on whom we rely so much is also extremely important.

-Black Press



■ Terry Farrell
COMMENT-TERRY

Time is running out for you to be involved with one of the most uplifting events of the year.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2017 Comox Valley Local Hero Awards, but only until the end of the month.

The Local Hero Awards were created in 2016 - an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of individuals within the community.

While the concept was the brainchild of *Comox Valley Record* publisher Chrissie Bowker, the event was made possible by the selfless contributions of the entire community; from those who made the nominations, to the judging panel, and the award sponsors.

There are a dozen different categories to consider, including two new categories for 2017 - Seniors' Champion, and Environmental Leadership.

The Seniors' Champion, sponsored by Bush & Company, recognizes a senior citizen (65 years or older) who has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to enrich the social, cultural or civic life of our community.

The Environmental Leadership Award is sponsored by 40 Knots Vineyard. This will go to someone who makes a positive contribution to the commu-

nity by championing environmentally friendly initiatives.

Categories returning from the inaugural Local Hero Awards include:

• **Arts Ambassador** – This award, sponsored by the Comox Valley Airport, honours a person, or people, deemed "vital to the diversity of our community, who encourages participation, and social well-being."

• **Coach(es)** – Sponsored by Canadian Tire, this award recognizes someone "exemplary in developing skills and confidence in participants, inspires youth, and who encourages a high level of athletic achievement and commitment."

• **Community Builder** – Sponsored by North Island College, the Community Builder will be a person or group "that has taken the initiative to engage residents in an innovative or new community project or event."

• **Community Volunteer** - Sunwest RV sponsors this award, given to someone who "makes a positive contribution to the community by volunteering their time." (This was formerly named the Service Organization Volunteer Award.)

• **Courage & Bravery** – Sponsored by Comox Valley Dodge - recognizes someone who has put their own safety at risk in coming to the aid of another.

• **Educator** - Sponsored by Crown Isle, this will go to someone who demonstrates a high level of ethics and professional standards, is an inspirational motivator, excellent communicator, good listener and a reliable resource to

the community and his/her students.

• **Emergency Services** - Sponsored by Waypoint Insurance, this award will go to a person "exemplary in the area of emergency services, and unselfishly shoulders enormous responsibility while accepting the potential risks and challenges of the job."

• **Unsung Hero** – Sponsored by First Financial Credit Union & Insurance, this award honours someone who has made a positive contribution to the community through their work and has gone beyond to support the community and/or cause. (Formerly Above & Beyond Award)

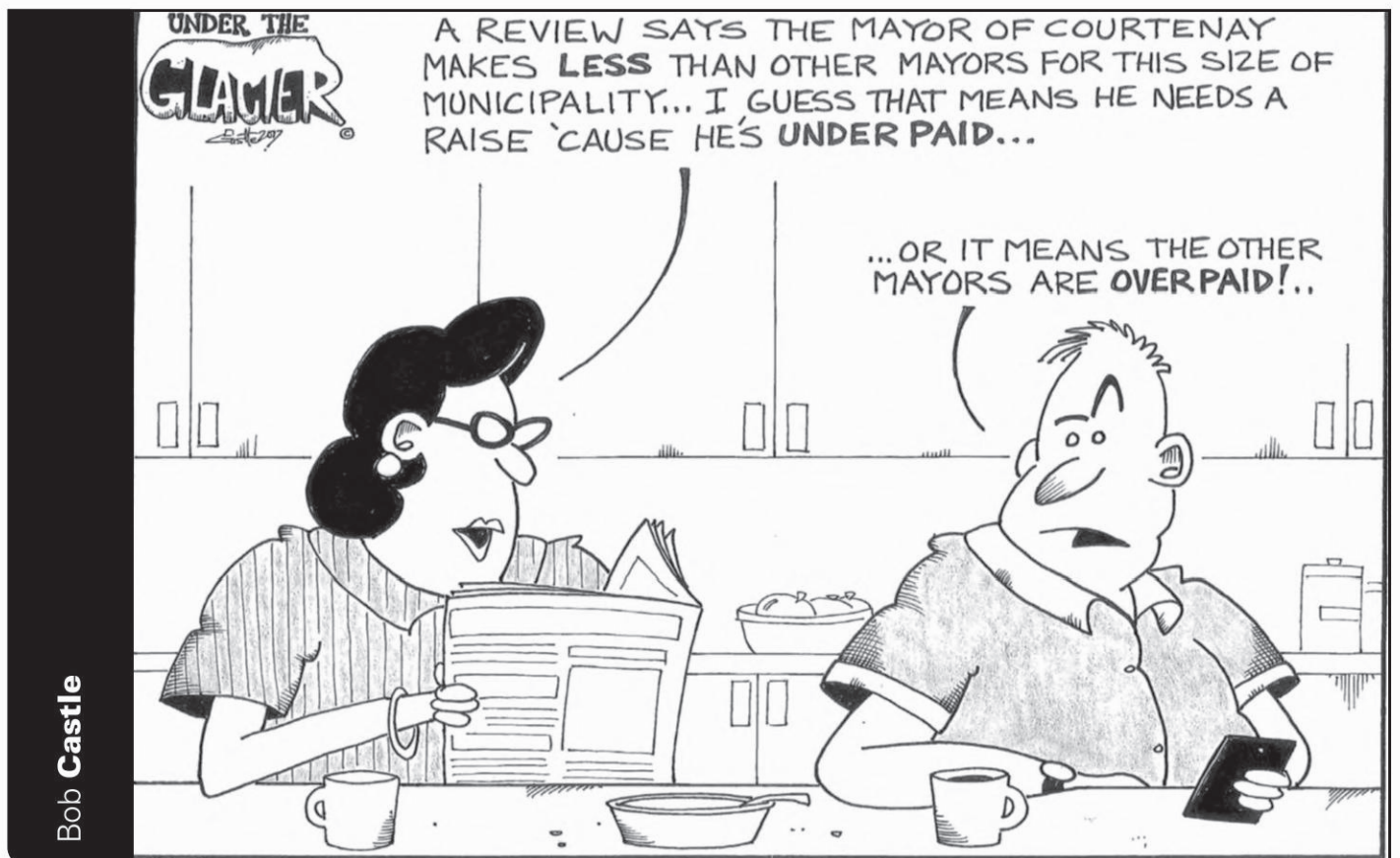
• **Youth Volunteer** - Sponsored by Fineron Hyundai, this award recognizes someone under the age of 18, who has made a positive contribution to the community through volunteer efforts.

• And finally, the **Hero of the Year** - This individual rises above the rest by demonstrating unwavering leadership, compassion and community spirit in all that he or she does. He or she makes a genuine and significant contribution to the Valley and is a natural community role model. The Old House Hotel & Spa sponsors this award.

Nominating someone is easy. Simply go to <http://hero.comoxvalleyrecord.com>, click "SUBMIT A NOMINATION" and follow the directions.

We all know of a hero or two in our community. Let's make sure that this year everyone else knows of them, as well.

Terry Farrell is the editor of the Comox Valley Record



Bob Castle

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■ CIRCULATION : 250.338.0725
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LETTERS to the Editor

Marijuana dispensaries simply fronts to sell pot

Dear editor,
On March 27 Cumberland Council will vote on four applications for "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" temporary use permits.

Of those completing a survey last summer about granting these permits, over 75 per cent were supportive. I was one of 157 respondents who believed this to be a forward-thinking move to be prepared for anticipated federal legislation allowing the convenience of local legal, regulated storefront sales of a variety of cannabis products to eligible patients. Staff reports at previous council meetings clearly referred to medical retail sales.

It was only on reading the application packages that two facts came to light for me:

1) "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" is simply a name for storefront sales of cannabis products and accessories, unrelated to the dictionary definitions of either "medical" or "dispensary."

2) Council plans to grant permits in violation of existing laws, simply acknowledging that the business is currently illegal and that the RCMP may decide to take action.

I am appalled by this cavalier attitude and lack of respect for the law and law enforcement by our elected officials. I am disappointed that council would be a party to deception as to the actual intent of the permits in order to garner community support.

I am in favour of legalization of marijuana for recreational and medical use, but cannot support granting temporary use permits until the appropriate legislation is enacted. This haste to "get ahead of the curve" could backfire for the Village, the businesses involved and innocent patients. Recent police raids in other jurisdictions not only closed down shops but resulted in arrests of shop owners, employees and customers. People should be able to assume that any business permitted and licensed by the Village is legitimate.

**Grace Doherty,
Cumberland**

Make stay-at-home parenting a viable option

Dear editor,
Response to the letter regarding the \$10 a day child care printed March 9.

I see the issue from the

totally opposite angle. We have two jobs-related issues not only in this province but in the nation. First is high unemployment numbers. I believe that instead of encouraging both parents to work out of home, one of the parents should be offered a substantial tax credit when the other has chosen to stay at home and take care of the family. This would leave more jobs available for others who truly require employment. This would soon clear up a second problem we have, low minimum wage. As fewer workers are available, soon the employers would need to offer higher wages and benefits to keep their employees, thus causing a natural increase in minimum pay for entry level jobs. This would encourage employers to promote from within.

Back in the '70s when I entered the job market, I was offered every job I applied for. It could be that way again for our young people. With child abuse and neglect always a worry, many couples would love to afford to have one of them stay home. An added bonus is that with more parents at home, many would help out a neighbour or friend by babysitting, which would alleviate the problem of not being able to find proper daycare which should also bring down that cost for the families who must work or choose to work. This could also allow the government to tighten up restrictions on welfare recipients, many of them not even bothering to look for work because they are collecting more by staying at home than they would make working. Single working parents could be offered something similar because they are in a situation where they must work. Quit encouraging the governments to pass laws and rules and implementing aid and benefits which all seem to take more funding than it's worth just to handle an issue that could easily work itself out.

**Jan Lealand
Courtenay**

'Collateral damage' author owes an apology

Dear editor,
The letter published in your paper with the title "Collateral Damage" was both offensive and misleading. As to why the DND representative voted in favour of the proposed Beech Street sewage pump station, I have a few ideas. Given that individual's rigorous training in

critical thinking and applied problem solving, they would have looked at the facts and evidence presented, and considered all options carefully. I speak from experience on this as I served as a combat engineer officer in the Canadian army, and trained alongside airfield engineer officers – the trade of the DND representative on the sewage commission. Considering the DND individual in question served our nation in Afghanistan, and applied those critical thinking and problem solving skills while building projects in a theatre of war, I get the impression he has a very good handle on what represents the highest standards. Therefore, it is a logical extension that the DND representative voted for the best option considering all impacts to society and the environment. In this case, that option is unpopular in some circles, and some of our elected officials would rather please complainers than do what is logical, affordable, and in the long term, environmentally sustainable. The implied insults of the letter in question denigrate both the individual, now retired, and the Canadian Forces as a whole. Mrs. Long owes both an apology.

**Andrew Gower,
Courtenay**

More outcry on Beech Street decision

Dear editor,

It is interesting to note that the cost of the sewer service is borne by the City of Courtenay (70 per cent) and Town of Comox (30 per cent). Each partner has one half of the membership on the Sewage Commission.

The military has one vote. In the case of a tie, the chair can vote to break the tie. The vote by commission members to put the sewer pump station back on Beech Street instead of a number of locations in the municipalities was tied with Ken Grant and Maureen Swift voting in favour and Courtenay councillors Wells, Eriksson and Theos voting against Beech Street. The new military representative, who was not briefed on prior discussions and neighbourhood concerns, voted with the Comox councillors, and chair Barbara Price voted to break the tie and place the pump station in Area B.

To say that the Beech Street station is the only choice is lunacy. The Courtenay politicians obviously had other

ideas based on their negative votes. Why were they not more forthcoming with these ideas? That would be the honorable thing to do.

It saves a considerable amount of time, public hassle, and financial resources to remain silent and not go through the public vetting processes required in the municipalities. All of the elected officials know this. The only ones that seem willing to step forward and make honorable statements are Courtenay councillor Eriksson and Courtenay Mayor Jan-gula.

How can Mayor Ives and other councillors in Comox and Courtenay continue to govern knowing that this travesty of our democratic process has been allowed? I know that I would not be able to look myself in the mirror. If constituents asked these politicians if they truly believed in Canadian democracy, how could they answer?

**Slava Simice, Henriette Beaudoin
and Pat Guillo, Connie Prain
Comox Valley**

Doctors' letter had patronizing tone

Dear editor,

I would like to respond to a number of doctors who recently wrote a rather patronizing letter to the citizens of the Comox Valley telling how best to express their outrage that St. Joseph's will not participate in MAiD but expects to take on the role of caring for the aged and dying.

The doctors suggest that we turn down the heat. Are they suggesting that we should accept the rule of the Catholic Church and do as we are told? I think it is quite reasonable to suggest

that an organization unwilling to provide all legally mandated services to vulnerable people in a time of great suffering, does lack compassion and should not be awarded a contract to do only part of the job. Would these doctors be comfortable if the only grocery store in town refused to sell vegetables? Would they be OK with the automobile mechanics in the Valley providing all services except brake work while suggesting that their clients be transferred to Nanaimo in a timely manner for these services? Would they take their beloved pet to a vet who refuses to provide euthanasia? I think not.

I do agree with the doctors' assertion that the patients who arrive at St. Joseph's deserve better. They deserve to have their voices heard and their rights respected. They deserve the right to choose.

**Joanne Robertson
Comox**

Doctors' letter offered no solution

Dear editor,

Twenty of our doctors have made a well-intentioned plea for a cooling-off period to discuss the impasse that exists with St. Joseph's Hospital, resulting from its administration's decision to provide some medical services allowed by law, but not others. But their letter is unproductive; they've made no suggestions for a solution.

Anyone who thinks a publicly funded institution can be successfully operated by a religious organization might take another look at the residential school system.

**J. Cates
Comox**



■ Dr. Doug Trotter

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My Aching Foot!!!

Q: Doc my arch is killing me! I've tried stretches and orthotics but it's not helping much! What do I do?

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ing with this injury for months or years and tried everything. Nothing has worked...what do I do?" Shockwave Therapy breaks up scar tissue, restoring the function of the muscle and promoting new blood vessel growth, restarting a stalled repair sequence. Research shows 90% of patients suffering from heel and arch pain showed significant improvements with Shockwave. Furthermore, Shockwave Therapy has success rates of between 77% - 91% with chronic shoulder and elbow pain. Results are often experienced within a couple of visits.

For more information contact Dr. Trotter at 250.339.5554 or go to plantarfascitis.ca

ADVERTORIAL

Plenty to do at the library during spring break this year

Spring Break is shaping up to be an exciting time at the Comox Valley branches of the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

This year's programming is head-

ing under the sea, and the library promises to show you a whale of a good time. Whether you come out for the puppet show, want to learn origami, or want to learn about

what floats and what doesn't, there is something for everyone.

Check out the full calendar of events at virl.bc.ca/programs-and-events or pick up a schedule at the library.

Special for teens

Teens have not been forgotten, and for the first time the library has put together a Spring Break Teen Mini Challenge. Adapted from the popular Teen Summer Challenge, this is a mini version full of mini tasks. There are even mini prizes to be won, including a grand

prize of an iPad Mini! Pick up a task booklet in the branch or visit <http://virl.bc.ca/teensfor> more info.

Writing contest

Vancouver Island Regional Library and Rebel Mountain Press have partnered once again to bring you the In Our Own Voice teen writing contest.

This is an island-wide contest open to students from Grades 8-12. Winners and runners-up are published in an anthology book created by Rebel Mountain Press. Last year, the

Comox Valley produced not only the winner, but several of the runners-up. Can we do it again?

In support of this contest, the Courtenay Library will be hosting a Teen Writers: Character Development workshop on Saturday, March 25 from 2:30-4. For more information, visit <http://virl.bc.ca/programs-and-events>. Submissions for the contest are due March 31. The contest is free to enter. Visit inourownvoice.com/contest-details for detailed submission information.

TAPS annual general meeting upcoming

The annual general meeting of The Alberni Project Society will take place March 27 at Tulio's Restaurant

at 625 Cliffe Ave. in Courtenay at 7 p.m. TAPS administers the HMCS ALBERNI Museum and Memori-

al (HAMM), and the mobile memorial The Alberni Project (TAP), now based in Courtenay and the Comox Valley Regional District respectively.

The AGM is open to all members of TAPS, as well as the general public interested in supporting or volunteering with TAPS programs and events. Membership forms are available online through the museum's website, at the museum's reception desk, or will be available at the AGM.

This year's AGM will focus on election of a new board, fund-

raising efforts, and supporting the new location of HAMM. Following the meeting there will be a film on the relocation and renovations of HAMM's new facility and a tour of HAMM's current show of *She Believed She Could and So She Did*.

Light refreshments will be provided. Parking for this event is available next to HAMM or across the street on Cliffe Avenue.

For more information, visit alberni-project.org, phone 250-897-4611, or visit HAMM at 625 Cliffe Ave.

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Musical theatre grows up in the Valley

Three Legged Dog Productions debuts with *Guys and Dolls*

Erin Haluschak
erin.haluschak@comoxvalleyrecord.com

The idea for a musical theatre production came to Pat McKenna in one of the most expected places - the Sid Williams Theatre.

While watching a Rainbow Youth Theatre production more than a year ago, McKenna was inspired by what he saw, but realized much of the Valley's musical theatre is directed towards youth performance.

With years of on-stage experience, McKenna decided "at some point in my life I've learned enough," and he wanted to take the leap and jump into producing (and starring in) a show.

"The Sid books really far in advance, so one-and-a-half years ago I booked down March 2017; I was forced to do it."

As a result, the Valley's newest theatre production company - Three Legged Dog - will present its debut

production, *Guys and Dolls*.

McKenna calls the show the "premiere production" and he initially narrowed the choice down to several "classic" musicals; he chose the production for its timelessness, he added, describing *Guys and Dolls* as "the quintessential Broadway musical."

Combining his experience in theatre and business, he took on the challenge to get Three Legged Dog up and running, and formed a board of directors with other Comox Valley theatre alumni.

"...I thought it would be a tremendous challenge and a ton of fun to get this company up and running."

Because much of the Valley's musical theatre is geared towards youth, McKenna wanted to provide performers a venue in which to perform when they had grown up and graduated.

McKenna chose director Susan Bradshaw - who has directed six previous shows in the Valley.

With a background in dancing, McKenna said Bradshaw "jumped at the chance to be on the ground floor of a legacy," with the debut production.

The story is considered an oddball romantic comedy about two sets of unlikely lovers set in the golden age

"The Sid books really far in advance, so one-and-a-half years ago I booked down March 2017; I was forced to do it."

PAT MCKENNA



of New York City.

The two 'guys' are a hustler and a gambler, and their two 'dolls' are a dancer and a missionary.

One couple has been engaged for 14 years and can't seem to get married, while the other couple is struck with 'love at first sight.'

The play is filled with music and songs by Frank Loesser, including the classic *Luck be a Lady*, and *A Bushel and a Peck*.

The show premiered on Broadway in 1950, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical; it had various Broadway and London revivals, as well as a film adaptation in 1955 which featured Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons and Frank Sinatra.

Continued on Page A15



Erin Cebula - Entertainment Tonight Canada and BC Children's Hospital Lottery Spokesperson

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PHOTO CREDIT

Above, and opposite page - Three Legged Dog presents its first production - *Guys and Dolls* - at the Sid Williams Theatre.

Continued from Page A14

McKenna admitted there is a high cost with creating the production - around \$35,000 including show rights and costs for his team, but the risk is worth the reward.

"We started the production about six months ago when we got the show rights, and we started rehearsals on January 2," he noted, and said the "nice, big cast" of around 30 are all local actors and singers.

They have been working in collaboration with other theatre groups in the Valley, including Rainbow Youth Theatre and Courtenay Little Theatre, and have been holding rehearsals in the former Comox Elementary school.

Five performances are set between March 23 and 26 for the debut, and McKenna is already in planning stages for Three Legged Dog's next production.

"We already have dates booked for next year," he said, and added he is hoping to find a venue in the fall for a production.

"The Valley is a mecca for theatre and arts."

Guys and Dolls will stage evening performances on March 23, 24 and 25, and matinees on March 25 and 26. Tickets are available through the Sid Williams Theatre box office or online at sidwilliamstheatre.com.

To learn more about Three Legged Dog Productions, visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/my3LD.

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Andre Tewinkel, ACS Computer Solutions

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REALTORS REJOICE

Dave Procter, agent/owner, and Marty Douglas, managing broker, are pleased to congratulate staff and sales associates of RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty for their dedication and outstanding sales performance while serving clients in the Comox Valley and surrounding areas. Recently at the 2017 RE/MAX International Convention, RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty was recognized nationally as the #1 transactional office for Western Canada, and internationally as the top transactional office in Canada, both within the "small office" category. A number of local sales associates were also recognized for their outstanding career achievements, all unattainable without hard work and support from their surrounding co-workers. Of note, Ronni Lister achieved a coveted award, the top transactional agent in Western Canada. "I am so proud of the team of people we have serving the Comox Valley," said Procter. "This is a direct reflection of our dedication to provide exemplary service and our commitment to uphold sound work ethics we can be proud of."

Housing, jobs top concerns for students heading into election

It might be pipeline protests that make the news but it's jobs and housing that has university students stressing ahead of the May 9 provincial election, an Insights West poll found this week.

The pollster surveyed students from 14 post-secondary institutions about their main election issues, and found that

30 per cent of students are worried about rising housing prices while 28 per cent are concerned they won't have a job after graduating. Pipelines and the environment were a distant third with only 12 per cent citing it as a main election wish.

Insights West found that students were evenly split between believing the Liberals and the

NDP represented their views and interests with the two parties getting 45 per cent and 43 per cent respectively. The Green Party fell behind with 35 per cent while the Conservatives trailed in last place with 13 per cent support.

Two-thirds of eligible students said they plan to vote in the 2017 provincial election.

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over to the big yellow Merville Hall for the St Patrick's Day Contra Dance with green

music, green humour, green beer and green gills.

On March 18, join fiddler Paddy O'Furniture and the Funtime Fiddlers as they prance

and pump out the jigs and reels for the highly popular contra dances. Led by June, our own dragoman dance caller, you'll frolic about the dance hall with

laughter and a light heart. All are welcome to attend this family friendly function.

Doors to the gilded hall open at 7 p.m. and there will be a brief contra dance workshop right before the dance.

At 7:30 p.m., waving their shillelaghs about their heads, the Funtime Fiddlers leap onto the stage, strike the first notes and the gaiety begins.

Single dancers and families are very wel-



Join fiddler Paddy o'Furniture and the Funtime Fiddlers as they prance and pump out the jigs on March 18.

come. Singles can pair up with anyone during the contras and our contra sets last about 15 to 20 minutes.

In between the called contra dances, we'll play waltzes, polkas and swing tunes. Wear a costume, win a Spot

Dance prize, click your heels. The luck of the Irish will be with us at this kitchen party.

The cost is \$10/ adults, \$5/youth (6 and under free) and you can come as a family for \$22. FMI: 339-4249.

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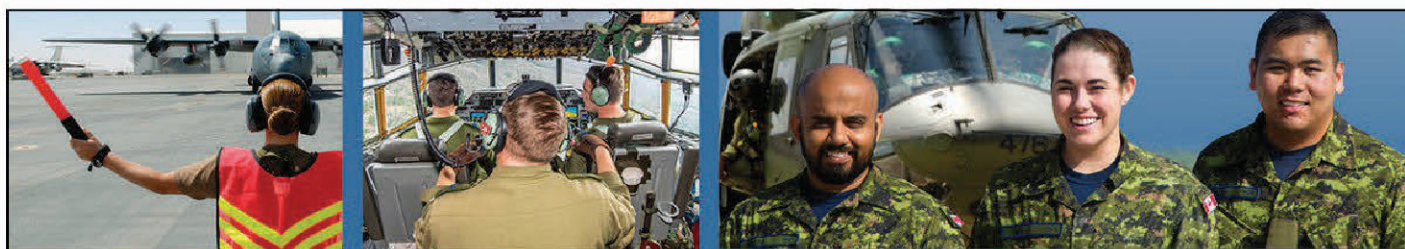
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The Royal Canadian Air Force Reserve is hiring at 19 Wing Comox

La Réserve de l'Aviation royale canadienne recrute à la 19e Escadre Comox

The RCAF Reserve is pleased to announce that it is recruiting to fill **new part-time military positions** at 19 Wing Comox. **442 Transport and Rescue Squadron** needs Canadian citizens to train as specialized **supply technicians** to support maintenance activities on search and rescue aircraft and provide airfield security.

Apply immediately to begin the enrollment process. Basic military training is scheduled for spring/summer 2017.

La Réserve de l'ARC est heureuse d'annoncer qu'elle recrute afin de pourvoir de **nouveaux postes militaires à temps partiel** à la 19e Escadre Comox. Le **442e Escadron de transport et de sauvetage** cherche des citoyens canadiens qui souhaitent devenir **techniciens en approvisionnement** spécialisés pour soutenir l'entretien d'aéronefs de recherche et de sauvetage et pour assurer la sécurité du terrain d'aviation.

Postulez immédiatement pour amorcer le processus d'enrôlement. L'instruction militaire de base devrait avoir lieu au printemps ou à l'été 2017.

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L'ARCHE ARTIST

Debby Howard is the L'Arche Artist of the Month, for March 2017. Debby has volunteered with L'Arche CV since 2012! She leads a painting group on Wednesday afternoon and knows how to make a space where participants feel truly free to create, with great ideas and projects to inspire other painters. Debby understands how art can change the perspectives of others and warm up our souls. In addition to volunteering at L'Arche, Debby is very active in giving back to the community, volunteering with Special Olympics and leading gymnastics for people with special needs. We are lucky to have her on our team.

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ARTS



VAROL OZKANER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Comox Valley Simorgh Dance Collective is a group committed to furthering studies in Persian dance and dances of the Silk Road.

Celebrate Persian New Year in Cumberland

Come celebrate Persian New Year, or Norouz in Farsi, and support the Comox Valley Simorgh Dance Collective.

Norouz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the Iranian solar calendar. The evening will feature dance performances, a silent auction, bazaar table, homemade Persian-style sweets, savoury snacks and chai.

Enjoy a variety of Persian traditional, classical and sacred dances throughout the evening in a warm and relaxed atmosphere with beautiful carpets, couches, cushions, and low tables.

Folks are encouraged to shop at the bazaar and bid at the silent auction in support of our efforts. This is our second annual fundraising event for the

Comox Valley Simorgh Dance Collective and many local businesses such as Corks and Caps, Tree Eater Nursery, Cumberland Village Works and Rust Flower Creations have generously donated items for the silent auction.

The Comox Valley Simorgh Dance Collective is a group committed to furthering studies in Persian dance and dances of the Silk Road under the guidance of Farima Berenji as part of her larger collective project, Simorgh.

The Abbey Studio in Cumberland has been hosting bi-annual weekend dance intensives and retreats with Farima since 2013, and in March 2015 the Comox Valley Simorgh Collective was formed. Simorgh currently has member companies in Alaska, Turkey, Iran, the

San Francisco Bay Area and here in the Comox Valley.

All money raised at this event will be used to create new costumes, to help with travel expenses for performances and, to offer a few full and/or partial scholarships for collective members to continue dance training with Farima. For more information about Simorgh Dance Collective and Farima Berenji visit farimadance.com/company.

You can join our 'Persian New Year Simorgh Fundraiser' event on Abbey Studio Facebook page. This family friendly event runs from 7 to 10 p.m. on March 19 and is by donation at the door. The Abbey Studio is located at the corner of 1st & Penrith Avenue in Cumberland.

Film transcends borders to celebrate power of music

The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, from the creators of the Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*, is being co-presented by World Community and the Immigrant Welcome Centre at 7 p.m. March 21 at the Stan Hagen Theatre, North Island College.

Over the past 16 years, an extraordinary group of musicians has come together to celebrate the universal power of music.

“... an extraordinary group of musicians has come together to celebrate the universal power of music.”

Named for the ancient trade route linking Asia, Africa and Europe, The Silk Road Ensemble, an international collective created by acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, exemplifies music's ability to blur geographical boundaries, blend disparate cultures and inspire hope for both artists and audiences.

The film follows an ever-changing lineup of performers drawn from the ensemble's more than 50 instrumentalists, vocalists, composers, ar-

rangers, visual artists and storytellers as they gather in locations across the world, exploring the ways art can both preserve traditions and shape cultural evolution.

The Wall Street Journal calls this film “A joyous revelation—a group portrait of superb musicians from all over the world offering music as an emblem of what people can do in these fractious times when they live in concert with one another.”

Check out the film trailer at worldcommunity.ca

Everyone is welcome. Admission is by donation. FMI: 250-337-5412

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St. Paddy's Day, the Evergreen way

The Evergreen Club wants you to think 'green' for St. Patrick's Day.

Join us for a very special lunch and concert on Friday, March 17, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day (doors open at 11 a.m.) in the Conference Hall of Courtenay Recreation's Florence Filberg Centre.

Come celebrate the 'Green Isle' with us at 'A Wee Taste of Ire-

land' which includes a luncheon of Irish stew, red and green slaw, baking powder biscuits and black and tan brownies for dessert.

A leprechaun may even magically make your beer green (wine and non-alcoholic punch will be available.) Following the luncheon there will be an enchanting concert featuring Mary Murphy, who will be

sharing her many talents and knowledge of Ireland.

Come let Mary Murphy's Irish Isle transport you to a home of traditional, original and contemporary Irish songs.

Many of her originals draw the listener into absorbing mythology and conversely, frivolity. These attributes impeccably blend with wit and storytelling to prove yet another way

in which her audiences find themselves feeling personally connected and drawn into her world.

Although she now resides in the Comox Valley, Ms. Murphy hails from Wexford, Ireland. She sings primarily in the English language, but additionally gifts her audiences with a taste of her native Irish language. Performances see her playing Irish penny whistle and percussion.

Mary's producer/guitarist, Paul Keim, brings vibrant rhythmic elements (guitar and laud – a mandola-type instrument) to Mary's overall sound both live and in the studio and is the owner/operator of Dove Creek Recording Studios in Courtenay, BC.

Mary will also do a short reading and have her CDs and children's books available for sale after the concert.

Tickets for members \$20, non-members \$22. As you know, everyone is Irish for St. Paddy's Day so come and celebrate! Door prizes will be won 'so may you have the luck of the Irish that day!' FMI call Filberg Office at 250-338-1000.

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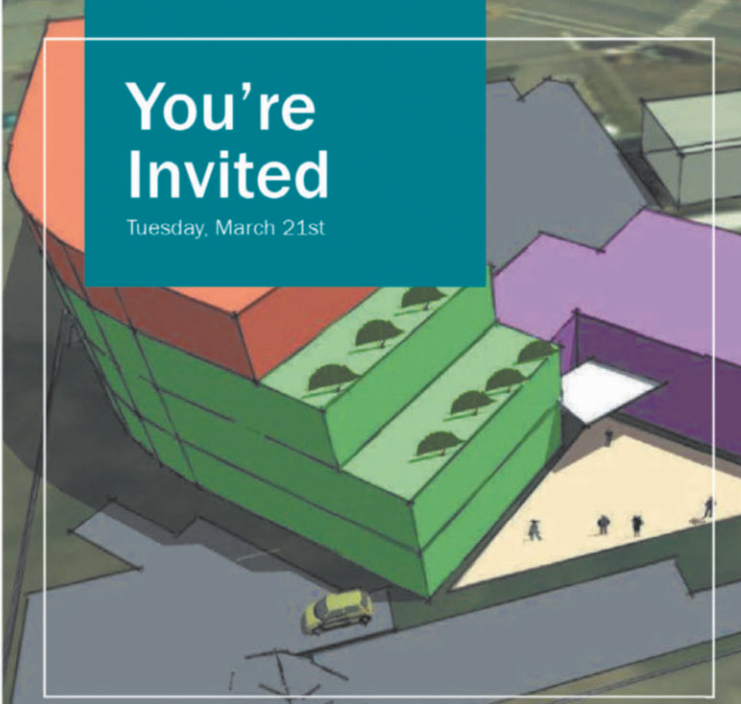
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Tuesday, March 21st



**CVRD Civic Centre
Conceptual Design Open House**

Residents are invited to a drop-in public open house to provide feedback on the Civic Centre regional office conceptual designs and ask questions of the architect and CVRD staff.

When: Tuesday, March 21st
Where: CVRD Boardroom (550B Comox Road)
Time: Drop-in anytime 4 - 7 pm

For more information, visit:
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The people's poet plans plenty

The newly named poet laureate of the Comox Valley has plenty of plans already.

And she's open to hearing ideas from others in the community as to how she can best promote the art of poetry, cultivate poetic literacy and encourage the reading and writing of poems.

Natalie Nickerson was chosen laureate last Friday following a search organized by

Comox Valley Arts, the regional arts council.

Following her win, she shared her tentative plans for bringing poetry to the people:

- House Concert Poetry, providing an "audible odyssey of readings with various hosts."

- Poetry in the Park – sharing and promoting "lunch poetry" with a picnic.

- Elder College poetry workshop to "ex-

plore the landscape of our youth, our early beginnings and the beauty that sourced our lives."

- Poetic Assembly – a multi-media presentation to inspire young authors, accompanied by lessons plans for teachers of elementary grades to follow up with writing exercises.

- Poem in your Pocket – William S. Burroughs-inspired workshop where participants create three-

line poems on blank business cards, using newspaper clippings.

- Bon Anniversaire – celebration of famous poet's birthdays e.g. Burns, Browning and Poe. "Come dressed as your favourite character."

- Regular contributions to Valley newspapers/magazines with poems and essays on "the importance of poetry in this polarized time, the art and science of poetry (quantum alphabet

soup), why everyone is a poet, how poetry can help you become more of a risk-taker and why that is important, and much more."

- Poetic presence at various community events.

"My ideas are endless," says Nickerson. "But I'm also open to suggestions from the community. Please don't hesitate to contact me at piccadilly-press@gmail.com with ideas of your own or to schedule an event."

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Natalie Nickerson was chosen poet laureate of the Comox Valley last week.

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SPORTS

Local runners defy icy conditions

CVRR shines at 5k race

Nineteen members of the Comox Valley Road Runners braved another stormy day at the annual Bazan Bay 5k race in Sidney March 5. Despite icy-cold conditions, several local runners once again turned in impressive finishes.

Vince Brotherston led the local club, winning the M50-54 division with a time of 17:10, followed closely by John Coffin, Danny Keyes and Brian Stewart. Keyes edged Stewart by just two seconds in a dramatic finish to capture the M55-59 title. Carolyn Coffin was the fastest CVRR woman, placing second in the W40-44 category with a time of 19:47.

Local legend-in-the-making Peter Ashmore set a new personal record and won his M65-69 division with an impressive time of 21:41. There was also a speedy group of youth runners from the Comox Valley, including Hudson Webster (fourth in M1-15), Brailyn Webster (fourth in F1-15), Charley Bridges (seventh in F1-15) and Sequoia Bridges (eighth in F1-15).

A significant contingent of CVRR runners and their family/friends/supporters make the journey to Sidney each year for the Bazan Bay 5k, a testament to their love of running and the dedication of race organizers. This year's event attracted 524 participants.

Next up for the Comox Valley Road Runners is the Sooke 10k road race, which was re-scheduled for March 12 after being



Runners take off at the start of the Bazan Bay 5k race, held March 5. Nineteen members of the Comox Valley Road Runners running club competed.

PHOTO SUPPLIED

canceled in February due to adverse weather.

On Sunday, the Comox Valley will host runners from across the Island and beyond for the CVRR's annual Comox Valley RV Half Marathon, which starts at the Filberg Centre in Courtenay. To register, visit www.cvrr.ca/cv-half-marathon

On Saturday, the CVRR marks the culmination of its 5k Running Clinic with a 5k "fun run" that's open to the public.

"Despite some difficulties due to winter weather, our clinic participants enjoyed a very successful clinic and have achieved some tremendous gains in their running," says clinic director

Leslie Dargie.

Register from 8:30-9 a.m. in the Filberg's Rotary Hall on race morning. The early start for walkers is 9:30 a.m. The main start is 9:45 a.m. Costume judging is at 9:15. A prize for the best rendition of a St. Patrick's Day theme will be awarded.

Entry is \$10. www.cvrr.ca

Isfeld Ice finish 2016/17 season on high note

The Mark Isfeld senior boys basketball team won its final two games at the provincial championships last weekend in Langley to end the year 25-9 and 13th in B.C.

In the opening-round game, the Ice faced sixth-ranked Steveston-London. After a strong first quarter which found the Ice down 20-15, Isfeld could not score in the second and were down 43-27 at the half. The inability to make open jumpers plagued Isfeld throughout the game, eventually losing 80-53. Logan Benninger led the Ice with 15 and Thas-kani Mtawali scored 14.

Isfeld faced the Ramblers of Maple Ridge in the second game in a tough, physical affair in which Anthony Xylinas was put out of commission for the tournament by a hard, flagrant foul while driving to the basket. Isfeld could only manage 39 for the game and lost 57-39. Benninger was the only player in double figures with 12 for the game.

In the third round, the Ice faced Carhi, whom they had beaten in three previous meetings. With the score 15-13 Isfeld at the end of the first, the Ice went on a 26-5 run for the second quarter to go into the half leading 41-18. Isfeld

would coast to a 66-45 win. Brett Woods led all scorers with 18, Benninger had 14 and Joe Linegar added 12, including three-for-five from the three-point line.

In its last game against Charles Hays of Prince Rupert, Isfeld won 68-67 on a three-pointer by Mtawali with 22 seconds left. With the score tied at half, Isfeld opened with a three-point shot from Mtawali and took control of the game, though the team's biggest lead was only four. Benninger finished in the top five for the tournament in made threes with 17, and was selected player-of-the-game in both Isfeld wins.

THIS WEEK'S BIG DEALS

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Alberta Pure or Alberta Premium 750ml **\$20.91**

Alberta Pure or Alberta Premium 1.14L **\$31.78**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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THE COMOX VALLEY Record

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PHOTO BY TIM PENNY

A smooth exchange sends a runner on his way.

Downhill run a tough leg

Part 2 in a series on adventure relay event

Think running uphill is tough? Try running downhill for approxi-

mately 10 kilometres.

The toll on the hamstrings and the gubbins holding knee joints together both on the engineered concrete road surface of the first section coming down from Mount Washington and the gravelly, rock-strewn second section leading to the MTB transition

at the intersection of the Strathcona Parkway and Duncan Bay logging road is tough. Here's a tip.

On the second off-road section move your arms away from your body like Karl Wallenda on the high wire to improve your balance. To this, add the distraction of 400

or 500 vehicles carrying racers from the uphill legs, support people and the usual ill-advised spectators, and you start to see why race boss Brian Shaw and his volunteers have their hands full with congestion.

Two races ago, the Royal LePage Snow to Surf race bosses invested a wad in chip timing equipment. Competitors pass through timing gates or over electronic sensing mats. At the run/bike 'tranny,' the runner hands off to a mountain biker who will pedal the paved Duncan Bay Main and the gravelled road which parallels the BC Hydro penstock and the Puntledge River. There's a twisty section of single track trail through Bevan woods, and a finish at the Fish and Game facility on Comox Lake, where a fleet of kayaks and paddlers await the start of the course along the lake-shore, escorted by members of Comox Valley Search and Rescue who have pulled, chilled and sodden racers from the icy water in the past, and brought them safely to the campground, where warmth and blankets are on hand.

There are still two legs to come, road biking and canoeing. Visit www.snowtosurf.com to register, along with 700 others, for the signature sporting event of the Comox Valley.



CV Aquatic Club is holding Spring Registration for Shark School

REGISTRATION DATES
March 15 & 16
4:00 to 5:00 PM
 at the CV Aquatic Centre
 Lerwick Road

Swim with the SHARKS

Please bring swimsuit and goggles and be ready to jump in the pool for a quick assessment.

FMI contact Russ Vida at cvsharksregistrar@gmail.com

THE COMOX VALLEY Record

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Bust boredom over spring break

Staff at the Comox Valley Regional District sports and aquatic centres have been busy organizing new boredom-busting special events, programs and day camps to keep kids active this March.

At the aquatic centre, super saver swims have been added during swim lesson times, which have been cancelled during the school break.

In addition, everyone is welcome at two free evening swims, 6-8 p.m. March 21 and 23, thanks to the sponsorship of Tim Hortons.

Also new are value-added experiences at regular drop-in swims. Kids can join the lifeguards for Water Play, a variety of activities including group challenges, games, and waterslide and canoe races. Welcome to the Goo Zone is all about messy, wet aquatic fun. Lifeguards will stock up on all kinds of goo for this event including pudding, Jello, Cheetos and shaving cream.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Junior Lifeguard Camp is one of three spring break daycamps offered this March.

Mark your calendars for Epic Beach Party Night, a pizza and swimming party for seven- to 12-year-olds, which takes place Friday, March 31 from 7-9:30 p.m. This is a night full of games including a hula hoop competition, pineapple bowling, karaoke, a dance-off, limbo contest, trivia and more. Admission is \$10 and includes snacks, pizza

and beach-themed party favours.

If all this doesn't keep your kids busy enough, consider registering them in one of the CVRD's spring break day camps at the sports centre. These include Junior Lifeguard or Hockey Skills Camps for six- to 13-year-olds, or Sports Camp for five- to 13-year-olds.

For schedules and prices, check the spring Comox Valley Recreation Guide at www.comox-valleyrd.ca/rec, pick up a copy at the sports or aquatic centres, or call 250-334-9622.

Mariners three-peat

A trio of Courtenay players contributed to the VIU Mariners men's basketball team that won a third straight PACWEST Championship by defeating the Capilano Blues 94-77, Saturday at Quest University in Squamish.

This is the second championship for Nick Xylinas and Morgan Proctor, and first for Chase Hobenshield.

Today, VIU plays its first game at the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association nationals in PEI.

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Ski hill extends winter season

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has announced it is extending the 2016/17 winter season for one additional weekend.

The resort will close for daily operations on Sunday, April 2 and will re-open for an additional weekend on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9.

Favourite seasonal events — The Dummy Downhill and Slush Cup — will take place April 1 and 2 as planned.

"Throughout March, we have experienced some of the best skiing and riding conditions of the season," says general manager, Peter Gibson.

"By extending our season, we can deliver an extra weekend of winter to our Season Pass

Members and day ticket users — conditions are too outstanding to close just yet!"

The resort will be operating the Eagle Express and Hawk SixPack with a partial Green Acres opening. Reduced lift ticket prices will be in effect, and all 2016/17 Mount Washington Season Passes will be valid during the extended weekend, including the Midweek Pass.

Midweek Passes will also be valid the weekend of April 1 and 2.

The extended weekend offers the perfect excuse for a final ski getaway for locals and destination travellers alike.

Book online at www.mountwashington.ca and make the most out of the final weekend of winter.

“By extending our season, we can deliver an extra weekend of winter”

PETER GIBSON



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OF COMMERCE
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April 26, 2017 at Crown Isle

Guest Speaker –
Val Litwin, CEO BC Chamber of Commerce

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Giving Back

WHAT'S YOUR GROUP UP TO?

The *Comox Valley Record* wants to recognize the many events that make our community a better place to live. Email your photos and submissions to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com.



■ Evelyn Gillespie (left) from the Laughing Oyster Bookshop hands \$200 profit from sales of *Gumboot Girls* to Heather Ney of the Comox Valley Transition Society while Joline Martin (right) hands Heather a cheque for \$230 from the *Gumboot Girls* Dance and a copy of their book.



■ Comox Legion Branch 160 Poppy Chairman, recently presented 3 Miracle Beach Elementary Artists with a 2nd Place Cash prize for their interpretation of Remembrance Day. Job well done "Ladies" Pictured are L-R John Paulin, Poppy Chair Comox Legion, Sherry Laffling School Principal, and in front, Ava Jorgensen, Tessa Ennes and Casey Kennedy.



■ At a recent Annual Scout Banquet, Legion Branch 160 Comox presented a cheque for \$1,000 to help the kids with their yearly activities.



■ L to R: Fred Bigelow (Comox Valley Airport), Jeff Hampton (Comox Valley Foodbank), Dianne Hawkins (Comox Valley Chamber), Marc Crane (Community Futures Strathcona). Missing from the picture is: John Watson (Comox Valley Economic Development) and Randall Heidt (North Island College). The funds raised (\$2,400) are from the Community Partners Holiday mixer which is organized by the Comox Valley Chamber each December with our community partners: Community Futures Strathcona, CVAC, CVEDS, & NIC. In addition to these funds we also donated \$80 in cash and three boxes of food to the Foodbank.



■ Merville Grand Mothers deliver the coins from The Jar Collection to Coastal Credit Union representative, Kristen Sloan. The 100 Day Jar Challenge raised \$4,381.10 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmother 2 Grandmother Campaign. Thank you Comox Valley!

Advance care planning workshop this weekend

Have you had “the talk”?

“Talking about sex won’t make you pregnant and talking about advance care planning won’t make you dead,” says Dr. Joelle Bradley, a young Vancouver physician who champions advance care planning. “Too often, advance care planning is a missed opportunity for individuals to explore their health goals, values and beliefs with loved ones so they get health care aligned with their preferences in the event they are ever unable to speak for themselves.”

“Whether you are young or young at heart, now is the time for you to make or review your advance care

plan to make sure your voice is heard and your loved ones have the confidence to speak on your behalf about the health care you would want if you are unable to speak for yourself,” notes Joyce Kuhn, a semi-retired critical care nurse, who now facilitates advance care planning workshops. We know dying not the easiest subject to talk about, but there’s a 100 per cent chance that it’s going to happen to you.

Imagine, one day, without any warning, you find yourself in a hospital in a life-threatening situation, unable to communicate.

Who would speak for you and make

health care decisions on your behalf? We never know when our circumstances might unexpectedly change.

You are cordially invited to learn more about advance care planning an introductory workshop on Saturday, March 18, 2-4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1825 Comox Avenue.

Advance care planning is a process of reflection and communication, a time for you to reflect on your values and wishes, and to let others know your future health and personal care preferences in the event that you become incapable of consenting to or refusing treatment or other care.

Advance care planning means having conversations with family and friends and designating a representative – the person you want speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself. It may also include writing down

your wishes, and may involve talking with healthcare providers and financial and legal professionals.

You may never need your advance care plan – but if you do, you’ll be glad that it’s there and that you have had

these conversations, to make sure that your voice is heard and your loved ones can speak on your behalf when you cannot speak for yourself.

To register for these sessions or access other advance care planning

information, contact the Comox Valley Hospice Society at 250-339-5533 or reception@comoxhospice.com. You may also wish to review information and materials at AdvanceCarePlanningCV.ca



PHOTO SUPPLIED

It's not too early to discuss your advance care plan with your partner.

LETHAL DRUGS ARE OUT THERE

Find out how you can save a life.

Every day, people are losing their lives to overdoses in BC. These deaths are preventable. Many illegal drugs, including party drugs, have been found to contain deadly fentanyl. And even more toxic carfentanyl is now being detected in BC. Not using drugs is the best defence – using alone is the greatest risk.

If you use drugs or know someone who does, help is available.

Learn about treatment, and where to find naloxone and overdose prevention sites in your area by calling 8-1-1 or visiting www.gov.bc.ca/overdose.

Your knowledge, compassion and action can save a life.



Learn more at gov.bc.ca/overdose



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Celebrating and protecting our pollinators



Leslie Cox

DUCHESS OF DIRT

Spring is coming... sometime... but it may not coincide

with its calendar date. Good thing gardeners are a patient lot - usually - although this winter has truly been taxing.

Take heart. Temperatures are forecasted to rise close to double digits and

warmer days are sure to entice early pollinators, like bumblebees, from hibernation. Just in time for flower buds opening. It would be nice to see fruit trees covered in blossoms right about now.

But let us pause and give thought to the plight of pollinators who are responsible for the food forming on our trees, vines, and vegetable plants. Why is it there are fewer bees and butterflies?

Certainly the alien mite, Varroa destructor, is decimating many honey bee populations. This pest is a nasty little piece of destruction and is proving stubborn to eradicate. One solution is to breed Asian honey bees with Russian honey bees, who are reliably resistant to the varroa mite. Some believe this is due to the Russian bees' habit of thorough grooming, something the Asian bees do not undertake. Certainly any non-chemical control of the mite problem would be an asset to beekeepers.

Another problem - Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) - is also having a detrimental impact on bees. Speculation has run rampant from a lack of physical clues why the majority of bees in a hive were dying, until recently. The reason put forward is chemical poisoning from the pollen on flower stamens the bees visit.



PHOTO BY LESLIE COX

A bumblebee with pollen sacs.

This could be from spraying plants to rid them of pests, or prevent pests from attacking in the first place. It could also be caused by systemic poisoning from herbicide-resistant seeds, meaning the whole plant, including its pollen, contains herbicide. This theory is now proving to have some merit.

Bugs and insects are a fact of life. They have important jobs in our gardens. Especially bees, for without them, a third

of our food supply would be non-existent. We must learn to live and let live.

It is time we started caring for the health and welfare of our pollinators. Make sure your garden is chemical-free and grow flowers which will lure bees to your garden. (For a floral list, go to duchessofdirt.ca) Happy spring!

Leslie Cox co-owns Growing Concern Cottage Garden in Black Creek. Her website is at www.duchessofdirt.ca and her column appears every second Thursday in the Record.

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(ELCIC)

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Shepherd of the Valley

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It's Naw-Rúz

The Bahá'í New Year is on
the first day of spring.
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Monday, March 20,
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PHOTO CREDIT

Chanchal Cabrera of Innisfree Farms discusses 'forest bathing' at the next Comox Valley Horticulture Society meeting.

Horticulture Society discusses Shinrin Yoku

On Monday, March 20 the Comox Valley Horticulture Society welcomes master gardener, herbalist and horticultural therapist, Chanchal Cabrera, who will introduce us to the Japanese art of Shinrin Yoku, taking in the forest atmosphere, or forest bathing.

She will discuss traditional and historical uses of trees in healing, modern science and research, and how tree chemicals, phytoncides, function, and why Vitamin G is so important.

Chanchal runs the beautiful Innisfree Garden in Royston, a biophilia centre, a nature oasis and place of

peace, where they teach botanical medicine, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle, with a view to heal and reconnect people to Nature.

Spring is full of surprises, and we have some for you as well. This meeting is "Spring a Friend" and guests are invited at no charge, so come join us at the Courtenay Filberg to listen to this intriguing presentation. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Annual memberships are still available for \$20 (\$30 family couple). Membership brings many, many benefits and more details can be found at: www.comoxvalleyhort-society.ca

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PHOTO CREDIT: HANSARD TV

Speaker Linda Reid, a long-time BC Liberal MLA from Richmond, ruled several opposition questions on donations out of order Monday.

Clark aims to force donation disclosure

By Tom Fletcher
Black Press

Opposition members were repeatedly ruled out of order in the B.C. legislature Monday as they demanded the BC Liberal government reform the province's campaign finance laws by banning "big money" donations from corporations and unions.

Premier Christy Clark revealed her own version of reform instead, legislation to force all parties to disclose donations within two weeks of receiving them, as the BC Liberal Party started doing in January.

"In my view this should happen before the next election," Clark said, suggesting that Election Act amendments introduced Monday may be pushed through before the legislature adjourns at the end of this week.

NDP leader John Horgan and other opposition members were cut off by Speaker Linda Reid as they tried to press the government to turn off the corporate donation taps that helped the BC Liberal Party collect \$12 million last year.

He later described the "sad spectacle" of watching Reid appar-

ently taking signals from BC Liberal house leader Mike de Jong about what questions should be accepted.

"The premier chose to get up on occasion, chose to stay down on occasion," Horgan said.

Clark also proposed an independent committee to review B.C.'s election financing rules, the last in Canada where unlimited donations are accepted from corporations, unions and foreign sources.

Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver said there has been a series of independent recommendations, from the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a legislature committee, and all have been ignored by the BC Liberal government.

"We don't need that," Weaver said. "We know what the problem is."

Clark said the independent panel could review the NDP and Green proposals and others, reviewing the system every two elections, similar to the legislated review of electoral boundaries.

Horgan called Clark's proposal "a deathbed conversion" to campaign finance reform, as the RCMP

review donations from lobbyists that may have violated the Election Act by failing to disclose the true source of the money.

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PYR-010 | Wed, Mar 29 - Apr 19, 6:30-9:30 pm | 4/\$195

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TFS-010 | Sat, Apr 1, 8:30-4:30 pm | \$99

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NOTE: This session is free but students must pre-register.

GENI-5130 | Tue, Apr 4, 6-7 pm | FREE

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NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



LOCAL NEWS : COMOXVALLEYRECORD.COM

Going Blind is not your only option



Unique Glasses Helped Gail See Her First Grandchild

Having a baby is one of life's most precious moments. After nine months of anticipation, a mother could spend hours staring at her daughter's face, examining every detail. However, for Gail, that was not possible. A week after giving birth, she developed Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a life-threatening lung condition that prevents enough oxygen from getting to the lungs and into the blood. Although she survived, Gail was paralyzed from the neck down, she couldn't speak, and she developed legal blindness. After spending six months in the hospital, Gail regained the ability to walk and speak, but her vision did not return.

"My vision was just there - I wished it was better - some days were good, some days were not so good. Most of the doctors said whatever it was could never be helped. There was no cure. There was nothing they could do."

If you have experienced significant vision loss CALL US TODAY for a Low Vision Evaluation.

• Macular degeneration • Diabetic Retinopathy • Glaucoma

Years later, Gail's daughter was about to have a child of her own. Gail heard about Low Vision from her Low Vision support group. With the goal of wanting to see her grandchild upon being born, she finally said to herself, "What have I got to lose? I already don't have vision!"

Gail was fit with Bioptic Spectacles and they arrived just in time: "At 6pm I got them. At 10pm, she phones me and tells me the water broke; the baby was born the next day." Although her goal was to see her grandson's face, Gail experienced a different surprise: **"My daughter is 28 years old. I never saw what she really looked like until a month ago."**



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■ On a blustery day in front of acres of tulips in Bobeldijk, the Netherlands, Marjan de Jong and her niece Suze, tried to read *The Record* while taking a selfie.



■ These folks took *The Record* to Nuku Hiva, one of the islands in French Polynesia. They were on a cruise through that area aboard the Amsterdam.



■ Jim Cleveland and Maia Kennedy of Comox took *The Record* to Tasman Glacier, Mt Cook, New Zealand.



■ The Vallintine/Parton family read *The Record* outside their rented casa when they stayed in Sayulita, Mexico over Christmas.

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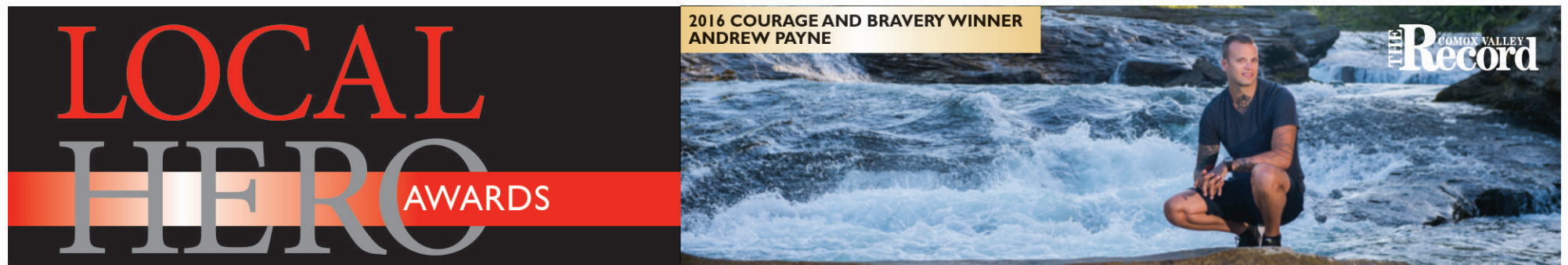
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AWARD CATEGORIES



ARTS AMBASSADOR This individual(s) is vital to the diversity of our community and encourages participation, and social well-being. They encourage partnerships and initiatives to support the arts, heritage and cultural landscape of the Valley.



COACH(ES) This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to our sports community. They are exemplary in developing skills and confidence in participants, inspires youth, and encourages a high level of athletic achievement and commitment.



COMMUNITY BUILDER This individual or group has taken the initiative to engage residents in an innovative or new community project or event. The initiative might encourage different groups to collaborate, address a gap in community participation, or result in a more inclusive, engaged community initiative/event.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to the community by volunteering their time. This person is significantly relied upon by others.



COURAGE & BRAVERY This individual(s) has exhibited great bravery while facing a threat to their own safety in coming to the aid of another. While conquering fear, this individual triumphed for the benefit of another.



EDUCATOR This individual(s) demonstrates a high level of ethics and professional standards, is an inspirational motivator, excellent communicator, good listener and a reliable resource to the community and his/her students.

EMERGENCY SERVICES This individual(s) makes a positive contribution by going the extra mile. They are exemplary in the area of emergency services and unselfishly shoulder enormous responsibility while accepting the potential risks and challenges of the job.



ENVIRONMENTAL HERO This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to the community by championing environmentally friendly initiatives. They inspire others to be green by being a leading or advocating in ecologically sound practices.



HERO OF THE YEAR This individual rises above the rest by demonstrating unwavering leadership, compassion and community spirit in all that he or she does. He or she makes a genuine and significant contribution to the Valley and is a natural community role model. (COMMUNITY PARTNERS JUDGING PANEL WILL SELECT)



SENIORS' CHAMPION This individual(s) has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to enrich the social, cultural or civic life of our community. Must be 65 years or older.



UNSUNG HERO This individual has made a positive contribution to the community through their work, and has gone beyond to support the community and/or cause.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER This young individual (under 18) makes a positive contribution to the community through volunteer efforts, community engagement, leading by example, and has directly impacted the community.



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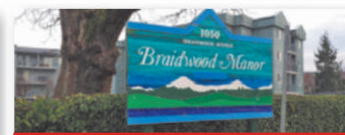
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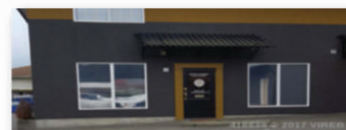
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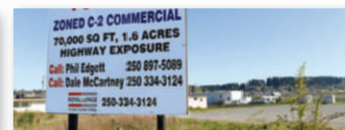
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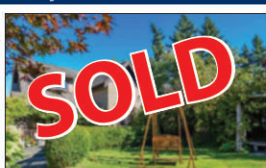
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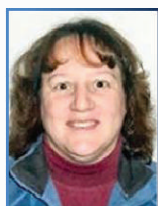
Plan to sell your home in the future?

Announced October 3, 2016, from now on, CRA will require a separate 3 page form to be submitted with your personal tax return to prove the sale was your principal residence which is capital gains tax exempt. This change is an effort to catch those claiming an investment property as their principal residence.

Call for more details.



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Weaver introduces bill to ban mandatory high heels in workplace

Black Press staff

Green Party leader Andrew Weaver wants to ban B.C. employers from making high heels mandatory.

Weaver introduced a bill amending the Workers Compensation Act in legislature on March 8, in light of International Women's Day.

"The next petition should be one requiring men to wear high heels for a nine-hour shift before they insist women do," he

said, quoting Samantha Power, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who criticized dress codes in the past.

"We are very far from an inclusive, gender-equal province, and today... seems an appropriate time to take this overdue step," Weaver said.

As it stands now, there are some safety requirements for footwear in the Workers Compensation Act, but Weaver's amended bill would prevent employers from

"Many employers require that female staff wear high heels. This footwear can be extremely uncomfortable and unsafe."

ANDREW WEAVER

having gender-based footwear requirements - specifically within the restaurant industry.

"Many employers require that female staff wear high heels," he said, and "this footwear can be extremely uncomfortable and unsafe."

Ian Tostenson, president of the B.C. Restaurant and Food Association, said he supports allowing woman to make their own choice when it comes to footwear, and that it's a practice already being implemented by restaurants across the province.

"I think that most restaurants

are completely on board with this, for a bunch of reasons but certainly [for] a health and safety one," he said.

When providing best practices to its members, the association already suggests to make footwear requirements optional," Tostenson said.

He added with the industry facing a labour shortage, it's in the employers best interest to do "whatever they can to accommodate and retain employees."

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGALS

WITNESS TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT ON MAY 26, 2016

An accident occurred at approximately 5:45pm on Thursday, May 26th, 2016 on Muir Road at McLaughlin Drive in Courtenay, BC involving a BC Transit bus and a motorcycle. The RCMP and ambulance attended.

We ask that any witnesses to this accident please contact **Bush & Company** at **250-338-6741** with any information.

PERSONALS

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NAR-ANON - Are you affected by someone's drugs use? We can help! **Wednesday's, 7:30 p.m. Group at 280-4th Street** Eureka Support Society Call Jack 250-334-3485 **Friday's 7:30 p.m. Group at 3322 Comox Rd.** Komok's Health Centre Call Vicki 250-338-2392

Senior, mostly vegetarian wishes to meet a lady, perhaps in her late Seventies or Eighties. I am looking for an affectionate companion and life partner. My interests include spiritual growth, holistic living and state of the earth. Please reply to All Secure Storage Box 11. 3610 Christy Parkway, Courtenay BC V9N 9T6. Please include phone number. I can supply character references.

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FOUND set of keys at Harmston Dog Park. Please call the Comox Valley Record to identify. 250-338-5811

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

HELP WANTED

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Griffin Pub is hiring a full-time Office Administrator. Duties to include: payroll, bookkeeping, cash and deposits. Experience with QuickBooks an asset. **Please apply with resume to The Griffin Pub, 1185 Kilmorey Rd, Comox, BC**

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Celebration of Life

In loving memory of
Sandra Gail (Willoughby) MacCauley

Please come and join us for a celebration of life

Refreshments and light snacks will be served at the Comox Legion

Sunday, April 2nd
Starting at 1:00 PM



MARY MARGARET KELLY

11 AUGUST 1930 – 13 MARCH 2017

Mary passed away in her sleep early Monday morning. She was predeceased by her father Alfred Adams, mother Beatrice Odell and son Wayne. Left to mourn is her loving husband of 37 years David Kelly, her sister Alice Norman; sons John and Augustus (Anna) of St. Johns, Nfld. and Bill of Calgary, AB and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary was born in St. John's, Nfld. and spent her early years on Bell Island. She was an energetic Newfoundlander. Everyone who knew her always mentioned her smile. She enjoyed bowling, playing darts at the Comox Legion and golfing for many years at Glacier Greens and lately Sunnydale. For more than twenty years she attended Aqua-size faithfully three times a week. Mary also looked forward to her lengthy after supper walks with her best friends Frankie and Jessie. Dancing was her passion and she wouldn't leave the dance floor once the music started.

Special thanks to Dr. Bakshi and the special care unit of the Comox Valley Seniors Village for their care.

A Celebration of Mary's Life will be held on Friday March 17, 11am at Comox Valley Funeral Home and Reception Centre, 1101 Ryan Rd, Courtenay, BC. Another service will be held later in St. John's Nfld. And final interment in Windsor, ON.

Comox Valley Funeral Home
250-334-0707

*If tears could build a stairway and
memories a lane, I'd walk right up to
Heaven and bring you Home again.*

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Lené Michelle Curts

April 16, 1968- March 8, 2017

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Lené on March 8, 2017 at St. Joseph's Hospice in Comox.

She was born in Port Alberni to Michael Shewchuk and Lynne Simmons.

Lené played softball and graduated from APSS in 1986.

It wasn't until Lené moved to Vancouver where she developed her love for running. While there she worked at Arbutus Roofing where she met her first husband and father to daughters, Sydney and Camryn.

In August of 1994, they moved to the Comox Valley, shortly after their first daughter, Sydney was born.

Lené worked for the government for a short amount of time before following her dream of opening Extreme Runners in 1998. Following the opening of Extreme Runners, Lené's second daughter, Camryn was born in 1999.

In 2003, after the separation from her first husband Lené fell in love with her second husband, Pat and together raised their four children.

As a family, they enjoyed fishing, camping and road trips for soccer tournaments. In 2007, the family moved into their new home Pat built.

In July 2016, after owning Extreme Runners for almost 20 years, Lené sold her business before starting her battle with cancer. Although, her battle was short she fought really hard and never gave up.

Lené is survived and missed by her partner, Pat, daughters, Sydney and Camryn, stepdaughter, Brooke-Lynn and stepson, Jason, parents Lynne (Ernie), Mike (Sharon), brother Mike (Mimi), nieces, Tori, Nicole and nephew, Jake, sisters-in-law, Leslie (Richard) and Ruth and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

There will be a Celebration of Life held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Florence Filberg Centre, 411 Anderton Ave, Courtenay from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

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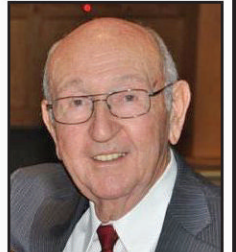
FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

CASEY – John “Jack”

February 19, 1936 – March 11, 2017

The family of Jack Casey are sad to announce his passing on March 11th, 2017 at his home in Courtenay. Jack is predeceased by his parents Frances and John; brothers Fred, Kevin, Bill, and Edward and his sisters Mary and Betty. He leaves behind to mourn his loving wife Barbara; brothers, Mike, Herbert; sons Robert (Mary), Peter (Tina), daughter Susan (Gaby); grandchildren Jon, Michael, Maggie, Nadia, Lily, Liam, Casey, Lauren.



Jack was born in St. John's, Newfoundland and although he left the "rock" at age 21 he was always a proud Newfoundlander. He served for 33 years in the Canadian Armed Forces and retired to the Comox Valley in 1992. In his leisure, he enjoyed salmon fishing, bowling, playing cards and camping with his many friends along the coast of Vancouver Island. Jack was a loving husband, brother, father, uncle and grandfather who was adored by his family. His sense of humour, gracious disposition and devotion to his family and friends made "Jackie" a man loved by all. A true gentleman who will be dearly missed.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Cumberland Dialysis Center, Drs. Thompson, Glick, and MacPherson and the Comox Valley Home and Community Care personnel.

Flowers gratefully declined. Donations in his memory to the Kidney Foundation or a charity of your choice would be greatly appreciated.

Mass of Christian Burial to take place at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, Courtenay on Friday, March 17th, at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the church hall.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

CRONK – ELVIN LLOYD

1925 - 2017

of Courtenay passed away peacefully on the 7th of March at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Born on 1925 in Wimmer, Saskatchewan to Eva and David Cronk. Elvin worked as a building contractor in the Comox Valley. Following that he worked for twenty years as a building inspector for the City of Courtenay, never missing a day of work. Elvin made wonderful handcrafted children's toys. He never lost his keen sense of humour right to the end. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Rona Cronk (nee Findlay), his children, five grandchildren and extended family.

Donations in Elvin's memory can be made to The Parkinson's Society of BC, 600-890 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1J9.

A memorial service with the Reverend Ryan Slifka officiating, will be held at St. George's United Church, Courtenay on Thursday, April 13th, at 3:00pm



Comox Valley Funeral Home
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Katy Marie Phaneuf October 24, 1987 ~ March 17, 1998

You'll never be forgotten, that simply cannot be.

As long as we are living, you are in our thoughts and memories.

You are safely tucked within our hearts.

Your light will always shine, a glowing beacon until the end of time.

No matter what the future brings, or what may lie ahead,

We know that you always walk with us along the paths we tread.

When we see the circling eagle, that the butterfly in

the garden, that singing bird, we know how close

you really are each and every day.

So rest our Angel, be at peace and let your soul

fly free. One day, we will join your glorious flight

for all eternity. "In the arms of Jesus forever"



Announcing The Memorial Mass for the late

Fr. Gerry Veilleux Maj. (Ret)

Nov. 16, 1936 - Mar. 03, 2017



Interment Saint- Georges de Beauce Que.

Fr. Gerry served on bases in Europe and across Canada until retirement at 19 Wing Comox.

The Memorial Service

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 11:00 at

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

RC Chapel 19 Wing Comox.

Reception to follow at Rose Annex.

(Located behind the Protestant Chapel beside the base arena.

Please note ... Limited parking at RC Chapel and Rose Annex)

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Please go to <http://careers.nic.bc.ca> for further criteria, required qualifications and information on how to apply to posting #101404.

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



School District 72 (Campbell River)

School District 72 is seeking applications for the following positions:

• **Temporary District Aboriginal Youth Worker**

• **Casual Education Assistants**

For details on applying for these postings, please check the School District's website at:

www.sd72.bc.ca



COMOX ESTATE SALE

Sat. March 18th 9:00 a.m.

1691 Beaufort Ave.

Kitchen wear, Furniture,

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Saturday, March 18th

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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LEGALS

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGALS

NOTES A-1 MINI-STORAGE

Notice is hereby given, to the following persons, under the **Warehouse Lien Act**, that their contract has fallen into arrears, and that they have failed to respond to collection attempts:

Shannon Strussi and Tyrone Larson.

The contents of these units may be sold on or after **April 15, 2017** to recoup funds owing, unless **FULL PAYMENT** is made prior to this date.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

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Unlicensed Property Management Assistant

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Ask for Scott

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Multi Media Journalist (Parksville): The Parksville Qualicum Beach News has an opening for a full-time, permanent multi media Journalist. Reporting to the editor, the successful candidate will provide top-quality work on a range of news and feature stories covering a variety of beats. Post expires on Friday March 17th, 2017



For more information on these vacancies and other regions throughout B.C. visit:
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Sales & Service Representative

The Sales & Service Representative is responsible for providing prompt, courteous and knowledgeable service to clients, customers and fellow employees of ThermoProof Windows and Doors by directly servicing their needs or directing them to other ThermoProof personnel when appropriate. This position is located at the ThermoProof Store in Courtenay, BC.

The Sales & Service Representative understands their role as a ThermoProof Brand ambassador and provides a stellar level of customer service and experience to all customers. The Sales & Service Representative maintains effective communication with the Sales Manager, Fellow Employees and Customers to achieve Company goals and sales targets. This position also implements constant improvement to processes in place to ensure the efficient flow of work.

If this sounds like you please forward your resume and cover letter to pam@thermoproof.ca.

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AWARD CATEGORIES



ARTS AMBASSADOR This individual(s) is vital to the diversity of our community and encourages participation, and social well-being. They encourage partnerships and initiatives to support the arts, heritage and cultural landscape of the Valley.



COACH(ES) This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to our sports community. They are exemplary in developing skills and confidence in participants, inspires youth, and encourages a high level of athletic achievement and commitment.



COMMUNITY BUILDER This individual or group has taken the initiative to engage residents in an innovative or new community project or event. The initiative might encourage different groups to collaborate, address a gap in community participation, or result in a more inclusive, engaged community initiative/event.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to the community by volunteering their time. This person is significantly relied upon by others.



COURAGE & BRAVERY This individual(s) has exhibited great bravery while facing a threat to their own safety in coming to the aid of another. While conquering fear, this individual triumphed for the benefit of another.



EDUCATOR This individual(s) demonstrates a high level of ethics and professional standards, is an inspirational motivator, excellent communicator, good listener and a reliable resource to the community and his/her students.

EMERGENCY SERVICES This individual(s) makes a positive contribution by going the extra mile. They are exemplary in the area of emergency services and unselfishly shoulder enormous responsibility while accepting the potential risks and challenges of the job.



ENVIRONMENTAL HERO This individual(s) makes a positive contribution to the community by championing environmentally friendly initiatives. They inspire others to be green by being a leading or advocating in ecologically sound practices.



HERO OF THE YEAR This individual rises above the rest by demonstrating unwavering leadership, compassion and community spirit in all that he or she does. He or she makes a genuine and significant contribution to the Valley and is a natural community role model. (COMMUNITY PARTNERS JUDGING PANEL WILL SELECT)



SENIORS' CHAMPION This individual(s) has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to enrich the social, cultural or civic life of our community. Must be 65 years or older.



UNSUNG HERO This individual has made a positive contribution to the community through their work, and has gone beyond to support the community and/or cause.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER This young individual (under 18) makes a positive contribution to the community through volunteer efforts, community engagement, leading by example, and has directly impacted the community.



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Comox Valley Arts Council
K'ómok First Nations

St. Joseph's Hospital
Comox Valley Child Development
The LINC Youth Centre
19 Wing Comox

RCMP REPORT

Trailers targeted; tools taken

A break, enter and theft into a trailer was reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 7. The trailer had been parked on the 6800 block of Island Highway South overnight. The unknown culprit(s) had stolen several construction tools from the trailer. (2017-2862)

A second break, enter and theft into a trailer was reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 7. This trailer had been parked on the 4600 block of Montrose Drive in Royston overnight. The unknown culprit(s) had stolen several construction tools from this trailer as well. (2017-2875)

Residential B&E

The Comox Valley RCMP received a call of a residential break, enter and theft on March 7. The residence, located on Swan Road, Denman Island had been broken into overnight. Several household items, tools and horse tack were stolen. The Comox Valley RCMP Forensic Identification Section is assisting with this investigation. (2017-2865)

Graffiti in Comox

Two reports of mischief were reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 7. A building, located on the 1400 block of Noel Avenue, Comox, as well as a postal box and signs near Dogwood Road and Pritchard Road, in Comox, had graffiti painted onto them over the weekend. If anyone has any information regarding this vandalism, they are asked to contact the Comox Valley RCMP at 250-338-1321 and cite file 2017-2866. Or to remain anonymous, tips can be reported to Comox Valley Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). (2017-2866)

Coins carried off on Cliffe

A business break, enter and theft was reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 8. Overnight, an unknown person(s) had broken a window to gain entrance into the business located on the 500 block of Cliffe Avenue, in Courtenay. While inside, a quantity of rolled coins were stolen. The Comox Valley RCMP Forensic Identification Section is assisting with this investigation. (2017-2904)

B&E with a brick

On March 9, the Comox Valley RCMP was advised of an alarm activation at a business located on the 2700 block of Dunsmuir Avenue, in Cumberland, when the front door of the business had been broken with a brick. Once inside, the unknown culprit(s) had stolen donation boxes. (2017-2948)

Bikes stolen

The Comox Valley RCMP received a report of a theft of two bicycles from the 1900 block of Tull Avenue in Courtenay on March 10. Sometime during the day, an unknown person(s) had stolen a Giant brand mountain bike and a child's mountain bike. The Giant bike is described as being royal blue with a sticker peeling off of it. The child's bike is a blue mountain bike with a bent kick-stand. (2017-3019)

Drunk nabbed

On March 11, the manner in which a vehicle was being operated on the Old Island Highway in Courtenay caught the attention of a Comox Valley RCMP member. A traffic stop was conducted, and an investigation into impaired driving was started. It was determined that the driver had consumed alcohol before driving. As a result, the driver was issued a 90-day immediate roadside prohibition and the vehicle was impounded for 30 days. (2017-3032)

Cash stolen on Cliffe

A business break, enter and theft was reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 11. The business, located on the 2200 block of Cliffe Avenue, had a window broken and entry was gained. Once inside, an area of the business, where a cash float was located, had been breached and a quantity of cash was stolen. (2017-3034)

Scooter stolen

The theft of an electric scooter overnight was reported to the Comox Valley RCMP on March 11. The scooter had been stored in a shed, located on the 2100 block of Lake Trail Road, in Courtenay. The scooter is described as a Motorino brand that is yellow, black and silver in colour. (2017-3037)

Mischief on McPhee

On March 13, the Comox Valley RCMP was advised of a mischief to a business window that occurred overnight. The business, located on the 1500 block of McPhee Avenue in Courtenay, had an object thrown through the front window. The Comox Valley RCMP Forensic Identification Section assisted with the investigation. (2017-3118)

...

If you have any information regarding any of these files, or any other crime, please contact the Comox Valley RCMP at 250-338-1321.

If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Comox Valley Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at comoxvalleycrimestoppers.bc.ca.

When reporting through Crime Stoppers, you never have to identify yourself or testify in court, and you could receive a cash reward for your information.

OPINIONS

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