

Hiker found after 12-hour search

Times Colonist

A hiker who became lost in forest near Port Renfrew was rescued after a massive 12-hour search. The 58-year-old man, from Greater Victoria, set out with a friend to find a hidden grotto near Sombrio Beach on Tuesday. About 11:45 a.m., the friend complained of a sore leg so he walked back to wait by their car while the 58-year-old ventured on, Sooke RCMP Cpl. Joe Holmes said. After three hours, the 58-year-old still hadn't returned. With no cellphone coverage to call for help, his friend flagged down a car and the driver called police. Sooke RCMP and a canine team started a search and by early evening, Juan de Fuca search-and-rescue volunteers had been called in. A search-and-rescue boat from Sooke scoured the coastline. "We were losing light and now we've got a full-blown search on our hands," Holmes said. The area has very dense brush and large elevation changes, and heavy fog and mist added to the difficult conditions for the searchers. The missing man had become disoriented and thought he was heading back to the road when he was actually walking parallel to it, Holmes said. Search-and-rescue volunteers made verbal contact with the man about 11 p.m. It was another three hours before they could help him to the rescue vehicle. The man was exhausted and hungry, but unhurt and grateful to be rescued. "It's a reminder that those conditions out there are not to be played with," Holmes said. "A trail can turn into a dead end and you don't know where you're going after that."

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CITY OF VICTORIA NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

A Council meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7 p.m., to conduct regular Council business and to convene the Public Hearings noted below.

The electronic publication of the Council Agenda will be available on the City of Victoria website on Friday, June 5, 2015, by 6 p.m. at: <https://victoria.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1332>. Additionally, a paper copy of the Council Agenda will be available at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2015 from Legislative Services, Victoria City Hall.

1. Rezoning Application No. 00447 for property known as 2121 Douglas Street

1. Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment Bylaw (No. 1034)

To rezone the land known as 2121 Douglas Street from the C-SS zone, Special Service Station District, to the C1-S Zone, Limited Service Station District to permit an expanded range of commercial uses.

New Zone: C1-S Zone, Limited Service Station District
Legal Description: Lots 1 and Lot 2, Block A, Section 3, Victoria District, Plan 8 except part lying west of a boundary joining points on the northerly and southerly boundaries of said lots distant respectively 13 feet from the northwesterly and southwesterly corners of said lots

Existing Zone: C-SS Zone, Special Service Station District

2. Development Permit Application

The Council of the City of Victoria will also consider issuing a development permit for the land known as 2121 Douglas Street, in Development Permit Area 7A, Corridors for the purposes of approving the exterior design and finishes for the commercial building as well as landscaping.

2. Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw (No. 15) and Heritage Revitalization Agreement for 251-259 Esquimalt Road (The Roundhouse Development)

1. Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw (No. 15)

The Official Community Plan Amendment Application proposes revisions to the Roundhouse Design Guidelines which reflect the plans dated December 22, 2014, submitted with Development Permit Application No. 000356, for the Commercial-Heritage Phase of the Roundhouse Development.

2. Heritage Revitalization Agreement

The Council of the City of Victoria will consider authorizing Heritage Revitalization Bylaw (251 Esquimalt Road) No. 15-011 to secure the exterior conservation of Heritage-Designated buildings and structures.

Members of the public interested in this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard by City Council at a Public Hearing to be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, B.C., on **Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7 p.m.**

Correspondence can be submitted for inclusion in the meeting agenda via mail to the address noted above, or by email at: publichearings@victoria.ca. Correspondence should be received by 11 a.m. the day before the Council meeting.

Please note that all correspondence submitted to the City of Victoria in response to this Notice will form part of the public record and will be published in a meeting agenda when this matter is before the Council or a Committee of Council. The City considers the author's address relevant to Council's consideration of this matter and will disclose this personal information. The author's phone number and email address is not relevant and should not be included in the correspondence if the author does not wish this personal information disclosed.

Copies of the relevant bylaws, documents and information may be inspected at City Hall, 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC from the date of this Notice to and including the date of the Public Hearing, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from Monday to Friday both inclusive, excluding public holidays.

Washington to Alaska, with a pit stop in Victoria



Matt Steverson from team Elsie Piddock rings the bell, finishing third in the opening leg of the inaugural Race to Alaska. The Race to Alaska is a 1,200-kilometre race for wind- and human-powered vessels, featuring a top prize of \$10,000 and a set of steak knives for second place. Thursday's leg started from Port Townsend, Washington, with a field of 51. Twenty-nine entries are set to go on to compete in the rest of the race from Victoria to Ketchikan, Alaska. They will set out from the Inner Harbour causeway at noon on Sunday. ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST

Fired drug researcher drops part of lawsuit against province

CINDY E. HARNETT
Times Colonist

A Victoria drug researcher has dropped part of his lawsuit against the B.C. government but is pursuing a defamation claim against former health minister Margaret MacDiarmid. William Warburton, a labour and health economist, lost his contract with the Health Ministry and access to health data, necessary for his employment, in 2012 as part of what the government said was a major privacy breach that it had asked the RCMP to investigate. Seven Health Ministry employees were also fired. Warburton filed a lawsuit claiming defamation, breach of contract and interference with contract in May 2013. In court documents, he alleged that the B.C. Liberal government tried to silence him over fears that his findings on the harmful side-effects of drugs purchased by the province would shrink lucrative political contributions from drug companies. He filed his notice of application to drop part of the case in B.C. Supreme Court on May 25, 2015. The final terms were hammered out with the government this week.



Margaret MacDiarmid, the former B.C. minister of health, is the subject of a defamation lawsuit. DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

Warburton's remaining defamation action is based on statements made by MacDiarmid, according to court documents. "The province, through its senior staff, and Minister MacDiarmid made several public statements, inter alia, to provincial staff and the media, which were false and defamatory of the plaintiff, including allegations of criminality, quasi-criminality and breaches of privacy," reads the notice of claim, filed on May 6, 2013. "MacDiarmid gave several media interviews wherein she stated that the ministry's investigation revealed actual

evidence of wrongdoing by the plaintiff and that the RCMP had been alerted," court documents say. On Sept. 6, 2012, MacDiarmid said that the ministry had provided the RCMP with interim results of an internal investigation. Emails between the government and the RCMP show that although MacDiarmid's ministry repeatedly pointed to an RCMP investigation, none was initiated. The RCMP opened a file six days after MacDiarmid publicly said: "The Ministry of Health has asked the RCMP to investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct, contracting and data-management practices involving ministry employees and drug researchers" and: "The ministry has provided the RCMP with interim results of an internal investigation." The Mounties closed the file on July 16, 2014, without ever having received an investigative report from the ministry. "I think that speaks for itself, doesn't it?" said Peter Waldmann, Warburton's lawyer. Waldmann said he hopes the defamation case will be heard before the year's end.

"Bill has definitely been seriously harmed by this and he has no way of clearing his reputation and his career and future except through the courts," Waldmann said in an interview. The province will continue to defend itself against the claim. Nothing has been proven in court. The government has settled with six of the fired researchers, reinstating two and apologizing to the family of a third, co-op student Rod-erick MacIsaac, who killed himself months after he was fired. The only other outstanding wrongful dismissal lawsuit was filed by Bill Warburton's wife, Rebecca. Rebecca Nunn Warburton was co-director of research and evidence development in the policy, outcomes and evaluation branch of the Health Ministry. She was suspended without pay on July 16, 2012, and was fired in October 2012 in a move she claims in court documents "was calculated by the defendants to inflict, and did inflict, emotional and economic injury." The province denies the claim. Nothing has been proven in court. charnett@timescolonist.com

Health authority weighs bids from three private clinics

Goal is to contract out up to 55,000 day surgeries, slash into wait times

CINDY E. HARNETT
Times Colonist

Island Health is evaluating proposals from three private clinics as it works toward contracting out up to 55,000 publicly funded day procedures over the next three to five years — the health authority's largest and longest contract yet to reduce wait times. Once the contract or contracts are awarded, Island Health could be the leader in using private clinics for publicly funded day surgeries in the province. "We're looking at doing things differently and if we're out ahead and this is a success, I hope other jurisdictions follow us," said Suzanne Germain, spokeswoman for Island Health, on Wednesday. By the May 29 deadline, Island Health had received three responses to its April request for proposals. Island Health wants private clinics to provide up to 4,000 day surgeries — everything from knee and hernia repairs to gall-bladder removals — each year over a three- to five-year contract for a maximum of 20,000 procedures. Island Health is also looking for a private clinic or clinics to provide up to 4,000 endoscopic procedures —

colonoscopies — on the south Island and up to 3,000 endoscopies in the central Island each year over the same period for a maximum of 35,000. Norm Peters, Island Health's executive director for surgical services, estimates it will take six to eight weeks to evaluate the proposals, choose one or more preferred proponents and hammer out agreements. "We're just in the start of the review stage," Peters said. Depending on what's proposed, Island Health could be awarding one contract to a single company or two contracts to different companies on the south and central Island. B.C. Health Minister Terry Lake said the use of private clinics for publicly funded day procedures is strengthening the public system by increasing the number of more complex surgeries that can be carried out in hospitals. Of 541,885 publicly funded surgeries in B.C. in 2013-14, 5,503 were done in private facilities. In 2013-14, Island Health funded 160 day surgical procedures to be performed in private clinics. That was less than the pre-

vious year when Island Health contracted out 511 publicly funded procedures for adults to private clinics and 31 for children for a total of 542. Interior Health contracted out the most publicly funded day surgeries in 2013-14 to private facilities — 2,053 adult procedures and 173 pediatric procedures for a total of 2,226. If Island Health goes on to fund a maximum of 10,000 procedures annually over the next five years through private clinics, the health authority will lead the province in doing so. Peters said with more day surgeries, such as varicose vein procedures, being performed by private clinics, more capacity is created in hospitals to perform hip and knee procedures, which also have long wait-lists. On Monday Health Minister Terry Lake announced \$10 million to be shared by six health authorities over the next year to bring down surgical wait-lists, especially for people waiting more than 40 weeks. The health authorities have not yet been told what their shares of the \$10 million will be. Island Health suspects the initial funding will be used to reduce wait-lists for people waiting to have varicose veins removed, hernias repaired and plastic surgery on hands, for example. charnett@timescolonist.com

Shortcut ends in driver's arrest

A suspected drunk driver likely regrets taking a shortcut through the parking lot behind the Saanich police station on Thursday afternoon after a collision with a parked car was spotted by an off-duty police officer. The Nanaimo woman was driving through the department's back parking lot, which connects Darwin Avenue to the Pat Bay Highway. She hit a parked car, causing about \$1,000 damage, said Saanich police spokesman Sgt. Steve Eassie. An off-duty officer suspected the woman had been drinking. The woman refused to provide a breath sample and was released on a promise to appear in court on charges of impaired driving or refusing to provide breath samples. — Times Colonist

Wharf eatery hit by fire

An overhead dryer sparked a fire at Barb's Fish and Chips at Fisherman's Wharf on Thursday afternoon. Victoria firefighters were called to the popular tourist spot just after 1 p.m., after heavy smoke started pouring out of the upstairs level. A fire inspector was on scene to determine what caused the dryer to over-heat. — Times Colonist