

A CONVERSATION
WITH

Michelle Obama

SAVE-ON-FOODS MEMORIAL CENTRE, VICTORIA
TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST 2020 • 7:00 PM

TIMES COLONIST

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Victoria, British Columbia

High 7. Low 4. Details, B8

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Grizzlies to face Salmon Arm Friday

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Proposed new home for Maritime Museum of B.C.



An artist's rendering of a proposed museum, theatre and office complex, Langford Mayor Stew Young says the municipality will provide the land and services and pay for the \$30-million theatre, while the museum would be responsible for financing the \$57-million exhibit space. Story, A3 VIA CITY OF LANGFORD

Michelle Obama brings her book tour to Victoria March 31

MIKE DEVLIN
Times Colonist

Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama will land in Victoria next month as part of her tour for her best-selling memoir, *Becoming*.

Obama will headline an event at Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre on March 31 called A Conversation with Michelle Obama.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The event is sponsored by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, which has spent the better part of a year working out details with help from the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. The board of trade brought Obama's husband, former U.S. president Barack Obama, to the Vancouver Convention Centre last year.

"We expressed our strong interest and then crossed our fingers, and then we got the news she was willing to come," said Catherine Holt, CEO of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. "It's fabulous that we've been able, on behalf of our magnificent little city, to attract somebody who is so highly thought of and so popular."

There is no word yet on who will join Obama on stage in Victoria. Oprah Winfrey, Sarah Jessica Parker and Reese Witherspoon



Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama to speak at Memorial Centre. CROWN PUBLISHING

have been moderators for past dates. The Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre has 6,500 seats, making it among the smallest venues on the *Becoming* tour, and demand for tickets is expected to be high.

The first dates on the tour, which began in 2018, were large-scale events in venues with 20,000-seat capacities, with ticket prices as high as \$3,000 US.

But accommodations are made at each appearance for groups and organizations aimed at young women. Tickets in Victoria range in price from \$99 to \$299.

"I wanted a lot of young people to come, not just a handful," Obama, who has degrees from

Princeton University and Harvard law school, told *The New York Times* in 2018. "I wanted thousands of girls around the country to have this opportunity. So, I've given away 10 per cent of every venue. And 10 per cent of all seats is a lot."

With no other Canadian dates on Obama's itinerary — she is set to appear April 1 in Sacramento, California — the Victoria engagement is expected to draw fans from Vancouver and Seattle.

Holt said hosting a speaker with so much star power is good for local business. "There's going to be a lot of people staying in hotels and eating at restaurants and flying here and taking the ferry and everything else."

The last local event of this magnitude was a speaking engagement by Bill Clinton in 2006. The former U.S. president addressed more than 5,000 people at Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre during that chamber-sponsored event, a portion of which was moderated by Gordon Campbell, who was premier at the time.

Tickets will be available at selectyourtickets.com, by phone at 250-220-7777 or through the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre box office (1925 Blanshard St.) starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. mdevlin@timescolonist.com

Scout leaders found safe after night in the woods

Children ages 11 to 14 out of the bush by evening: Juan de Fuca search and rescue

ROXANNE EGAN-ELLIOTT
Times Colonist

Two scout leaders missing in the Sooke hills near Jordan River were found Monday safe and uninjured.

Peter Kenmare and Lisa Nilsson spent Sunday night weathering out a storm after they decided it was too dangerous to continue hiking in strong wind, heavy rain and dense fog.

"We made it fairly well to the point where the bad weather system came in," Kenmare said. "At that point, we made the judgment call to hunker down."

The two had a tent and sleeping bags and were equipped to spend the night. They packed up their camp when daylight arrived Monday and used their wilderness navigation skills to head toward a trail.

Search-and-rescue crews found the two once they were out of the bush. "It really honestly couldn't have gone better," Kenmare said. "Nobody was hurt or injured. Just a lot of tired people that just need to get home and be dry."

The search for Kenmare and Nilsson started Sunday afternoon after they left a scout group — five children and one other leader — to get help and didn't return or make contact with scout leader James Powell.

Powell and the children, who are between 11 and 14 years old, were out of the bush by Monday evening, after search and rescue

volunteers found a safe route. "They should be at home and be telling their stories to their families," Vickie Weber of Juan de Fuca search and rescue said Monday night.

Nilsson said the group woke up Sunday morning to four inches of snow and decided it wasn't safe to bring the children out the way they had hiked in.

Kenmare and Nilsson, who are both experienced in the backcountry, had set out at 9:30 a.m. to get into an area with cellphone service and call for help.

When they weren't back by early afternoon, Powell was able to make a radio call to Shirley Volunteer Fire Department, where he is a firefighter.

A creek between their camp and the trail had risen enough, however, that even search-and-rescue crews weren't able to find a safe way to cross it.

They reached the group's camp Sunday night but decided to spend the night. Two volunteers stayed with the group while others searched for the missing leaders.

The three scout leaders were prepared with overnight gear, a radio in case of emergencies and the navigational and first aid skills they needed to stay safe.

"That is one of the biggest things we push in scouting is being prepared, or as prepared as you can be," Kenmare said. "It saves lives."

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Scout leaders Peter Kenmare and Lisa Nilsson were found Monday, a day after a search was launched. ROXANNE EGAN-ELLIOTT, TIMES COLONIST

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