



*Improving the lives of women and girls  
through programs leading to social  
and economic empowerment.*

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF VICTORIA WESTSHORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 19, 2018

### Flavour of Chocolate Chef Competition & Gala Event

**Calling all Victoria residents who have a passion for chocolate AND a great cause!**

Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore (SIVW) announces a unique event and gala fundraiser – the fourth annual *Flavour of Chocolate* gala event on Saturday, May 26th, at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney.

This delicious evening celebrates the elegance and extravagance of chocolate and showcases the talents of some of the region's best chefs, while at the same time raising funds to support local women and girls.

Six chefs will be competing for guests' votes on their special creations of small savoury plates that incorporate an element of chocolate into each dish. The evening is topped off with a decadent dessert ~ chocolate of course!

The event, limited to 250 guests, will include:

- A **culinary competition** showcasing the talents of regional chefs
- Presentation of **five financial awards** to young women to further their education
- A **silent auction** with a wide selection of unique and beautiful items
- **Music** played by a trio of local classical talent

**What:** *Fourth Annual Flavour of Chocolate Chef Competition*

**When:** Saturday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney

We announce and acknowledge the title sponsorship with the Women in Wealth Collective for visionary leadership in the financial industry. Women in Wealth Collective members are all investment advisors and include: Diana Frizell, Coast Capital Savings; Pam Katunar, Raymond James Westshore; Dale Collins, Prosperity Planning; Nicole Ardiel and Deneen Cunningham, McVagh Cunningham. "This unique collaboration is rather unheard of in the industry", says Diana Frizell, who leads the Collective. Ms. Frizell says, "We believe in the work of Soroptimist and in particular this local club. Women supporting women helps women reach their full potential and benefits their families, communities and society as a whole. We also believe in paying it forward. This event gives us a way to thank women who have mentored us, lead us and worked beside us."

The goals of *Flavour of Chocolate* are to raise awareness of Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore, while raising funds so the club can continue its positive impact on the community.

By participating in this event you will help Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore educate, empower and enable opportunities that transform the lives of women and girls. Here's how you can get involved:

- Buy a ticket or become a sponsor - [www.sivw.ca/foc](http://www.sivw.ca/foc)
- Spread the word!

## About Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore:

Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore has three signature projects/programs:

**Imagining Possibilities Conference:** Young women with access to mentors, information and skill development are far more likely to live their dreams. The Soroptimist “Dream It, Be It” program connects girls with successful women in all walks of life, and provides skills and tools to act on their dreams. At the “Imagining Possibilities” conference with workshops and a trade-show, girls get fired up about their future opportunities. We’ve opened the door on careers to over 320 young women in 4 years. Learn more at [www.sivw.ca/dibi/ip](http://www.sivw.ca/dibi/ip)

**Anney’s Closet:** Over 100 women each year, referred by 36+ Victoria social service agencies, visit Anney’s Closet. Donations of household items from the community stock the ‘free store’ which clients shop to select household items, transforming their new living space into a functional and comfortable home. Volunteers sort and display the products and assist women on personal shopping trips to The Closet. The women feel supported in their time of transition which gives them confidence for a fresh start. Learn more at [www.sivw.ca/ac](http://www.sivw.ca/ac)

**Financial Awards:** The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards assist women who provide the primary source of income to their families. Awards improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Some have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence and/or drug and alcohol abuse. In five years we have awarded more than \$10,600 in life-changing financial awards to 20 women and girls. Learn more at: [www.sivw.ca/lyd](http://www.sivw.ca/lyd)

Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore is part of a global volunteer movement in over 132 countries, 3,000 clubs comprising 80,000+ members globally. We support community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls.

For more information about this event, please contact:

Deb Alcadinho  
Flavour of Chocolate, Co-chair  
[foc@sivw.ca](mailto:foc@sivw.ca)  
250-818-7363

Joan Jackson  
Flavour of Chocolate, Co-chair  
[foc@sivw.ca](mailto:foc@sivw.ca)  
250-360-2702

Diana Frizell, Financial Advisor  
Coast Capital Savings  
Women in Wealth, Chair  
[Diana.Frizell@coastcapitalsavings.com](mailto:Diana.Frizell@coastcapitalsavings.com)  
250.213.7740

--30--