

West Shore

News 4 pages this issue

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NDP Premier John Horgan pleased with breaking the cycle of poverty 1 Youth pleased with zero-interest on BC student loans 2 Big Sunday night fire at concrete plant in Sooke, close to high school3 SD62 students have access to Fred Milne Ball Field in Sooke SPORTS: 2 weeks of Rugby Mens 15s | Pacific FC: international media partner ... 4

Watermain break by Mary P Brooke closes Goldstream

1925-2722



The water that flowed for about an hour out of a broken 8-inch underground distribution pipe below Strathmore Road at the corner of Goldstream Avenue in downtown Langford produced both surface road flooding and interior water damage as 12 homes and a nearby condo/commercial building were flooded. The section of old asbestos cement pipe that had burst was replaced with PVC pipe later that evening, February 19.

 Due to a sudden watermain break on Tuesday evening February 19, Goldstream Avenue was closed to traffic between Peatt Road and Jacklin Road but opened by City of Langford Engineering in time for the morning commute.

The break occurred around 8:05 pm – with water gushing out of the pipe at least 20 feet into the air, said one bystander who had called 911. The first Capital Regional District (CRD) duty operator arrived on scene around 8:15 pm, says Ted Robbins, General Manager of Integrated Water Services, CRD Water.

Strathmore took on extensive water, and water also spilled out onto Goldstream. Road surfaces were muddy and there was something of an offen-

The closed-off section of Goldstream is a commercial block in central Langford, the same block where Langford City Hall is located. Strathmore Road with both homes and businesses is across the street from City Hall.

The watermain required repair, and after that, the road – to fill in a deep wide hole required for assessing the extent of the problem and replacing a broken section of pipe. An excavator was brought to the site to dig down and open up the site of the broken pipe. The old distribution pipe that had burst was 8-inch asbestos cement. The new distribution pipe is 8-inch PVC. By 9:30 pm crews had arrived with two sections of new pipe, and by 10:10 pm repairs were underway.

Residents of about a dozen homes on Strathmore and a condo building on Goldstream were directed out of their homes by Langford Fire Rescue to various temporary emergency support locations, including the Langford Legion and a bus. The affected homes on Strathmore (addresses 2760, 2764, 2765, 2768, 2769, 2773, 2777, 2781, and 2785) and 'The Strathmore' building at 866 Goldstream (right across from city hall) experienced various degrees of flooding and were without water supply until later the next day. Residents were issued a water quality advisory by CRD Water with a directive to disinfect tap water by boiling it vigorously for one minute: the advisory was removed once Island Heath was satisfied that the drinking water would not pose a health concern.

"Watermain breaks like this don't happen very often," says Robbins. "It's an older pipe. We can't predict when they will fail," he said at the emergency site that evening.

Robbins says that CRD has fully trained construction crews to deal with these sorts of scenarios. Their duty operator arrived within 10 minutes of the 911 call, and the repair and site management crew arrived over the course of the hour.

About 30 emergency response personnel were on site over several hours to service the event including from Langford Fire Rescue, Westshore RCMP, Langford engineering, and CRD water repair crews. wsv



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Premier Horgan this week

Premier John Horgan spends Fridays in his Langford-Juan de Fuca constituency as often as ne can - both at the office on Jacklin Road and attending various events, meeting with groups and individuals, and taking part in official announcements in the Langford and Sooke areas.

The first minute of the interview for this article was a rollout of relief and gratitude: "Another week gone. The Throne Speech and Budget. Following up the by-election and Sheila (Malcolmson) sworn in. It's exciting! We've got the wind on our back. There are positive financial statements for three years. We're tackling issues that matter to people - vulnerable people," said Horgan.

Affordability The premier who sees the struggles of many of his constituents firsthand in the community highlighted the disability pension increase in Budget 2019, and "changing some" of the more prickly rules" that will now allow couples to benefit equally without clawback for sharing a home and being a family. That's part of the "streamlining" within his NDP government's poverty reduction plan that Horgan is clearly proud of. He says the Child Opportunity Benefit will put more money into the pockets of familes with children under the age of 18.

"That's helpful for many of the young families who are moving to the west shore," said Horgan as the local MLA. He is also pleased about the early success of the Westshore Urgent Primary Care Centre in Langford, though he seemed oddly surprised about the early rush of patients there, perhaps not fully realizing the enormity of the backlog of people awaiting medical care.

"We have an exciting agenda ahead of us," the Premier said. "Eliminating interest on the BC portion of student loans is a really big deal" he was pleased to say. For some students that can mean a savings of up to \$2,300 over the course of their studies. Zero-interest kicked-in on budget day.

The government's affordability agenda notably includes the continued freeze on ferry fares (and reinstatement of free weekday sailings for seniors on the major routes), further expansion of child care



subsidies, elimination of Medical Services Plan fees (though that burden has shifted to businesses and large organizations which has an indirect taxation effect), and an increase in the Climate Action rebate to individuals through the tax system.

Smiles were wide from Horgan during Finance Minister Carole James' budget delivery in the legislature on Tuesday as he listened to the details of how his government is breaking the poverty cycle. Salmon Horgan is pleased about the scope of information that was gathered by his Wild Salmon Advisory Council in recent months. While no specific funding was in the budget this week, it's early days. More decision-making is coming on what can be done to support the preservation and regrowth of salmon stocks in BC. "Salmon are fundamental and precious to who we are as a coastal people. We will do everything we can to preserve and protect and expand fish stocks," the Premier told West Shore Voice News, referring to the council report as a roadmap. [Also see pg 1 in the Jan 11/19 WSV]

Hwy 14 Speaking of roads, Horgan is pleased with how new Highway 14 improvements are helping with travel safety and efficiencies to and from Sooke. Bus pullouts, wider lines, better lighting and reflective signage are part of the succes.

Hwy 1 As for Highway 1 near the Leigh Road Interchange where two head-on-crash fatalities have happened already this year, Horgan is pleased that a temporary solution will be underway soon. That will be the installation of a sort of reboundable cable running down the highway between northbound and southbound lanes. Following that -- this fall or in early 2020 - there will be installation of permanent concrete median barriers in that stretch of Highway 1 between Leigh Road and West Shore Parkway that falls within Langford. The work will require roadwidening, and for that some blasting to accommodate a width of four more feet for the median barriers. The necessary rock-face land area has been purchased. Design work is already done at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI); now it's a budget and scheduling issue. MOTI will finish up the McKenzie Interchange project first, to avoid too much commuter traffic interruption.

Time Change The 'spring forward' of Daylight Savings Time (DST) 2019 is right around the corner. California's referendum on staying with one consistent time came back with 'yes'. Now Washington and Oregon are thinking to eliminate DST as well. This now being the direction of the Pacific northwest south of the border, Horgan says BC may again look at it as a region that "does business together". There was significant public input on eliminating the time shift in the past few years in BC. It helps that intergovernmental relations are handled directly within the premier's office, says Horgan. He held a joint media conference with Washington Governor Jay Inslee down in Olympia on February 8; climate action was a keenly shared interest. ironically as a big snow storm was brewing.

BC Hydro he Premier defended his government's cancellation of standing-offer Independent Power Producer contracts with BC Hydro. The buy/sell ratio was seriously costly. "It's one of the main reasons BC Hydro is in such difficulty. And the standing offer program "is not the economic salvation for indiaenous communites," the Premier said in response to BC Green criticism earlier this week. wsv

More photos: https://westshorevoicenews.com/watermain-break-on-goldstream-ave-february-19/

West Shore Voice News

False confidence & other social media pitfalls



Mary P Brooke

Someone didn't find out about an event until the next day and complained about it. "Well, we posted it on social media," was the confident reply. The assumption that one small organization would have its event notice seen broadly beyond its own daily followers and thereby reach the best possible audience range is incredibly ironic: the reach of the Internet is vast, but it still functions in channels or silos. [By corollary, anything posted online is out there in the public domain; don't be surprised if it attracts interest.]

This is a wrinkle of the ferocious challenge faced by

journalism and the news industry. So many voices, so little time for readers to read the news (even if they have found it). The flip side is that 'channeled' or specialized media do have their audiences and the impact of highimpact news writing can be significant. Depending on the point of the message, the quality of the readership is just as important as the number of readers - sometimes more so.

Back to our editorial of December 26, 2014 in which we first lined up journalism, public relations and marketing: these delivery methods are not the same, they are cousins. Each method delivers information, but each serves a distinct purpose and a spectrum of intended audiences. They cannot and do not replace one another, even if people, organizations or businesses mistakenly believe so.

If you want media coverage of your event, get back to basics. Don't just post it 'to the wind'... send a news release or email (and if we miss that, well that's on our shoulders). Again on the flip side, if you don't want media there, it's easy... avoid the direct approach and hide in plain sight behind the quick and easy social media or web-post. Yes, an army of copy-desk editors could sleuth the Internet all day long but it's a busy world with attention paid to generating news that requires journalists spending many hours on specialized inquiry, writing and fact-checking to bring you authentic articles, backgrounders, analysis and editorials.

Community events are important on various levels – we do want to know. If your organization or business wants the 'free juice' of media exposure about your event, we invite you to be proud of your offering and tell us.



Reflecting the community to itself. **Events can be posted in West Shore Voice** News through the links on our Events page: www.westshorevoicenews.com/events or send by email to news@westshorevoicenews.com. If you want a tagged and searchable ad in our daily news portal for additional momentum, please write to advertising@westshorevoicenews.com

BC youth glad about no interest on student loans

West Shore Voice News | Comments compiled by Mary P Brooke & Eryn Chaney

After a decades-long battle by student politicians through the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and their sub-organizations on campuses across the country, in BC this week there was a victory on the issue of student loans.

In Budget 2019, this week the BC government eliminated all interest on the BC portion of post-secondary student loans. That includes being effective immediately for existing loans.

Back in the 1970s the CFS began the campaign urging governments to create student loans. Loans to enable the affordability of post-secondary studies carried in some cases a debt burden that was stifling if not crushing to those graduating from university and college. This week's victory is another step in the journey toward the free (government-funded) tuition that progressive education advocates seek.

In the southern Vancouver Island area this week, the positive remarks about elmination of student loan interest rolled in:

"This is really great news. This saves me a lot of money in the long run. I'm just making minimum payments on my student loans." – James, 30

So for me it makes a pretty big difference - when I grad I'll have around \$35,000 in loans to pay back, and while I have a chunk of money invested to pay off a lot of it, having to pay it all in one go in order to avoid having interest accrue has been pretty daunting. I feel a lot more at ease now knowing that I can just pay Voicif the federal loan and then hold onto the rest for a while until I have enough to pay it off in full. I know so many people who have spent literally decades paying off their loans because the interest made it so much harder to pay them off. I feel like in order to inspire more young people to pursue post-secondary education, we need to actually make tuition free. It's a lofty goal, but even interest-free student loans are loans that will inevitably have to be paid off (though they do allow a lot more breathing room after school ends). Tuition is ridiculously high – at UVic I pay \$500 per class, plus all the extra fees they tack on. So until this is eliminated or at least decreased, I think a lot of people will feel disincentivized to go to university. It's honestly beyond me why K-12 education is viewed as essential and post-secondary is not, and I think that universities currently are robbing young people for personal profit. We really shouldn't have to be taking out tens of thousands of dollars in debt just to get an education, especially given that having educated people around is a benefit to society! - Dhana, 25

"I took out a student loan a couple years ago. I am now dealing with an error from the schools and end now I'm on the line for the remainder plus interest which has increased the amount a bit. I wasn't pleased. S iff the province is able to reduce or eliminate interest rates or taxes, I think that it will take quite a bit of the money for the course, and maybe be able to apply more to paying back without the fear of just 'covering the taxes'." - Alysha, 26

"I would be more likely to take out a student loan knowing I would save money on interest. Me personally, no I still wouldn't take out a student loan. Knowing I'd still owe a ton of money I don't think it changes anything. But it's tough. I do like the idea of them lowering the cost to pay back a loan. So if someone did take one out they wouldn't have to worry as much about paying it back right away. But I'm not really inspired to go to school either way. But it does seem like a great idea." - Amber, 24

"I get on just fine with grants, I don't need loans." – Jennifer, 21 WSV

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Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

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Measles brought into Canada through travel

West Shore Voice News

Thirteen 13 cases of the measles have been reported by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) on the BC mainland. The injections have been acquired abroad and brought into Canada. As of this weekend, there are no cases reported on Vancouver Island; immunization is available from health care providers.

Symptoms of the measles may include a fever of 38.3°C or higher, a cough, runny nose, red eyes, and an extensive blotchy red rash that appears three to seven days after the fever starts; the rash begins behind the ears and on the face before spreading to arms and legs. The measles virus is highly infectious. It spreads through the air and can be fatal. Close contact is not needed for transmission.

According to Health Canada, adults born before 1970 can be presumed to have acquired natural immunity to measles. Endemic measles was eradicated in Canada by 1998 due to vaccination programs but re-emerged in 2016 with an outbreak that brought 11 confirmed cases.

BC Health Minister Adrian Dix says the occurence of measles in BC is troubling. "Frankly, people shouldn't be getting measles in the 21st century in British Columbia," Dix said at a media conference Sunday afternoon. "It is importo be immunized." Immunization is not mandatory in BC. **W\$1**



NEWS

WEST SHORE & SOOKE

News updates any time: www.WestShoreVoiceNews.com

Big Sunday night fire at concrete plant in Sooke West Shore Voice News

~ Mary P Brooke & Chelsea Kirkpatrick

Around 5:30 pm Sunday February 17 a commercial structure fire was called into the Sooke Fire Department: a dozen calls about smoke were received by 911, says Sooke Fire Chief Kenn Mount.

The South Island Concrete facility on Edward Milne Road was on fire. There were a few explosions from fuel in hydraulic equipment; all flammable materials were in fact burning at one point, explained Chief Mount. Sooke Fire Rescue had their ladder truck and



SD62 happy about sport field agreement West Shore

Voice News EXCLUSIVE: by West Shore Voice News

 An agreement between Sooke School District 62 and the Fred Milne Park Society allows students to use the new artificial turf field and washrooms on Edward Milne Road 8:30 am ស់ទី pm. SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar says there was a one-time payment of \$50,000 (plus \$7,500/year to be paid for five years). "It's a significant investment that our board made into the society, ensuring our students get to use cial turf was installed on the site about Langford. WSV

three engines on site, with mutual aid supprot from Otter Point, East Sooke and Metchosin fire departments. Crews overhauled the damage and worked on hotspots.

The next day with an investigator on hand, Chief Mount said damages were estimated at about \$500,000.

There is no fire hydrant near the site which is right behind the local high school; the new Tim Hortons site will have a fire hydrant, says Chief Mount: "Future developments as they come on stream will be assessed better for hydrants being in place." wsv



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Victoria Boat Show in Langford this year



first year that the Victoria **Boat Show**

<< This is the

took place in the west shore. Displays and vendor booths covered a range of outdoor sporting interests.

■ The Victoria Boat Show packed 50 exhibitors into the Eagle Ridge Arena in City Centre Park in Langford this weekend. The February 22 to 24 indoor show attracted about 6,000 to 8,000 people.

It's a new location for the show, which in previous years has set up for the at Pearkes Arena in the Tillicum area. To avoid back-to-back show dates with the Vancouver Boat Show, this year the Victoria Boat Show has been held a bit later in February.

Billed as Vancouver Island's Premier Outdoor Sportsman and Recreation Expo, there was information from outdoor experts, seminars, tackle, gear, boats and more. Even dirt bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles.

Exhibitors included Island Outfitters, Alpine Marine, and Monti's Marine & Motor Sports. One nifty product was the 'Sealegs' amphibious boat that can traverse terrain that a boat trailer can't handle, taking the boat right from the water onto

This year's show location in Langford is that much closer to the west coast area of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca coast up to Port Renfrew which are popular locations for recreational sport fishing and outdoor marine sport.

"The boat show is a great addition to the type of events at the City Centre Park," says Langford Mayor Stew Young. "Langford is known for its recreation for families but also it is situated close to salmon fishing. And there's great fishing at local lakes within walking distance from our core," he said this weekend.

"It makes sense for boat show / outdoor show to be in a community that has great access to the outdoor and the public can look forward to more shows at our city centre. As well as more opportunities for residents to take advantage of some great 'show deals' from local businesses," says Young. wsv

that quality field," says Parmar Artifi- two years ago, as donated by the City of

Canada Post went to 'yellow alert' |

'yellow alert' in the Vancouver Island area on February 13 and 14 due to severe weather conditions producing areas of impassable snow and ice. Yellow alert meant that conditions had resulted in delays in mail processing, despite the corporation's best efforts.

A Canada Post media rep told West Shore Voice News that municipalities around the region worked hard at clearing the snow as fast as they could, but lack of access to pathways up to challenge. Clearing away snow and putting salt onto ice

Canada Post went to by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



Community mailboxes in Langford as the snow begins to melt.

homes and community help avoid a serious and potentially long-term injury mailboxes was sometimes a that can happen in seconds," said Canada Post.

Snow clearing is a safety gesture for mail carriers, and also for food delivery, service provid-"takes a few minutes but can ers, friends and family, says Canada Post. WSV

Sooke River Rd at Hwy 14: extending curbs, adding catch basins

https://westshorevoicenews.com/highway-14-improvements-at-sooke-river-road/

The Sooke River Road project scope has been expanded to address drainage issues west of the school along Edward Milne Road, said the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) last week.

The additional work includes extending concrete curbs and adding additional catch basins for drainage. The total expanded drainage budget is being determined (will be paid for by the Highway 14 Corridor Improvement contingency fund).

Additional sidewalk improvements near the highway are being completed by the developer working on behalf of the local T'Sou-ke First Nation.

MOTI says completion of the Sooke River Road intersection project is on target for late spring. wsv

MOTI work area along Edward Milne Rd >>



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Feb 25 to Mar 3. www.woundedwarriors.ca

Mon Feb 25. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

Wed Feb 27. 2 to 9 pm. www.sooke.ca

Drop in 5 to 8 pm. www.sooke.ca

www.colwood.ca

Conference Centre.

www.awarenessfilmnight.ca

Page 4 of 4 ::: www.westshorevoicenews.com

Polls close 8 pm. https://westshorevoicenews.com/editorial-why-

25. 7 pm. Also: "Lot A" public open house on Tues Feb 26.

25. 7 pm. Board of Variance Tues Feb 26 7 pm.

for the public to submit comments about school calendars

for the next three years (2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022).

ber of Commerce. Tues Feb 26. 11:15 am to 1 pm. Victoria

"What Is Democracy". Thurs Feb 28. 7 pm. EMCS Theatre.

Comfort Inn, 3020 Blanshard. www.spca.bc.ca/caps2019

vs Argentina XV. Gates open 6 pm, kickoff 7 pm. Westhills

Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. 8:30 am to 4

st Shore Americas Rugby Championship. Fri Mar 1. Canada

Stadium, Langford. https://rugby.ca/en/tickets

pm. \$100 (includes lunch). www.vipc.ca

Burnaby South Federal By-Election. Mon Feb 25.

Wounded Warriors Run BC. Port Hardy to Victoria.

Planning, Zoning & Affordable Housing Committee.

District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Mon Feb

City of Colwood Regular Council Meeting. Mon Feb

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Feb 26. 7 pm. Deadline

Premier John Horgan speech to the Victoria Cham-

District of Sooke Special Council Meeting (Budget).

Awareness Film Night and Transition Sooke present

Canadian Animal Policy Symposium. Fri Mar 1.

Vancouver Island Parent Conference. Sat Mar 2.

https://westshorevoicenews.com/events/

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Whole. Mon Mar 4 at 6 pm. www.colwood.ca

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by Mary P

West Shore

Voice News

West Shore Voice News

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Daylight Savings Time "spring forward". Sun Mar Juan de Fuca Skating Club Ice Show 'Imagine' at Juan de Fuca Arena, 1767 Island Hwy. Sat Mar 9. 2 pm &

Mar 7. RSVP: artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca | 250-360-3007

CRD Arts Grants Info. Webinar 10 to 11pm. Thurs

7 pm. Sun Mar 10 at 1 pm. Tx: 250-818-7151. **#BCTECH Summit.** March 11 to 13. Vancouver. SD62 Spring Break. Mar 16-31. www.sd62.bc.ca

Federal Budget. Tues Mar 19. Oculus Rift Virtual Reality. Thurs Mar 21, 4 to 5 spe 10+. Sooke Library. 2065 Anna Mario 24 pm. Age 10+. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd.

Capital City Comic Con 2019. Mar 22 to 24. Victoria Conference Centre.

CleanBC Telephone Town Hall (Vancouver Island). Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. Info & registration: www.cleanbc.ca LEGO Block Party. Wed Mar 27. 4 to 4:45 pm. Sooke

Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke. Popsockets for Mobile Phones. Make one at the Sooke Library. Sat Mar 30. 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm. Age 12-18

yr. 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke. SD62 Back to School. Mon Apr 1. www.sd62.bc.ca Easter Long Weekend. Apr 19 thru Apr 22. Good Friday Apr 19 (Statutory holiday) | Easter Monday Apr 22.

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

Winter-time rugby in Langford



<< Rugby Canada won 56:0 over the Chilean team on a cold Friday night, February 22 at Westhills Stadium in Langford. https:// westshorevoicenews.com/ canada-smasheschile-56-0-on-coldnight-in-langford/

Sponsored by World Rugby, the America's Rugby Championship series started in Uruguay, went to Brazil, plays twice in Langford (February 22 & March 1), then Seattle (March 8). www.rugby.ca

PRE-GAME [February 20]:

It's winter. "But for 80 minutes we forget about the weather," says Lucas Rumball, Rugby Canada Men's 15s team captain for the February 22 Canada-Chile match. It's the third match for Rumball as captain.

"It's great to get back on Canadian soil in front of a Canadian crowd again," said Rumball. "When you play at home, the



Martin Sigren, Chile



Lucas Rumball Team Captain Canada

crowd always delivers," he told media at the Al Charron Rugby Canada National Training Centre in Langford. "In the first two games We let ourselves slip in key moments. But we're in a good spot to bounce back on the right foot."

For men's national team head coach Kingsley Jones the February 22 match against Chile and the March 1 game in Langford against Argentina are opportunities for newer players to boost their skills.

Jones says there's a theory to "drop guys who didn't play so well" but he sees value in giving them a chance to try again. "Sometimes we're better in those moments when things don't quite go our way."

"Chile has a good coach and they're well organized," said Jones, he said he prepared his team for Friday's match. "When the momentum changes we need to deal with that."

Chile's head coach Pablo Lemoine said: "We'll be ready for the game, and enjoy it. The weather is different for us. It was 36°C Voin South America when we left," he said, but added: "The shift is all part of rugby."

Chilean team captain Martin Sigren has played rugby for 'as long as he can remember'. "I like rugby for all the values it can bring you," he said. "Rugby is very big for our people, It's something we all dream of." He was impressed with the new national training centre in Langford. **WSV**

POST-GAME [February 22]:

The team got more of what they wanted in this game, said 23-year-old team Mens 15s captain Rumball (#7). "It was way more accurate. We played in the right areas of the park. I was really happy with the effort the boys put out today," said the Toronto-based Rumball onfield after the game.

"You want to build phases, you want to keep the ball moving as much as possible, as fast a possible, keeping that defense on the back foot," said Rumball. "I was really happy to see that coming into the game today."

Opening up the scoring was Kyle Baillie (#5) catching the inside ball to touch down for a try. Baillie was followed up by Kainoa Lloyd (#11) three times within the first half.

After the game, 24-year-old Toronto-based Kainoa Lloyd, said Canada's team had a lot of home field advantage. "Being here in front of our crowd, we always play well in Langford "eTalking about the value of training: "The boys just came together after the two weeks and really focussed in. We were playing really well. We played a lot of defense and executed our game plan offence," Lloyd said on-field after the game.

"Chile put us through a lot of phases, and we were really composed about it," said Lloyd. "We kept our composure and we were able to keep them off the goal line no matter what." He said they stuck to a structure and didn't try anything "too risky". wsv

A big week for Pacific FC



> First-game date announced > International media partner



by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

#CanPL @CPLsoccer

 Gearing up for their inaugural season, Pacific Football Club (Pacific FC) has been rolling out something new each week. In the past week or so, there were three more big moves by management:

adding their 11th player (Marcel de Jong), announcing the date of the season's first game (Sunday April 28 at Westhills Stadium), and bringing on an international media partner (Mediapro, based out of Spain).

11th Signing. Marcel de Jong, 32, is a defender who can also step into midfield. He spent the previous three years with Vancouver Whitecaps FC following stops at Sporting Kansas City and the Ottawa Fury. His professional career includes 250 appearances with top tier clubs in Europe and North America. He has earned 56 senior caps for Canada's men's national team. Pacific FC bills de Jong as "a commanding and exciting player to watch". He joined West Coast outfit Whitecaps FC in 2016 and gained notoriety during his previous three MLS seasons as a left fullback. "Marcel's qualities speak for themselves. He is one of

the best left backs in Canada and we are excited he has agreed to join our club," said Michael Silberbauer, Head Coach, Pacific Football Club. "Marcel is a true professional and his experience and leadership will help move other players forward as well."

Season Opener. A 'coastal clash' marks the launch of Pacific FC's inaugural Canadian Premier League (CPL) season. The Vancouver Island-based club will host Halifax Wanderers FC at Westhills Stadium to kick off their first league campaign in club history. "We have been looking forward to our first home match for some time," said Josh Simpson, president, Pacific FC. "This will be a historic day for Pacific FC and our fans." Apparently the Halifax team is going to be "an athletic group, full of strength and pace" for a tough match in that first game. Pacific FC players will arrive on the Island March 1 to begin preseason.

International Media. Pacific FC President Josh Simpson and Langford Mayor Stew Young hopped on a plane to Toronto February 20 to take part in the official CPL media partnership announcement with Spain-based Mediapro_which has struck a \$200 million 10-year broadcasting deal with Canada Soccer Business (which represents Canada's national teams as well as the fledgling CPL). Scott Mitchell, CEO of Canadian Soccer Business, calls it the single-largest commitment any company has ever made in terms of soccer in Canada. "It's great for Langford and soccer youth in Canada. It's great for the lead-up to the World Cup in 2026," says Young. WSV



LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO

Mon Feb 25. Atkins Av between Selica Rd & Country Terrace. 9 am to 1 pm. City of Langford Traffic Delay for Tree Removal.

Winter, and into Spring 2019. Langford Pkwy adjacent to City Centre Park & Westhills Stadium (access to Langford Lanes & City Centre Park is open). Road construction and associated work continues, at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road.

Continuing in March 2019. Various roadway adjustments continue around in and around the Belmont Market/Residences construction zone [Jacklin Road, Kelly Road, Jenkins Ave].

> More traffic advisories: www.langford.ca

https://westshorevoicenews.com/canada-chile-face-off-in-langford-february-22/