

West Shore Voice

News 4 pages this issue

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Friday August 30, 2019 WEEKEND | News to Sept 2, 2019

eSport FIFA champs visit with Pacific FC in Victoria

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke WSV/MPB

Four soccer players – two from Pacific FC and two from the world of e-sports – waiting to start their friendly match of e-soccer on Friday August 30 at the Pacific FC fan shop at 665 Fort Street in downtown Victoria (from left): Emile Legault and Jose Hernandez (players with the Langford-based Pacific FC team) and Werder Bremen eSports FIFA players Michael Bittner (MegaBit98) and Mohammed Harkous (MoAuba).

For a bit of fun and cultural exchange, Pacific Football Club hosted an official visit of Werder Bremen eSports FIFA players Michael Bittner (MegaBit98) and Mohammed Harkous (MoAuba). The FIFA eSports champions were on Vancouver Island from Germany this week to learn more about the Canadian Premier League side in addition to an in-store appearance on Friday August 30 at Pacific FC's Fan Shop in downtown Victoria.

The short afternoon event included a Canada vs Werner-Bremen match of FIFA 2019 eSport skills between two Pacific FC players and the two eSport FIFA champions, a few photo ops for media, Pacific FC jerseys customized on the spot, autographs granted for fans, and snacks.

Set up for a match with fans and media watching, Bittner and Harkous said they went a bit easy on the Pacific FC players Emile Legault and Jose Hernandez who normally play on the sports field at Westhills Stadium but held up pretty well against the digital champs.

Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend and President Josh Simpson along with VP of Operations Brad Norris-Jones hosted the world-reknowned gaming victors.

"This visit is very special for us. This is our home base here at the store," said Simpson. "The growth of eSports has been phenomenal."

To the world champions, Friend said: "We're very proud to have you guys here." He hopes the eSports champs will "wear the purple with pride, we do!"

Mohammed Harkous (MoAuba), 22, says he will keep playing for several more years. He's been playing pro for the last three or four years. The eSport gets bigger and bigger, he says. "There's more to do. I started with eSports when it was not big. It's fun to see how it grows," he said.

Advice to teens from Harkous: "It's important to not play all day. My mom let me play one to two hours a day. I finished school while playing pro. It's important to not have to play 10 hours a day to become pro, that's the wrong way," he said.

"I'm only good at football on the console ... at other games I'm really bad," Harkous said with a chuckle. "It's FIFA, so we have to know about football tactics and that's different than other games on the computer."

Michael Bittner (MegaBit98) also started playing eSports as a teen, saying he's amazed how fast things have changed for him since becoming pro. At age 21, he's now getting to travel and meet people in many locations through the FIFA sports world. This is his first visit to Canada. WSV



West Shore Voice News WSV/MPB

Jerseys presented to the Werder Bremen eSports FIFA champions (from left): Mohammed Harkous (MoAuba), Pacific FC President Josh Simpson, Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend, and Michael Bittner (MegaBit98).

Premier's Labour Day message

West Shore Voice News

LABOUR DAY: Mon September 2



Premier John Horgan at the official opening of the Sarah Beckett Memorial Plaground in Langford, August 24.

"On Labour Day, we recognize the millions of working people in British Columbia and around the globe who have fought, and continue to fight, for workers' rights.

"The rights we enjoy today would not exist without the hard-fought victories of unions. Minimum wage, weekends and holidays, job security, parental leave, vacation and overtime pay, protection from discrimination and harassment, and safety standards, are the result of collective action grounded in the belief that all working people deserve to be treated fairly.

"It is important that we continue to stand up for fairness, equality and security at work. We need to make sure our economy is working for everyone, workers and employers, not just the people at the top. This belief drives our government's work to make life better for people in BC every day.

"This work includes raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2021, so people with lower incomes can afford necessities. As of June 1, 2019, the minimum wage in BC is \$13.85.

"This year, we made amendments to the Employments Standards Act that raise the working age for children, make sure people are paid the wages they are owed, and provide job protection for people dealing with domestic or sexual violence, or caring for the critically ill.

"We are providing more support for first responders who serve British Columbians and risk their personal safety in emergency situations. We have made presumptive coverage available to workers who experience trauma on the job and are at more risk of developing mental illnesses, like firefighters, police officers, paramedics, nurses, emergency dispatchers and publicly funded health-care aides.

"Our government is committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest in Canada. A review of BC's workers' compensation system is underway, so that every worker going through the system knows they will be treated with dignity and respect.

"And to improve protections and supports for foreign workers who are vulnerable to abuse, our government brought in the new Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act.

"We still have much more to do, but I am proud of the progress we are making. Together with our partners in the labour movement, we will continue to stand up for vulnerable workers and prioritize worker health and safety, so that we can build a better future for all British Columbians.

"Happy Labour Day!"

Cleaning up the beach with art

The annual Beach Art event is coming up in Sooke at Whiffin Spit on Sunday, September 8. Free to participate, fun for all ages!

Creating an art piece within an hour or two -- using only items as found right there on the beach that day -- also helps tidy up the spit that is enjoyed by residents and tourists daily.

The family-friendly activity starts with registration at 11 am. Organized by the Sooke Arts Council. www.sookearts.com WSV



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EDITORIAL: News in a sea of marketing clutter



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher

● As our long-time readership knows, the rapidly changing realities of journalism are often explored in this editorial space. We often articulate the differences between journalism, marketing and public relations, making known the concern for information consumers being bombarded by the flotsam and jetsam of marketing and public relations amidst the massive sea of minute-by-minute news. News organizations (print, online, TV, radio, smartphone) are doing their best to keep up and to deliver authentic messaging. Readers are doing their best to sort it out, but – just like nowadays maybe not being able to distinguish between a real burger and a ‘plant-based’ one – the imitation of news by publications and portals that portend to deliver real news (which includes special interest and industry magazines, corporate Twitter feeds, and everyone’s Facebook page) is a bit of camouflage or even trickery.

As one journalism pundit said on TV this summer, journalism has fast become a practice of ‘comforting the comfortable’. Every message is seen or heard by someone who might complain, object or disagree. People with power and money get their message out more effectively by any measure, including through news. The real role of journalism – to inform with context (of subject, timeline or audience) is being significantly challenged. Notably, in a small region, our readers are also our friends, colleagues and clients, so care is taken. It’s one thing for a news service to ‘be everywhere’ to cover a lot of events and activities; organizations with larger personnel rosters will do more of that. It’s another to pause and reflect on the most salient shifts in community, business and politics. This is something *West Shore Voice News* has

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done from the start (weekly in Sooke from 2011, and with a focus on Langford and the west shore region since 2014). We won’t please all of you all of the time, but where it matters to be serving the community with information that will make a difference to your day or some aspect of your civic awareness, that’s our forte and where the work of journalism is found within these pages. ■

NATIONAL NEWS

West Shore Voice News **INSIGHTS**

www.westshorevoicenews.com

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh officially nominated in Burnaby South: 148 NDP candidates so far



Federal Election Watch 2019

● A sizeable energetic crowd of family, supporters and elected and nominated NDP members were on hand Friday night August 30 in Burnaby to officially nominate their leader Jagmeet Singh as his party’s candidate for Burnaby South in the upcoming federal election.

The election is on Monday October 21, and so far, the NDP have only 148 candidates for 338 ridings across the country. The Conservatives under their leader Andrew Scheer have filled 332 spots, with the former Conservative Maxine Bernier finding 314 candidates for his new People’s Party. The Liberals have 273 candidates running to support current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and the Greens under Elizabeth May have 274.

It’s the view of most political pundits that the progressive NDP and Greens (who may have voted Liberal in 2015 during the ‘anybody but Harper’ momentum) could return to their roots and siphon votes away from the Liberals. Also, Conservatives who tipped their vote to Liberal in 2015 may swing back. Liberals could sag in the centre. Regardless of political stripe, voters who depend on social programs may worry about a diminished Liberal majority government by which social programs aimed at addressing core challenges in society are a more natural deliverable than under a Conservative government.

As to the struggle to find a full slate of candidates, Singh said the NDP is looking for “equity-seeking people”. An NDP release says vision is “a New Deal for People, which lays out an additional tax on multi-millionaires and the end of tax loopholes for the super-wealthy”. The NDP says it would reinvest that money in people and their public services—including a universal pharmacare plan, and attention to building more housing and capping cell phone and internet bills.

“Rich and powerful companies want to make sure that the Conservatives and Liberals continue to work for them, and Canadians pay the price for that,” said Singh. “For decades, Liberal and Conservative governments have been caving to the demands of the richest corporations,” says Singh. “I’m in it for everyday people,” he added. “We can make life easier for regular folks by bringing in pharmacare for all, creating 300,000 new jobs... I owe the multi-millionaires and mega-corporations nothing – I’m in it for you.” **WSV**

Federal election debates to be broadly available through new media organizations partnership

● During the federal election campaign, an English leaders debate is set for October 7 with the French debate on October 10. The English and French events will be held at the Canadian Museum of History, organized by the new Canadian Debate Production Partnership (CDPP) -- a new partnership of Canadian media organizations with former governor general David Johnston at the head of that.

The debates will be distributed (including free livestream) to: Global News, CBC News, Radio-Canada, CTV News, Toronto Star and Torstar chain, HuffPost Canada and HuffPost Québec, La Presse, Le Devoir, and L’Actualité.

All party leaders invited to participate in two official election debates have confirmed their attendance in the events, which will be moderated by some of Canada’s top journalists.

The English debate will be led by five prominent journalists, who all happen to be women: Rosemary Barton (CBC News), Susan Delacourt (Toronto Star), Dawna Friesen (Global News), Lisa LaFlamme (CTV News), and Althia Raj (HuffPost Canada). Each moderator will guide a distinct section of the debate.

The leaders in the debates presently are: NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May (who was excluded from the 2015 election debates) and Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet. All

Trudeau creates new CAO position reporting to RCMP Commissioner

● A new position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has been created in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), effective September 16, 2019. The announcement was rolled out Friday afternoon (Ottawa time) August 30 ahead of the long weekend.

Filling the new CAO position will be long-time career civil servant Kevin Stringer, who has served mostly with the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (2001 to present, most recently as Associate Deputy Minister) other than three years with Natural Resources Canada’s Petroleum Resources Branch 2008-2010.

Stringer will report to RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki (in the top job since March 2018), and play a lead role in the administrative management of the organization.

Creation of the new executive administrative position indicates a government direction of wanting to provide a underpinning of strong organizational support to the RCMP as they take on additional objectives in the past couple of years.

Commissioner Lucki has stated that her vision encompasses the needs of people within

the RCMP. Vision 150 is her plan — “a constant process” — to modernize the RCMP. Part of that is looking at the mechanisms “to get us there — our people, our culture, our stewardship and policing services”, she said in a government interview in March: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/gazette/need-own-organization> **WSV**



Moderators for the federal election debates (from left): Rosemary Barton (CBC News), Susan Delacourt (Toronto Star), Althia Raj (HuffPost Canada), Lisa LaFlamme (CTV News), and Dawna Friesen (Global News).

have agreed to debate each other in English and French. People’s Party leader Maxine Bernier has also asked to participate.

The federal Liberals who did not fulfill their promise of electoral reform for 2019 are showing other ways their efforts to broaden the civic process including the CDPP, longer hours at advance polls, more on-campus voting, and easier-to-read ballots.

For decades, federal election debates used to only be delivered at a set time on one or two mainstream TV channels. Elections earlier this decade saw more TV carriers and the introduction of Internet delivery through some online media.

This 2019 debate opens up more media streams (both live and available for replay), expands the number and range of moderators, and will be broadcast in additional languages (including Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin and Italian, plus a number of Indigenous languages), with American sign language, Québec sign language, closed captioning and described video also available. **WSV**

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New Curriculum good for prosperity in BC

West Shore Voice News

● **BC students are in for a good year in BC schools in 2019-2020**, says Education Minister Rob Fleming. He addressed media on Wednesday August 28, excited about a range of improvements and accomplishments in public schools.

"BC students are doing well by any metric," said Fleming. He highlighted that BC students rank in the top five in the world for skills in science, reading and math. He also noted that graduation rates for indigenous students have made "the single largest gain in many years". As well, the grad rate for special ed students is now at 71%, up from 44% just 10 years ago.

In particular, Fleming says the New Curriculum is now fully in place, having been phased in over several years through various grade levels. The new curriculum is designed for 'thinking beyond the horizon of graduation', so that students can build successful lives for themselves by accessing opportunities in the job market. "The school system is critically important to future prosperity," Fleming emphasized.

The new graduation program assessments are completed. "Grade 11 and 12 are now complete with a very large array of new courses offerings in the senior grades." This supports transition to post secondary in terms of content, and course schedules can now be 'tailor made' for studies that "suit a student's interest and their plans for beyond the completion of high school".

Fleming says there is a new focus on mental health and well-being, including "having difficult conversations" and "working with teachers on effective prevention strategies". He reiterated that schools in BC "support all students of all sexual orientations". He noted the availability of free menstrual products in schools now as part of eliminating barriers to full participation by girls in school activities including extra-curricular.

The investment in education by this NDP government has increased by a billion dollars a year, said Fleming. "For the third year now, students attend the smallest classes in a generation". There is also a 37% increase in the number of classrooms that are supported by an education assistant.

Fleming noted 70 projects across BC for building and enhancing school facilities, with lots of announcements having been made this year and more to come.

Back in June, Fleming was among a number of speakers (including Premier John Horgan and SD62 Chair Ravi Parmar) who addressed over 200 people (including leaders in community, business, and education) on raw land in Langford to announce the funding to start building an elementary-middle school combo in the fastest-growing region of the south island and BC. **WSV**



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

Education Minister Rob Fleming at the June 17 announcement of construction funding for two new schools in Westhills.

SD62: 11,300 students back to school this September

West Shore Voice News

● **With 11,300 students at 27 schools** come September, Sooke School District 62 (SD62) is the fastest growing school district per capita in BC. The driving force for the population increase is the demand for housing that is considered to be relatively affordable for families in the west shore region. For the past few years about 500 new students have joined the SD62 community each September.

SD62 delivers public education for families in the fast-growing areas of Langford, Sooke and Colwood, as well Metchosin, Highlands and parts of View Royal as well as East Sooke and Juan de Fuca out to Port Renfrew. Over the summer, four schools in the west shore received additional portable classrooms to accommodate the rapid increase in student numbers: one more for Belmont Secondary in Langford (total now three), two for Wishart Elementary in Colwood, one for Millstream Elementary in Langford, and one for Spencer Middle School in Langford.

SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson says all aspects of the school district are in keeping with the goals outlined in their Strategic Plan. "We will continue to focus on the areas of learning, engagement and growth," he said in August.

The Learning goal is to develop adaptable learners who are creative, critical and social thinkers with the capacity to be global citizens. The Engagement goal is to foster a collaborative and healthy environment through effective engagement and communication. The Growth goal is to accommodate growth and changing demographics by creating safe and respectful environments that inspire learning.

In particular, there was a significant boost in the 2019-2020 budget to \$1.1 million for Information Technology (IT) upgrades and strategies. "This year we begin the first phase of our IT plan," says Stinson. "This involves increased wifi capability, classroom technology, including digital projectors and laptops for teachers to be able to support students through planning and online student information including attendance."

SD62 will also extend their work in Comprehensive School Health, early intervention services (e.g. Reading Recovery and their ECE pilot project), and curriculum and assessment transformation.

Stinson is pleased about an An 'All Staff Day' this month, something not done in SD62 for many years he says.

As Stinson heads into his second year as the top administrator for SD62, he said mid-August that the school district was busy getting the schools ready for students arriving back on September 3. That would involve trustees, administration, facilities, and classroom preparations. "We are looking forward to welcoming staff and students back for what will be another exciting year in SD62."

The first SD62 public board meeting of 2019-2020 will be on Tuesday September 24 at the SD62 Administration Building in Langford. **WSV**



West Shore Voice News ~ Mary Brooke

SD62 Superintendent Scott Stinson delivers his Superintendent's Report at a public board meeting. [WSV File photo: March 2019]



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Back to School in SD62. Tues Sept 3. Check your school website for times. www.sd62.bc.ca
City of Langford Council Meeting. Tues Sept 3. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca
City of Colwood Committee of the Whole. Tues Sept 3. 6 pm. www.colwood.ca
View Royal Council Meeting. Tues Sept 3. 7 pm. www.viewroyal.ca
Sooke Community Choir Fall/Winter registration & try-outs. Wed Sept 4. 6:30pm, 6851 W Coast Road. www.sookecommunitychoir.com
Pacific FC vs Forge FC. Wed Sept 4. Westhills Stadium. 7 pm. www.pacificfc.ca
Crossing at Belmont. Open house. Sat Sept 7. 945 Reunion Ave, Langford. www.crossingatbelmont.com
Sooke Fall Fair. Sat & Sun Sept 7 & 8. Sooke Community Hall, Shields Rd. www.sookefallfair.ca
SAFARS Garage Sale – Pet Food Drive – Bottle Drive. Sat Sept 7. Starts 10 am. 2075 Otter Point Road, Sooke. www.safars.org
Beach Art on Whiffin Spit. Sun Sept 8. Free registration at 11 am. All ages. www.sookearts.com
Victoria Shamrocks Lacrosse. Mann Cup Finals. Fri Sept 6 through Wed Sept 11, & Fri/Sat Sept 13 & 14. 7 pm. The Q Centre, Colwood. www.victoriashamrocks.com



Traffic advisories | Scheduled roadworks:
www.langford.ca

District of Sooke Council Meeting. Mon Sept 9. 7 pm. www.sooke.ca
City of Colwood Council Meeting. Mon Sept 9. 7 pm. www.colwood.ca
Pacific FC vs York9 FC. Wed Sept 11. Westhills Stadium. 7 pm. www.pacificfc.ca

'Meet the candidates' for Sooke municipal by-election. Sun Sept 15. Transition Sooke.
Sooke Arts Council AGM. Tues Sept 17. 7 pm, 1911 Murray Rd, Sooke. www.sookearts.com
District of Sooke ADVANCE VOTING. Wed Sept 18. Municipal by-election. 8 am to 8 pm. Sooke Council Chambers, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca
SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Sept 24. 7 pm. First board meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year. www.sd62.bc.ca
District of Sooke ADVANCE VOTING. Wed Sept 25. Municipal by-election. 8 am to 8 pm. Sooke Council Chambers, municipal hall. www.sooke.ca
District of Sooke Local By-Election. Sat Sept 28. 8 am to 8 pm. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.sooke.ca
Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society AGM. Sun Sept 29. 2 to 4 pm. Location tba. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org
Federal Election English Language Debate. Mon Oct 7. TV broadcast and livestreamed.
Thanksgiving Long Weekend. Sat Oct 12, Sun Oct 13 & Mon Oct 14.
Federal Election General Voting Day. Mon Oct 21. www.elections.ca

To include your event write to:
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Rugby: Canada vs BC All-Stars

West Shore Voice News



Canada vs BC All-Stars rugby match at Westhills Stadium August 30.

The Canada vs BC All-Stars rugby match at Westhills Stadium on Friday night August 30 was not intense. It was more of a showcase than an on-field battle of muscle, the score ended up 45-13 for Canada.

The match was an opportunity for players to exhibit their strengths for coaches, before a final roster is picked for the World Cup competition.

Scoring was gained consistently by the Canada team (28 players on that roster from across Canada including many from BC), with several successful tries that held the BC All-Stars (23 players on the roster — many from Victoria and the Lower Mainland as well as Ontario and a three from international locations) to 13.

This was Canada's final game on Vancouver Island before heading to Japan for the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Canada's 2019 World Cup opener is on September 26 against Italy in Fukuoka, Japan.

The evening event was sponsored by the City of Langford. **WSV**

FOR THE RECORD Upcoming new Sooke medical clinic: physician billing same as anywhere

West Shore Voice News

In our August 16 issue of *West Shore Voice News*, we reported on the opening of a new pharmacy and medical clinic at 6691 Logan Lane in Sooke. Two or three general practitioners (family doctors) will operate out of the space, also offering referrals to specialists who will visit the clinic on a pre-arranged basis. The building is being renovated and readied by Forbes Pharmacy toward an opening in November.

Some buzz around Sooke seems to be that because the Forbes clinic is privately-developed that patients will have to pay doctors directly. This is not so. All physicians in BC send their billings to the Medical Services Plan (MSP).

The doctors who operate out of the upcoming Forbes Pharmacy location will be leasing medical office space. The West Coast Family Medical Clinic at Evergreen Shopping Centre is also privately owned (in that case, by the physicians who run it).

There are two main physician payment models in BC. The majority of physicians receive government payments under the fee-for-service model, essentially working as independent contractors who bill the public insurance plan (the Medical Services Plan or MSP). Each service has a separate billing code and a rate negotiated between the Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC. This type of payment comprised 79% of total physician payments in 2015-2016, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

In addition to fee-for-service compensation, the Alternative Payment Program (APP) pays for contracted physician services through sessional and salaried compensation models (also referred to as service contracts). Some physicians who work in hospitals and health authority clinical settings, such as general practitioners in the emergency room, are paid through such contracts. **WSV**

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Your Voice in the Legislature



Highway 1 improvements to begin this month: Leigh Road to West Shore Parkway

West Shore Voice News



Hwy 1 (view approaching West Shore Parkway), presently with three lanes. Delineators were installed after two crashes.

Work will begin in late September to upgrade Highway 1 (Trans Canada Highway) from Leigh Road to the West Shore Parkway, as first announced April 23, and now with a budget correction released on August 30.

Originally announced by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) as a \$14.45 million project, MOTI now says Windley Contracting of Nanaimo has been awarded a \$9.7-million contract for the work (\$4.75 million being paid by the federal government, with the remainder by BC). Normally the provincial government covers any cost overruns for these sorts of projects.

Completion is expected in summer 2021, with improved safety and reduced travel times as the main goals. There will be through-traffic during construction.

Highway 1 will be widened from three lanes to four lanes for a stretch of 2 kilometres, beginning at Leigh Road. The additional lane will continue through the West Shore Parkway intersection, with the northbound merge relocated to the Goldstream Park side of the signal. This will add capacity at this intersection and reduce northbound traffic congestion that is common during peak periods.

To improve safety, 1.2 kilometres of concrete median barrier will be added to separate opposing lanes of traffic.

In the short term – following two fatal accidents in that stretch of highway in January and February 2019 – MOTI installed 250 reflective 'picket' delineators in early March along the 1.25 km stretch where four-laning will now be constructed. In May, delineators were also installed from about 300 m north of Finlayson Arm Road to about 300 metres south of the Goldstream River Bridge. **WSV**

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