



Mary P Brooke, B.Sc., Cert PR

The party or the candidate?

by Mary P Brooke, Editor, West Shore Voice News

● **It's not a new civic discussion** -- especially federally -- as to whether your vote at the ballot box is for the party or for the candidate in your local riding.

For the federal election coming up October 21, there is also the dramatic consideration of party leader as well. Not just for representation of their party's policies and interests (and your expectations of that party), but their representation of Canada on the world stage. A prime minister does more than photo ops; there is also the background leadership that filters into management of the cabinet and team, trade negotiations, and international diplomatic relations.

As well, this time around: which party would you like to see as the 'balancing act' in a much-predicted Liberal or Conservative minority government? Choices there are considered to be either the NDP (taking the broad strokes on social justice) or the Greens (which would inject the climate crisis consideration into many a debate and possibly hold up or defeat votes in the House of Commons).

Despite all the media events, community gatherings, all candidates meetings, signage, ads and more that are directed at swaying voters, how much of the voting pool is really undecided? A voter's allegiance to a party (whether card-carrying or not) is based on core values and beliefs. Those sorts of things don't often change too dramatically. So if you usually vote Conservative because you believe in free market forces but you want a softer social edge, you might swing red if the Liberals offer enough business strength. And if you're NDP but you like what the Liberals have done socioculturally the last four years, you might swing red. If you've been NDP and you feel the Greens have a stronger environmental platform, you might swing away from orange this time around. If you're a new voter (hey there, Z-genners!) which party will get you the desired socioeconomic shift? Powerful subterranean changes in society began with the millennials but the match that lights the fire of that groundswell is yours... there's no turning back for society and the planet, and your generation (ages around 18 to 25 nowadays) embodies the understanding of that: you live it, you are the change itself embodied. For you the brave new climate-saving world is not a choice, it's in your fibre. The Z-Generation is looking to match up their inner understanding and the connected space they've built through social media with the physical world in which we breathe air, have jobs, and raise families.

You might decide about all of that but then wonder if your local party candidate the best fit for your riding. To help you decide: consider their knowledge of the region,

BC HEALTH NEWS

West Shore Voice News

Privacy protections lacking at BC medical clinics

● **Medical clinics throughout British Columbia** need to do more to protect the often highly sensitive personal information in their custody, according to a review from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC (OIPC), as released September 25.

The *Audit and Compliance Report P19 01: Compliance Review of Medical*

Get air quality advisories direct to your email

● **British Columbians may now sign up for public health notifications** about potential or existing poor air quality in their communities by email (with a text option expected to be available in 2020). Enter one or more regions where you live and/or work, or where family members reside if not with you.

Provide your email address on the BC government's air quality website at <https://aqss.nrs.gov.bc.ca/subscription.html> to receive air quality advisories and smoky skies bulletins which alert the public about existing or potential poor air quality, while providing appropriate health advice and protective actions that can be taken.

"All British Columbians need and deserve clean air, and we also deserve to know right away when there are pollutants in the air that may affect our health or well-being," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in a release September 25. He especially urges people with pre-existing health conditions or who are more vulnerable (such as the elderly or people with chronic health conditions like asthma), to sign up for these notifications so they can stay healthy and take preventative measures if needed."

There are currently 76 community-specific sites that provide hourly data to a central database where they are processed, stored and posted near real-time on the BC air quality website.

Air quality advisories are issued for individual communities and usually result from local activities occurring within or near that community such as vehicle emissions, industrial emissions, residential wood burning and road dust. Advisories are sent when measurements of an air pollutant in a community exceeds its short-term provincial air quality objective.

"Poor air quality poses health risks to people with chronic conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and it can particularly affect the elderly, pregnant women, infants and small children," said BC Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. "The new auto-alert function will allow easy access to the level

of risk in your area, so you can take steps to protect your health and the health of your family."

Smoky skies bulletins are specific to wildfire smoke, which can occur over large distances and change quickly. Bulletins are issued when areas of the province are being impacted or have reasonable potential to be impacted by wildfire smoke within 24 to 48 hours.

"Air quality can change very quickly during wildfire season in BC," says Sarah Henderson, senior environmental health scientist, BC Centre for Disease Control. "Wildfire smoke can affect anyone who breathes it, especially people with asthma or other respiratory conditions. Knowing when a smoky skies bulletin has been issued for your area can give you and your family more time to get ready." *WSV*

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their particular career skill set, the areas of community in which they have already demonstrated leadership, and the way they express the key issues through their own filters.

Being a responsible voter is hard work! Part of finalizing your voting choice can be assisted by attending as many of the all candidates debates or community gatherings as possible as a way to meet your local candidates in person. That's where eye contact, how questions are answered, and your own sense of the candidate as a person will be easier to determine. Watching livestreamed events is a next-best option for getting a fuller sense of candidates.

And the power of ads, flyers and websites is not to be underestimated. What's presented (or not) is indicative of many things.

And if you doubt whether lawn signs work to tip your favour... well, they may not change your vote but they're a powerful means of boosting the morale of supporters during a campaign. ■

News posts daily at: www.westshorevoicenews.com

Clinics looked at how 22 BC medical clinics -- each with five or more licensed physicians on staff -- were meeting legal obligations under the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) which governs how private organizations collect, use and disclose personal information.

OIPC auditors examined privacy management programs and privacy policies of those clinics, as well as their collection and safeguarding of personal information.

Gaps in privacy management programs were found at several clinics, including absence of a designated privacy officer, lack of funding and resources for privacy, and a failure to ensure that privacy practices keep up with technological advances.

Information and privacy commissioner Michael McEvoy said the report raises concerns about patient privacy that are relevant throughout the province.

"Medical clinics were chosen for this review for two reasons: the amount and sensitivity of the personal information they collect -- some of the most sensitive personal information out there -- and the volume of complaints and privacy breach reports my office receives that are related to privacy practices at facilities like these," McEvoy said.

"The results show that while some clinics were complying with their obligations, many have work to do when it comes to improving their privacy practices," he said.

"There is no question about the intense demands medical professionals face. However, respecting and protecting patients' private information is critically important. Doctors and staff at clinics not only owe it to their patients to do their utmost to build and maintain strong privacy programs, but they are also legally obligated to abide by privacy legislation. I hope that the focus of this report underscores the need for clinics to address gaps in how they protect this sensitive personal information and my office's willingness to assist them in doing so."

The report's 16 recommenda-

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tions are aimed at helping clinics address the gaps in their privacy management programs, building better policies and safeguards, and ensuring they provide adequate notification about the purposes of collecting personal information online, including: **build** a robust privacy management program that covers everything from creating a personal information inventory and privacy policies, to breach response protocol and monitoring compliance; **ensure** adequate funding and resources for effective privacy management programs; **designate** a privacy officer and establish and communicate clear internal reporting structures on privacy issues; **provide** ongoing privacy training for all who access personal information, including staff, physicians and contractors; and **exercise** caution when collecting information online and ensure adequate notification to patients. *WSV*

Report: <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/audit-and-compliance-reports/2340>

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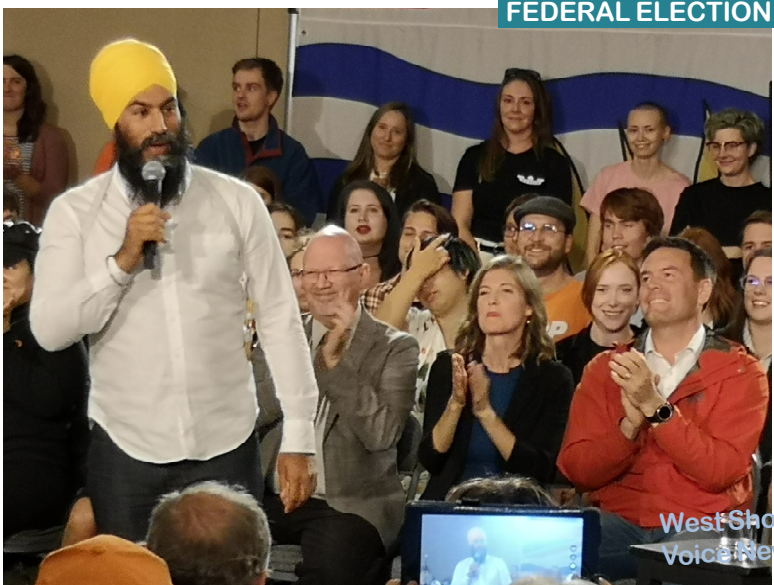
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This week's Candidate Closeup:

NDP LEADER: Jagmeet Singh

by Mary P
Brooke,
Editor
West Shore
Voice News

NDP
leader
Jagmeet
Singh was
backed
by three
south
island NDP
candidates
at his town
hall on
Sept 27. >>



In the town hall front row at the Victoria Conference Centre (from left): Randall Garrison, incumbent (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke); Laurel Collins (Victoria); and Alistair MacGregor, incumbent (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford).

● **Jagmeet Singh** has slid into the role of high-profile campaigner with aplomb. Pundits and voters alike are saying he's outshining their initial expectations, though it's unclear why they thought the performance would be any less.

A lawyer by profession and already politically experienced as a former Ontario member of parliament, NDP leader since October 2017, and since February of this year as the MP for Burnaby-South, Jagmeet doesn't just embrace an event or a crowd -- he meshes as one with the energy of the crowd. And he makes small interpersonal connections that sink like barbs into the questioner or supporter.

Speaking to a large gathering while at the same time being fluent on the wide range of national, local and regional issues in a federal campaign takes a lot of preparation, energy and backing from others. That all then needs to be combined with a style and flavour of the leader himself. Do that and repeat, for 40 days of a country-wide campaign.

Not to forget that the aims of the NDP to hold onto or increase their number of seats in the House of Commons is being done on a shoestring compared to the Liberals and Conservatives. Little tell-tale signs of that are spending several days to a week in one region, using the campaign bus for multiple whistle stops. But his media events appear just as professional on TV as those of the better-financed party campaigns. That indicates the ground-level political savvy behind the NDP brand.

Unlike the other federal party leaders -- and more like rock star celebrities -- the NDP Leader is comfortably known by simply his first name. 'Mr Singh' is heard, but 'Jagmeet' is the connector... people feel they know him when they say his name. It's a bonding that he capitalizes on in public.

Before the official start of the campaign NDP incumbent Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) told *West Shore Voice News*: "Jagmeet loves campaigning, and he's a really good campaigner. We're going to do very well." *WSV*

Full article on Jagmeet's September 27 town hall:
<https://westshorevoicenews.com/three-south-island-ndp-candidates-back-jagmeet-singh-at-town-hall-in-victoria/>

Public Education

West Shore | SD62

SD62 reaches enrolment target

by Mary P Brooke | WSV

● **The usual range** of administrative business was conducted by the Sooke School District 62 (SD62) board at their first meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year, on Tuesday evening September 24.

Of impact to all aspects education delivery in SD62 is the official student count, upon which funding from the BC government is calculated.

Associate Superintendent Paul Block outlined enrolment numbers for the board, saying that by September 30 the projected 11,225 would be reached. Total FTE enrolment increase over last year is about 400. There is space "across the system"



SD62 board meeting September 24.

for any new students arriving to find classroom seats in their catchment area, said Block. There are 134 more elementary students this year and 133 more middle school students. Projected enrolment at Royal Bay Secondary has already been exceeded by 23 students, but overall high school enrolment in SD62 has not increased over last year. Skillful planning for this increase was required as to impact for staffing, supplies, and classroom distribution including portables. In many schools classroom space has been gained by eliminating designated computer labs, thanks to wireless and student keyboard skill levels. *WSV*



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ESS candidates in Otter Point debate

Continued from pg 1.../

... / who arrived quite promptly considering the remote meeting location at 7450 Butler Road in the Sooke Business Park well west of Sooke.

People's Party of Canada (PPC) candidate Jeremy Gustafson told the room he was disappointed to not be at the front table with the other candidates for the main portion of the meeting, but that he works with what he has. And as it turns out, Communist Party candidate Tyson Strandlund did not attend at all (though his introduction was read aloud by the lead organizer).

Ultimately, after the four major party candidates -- Jamie Hammond (Liberal), Randall Pewarchuk (Conservative), Randall Garrison, incumbent (NDP), and David Merner (Green) -- responded to prepared questions, both Gustafson and Ney joined the table for a substantive 30-minute audience question period.

Questions prepared in advance focused on: climate crisis and tools to address it; why no federal spending yet on high-speed Internet and clean water spent west of Sooke; protection of fish stocks and local orca populations.

With the support of the group's executive who began planning the meeting back in July, OPSRRA president Bill Dushenko led the meeting and jockeyed the candidates through their paces.

CLIMATE CRISIS: Merner: The Greens' 20-point plan is 'mission possible'; Canada needs a 60% reduction of current greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets achieved by 2030 to avoid "irrevocable global heating", as well as carbon neutrality by 2050. All new passenger vehicles should be electric by 2030. The Greens call for a national fracking ban, as has been done in other provinces and countries. The Greens have campaigned since their inception for environmental action. "Let's work in an urgent way. This is a crisis. We must act in a dramatic, serious, transformational way." **Garrison:** Economic justice and social justice go hand in hand with climate justice and the work to achieve that will bring people together. If they leave people behind, they will oppose the changes and goals. The NDP would spend \$15 billion on 300,000 jobs in the renewable energy industries. Pay attention to rural transportation where it's more difficult for people to make transitions (noted \$30 million promised by the NDP for supporting rural ferry service in BC) and overall getting people to support the required transportation needs toward reducing GHG emissions. **Pewarchuk:** Conservatives "believe in technology not taxation". "We will create more jobs in Canada with technological growth while at the same time lowering global emissions -- domestic, industrial and global pollution. If we don't do it this way, we will have an economic catastrophe before we have an environmental catastrophe." A Conservative government would support Canadian industries and reduce GHG's through technology and selling it to the world; companies would be taxed 5% less for putting money into technology innovation, and be part of reducing the world carbon footprint. **Hammond:** Real action is needed, insisting the Liberals are the only party that can get the required changes done and that "everyone needs to be along on the journey". Under Trudeau 2015-2019 "Canada has been leading the way" and "needs to keep moving". In Alberta 49% of electricity production is still from burning coal, as just one example of things that need to change. The Liberals said pre-election they would bring in a ban on single-use plastics by 2021.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET to RURAL AREAS: **Garrison:** CRTC has taken a narrow approach in just dealing with the 'wholesale' side of providing Internet service, awaiting and hoping for industry to do what is required. The NDP see a need for more equity of service across Canada and provision of emergency services via wireless. It's not profitable for big service providers to fully cover the rural areas; there's room for community-owned communications providers, but that regulatory changes. Meanwhile, the network of Canada Post infrastructure across the country in rural areas could enable wireless service in remote areas. **Merner:** The government should enable people to work from home, which relies on high-speed Internet "to connect to the Internet and the global economy". He suggests use of the existing infrastructure of rural post offices as hubs for providing Internet services as big industry doesn't see a profit motive for going deep into sparsely populated areas to service 'the final mile'. **Hammond:** "By the end of 2020 there will be (adequate/better) service here,"; he was an Assistant Deputy Minister in a technology department in the BC government. The role of MP brings people together to make things like this happen. A former military operative, Hammond said: "We had better cell phone coverage in Afghanistan" compared to rural service in some areas of Canada. **Pewarchuk:** "It will take a joint effort to solve", noting that in the west-of-Sooke region cell towers owned by the larger companies have been shared with smaller service providers (like FIDO). The Conservative government was the "only government" who has given attention to rural areas, and a Conservative government would appoint a minister of rural affairs.

PROTECTION OF FISH & ORCAS: **Pewarchuk:** This year's Chinook fishing restrictions by the Liberal federal government have not been the answer. Local anglers (fishermen) are the ones who know the solutions, one of those being tagging 90% (25 million) of the salmon fry that are let out into the waterways, to restrict over-fishing -- an example of thinking outside the box. Federal dollars are needed for executing these strategies. "People need fish and fish need people". **Hammond:** "Working together at all levels" is necessary. There is a "changed culture of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans". The protection of species at risk is 14%, ahead of the 2020 goal by 4%. Local fishing hatcheries are a big part of the active solutions in areas like Sooke and west of Sooke, but federal funding is needed for support -- specifically \$1 million for the hatchery at the Sooke River. Reducing noise will help protect the orcas of the regional waters. **Merner:** The Liberals have not been moving quickly enough on protecting fish and orcas. "There is a legacy of failure by the DFO under both the Liberals and the Conservatives," where there needs to be room for science-based decision-making. Restoring habitat in rivers and streams as well as the ocean should be key goals. The people "who are working so hard to make it happen" (e.g. local salmon preservation groups) need federal funding for supplying fry and helping pay electrical bills. **Garrison:** "The federal government hasn't stepped up on this file." The NDP supports hatcheries in the interim "to take us through this crisis". The NDP calls for relocation of the shipping lanes off the BC west coast to help reduce noise pollution for the orcas (Southern Resident Killer Whales), a file that Garrison has worked on diligently for his eight years as a member of parliament. *WSV*



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National Seniors Appreciation Day. Tues Oct 1. Free admission if you're 60+. Spin to win for prizes. www.seaparc.ca

Tour de Rock / Cops for Cancer. Wed Oct 2. Willway Elem 12:11 pm. Belmont Secondary 12:20 pm. John Stubbs 1:13 pm. Happy Valley Elem 1:41 pm. Saseenos Elem 2:35 pm. Drive by EMCS 2:54 pm. www.tourderock.ca

Pacific FC vs HFX Wanderers FC. Wed Oct 2 at Westhills Stadium. Get a free general admission ticket with the donation of two non-perishable food bank items. #FeedTheIsle | www.pacificfc.ca

Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke candidates debate. Thurs Oct 3. 4401 William Head Rd. 6:30 pm. www.metchosinhall.com

BC Legislature Resumes. Mon Oct 7. www.leg.bc.ca

Federal Election Debate (English). Mon Oct 7. TV & livestream. 4 to 6 pm PT.

Awareness Film Night. 25th season. Wed Oct 9. 'Push': Unaffordability of housing & owning a local business. 7 pm. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

Advance Voting for the Federal Election: Oct 11, 12, 13, 14. Confirm dates, times and locations for your riding at www.elections.ca

All Candidates Meeting for Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke. Fri Oct 11. 7 pm. Hosted by Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce. EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.sookeregionchamber.com

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Thanksgiving Skate. Mon Oct 14. At SEAPARC in Sooke. 1 to 2:30 pm. \$2 admission with donation for Sooke Food Bank (cash or non-perishable food). www.seaparc.ca

All Candidates Debate Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke Wed Oct 16. At Brookes Westshore, 1939 Sooke Rd, Colwood. 10:30 to 11:45 am. Open to the public, and questions from students and community. Parking on Colwood Cres beside the school. <https://westshore.brookes.org>

Great BC Shakeout. Practice your earthquake preparedness skills at 10:17 am. Thurs Oct 17. www.shakeoutbc.ca

Pacific FC vs Valour FC. Sat Oct 19 at Westhills Stadium. Last home game of the 2019 season. www.pacificfc.ca

Pet Halloween Costume Parade. Sun Oct 20. 1 to 4 pm. WAVES pet hospital, 947 Langford Parkway. Prizes, BBQ, tours. www.wavesvet.com

Federal Election General Voting Day. Mon Oct 21. Confirm voting locations and times at: www.elections.ca

SD62 Public Board Meeting. Tues Oct 22. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

To include your event write to:
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MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Coming NEXT WEEK:
Colwood's UBCM infrastructure award

There's a boat launch in View Royal!

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News

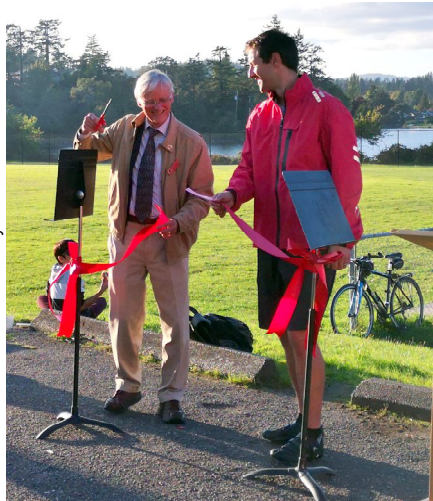
● **The opening of a boat launch** tucked away on the Gorge across the street from Shoreline Community Middle School featured speeches and a ribbon cutting by View Royal Councillors John Rogers and Damian Kowalewich during the school's annual fall BBQ on Thursday evening September 26.

The launch will be used by school and community for recreational activities.

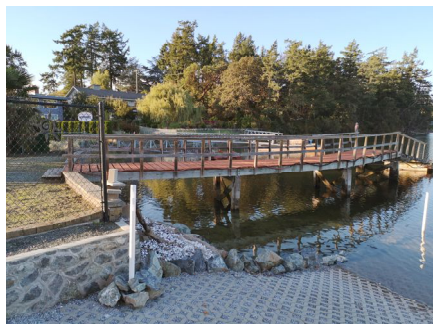
Getting the facility open took about two years, including a parks plan and an application to the provincial government to look into any nature habitat intrusion as well as the World Fish Trust doing an environmental assessment in July. About 1,300 native Pacific oysters were taken out and relocated in a "good habitat on the Gorge" prior to construction.

"Mitzi Dean's office stepped in and worked with our staff," said Rogers with appreciation for Dean's assistance through her Esquimalt-Metchosin MLA constituency office. Official processes also included getting a foreshore lease.

Kowalewich says he will bring up a discussion at View Royal council about installing a crosswalk across Shoreline Drive for safer student crossing from the school over to the waterfront area. **WSV**



View Royal Councillors John Rogers (left) and Damian Kowalewich cut the ribbon to officially open the new View Royal Boat Launch, September 26, in the parking lot at Shoreline Community Middle School.



New View Royal Boat Launch

Victoria Contracting wins District of Sooke roads maintenance contract

Continued from pg 1.../

/ ...is \$342,016. The following four years see the first-year price multiplied by the respective year's Cost of Living factor. Emcon Services Inc was the second-place bidder with a price of \$370,576. For bidding high at \$542,164 SPR Traffic Services LP has been "excluded from further consideration".

Victoria Contracting currently also holds the maintenance contracts for the City of Langford, Town of View Royal, and District of Highlands, which with Sooke under their belt now puts a regional footprint on their services across the west shore and possibly allows for further efficiencies.

The District of Sooke's staff report also indicated: "As Emcon holds the MOTI contract for southern Vancouver Island, both contractors have additional manpower and equipment in close proximity should emergency work or extra work be required on short notice."

Victoria Contracting's fee is about 25% higher than the previous contract with Mainroad, for which the District of Sooke had a budget of \$256,166 in 2018. Sooke's 2019 budget for highways maintenance is now \$350,000, with an estimated 2% annual increase during 2020-2023.

The motion approved on September 9 at Sooke council was moved by Councillor Megan McMath, seconded by Councillor Tony St-Pierre. **WSV**

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Tour de Rock in the west shore October 2

West Shore Voice News



Students gathered outside Belmont Secondary School in Langford awaiting the Tour de Rock riders lats year (2018), as they will again this year.

● **This year's 20 Tour de Rock riders** -- doing their full cycle of the island between September 21 and October 4 -- will be in the West Shore on Wednesday October 2 (riding 78 km that day). Here's the schedule for stops in the community:

Thrifty Foods Mill Bay 9:59 am for 15 min | Willway Elementary 12:11 pm (10 min) | Belmont Secondary for lunch - 12:20 (30 min) | John Stubbs -13:13 pm (14 min) | Happy Valley Elementary - 13:41 (12 min) | Saseenos Elementary - 14:35 (18 min) | Drive by EMCS at 14:54 pm (1 min), load bikes | Hotel Grand Pacific 15:57 pm (2.5 hrs) | West Shore Gala at Union Club in Victoria - 18:34 pm (2 hr). www.tourderock.ca **WSV**

Vancouver Island libraries indigenous showcase

● **The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** is showcasing Indigenous people, cultures, customs, and creations this October during Library Month celebrations. From film screenings to author talks, storytimes to medicine walks, VIRL says their 27 branches will offer exciting, thought-provoking, insightful and informative Indigenous-themed programs and displays through this month. **WSV**

Pacific FC: two more home games



● **It's hard to believe it was only April 28** when Pacific FC played their inaugural match at Westhills Stadium. Now there are only two home games remaining in the 2019 season: Wednesday October 2 vs HFX Wanderers FC (7 pm) and Saturday October 19 (3:30 pm) vs Valour FC. Tickets available online at www.pacificfc.ca

Pacific FC has generated a new energy for soccer culture on Vancouver Island. **WSV**

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