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SOCKEYE

It's a feeding frenzy on the dock

Fishers get rock star reception at Steveston wharf

By Meghan Bennett
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A clear west wind Monday afternoon in the Malvern, a local gill-net boat, pulled up to the public docks in Steveston, heavily laden with sockeye salmon.

Janis Wallace of Why Rock was one of the first of a very long line of people waiting to buy Fraser River sockeye at \$15 a fish, or four for \$50.

"I don't get excited that they're sockeye, who had been standing in line for about two hours for a chance to buy sockeye at about half the price they typically sell for."

The Malvern had just returned from the Fraser after a fifth commercial opening Monday, something local fishermen haven't seen for years.

The hospital had started earlier in the day.

"There were about 400 people waiting at one o'clock," said John Maclean, a commercial fisherman who sells fish from his boat at the public docks. "They're the fish boats' wild card."

There is the first time local gill-netters have been able to fish for sockeye for five years.

The annual commercial opening returns to view at around 30 on Steveston's public docks.

The public docks are the only place where you can buy Fraser River sockeye per container.

Alison Baskin, Westminster's regional manager, said the fish is the best she's ever had.

POLICE

Strawberry shopper sought in hit-and-run

By Meghan Bennett
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Richmond RCMP are looking for a hit-and-run driver who they say sent another driver to hospital at the beginning of July. And they may have gotten lucky.

Police have been able to identify a possible suspect who just happened to be caught on surveillance video facing strawberry farmers at a local strawberry farm.

RCMP have released surveillance footage on the hope someone can identify one of the suspects.

The accident occurred July 1 around 1 p.m. on Westminster Highway near No. 8 Road. Police say a black Acura MDX was westbound on Westminster Highway when a car, believed to be a grey Toyota Camry, backed out of a strawberry farm just west of No. 8 Road.

The driver of the Acura

World famous band to strike up in Richmond

U.S. Marine Corps. Pacific Band's first Canadian visit will be at the Aberdeen Centre

BY MICHELLE HOPKINS
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They have thrilled audiences in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Mongolia. This month, the world-renowned U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band will perform for the first time in Canada.

On Sept. 8, the band — comprising of 50 young and extremely talented men and women from across the United States — will perform in Richmond at Aberdeen Centre.

Thomas Fung, CEO of Aberdeen Centre is honoured and thrilled to have the prestigious band come and perform in the atrium of the mall.

"The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band is a top-notch band that is highly recommended by the Embassy of the United States of America," he said.

"It is an extreme honour to have members from the band play for the Richmond community at the Aberdeen Centre."

Fung went on to say: "Music is a universal language that transcends boundaries and connects people of all cultures.

This special musical performance is an excellent and worthwhile opportunity to promote multiculturalism at Aberdeen Centre, especially during the summer months when we have both Asian and Non-Asian residents, as well as tourists visiting us from all around the world."

The News spoke to Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Sherlock, the music director for the Marine Forces Pacific Band, in his Hawaii office to chat about their upcoming inaugural visit.

"We are extremely excited about coming to British Columbia," said Sherlock.

"There's a long history of friendship between our two countries, so coming to Canada is a real treat for our band mem-



The U.S. Marine Corps. Forces Pacific Band, above and below, has wowed audiences across the world with its 400 per year performances.

bers."

Band members go through a rigorous screening and audition process and then, if they are accepted, said Sherlock, they must study at the U.S. Marine School of music for a minimum of six months.

"So, our band members are really good musicians," he added proudly.

The band will stage about an hour-long, sit-down concert.

"People sometimes mistake us for a marching band but that's not what we are," said Sherlock, adding they typically perform

more than 400 times a year at various ceremonies, parades and formal concerts.

"We will play some classical selections, some Dixieland jazz and some Broadway tunes.

"We will also highlight our Pacific Northwest relationships

in music.

"If the crowd is into the music, we do have a tendency to go a little longer."

While here, the award-winning band will also perform at a number of events, including the Canadian Navy Centennial Tattoo with Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Naden Band, Esquimalt on Sept. 4 at the Pacific Coliseum.

"We are also performing in Delta on Sept. 8 and in Whistler Sept. 9," said Sherlock, adding they are one of a dozen U.S. Marine Corps.



bands around the world. (Dating back to 1918).

"In Delta, we will be at the Delta Social Heart Plaza at 7 p.m."

This band also has the distinction of being the oldest military unit in Hawaii, even older than the Marine Forces Pacific itself.

Mark your calendars for a week from today as the illustrious U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band performs in the atrium of Aberdeen Centre from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

They will be playing classical selections as well as some jazz. The mall is located at 4400 Hazelbridge Way.

For more information, call 604-270-1234 or visit www.aberdeencentre.com.

A little history about the U.S. Marine Corps. Forces Pacific Band (Courtesy of band director, Bryan Sherlock).

- The exact origins of the band are unknown
- It is believed that before 1918, marines, who were aspiring musicians, decided to band together on their off duty time to rehearse and perform at base dances, social functions and military ceremonies.
- Eventually, the Marine Corps recognized the band and named it the Marine Post Band.
- For the following 75 years, they entertained troops at Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor.
- In September 1944, by order of Lieutenant General H.M. (affection ally known as Howlin' Mad) Smith, the band was renamed the Fleet Marine Forces Pacific band.
- In 1993, the band moved to the Marine Corps. Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and thus the name today.