



John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Community Report OCTOBER 2009

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Environment fallen off Gordon Campbell's radar?

Remember the commitment the Premier made a few years ago that BC would be a leader in climate change solutions? Governments around the world were implementing new programs aimed at reducing our impact on our environment. In BC, the government chose to bring in a carbon tax, an additional tax we all pay at the pumps and on home heating fuel. But rather than the additional revenue being targeted to off-set carbon emissions or promote sustainable lifestyle choices, it goes into general revenue.

I don't agree with this. If we're collecting a carbon tax then let's dedicate it to making real change and combating climate change. At the Union of BC Municipalities Convention, held at the end of September in Vancouver, Carole James announced the Official Opposition's plan to do just that.

By cancelling the corporate tax cuts

... the public is seeking policies that make a positive difference ...

scheduled to come in over the next years related to carbon tax, and then investing that money into a 'green fund', the province will have \$150 million to spend on transit improvements and climate change solutions in communities across the province. Not only will this help us meet our emission reduction targets, as set out in law by the current government, but it will help communities with economic recovery at a time when we need it most.

But I don't think the Premier will take us up on this plan. If his recent record is anything to go on, the environment seems to have fallen off his radar. Since the election, Gordon Campbell's Liberals have:

- ✗ eliminated the LiveSmart BC program that encourages homeowners to retrofit their homes and become more energy efficient,
- ✗ cut back on Scrap-It, an incentive program aimed at getting older,

- polluting cars off the roads and replacing them with new, more efficient vehicles,
- ✗ announced plans to bring in the HST, which will eliminate provincial tax exemptions on clean, energy efficient products and bicycles,
- ✗ cut the budget for environmental protection, parks and protected areas,
- ✗ supported crude oil supertanker traffic along our coastline,
- ✗ promoted the end of the moratorium on offshore oil and gas development,
- ✗ forced BC Hydro to buy private power that is surplus to our domestic needs

The environmental ethic is strong in our community. Residents expect their government to be forward looking and to protect our precious green spaces and implement programs that reduce harm to our natural world. We all have a stake in the future of our planet. Governments at all levels need to recognize that the public is seeking policies that make a positive difference in our community, our province and our country. Our children and those that follow them deserve nothing less.

Community Office

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Monday
Karate for All
Ages in Shirley from
6:30 to 7:30 pm.
Contact is Alida
Long, 250 642 4631.

Every Tuesday
Yoga. Shirley
Community Hall
at 6:30 pm.

October 17 Oktoberfest! Sooke
district Lioness Club is holding their
annual Oktoberfest – a major fundraiser
for Sooke Santa Sacks. A German
supper and entertainment. 5:45–9 pm
at the Sooke Legion. For information
and tickets, call 250 642 3885.

October 18 Metchosin Apple
Festival. A fun-filled free day
for families with art, games,
pie-making, dessert raffle,
entertainment and concession.
Everyone invited. At the
Metchosin Community House.

October 19 Free Healthy Aging
seminar. Sponsored by Thrifty
Foods, for people 40+ who want
to age with energy, vitality and
health. Juan de Fuca Rec Centre
Fieldhouse from 7-8:30 pm. To
register, call 250 478 8384.

October 19 Email for
Beginners. Learn how to
send, receive and forward
email messages. Juan de Fuca
Library. 10:30 am – Noon. To
register, call 250 391 0653.

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John, a former Boy Scout, was happy to be at Camp Barnard, cutting the ribbon on the new bridge over McKenzie Creek, a recently rejuvenated creek that, thanks to the Salmon

Enhancement society, is once again home to BC wild salmon. This year, the campers celebrate 65 years of listening to frogs, paddling canoes and playing among 200 year old cedars.

← John is seen here with Paul Fenton of the 1st Arbutus Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.

It was Senator George Henry Barnard, who had also served as Mayor of Victoria in 1904–05, who donated two parcels of land to the Victoria Council of Scouts Canada in early 1945. Contained within the camp is the 17-acre Young Lake.

The camp is used year round and has hosted provincial scout jamborees in 1974, 1982 and 1987.



↑ John joined the many people taking part in this year's E&N Days – a celebration of our rail history and future. John is working with community groups to get a commuter rail system up and running for our region.

In the top photo, John enjoys a turn at the engine as the train travels from downtown Victoria to Langford.

← The Sooke Family Resource Society serves families in Sooke, East Sooke, Jordan River, French Beach, Shirley, and Port Renfrew, offering parenting and life-skills courses, pre-school programs, a used clothing exchange and toy lending library, and child and family referral and counselling. Formed in 1984, John helped them celebrate their 25th Anniversary at the recently held Family Festival.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

October 20 Meet Frances Backhouse, author of *Owls of North America* and *Woodpeckers of North America*, and learn about these fascinating birds. Juan de Fuca Library, 7–8 pm. Register early at 250 391 0653 as space is limited.

October 23 Pro-D Day Skate & Swim. Skate at Juan de Fuca Arena from 1 to 2 pm (twoonie admission) or swim at the pool from 1 to 3 pm (regular admission).

October 24 One Year Anniversary of Goudy Branch. Celebrate our Anniversary on Saturday, October 24, from 10 am to 12 pm. Meet CEO Barry Holmes and other library staff. Prizes and refreshments!

October 29 Blood Donor Clinic. Did you know that, on average, every 60 seconds someone in Canada requires blood and that one donation can improve or save up to 3 lives? Please support patients in our community by donating. The next clinic is Thursday, Oct 29 at Royal Roads University, Grant Quarterdeck, from 10 am to 5 pm. To book your appointment, call 1 888 2DONATE

November 4 Free Osteoarthritis Workshop. A free workshop on osteoarthritis medication, supplements and alternative therapies. What do they do? How effective are they? 6 – 8:30 pm at Sooke Evergreen physiotherapy, 3–6726 West Coast Road. Registration: 250 642 8000.