



John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Community Report MARCH 2010

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1000 Days Later... Jordan River Update

It's hard to believe but it has been over a thousand days since the BC Liberal government allowed Western Forest Products to remove lands from a 50 year old agreement called a Tree Farm Licence. Much has been written and said about the wisdom of that decision and the negative implications it has had on local planning and the regional growth strategy for the Capital Regional District.

I have made no secret about my position. The decision was made without public consultation or compensation and that is wrong. I wasn't alone in this criticism. The Auditor General, an independent officer of the Legislature, determined that the decision was made without complete information and without due regard for the public interest. First Nations felt ignored. Residents were furious. We all agreed that putting the interests of a private corporation ahead of the people in our region was wrong.

see what mutual opportunities existed before the decision to allow WFP to remove the lands was made?

I would have considered the protection of watersheds, especially protecting the drinking water in the Shirley District.

And I would have looked at opportunities for economic development, ranging from community forests to value added manufacturing opportunities.

I fully expect WFP to negotiate in the interest of their shareholders. That is as it should be. But the Ministry of Forests should have been focused on meeting public objectives first and foremost.

As I write this, there is much to celebrate. Earlier this month, the Capital Regional District made a bold and decisive move when they purchased 49 of the 61 parcels currently on the real estate market. The announcement that a

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... there is much to celebrate, but...



Community Office

WEST SHORE
Monday-Friday
10am-4pm

800 Goldstream Ave.
Victoria, BC
T: 250 391-2801

john.horgan.mla
@leg.bc.ca

www.johnhorgan.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March 14 Spring ahead. Daylight Savings begins!

March 16 Leaping Leprechauns. Wear green and celebrate St. Patrick's Day at a special preschool program at the library. Green-themed stories, rhymes, songs, a craft and four leaf clover hunt included. 10:30-11:30 am at the Juan de Fuca Branch.

March 18 Sooke Blood Donor Clinic. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1962 Murray Road. Save three lives by donating blood. To donate, you must book an appointment: call 1 888 2 DONATE before March 18.

March 20 Grow a Native Plant Garden free workshop. For CRD residents. Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road. Limited to 18 participants; call 250 479 0211 to reserve your spot.

March 20 Eves of Destruction Roller Derby Team. Home opener against Vancouver's Riot Girls. 7 pm, Eagle Ridge Community Centre at City Centre Park complex, Langford. Info: www.evesofdestruction.ca/index.php

March 21 Aylard Farm to Cabin Point. East Sooke Regional Park guided hike with CRD parks interpreter: discover first signs of spring, petroglyphs, spectacular ocean views. Bring lunch, water, raingear, sturdy footwear. Challenging wilderness trail. Meet at Aylard Farm kiosk off Becher Bay Road. Space limited. No fee; must pre-register by March 19; call 250 478 3344. 11 am - 3 pm, adults only.

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deal was reached to protect the waterfront from Jordan River to Sandcut Creek and the final pieces of the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt in the Sooke Hills is spectacular news. Ensuring that these lands will forever be available for public access is a visionary purchase by the CRD!

The Provincial government is still absent on this file. They have not offered to contribute to the purchase of the protected areas, nor have they signalled their intention to acquire any additional



lands for treaty settlements or assist in developing small scale economic initiatives. Discussions are underway and I remain hopeful that the province will recognize its responsibilities and take significant action to redress the error made in January 2007.

Boys & Girls Clubs' Metchosin Camp



John braves the climbing wall

For more than 26 years, the Metchosin Camp has been home to many innovative Boys & Girls Clubs programs. Situated on 98 acres of green space, the Camp contains ponds, trails, farming and ecologically sensitive areas, and now includes a challenge course, a 4-sided climbing tower, canoeing, multi-use cabins, a tenting area and kitchen and washroom facilities. From a great summer day camp experience to custom-designed programs for schools, community and corporate groups, the camp's highly skilled and

Families Hurt by Provincial Budget

Last week's provincial budget was an opportunity to support families and individuals living in our region.

Instead, we heard from a government without a plan to address child poverty, the growing income gap, or the lack of affordable housing.

In case you missed it, here are some of the 'highlights':

- ✘ Your Hydro bill will be going up: 9.11% this year, 12.92% in 2011, 4.81% in 2012; compounded, this amounts to a 29% hike,
- ✘ Medical Services premiums increased 6% in Jan 2010 and will increase another 6% in 2011 and 2012,
- ✘ Post-secondary students face a 28% cut to student financial aid,
- ✘ Tax incentives for sustainable products like energy-efficient appliances, insulation, heat pumps, energy efficient vehicles, alternative energy sources, and bicycles will be eliminated when the B.C. Liberals bring in the Harmonized Sales Tax on July 1,
- ✘ BC government is taking \$778 million from ICBC over the next three years and, rather than reducing ratepayers premiums, they're transferring it to the government's books.

The B.C. Liberals have brought forward a budget that betrays their election promise to protect health and education and hammers British Columbians with the HST. Once again, they have ignored citizens of southern Vancouver Island, offering nothing to build a sustainable economy that promotes a high standard of living, a healthy environment and quality social programs.

dedicated staff incorporate the Club's Adventure Based Learning Philosophy to all programs to ensure an exciting experience is had by all!

John recently toured the camp and, as you can see, at the Metchosin Camp everyone is given a chance to have fun and realize their full potential! For more info, visit www.bcgvic.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March 24 Leave No Trace – Outdoor Ethics seminar. A fun, informative, interactive workshop, exploring the 7 principles of Leave No Trace. What to do, and NOT to do in the great outdoors! Families welcome. Adults \$15, children \$5. Proceeds to Students of Pearson Kule, Kenya Project. 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road. Info: 250 391 0040.

March 27 Giant Yard Sale. Sponsored by the Sooke District Lioness. 9 am – 1 pm at Sooke Community Hall Dining Room (Eustace Rd, opposite the Legion). All proceeds to the Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan.

March 27 Earth Hour. The City of Colwood has issued 'An Earth Friendly Challenge' to Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, Sooke and View Royal residents + businesses to turn off all unnecessary lights and electronic equipment from 8:30–9:30 pm. People all over the world will turn off their lights in a collaborative effort to take responsibility and lead the way toward a sustainable future. Info: www.bchydro.com/news/community_events/earth_hour.html

April 3 Easter Egg Hunt. Sponsored by the Kinette Club of Juan de Fuca. 10 am behind Juan de Fuca Library. \$3 entry goes to Cystic Fibrosis. Info: email jdfvickinette@shaw.ca.

April 4 Eggstravaganza. SEAPARC Leisure Centre. Visit with the Easter Bunny and check out the petting zoo. Noon – 3 pm. 2168 Phillips Road in Sooke. Info: 250 642 8000.