



**John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca**

# Community Report MAY 2010

pg 1 of 2

## Protecting our Precious Coast

No doubt, many of you have been following the news lately, watching in shock as thousands of litres of oil spill into the Gulf of Mexico. Many are predicting that this could be the United States' worst oil spill in history. The images are sickening and our thoughts go to both families who have lost loved ones and to those who depend on this eco-system for their economic security.

Could this sort of tragedy happen in our province? Along our west coast? Unfortunately, the answer is yes if the BC Liberal government continues aggressively lobbying the federal government to lift the moratorium banning offshore oil and gas development and drilling.

Their plan of action is clear. In 2003, Gordon Campbell said he wanted to have an offshore oil and gas industry that is up and running by 2010. In 2006, he told the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong that "in two or three years... you will see that opportunities expand." Last November, Energy Minister Blair Lekstrom

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stated that he was continuing to press the federal government to lift the ban, saying "there's a federal moratorium on this issue, but we do try and move that file forward as we can," and earlier this month he confirmed that the BC Liberals are still lobbying the federal government to allow for offshore drilling.

Based on the comments of the Premier and the Energy Minister, if they had their way, exploration and drilling will be happening sooner rather than later. And what if we had an accident similar to the Exxon Valdez or the current spill? It

would be devastating to marine wildlife and habitat up and down our sensitive coastline.

The Deepwater Horizon, the rig that went down in the Gulf of Mexico, was a state-of-the-art oil rig. Yet, for all its technological advances, it still caught fire. Technology is not foolproof and there is no guarantee that accidents will not happen.

The moratorium has been in place since 1972, protecting our wild west coast from oil and gas exploration and exploitation. In light of the Gulf of Mexico disaster, and our coastal realities of 30-foot waves, 100-mile-an-hour winds and a couple of fault lines, I have asked the provincial government to stand up today, put the precautionary principle first and say to the federal government: "Leave the moratorium in place." Defending our coastlines from ecologically destructive development like offshore oil and gas must be part of a plan to ensure that British Columbia continues to be both beautiful and prosperous for generations to come.

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### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**May 12, 13 and 17th CRD Parks and Trails 10-Year Strategic Plan Public Consultation.** 6-9 pm, May 12 (Otter Point Fire Hall, 3727 Otter Point Rd), May 13 (Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd) and May 17 (Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall, 798 Goldstream Ave). The Regional District and a Citizen Advisory Panel are preparing a new strategic plan that will set the direction for the regional parks and trails system for the coming decade. Community engagement meetings are being held throughout the region. Get involved to ensure your ideas, values and issues are known. Special emphasis on the ex-TFL lands west of Sooke. Info: [www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

**May 13th WorkSafe BC Public Hearing.** WorkSafe BC is holding a public hearing to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on their 2010 proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm, Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville. Info: [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com) (under "Announcements") or call 1-866-614-7744 to register to speak.

**May 14 Drop-in Family Story Time.** Juan de Fuca Branch Library 10:30-11:00 am. Fun-filled stories, songs, rhymes, and puppets. For young children and their families; children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult. Info: 250-391-0653. No registration required.

**Until May 15th ArtsWave.** The Sooke Fine Arts Society has just launched ArtsWave, an Arts and Cultural Mapping Project which will research and document the existing and emerging Arts, Culture and Heritage needs and resources in the Sooke Region, which includes all the communities from Beecher Bay to Port Renfrew. If you live in the Sooke Region and want to participate in this comprehensive survey, log on to their online survey at: <http://sooke.ca/EN/topnav/new/artswave.html>

Continued on page 2

## National Day of Mourning

On April 28, many gathered throughout our province to acknowledge the National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job. It's a day when British Columbians gather together to mourn the loss and resolve that every BC worker will be safe and that every worker will be treated with respect and dignity.

Last year in BC, over one hundred women and men left their families and loved ones to go to work and never returned. Thousands more suffered serious workplace injuries. For these injured workers, life will never be the same again. For the families of those injured and killed, the grief can last and last.

John attended a ceremony at Belmont Secondary School to commemorate this day. He's seen here with Ravi Parmar, a Belmont student, former District PAC parent Stephanie Longstaff, MLA Maurine Karagianis, Belmont student Grant McLauchlan and Mike Eso, Victoria Labour Council President.



## Crystal View field trip

Miss Pitman's Grade 5 class from Crystal View Elementary recently toured the BC Legislature with John. They got to see the library, the Chamber where MLAs sit and he also took them into the basement. Luckily no one got lost!



## I'm Walking a Mile in Her Shoes

John is participating in a unique event on May 15. Called "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes", it's a fundraiser for the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre where men walk a mile in high-heels to raise money for this important community group. If you'd like to support John and donate to the Centre, visit <http://tinyurl.com/highheelhorgan>

John is pictured with Kelsey Dean, a grade 3 student from West Mont Montessori School in Metchosin, who had her 9th birthday party last week. She asked her friends to give cash in lieu of presents so that she could donate it to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. She wants women to have "a safe place to go where they can get help".



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**May 15 Motorcycle Ride for Dad in Langford.** More than 800 motorcyclists will ride through Langford for this year's ride to help raise awareness and funds for the fight to defeat prostate cancer. Participants will head out from Ogden Point to Langford, before cruising up to Ladysmith and back. City Centre Park in Langford will host a free, family-oriented event highlighted by a Show and Shine featuring a collection of stock, street and vintage bikes from 9 am to 4 pm. Info: [www.motorcycleridefordad.org](http://www.motorcycleridefordad.org)

**May 15 Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.** Join John while he walks a mile in high heels in support of Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre to raise funds and take action to prevent sexualized violence. From 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Centennial Square. Info: [www.vwsac.com](http://www.vwsac.com)

**May 15 and 16 The Metchosin Mighty Fun Garage Sale.** In support of Metchosin Community House and other local groups. Bid on one of the silent auction items or pick up a bargain – clothing, books, furniture, tools, sporting goods, and more! 10–3pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road. Info: [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

**May 18 School District 62 Public Forum "Building for the Future".** Join this public forum on a very important issue for the School District and the community at large: the growth in the School District and its building needs now and in the future. 7 pm at Ecole John Stubbs Elementary Gymnasium. Info: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**May 29 Tugwell Creek 1st Annual Honey Bee Awareness Day.** Enjoy a fun filled afternoon celebrating the amazing honey bee! Find out 10 simple ways you can help save the honey bee. Lots to do for adults and kids. Proceeds to the Canadian Bee Research Fund. 8750 West Coast Rd, 12–5 pm. Info: 250-642-1956, [www.tugwellcreekfarm.com](http://www.tugwellcreekfarm.com)

**May 30 Defending our Backyard Local Food Festival.** Fort Rodd Hill from 12 to 4 pm. Attend this newly expanded event that features more local food, information and activities. In addition to sampling some tastes of the Island, participants will also learn about growing more of their own food, composting, the ethical harvest of seafood, and more. Info and tickets: [www.iccbc.ca/public/tickets.html](http://www.iccbc.ca/public/tickets.html)