



The Economy, the Environment and Ethics

It is sometimes difficult to get a feel for what the voting public really has on its mind. Headlines and news stories usually claim to “know” where the broader community wants to place priority.

For governments in our British Parliamentary system, the speech from the throne is the opportunity to lay out the major issues of the day and what steps will be taken to meet the challenges we face as individuals and as a society.

We have a legislative calendar in British Columbia. It is supposed to be published annually so that citizens know when their representatives are meeting and what matters will be discussed. We have a budget in the spring, followed by detailed scrutiny of the spending plan for the year in every area of public endeavour. In the fall, government presents the legislation that will help us chart our collective future.

All of this would be well and good if we actually stuck to the calendar. Since I was elected in 2005 there have been very few years where we have been in the Legislature when we were supposed to be. In fact, since

May 2010, the Legislature has been in session for just five weeks. Little wonder politicians rarely reflect what is going on in communities and towns across BC.

Unquestionably, the economy and jobs are high priorities for the coming year. The BC Liberal government, spearheaded by Premier Christy Clark, have set about giving the public the impression that jobs are at the top of the agenda. I agree that managing the economy is a primary focus for government. But what the current government seems to miss is that people can think of more than one thing at a time.

Protecting our environment and building our economy need not be mutually exclusive. Indeed, the recent public hearings about development on the resource lands west of Sooke were about finding the right balance of protection and exploitation. Speaker after speaker raised concerns about the plan on the table to build hundreds of buildings above the Juan de Fuca Provincial Marine Trail. But almost all participants supported finding ways to create jobs and maintain our wilderness.



On September 17th John spoke to protesters at a rally against the implementation of smart meters.

So it was surprising for me to listen to the latest throne speech and the BC Liberal government’s plan to proceed with accelerated permit approvals without any real mention of the environment. Resource extraction has been the foundation of our relative wealth and prosperity. People get that, but they expect government to steward our public wealth for all, not just

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Follow John on Facebook – become a ‘friend’ today!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oct 12 Awareness Film Night. 17th season opens with “The Marketing of Madness: Are We All Insane?” This film documents the impact of a multibillion dollar psychiatric-pharmaceutical industry. 7 pm at Edward Milne Community School Theatre, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation.

Oct 15 Annual Goldstream Salmon Run. Join this 5km family run at Goldstream Provincial Park campground. Proceeds to the Goldstream Nature House. Registration: \$15. Visit www.naturehouse.ca or call 250-478-9414.

Oct 15 Sooke District Lioness Oktoberfest. Enjoy a German supper and entertainment by Sooke’s Janet McTavish, accordionist Mary Ross and Yodeller Anthony Brouwers. Tickets \$15. 5:45–9pm at Sooke Legion. Contact: Anne 250-370-2359.

Oct 16 Sooke Potholes Ramble (Guided Adult Hike). Join a CRD Regional Parks’ naturalist for a hike near the Sooke River to learn interesting natural and cultural history along the way. Wear sturdy shoes, pack a lunch and bring your camera if you have one. 10am–2pm. Meet at the info kiosk in parking lot 1 of the Sooke Potholes Regional Park. Info: 250-478-3344.

Oct 20 The Great BC Shakeout. At 10:20am “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” for the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history! Register and be counted at www.shakeoutbc.ca.

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the few. An increasing amount of our resources are leaving our shores to be remanufactured elsewhere. As logging activity increases, milling jobs are disappearing.

The other dominant issue I hear over and over across the Juan de Fuca constituency is a lack of trust in our political process. The HST disaster is the most obvious example of the public sentiment that ethics and integrity take a back seat to political advantage. The lingering feeling that the BC Rail corruption trial just scratched the surface is another example. Will we ever know how we went from a promise to protect our public railway to selling it to a large financial contributor of the ruling Liberal government?

As I travel around our communities talking to people about what they want from me and our democratic institutions, I am struck by how low expectations are and how simple the solutions seem to be. People want honest government, an economy that serves the hopes and aspirations of our

generation and protects our natural environment for the generations to come. Save the spin, forget about the false promises of historic changes. Competent government and prudent investments in our communities and our infrastructure should be the target.

As always, I encourage you to contact my community office if you have questions, or need assistance with provincial government programs.

Strata Property Act Survey

Are you interested in having your say in the Province's development of a new model for dispute resolution in strata properties?

Through this process the Housing Policy Branch hopes to gather input from interested strata owners, renters, strata council members, strata associations, other stakeholders and the general public which will help shape the way disputes are resolved in strata properties.

An online survey is now underway at bcstrata2011.malatest.net to gather public input.

Calling All Kids!

Can't wait to be a youth leader? Join the Millstream Boys & Girls' 'Torch Club' (ages 10-12) or 'Keystone Club' (ages 13-17). These leadership programs promote fun, education, volunteerism and career development. Participate in social and recreational activities and gain fundraising, money management and job readiness skills (like FoodSafe & First Aid). Get the training you need to be a leader in our community! Torch Club starts on Monday Oct. 17th and Keystone on Tuesday Oct. 11th from 6pm to 8pm.

Also being offered are Boys and Girls Group programs. The Girls group is a fun filled night for GIRLS ONLY, ages 8-12, that includes arts & crafts, active games, baking, and so much more! The Boys Group is a 'guys night out' and a great way to let out some energy, play active games, and socialize with boys from all over the Westshore. Both groups begin on Thursday Oct. 6th, 6-8pm.

For info visit www.bgcvic.org or call Dana at 250-478-0721.



October 1st — John was honoured to attend and present at the Annual Sooke Fire Rescue Service Appreciation Banquet which recognized the dedication of firefighters and emergency services personnel that have served the community this past year. John is seen here with 'Recruit of the Year' award recipient, Ben Temple (left), and Fire Chief Steven Sorensen.



Luxton Fall Fair 2011: John with Jan Peever, Past President of the Westshore Quilters Guild

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oct 31
Free
Halloween
Events.

City Centre Park 3rd Annual Party. Goodies, games, prizes, crafts, hayrides, children's costume parade. 4-7pm. Info: www.eagleridgecentre.com

Highlands. Kids' Gathering at Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd, 7pm. Info: Marcie at 250-474-4725.
West Fire Hall Bonfire, 1564 Millstream Rd, 7pm. Non-perishable food donations for food bank welcome. We'll have a spectacular show!

Langford. Either fire station: Info: www.cityoflangford.ca
Metchosin. Costume contests, haunted hall, preschool corner, free hot dogs & juice, a huge bonfire and fireworks! 6-9pm, Municipal Grounds at 4450 Happy Valley Rd. Info: www.district.metchosin.bc.ca

Otter Point. Fire Department Bonfire & Fireworks: Hot chocolate, hot dogs, candy bags. 6:00pm at Camp Barnard. Info: www.otterpointfire.bc.ca

Oct 29 Halloween Ball Fundraiser. Supporting Metchosin Foundation's ongoing projects. Live band, great costume prizes. Metchosin Community Hall. Tickets \$15 at Metchosin Store and Community House. Info: 250-478-3838 or 250-478-1671.

Oct 30 & 31 Sooke Safe Halloween & Haunted House. Enjoy haunted house, bouncy castle, crafts, concession and more! 5-9pm at the Sooke Fire Hall, 2225 Otter Point Road.

Do you have an upcoming community event?

Send full event info to John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca and we'll try our best to fit it in!