



John Horgan MLA Malahat-Juan de Fuca

Community Report

DECEMBER 2008 *pg 1 of 2*

Green Light for Commuter Rail

For years, community groups like Communities For Commuter Rail and the Island Corridor Foundation

have been advocating for a commuter rail system on the E&N railbed. In these days of high gas prices, climate change and congestion on the Trans Canada Highway – it just makes sense.

I fully support this idea and have been working with these and other groups to move this project ahead.

At the Legislature I have met with resistance. Earlier this year, in fact, the government announced \$10 billion for four rail-based projects in Metro Vancouver but offered zero funding for rail transit in our region. Why would the Premier make such a poor choice for BC's second largest metropolitan area?

< Many in our community have been calling on all levels of government to support daily trips between the West Shore and downtown Victoria. John has been working with local groups, advancing this project, since he was elected in 2005.

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In recent weeks, however, I have been pleased to see my efforts and those of the community paying off.

In early November, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, an all-party committee of the Legislature of which I am a member, came to Langford to hear what the public wanted addressed in the upcoming provincial budget. Commuter

rail was top of the list. As a result, the Committee unanimously endorsed the idea of upgrading the E&N line to enable commuter rail and freight service.

In mid-month, referenda in Langford and Colwood confirmed what many of us already knew. The public is ready for this transportation option.

In response to these initiatives, the government committed \$500,000 to develop a business plan to advance this worthy transportation objective.

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Community Offices

WEST SHORE
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
800 Goldstream Ave.
Victoria, BC
T: 250 391-2801

SOUTH COWICHAN
Mon-Thu 11am-3pm
17-1400
Cowichan Bay Rd.
Valleyview Centre
Cobble Hill, BC
T: 250 733-2521

Toll-free
1 877 391-2801

john.horgan.mla
@leg.bc.ca

www.johnhorgan.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 18 Twoonie Tots Drop-in at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. For ages 4 and under, a great time for children and parents/caregivers. 9:15-11:15 am for only \$2/tot or \$5/family. Info: 250-743-1433.

Dec 20 Annual Santa Run in the Highland. Starts: 9am: east side of Highlands; 1pm: west side of Highlands. Organized by community volunteers, including Highlands Firefighter's Association members, this is a chance to donate non-perishable food items and cash to the local food bank before Christmas. Visit Santa and his helpers on the fire truck! Info: 250-474-1773.

Dec 20 Old Tyme Family Skate. Kerry Park Recreation Centre, Mill Bay. Arena will transform with lights, trees, decorations 1:30-3 pm and 7-8:30 pm. Free, sponsored by Thrifty Foods.

Dec 21 Fire Truck Display. 5 pm followed by the fun and festive Fire Truck Parade at 6 pm. Parade route information: www.cityoflangford.ca.

Dec 21 Christmas in the Square. Children's activities, music, merriment. Food, drinks, & visit from Santa (when finished his official parade duties). Dress for the weather and prepare for fun. City Centre Park (Eagle Ridge Community Centre).

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Skate & Swim. Juan de Fuca Rec Centre. Skate: 10:30 am - 12 pm. Swim: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Free with food bank donation. Bring your family for a skate or swim. Perfect way to start holidays. Info: 250-478-8384.

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Legislative Mini-session Update

As many of you remember, the Premier decided earlier this year to cancel the Fall Session of the Legislature and continue his pattern of being out of touch and unaccountable to the people of British Columbia. In light of the economic crisis,



however, MLAs were called back to Victoria for 5 days of debate in late November. While it was only a few

Green Light for Commuter Rail *continued*

Three years ago when I started talking about getting commuters out of their cars and on the train I knew there was widespread support in the public. It is rewarding to see progress on this important issue and I eagerly anticipate the day when the train can once again be a vital part of transportation on Vancouver Island.

days, I took the opportunity and raised a number of issues I know are important to people living in Malahat–Juan de Fuca:

- I spoke to the Premier's Economic Stimulus package and the lack of attention given to things that will really stimulate the economy—repealing the carbon tax, revitalizing our forest industry to ensure BC logs create BC jobs, or supporting infrastructure spending on new schools, like Belmont Secondary.
 - I brought attention to the importance of facilities like Ayre Manor in Sooke, providing independent housing, assisted living and complex care for seniors living in that community.
 - And I asked questions about the removal of land in Jordan River from the Tree Farm License and government's irresponsible spending on partisan advertisements.
- I look forward to the Spring Session where I can continue to raise questions and concerns on your behalf.

'Tis the Season...

Pennies for Presents, sponsored by Black Press. Donate your pennies (and other spare change) and help buy Christmas presents for kids whose families can't afford gifts. Drop-off points:

- Mayfair Flowers and Quality Cobbler at Westshore Mall,
- Corona Foods, 2155 Sooke Rd,
- Baja Rosies 797 Goldstream,
- Goldstream Food Market, 976 Goldstream,
- Happy Valley Store 3431 Happy Valley Rd, and
- the Running Room, 2401 Millstream Ave.



Order of Canada Recipient from Sooke

On December 12, Michael Scott from Sooke received the Order of Canada, our country's highest civilian honour recognizing a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation.

Michael, who has lived in Sooke since 2006, has provided dedicated support and leadership to the Scouting movement for over thirty

years—becoming a Scout as a child then moving on to become a Leader and eventual Chief Commissioner and Chairman of Scouts Canada's Board of Governors.

Michael is also former president and chief executive officer of Peace Bridge Brokerage where he led several trade missions to China. A heartfelt congratulations go out to Michael and his family.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 26 Boxing Day Community Skate. SEAPARC Leisure Complex. Free, sponsored by EPCOR. Crazy carpet rides, snowball throwing competition, Boxing Day present relay + more. 2–4 pm. 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke. Skate rentals included.

Dec 28 The Other Side of Witty's. Familiar with the trail to Witty's beach? Join CRD Regional Parks naturalist at Witty's for a different point of view. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring a lunch. Meet at Nature Centre in main parking lot off Metchosin Rd. BC Transit #54 or #55. 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, 8 years and older.

Dec 30 Mystery Creature at Lone Tree Regional Park. Join CRD Regional Parks naturalists, solve the riddles to find clues hidden along the trail, discover who the mystery creature is this time. Meet in parking lot off Millstream Rd (parking limited, carpool if possible). 10am. All ages.

Jan 1 Polar Bear Swim. For those who dare! Whiffin Spit. Information: 250-642-6211.

Every Friday night Fright Night Teens. SEAPARC Leisure Complex. 8–10pm. Swimming, rock band, Wii sports, basketball, monthly themes. 11–16 years. Regular admission. Info: 250-642-8008.

Daily Freeman King Visitor Centre. 9am – 4:30pm, the Centre at Goldstream Provincial Park offers information about local wildlife. A fun place to visit and learn about our local habitat. Call 250-478-9414 for info about special event programming.