



The Economy... what's next?

The one thing on everyone's minds these days is the economy. We see residential construction slowing, house prices falling and the stock market in crisis. Everyone is wondering how our province is doing and how the government can help citizens through this coming tough economic time.

A week after the Premier made his statement on the economic downturn, offering few specifics and little to help struggling families, Carole James proposed her plan, focusing on the fundamentals of the economy and supporting BC families.

The first step is relief for the middle class and small business.

Rescinding the carbon tax will keep more money in the pockets of average British Columbians, helping people make ends meet while providing a needed economic stimulus. Skills training and education must also be a focus. We need to prepare now for the high-skilled, high wage, green jobs of the future. By restoring

post secondary funding, cutting interest rates on student loans and bringing back student grants, training and education will

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be an option for all families and our kids will be first in line as the economy recovers.

Government investments in infrastructure will provide an immediate boost to local economies. In our region, seismic upgrading of schools is a necessity as is fast tracking the Belmont High School replacement. Our School Board

has a workable plan in place that is calling out for Provincial support. No one can argue with increasing funds for affordable housing and many of you who face traffic congestion on a daily basis know the importance of accelerating transit spending and upgrading the E & N line.

A good portion of our constituency is rural. People in Sooke, Highlands, Port Renfrew, Metchosin and Shirley know that focused community development programs can leverage private sector funds to open up new economic opportunities.

And what of our once proud forest sector? Not a word from the Premier. While his plan ignored you and your family, our plan will revitalize the industry, investing in renewal programs and ensuring that BC logs create BC jobs.

Rather than waste taxpayer money on self-promoting advertisements and outrageous salary increases for top bureaucrats, I would rather see public money spent helping families get through these turbulent times.

After cancelling the fall session the Premier has changed course and called the Legislature back for November 20th to debate *continued on page 2*

Thanks for the Well Wishes!

As many of you know, I recently underwent surgery for cancer of the bladder. The surgery went well and, at my doctor's recommendation, I took a couple of weeks off for recovery. I am now eagerly anticipating the return of the Legislature on November 20th.

I want to thank everyone for their well wishes. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of kind words and encouragement for my speedy recovery.

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

Calling All Kids 13-17: The Millstream Boys & Girls' 'Keystone Club' . Every Tuesday. 6-8 pm, Millstream Elementary Club (626 Hoy Lake Rd). A leadership program promoting fun, education, career development. Social and recreational activities; gain fundraising, money management, job readiness skills (like FoodSafe). Get the training you need to be a leader in your community! All this in a fun and rewarding environment! Check it out... you won't regret it! Info: Alison 250-478-0721.

Nov 14-16 All Sooke Arts & Crafts Christmas Show. Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd. 1-8 pm Friday, 10 am- 5 pm on Saturday & Sunday. Info: 250-642-3798.

Nov 15 Municipal, Regional District & School Board elections are today. Polls will be open from 8 am to 8 pm.

Nov 16 Mill Hill Regional Park Ha-bat-itat. 1:00pm. Where do bats live? What do they eat? How can you attract bats to your neck of the woods? Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Road. BC Transit #50 or #53. All ages.

Continued on page 2

The Economy... What's Next? *continued*

the economic crisis. Why did he have to wait that long? Why not last week, why not last month? Accurate information is the starting point for successful policy development and the Minister of Finance must provide us with the most up to date information so we can make

the best decisions. Why did he recently suggest to reporters in one interview that revenues were on target and in another that they were far below projections?

I'm ready to go back today and work, on your behalf, for real solutions that will produce real results. ■

Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Underway

It may have been pouring rain on October 18, but for those gathered at the Kinsol Trestle in the Cowichan Valley, no one noticed. People were there to celebrate a \$1.7 million funding announcement, to assist with trestle rehabilitation and trail development.

A strong advocate of restoring the Trestle, John Horgan was one of many dignitaries on hand. John spoke of the importance of preserving this historic icon and also paid tribute to the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the years to save this

proud structure. Part of our national heritage, it's hoped the restored bridge and trail will be opened in 2010.



John with Tom Patterson, local historian and author, and Kathryn Gagnon of the Cowichan Valley Historical Society, celebrating the news.

Next Stop... Commuter Rail

More people are doing the daily commute from the Cowichan Valley to downtown Victoria.

I've heard from many of you, and know myself, that this isn't an easy drive, especially in the winter when it's dark early and driving conditions are often poor. That's why it's been a priority for me to work with local, regional and the provincial governments to find solutions. My lobbying has paid off and I was pleased to see the first Malahat commuter buses on the road last month. Yes, improvements need to be made in pricing and scheduling, and I will continue to lobby for these changes, but this is the first step in providing transportation alternatives to drivers. There is still more to be done and I won't be satisfied until we have a commuter rail system from the Valley and the West Shore to downtown.



Celebrating the Harvest in Langford

John and his family joined hundreds of others at a lovely dinner in Langford in September. The second annual "Fresh from the Islands" Harvest Supper was especially noteworthy as all the food came from local farms. "We have a proud agricultural tradition on the lower Island and it's good to see so many people coming out to celebrate the bounty," said Horgan. "We hear more and more about food security and people's desire to both grow their own and purchase local foodstuffs. This dinner is an excellent way to educate people and have a great meal!"

The event will take place annually. Watch the local papers for details on next year's dinner.



Enjoying the Harvest Dinner with David Stott of Capital families, Steven Hurdle from Inside Langford and Bea Mackenzie, a Langford farmer.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nov 16 Shirley Christmas Craft Fair. Shirley Community Hall from 10 am to 4 pm. Info: 250-646-2077.

Nov 19 National Child Day Skate. Free skate for children and caregivers in a fun and safe environment. Snacks and hot chocolate provided. Arts and crafts tables by SEAPARC and Sooke Family Resource Society. 10 am – Noon. Skate rentals not included.

Nov 28–30 Stinking Fish Studio Tour. A juried show of exceptional fine art and fine craft, is becoming known as the tour not to miss. Held throughout Metchosin and East Sooke. Free admission. For more information, go to www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com.

Nov 30 Sooke Potholes Hike. Here's a chance to explore Sooke Potholes. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a hike near the river, take pictures (the photo opportunities are fabulous!), and learn some other natural and cultural history tidbits along the way. Then we will return via the Galloping Goose Trail. Wear sturdy shoes, pack a lunch and bring your camera if you have one. Meet at the information sign in Parking Lot 1. 11 am – 3 pm, adults only.