



John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Community Report

NOV/DEC 2013

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A Functioning Legislature is the Foundation of Democracy

On Remembrance Day I spent time at the Sooke Cenotaph reflecting on the efforts of men and women, past and current, who have sacrificed to ensure we live in a safe and democratic society. The Pastor had an unusually harsh message for governments – don't take our hard fought for rights for granted.

After the Sooke event I went to the Langford Legion where many more citizens, some of them veterans, had similar issues to discuss with me. With the Senate scandals and the bizarre trials and tribulations of Mayor Rob Ford of Toronto, there is no shortage of "political news" on the front pages of the daily papers and the opening stories on the evening news shows. Unfortunately the scandals and personal shortcomings of a few politicians tend to tar all elected representatives with the same brush.

Adding to the general contempt people are feeling toward government here in BC is the lack of accountability through the Legislative Assembly. It is simply not good enough to say that an election is the

beginning and end of being accountable. As in previous years, the BC liberals have cancelled the scheduled fall sitting of the Legislature and thereby avoiding the daily accountability session of Question Period.

Every week since the BC Liberals opted for Asian travel over accountability, contentious public policy issues have been raised in the press and online. BC Hydro rate increases and the Integrated Resource Plan will chart the next 20 years of capital costs. At the Ministry of Children and Families the independent Child Representative uncovered \$66 million in spending over the past decade that did nothing to help children in need. All of these issues passed without answer from government because our Legislature sits idle.

Just last week it was revealed that Premier Christy Clark and Agriculture Minister Pat Pimm have moved on a plan to reduce the Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC) independence and mandate to protect the Agricultural Land Reserve. Their plan gives

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Community Office

WEST SHORE OFFICE
Monday–Friday
10am–4pm
122–2806 Jacklin Rd
Victoria, BC
T: 250-391-2801
john.horgan.mla
@leg.bc.ca
www.johnhorgan.ca

follow John on Facebook – become a 'friend' today!

John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca
invites you to his

New Community Office & Christmas Open House

Tuesday, December 3rd, 5–7pm

122 – 2806 Jacklin Road
(corner of Jacklin Rd and Goldstream Ave.)

Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Call 250-391-2801 for more information. Please drop by.

Food bank donations gratefully accepted.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nov 28 Langford, Nov 29 Sooke Island Health Open Houses. Help develop a new Strategic Plan which will serve as the roadmap for achievements over the next 5 years. What's important to you and how do you envision the future of our health care system? Langford session: 5:30–7:30pm, Fieldhouse, JdF Rec Centre, 1767 Island Hwy. Sooke session: 4–6pm, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd. Info: www.viha.ca/Strategic_Plan or email your thoughts to planning@viha.ca.

Nov 28–Jan 7 Sooke Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees transforms SEAPARC into a forest of beautifully decorated trees to raise funds for BC Children's Hospital. Sponsors of this event have the honour of decorating the trees. Contact Elizabeth Olsen, 250-213-6716, sookefestivaloftrees@gmail.com if you want to become a tree sponsor. SEAPARC Complex, 2168 Phillips Rd. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Nov 30 Sooke Philharmonic's Season's Splendour. Christmas Carol Sing-along. Partnered with the Sooke Christmas Bureau, a portion from every ticket sold will go towards their Christmas fundraising activities. 7:30 pm, Sooke Baptist Church, 7110 West Coast Rd. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Dec 7 Christmas Light up Celebration. Free family event with music, shopping, crafts for the kids, free hot dogs and hot cocoa and Christmas market. Santa arrives at 6:30 for the 7pm official light-up. Island Equipment Owners Truck Light Convoy & Food Drive passes by at 7:45pm. Bring a non-perishable food donation. Veterans Memorial Park. Info: www.cityoflangford.ca

Dec 8 Sooke Chamber of Commerce Santa Parade. Join this family fun parade as it leaves Sooke Elementary, goes down Sooke Rd to Shields Rd and ends at the Community Centre. Hot dogs for sale and free hot chocolate for kids in the parade. Departs at noon. Info: 250-642-6112.

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Legislature and Democracy *from page 1*

control of land use decisions for close to half of the province to the Oil and Gas Commission, and allows for the government to take over the rest of the ALC's responsibilities.

The purpose of the ALC is to protect farmland so it's available for future generations. Less than five per cent of BC's land base is productive farmland and there are constant pressures to convert that land for other uses. The agricultural industry brings billions of dollars a year to our provincial economy and our hardworking farmers do it with the lowest provincial financial support level in Canada.

In 2011, the ALC Chair reported on improvements that needed to be made, but the BC Liberal government has failed to implement them. Nor did much change occur after the Auditor General did a report in 2010, chastising the government for failing to meet the needs of the Commission. We need a government that will commit to protecting our valuable agricultural land and the industry it supports. I urge you to let the Premier

and Minister Pimm know your views on this important issue. You can send them your thoughts at:

Premier Christy Clark
E-Mail: premier@gov.bc.ca
Tel: 250-387-1715

Minister Pat Pimm
E-Mail: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Tel: 250-387-1023

These are important issues that significantly affect our lives here in British Columbia. During the last provincial election we saw a dismal voter turnout. Next year we will be heading into municipal elections and a federal election will follow in 2015. Our record on electoral participation is disappointing. The lack of accountability in our Legislature contributes to the declining interest in public life. Easier to critique the train wrecks like Rob Ford and Mike Duffy than to focus on making change for the better. It is a pity. We owe it to those I had the honour to meet on Remembrance Day to do better.

John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca
www.johnhorgan.ca



← John attended the Sooke Remembrance Day Ceremony to honour veterans, past and present.

Photo credit: M. Brooke, Sooke Voice News.

→ John was the 'celebrity referee' on October 24th at Edward Milne Community School's Wolverines basketball game against the Harlem Crowns. The Crowns squeaked out a victory while embarrassing John at every turn, all in the interest of fun! The Wolverines look good for the coming season. Go EMCS!

Photo: B. Santowski, Sooke News Mirror.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 11 Awareness Film Night's "Chasing Ice". By acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog – the "boldest expedition of his life": The Extreme Ice Survey. Balog used revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. A hauntingly beautiful video compressing years into seconds and delivering evidence and hope to our carbon-powered planet. 7pm, EMCS Theatre, 6218 Sooke Rd. By donation. Info: <http://awarenessfilmmight.ca/>

Dec 22 Metchosin Fire Department Santa Run. Please bring your family to the main roads to say hello to our special guest. If you have a special request please call the Firehall at 250-478-1307 and they'll try to accommodate. Info on route and times: [CLICK HERE.](#)

Dec 22 Highlands Volunteer Firefighter's Annual Santa Run. Santa will be on board to visit the children. Donations of cash or non-perishable food items to aid the local food bank are welcome. Starts at the Fire Hall at 9:30am for the East Highlands, 1:30pm for the West Highlands. Info: 250-920-6970.

Jan 1 Langford Legion's New Year's Day Levee. Prince Edward Branch #91 is hosting a levee to celebrate the New Year. 12–2pm, 761 Station Ave. Info: 250-478-1828.

Jan 1 Sooke Legion's New Year's Day Levee. Celebrate the New Year with snacks and beverages at the Sooke Legion at 6726 Eustace Road. 1–3pm. No cost. Info: 250-642-2052.

Do you have an upcoming community event? Send full event info to John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca and we'll do our best to fit it in!