



John Horgan MLA Malahat-Juan de Fuca

Community Report FEBRUARY 2009

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Profile on Literacy Projects in Malahat-Juan de Fuca

Literacy programs are alive and well in our community. John recently made a statement in the Legislature profiling two initiatives:

“I want to bring to the attention of members two positive literacy initiatives in my community, the first involving students at Hans Helgesen Elementary in

Metchosin. On January 23, Family Literacy Day, students at the school joined with students across Canada in hopes of being entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. Their goal was to be part of the record for the most children reading with an adult in multiple locations. Interesting category.

Teachers in classrooms across the country began the simultaneous read at 11 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. Hans Helgesen had 136 students participate. I want to congratulate the principal, Julia Sahota, and all the staff, students and parents that are participating in this possible world record. Our local numbers will be sent to the literacy foundation, along with the numbers from more than 1,000 other locations across Canada.

The second literacy success story involves an old friend and mentor from my youth. Since 2005 the Sooke Lionesses

have been supporting literacy at Port Renfrew Elementary. It all started when my friend, retired district principal George Gurney, drove Lionesses and former teachers Jean Whiffan and Jean Conway, retired district primary supervisor Bev Lenahan and author Julie Lawson to Port Renfrew to deliver 26 children’s books written by Ms. Lawson, herself a former teacher at John Muir Elementary in my district.

**Hans Helgesen
Elementary and
Family Literacy Day,
and Sooke
Lionesses and
Port Renfrew
Elementary**

The donation was gratefully received by Principal Ruman McArthur, the staff at the school and the very excited students. In return, Julie was presented with drawings from the students, and George got to make a rare trip to Port Renfrew that did not include returning with a couple of salmon or two.

From that beginning, the Lionesses have continued the tradition of delivering

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Community Offices

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

SOUTH COWICHAN
By Appointment
17-1400
Cowichan Bay Rd.
Valleyview Centre
Cobble Hill, BC
T: 250 733-2521

Toll-free
1 877 391-2801

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@leg.bc.ca

www.johnhorgan.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mar 5 Pro D Day Swim and Skate. 1-3 pm at the pool (regular admission) and 1-2 pm at the arena (twoonie admission). Juan de Fuca Recreation

Mar 5 Women’s Wellness Show – a night of pampering: massage, tarot reading, aromatherapy, facials, hair/esthetics & more. 5-8 pm, Sooke Family Resource Society, 2145 Townsend Road, Sooke. Cost: \$10. Register: 250 642-8000.

Mar 6 Healthy Youths workshop How much protein should an average teen eat? What are the best foods before & after sports? These and other questions will be explored at a seminar covering everything about healthy eating. Free. SEAPARC Leisure Centre, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke, Info: 250 642-8000

Mar 7 Magnificent Mount Wells. Hike to the summit of Mount Wells! Early spring wildflowers such as Satin-Flower, Spring Gold and Blue-Eyed Mary will likely be putting on a show. The trail to the summit is steep and uneven in places. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and dress for the weather. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Humpback Road. 1-3:30 pm. 12 years and older.

Mar 7-17 Annual Monopoly Madness. Support BC Paraplegic Assoc. and Boys & Girls Club Svcs of Greater Victoria. Funds raised stay in our community. Reception & Silent Auction 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Live Auction 8:00 pm, Tournament 8:30 pm. VCC’s Crystal Garden. Tickets \$150, auction items & funding support gratefully accepted. Info: 250 384-9133 or 250 475-2622.

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Charitable donations

Some of you may remember the pay raise MLAs received shortly after being elected in 2005. I decided to donate my raise to community charities.

As Malahat–Juan de Fuca has three distinct communities — Cowichan Valley, the West Shore of Victoria and the West Coast of the south Island — I have attempted to distribute the donations geographically. Since 2007 I have donated \$14,015 to the following organizations:

- Goldstream Food Bank,
- Sooke Hospice,
- Cowichan Valley Hospice,
- Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion (Duncan & Victoria events),
- Pacific Centre Family Services,
- Capital Families Association,
- Sooke Regional Museum,
- The Open Door,
- Solidarité d’Jeunesse,
- Winners Walk of Hope for Ovarian Cancer,
- School District 62 Parent Advisory Committees.

Profile on Literacy Projects

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new books every December. Weather and road washouts permitting, students, teachers and Lionesses enjoy the opportunity to share in the joy of reading.

Two great examples, Hon. Speaker and members of this House, of literacy in action in Malahat–Juan de Fuca.”

Bomfords at Vancouver Art Gallery!

I want to offer congratulations to three of my constituents — Jim Bomford and sons Nathan and Cedric — on their recent glowing review in the Globe and Mail (February 14, 2009).

Jim, Cedric and Nathan recently unveiled their art structure at the Vancouver Art Gallery as part of the *“How Soon is Now”* exhibit. The piece is made of a variety of objects including found lumber transported from Bowen Island,

stadium bleachers and a wood stove. The construction, entitled *“The Office of Special Projects”* (the work takes its title from a short-lived department in the Bush administration which brought us the “data” regarding Iraq’s alleged WMDs) can be touched and visitors are even invited to climb around in it.

If you’re in Vancouver, please take the time to give it a look. The piece will be exhibited until May 3.

The government released its budget earlier this month. I’d like to know your thoughts.

What are the top three issues you think need government action?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing affordability | <input type="checkbox"/> Government accountability | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Light Rail Transit (LRT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long term care beds for seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased funding for our schools | <input type="checkbox"/> More buses and transit options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public consultation on land use decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved road access to our community | <input type="checkbox"/> Replacing Belmont Secondary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action on climate change | | |

Please email me, drop by my community office or fill out the survey on-line (www.johnhorgan.com)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mar 7–8 Sooke Philharmonic Chamber Players *“On With the Dance”*. Suite of French Dances with soloist N. Antonio Peruch. A portion of every March 7 ticket will go towards the Legion Elevator Project. 8 pm at the Sooke Community Theatre. Performance repeats Mar 8 at 2:30 pm at new St. Mary’s Church, 4125 Metchosin Road. For ticket info, visit: <http://www.sookephil.ca/calendar/tickets.html>

Mar 8 *Deadline to apply for Canada Day Sooke Scholarships and Youth Awards*. Nominations now open for \$1,000 in scholarships and awards. Info: www.canadadaysooke.ca.

Feb 19 *District of Metchosin Budget Open House* from 5–7 p.m. 4450 Happy Valley Road. Info: 250 474-3167.

Tuesdays & Thursdays *Drop-in gym time for pre-schoolers and their parents* 9–11 am. Capital Families Association, 345 Wale Road. Info: info@capfamilies.org or 250 391-4320.

Fridays *Highlands Youth Centre* meets at 6:30 to 8:30 pm every Friday evenings in the Schoolhouse basement. All youth welcome! For further information, contact Bob McMinn at 250 478-4403 or email bobmcminn@shaw.ca or phone Amy at 250 474-2847.