



Honouring former Premier Dave Barrett

I had the distinct pleasure to attend an event at the Legislature a few weeks ago, honouring one of our province's greatest individuals. Former Premier Dave Barrett, who recently turned 80 years old, was having a look-out at Cypress Park named in his honour. The look-out will be called "Barrett's View".



John with Belmont student Grant McLachlan and Dave Barrett

The honour was well deserved. Dave Barrett was as a Member of the Legislature from 1960 to 1975 and again from 1976 to 1983. After leaving provincial politics, he was elected as a federal Member of Parliament, serving our area from 1988 to 1993. In 2005, he was awarded the Order of Canada.

He served as our 26th Premier from 1972 to 1975 and during his tenure brought in sweeping changes to the way we are governed.

Before Barrett, we didn't have a Question Period in the Legislature, nor did we have Hansard (the written transcript of what is said in the House). He brought in ICBC, the BC Ambulance Service, the BC Sheriff Service and the Agricultural Land Reserve.

He also, in 1975, established Cypress Park, west of Vancouver, as a Class A Provincial Park, preserving forest land and saving Cypress Bowl from development. Remember, this was in the day when many thought our trees would last forever and that cutting some of them down wouldn't have any long lasting impact. It was before we had words like climate change, greenhouse gasses and sustainable forestry. Thank goodness Dave Barrett had the foresight to save this impressive forest for future generations.

To celebrate his 80th birthday and to acknowledge his years of dedication to our province, Environment Minister Murray Coell, on behalf of the province, renamed Cypress Park's Highway Viewpoint "Barrett's View". The name of this lookout is so appropriate. It not only

speaks to the magnificent view from the look-out but also speaks to the view or vision Dave Barrett had for our province.

A commemorative plaque, written by Dave's son Dan, is being installed at Barrett's View. The next time I'm in that part of our province I will certainly make a stop and take in all of Barrett's View. And when I do I will be reminded of the life of an incredible individual.



Community Office

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Anytime Food Donations. Drop off non-perishable food donations for either the Goldstream or Sooke Food Banks. In Langford, visit 761 Station Ave during regular office hours or place in drop-off boxes at your local grocers. In Sooke, there are drop-off boxes at Village or Western Foods or visit the Sooke Community hall any Thursday between 9:30am and 3pm.

Anytime Looking for a Christmas gift? Check out the books, clothes and other items for sale at the Goldstream Nature House. Every day from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Email goldstream@naturehouse.ca or call 250-478-9414 for more info.

Dec 10 Family Fun. Families welcome to join in for festive stories, songs, a craft and a tasty holiday treat, at the Juan de Fuca library branch. 10:30am – 11:30am. Free registration at gvpl.ca.

Dec 11 Santa in Sooke. Santa makes a stop in Sooke this morning. Drop by with the kids and have breakfast with Santa at the Sooke Community Hall. Call 250-642-4834 for more info.

Dec 11 Plastic recycling at Belmont School. Support Belmont's environmental programs; drop off electronic & plastic recycling for a small fee. 9am-Noon in the school parking lot. Visit www.PacificMobileDepots.com for a full list of what you can recycle.

Hydro Rate Alert

With a massive spike in electricity rates announced last week by BC Hydro, the BC Liberals' energy plan is hitting British Columbians in the pocketbook while guaranteeing steep profits for corporations. British Columbians are staring down the barrel of a 50% rate increase over a short five-year period, mainly due to an ideologically driven private power agenda designed over the past seven years by the BC Liberals.

BC Hydro announced that electricity bills will be going up by an average of \$7 per month, or about 10%, each year from 2012-14. The average household will spend \$252 per year more on their electricity bill by 2013. These increases are in addition to the increase of nearly 13% planned for 2011 and nearly 8% this year, totaling more than 50% over 5 years.

The way the BC Liberals are handling the energy file is outrageous. If you agree, please email BC Hydro CEO Dave Cobb at david.cobb@bchydro.com and let him know how you feel about this.

Belmont Replacement

Good news for staff, students and families at Belmont Secondary School. On Nov 24, John attended a short ceremony at Goudy Field in Langford celebrating the acquisition of property for the Belmont Replacement Project.

John has been working hard with the School District, making the case to the provincial government for a new school. The purchase of land is one more step in making this a reality.



Your MLA at work! Making sure the sidewalk outside his community office was safe for pedestrians, John was happy to clear away the snow after the recent bout of winter weather.

John Horgan, MLA
Juan de Fuca

cordially invites you to attend his

Annual Christmas Open House

Monday, December 13th
4:00pm to 7:00pm

800 Goldstream Avenue
(corner of Goldstream Ave. and Peatt Rd.)

Light snacks and refreshments
will be served.

Telephone 250-391-2801
for more information.
No RSVP required.

We will gratefully accept donations for the food bank.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 18 Metchosin Community House Christmas Tea. Good friends are the best gifts of the Holidays. Come celebrate the joy of the season with a Christmas Tea from 2pm to 5pm. All Welcome! 4430 Happy Valley Road.

Dec 17 & 18 Sooke Community Choir Christmas Concert. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1962 Murray Rd. 7:30pm on the 17th and 2:00pm on the 18th. Contact 250-483-6842 for more info.

Dec 19 Free skate with Santa. SEAPARC leisure Complex. 1:30pm – 3pm. Admission with food, toy or cash donation.

Dec 19 Festival of Lights Fire Truck Parade. Departs City Centre Park at 5pm and ends at 7pm back at the park. For a map of the route, visit <http://tinyurl.com/dec19route>

Dec 31 New Years Eve Skate & Swim. 10:30am – 12pm at Juan de Fuca arena and 12pm – 2pm at the pool. Toonie admission for both.

Dec 31 A Family New Year's Eve event. Live entertainment, crafts, party favours, food and door prizes takes place in Play Zone from 6pm to 11pm. The cost is \$19.95 for person or \$69.95 for a family of four. For more event details, please visit: www.familyfunpark.ca.

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!