

A MESSAGE FROM Ida Chong, MLA

OAK BAY - GORDON HEAD, ISSUE 4, WINTER 2008



KEEPING OAK BAY - GORDON HEAD MOVING

Oak Bay - Gordon Head has seen a lot of positive changes this year. British Columbians are working to become more active and environmentally conscious, and the BC government is pitching in to support our efforts.

LocalMotion and Bike BC grants have been provided to Saanich, Oak Bay, and Victoria municipalities by the province to enhance safer cycling options. As a result, cyclists can now travel on designated cycling lanes the entire distance between UVic and downtown Victoria.

Since cycling is not an exercise option for everyone, Act Now BC will fund a Seniors Activity Park at Henderson Recreation Centre so people of all ages can work out in this beautiful setting. Earlier this year gaming grants were provided for turf fields at Gordon Head and Lakehill soccer fields and for a new dugout at Lambrick Park baseball diamond. Recently, Ida helped Education Minister Shirley Bond and Healthy Living and Sport Minister Mary Polak celebrate Frank Hobbs School's walking school bus program.

These are just a few of the ways in which the Government of British Columbia is helping to keep Oak Bay - Gordon Head moving!



Ida joins Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton and local cycling advocates Leslie Ewing, Jane Van Hoome and John Lutton to celebrate the LocalMotion grant for \$54,781, which has expanded the cycling route from Oak Bay to UVic. July 17, 2008.

GORDON HEAD OFFICE
223 - 3930 Shelbourne Street
Phone: 250.472.8528
Fax: 250.472.6163
ida.chong.mla@leg.bc.ca

A NOTE FROM IDA

Now more than ever British Columbia needs a government that understands the importance of a stable and well-managed economy. Despite the global economic downturn, British Columbia's economy remains vibrant and the provincial government continues to operate at a surplus.



Our focus remains on much more than the economy. This year, we began expanding graduate student spaces by 2,500 and offered a thousand new scholarships for graduate students. This will ensure that BC continues to be well served by doctors, teachers, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals.

The BC Liberal government remains committed to supporting health care. This summer, construction began on a massive expansion to Royal Jubilee hospital. This August, we achieved our goal of creating 5,000 net new senior care beds in the province, 1,400 of which are on Vancouver Island. The 11,314 new or replacement beds increase the total number of beds in BC to 30,762, with another 2,414 beds currently under construction.

On November 4th, the fuel surcharge on ferry fees was reduced by 50% due to a reduction in fuel costs. In addition, in December and January, there will be a 33% reduction in ferry fares and ferry service levels for all routes will be restored. A family of four traveling to the mainland and back this holiday season will save more than \$75 on travel as a result of these reductions.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you around the community this summer, and it makes me proud to know that residents of Oak Bay and Gordon Head are so engaged in their community. Enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

Ida

www.idachongmla.bc.ca

OAK BAY OFFICE
218 - 2186 Oak Bay Avenue
Phone: 250.598.8398
Fax: 250.598.8728

A MESSAGE YOUR



Ida joins in with the ribbon cutting at Parry Place, a new seniors' housing project providing 21 assisted-living units to our community. June 26, 2008.



Ida announced a grant of up to \$100,000 to provide equipment for a Seniors Activity Park at Henderson Rec Centre. October 17, 2008.



Ida and Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group Executive Director Roberta Martell celebrate the completion of the Park Place supportive housing project. September 2, 2008.



Ida and Oak Bay Police Constable Jennifer Gibbs educate seniors about the issue of Elder Abuse at Monterey Centre. June 13, 2008.



Healthy Living and Sport Minister Mary Polak, Education Minister Shirley Bond, student Jane Maycock and Ida visit Frank Hobbs Elementary School to celebrate the walking school bus, a safe way for children to walk or bike to school. October 8, 2008.



Ida celebrates BC's 150th anniversary with Burton Cummings. August 4, 2008.

GE FROM RMLA



Ida and Oak Bay Councillor John Herbert with some friends at the Oak Bay Tea Party. June 7, 2008.

EDUCATION

Now is an exciting time to be a student in British Columbia! This year the Province of BC announced \$94.5 million to establish the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions based at UVic. The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions will harness the intellectual resources of British Columbia to develop innovative climate change solutions and lead the way to a vibrant low-carbon economy. Bill Clinton, visiting British Columbia in October, said, "I know [the Premier] has taken some heat for his aggressive position against climate change. I'll just tell you my take on this; I believe it'll be the greatest economic generator you could embrace."

This summer also saw the opening of the new Mathematics and Social Sciences building at UVic. Built in part from a \$24.8 million contribution by the provincial government, the building uses energy-efficient lighting, natural ventilation, and used recycled materials in its construction. It can house over 1,000 students in classrooms, research labs, and four lecture theatres.

As part of a \$1.5 billion plan to make BC's primary and secondary schools earthquake-safe, seismic upgrades have been completed on Gordon Head, Mount Douglas, and Monterey Schools and will soon be complete on Margaret Jenkins and Willows Schools.

Record numbers of students have enrolled for graduate studies in British Columbia. In 2007, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced that the provincial government had committed to adding 2,500 new spaces for graduate students over the next four years. These new spaces continue the largest expansion in post-secondary education in British Columbia since the 1960s, to ensure the province is well-served by doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, and other professionals. To help students achieve their goals of further post-secondary education, the government announced a new \$10 million Pacific Century Graduate Student scholarship program, offering one thousand \$10,000 scholarships to graduate students in BC.

These are a few of the many initiatives our government has undertaken to meet our goal of being the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.



Ida takes up hairdressing, temporarily, to shave the head of firefighter Doug Carey at the Great Canadian Head Shave to support the Terry Fox run in Beacon Hill Park. September 12, 2008.



Ida and Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard launch sidewalk upgrades on Shelbourne Street funded by a \$100,000 LocalMotion Grant. August 15, 2008.

ABOUT THE ECONOMY



Ida joins Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton and Premier Gordon Campbell at the ground breaking that marks the start of construction of a new \$350-million, 500-bed Royal Jubilee Hospital that will provide single rooms for over 80 per cent of patients. July 30, 2008.



Ida with Ken and Kathy Shields, two of Canada's greatest coaches, on the occasion of their being awarded the Order of British Columbia. Between them, Ken and Kathy Shields have fifteen national basketball championships and have been named coach of the year four and three times respectively. The Shields' commitment to sport is legendary, and their impact on Canadian sport immeasurable. June 26, 2008.

In October, Premier Gordon Campbell announced a series of measures to help British Columbia remain strong during the global economic downturn. These measures included increasing this year's personal income tax cut from 2% to 5% and making that change retroactive to January 2008, as well as further reductions to corporate and small-business taxes. In addition to these changes, the province will be funding ferry fare relief for the upcoming holiday season, providing unlimited deposit insurance protection on deposits to BC's Credit Unions, and creating a new private-sector pension opportunity for British Columbians who currently have no access to a pension plan. The province will also accelerate public investments in capital infrastructure including improvements to hospitals, bridges, and other important projects. These measures will put more money back in the pockets of British Columbians and keep the province on the right track through an uncertain global economic climate.

British Columbia's improved fiscal foundation since 2001 is evidenced in many other areas. This year, BC's overall debt from government operations fell to \$6.3 billion, the lowest level since 1991/92, and our overall debt-to-GDP ratio is the second-lowest of any province in Canada. We've also seen some of the lowest levels of unemployment in the province's history. These sound foundations have allowed us to cut taxes over 100 times, attract investment to BC, and expand funding for social programs, health, and education. In light of the current global economic crisis, it is now more important than ever for BC to have a government that understands the importance of responsible fiscal management.

This September, Finance Minister Colin Hansen announced British Columbia's fifth consecutive budget surplus. This October, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services once again went out to British Columbians to receive their input on the forthcoming budget. While submissions to the committee are no longer being taken, the information and suggestions gathered will be invaluable in helping to shape the forthcoming provincial budget and in helping BC face the global economic crisis.

For more information or to watch the Premier's speech on the ten measures to maintain the province's competitiveness and reduce costs for families and business visit:
http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/media_gallery/speeches/