



John Horgan

AUGUST 7, 1959 – NOVEMBER 12, 2024

36TH PREMIER *of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

1:00 P.M.

THE Q CENTRE

1767 ISLAND HIGHWAY

COLWOOD, B.C.



JOHN JOSEPH HORGAN was born August 7, 1959, the youngest of four children, to Alice May (née Clutterbuck) and Patrick John (Pat) Horgan. John's father died suddenly in 1962 at age 46 when John was just a toddler. Alice supported the family on her sole income.

John attended Lakehill Elementary and Reynolds Secondary School, where he found purpose and direction through basketball and lacrosse, and was elected student council president in Grade 12.

After high school, John worked at the pulp mill in Ocean Falls, where, as fate would have it, the career centre had brochures for only two universities: the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and Trent University in Peterborough, Ont. John opted to attend the latter, and on the first day of classes at Trent he met Ellie Mast, the love of his life. They married in 1984 after John graduated with a BA in history and political science. John and Ellie then spent two years in Australia, where John completed a master's degree before the couple returned to Canada in 1986.

John's interest in government and public service led him to work for members of Parliament in Ottawa, where sons Nathan and Evan were born. Having grown tired of cold winters, the family settled in the warmer climes of Langford in 1992.

At first, fatherhood was daunting for John, as he had grown up without a paternal figure as a model. However, he emulated the love and parenting shown by his mother and things worked out fine. The family enjoyed afternoons at Sooke Potholes and Witty's Lagoon, as well as camping trips to Miracle Beach and Gordon Bay. John and Ellie alternated reading to their young sons every night, instilling a love of the printed word. John was happy to help with homework, although math more complicated than Pythagoras was Ellie's domain.

An NDP member since university, where he once heard Tommy Douglas speak, John decided in 2005 to run for election to represent his community in the B.C. Legislature. In 17 years as an MLA, he served eight years as Leader of the Party including five years as Premier. The well-being of British Columbians meant everything to him.

Away from work, John enjoyed hiking and cycling, as well as playing disc golf on the hilly parkland behind the family home. John was also a fierce competitor at cribbage, bocce ball, and Settlers of Catan.

In the final chapter of his life, John was honoured to represent Canada as ambassador to Germany. He and Ellie enjoyed several months in Berlin as diplomats until the diagnosis of thyroid cancer meant he needed urgent care. After 40 years of marriage, John and Ellie's love remained unwavering; as Ellie travelled to visit him in hospital every single day for four months. John's body was weakened by illness in his final months, but his mind and spirit remained vibrant. He became deeply sad at times when he thought of work left unfinished, but his ability to smile and laugh even in dire circumstances showed the quality of his character.

Upon his final return home to Victoria, John was surrounded by family and friends in his last days. Please know he was profoundly grateful for the many, many good people who had been on his team over the years. He wished he could have seen more people in the limited time he had left.

John was predeceased by his parents, his brother Pat, sister-in-law Anne, nephew Pat, niece Danielle and father-in-law Andy Mast. He is survived by Ellie, sons Nate (Daisy) and Evan (Veronica), brother Brian, sister Kathy, sister-in-law Shirley, as well as 15 beloved Horgan and Mast nieces and nephews, and their partners and children. Evan and Veronica will soon welcome the first grandchild to the family. We know she will grow up with wonderful stories about how her grandfather was a good man who did his "level best."



Order of Service

DECEMBER 15, 2024, 1 P.M.

GATHERING of COMMUNITY

ENTRANCE of DIGNITARIES

PROCESSION of FAMILY

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Keith Howard
United Church of Canada
Long-time friend of the Horgan family

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Al Ferraby
Vocalist

Karel Roessingh
Pianist

O CANADA!

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR COMMUNICATORS. OUR PHASERS ARE SET TO STUN.

**TERRITORIAL
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chief Russell Chipps
Scia'new First Nation

Elder Sit-A-Luk Brother Rick Peter
Cowichan First Nation
Resides in Scia'new First Nation

Elder The-La-Me-Yé Shirley Alphonse
Honorary Elder of John Horgan

**FIRST HYMN –
HOW GREAT THOU ART**

Al Ferraby
Vocalist

Karel Roessingh
Pianist

Nate Horgan
Son of John Horgan
Guitarist

REMARKS

**The Honourable
Janet Austin, O.B.C.**
*Lieutenant Governor
of British Columbia*

**The Right Honourable
Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.**
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable David Eby, K.C., M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia

REMEMBRANCES

Nate Horgan
Song

Evan Horgan
Son of John Horgan

Carole James
Long-time friend of John Horgan

Michael Allabarton
Long-time childhood friend of John Horgan

READINGS

Deborah Beban
Reading Bruce Hutchinson

James Allum
Reading J.S. Woodsworth and Tommy Douglas

**REFLECTION
and PRAYER of
THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Dr. Keith Howard

**SECOND HYMN –
GOD BE WITH YOU
'TILL WE MEET AGAIN**

Al Ferraby
Vocalist

Karel Roessingh
Pianist

Nate Horgan
Guitarist

COMMITTAL

Rev. Dr. Keith Howard

FIRST BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Keith Howard

As you return to your own areas of service,
may this old Irish blessing be upon you.

“May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

SECOND BLESSING

Elder The-La-Me-Yé Shirley Alphonse

REMEMBRANCE VIDEO PRESENTATION

RECESSIONAL



“Live long and prosper.”

**THE HORGAN FAMILY WISHES
TO THANK THE FOLLOWING**

Charité Hospital Staff, Berlin

Royal Jubilee Hospital Staff, Victoria

Canadian Embassy Staff, Berlin

Official Canadian Residence Staff, Berlin: Frank, Frannie and Mayleen

McCall Gardens for their attention and care

Government of British Columbia

West Shore Parks & Recreation

The Q Centre

Victoria Shamrocks and Victoria Grizzlies

*All the many supportive people who
have helped to organize this celebration*



