

Jack Knox: Summer's over. Here's what you missed



It rained Saturday, because that's what it's supposed to do when summer ends. Sigh. Back to the grind, everyone.

First task: Catch up on the news that happened while you were drifting around in blissful ignorance, your feet in the sand, your head on holiday.

Here's what happened while you weren't paying attention: The pope got married, the Queen got divorced and Greater Victoria got an amalgamation study. (Just kidding: Our politicians would never allow an amalgamation study.)

Speaking of politicians, May's cliffhanger election finally ended 52 days later when Liberal premier Christy Clark gave a throne speech that read like a deathbed conversion but Andrew Weaver still gave John Horgan his rose (wait, no, that was *The Bachelor*). Then Clark disappeared into an alternate

dimension (wait, no, that was Stranger Things). Then Darryl Plecas became speaker, at which point Rich Coleman flew out of the rafters and roasted him with flaming dragon's breath (wait, no, that was Game of Thrones.)

Speaking of the screen, Johnny Depp was spotted at Royal Roads this summer. So was Ryan Reynolds, filming Deadpool 2. So was a way-too-comfortable cougar. The latter was spied half a dozen times — meaning it was seen more often than Cars 3 or War for the Planet of the Apes or any of this season's other flops.

Speaking of sequels, Justin Trudeau holidayed on Vancouver Island again, except where in 2016 he accidentally photobombed a Tofino beach wedding, this time he got photobombed by newlyweds while kayaking by Sidney Spit. (They were shot, of course, but still it was a nice moment.) Then Trudeau fell out of his kayak.

Speaking of transportation, this spring we were led to believe the Johnson Street Bridge would be open by Christmas and the McKenzie interchange by late 2018. Now we're told it will be March for the bridge and summer 2019 for the interchange. Anyone feel like Alice in Wonderland, going backward while running forward?

Speaking of going places, CRD directors voted to send a few of themselves to Europe on a sewage fact-finding mission. Choose your reaction: A) Couldn't they find facts at the new sewage plant in Okotoks, Alta., instead? B) Great, having elected officials make engineering decisions has worked super-well so far. C) Offer me a taxpayer-funded trip to Europe and I could rationalize it, too.

Speaking of the irrational, Mother Nature messed with our heads. Victorians went a record 54 days without recorded rain, endured an apocalyptic haze that hung over us for two weeks (Wildfires in the Interior? No, smoke from our 348 pot shops) and were spooked by a total eclipse that lasted until I sacrificed a goat, a bit of quick thinking that earned me a job as Donald

Trump's new science adviser.

Speaking of Trump, the U.S. president had quite the summer. He hired Anthony Scaramucci, fired Reince Priebus, broke Sean Spicer, fired the Mooch, humiliated Jeff Sessions, whacked Steve Bannon but couldn't kill Obamacare, tried to stamp out the flaming bag of Russia on his doorstep but still ended up with Bob Mueller stuck to his shoe, bailed on the Paris climate accord (though you won't catch him golfing Mar-a-Lago this weekend), misquoted and heaped abuse on the mayor of London after a terrorist attack in the British capital, blamed "many sides" for the Charlottesville violence before being prodded into condemning (with all the enthusiasm of a man going for a prostate exam) his Nazi/Klan supporters, fudged the reason for the collapse of his business councils after their members quit in disgust, gave 800,000 DACA Dreamers nightmares, got in a biggest-missile-waving contest with the always-stable Kim Jong-Un, cracked jokes about Guam tourism after North Korea threatened Guam with nuclear annihilation, stared directly into the sun during the eclipse, pardoned Joe Arpaio, publicly pondered pardoning himself, told 28 untruths in a single speech in Phoenix, threatened to shut down the government if Congress didn't give him the money to build a Mexico wall, threatened to kill NAFTA because "very difficult" Canada and Mexico wouldn't roll over for him, used Twitter to boot transgender people from the military (without first telling the military), urged police to rough up those they arrest, crowed "what a turnout!" to a crowd of Hurricane Harvey refugees and made the Boy Scouts blush with a speech better suited to the campaign trail or a Fox News Christmas party.

Other than that, he was pretty darn presidential.

That's it. You're up to date. Back to work.