

Highway concert soothes impatient motorists

Songstress turns Hwy 99 into musical venue

BY ALAN FORSYTHE

Last Sunday tourists and day-trippers to Vancouver were once again stuck in a massive traffic jam stretching from Squamish to Lions Bay.

Fortunately for a few motorists parked on the Sea to Sky Highway the traffic jam turned into an impromptu concert by local performer and songwriter Dana-Marie Battaglia.

"We were actually heading back to Squamish after Copper and Fire but you have to head south before you can turn around because of the median and we got stuck with the rest of the southbound traffic," explained Battaglia.

Once she found herself stuck and going nowhere fast (traffic was halted for over two hours) Battaglia decided instead of complaining about the traffic she would do her best to try make it into a positive experience – just like her mom always told her, which was appropriate since her

mom was stuck with her.

"I just jumped up on the median and started to play, and before you know it people were getting out of their cars and pulling up camp chairs. It was amazing, passengers on a tour bus even got off and came over to listen to the music," said Battaglia.

She said it actually felt like a real concert with people making song requests and Battaglia said she did her best to help everyone forget about the traffic jam and have some fun, which they did, until the police shut the roadside serenade down.

"I played for over half an hour but the police said I had to stop because the traffic was going to start moving again – it didn't."

Still Battaglia is happy she was able to put a few smiles on people's faces even if it was for a little while.

"With all the construction traffic jams it would be great if I could do it more, unfortunately I can't."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dana Marie Battaglia serenades stuck motorists on the Sea to Sky highway last Sunday, August 12.