

Photo of lambs by Dean Sheridan

## Spring is Here!

### Close Call in the Village Core – local man approached by “determined” cougar



Local man shows a friend where he believed the cougar came from in the Village Core. “It had that scary, stalking look in its eyes you often see with cougars” he said.

MUSE ROVING REPORTER

Locals say it was only a matter of time. A man was aggressively approached by a wild cougar in the village core last weekend, and experts are saying he only escaped by knowing what to do when one finds oneself in such a predicament.

The young man, who does not want his name published, spoke to the Muse Roving Reporter the morning after the close call. “I had just had a burger at My ‘Chosen Café with some friends and was heading for my car when the creature came up to me. It had what I can only describe as a determined look in the eyes, and I knew I was in a serious situation. I grew up in Metchosin, and my parents spoke to me many times about what to do if I encounter a wild cougar, but this is the first time I have ever had anything like this happen here. I had a few close calls with them in Whistler and Banff, but you sort of expect it there.” he said.

Local game warden Claude Bauls, who also grew up here in Metchosin, says there are more cougars being seen here than ever before, and he theorizes that with development in the Western Communities, there are more of the cougars attracted to an increased supply of prey.

“From what I heard from the guy, this one sounds like it was a mature, healthy cougar. The guy was lucky to get away.” Bauls theorizes that the cougar waited until the man’s friends left, leaving him in a more vulnerable position.

“It sounds like classic cougar stalking behaviour”.

*Continued on page 17*

### Important Dates

(for on-going events in Metchosin, check the back page for contact information of organizations)

April 4 – 28 – Metchosin Art Gallery *Bones, Bullets and Fish Skin Show* .....see p. 5

April 5 – UK Cellist Michael Kevin Jones performs at St. Mary of the Incarnation Church at 7:00 pm – see last month’s *Muse*

April 5 – May 2 – Four Generations Art Show .....see p. 7

April 6 – Metchosin Art Gallery Opening Reception .....see p. 5

April 10 – What’s for Dinner Cooking Class .....see p. 12

April 13 – 21 – Consider the Lilies Textile Show and Sale ..see p. 15

April 13 – Consider the Lillies luncheon .....see p. 15

April 14 - CBC's Todd Butler at the House..... see p. 13

April 18 - MCA Guest Speaker .....see p. 14

April 22 – Weir’s Beach Earth Day clean-up .....see p. 14

April 26 – 27 – Talk and Walk, BioBlitz .....see p. 8

May 5 – Metchosin Foundation AGM.....see p. 6

May 18 – 24 – Donations for House Garage Sale.....see p. 15

May 25 – 26 – Garage Sale.....see p. 15

# Metchosin Muse

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**ABOUT THE MUSE**  
The Metchosin Muse is a local non-profit, arts, interests and activities publication, produced by the Muse team. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. The Muse endeavours to promote harmony and involvement in the community and aims to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Metchosin and Becher Bay.

The Muse is delivered, free of charge, to every household in Metchosin. Additional copies are available at My-Chosen Café, Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, Happy Valley Store, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop and Willow Wind Feed & Tack Store on Sooke Road. It is also available at the Juan de Fuca Library.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
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## Letters to the Editor

The Metchosin Muse welcomes letters to the Editor, of not more than 200 words. Please leave your letter at the Metchosin Country Store, or E-Mail it to metmuse@shaw.ca. Please sign your letter. An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

## Metchosin Art Gallery Talks

The Metchosin Art Gallery would like to thank everyone who came to *Talks at the MAG*, which took place March 16. The turnout was fantastic and it was great to take part in sharing stories and knowledge.

Thanks also to the guest speakers: Kem Luther, Nic Vandergugten, Charlotte Bell and Richard Wong. We were informed about the amazing species of plants and animals of Metchosin and of the artistic journey of three talented artists. With the success of this event, the gallery is looking forward to hosting more talks in the future.

Hailey Finnigan, Curator at the Metchosin Art Gallery

## Baha'I Children's Party

The Baha'is of Metchosin would like to thank all those members of the community that came out to volunteer and support the annual Baha'i children's party and service project. This year the community created care packages for a Victoria homeless shelter and service provider, *Our Place Society*. Among other things, *Our Place* provides over 12,000 nutritious meals a week, free of charge, as well as having a hygiene area where over sixty people each day come off the streets for hot drink and a hot shower. This year around 300 care packages containing a thoughtful card, and items needed by the homeless and working poor in Victoria, were assembled, decorated, bundled and delivered to *Our Place*. Items in the care packages included many materials such as a towel, soap, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, candies and other much needed daily toiletries.

This event happens at the beginning of March during the Baha'i gift giving time called Ayyam-i-Ha, that happens just prior to the Baha'i fast. We look forward to seeing you all next year for this fun and meaningful service

## Letters from Metchosin Technical Centre

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. (Sonnet XCVIII)" — William Shakespeare

"As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Greetings and happy spring from Metchosin Technical Centre! Our small but mighty MTC staff and student population plan on actively participating in Earth Day this year. We will be at Weir's Beach April 22 at 1:30 pm and, providing we have time, we will also be cleaning up litter along Pearson College Road. Come and join us if you are interested in pitching in to our Earth Day activities.

Our Inspiring Neighbours program is in full swing with Hans Helgesen and Pearson College. I am pleased that our little buddies are eager to have the Bridges students come to Hans Helgesen. We worked together to celebrate Easter with an Egg hunt and did a beach clean-up of Taylor Road in March with Mrs. Washbrook's Kindergarten class. We also have been visiting Pearson and enjoying our lovely student leaders and the facilities at the College. Through swimming and kayaking, sports and tree identification treasure hunts we are kept very busy on the Pearson campus. The One World Production was very impressive. We were privileged to attend.

I cannot begin to thank all the fantastic guest speakers, donors or individuals who have invited us to their various locations to enrich our educational experience, this past month at MTC. We have had guests like Fred Christ and John Smith speak about their lives. We have also had the privilege of going to Yoga at Weir's Beach Yoga with Marg. The busy Buchanan's have welcomed us to see the lambs at Parry Bay Farm. We have had an influx of food donations for which we are eternally grateful. We have also visited many different sites for Physical Education, which has been a pleasure. Thank you everyone!

As a drive past the school will reveal – we are currently building picnic tables. With local cedar we are fundraising for our year-end camping trips by selling these tables. If you are interested in any of our projects, please feel free to contact the school at 250-478-9596.

With spring weather improvements, we hope to see you on the trails throughout Metchosin.

Dayna Christ-Rowling,  
Metchosin Technical Centre Teacher

This month at MTC (Metchosin Technical Centre) we did a lot of stuff, for instance, we cleaned up Witty's Lagoon by filling up six garbage bags full of garbage and large pieces of debris. My friend and I were walking on a muddy trail another day and there was a log over a creek with a miniature island surrounded by two feet of sulfur mud; unfortunately, my friend slipped in the mud and got stuck in mud up to his kneecaps. After he trudged around in the mud for a while, my friend lost his shoe. My friend climbed back onto the mini island thankful for solid ground. Meanwhile I was laughing the entire time. Not surprisingly, he threw his other shoe towards me as he jumped back in the sulfur mud to get back onto the trail; he was cursing and yelling the entire time about stepping on animal bones. Meanwhile, I laughed like a hyena. This is living!

Ben Macfarlane and Zack O'Donnell



Trust, trust, trust – what is trust? Well, first, it is a virtue we are focusing on this month at Metchosin Technical Centre. Secondly, trust is when you are confident enough to put your life in another person's hands. Sometimes it's a troubling issue to trust people now a days; this is one of the many problems in communities. In class, we did a trust exercise where there are four people on chairs and we lay on each other's stomachs and using our core we lift each other up while the chairs are being taken away and it was lots of fun. People are too blind to see that trust is helpful and it might make life better to live; sometimes I wish there could be a little more trust in the

Continued on page 16

## Muse Photos

Most of the photos in the Muse are taken by Roger St. Pierre or Peter Lewis (who also handles our advertising). They do this for us on a volunteer basis, and we think you will agree that their expertise has added greatly to the appearance of our newspaper. If you wish to order copies of any of these photos, please go to their respective websites for details of how to order:

Peter M. Lewis - [www.intothelightimages.com](http://www.intothelightimages.com)  
Roger St. Pierre - [jazzcats@magma.ca](mailto:jazzcats@magma.ca)

## Muse Subscriptions

We can mail the Muse to you each month for \$20 a year if it is to be posted to a Canadian address, and \$25 a year if you wish it posted to the United States. Please send your information and cheque to the Head of our Subscriptions Department, Joan Bradley, 10 Bradene Road, Victoria BC, V9C 4B1, Tel: 250-478-3451. Or you can email us at metmuse@shaw.ca



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# ONE WORLD 2013

VALERIE COCHRAN

As usual the performance started with two wonderful choral pieces, conducted and arranged by Noomi Kim. The full choir performed a medley combining a beloved Israeli folk song, *Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu*, and *Baba Yetu*, sung in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

This was followed by a smaller choir singing *It Takes a Village*, based on the African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child"

Then the performers "kicked it up a notch" with *Tujnak Tunak Tun*, a bhangra/pop love song by the Indian artist Dater Mehndi. Bhangra is most prevalent in the springtime, as a prayer for continual wealth, peace, and the coming of summer time. This was performed with much energy and joy.

*Diablada* came next, a dance of the devils, from Bolivia and Peru. The costumes were fantastic, and in the end the angel Gabriel fought the devils and liberated them.

A powerful spoken piece, *I am Woman*, performed by six female students from six countries, paid tribute to the various roles played by women in society today, and in the past. Women are no longer willing to be marginalized and Pearson students will certainly be part of the vanguard ensuring this no longer happens in their home countries. "We are strong and powerful women" – and they surely are.

Then came *Salsa* – the lively and relaxed dance from the streets of Latin American countries. While the main point of Salsa is to have fun, it does show that anyone, no matter their country of origin, can dance.

Next a spoken piece written by the Pearson College UWC Spoken Word Team. The piece is called *Many Tongues, One Voice*. This year's theme was a message for African youth – they are the future and they will change the world – for the better. The team will participate as reigning champions in Victoria's *Victorious Voices* competition and will compete in Vancouver's *Hullabaloo Festival*.

The *Pearson Wailers* performed the choral piece *Girl from Durban*, a Zulu love song from South Africa. Rich harmonies and subtle syncopation abound.

*African Asciebe*, a spoken word piece accompanied by the song *Senzenina*. The message is a powerful one – to change the world we must first listen. Simple, but with the power to bring far-reaching change. This is a generation that will not say, "yes, we can" but instead "yes, we have."

The ever-popular *Tinikling* followed – with fast stepping between clacking bamboo poles. One misstep and there goes the shapely ankles! Always entertaining, not to be tried at home without much practice!

*Latino America* is a piece that speaks to Latino roots, and reminded me of rap music, mixed with traditional folk music, although the "rap" part (spoken song) was much more appealing than usual rap music.

A spoken piece by Joseph from Sierra Leone followed. If there was someone in the audience who was not moved by this true-life story, they are truly hard-hearted. Joseph spoke of being six years old in 1999 when the Blood Diamond and civil war broke out in Sierra Leone, of hiding in the bushes, of watching bullets (life fireflies) fly overhead while he tried to sleep, and his mother, who each night had to say "good night and good bye – in case I do not see you again." People were now listening!

The *Six Language Song* was performed by six African women, noting that they each came from a different country and spoke a different language, but in listening to each other, realized they all knew the same song – just sung in their own language. They then performed the song, demonstrating how music can help bridge the boundaries of country and language.

The last act before the intermission was the always-loved *Gumboot Dance*, originating in South Africa as a form of entertaining between shifts for the miners.

Act Two began with *Tamba Neni Africa*,

an original piece created by Pearson student Rutendo (from Zimbabwe). The concept is to change the perception some have of Africans as sad and subdued, when they are really a happy, jovial people. A very talented choreographer.

Then Hannah from Quebec performed an aria from Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte*. She is a talented, budding opera star with great stage presence. The costumes of the women on stage were in this season's latest colour – shimmering orange – very up-to-date.

Then the indigenous students performed a three-part piece. The first was a traditional Inuit song from Nunavut, reflecting on harsh Arctic winters. The second was from Greenland, called *Kalattuut*, and the third from Coastal First Nations, celebrated the collecting of oolichan fish.

Next, a Finnish contemporary street dance was introduced by a spoken piece. "Our greatest fear is not that we are powerless, but that we are all powerful." The dance exhorts us to reach our true potential and to work together to make change through art.

The emcees then told us of the privilege Pearson gave to each student to allow them to do kitchen duty, clean rooms, work in the garden, etc. The next act represented one aspect of these privileges – *Kitchen Duty*. This was a mini-*Stomp* performance, using garbage cans, trays and metal bowls to create joyous, up-beat music.

The graceful and lyrical *Odori*, a Japanese traditional dance displaying grace, femininity and elegance, followed this foot-stomping performance. The gorgeous costumes were in this season's second most popular colour – turquoise. (I say second-most because I look better in orange – thus making it this season's most popular!)

David Hawley, Pearson College Director, came on to talk about the history of Pearson College, now almost forty year's running. He talked about how important it is that Pearson can bring students from all backgrounds, rich or poor, on a full scholarship, to study for the International Baccalaureate (grade twelve and a gap year). He offered us all the extraordinary opportunity to become supporters of this goal as well as the opportunity to become philanthropists, by giving to the College's program, thus ensuring its continued existence.

David was followed by the kool kats doing the *Cool Dance* – my particular favourite for this year. The act questions traditional gender roles and disproves stereotypes, while exploring masculinity and the concept of men dancing together.

Then a spoken piece by Marta from Ethiopia. Marta told us of her journey from Ethiopia to Pearson College, after losing her sight at age four. Her story was a touching one and left us in no doubt that she is going to make a big difference to this world.

A Palestinian song, *Above the Palm Tree* was next. This is an old Iraqi folk song praising beloved family and friends, celebrating people coming together. Good rhythm too.

Second to last was the wonderfully colourful and energetic *Ukrainian Dance*, showcasing the grace of the female dancers while allowing the young men to display their acrobatic talents in solo pieces. A very physically challenging dance for both the women and men, and enthusiastically performed.

The finale this year was from Argentina – *Solo le Pid a Dios*. This is based on a written work by Leon Gioco, where he asks "that we not be indifferent to the suffering of others." A most suitable finish to a wonderful and inclusive afternoon and evening.

We should not forget the stellar job done by the four emcees - Ben from Switzerland, Freiderich from Germany, Ishara from Trinidad and Tobago, and John from South Africa. Very entertaining introductions to the performances.

Remember to watch the *Muse* next February for the dates and times of *One World 2014* – you will not want to miss it.



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## Calling all Musettes – Past And Present

*The Muse* is twenty years old and we would like to get as many of the people who worked on *The Muse* as possible to join us in a reunion/celebration of the paper.

If you were a regular contributor, proofreader or editor, please contact *The Muse* editors at metmuse@shaw.ca and give us your contact information so we can organize it for sometime in July. If you know of someone who "fits this bill", please ask them to contact us.

# A Hair-raising Event

SHERRY EPP

A little girl or boy fighting cancer will soon be wearing a wig made out of five-year-old Regan Sheldrick's hair. The mini-Metchosinite heard about donating hair to make wigs for cancer patients and promptly decided to do just that. "Doing stuff for charity is important, Mommy, and I want to give something I've got to kids who don't have any," said Regan, whose mom Stacy Ross, and dad Don Sheldrick, shed a few tears on March 9, when stylist Toni Dosouto of Tony's Hair Design in Hatley Park, snipped away their daughter's waist-length blond tresses. "It was most definitely her decision," the proud mom said.

Regan's only comment about the new look was "good," noting her head looked different when she saw her shadow on the ground.

Unlike most five-year-olds, Regan has an understanding of the effects of chemotherapy, after watching her grandma go through hair loss and the wig-wearing regime. The idea the same thing can happen to kids her age struck a chord. "I wanted to do something kindful, and this is it," she said.

Along with donating her hair, Regan has been fund-raising for the B.C. Cancer Foundation, collecting mainly from family and friends to fill her



Regan of the impish smile!



Regan of the long, flowing tresses

money tin. Just before the Muse went to press, Rick and Ingrid Carswell of RLC Park Services offered to match any other donations dollar for dollar, and all the generosity has come close to an amazing total of \$3,000.

Anyone wanting to add to Regan's cause can go to the [bccanfoundation.com](http://bccanfoundation.com) website, opt for ways to donate, donate to a fundraising page, search for Regan, and carry on from there. Donations (checks are payable to the B.C. Cancer Foundation) can also be mailed to: Regan, care of Stacy Ross, 4716 Merridale Road, Victoria, V9C 4E9.

# Stressed Out? Get Organizing!

MAGGIE MEGINBIR

When the going gets stressed, the stressed get – whatever it is the stressed get doing. Personally, I get organizing. There is nothing like finding the perfect shoe storage system to house ten pairs of (wait for it) black shoes, or shredding all of last year's credit card statements to feel a sense of calm descend like an old friend.

I actually started on this organizing journey when personal tragedy struck and struck again. It doesn't take a psychologist to posit that I was attempting to bring external order to internal chaos, to assert some control in my life (name your disorder). Anyway, whatever it was, the benefits have brought a sense of order that I love and enjoy every day. No more running around the house yelling "Where are my keys, has anyone seen my keys (glasses, cell phone)"? Okay, so far, fewer crazed searches. Who would have thought that a little basket by the front door could work such a miracle? A no-brainer you say? Maybe, but we all have our no-brainers to sort out, although I do wish mine did not take so long.

The smallest efforts at organizing bring immediate gratification, a highly valued commodity in this day and age of drive-thru's and sub-prime mortgages. Think in terms of bringing order to a drawer, a glove compartment, or your purse.

Now that Spring is here, along with the urge to clean and start anew, why not commit this month to de-cluttering, a mainstay of organizing. You might prefer definitions such as purging or repurposing. Since new terms for old ideas are *de rigueur* nowadays, I propose my own for this concept: How about deguiling. Get rid of things that you keep simply because the thought of tossing them produces bucket loads of guilty feelings. Guilt because, "it's such good quality" or "I may use it someday" or, even more guilt inducing, "Jane made that for me in preschool".

"Deguiling" is not for the faint of heart. Yes, I hung on to a wedding gift for, ohhhhh, about fifteen years before I let it go. Now every time I pull out of the parking lot of St. Vincent de Paul I feel lighter for having re-homed even more stuff I don't use. My thinking is "get rid of the stuff and the guilt at the same time". Talk about efficiency.

Set a goal for yourself and test the waters, so to speak. Get rid of a couple of things that no longer (or never did) bring you enjoyment and see how you feel. Can you live with yourself? Do you even remember by the following week what you wanted to hang on to so badly? My guess is "probably not". So go ahead and revel in letting the guilt go. Or, alternately, to quote Meg Ryan in French Kiss, "Just feel guilty. Swim in it till your fingers get all pruned". There is always next month. (Maggie Megenbir is the founder of Calm, Cool & Uncluttered Organizing Services [www.calmcooluncluttered.ca](http://www.calmcooluncluttered.ca), [maggie@calmcooluncluttered.ca](mailto:maggie@calmcooluncluttered.ca), 250-391-6808)



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## Bursary Assistance Available for Established and Emerging Artists

DAVE SKILLING

Registration is now in full swing at the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA). Now in its twenty-ninth year, the summer studio series offers over forty workshops in a wide array of creative pursuits, including jewellery making, painting, ceramics, storytelling and photography. The forested Pearson College campus setting serves as an inspiring environment, conducive to intensive exploration of the arts. "Everyone leaves with a new enthusiasm for their art. The peaceful yet stimulating atmosphere attracts many students and teachers to return regularly to enjoy the exchange of artistic ideas and take part in the MISSA magic," observed Dave Skilling, MISSA Executive Director.

Each year MISSA awards a limited number of bursaries. These typically cover workshop tuition and bursary students are expected to contribute a minimum of four hours volunteer time per week and to write a brief report outlining their MISSA experience.

In addition, MISSA has three Young Artist bursaries available to students 19-29 years old and attending art school or actively pursuing a career as a full time artist or art teacher. Each Young Artist Bursary is valued at approximately \$1,000 and includes tuition for a five day workshop plus six days accommodation and meals.

Bursary selection is undertaken by the Board of Directors and is based on artistic merit, financial need and commitment to art practice. The bursary application deadline for MISSA 2013 is May 1.

Visit [www.missa.ca](http://www.missa.ca) for bursary and workshop details.

# Bones, Bullets and Fish Skin – Discarded Objects As Ingredients for Art

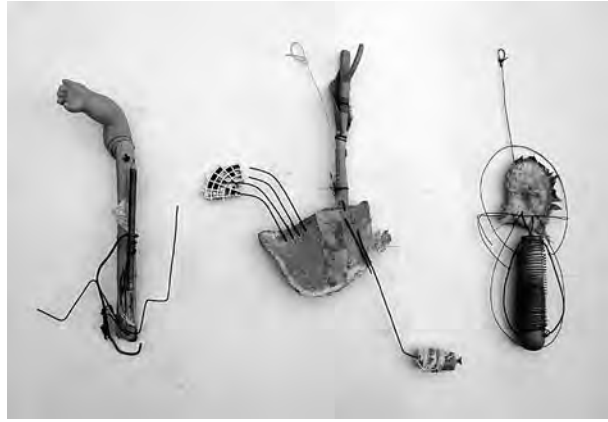
HAILEY FINNIGAN

All kinds of objects can be found in Will Gordon's art: toys, wire, bones, weathered plastic, fabric and fish skin. He combines these objects with mindfulness, and spends the time to know the materials and how they work together. His pieces either hang on the wall, or are three dimensional and free-standing. Why though, would someone make art out of junk?

Will Gordon makes art out of junk because he is an artist who looks at the big picture. This is apparent because he considers what he does as farther reaching than a gallery setting. He considers how his work influences himself as a citizen, and as someone who inhabits the natural world. Being mindful of how his art fits into the natural world has made Gordon's artwork unique. Gordon's work has focused his interest towards conceptualizing his place in a consumer culture and as part of the larger life and death cycle. He does not consider his work especially precious. He invites collectors of his artwork to change it, and he makes his artwork from found materials because of his concern over the planet's natural resources. Gordon's work really does exemplify the saying, "Reduce, reuse, recycle."

From the Ridge, Will Gordon's retrospective at the Metchosin Art Gallery, will include work from the last fifteen years. From the Ridge will be a combination of 2D and 3D mixed media artwork. His pieces are made from objects Gordon has found all over British Columbia from deep in the forests to urban settings.

This show will also launch *The Homage Project*, a series of performances that will happen in various locations around the Capitol Region. Gordon has been increasingly drawn to performance art because it allows the freedom to invite people into the natural world, and it facilitates discussions about art and the environment outside of the gallery setting. These participatory events are inspired by famous conceptual artists of the last century such as Joseph Beuys and Marcel Duchamp. These performances will focus on people's conceptions of what art can be and how it relates to the natural world. Show runs April 4 to 28. A performance will be featured at the opening reception, April 6, 2:00 – 5:00 pm.



## COUNCIL NEWS

### LITERACY CONNECTION WESTSHORE - VOLUNTEER

Council is also seeking a volunteer for Literacy Connection Westshore steering committee that works to increase awareness of literacy programs and services. If you are interested in representing Metchosin, please submit a letter of interest to Council at the Municipal Hall or by email to [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca). For more information, call 250-474-3167 or check the website at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca).

### METCHOSIN PUBLIC WORKS

Council is pleased to announce that having evaluated the effectiveness of its' in-house Public Works services, it will retain these services and the employees engaged in their provision, as a Municipal Public Works Department.

### METCHOSIN AWARDED CIVICSPATIAL GRANT

The District of Metchosin has been awarded a \$3,305.75 CivicSpatial Grant in order to establish ten GPS Cadastral Tie control points that will be used to improve the spatial accuracy of Metchosin's cadastre to sub meter "real world" ground position. Working with GeoBC's Parcel Fabric Section, the project will result in a cadastral dataset that is complete with the inclusion of all parcels, contains all relevant attributes, has greater spatial accuracy, and is aligned with the surrounding municipalities of Langford, Colwood, Sooke, and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

### COMMUNITY TRAILS

Metchosin has eighteen kilometres of multi-use trails throughout the municipality including the new Montreal Hill trail off Rocky Point Road. Why not put on your hiking shoes and explore your community? You can find a trail map and trail descriptions on the *Parks and Recreation* page at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) under *Community*.



Sheila MacKay, Technical Assistant at the District, presenting the "Appreciation Pie" to Steve Mark, ICIS Technical Coordinator and Pie Lover !

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**When:** April 25th from 10-11AM

**Where:** Metchosin Community House

Call Kimberley at 250-391-1308 by April 18th to reserve your seat for this event.




Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

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# TJ Watt and Ken Wu to Speak on BC's Ancient Forests

Metchosin Foundation AGM, Sunday, May 5 at 7:00 pm at New St. Mary's Church, Metchosin Road.

Local photographer extraordinaire, TJ Watt, and longtime ancient forest campaigner, Ken Wu, are passionate advocates for protecting BC's old growth forests. TJ's stunning and award-winning photography exhibits his deep commitment to BC's ancient forests. Everyone welcome.



TJ Watt and ancient Metchosin Douglas-fir

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Metchosin Green Map

# The Youth Action Project Looks to the Future

GRANT SAWYER

The first ever *Metchosin's Got Talent Show* was a fantastic night showcasing the many talents of our local youths. So the Youth Action Project is proud to announce that our community will be able to look forward to another night of magic in the form of a talent show to come in the future.

The Youth Action Project (a sub committee of the Metchosin's Healthy Community Committee) is also looking forward to a number of other activities it would like to host as well; everything from drop-in hockey nights, community soccer games and maybe even a live music night performed by local youth. We are also looking for ideas from the community, about what different types of activities you might want to see available for the local youth.

A special thanks again to all those involved in the talent show, both performing and for those who volunteered their time and resources to help the night succeed, and many thanks to Pearson College for allowing us to host on their amazing campus. So please, if you have any questions about any upcoming events or activities, or any thoughts or ideas about fun local community oriented activities we might be able to help organize, please share them with us at [metchosinsgottalent@hotmail.com](mailto:metchosinsgottalent@hotmail.com).

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And tell them you saw it in The Muse

# Four Generations Art Show

## Metchosin Community House,

April 5 to May 2, 2013, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

ALLIS PAKKI CHIPPS-SAWYER

In the year 2000 (when my mother, Axe Petersen, had her last art show at the Metchosin Community House, shortly before she died) we talked about having an art show called Three Generations. Of course, now it has become four generations of artists and budding artists.



Pakki Chipps-Sawyer and her art

### Generation One – Axe Petersen (aka Axe Boysen, nee Djervad).

Axe was an incredible artist always trying something new to expand her horizon. She spent the last few years living in Metchosin and on Beecher Bay Reserve (where she is buried). Axe's first husband, Knud Rasmussen, artist, of Ilulissat, Greenland, (3/4 Greenland Inuit), was the father of Axe's four children.

Unfortunately, they both developed TB shortly after I was born and they were moved to a sanitarium for quite some time. The two oldest of Axe's children died early, and the last two of us, Steen and I, ended up in an orphanage. Steen was adopted by my mother's oldest sister, and I was raised by Axe's parents, Michael Djervad, Architect, and Elna Djervad, housewife and writer.

Axe created cut-out dolls, children's books, and many other illustrations in Denmark. She and my father also painted scenery in night clubs and restaurants there. When she and her new husband moved to Canada, they picked me up first and brought me along to Canada at the age of ten. In Canada, Axe became a fashion illustrator, working for the finest fashion houses in North America and the New York Times. At retirement, Axe began to paint and explore again. At the show: Sculpture, paintings and sketches.

Generation Two – Dr. Allis Pakki Chipps-Sawyer (Born Rasmussen). I live at Beecher Bay First Nation and am a status Indian. My name, Pakkia, was given to me by my father, and is a children's form of the word for butterfly in Greenlandic. I couldn't say that, so it was shortened to Pakki, and I have been called that all my life. I mainly do ink paintings and sold my first painting (oil) in 1961, at the age of sixteen. I have also carved in stone, bone and wood, and still do so now and then. I also write, and some of my books are available free at my website, [chamasart.com](http://chamasart.com). I never really wanted to be an artist, but couldn't really help expressing my feelings and thoughts through art.

I continued my schooling at the age of thirty after starting and running three youth clubs and two free clinics. I wanted to be a doctor, but back then I was deemed too old to become a doctor. I completed my high school in one year and continued into university for my B.Sc, but after I was refused by the pre-med program, continued on to a BA in linguistics at U.Vic, and later at York University, where I also got my MA in Interdisciplinary

studies (Linguistics, Environmental Studies and Native/Canadian Relations). After many years running the Learning Centre at Beecher Bay, I started my Ph.D at U.Vic in Education (Curriculum and Instruction) and Environmental Studies. I taught at U.Vic, four days after graduation, for one year, then moved to Maniitsoq, Greenland to teach at a college for two years before returning home. By then, I had to retire which I had not ever thought of doing. I actually got my PhD because I did not want to retire – I had no idea that I couldn't keep working. I still do some work at schools, and some research at home, but I miss working and teaching. At the show: Limited Edition Prints, and Original paintings.

Steen Djervad (Born Rasmussen). Steen lives in Denmark with his wife, although he did come to Canada for two years about forty years ago, and he came to Canada for a month just before our mother died. He helped me set up the art show my mother had when she was deathly ill and, thanks to Metchosin, she loved it! My brother was a commercial artist, and later an art director, and is now retired. My brother works in inks and water colour primarily, but also does basketry and does incredible stone carvings. His name means *Stone*, so that is probably appropriate. At the Show: Primarily sketches and emailed photos of paintings.

Generation Three – Thomas Casey O'Gorman is my son from an early marriage, age forty-eight. Casey primarily works in colourful inks and has a wonderful imagination. My younger son, Jody (John Laughlin O'Gorman, who would now be forty-seven) died at the age of thirteen in a canoe accident, and Casey's art has long been haunted with thoughts of his brother, with whom he was very close. Casey also writes but I think he keeps it private. At the show: Primarily colour originals, a print, and smaller drawings.

Weyla Chipps-Roy. My daughter, a status member of Beecher Bay First Nation, lives on the reserve. Her talent lies mostly in sculpture, which my mother



Cody with his carved bowl



Axe Petersen sketch of the Metchosin Community House. The sheep sketch on the *Muse* cover masthead is also done by Axe.

and father also loved. She is a wonderful artist. Unfortunately with all her children, she has had little time for painting and drawing. Weyla has also worked on a number of movie sets as a make-up artist and excels at horror movie make-up and creating latex body parts for the movie industry. At the show: Primarily paintings (oil), sketches and sculptures.

Generation Four – Cody Mobey-Chipps. At fourteen, Cody (Weyla's oldest son) started learning to carve from Narcisse Baptiste and



Laughlin, looking very fashionable in her face art

has been carving ever since. He also draws. For many years, Cody travelled with me while I was doing my dissertation research all over Vancouver Island at many reserves and he was an excellent travel companion, as his mother had been when she was young. Cody is now sixteen. At the show: Primarily carvings.

Payne Chipps-Stephenson. Payne started painting and drawing amazing pictures as a toddler and has never stopped – he also loves writing stories, which started when he was around seven. Now Payne is ten. Payne is going to be an amazing artist and writer when he grows up! At the show: Colour pictures and sketches.

Laughlin Axe Stephenson. Laughlin is only seven now, but she too has been painting since she was a toddler. Early on she took to wearing my mother's favourite straw hat. She is going to be an amazing artist when she grows up too! At the show: Colour pictures and sketches.

M

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## Happy Valley School Turns 100

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

**H**appy Valley School has been in existence for a long time, and is now celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. You might ask why this is mentioned in the Muse, as the school is actually in Langford and not Metchosin, but there is a connection between the school and our community. As many of you may remember, in 2004 Happy Valley School was destroyed by fire, and students at the school had to be relocated. Who knows where they might have ended up if Metchosin School hadn't been empty and available to house the displaced staff and students? But it was, and many people worked hard to ready the aging school to accept its new classes. So Happy Valley School came to Metchosin, where it remained until 2007.

Happy Valley School has gone through many other changes over the years. It began as a one-room schoolhouse in 1912, with a second room and teacher being added in 1928, and indoor toilets in 1945! More classrooms were added as time went on, and finally a new building in the 1960s. A student from that time, Janet Johnstone, remembers standing on the school steps and ringing the school bell – a real brass bell then – to call students in from their play. Play then included games like marbles, tag and roller skating. Bonnie Josephson, who has been collecting and organizing community artifacts, recalls that sports days were held at the nearby ranger station. Eventually all of the classes moved to the new building, the old school was moved away and the front of the school property leveled to make a playground. The school's first kindergarten teacher, Loretta Deutscher, remembers the 1970s. "It was a really unique and special time...the staff worked as a team. It was a small school in a rural farming community, with people supporting each other – a family."

Then came the fire in 2004, and students were bussed daily to Metchosin School, while construction on a new Happy Valley School began. Students moved into their new school in 2007, enrolment increased, and six more classrooms were added by 2011.

This brings us to Happy Valley's centennial year. To recognize the event, students at the school have been listening to music from previous decades, trying out different art styles and having "theme" days like a '50s day. Even their Christmas concert included songs and videos about the olden days. "Staff and students are excited to be part of the celebration of learning that has taken place over the past 100 years at our school," explains acting principal Karen DeCicco.

During the school day of May 10, students will present or display projects about the different decades that they have been studying, such as old-fashioned games, dances, art and poetry. Later in the evening and on Saturday May 11 there will be a Centennial celebration to which all past and present staff, students and their guests are invited. Friday evening will feature refreshments and live music at Langford Legion. Then on Saturday tours of the school will be given by students, with their projects, as well as artifacts and memorabilia, on display. There will be games, dances, a barbecue and a real old-fashioned tea complete with china cups. If you are interested in attending any of the events you will need to register at <http://happyvalley.sd62.bc.ca>.

To help celebrate the Centennial of Happy Valley School a team of residents, former teachers and students is in the process of collecting and organizing information about the school. If you have any material or information to offer please phone Bonnie at 250-474-1080.

## WALK AND TALK

### Third Annual Metchosin BioBlitz

MORALEA MILNE

Mark Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 on your calendar for one of the most enjoyable events in Metchosin. As in the past two years, our April Talk and Walk will be combined with the Third Annual Metchosin BioBlitz.

Talk begins at 7:00 pm on Fri April 26, at the Metchosin Municipal Hall, with our mystery guest speaker(s).

On Saturday April 27, you are most welcome to join us at the Mel Cooper Cabin at the Boys and Girls Club, 3898 Metchosin Road.

Birders are flocking at 6:00 am. We will supply the hot coffee! Then at 8:30 am and 1:00 pm, we would be pleased to have you join one of the groups of experts who will lead forays, to count as many species as possible. This is a not-to-be-missed, fun and informative event, no identification skills needed, everyone welcome!



## JIM MACPHERSON



### WWOOFERS – Going? Going? Gone?

If it were not hard enough for small farmers to make a go of it now, it looks as though it just got worse. Up until now, small organic farmers could often rely on "WWOOFERS" to help them out with seeding, planting, weeding, harvesting and the thousand and one other things that have to be done on a farm.

WWOOF – World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms – was started in Britain in 1971 to link volunteers with organic farmers, and help people share more sustainable ways of living. Since then WWOOF organizations have spread across the world, including Canada. For more information on WWOOF in Canada see its web page at <http://www.wwoof.ca>.

Like its sister organizations, WWOOF Canada links people who want to volunteer on organic farms or smallholdings with qualified hosts who are looking for volunteer help. In return for volunteer help, WWOOF hosts offer food, accommodation and opportunities to learn about organic lifestyles. "WWOOFERS" choose the hosts that most interest them and make direct contact to arrange a stay. Volunteers usually live as part of the family. Hosts do not pay volunteers for their help; volunteers do not pay for their stay. WWOOFERS may help a host for as little as a few days or for as long as an entire growing season.

WWOOFER volunteers include individuals and couples who want to learn before setting up their own organic farms. Many WWOOFERS are young adults from around the world experiencing life in a foreign land without having to worry about a lot of travel bills.

Is all this coming to an end? The owners of a Cowichan Valley organic farm recently had an experience which raises all sorts of questions about the relationships between farmers and volunteers. In this case, the organic farmer hired a couple as apprentices. The couple was interested in learning the ins and outs of organic farming in preparation for establishing their own farm. The couple were paid nominal sums as apprentices.

In due course difficulties arose and the apprentices filed a complaint with BC Employment Standards. Ultimately the farmer and the complainants worked out a settlement. Nevertheless, the situation raised a couple of issues that affect all farmers, not just organic farmers.

First, in BC an employee is someone who comes onto your place of business and does the work that an employee would do.

Second, a written agreement does not change the situation. Employment Standards says that no one can sign away their rights to a minimum wage.

Perhaps none of this is new to farmers, but the fact that someone has complained to Employment Standards may mean that the ground is shifting. Care is in order.

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**W**hen I first started researching gardening with seniors, it was all about the tools and aids we needed to buy. It said nothing about the joy of slowing down – the satisfaction of sitting on all those benches placed in shady spots, watching the beauty unfold as the season does.

My first suggestion is to not necessarily garden in your yard! Volunteer day gardeners are welcomed at Government House, Abkazi gardens, Swan Lake and Glendale gardens. This also counts as a social outing, with a mission including a collective sense of accomplishment and pride. Share your knowledge, your favourite plants too.

The second suggestion is to simplify what gardens you have; less intensive annuals, unfussy perennials and reliable shrubbery, with mulching to cut down on weeding. Classic cottage style borders are forked over yearly; staked, divided and replanted every three or four years. Your border can still be stunning with less. Create specialized gardening spots like vegetable or flower box beds and patio pots on wheels. Hire a helper to do the chores that are your least favourite or most taxing. Do hire men and machines for ladder and chainsaw work.

Water wise: Set up shorter hoses in handy spots – less tangling and dragging around. Use a small, less-heavy-when-full watering can. Set self-watering bottles by your thirstiest plants by using litre plastic milk bottles with holes punched in the bottom. Invest in an automatic



Aaah - a sunny afternoon in the garden.

watering system for larger yards; generally it is only needed June to the end of September.

Tool wise: Tape a spongy rubber sleeve on your favourite tool handles, secure with electrical tape. Spray paint your hand tools perhaps a bright yellow. Oil moving parts on your tools. Rake leaves into your borders or cover your veggie patch in fall. Do use a cushy kneeling pad. Put the compost bucket or weed container on wheels and let a wheel barrow carry all your tools; include a cell phone, a hat and bottle of water. Large wheeled carts are quite effortless to use or perhaps a little red wagon for smaller access areas.

Paths: These need to be level and bare of obstacles to avoid falls; pave or pack with a type of fine gravel used on wheelchair paths. Make any terracing wide, shallow steps with a hand rail. All these hardscaping features can be part of the flow of your garden.

Patios: Put hanging baskets on pulleys to lower for easy watering. Try double potting by planting in a plastic pot to fit inside your heavy ceramic ones. A seeding trick is to drop-plant big seeds; like beans, using a one inch diameter / four foot length of PVC piping, and using a long handled tool to cover and press the seeds down. Build a veggie box bed with double high board sides. For tiny vegetable seeds like carrots use seed tapes to avoid thinning. Plant tomatoes in pots or make a mixed salad planting with lettuce and annual herbs like basil. Try a tea herb garden instead of the traditional Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme. Change your project each season.

Move your gardening indoors and invest in a light system. Attach a functioning sunroom or small greenhouse to keep you and your plants sunny. Take up flower arranging, or orchids and join those gardening clubs.

Take good care of yourself as your own head gardener. Comfort becomes number one: wear good support footwear, light clothing, and a hat. Promptly attend to cuts, scrapes and insect bites. Tackle big jobs in small bites. Vary the day's activities.

Remember you are gardening as an enjoyment. Hang over the neighbour's fence to smell his roses: you may go home with a bouquet, or better yet a cutting!

Overall, the benefits of gardening in the golden years are: better sleep, appetite, eye-hand co-ordination, problem solving, strength, mobility, and flexibility. For me it is the sheer wonder and magic – food for the soul!



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IN MEMORIUM

Photos supplied by Mark (grandson)

# Mary Florence Pimm

October 29, 1914 - February 26, 2013

*“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.” – Anon*

CHELSEA DELLAQUILLA (NEE DOTCHAK – GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER)

They say when someone comes into your life they leave a mark – on your mind, on your heart, on your memory. Mary Florence Pimm (nee Parker), known to most as just “Granny,” was one of those individuals.

Granny was born on October 29, 1914 – the second of four children and the only girl. Her parents, (Walter) Herb and May Parker, owned a 180 acre farm in the village of Rocky Point at the far end of Rocky Point Road.

Granny would often tell stories of how it used to be in the old days, growing up on their farm. It was a lot of hard work. Their farm had grown to have 200 sheep, 300 chickens, cattle, workhorses, hay and grain crops, an orchard and a large garden. Each of the children had their chores; for Mary, it was helping her mother with the laundry, with the cooking, with the cleaning, with the minding of her younger brothers and with the cleaning out of the hen house (which she despised). As a farm girl she learned to be resourceful and watchful, never taking anything for granted, for doing so could mean disaster. She would eagerly tell the story of how one night, as she lay tucked in her bed, she could hear the sheep out in the field becoming agitated, their small bells clanging faster and faster, something frightening them. She called her father, who discovered it was a cougar, one of many he tracked and killed.

Life on the farm was not all hard work and chores. Granny remembers the many hours her brothers and her would play with the children from the neighbouring Beecher Bay Reserve, who would often plan and strategize in Coast Salish so as to have the advantage. The Parker children, becoming frustrated, decided to use Pig Latin, which confused and confounded their playmates! She remembered walking to visit her friend on a neighbouring farm, where the father had planted a row of tiny trees up the driveway; years later those trees



Mary, circa 1940s



Mary, circa 2010.

are still standing and make up the historic Lombard Lane.

Granny attended school at Rocky Point’s own one-room schoolhouse, where her mother had taught prior to her marriage. At first, Mary was the only student in Grade One. School there only went up to Grade 8. In order to attend Victoria High, Mary had to board in Victoria. In order to earn her keep, she worked for three different families. For the first year, she was very homesick, yearning for her family and the relative freedom of the farm. At times, her dad would come into town to sell his produce, and Mary would get a chance to see him. Often, he would bring her something to take home to the family she

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IN MEMORIUM



Tommy, Walter and Mary Parker



Parker, May, Tom and baby Mary

was staying with, and usually unwrapped, just in case anyone asked where she got the lovely looking produce from, she could tell them it was from Herb Parker's farm out on Rocky Point. One time she embarrassingly remembers having to carry a rather large, unwrapped, turnip all the way home. The following week, she was dismayed to find that father had brought her an entire plucked chicken, unwrapped, as always. Carrying a turnip all the way home was bad enough – but, a plucked chicken! It was too much. On the way home she ducked into the butcher's shop of Spencer's Department Store, where the butcher, bemused at her plight, kindly wrapped it up for her.

In high school Granny met Ester Stark, a tall thin girl who she nicknamed, "Tiny." They would become life-long friends. Ester introduced Mary to her younger brother, John, who was handy and lots of fun. Mary's first impression of John was made when he volunteered to fix her bike. They became friends, and then sweethearts, and dated for four years. Granny fondly remembered the day when John picked her up in his father's car (borrowed for the occasion), drove her out to a spot near Elk Lake and popped the question. Being nervous, John accidentally dropped the ring, which rolled under the car's seat, and the two had to get out of the car in the pouring rain in order to move the car seat and find it. She was soaking wet, very happy, and "ended up marrying him anyway."

The two started their new life together with a honeymoon done on bicycle. With money

tight, they rode their bicycles everywhere, enjoying the outdoors. Their first daughter, Joan, was born in 1940. In 1946 (at the end of the war) their second daughter, Barbara was born.

John and Mary saw their daughters grow up and find husbands and homes of their own. They were thrilled when they became Granny and Grandpa to six grandchildren. In 1979 they moved closer to their daughters and settled on property on Rocky Point Road, less than fifteen minutes down the road from where Granny had grown up as a child.

Tragedy hit when three years later John died. Granny took comfort from her family and from the encouragement of her friends in her congregation. She lived to see eight great-grandchildren and was known and loved for her helpful and generous spirit.

Whether she was sharing a loaf of her freshly baked bread or her delectable lemon pies, reciting old poems (that she had memorized in grade school), chopping her own kindling at the age of ninety-five, shooting deer out of her garden with a slingshot at the age of ninety, feeding her birds, writing her column for the Metchosin Muse (about her memories from the old days), leaving little notes round about the house to help her remember things. Quietly doing bits and pieces of chores here and there just to be helpful, Granny was a staple in the lives of many.

How truly blessed we all were to have known a woman like her, and to have had her in our lives.



For those wishing to pay their respects to Mary Pimm, a Memorial Service will be held at the West Shore Kingdom Hall, 2506 Selwyn Road, on March 30th at 2:00pm. The family can be contacted by phone: 250-478-7749 (ask for Joan), or by email: barb-jones@shaw.ca.

A special thanks to Stevie Bahrey, for her article on Mary Pimm that appeared in the March 2004 edition of the Metchosin Muse, where much of the above material was borrowed.



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Mary at Metchosin Day - selling The Best of the Muse - Mary wrote for the Muse for many years.

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# Seniors Information Resource Centre (SIRC) is Open for Business – Drop In at Metchosin’s Pub without the Alcohol

STARR WEISS

If you have seen the flashy neon OPEN sign in the SIRC window on the first floor of the Metchosin Arts and Culture Centre opposite the Broken Paddle Café, you may have wondered if we have a new neighbourhood pub in town. You’re almost right. It has already been fondly referred to as “a pub without the alcohol.”

We’re talking, of course, about the SIRC Drop-in Centre in “downtown Metchosin.” As many folks learned at the successful and crowded open house, a community event which officially signalled the full-fledged opening of the Centre on March 21, you’ll feel so welcome, you won’t want to leave. And that’s what it’s all about!

For example, there’s the couple who came in recently, lingered, and thought maybe this would be the perfect place for a community bridge game; or the obvious challenge of an in-progress jigsaw puzzle that anyone is welcome to sit down and work on; or the delight of the people who stop in and realize they can walk on down the hall and take in the fantastic art exhibit at the MAG (Metchosin Art Gallery) at the same time.

Located in the Metchosin Arts and Culture Centre, the *SIRC de Metchosin*, as it’s been dubbed, offers a genuinely warm welcome from coordinator Colleen Brownlee, (or her “stand in” last month, Mary Gidney), and the coffee and tea is always on. The Pioneer Museum has brought over used books for sale and senior-friendly computers await you – with upcoming computer education

sessions already planned. Other courses include a repeat of Mary Gidney’s popular cooking classes on Wednesday, April 10 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm – a sociable afternoon during which you will cook *en masse* and take home twelve dinners for yourself! (cost is \$35. Call SIRC to register).

Visitors immediately feel comfortable in this atmosphere. A warning—you may stay longer than you have expected. The SIRC is open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday and if the spirit of volunteering moves you, this is the perfect place, as volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks (could be as simple as answering the phone while the coordinator is out doing business).

To register for the April 10 cooking class, or to learn more, call the Centre at 250-478-5150, or better yet drop by for a look, a cuppa, a chat, and a little taste of what a relaxing or productive morning here in Metchosin can be like!



Long time Metchosinite Audrey Jenkins with family dog Barclay, enjoying a coffee at the SIRC.

**SIRC IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN OUR SENIORS DROP-IN CENTRE. If you have a couple of hours a week to spare and want to be involved with a real action group that has a lot of fun and laughs, contact Coordinator Colleen Brownlee at 250-478-5150.**

## What’s For Dinner?

Never quite sure what to make for dinner? The Seniors’ Information and Resource Centre is offering another Community Kitchen course. Here is a chance for each participant to take home three meals of four servings each. On Wednesday, April 10 you will have an opportunity to help prepare, cook and package twelve servings and have a fun time doing it. If you are interested please contact SIRC at 250-478-5150 to register. The Community Kitchen course being held at St. Mary’s church will run from 1:00 to 4:00 pm April 10, at a cost of \$35 per person.

## Volunteers Needed

Martha McHardy, who has looked after the Metchosin Sheep Dog Trials for many years, now needs a break. The Sheep Dog Trials are looking for volunteers to take over this task for the next few years, or the Trials will have to be cancelled.



Martha is very willing to assist with the transition and there is ample time to get an event in place for 2014 (the 2013 Trials have had to be cancelled). If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Martha McHardy at 250-478-1684 or mjmarcar@gmail.com.

## We All Have a Role to Help Victims of Crime

ANTOINETTE WARREN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GREATER VICTORIA POLICE VICTIMS SERVICES

The Eighth Annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week will be commemorated across Canada from April 21 to 27, 2013. The theme is *We All Have a Role*.

This theme recognizes that criminal justice providers play a role in reaching out to victims of crime by providing information and meaningful support to victims and their families at the community, provincial, territorial and federal levels. All levels of government play a role in reaching out to victims of crime, and all Canadians can play a role in helping victims of crime access the services available to them.

In Greater Victoria, volunteers and staff of Greater Victoria Police Victim Services (GVPVS) work with seven police agencies and Crown Counsel in an effort to ensure that victims of crime and their families receive the support, information and assistance they need to navigate the criminal justice system, along with providing necessary emotional and practical support to help them recover from the trauma of the crime and its aftermath.

GVPVS’s program objectives are:

- Lessen the impact of crime and trauma on victims and their families and to assist in their recovery
- Increase victim safety and to help reduce the risk of further victimization
- Increase the level of participation and sense of empowerment for victims throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system
- Increase the effectiveness of victims while giving testimony.

The support provided for victims of crime by GVPVS’s team of professional staff and volunteers begins at the time of the incident. Staff and highly trained volunteers are available 24/7 to attend crisis calls with police, to provide emotional and practical support, to make referrals for needed services, to provide basic information on the criminal justice system (and what to expect), and to begin to educate victims on their rights and available services. Volunteers continue to provide support and information by phone contact, as long as

victims wish. The volunteers assist in completing Crime Victim Assistance applications (for financial assistance) and Victim Impact Statements, which are used by the court at sentencing.

GVPVS recognizes that victims often endure additional trauma when they need to participate in court proceedings related to the crime. To support victims through that long, arduous process, GVPVS has a unique program for court support, supervised by a retired defence lawyer. Volunteers with specialized advanced training in criminal justice system issues are available to support victims of crime throughout the entire process, from the initial incident through the court process and beyond. The volunteers attempt to meet the specialized needs of crime victims who are involved in the court process. Most people have very little knowledge of the criminal justice system, and GVPVS believes that giving victims reliable and accurate information helps to demystify the process, greatly alleviating stress.

The court support volunteers provide orientation to, and explanations about, the criminal justice system and are available to attend meetings with victims and Crown Counsel. They keep track of court proceedings and provide updates and explanations. They can act as liaisons between victims and Crown Counsel. Most significantly, court volunteers are available to attend court hearings with victims and families. In the more serious cases, some trials can take weeks or even months to complete, but the dedicated court volunteers are able and willing to stand with the victims throughout the entire proceeding, if needed. In some cases, court support volunteers continue to provide emotional support to victims well after the actual court proceedings are complete.

The GVPVS West Shore office is located at the West Shore RCMP detachment on Atkins Road in Langford. A victim services worker can be reached by phoning 250-995-7351.

This information is provided by the West Shore Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC). Metchosin’s representative on CPAC is David Kirkham. If you have questions or concerns that you would like raised at the Committee, please contact David at: CPAC-Metchosin@googlegroups.com.



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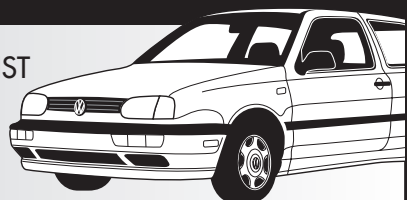
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# Metchosin Author Ken Merkley's New Book

MUSE ROVING REPORTER

In 2001, after a thirty years plus, multi-career, working life as an Air Force Officer, Royal Roads lecturer, BC Government analyst and management training company president, Ken Merkley found retirement difficult to accept. So, in addition to extensive volunteer work with the Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC Transplant Society, the Canadian Standards Association and the Vancouver Island Safety Council, he became actively involved in Metchosin community matters, including a stint on the Board of Variance and as a member of the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin. In 2005, with time on his hands, in spite of these activities as well as three or four days a week on the golf course, he looked around for something else to keep him active. Intrigued with the BC Rail scandal and with a background in political science and public administration, he decided he would like to know more about the unfolding saga, but having determined that the matter would not come to court for years, if ever, he decided to write a fictional account of what might have happened.

His subsequent novel, *The Raid* (previously reviewed in *The Muse*), received good reviews and readers asked him if he intended to write more stories. Why not, he thought, and has since written three more, including the latest, *Other People's Money*, which was to be launched at the Metchosin Community Hall Spring Fling on March 23 and 24, followed by a book signing at *Coles*, in the West Shore Town Centre on April 6. All the novels, including *The Raid*, feature the same RCMP protagonist, and Ken now calls his stories the *Tim Murphy Mystery Series*.

The books in the series are written in fictional form but are similar to actual crime cases, which an astute reader can often identify. The second novel, *Heavy Traffic*, for instance, tells the story of a fishing boat used to smuggle drugs, combined with an investor in a rural coastal community suspected of using his businesses to launder drug money.

The settings for the novels are located on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. *Other People's Money*, for instance, mainly

takes place on Quadra Island. In it, an ambitious but reckless entrepreneur, a First Nation's band council and a group of investors agree to form a partnership to open a casino at a financially-troubled marina. Unbeknownst to the entrepreneur and band council members, the investors are secretly fronting a notorious biker gang. Matters turn ugly when they learn the truth and express their displeasure at working with outlaws. RCMP Staff Sergeant Tim Murphy is required to investigate when the entrepreneur is accused of fraud, but mysterious murders at the marina soon make the situation a lot more critical.

Ken says he owes a lot of the success of the novels to the cooperation he receives from members of the RCMP, who provide him with information about actual cases. The rest of his material comes from media stories, internet articles, and rumours, all combined with his fertile imagination.

There is an underlying political element to the stories. In addition to the obvious political machinations that occur in *The Raid*, *Other People's Money* explores the fall-out from the going-nowhere negotiations between the First Nation's communities on one side and the federal and provincial governments on the other. And in *Uncommon Complaints*, a story involving a complaint by a citizen against a municipal police officer, controversial relationships between the RCMP and BC Municipal Police Forces are explored.

In the end he says, with so many interesting events occurring in the province, the stories just seem to write themselves. But then, he concedes, it still takes about nine or ten months of thumping at a keyboard and gallons of coffee to complete a draft for one novel. Plus, the same amount of time to make the changes his ruthless editor asks for, as well as getting the book to print. Of course that's working around his time on the links and all his other "retirement" activities.

*Other People's Money* and Ken's other novels are available at *Coles* book store in the Westshore Town Centre, as well as online from Amazon, Chapter's and Smashwords, both in hard copy and e-book formats. They are also available directly from Ken's website, [www.merkleybooks.ca](http://www.merkleybooks.ca).



## Big Laughs and Great Blues with CBC Radio's Todd Butler Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 pm at Metchosin Community House

JOAN ATHEY

There are a lot of musicians who try to be funny, but not many comedians who can also play guitar like Todd Butler. If you have ever listened to CBC Radio, you have heard him. Outstanding musicianship plus his outrageous song parodies and satire, skewering politicians, celebrities and more, makes for an afternoon of light-hearted entertainment you should not miss. "Best known for his clever satirical songs, Todd turns out to be a terrific guitarist with great technique and subtlety" Roy Forbes, *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*.

Bring your sense of humour Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 pm to Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance online from [www.toddbutler.eventbrite.ca](http://www.toddbutler.eventbrite.ca) or reserve at 250-294-6040. For more information see [www.reverbnation.com/toddbutler](http://www.reverbnation.com/toddbutler).

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# Thank you Brian Domney

MARY GIDNEY, POD CO-ORDINATOR

For the past few years Brian Domney has been the coordinator of the Neighbourhood Response Program, called PODs in Metchosin. We would like to thank him for the time and effort he put into this program. It is because of volunteers like Brian that Metchosin is a safer place to live. Through his efforts he has helped neighbourhoods get ready for the *Big One*. Thanks Brian.

## Welcome Mary Gidney - New PODs Leader

### PODs (Neighbourhood Response Program)

PODs are groups of neighbours that plan, prepare and coordinate neighbourhood response to emergencies in the community. Metchosin has been divided into neighbourhood areas. Ideally, each household will be ready, safe and self-sufficient for an extended period after a serious emergency such as an earthquake or major storm. However, in some situations assistance may be required before emergency responders can arrive, and members of a POD can help.

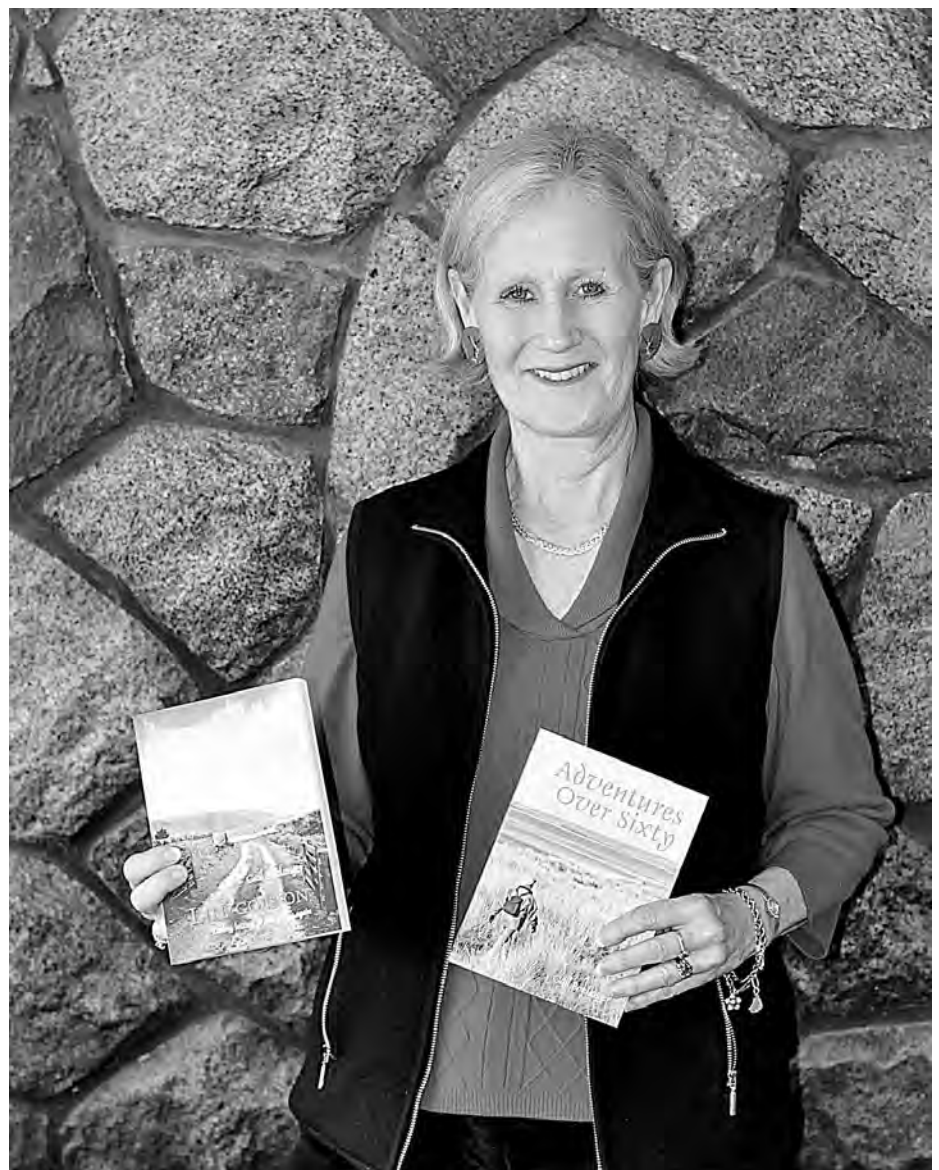
**What is involved in joining a POD?** Being part of a POD can be as simple or as involved as you would like – anything from simply knowing your neighbors and who lives where, to quarterly meetings, phone trees and advanced training such as First Aid, Chainsaw Safety, etc. It is really up to you and your POD Leader – it should not be intimidating!

Also, being part of a Neighbourhood Watch program as part of your POD can save you money on your insurance – not to mention possibly save a life.

**Emergencies and Metchosin** – Metchosin is a rural community and many people live here because of the space, privacy and independence. In a major emergency where important infrastructure is down – no power, no telephone, roads blocked, residents have to prepare to be on their own for seventy-two hours, or even longer. Many households have automatic back-up power generators, large water tanks, extensive food supplies, wood heat and even radio communication systems. But those who don't would find the extended isolation a very challenging situation. Even well-prepared homes might be damaged in a major disaster. PODs can help you and your neighbourhood.

The community groups that respond to emergencies in Metchosin are almost exclusively volunteers. Whether they are firefighters, search and rescue, emergency support services or radio operators, Metchosin depends on volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved with your POD (or getting one up and running) in Metchosin please contact Mary Gidney at 250-474-6145 or mgidney@shaw.ca.

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 pm in the Metchosin Fire Hall for a POD Coordinators meeting – if you currently are a POD Leader or may be interested in organizing your POD – please join us!



## MCA Guest Speaker Series –

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm, at the Community House

## Author Gail Boulanger – *Adventures Over Sixty and Life Goes On*

LAURA FARQUHARSON, COORDINATOR, MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Although the suggestion of having Gail Boulanger, the author of the above two books, as the House's next speaker came from Colleen Brownlee, the coordinator of our Seniors Information and Resource Centre, Gail's presentation on living vibrantly will appeal not only to people who have reached the landmark of sixty years, but to those who think ahead either for themselves or for aging parents.

With a BA in Psychology from the University of Waterloo and a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology from the University of Victoria, for thirty years Gail built up a private counselling, coaching and consulting practice, working in a variety of businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, hospitals and hospices.

Gail's books are drawn from her professional experiences and her own life as a mother of two. *Life Goes On*, with its subtitle *Losing, letting go and living again*, deals practically with how to navigate through all types of grief and loss. *Adventures Over Sixty* is a book of true, inspirational stories on aging. In addition to engaging in physical pursuits, community building and creative expression, Gail encourages the development of our inner resources so that the challenges of the older years are faced as an adventure.

Copies of the books will be available for purchase. The talk is free and there will be time for questions plus refreshment and the opportunity to socialize.

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## The Eleventh Consider the Lilies Textile Show and Sale – April 13 to 21, 2013

ISABEL TIPTON

The show and sale will be held at Old St Mary's, 4354 Metchosin Road from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Saturday and on Sunday, April 14 from noon to 4:30 pm and Sunday, April 21 from noon to 4:00 pm.

This show is one of the premier fibre events on the South Island, and is the work of twelve talented artists, including Judy Seeley and Isabel Tipton of Metchosin, and former resident Irm Houle.


We hope the lilies will be at their best that week and look forward to meeting new friends as well as seeing our faithful customers.

A wide variety of work will be available reflecting the various

interests and talents of the group, ranging from Joy Garnett's lovely felt works to Joan Taylor's incredible machine-embroidered landscapes.

Any further information can be obtained by calling Isabel at 250-478-4157.

St. Mary of the Incarnation Anglican Church is again this year hosting the *Lily Luncheon* on April 13 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Church. This coincides with the opening of *Consider the Lilies Art Show*. This is a chance to celebrate the lilies by visiting the show and enjoying lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.



## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

**Metchosin Community House** 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155  
Email: [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net) [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

### Ongoing Programs

#### Mondays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program** – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Contact Mobile program at 250-213-2440 or Vicki McNulty at 250-370-5789.

**Buddies Program** – 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Buddies offers Reading and Math support as well as help with homework for Metchosin kids.

Kids receive a ½ hour – 1 hour, one to one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer. Registration forms and contact info are provided to Hans Helgesen School. For more info you can call MCH at 250-478-5155.

**Pearson College Students Outreach** – Helping seniors and youth in our community. Invite Pearson College students to visit or help with a project. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-478-5155, and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans, to see if you might be eligible.

#### Tuesdays

**Drop In Painters Art Group.** This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am – noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome.

**Games Afternoon.** Every third Tuesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Bring a game of your choice, bring a friend and a snack if so inclined and prepare to have some fun. Everyone is welcome.

#### Wednesdays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program** – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (see Monday for details).

#### Fridays

**Parent and Tot Program** 9:30 – 11:30 am – Calling all Metchosin Tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In program invites Moms, Dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community Parent and Tot program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We hope to see you and your little one(s)! For more information please call Nina at 250-590-2540.

**Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In** 2:30 – 4:30 pm Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Cancelled April 5 and 12.

#### Events

**Guest Speaker Series – Thursday, April 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.** Author Gail Boulanger will speak about her life as counsellor, coach, consultant and psychotherapy practitioner which led her to publishing two books of true stories. The talk is free and copies of the books will be on sale. See page 14 for details of her talk.

**Potluck Lunch** – Thursday, April 25, noon – 1:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

**Knitting Café** – Regular meetings are held on the first and third Monday, 7:00 – 9:00 pm and the second and fourth Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm monthly. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and new-comers, whether experienced or beginning knitters, are always welcome. For more info. call Laura, 250-478-1197 or email [laura.farquharson@shaw.ca](mailto:laura.farquharson@shaw.ca).

**Foot Care Program** – Every third Monday of each month a foot care nurse will be offering foot care services. Appointments are one half hour and cost \$40.00. Appointments are between 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. Please call 478-5155 to book.

**Art On The Walls** – April. Four Generations. The show will consist of paintings, carvings, sculptures and sketches from each of the artists in the four generations, including Axe Petersen's works. "I am very grateful to the people at MCH for helping us make this happen" commented organizer Pakki Chipps.

The **Art On The Walls** program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information please call the MCH at 478-5155.

## Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale Donation Time

JIM CHALLENGER

*Definition: STUFF - paraphernalia, junk, gear, material, substance, things, objects, articles, packages, bits and pieces, equipment, property, kit, tackle, possessions, belongings, things, effects, pieces, artifacts...as in "that stuff we want to donate to the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale".*

If you are like me, all winter you have been stumbling over items and saying, "I gotta remember to take that to the Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale next spring." Well, that time is just around the corner, so start piling up your contributions to bring to the Community House when we open for taking donations on May 18 to 24. Drop your stuff off at the House parking lot daily between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Remember to mark those dates on your calendar right now.

The garage sale is a fund-raiser for the Metchosin Community Association but it's also an annual community event that enables families in Metchosin to support the Association's work by donating things to the sale. It has become a cool place to stock up on 'new-to-you stuff' at great prices, banter with neighbors, enjoy food from the cantina, and bid on collectible Silent Auction items.

This year we are going to hold the sale on May 25 and 26 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, the weekend after the May long weekend. Entry will be by cash donation at the gate.

Once again we are inviting Metchosin youth, ages twelve to eighteen, to get a free space to sell their stuff and turn it into cash. We are also inviting Metchosin-based non-profit groups to get space for a modest \$20 to sell their stuff to raise money for their cause. Call 250-478-5155 for details or to sign up.

If you want to be part of the fun, start rummaging around and pulling together your donations for this year's sale. We need your unwanted 'stuff' that is still in good condition, including: clothing, books, furniture in reasonable condition, antiques, small appliances in working order, tools, sporting goods, china, garden supplies and household goods. We are allowing used computer equipment to be donated this year. Unfortunately mattresses, exercise equipment, TVs, pillows, old shoes, soiled clothing, microwaves, typewriters, cribs, car seats, magazines, barbecues, entertainment units, and large appliances cannot be accepted.

See you at the sale on May 25 and 26!

M



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**Phone 474-5576**

## Letters from Metchosin Technical Centre *continued*

world and there would be fewer deaths and robberies, one would hope. Sometimes trust is hard to explain, quite frankly, "to experience trust you have to learn to trust."

In Social Studies class we invited a senior citizen to speak and he talked to the class about how it feels to emigrate from another country to ours. Fred Christ came from Germany and was born in 1941. I learned that it was hard living in a country when you're a child during wartime. Then moving away from friends and family and moving to a whole new place where you don't know anyone is even more difficult. Being an immigrant, you are not familiar with the way of life and customs in your new country, which is challenging. This is what we learned from our visitor.



Fred Christ with Randy Laird

*Dustin aka Blazeringe, Grade 10*

*Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.* John F. Kennedy

We have so many different topics to discuss this month at Metchosin Technical Centre. I have chosen to write about an inspirational man called John Smith who came and talked to our school about choosing a healthy lifestyle.

John Smith is a great athlete and he rides his bike all over the world. The best part is he is seventy-seven years old, still

rides bikes and he is very healthy for seventy-seven. He told us to stay healthy and to do what we want to do in life. That taught me to have a dream and work towards it. When someone tells me I cannot make or do something because I am not skilled enough, I take that as an opportunity to prove them wrong. Being healthy is important and you can do much more.

You can ride a bike all day every day like John Smith, run a marathon or even work out. John Smith is the best athlete I know that is seventy-seven years old. He taught me a lot of lessons and I am thankful for that.

*Shawn Kelly*



MTC students with John Smith

At MTC we participate in a variety of activities. The things that we have to do are being active, respectful and work hard. For example, I had to work very hard on my English that does not come naturally to me. My Educational Assistant, Jennifer, will not let me slack off; she is kind of strict when it comes to working. The work paid off when my entire class all passed their English Provincial Exam and I got ninety-one percent on mine! I have a hard work ethic when I play darts as a single or double; the second year team is going to nationals which is in Newfoundland this year! I'll let you know how it goes in my next letter.

*Randy Laird*

Earlier this month we went to the beach for a garbage pick-up. We went down the beach picking up all the little pieces. We even found a little wooden boat that someone had made for themselves a few years ago. We also found a fishing pole and a dead seal! You may ask why we did this for a school activity instead of going and playing games, well it's because we wanted to clean up our environment and to keep our animals in our community alive and healthy.

Later on next month we're doing another beach clean-up at Weirs beach on April 22; you are welcome to come on down and join us!

*Nick Craggs, Grade 9*

I enjoy boxing and have had the fortune of being a member of Olson's gym for eight months. Yesterday the students of Metchosin Technical Centre went to Olson's for Physical Education. I think it was a positive experience for the class. I really enjoyed sharing some of my enthusiasm for the sport. To be a good fighter you need to be smart, tough, committed to your training, calm and in top shape.

To be in top shape you have to have a good diet and regular exercise. John Smith, who visited our school, is a perfect example of healthy living at seventy-seven; he still competes in long distance road races in the BC Seniors Games. Being around 140 lbs. his entire adult life means he ate good healthy food and was also really active. I hope that

I'm in that kind of shape when I'm his age.

The easiest way to stay in shape is to play a sport you like and it's fun to meet new friends. Furthermore, you gain good life experiences. Being healthy gives you more energy and for me, when I'm boxing, I'm not thinking of stressful things or anything I have to. When I'm boxing "I'm on my level" (Wiz Khalifa).

*Liam O'Brien, Grade 10*

In the last few weeks, the staff and students at Metchosin Technical Centre have been enjoying many different good locations for Physical Education, for example: Matheson Lake, Witty's lagoon, skating and swimming at Seaparc. How do you get to work and back home every day? How I do it is by riding my Miele road bike to and from school. I find that it is a great way to get some exercise in a day.

*John, Grade 9*

I enjoy when we clean up the beach with my school. It was gross and sad how much garbage had been left there and washed up by the water. I believe that in a community you need to have trust in others. You need to trust them not to litter, and pollute your community. I think that being a part of the community is important, and cleaning up the area around us is a great way to do that. I think that making it a competition of who can get the most garbage makes us collect a lot more garbage off of the beach. I have a lot of fun cleaning up the beach, and I am looking forward to doing it again on April 22. I am also looking forward to running in the Times colonist 10K with my school at the end of April. Our schools group for the run is more than half of our school, that is great!

*Hannah Leslie, Grade 10*

*"We always see our worst selves. Our most vulnerable selves. We need someone else to get close enough to tell us we're wrong. Someone we trust."*  
— David Levithan

Hey Metchosin, it has been another busy month here at MTC (Metchosin Technical Centre). We have done a beach cleanup at Witty's and we found a boat, fishing pole, a soccer ball and a dead seal. We're not sure if it was killed but it looks like something cut the nose off. We found the nose down the beach some meters away. We also found out that birds will eat the tiniest piece of plastic and it could kill them since they cannot digest it. So we think cleaning the beaches up is important work.

Recently, we went to Olsen's for boxing; we learned a couple of holds and to defend ourselves, if caught in a bad situation. A couple of people got in the ring and boxed with the instructor Nathan Olson. It was fun to watch!

*Alex Jensen*



Yoga is not as easy as it looks! But great balance shown here.

My name is Taylor Caspersen and I'm writing on behalf of Metchosin Technical Centre's (MTC) Biology 11 class. We are embarking on a project in cooperation with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team. The project is to bring the Western Bluebird back onto Vancouver Island. MTC has been asked to put out a request to the community; if you have a property that matches the following description to contact us at 250-478-9596. We are looking for medium or large sized properties with open meadows, trees (at least a few; for perching), and a grassy area (for feeding). We are looking to install nest boxes where bluebirds can migrate to and be monitored over time. The nest boxes can be posted on (by request): trees, fence posts, or pre-installed posts. Thanks for your effort to bring the Western Bluebird back to Vancouver Island, and especially to our beautiful municipality of Metchosin.

*Biology Grade 11 Class of 2012/13*

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# A Tradition of Artistic Exploration – Robin Hopper to Receive Ambassador of the Arts Award

The Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA) has announced that Robin Hopper is the 2013 MISSA Ambassador of the Arts. The award is presented each year to a member of the British Columbia arts community who, through the calibre of their work and their commitment to the arts, has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the arts. Previous recipients include well known BC artists such as Jack Shadbolt, P.K. Page, Pat Martin Bates, Valdy, Lorna Crozier and Patrick Lane.

Robin, a Metchosin resident, is internationally renowned as a leading ceramic artist, author and teacher. His work in ceramics over the past fifty years has included in depth historical and technical research, and an ongoing studio practice creating one-of-a-kind art works, primarily in porcelain.



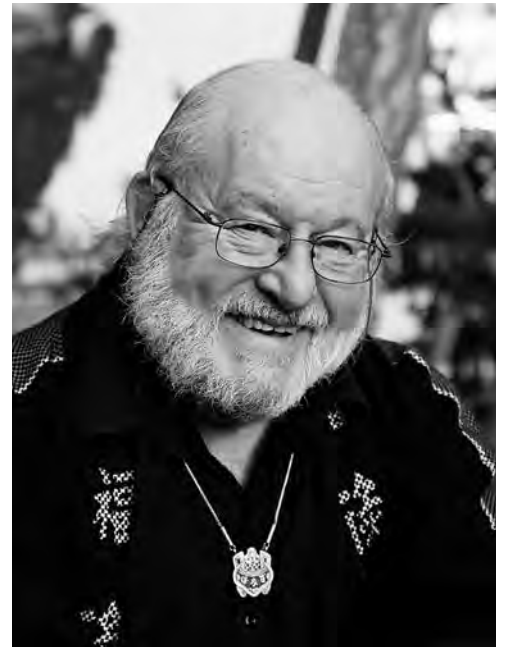
Last year's group proudly displaying their works

In 1977 Robin became the first recipient of the Saidye Bronfman Award, Canada's prestigious annual award in the crafts. He is the author of a number of popular books on the ceramic process, as well as a series of educational videos on ceramic decoration, design and aesthetics.

Gardening and garden design have also been a life-long passion for Robin.

The Anglojapanadian Garden at 'Chosin Pottery has been featured in books, several television programs and many magazines. Robin Hopper is the Founding President Emeritus of the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts and served on the board of directors for twenty-eight years. He played a pivotal role in the development of the summer arts program, making it into the well-respected school that it is today. The popular summer workshop series conducted on the Pearson College campus has grown from four courses and fifty-three participants in the first summer of 1984 to over forty workshops with more than 400 students each year taking workshops in jewellery making, ceramics, photography, painting, music and more. "In those days we never dreamed we'd be celebrating our twenty-ninth year in 2013! I was frustrated with the lack of good art education programs and was determined to offer something better. From the very beginning we sought to have a faculty of top-notch practicing artists and to offer instruction and professional development through very specialized, and unusual courses," Robin Hopper recalled.

For details on the award and the 2013 summer studio workshop series visit [www.missa.ca](http://www.missa.ca).



## Close Call in the Village Core *continued from cover*

"It's also fortunate that alcohol was not a factor," Bauls stated. "If your judgement is affected, lots of bad things can happen. Of course, we don't really know if the cougar was under the influence. They often are. It sounds like this was not a desperate cougar. If she was stalking when the friends were still there, she knew there was plenty of prey about."

Once the cougar showed such determined interest in the man, he did what experts say you should - avoid eye contact, run like a madman, and lock yourself in your vehicle. In this case "she just kept making purring noises, blinking her eyes and tapping on the window of my pickup", the near victim says. "I just burned out of the parking lot, and the last I saw of her was in my rear view mirror, standing in the middle of Happy Valley Road."

Brian Graham, a long time Metchosin resident and observer of cougar behaviour says that wearing a wedding ring can be effective. "I was in the beer garden at Metchosin Day a few years ago. As soon as she spotted my ring, she was out of there. Didn't even stick around for the lamb and salmon barbecue."

Many think that this kind of encounter should be expected more and more in Metchosin, as development continues in the Western Communities.

As Claude Bauls says, "They're bedding down in condos, apartments and single family residences from View Royal to Langford – even Sooke. And with the summer tourist season approaching, we can expect transient cougars from down south and Europe as well. All I can say is stay alert".

*Editor's Note: Although this young man managed to escape this unique "cougar" by running, real cougar experts advise that you should never run from the furry, feline kind, because it imitates prey behaviour. Rather, stay calm and talk to the cougar in a confident voice, back away slowly, make yourself big, make eye contact, and if the cougar becomes aggressive, yell, throw things and be prepared to fight for your life if the cougar attacks. For more information, see The Safety Guide to Cougars on the Ministry of the Environment website at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/cougfs.htm>*



An infrared game camera set up near where the man said he was approached confirmed the presence of a cougar.

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# 14<sup>TH</sup> JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA



Venturers cooking on cart



Venturers at Rovent

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# Winter Scouting

CURTIS BECKER

Winter is almost over and wow, did our Metchosin senior sections have some memorable learning experiences this season. With many weeks leading up to the 14<sup>th</sup> JDF Scouts Strathcona Snow Camp, there was a lot to talk about and learn. In December, the senior sections participated in an "old Tal" presentation at our local Scout House on Marigold Avenue and learned everything from what to bring, what type of clothing and gear that works and doesn't, weather conditions, hypothermia and what to expect. A week before the big trip, we spent our regular meeting at the hall doing a pack check as if we were leaving that evening and making sure our young scouts had all the necessary items packed. On January 25, the Scouts were up early and by 11:00 am they were at the midway point on Mount Washington and trekking in on a seasonal road with their snowshoes, packs and pulling their common gear on a sled. We were also joined by the 9<sup>th</sup> JDF and 1<sup>st</sup> Arbutus troops. With eight inches of fresh snow and two kilometres of trekking, it took a long time. Despite a heavy snow fall that evening the rest of the weekend was very successful and a lot of skills were learned by the troop.

No sooner had our Scouts arrived home with many stories to tell their friends and family, our most senior section, the Venturer Scouts were planning their snow camp trip. The 14<sup>th</sup> JDF Venturers ranging in age from thirteen to seventeen have been holding bi-monthly meetings at the Metchosin Fire Hall who have been supportive in providing a meeting venue. The Venturers with experience in snow camping were delighted to have the funds, raised from a very successful Tree Chip fundraiser, to register for the annual Rovent Social Camp that takes place in Manning Park every February. This year they got an extra day to camp due to the new Family Day statutory holiday. After an evening spent at Scout House, they were off early as they boarded their coach with many other Venturer Companies from the Greater Victoria Area. As usual, a cube van was rented to haul equipment required for this major winter event where Venturer Companies, Rover Crews and Pathfinder Guides gather from all over B.C.

Every year our inventory of items gets more sophisticated. Our local Venturers not only bring a ten by twenty cook tent with tables and many large coolers for dry and cold storage, this year they added two ten by ten tents for a warming hangout powered by a generator for Christmas lights and to keep the local D.J. happy. This tent was also very popular as the large propane heater donated by Western One Rentals was in constant use, not only by our local group but by many scouting friends, making it a very sociable hangout and a place to keep warm.

With Rovent comes many activities for these young teens to participate in throughout the day from horizontal bungee jumping, snow golf, snow sculptures, parking lot hockey, horse shoes, to the acclaimed evening *Strawberry Flats Talent Show*. The Saturday and Sunday evenings finished up with a full blown Dance with a D.J. in the parking lot. The 14<sup>th</sup> Venturers spent a great deal of time building a quinzee hut to sleep in and some spectacular jumps for the sleds and snowboards they brought. A long weekend well spent! The youth had an excellent time and are still talking about the trip and sharing many photos on their FaceBook pages.

As spring is just around the corner, our Scout Troop visited the towns of the Klondike. Volunteers bring the Klondike to the scouts at this annual island event that takes place at Royal Roads University every year. Known as the Klondike Derby, teams of eight or less prepare their Klondike carts with all the camp necessities to be able to run from station to station and complete this timed event. This year we had two teams from our Scouts, a male and female team, along with our Venturer Company debuting their new cart. They spent many hours detailing it and preparing it for this fun and exciting day of camp skills and knowledge. Some of the challenges, beefed up a little more for the Venturers, consisted of orienteering, target shooting sling shot style, eight man skis, first aid and tarping, cooking a nutritious meal for the team, obstacle course, knot tying and a cable crossing over the imaginary famous fifty mile river. All these great stations are based on a points system that encourages them to work well as a team and show scouting spirit throughout the six kilometre course.

Our three teams made it over the finish line with our Venturers placing third in their cart design and a fourth place for our female troop overall. Unfortunately, with some very rough terrain, the guys made it in, but without a cart as a tire rim sheared off. Still with much spirit, our local youth experienced another great weekend and came out with a little more than they went in with.

The youth and leadership team have an exciting spring planned and are looking forward to longer days and more activities. Our Scout Troop is planning an eight-day bike trip through the historic Kettle Valley in the Okanagan. We have been fundraising for this trip and are in the middle of a weigh in weigh out scrap metal drive at Steel Pacific and Williams. So if you have any metal drops planned and want to support and donate your load to our cause, just tell them you are donating to the Scouts Canada Kettle Valley Bike trip and they will credit the load to our accounts. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Curtis Becker at [curtisbecker@shaw.ca](mailto:curtisbecker@shaw.ca) or 250-589-7715.



Girl Scouts with Klondike cart



Scouts at Snow Camp, Mount Washington

# Fire Department Call-Outs Feb 10, 2013 – Mar 10, 2013

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

Check out Metchosin Fire on Facebook or follow me on Twitter @ ChiefDunlop

- Feb 10 East Sooke Road - Medical - Shortness Of Breath.  
Happy Valley Road - Medical - Chest Pain.
- Feb 13 Glen Forrest Way - Medical - Cardiac Arrest.
- Feb 14 Bilston Place - Medical - Chest Pain.
- Feb 16 Rocky Point Road - Residential fire - Chimney.
- Feb 17 Rocky Point Road - Medical - Fall.
- Feb 18 Sooke Road - Motor Vehicle Incident.
- Feb 23 William Head Road - Medical - Cardiac Arrest.  
Happy Vly Road - Assistance - BC Ambulance Service.
- Feb 25 Duke Road - Assistance to BC Hydro - Tree on lines.
- Feb 26 East Sooke Road - Medical Emergency.  
Kangaroo Road - Assistance - BC Ambulance Service.
- Feb 28 Kangaroo Road - Motor Vehicle Incident.  
Graceland Drive - Medical - Shortness Of Breath.
- Mar 3 Pears Road - Medical - Shortness Of Breath.
- Mar 5 East Sooke Road - Assistance - General Public.

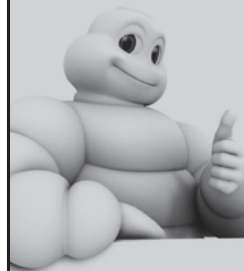
# RCMP Call-Outs February 16 – March 13, 2013

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Feb 16 Sooke Road – Complaint of drunken female on highway, patrols failed to locate her.
- Feb 17 Duke Road area – Complaint of threats.
- Feb 18 Sooke Road – Assistance provided to Sooke RCMP with logging truck accident.  
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of vehicles speeding in school zone. More patrols requested.  
Metchosin area – Complaint of indoor marijuana grow operation, Street Crime Unit investigating.  
Pears Road area – Complaint of assault, investigation continuing.
- Feb 19 Kangaroo Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, vehicle stopped, driver charged with impaired driving, vehicle impounded.
- Feb 22 Happy Valley Road – Complaint of domestic dispute/keep the peace.
- Feb 23 William Head Road – Complaint of vehicle in ditch with engine running, no one located, vehicle towed.  
William Head Road – Complaint of theft from vehicle at park, purse stolen.  
Boulderpath Road – Assistance provided to ambulance service.  
Sooke Road – Complaint of a drunken male walking along the highway, not located.
- Feb 25 Bennett Road – Complaint of suspicious male. No one located.  
Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of theft under.  
Metchosin Road – Complaint of lost property.
- Feb 28 Happy Valley Road area – Assistance provided to ambulance service.  
Kangaroo Road – Single vehicle accident, one person taken to hospital.  
Sooke Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate the vehicle.
- Mar 01 Metchosin Road – Complaint of erratic driver, patrols failed to locate suspect vehicle.  
Liberty Drive area – Complaint of trespassers on private property, no one located.  
Sooke Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
William Head Road – Complaint of disturbance/fight at Community Hall, one person arrested for assault.
- Mar 02 Sooke Road – Complaint of vehicle cutting other vehicles off, driver given warning.  
Sooke Road – Complaint of deer hit by vehicle.
- Mar 05 Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle stopped and driver given warning.  
William Head Road area – Complaint of theft under, still under investigation.
- Mar 06 Happy Valley Road – Complaint of lost/stolen licence plate.  
Lindholm Road area – Complaint of suspicious occurrence.
- Mar 09 Rocky Point Road – Complaint of vehicle in ditch blocking traffic, cement truck towed out of ditch.
- Mar 11 Chapel Heights – Complaint of speeding vehicles.  
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of lost/stolen licence plate.  
Bennett Road – Complaint of found property.
- Mar 12 Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, cut off by another vehicle, vehicle rolled in ditch, minor injuries to driver.  
Sooke Road – Complaint of vehicle being driven erratically, patrols failed to locate vehicle.
- Mar 13 Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of assault, one person taken to hospital, Investigation being conducted by Sooke RCMP.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 per 25 words to go in this monthly paper which is mailed to every Metchosin household. Envelopes are provided at Metchosin Country Store.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month and can be dropped off at Metchosin Country Store.

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# Directory of Organizations

The following is contact information for not-for-profit organizations, but fuller descriptions are given in the "Directory of Metchosin", available at the Municipal Hall and the Community House. Brief articles highlighting special events should be mailed to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.

**AIR CADETS**

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**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC**

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[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org).

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)**

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**LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA**

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**METCHOSIN COUNCIL**

250-474-3167,  
[www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings),  
[mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca)

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[www.mesmetchosin.org](http://www.mesmetchosin.org)

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**METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB**

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**METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY**

250-478-6424, <http://metchosinhall.com/>

**METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**

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**METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY**

Pioneer Museum 250-382-1989,  
School Museum, 250-478-5447

**METCHOSIN PONY CLUB**

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**METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL**

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[www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com](http://www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com)

**METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE**

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**MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

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**POD LEADERS**

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**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Branch 91**  
Ladies Auxiliary 250-478-5484,  
[tandwcampanandcomish@shaw.ca](mailto:tandwcampanandcomish@shaw.ca)

**SCOUTS CANADA**

[14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca](mailto:14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca)

**SEA CADETS**

250-478-7813

**SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)**

250-478-5150, [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca)

**TOPS**

250-590-3100

**WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL**

250-478-2286,  
[info@westshorearts.org](mailto:info@westshorearts.org),  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)

**WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND**

250-474-3999

**WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION**

250-478-8384,  
[www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca)

## CHURCHES

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[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

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**OPEN GATE CHURCH**

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[www.theopengate.ca](http://www.theopengate.ca).

**PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH**

250-478-2533  
[pilgrimuc@shaw.ca](mailto:pilgrimuc@shaw.ca)  
[www.pilgrimunited.ca](http://www.pilgrimunited.ca)

**ST. MARY OF THE INCARNATION—ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**

250-474-4119,  
[www.stmarysmetchosin.weebly.com](http://www.stmarysmetchosin.weebly.com)

**WEST SHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor: Dr. Harold McNabb.  
Sunday service 250-474-0452.

**WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY**

250-474-5967  
[www.westsong.ca](http://www.westsong.ca)

## EVENTS

### Victoria Natural History Society Presentations for April 2013

Tuesday, April 9 – NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT – **What on Earth is in Our Stuff? Non-renewable Resources and Us.** Join Dr. Flier-Keller for this hands-on presentation that explores the links between products (at home, school, work and outdoors) that we use every day, and the non-renewable resources that are needed to produce them. We meet at 7:30 pm in Room 159 of the Fraser building, Uvic. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and a coffee mug.

Tuesday, April 16 – BOTANY NIGHT – **Botanica Poetica - Botany in Poetry.** Andy MacKinnon (a.k.a. Andreas mackinnonii Misk.), Poet Laureate of the Victoria Natural History Society, will moderate an evening that will combine the beauty of plants with poetry. Audience participation is encouraged! Bring a poem, song, or other botanical interpretation to share with the group. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature House, 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, April 24 - BIRDERS NIGHT – **The Birds of India.** India is a vast country with many different climates and diverse habitats, from humid forest locations to dry deserts. This contributes to the great diversity of birds and wildlife found on the Indian sub-continent. Join photographer Suzanne Huot for this slide show of the birds of India. More information on Suzanne and her photography can be found on her website: [www.suzannehuot.com](http://www.suzannehuot.com). We meet at 7:30 pm in room 159 of the Fraser building, Uvic. Bring a friend and a coffee mug.

### Sierra Club Westshore Events

Screening of *White Water Black Gold*, a powerful documentary chronicling director David Lavallee's three year journey in search of answers about the world's thirstiest oil industry on April 10 at 7:00 pm, at Church of the Advent, 510 Mt View Avenue, Colwood, or April 17 at 7:00 pm at Esquimalt United Church, 500 Admirals Road, Esquimalt. Free Admission. For more information see <http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/events/white-water-black-gold-colwood>.

**Metchosin Poultry Swap Begins** – Metchosin Poultry Swap is being held on the third Sunday of every month starting April 21, 2013 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Swap will be held on the Municipal Grounds, beside the Museum. Once the Farmers Market starts, the Swap will be moved to the upper field by the Municipal Hall. For more information contact Tessa Fry 250-415-4024 or [stoneridgestables@rogers.com](mailto:stoneridgestables@rogers.com).



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Sunday - 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

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