



# Metchosin Muse

A N O N - P R O F I T C O M M U N I T Y P U B L I C A T I O N

## Happy Holidays!



### Your New Metchosin Council



Welcome to the team! New councillors Andy MacKinnon and Kyara Kahakauwila join incumbents Moralea Milne and Bob Gramigna, and Mayor John Ranns, in representing our district

for the next four years. A big "thank you" to Jo Mitchell and Larry Tremblay for their dedication and years of great service to the residents of Metchosin.

### Remembrance Day 2014

TOM HENRY

Under clear blue skies several hundred people gathered around the cenotaph in front of Old St Mary's Church to mark Remembrance Day. Many of these people marshaled at the fire hall at 10:30 am and fell in behind youth groups who led a procession along Happy Valley Road and around the corner to the site of the ceremony.

The crowd included military personnel, both active and retired, as well as representatives of organizations such as the unions supporting services at military bases. The RCMP, who have led the march to and from the fire hall in years past, were absent this year due to the need for increased security as a result of recent attacks in Quebec and on Parliament Hill.

It was, as always, a quiet and non-denominational ceremony, organized by volunteers who simply wish to help host a respectful, inclusive event.

Local bugler Matthew MacLean bracketed a moment of silence with fine renditions of "Reveille" and "Last Post."

Those who were involved in the ceremony included: Carson Loughridge, 14th Juan de Fuca Scouts group Venturers, who raised the flag; Mattheus Hughes, 14th Cubs, who recited "In Flanders Fields"; Liam Donaldson and Spencer Funk, 14th Venturers who laid a wreath; members of the 9th Juan de Fuca Scout Group; Councillor Bob Gramigna who, in the absence of Mayor Ranns (who was at the Langford ceremony) laid a wreath on behalf of the District of Metchosin; Chief Stephanie Dunlop and staff, who laid a wreath on behalf of the firefighters, Wayne Wilson, Metchosin Search and Rescue; David Ramalho and Pat Wade, Canadian Ammunition Depot, Public Service Alliance of Canada; and Councillor Larry Tremblay, on behalf of MP Randall Garrison.

Lance Conarroe, of the Metchosin BC Toastmasters Club, made a fine speech reflecting on the nature of military service, and Reverend Phillip Wadham led the gathering in prayer. In keeping with a long tradition, Daisy Bligh led the crowd in God Save the Queen.

Post-ceremony hot dogs and hot chocolate, provided by the scouting groups at the fire hall, helped warm stomachs and hands.

### Pearson Christmas Concert includes Fond Farewell

December 7, 7:00 pm, Metchosin Community Hall

Each year Metchosinites have the awesome opportunity to savor a Christmas concert to kick off the holiday season. The concert is offered as a gift to the people of Metchosin from Pearson College. And this year we have the distinctive prospect of publicly honouring David Hawley and Leisa Weld.

David has been the director of Pearson College for close to nine years. He and his wife, Leisa Weld, have been a significant part of our community and they will be sorely missed. David and Leisa will be in The Hague, Netherlands, where David will take on the role of Chief Academic Officer of the International Baccalaureate

Organization and Manager of the IB Global Centre.

Come enjoy this evening concert fashioned for you and your family. Join your friends and neighbours in offering true Metchosin gratitude and good wishes to the Hawleys.

Funds generated through donations at the door are shared between the MCA and the Western Communities

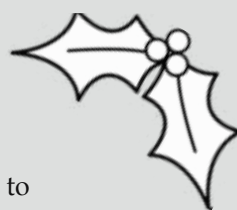
Food Bank. There will also be collection boxes for non-perishable items for the local Christmas Food Hamper.

Admission is by donation; refreshments will be on hand for sale. Be sure to take part in the \$2 DESSERT RAFFLE featuring amazing homemade creations proudly presented by Metchosin's best bakers.

### Important Dates (for ongoing events in Metchosin, check back page for organizations' contact information)

- Dec. 6/7 Art Show: Christiaan van de Water ..... p. 11
- Dec. 7 Pearson Christmas concert ..... p. 1
- Dec. 8, 10 Pick up your MCA mince pies! ..... p. 11
- Dec. 14 Christmas Light Parade ..... p. 2
- Dec. 15 4H enrollment begins ..... p. 14
- Dec. 19 MCA Christmas Tea ..... p. 7
- Dec. 21 Fire Hall Santa Run ..... p. 2
- Jan. 1 Polar Bear Swim (Happy New Year!) ..... p. 2

Looking for a "green" gift this year?



Get a pair of tickets to Pearson College's *One World* show, which takes place in March. They are for sale now and are a great stocking stuffer or addition to a Christmas card; a truly experiential gift! Call 250-391-2411 for more information.

# Metchosin Muse

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY**

The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metmuse@shaw.ca. Typewritten or handwritten copy is acceptable if you have no access to a computer. Do not send PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles not sent via email in the *Muse* box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax to 250-483-5352.

**AD DEADLINE**

The 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for month-end publication.

**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 branch of the Victoria Public Library.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
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# Fire Hall Santa Run Route

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Times may vary – listen for the sirens! If we missed you last year or you have a special request, please call the Fire Hall (250-478-1307) and we will try to accommodate.

- 8:00 am Leave Fire Hall to Rocky Point Road and small side roads.
- 9:30 am Liberty Drive, Barrow Road, Kangaroo Road, Taylor Road, William Head Road to Pearson College Drive, and back to William Head Road.
- 11:30 pm Metchosin Road, Duke Road, Chapel Heights area and back to Metchosin Road.
- 1:00 pm Pears Road, Sundance Road, Glen Forest Way, Happy Valley Road to Winter Road and back to Happy Valley Road.

Unfortunately, the Fire Department is not able to cover every road in the district, so please bring your family to the main roads to say hello to our special guest.

## 2nd ANNUAL METCHOSIN CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE

Hosted by the: METCHOSIN FIREFIGHTERS SOCIETY



### SUNDAY- DEC 14<sup>th</sup> - Parade begins at 6pm

**PARADE ROUTE (estimated times):**

- 6:00 – Fire Hall to Duke Rd Loop
- 6:30 – Pears Road – Happy Valley Rd
- 6:45 – Happy Valley Rd – William Head
- 7:15 – Up Lombard, Rocky Point Rd to Liberty
- 7:30 – Liberty to LaBonne to Lindholm
- 7:45 – Happy Valley Rd back to the Hall

Please be patient – as timings may vary greatly! Unfortunately we will not have time to hit all the side streets and suggest you come to the primary routes for viewing. **Listen for the sirens!**

On the web at [www.district.metchosin.bc.ca](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca) under Community.

## 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 on how to order:  
 Peter M. Lewis – [www.intothelightimages.com](http://www.intothelightimages.com)  
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## Muse Subscriptions

We can mail the *Muse* to you each month for \$25 a year if it is to be posted to a Canadian address. Please send your information and cheque to the Head of our Subscriptions Department:

Joan Bradley  
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Or you can email us at [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca)



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Bus. Card (H)- 4" w X 2.5" h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
Bus. Card (V)- 1 7/8" w X 5" h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
2X4 - 4" w X 4" h	\$77.00	\$67.00	\$59.00
1/6 page - 4" w X 5" h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
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## A New Venue for the Polar Bear Swim

ANDY MACKINNON

Mairi and Andy MacKinnon would like to invite everyone to our twenty-sixth annual Polar Bear Swim, this year at Taylor Beach, January 1, 2015. The swim is at 2:00 pm, usually until approximately 2:01 pm. For those so inclined, the swim is preceded by a run of about five kilometres, and a walk of about three kilometres, both of which end at

Taylor Beach just before 2:00 pm. For details about the run and walk, please call Mairi or Andy at 250-478-8232. Following the swim, we encourage everyone to join us at our house, 504 Witty Beach Road. We have showers and places to change. We'll have simple food and hot apple juice, and we encourage everyone to bring food and drink to share.

(This is often food and drink left over from the holidays that doesn't fit with New Year's resolutions!) For more information, please give us a call or send us an e-mail at [metchosinmacs@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmacs@gmail.com).

Mairi and Andy MacKinnon

## Community Riding Ring Refurbished

WENDY CHARTRAND, PRESIDENT, METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

The Metchosin Equestrian Society (MES) would like to thank the Island Equipment Owners Association and all those who graciously donated their time and their equipment to the task of resurfacing our community riding ring on October 25. The old footing in the ring had degraded and needed to be replaced. The volunteers with their machinery and trucks arrived early, even before daylight! They got right to work removing the old hog fuel footing and trucking it away. As soon as an area was cleared, trucks were dispatched to be loaded with the new footing material from Lehigh Hanson at Victoria Materials Depot. It went like clockwork, with very little for the MES volunteers to do but supply lunch and coffee!

We now have a much safer riding ring in a large part thanks to the generosity of these men and their companies. They did a great job! The following is a list of names and companies who donated their time, expertise, equipment and material to this project:

- Mark Volk – H. Volk Transport Ltd.
- Ray Brooks – Scansa Construction Ltd.
- Richard Jones – Richard's Landscaping & Excavating Ltd.
- Robert Rankie – RG Excavating Ltd.
- Tim Sweeting – Northridge Excavating Ltd.
- Alex Anderson – Axel Trucking Ltd.
- Barry Mayes – Michell Excavating Ltd.
- Ignatius Reiter – Cat's Eye Contracting Ltd.
- Rocky Collins – Lehigh Hanson VMD

Thanks again!





Commonwealth War Cemetery, Monte Cassino, Italy: A small corner of the cemetery where 855 Canadian soldiers are buried. In the background are green marble blocks on which are engraved the names of Commonwealth soldiers who died but whose bodies were never found. On one of those green marble pedestals are engraved the names of 192 missing Canadian soldiers.

# Remembering

JIM MACPHERSON

When we think of Canadians killed in the Second World War, most of us think of June 6, 1944, Normandy, northern France, the Netherlands or the liberation of Holland.

But Canadians fought and died in the Second World War long before Normandy. From July, 1943 through February, 1945, Canadians fought in Italy, all the way from Sicily, through the toe of the boot up the Italian peninsula until Canadian troops were re-assigned to the Western Front in late spring of 1945. Italy almost seems like Canada's forgotten war. But by the summer of 1944, there were over 76,000 Canadian soldiers in Italy.

I had been aware of the major battle in the summer of 1944 at Monte Cassino and I had been aware that many Canadians had died there. But

it was just a distant event; it was not personal. I was not prepared for what I saw in October, 2014 when, as part of a tour of Italy, I visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Monte Cassino. It was the first war cemetery that I had ever been to.

The cemetery is incredibly moving. It is spotlessly maintained and it is clear from the flowers about that it is a cemetery not forgotten. It was wonderfully quiet the day I was there, a place conducive to serenity and quiet reflection about the futility of war and how necessary it is sometimes.

The cemetery at Cassino is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which comprises Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. It is the

second largest Second World War cemetery in Italy but contains the largest number of Canadians. More than 4,200 Commonwealth graves are located here, of which 200 are unknown and 855 are Canadian, including seven pilots.

The Cassino War Cemetery is only one of twenty Commonwealth war cemeteries in Italy. Altogether 5,900 Canadian soldiers are buried in that country.

Also in the cemetery is the Cassino Memorial which commemorates the more than 4,000 Commonwealth war dead of the Sicilian and Italian campaigns who have no known grave.

For more information on Canadians in Italy, see websites of Veterans Affairs Canada, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Canada at War.

# News from SIRC

COLLEEN BROWNLEE

There was an amazing response to our Flu Shot Clinic held early in November. Over 120 flu shots were provided to our residents, which was more than triple what we did last year.

Our apologies for the long wait times. We did not expect the increased turnout. All was not lost, however, as people met neighbours and acquaintances, and had time to visit with each other. There was a constant buzz of chatter as all stood and waited so patiently for their turn.


Next year we will plan for a bigger room, have tea/coffee/snacks and will try to bring in two pharmacists to reduce the wait time. We may also include another session. So mark your calendar now for the same dates in 2015.

We truly appreciate you supporting our clinic, and hope to make next year's event even better. Any suggestions you have will be welcomed. Contact Stephanie Dunlop at the Fire Department, 250-478-1307, or Colleen Brownlee at SIRC, 250-478-5150.

The Geeks and Geezers program started up on November 25 at SIRC from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Sessions will be held every Tuesday until December 16 and then reconvene in mid January.

Also if anyone would like an individual session please call to arrange a time. We look forward to another year of assisting with computers, iPads, iPhones, tablets, E-readers, etc. There are E-readers you may sign out for use at home.

For further information call Colleen Brownlee at SIRC, 250-478-5150, or e-mail msirc@shaw.ca.



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## Have You Seen These Men in Your Neighbourhood?

BARB SAWATSKY



If you do see them, give them the thanks that they deserve. Russ and Zoli have a combined twenty-five year association with the Westshore Lions. Russ has been with them for fifteen years, Zoli for ten.

Through the Lions Club, they and approximately thirty to forty regulars help to raise money for the Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan, Juan de Fuca Beavers/Cubs and Scouts, BC Heart and Diabetes Foundations, West Shore Youth Programs, Need Crisis Line, the Arthritis Society, Victoria Hospice Society and many more deserving charities and associations. They answer requests for

wheelchairs and walkers and help with their repairs. They do all of this through a government grant and through their own fundraising, one of which is newspaper recycling.

When Metchosin's own Percy Boyd first began to collect newspapers for the Lions Club, they received \$115/metric ton but the price now averages only \$30/metric ton. They use their own vehicles to pick up and transport the papers and have to separate and dispose of the garbage thrown into the bins. In spite of the heavy work (for which they just break even), they continue in hopes that the price will climb again. The club has been lucky for the past few years in that the people who were damaging or setting the boxes ablaze "seem to have matured or moved away" so they don't have to spend funds to repair them, but they are always aware that vandalism might be just around the corner at the next box.

Remember this: When you "blue box" your newspapers, your taxes pay for their pick-up. When you take the time to put them into one of the Lions' boxes, you are helping this worthy club raise funds for over thirty community projects.

## MycoBlitz 2014 Finds Record Number of Mushrooms

KEM LUTHER

Mix together sixteen mushroom taxonomy experts, sixty visitors (mostly Metchosinites), a day of perfect weather, and what do you get? Answer: an amazing 115 new species of mushrooms for Metchosin's running inventory of species. The second Metchosin MycoBlitz which took place on Saturday, November 8, 2014, boosted the total of Metchosin species counted on the BioBlitzes and MycoBlitzes to over 2000.

Mycological experts at the 2014 MycoBlitz included Adolf and Oluna Ceska (the Ceskas, we learned at the MycoBlitz, were recently honoured by having their name given to a newly discovered species of mushroom), Britt Bunyard (the Wisconsinite editor of *Fungi* magazine), Vancouver Mycological Society members Paul Kroeger, Daryl Thompson, Leanne Gallon, Anna Bazzicalupo, Ludovic Lerenard, and Thom O'Dell, and Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society members Ian Gibson, Kevin Trim, Juliet Pendray, James Holkko, Andy MacKinnon, Ben Hircock, and Kem Luther (see picture).

A record crowd turned out at 6:00 pm, November 7, at the Metchosin District Office Council Chambers for the first event, a talk by Britt Bunyard. The event doubled as the November Talk and Walk. Britt's lecture, "The Agony and The



Ecstasy, or Waiter, there's a Fly Agaric in my Soup ... and I Love It!" was a gentle introduction to some of the more bizarre and useful members of the fungal kingdom. All the chairs at the district office were put into use and people stood against the back wall of the auditorium.

The actual blitzing began the next morning at 10:00 am in the parking lot of the Metchosin District Office. Andy MacKinnon's stentorian voice organized a crowd of almost seventy people, experts and guests, into four teams. The teams traveled to Pearson College lands, Metchosin Wilderness Park, the Boys and Girls Club, and Blinkhorn Lake. Ben Hircock also took a small group to Mt. Helmcken. The five teams returned to the district office at 1:00 pm, laden with samples

of the mushrooms found on the walks. They arranged the mushrooms on tables set up in the council chambers and began to organize and classify the mushrooms. By 4:00 pm, the recorders had four lists representing some 300 different specimens ranging across 190 species.

Tony Trofymow showed up on the afternoon of the MycoBlitz and picked out fifteen of the mushrooms as samples to submit to IBOL, the International Barcode of Life Project. In exchange for providing information and photos about fungal specimens collected at the Metchosin MycoBlitz, IBOL will extract and sequence DNA from the submitted specimens. All information collected by IBOL will be posted to an online database available to the public and the academic community.

### get inspired

time to relax  
space to connect  
freedom to change

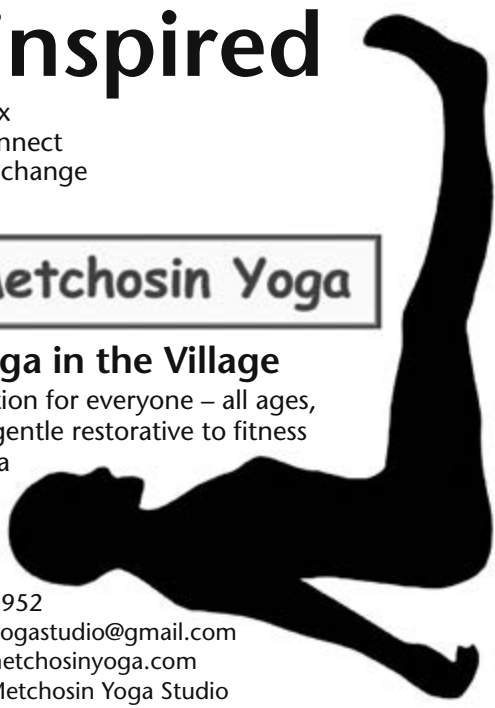


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We are here to assist constituents with Federal government programs and services.



## COUNCIL NEWS DECEMBER 2014

### WINTER ROADS SERVICES

Metchosin's public works is ready for ice control and snow plough service. Salter/sanders have been installed on all four trucks, with salt/sand already loaded for quick response. Call out protocols have been set in place for quick crew response with additional staff on call if needed.

### PRIORITY ROADS SERVICE

Please remember that ice control and snow plough service is provided on a priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo roads being top priority. Next are school bus and BC Transit routes followed by all other roads.

### HELP US AND BE PREPARED

Equip your vehicles with good winter tires, carry chains. All-season tires lose their pliability and traction at 7 degrees Celsius.

Avoid parking vehicles on the road or paved shoulders at all times during the winter. Clear snow from your driveway to allow for parking. Roads with vehicles parked on them may not be plowed.

Clear snow to the left side of your driveway (facing in) where it meets the road to minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway when the plows pass.

If you have an urgent medical appointment or are a medical professional needing to get to work, call the Emergency Program Coordinator at the Metchosin Fire Hall at 250-478-1307; or after hours, Langford dispatch at 250-478-9555 and ask for the Metchosin duty officer to be paged.

### OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES TO ACCRUE INTEREST BEGINNING IN JANUARY

If you have unpaid 2014 property taxes, please make payment arrangements in order to avoid interest charges beginning in January 2015. Metchosin offers a property tax monthly payment program and can work with you to arrange payments for outstanding taxes.

### MUNICIPAL HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The municipal offices will be closed at noon Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 8:00 am.

For more information, contact the Metchosin Municipal Hall.

Metchosin Municipal Hall | [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) | 250-474-3167 | [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)

# Metchosin Foundation 2014

CAROL CARMAN

As the year draws to an end we would like to thank all the people in our community who have supported the Metchosin Foundation in 2014. The Metchosin Foundation is a registered charity created to:

- encourage and support the rural nature of Metchosin
- support and maintain a harmonious community, and
- preserve and safeguard the flora and fauna of Metchosin's unique ecosystems for the benefit of all Canadians.

Here are a few of the ways we have worked toward these goals in 2014:

## Conservation Covenants

We have worked with local landowners, the Habitat Acquisition Trust and the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society to establish conservation covenants that protect the integrity of the natural environment on their lands for future generations. In March of 2014, a unique ten acres of land on Blinkhorn Mountain called Ty Mynydd, owned by Mac, Norma and Matt Elrod became the foundation's first conservation covenant. Ty Mynydd's stands of Garry oaks and forests of old growth fir, which provide crucial cover for bears and cougars, will be protected in perpetuity. We are now working hard to raise funds for a second covenant on land bordering Langford and Metchosin. A baseline species survey for this second property has already been completed.

## BioBlitz May 23 and 24, and MycoBlitz November 7 and 8

Since 2010, the Metchosin Foundation has been supporting the Metchosin Biodiversity Project's BioBlitz, cataloguing the rich diversity of species found in the natural environments in Metchosin. On the evening of Friday, May 23 the event started with presentations from Ted Leischner on native bumblebees, and Kathryn Martell of the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team on the project to reintroduce western bluebirds to southeastern Vancouver Island. The next morning experts and interested Metchosinites met at the Boys and Girls Club property to fan out in search of species, with a special focus on water bodies and streams. In November, the tally of Metchosin species was increased by the fall MycoBlitz (see page 4, this issue), bringing the four-year total to 2050 species. For more information on the species tallying efforts in Metchosin, see <http://metchosinbiodiversity>.

## Apple-Bee Fest, October 5

In October, folks from all over the Western Communities joined Metchosinites for the Apple-Bee Fest, an annual community festival and "foodie fundraiser" at the Community House. Products made with local apples – pies, candy apples, apple juice, apple sauce, apple cider, dried



Ty Mynydd on Blinkhorn Mountain, owned by Mac, Norma and Matt Elrod, is the Foundation's first conservation covenant.

apples and a baked apple tea (with music by Sophia Higgins) – were featured at the fest. A huge favourite for kids of all ages was the apple hurling that uses Derek Wulff's personally crafted catapults and trebuchets. Bees were also on the day's agenda – a first at this year's Fest. Derek Wulff had his honey bees and honey extractor on display and Bob Mitchell gave a fascinating presentation about bees and the unique extras that come with them, such as beeswax soaps and exotic hive extracts. The Metchosin Pomological Society and our local Metchosin Bee Rodeo group were co-sponsors of the event.

## Halloween Dance

The Halloween Dance, held annually at the Metchosin Hall, is the Foundation's major fundraiser every year. Many Metchosin guys and ghouls came in costumes reflecting (and sometimes spoofing) the suggested theme of Prom Queens and Greasers. Attendees enjoyed the music (and the great costumes) of the local band Fine Spirits. Our thanks to the many people who came out to have a good time and supported the Foundation by participating in the silent auction.

## The Valerie Cochrane Memorial Fund

In 2014, Metchosin lost one of the district's most valued citizens. Valerie had served for many years as the editor of the *Metchosin Muse* newspaper. A charitable trust has been established in her honour by her partner Charles. The trust will fund Pearson College students who, when facing personal life crises, have to make unexpected trips to their home countries. The Metchosin Foundation will be receiving these donations on behalf of the trust and has established a committee to manage the funds.

## Wills and Estate Planning Seminar

Many Metchosinites have questions about topics such

as financial planning, powers of attorney, representation agreements, charitable giving and legacies. The Metchosin Foundation sponsored a free seminar at the new St. Mary's Anglican Church on November 12. Legal experts from the firm MacIsaac and MacIsaac provided information on these topics and fielded questions. Representatives of the Habitat Acquisition Trust, Pearson College, the Metchosin Community House, the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, the Seniors Information Resource Centre, the Valerie Cochrane Memorial Fund, the Wild Arc and representatives of our gracious host St. Mary's Anglican Church were on hand with displays and information.

## Please Support the Metchosin Foundation

Would you like to help? Metchosinites can support the Foundation by becoming members. You can also volunteer to help with our projects – your ideas and energies are always welcome. Donations and bequests are also welcome, and will be put to good use to sustain the Metchosin we know and love. If you are looking for a non-commercial gift for someone special this Christmas, consider making a donation to the Metchosin Foundation in their name.

## For Further Information

Please e-mail us at [metchosin.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:metchosin.foundation@gmail.com) (all one word) or visit our website: [metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca)

All the very best for the holiday season and a safe and happy new year.

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Anne Richmond, Rrrl Grrl.




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# Lynda's Lore

WITH LYNDA DOWLING

## A Taste of the Holidays

Ok, it is time. Time to not weed. Time to not mow the lawn. And, time to not panic about protecting those last tender favourite plants. It really is too late with the freezing temperatures we have had recently to set the scene for December and those postcard pictures of Beautiful BC!

So relax, move inside. It is time to cosy up in your kitchen and bake some treats. If you are lucky you can keep some, hide some, "bake-later some" as the holidays peak on your calendar horizon! These are my most requested "not-so-secret-secret" favourites. (And only one has Lavender!)

### Lynda's Classic Lavender Shortbread

Set oven @ 325°F

1 cup chilled butter  
½ cup icing sugar  
¼ cup cornstarch, scant  
1 ½ cups white flour  
1 TBSP Lavender "tea"  
or Limoncello liqueur  
3 TBSP fresh Sweet Lavender flower buds  
or 2 TBSP dried (it is best to use Sweet  
Lavendula angustifolia varieties)

#### Method

In the past I did this step by step ... Cream butter, flowers and flower water. Add icing sugar bit by bit, then blended flour with cornstarch. The idea is to keep the dough light and full of air when blending.

The quick method is to briefly pulse fresh lavender with the dry ingredients in a food processor, then add all other ingredients and whiz until it forms a tube of dough! Remove from food processor and continue.

Divide dough into two portions on wax paper, rolled into a "snake" shape; best diameter is approximately 1 ½ inches.

Chill rolled dough half an hour. (Can be frozen; thaw slightly before slicing.)

Slice into ½-inch rounds, place on parchment paper on tray to bake.

Bake 20 minutes or until bottoms golden. Do not over bake.

Cool on rack before handling to firm up.

\*Note: To make flower "tea": bring water to a boil, pour over 2-3 TBSP fresh or dried flowers in a mug, set a saucer on the top, steep 10 minutes. Strain and measure for recipes. A nice alternative is to use 1 TBSP Limoncello lemon liqueur! A bonus is to add a few curls of real lemon zest.

### Elegant Golden Fruitcake

Makes 1" x 10" tube pan or 2" x 6" rounds or 4 medium loaves.

My grandmother always made her Christmas Cakes the beginning of November wrapped in brandy-soaked cotton to age and mature. Soaking your fruit for a few days will speed this up now that it's December.

Take four cups mixed fruits, do cut the larger bits up. Choose from your favourites of apricots, pineapple, golden raisins, dates, figs, cranberries or simply dried sweet cherries. I like to include a dozen pieces of Australian crystallized ginger. Place in a glass container and cover with a generous cup of brandy. Seal. Let sit a minimum of a week, stirring occasionally.

#### Baking day:

Preheat oven to 325°F and prepare pans with oiled and floured parchment.

Assemble four cups of your favourite unsalted nuts - cashews, almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts. Chop roughly. Set aside.

1 ½ cups room temperature salted butter  
3 ¾ cups white flour  
1 ½ tsp baking powder

¼ tsp baking soda  
1 tsp cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice  
1 ½ cups packed brown sugar  
5 large eggs  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
1 cup grated unpeeled apple  
1 cup applesauce or apricot jam

Sift dry ingredients together in medium bowl. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar, then beat in eggs. Add vanilla.

Add flour mix to cream mix in four additions - it will be stiff.

Next add grated apple and apple sauce.

Now stir in soaked fruit and nuts plus any remaining liquid: adding TLC wishes here too!

Blend smoothly and spoon into your pans. Tap out any air bubbles.

Bake 60 to 75 minutes depending on your pan of choice. Do test the centre for raw batter. Cool completely before handling. Wrap in brandy-soaked cloth and parchment to store in a tin or freeze. Icing optional before serving.

PS: You can decorate raw batter gently with a pattern of whole nuts before baking if you are not icing or adding glaze after baking, with a bit of jam to glue nuts on.

### Italian Panforte de Siena: My newest holiday favourite!

For all those lovers of dried fruits and nuts with a dash of honeyed sweetness. This is a historic thirteenth-century treat from Tuscany. Makes one flat eight inch treat. Don't leave out the pepper.

Set oven @ 300°F.

2 cups, lightly toasted, chopped nuts  
(I used cashews and hazelnuts)  
½ cup dried cranberries  
½ cup candied lemon and/or orange peel  
1 cup chopped figs  
¼ generous tsp of freshly ground black pepper  
¼ tsp allspice  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 TBSP good dark cocoa powder  
½ cup white flour  
¾ cup white sugar  
¾ cup dark honey

Use parchment paper in an eight-inch cheese-cake pan with a removable ring side; butter and flour the paper.

In a large bowl mix all fruits, nuts and dry ingredients. Set aside.

Melt together sugar and honey and bring to a boil.

Quickly pour and stir into the floured mix. It will stiffen as it cools.

Press evenly into your pan right away.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes. The surface will slightly bubble.

Remove pan ring while hot.

Traditionally dust the top with icing sugar and rub more on when cooler.

Wrap tightly in plastic wrap to store. Serve in small elegant wedges with a good coffee or dessert wine. Breakfast coffee?!

PS: This can keep several weeks (not in my house - I simply make more!)

*From my house to yours ... Good food, good friends, good fortune with every bite!*



# The Ten Dollar Christmas Gift

JOHNNY CARLINE

I don't know when the ten dollar Christmas gift idea was hatched but it certainly caught on. I've been to countless office parties and similar events where the attendees are asked to bring a Christmas-wrapped gift of ten dollars or less in value. I admit it can bring a bit of a festive air to the often somewhat forced joviality of such get-togethers and the odd tradition of trading gifts after they have been opened adds a further dimension of social interaction. But for me the idea has worked about as well as being hit on the back of the head by a boomerang – almost literally.

My first challenge is of course to find anything that people might want and have not already got, costing ten dollars or less. But even if I do, the bigger challenge is trying to prevent it coming back to me like a boomerang. Let me explain.

I thought my first ten dollar Christmas gift effort was a real winner. I had found a mint condition volume of Charles Dickens' *Christmas Books* in a bookstore remainder sale. I love books in general and Dickens in particular. I thought anybody would be thrilled to sit down by a blazing fire on Christmas Eve and read about Scrooge and Tiny Tim while partaking of a glass of something good and warm.

So when a young woman chose my Dickens parcel and unwrapped it, I eagerly anticipated the look of surprise and joy. Instead, she looked at it with ill-disguised dismay and placed it on the table with the delicacy of someone handling a joke store dollop of plastic dog poo.

She glanced around with a look of forlorn hope that someone might trade for it. Not a spark of interest anywhere! To relieve the embarrassment, I chimed in with feigned enthusiasm: "Dickens Christmas stories! I haven't read those in ages!" "Would you like them?" she asked with suppressed eagerness. "Oh, could I?" I replied as if she were granting me a great Christmas wish. And that is how I got my second copy of Dickens' classic.



Then there were the Christmas mugs. Two coffee mugs in the shape of, and labelled, "Santa" and "Mrs. Claus." They were so tasteless they weren't even kitsch. They weren't meant to last. But for a smile at an office Christmas party, I thought they would do the trick. That was until I saw Helen.

Helen was a much loved colleague whose husband had callously deserted her for another woman less than two weeks before Christmas. Helen had not seen it coming, was devastated, and had wisely taken some time off work. She was not expected to return for the office Christmas party. But she did.

Panic seized my mind. What if Helen picked my parcel! A set of his and her Christmas mugs! The office would be awash in tears. People would angrily work out who had been so insensitive to bring such a gift. I would be a pariah. No one would accept my innocent lack of foresight.

I waited for the gift exchange with the sense of doom of a condemned man. I knew that the statistical odds were twenty to one against her picking my parcel. But I also knew that odds mean nothing when fate is against you. And a moment later Helen had picked first and was holding my parcel with an almost cheerful look on her face. I had to stop her from opening that parcel!

I grabbed another parcel and almost belatedly at Helen: "Could we exchange?" She looked startled. "But I haven't even opened it yet." "I know," I stammered, thinking desperately, "that's the point. That is my wife's favourite wrapping paper and I can never find it. She would be over the moon to find a parcel wrapped in that under the tree on Christmas morning."

Helen and everyone else looked at me as if I were weird. Really weird. But better than the alternative. And Helen, being the nice woman she was, meekly handed over the parcel. My wife, of course, was not delighted with the wrapping paper, and still less with the contents. They lasted two days before being "accidentally" dropped in the kitchen.

And then there was Harry's wine. Harry was our octogenarian neighbour and a prince of a man. He made his own wine in his basement. On rare occasions he got the recipe right and it was really very drinkable. But most often it tasted as if something very nasty had been pickled in it. If you had a glass with your main course (and you rarely got away with just one glass with Harry), you had a thumping headache by dessert. And the next morning your stomach felt like you had actually eaten the nasty pickled thing as well as drank Harry's wine.

One morning I saw Harry on my way out and rashly shared my problem of having to find a ten dollar gift by the next day. "Hold on" said Harry and he did a sort of slow motion scuttle back into the house, re-emerging a few moments later with a gallon flagon of his wine. "How about that?" he asked proudly. "That's wonderful!" I replied.

The next morning, Harry was watching as I hoisted the Christmas wrapped flagon in the air on my way to the car. But it was coming back that concerned me. Because, you see, my colleagues knew all about Harry's wine from my need to explain a number of "I'm feeling a bit off" Monday mornings following Sunday night dinners at Harry's. I waited to pick last, knowing full well that there was no disguising what was in my parcel and that it would still be there waiting for me when it was my turn to pick.

Harry's eyebrows and palms went towards the sky as I got out of the car that evening and once again hoisted the flagon. "I got lucky," I lied loudly and cheerfully. "I picked second and the first pick was a young girl who couldn't lift it, so she picked something smaller. I wasn't going to miss the chance of some of your wine, Harry."

He smiled. "You needn't have worried. I wasn't going to let you be disappointed at Christmas." And he reached inside his door and lifted out a second, Christmas wrapped flagon. As I said, Harry was a prince of a man. But now I had two flagons, and Harry and his wife were coming over on Christmas Eve. There would be no escape. I thought of my stomach on Christmas morning when my two young boys would come rushing into the bedroom and leap onto my abdomen to announce Christmas had arrived. Oh what calamities can be wrought by the "ten dollar Christmas gift."

But since coming to Metchosin, I have solved the ten dollar Christmas gift problem. And if you have been reading my articles in the *Muse*, you may already know what the solution is.

It is, of course, a membership in the Metchosin Community Association. Come down to the Metchosin Community House and for just ten dollars, Heather will give you a membership form and a signed membership card. Wrap that for the office party, and the lucky recipient just has to send in the form and will have the pleasure of a year's membership in the MCA. And if they are already a member, as everyone should be, no problem! They can use it for their renewal next year!

MCA membership. The answer to everyone's ten dollar Christmas gift problem! And while you are in the mood, give yourself an MCA membership too. It is the perfect little Christmas gift for you and for the community.

## MCA Christmas Tea

Fri., Dec. 19, 3:00–5:00 pm

Join us beside the MCA's warm fireplace for Christmas Tea with goodies and tea, carol singing, new and old friends by your side – and leave with a song in your heart.

Thank you for your support and help over the years.

– Your Metchosin Community Association.

# Metchosin's Best Kept Secret?

JOEL USSERY

Looking for the secret to a better commute? Tired of sitting behind the wheel going nowhere fast on your way to town twice a day? Becoming more concerned about your carbon footprint with commuting in your single occupant vehicle? There is a solution.

Here is the surprise: it is the bus. Please do not stop reading. I am not trying to dredge up awful memories of long waits or being stranded at the Langford Exchange. Instead imagine an "express" bus directly to and from the Western Exchange where you can get efficiently on and off buses that link Metchosin and downtown.

No need to dream of that scenario – it already exists. There are two buses each morning (#55) during the work week that head directly along Metchosin Road to the Western Exchange and two buses (#54) that leave the Exchange at 5:10 and 5:25 pm and head straight to Metchosin. It is so simple – just get on the bus and relax, read, listen to your music or the radio with your

eyes closed, or talk with your neighbour (because once word of this spreads they will want to catch the bus too).

It is almost as fast as driving, you do not have to worry about parking and the boss will have to let you leave work on time because "you have to catch your bus."

If you live in the wilds of Metchosin away from the normal bus route do not despair. There is a park and ride at St. Mary's church on Metchosin Road. The morning "express" buses get there about 7:05 and 7:25 am.

So think about it. It may be a perfect fit with those New Year's resolutions. Let others deal with wet or snowy roads and poor visibility this winter, save yourself some stress, and catch up on your reading. You could even start early (like before 2014 ends) and test out the idea. See you on the bus.

*Joel is fortunate to live close enough to work to commute by cycle or foot from Metchosin. But he takes the bus home twice a week and every day there is snow and ice.*

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# Hallowe'en at



## Spooktacular Fun Had by All

BY JOAN KEW

It's scary, but above is just a small sampling of the kids (there is no age limit on being a kid at heart!) who came to the Metchosin Fire Hall on October 31 to celebrate Hallowe'en. Brian Domney and Kathleen Sutherland organized the costume parade and took photos of the garbed ghouls while the Monster Mash played over the loudspeakers. Everyone who entered was awarded a medal of participation.

As usual, the Metchosin Fire Department put on a great event with a haunted house, bonfire, hot dogs and hot drinks, and fireworks to elicit "oohs" and "ahhs" from the crowd. Despite the occasional rain showers, everyone seemed to have a good time. Thank you to the Metchosin Fire Department and all those who served refreshments or otherwise helped out during this great community event.



# THE OLD MAN'S ART SHOW

## Homage to the art of Christiaan Van de Water (1914 to 1996)

AS TOLD BY CHRIS VAN DE WATER TO BETTY HILDRETH

It was not that Christiaan wanted to be an artist but rather that he had to express his artistry.

However, the artistic side of this man was stifled as his focus was to provide for his wife and four young children. Formal training as a woodworker in his native Holland eventually led him to become

a union carpenter at local 1598 in Victoria, BC.

A life of laboring according to the demands of an outside boss ran counterpoint to his tempestuous, bohemian nature. Christiaan was always searching for peace and serenity. He sought to live in remote and out-of-the-way locations, casting about for

the space and time to allow his creativity to flourish.

In the early 1950s, one such secluded spot was in the hills of Metchosin where the family lived in a two-room log cabin tucked away on 100 acres. There was no power – no amenities of any kind. Water was drawn from a well in a bucket. But farming seemed to hold promise as Christiaan continued imagining ways to avoid the daily grind of working for an authority.

In order to supplement supplies and groceries, Christiaan tapped into his creative talent by performing as a sax/clarinet player. On Saturday nights, he would make the journey into the city of Victoria and play during the evenings at the Crystal Gardens, “blowing the horn” with Victoria’s top dance band, The Bert Zala Orchestra.

Before long the family acquired a good sized flock of Suffolk sheep. These animals, some fitted with bells, roamed freely, following the paths cut by their hooves as the sheep wandered single file over the hills of Metchosin. In many ways, it was an idyllic life for the young family.

This farming lifestyle gradually began to provide a living and the sheep flock was expanding, until one fateful spring a pack of dogs ravaged and decimated the ewes and young lambs. This was a turning point in Christiaan’s life.



“Everything on My Terms.” This is one of Van de Water’s first oils. Painted in their small bedroom, propped up on a homemade easel, it seems to show a rich old scrooge who never found the true meaning of life.

With great disappointment and anger, Christiaan decided to move his family to a farm in southern Ontario. Here he thought they could try their hands at more self-sufficient mixed farming. But once again timing was bad; farming was in a downturn. Christiaan was forced to return to construction as a livelihood, depending on his wife and children to manage the farm.

An incredible string of hard luck ensued. Ninety percent of the purebred Jersey cows produced worthless bull calves, the sows farrowed very small litters, the Ontario farmhouse burnt down, and the bank refused to extend further credit. The farming dream was doomed.

Christiaan had tried his best and failed. However it did not diminish his fiery and creative spirit. In that last dire

Ontario winter, he did what his inner soul had been waiting for, and he began to paint.

With no more options, the family moved back to Vancouver Island. The “Old Man” began to express his inner thoughts on canvas. Perhaps it was the fickle hand of fate that spurred the creative process.

Come and view this one-time showing of the unique collection of art created by Christiaan Van de Water.

“THE OLD MAN’S ART SHOW” held at the Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road

Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

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# HOUSE HAPPENINGS



**Metchosin Community House** 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155  
 Email: mcahouse@telus.net Web: www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

## Ongoing Programs

### Mondays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program** – 9:00 am–3:30 pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillicke at 250-213-2440.

**Pearson College Students Outreach** – 3:00–4:30 pm. Helping seniors and youth in our community. Invite Pearson College students to visit or help with a project. Please note: The last session of the year is December 1. 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.

**Knitting Café.** On the first and third Mondays monthly, 7:00–9:00 pm, knitters of all skill levels, including beginners, are welcome to this informal and friendly get-together. For information please call Laura, 250-478-1197, or email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca.

**Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Choir** – The Rough Voice Choir meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month from 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a “good singing voice” is not a requirement. \$3/person; \$5/family. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553) for questions or suggestions. *Please note: cancelled December 22.*

### 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. Please note: The last day for the year will be December 16, the Art Drop In will start again on January 6, 2015.

**Knitting Café.** On the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, the Knitting Café has afternoon sessions from 1:00–3:00 pm. See the Monday listing for contact information. Please note: There will be no knitting café on Tuesday December 23 but there will be one on December 30.

**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–3:30 pm (see Monday for details).

### Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking** – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (call 250-595-6406, or send email to blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs. Please note: The last session for the year will be on December 4. The program will start again on January 15, 2015.

### 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.

The Metchosin Community House Parent and Tot Program will be running a music session with Sibylle Wilson

from PJs Music Studio. The program will run Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:00 am (10:00–11:30 am, regular drop-in resumes) from October 17 to December 19. The program exposes kids to the basics of music like rhythm, concepts of high and low sounds through the use of instruments (bells, maracas, and drums) and props like scarves, and puppets. Everything is very hands on and the children can participate fully. Parent participation is also requested. The music class is by donation and funds go directly to the Community House to help fund the programme. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones. For more information please call Nina at 250-590-2540 or email dalenina@shaw.ca. Please note there is no P&T on Friday, December 26.

**Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Last session for the year is December 5.

## Events

**Art Display – Mr. Christiaan Van de Water.** Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, 10:00 – 7:00 pm. Mr. Christiaan Van de Water’s works are on display at the House December 6–7.

**Pearson Christmas Concert** – Sunday, December 7, 7:00–9:00 pm. Conducted by choir director Yoomi Kim, the choir of international students promises to delight its audience with songs of the season. A delicious dessert raffle and refreshments will be served during intermission with the proceeds going to the Metchosin Community House. Admission is by donation. There will also be a food bank donation box for non-perishable goods. The concert will be held at the Metchosin Community Hall, 4401 William Head Road.

**Blue Moon Christmas** – December 18, 7:00–9:00 pm, show starts at 7:30 pm. Dave and Lesley Preston host their annual Blue Moon Christmas, featuring festive songs and stories performed by local artists. Refreshments available. Admission by donation of cash or non-perishable goods for local food banks.

**MCA Christmas Tea** – December 19, 3:00–5:00 pm. Join us beside the MCA’s warm fireplace for Christmas Tea with goodies and tea, carol singing, new and old friends by your side and leave with a song in your heart. Thank you for your support and help over the years. Your Metchosin Community Association.

**Foot Care Program** – The last Monday of each month, a foot care nurse will be offering foot care services. Appointments are half an hour and cost \$40. Appointments are between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Please call 250-478-5155 to book.

**Art On The Walls – December.** Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7 from 10:00 am–7:00 pm. The House will feature the works of Mr. Christiaan Van de Water.

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 250-478-5155.

**“Made-In-Metchosin Mince Pies”** Enjoy a locally created Christmas dessert. Fill your kitchen with the delicious smell of baked mince pies to impress your dinner guests, or give as a holiday hostess gift. The pastry is created by the generous folks at the Royal Bay Bakery in Colwood.

The light and spicy mince is enhanced using tart, local Metchosin apples. Pies are sold frozen and unbaked @ \$10 each. Only a limited number of pies is made each year. **Order Your Holiday Mince Pies by December 5.** Place your order with MCH at 250-478-5155.

Pick up orders on Monday, December 8 from 9:00 am–1:00 pm or Wednesday, December 10 from 5:00–8:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House at 4430 Happy Valley Road. Baking instructions included. Pop several pies into your freezer (or oven – if you can’t wait!). Please forward this gift giving idea on to family and friends. **Gift locally, it helps our community.** This is a Metchosin Community Association fund raiser.



## Pearson College Trail Opening

BY NATEXA VERBRUGGE

Metchosin has had a License of Occupation for trail purposes from the DND (Department of National Defense) connecting Pearson College Drive to the Galloping Goose since 1994. The purpose was to benefit Pearson College students and Metchosin residents living in the Zodiac subdivision. Over the years some smaller trails had been made by residents crossing private lands, leading to concerns about liability and erosion.

In September, 2012 Metchosin council directed our Parks and Trails Coordinator and PTASC (Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee) to develop a better trail to meet our trail standards. This involved contacting DND concerning the License of Occupation and the CRD regarding route and connection to the Galloping Goose. PTASC and our Parks and Trails Coordinator, Norm Kidney, studied the trail area and mapped out a proper trail with easier grades and culverts. A survey was required, as well as an environmental assessment and endangered species report, and the District staff and volunteers continued liaising with CRD and DND staff.

In the summer of 2013, Craig Barlow completed the report required by DND and paid for by the District. He recommended construction of the trail as proposed by PTASC, using low impact equipment, hand labour and gravel, concluding that this would not result in adverse temporal or residual environmental impacts.

DND renewed our license of occupation in 2014. The work was completed by our current Trails Coordinator, Brent Donaldson, our low impact equipment man Harold Perepalkin (who has worked on our trails for many years at half cost) and the Metchosin public works crew this summer.

## Office closure dates for Christmas & New Year

The MCH will be operating as usual with regard to the rentals that have been booked (see online calendar at [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)), however the MCH office will be closed December 24 to January 5, 2014.

*Happy Holidays!*

Tell them you saw it  
in the *Muse!*

# West-Mont's Garry Oaks

ANDY MACKINNON

There is a beautiful stand of Garry oaks, Douglas-firs and open meadow along Metchosin Road, at the entrance to West-Mont School. This area, with spectacular springtime displays of camas and other wildflowers, is protected forever for the people of Metchosin by a conservation covenant.

A conservation covenant is a legal agreement that protects ecological values on a piece of land. In this case, establishing a covenant was one condition of approval for building the school. In 1998, the Western Communities Montessori Society entered into an agreement with the District of Metchosin to establish this conservation covenant over the Garry oak stand. Under the terms of the covenant, among other things: no native plants may be removed; no soil may be disturbed; no pesticides may be used; and no building may take place on the site. Allowances are made for the removal of non-native plants, and development of trails and signs "indicating that the property is a protected nature reserve." The "Transferor" (West-Mont) agreed to "Protect, maintain and sustain the Garry Oak Ecosystem in accordance with the generally acceptable conservation practices."

Why was this particular piece of land identified as high conservation value? Garry oak ecosystems are among Canada's most threatened ecosystems. In 1800, Metchosin had 1180 hectares of Garry oak ecosystems. In 1997 we had

49 hectares. Because of similar habitat loss across southeastern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands, more than 100 species of plants and animals are listed as "at risk" in these ecosystems.

So, every little bit of Garry oak ecosystem counts. This year a small group of volunteers has begun work restoring this endangered ecosystem. They have mapped the site and developed a draft management plan. We have a plant species list for the site. Invasive species removal has begun, starting with spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*). This toxic plant can cause blistering if handled without gloves, and was deemed too dangerous for the students to remove.

Much of the rest of the work will be done by West-Mont students, as they learn about Garry oak ecosystems in a very hands-on fashion. This fall they collected acorns from the stand. With assistance from Kristen and James Miskelly of Saanich Native Plants nursery, students are growing these and other native plant species, some of which will be re-planted on the site. West-Mont students will also be getting their hands dirty removing other introduced, invasive plants species such as Himalayan blackberry and periwinkle. Eventually an interpretive trail will be established through less-sensitive parts of the site. For more information about the site, or to help out, please contact Danny Buchanan ([dannyb@west-mont.ca](mailto:dannyb@west-mont.ca)).

## NEWS FROM WEST-MONT SCHOOL

# Caching Out in Metchosin

KRISTIN O'REILLY AND WEST-MONT STUDENTS



West-Mont's Geocachers pause to discuss strategy during a geocache search. Or maybe they're taking a break and trying not to look guilty because there are Muggles in the area ...

Suspicious groups of people young and old have been spotted sneaking along forest trails, scrounging along the beachfront and scrambling up hillsides. For those of you that may have encountered a geocacher in your midst you know what I'm talking about.

Geocaching has been attracting treasure seekers around the world for almost fifteen years and now has more than six million people hunting for over two million caches on every continent. The concept for geocaching is based on an old game called letterboxing which combines orienteering and solving puzzles. Flash ahead 150 years, where geocaching has evolved into a high-tech outdoor adventure game that uses a GPS (Global Positioning System) which leads you to a hidden cache. The traditional cache is hidden and/or found by using a given set of longitude and latitude coordinates (waypoints). Inside the cache you will find a log book and, often, small items to trade.

At the end of June, a dozen West-Mont students were keen to sign up for a week of geocaching. We were able to find twenty-two caches within three kilometres of the school. The Geocachers share some of their experiences of why geocaching is so much fun:

This summer I went Geocaching. Geocaches are like time capsules. Geocaching is where you find containers with stuff to trade. You use a GPS or a phone with a geocaching network on it. You have to bring stuff to trade. Do not steal!

— Te Rahparah, Grade 4

I had a lot of fun geocaching in the forest. I think the forest is the best place for

geocaching. We ran on and off the trails, on the beach and in the fields. There are so many geocaches all over Metchosin. Here is one of my favourite caches and a hint to find it: Metchosin TV is the name of a geocache on Wittys Beach Road. N 48° 23.018 W 123° 31.507. Hint (decrypt): YBBX SBE GUR XRI CBVAGE

— Rowan, Grade 6

I love geocaching. I found a lot of geocaches and I only had to walk for about five minutes. Geocaching is really fun. One of my favourite places to geocache is Tower Point. There are a lot of caches around there and then once you've found all of those (and the tide is low) you can walk across the beach to Witty's Beach. Witty's is a really nice beach and it has a trail going off it with even more geocaches! Here is a hint for the geocache Oaky Pokey at Tower Point: Geveg bss-fubby geny ba gur evtug chgf lbh jvguva rirvtug bs gur pnpur oevat fbzr zhfpyr.

— Alexandra, Grade 5

One day in summer just after school let out I went back to school for a geocaching camp. The second day was my favourite. We started off walking down Metchosin Road and found geocaches on some side roads and trails (Metchosin TV). At the end of the hike we found a geocache (Metchosin Micro) at the Metchosin Day grounds. Then we went for ice cream at the My-Chosen Café (Chill'n Out). There aren't many things you need to go geocaching. Take a water bottle, boots, rain jacket, something to trade when you find a cache, and a snack depending how long you are hunting.

— Tess, Grade 6

Geocaching is about having a really fun time with your family and/or friends. Geocaching is like a high-tech treasure hunt. The amazing part about caching is that there are caches all over the world. There are caches with names like Getting Wormer, Gnomes Like Waterfalls, Gnomes like Streams and Gnomes Like Bridges. There are millions, actually more than that. My family made our own cache called Froggy Bogg. Geocaching ... it's a good time to see nature and get cool prizes.

— Riley, Grade 5

With over one hundred caches to seek out in Metchosin, geocaching is a great way to explore the area. You will find a map on the website and a crash course to get you started. We found caches using both a GPS device and our smart phones (sometimes cell phone reception is unreliable). There is a free app for most cell phones and the official app is \$9.99. Whatever device you decide to use, geocaching will get you to places you have never been before. Watch out for "Muggles" as you don't want to draw attention to caches that may be in more public places. Be sure to practice "leave no trace" when you are in natural areas. Everything you need to know to get started can be found at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). Check out the website for a glossary of geocaching lingo and a decrypting code to solve the hints in this article.

Happy hunting!

Tell them you saw it  
in the Muse!



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**Congratulations to Ric Perron** for being the first to identify the site of last month's "Where Is It?" photo (on the Municipal Grounds). Ric will receive a free regular coffee, compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. "What/Where/Who Is It?" will return in January.

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## Metchosin Technical Centre Letters

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

– Thornton Wilder

I woke up on this chilly winter morning thinking of all the pressing tasks I wanted to avoid. I was engulfed in the spirit of procrastination when I pushed the snooze button, one more time. When I finally started moving, a song came into my head. Something about brown paper packages tied up with string ... and the next thing I knew I was singing about "My Favourite Things" from the classic *The Sound of Music*. By the time I walked out the door, under the sunny skies, I was in a fine mood. I realized that my life, in fact, was pretty darn good. When I made my list of favourite things, my personal and professional song was very long. My favourite things to do with my students are to: go skating, take them out into forest, laugh at my own mistakes, take them to Pearson College, be creative, read, inspire, be inspired, show enthusiasm for learning, and step outside of my comfort zone. I am so lucky that I get to do all these things at work, most days, and that is why being a teacher at Metchosin Technical Centre is my favourite teaching assignment. Thinking about my favourite things was such a valuable exercise that I am asking my students to do the same thing.

Happy Holidays and count your blessings,

*Dayna Christ-Rowling, teacher*

Since the MTC Grade 9 students were asked to write about our favourite things, I've decided to write about the trips I've been on. I've always been on pretty elaborate holidays with my family. I've been to New York, Missouri, Florida, Texas, and all over Canada. I must say, it's been fun visiting all these places; it's not every day you can go to some of these places. I love being able to tell stories about the places I've gone, and the sights I've seen. My favourite place was probably New York, because of the excitement in the city and how lively everything was. Oh my gosh, the food! The foods were probably the most elaborate delicious divine tastes that have ever entered my mouth. The platters were huge, so big I'd have to share my meal with like two other people. The cost was something I'd never like to look at but from the size of the portions, I doubt it was cheap. I got to see the Statue of Liberty and go all around the city, oh and the shopping, the shopping was probably my favourite thing to do. Now here is the conclusion to my letter to the editor: I loved every place I have been to and if I had the chance I would travel all the way back.

– Alannah Logan, Grade 9

"They told me sky's the limit so I wonder if I can fly now"

– Machine Gun Kelly

This little letter will enlighten you about my favourite things. Our letters this month are about the things that make us, the students at Metchosin Technical Centre, feel grateful.

The above quote is from my favourite artist. I appreciate it because his words inspire me. I feel like when I'm at my lowest point, I can turn his music on and forget about everything. Music helps me escape from the world, it helps me forget the bad and sing out what I'm really feeling. His music comforts me, just like my siblings.

I have two older brothers and one older sister. My oldest brother is 27 (his name is Chris), my other brother is 18 (his name is Jordon) and my sister is 23 (her name is Brittney). My sister Brittney lives in Abbotsford, my brother Chris lives in Campbell River and at the moment my brother Jordon is visiting his friends in Campbell River. It's weird without them here; I feel like I'm an only child. I will be happy to see my brother soon.

Since my brother hasn't been here I've been getting really close to my pets. I have a cat named Tubby and a pit bull named Xena who always gives me love bites. My pets are really good when I am lonely. Xena just had a litter of puppies and all the puppies are in good homes now; my friend has one of the puppies and his name is Stacks. He's so cute he has baby blue eyes and he's so tiny. My pets comfort me.

Dance for me is amazing; I can't describe the feeling I get when I dance. Dancing allows me to learn about my limitations and strengths, my ability to cope with stress, and go farther than I ever thought I could. It lifts me up when I want to fall. It is medicine for my spirit.

– Amber Jackson, Grade 9

"The seed of goodness is found in the soil of appreciation."

– Dalai Lama

One of the things I'm grateful for is my dog, Max. He is a German Shepherd who is big, fast, and likes to play tug-a-war. He is energetic and he forces me to go for walks in the woods, which is another one of my favourite things. Max is like a very big warm teddy bear when he lies beside me. I brush Max's teeth but it never ever works. Max is a truly a member of my family.

When I think of my family, I think of food because we always have buffets in our house. There are usually about 10 people at the buffets. We just come together, laugh, talk, and eat! At these times we reflect on the happiness and I feel happy. We are always on the go as a family; we do things like camping, long drives, and we do arts and crafts together and take lots of pictures, to remember the good times together.

I am thankful for my skateboard because it gives me time to be away, out with friends. I don't have to worry about things when I am on my skateboard.

I appreciate the wilderness because I can build forts; it is a time to reflect on my day. Sometimes I just fall asleep in the sun. As I reflect on the things I am grateful for, I realize that I am very lucky.

Happy December.

– Devin M., student

## Bow Tie Addiction

BY BRIAN GRAHAM



When one hears the Fudge Fairy is trying something new, it's an invitation to visit the fudge factory in anticipation of some new "caramel supreme," "maple bliss" or "rainbow tropical" concoction. Imagine my surprise when there wasn't a hint of butter, sugar or chocolate in the air at Charmaine Welch's home.

Greeting me at the door was the colourful character who has been selling fudge locally for many years, wearing an equally colourful bow tie. I couldn't help but comment on the bow tie as it wasn't the usual formal kind, but rather a whimsical version with a cartoon character on it! And her answer explained the tie and the lack of any apparent fudge in the kitchen: "I am now designing and sewing bow ties for a living. I retired from my job of twenty-eight years at Save On Foods and am living my dream of being creative (and working in my PJs!)."

It didn't really surprise me as I've known Charmaine for many years and her creativity is really boundless. I asked her how she started: "I made a colourful bow tie about three years ago and was immediately smitten by its charm! After wearing it several times, I needed to make another and another, matching my different outfits."

Selling fudge seems so much easier, and it practically sells itself, so I asked her if she

intended to sell these. Who wears bow ties, anyway?

"Good question. Soon everyone will be wearing them. Bow ties are coming back! They are being seen on television and movies all the time now. Men AND women, boys and girls, too! Not just on dress shirts, either. They can be worn on t-shirts, too! My specialty is novelty or character bow ties. The most popular bow ties are my super hero ones. Comic book-themed weddings are popular and I have had the pleasure of providing bow ties for many of these fun weddings all over the world. I sell mainly online on my Etsy website, but I also sell locally in the gift shop at The Coast Collective in Colwood. I am at different markets around Victoria, too."

So, no special fudge on this visit to the factory, but I was very impressed with the scope and variety of ties Charmaine has made (and is in the process of making). There seems to be no limit as to what she can create, either from her own wild imagination or from the template of her world-wide customers.

If you haven't met Charmaine, it's pretty easy to spot her: she is the lady you see around town wearing a different bow tie every time you see her. Her "SewFairyCute" bow ties are never boring and you can visit her website at: [www.etsy.com/shop/sewfairycute](http://www.etsy.com/shop/sewfairycute).

## Another great year for Metchosin 4H

DEBBIE COOPER

Metchosin 4H is heading into its fifth year in Metchosin.

Our kids had an excellent year. Kids ages six to eight worked on Unit 3 of the 4H cloverbud projects. In Unit 3 the kids learned about swine, clothing, horse, bicycle safety, goats, dogs, and photography, and we had many great field trips. For bicycle safety we turned the Metchosin Fair grounds into a huge obstacle course and learned how to be safe on our bikes. Another great highlight was our trip to Parry Bay Sheep Farm to watch lambs being born. They finished off the year handing in completed scrapbooks to earn badges and had a wonderful party to end the year.

Our older kids, ages nine to twenty-one, ran four projects in our community club: poultry, dog, crafts and a foods. Our poultry project had kids starting the year building brooding boxes to house their day old chicks. Throughout the year we had different speakers come in to teach about breeds of chickens, chicken health, keeping your coop safe and how to show your chickens at fairs. Our craft project kids worked on an assortment of crafts throughout the year, ending the year handing in their project for their badge. In the dog project, different speakers came in to teach about caring for dogs and we went to Eagle Rise Vet Clinic to meet with a veterinarian. In foods we learned all about food science, starting with food safety and then cooking up a storm learning many different baking methods. It was a delicious session!

One of the highlights of our year was the 100th anniversary week-end in Coombs. Participants had a fabulous time! We met at the Coombs Fair and then traveled to

Parksville where we set up camp for a day of sand castles, frisbees and picnics.

Another highlight was our Tour de Coop – six chicken coops in total for the day, with a treat and drink at each farm. We finished the event with a wonderful swim at a 4H member's pool!



Annalise at the Saanich Fair

### Achievements

We had a wonderful group that worked very hard with their projects: Annalise Steadman came back from the Saanich Fair with three

blue first place ribbons for her chickens. Julia Lozupone placed "Best in Show" for her Call duck Bianca at Metchosin Day, and also came in seventh place in Judging at the South Malahat competition, competing against over 200 other participants. Austen Brown had his show-stopping Rooster at Metchosin Day and used his incredible photography skills as chief photographer for our club. We would also like to commend Dahlia Plett for her outstanding job as President. She always leads by example, she is dependable and her passion and care for her animals really sets the bar for all of our kids. She finished the year with a wonderful speech at the awards banquet for the South Malahat. Thank you, Dahlia, for all of your hard work!

Metchosin 4H would like to thank all of the wonderful people in our community who have supported our

*continued on page 14*

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# Metchosin Day 2014

MARY GIDNEY

Metchosin Day 2014 was a great day! The sunny weather no doubt contributed to it. However, without volunteers, the day would not be what it is. On behalf of the Metchosin Day Committee I want to thank all of those who gave their time and energy to make the day a success. Thank you. The profits made at Metchosin Day are given back to the community and to those groups that take part in the day. This year we donated over \$3,000 to the community. Here is a list of those receiving donations this year: Metchosin Community Hall, Scouts, Girl Guides, Pearson College, Metchosin Fire Department,

Columbus Club, William Head Work Release Program, Metchosin Equestrian Society, Metchosin Preschool, 4H, West-Mont School, Metchosin Community House, and SIRC.

If your group would like to be part of next year's Metchosin Day, please contact Mary Gidney at mgidney@shaw.ca.

Metchosin Day depends not only on volunteers to make the day a success but also the donations from local businesses. The Metchosin Day Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their support for Metchosin Day: My-Chosen Café; Tractor Time; Metchosin Country Store; The Broken

Paddle; Sooke Disposal; Island Traffic Group; ReMax; Island Farms; Metchosin District Office; Rod and Nicole Rimmer; Don Mann Excavating; Linda Dowling's Lavender Farm; Down to Earth; Still Meadow Farm; Parry Bay Sheep Farm; West Shore Arts Council; Olde Style Automotive; Thrifty Foods; Windwhipped Farm; Glanford Greenhouses; and K-Bro Linen Systems.

Thank you from your Metchosin Day Committee: Theresa Boggs, Jennifer Burgis, Helen Fletcher, Mary Gidney, Betty Hildreth, Jo Mitchell, Lesley and Dave Preston and Sandi Weldon.



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

# Cubs Camp

BY TOBY VOSS

The 14th JDF Cubs found the perfect way to burn off some Hallowe'en sugar – they packed their gear and headed out to Sooke early Saturday morning for a couple of days of adventure at Camp Barnard. It was an early 10:00 am start given how late they would have been up trick or treating the night before, but they were all excited about finding where they would be tenting and getting settled into camp. Settled in may not be the best term for it, because as soon as they dropped off their packs some of the Cubs started into a game of soccer while waiting for the rest to finish putting their gear away.

We then directed that energy toward having the cubs prepare and make their own lunches from an assortment of items. They made wraps, packed fresh fruit, and some snacking food etc. (no candies at this camp). They were all keen to learn how to prepare the food so we had lots of participation along with their own ideas as to what kind of lunch would be the best for the hike we were about to do that day.

After the lunches were all packed, a gear check completed, and some scouting wisdom on hiking in the woods, we then headed out on a three-hour hike up the 360-metre-high Mt. Bluff. The aptly named mountain is a series of cliffs with some sections having ropes as an aid to the ascent. 14th JDF Scouters Toby, Todd and Sherry all have substantial climbing experience so the youth were educated about climbing safety, potential dangers, and how to be aware of their environment before hitting the steep sections and using the ropes. At the top, the skies decided to clear up and rewarded the Cubs with a view of Sooke and as far away as East Sooke and Metchosin.

What a great view – even the eagles were soaring below!

Upon returning to base camp the Cubs had a few minutes' rest and then worked on compass and mapping skills. After a short break we prepared the fire we would have later that night. We went over knife safety before they were allowed to make their own roasting sticks. For a little down time just before dinner they decided to have a game of soccer.

After a hearty dinner we all went to the campfire where the cubs were educated about the various types of campfires used in scouting and how they came to be in scouting. As we started with a formal campfire, the campfire chief Nick declared this campfire open and we sang some scouting songs and did some hilarious skits. It is always amazing watching the imaginations at work. When campfire chief Nick declared the "formal" campfire closed, everyone got to hang out by the campfire for a while longer and make S'mores, which is still my favourite part of a campfire. It was then time to head back to the kitchen for mug up and a movie before bed. After the movie it didn't take long for everyone to fall asleep in their tents.

While the youth were sleeping the Scouters (leaders) used this quiet time to prepare for the next day's activities. The next morning, Scouters Toby and Sherry prepared a huge breakfast of pancakes, sausages, strawberries and whipped cream. It was hard concentrating on taking tents down and packing up gear while the smell of breakfast was in the air.

With breakfast gone and no leftovers to be found, we then assembled and went over compass work again. You would think a GPS would be the more modern way to go, as it is easier and quicker to find where you are, but as a compass is cheaper and does not need batteries, it is a basic skill all youth should know how to use. So, with a quick refresher, we had the Cubs use their compasses

following written compass directions and drawing a simple map of the route taken to the outdoor chapel at Camp Barnard where they learned about "Scouts Own" and had a chance to share what they liked about the camp. It was then back to camp and a final cleanup time which everyone took part in.

With everything prepared for when the parents would come to pick them up, the youth used their new skills to build their own campfires (no paper or fuel allowed). They were all lit with one or very few matches (note it was drizzling by this time). The campfires were used to get some experience at cooking over a fire and finding out that a good fire will roast that hot dog just right. We had camp closing under a light drizzle and then everyone headed home. It was a great way to work off the Hallowe'en sugar and spend a nice fall weekend.

If you are interested in joining the Cub Scouts, please contact us at 14juandefuca@victoriascouts.ca.

# Fire Dept. Call-Outs

OCTOBER 15–NOVEMBER 15, 2014

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HI-MOUNT RD – Hydro Lines Down
- Oct 27 SOOKE RD – Hydro Lines Down
- Oct 29 SOOKE RD – Structure Fire – Commercial
- Oct 30 EAST SOOKE RD – Medical
- Oct 31 LEEFIELD RD – Open Burn  
NEILD RD – Medical
- Nov 1 SOOKE RD – Motor Vehicle Crash  
COPPER MINE RD – Structure Fire
- Nov 04 HAPPY VALLEY RD – Motor Vehicle Crash
- Nov 08 WILLIAM HEAD RD – Medical
- Nov 09 HAPPY VALLEY RD – General Public Assist
- Nov 10 SOOKE RD – Open Burn  
BADGER PL – Open Burn
- Nov 11 TAYLOR BEACH – Beach Fire

*Metchosin 4H, continued from page 13*

club. Mike and Shannon Madill – MyChosen Café; the Buchanans, Parry Bay Sheep Farm; Janine, Cherry Lane Equine; Metchosin Community House; Cookie from Cookies Critters Pet Sitting; Joan Kew, Brenda Nicolson, Theresa Sutton, Stan Fry, Valerie Cochran, Eagle Rise Vet Clinic, Metchosin Day Committee, Luxton Fair, and West-Mont School. Another huge thank you to our leaders for volunteering countless hours to our club and to the community: Marie-Terese Little and Cindy Huckin. I would also like to welcome our new leader, Jason Barron, who will be teaching the lamb project. Jason brings lots of experience to our club, as a previous 4H member and employee at the Parry Bay Sheep Farm.

Our youth is our future. It is more important than ever to teach them about farming and being self sustainable in the world we live in. We are so lucky to have 4H in Metchosin.

We are still looking for a leader for our six- to eight-year-old Cloverbuds. If anyone in the community is interested please contact debbiecooper@shaw.ca. It would be great experience for a UVic student working on a teaching career or an ECE.

**We will start enrollment for 2015 on December 15.** 4H is for kids ages six to twenty-one years old. This year we will be running the poultry project and a lamb project. The cost for the program is \$145 for the eleven months (January to November 2015), with cheques payable to Metchosin 4H. We meet once a month on the third Saturday at 1:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, with additional field trips or country fairs. If you would like to enroll your child, please email Metchosin4H@gmail.com or call Debbie Cooper, 250-478-4677.

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# RCMP Call-Outs OCTOBER 15 TO NOVEMBER 13, 2014

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Oct. 15 **Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of theft, possible civil/family matter.
- Oct. 16 **Sandgate Road** – Complaint of gun shots being heard, patrols failed to locate anything.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Presentation given by Cst. Harrison on frauds and scams at the Community House.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of suspicious male on the Goose Trail, not located.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of identity theft. Investigation continuing.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of possible prowlers on property, patrols failed to locate anyone.
- Oct. 17 **Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of disturbance, one person given warning.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of a possible overdose, one person taken to hospital.
- Oct. 18 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of speeding dump trucks, patrols requested.
- Oct. 19 **East Sooke Road** – Complaint of a person in breach of court ordered conditions.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of a missing person, located shortly after.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of tree down on power lines.
- Oct. 20 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of a male with a firearm. One male arrested and facing firearms related charges.
- Oct. 21 **Leefield Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, driver left scene, investigation continuing.  
**Duke Road area** – Complaint of landlord/tenant dispute.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of deer being hit by a vehicle.
- Oct. 22 **Challister Court** – Complaint of theft from vehicle during the night, several items stolen.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, minor damage.
- Oct. 23 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of fishing line being put across road causing hazard.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Complaint of landlord-tenant dispute.
- Oct. 24 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of assault, minor injury, investigation continuing.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of residential break and enter, investigation revealed it is a civil matter.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute.
- Oct. 25 **Duke Road area** – Complaint of possible fraud, investigation determined it a civil matter.  
**William Head Road** – Complaint to check welfare of a person, found to be all right.
- Oct. 26 **Kangaroo Road area** – complaint of disturbance, drunk female spoken to.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of possible stolen truck, unfounded.
- Oct. 27 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of person breaching court condition, one male arrested and held for court.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of disturbance, one person arrested and taken to hospital.
- Oct. 28 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of suspicious person, checked and found to be Telus employee.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of possible break in, turned out to be unfounded.
- Oct. 30 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle being driven with no insurance, registered owner later spoken to.
- Oct. 31 **William Head Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver charged for going too fast for road conditions.
- Nov. 01 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, roll over, driver taken to hospital with minor injuries. To be charged with impaired driving offenses.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of deer being hit by a vehicle.  
**Matheson Lake** – Complaint of damage to a bike, appears that someone may have tried to steal it off the back of a vehicle.
- Nov. 02 **Lindholm Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, driver left scene, vehicle towed, still under investigation.
- Nov. 03 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of domestic/family dispute.
- Nov. 04 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries.  
**Metchosin area** – Complaint of possible indoor marijuana grow operation, still under investigation.
- Nov. 05 **William Head Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed.
- Nov. 06 **Walpole Road** – Complaint of theft from vehicle during the night.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Request from Victoria PD to arrest person on outstanding warrants, person not located.  
**Lombard Drive** – Complaint of break and enter to shed, investigation continuing.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible fraud re: sale of a vehicle, believed to be a civil matter.
- Nov. 07 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, driver fled scene and not located, vehicle towed.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Complaint of threats being made to a person.  
**Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of disturbance at residence, suspect left prior to police arrival.
- Nov. 08 **Woodley Ghyll Drive** – Complaint of gun shots being heard, patrols failed to locate anything.
- Nov. 09 **Pegasus Way** – Complaint of mischief to a trailer, tree fell on it.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed, believed driver fell asleep. Investigation continuing.
- Nov. 10 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of speeding vehicles in the school zone, patrols requested.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of a dog biting a person, investigation turned over to CRD.  
**William Head Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute, no assault, firearms seized from residence, investigation continuing.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of threats to a person, still under investigation.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Assist provided to Campbell River RCMP, one person arrested and held on outstanding criminal code warrants.
- Nov. 12 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint to check welfare of an elderly person, found to be all right.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of family disturbance, no charges.
- Nov. 13 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of vehicle passing vehicle in school zone, driver later spoken to and given warning.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of debris on the road causing hazard, debris removed.




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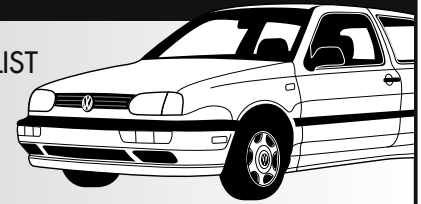
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## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

### FOR SALE

PORK, LAMB & CHICKEN  
Enjoy delicious, healthy pork, lamb and chicken, raised in Metchosin. Buy direct from the farm: Saturdays only, 12:00–3:00 pm, 4198 Stillmeadow Rd. www.parrybaysheepfarm.com, www.stillmeadowfarm.ca

### FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE Fully and tastefully furnished office space at Metchosin Business Centre. Available 2.5 days/week. Ideal for a sole practitioner in Counseling, Accounting. Please call 250-391-9500.

### LESSONS

FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 & 2, MARKETSAFE AND WHMIS – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com for information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

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COOKIES CRITTER CARE is collecting beverage containers, dog food, leashes, collars and toys for animal rescue. Call Cookie @ 250-415-9335 for pickup.

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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**  
250-590-3690

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- ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC**  
250-382-2052,  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

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- ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)**  
250-478-1197, [www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca)

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- BADMINTON**  
Sunday night cancelled.  
Women's 250-478-9648

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- BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
250-478-2387,  
[ikmcken@islandnet.com](mailto:ikmcken@islandnet.com),  
[www.bilstoncreek.org](http://www.bilstoncreek.org)

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- 'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS**  
[info@chosinchatters.org](mailto:info@chosinchatters.org),  
[www.chosinchatters.org](http://www.chosinchatters.org)

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- CRD PARKS**  
250-478-3344,  
[crdparks@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdparks@crd.bc.ca),  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

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- GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)**  
[tandwcampanandcomish@shaw.ca](mailto:tandwcampanandcomish@shaw.ca),  
250-478-5484

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- LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA**  
250-727-4384

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- METCHOSIN 4H, POULTRY, HORSE AND CLOVERBUDS**  
250-478-4677  
[Metchosin4H@gmail.com](mailto:Metchosin4H@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosin4h.com](http://www.metchosin4h.com)

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- METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
250-478-5155,  
[mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net),  
[www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

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

- METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**  
250-478-1307, ham operators  
call in on 146.550. POD mem-  
bers can call FRS (Family Radio  
Service) radios: Channel 1 with  
"0" privacy tone

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- METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY**  
250-391-7511,  
[exchanging@shaw.ca](mailto:exchanging@shaw.ca),  
[www.mesmetchosin.org](http://www.mesmetchosin.org)

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- METCHOSIN FOUNDATION**  
[metchosinfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinfoundation@gmail.com),  
<http://metchosinfoundation.ca>

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- METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB**  
250-298-7877

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- METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY**  
250-478-6424,  
<http://metchosinhall.com/>

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- METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
250-478-4778

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- METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY**  
Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989,  
School Museum, 250-478-5447

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- METCHOSIN PONY CLUB**  
250-727-3595

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- METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL**  
250-478-9241,  
[metchosinpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinpreschool@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com](http://www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com)

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- METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE**  
250-478-2210

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- MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
250-642-0238

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- POD LEADERS**  
250-474-6145,  
[mgidney@shaw.ca](mailto:mgidney@shaw.ca)

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- ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford**  
Ladies Auxiliary  
250-478-5484

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- SCOUTS CANADA**  
[14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca](mailto:14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca)

- SEA CADETS**  
250-478-7813

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- SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)**  
250-478-5150, [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca)

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- TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly**  
Brian 250-474-1665  
Marni 250-999-6757

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- WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL**  
250-478-2286,  
[info@westshorearts.org](mailto:info@westshorearts.org),  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)

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- WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND**  
250-474-3999

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- WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION**  
250-478-8384,  
[www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca)

## CHURCHES

- BAHA'I FAITH**  
250-514-1757

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- GORDON UNITED CHURCH**  
250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

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- HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
250-727-3722

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- OPEN GATE CHURCH**  
250-590-6736  
[www.theopengate.ca](http://www.theopengate.ca)

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- ST MARYS' METCHOSIN**  
Anglican Church of Canada  
250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)

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- WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH**  
[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)  
250-478-8066

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- WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY**  
250-474-5967  
[www.westsong.ca](http://www.westsong.ca)

## Events

**Christmas Trees!** Put in your order at Metchosin Pre-school until December 5, weekdays 9:00 am-12 noon.

**Advent Carols and Lessons** at St. Mary's, 4125 Metchosin Road. Sunday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this joyous and moving candlelight service.

**The Sooke Christmas Bird Count** (which includes Metchosin) is coming up on December 28. We are seeking birders of all ages and experience levels, as well as volunteers for the post-count potluck (to be held in Metchosin). If interested, please contact Cathy O'Connor at 250-580-5673, or email [sookecbc@naturevictoria.ca](mailto:sookecbc@naturevictoria.ca).

**The Victoria Natural History Society** has ongoing events of interest for birders, botanists, and others interested in natural history.

**Tuesday, December 9: Winter Birds in your Backyard.** Meet at 7:30 pm in room 159, Fraser Building, UVic. Free and everyone is welcome.

**Tuesday, December 16: Botany Night/Christmas Party.** Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature House, 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome.

*For more on Metchosin events, see "Important Dates," page 1.*



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The above is a directory of organizations only. Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events, to be included under "Events" on this page. Deadline for submission is, as always, the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.

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