



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

It's a Tinder Box Out There

BRIAN DOMNEY



Watching the September 2014 fire on Mt. Blinkhorn.

Photo by Brian Domney

It was less than a year ago when many Metchosin residents watched nervously as the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department, aided by neighbouring departments and the province, fought a stubborn fire on Blinkhorn Mountain.

"The fire was started by a campfire someone did not extinguish and, but for unusually calm winds, it could have been a lot worse," said Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop.

With record low rainfall in both May and June, the entire

province is tinder dry, and the provincial government has already spent well over 90% of its forest fire budget. The dry conditions have contributed to most of the South Island already being at the EXTREME wildfire rating,

weeks ahead of normal. As of June 25, Metchosin, Sooke, Langford, and the Highlands have all banned open fires and campfires.

"The conditions we're seeing are unprecedented," said Dunlop. "A wildfire will affect the entire region and it is important for everyone to be vigilant."

The Fire Chief encourages home owners to FireSmart their properties, as preparing the area immediately around your home is critical should a fire occur. Information can be found at www.engage.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire and the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department will gladly advise home owners on appropriate steps to take to minimize the risk to their homes.



If you see any sign of fire, whether smoke in the distance, or a fire on a beach or on a property, Chief Dunlop asks you to immediately call it in to the Fire Hall at 250-478-1307 or the Duty Officer at 250-478-7770. Probably a good idea to put those numbers in your mobile phone.



Photo by Moralea Milne

Metchosin Bans Beach Fires Effective Immediately

STEPHANIE DUNLOP

The District of Metchosin has decided to shut down beach fires. Metchosin is the last municipality within the CRD to allow beach fires, and Taylor and Sandgate (Weir) beaches have become well known throughout the region and beyond as the "go to" place for beach fires. This has caused an increase in the number of fires – sometimes upwards of 30–40 a night.

"Sadly the situation is getting out of hand with too many fires; it is another example of the impacts that the urban pressures are having on our rural lifestyle" reports Mayor John Ranns.

At its meeting on Monday, June 15, the District of Metchosin Council voted unanimously to ban all beach fires effective immediately.

The Metchosin Fire Department and CRD Bylaw will be patrolling the beaches to educate and enforce the new regulations. Signs have been posted advising of the beach fire ban.

If you see any sign of fire, whether smoke in the distance, or a fire on a beach or on a property, immediately call it in to the Fire Hall at 250-478-1307 or the Duty Officer at 250-478-7770.

Fire: Are You Prepared?

JO MITCHELL

Wind-Driven Fire Is About to Hit Your House; With Ten Minutes to Get Out, What Do You Take?

With no rain in sight and very strong winds, we in Metchosin are candidates for some real fires this coming summer, although we can only hope this is speculation and not reality.

But the fact remains that we may only have very few minutes to collect our valuables and escape to safety. What would or should you grab and take?

Now is the time to sit down and systematically write a list of everything that you should keep close at hand for a possible evacuation. This could include medicines (both human and pet), photos, financial documents, passports, jewellery, computer, perhaps an overnight bag, etc. Each family member needs to write their list bearing in mind that they will probably be in a pretty anxious state and not thinking clearly when the moment comes. Be prepared.

Then there are those items that are totally irreplaceable – heirlooms such as your grandmother's hand-sewn quilt, old family correspondence, silver, jewellery etc., etc. While you will probably not have time or transport for large items, small items can be stored in a small bag ready to grab and go.



Put your list in a central place (on the refrigerator?) where it is ready to check at a moment's notice. A little planning now could save a lot of grief and inconvenience in the future.

Your House Is Destroyed by Fire; What Records Do You Have of Contents for Insurance Purposes?

Just in case the worst happens – on the advice of Metchosin insurance expert Eric Hartley – if you have not already done so, get your camera and systematically take photos of every room in your house, making sure that you include pictures and ornaments, and particularly any special items of value such as antique furniture, silver, and contents of drawers and cupboards. A video film might be even better as a record.

Do the same for the exterior of the house and outbuildings. Then make sure that your records, including the house photos, are put in a safe place, away from your house, where they will be safe.

Now keep your fingers crossed that no unsuspecting spark sets off a fire which gathers energy with our Metchosin wind, and causes a lot of damage and grief. We have a wonderful, very well-trained Volunteer Fire Department, but even they cannot accomplish miracles in the face of a real forest fire, which can happen so unexpectedly and so quickly.

Important Dates (See also the Events listing on the back page, and for ongoing events, the directory of organizations)

- July 11 JdF Arts and Crafts Opening p. 11
- July 19 Tackle Tansy Ragwort Day p. 6
- July 21 Emergency Program Information Session: Utilities p. 3
- July 23–27 Stinking Fish Studio Tour p. 5
- July 31 Film Night at the MCH (TBA) ... p. 11
- Aug. 3 BC Day
- Aug. 16 Church and Cemetery Tour p. 4
- Aug. 23 Ryder Hesjedal's Tour de Victoria
- Aug. 21–23 RASC Star Party p. 16
- Aug. 28 Film Night at the MCH (TBA) ... p. 11

Cheer on Metchosin's Cricket League!

Looking for something to do? Come see our cricket league play (behind the council chambers).

Metchosin's Junior Cricket League plays each Wednesday, 5:00–6:00 pm and Sundays 9:00–11:00 am. All kids 6 to 16 are welcome!

SUMMER CRICKET GAME SCHEDULE

Date and Time	Home	Visitors
Sat, July 5, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Saanich
Mon, July 15, 6:00 pm	Mackerels	Beagle Pub
Sun, Aug 9, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Colts
Sun, Aug 16, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Alcos

Metchosin Muse

c/o E. Carlson, 4985 La Bonne Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4C5

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CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2700
(July/August: 3000)

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The 15th 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 PDFs. Photos should be high resolution, i.e., not taken with phone or tablet. Leave hard copies of articles in the *Muse* box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax 250-483-5352. Please visit our website for more information: www.metchosinmuse.ca.

AD DEADLINE
The 15th 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 most households in Metchosin. Copies are also available at Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, the Municipal Hall, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop, My-Chosen Café, Red Barn Market, Happy Valley Store, Bill's Food and Feed, Royal Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Victoria Public Library.

MAILING ADDRESS
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On the web at www.metchosinmuse.ca

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

The *Muse* website provides a quick way to access Metchosin's monthly newspaper, and it allows those with vision challenges to magnify the .pdf files to a comfortable reading size.

The current issue and issues from the past year are there, along with contact information and information for submissions, advertisers, and deadlines.

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
10 Bradene Road
Victoria BC V9C 4B1
Tel: 250-478-3451

Or you can email us at
metmuse@shaw.ca



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Walter Gibson Dexter

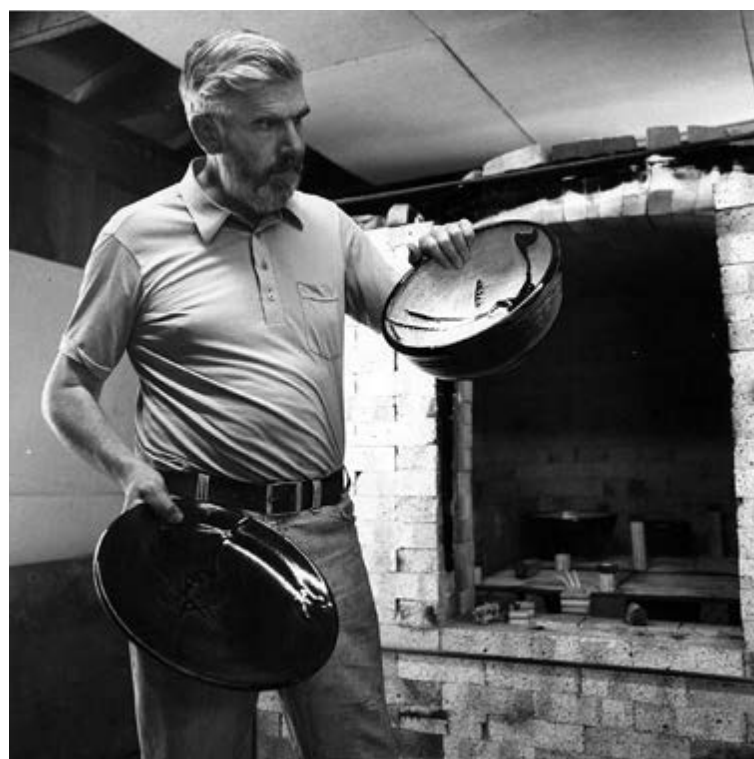
October 3, 1931–June 2, 2015

MARJORIE LUCE-HADDON

"When clay and life become art"

Walter Dexter was one of Canada's top award-winning ceramic artists. He contributed significantly to the ceramic field both nationally and internationally. This Canadian potter and artist expressed life through the medium of clay and art as the ultimate ideal in life. His affinity with the material inspired him to create bold, new ways to make clay the canvas for his art. Walter experimented with contemporary technologies and the use of surfaces to convey his painterly and artistic ideas. The result is an exceptional legacy of stoneware, raku and torso vases. After a life spent teaching, exhibiting and engaging with his art, Walter passed peacefully in Victoria, British Columbia, on June 2, 2015.

Walter was born in Calgary, Alberta, the second son of Margaret Duncan (Smith) Dexter and William Crews Dexter. His older brother William (Bill) was born in 1922. Walter attended the Alberta Institute of Technology and Art (re-named Alberta College of Art and Design). While there, Luke Lindoe, an instructor and his most influential artistic mentor, introduced him to clay and glaze. Walter subsequently discovered art in Europe and acquired knowledge about discipline that laid the foundation for his career as a teacher and artist. In Nelson where he worked at the Kootenay School of Art he met, and later married, the poet Rona Murray, his companion and muse whose own aesthetic sense



Walter Dexter

undoubtedly influenced him. In the mid 70s Walter and Rona moved to Metchosin, BC, where he continued his innovative work in copper red stoneware, figurative sculptures and raku, all enhanced with his signature style and interpretation. In 1995 he began producing bottle sculptures, or the tall rectangular torso vases that are the subject of a monograph. The textured surfaces and brushed glaze shapes are the ultimate expression of the marriage of form, colour and image that is now widely associated with this beloved ceramic artist.

Walter is survived by Anne Dyer, his daughter by a previous marriage; son-in-law Blair Thompson-Jendrysek; grandson Jason; nephew John Dexter; and cousin Pam Chang. He is fondly remembered by

Rona's offspring by a previous marriage, Michael Haddon (and spouse Marjorie Luce-Haddon), Rosemary Haddon, Jonathon Haddon (and spouse Louise Field). His grandchildren had a special place in his heart: Veronica, Craig, Julian, and Inanna, as did his great grandchildren, Amanda, Anthony, Kirkland and Elliott. The wider family includes Dawn Ruthven and her children, Mark, Ticki and Hugh.

The family is grateful for the excellent care provided by the staff at Berwick House and the Royal Jubilee Hospital. A celebration of Walter's life will be held at 3825 Duke Road in Metchosin (Walter and Rona's former home), 11:00 am–2:00 pm on July 25.

A Season for Seabirds at Wild ARC

HEATHER SCHMITT

BC SPCA Wild ARC is having a busy start to their summer season, with many baby birds and mammals currently in care, in addition to sick or injured adults in need of rehabilitation before they can return to their wild homes. They are also currently rehabilitating a small flock of orphaned seabirds – a Common Merganser, three Hooded Mergansers, and a Bufflehead. These young ducks were all found on their own, with no parent present to protect and care for them. While it remains a mystery in these cases as to what has happened to the mother (only the females care for the babies for all three of these species), they were all far too young and vulnerable to survive on their own.

These little seabirds are already starting to grow big and strong, with consistent access to a circulating freshwater pool, a haul-out shelter kept warm and cozy with a heat lamp so they can dry off and warm up, and plenty of good food topped up all day long.



Hooded merganser.

Photo by Christina Carrières

Voracious eaters, this small brood of seabirds will gobble up a dish full of mealworms in a matter of moments, and they are already learning to dive for small live fish prey – a skill they will certainly need once they are all grown up and released back to their wild home.

Each day these ducks eat a variety of foods. Donations of fresh or frozen seafood are always appreciated at this time

of year to help care for wild patients like these five young seabirds. Smelt and other small fish, shelled clams, and raw shrimp or prawns are all diet staples for the ducks, and other raw (fresh or frozen) seafood is offered to a wide variety of Wild ARC patients. Donations are gratefully accepted seven days a week during operating hours. A full wish list of needed items can be found at wildarc.com.

Ruth Delia McDougall née Cann

December 4, 1941–March 26, 2015

SUSAN MITCHELL

Family and friends gathered at St. Mary's Heritage Church on Friday, May 1 to bid Ruth farewell, all knowing that this daughter of Metchosin had departed far too soon.

Ruth was born into a family of English heritage; her grandfather, Arthur Cann, a store manager in London, having decided to make a new beginning for his wife Kathleen, and sons Joseph (Joe) and Norman (Ruth's father), moved to Vancouver Island in August 1912. He soon started working on the Reid farm, "Glenrosa," at Pedder Bay, where he was provided lodgings consisting of a farm shed with a dirt floor. In November, his wife and sons joined him.

At 15, Norman went to work for the CNR, building track out to Sooke and up the Malahat. Being a careful saver, in his early 20s he had enough money to purchase ten acres at Rocky Point across from Bentinck Island. Here he built a log cabin, married Rita Dawson in 1932, and settled in to farm and raise a family. Son David Arthur was born in 1933 and Ruth Delia arrived eight years later. In 1948 the family moved into their new home, built largely from recycled materials and constructed by all members of the family. Ruth remembered contributing to the building of the new house by straightening nails.

In 1951 all private land-owners at Rocky Point had their property expropriated by the Federal Government for use by the Department of National Defense, which remains there to this day. Broken hearted with the loss of his home and land, Norman purchased a half section of land from Fergus Reid. The land ran from Pedder Bay Road to the Creaser home and Clapham's Mill. He also purchased his parent's home on Rocky Point Road (they had moved to Lake Cowichan) and it was here that Ruth lived until finishing school at Belmont High in 1960.

Due to the location of their home, Ruth was isolated from children her age, except when attending school or having a friend to stay on the weekend. The farm animals became her companions and a deep-seated love for all creatures remained with her always. For the first ten years of her life, there was no indoor plumbing or electricity; water for washing was collected in rain barrels and was heated on the old Majestic wood stove for bathing and doing laundry. Sunday School was done by post, likely because her father had never forgotten the long Sunday walk to church and did not think that attending church was as important as farm chores. Upon graduation from school Ruth moved to Victoria. Boarding with a family her parents knew, and working for Standard Furniture in the drapery department – putting her skills as a seamstress into the making of drapes – Ruth soon had the money to buy a '55 Ford car. She was now independent.

A few years passed before Ruth married the sailor she had met on a blind date in Grade 11. Daniel McDougall, from Manitoba, had joined the navy to see the world, and decided after a five-year stint to change his career and trained as a hospital orderly, working first at the Veterans Hospital and then the Royal Jubilee until his retirement. Ruth and Dan were married on October 12, 1962. Within the following year, their daughter Kim was born and a couple of years after that son Mark arrived. Ruth volunteered at Tillicum School as a teacher's assistant until being offered the job of bookkeeper/secretary at Colquitz School, where she remained for 37 years until her retirement. Ruth volunteered to head the 1st Gorge View Co. of Brownies and Girl Guides and taught Sunday School at St. Mark's Church. She also worked, on a voluntary basis at Colquitz School to organize and assist student camping and ski trips. Approximately 4,000 students,



Ruth Delia McDougall

over a 20-year period, enjoyed these experiences due to Ruth's skilled organization and knowledge of camping.

Nearing retirement, Dan and Ruth decided to move back to Metchosin. In 2004 they purchased Briarwood Farm – a property that supports 80 fruit trees of varying types. Although Ruth didn't retire from the School District until 2007, she set to work growing both vegetables and flowers – selling flowers on the roadside stand. Initially, unbeknownst to everyone, Ruth's health was failing; her perseverance to keep going failed her and she succumbed to dementia.

This Metchosin girl, who was a member of the last class held in the one-room school-house under the tutelage of Mrs. Marion Helgesen, had returned home, and now lies at rest in St. Mary's churchyard with her parents Norman and Rita Cann, and her grandparents, Arthur and Kathleen.

Ruth is survived by her husband Dan, her children Kim (Mike) and Mark, grandchildren Daniel, Bella, Cody, Mya and Liam, her brother David and family, cousins Pat and Norma and her Aunt Babs and family. She will be remembered by all as being loving, helpful, reliable, kind, thrifty, thoughtful, loyal, beautiful, hardworking and resourceful and the baker of the best apple pie ever. Above all else, Ruth was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, auntie, friend and caretaker of all God's creatures.



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Tell them you saw it in the *Muse!*

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Utilities – BC Gas, BC Hydro & CRD Water

THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Emergency Program Information Session: Utilities

Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Fire Hall

Safety in and around your home is a serious matter, in more ways than one. Where would we be without safe potable water, electricity, gas and propane? They are a luxury, for sure, but on the other hand, they can be a hazard. How would you deal with these utilities in the

event of an emergency or disaster? What are the safety procedures and protocols required?

We are bringing in the experts! Learn how to react to downed power lines and how they react to you. What happens when the pilot light goes out on your natural gas hot water tank? What about those hydrants?

It's all about utilities. Join the Emergency Program and guest speakers on Tuesday, July 21 to learn something you may not already know about remaining safe while using your utilities.

Church and Cemetery Tour

GAERT LINNAEA

Church and Cemetery Tour
Sunday, August 16
2:00 to 5:00 pm
St. Mary the Virgin Church

Metchosin's St. Mary the Virgin Church was built in 1873. The church yard has become well known for the exquisite spring show of blossoming native fawn lilies, shooting stars and camas. This summer, on Sunday, August 16 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, the public is invited to come to St. Mary the Virgin Church for a guided tour of the cemetery and the church. Members of the Heritage Committee, the Metchosin Museum Society and the Cemetery Committee who maintain the Old Church and Cemetery will be on hand at this tour and everyone is welcome to attend. The first guided tour will begin at 2:15

pm and the second tour at 3:45 pm.

As an added attraction to this year's tour, there will be live harp music provided by Allison Marshall and her students, Arwyn Ferguson on piano keyboards, Willow Hamilton on harp, and Ariana Rymer on piano keyboards.

Tea and refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall, which is the little building next to the church and used by the Preschool.

In the cemetery you will find the gravesites of the Witty, Helgesen, Field, and Weir families, as well as many other pioneer families. Did you know that descendants of Jane Seymour (the third wife of Henry VIII) are buried here? And that the very first Boy Scout, and many others who are associated with the history of Metchosin, are also buried here. Come and

discover who this Boy Scout was.

Andrew Spray and Doug Ruth of the Cemetery Committee will be there to answer questions and you are welcome to take photographs and enjoy the stories. We suggest you plan to visit the Pioneer Barn Museum and School Museum prior to this tour if you wish to familiarize yourself with some of this history. If you have any queries please call Gaert at 250-381-5752.

Joan Kew photo



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COUNCIL NEWS JULY-AUGUST 2015

METCHOSIN BANS BEACH FIRES – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The District of Metchosin has decided to shut down beach fires. We are the last municipality within the CRD to allow beach fires, and Taylor and Sandgate (Weir) beaches have become well known throughout the region and beyond as the "go-to" place for beach fires. This has caused an increase in the number of fires – sometimes upwards of 30-40 a night.

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The Metchosin Fire Department and CRD Bylaw will be patrolling the beaches to educate and enforce the new regulations. Signs have been posted advising of the beach fire ban.

TANSY RAGWORT DAY – SUNDAY, JULY 19

Tansy ragwort is an introduced, invasive species which is increasing its toehold on southern Vancouver Island and is present along many of our roadways and encroaching into fields and meadows. It is most noticeable in August when it sends its brilliant yellow, daisy-like, flat-topped flower heads shooting up to six feet in the air. One multiple stemmed plant can produce 150,000 long-lived seeds per season. The plants contain a toxic alkaloid that can poison livestock by causing cumulative liver damage, particularly in cattle, pigs, horses and deer.

Tansy ragwort has a shallow, fibrous root systems which can easily be pulled by hand, but wear gloves and protective clothing whenever you tackle invasive species removal as some people are more susceptible to allergic reaction than others.

CRD BLUE BOX PROGRAM – CHANGES

The CRD blue box collection contract expired and a new collection contract came into effect. Under the terms of the new contract, the collection contractor will be providing new and replacement blue boxes and bags to residents, free of charge, rather than the CRD providing them at a cost.

Therefore the CRD will no longer be selling boxes and bags and will be referring people to Emterra Environmental, who will distribute them directly. For your blue boxes and bags, please call 250-385-4399.

COUGARS AND BEARS

If you see a cougar or bear, please call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

The Municipal Office tracks all cougar and bear sightings for our residents. Please call the Conservation Officer first, then call the District Office at 250-474-3167.

The BC Ministry of Environment's Bear Smart Community Program encourages efforts to reduce bear-human conflicts. Some things you can do to help to bear-proof your home:

- keep garbage in the house or shed until pick up day
- don't add meat or cooked food to your compost
- pick ripe fruit and fallen fruit daily
- use bird feeders only in the winter
- clean your BBQ after each use and store in a secure area
- don't feed pets or store pet food outdoors

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – JULY/AUGUST 2015

Below are the meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise noted.

Standing Committees: July 20, 7:00 pm

Council Meeting: July 20, 7:00 pm

Parks & Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC): July 21, 7:00 pm

Standing Committees: Aug 17, 7:00 pm

Council Meeting: Aug 17, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Parks & Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC): Aug 18, 7:00 pm

Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC): Aug 25, 7:00 pm

Meetings are subject to change; for updated information please call the district office at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at www.district.metchosin.bc.ca. Thank you.

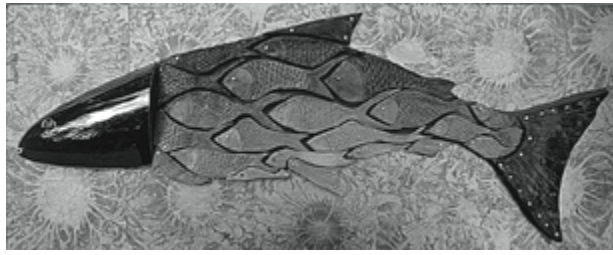
Summer's Here and the Fishing Is Easy

ELAINE MORTON

Stinking Fish Studio Tour
July 23–27, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Some might argue that fishing is easy, but catching is the hard part! Well, in this coastal area, it is fishing for art that is easy. Yes, it is time again for the Stinking Fish Studio Tour, where local artists swim out of deep pools of creativity and invite the community to visit and check out their latest creations. Over the winter months, our artists have been trying out different techniques and exploring new directions with their art. We are excited about showing you our new artwork!

Look for the marine theme throughout the tour. In early July, at the entrance of the Metchosin General Store, we will be installing a colourful piece of public art. This will be a “fishy” collaboration by several of our artists. The fish and marine theme is also featured by many of the artists on the tour. For example, metal worker Bert Lambier creates flowing sculptures of kelp. Painter Bonnie Coulter often incorporates found objects from the shore in her paintings of fish and ocean-themed art. This five day event gives visitors plenty of opportunity



A-lur-ing.

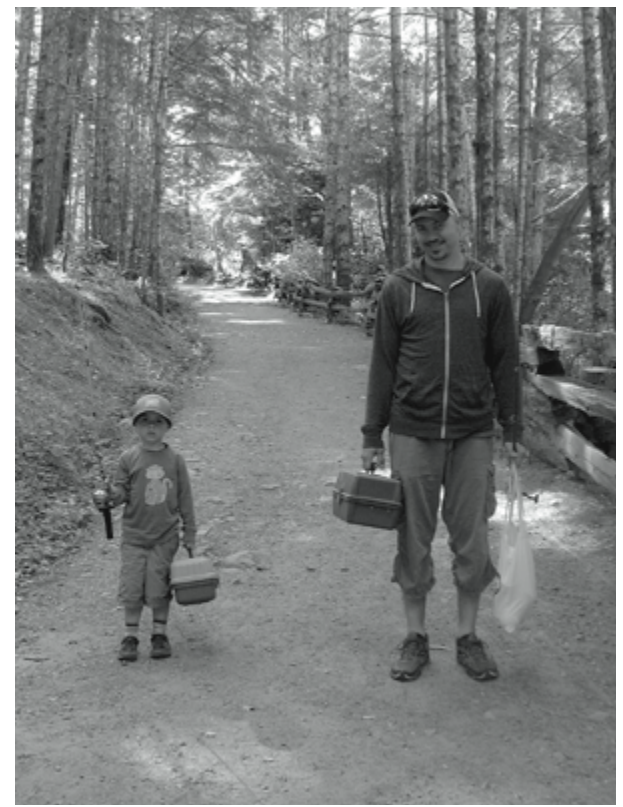
Bonnie Coulter photo

to enjoy a wander through beautiful Metchosin and East Sooke. It's a chance for you to meet the artist, ask questions, see where and how the work is made and to search for the perfect gift or piece of art for your home. And like any lazy day on the water, you might land a real catch of an artistic prize!

Finish off your tour day with a stop by the Sooke Fine Art Show where more amazing art awaits, usually featuring some of the artists from the Stinking Fish Studio Tour.

Save the dates July 23 to 27 and check out the website for more information: www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com.

Happy Fishing!



“We only eat the big ones!”, Xavier with dad, Jamie, told Barb Sawatsky as they headed down to Matheson Lake to catch fish. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

A Sense of Community – Big and Small

JOHNNY CARLINE

The principal purpose of this column is to advise you that July is the “membership drive” month for the MCA and to urge you to renew or take out a new membership in the organization, which plays such a central role in facilitating a sense of community in Metchosin.

But in searching for inspiration for this column, I found it in quite a different organization and in places very far away from here.

It began when Bob Burgis, the MCA president, loaned me Romeo Dallaire's *Shake Hands with the Devil*. It was a depressing read about the massacres in Rwanda in the 1990s. But one bright spot in it was the account of Dr. James Orbinski, a Canadian, who bravely served as a doctor in the hospital in Kigali, saving hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives, all the time surrounded by atrocity and genocide. He was also one of the founders of MSF (*Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders*).

Shortly afterwards I received an email from MSF, updating me on their work in Kathmandu and the surrounding villages struck by the Nepal earthquake. Incredibly they had mobilized a task force within hours of the earthquake and they were yet again putting themselves on the line at great personal risk and discomfort to help others in desperate need. How can they keep on doing that?

The death toll in Kathmandu exceeded the equivalent of the total population of Metchosin. When I think of all the friends who are dear to me in Metchosin, and I have only been here three years, losing them all doesn't bear thinking about. But that and worse must be the level of personal grief being faced in some villages around

Kathmandu. How can they survive that?

Just when I was thinking, complacently, about how lucky we are that Metchosin residents are not affected by events like that, I received an email from Rick Gardner. Rick is with the Metchosin Cricket Club (he wrote “The Boys of Summer” in the *May Muse*) and with another Metchosin dad teaches Metchosin youngsters the joys of the wonderful sport of cricket.

But there was no joy in this email. It advised us that one of the Metchosin club members was from Nepal with friends and family in an affected village. He was trying to raise funds to help rebuild it. It brought the tragedy closer to home and I felt guilty that for a moment I had succumbed to the habit of mind that if it doesn't happen in Metchosin, I can screen it out.

Then Mother's Day came along. My mom's long gone but I try to do something small to thank my wife for the children she gave me. I didn't have the stomach to attend these events – I actually got expelled from pre-natal class for turning green during the video – and I hold all mothers in awe. I cannot contemplate what it must be like to face childbirth in conditions where there is little or no medical care or sanitary facilities.

So discovering that, through MSF, and for just \$18, you can send a kit containing all the medical instruments for a safe delivery for pregnant women all around the world provided the means to honour my wife for giving me two wonderful sons. In her name I will order two kits.

But you may be saying, “A lot of this is to do with the MSF, not Metchosin and the MCA. What's the connection?”

Well first off, I believe that the MCA and the MSF are both about community. Community means caring about and supporting each other, looking at life through a lens that is not just focussed on oneself. The MCA and other community organizations in Metchosin, reflect community values geographically writ small, the MSF reflects them writ large.

We are fortunate in Canada generally to have both prosperity and commitment to community. Without the latter, the former is hollow. And more than any place I have encountered, Metchosin exemplifies the value of community. Supporting the MCA, by becoming a member, is a simple and inexpensive way of contributing to this special local community. July is the MCA's membership drive month, so now is the time to join up for 2015–2016.

But these recent experiences reminded me that if humanity means anything, it is that no one life, wherever or whoever, is more or less valuable than any other. Those who are far away and different still hope and hurt, laugh and cry just the same as we do.

So if you are community minded, that is you care for others as well as yourself, I really do ask you to consider becoming a member of the MCA this month as a small contribution to building community here. And while you are considering that, I would also ask you to consider whether the MSF, or some other organization doing similar work, might also warrant some support. It could be that their idea of community might just be a little bigger than ours. And conscious commitment to community, both big and small, is what I believe really makes us human.

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See It Sprout ... Tug It Out!

KATHY ATHERTON

What spends the winter ruthlessly plotting to expand into Metchosin's bucolic fields and farms? No, it is not that insatiable beast, *Langfordeae suburbia*. It is that dreaded weed, *Senecio jacobaeae*, also known as tansy ragwort. It looks as innocent as the proverbial daisy as it nods its lovely brilliant yellow head. But, at its evil heart it is toxic to the core and is, like broom, bent on total domination.

Like some unscrupulous developers, tansy ragwort is ready to wreak havoc on the environment. The first year it innocently appears as an enchanting little rosette of frilly green leaves. Then the next year it shoots up to a metre or more in height and propagates up to 150,000 of its subversive seeds on each beguiling plant.

But don't let this seductive yellow invading army fool you. It is patiently waiting to be consumed by some unsuspecting horse or cow, so it can stealthily ravage its liver. The District of Metchosin has once again declared Sunday, July 19 as "Tackle Tansy Ragwort Day." So please do your part to help keep tansy ragwort at bay at our borders. If you "see it sprout – tug it out!"



Tansy ragwort.

Photo by Kathy Atherton



The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

"The demands and constraints of eco-correct gardening and the eternal preoccupations about the health of the planet seem to me to be soul-destroying and wearing. And destroying souls is the opposite of what gardens or gardening should be doing. Creating beauty is a serious business, which artist gardeners have understood throughout history."

– Anne Wareham
in *The Spectator*

Political correctness, also known as "PC," seems to be the ideal to be achieved these days, so what would politically correct gardening be?

Depends on your politics. I have been using Google to do a little research, and does it ever depend on your politics!

In no particular order:

The Native Plant Lobby, lobbying for plants ranging from those growing within a 50-mile radius to only those found on your own property. I seem to think that the house must have been dropped by a skyhook, as you aren't supposed to disturb the soil at all. I know of one property that comes close, but the house is probably 40 years old, so the natives have had time to cover any soil disturbed by footings, etc. There are whole books written about using only plants that originate within 50 miles of your location. They are inflexible as to varieties, too. Wild roses grow easily in Metchosin, so would roses qualify? Not at all, only *Nootkatensis* and the dwarf *Rosa Gymnocarpa*; forget those European or Asian imports.

Then we have the vegetable purists, who wish to grow all they eat – they conflict with the natives only, as it would be easy to starve or develop scurvy living on the native chickweed, miner's lettuce and rose leaves. And if you permit cultivated vegetables, which are PC? Only Heirloom varieties? Only North Americans? Only those from seeds you harvested yourself, washed in dew and dried on cloth handspun from nettles? Local nettles, of course. Processed in water from the creek.

The truly organic are to be commended, envied, copied, but many of us fall from the wagon even if infrequently. Others of us fail to help those trying, by not properly disposing of contaminated waste – diseased material should be burned or bagged for the garbage, not composted. Canada thistle and such should not ever be allowed to go to seed as those thistledown-borne seeds travel well. When we first moved to our current location, thistles abounded. I finally got them eradicated, but I do miss the plethora of dragonflies that loved them. I am 95% organic, but I plant treated seeds, as I have had too many seeds die of cold and damp, or have whole crops eaten by quail! They

adore peas just sprouted, but leave the treated ones alone. I also, after many years, have seed houses I will order from, and those I won't. We all have our prejudices, ranging from the late Elizabeth England's well known dislike of pink, to brother Wally, who said "If you can't eat it, why grow it?"

The Water Police and the politically correct – related to the Firescaping lobby: we politically correct with country gardens also have to consider our Mediterranean summers – no rain. There are districts in California where the municipality will send out someone to advise you on "firescaping" your property. They advise on plant selection, emphasizing water-holding leaves near the house; no hedges running along the drive, ending at the house, etc. Now that is also politically correct, isn't it? They also advise on pruning, again not giving fire an easy transfer from here to there. This is not always popular with the gardener who has an artistic eye, and likes a designed view.

There is also the PC selection of plants that do not require vast amounts of water; this summer may be particularly bad after the spring we are having. A digression – you all know the Gunnera, the giant rhubarb relative? I was at a garden lecture a few weeks ago and the speaker showed pictures of it in its native habitat – sand dunes! Windswept sand dunes in Chile.

And we in the Bilston Creek drainage area have to contend with the Bilston Creek Protection Association, a worthy body indeed. This adds a few other considerations to the landscaping, their prime rule being that thou shalt not touch a leaf within 100 metres or so of the creek bank. Thou should also consider runoff. The use of lawn chemicals is not permitted, but one wonders if spreading chicken manure on the beds that eventually drain into the creek is a good thing or a bad thing. We politically correct face moral decisions pretty well every time we step into the garden! Another digression – when I was a teenager we swam in the pool at the base of Sitting Lady Falls, all summer, day and evenings. Mayor Rann's older brother had an airplane inner tube and about ten of us could stand up on it before someone jiggled it and we all fell in. Now I cannot imagine the CRD approving of people scrambling down the rocks and hanging out. There is also a feeling that the creek waters are not suitable for swimming since so much development has taken place along its banks.

In Metchosin we are encouraged by our politically correct council to eradicate invasive non-natives. One of the most impassioned speeches I have ever heard on that subject was a German

lady who lived in the Zodiac subdivision about 40 years ago; she felt broom should be in every yard, as the quail loved it and used it for cover as well as food. I didn't have the heart to tell her the quail she was guarding are not native; there hasn't been a Mountain quail in Metchosin for a very long time. California quail were introduced in the 1860s to provide sport for hunters. In case you need to know the difference, the crest of the Mountain quail stands straight up, not like the jaunty curve of the California native. We are encouraged to pull broom and pile it up for disposal, but the roadsides in many areas are covered by it, and if council doesn't take some action, we are never going to get anywhere. Maybe the crew could spend half a day in February and March using saw blades on weed-eaters to cut the mature plants at ground level, which usually does them in. Best in February or March as the undergrowth has not gotten into full growth, and the verges are wet; weed eater blades hitting rocks cause sparks.


So there you are, so many things to consider. I think of myself as a circle, surrounded by circles, some of which cut into "mine," some touching each other, some overlapping. We all would have a slightly different arrangement of circles, but are all part of the whole. I started with a quotation, and will end with this one from the British garden writer Robin Lane Fox:

"Above all, Thoughtful Gardening helps gardeners to realize what flower gardening is about. It has been confused with so many other aims – saving the planet, working for biodiversity, reviving a lost world or creating a matrix of lost habitats. It is none of these things. It means trying to grow plants well, whatever their origin, and placing them in a setting that suits them and us."

– Robin Lane Fox.



The mountain quail, *Oreortyx pictus*, native to Metchosin, has not been seen here for a very long time. Public domain image



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Stacy Ross: CHEK-TV News Anchor

BARB SAWATSKY

Congratulations to Stacy Ross, a well-known Victoria television reporter, who has been chosen as news anchor for CHEK-TV. Many people who have seen Stacy on TV are unaware that she has been a Metchosin resident most of her life. Born in Edmonton, she moved here at the age of four with her parents, Sharie and Al Epp, subsequently attending Hans Helgesen, Metchosin, Spencer and Belmont Schools.

With a major interest in horses while growing up, she was involved with the Metchosin Pony Club, attending many island horse shows with Shambles and Shasta. Pondering this has me wondering if this is where she developed her poise and posture when she's "in the saddle" on air while at work.

Stacy's early life in Metchosin involves the rather unusual, but character building, job she landed at the age of 13 – chicken catcher. Hermann Volk's farm was where she had her

odd start in the working world but the smell and the late work hours were deterrents to pursuing a career in a chicken barn. Milking the family goats didn't seem to have a future for her either.

As well as her love of horses, Stacy took voice and piano lessons and was involved in Manta Players, a community theatre company, where she performed in her first musical production as a six year old. She went on to appear in numerous shows with many theatre groups, her highlight role being the lead in the *Music Man* which was the first community performance in the then-new Port Theatre in Nanaimo. She was also in the first School District No. 62 Pace show in 1984, returning in 2014 to be on stage with her daughter, Regan.

After graduation from Belmont, post-secondary studies earned her a diploma in Applied Communications from Camosun College. This gained

her a job with CJDC TV in Dawson Creek for three years but being close to family was paramount in her life so she moved back to Metchosin in 1992, enrolled at UVic and earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts.

Why did Stacy choose the media as her career? "Well," she said, "it's like this. I wanted to be a soap opera actress when I was growing up but there didn't seem to be a need for one in Metchosin so I had to compromise."

As well as being Mom to Dylan (almost 16) and Regan (nearly 8), both of whom are involved in their own activities, Stacy will now be busier than ever. At work she has much more responsibility than she had formerly and is now in charge of the production end of her shows overseeing the entire newscast, scanning relevant stories and making decisions on how they are to be laid out as well as appearing on camera for the news hour reports. "Working for a locally owned station



Stacy Ross. CHEK Television photo

is so important to me and I want our focus to continue to be local." On top of all of the above, she makes time to volunteer as MC at fundraisers for the Victoria Animal Crusaders, the Arthritis Society, WIN, the New Hope School Society and the BC Cancer Foundation.

Hats off to this dynamic young woman of Metchosin. Her bubbly personality, easy laughter and spontaneity as well as hard work and a bit of chicken poop under her nails have earned her the job she loves.

BioBlitz 2015 Results Being Tallied

KEM LUTHER

Ranged across the lawn of the Boys and Girls Club are part of the search teams from BioBlitz 2015, Metchosin's fifth census of its non-human species. Results are still being tallied and a report will appear on the BioBlitz website (<http://metchosinbiodiversity.com>) and in the September *Muse*.

Experts this year had access to some of Metchosin's less well-known parcels of wild land. "We have found over 2100 different naturalized species on Metchosin lands," says Kem Luther, "but our database also breaks down our sightings into inventories of specific parcels. This information gives us a baseline picture that will help those who own and manage these parcels to understand the treasury of biodiversity that still exists in places like Metchosin."

With the late afternoon addition of a family of Steller's jays from Diane Wilson's bird-friendly yard, the BioBlitz birders were able to round out their numbers to an even one hundred species. The mild weather enabled moth experts Rick and Libby Davies to identify forty-seven moth species, including the two largest (in our area) species, the ceanothus silk moth and polyphemus moth. The critically endangered contorted-pod evening-primrose was spotted. Searchers also recorded the rare



Polyphemus moth spotted at the 2015 Metchosin BioBlitz. Photo by Moralea Milne

blue-grey taildropper slug at a new Metchosin location.

This year about a dozen young people from the Victoria Young Naturalist's Club joined organizers and invited experts on a bioblitz foray at Metchosin Wilderness Park. "It was inspiring to have these enthusiastic young biologists participate in our BioBlitz," says Andy MacKinnon, one of the organizers.



A fencerow of expertise: species searchers at the 2015 Metchosin BioBlitz on the lawn of the Boys and Girls Club. Photo by James Holkko

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Are You Ready? Metchosin Day Is Coming - Sunday, September 13

MARY GIDNEY

Mark your calendar now - Sunday, September 13 - Metchosin Day!!! Fun All Day!!!

This year you can find out everything you need to know about Metchosin Day online. Go to www.metchosinday.ca

You can learn about being a vendor - applications are right there. Want to enter a contest? We have Baking - pie and cake, Produce - vegetable or fruit. Maybe Photography is your thing. Start your planning now.

Begin your morning on September 13 with a five kilometre run and win valuable vegetable prizes. Check the web page at www.metchosinday.ca. Look under contests.

Remember the day is filled with entertainment on stage showcasing Metchosin musicians. The Beer Garden is there to quench your thirst. Over 100 vendors are on site to fill everyone's wants and needs. Old Barn Books can help to keep you informed

with a wide selection of books. The Community House has a place to relax with tea and scones while you take in the Photography Contest. You won't want to miss the vintage car show with some classic vehicles and maybe a motorcycle or two. Feel like learning more about horses? The riding ring never fails to entertain with demonstrations. Hungry? We have sausages, hamburgers, doughnuts, corn on the cob, snow cones, ice cream, and treats throughout the field.

The Village Green - the centre of the field - will have the Pet Show at 11:00 for all kinds of pets. At noon the children's games take place for the kid in you. How about entering the Yikes Bikes Metchosin Day Extravaganza! This will be a chance for you to show off your favourite bike. You could win ribbons for the best costume, best decorated bike and best bike

accessory. Check the website for more information. Stay tuned to learn more at www.metchosinday.ca.

Don't forget the hayride, digger, Junior Fire Fighters, dunk tank, chicken bingo and more ...

The best part of the day is the salmon and lamb BBQ dinner with all the trimmings - bun, coleslaw, corn, tomatoes and basil, watermelon and mint sauce ... only \$20. Tickets at the ticket booth.

Want to be part of the day and volunteer? You can contact Mary Gidney at www.metchosinday.ca.

Stay tuned to the September *Muse* for details or check on line www.metchosinday.ca.

SPECIAL NOTICE - The charge for vendor booths is \$25, the same as last year, and there is no charge for non-profit organizations. Get your application in beginning July 2 to save your spot.

New This Year at Metchosin Day - Yikes Bikes Extravaganza

MARY GIDNEY

Ever wanted to show off your bike? Here is your chance at Metchosin Day, Sunday, September 13, 2015. Bring your favourite bike at 1:00 pm to the Village Green for judging. There will be ribbons for the best costume, the best decorated bike, the best bike accessory and a special ribbon for the most unusual bike. Contestants will also have a chance to win prizes just for entering the contest. Come early to register. Bring your friends and family to watch the bikes parade around the green.

Categories for the Yikes Bikes include the following:

- Junior Wheelers to age 9
- Young Wheelers 10-14
- Youth Wheelers 15-19
- Adult Wheelers 20-55
- Senior Wheelers 56 and up

Ribbons for each category: first, second and third. Judges will be Sybil and Gary Kangas.

Anyone wanting to assist with the Yikes Bikes Extravaganza please contact Mary Gidney at mgidney@shaw.ca.

Metchosin Day Pies and Cakes Competition

BETTY HILDRETH

It won't be a walk in the park but it will be "sweet" for a whole bunch of folks attending Metchosin Day 2015. Heads up, the annual Metchosin Day Bake Off is coming and we know there are all sorts of closet bakers out there who want to be discovered.

Local cake makers are encouraged to enter their baking under the four general categories of:

- BUTTER CAKES (e.g. white, spice, yellow)
- EGG CAKES (e.g. chiffon, sponge, angel food)
- SPECIALTY CAKES (e.g. fresh fruit, dried fruit, nut)
- CHOCOLATE CAKE (in a class all of its own)

All cakes are to be from scratch and iced and/or decorated.

PIE bakers will want their recipes to be within these categories:

- Apple
- Berry
- Fruit

- Mixed Fruit
- Exotic Pie (e.g. nut)

All crusts and fillings are to be made from scratch. Decorations are to be edible.

First, second and third place prize ribbons will be awarded in each category as well as a rosette ribbon for both Best of Show and Best Decorated.

BAKE OFF SUBMISSIONS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY 11:30 am. Mark your name and phone number on the bottom of your baking dish, plus your age if you are a junior. *Please do not use your most treasured baking dishes - if you win Best of Show the dish might get lost in the excitement as it did last year (for the first time since these contests started).*

Now for the fun part. The "Best of Show" pie and cake will each be raffled off. There will be \$2 draw tickets for sale at the contest area.

By popular demand, the baked items will be sold to the public, so keep an eye on what fabulous home-made items are entered in the contest this year.

See the Metchosin Day website for updates during the summer.

2015 Metchosin Day Photography Competition

ART BRENDON

Organized by Metchosin Arts & Cultural Association MACCA

Judges: Tony Austin and Peter Lewis

Categories:

Scenery (Local/Vancouver Island)
Travel (Abroad)
Animals
People
Abstract
Montages (theme collections mounted on a page)
Professional Photographers

Ribbons are awarded in each category. There are Special Awards for Young Photographers aged 11 to 17 inclusive, and Child Photographers 10 and under.

Entries:

- Eligibility:** Photos of Metchosin (by anyone) or Photos of Anything by Metchosin residents.
- Presentation:** photos can be any size, **BUT MUST BE FRAMED AND READY TO HANG.**
- To enter:** Please leave your photos at the Metchosin Community House (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm), or at the Municipal Offices during office hours. **Note the deadline for entries to be left at the district office is 3:00 pm on Friday, September 11.** No late entries can be accepted as our volunteers will be setting up the show and judging entries in confidence on Saturday, September 12 – the day before Metchosin Day. Please respect this confidentiality.

- Identification:** Please put a label on the back of your entry photo with your name, age (if under 18 and eligible for Young Persons Awards), title of photo, your address and phone number. Labels are available at the Community House and the Municipal Hall and can be completed when you drop off your entry.

Limit of three entries per contestant.

PHOTOS WILL BE ON VIEW AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:30 PM ON METCHOSIN DAY. After display, they can be collected after 4:30 pm on September 13 or during MCH office hours the following week.

The Metchosin Day Photo Contest awards are sponsored by Old Style Repair, 2702 Sooke Road – “offering technology of today with service of yesterday.”

For more information, contact Art at: ab@islandnet.com



Best Farm Basket for 2014, by Sea Bluff Farm.

Don't Miss the "Gen-Next" Metchosin Day Kick-Off Party!

Friday, September 11, 7:00 pm to midnight
Metchosin Community Hall

This is a new MCA event for Metchosin's younger generations aged mid-20s to mid-50s. Please join us for local food and brews and live music. This is a 1980s-themed event to celebrate Metchosin's incorporation in 1984. Friday, September 11 (7:00 pm to midnight) at the Metchosin Community Hall. Tickets available at the Community House.

The Crow

BRIAN DOMNEY

I called him Ripper. Before he could fly, he wandered over to where my father was working on his latest boat, lifted up his rear end, wagged his tail, and let go, as my father said “a rip snorter,” right on a box of screws.

I took him out of his nest when he was a fledgling. I know this is frowned upon these days, but that was back in the 60s, when people shot them at every opportunity. Ripper pretty well imprinted on me – I kept him in a big cube cage made out of chicken wire, pulled up into the big maple outside my bedroom window on a pulley on a branch. Once I taught him how to fly, I left the door open and he would be gone when I woke up every morning. After I prepared his breakfast of ground-up dog food and water, I'd go out on the porch and yell “Ripper.” Off in the distance there would be an “Awww, aww” and in a matter of seconds, he'd be on my shoulder or the porch rail, beak wide open, ready to do the gobble gobble gobble.

Teaching him to fly was as much exercise for me as for him. We'd go out to a big field, I'd throw him up in the air, and he'd do a long glide to the ground. Often a kingbird or two would come along and start dive bombing him, but I think what motivated him to start flying was when a boxer bounded along behind him snapping at his tail. There the three of us were, running across the field, Ripper about three feet off the ground, aaww, aaww, aawwing, the boxer snapping at his tail, and

me yelling at Ripper to “go up.” He finally figured it out, angled his wings a bit and swooped up into a tree.

There was an evil neighbourhood cat named Smokey that was determined to do Ripper in. I caught him several times up the tree that had the crow cage in it, once on the cage, clawing at the bird. My solution was to catch Smokey, lock him in the cage and turn the garden hose on him for about ten minutes. He lost interest in Ripper.

We lived in “PMQs” – Private Married Quarters – on the air force base at Trenton, Ontario. My father was an education officer, so we didn't move around the world every few years like most of my friends. I still don't know how, but Ripper figured out which classroom I was in at Breadner Elementary. He'd sit on the window sill and peck at the glass with his beak. Eventually, Mr. Coker figured the best solution to the distraction was to open the window and let him sit on my shoulder.

Late every afternoon, my father would come home, hang his service hat up on a hook in the hall and pour a small glass of sherry for my mother and a small glass of port for himself. One day, I knew something was up, when after he hung his hat up, he asked me to go out on the backyard with him.

“The bird has to go” he said. It seems the



The author with Ripper in Mr. Coker's Grade 8 class.

Photo by Ben Coker

commanding officer had called him in and told him that a number of mothers in Maitland Park had complained about Ripper, worrying that their children were in danger of having their eyes pecked out. Alfred Hitchcock had just released *The Birds*, and it seems that was about to cost me my friend.

A day later my father drove us about 20 miles downwind into the country in eastern Ontario. A storm was blowing, and he told me to put Ripper out. He drove away into the wind, Ripper flying hard trying to keep up, and me leaning out the window, sobbing and calling his name. He accelerated away, Ripper eventually disappeared behind us and I never saw him again. For a few weeks, I'd go out on the porch in the morning and yell “Ripper!”, but he was gone.

Know any interesting residents of Metchosin?
Submit a story about them to the Muse!

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Windrush Gallery Opens with William Head Art

JENI LUTHER

In the downtown core of Metchosin is a little grey building perched under a giant oak tree. When you walk through the door you are met with a bright, open space filled with work from local artists. Some pieces are displayed on old wooden doors, some on more traditional stands, others in glass cases. Bigger pieces stand on the floor. This is Windrush Gallery.

Cathy O'Connor moved to Metchosin two years ago with a grand idea. She wanted to open an art space where she could bring together people and beautiful things, and on May 29 she opened Windrush Gallery.

Cathy calls herself an artist – somewhat reluctantly – and she has a few pieces of her own on display at Windrush. The current show, however, is primarily dedicated to other artists. Seven of these artists are residents of William Head Institution.

An organization called Youthspace.ca brought Cathy and William Head together. Youthspace.ca is a program of Need2, a suicide prevention, education and support network. Youthspace.ca is a Canada-wide online support system for under-30 people with mental health issues. Having struggled with mental health issues within her own family, Cathy has seen what she calls the “cracks” and believes that “when a young person needs to talk to someone right away, it isn’t necessarily mom they are going to choose. This is where an organization like Youthspace.ca can come in handy.” For this reason, she is donating half of all proceeds from this show and all the proceeds from a concurrent silent auction to this organization.

Cathy reached out to the community using the local paper, the *Metchosin Muse*. Kyle Thomas, an artist in William Head, saw her ad in the *Muse* and decided to connect with her after seeing she was supporting Youthspace.ca. He told her there were seven artists at William Head who were interested in having their art in the gallery. He invited Cathy out to meet the men and see their work. Cathy stayed for three hours one afternoon and spent time with each artist. She discussed with them the nitty-gritty of pricing and commission, but she also heard some touching stories and shared lots of laughter. The generosity of the William Head artists was overwhelming – they donated many amazing and detailed pieces on which they had spent a great deal of time to the silent auction. Cathy didn’t want to take



“Better Together,” a carved and painted wooden box with a partly cedar interior made by Mark Anaka

advantage of the artists, so she double checked with Kyle, whose own carvings were extremely valuable. He assured her he and the other artists wanted to do it this way.

In addition to the pieces donated to the silent auction, the William Head artists allowed other works to be put into the show and sold on commission. The display turned out to be a great way to introduce these artists to the outside community. Some of them hope, after their release, to pursue art as a career.

Cathy would love this show to be the beginning of a long relationship with the artists at William Head. “I really feel for them and I wish them well, both while they are at William Head and when they come out of the institution.”

“It’s always a vulnerable thing for an artist to put themselves out there,” says Cathy. She tells a story of a young artist she knew who was struggling with bipolar disorder. She was feeling scared and wanted to pull her work from a show that Cathy had set up to support mental health organizations. Cathy encouraged the artist to keep her pieces in the show, telling her not to think of the show as having her art on the wall but as a way to promote mental health. She stayed in the show and sold a piece before the show even opened.

The grand opening on May 29 was a huge success. The current show runs until August 17. Cathy intends to continue to donate some of the proceeds from future shows to other organizations close to her heart.

Four Part Harmony!

SHEILA MOULT

Metchosin now has not one, but two places where people can go to sing together. Our new choir has just completed their first, short session and has learned six songs, with people practising and coming together to sing in harmony. Our songs include country, folk and pop – think Ian Tyson, the Beatles, Emmy Lou Harris.

We listen to each other as we sing our parts with Dale Rasmusen, the director, playing chords around our efforts. His arrangements and musical support make it easy to learn. And Diana’s spacious living room has huge windows looking out onto the fields – singing to sheep must be the ultimate Metchosin experience!

Over 20 people joined the group in March and there is room for more when we re-connect in September. If you are interested in developing your voice and in learning simple harmonies, watch this space for details about September’s program, or call Diana at 778-432-4386 to get your name on the list.

Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available now at the Metchosin Country Store.

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Erin van de Water: New MCH Music Program Coordinator

BARB SAWATSKY

"The younger generation needs to step up a bit," says Erin van de Water. "That, plus I don't know how to say 'no'," was her answer when I asked why she has taken on the position as the new volunteer Music Program Coordinator at the Metchosin Community House. She envisions some changes to the existing program and is now gathering ideas and brainstorming with other people to determine

what the community would support in the way of music at the House. "Perhaps something social, more of a coffee house style," she says. She would like to see some duos and trios which would suit the venue space, and is considering the idea of donations at the door with the option of purchasing tickets ahead of time to ensure a seat.

"Music connects people and it's community-building,"

says Erin who was born and raised in Metchosin and grew up with regular family music gatherings. Her dad, Chris, plays the piano and accordion and she took piano lessons as a child from Lydia, her music teacher aunt. She also plays "a bit of guitar."

To kick off the program, Erin is organizing a dance at the Community Hall (not the House) for the "20 to 50 set" on September 11, the Friday

night before Metchosin Day. She has lined up Tight Hair, a disco funk band, and a special guest will make a surprise appearance. Erin calls this a "mingling event" and lists the "stuff the 1980s were about": day-glo neon shirts and socks, big hair, etc. Start gathering costume ideas and mark the date on your calendars because I predict that this is going to be one heck of a dance to talk about at the beer garden two days later.

When I congratulated her for adding this volunteer position to her already-busy schedule she said, "It's a worthwhile investment." Isn't that a lovely comment to hear from a young Metchosinite?



Erin van de Water

This dynamic young woman certainly has my admiration and support. Show your support by buying a ticket and attending the dance on Friday, September 11.

Well done, Erin, for stepping up to the plate.



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. Call 250-478-5155 and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans, to see if you might be eligible. Finished for the season but will restart in September.

Knitting Café – On the first and third Mondays monthly, 7:00–9:00 pm, knitters of all skill levels are welcome. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca. Please note: no Knitting Café on Mondays until September 21.

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. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553). Finished for the season but will restart again on September 14.

Tuesdays

Drop-In Painters Art Group – This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–12 noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome. The program will restart at the House in September.

Knitting Cafe – 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 Knitting Café will close for August and restart on September 8.

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. The program will restart at the House in September.

Wednesdays

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

Garden Club Meetings – 7:30–9:00 pm – Metchosin Garden Club. Our enthusiastic and informative club features a guest speaker on relevant garden topics on the first Wednesday of every month (except June, July, August, December, January) at 7:30 pm. Membership is \$10/year or \$2 for drop-in visitors. For more information call Suze Bowen (250-298-7877) or email suzebowen@shaw.ca.

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Finished for the season, starting again September 3.

Community Potluck Lunch – Last Thursday of each month, 12 noon–1:30 pm. All welcome.

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program – 9:30–11:30 am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community Parent and Tot Program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We look

forward to seeing you and your little ones. For more information please call Nina at 250-590-2540 or email dalenina@shaw.ca.

Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Finished for the season but will restart in September.

Film Night – 7:00–9:00 pm, July 31 and August 28. Films TBA.

Events

Juan De Fuca Arts and Crafts Guild – July 11, 1:00 pm. Juan de Fuca Arts and Crafts Guild is proud to be presenting the July "Art on the Walls."

The guild is celebrating 40 years of promoting and supporting art on the West Shore. The guild has four groups including Painters, Fibre Workers, 3-D Makers and Cottage Crafters. The groups meet regularly to practice and perfect their craft and often attend workshops, later sharing with the other groups. Each group spends time in the community supporting various causes and inspiring others with their talents. Joint activities include a newsletter, bi-monthly meetings, and a combined sale and show in November. New members are always welcome.

On July 11 a public 40th Birthday Tea will be served at the Community House 1:00 to 4:00 pm welcoming past and present members and all those wishing to meet this dedicated group of West Shore artists and crafters.

RASC Star Party – August 21, 22 and 23 on the Cricket Field behind the municipal building.

"Gen-Next" Metchosin Day Kick-Off Party – A new MCA event for Metchosin's younger generations aged mid 20s to mid 50s. Please join us for local food and brews and live music. This is a 1980s themed event to celebrate Metchosin's incorporation in 1984. Friday, September 11 (7:00 pm to 12 midnight) at the Metchosin Community Hall. Tickets available at the Community House.

MCA at Metchosin Day – Sunday, September 13. Watch for notices announcing the friendly competitions sponsored by the MCA: Pie Baking Contest / Cake Baking Contest / Photo Contest (coordinated by the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association, contact: Art Brendon). Come visit the Metchosin Community House-sponsored Corn Booth for a steaming and delicious cob of Island-fresh corn. When you are ready for rest and refreshment in a quiet setting, wander over to the Community House Tea Room. Each year the Metchosin Community Association is integrally involved in Metchosin Day.

We are looking for an hour or two from volunteers who may be willing to assist in coordinating or to helping man some of these activities:

- Set up and/or take down
- Strawberry Tearoom
- Photo Contest
- Pie and Cake Baking Contest
- Bake Sale (contest entries)
- Corn Booth
- Rest Area canopy

It is always great fun being involved in helping to make this community event the special day we've come to enjoy. Check out the newly created Metchosin Day website at metchosinday.ca or contact the Metchosin Community House Office 250-478-5155. *See you at the Fair!*

Foot Care Program – On the last Monday of each month, a foot care nurse offers 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.

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.

Summer Crossword: Some Doggerel

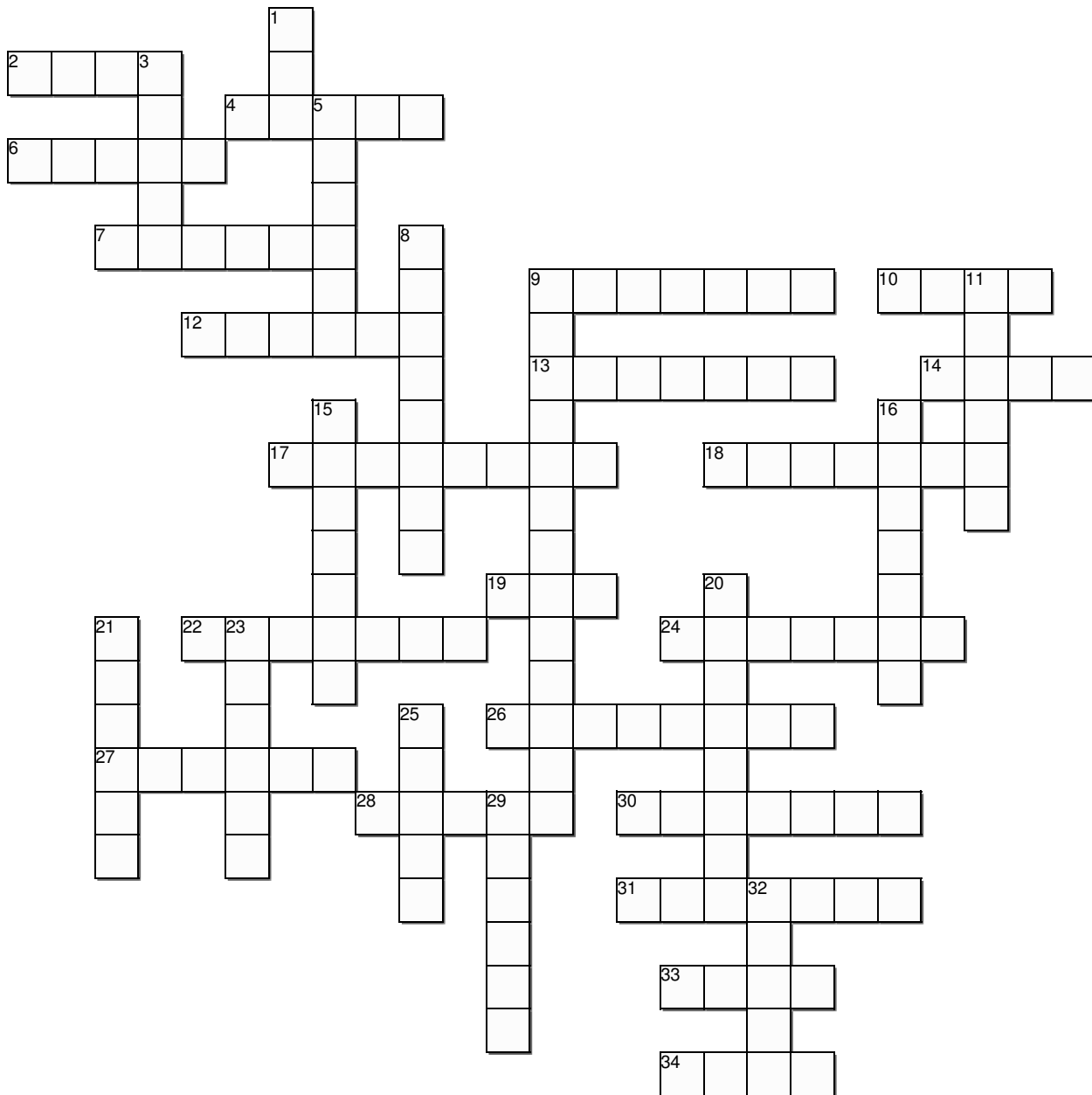
CREATED BY BARB SAWATSKY

Across

- 2. projecting pin or male animal kept for breeding
- 4. spongy wetland
- 6. evade
- 7. dog
- 9. Little Joe's stomping grounds
- 10. thin skin or membrane
- 12. sharp bend in the road
- 13. current popular 'breed' of dog
- 14. waggy appendage
- 17. loosely styled irregular verse for comic effect
- 18. teenage frog
- 19. a dandy
- 22. coiled around the centre
- 24. highly accurate
- 26. 5-line humorous poem
- 27. stance with hands on hips
- 28. fundamental principle
- 30. a small, swift dog
- 31. a local barking tree?
- 33. mongrel
- 34. silent on trees; not so much on dogs

Down

- 1. clawed foot of quadruped
- 3. authoritative belief
- 5. strengthen
- 8. aerial battle
- 9. dogs around the edges (2 words)
- 11. bread maker
- 15. solace
- 16. small bottom-dwelling sharks
- 20. what all dogs should have
- 21. dog or sheep wagger docking
- 23. manually activated impact device
- 25. restraining line
- 29. devise
- 32. where labs love to play



Answers on page 16.

Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

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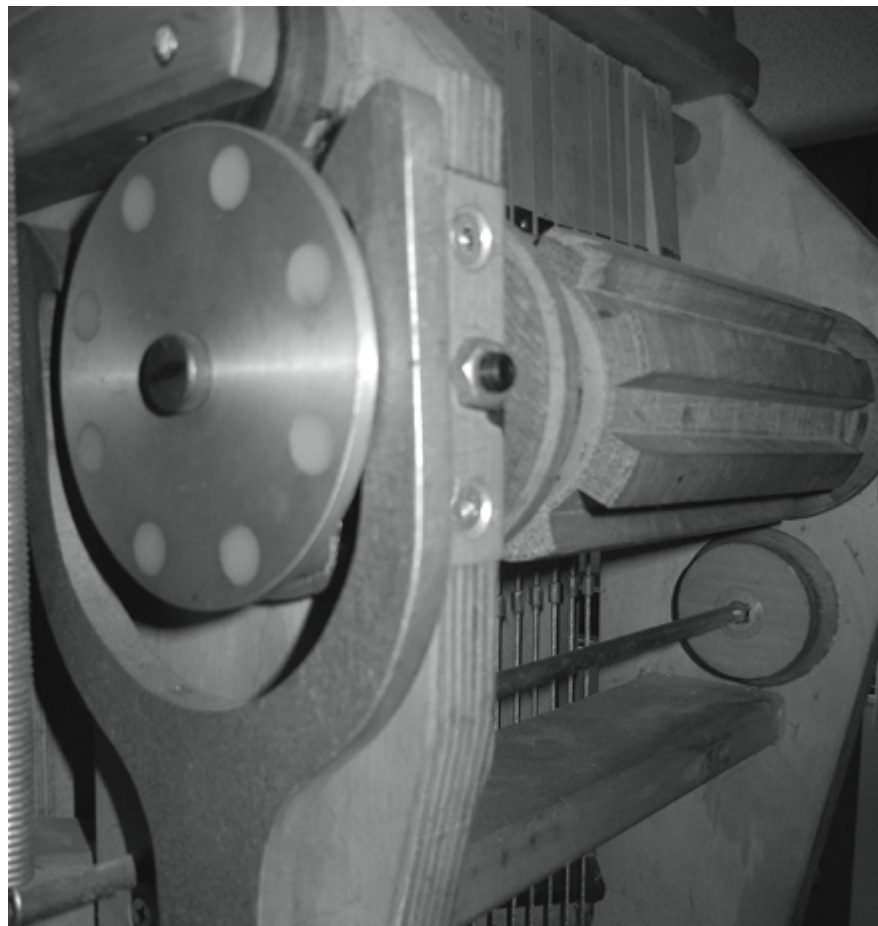
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What Is It?

In Metchosin, it's not unusual to come across something a little different. With its history and diverse population, this is a great place to find uniqueness, whether person, place, or thing.

The *Muse* hopes to pull some of these treasures out of Metchosin's closet for your enjoyment. **If you can identify the item featured below, send an email to the editor at metmuse@shaw.ca.** The sender of the first email received that correctly identifies the person, place, or thing will receive a free regular coffee, compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. We'll let them know to expect you!



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NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN

A Voyage of Discovery

MARK WHEEN

Grades five and six students at Hans Helgesen Elementary School recently embarked on a memorable journey exploring the shores of Beecher Bay in big canoes. The group paddled from the marina at Beecher Bay to the second reserve adjacent to the Bedford Islands on the eastern shores of the bay. The students were given a quick instruction on safety and basic canoe strokes before setting off in a 39-foot spirit dancer canoe from Beecher Bay and a 26-foot voyageur canoe from Pearson College. It didn't take long for the students to understand the value of teamwork as the canoes glided towards their destination. It was apparent through the songs and laughter that these students have developed strong bonds over the last six years at Hans Helgesen School.

After 45 minutes the students arrived at their destination, hungry and eager to explore. Several parents were there to greet the canoes and serve lunch on the beach. After an hour of exploring, the



Hans Helgesen students arrive on the beach at Beecher Bay.

canoes were loaded again and paddled back to the marina.

We are truly fortunate in Metchosin to have access to such spectacular outdoor spaces only ten minutes from the school. Hans Helgesen School would like to thank Sharon Cooper and Chief Russ Chipps from Beecher Bay for making this field trip possible. Also thanks to the parents who provided the lunch and chaperoned the group and to the teachers, principal and school district for supporting this wonderful day.

The Grades five and six students will be setting out on another journey in September as they venture out of Metchosin to other schools in the Sooke School District. This community has supported these students in their early stages of learning, providing them with confidence to transition successfully into the next stage of their learning.

We wish them well as they steer a course towards positive change in their own lives and the lives of others.



14TH JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA



Alysha Becker and Markus Meyer receive their Chief Scout Awards from the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. Curtis Becker photo

Metchosin's Newest Chief Scouts!

SANDRA MEYER AND CURTIS BECKER

On May 30, two of the long-time 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting youth achieved the highest award of recognition within the Scouting Section: after three years of hard work and determination, Markus Meyer and Alysha Becker were both presented with their Chief Scout's Award.

Achieving this award is a long-term commitment. These Scouts were required to achieve both their Voyageur and Pathfinder Awards. To achieve these awards, Scouts are required to meet five important requirements: Citizenship, Personal Development, Outdoor Skills, Spring/Fall Year-Round Camper Award and Leadership. In addition to these awards, Scouts are also required to achieve the World Scout Environment Award, and be qualified in Standard First Aid and CPR along with 30 hours of volunteer time.

On May 30, Markus and Alysha, along with nine other Greater Victoria Area youth, were presented their well-deserved awards by The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, at the beautiful Berwick Theatre in Royal Oak. All of us in the Metchosin Scouting Community are very proud of this prestigious accomplishment. Congratulations, Alysha and Markus!

Gord Reimer Memorial Youth Award 2015

CURTIS BECKER AND SANDRA MEYER

We are very pleased to announce that our latest recipient of the Gord Reimer Memorial Youth Award is Carson Loughridge, Venturer Scout. This award is very unique as it is voted on solely by the Scouting youth. To be considered for this award, the recipient must be someone who shows great spirit, enthusiasm and commitment not only to their Scouting peers but to the entire Scouting community. This award will be proudly displayed in the Metchosin Municipal Chambers to be viewed this September. Congratulations, Carson!



Carson Loughridge. Curtis Becker photo



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ON-LINE
Ventures

Horse of the Month: Tallina the Norwegian Fjord Horse

HEIDI CHARTRAND

In 2008 I had the itch. The one that makes you start searching for another horse. Horse people know it well – it spells trouble. I saw the cutest little face and doe eyes staring back at me one evening from my computer screen. It was Tallina, an utterly adorable little filly, looking for a good home. I surprised myself. With the tenacity of a Jack Russell, I sent off an email, followed by a visit to Washington, which led to me handing money over to a stranger for a horse who had no experience, no manners, and no idea what she was in for. At least she was in good company because I was also clueless as to what a terrorist I had purchased. Fortunately, I did have some skills, although they were nothing to brag about. I had just become a certified riding instructor, and clung to that title as though it was a life raft, and I had blown all my money on a ticket aboard the *Titanic*. She was super cute, I was right about that, but not much else. I had purchased a three-year-old psychopath. She had more buck and rear in her than anything else. The first photo of us together is of her dragging me down

the hill at her previous home, with me, skiing behind at the end of the lead rope; her, looking cuter than ever, dragging her new owner wherever she pleased.

Fast forward a few years, and many tears, and more hard work than anyone would care to hear about. I had the help of a few good friends, and an incredibly talented and patient coach, Marion Weisskopff. There were moments where I seriously questioned my sanity, my safety and my longevity. Why would I be so driven to travel to the United States to buy a new horse, who was actually just Satan in a bunny costume? I had to trust that this was the path meant for me; to believe that somehow we could get through it together and find that synchronicity that I craved with all my being.

Tallina turned ten in May. She has taught me to be more patient and understanding, but also to stand my ground and be consistent. She has taught me the beauty of an interspecies friendship, and how profound, life altering and fulfilling that can be. She is truly my best friend, and



Tallina performs with the author.

James Kaarreemaa photo


my greatest teacher. There are moments under saddle when there is no disconnect between horse and rider, we

are one. My thoughts become her actions, we share experiences and emotions. I cannot put into words how grateful

I am to be her person and to have her as my horse. There really was something in those eyes ...



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MAY 15-JUNE 14, 2015

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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- | | |
|--|---|
| May 15 Beach Fire | Jun 2 Boblaw Place – Open Burn – General |
| May 17 Kangaroo Road – Open Burn – General | Bennett Road – Medical – C |
| May 18 Witty Beach Road – MVI | Jun 4 Happy Valley Road – Rescue – Animal |
| May 19 Swanwick Road – Alarm Bells – Residential | Chalister Court – Medical – C |
| May 20 Lindholm Road – Assistance – Public Works | Jun 5 William Head Road – Assistance – General Public |
| May 21 Metchosin Road – Alarm Bells – Commercial | Open Burn – General |
| May 22 Elna Road – Medical – C | Jun 6 Pedder Bay – Rescue – Water/Ice/Drowning |
| Open Burn – Camp Fire | Kangaroo Road – Alarm Bells – Residential |
| May 23 Spellman Road – Alarm Bells – CO | Jun 10 Beach Fire |
| May 24 Beach Fire | Lindholm Road – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting |
| Beach Fire | Sundance Drive – Open Burn – General |
| May 25 Chapel Heights – Open Burn – General | Jun 11 Neild Road – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential) |
| May 27 Duke Road – Open Burn – General | Neild Road – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential) |
| May 28 Dutnall Road – Open Burn – General | Neild Road – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential) |
| Metchosin Road – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting | Neild Road – Brush/Grass – Fire |
| Medical – D | La Bonne Road – Hydro – Lines Down |
| Dutnall Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint | Neild Road – Brush/Grass – Fire |
| May 29 Assistance – Misc Complaint | Jun 12 East Sooke Road – Medical – D |
| May 30 Lisandra Road – Brush/Grass – Fire | Saddleback Road – Medical – C |
| Beach Fire | Beach Fire |
| Beach Fire | Jun 13 William Head Road – Open Burn – General |
| May 31 Lindholm Road – Open Burn – General | Neild Road – Brush/Grass – Fire |
| Happy Valley Road – Rescue – Animal | Beach Fire |
| East Sooke Road – Medical – B | Beach Fire |
| Lindholm Road – Open Burn – General | Jun 14 Beach Fire |
| Jun 1 Beach Fire | Beach Fire |
| Beach Fire | |
| Park Road – Open Burn – General | |
| William Head Road – Open Burn – General | |

Shop Locally

Where in the World Is Metchosin?

BRIAN DOMNEY

When travelling away from Vancouver Island (and even sometimes north of Nanaimo) one is often asked "Metchosin – where's that?" The standard answer of "near Victoria" is too boring. See how you do with the following tests of your awareness of where Metchosin sits in the bigger picture:

1. True or False – Metchosin lies further east than Vanderhoof.
2. Which place on the west coast of North America is due west of the point the Titanic sank?
 - a. Prince Rupert
 - b. Metchosin
 - c. Crescent Beach, California

3. The Galapagos Islands lie about 1000 kilometres west of the coast of Ecuador. If you went due north from the Galapagos Islands, you would:

- a. Pass through Metchosin
- b. Pass between Winnipeg and Toronto, about 3500 kilometres east of Metchosin
- c. Pass over Lake Louise, in the Rocky Mountains

4. True or False – Metchosin lies further south than Paris, France.

See how you do without Google Earth or an atlas. Answers next issue.



M-F 10am-4pm
#122-2806 Jacklin Rd.
Victoria, BC V9B 5A4
T: 250-391-2801
john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.johnhorganmla.ca

John Horgan, MLA
Juan de Fuca

Standing up for our Rural Communities

Please contact my office if you need help with any provincial government issue.

RCMP Call-Outs MAY 15-JUNE 14, 2015

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

May 15 **Happy Valley Road area** – Assistance provided to ambulance service, one person taken to hospital.

May 16 **William Head Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, stopped and driver found to be impaired, vehicle impounded and impaired driving related charges laid.

Sooke Road – Complaint of impaired driver, vehicle stopped by Sooke RCMP and driver found to be sober.

May 17 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious male, located and given ride to Langford.

Kangaroo Road – Complaint of suspicious male trying car doors, patrols failed locate.

May 18 **Witty Beach Road** – Two vehicle accident, rear end collision, no injuries, extensive damage to vehicles.

Albert Head Beach – Complaint of drunk male getting into a vehicle, patrols failed to locate vehicle.

May 19 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of lost/stolen license plate.

Neild Road – Complaint of possible disturbance, no problem.

May 20 **Lindholm Road** – Complaint of tree down across the road.

William Head Road – Complaint of person shooting paint ball gun, no one located.

Rocky Point Road – Complaint of a found bike.

May 21 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute.

Rocky Point Road – Complaint of possible fraud.

Metchosin Road – Complaint of a found wallet, returned to owner.

Happy Valley Road – Complaint of abandoned vehicle moved by owner.

May 22 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.

May 23 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute/keep the peace, no problems encountered.

May 26 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of attempt theft from vehicle during the night.

Metchosin Road – Complaint of theft from vehicle during the night.

Happy Valley Road – Complaint of injured deer on road.

Matheson Lake – Complaint of abandoned vehicle.

Pedder Bay – Complaint of theft of several items from a boat at the marina.

Witty Beach – Complaint of a male following females on trail, one male located and questioned, investigation continuing.

Duke Road – Complaint of found wallet, turned over to owner.

May 27 **William Head Road** – Complaint of a person siphoning gas from vehicles, one male apprehended, investigation continuing.

May 28 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located.

William Head Road – Complaint of person operating vehicle with no license.

Kangaroo Road – Complaint of speeding vehicle, registered owner of vehicle later given warning.

Sandgate Road – Complaint of person in the water off of beach, later located on shore.

May 31 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of theft from vehicle during the night.

Jun 01 **Duke Road** – Complaint of cougar observed on the road, patrols failed to locate it.

Jun 02 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of disturbance, argument over a civil matter.

Jun 03 **Barrow Road** – Complaint of threats against a person, one person given warning.

Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of disturbance, landlord-tenant dispute.

Jun 05 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of possible breach of court order.

Jun 06 **Pedder Bay** – Complaint of missing divers off of Race Rocks, located safe.

Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of harassing phone calls.

Jun 07 **Albert Head** – Complaint of youths with a beach fire, warning given and fire put out.

Rocky Point Road – Complaint of found wallet, later returned to owner.

Sooke Road – Motorcycle accident, one person taken to hospital, investigation continuing.

Jun 08 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of domestic dispute, no assault.

Matheson Lake – Complaint of found wallet, turned over to owner.

Jun 09 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of deer hit by vehicle and injured.

Glen Forest Way area – Complaint of landlord-tenant dispute.

La Bonne Road – Vehicle stopped and driver found to be impaired by drug, vehicle impounded, investigation continuing.

Sooke Road – Vehicle stopped, passenger arrested on outstanding warrant from Sooke Detachment.

Jun 11 **Neild Road** – Assistance provided to Fire Department for structure fire, found to be a large marijuana grow operation and illegal distillery, one person arrested, investigation continuing.

William Head Road area – Complaint of threats, one person given a verbal warning.

Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of domestic dispute and assault, one person arrested, investigation continuing.

Jun 12 **Duke Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute, no assault.

Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of person breaching court order, warrant for arrest requested.

Glen Forest Way area – Complaint of landlord-tenant dispute.

Jun 13 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of possible suicidal person, one person arrested and taken to hospital.

Jun 14 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of possible fraud, still under investigation.

Duke Road area – Complaint of neighbourhood dispute.

Farhill Road – Complaint of drunk youths/disturbance, one person taken into custody and turned over to parent.

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.

WANTED

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

LAND – Would anyone like to lease their farmland, greenhouses, hayfields etc? Small parcels okay. Phone Chris van de Water 250-474-1304 or e-mail cvandy73@hotmail.com now for 2016 tax breaks.

FOR RENT

COTTAGE – \$700 1 bedroom/1 bath. Separate entrance. Private yard/parking. Cozy kitchen, large living room. Metchosin Road. Close to café/beach. References. 250-474-4105.

LESSONS

FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 AND 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.

SERVICES

COOKIES CRITTER CARE – Metchosin's Professional Pet-Sitter and Dog-Walker since 2006. Fully insured, bondable and First Aid certified. Cookie 250-415-9335. Comes highly recommended and recognized.

HANDY MAN – Yard and house maintenance, int/ext painting, power washing, lawns, small construction fences, decks and yard clean-ups call Scott 250-532-8379.

Tell them you saw it in the *Muse!*

Annual RASC Metchosin Star Party

SHERRY BUTTNOR

Once again, with the gracious support of Metchosin's Mayor and Council, the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be holding our annual Star Party on the cricket field, on the weekend of August 21-23.

Everyone is invited! This year, we have two noted guest speakers for our evening talks, with presentations on Mars, and the history of the Hubble Space Telescope. And, as always, door prizes, talk-and-walk among the stars, and viewing through our members' telescopes. Something fun for stargazers of all ages!

Come for an evening, or stay the whole weekend with us. Camping on the field is permitted, and admission is always FREE!

Many thanks to Metchosin Mayor and Council, and Metchosin Fire Department for their support.

Where: On the Village Green behind Metchosin District offices.

When: Noon, August 21 to noon August 23

More info: <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party/>

Contact: Sherry, phone 250-474-0554 or email president@victoria.rasc.ca.

See you there!

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 by the 15th of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.

AIR CADETS

www.848royalroadsaircadets.com
www.facebook.com/848aircadets
 250-590-3690
848air@cadets.gc.ca

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052,
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-478-1197, www.aprm.ca

BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

250-478-2387,
ikmcken@islandnet.com,
www.bilstoncreek.org

'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

info@chosinchatters.org,
www.chosinchatters.org

CRD PARKS

250-478-3344,
crdparks@crd.bc.ca,
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca,
 250-478-5484

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

250-478-5155,
mcahouse@telus.net,
www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

METCHOSIN COUNCIL

250-474-3167,
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca,
www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings

METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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

METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

250-391-7511,
exchanging@shaw.ca,
www.mesmetchosin.org

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

metchosinfoundation@gmail.com,
<http://metchosinfoundation.ca>

METCHOSIN 4H

250-478-4677
Metchosin4H@gmail.com,
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

250-298-7877

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

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

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

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

METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

250-727-3595

METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL

250-478-9241,
metchosinpreschool@gmail.com,
www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

250-478-2210

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

POD LEADERS

250-474-6145,
mgidney@shaw.ca

ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

September to April
 250-478-0553

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford

Ladies Auxiliary
 250-478-5484

SCOUTS CANADA

14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca

SEA CADETS

250-478-7813

SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)

250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Brian 250-474-1665
 Marni 250-999-6757

SWANWICK CENTRE

A centre for spiritual inquiry
 538 Swanwick Road
 250-744-3354
programs@swanwickcentre.ca
www.swanwickcentre.ca

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

250-478-2286,
info@westshorearts.org,
www.westshorearts.org

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

250-474-3999

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384,
www.westshorerecreation.ca

CHURCHES

BAHA'I FAITH

250-514-1757

GORDON UNITED CHURCH

250-478-6632
www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

250-727-3722

OPEN GATE CHURCH

250-590-6736
www.theopengate.ca

ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

Anglican Church of Canada
 250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

www.westsidefamily.org
 250-478-8066

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca

Events

Bandwagon Nights at Metchosin Golf Course:

7:00-9:00 pm, donation for musicians \$5.

Fri Jul 17 - Petersen & Labelle - Upbeat quartet

Fri Aug 21 - Knacker's Yard - High energy Celtic

Aug. 18 - Oil Spill Response in Metchosin - Where would we begin? A spill on land vs a spill in water - how would Metchosin be affected? What would clean up look like and who would we call to assist? What resources do we have here locally and what protection do we have for our shorelines?

The Metchosin Emergency Program has invited Ministry of Environment, Coast Guard and Environment Canada representatives to join us and speak on these topics - and most importantly answer your questions on spill response.

2015 CRD Regional Parks Summer Nature Outings and Events - For a complete summary, download a brochure at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/crdsummernatureprogram2015web.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Sooke Sailing Association is offering Summer Sailing Camps again this summer for 6 to 14 year olds. There is a sailing co-op in Sooke for families and adults and sailing courses available to upgrade your skills and safety. For more information, contact Gord Fulcher, Sooke Sailing Association O: 778-425-4030 c: 250-415-3223 or go to www.sookesailing.com.

For more on events of interest to Metchosinites, see "Important Dates," page 1.

get inspired

time to relax
 space to connect
 freedom to change



Iyengar Yoga in the Village

offering instruction for everyone - all ages, all levels, from gentle restorative to fitness cardio flow yoga

contact Suzanne
 phone 778-967-2952
metchosinyogastudio@gmail.com
www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com
 @ Westshore Metchosin Yoga Studio



BBB Torch Award Winner - Community Service
 Winner LCT Magazine Global Operator of the Year



"... it's how you get there."

Mention this ad and receive 10% off a regular priced Wine Tour for Two (or more)



www.lalimo.ca info@lalimo.ca

250-391-9000

Visit the Muse website!

<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

Answers to the crossworld puzzle on page 12:

Across:	22. whorled	5. aneal
2. stud	24. precise	8. dogflight
4. swamp	26. limerick	9. bordercollies
6. dodge	27. akimbo	11. loafer
7. canine	28. basis	15. comfort
9. bonanza	30. whippet	16. dogfish
10. film	31. dogwood	20. training
12. dogleg	33. mutt	21. detail
13. rescues	34. bark	23. hammer
14. tail		25. leash
17. doggerel	Down:	29. invent
18. tadpole	1. paw	32. water
19. fop	3. dogma	

The above is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes to this information to metmuse@shaw.ca. 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.