

Metchosin Muse

A NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

Friends of Devonian Park Honoured



On behalf of Friends of Devonian Park, Moralea Milne receives the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC)'s "Together in Action Stewardship Organization" award from The Honourable Judith Guichon (BC's Lieutenant-Governor) and Barry Gibbs, chair of ISCBC, at ISCBC's 10th Annual Forum January 20 in Richmond BC.

ANDY MACKINNON

Metchosin is a community that relies heavily on its volunteers. And most of those volunteers carry on their important work week-in, week-out, with very little recognition. Occasionally, their work is highlighted, and rewarded. In January 2015 the Friends of Devonian Park were awarded a prestigious Together in Action Award by the Invasive Species Council of BC.

Who are the Friends of Devonian Park? Well, they're so anonymous that prior to this award, they didn't have a name! They're a group of Metchosin citizens concerned about the spread of invasive introduced plant species in the Garry oak meadows of Devonian Park.

In 2002 Moralea Milne began removing Scotch broom, spurge-laurel, ivy, Himalayan blackberries and other introduced species from a small area of the park. Her intent was to remove the sea of broom and other invasive species, and give our magnificent native spring wildflowers a chance to prosper. A few home-school kids wandered by and joined in, then came back the next week with their parents. Then some Boy Scouts. And so it grew.

Activities were scheduled for the winter, to remove the invasive species while the soil was moistened (softened), and before spring wildflowers appeared. And so, early each Sunday morning from November to February, this intrepid cohort of volunteers has ventured forth into the park. Hundreds of kilograms of invasive species have been hauled out of Devonian Park. Now, 13 years later, they've invested at least 3,700 volunteer hours, some areas are largely free of invasive species, and the meadows each spring are awash with beautiful native wildflowers, including Common Camas, Great Camas, and Sea Blush.

Current volunteers include Moralea Milne, Bill and Linda Cave, Katy Nelson, Roger and Abby St. Pierre, Bev Hall, Chris Gilbert, Dorothy Elias, Ken Farquharson and Ged Dady. They gather at Devonian early each winter Sunday, work for a couple of hours, and then convene at the Broken Paddle to chat, warm up, and dry out. If you're interested in helping out with Sunday Services at Devonian, please contact Moralea Milne by email to moraleamilne@gmail.com.

Lessons learned? Start small. The area they're



Some of the Friends of Devonian Park: Katy, Bill, Moralea, Ged, and Linda. Photos courtesy of Sue Staniforth.

clearing is a minor but vital component of Devonian Park. And remember that clearing invasive species from Garry oak meadows is a life-long commitment. Even now, 13 years later, some of the tenacious invasive species

re-appear each year. Also, you need a team. "On those cold, wet Sunday mornings," says Moralea, "when all you want to do is crawl back under your duvet, it's important to know that others are getting

themselves up and ready to head for Devonian!"

For more information about their work and the award, check out the Invasive Species Council of BC website at bcinvasives.ca.

Trash-Talk

BY METCHOSIN ROVING REPORTER

On Valentine's Day, while amorous couples were sweet talking each other, a group of passionate Metchosin residents got together to trash-talk. They fanned out along the main roads (Metchosin, William Head, Happy Valley, Rocky Point, and Kangaroo) for a little pick-up action. Pick-up trash that is.

Two hours later they gathered for a celebratory lunch to discuss their finds: car parts, pop bottles, beer cans, fast food containers, coffee cups, plastic bags, and lots and lots of cigarette butts (and you thought smoking was obsolete). There was even a badminton racquet, a camera case and a number of bags of household garbage that people thought would be better placed in a ditch as opposed to the dump.

It is so easy to sink into despair at the state of the planet; climate change; oceans turning acidic and full of plastic; loss of habitat for wildlife. The challenge to all of us is to turn that despair into action. Even small acts, like picking up litter, can turn despair to hope.

While out "litter busting," everyone noted the enthusiastic response of some passersby; from honking, to thumbs up out the window, to shouts of, "Thank you for doing what you're doing!" Of course we were doing nothing more than some people do all the time - picking up litter on their daily walks. These people, like Liz on Rocky Point Road, don't wait for a group event, or Valentine's Day, to



"We're talking some serious trash here!" Photo by Moralea Milne

take action. Become one of them. It is not such a hard thing to walk along your road allowance once a week, or month, and pick up the garbage in front of your property.

And, if you love this planet - please ... don't trash it.

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

Feb. 27	Movie Night at the MCH	p. 10
Mar. 4	Garden Club Talk: Deborah Walker	p. 13
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Mar. 7	Meet Your MP: Randall Garrison	p. 15
Mar. 13	Metchosin Writers' Evening	p. 4
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Mar. 20	Talk and Walk (Slugs)	p. 3
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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 every household in Metchosin. Additional copies are available at My-Chosen Café, Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, Happy Valley Store, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop and Willow Wind Feed & Tack Store on Sooke Road. It is also available at the Juan de Fuca branch of the Victoria Public Library.

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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:

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Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for editorial style or length. Please email your letter to metmuse@shaw.ca, or leave it at the Metchosin Country Store. Please sign your letter. An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

Chicken owner cries fowl

Bald eagles, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and ... chickens. What do these birds have in common with the domestic chicken, you ask? Well, I can tell you, they love to eat and pick at dead chicken carcasses. We had quite the spectacle of birds at our house over this past week, due and thanks to an obviously out-of-control dog, out for a walk with its owner on the Galloping Goose Trail, Saturday, January 31, 2015.

I have to start off by thanking the passerby who did take the time to come to the house and tell me that there had been a mass chicken killing on our property and, from what she could tell, there were at least four dead chickens. The passerby also advised that

the dog owner had said that she would be coming back to tell of the incident – we are still waiting. ... In fact, there were five dead chickens and a dead rooster in various locations, strewn throughout the side of our property, feathers everywhere. Yes, they are just chickens, but it is still saddening to have to pick up their lifeless, heavy bodies by the foot and decide where to put them: Make soup? Bury them? Have them eaten gradually by the surrounding wildlife? My kids and I immediately took to the trail to see if we could find the dog or the owner still out walking, but ... no luck. Assuming the owner would be coming back, we stopped our search, put all the chickens in a pile in one area and

watched the spectacle of birds feast on them. National Geographic here we come.

In my opinion, it's unacceptable to stand by while your dog has the time to kill six chickens, leave and not come to say anything. It's also a bit disappointing, as we have a sign on the trail advising that there are free ranging chickens and to please leash your dog. You don't have to be a world traveller to know that Canadians have a reputation for being the "boy scouts" of the world. Sadly, I have to say that in the past few years, since moving to Metchosin and back to Canada, I'm not sure if we are truly living up to our reputation.

Brie Sievert

And Then ...

CHARMAINE WELCH

Thought I better correct a misconception people may have gotten from my article in the previous *Muse* that my heart attack was all fun and games. It may have looked like fun, what with all the paramedics paying me all that attention, the VERY effective drugs, and the visitors bringing me beautiful flowers. Those parts were great, but there were some repercussions I experienced, which I didn't anticipate.

After a month of living and breathing my most traumatic day, I woke up one morning and decided I was done with the shadow of the heart situation hanging over me, so I declared myself so over it! Done! Finished! Little did I know.

Several months after the heart attack, I had an echocardiogram. Not expecting anything nasty to have been found, I was called by my doctor's office to come in to hear the results. Joking with the receptionist on the phone, I suggested my results were probably 100% and I would be coming in to hear that good news. Checking the chart, she said I had an aneurism to be discussed.

Getting off the phone, I mentioned to my son I was going to look up aneurism on Google. His proposal was that no good would come of my enquiry to the computer gods. As it was two days before I was to have my chat, curiosity got the better of me. Moments after firing up my iPad, I was running into my son's room shouting "I shouldn't have looked it up!" Turns out there are many different severities of

dilatations possible. Let the nail biting begin! Long story short, mine is a result of the tissue dying in the spot where the attack happened. It isn't a large one and shouldn't be a problem ... probably ...

Next is my frozen shoulder. Probably an after-effect of my heart malfunction. Not fun. Painful. Lots of chiropractor visits. Definitely skip this after-effect.

At the six-month mark, post attack, I was quite confident I was on top of my health situation and getting on with my life. I happened to be walking on the road when a life support ambulance screamed by with all the lights and sirens going. I immediately burst into tears, instantly reliving my harried ride into the Jubilee. Seemed I wasn't emotionally over it yet!

Most recently I had an allergic reaction which caused half my tongue to swell and form sores on only the half that was swollen. The emergency room doctor's best guess was a drug interaction between one of my heart drugs and an over-the-counter medication. The only good thing about this complication is I lost three pounds, as I had to drink my nourishment through a straw placed as far back on my tongue as I could comfortably place it.

Mostly, now, I wake up and try and squeeze out as much living out of each day and be mindful that it is a precious gift, this thing we call life.

Enjoy! I do!

Now Hear This!

If you were in the area of CFB Esquimalt during the first week of February you probably heard something completely new. The navy has recently installed a Mass Notification System that will be invaluable during an emergency for communicating important information to employees, contractors and visitors to the base.

The speakers, mounted on tall poles, are designed to survive an 8.0-magnitude earthquake, and are currently located in Dockyard, Naden and Work Point with

the possibility of extending the system to West Shore properties such as Colwood, Albert Head and Rocky Point in the future.

The system can be programmed to provide a variety of warnings including hazardous material emergencies, environmental threats, tsunami evacuation and naval security hazards. Four different siren tones are to be used: test tone (alternating tone); evacuation tone (low to high to low tone); shelter in place tone (repeated blast of single

tone); and the all-clear tone (similar to Westminster chime). Audio files will be available on the Maritime Forces Pacific website.

Except for monthly tests, the system will only be activated if a real emergency has been determined by the military's 24/7 operations staff.

Tests will take place at 11:00 am on the first Wednesday of each month. Public Service Announcement reminders will be issued in advance of these one-minute tests.

March's Not-to-Be-Missed Event: the 2015 Service Auction

JOHNNY CARLINE

The highlight of the Metchosin March social calendar is almost upon us. The Metchosin Community Association will once again hold its "Services Auction." The auction will be held at the Metchosin Community House on Friday, March 27 beginning at 7:00 pm. Pre-auction online bidding begins on March 1 and details of that can be found on the Metchosin Community House website.

As I wrote last month, the 2014 auction involved donations of services ranging from firewood splitting to a limo winery tour, from a septic tank pump out to portrait painting with values ranging from less than \$100 (I got one for \$25!) to well over a thousand dollars.

The auctioneers had everyone laughing and feeling good about the great deals they got and the donors were happy about the increased profile given to their services.

This year you can expect more of the same. The proceeds will go to help fund MCA's services, including the Parents and Tots program, an immensely valuable service providing the opportunity for parents to swap stories, share tips and make friendships while their youngsters learn and play together.

If you have never attended this event, the best way I

can think of to convey its special nature is to describe an incident I observed at last year's auction. One of the more expensive donated services came up and after several rounds of bidding, the number of people still bidding was reduced to two. With great joviality, they entered into a friendly but spirited competition. The bid-price climbed steadily higher until the auctioneer finally stepped in to advise the last bidder that his bid was now higher than the stated value of the service. In a respectful tone the bidder assured the auctioneer that he was aware of that but was also aware of the true purpose of the event. Whereupon his opponent promptly bid even higher and off they went again! In most

cases the winning bidder gets a wonderful deal. But this exception illustrates the heart of this event and I'd like to think that the winning bidder here left with, perhaps not the best deal, but the deepest sense of satisfaction.

The success of this year's Service Auction at this stage depends mostly on the community, which is you, coming out to support it. If you do, then once again the Metchosin community will have succeeded in coming together and enjoying itself, while contributing something valuable to others. It truly is the Metchosin way.

And remember: you don't actually have to be a member of the MCA to join in the fun. It would just be a whole lot nicer if you were.



Everything You Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask, Revisited

METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Our apologies – The Emergency Program forgot to give the location and time of the Emergency Preparedness Sessions to be held on the third Tuesday of each month, when the article ran in the January *Muse*. The following sessions will begin at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

March 17	Animal (Large and Small) Emergency Planning
April 21	Fire Smarting Your Home
May 19	Evacuations
June 16	Emergency Social Services
July 21	Utilities – BC Gas / BC Hydro / CRD Water
August 18	Oil Spill Response in Metchosin
September 15	BCERMS
October 20	Emergency Communications
November 17	Metchosin Emergency Program

The next session is on March 17:

Emergency Information Session: Animal (Large and Small) Emergency Planning

Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7:00 pm, at the Fire Hall

DAWNE KIRWAN

By now, most of us have at least a 72-hour emergency plan for our families, but do you have one for your household pets and farm animals? Rural communities like ours have an obligation to plan for the management, movement and humane treatment of large animals in the event of an emergency.

Disaster preparedness is important to everyone and it is equally important for all animals. It is especially

important for livestock because of their size, but also because of the requirements needed to shelter and transport them.

Emergencies and disasters like wildfires, hazardous spills, floods and disease can occur with little warning and have devastating consequences. Livestock and large animal owners need to be prepared – whether you have one horse or several flocks of sheep.

In planning for disaster, large animals and livestock need extra consideration. Depending on the disaster, transporting animals may be the only option over releasing them or sheltering them in place.

Come out to the session and share what emergency planning you have in place and join in the discussion around planning for large animals. Help Metchosin's Emergency Program help you.

TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise stated, please join us at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, located behind the Fire Hall.



Banana slug. Photo by Moralea Milne

SLIMY SECRETS OF SNAILS AND SLUGS Friday, March 20 at 7:00 pm

Kristiina Ovaska, PhD, Biologist with Habitat Acquisition Trust and Biolinx Environmental Research Ltd.

Join Kristiina for an evening of adventures with slugs and snails in BC and abroad. Follow the slime trail to explore the diversity of our local gastropods that include tail-droppers, jumping-slugs and other unique creatures, and learn about threats facing them and their habitats. There will be a guided slug walk on Saturday, weather permitting.

USING NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR HOME GARDEN WITH JAMES AND KRISTEN MISKELLY Friday, April 17 at 7:00 pm

Kristen and James talk about native plants to use in your home garden and about the benefits of doing so! They started a native plant nursery in 2013, and will share some highlights from the past couple of years. Kristen and James Miskelly are both biologists passionate about local ecosystems, restoration, conservation, and native plants of course! James works mostly with rare species, ecological restoration, and entomology. Kristen is a part-time program coordinator with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team. They operate their native plant nursery together. Visit saanichnativeplants.com.

MARINE MAMMALS OF BC: OUR 75th TALK AND WALK! Friday, May 22 at 7:00 pm

Dr. John K.B. Ford is head of the Cetacean Research Program at the Pacific Biological Station (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) in Nanaimo. He has studied cetaceans in BC waters since 1977, especially killer whales, and has published widely on the subject. His recent focus has been on the conservation status of cetacean species at risk in BC. Dr. Ford has recently authored a new book examining BC's rich and stunning variety of mammals that live in coastal waters, for the Royal BC Museum's handbook series.

Friday, June 12: Fifth Annual BioBlitz, topic TBA
Saturday, June 13: BIOBLITZ!! Fun!

Contact moraleamilne@gmail.com for further information about these programs.



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The Muse Needs You!

Perhaps you've written a letter before ... or taken a photo, read a book, checked someone's homework or worked on a website? We think you have the skills we need: blood in your veins and the ability to make a couple of meetings a month. No, that sounds too much like a blood donor clinic, but there may be cookies involved!-) And if you know what that little emoticon was, we need your webs skills, too. No, that doesn't involve climbing into a superhero suit and swinging from the café to the yoga studio. We are looking for fun people who enjoy laughing, proofreading, editing, taking photos, writing, and talking

to interesting people. We have one editorial meeting on the first Wednesday of each month and two proofreading sessions on the last two Mondays, but if you just want to write or take photos, there are NO meetings to attend! Just imagine: you are your own boss, with no set hours, the ability to make your own appointments, interview whomever you want to, submit whatever you feel like, write prose, draw pictures ... there's no limit to your contributions.

The truth is, you're already part of the *Muse*: you've read my words and participated as a loyal reader, eaten at the café and supported one of our

loyal advertisers, attended an event at the Community House and learned from someone, or visited an art studio and shared our patronage of the arts. If you don't have the inclination to volunteer with us, that's okay, we won't take it personally. But we want you to take the next step as a resident of Metchosin: to become a participant with your local community and submit something you find interesting. Some people have stories, pictures, fascinating objects or collections, wonderful kids, interesting adventures or journeys ... but everyone has ideas.

Please contact us at metmuse@shaw.ca.

Metchosin Writers' Evening

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association invites residents of Metchosin to attend an evening with writers and authors who also reside in Metchosin. The event will take place Friday, March 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Glow Studio in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre (the old Metchosin Elementary School), 4495 Happy Valley Road.

Attendees will be introduced to several local authors who work in different genres. Each one will speak about how he or she handles the writing process and/or read a short selection from one of their works. There will be time for questions and answers later in the program. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

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 **COUNCIL NEWS** MARCH 2015

GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 16

Is your community organization in need of funding? Submit your application to Metchosin Council by March 16. Applications are available at www.metchosin.ca and at the Municipal Hall.

SOIL DELIVERY RESTRICTED UNTIL MAY

Residents are reminded that soil delivery is restricted from November through April each year to help reduce damage to roadways from heavy truck traffic. Any person bringing in more than 80m³ to a property in a year or bringing in soil to an area nearby streams or wetlands must do so only with a permit. Please contact the Municipal Hall before bringing in soil, rock, gravel, or sand to ensure you comply with the community bylaws and to avoid hefty fines.

BUDGET OPEN HOUSE, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 5:00-6:00 PM

Find out how council proposes to spend your tax dollars this year. Drop in to the budget open house on Monday, March 2 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Information will be available on the operating budget, 2014 and capital projects.

MEMORIAL BENCHES AND TABLES

Friends and family members can now be remembered in Metchosin with a memorial bench or picnic table at a municipal park, viewpoint or trail. More information is available at the Municipal Hall.

RECYCLE USED COOKING OIL

The District of Metchosin has partnered with Cowichan Energy Alternatives in supplying a container that may be used by residents to dispose of used cooking oil in order that it may be recycled into an environmentally friendly biofuel. Please bring the oil in sealed plastic or metal containers, not glass. You may drop off your used cooking oil at the far end of the public works yard during municipal office hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm). For further information please refer to bcbiofuel.org or contact the municipal office at 250-474-3167.

12TH ANNUAL FIREPROOF METCHOSIN DAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015

The District and Fire Department ask that, if at all possible, you compost or burn the broom and gorse on your own property (see website for safe burning practices). If unsafe to burn on your own property the Fire Department is offering to accept any loads of broom or gorse (no other material) at the back of the fire hall on Sunday March 29. If you don't have access to a truck, we are again offering roadside pickup on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 and April 1, but only of broom/gorse or blackberry bushes. Any wooden planks, heavy branches, furniture or other trash will be left at the roadside. Piles must not exceed eight feet by eight feet, but you can have several piles. Please make sure they are off the road. Very large piles require a backhoe to pick them up, which also means extra labour for traffic control, and becomes too expensive for the District to absorb.

To take advantage of this offer, please call the Fire Hall at 250-478-1307 and leave your house number and a telephone number, so that the Works Crew can plot the most efficient pickup routes.

12th Annual Fireproof Metchosin Day

Sunday, March 29

MORALEA MILNE

Need an excuse for a party? Gather your family and friends and host a broom and gorse bashing event; tune up your secateurs, loppers and pruning saws and take back your property from these land-grabbing invasive shrubs. And when you're all done, light a broom bonfire, roast some marshmallows, serve some hot chocolate (with or without Bailey's) and congratulate yourselves on helping to protect the community and your home from the huge fire risk posed by broom and gorse. *Please pay particular attention to Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop's instruction on how to conduct a safe bonfire, below.*

Broom and gorse are invasive species that are steadily increasing their hold on Metchosin and indeed in many areas of BC and the Pacific Coast. They flourish in sunny, open spaces, especially in disturbed areas, along roadsides, and in our threatened Garry oak and coastal Douglas-fir habitats. They are loaded with volatile oils that are highly combustible and a carelessly tossed match or cigarette on to the roadside can ignite a potentially catastrophic wildfire. I'm sure we all remember the heart-stopping danger of the fire on Blinkhorn Mountain last summer.

Gorse is broom's nasty, brutish cousin, with long, skin-piercing thorns; proper protective clothing and equipment must be used if you tackle this plant.

Broom and Gorse Removal Methods

There are many schools of thought on how to remove broom. One is to try to cause as little disturbance as possible to the soil; it's thought that disturbance will bring the broom seed bank to the surface and within one to three years you are likely to see massive germination and many, many, thousands of seedlings. My feeling is that this will happen anyway and that the seedling flush will help to deplete the seed bank in the long run. I don't advocate massive disturbance only because there are possibly native plants/seeds or bulbs that can be damaged, and disturbed areas are an invitation to many other



Gorse, broom's nasty, brutish cousin, looks a lot like broom as you're driving by, but has long, skin-piercing thorns. Handle with care!

invasive species to take up homesteading.

The following is the method we have been using at Devonian Regional Park for the past 14 years and we are making headway – broom germination is way down.

Small plants (up to pencil thickness) can generally be hand pulled. Larger plants should be cut below the soil surface, if possible. There is a lateral root, usually just below the soil and if you can cut below this root, the plants will not resprout. Young and vigorous plants can re-sprout easily if too much green stem is left. Old growth broom (like many of us), is less adaptable and even when cut quite high, will generally not re-sprout. The remaining stubs can become a tripping, shin-bruising hazard, so I would still recommend cutting quite low.

Disposal

Chief Dunlop has requested that we follow the following rules for residential burns:

- Ensure burn piles are a minimum of 20 feet (almost seven metres) away from any structure/fence
- Pile should be no larger than eight feet (almost three metres) in diameter
- Must have a hose or other reasonable means to control the fire
- Must be fully extinguished by dusk
- Limited to three times per week
- Burning is permitted from sunrise to sunset only. Do not add materials to a fire within two hours of sunset.

- The burning of any construction waste, demolition debris, wet garbage, food or household waste, plastic, rubber, asphalt shingles, or other similar material is prohibited
- A responsible person is in constant supervision of the fire
- Keep the fire hot and burn dry material in order to avoid excessive smoke
- Do not ignite a fire in high wind conditions
- Do not use petroleum products to accelerate or sustain the fire
- Do not burn materials that have not originated from the property

If you feel you don't have the right location or are worried about burning conditions on your property, you may drop off your broom at the Fire Hall in the fire pit behind the hall. You may leave piles of broom, gorse or blackberry along the roadsides for this one weekend only and it will be picked up by the district. Call the fire department if you have any questions or concerns at 250-474-1307.

Alternatively, if you have the space, broom will compost relatively easily. However, the piles will smother the mosses or plants underneath so only pile in disturbed areas. If you are working alongside the road, wear a bright safety vest and place cones so that vehicles will see you. Work with a buddy for added security.

Thank you for ensuring our fire risks are reduced!

Broom – take a Haiku; take three!

BY MORALEA MILNE

*The yellow blooms taunt
Invasive and pernicious
Your genes spell success*

*Laugh at our efforts
With your mocking spring flowers
Our resolve is firm*

*Broom's yellow flowers
Scorn the long winter efforts
Our work not yet done*



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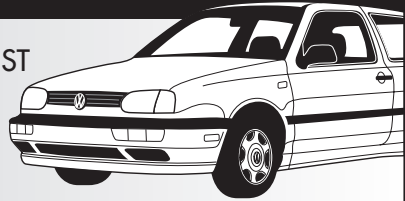
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The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

PLEUVOIR

il pleut ... *it is raining, it rains*
il pleuvait ... *it was raining,*
it used to rain, it would rain
il pleuvra ... *it will rain*

That is your French lesson for the month. As I write it is raining with the sort of determination that says the clouds are lined up all the way to Hawaii, so don't get your hopes up, and carry your umbrella.

I am currently reading *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants* by Ruth Rogers Clausen. Interesting, and I do agree with her selections as being amongst the least likely to get eaten by the local deer. She gardens in rural New York, with White-tail, but their tastes seem similar to those of our local Blacktail deer.

The only way to have a vegetable garden is with at least an eight-foot fence, but our larger rural ornamental gardens generally have to co-exist with a varying number of animals. I heard a government biologist talking about the Oak Bay deer problem. He advocates contraception shots for the does, but that is ludicrous in Metchosin. He also said that the does have a very small range, less than half a kilometre, but the bucks range widely. I know the three that frequent our garden do seem to be close by all the time, but hadn't realized their range was so limited. Of course all the necessities of a deery life are close by – the creek, three or four acres of bush rarely entered by man or dog, and a refreshing salad bar around the house. Since the demise of the dog, they are getting very bold, just twitching their ears at human intervention.

Shrubs recommended in the book are Caryopteris, Box, Potentillas, Stephanandra, Lavender, Spireas, Callicarpa, Microbiota or Russian Cypress and Weigela.

Rhododendrons are iffy, most they leave alone, but if they get a taste for one particular variety they will eat every shoot and strip the bark. Many shrubs will have the new shoots eaten, but the older growth is not bothered. On the whole strongly scented or woolly leaves are not eaten, sage, phlomis, buddleia and the like. Mrs. Clausen says that the species *Rosa Rugosa* is safe, but not in this garden,

only the long shoots out of reach survive, so I am trying to bury the naked stems in peonies which seem deer proof, but alas my plans have not so far produced anything attractive.

Ferns seem safe (the book recommends them) and I have several, none of which have been noticeably chewed. Those of you lucky enough to have rocky banks smothered in licorice fern don't seem to howl with rage and complain of deer damage. Sword ferns are overlooked as natives rather than desirable ornamentals, but should be admired for their tolerance of dry shade. Cut them back in early spring and put the fronds in the compost and the plants will always look good. As a bonus occasionally I get a crop of young ferns around the compost boxes, and have some to put back in the wilder parts of the property. Ostrich ferns have minds of their own, not easily either discouraged or moved. They survive quite a lot of sun if it is their idea, none at all if it is yours. My all-time favourite is the Himalayan maidenhair which is only about eight inches tall, evergreen and loves shady spots, in my case under a *Magnolia Stellata* Leonard Messel where the new green of the ferns under the pink starry *Magnolia* flowers is a joy in April.

Perennials recommended include Aconite, hardy geraniums, *Cimicifuga*, *Baptisia*, *Euphorbias*, *Astilbes*, *Salvias*, *Alchemilla*, *Hellebores*, *Epimediums*, *Peonies* and *Yarrow*. I am very fond of *Epimediums* and am slowly amassing a collection, though the common yellow flowered one is by far the easiest and thriest to grow. Some of the whites seem to just stay the same size forever. *Astilbes* like more water than they tend to get here, but if you have a damp spot they always look good. *Hellebores* seed in most gardens, and by growing them on and rogueing out the ones that you don't like, it doesn't take many years before you have only darks, or lights or whatever you fancy. One plant Mrs. Clausen doesn't mention is *Corydalis* – which is so far deer proof here, though I don't have any growing out around the fringes of cultivation. I like

the white form, *Ochroleuca*, though both the blue and the yellow are more generally grown and far easier to come by.

Bulbs are either deer candy or ignored. Daffodils are ignored; tulips disappear as if by magic. Here the rabbits eat crocus, but hyacinth seems safe.

Snowdrops and the snowflake or *Leucojum* are deer proof, and I can grow tulips if they are within about a three foot radius of *Frittilaria Imperialis*. The smell keeps them at bay.

Deer candy seems to be deer candy, whether the deer flourish on Vancouver Island or Long Island, New York – hydrangeas, roses, day lilies, tulips, lilies of all strains, phlox, yew, pansies, and a couple named in the book that have not been a problem here, so far: magnolias and impatiences. Solomon's Seal has survived for many years, but last summer got trimmed back severely. Different deer? It is on the New York list, as is white pine. I have a *Wallichia* pine, of the white family and it is never touched – it is one that could do with a pruning, too. It arrived in a half gallon pot, supposedly very hard to grow. It is about 30 feet tall and would like to be as wide, has very large square-ish cones, or at least the individual seed scales are square-ish and the cones exude pitch at a great rate. It is an attractive tree, but would like half an acre all to itself. I try to keep it in bounds by breaking off the new growth half way, but it is a losing battle.

Linda gets the issue for the end of March, so this is poaching on her preserves, but I would like to recommend a visit to The Victoria Rock and Alpine Show, which is always worth seeing, even if only to wonder at the tiny plants that people fuss over.

This year it is to be held Friday, April 17, 1:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria. Admission by donation.

You can see wild plants from mountains throughout the world at this two-day event, where all the exhibits are living plants, potted or arranged in troughs and miniature gardens.

The date varies so that each year a different range of plants can be exhibited. Early shows include *kabschia* saxifrages, and late ones have *campanulas* and *gentians*.

- Members' plant sale on the Saturday.
- Up-island and off-island specialty nurseries sell plants both days.
- Seed sales
- Art display
- Tea
- Silent auction
- Door prizes

See you in May.



Mark Shier photo

Giving a Turkey (Vulture) a Second Chance at Thanksgiving

CHRISTINA CARRIÈRES

In early October 2014, BC SPCA Wild ARC received a call from a Saanich resident reporting that an injured immature turkey vulture was grounded, unable to fly, and stumbling as it attempted to move. Wild ARC staff promptly contacted Jeff Krieger from Alternative Wildlife Solutions to lend an expert hand to rescue the bird. The vulture was brought directly to Wild ARC's facility in Metchosin to receive immediate medical care. Upon arrival, the wildlife rehabilitators performed a physical examination and determined that "TUVU 14-2226" was suffering from a fractured right leg. TUVU 14-2226 is the turkey vulture's identification code and number given to him on admission. It also refers to the fact that he was the 2,226th wild patient admitted at Wild ARC in 2014!

In order to determine TUVU's prognosis, further diagnostic work was necessary. Although turkey vultures do not use their legs and talons to hunt and capture live prey, they need to have good use of them to hold down carcasses while ripping off pieces with their sharp hooked bill. They also have to be able to land on tree branches and support their heavy weight, being over 1.5 kg (3.5 lbs). The Juan de Fuca Veterinary Clinic donated the use of their digital x-ray machine to take radiographs of the leg. It was then clear that TUVU had a mid-shaft fracture of his tibiotarsus, the largest of the two bones between the knee and the hock. Often, with those types of fractures, a surgical fixation is required to properly stabilize the bone. Dr. Ken Langelier at Island Veterinary Hospital in Nanaimo was consulted and generously offered to perform the surgery free of charge.

While TUVU awaited surgery, Wild ARC's rehabilitators applied a splint to his

leg to temporarily stabilize it. He was also administered anti-inflammatory and pain control drugs, and homeopathic remedies, on a daily basis. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the injury and the complexity of stabilizing the wild bird's leg, the fibula, the smallest bone adjacent to the tibiotarsus, also broke prior to surgical repair. Nonetheless, it did not compromise Dr. Langelier's ability to insert a surgical pin in the largest bone, which provided the necessary support for both bones to heal. Ironically, the surgery took place on Thanksgiving eve. TUVU remained under Dr. Langelier's watch over Thanksgiving dinner-time until one of Wild ARC's transport volunteers could bring him back to the facility.

When kept in a captive setting, wild animals are under considerable stress and paired with an injury, in some cases, they will refuse to self-feed. TUVU was one of those patients. Wild ARC rehabilitators had to hand feed him for several weeks before he started eating on his own. It was a reassuring moment when he ate his first meal because it meant that the frequency of interaction with the bird could be decreased, allowing him to recover and heal while minimizing his stress. In order to gradually increase his activity level to allow the leg to progressively heal, TUVU moved from a small enclosure to larger ones as his leg became stronger. During progress examinations, further radiographs were taken and he received cold laser therapy to speed up recovery, also donated by the Juan de Fuca Veterinary Clinic. It took several weeks after the surgery for TUVU to become more comfortable standing and walking on his leg.

One month after the surgery, TUVU was brought back to Island Veterinary Hospital

for Dr. Langelier to remove the pin. The surgery and fracture repair was a success! For the next few months, TUVU continued healing and took advantage of Wild ARC's largest flight pen to regain full use of his leg while being able to fly and rebuild his muscles and stamina. Today, TUVU still has a limp, but has demonstrated that he can perform all the necessary tasks he will require once back into the wild.

Lower Vancouver Island is a unique place in Canada. Not only is it absolutely gorgeous, but its winter climate is mild enough for certain species of migratory birds to over-winter in the area. Rather than flying to Central America, a number of turkey vultures are found year-round in Metchosin. Therefore, Wild ARC staff decided that TUVU had reached the final stage of rehabilitation and that it was time for him to return to the wild.

On a sunny January 30, after five months in care, TUVU was released from the roof of the Pool Pens at Wild ARC. After a slight hesitation as he pondered his newfound freedom, he flew to a tree beside the building and spent almost 30 minutes stretching and preening before soaring high into the sky. He was quickly joined by another turkey vulture, and began circling, smelling the air in search of a meal.

It was the kind of release wildlife rehabilitators dream of. Perfect take off, perfect landing in spite of his injury, and once he felt ready for the big leap, he gracefully flew off and reached amazing heights confirming a full recovery.

For Thanksgiving 2014, the BC SPCA Wild ARC Team was able to give TUVU 14-2226 a second chance at life by providing him with the surgery he needed. Wild ARC thanks the community for their support, helping us care



TUVU, in the process of being released. Photo by Brian Domney

for the 2,500 wild patients admitted annually. Wild ARC relies on public donations and in addition to financial support, there are many other ways you can help our efforts. On March 28-29, members of the public will have a unique opportunity to visit Wild ARC during their Annual Open

House. For more information about it, the organization, and how to donate or get involved, please visit our website at www.wildarc.com. You can also take a peek at some of the wild patients currently in care on our live Critter Cam, if they're out, at www.sPCA.bc.ca/crittercam!

Know an interesting resident of Metchosin?
Submit a story about them to the *Muse*!

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TUVU, the 2,226th wild patient admitted at Wild ARC in 2014! Photo by Christina Carrières



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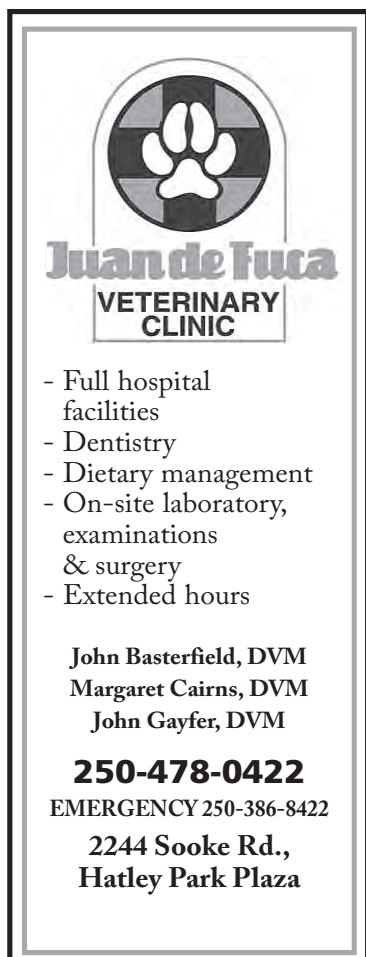


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Metchosin and the MCA Recognize Rezin Claycroft

BRIAN DOMNEY

It might have taken a little bit longer that it should have, but Rezin Claycroft of Custom Pro Exteriors was finally given the recognition and thanks he deserved for the many contributions he has made to Metchosin. At a small gathering at the Municipal Hall, Mayor John Ranns and Bob Burgess, President of the Metchosin Community Association, presented Rezin with certificates of appreciation.

Burgis expressed the appreciation of the Metchosin Community Association for the contributions Claycroft has made to the MCA. "Rezin has a reputation as a strong, community minded individual who has been generous with both his personal and company's time," he observed. Considerable work and materials were contributed to the renovation of the Community House and Rezin has also

been a generous supporter of the Services Auction, a major fund-raiser for the MCA.

"Metchosin is a community of volunteers, and Rezin represents the best of that," stated Mayor Ranns. "Whether with projects like the construction of the Pavilion, or the renovation of the Farmers Market and Old Barn Books building, and the Community House, Rezin and Custom Pro Exteriors have made valuable contributions in the form of both services and material, and we want him to know we appreciate that."

The certificates of appreciation were dated over the past several years, but it appears it was a combination of out of sight, out of mind, and the challenge of tracking down a very busy man. Custom Pro Exteriors has been in operation in Metchosin for

35 years, providing skilled services like windows, metal roofing, gutters and downspouts, siding, and decks to the island. "If it's part of the exterior part of a house, we do it," says Claycroft. Although still going hard, he anticipates passing the torch to his twin sons over the next seven years or so. He is a dyed-in-the-wool Metchosinite who values what the community represents, loves living here, and willingly gives back. You can learn more about Custom Pro Exteriors at <http://www.customproexteriors.com/>

Know an interesting resident of Metchosin? Submit a story about them to the *Muse!*

June Yates - Happy Birthday to You

BARB SAWATSKY

June Yates has brightened Metchosin with her welcoming smile and warm heart for more than four decades. For many years she was a friendly and familiar face at Metchosin Elementary School, volunteering with teachers, students and administrators. She belonged to the PTA, taught copper tooling classes on Arts and Crafts Day and helped at Sports Day. Bud Rutherford was the principal at the time; June says of him, "What a great guy - we were good friends and had a lot of laughs." When told she always made a person feel that she was happy to see them, she said, "Because I was! I just love being with people. They are all special to me." When not at home or assisting in the school, June was at Victoria General Hospital where she volunteered for many years, first in the Emergency Department, then in Pediatrics. She loved cuddling the newborns, paying special attention to the babies who cried because "they needed to be held more than the others. It made them feel secure."

June was born in Winnipeg in March, 1923 (June did the math: "I'll be 92 this year"). After high school, she went on to become a stenographer (a career choice decided by her father) and worked in an office at the windy corner of Portage and Main in Winnipeg for CN Telegraph. Thinking that being a telegrapher looked interesting, she trained for it and loved it. "I talked to people all over the world - imagine! One day a superior came in and wanted to speak to me but I said, "shhhh! I'm talking to Cairo!" That was definitely against the rules but

I didn't care ... I worked 4:00 pm to midnight and when I got off my shift in the winter I was always rushing to catch the last bus. After a while the road crew would watch out for me and if I missed it, they gave me a ride right to my door."

June Bears met Dennis Yates on a hot summer evening. "I was babysitting my cousin's baby and decided to stay the night at my friend's house as she lived close by. I had worn a high collar and it was too hot to walk home." A phone call from her pal's boyfriend changed the course of her life when he said he was coming over and bringing a friend. When they showed up, Dennis tipped his fedora and June thought, "oh boy!" Their courtship and friendship evolved over the next five years and when they married it was "until death do us part."

In 1972, when Dennis was transferred to Victoria, they travelled and camped their way across Canada in a VW bus with their two young sons, David and Ian. Arriving at Dennis' father's property, they lived in their bus for a couple of months while their home was being built. His father, known as The Colonel even by his own sons, lived on another piece of land the family owned on Matheson Mountain. When questioned about the Yates family ("their name was really Milward-Yates") and her father-in-law's second wife, Joan, who was known as the Cougar Lady of Metchosin, she said, "I can't really help you there. The family didn't talk and they didn't like to be questioned. I had a good rapport with all



Happy 92nd Birthday to you, June! Photo by Barb Sawatsky

of them but they didn't share any information".

Dennis and June Yates celebrated their fifty-first anniversary before Dennis passed away in 2008. Looking back, June is content with her life on Montreal Mountain. She talks about the past: hiking on their property, the bear who stopped by long enough to stand on his back feet and stretch way up against the barn, the three horses belonging to The Colonel, the cougar in their yard ("probably killed by Joan"). With her grandson and his wife and two dogs, she lives in her lovely home overlooking the Straits and feels lucky that she has peace and her independence, her own schedule and the birds that she loves to watch at the feeder. Living in Metchosin, it saddens her to see "the devastation along Happy Valley Road" and cautions people with these words: "Metchosin is peaceful; be happy with that. Don't be greedy."

Happy ninety-second Birthday to you, June. The warmth of your smile and your laughter have not lost their intensity over the years and talking with you still makes a person feel very special. Thank you for inviting me into your lovely home and sharing your memories with Metchosin *Muse* readers.

Visit the *Muse* website!

<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

SIRC Notes and News

ANNE RICHMOND

This month we're going to share a little bit about the Metchosin Seniors' Association Board of Directors and the 2015 annual plan for the Seniors' Information and Resource Centre (SIRC), which it operates. Elected at the first AGM in November 2014, this enthusiastic group has been putting together the first annual plan for the society. David Richardson, Chair; Anne Richmond, Vice Chair; Kit Chapman, Treasurer; Carol Carman, Secretary; Star Weiss, and Directors Helen Fletcher, Jo Mitchell and Sandy Jenkins are looking forward to working on the following areas, and hope for many volunteers to join them!

Governance – This is all the housekeeping that makes sure a society is running and being accountable to its members and supporters. This year we will focus on creating the main organizing documents: a structure and competency matrix for the board, a policy manual, establishing plans for the society and a performance plan for the directors, setting up committees to carry out work, and making sure we complete all required reporting.

Core Services – This is about making sure that SIRC delivers the services we are contracted, funded or obliged to provide. These include:

- Consulting with seniors in Metchosin to identify issues and inform the future plans of SIRC.
- Assisting in promoting emergency preparedness to and for seniors
- Operating the Resource Centre and delivering services in person

at the Centre, by phone, internet or through in-home visits.

- Providing services under the United Way "Better at Home" program that enable seniors to continue to live in their homes.

Our coordinator, Colleen Brownlee, is responsible for ensuring all our core services are delivered. But there is always a need for volunteer helpers. Our terrific young "geeks" who provide tech coaching and support, volunteer drivers, and people who'd be interested in staffing the centre are all welcome and appreciated.

Education and Training – In addition to ongoing information and other services offered through the resource centre, we're looking to offer additional programs or information sessions on a range of topics over the coming year. This will include issues such as health, wellness, safety, and security, and we will develop and deliver them in partnership with others where we can. Information about upcoming events will be on our website, noted in the *Metchosin Muse* and publicized through other Metchosin media.

Networking is an ongoing initiative. We want to be sure we bring the "age friendly" perspective to other community organizations in Metchosin, and to organizations which impact Metchosin residents, through participation in joint activities, outreach and awareness-raising.

Last, but definitely not least, our annual plan sets some serious objectives for **Marketing and Fundraising**. First of all, we want to make

sure that everyone in Metchosin is aware of SIRC and can participate in any part of its activities that are of benefit to them. Second, we want to continue to grow our membership by providing good services and keeping people in touch with the activities of their society. And finally, we need to raise money to continue to supplement the support we receive from the District of Metchosin to continue and expand services that seniors in Metchosin value.

So on that note, we'd like to encourage you to make March the month you renew your SIRC membership for the year, or join for the first time. It's easy – just contact SIRC at the coordinates below and we will get a form to you. Membership is \$12 (individual) or \$20 (family) for the year.

Please do drop by the centre, located on the ground floor of the old school building, 4495 Happy Valley Road, phone 250-478-5150. We are open Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am–3:00 pm, Wednesday and Friday 1:00–3:00 pm. Our website at <http://metchosinseniors.ca/> has all this information and more!

Upcoming events for March include our regular tech sessions and drop-ins; we also urge all seniors to attend the Metchosin Emergency Program question and answer sessions being held the third Tuesday of every month at the Metchosin Fire Hall. A new addition is a gathering of our "Vintage Group" meeting at the centre on Tuesday mornings between 10:30 am and noon. Join us for lively conversation, and occasional health presenters on a variety of topics.

"Reverie": A Photographic Exhibition

March 2–28, 2015

The MCA's Art on the Walls program is pleased to present the recent photographic work of local artist Heidi Bergstrom entitled "Reverie." This exhibition contemplates some of the most extraordinary beauty found in the world, right here in Metchosin. Heidi's subjects are all of one family, the arbutus tree, encountered in a variety of locations throughout our parks.

Heidi's fine art practice and exhibitions includes work in painting, printmaking, video and photography multimedia installations.

Heidi's art education includes a bachelor of fine arts, honours (1990) from York University, Ontario where she majored in studio arts and art history. She also studied visual arts full time at the Toronto School of Art (1984–86), and in 2000 achieved a diploma in new media (internet site design, 3D animation, and multimedia production). Heidi's artistic background also includes dance (classical ballet at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and Professional Program with Goh Ballet in Vancouver, BC).

Heidi has over 25 years of professional experience in the corporate and non-profit sectors in diverse production and management roles such as Creative Services Manager for Corus Entertainment (training producers in TV advertising production), Marketing at Campbell's Soup Corporation, and as Curator/Director with the Durham Art Gallery in Ontario. Heidi is currently the Director of Corporate Planning at the Government of British Columbia and an MA candidate in political science at UVic.

For more information about Heidi's work, please visit her website at www.studiohproductions.com or email heidi@studiohproductions.com.

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The Merry Children of Sherwood Creek

CHRISTINE HAMILTON (FORMERLY BYE)

In the 1950s, Metchosin was a neighbourly place. Most fences had gates between properties, allowing hospitable visits or “shortcuts” as we called them, like the path through the Brousseau and Waterman properties to the little store on Rocky Point Road (that housed the Post Office) across from the church, and to the bus stop on Rocky Point Road or to other destinations. The idea of ease of access was afforded to other fences that had no gates; we had no idea that the fences were meant to keep people out but assumed they were there to keep the sheep and cows in. So it was on a warm spring day when the Walpole Road neighbourhood kids headed off down the railway tracks (now the Galloping Goose) to Lombard Drive, armed with fishing hooks and line wrapped on a short stick, a tobacco can of worms, and a sandwich or two. Someone had told us that Sherwood Creek was stocked with trout so we thought we’d try our luck.

Along the way we checked out the ditches in full spate for flotsam, jetsam, and an opportunity to race little sticks. In the fall it would be snowberries. Arriving at the place where the creek crossed William Head Road we clambered over the fence, helping each other across the deadly top strand of barbed

wire. From sunlight to forest, the air cooled and we could smell the damp and dank of composted leaves, the sweet perfume of awakened moss, the liquorice of blooming twinflower, and pungent skunk cabbage. Lying on the margins of the pool of water in the stream, we dangled our fishing lines over the edge, hoping for a nibble from the big one that we knew lurked just under the bank. Minnows darted in the shallows and water skeeters glided across the surface. Rarely was anything near legal size caught, but occasionally we’d take the odd trout home for Mom to fry in butter. Today, luck wasn’t with us, so we dropped our tackle and left the worms to find their way back into the earth.

Tired of splashing in the pools, we left the fishing gear for the return trip and followed the creek down to what we called Helgesen’s Pond near Taylor Beach (now Devonian Park). We chased frogs in the bullrushes, admired the camas and lilies, then hiked around to the beach side where sometimes there would be remnants of a raft. We hooted and danced at our luck as we came across a raft that looked sturdy enough to hold our weight. It didn’t take long to find a pole. After our neighbour Barry Brousseau tested the raft’s float-ability, Murray,

my non-swimming little brother, was seated in the middle and told not to move. Off we went, one standing and poling while the rest sat cross-legged, sharing stories about our heroes: Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and Robin Hood. With the water slapping the boards and logs beneath us, we listened as red-winged blackbirds warbled in the willows, dragonflies zipped over the water and we were full of that immense contentment of being in the moment, a moment so powerful it takes your breath away. We didn’t think of the dangers or responsibilities, the looming darkness of the cold war, the wrath of our parents if they knew what we had been up to or of the heartache that the Helgesens would have if a child were to drown in their pond. We enjoyed that moment to its fullest and it was with full hearts we trudged home. We’d long since learned that it was best to keep explanations simple and we weren’t at all conflicted with lies of omission. Our busy mom asked, “Did you have fun?”

“We went fishing in the creek,” we replied. And that was that.

Christine lived in Metchosin from 1955–1961 before moving with her parents and family to Powell River. She returned to Victoria in 1969, living off and on in Metchosin until 1976.

Film Night at the Metchosin Community House

RIC PERRON

Film Night Review

The first film at Metchosin Film Night went well with about 65 people in attendance. I had issues with the sound at first (even though it was tested as a plug-and-play setup), but within a few minutes we were ready to go. The film, *Wisdom To Survive, Climate Change, Capitalism, and Community*, was perfect for an opener on environmental issues (tar sands, interviews with renowned climate change activists, amazing creative photography and editing), and was great for the discussion afterward. Twenty-five people joined in a circle. This was interesting for me as I saw a lot of different aspects of climate change and pollution, but some people, who have been critically viewing our planet’s demise for many years, found the film superficial with no new information or reports on corrective measures (except how people in the countryside can grow their own food). Well, no ground-breaking news there (no pun intended)!

Our circle of guests knew of the interviewed “thought leaders and activists” in the realms of science, economics and environmentalism: interviewees Bill McKibben, Joanna Macy, and Roger Payne discussed how we can evolve in the face of climate disruption.

The goal of Film Night is to enable you to increase awareness and activism to limit the impact of climate change.

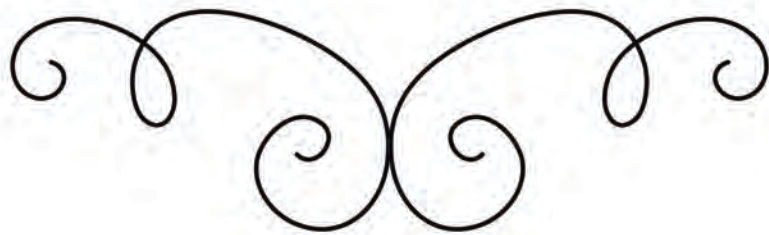
Upcoming Film Nights

February 27, 7:00 pm, *Symphony of the Soil* (46 minutes).

“Explores the complexity and mystery of soil, using a captivating mix of art and science.” It expresses the miraculous substance of soil and its relationship with water, atmosphere, plants, animals and humans (our uses and misuses). Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting-edge science, you will learn a lot about the qualities of soil and our additives. This artistic exploration of our planet’s skin was filmed on four continents and focuses on healthy soil for healthy humans for a healthy planet. As we watch this feel-good movie we will listen to beautiful, uplifting music and sonatas. For more information, please contact Ric: ricnic2@shaw.ca

March 28 film: see the Metchosin Community House Happenings on page 11, or email me for details: ricnic2@shaw.ca

Windrush Gallery's Invitation to Artists



You are invited to submit your art, created within the theme of mental health, for our May 29 grand opening. Partial proceeds will be donated to Youthspace.ca, providing mental health support to our local youth.

Please contact Cathy O'Connor
by email: Cathy@windrushgallery.ca
by phone: 250-580-5673

Windrush Gallery
4357 Metchosin Rd

youthspace.ca

Cougar Annie Tales

MUSE ROVING REPORTER

Cougar Annie Tales Theatrical Performance

March 6: doors 7:00 pm; show 7:30 pm
Metchosin Hall, 4401 William Head Road
Tickets \$10 Seniors / \$15 Adult / \$5 Kids (10 & up)
Available in advance at the Broken Paddle
or at the door. Info: 250-885-7100,
www.katrinakadoski.com

This performance uses dramatic narrative, images, letters, and original compositions to celebrate the unconventional life of one of BC's most colourful local characters. Katrina Kadoski portrays Cougar Annie in an award-winning, critically acclaimed one-woman show that can be seen at the Metchosin Hall, March 8, and tours the province through the remainder of March. Locally, Katrina has been involved musically with the last three theatre productions at William Head Prison: *The Hobbit*, *Fractured Fables*, and *Time Waits for No-one*.

In working to portray this wild-west woman, Katrina drew upon many sources. Stories and impressions from Metchosin locals about "Cougar Joan" influenced the building of this character. Margaret Horsfield's book *Cougar Annie's Garden* was referenced. Members of Cougar Annie's family, foresters, fisherman, archeologists, and adventurers that ventured to this remote location, were also interviewed. Katrina spent close to three years at Cougar Annie's garden immersing herself in the folklore surrounding the legendary pioneer.

California-born Ada Annie Jordan settled in the Clayoquot coastal rainforest in 1915 with her first husband and three young children. This year marks the centennial of her arrival in the place she initially thought would become like any other west coast settlement. A five-acre garden that she carved out of the wilderness provided food and income throughout her long life. The bounty on cougars supplemented her income and she earned her moniker of Cougar Annie by shooting over 70 of the animals.



Katrina Kadoski portrays Cougar Annie in *Cougar Annie Tales*. Photo by David Bukach

Annie gave birth to eight more children in this remote location, and rarely left the property until old age and blindness forced her removal to Port Alberni, where she died just shy of 97.



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. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-478-5155 and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans to see if you might be eligible.

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

Metchosin Rough Voice Choir – The Rough Voice Choir meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month until April 13, from 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a "good singing voice" is not a requirement. \$3/person; \$5/family. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553).

Tuesdays

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

Knitting Café. On the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, the Knitting Café has afternoon sessions from 1:00–3:00 pm. See the Monday listing for contact information.

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (250-595-6406, or email: blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs.

Community Potluck Lunch – last Thursday of each month, 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 contact Nina: dalenina@shaw.ca or 250-590-2540

Pearson Student Tea Time Drop-In – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. *No Tea Time drop-in March 6, 13, or April 3. March 27 will be at Pearson College.*

Events

Guest Speaker Series – Thursday, March 19, 7:00–9:00 pm. **Brian Domney. My Life with the Nisga'a** – Brian Domney spent five years living and working with the Nisga'a on the North Coast of British Columbia. Find out why he considers it five of the richest years of his life.

MCA Services Auction – March 27, 7:00–9:00 pm. The auction will be held at the Metchosin Community House, fuelled by the renowned MCA hospitality, on Friday, March 27, 2015 beginning at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars and plan on being there for one of the best couple of hours you'll spend all year.

Keep your eye on this MCA website for more information and the online bidding process which will start at the beginning of March (the highest online bid becomes the starting bid at the live auction). And if you are one of the wonderful companies or service providers who have donated in the past or if you are a company eager to become part of this great Metchosin tradition (and help your business profile in the process), we encourage you to call Heather at 250-478-5155 and talk about what you might be able to donate.

Film Night at the Community House, 7:00 pm – **Friday, February 27, *Symphony of the Soil* (46 minutes)**; see page 10. **Saturday, March 28, *Dark Side of Chocolate*.** Guest speaker: Taylor Kennedy from Sirena Chocolates of Victoria.

In 2001, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association and its members signed a document that prohibited child trafficking and labour in the cocoa industry after 2008. Despite this effort, numerous children are still forced to work on cocoa plantations in Africa.

The children, ranging in age from 10 to 15, are forced to do hard, often hazardous labour, are often beaten, and most are never paid. Most of them stay with the plantation until they die, never seeing their families again. The Harkin-Engel Protocol, an agreement that was signed by the major chocolate companies almost 10 years before the film was made, promised to end the use of child labour.

Suggestions, comments, please contact Ric at ricnic2@shaw.ca.

Foot Care Program – 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.

Art On The Walls – March: Heidi Bergstrom "Reverie." A series of photos of arbutus trees from around Witty's. Viewing times are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm.

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.

Schools 1952

BESS PAGE

When World War II ended in 1945, my husband and I returned from our service in the Canadian Army – time to return to peacetime routines. Time to find a place to live and a way to make a living. Mac's parents had a summer cottage at Glen Lake and that seemed a good place to live while we sorted out our peacetime options. Six years later we were still living there and still looking for a farm that we could afford. By then we had two children. David turned six in November of 1952 and it was time for him to go to school. There was no kindergarten in those days and no school buses.

The "unorganized territory" of what is now known as Westshore had three main schools – Colwood, Langford, and Happy Valley. We owned one car and Mac needed it to get to his job at the Dockyard. We checked the distance to the closest schools and found it was two miles to Langford and two miles to Happy Valley by road – a long distance for a not-quite-six-year old to walk. Mac's family had lived in Luxton at one time and he had begun his schooling at Happy Valley so he favoured Happy Valley School over Langford.

So, was our little boy to walk two miles to Langford or would I shorten his distance to Happy Valley by rowing him across Glen Lake every morning to a landing place known in those days as "The Pub" (an abbreviation for public beach), a wooden float directly across from our Glen Lake cottage and also directly below the railway line.

We decided that was our best plan. Regardless of the weather, I would load up my son and little daughter and our faithful cocker spaniel and row across Glen Lake.

Sometimes snow had to be shoveled out of the boat before we left. Sometimes the wind would blow us down into what was known as Junk Lake, the end of Glen Lake. We would unload my son at the wooden float and from there he would walk along the railway track to the Sooke Road/Happy Valley junction and then walk another half mile or so to Happy Valley School, the old two-room school.

The train was a worry. It was a train then carrying lumber from Youbou, a mill on Cowichan Lake. It did not have regular hours and could come steaming along at any time day or night. We worried about a train roaring through and not noticing a little boy on the tracks. So he was strictly warned that if at any time he heard a train he was to leave the tracks and hide in the bushes, otherwise he might be sucked under the train and run over!

At the close of the school day he would come home by the same route. I would watch from my kitchen window to see a little figure waving at the Pub and I would set out in the boat to pick him up. A family named Moseley lived across the lake from us and the lady of the house, having noticed my boat journeys each day, offered to let him land at their dock. That ended the train worry as he only had to walk up their driveway to Page Road and down Happy Valley to the school.

When he started Grade 2 in 1953 we had found a permanent home in Metchosin and he was able to walk the quarter mile to Metchosin School.

My six-year-old great grandson was amazed to hear how his grandpa got to school in the old days. Now there are buses and parents dropping children off at the school's doors!



Gloria and her horse Rylin

Metchosin Equestrian Society's Horse of the Month

BY GLORIA LEJOUR

Rylin, also known as Altitude, is a handsome ten-year-old Rhinelander (German Warmblood) who I bought from the coach I've been with for the past nine years. When he first came to Cedar Vista Stables as a yearling he was quite the handful and, in fact, no one wanted to handle him. In the past couple of years, Rylin has really matured and he is now a 17-hand power house with tons of personality.

I started riding Rylin in the summer of 2013 for my coach and immediately fell in love. By the fall, we had purchased him and he moved onto our property in Metchosin, where he now lives with two goats and a pony. He has a gentle, playful nature and has discovered that he loves the beach and trail riding. He has also proven himself to be a great Pony Club mount that particularly enjoys cross country. Last summer, Rylin and I competed in the 1.10m jumpers on the Island and on the Mainland. We also qualified and competed at the 2014 BC Summer Games, representing Vancouver Island. I hope, for many years to come, to continue to advance and learn in the jumper ring with my talented equine partner.

MCA SPEAKER SERIES

Five Years with the Nisga'a – Brian Domney Reminisces

MCA Speakers Series, Thursday, March 19 at the Metchosin Community House

In the summer of 1983, a young academic from the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University packed up his belongings and headed north on a new adventure. Brian Domney had accepted an administrative position with School District #92 (Nisga'a), the first, and at that time the only aboriginal-controlled public school system in Canada. He had committed to staying for two years but ended up staying for five, leaving in 1988 with a wealth of memories, a wife, and new perspectives on himself, his cultural background, and the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada.

The Nisga'a were the first First Nation in British Columbia to sign

a treaty with the Crown since the fourteen Douglas Treaties were signed on Vancouver Island in the mid 1800s. They were one of the last North American First Nations to have been significantly impacted by European colonization and, as a result, managed to retain a significant part of their traditional culture. They are an amazing people – strong, proud, and resilient, with a great sense of humour. Brian's talk will address everything from aboriginal education to oolichans, village English to constitutional confusion. He will not be speaking on behalf of the Nisga'a or any other aboriginal people; he will be speaking from the perspective of a "Kumsewa/Pakeha." Come and learn what that means.

Norman Nelson
Music Director

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Making Harmony... Naturally

High Meadow Farm

BY BARB SAWATSKY

High Meadow Farm, owned and operated by Mark Hogeweide, is easy to find: it is the only driveway on Duke Road with a refrigerator parked on the side of the road. At the roadside stand, the fridge holds eggs for sale year round as well as seasonal produce which Mark grows and harvests on his property. There is also a bin at this stand and Mark encourages people who do not compost to drop off their coffee grounds and kitchen scraps (fruit and vegetable only, no meat scraps) for his chickens. Ultimately, of course, these scraps make their way through the chickens and into his soil.

Mark was a counsellor for ten years with the Victoria School District as well as contracting to the provincial government. As a sideline he learned carpentry and built houses. He bought his home and property on Duke Road, moved to Metchosin twenty years ago because he liked and trusted Metchosin's mandate to stay rural, and then spent the next six years renovating the house and establishing his business.

The youngest of four boys growing up on 20 acres in the

Alberni Valley to parents of Scottish and Dutch ancestry, Mark was influenced by "being on the tail end of the 1960s revolution." He considers himself a "granola backyard farmer" with strong philosophical values around producing, as much as possible, his own food, food for others, living a healthy lifestyle and relying on his own resources to keep his small farm in business. His surname, Hogeweide, translates from Dutch as "high meadow," hence the name of his company.

As a "self-taught micro-farmer," he is passionate about gardening and farming. Edibles, one of his home-based companies, produces and sells vegetables, apples, chicken and eggs. His meat birds, which are for sale to the public, are processed in government-inspected facilities. He senses a positive trend where people are moving away from purchasing the cheapest food to buying quality products, but even working from dawn until dusk, it's difficult to make a living growing vegetables. To supplement income from his two-acre farm, he also does landscaping, excavating and

sells top soil which he mixes from kelp, leaves and horse and chicken manure (obtained from his own poultry and from the community).

He feels that Metchosin, with its many unused acres of arable land, could become a leader as a teaching community for future farmers, possibly in conjunction with a farming/gardening program based at Camosun College. Although Mark is "not into politics," he feels he could become politically minded if there were to be a vision for opening up opportunities for young people to learn how to farm, raise produce and work the land while living on it in the community. He recognizes there are many hurdles in the way of this idea and that the initiative would have to be driven by Metchosin council. He also feels that opening a Coombs-style market in the downtown area "would pick up Metchosin's profile" and become a destination for people living in the lower Island to purchase locally grown produce, citing the popularity of the markets north of Duncan.



Mark Hogeweide of High Meadow Excavating and Landscaping. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Attractive, Sustainable, and Water Efficient Landscapes

JUDITH VAN MANEN

Please join the Metchosin Garden Club for a presentation and discussion about attractive, sustainable, and water efficient landscapes with Deborah Walker on Wednesday, March 4.

Deborah knows all about the wonders of water, and she promotes its wise use. She holds a degree in consumer studies from Mount Saint Vincent University and has presented academic papers and provided consultation services for countries such as Chile, Brazil, and the United States.

Her presentation will provide an overview of water issues, a discussion on reducing water wastage in our gardens and changing the way we look at landscape. Her presentation promises to be stimulating, provocative and

engaging. Handout materials will be made available to the attendants.

Deborah is the Supervisor of the Outreach and Residential Water Conservation Programs for the CRD Environmental Partnerships Division, and the supervisor for residential environmental outreach activities. Her responsibilities include the design, development and delivery of water conservation programs to 350,000 persons in the CRD.

Please note our new venue: Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road. We now meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm (except Dec./Jan.).

Join us Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 pm with Deborah Walker, at the Community House.

Metchosin Buddies

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

Do you have children who would like (or need) extra help with reading or math, or perhaps those weekly spelling tests? If you think that your children might benefit from a little extra time spent on any of those areas, the Metchosin Buddies program at the Community House may be helpful.

The program has been running since November, with students of various ages visiting the house every Monday for a half-hour session, scheduled between 3:00 and 4:30 pm. Children work with adults who are happy to help with homework, read stories together, or work on math or spelling skills. Lots of smiles, no pressure, just a little help to support their learning. What better way to spend a Monday afternoon? And it's free – though hopefully you'll want to become a member of the

Community Association (\$10 for a year's membership).

If you'd like your child to participate in this program, please contact Nancy Evans at mbuddies@telus.net or phone 250-642-4613.




Carson hard at work! Photo by Joannie Challenger

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NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN



Student artwork for sale at the Music and Art Show. Photo by Joannie Challenger

The Music and Art Show at Hans Helgesen School

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

If you had been at Hans Helgesen School on Wednesday, January 28 you'd have seen a beehive of activity, as the school prepared to put on their first Music and Art Show. Classes were practicing songs to sing for parents in the evening. Displays of their artwork were being assembled in the gym for parents to bid on at the concert and art sale that evening. A lot of effort was being put out on the part of the children and their teachers to make the event was a success.

The idea for the music show began with Mike Sargent, vice-president of the Parents Advisory Council. He wanted to give the school a musical, cultural experience to showcase the talents of students. Local musician and music teacher, Char Birkbeck, worked with each class to write and perform their own song, as well as to learn a song written by Paul Hahn. Paul is a long-time music teacher in Sooke School District, whose songs are known across the community and throughout BC.

Teachers added the idea of an art show to the event, and students created artwork which could be displayed and later sold. Proceeds of the art sales would fund future art projects for the children.

And it seems that the Music and Art Show was a success. As Tammy Cowan, parent of two students, noted, "It really was so wonderful to see such a turnout! What a great feeling of community! The children were so excited to show parents their art work, which was for sale. All in all, it was a great night for Hans Helgesen students and their parents."

Principal Debra Stoutley and the staff were impressed with the attendance at the event. Debra commented, "I think the students' songs were very reflective of nature, their community and the caring that they have for the environment. They certainly enjoyed Paul Hahn's songs, too. I'm so happy his legacy is continuing. He brought a lot of joy to students in this school district."

All in all, Hans Helgesen's first Music and Art Show was a success – a very worthwhile cultural experience.

For information about Char Birkbeck's other music projects, visit her website, musicunitestheworld.com, or email her at musicunitestheworldorg@gmail.com.



14TH JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA



Scouts Snow Camp

CURTIS BECKER

Our local senior section of the 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting group, the Venturers, ranging in age from 13 to 17, have been planning their annual trip to Manning Park. The Venturers with experience in snow camping were delighted to have the funds to register for the annual Rovent Social Camp that takes place in Manning Park every February. This year, like last, they got an extra day due to the new Family Day statutory holiday. This extreme winter camp is held annually at Cambie Creek in Manning Park, and is the only one of its kind in British Columbia. This year in total approximately 375 Scouting members came together from all corners of BC which included Venturers, Rovers, Rangers (Guides) and their advisors for this long weekend of activities, friends and, of course, snow camping!

As with every snow camp you plan to experience the

elements of some very cold temperatures in these parts as we have in the past. This year we faced even more difficult weather as we have had some amazing spring-like weather this winter. Liquid snow fell for the first 24 hours making conditions very soft and slushy. Setting up our new 18-foot dome shelter the group acquired this year was an incredible feat in these soft conditions, however our practice run at the Metchosin Community Hall enabled us to assemble it in record speed as staying dry was only a thought at this point of the set up. Once we had our shelter system set up, the Venturers carved out the snow by digging out a custom living area and setting up their kitchen. From late Saturday on, the skies opened up and the sun shone, making the weekend camp better with mild temperatures.

With Rovent comes many activities for these young teens to participate in throughout the day, from horizontal bungee jumping, snow golf, snow shoeing, parking lot hockey, cooking competition, to the acclaimed evening Strawberry Flats Talent Show. The 14th JdF, 1st Sooke, 3rd Arbutus and 2nd Central Surrey Venturers/Rovers won first place in the Street Slush Hockey tournament and three of our 14th JdF Vents took home the first place trophy in the bottomless boat race – running through an obstacle course in knee-deep snow. Lots of fun was had by everyone. The Saturday and Sunday evenings finished up with a full blown "Dance with a D.J." in the parking lot. A long weekend well spent! The youth had an excellent time and have spent much time talking about their trip and have shared many photos on their Facebook pages.

Kub Kar Racing with the Cub Scouts

TOBY VOSS

"Start your engines!" Well the engine is gravity but that doesn't mean the racing is any less exciting. It's Kub Kar racing time with the Cub Scouts. Every year around this time of year, youth between the ages of eight and ten start designing, building, decorating, and tuning their cars. This is also known as the "Pine Wood Derby" because all the youth have to start with is a block of pine wood and four wheels. Cars can only be a maximum of 142 grams and of a particular size to fit the track. Beyond that, anything goes. The cars are raced on a track which starts at about 1.5 metres high and is about 12 metres long. Three cars race at a time and through a process of elimination the winners are determined.

In late February there is a huge event where hundreds of Cub Scouts from all over the island compete on approximately 15 different tracks. They are scored on each track and those with the highest scores make it to the finals. At the finals they race on the area's new six lane track which has laser scoring to ensure accuracy. There are great prizes for the winners but everyone has lots of fun. This is a car race where the only fuel is gravity and youthful energy!

If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts or any of the other sections, now is the time to

take advantage of the special mid-year rates. Beaver Scouts for boys and girls ages five to seven meet Wednesday evenings; Cub Scouts ages eight to ten meet Tuesday evenings and Scouts ages 11–14 meet Monday evenings. There is also a Venturer company for those 14–18. Adults are welcome too as there is always lots of work required to support the youth of the community. For more information please contact us: 14juandefuca@victoriascouts.ca



14th JdF Cub streamlining his Kub Kar for the race.

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mmlewis@shaw.ca

Invitation to Meet Your Member of Parliament, Randall Garrison

DOROTHY ELIAS

Our Federal MP, Randall Garrison, will be in Metchosin on Saturday, March 7, 2:00-4:00 pm, and would love to meet you and talk about any issues you may have. He particularly will be interested in discussing your concerns about the environment, agriculture, and women's issues.

Since the meeting will be in the home of local residents at 4488 William Head Road (near My-Chosen Cafe), space is limited, so please RSVP to Dorothy: eliasd@shaw.ca or 778-432-4386. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided. Please phone me if you want more information or would like a ride to the event.

RCMP Call-Outs JANUARY 15-FEBRUARY 11, 2015

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Jan 15 **Dallimore Road** – Complaint of theft of items from a vehicle during the night.
Kangaroo Road – Complaint of threats/neighborhood dispute, two people spoken to.
- Jan 16 **William Head Road** – Complaint of found military marker on beach, turned over to Military Police.
William Head Road – Complaint of loud noise, youths spoken to on the beach and given warning.
- Jan 18 **Saddleback Road** – Complaint of two suspicious males at 3:00 am on road carrying items. Patrols failed to locate.
Witty Beach Road – Complaint of suspicious male, patrols failed to locate.
Saddleback Road – Complaint of shed and vehicle being broken into, several items stolen.
Saddleback Road – Two complaints received of vehicles/shed broken into during the night. Investigation continuing.
- Jan 19 **William Head Road area** – Complaint of assault, investigation continuing.
Metchosin Road – Complaint of threats, reported for information.
- Jan 20 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of speeding vehicles in school zone, patrols requested.
Neff Road – Assistance provided to Sooke Detachment in locating a suspect who failed to stop for police. Person not located, investigation continuing.
- Jan 21 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of person driving erratically, vehicle not located.
Sooke Road – Single vehicle accident, one person to hospital, alcohol involved, investigation continuing.
- Jan 22 **Kangaroo Road area** – Assistance provided to Military Police, one person arrested under the Mental Health Act.
Saddleback Road – Complaint of break and enter to a shed, investigation continuing.
- Jan 23 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located.
William Head Road – Assistance provided to the Fire Department.
Neff Road – Complaint of person driving vehicle while prohibited, vehicle not located.
Park Drive – Complaint of theft of several items from a residence, investigation continuing.
Kangaroo Road area – Complaint of threats, investigation continuing.
- Jan 24 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle passing on double solid line, registered owner to be charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.
Neff Road – Complaint of person driving a vehicle while prohibited, investigation continuing.
- Jan 25 **Neild Road** – Complaint of possible gun shots being heard. Patrols conducted.
Metchosin Road – Complaint of vehicles stunting in the parking lot, patrols failed to locate vehicle.
- Sooke Road** – Complaint of person possible violating curfew condition, not located. Charges pending.
- Jan 26 **Matheson Lake** – Complaint of tent and other items being abandoned in park.
- Jan 27 **Neff Road** – Complaint of possible domestic dispute. People not located.
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of possible assault, one person taken to hospital.
- Jan 28 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, not located.
- Jan 29 **Neff Road** – Complaint of person failing to stop for police, not located, investigation continuing.
- Jan 30 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located.
Kangaroo Road – Complaint of suspicious person, located and found to be a Stats Canada employee.
- Feb 2 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of motorcycles being driven erratically, not located.
Pearson College Road – Complaint of theft of two bicycles.
Taylor Road – Complaint of theft of chainsaws from the back of a pickup truck.
- Feb 3 **Taylor Road** – Complaint of two suspicious males, not located.
William Head Road – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver charged for driving too fast for road conditions.
- Feb 5 **Neff Road** – Complaint of theft of license plate.
- Feb 6 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible assault, investigation continuing.
East Sooke Road – Complaint of possible criminal harassment.
Happy Valley Road – Complaint of possible fraud on the internet, report for information.
- Feb 7 **La Bonne Road** – Complaint of residential break, enter and theft, several items stolen, still under investigation.
William Head Road area – Complaint of person in possession of stolen property, investigation continuing.
- Feb 8 **Liberty Drive** – Complaint of possible theft of wood, turned out unfounded.
- Feb 9 **Neild Road area** – Complaint of break in to garage and theft from vehicle during the night, several items stolen.
Albert Head beach – Assistance provided to Fire Department regarding a beach fire.
- Feb 10 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of theft of vehicle, investigation continuing.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of domestic dispute, no assault.
- Feb 11 **Walpole Road** – Complaint of suspicious person/vehicle, person found sleeping in the vehicle.
William Head Road – Complaint of suspicious male, patrols failed to locate.
Metchosin Road area – Complaint of suspicious occurrence.

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.

LESSONS

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

SERVICES

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WANTED

P/T HELP WANTED: Computer, internet, simple graphics, social media. Must have car. Phone 250-391-1888 or email beaulance@telus.net.

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

WANTED: Intact Romney, Cotswold, or Border Cheviot ram lamb or yearling. Email bogfairy@shaw.ca.

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Directory of Organizations

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

AIR CADETS
250-590-3690

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
Sunday night cancelled.
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 4H, POULTRY, HORSE AND CLOVERBUDS
250-478-4677
Metchosin4H@gmail.com,
www.metchosin4h.com

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 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

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

Spring Craft Fair and Garage Sale, March 22, 10:00 am–2:00 pm, Royal Canadian Legion Br. #91, 621 Station Ave., Langford. Free admission and wheelchair accessible.

CRD Guided Walk: Cougar Ridge Hike, March 26, 11:00 am–3:00 pm, Roche Cove Regional Park. No fee, must be age 18+; pre-register: 250-478-3344.

The Victoria Natural History Society has ongoing events. See www.vicnhs.bc.ca for information.

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

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Cell: (250) 514-7339

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Randall Garrison, MP
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A2-100 Aldersmith Place
Victoria V9A 7M8
10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday
or by appointment
T: 250-405-6550
E: Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca
F: 250-405-6554

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email metchosinyogastudio@gmail.com
www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com
f @ Westshore Metchosin Yoga Studio



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.



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