



# Metchosin Muse

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

## Pearson College UWC Has a New President



Désirée McGraw, new president of Pearson College UWC.

Pearson College photo

BRIAN DOMNEY

The search for a new president of Pearson College UWC is over and for the first time in its history the College will have a female leader. Tony Macoun, Chair of the Board of Directors introduced Désirée McGraw to students, faculty, staff and invited guests in the Max Bell Theatre on Monday, April 20.

"We were looking for a very special candidate who reflects and respects the extraordinary role Pearson College has played, and will play, in Canada and the world," said Macoun. "We are thrilled that someone with Ms. McGraw's principled commitment to educating and engaging the next generation of leaders, is going to guide the College into a new era of growth and achievement."

McGraw has earned accolades for her leadership of the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation, as well as in her previous roles as a senior advisor to Prime Minister Paul Martin, Director

of Policy to the Minister of International Cooperation and co-founder of Al Gore's Climate Project in Canada.

Since 2002, McGraw has also lectured on International Development at McGill University.

In 2010, McGraw was designated a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and was recently named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the *Financial Post* and Quebec's "huit femmes incontournables" in *Première en Affaires*.

She first came to Canadians' attention in 1986 when she was only 16 years old. Concerned with the Cold War and young people's anxieties about nuclear arms, McGraw spent eight months traveling across Canada with three other teens speaking to high school students about global peace and disarmament. One of the last stops on her tour was Pearson College, where she recalls being struck by the engagement and idealism

of the students – traits still reflected on today's campus. The National Film Board captured her experience in the documentary *Mile Zero: The SAGE Tour*.

The new president is looking forward to the new challenge at the college and is excited about living on the West Coast. She describes Montreal West, where she lives, as a village within a larger city, much like Metchosin.

McGraw is married with two children, and is an accomplished runner, having completed five marathons, including the London and New York marathons.

The new president assumes her responsibilities at the beginning of August and will be living on campus with her family.

Check out the Pearson website at [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca) for information on the new president, including a video of her speech to students and faculty, and clips from the SAGE tour.

## The Value of Hedgerows

TODD MANNING

What are hedgerows? Well, hedgerows are strips of vegetation, often natural, but sometimes planted, found along roadways, fencelines and across natural or man-made openings such as farm fields. In Metchosin, hedgerows consist mostly of medium-height shrubby plants including native Nootka rose, snowberry and spirea. The introduced shrub Asian blackberry is also common in our hedgerows and is a favourite for local berry pickers. Various herbaceous species including grasses and sedges, and the odd tree such as Garry Oak and Douglas-fir, also occur.

Here in Metchosin we are fortunate to have some of the best natural and relatively pure hedgerows on Vancouver Island. Because of their dense nature, hedgerows provide a sheltered habitat for a variety of bird species, small mammals and amphibians. They are particularly important for spring nesting and late fall/winter feeding and shelter habitat for songbirds such as spotted towhee, Brewer's and red-winged blackbirds, various sparrows and California quail. The dry rosehips and berries that remain on the shrubs into the winter, along with various ground-dwelling insects, provide essential food for overwintering birds.

Where hedgerows intersect low-lying seasonal wet areas or small streams, or border openings such as farm fields, the resulting close proximity of water, dense shrubbery and open edge make an even more diverse habitat, providing shelter and feeding opportunities for creatures which prefer this association, including song sparrows, blackbirds, salamanders, frogs, and numerous small mammals (e.g., mice, voles and shrews).

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Well, the best hedgerows look rather "messy," appearing like a jumble of vegetation. Yet it is this inherent messiness which makes them such ecologically valuable habitats and effective natural barriers. Consequently, hedgerows should for the most part be left untouched. In locations where hedgerows become dominated by aggressive invasive plants such as scotch broom, then careful and selective removal of these invasive species is warranted outside of the spring bird nesting season, which extends from early March to mid-July on southern Vancouver Island.

So next time you drive along one of our hedgerow-lined roads in Metchosin, maybe what used to appear messy will take on a new look of beauty.



The hedgerows along William Head and Taylor Roads are home to red-winged blackbirds and other wildlife. Joan Kew photo

### Important Dates

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

May	District of Metchosin Meetings ...	p. 4	May 22	Talk and Walk .....	p. 3
	SIRC Seniors' Events .....	p. 5	May 23-24	Mighty Garage Sale .....	p. 11
	Cricket Games .....	p. 13	May 27	MCA Guest Speaker Series: New Perspectives on Emily Carr .....	p. 11
May 9	Garden Club Plant Sale .....	p. 8	May 29	Movie Night at the MCH .....	p. 5
May 10	Farmer's Market Opens .....	p. 4	June 4	Metchosin Museum Society AGM .....	p. 7
	Mother's Day				
May 19	Evacuations Talk .....	p. 5			

# Metchosin Muse

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

**EDITOR**  
Brian Domney, 250-474-3966  
metmuse@shaw.ca

**EDITOR EMERITUS**  
Jo Mitchell, 250-478-1671  
jomitchell@shaw.ca

**MUSE TEAM**  
Stevie Bahrey  
Joan Bradley  
Eileen Carlson  
Joannie Challenger  
Brian Domney  
Laura Farquharson  
Barrett Fullerton  
Joan Gilbert  
Brian Graham  
Joan Kew  
Peter Lewis  
Jim MacPherson  
Dauna Neveaux  
Susan Palmer  
Barb Sawatsky

**ADVERTISING**  
Peter Lewis, 250-474-3260  
petermlewis@shaw.ca

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Eileen Carlson, 250-478-1036  
elcarlson@shaw.ca

**ACCOUNTS**  
Eileen Carlson, 250-478-1036  
elcarlson@shaw.ca

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT**  
Joan Kew

**DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATOR**  
Barrett Fullerton

**EVENTS** metmuse@shaw.ca

**CURRENT CIRCULATION:** 2700

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The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metmuse@shaw.ca. Typewritten or handwritten copy is acceptable if you have no access to a computer. Do not send PDFs. Photos should be high resolution, i.e., not taken with phone or tablet. Leave hard copies of articles not sent via email in the *Muse* box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax to 250-483-5352. Please visit our website for more information: www.metchosinmuse.ca.

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

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

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

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

# Calling All Local Producers

BRIAN DOMNEY

The June issue of the *Metchosin Muse* will again be carrying summaries of local producers in Metchosin and East Sooke for the information of consumers. With California dehydrating, resulting in sharp spikes in fruit and vegetable prices, and with more and more people coming to realize that

industrial agriculture may not produce the healthiest food, the *Muse* believes it is in the best interests of everyone to create awareness of local food options.

If you produce fruits, vegetables or animal protein for sale locally, please contact the *Muse* at metmuse@shaw.ca or call Brian at 250-474-3966 for

format and style information on your submission. Let's get Metchosin on a ten-kilometre diet!

*Shop Locally*

## 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.

## New development; Council "greener" than believed

Congratulations on your recent interview / conversation with Jerry "Hat-trick" Berry, retired professional hockey player, as quoted in the April edition of the *Muse*. It is gratifying to read some reporting, no matter how tongue in cheek, with respect to land issues in our community. One can only assume that this write-up records, and quite effectively, yet another attempt on a "never say die" development proposal.

For the record, with respect to the above, and food for thought for its more recently added proponent, Metchosin does not just have "two greenies on Council"; we, thank heaven, have five. Good luck!

Chris Moehr

## Lions' share of newspaper can be blue-boxed

The Metchosin Recycling Society in conjunction with West Shore Lions Club regret the paper recycling in boxes throughout Metchosin is cancelled immediately. The Lions Club demographics of age and disabilities make it impossible to muster volunteers to carry on with the service. Moreover, the low cost revenue of recycle paper makes the operation unaffordable.

The society wishes to thank everyone who dropped off their newspapers over the years. The generous support of Metchosin folks was instrumental helping Lions support those in need throughout the Western Communities.

Regards,

Paul Patrick, West Shore Lions

On the web at [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

**Visit our website!** [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

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

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

## Muse Subscriptions

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

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

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



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## Metchosin Technical Centre Letters



MTC students hiking at Pearson College. Photo by Dayna Christ-Rowling

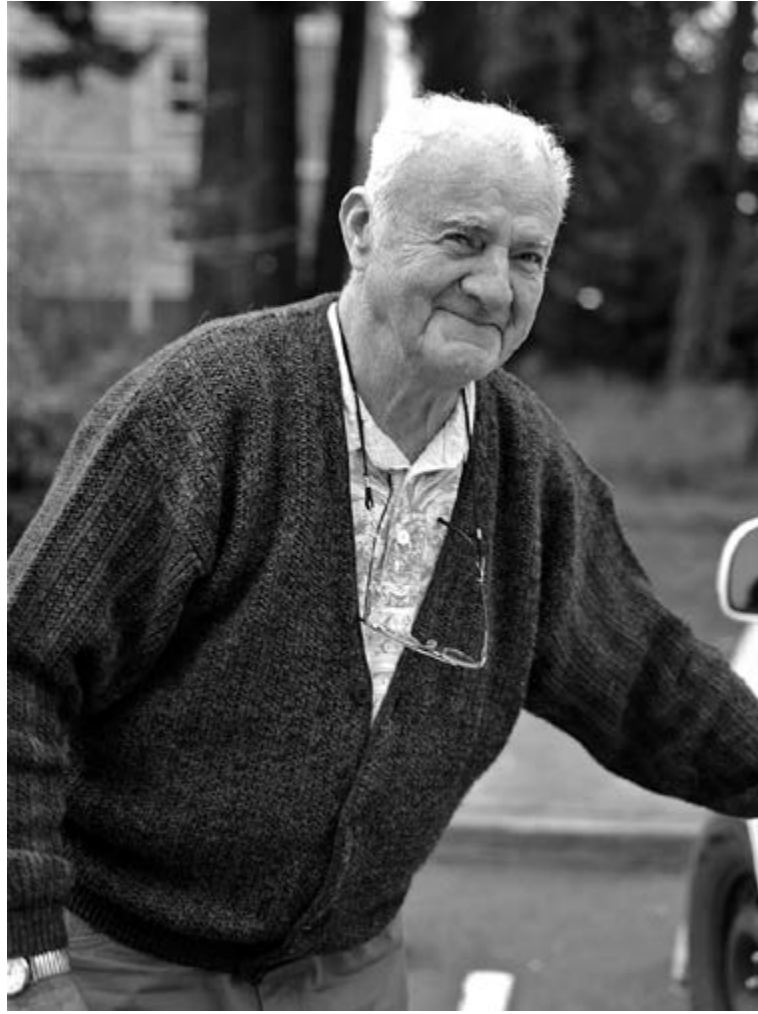
I have been procrastinating writing this letter for some time but it is time to face reality and get to work. Over the years we have written on many different topics and themes. This one is the hardest. I am sad to say that Metchosin Technical Centre – Bridges to Your Future program is ending. Westshore will still be using the building once a week for carpentry but the students will not be here in the village on a daily basis and I will be changing schools next year. It was seven years ago that this school started as a pilot project – the timeline for the program was two years. When I think about it in those terms, we have been very fortunate that our students have experienced so much here in our rural setting. I am thankful for all of the individuals who have supported us over the years. There are so many Metchosin-ites to thank (Jennifer Kivari, Alison Harle, Brian Domney, Sarah Wade, Larry Trembley, etc....) I can't even begin to mention you all by name but please know that I have deep gratitude for all the kindness, understanding, and generosity that you have shown. This month, my current students are writing about how our school is different for them and in the June edition of the *Muse* alumni have been asked to write and reflect on their time at MTC and what they are doing now.

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# Bernard William Whitney-Griffiths

August 8, 1920–March 3, 2015

ELINOR WHITNEY-GRIFFITHS



Above, Bernie Whitney-Griffiths. Below, a young Bernie with Joan Yates. Both photos courtesy of the Whitney-Griffiths family



Bernard William Whitney-Griffiths was born to William and Nellie Whitney-Griffiths. Bernie was so fortunate to have lived his entire life on "The Grange," his treasured Metchosin farm. Hunting and fishing were a big part of his life. He loaded his own shells, made fishing rods, weights and lures and always had a project on the go. He was an avid reader and travelled to France to see where his dad fought in the First World War. Great Britain was also of great interest to him as that is where his parents were born.

During his working years he was a hydraulics specialist, welder, mechanic and crane operator. He was multi-talented and artistic and built many burl tables, wrought iron railings and gates. In his teens he hunted cougars with Joan Yates and one very adventurous day, rowed to Port Angeles and back! I don't think his parents were too pleased.

Another hobby has been his dogs. Training labs for field trials and raising four litters were the highlights but just getting such wonderful enjoyment from all of them was the best. Meggie and Buddy miss him.

Sadly, Bernie passed away five days after having a stroke. He leaves his wife Elinor of 60 years; son Jeff, daughter Janet (Jeff); grandchildren Danielle, Katrina (Brett), Wes, Nicola, Bailey and Maddy; great grandson Tyler; mother-in-law Frances Thompson; sister-in-law Ann (Bob); brother-in-law Doug (Sharon); nieces and nephew; and Sue and Lori. He was very sadly predeceased by son Gord in 2003.

We miss you dad.

A private family gathering was held.

## TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise stated, talks are at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, located behind the Fire Hall.



Purplish Copper on Gumweed. Photo by Moralea Milne

### 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 will be celebrated with two presentations: *Lichens and Interesting Species of the BioBlitz*

Daryl Thompson has agreed to travel from his home in the lower mainland to give a talk on lichens and to participate in our BioBlitz. Lichens are biological partnerships between two or sometimes three species that enable them to exist in some exceptionally harsh environments. Please join us for another fascinating glimpse into our natural world.

As an added bonus, our own Kem Luther will give one of his matchless presentations on the interesting species that have been recorded during previous bioblitzes.

### Saturday, June 13: BIOBLITZ!! Fun!

For more information about the BioBlitz, please see: [metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://metchosinbiodiversity.com)

Contact [moraleamilne@gmail.com](mailto:moraleamilne@gmail.com) for further information about these programs.

## Metchosin Day needs you ...

The Metchosin Day committee is looking for someone to take over as coordinator for the one-day event. This year, 2015, will give the candidate a chance to "learn the ropes" and work with the wonderful committee that makes it all happen. All you need is a little enthusiasm, some organization skills and a willingness to make Metchosin Day the great home-grown event it has been for over 45 years. It can be more than one person to run the show; bring a friend or two. If you are interested please contact me by email at [mgidney@shaw.ca](mailto:mgidney@shaw.ca). Thanks.

Mary Gidney

### Attention All Vendors

Now is the time to think about being a vendor for Metchosin Day. We give preference to those who live in Metchosin but we can only

provide a space for you if you register. You can register online at [www.metchosinday.ca](http://www.metchosinday.ca); go to the Vendor page. You can also pick up a registration form at the Metchosin Community House. All application forms for vendors can be emailed, mailed or brought into the Community House AFTER July 1. This year the cost for a vendor spot will be \$30. In the past non-profit groups have been free. This year we will be charging \$15 to help cover our costs.

You have lots of time to think about it, get organized, make your products and plan for the day. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [mgidney@shaw.ca](mailto:mgidney@shaw.ca) or call at 250-474-6145. Thanks.

Mary Gidney

### Call for Entertainers

A reminder to all local performers that Metchosin Day is coming and the entertainment application is available online at: <http://metchosinday.ca/> Please submit your application by June 30, 2015 to be considered for the Metchosin Day Main Stage.

Dave and Lesley Preston, the regular main stage hosts, will be away for this year's Metchosin Day. They are looking for four volunteers to manage the stage and work with the professional sound crew. There will be two volunteer shifts, one from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, and one from 2:30 to 7:00 pm. For each shift we need an MC/Stage Manager and a Technical Stage Manager. Please call Lesley or Dave at 250-474-1874 if you are interested in being a part of this fantastic day.

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# Farmers' Market Opens May 10

The 2015 Board of the Metchosin Producers Association is proud and happy to welcome everyone to the Metchosin Farmers' Market starting May 10. The wonderful new market signs will help you find your way and we are very grateful to Brent Donaldson, Past President of the Agriculture Committee and Martha Haylor, Past President of the Producers Association, for spearheading the new signs project. Our sincere thanks go out to them for all the work they did.

We are looking forward to a vibrant market season this year with many returning vendors, some new farm and craft vendors and the addition of some local wineries.

If you are new to the Metchosin Farmers' Market, please introduce yourself to our friendly vendors. We love to meet you, and you will benefit from the fresh local bounty, amazing artisan creativity, mouthwatering snacks and a rousing good time listening to the talented musicians who entertain us.

If you're one of the market's longstanding patrons, we'll be excited to see you again and we can swap the over-winter stories while standing in the warm spring sunshine. We'll be happy to serve you.

Please look us up on Facebook under Metchosin Farmers' Market. There's lots of farm related info, community news, good ideas and great pictures.

Photo, above right: Members of the Metchosin Producers Association with one of the new Farmers' Market signs on the Metchosin Road entrance to Metchosin. Photo by Brian Domney



## COUNCIL NEWS MAY 2015

### DRIVE IT HOME ... KEEP OUR COMMUNITY LITTER FREE

Metchosin is an exceptionally beautiful rural community, but that beauty is marred by thoughtless and careless roadside littering. Let's make a change that will DRIVE IT HOME ... KEEP OUR COMMUNITY LITTER FREE. Start by setting an example and:

- dispose of trash in proper receptacles;
- carry a litter bag in your car;
- never throw anything out of a car window;
- ensure that trash receptacles are properly covered when placed outside for garbage collection;
- secure your load when you carry trash or loose items;
- embrace small changes, such as picking up one piece of litter a day; and
- start close to home and pick up litter fronting your property.

The district is committed to reducing roadside litter; residents who pitch in to help may obtain garbage bags from the Municipal Hall and may dispose of the roadside litter at the Public Works Drop-Off location (rear yard in front of Recycled Oil Bin). Please note that NO household waste will be accepted. Drop-off hours are 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday (excluding holidays). Contact the Municipal Hall for further information at 250-474-3167.

### 2015 ROBERT LAW CYCLING RACE - JUNE 6, 2015

Russ Hay's Racing Cycling Club will be having a cycling race on Saturday, June 6, 2015. Setting up for the race will begin at 5:00 am, race starting at 8:00 am and finishing at 1:00 pm. The cleanup after the race will be until 2:00 pm. The race will begin at Rocky Point Road near Hans Helgesen Elementary School and will then proceed to Liberty Drive, La Bonne Road, Barrow Road, Kangaroo Road and finishing back at Rocky Point Road. The course will partially be closed to traffic.

### 2015 DRAFT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2015 budget include the purchase of two new Public Works' trucks replacing older failing vehicles, various small paving projects located throughout the Metchosin area and finishing the new garage building for storage of our Search and Rescue Society's emergency vehicle. Council will be considering adoption of the draft five-year financial plan at its April 27 meeting. The plan shows a 1.9% increase in property taxes for the current year.

### 2015 PROPERTY TAXES

Metchosin residents should expect to receive their 2015 property tax notices by June 1. If you have not received your notice by June 1, we recommend that you contact the municipal office to obtain a duplicate copy. Taxes are due on July 2, 2015 - penalties will be levied on the following day and cannot be waived, even if you have not received your tax notice.

### COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in the heritage of Metchosin, do you have experience with environmental issues or are you interested in helping to keep Metchosin a healthy community? The Metchosin Heritage Advisory Select Committee, Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee and the Healthy Community Advisory Committee need new volunteers. If you're interested, or would like more information regarding these advisory committees, please contact the municipal office, 250-474-3167.

### DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE - MAY 2015

Below are the meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

Finance & Environment Committee: May 4	Parks & Trails Advisory (PTASC): May 19
Council Meeting: May 4	Council Meeting: May 25
Planning Committee: May 11	Environmental Advisory (MEASC): May 26
Parks Committee: May 11	Heritage Advisory (HASC): 4:00 pm,
Highways & Public Works Committee: May 11	May 27

Meetings are subject to change. For updated information, please call the district office at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at [www.district.metchosin.bc.ca](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca). Thank you.

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# Evacuations – Who, What, Where, and How Much?

THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

**Evacuations Talk**  
Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Fire Hall

In the event of imminent or actual threat to your safety and life, and the safety and life of your family, you may be asked to leave your home.

Evacuation is the removal of people from an area of imminent or actual threat of emergency or disaster. Depending on the nature and scope of the event, an evacuation may be limited to a single

roadway or home or it may affect an entire neighbourhood.

On Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm, join the Emergency Program at the Fire Hall. We will define what an evacuation is and explain the three levels of an evacuation. The difference between sheltering in place and the need to physically evacuate your home will be covered. We will also explain what expenses are covered and for how long, where you should go and what you should bring.

What are the differences between an Evacuation Alert and an Evacuation Order and who determines if one or the other is necessary? What is a State of Local Emergency? These are just a few questions you may have.

Have you had the experience of being faced with a possible evacuation; how about an actual evacuation? Come share your experiences, insights and even concerns at this Emergency Preparedness Session.

## Film Night at the Metchosin Community House

*PEACE OUT*, 72 minutes.  
Friday, May 29 at 7:00 pm

*Peace Out* probes the issues of energy production and the cost to the environment. This west coast film production focuses on the Peace River Site C and the Tar Sands, engaging hydro and natural gas energy executives, oil company reps, nuclear spokesmen, scientists, academics and activists in an intelligent debate about the need for power-producing facilities. We have an insatiable appetite for electricity, and our assumption is that it's endless.

The film presents a thought-provoking look at the rapidly transforming landscape of society in a trajectory that's hard to change because change creates fear, chaos, loss of confidence. One woman tells how "Vancouver Island used to grow eighty percent of our food, here. And now we grow seven percent of our food. When that gravy train stops, we are going to be in big trouble. And the emissions from transporting that food ..." is creating a mess. Is it a political process? Is the game over?

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

## SIRC Senior's Centre Upcoming Events

JO MITCHELL

SIRC is planning a series of monthly afternoon outings for May through September, starting on Wednesday, May 13 with TUTU TEA; see details below. These outings include van transportation with walker accommodation, leaving the SIRC office at 1:00 pm and returning by 4:30 pm. Transport to SIRC can be provided. Limited space so book early. No charge for seniors.

In June we are planning to present a session on the "40-70 Rule, things I should be discussing with my family." Details in the June *Muse*.

### SIRC OFFICE HOURS

SIRC, which is located on the ground floor of the former Metchosin Elementary School Building right opposite the Broken Paddle Café, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Telephone 250-478-5150. Colleen Brownlee is the coordinator and would be very happy to hear from you if have any queries or problems.

### SIRC Events in May

#### Seniors and Driving Presentation by Seann Wells of Drivewise

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Fire Hall

An informative session on honing one's driving skills. Over the years we develop some good and some not so good habits. Are you in tune with the most current rules of the road? Do you know how to merge? When should you move over to the slow lane? What do I

need to know if I have to go for a driver's test? Will I have to do a test using a computer?

Seann, a local Metchosin community member who has served as a Metchosin volunteer firefighter for many years, will address these issues and others, and answer questions.

#### SIRC Seniors Outing – Tea and Tutu

May 13, Wednesday, from 1:00 to 4:30 pm departing from SIRC Office

Afternoon tea at Kirk Hall, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church with a performance by the Victoria Ballet Company.

Van transportation (with walker accommodation) will leave the SIRC Office at 1:00 pm, returning by 4:30 pm. Transport to SIRC available if needed. No charge for seniors but we may ask for a small donation.

#### Forgetting things? Okay or should I worry? How to hone your memory.

Wednesday, May 27, 1:30 to 3:00 pm at SIRC

An informative and interactive session with Peggy Hancyk from Home Instead about the aging memory and how to cope with it.

#### NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY ON A JUNE EVENT: Second Annual Parisian Café

June 6, Saturday, 10:00 am to 12 noon

Come and mingle with your neighbours, friends, enjoy tea, coffee, French pastries, croissants. Entertainment and Plein Air Artists in action. A good time was had by all last year, so do not miss this year's event.

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### Krishnamurti and the Transformation of Consciousness

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May 22-24, 2015  
Friday 7 pm to Sunday 4:30 pm  
With an introductory public talk on Science and Spirituality  
Friday, May 22, 7:30 pm

Professor P. Krishna was a long term associate of the world renowned teacher, educator and author J. Krishnamurti. He has held talks about Krishnamurti's teachings, science, education and society all over the world for the last 28 years (see www.pkrishna.org). This workshop, by way of talks, Q&A, dialogue and video, will consider the causes of disorder in our consciousness and the possibility of ending it through self-knowledge.

**For more information and registration,**  
see www.krishnamurti-canada.ca  
or contact 250-744-3354. Day commuters are welcome.  
The Friday evening talk is open to the public on a donation basis. Doors open at 7 pm; refreshments included.

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Photo Gordon Tolman

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# The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

## European Fire Ants in Metchosin

A Metchosin resident told me the other day that there were European fire ants on the property, and asked what should a homeowner do? Did I know of a magic potion? All I know about ants is that one baits the tiny “sugar ants” with borax. When I got home and had a chance, I googled fire ants. I heard a clip on the news some time ago that they were in Vancouver and a couple of yards in Oak Bay had infestations, but a little reading made me very aware that they may turn out to be a greater menace than either broom or blackberries! The following information is all from BC official publications, mainly quoted verbatim, as they say it clearly and succinctly.

The European fire ant, *Myrmica rubra*, was first recorded in BC in 2010 and has since been confirmed in several isolated locations in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Chilliwack, Victoria and Courtenay. The fire ant is likely to occur in neighbouring municipalities. The species is native to Europe and Asia and was first introduced to eastern North America in the 1900s. Over the past ten years it has become a significant pest in a number of US states and Canadian provinces. European fire ants prefer moist environments, making irrigated lawns and gardens on the west coast of BC an ideal place to become established.

If you think you might have them, take a good look: they have two abdominal segments, and two red spikes sticking out of the thorax section. None of our native ants are so decorated.

The fire ants have the hourglass sections between the thorax and the gaster section.

Fire ants are aggressive and much more active in warm weather. They also have a stinger and venom. The native ants pinch, and when removed the pain goes immediately; fire ants will inject venom that initially burns for half an hour to two hours and itches for a week. If you think you have been stung by a fire ant and experience a stronger reaction than minor swelling, call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 for advice. You may require emergency care if strongly allergic.

The most common method of introduction is from movement and distribution of infected horticultural material including potted plants, soil and mulch.

### What can you do to protect your own property?

**Deterrents** – reduce watering and remove anything from the area that traps heat and moisture.

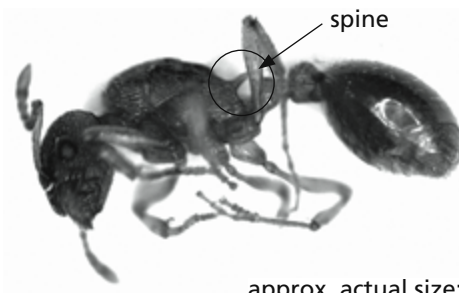
**Stop the Spread** – Ensure landscaping supplies you bring to your property are not infested with ants – inspect carefully.

If you notice any ants in the soil ball, immerse in water for an hour and that should kill all ants present. This advice is from Dr. Robert Higgins of Thompson Rivers University, a recognized expert on fire ants.

Do not move soil mulch or plants from infested areas (the government doesn't give the citizen much credit for common sense, does it?)

**Baits** – 2% Boric acid in a sugar solution seems to help. This is commercially available; do not go for the “Bigger is better” and get the stronger solution – the ants won't eat it.

I am often not impressed by BC Department of Agriculture's response to the concerns of the home gardener. The days of district



approx. actual size:

### EUROPEAN FIRE ANT IDENTIFICATION

- Very small (approx. ½ cm, thin, reddish-brown in colour)
- a constricted waist with two segments (most ants native to BC have a constricted waist and one segment)
- two backward-pointing spines on middle body section; one is visible in the image above

horticulturalists who would visit your property and give advice are long gone, as are most of the publications. However, the advice and information regarding fire ants is current, updated at least annually, and the home gardener is welcome at information sessions and workshops. There are websites from the province and the CRD, and in Metchosin at least, there are two councillors extremely interested and helpful – possibly all of them, but I have spoken to Councillors Milne and MacKinnon and they will give all the help and advice they can.

If you think you have fire ants, collect a few specimens and get them to the Provincial Museum, attention Claudia Copley. Let us not panic until necessary! You should also read everything you can online, with specific attention as to how the Van Deusen Gardens handled their outbreak.

Personally, I would use the Boracic acid bait and consider the propane torch method, having first consulted with the fire department and explaining what I was planning. Their advice and even possibly help or at least backup would be invaluable.

Meanwhile, I will inspect any soil, whether in a pot with a plant or in a pickup truck, very carefully indeed, and anything suspicious will be returned to source or soaked in a pot of water for a good hour. I suspect we will have to be vigilant forever.

There is a pretty comprehensive list of web links to fire ant information on this website; do read all you can on the subject: [https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HRA/invasive-species/fire\\_ants.htm](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HRA/invasive-species/fire_ants.htm). If we really do have them here and there, possibly one of the Walk and Talk sessions, or a Garden Club sponsored workshop on fire ants, would be useful.

A Google search on fire ants in BC will get you a host of articles and very good up-to-date information, including warnings about using the pyrethrum-based pesticides, as they are extremely toxic to bees.

This may be one of the most pertinent articles I have written in years; do take notice that fire ants are a real and serious threat to our enjoyment of our lovely environment here in Metchosin.

See you in the summer issue.

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## Rare Opportunity to Visit Race Rocks

The KULE Foundation's fundraising and immensely popular boat ride to Race Rocks is once again taking place this spring.

We invite you to join in a unique opportunity to visit this ecological site. Race Rocks is under the stewardship of Pearson College and not open to the general public.

The Metchosin community has a good record of supporting KULE, particularly in its efforts to build the library of a secondary school in rural Kenya and supply books for it.

The trip to Race Rocks is approximately two hours in length and costs \$100 per person.

All those interested can contact Jane Hammond at [jh5447@shaw.ca](mailto:jh5447@shaw.ca) or Geoffrey Tindyebwa (250-391-0258), the founder and director of the KULE Foundation ([www.kulefoundation.org](http://www.kulefoundation.org)). Geoffrey is also a long-serving faculty member at Pearson College.

# The Old Museum Needs You

MARGARET ROPER, CURATOR, METCHOSIN SCHOOL MUSEUM

It is spring again and that means that the volunteers with the Metchosin Museum Society will be keeping the School Museum open on the weekends.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the Society; without them our community would have no access to its treasured artifacts. We are very fortunate in this small community to have such an abundance of items to remind us of what everyday life was like in the days of the pioneers.

Every year we lose a few volunteers. People move out of the municipality or move on to other interests. We are in great need of several more volunteers. If you want to serve your

community in some way and are capable of unlocking a door and turning on the lights, you have the qualifications required to do the job.

The museum is a very peaceful and interesting place to spend a few hours. You can bring your knitting or your laptop to amuse yourself. You can bring a friend. Most visitors are content to browse through on their own. You don't have to give a spiel. The answers to questions can be found in one of our books.

Pat Holloway is calling all our volunteers and would love to hear from you. She can be reached at 250-478-0765.

# A Conversation with Chris Pratt

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

If you have lived in Metchosin for any length of time you may already have met or heard of Chris Pratt. Chris has lived here a long time and has been actively involved in many aspects of our community. I was lucky enough to sit down with him the other day to hear about his life and what brought him to this beautiful place. Lucky me!

Born on May 27, 1924 in Okotoks, Alberta, Chris' family moved to Metchosin in time for him to celebrate his first birthday. Chris' father had seen an advertisement for a log house for rent in Metchosin, and they took up residence there for several months. Unfortunately, in those days it was too far away to commute from the country to work each day so when his father became a realtor in Victoria the family moved into town. Every summer, though, from school's end until Labour Day, Chris' family rented one of the two small cabins on Weir's Beach from the Weir family. Simple cabins, with coal oil lamps and few comforts, but a great view and for only twelve dollars a month! Chris remembers those times as a special part of his childhood. "I remember going up to the Weirs' farm after supper for milk fresh from the cow," Chris recalled.

As a young man, Chris had to leave Metchosin when he joined the navy during World War II. The next few decades took him away from Metchosin to Halifax, then Ottawa, Virginia, and finally back to Halifax. During that time he became a captain of a ship, then of a squadron of ships. Along the way he married and raised four children. "I enjoyed my life in the navy, but it carried with it separation from family, which could be hard."

He still maintained ties with Metchosin throughout those years. Chris' father had bought a cottage overlooking the ocean, initially as a holiday home, and he later retired there. By 1978, the elder Mr. Pratt needed support to continue living there so Chris moved back to Metchosin to help care for him. When his dad died a couple of years



Metchosin's own Chris Pratt.

Photo by Joannie Challenger

later Chris continued to stay in the cottage, later enlarging it and making it his home.

Chris has travelled to many places in the world: he went on an extensive journey of the Silk Road trail and explored India and Nepal, among other places. An adventurer, to be sure, but this is not the part of his life on which Chris wanted to focus for this article.

Chris chose instead to talk about his life in Metchosin. As well as reading, Chris enjoys connecting with his family on the island and a wide circle of friends in the community. He takes an active part in various activities in the community; for example, he has been practising yoga for more than 20 years. He remarked, "Its teaching is wise, and the exercises help to preserve flexibility. Good for all ages." Chris has also dedicated considerable time to the Metchosin Foundation, which he helped to found six years ago. His contributions to such environmentally focused organizations were recognized when he was named Volunteer of the Year in 2001.

One of his most important ties has been with Pearson College. "It's such an asset to Metchosin; we're remarkably lucky. Metchosin is ideally suited to having an international college here," he stated. "Most of us in our community adhere to looking after the Earth, to being good guardians, and this fits with the college's philosophy. It's

gratifying for a small place like Metchosin to be known in far off corners of the world like Hong Kong and South America, as college students take home their memories of this place. It's rewarding, a win-win situation for all." A favourite event for both the students and Chris has been Pearson College's orientation week camp-out each September, when students arrive at his property with tents to camp overnight. "Being around the young people is like finding the fountain of youth," he smiled. "It's good to be around different generations."

When asked what message he would like to pass along to *Muse* readers, Chris expressed his strong belief that sensitive areas like Race Rocks and Metchosin's shoreline should be preserved. "We have a heritage of some incredible lands - Garry oaks, Douglas-firs, our shoreline is precious. Our seas and shores have some of the richest variety of marine life in the world. We need to raise awareness, and protect what we have now."

"Whither Metchosin? I sometimes feel about our world as I did as a young boy when I was building sandcastles and watching the tide come in. I hope we can defend the treasure we have here for the future."

Wise words, from a man who has put so much energy into doing just that.

## Metchosin Museum Society – Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House  
4430 Happy Valley Road

Our guest speaker will be **Robert D. Turner**, who will discuss the E & N Railway. Everyone welcome; refreshments provided.

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# A Celebration of the Ocean and Art

CATHERINE LANG

Metchosin artist Linda Simrose wants the first anniversary of Glow arts to be a celebration of the seascapes around us.

Driven by passion, talent and sacrifice that most artists can attest to, Simrose came to this corner of our community on May 1, 2014, when she outgrew her tiny studio overlooking the grasslands bordering Esquimalt Lagoon at Coast Collective art gallery.

"Living on this island – the ocean has a huge influence," she said. "The driftwood, sand, beach and ocean are a really good reason to celebrate."

Ebb and Flow will run from May 1 to June 28, with an opening reception on Sunday, May 3, at Glow studio, 4495 Happy Valley Road.

Exhibiting artists include: Kathy Cameron (paintings); Dar Churcher (sculpture); Cynthia Curtis, (paintings, leaded glass); Connie Kaziechko (glass stones, "beach bottles"); Arno Keinonen (photographs); Frank Mitchell (paintings); Terri Rodstrom (paintings); Ann Semple (clay masks); Linda Simrose (paintings, glass work, furniture, trays).

Like the forests, pastures and byways that no doubt have a history once active with Coast Salish harvesting and trading routes, to the pioneer trails that became the roads which wind their way to her gallery today, Simrose brings a legacy of her own to Metchosin. Her father built her an "art studio" when she was a five-year-old so that she could "teach" all the neighbourhood children how to paint. Today, she laughs about it. "What would I have taught them at five years old?"

Nonetheless, her approach to art isn't so very far from that of a child – full of wonderment, joy and a lust for the natural world around us.

However, because her father also understood the importance of being able to earn a living, he steered her toward a technical career path as she grew up.

A Calgary native, she began her working life as an electrical and mechanical engineering draftsman before she studied graphic art at Douglas College in Langley in the 1970s. As a graphic artist and interior designer in the 1980s and 1990s, Simrose raised two children as a single parent. It meant putting in a full day's work, followed by parenting and domestic

chores before she could paint. Somehow, she found time to exhibit her art and begin to develop a portfolio and a following.

"I had sold-out shows," she said of her time in Calgary. Working full-time as a graphic designer for the University of Calgary, she organized off-hour art exhibits on campus. "I would go home and cry. All my babies are gone. All that work was gone."

Her children are grown, those difficult and wearying years behind her. Folks in Metchosin are the beneficiaries. Simrose is but one artist in our midst who offers us that "something more," deepening our connection to the west coast beauty around us.

She is clearly driven to share this visual and tactile wealth with Metchosin.

Talk to some of her artist friends, such as Terri Rodstrom and Connie Kaziechko, or drop by on a Sunday afternoon when she opens her doors to those who want to spend time in the company of other artists. You'll discover a welcoming space where spontaneous "still life" creations in several mediums evolve into art. These artists are not only sharing different techniques and philosophies but also building a deepening sense



Linda Simrose at Glow Gallery.

Photo by Catherine Lang

of belonging, often shared over tea, biscuits and hearty laughs.

Equally important, perhaps, kindred spirits in Metchosin and the surrounding areas now have a space to gather, to share images and

stories, a place to reconnect with local talent and recharge inner muses, whether slumbering just beneath the surface or running free on the beach, marvelling at the riches on our shores.

For more information, here are some links to explore:

<https://www.facebook.com/GlowArtStudioandGallery?fref=ts>

<http://www.simroseart.com/>

[http://www.sidestreetstudio.com/catalog/artist\\_bio.php?id=80574](http://www.sidestreetstudio.com/catalog/artist_bio.php?id=80574)

<http://terrirodstrom.weebly.com/>

<http://www.darchurcher.com/>

<http://www.alfrescoes.com/frank.htm>

## Don't miss the Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale!

May 23 and 24. See page 11 for details.



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## Gardening the Rain

JUDITH VAN MANEN

Some people dance to make rain, other people like dancing in the rain, and some like falling asleep by the soothing sounds of rain drops. But Paul de Greef is different. He likes gardening the rain. Paul is a landscape artist who shows us how to design rain gardens. His Garden Club presentation is entitled "Gardening with Rain Water."

Rain gardens are depressed landscape areas that collect rain and allow the rain water to soak slowly through soil. Rain gardens are increasingly being used to slow down the runoff from streets and buildings in our island communities, and to clean pollutants as well. In his presentation, Paul will elaborate on the function, versatility, and relevance of rain gardens in today's landscapes.

Paul de Greef is an adjunct professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UBC and he regularly speaks at conferences, special events, and local garden club meetings. He also happens to be a gardening enthusiast, who tends a garden that produces food for his family, adds aesthetic value, and gives a little back to nature, too.

So, please, don't miss our highly informative Garden Club speaker Paul de Greef at Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, on Wednesday evening, May 6 at 7:30 pm. See you there!

### Garden Club Plant Sale

In addition to our regular garden club meeting, we will have our annual plant sale, social, and raffle on Saturday, May 9. There will be many plants for sale that are locally grown in the gardens of Metchosin Club members.

For the first time, our sale will include garden-themed art created by local artists. In addition to the sale, you may attend a seminar on mushrooms for your home and garden presented by DYI Fungi.

So there is much to see and do. Of course the sale would not be complete without coffee and goodies baked by our own members and an exciting raffle draw, at Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, from 10:00 am–2:30 pm.



## Celebrate Mother's Day with us.

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down to earth

# Roger Palser, medical physicist in Camelot

BARB SAWATSKY

Visit Glow Art Gallery and you will see exquisitely detailed, carved gnome houses displayed on the wall. At the Community House Arts Group, I was fortunate to meet the carver of these houses, Roger Palser. They are so intricate that I was surprised when he said he had only been carving them for five or six years. "But I also make harps, you see," he added. "OH! HARPS, you say so casually," was my reply just one nanosecond before asking if I could write a story about him and his harps for the *Muse*. "Oh yes," said Roger, "how about 2:00 next Tuesday at my house?"

So Tuesday found my car pointing up a very long, steep driveway to a lovely five-acre property which backs onto Blinkhorn Mountain and to his home with its spectacular view overlooking Metchosin. "This is what sold us on the house two years ago," Roger said to my obvious gawking. "How did we come to this place? Well that's an interesting story." I was to find that Roger has many interesting stories.

Born in England, lived in Winnipeg for 50 years, he retired in 2000 from his position as medical physicist at the University of Manitoba and CancerCare Manitoba. With newly found freedom from work schedules he pursued his hobby of woodworking for relaxation, then took a counter job at Lee Valley when he heard that they offer good discounts on tools and merchandise to employees. It was there that he enrolled in a fun class that was being offered on carving faces.

In February, 2012 he and his wife, Lynne, who had retired from her job teaching nursing, visited friends who had moved to Quadra Island. They had last been to the West Coast 35 years ago and although this was to be "just a visit," Roger kept thinking, "I could live here." It wasn't until they returned to Winnipeg that he learned that Lynne had been having the same thoughts.

Medical physicists do a lot of research in the course of their jobs so naturally Roger began to methodically plan their move to the West. Websites of micro climates and meteorologic surveys around Victoria were consulted, narrowing their choices of communities where they would look out for a home. They returned to Vancouver Island, visiting Metchosin in July, 2012 when Lynne's cousin, Jan Bettinson who lives on LaBonne Road, invited them to stay with her while they looked around. Jan's close friend sells real estate and when they gave her their criteria ("no lawn, no snow, must have a basement"), she narrowed the choices to four homes on the lower Island. The first three were discounted, the incredible view on the fourth captivated them



Roger Palser in his workshop.

Photo by Barb Sawatsky

and the rest is history. They put an offer on the house, it was accepted, they returned to Winnipeg, sold their home in three days along with the snow blower and lawn mower, packed up their two border terriers and took possession of their present home at the end of August. "You see, we were lucky. It was a seller's market there and a buyer's market here."

So how does building harps fit into this interview? "Well, that's another interesting story," said Roger. "Years ago when we lived in Winnipeg, Lynne and I met a lady named Elizabeth Goossen at our English country dance group. She is a professional harpist who plays in a band for weddings and other events. She wanted to teach harp and when she heard that I did woodworking, she asked if I would help her to build some from kits so she could rent them to students." They built two but found that they were of simple design and poor construction, easily bending out of shape, so they decided to design their own. Months later, Elizabeth asked him to help build another but when she arrived at their house she pulled not a kit, but a length of lumber out of the back of her car. This was the beginning of Camelot Harps.

Roger wrote the computer software to make it easier for them to design the string sets and shape of the harp. He explained that the pitch or frequency of each string is related by a mathematical equation to its tension, length, diameter and weight. Also, the wood used affects the tone and must be strong enough to take the stress of the strings. They build two styles of frame and use cherry from Eastern Ontario and walnut from the New England states and Ontario. For the sound board they use Sitka spruce and red cedar from British Columbia.

Before they could begin production of the instruments in the new home in Metchosin, Roger built a workshop in his basement, constructing all of the tables, shelves, racks, etc., as well as a dust extractor. He is currently happy to make two a year and tries to work on the current project four to five days a week for about a half day at a time. To date, Camelot Harps has built and sold over 30 full-sized harps which are sold "word of mouth." They do not need to advertise their instruments. Their harps have been purchased by harpists in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, the USA and Great Britain.

When he invited me into his workshop, I wasn't at all surprised to find tools in their designated places and everything meticulously tidy – a lab for a master woodworker. I speculate that Roger is a man who loves order in everything he does. When I saw the harp frame which is his current project, what came to mind was that I was looking at a piece of art in progress. As he explained the process of its construction, I ran my hand over the curves which will one day, when strung, sing under the hand of a musician. What is it about wood that draws a person to want to touch it?

The skill and patience of this quiet-spoken man named Roger impressed me beyond measure. He is an artist who brings happiness and music into the world which is shared far and wide. What a legacy!

While driving home after saying our goodbyes, I replayed my visit with Roger. My knowledge of harps and their construction is still sadly lacking but it made me reflect once again on the backgrounds and personalities in our community and to why I am writing stories about "ordinary Metchosin citizens." It is because they are truly extraordinary people, and their stories are fascinating.



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# The Metchosin Sounds of Silence

JOHNNY CARLINE

I spent the last 30 years of my working life living in what was considered a "quiet" neighbourhood in Greater Vancouver. There were no major highways or railways running through it, no mega-stores or malls, and only rarely a noisy party.

But it was quiet in an urban way. At around 5:30 am the hum of traffic on the Trans Canada was already audible from over half a mile away. Shortly afterwards the Halloween-like sounds of the steel wheels of the Skytrain going round a curve on a steel track mingled with the sound of the shunting (big boys playing with really big train sets) from the railway marshalling yards. Rat-racing commuter traffic would begin to filter through the neighbourhood. Remembering my upbringing in the English countryside, I promised my wife that we would retire to a place that was truly quiet.

And so we did. We came to Metchosin where the quiet has an altogether different quality. Here, too, the sounds of silence can begin in the wee small hours. Sometimes it is the faint click of antlers as young bucks develop their fencing skills on the front lawn. Other times it is the mellowing hoots of owls gently calling to each other in the night. Newcomers to this environment might be forgiven for perhaps confusing the latter with the soft, sweet sigh of a snoozing spouse. Forgiven perhaps, but not by the spouse. Not at 3:00 am. Trust me on that.

As the sun rises, the rooster across the way is reminded that it is time for him to announce that he is awake and ready for action. The chickens seem to ignore this but the rooster has jolted the guard hounds awake, and they feel the need to boom out that they are still on guard for thee.

The rooster has also woken the feral peacock that roosts in our trees, sometimes on our roof. In the spring, in full plumage, he is a magnificent sight and with only a fanning of his tail for warm up, he gives out with a full throated mating call. Alas, his voice is more like Tiny Tim on steroids than Julio Iglesias and as there are no feral peahens around, it all seems tragically pointless, notwithstanding his suspicious penchant for the neighbour's turkeys.

My son and his partner were staying with us a while back and got the full 6:00 am peacock treatment from the roof not 15 feet above their heads. They are used to city noises. This was a new experience, more effective than any urban salon hair straightening process. My son's partner came downstairs looking like Elsa Lanchester in the *Bride of Frankenstein*. They haven't been back.

But, if the peacock is unmusical, that can't be said for the northern flickers. They use the metal crows on our chimneys for their territorial announcements. The cowl on the chimney in the middle of the house has a tinny treble tone whereas the one above our

bedroom is resonantly baritone. Barely has the peacock quieted down than the flickers launch into an extended rendition of Audubon and Peterson's *Concerto for Crows and Two Beaks*. You might as well just get up, go out and watch the performance.

The drone of a dive-bombing hummingbird punctuated by a startlingly loud peep welcomes us to the garden; a shrieking exchange between two Steller's jays reminds me how nice it is to be retired from my former life in big city politics; a raven does a victory roll, perhaps celebrating some avian conspiracy to prevent me sleeping in, and then alternates a throaty laugh with an amazing imitation of a honking pig. The laugh I take as fair comment on my amateur gardening efforts, but the honk really hurts.

It's *Muse* time so my wife wanders down to the mailbox to collect the latest edition. She knows the first article she is obliged to read is what she calls the "continual chirp" of this MCA director cajoling the denizens of Metchosin to join the MCA.

Yes, I admit it is persistent. But we still need another sixteen members to meet our 2015 membership target (deadline June 30); so hopefully sixteen readers will respond by calling Heather at 250-478-5155 to join the MCA and thereby allowing my wife to benefit from at least a temporary halt to this chirping and to truly enjoy the peace and quiet of the Metchosin sounds of silence.

## GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

### New Perspectives on Emily Carr: Her Paintings and Writings about the West Shore

MCA Speaker Series, Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House

LAURA FARQUHARSON, MCA GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR

Elaine Limbrick and John Hollemans will give this presentation on an Emily Carr which Elaine describes as an illustrated talk with photos and paintings of the sites on the West Shore, ranging from the Gorge Waterway to Port Renfrew, sites which inspired Emily Carr in the last great period of her art. Emily truly found her own style, free from the "Indian motifs" (Lawren Harris) that characterized her early paintings of Indian villages, totem poles and people. In *Growing Pains* Emily wrote, "While working on the Indian stuff I felt a little that I was but copying the Indian idiom instead of expressing my own findings." Life did begin after 60 for Emily as she learned "to stand alone on my own perfectly good feet" and painted the trees, woods and forests, seascapes and skyscapes of the West Shore.

Based on interviews with people who knew Emily Carr and clues scattered throughout her writings and in letters to friends, Elaine has drawn up a guide to artistic and literary sites featured in Emily's paintings and books, while John Hollemans has used his skill as a photographer to show the relationship between the physical site and the painter's vision. These photographs will also preserve the memory of some of these sites, which will likely disappear in the next few years.

All are welcome at this free evening event. There will be time for discussion, and refreshments will be served.

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# Bird Nerds Welcome

LYNDA HILLS

Whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool birder or just want to scratch that itch, Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) invites you to two days of wildlife wonder.

On Saturday, May 9, fly on down to the Beaver Lake Nature Centre at Elk and Beaver Lake Regional Park for the Sixth Annual International Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme is "Restore Habitat, Restore Birds." Festivities start at 9:00 am and include guided bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, displays, live birds of prey and children's activities.

On Sunday, May 10, RPBO is offering extra events at the monthly Shangri-La bird walk at Outerbridge Park. Along with a guided bird walk, the day offers a Big Day Count Circle, a photography contest and a live birds of prey display. The walk starts at 9:00 am at the parking lot off Royal Oak Drive near Lochside School.

For RPBO board member, Acacia Spencer-Hills, birds are unlike any other animal around.

"Birds are truly a class unto their own, with feathers, wings, and the ability to fly," she says. "From the daunting vulture to the miniscule hummingbird; they are truly a wonder and privilege to learn about."

For newbies or nerds, RPBO offers the chance to get to know these wonderful creatures and also provides the opportunity to help conserve their future.

For more information, visit <http://www.rpbo.org>.

## About the Rocky Point Bird Observatory

Rocky Point Bird Observatory is a non-profit research organization that influences and informs conservation and ecological management practices of migratory birds in western North America through monitoring, scientific research and public education.



Black-throated gray warbler – a regular migrant visitor to the Rocky Point Bird Observatory. Photo by Acacia Spencer-Hills



## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

**Metchosin Community House** 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155  
Email: [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net) Web: [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://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. Finished for the season but will restart in September.

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

**Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Choir** – Finished for the season but will restart again in September.

#### Tuesdays

**Drop In Painters Art Group.** This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–12 noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome.

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

**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).

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

#### Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking** – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (phone 250-595-6406, or email [blueheronstudio@telus.net](mailto: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. Last session May 7. Starting again September 3.

**Community Potluck Lunch** – Last Thursday of each month, 12:00–1:30 pm. All welcome.

#### Fridays

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

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

**Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In** – 2:45–4:30 pm Finished for the season but will restart in September.

**Film Night** – 7:00–9:00 pm. May 29: *PEACE OUT*; 72 minutes. See article on page 5.

### Events

**Mighty Garage Sale – May 23 and 24.** Donations start May 16. If you want to be part of the fun, start rummaging around and pulling together your donations for this year's sale. We need your unwanted "stuff" that is still in good condition including: clothing, books, furniture in reasonable condition, antiques, small appliances in working order, tools, sporting goods, china, garden supplies and household goods. We are allowing used computer equipment to be donated this year. Please, no mattresses, exercise equipment, TVs, pillows, old shoes, soiled clothing, microwaves, typewriters, cribs, car seats, magazines, barbeques, ski equipment, entertainment units, or large appliances.

Your donation of items for the sale can be dropped off at the tent in the Metchosin Community House parking lot, daily, starting Saturday, May 16 through to Friday, May 22 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Remember to mark those dates on your calendar right now. See you at the sale on May 23 and 24!

**Local Kids Can Earn Spending Money!** Hey Kids – why not earn some coin to help fund your summer holidays? Pocket some cash in exchange for those old toys, e-games, cartoon videos, volumes of nursery rhymes, stacks of comics, Hot Wheels, Barbies, Braats, and books! As an incentive to our Metchosin youth, we are offering a section of the yard to local kids ages 12 to 18 who would like to set up a sales table (or tarp) on Sunday, May 24 for FREE. Bring your own table (or tarp), cash float, and the items to sell – it has to be YOUR STUFF, not your parents' things. All items must be organized and in reasonable repair – you will have to take away whatever is not sold. You want your stuff to sell, so don't bring junk. You (and a friend if you wish) must be ready to do your own bargaining with the crowd and do the selling. The Mighty Garage Sale is a safe, fun, and friendly event. If you have any questions or would like your name on the list, call 250-478-5155. Anyone wanting to sell must be signed up no later than May 20.

If you are interested in being part of this fun event and have some free time to volunteer, please call the MCA office at 478-5155 to join in!

**Guest Speaker Series: Elaine Limbrick and John Hollemans** – *New Perspectives on Emily Carr: her paintings and writings about the West Shore*; Thursday, May 28, 7:00–9:00 pm.

An illustrated talk with photos and paintings of sites from the Gorge Waterway to Port Renfrew which inspired Emily Carr in the last great period of her art. Based on interviews with people who knew Emily, and clues scattered throughout her writings, Elaine Limbrick has drawn up a guide to the West Shore sites and John Hollemans has photographed them to show the relationship between the physical site and the artist's vision. These photographs will also conserve the memory of some of these places which will disappear in the next few years. All welcome. Refreshments. Free.

**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.

**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.

# Knit Fit

CHARMAINE WELCH

There will soon be a new exercise craze sweeping the nation and I am giving you the chance to be ahead of the wave. As I conceived the concept, I have named it "Knit Fit." Fit, as in physically fit, not fit as in convulsions. Knit Fit is a rare opportunity to mix relaxation and exercise. How is this possible? Basically you are walking and knitting at the same time. How cool is THAT!?

What is Knit Fit's history? The idea hit me about the same time that I got back into knitting a few years ago. Many good ideas spring from necessity, as did this one. My large, blonde Pyrenees cross dog, Sally, needed her daily exercise and I wanted to knit. As I was knitting apple cosies, (drawstring covers which cushion fruit in your lunch bag), which requires no counting and is done in the basic garter stitch, I decided to marry the two activities – TA DA – Knit Fit! Much to my delight, and Sally's, I get projects knitted and she gets to gambol!

This is what I do. Sling one of my long-handled totes over my shoulder with my yarn issuing from it, knitting needles in hand, and a simple knitting pattern in my head, I am off and walking/knitting! Oh, of course, Sally's leash is adorning my left wrist. She is very good about not pulling.

The dog is optional. You could get a friend to accompany you, which would accomplish ANOTHER need: socialization! I'm starting to think this Knit Fit is the answer to a lot of small quandaries! We now have exercise, relaxation and socialization wrapped up in one procedure.

A few suggestions, though. It is safer to walk on a clear trail, such as the Galloping Goose, which affords terrific visibility and no vehicular traffic to interrupt your concentration. Spring, summer, and fall are the best seasons to Knit Fit in, as trying to knit with mitts on is rather awkward. And, of course, rainy days are out.

Can you crochet while walking? Yes, but it would be called Crochet Fit, which, I'm sure you'll agree, doesn't have the cachet of Knit Fit.

Mandy, my friend and Jazzercise instructor, was worried when she first heard about my new regime. Fear not, sweet lady, Knit Fit is not a substitute for Jazzercise. It isn't the ideal all-around workout that Jazzercise provides; just a fun adjunct to it!

Even as you are reading this, I am loading my tote with some Salvation Army-found yarn and am off to enjoy this fabulous spring weather in our beautiful environs! Aren't we smart to live here.

## Missing Plate!



The MCA would appreciate if the lucky winner of the 2014 Metchosin Day prize pie raffle would contact Heather at the MCA office (250-478-5155). The prize was the pie, not the pie plate, which has sentimental value to its owner. We would very much like to get it back; thank you!

## Attention Metchosin Residents!



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MARCH 15–APRIL 15, 2015

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 15 Mar NEILD RD – Hydro – Fire           | 01 Apr EAST SOOKE RD – Medical                |
| 15 Mar ROCKY POINT RD – MVI              | 01 Apr TAURUS DR – Open Burn                  |
| 16 Mar EAST SOOKE RD – Medical           | 03 Apr Beach Fire                             |
| 17 Mar CACTUS PL – Medical               | 03 Apr PARK DR – Medical                      |
| 19 Mar ROCKY POINT RD – MVI              | 05 Apr EAST SOOKE RD – Medical                |
| 19 Mar KANGAROO RD – Open Burn – General | 07 Apr GLEN FOREST WAY – Open Burn            |
| 23 Mar KANGAROO RD – Brush/Grass – Fire  | 07 Apr SPEYSIDE LANE – Open Burn              |
| 23 Mar CLAPHAM DR – Medical              | 08 Apr HAPPY VALLEY RD – Alarm Bells          |
| 24 Mar WILLIAM HEAD RD – Medical         | 08 Apr PARRY CROSS RD – Medical               |
| 26 Mar HAPPY VALLEY RD – Assistance BCAS | 10 Apr HERLIHY PL – Medical                   |
| 26 Mar DUTNALL RD – Medical              | 10 Apr SOOKE RD – SFRes – Mobile Home/Trailer |
| 27 Mar HAPPY VALLEY RD – Medical         | 12 Apr TAVANE RD – SFRes – Chimney            |
| 28 Mar SOOKE RD – Fire – Misc Fire       | 13 Apr SOOKE RD – MVI                         |
| 29 Mar SOOKE RD – MVI                    | 14 Apr Beach Fire                             |
| 30 Mar Open Burn – Camp Fire             |   |

## What Is It?

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

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



Photo by Barb Sawatsky

*Congratulations to Fiona Chambers* for being the first to identify the item in April's "What Is It?" photo – a tongue press, which is used to squeeze liquid out of just-cooked beef tongue, making it sliceable for luncheon meat. Fiona will receive a free regular coffee, compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House.

sponsored by **The Broken Paddle Coffee House**  
4480 Happy Valley Road, Metchosin

# Metchosin Equestrian Society Horse of the Month

WILL LOW

Little did Hobart know when he retired with an impressive racing record that life in Metchosin would be a "harrowing" experience. In 2012, Hobart's trainer decided that rather than return the big gelding to soundness from a hind leg injury, the eight-year-old deserved a quieter life compared to his five years pulling a sulky on the pacing circuit. That is how he ended up at Greener Pastures (<http://greener-pastures.ca/>), a small charity based in Langley dedicated to finding new homes and new lives for standardbreds.

Hobart hadn't been with Greener Pastures long when his new owners, Will Low and Eileen Davenport, had him brought to Metchosin along with a companion named Bella, also a standardbred from Greener Pastures. The last fencepost had only just been put up when the horse transport pulled in to their new Metchosin home in the fall of 2012.

Since then Hobart and Bella have been making the transition from track stars to trail horses, working with local trainer Heidi Chartrand. Both have taken to their new lives, although Hobart still finds it hard to trot under saddle and rider rather than pace. All those years of training are hard to overcome.



Hobart, Horse of the Month, at work. Photo by James Doe

But his skill under harness proved useful back in March when the Metchosin Equestrian Society (MES) needed to have the new gravel surface of the municipal riding ring groomed after its first winter of hard use. A call went out to MES members for someone with a small tractor to pull a harrow round the ring to level and smooth it. When no one could do it, Hobart answered the call – under the watchful eye of his trainer and owners – with great success. The transition from the bright lights to a quiet rural life was complete.

MES has just bought a larger harrow and is looking for people who could offer

use of a small garden or farm tractor – it will be too hard a job for Hobart to do on a regular basis; he is retired after all! Besides, his owners are taking the next logical step and learning about carriage driving to add to their own skills and equine enjoyment, while making use of the training Bella and Hobart already have. Will and Eileen recently joined the BC Carriage Driving Society, South Island Branch, and have purchased a carriage to pursue their dream. So if in the future you see them on the roads of Metchosin, pass wide and slowly, and wave.



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<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

# Metchosin's Boys of Summer Return to the Pitch

RICK GARDNER

Metchosin Cricket Club began their 39th season with an exhibition victory over Cowichan in Division 1 pre-season action at Shawnigan Lake. The Cougars took the game by three wickets, 190/7 to Cowichan's 189/all out. Perennial all-star Blair Boardman walked off after a half-century, going 50 not-out. This was followed by a strong partnership between Doug de la Mare and Chris Duke which put another 66 on the board, and then some timely boundaries from Danny Basson to seal the win. The Cougars will face Cowichan only once this season on June 13 in the annual Craggs Cup match, which is named for Metchosin cricket pioneer John Strong Craggs.

Meanwhile, the new-look Mackerels began their 2015 Division 2 campaign on 21 April at Windsor Park against MCC. Local stand-out Darren "Sniper" Buhr is at the helm this year as Captain, and will be leading a group of seasoned returning players as well as some new Metchosin-based talent. The Mackerels will have three 15-year-olds in the line-up this year, graduates of the Metchosin Junior Cricket League, heralding the future core of Metchosin Cricket. The Mackerels will play their matches on select weeknights through to July, with play-offs to follow in August.

The Metchosin Junior Cricket League will be starting play on June 10, following on to last year's successful opening season. A new school program at Sangster Elementary has raised the interest of even more

young players in the West Shore. This program is a great opportunity for girls and boys age six and older to try a new summer sport right here in Metchosin. Registration is very reasonable at only \$45 per child for the season. More information can be had at [met.jr.cricket@gmail.com](mailto:met.jr.cricket@gmail.com).

The most exciting news from the past off-season is that the club is beginning the ground-work for an over-40s T20 tournament. Established in 1976, the club will be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year. This eight-team invitational is planned for the May long weekend, with games at the current ground behind the municipal hall and at the original pitch at Metchosin Elementary School.

Please come down and support your local teams! Not sure what's happening on the field? Just enquire at the scorer's box and one of our players will be happy to explain the intricacies of the game. You can contact the club any time at [metchosin.cricket@gmail.com](mailto:metchosin.cricket@gmail.com).

**MAY SCHEDULE AT METCHOSIN CLUB:**

Date and Time	Home	Visitors
Sat, May 2, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Alcos
Sat, May 9, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Islanders
Mon, May 11, 6:00 pm	Mackerels	StoneWalters
Tue, May 19, 6:00 pm	Mackerels	Fulham
Sun, May 24, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Saanich
Mon, May 25, 6:00 pm	Mackerels	Beagle Pub
Sun, May 31, 12:30 pm	Cougars	Oak Bay

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# Our Scouts have been busy this past month!

SANDRA MEYER



Cubs, Scouts and Venturers all together on a BC ferry.

From Game Nights to making emergency “Penny Stoves,” our troop has been very busy! Our most recent events have been a Scout-arranged camp at Milne’s Landing in Sooke that the Scouts themselves planned and then the very challenging Nite Hike in Pacific Spirit Regional Park at UBC. Our Scouts hiked from 6:45 in the evening until 5:15 the next morning! There were 27 stations throughout the hike and the Scouts had the challenge of following the map through the park on their own. They learned quickly what happens if you take a wrong turn! It was a lot of work but that was most definitely overshadowed by the laughs and the crazy amount of fun!

Some of our Venturers joined in on Nite Hike as well. They took public transit from the ferry which added to their adventure for sure!



Making paracord bracelets – Steven Meyer



More paracord work – Elliott Cove and Curtis Becker

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## NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN

# Outdoor Learning at Hans Helgesen School

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

When I was in school, the only time we ever went outside was for recess or lunch, or for an occasional gym class in the spring. Well, it seems that things have changed a bit since then. Educators recognize that learning doesn’t only take place at a desk in a classroom, but outside in the real world of nature. Perhaps we’ve always known that, and we just needed children to remind us? Students at Hans Helgesen have always been a pretty outdoorsy lot, with many taking part in cross-country runs and various other sports. Now other types of learning are happening outside the four walls of a classroom.

The Kindergarten and Grade One students in Diana Wakelin’s class start almost every day outdoors, either in the beautifully wild ravine at the front of the school or perhaps on the Galloping Goose Trail behind the school. “It’s a positive start to the day,” Diana noted. “Everyone starts their morning with success; it fosters a sense of stewardship, or caring, for their natural surroundings. And our walks help the children in their development, both socially and physically. I’ve noticed that my students tend to solve problems more co-operatively, too.” Diana went on to say that many topics in science become so much more “real” when studied in nature. For example, the class studied plant growth and the seasons first hand, instead of only in a book. They also learned to use their senses. On some of their walks they practised listening for and locating various sounds, then later drew a map of the sounds, using symbols and a legend to show the different noises. Another day the class learned about the uses of different plants in the forest from Earl Claxton and John Williams, two First Nation elders provided by the school district’s role model program.

Another outdoor learning experience has been taking place in the school courtyard, where Kelly Holtan’s grade two and three students have taken on the challenge of making the courtyard into an outdoor classroom. With the help of their teacher and several parents, students learned how to prune a tree, made birdfeeders from cookie cutters, hung lights, planted garlic, flower bulbs and pansies, weeded and swept. “The children have really taken ownership of the space,” Kelly said. “They check on their plants and are more observant of what they see there. This shows in their art. For example, when they’ve seen lots of cherry blossoms they have a better understanding of how to draw one!” Her class uses the courtyard for reading and art, as do some of the other classes. Like Diana, Kelly mentioned that the children tend to be calmer and more focused when they’ve had a chance to be outdoors for a part of their day.

Without a doubt there are many other examples of outdoor learning at the school.



Hans Helgesen students exploring their environment, helping to prevent Nature Deficit Disorder!  
Photos by Diana Wakelin



“At our school we value outdoor learning,” commented principal Debra Stoutley. In the coming months, we will be developing a strategic plan for the school property at Hans Helgesen, to provide a natural playscape for the children.” More information will follow as plans unfold!

*Metchosin Technical School Letters, continued from page 2*

If you have any questions or are an alumni and would like to write, please contact me: [dchristowling@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:dchristowling@sd62.bc.ca)  
Yours Truly,

*Dayna Christ-Rowling, Acting VP Metchosin Technical Centre*

For the past two years I have been a student at MTC. There are many things to reflect upon as the program ends and we all move on. One of the most significant aspects of the school is respect. I get respect from the teachers and other students; furthermore, everyone is very kind and helpful, well, some more than others. The great thing about the school is that every gym

class is outside in the fresh air and is almost never in the same spot. The best part is going to Royal Roads and using their gym that they are so kind to let us use while the other half of the class hikes the trails around Royal Roads. Other schools need to do PE outside because it’s a lot better than being inside. I really enjoy this school because it has the best teachers, fantastic educational assistants (you too, Jennifer and Rocky) and a great vice-principal.

Sincerely,

*William Cumby,  
Grade 10 MTC student*

Hi, my name is Adam, I am a current student at Metchosin Technical Centre. I think that

next year will be a big transition for me because not only am I changing schools, I’m changing school districts as well. In order to succeed I have created three goals for myself for next year. The first goal is to try to be in class the entire time instead of wandering in half way through (hopefully the teachers aren’t boring!). The second and probably the hardest goal to achieve is to try new situations that I may or may not be comfortable with. Last but not least, is to try not to let my friends distract me no matter how tempting it is. Achieving those goals will help me have a very successful school year and still have fun.

*Adam, grade 10 student*

# RCMP Call-Outs MARCH 15–APRIL 13, 2015

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Mar 15 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, patrols failed to locate vehicle.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle accident, driver swerved to miss a deer, one person taken to hospital.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of disturbance, one person removed from a residence.
- Mar 16 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located, registered owner warned.
- Mar 17 **William Head Road** – Complaint of possible assault, investigation revealed no criminal charges.  
**Neff Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, possible drug activity, vehicle not located.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of person breaching court order, one person arrested and held for court.  
**Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of possible disturbance, nothing located.
- Mar 18 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of youths causing a disturbance, no one located.
- Mar 19 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of lost/stolen license plates.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle accident, two people taken to hospital, driver charged under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.
- Mar 20 **Happy Valley Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
- Mar 21 **Hi Mount Drive** – Complaint of possible gun shots being heard, possible fireworks.
- Mar 23 **William Head Road** – Complaint of possible disturbance, one person spoken to.
- Mar 24 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober.  
**Weir Beach** – Complaint of vehicle on the beach, vehicle stopped and driver being dealt with.
- Mar 26 **Pedder Bay Marina** – Complaint of theft from boat, several items stolen.
- Mar 27 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint to check welfare of a person, found to be all right.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of horses on the road.  
**William Head Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle into ditch on wet roads.
- Mar 28 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of found wallet, turned into detachment.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, not located.
- Mar 29 **Kangaroo Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver travelling too fast for wet road conditions.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, complainant thought the occupants may be casing residences for a break in, vehicle not located.
- Mar 30 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, patrols failed to locate vehicle.  
**Albert Head Lagoon** – Complaint of a beach fire, two people warned and fire extinguished.
- Mar 31 **Metchosin Road** – Assistance provided to Oak Bay PD to locate person on a warrant, person not located.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle parked on shoulder of road, owner spoken to and no problems noted.

- Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of domestic dispute, one person arrested for assault, investigation continuing.
- Apr 01 **William Head Road** – Complaint of vehicle in ditch, no one around, appeared vehicle had been there for some time, towed from scene.
- Apr 02 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located.
- Apr 03 **Duke Road** – Patrol unit noted male operating ATV on the road, ATV stopped and driver dealt with under *Motor Vehicle Act*.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – One person arrested for breach of court ordered conditions, found to be in possession of cocaine, held for court.
- Apr 04 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of found wallet which contained substance believed to be heroin.
- Apr 06 **William Head Road** – Complaint of flares being found near beach.
- Apr 07 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of mischief/attempt theft from rural mailbox, Canada Post advised.
- Apr 09 **Matheson Lake** – Complaint of dogs being left in a vehicle, owner given warning.
- Apr 10 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of break and enter to a shed, several items stolen.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of break and enter to a business, several items stolen, investigation continuing.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of break and enter to a workshop, several items stolen, investigation continuing.  
**Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of mischief to private property.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of deer being hit by a vehicle.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of break and enter to a business, one suspect arrested in Colwood and found to be in possession of stolen property, investigation continuing.
- Apr 11 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of gun shots being heard, patrols failed to locate anything.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of possible fraud, still under investigation.  
**William Head Road area** – Complaint of uninsured vehicle parked on the road.
- Apr 12 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.
- Apr 13 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of residential break and enter, still under investigation.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of three vehicle motor vehicle accident, two people taken to hospital, investigation continuing.

## Metchosin Writers' Evening: A Success Story

JAN POULIN

A big thank you from MACCA to the Metchosin writers who read, and to the full house of other Metchosin residents who listened on February 13.

The readings were as eclectic as the art that surrounded us at the Glow Gallery. Those readings were informing, entertaining, well-seasoned with passion, hilarity, personal glimpses, light heartedness to depth, historical to current times.

Such a diverse group of writings. Such an appreciative audience. Another, perhaps?

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

## WANTED

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

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

## LESSONS

**FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 AND 2, MARKETSAFE AND WHMIS** – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website [www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com](http://www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com) for information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

## SERVICES

**COOKIES CRITTER CARE** – Metchosin's professional pet-sitter and dog walker since 2006. Fully insured, bondable and First Aid certified. Cookie 250-415-9335. Comes highly recommended and recognized.

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

## MISSING

Metchosin Day prize pie raffle plate; see page 12. Contact Heather at the MCA office (250-478-5155).

## Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available now at the Metchosin Country Store.

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**John Horgan, MLA  
Juan de Fuca**

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

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

# Directory of Organizations

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

- AIR CADETS**  
250-590-3690

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

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

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- BADMINTON**  
Women's 250-478-9648

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- 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](mailto:exchanging@shaw.ca),  
[www.mesmetchosin.org](http://www.mesmetchosin.org)

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

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- METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB**  
250-298-7877

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

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- METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
250-478-4778

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

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- METCHOSIN PONY CLUB**  
250-727-3595

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

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

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

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

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- ROUGH VOICE SINGERS**  
September to April  
250-478-0553

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

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

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- SEA CADETS**  
250-478-7813

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

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

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- SWANWICK CENTRE**  
A centre for spiritual inquiry  
538 Swanwick Road  
250-744-3354  
[programs@swanwickcentre.ca](mailto:programs@swanwickcentre.ca)  
[www.swanwickcentre.ca](http://www.swanwickcentre.ca)

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

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

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

## CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Events

**Kivari Auto Repair and Kivari Studio Open House,** Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 941 Arden Rd.

**Footsteps in the Sand: A Journey through Israel** slide presentation, Saturday, May 30, 7:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House.

**CRD Events in Metchosin:** The CRD is running several events at Metchosin parks in May. For more information, please visit their website: [www.crd.bc.ca/about/events](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/events)

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



### Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

Constituency office is now open to serve constituents:  
A2-100 Aldersmith Place  
Victoria V9A 7M8  
10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday  
or by appointment  
T: 250-405-6550  
E: [Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca)  
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[www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com](http://www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com)  
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