



# Metchosin Amuse

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

## Is It Time for Metchosin to Regulate Drones?

BEA SHARP, GUEST EDITOR

Our municipal council has embarked on a study of whether there is a need to regulate shipping containers, but the silence is deafening on another quirky aspect of modern times: drones. They're everywhere. A local inventor, who does not want to be identified by name, so we'll just call him "Derek," claims there's probably not one property in Metchosin that hasn't had drones flying over it. And he should know - he's got a bunch of them.

This raises the question - should our elected officials

be thinking about some kind of bylaw that would protect the residents of Metchosin against unwanted intrusion by drones? Do they bother the sheep? Do they stress birds during the nesting season? Should they be banned from Metchosin air space? Should owners of drones be required to register them? Should there be a limit on the number of drones any one individual can own?

"Derek" claims they are harmless and that nothing should be done, other than perhaps a campaign to encourage more Metchosinites to have them. Believe it

or not, he claims they would actually benefit the community and reinforce important aspects of our rural lifestyle! He also thinks it would be futile to regulate them in any way. "Trying to register drones would be very difficult," he states. "There's so many out there, the municipality would never be able to track them all down, and going to a complaint-based enforcement approach would be about as effective as it has been for secondary suite bylaw enforcement."

*continued on page 7*

## Two-Headed Lamb Born at Parry Bay Sheep Farm



Regular farm visitor Rowan Kew holding the two-headed lamb, which he has named Ding-dong.

ROSEMARY MINTER

It's been three weeks since the two-headed lamb was born at Parry Bay Sheep Farm, and John and Lorraine Buchanan still can't get their heads around how it happened. "We've never seen anything like it," Lorraine said, "but it seems to be doing well."

John said that in this case, it was fortuitous that the lamb was breech because coming out head first would have been impossible. Even so, it wasn't an easy birth and that's probably why it was rejected by its mother. "On the bright side, it's a quick feed," noted John, "because it takes two bottles at once."

Farm employee Jason Barron (see page 13 for an article about Jason) said that being there for the birth was a chance in a lifetime for him. "I don't think there's any trick those ewes can throw at me now, having been through this!", he told the *Muse*.

The lamb seems to be doing well and has since been moved to a field in an undisclosed location outside of Metchosin, to ensure that it is not constantly disturbed by onlookers. When asked about how it would do, John said he figured it would manage because it would keep an eye open for threats even while it was eating, and after all, two heads are better than one.

## Sign of the Times



The District of Metchosin has adopted an all-inclusive roads policy, effective April 1, as evidenced by the newly updated road sign at the entrance to Metchosin on Metchosin Road. If you have suggestions regarding what has been missed, please don't send them in - there's no more room on the sign!

### Important Dates

See also the Events listing on the back page, and for ongoing events, the directory of organizations.

- Apr. 1 April Fool's Day - *Gotcha!*
- Apr. 2 Services Auction ..... p. 11
- Apr. 3 Celebration of Life - Charles Priester ..... p. 3
- Apr. 6 Talk: Fascinating Fruit Trees..... p. 6
- Apr. 8/9 Talk and Walk: Native Orchids ..... p. 3
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- Apr. 19 Emergency Information Session ..... p. 2
- Apr. 21 MCH Guest Speaker: Trevor Hancock ..... p. 10
- Apr. 22 Earth Day  
Metchosin Preschool Co-op Silent Auction .... p. 7
- Apr. 29 Film Night: *Racing Extinction* ..... p. 10
- Apr. 29 Talk: Creatures of the Night ..... p. 3
- Apr. 29/30 Metchosin Biodiversity Day ..... p. 2
- Apr. 30 Concert: Bringing It Back ..... p. 11

# Metchosin Muse

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

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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 in the *Muse* box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax 250-483-5352. Please visit our website for more information: [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://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 most households in Metchosin. Copies are also available at Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, the Municipal Hall, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop, My-Chosen Café, Red Barn Market, Happy Valley Store, Bill's Food and Feed, Royal Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Victoria Public Library.

**CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800**  
(July/August: 3000)

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 Biodiversity Day: Saturday, April 30

KEM LUTHER

Earth Day, the world's largest environment event, happens on April 22. This year, Metchosin will have its own Earth Day, but a week later. To celebrate with us, reserve Friday evening, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, on your calendars for the first-ever Metchosin Biodiversity Day. The event will be a chance for Metchosin people and their friends to retell the story of the great web of life that calls the earth its home.

The celebration, sponsored by the Metchosin Foundation, will be family oriented and full of fun learning experiences. On Friday night (April 29), meet others in the community at the Metchosin Council Chambers at 7:00 pm. Christian Engelstoft, contract biologist with Habitat Acquisition Trust, will be on hand to tell us about some of the most furtive animals of Metchosin. His talk, "Creatures of the Night: Living with Bats and Owls," will explain how we can be more hospitable to two essential animal components of our local ecosystems. Christian will bring along sample bat and owl boxes. There will also be an opportunity for families to sign up for free landcare visits on their property for bats and a free bat box!

An early riser? The next morning (Saturday, April 30), make your way to the teaching shelter at Witty's Lagoon by 7:00 am. Expert birders from the Victoria Natural History Society

will be on hand to organize groups to scout for forest and seashore birds. Novices welcome.

The rest of us can sleep in a bit and get to the teaching shelter sometime before 10:00 am. Park your car in the parking lot beside Witty's Nature House and follow the signs to the teaching shelter. When you arrive, CRD staff and members of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project will be there to welcome you with hot and cold drinks and snacks. Then choose from one of three walks into different parts of the park:

1. "Mysteries of the Metchosin Salt Marshes." Joel Ussery will take a group to Witty's salt marsh to look at the plants and animals and to think about sensitive estuarine ecologies. A walk for adults.
2. "Metchosin Boundary Layers." Kem Luther, author of *Boundary Layer* (OSU Press, 2016), will take a mixed adult/child group north of the teaching shelter to explore the mosses, fungi, and lichens that are the foundation of terrestrial life.
3. "Forest to Seashore." A member of the CRD interpretive staff will take a group of kids and adults on the path from the teaching shelter to the beach. Watch panoramas of the different vegetation communities unroll before your eyes.

The morning walks will wrap up around noon. If you want, bring a bag lunch and have a bite to eat with other guests and walk leaders. Then be at the teaching shelter by 1:00 pm to choose from one of the three afternoon events (each lasts about two hours):

4. "Wild about Wildflowers." Metchosin's own plant guru, Andy MacKinnon, will take a mixed adult/child group on a Witty's wildflower walk.
5. "Slime time." Kristiina Ovaska, Mistress of Slime, will lead a child/adult group on a search for slugs and snails.
6. "Forest to Seashore." Reprise of walk (3) above. A member of the CRD interpretive staff will take a group of kids and adults on the path from the teaching shelter to the beach.

This year, Metchosin Biodiversity Day replaces the Metchosin BioBlitz. To continue the inventory of plant, fungi, and animal life in the five BioBlitzes, the Metchosin Biodiversity Project will conduct a series of targeted inventories of special species groups and special places.

The inventories, which conclude with our annual MycoBlitz (Nov. 4 and 5), will happen throughout 2016 and will involve a number of invited experts. For updates about these ongoing inventories and the latest information on Metchosin Biodiversity Day, see <http://metchosinbiodiversity.com>.



One of many fascinating local species being held by a Northern Saw-whet Owl at the Rocky Point Banding Station. Photo by Brian Domney

## EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

# Transportation and Roadways

DAWNE KIRWAN

**Emergency Information Session: Transportation and Roadways**  
Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Fire Hall

We drive, cycle and walk our roads every day. We take for granted that we can simply go from one point to another pretty much unencumbered. What if "the Big One" hits? How would you get from point A to point B? Would you even be able to?

At the Transportation and Roadways Information Session, come find out how stable Metchosin's and the West Shore's bridges, roadways, and culverts are. A local engineer

will be here to talk about our local infrastructure. We will discuss what to do if caught out on the road and what emergency routes can be utilized.

Thought to ponder – do you have an emergency kit, including a first aid kit, in your vehicle?

B.C. is considered a high-risk earthquake zone, so be prepared to be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours by developing a household plan, putting together your emergency kit and connecting with your neighbours. By planning ahead and practicing drills, you and your family will know what to do.

# Charles (Charley Louis) Priester

1935–2016



Charles Priester, doing what he loved.

Photo by Barrett Fullerton

SUBMITTED BY BETTY HILDRETH

*There will be a Celebration of Life for Charles at the Community House at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 3.*

Charles was born in Surabaya, Java, Indonesia in 1935. At the time Indonesia was a Dutch Colony. His father, Louis Theodore Priester and mother, Geraldine Wilhelmina Marie Mulder, were both born in Malang, Java.

Charles had one younger brother, Robert Theodore. Their father worked for the Dutch government in Indonesia. During the Second World War, Charles and his family were imprisoned in a Japanese war camp on the island of Java. After the liberation in 1945, Charles went back to Holland with his family.

In Holland he graduated from the Johan de Wit High School in The Hague in 1955. After Dutch military service he got his first job with KLM Royal Dutch Aviation, not surprisingly, in administration. In 1958 he decided to explore the world on his own and immigrated to Toronto, Canada. His first Canadian employer was the Bank of Montreal, and it provided Charles the chance to study economics and finance at the University of McGill. He also played basketball for the university team.

Charles worked for several years as an investment banker. Later he taught at a number of colleges and universities including SFU, BCIT, UBC, Capilano College, Royal Roads University, and the University of Victoria, and is fondly remembered with

great respect by his professional colleagues and students. Charles taught international finance specializing in the Asia Pacific region.

As a young man, Charles went to Sweden for a brief working stint and returned to Canada with a Swedish bride at his side. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last and Charles decided to take a break and spend two years at sea trying to regroup and reassess his life. Picking up crew along the way, he sailed from San Diego to Hawaii and spent considerable time sailing, often solo, around the South Pacific. On a break back in Vancouver he found a new love, Valerie Cochran. She helped him sail his boat back from Hawaii and remained the love of his life for more than 38 years until her death in 2014.

In retirement, Charles and Valerie moved to their dream home in Metchosin. They were each very involved in the community. Charles was on the Metchosin Community Association Board of Directors, a member of the Metchosin Foundation, Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin, and many other local activities. With the stature, girth and snow white hair, Charles was a natural as the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department's annual Santa Claus. He loved to get involved with whatever was going on at the moment and he was always willing to "stir the pot" and get people thinking.

Charles and Val were avid supporters of the United World College's Pearson College of the Pacific. These young students became part of their extended family in so many ways. Students would

vie for a spot on the list to be invited over to the Priesters' for a delicious, home-cooked meal hosted in the big yellow house on the hillside. Recently, Charles established a scholarship fund in honour of Valerie Cochran.

Charles cultivated a large group of new, very dear friends on the Island. He and Valerie travelled extensively around the globe with good friends, both old and new. Their sense of adventure was infectious and galvanizing. Right up until the last years of their lives, they were willing to share trips and time with willing travellers. Valerie wrote a delightful blog entitled "Travels with Charlie" (aka "Mister Crabby Pants").

These two folks were great sports and their generosity was evident. Fabulous times were shared when people were welcomed through the bright red doors to their home on Lisandra – whether you were part of the *Muse* team, editing around the dining table several times a month, or a fellow member of the Metchosin Community Association board of directors celebrating summer with a gourmet luncheon overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Or maybe you were among a random collection of friends and neighbours enjoying a scrumptious meal together – the frequent social gatherings were always interesting, eclectic and inspiring.

Charles loved family, friends, an embellished story often told, fine art, classical music, gourmet food, fine wine, single malt, and a good joke! He was a true intellectual who could talk with anyone and was always willing to find a topic of common interest. Charles Priester lived a full life and will be missed dearly by his loving family, and his many diverse friends.

In Holland, he is survived by brother, Robert (Ineke) Priester and his children, Geraldine (daughter, Cloe) Priester and Marc (Monique) and their children Merel and Carlijn Priester.

In Canada, he is survived by Maria Cochran and children, Dorian, Reuben, and Tiana, Doug Cochran (Liz and children, Katie, Nikolas and Casey), Jim Cochran (Jill and children, Emma and Daniel) and Deborah Cochran, as well as the Cochrans' cousins, Shauna Butterwick (David Thompson), Stephanie Butterwick, and godchildren, Jennie Stevens, Bart Copeland and Marja Copeland.

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/vancouver/sun/charles-priester-condolences/177858299?sthash.0qUXrcBW.dpuf>

*"The world is shaped by two things: stories told and the memories they leave behind."*  
– Vera Nazarian

## TALK AND WALK

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



Fairy slipper (*calypso bulbosa*) flowers

US Forest Service Northern Region photo

### NATIVE ORCHIDS – Friday, April 8 with Sasha Kubicek

Sasha is a lifetime Metchosin resident and orchid savant. He's been growing orchids since childhood, combing the woods of Metchosin and Vancouver Island for the past two decades, finding and photographing our local orchid species. For his valuable contributions Sasha has been awarded an American Orchid Society designation for orchid culture, and has led tours for the orchid club and alpine club.

On Saturday, April 9 at 9:30 am, join us for the "Walk" at the Pearson College Grounds. Meet in the parking lot.

### CREATURES OF THE NIGHT: LIVING WITH BATS AND OWLS – Friday, April 29 with Habitat Acquisition Trust

As part of our new Metchosin Biodiversity Day, we have invited Habitat Acquisition Trust to speak with us about some of their wildlife stewardship initiatives.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is working on a number of recovery programs for various wild critters, including Western Screech owls, and bats. Please join us to learn in what way we can all contribute to their future survival. HAT will bring some demonstration owl nest-boxes and bat boxes, as well as plans to build your own.

Saturday, April 30 will be the launch of a new Metchosin Biodiversity Day! See you at the teaching shelter at 7:00 am at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park for a birding foray, and then meet at 10:00 am and/or 1:00 pm for wildlife excursions into the park. Parking at the nature centre.

Further information can be found at the following website: [metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://metchosinbiodiversity.com)

### LICHENS, CHIMERAS, AND SUPERORGANISMS: Life On the Borderlands between Species and Ecosystems – Friday May 20 with Kem Luther

This talk will be the Metchosin launch of Kem Luther's new book, *Boundary Layer* (Oregon State University Press, 2016). Drawing from sections of his book, Kem will talk about the problems encountered by traditional ideas of species in a world increasingly populated by organisms that are packaged ecosystems.

Metchosin local Kem Luther has had a diverse academic career encompassing philosophy, computer science and college administration. He has gone on to publish a number of books and penned a series of natural history essays. Kem is also a critical component of the BioBlitz/MycoBlitz organising team.

Saturday May 21 "Walk": meet at the Devonian Park parking lot at 10:00 am in a search for lichens.

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

## 'CHOSIN POTTERY

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# Musing about the Muse

BRIAN DOMNEY, EDITOR

The April issue of the *Muse* often generates a livelier than normal discussion at the *Muse* team sessions on what the paper is all about, and whether we are meeting the goals stated in the masthead on page 2 – "... to promote harmony and involvement in the community and ... to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Metchosin and Becher Bay." For the past four years, beginning with the "Close Call in the Village Core" piece about an encounter between a young man and a cougar, in our April issue we've tried to poke a little fun, and perhaps generate a bit of controversy, while staying close to our intended purposes. This issue's front page may be seen by some as a bit of overkill, but once you're past page 1, hopefully you'll find something of relevance.

I'm told in the early years of the paper, it was hoped it would become a literary piece, a la *Malahat Review*, with creative writing dominating. Whether that's accurate or not, it is a rare issue now that contains anything of a fictional nature (other than April's!). What we do know is that the paper serves as a communication system for a variety of organizations and

groups in Metchosin – from Cubs and Scouts, to singers and ukulele strummers, to film night and speakers' organizers, to the Metchosin Community Association, SIRC and the Municipal Council. We try to carry as many information articles as we can muster; we get marvelous pieces from Wild ARC, the Talk and Walk folks, and occasionally articles on local residents.

For years, the *Muse* carried letters from the now-defunct Technical School, and I was always fascinated with the very divergent opinions on that. Some loved the letters and said they were one of the things they looked forward to the most each month, while others questioned why we carried them at all. That made me realize how diverse the opinions are in Metchosin about what the *Muse* should be, and also made me realize

that here, you can probably please all of the people some of the time, some of people all of the time, but good luck pleasing all of the people all of the time.

So, feel free to let us know how we're doing, and to make suggestions on how we could make the paper better.

And on that note, the Local Producers feature will be the June issue, which comes out at the end of May (deadline May 15). It is intended to promote local farms and gardens, providing information on where you can buy good, healthy, local produce. We will again carry the summaries of the commercial operators, along with a map of where to find them, but we'd welcome articles by individual gardeners or farmers who have some useful information on food production to share. We're at [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca).



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## Call to Local Producers

If you are a local producer, and want to be included in the Local Producers issue, **please send us an email by May 15 to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca)** to ensure you're on our list. We'll get back to you with guidelines for what information we need from you.

 **COUNCIL NEWS** APRIL 2016

**COMMUNITY TRAILS**

Metchosin has 18 km of multi-use trails throughout the municipality. Why not put on your hiking shoes and explore your community? You can find a trail map and trail descriptions on the Parks and Recreation page at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) under Community.

**NOTICE OF BLASTING – DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), CFB ESQUIMALT, CANADIAN FORCES AMMUNITION DEPOT (CFAD)**

Please note that the District tries to put every notice of blasting it receives on the official District website for resident's information. [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca)

**COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS – HERITAGE ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE**

Are you interested in the heritage of Metchosin? The Metchosin Heritage Advisory Committee needs new volunteers. If you're interested, or would like more information regarding this committee, please contact the municipal office, 250-474-3167.

**IS YOUR CIVIC ADDRESS VISIBLE?**

Help emergency services find your home in the dark months of winter by making your civic address sign visible from the roadway. The best signs have large reflective numbers. Be sure that trees, brush, snow and other obstructions are cleared away.

**DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – APRIL 2016**

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

Finance and Environment Committee	April 4, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC)	April 19, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting	April 4, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting	April 25, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and PW Committee	April 18, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC)	April 26, 7:00 pm

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

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

# SIRC: Seniors' Information and Resource Centre

JO MITCHELL

## SIRC Office Hours

Located at 4495 Happy Valley Road on the ground floor of the former Metchosin Elementary School Building, opposite the Broken Paddle Café.

## SIRC Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10:30 am–2:30 pm  
Wednesdays and Fridays – 1:00–3:00 pm  
Closed Mondays

Call for special appointments.  
Telephone 250-478-5150.

Coordinator Colleen Brownlee is always very happy to hear from you with any queries or problems.

For more information about local SIRC events and activities, please check out our website at <http://www.metchosinseniors.ca/> or drop by the office in the old Metchosin School during the week. We are available by phone at 250-478-5150.



less often any one person will be asked to drive. You will meet some very wonderful people and hear some amazing stories.

Call our Senior's Information Resource Centre at 250-478-5150 to volunteer.

## SIRC Needs Drivers

The Metchosin Seniors' Association needs your help. We are looking for about ten people who will volunteer to occasionally drive a senior member of our community to medical appointments and shopping excursions.

Metchosin District has received accolades and awards for our age-friendly policies and our focus on keeping our residents in their own homes as we age. It is well known that individuals live longer and happier lives if they stay in their own homes connected to friends and neighbours even if they no longer drive.

Please consider serving as a volunteer driver. The more people we can count on, the

## SIRC Happenings

### MAHJONG

Every Thursday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the SIRC Office.

What is this game called Mahjong (also spelled majiang, mah jongg)? The game originated in China, is usually played with four players and is similar to the Western card game rummy. Players experience mental and social stimulation, exercise and develop skills of problem solving, strategizing, social engagement and just plain fun.

Martha Haylor has played for several years, enjoys being a "mahj" coach, and is there each week. We are a small group and no knowledge of the game is required; you can watch, play, ask questions or

kibitz. No need to call ahead; please join us at any time.

### GEEKS AND GEEZERS

Our Geezers seem to have progressed to a stage where they now require specialized individual instruction. We have cancelled our weekly classes, but can offer one-on-one sessions on request concerning particular areas or problems regarding computers or any electronic equipment such as television remote control. To arrange your own personal Geek instruction, please call the office at 250-478-5150 to set up an appointment.

### SPANISH CLASSES

An introductory Spanish class will be held Thursday, April 7 from 7:00–9:00 pm. For further information please call SIRC at 250-478-5150.

The regular course will begin on April 14 and run for six weeks. Fees are: with six students \$120, with eight students \$100, with ten students \$80 (plus \$10 for lifetime SIRC membership, if not already a member).

# Bringing It Back – A Musical Fundraiser

FRIENDS OF BLUNT

## Blunt in Concert

Saturday, April 30, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House

Metchosin-raised Sophia Higgins has been working hard over the past few years on writing music and performing it all around Victoria. During the past year, she has been performing with guitarist Diego Barrientos Arenas as Blunt. With many successful shows under their belts, a growing following, and an exceptional catalogue of original songs, they're ready to take the next step and record. To hear what they've been working on, and support them in recording this spring, come to the Metchosin Community House on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 pm.

Blunt brings together Sophia and Diego's diverse musical backgrounds, resulting in a vast range of songs that blend and often defy genres. Blunt has been continuously experimenting and expanding the scope of their original tunes, always striving to keep the creative spirit alive. Sophia sings her honest, heartfelt lyrics and soaring melodies over unique instrumentals – looping layers of guitar, violin, bass, keyboard, ukulele and recorder.



Sophia and Diego as Blunt, performing.

Photo by Annemarie Stevenson

Blunt is heading into the studio for the very first time this spring. But first, they want to share their music and raise some funds for the big adventure.

Entrance is by donation, and there will be delicious homemade baked goods and tea for sale.



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# Metchosin Garden Club Presents "Fascinating Fruit Trees"

JUDITH VAN MANEN

**Fascinating Fruit Trees:** Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

Imagine yourself a fruit tree fanatic. You would love to see the avocado tree in Peru, the fig in Portugal, the jujube in India, the kiwi tree in New Zealand, the loquat in China, the medlar in Greece, the olive tree and passion fruit in Brazil, the pawpaw in the eastern US, the persimmon tree in Japan, the pineapple guava in Mexico, the pomegranate in Iran, the quince in Turkey, and the white sapote in Costa Rica. But you realize that the investment in travel and time would just make this project impossible.

Well, no need to fret. There is an orchard not far away in North Saanich where all these trees are grown. What is more exciting even, you may be able to grow some of these unique fruit trees species yourself.

Our Metchosin Garden Club is happy to host the fruit tree guru of Vancouver Island, Bob Duncan. His presentation will include descriptions of the cultural requirements and variety selection for success in growing fruit trees.

Bob has an impressive horticultural history. As a botanist and entomologist, he worked for the Canadian Forestry Service for over 35 years, and he has over 40 years of experience growing tree fruits on Vancouver Island.

Today Bob and his wife Verna operate "Fruit Trees and More," a specialty plant nursery and demonstration orchard in North Saanich. The orchard is a botanical classroom for teaching fruit cultivation techniques.

The "Fruit Trees and More" orchard includes over 300 varieties of tree fruits including a large selection of citrus and subtropical fruit trees such as lemon, orange, grapefruit, and mandarin. Dwarf apple trees are a specialty including over 200 varieties of heritage and family favorites.

What better way to hear the latest information about fruit trees and how to grow them but by attending Bob's presentation? See you there.



## The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

After the focus on gardening last month, I am not sure the *Muse* team even wants another column this month. However I didn't see a seed longevity chart, so to add to your knowledge, here is one. The big thing is that onion and parsnip seeds rarely germinate after the first year.

The Latin word *aperio*, meaning "to open or bud," gives us the name April. In the Native American culture, April is the Pink Moon. This full moon heralded the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox – one of the first spring flowers. It is also known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and the Fish Moon.

According to the Royal Horticultural Society, the top ten jobs this month are:

- Keep weeds under control
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- Start to feed citrus plants
- Increase the water given to houseplants
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- Prune fig trees
- Divide bamboos and waterlilies

This year we don't seem to be having frost, so number two is pretty well superfluous, but the rest are a useful "to do" list.

Vegetable gardening seems to be gaining in popularity year by year. When I was a child everyone had a veggie garden, ate out of it all summer and stored root vegetables for the winter. Now we are spoiled by the year-round abundance and variety of crops available to us, but concerns over pesticides, genetically modified foods and the current value of the dollar have converted many a household to the vegetable plot. If you are new to this, join a garden club, or ask a more experienced gardener for advice – gardeners love giving advice! They are also sure to tell you their favourite varieties, tips, disasters and so on. This is often useful, if opinionated, and that also comes with the turf; just ask a gardener what variety of tomatoes he grows.

This spring we have five does hanging out in what I laughingly call the "south lawn" – well, we mow it so it must be a lawn. How many we will have come June I shudder to think. They are eating just about every plant that shows new growth. I cannot afford to fence the three or four acres I would like to be deer-free, so will have to adapt, or get a dog. The trouble with that is that our dogs sleep inside so there

is never any chance that the sheep-chasing brigade should include one of ours, and deer do a great deal of eating after dark. Just the price one pays for living in the country. Then again, a casual correspondent living in western France tells of the wild boars that come down from the hills and ravage his garden every year or two; they destroy everything, from raised beds to water barrels, and root through the remains of his vegetable beds with gusto. My niece who lives on a dairy farm in Duncan tells horror stories about elk and bears. The elk specialize in the grains grown for silage, the bears in the silage corn. She speaks of 15 bears at one time, and about 40 elk; now that is a serious problem. Regular fencing does not deter them, and elk-proof fences are simply far too expensive for the farmers to install. Our troubles sound minor if just as annoying to us.

I wonder what the summer will bring – more heat and drought? Another "Juneuary"? It is hard to prepare when Mother Nature holds all the cards. Considering watering requirements when planting, group the water lovers together closer to the source, keep brush down in the interest of fire avoidance, try to grow some plants for the bees and butterflies and I will see you in June, the *Muse* team willing and the creek don't rise.

### Approximate life expectancy of vegetable seeds stored under favourable conditions:

Vegetable	Years	Vegetable	Years
Asparagus	3	Kohlrabi	3
Bean	3	Leek	2
Beet	4	Lettuce	6
Broccoli	3	Muskmelon	5
Brussels sprouts	4	Mustard	4
Cabbage	4	New Zealand spinach	3
Carrot	3	Okra	2
Celeriac	3	Onion	1
Cauliflower	4	Parsley	1
Celery	3	Parsnip	1
Chard, Swiss	4	Pea	3
Chicory	4	Pepper	2
Chinese cabbage	3	Pumpkin	4
Collards	5	Radish	5
Corn, sweet	2	Rutabaga	4
Cucumber	5	Salsify	1
Eggplant	4	Spinach	3
Endive	5	Squash	4
Fennel	4	Tomato	4
Kale	4	Turnip	4
		Watermelon	4

Favourable conditions means cool and dry, stored in a tin or paper, not plastic.

Modified from D. N. Maynard and G. J. Hochmuth, Knott's *Handbook for Vegetable Growers*, (fourth edition, 1997).



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

## METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS



Photo by Brian Domney

# Metchosin Co-op Preschool

JIM MACPHERSON

We've all driven by it on Metchosin Road and haven't given it too much thought except maybe for the mobile traffic caution signs. I'm referring to the Metchosin Co-op Preschool which has occupied the hall next to old St. Mary's Church since 1964. At that time a group of volunteers including Elinor Whitney-Griffiths, Daphne Sudlow and other parents created this Metchosin institution. Georgie Ford was the first teacher and there were eight children.

Today the preschool provides the same early childhood education experience that motivated the early volunteers. Today, 33 children, most of them from three to four years of age, are enrolled at the preschool. About 70% of the children live in Metchosin. Three salaried and certified Early Childhood Education teachers provide the learning environment, but otherwise the preschool operates entirely through the committed efforts of volunteering parents who wish to enhance and support their children's education.

The Metchosin Co-op Preschool is in an old structure that requires continuing repair and upkeep. The hall is owned by St Mary's Church and by agreement the preschool pays no rent, but takes responsibility for all repairs and maintenance. The preschool is governed by a board that comprises parents who divvy up the many tasks required to successfully operate it.

Volunteers do many jobs including running an executive board, serving as duty parents, keeping the preschool clean and running and keeping up with the maintenance of the building. Volunteers take on jobs of repairing the roof, painting, improving lighting and other tasks. Some repairs to the floor are in the offing. Other volunteers look after enrolment, records, fundraising, marketing and advertising.

Like most volunteer organizations, fund raising is always an issue. The salaries of the teachers are paid through tuition fees, but otherwise the costs of supplies, equipment, repairs and maintenance have to be covered through various fundraising activities. The sale of items such as mugs and T-shirts helps, but the preschool's major fundraising activity is its Silent Auction (see below for further information). Even so, money raised this way is seldom enough and needs to be supplemented through grants.

Grants have been paid for materials required for repair and structural maintenance but labour has to be provided by volunteers. The Metchosin Co-op Preschool has also in recent



Kyla and Jimmy

Photo by Tanya Newnham

years successfully appealed to the District of Metchosin's Grant-in-Aid program.

Volunteers are dedicated and brought together by a common interest in their children's education. Friendships are made; friendships are kept. The preschool has united many families that continue to stay in touch. One group of preschool mums still gets together after 25 years. For the new resident to Metchosin, involvement in the preschool can help connect families and friends.

For further information on the Metchosin Co-op Preschool, contact Erin Armstrong at [metchosinpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinpreschool@gmail.com).

### Metchosin Co-op Preschool Silent Auction

Friday, April 22, 6:00 to 10:00 pm  
Metchosin Community Hall  
4401 Metchosin Road

Tickets: \$20, available from the preschool

The South Pacific theme will be accompanied by live music and dancing, food, drinks, door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

Is It Time to Regulate Drones?, continued from page 1

"If we regulate drones, what's next?" asks "Derek." "Roosters? Border Collies? Oh, right ... we do that. And hasn't anyone checked out provincial statutes? There is already a *Bee Act*, for heavens sake! And for that matter, a bylaw on drones could lead to a constitutional challenge."

As it turns out, there are far more workers than drones in Metchosin. The ratio of drones to workers is about 1:25, and the drones only live a few weeks. If a hive is stressed, it doesn't have to depend on a bylaw enforcement person – the workers will deal with an excess of drones, as they say, "with extreme prejudice."

Another drone guy, "Gary," supports "Derek's" suggestion we all get drones (and workers). "Fruit trees will produce more and local farms will be more successful," he says.

So there you have it. Time will only tell if our local officials actually decide to try and regulate drones. You can probably expect a survey, an ad hoc committee and ultimately a referendum before you start looking for a place to keep your hives out of sight.



"Derek" checks up on some of his drones. Photo by Brian Domney



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Check out the classified ads on page 15.

## Poet's Corner

POEMS BY R H GRENVILLE  
(BEATRICE ROWLEY)

### Book Lover's House

There are books by the dozen and books by the score; books upon shelves and books on the floor, books in the bedroom and books in the hall; books in the living room, climbing the wall. In cupboards and corners no skeletons bide. In the book lover's house they have nowhere to hide.

### It Takes a While

It takes a while for grass to grow, for returning spring to melt the snow; for a hatching bird to break the shell; to draw sweet water from a well.

Between the in breath and the out, between the seedling and the sprout, between the act and the reaction, between desire and satisfaction, there's a pause, a pulse, where faith should smile and calmly know *it takes a while.*

# The Story Behind the Books

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

Have you ever been surprised at how seemingly unimportant decisions can lead to unexpected consequences? In my case, the first decision was to take Italian lessons, which resulted in a friend introducing me to Cathy Rowley, who was also interested in practising Italian. She was in the middle of cleaning out her mother's home in town after she had moved to a seniors' residence. Cathy needed to find a recipient for the many, many books that her mother had collected over her lifetime, which led me to suggest that Old Barn Books at the Metchosin Pioneer Museum might be interested in acquiring them. Always keen to get new books, the folks at Old Barn Books readily agreed to the donation. How were they

to know exactly how many books that might be!

Well, it turned out that Beatrice Rowley, owner of the books, is a woman who loved books. In her home there were book shelves throughout the living room. In the hallways, on the stair landing, in bedrooms, in closets, in storerooms, and in the basement. Old Barn Books volunteers estimate that, in all, there were several thousand books! They spent hours, actually days, sorting and boxing books which are now being integrated into Old Barn Books.

Which begs the question: who is Beatrice Rowley? An avid reader, to be sure, with books spanning the decades from the '30s and '40s. She was self taught, using her books to educate herself more than for entertainment. Perhaps more importantly,

Beatrice is also a poet, who wrote under the pseudonym R. H. Grenville. She had her first works published as a young teen and was still being published into her nineties. "She must have been a busy, busy woman," noted Avril, a volunteer at Old Barn Books. "Her poetry is published in journals, magazines and poetry collections; she is listed as one of Canada's Early Canadian writers."

This story might make you wonder how some of the other books found their way to the shelves of Old Barn Books. Gleaned from the corners of homes everywhere, some cherished, some not, all with a story behind them. Every Sunday from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm you're invited to come and choose some of these donated treasures to take home with you and enjoy. Ranging in price from



Beatrice Rowley's "cat" RRRowley (sculpture) now watches over the books at Old Barn Books.

fifty cents to two dollars for a book, it's a bargain, and helps to support the Pioneer and School Museums.



## MACCA Announces Grants

BETTY HILDRETH

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) seeks to promote Metchosin as a destination community for the arts. MACCA uses resources generated from studio rentals and fundraisers to support a range of art activities in and for Metchosin. This local, non-profit organization is now in a position to offer the opportunity to access a modest granting program. This process will be made available to individuals and groups who are looking for assistance in the practice of art in Metchosin. Grants are issued two times per year, as funds are available.

### How to apply for a grant:

Grants will be issued in June and December of each year dependent on funds being available.

Applications must be submitted to MACCA by May 15 and November 15 to be considered for the following month's award. An application which is not approved in one cycle may be re-submitted in another cycle. Each individual grant will be for a maximum of \$1,000. The amount applied for will need to be justified by the artist(s). Applications for lesser amounts are welcome. An applicant must be a current member of MACCA, and must have an ongoing connection to Metchosin.

### Applications should include:

- name, address, contact information and statement of membership in MACCA;
- a description of the proposed purpose of the grant (*examples: course fees, cost of supplies*) and how it supports "the practice of art in Metchosin";
- a description of how people in Metchosin will benefit from the activities under the grant (*examples: publish something in the Metchosin Muse, exhibit a piece of art, perform at an event, offer a workshop*);
- examples of previous work or related evidence of your art activities;
- a reference from someone familiar with your art activities (*examples: a teacher, fellow artist, friend familiar with the work*).

*Please note:* Applications should be no longer than two pages in length, plus any attachments (images, video, etc.).

Application forms can be downloaded from the MACCA website at [www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca), or picked up at SIRC or the Glow Gallery, both located in the MACCA building at 4495 Happy Valley Road.

Applications should be mailed to:

MACCA Grant Program  
4495 Happy Valley Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 3Z3

Or, if there are no non-text attachments, they may be emailed to: [info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)

## Metchosin Writers' Evening - April 14

### Metchosin Writers' Evening

Thursday, April 14  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Glow Studio, Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre (the former Metchosin Elementary School)  
4495 Happy Valley Road

BETTY HILDRETH

Let's make Metchosin a destination arts community! The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) issues an invitation to attend our second annual evening with Metchosin writers and authors.

The local authors for the 2016 annual Writers' Evening include Tom Henry, Andy Mackinnon, Jim Challenger, Bev Hall, and Leslie Preston. Our capable and entertaining host MC for the evening will be Metchosin's own Dave

Preston - a well-known writer himself. Last year our 2016 Authors' Evening was a huge success and proved to be most entertaining and informative! Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

The event will take place Thursday, April 14 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Glow Studio in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre (the old Metchosin Elementary School), 4495 Happy Valley Road. Arrive early as the space gets pretty cozy by 7:00 pm.

Attendees will be introduced to these accomplished local authors, each of whom work in very different genres. Each author will speak about how they develop the writing process and then treat the audience to a short selection from one of their works. There will be time for questions and answers later in the program. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

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# Love Is in the Water: Biologists Search for Breeding Salamanders before Fungus Arrives

ALANAH NASADYK

The local land trust wants to gather as much information as it can on frogs and salamanders in our region to help document and ward off possible declines. While small and often inconspicuous, amphibians consume vast amounts of insects and small invertebrates, including mosquitoes, and healthy amphibian populations can be viewed as indicators of healthy wetlands and environments.

A new deadly fungal amphibian disease has recently killed salamanders in Europe in alarming numbers, and more data are needed before it arrives in North America.

This deadly chytrid fungus (called *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*; BSal for short) was first detected in the Netherlands in 2014, likely sourced from the pet trade. Our local salamanders do not have a natural defense against this fungus, and researchers have identified the rough-skinned newts, one of our native salamanders, as particularly vulnerable to the disease. The fungus is similar to its cousin *B. dendrobatidis* (Bd), which has resulted in declines and losses of frog populations worldwide.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has already issued a prohibition on the trade of 201 salamander species to halt its spread. While BSal is yet to be reported in North America, researchers caution that it could lead to the collapse of salamander populations.

In an effort to find existing salamander and newt habitat, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is looking for reports of amphibian breeding ponds within the Greater Victoria area. HAT biologists, including amphibian expert Dr. Kristiina Ovaska, recently visited a landowner in East Sooke with a pond known for salamanders. This particular property has been protected by the land trust with a conservation covenant in partnership with the landowner.

As Dr. Ovaska surveyed the lakeshore, she pointed out the rushes and vegetation, "this would be great habitat for newts. Females lay their eggs one at a time on plants like these."

Near the end of the lake, in a sheltered pocket of water, there were dozens of rough-skinned newts energetically swimming along, their soft orange bellies standing out against the murk confirming that this particular water body is a breeding pond.

During courtship, male newts swim up and wrap their arms and legs around females. The male then massages his partner until the female is ready to fertilize her eggs. Quite a romantic gesture! This cuddly embrace known as amplexus can last for hours, and is also seen in many other amphibians across the globe.

Other unpaired male newts trying to show the females that they're a worthy partner may chase down these hugging pairs and attempt to detach one another. When many courting newts become entangled, they begin to form a "mating ball" of swarming males competing for one female.

HAT is currently conducting Amphibian Roadkill Surveys for its second year to build on previous findings, and we need your help. As winter becomes mild and spring sets in, many amphibians, including salamanders and frogs, make their way to sheltered, slow-moving waters to find a mate. This journey turns perilous when the tiny amphibians try to cross the road from forests to reach breeding ponds on the other side in landscapes fragmented by busy roads.

On rainy nights, enthusiastic HAT volunteers are spending their evenings surveying roads that have previously documented the highest death tolls of frogs and salamanders due to vehicle traffic. Sometimes volunteers are lucky enough to assist a frog or salamander to make its way safely across. After one night survey on a single stretch of road, the record of squashed amphibians can reach into the hundreds.

HAT is using the data gathered during these road-crossings to identify hotspots of amphibian roadkill. The land trust needs to know where problem spots are in order to take further action and improve road safety for amphibians. For example,



Newts mating. Photo by Dan Suzio

small fences can re-direct amphibians to culverts, and "toad tunnels" can be created in appropriate spots.

HAT is also partnering with Dr. Caren Helbing of the University of Victoria and the Canadian Wildlife Health co-operative to store tissue samples of road-killed amphibians for DNA testing. This will help identify the current health status of newts on southern Vancouver Island and provide early detection for emerging amphibian diseases to curb their spread.

"Programs such as this are essential for promoting stewardship activities and protecting natural areas and species whose distributions within populated areas overlap extensively with private lands," explains Dr. Helbing.

You can help make sure that our newts stay healthy by never releasing pet amphibians into the wild. Dr. Ovaska warns that, "It's not just the pets. Dumping water or materials from aquaria outside can spread disease." Discarded water can be treated with a bleach solution to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.

In order to survive, newts and other amphibians need calm sheltered waters for breeding, connected to forest habitat for foraging. They also need to be able to safely move between these important habitats. If necessary action isn't taken, they can be lost to disease, road mortality, and further habitat loss. Developments like filling in wetlands and diverting streams in ditches remove habitat and kill our amphibian populations.

The HAT Amphibian Project is sponsored in part by a generous \$20,000 gift from an anonymous donor, but matching contributions supporting further work on the project are needed. If you would like to sponsor the protection of ponds for newts and other amphibians, donate to HAT's Wildlife Stewardship Program. To learn more about caring for habitat on your property in a way that supports wildlife like newts, contact HAT.

You can reach HAT by phone at 250-995-2428, email [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca), or snail mail: PO Box 8552 Victoria BC V8W 3S2.



The rough-skinned newt, the most poisonous amphibian on the West Coast (if consumed). One contains enough toxin to kill 25,000 mice! Our garter snakes have developed immunity to the poison. Photo by Brian Domney

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Newt crossing

Photo by Robin Loznak

# The Ecological Determinants of Public Health

Dr. Trevor Hancock on *The Ecological Determinants of Public Health*  
 Thurs., April 21, 7:00 pm  
 Metchosin Community House

KARYN WOODLAND

This month, the MCA Speaker Series is pleased to welcome Dr. Trevor Hancock to Metchosin. Dr. Hancock has worked for local communities, municipal, provincial and national governments, health care organizations and the World Health Organization as a public health physician and health promotion consultant. Currently, he is Professor and Senior Scholar at the UVic School of Public Health and Social Policy. His main areas of interest are health promotion, healthy cities/communities, healthy public policy, environmental health, health policy and planning, and health futurism.

He is a frequent contributor to the *Times Colonist*, writing on subjects as varied as the future of hospitals and Canada's health care system, agricultural policy, planetary health, and local initiatives to increase community well-being. His topic on April 21 will be *The Ecological Determinants of Public Health*.



Dr. Trevor Hancock

"We are entering a new geological epoch: the anthropocene. Global ecological systems are declining as a result of the impacts of the human population's growth, affluence and technologies," says Dr. Hancock. "This has profound implications for our health. We need to face up to this reality and figure out how we will navigate this decline with the minimum of harm, and how we, in fact, can create a healthier, more hopeful future."

Looking at his photo, you may be thinking that you have seen this fellow before – but where? Probably Metchosin Day. Dr. Hancock is a long-time member of the Hollytree Morris dancers and has also written about singing and dancing your way into healthy old age.

# Film Night at the Metchosin Community House

RIC PERRON

Friday, April 29 at 7:00 pm  
 Metchosin Community House

**Racing Extinction**  
 (90 minutes)

*The choice, however, is as clear now for nations as it was once for the individual: peace or extinction.*

– Lester B. Pearson

*Racing Extinction* is a good but quite sobering film, as eco-films can be. The team of artists and activists exposes a hidden world of extinction with never-before-seen images that will change the way we see the planet.

The film producers focus on illegal trade in foreign markets. They confront Hong Kong Chinese shopkeepers for selling forbidden marine victims such as stingrays and sharks, and for selling aphrodisiacs like rhino horn, elephant tusk, and tiger gonads. They face the herbalists with "stupid tourist questions" while filming illegal animal and fish products with covert tactics and state-of-the-art hidden cameras. It's somewhat disconcerting.

Humans are driving extinction across the globe, potentially resulting in the loss of half of all species. The international wildlife trade



is creating bogus markets at the expense of creatures that have survived on this planet for millions of years until we showed up.

The film producers recognize the struggle for survival of some more remote coastal villages but are saddened

when witnessing the economic greed of commerce by others. They offer solutions and the film winds up with a positive feeling of helpfulness.

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

## What Is It?

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

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



Nobody identified the "swage," a tool from the collection of Doug Sawatsky. It probably dates from the 1930s when Doug's dad worked for an uncle in his logging operation on mainland BC.

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# 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.

**Buddies** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Restarts on April 11. Buddies offers reading and math tutoring as well as help with homework for Metchosin students grades K–6. Students receive a half hour, one-to-one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer. Registration forms are available at Hans Helgesen School or call MCH at 250-478-5155 or the coordinator, Nancy Evans at 250-642-4613.

**Pearson College Students Outreach** – 3:00–4:30 pm. Helping seniors and youth in our community. Invite Pearson College students to visit or help with a project. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-478-5155 and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans, to see if you might be eligible. *Last day is April 11 until 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** – The Rough Voice Choir meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month from 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a “good singing voice” is not a requirement. \$2/person. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553). *Last session is April 11 and will restart in September.*

### Tuesdays

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

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

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

### Wednesdays

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

**Garden Club Meetings** – 7:30–9:00 pm – Metchosin Garden Club. Our enthusiastic and informative club features a guest speaker on relevant garden topics on the first Wednesday of every month (except June, July, August, December, January). Membership is \$10/year or \$2 for drop-in visitors. Bob Duncan will speak to the club on April 6. 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 (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.

**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.

**Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Last day is April 15 and will restart in September.

**Ukulele Strum** – 5:00–6:30 pm, second Friday of each month. Tell all your Ukulele-playing students, friends and relatives! Spread the word! Open to community members of all ages and levels of talent! Bring: a ukulele, capo, tuner, music stand, and a few songs you are willing to share/lead/teach others with appropriate song sheets for others, if not from songbook below. Suggested songbook: *Jumping’ Jim’s Daily Ukulele* (as a base resource to work from) if you have it.

**Film Night: *Racing Extinction*** – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, April 29. Film night is the last Friday of each month.

## Events

**Concert: *Trade Winds*** – April 1, 7:00–9:00 pm. A Fijian South Pacific group. No pre sales, pay at door; suggested donation \$7–\$12.

**Services Auction: Live** – April 2, 7:00–9:00 pm. Metchosin Community Association Services Auction. Raising awareness and support for local skilled contractors and service providers in the Metchosin area. Skilled craftsmen, trades, contractors, entertainment, food preparation, health and wellness, hobbies, pets and more. Wine and cheese sampling from 6:00 pm. For more information contact the MCA Office at 250-478-5155 or [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net). Online bidding started March 1 at [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com); follow the link.

**Celebration of Life: Charles Priester** – April 3, 2:00–5:00 pm at the House. All welcome. See [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com) for Charles’ obituary.

**Guest Speaker: Trevor Hancock on *The Ecological Determinants of Public Health*** – Thursday, April 21, 7:00–9:00 pm. See page 10 for details.

**Concert: *Bringing It Back*** – April 30, 7:00–9:00 pm. A musical fundraiser. Metchosin-raised Sophia Higgins has been working hard over the past few years on writing music and performing it all around Victoria. During the past year, she has been working with guitarist Diego Barrientos Arenas as a band named Blunt. With many successful shows under their belts, a growing following, and an exceptional catalogue of original songs, they’re ready to take the next step and record. To hear what they’ve been working on, and support them in recording this spring, come to the Metchosin Community House on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 pm. Entrance is by donation, and there will be delicious homemade baked goods and tea for sale.

**Mighty Garage Sale** – Happening in May. Donations start May 21. We need your unwanted “stuff” ... including antiques, collectibles, clothing, books, furniture in reasonable condition, small appliances in reasonably working order, tools, sporting goods, china and household goods. Donations can be dropped off at the tents beside the Community House daily, starting Saturday, May 21 through to Friday, May 27 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

*Please:* no mattresses, exercise equipment, TVs, pillows, old shoes, unwashed clothing, microwaves, typewriters, BBQs, large appliances, old computers, ski equipment, cribs, car seats or magazines. For more information, call 250-478-5155. The Garage Sale and Auction takes place May 28 and May 29, 9:00 am–3:00 pm.

Come and browse through the big tents for furniture, electronics, sporting goods, yard goods, tools, housewares, collectibles, antiques and “mystery stuff.” Be sure to participate in the silent auction inside the Community House for a chance to bid on some of the choicest donations that will be auctioned off on Saturday, May 28. Hungry and need a break? Visit our concession stand in the Community House for delicious food and refreshments!

Entry to the garage sale is by cash donation at the gate. All proceeds from the event go to support the Metchosin Community Association.

**Foot Care Program** – The last Monday of each month a foot care nurse offers foot care services. Appointments are half an hour between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Please call 250-664-6810 to book.

**Art on the Walls – April: Anne Moody.** The works will be on display at the Community House for the month. Viewing times are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm.

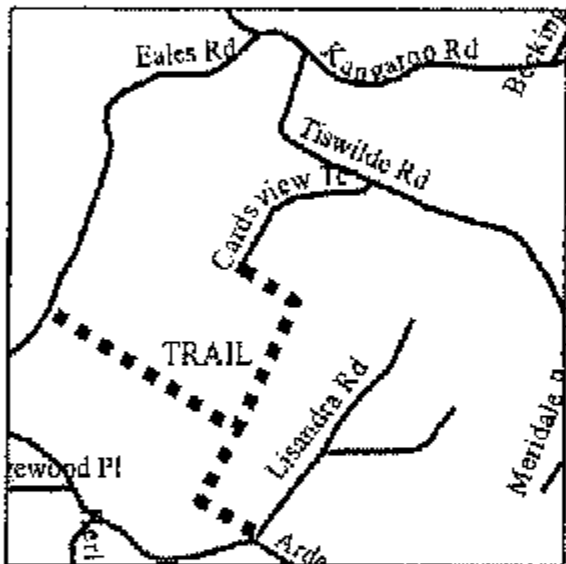
The Art on the Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information, please call the MCH at 250-478-5155.

**Save the date! Metchosin’s Annual  
 Mighty Garage Sale is May 28 and 29!**

# Take a Hike!

This trail map is from the Metchosin Parks and Trails brochure on the District of Metchosin website. To find more trails, please visit: <http://district.metchosin.bc.ca/content/parks-and-trails>

## Lusse Way Trail



Trails are steep in places. Access from both ends of Eales Rd., from Cardsview Tc., & Arden at Lisandra Rd.

# Mother and Daughter – Collaborative Creativity

JENNIFER KIVARI

For the month of April and May, the local mother and daughter duo, Jennifer and Mariah Kivari, will be showcasing their artwork at the Broken Paddle Coffee House in Metchosin. Many of their pieces are based around the theme of mothers and children. As a mother and an artist, Jennifer feels privileged to share with her daughter the experience and joy of creating, and running a business in their studio and gallery.

Mariah has always had a role in assisting her mom with the studio tours, but is now a Grade 12 student who has become an artist of her own,

with a powerful voice and a desire to stretch the parameters of her own creative medium. They share the aspiration to use collected materials, unwanted items and what many consider to be “waste” in an earth-friendly, green approach to art making.

Jennifer believes that giving your children some of your time on a consistent basis is a must for the health of your kids, your family, and yourself – especially because they won’t be kids forever.

Why not pop down to view the art at the Broken Paddle and enjoy some freshly baked goods, drinks, and a light lunch at this eclectic Metchosin gathering place?



Mariah and Jennifer Kivari  
Photo by Mariah Kivari

*“To be in your children’s memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today” – Anonymous*

# The Need for Speed: Peregrine Falcon Arrives at Wild ARC



A beautiful female peregrine falcon.

Photo by Christina Carrières

Peregrine falcons are notoriously one of the world’s fastest fliers, able to dive at speeds of over 300 kilometres an hour to capture their prey. Like all falcons, they have small cones in their nostrils or nares (with the fancy name of tubercles) to allow them to breathe while deflecting the air pressure created from such fast dives – an adaptation borrowed by the engineers for use in jet engines!

Female peregrine falcons are about a third larger than the males, and they also have slightly different “voices” or calls. These feisty falcons are able to take birds as large as ducks or gulls, and occasionally prey on rodents or even bats. Historically, peregrine falcons have nested on cliffs, and in an interesting adaptation to our modern urban landscape, they have begun nesting on ledges of tall buildings, offering exciting observation and monitoring possibilities for city dwellers.

Fortunately, although it is a relatively small population, peregrine falcon numbers along the coast of BC appears to be fairly stable. However, coastal populations of peregrine falcons tend to prey more heavily on seabird populations, so declining seabird numbers in some areas will present another challenge for local peregrines. In the field of wildlife rehabilitation, every opportunity to provide a wild animal with a second chance is a privilege – in the case of species where their populations are potentially of concern, it is even more critical that knowledgeable and skilled rehabilitation professionals be available to provide the care these species need to survive.

HEATHER SCHMITT

While wildlife rehabilitation staff and volunteers are preparing for another busy spring season at BC SPCA Wild ARC, there are typically fewer patients in care at this time of year. However, an unusual patient arrived recently, in quite an unusual way. A peregrine falcon was found in a boiler room, after apparently flying down a chimney and tumbling out into the small space.

Although the cause of this incident was not entirely

certain, bird-eating raptors sometimes find themselves in these situations when, having become a little too single-minded in pursuit of their winged prey, they follow them down a chimney as the smaller bird attempts to avoid capture. Fortunately, other than being a bit dusty, a little bruised, and dehydrated, this female peregrine was unharmed from her adventure. After remaining at Wild ARC for a few weeks for recovery and monitoring, she was released back into the wild.

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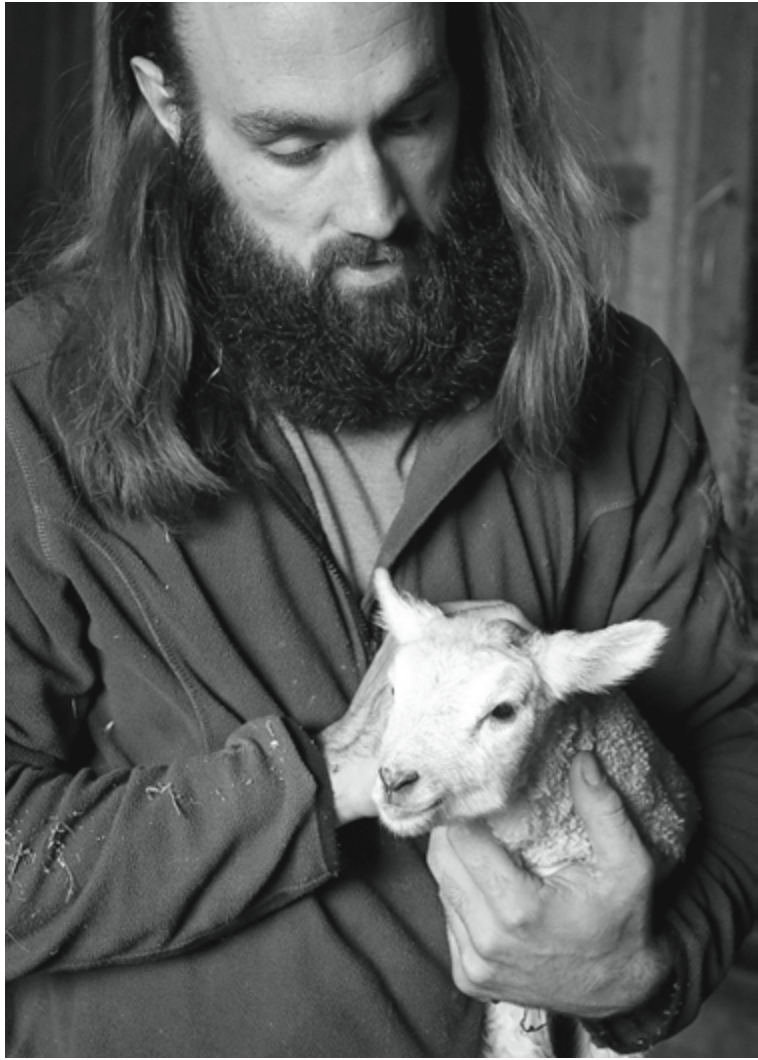
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# From 4H to Farmer: Jason Barron



Jason Barron with one of his charges. Photo by Margaretha Burnett

MARGARETHA BURNETT

In 2013, Jason Barron quit his job in the oil patch to follow his dream job into Metchosin to work as a farmer at the Parry Bay Sheep Farm. He is the loving father of two young girls, who help him out at work whenever they are free. He is a volunteer basketball coach at Hans Helgesen and also for the Warriors Girls Basketball team. He is a regular sight at Hans Helgesen School where his youngest attends. These days, in the midst of lambing season, he is very popular at school drop-off as he always has a lamb cradled in his arms for people to cuddle.

Though Jason grew up with animals around, and joined the 4H club as a youth, his family were not farmers. Nonetheless, from a young age, he knew he wanted to be one. "People were pretty

negative about my dream," he admits, though one of the more helpful of his acquaintances suggested the best route to follow might be to marry a farm girl. He tried to hook up with a dairy lass, but that was not to be. Eventually, he found himself working away from his young family, in Alberta's oil patch. A few years later, at the end of a pleasant summer off oil work, his girls pleaded that he not leave again. He glanced through UsedVictoria and saw a help wanted ad for a farmer's apprentice. Initially he thought it was a joke. However, one interview later, he was hired on by John and Lorraine Buchanan to help run Parry Bay Sheep Farm. A year after that, he moved his family to Metchosin and he plans never to leave.

"Everyone thinks that this farm is just a sheep farm," Jason says. "In fact its success

is based on diversity." Parry Bay Sheep Farm grows grain, poultry, and pigs, and also runs a meat processing plant. Jason's days are diverse. One day a week, he and four others process livestock into meat for local restaurants and for individual customers. Over the rest of the week he might drive up island to pick up more chicks to raise to broilers, check on herd health, move sheep between fields, organize shearing in the winter, harvest grain ... the list goes on. During lambing season, which is winding down now, he sleeps four hours a night, and makes up lost sleep time with naps in the day when others are about to check on sheep in labour. Given that, he looked pretty perky.

"I love the lifestyle my job gives me. I love that I get to do different things every day; that I get to educate and inform people about farming; that I can volunteer with the school and coach basketball; and that my kids can come to work with me and help out."

"Truthfully, one of the hardest things is staying positive. Farming is very up and down. This year was a good year for our 320-strong sheep flock, but this summer might be terrible for the grain crop, which is an equal part of the farm's business. My boss, John Buchanan, has taught me a lot about staying centred through both the good and bad times."

Jason has heard them all, from "How are ewe doing?" (to which he gamely replies "Not baaaad") to "Haven't herd from you lately" to "Bet you are feeling a bit sheepish." He says that people often ask him if anybody has ever told him that he looks a little like Jesus. Yes, they have. People he delivers meat to will joke that "We love this day of the week 'cause Jesus comes to visit." He's not sure any of these are good jokes ... but here's one for him: Q: What do you call a farmer with a great attitude? A: Jason Barron. Okay ... maybe not funny, but so tr-ewe!



Parry Bay Sheep Farm on Lindholm Road.

# Sparky, the Fire Hall Cat

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

When you last visited the Fire Hall, Metchosin Community House, or the Council Chambers, you may have noticed a beautiful tabby cat wandering by. Apparently Sparky, as she is known by some folks, used to belong to one of the families who lived across the road from the Fire Hall, but in recent times she has found a home with the firefighters. There's a bowl of cat food in the kitchen, and it seems that Sparky likes to supervise the fire chief, Stephanie Dunlop, from the swivel chair by her desk. What a life.

Stories of Sparky's adventures abound, and almost everyone I talked to had a story to relate. "She got stuck in the shipping container behind the Community House," remembers Barrett Fullerton. "Luckily we found her! Then there was the time that we ran out of empty chairs at a Municipal Hall meeting, only to find that Sparky had managed to nab a chair for herself. Another



Photo by Stephanie Dunlop



Photo by Stephanie Dunlop

cold winter night we were ready to lock up the House when we realized Sparky was inside, and we couldn't just put her outside to freeze. So we called the fire department (non-emergency number!) and within five minutes the fire chief was over to take her back to the warmth of the fire hall." Lucky cat!

"Our cat loves the firefighters and the firefighters love her," says Stephanie. "During courses, training and even practice nights she is involved and participating. She can be a bit distracting at times!" Sparky can also be a bit nosy. Once when an ambulance arrived at the Fire Hall to pick up a patient, the paramedics noticed that a small cat had hopped inside, as well! I also learned that Sparky likes to nap on the photocopier, especially when it's running (and warm!), and enjoys going for a "spin" on the guest chair in the office. This was where I found her when I stopped by to visit her the other day. As you can see from the photos, life is pretty stress free when you're a fire hall cat!



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# Cub Scouts in Metchosin

SCOUTER TOBY

The 14th JdF Cub Scouts have been up to a lot of activities this winter. They worked hard on designing and building their Kub Kars. Then most of the youth attended the area Kub Kar rally. This exciting event was attended by close to 200 Cub Scouts from all over the Greater Victoria area.

The Cub Scouts have also done a number of outdoor activities. They went on a night hike one evening. On this hike they learned about cooking on light-weight camp stoves and ate some of the food which they had dehydrated at an earlier meeting.

Building on their outdoor skills, the Cub Scouts went on a climb up Mount Wells, where they made a "leave no trace" makeshift shelter. It was a good skill to practice

as it was quite a stormy day. In their shelter, they were warm and dry while having their snack.

All Scouting sections also participate in community service projects. The Cub Scouts supported a hamper packing event which was put on by a local Baha'i Faith group in support of the Our Place homeless shelter. The Hampers contain a towel, toiletries and socks as well as a personalized card with some words of encouragement. The youth really enjoyed working on these and the great cause it supported.

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

We are also looking for more leaders and helpers so whether or not you have children in the program, feel free to enquire.



Cubs in their shelter on Mount Wells.

Photo by Toby Voss

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Got feedback? You can contact the Muse team by sending email to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca).



Geese crossing Matheson Lake Road

Photo by Margaretha Burnett

# Wild Green Children: Photo Challenge

MARGARETHA BURNETT

Want to get the kids outside doing something cool? Send them on a photo treasure hunt with their iPod or the family camera!

First remind them of these six ways to make their shots more interesting:

- To avoid blurry shots: hold the camera with two hands, breathe out, think *squeeze* (not press), take your time;
- Get close to the subject – make it fill the frame;
- Keep the background simple and clean, keep the horizon straight;
- Rule of thirds – cut the frame into nine squares. Put your subject on one of the crosses, NOT dead centre;
- Make use of natural framing – a tree trunk or branch, a window, posts;
- Use leading lines – lines that draw the eye to the subject – such as paths, a line of trees, stairs.

Here is a ready-made Metchosin Photo Scavenger Hunt:

1. A selfie of you doing something outside from a weird angle (use a timer or have a friend help!);
2. An interesting part of a building (door, window, stone);



Scavenger Hunt item #25?

Photo by Brian Domney



Scavenger Hunt item #13?

Photo by Brian Domney

3. Person hard at work outside (or the evidence of ...);
4. Reflection on water;
5. On path using grass and path as a leading line to draw the eye to the subject;
6. Flowers/plants (get close or an interesting angle);
7. Landscape with clouds (experiment with rule of thirds);
8. Something on a tree (leaves, fruit, flower, bird); get close!;
9. Something red;
10. People playing;
11. Your shadow;
12. Nature with water (rule of thirds, no man-made objects);
13. An animal: birds, insects, sheep, your pet (outside!); get close!;

14. Something that shows "wet";
15. Something moving quickly (track the movement so the background is blurry but see if you can keep the object crisp);
16. The underneath of something;
17. A close-up of your eyes, hand, or toes;
18. Something outside that begins with the first letter of your name;
19. An odd view of the your favourite tree;
20. Make a silhouette – shoot with the sun behind the subject, so the subject is dark;
21. Walk 100 steps in any direction then stop. Take a picture of something you find there;
22. Bring one of your favourite toys outside. Set it up so that it tells a story. (And when you get back inside, write that story out.);
23. Your favourite place outside;
24. Your family car from an unusual angle;
25. Foot prints.

Send in your child's best shot before April 12 for a chance to be featured on the "Wild Green Children: Photo Challenge Show and Tell Board" in the Metchosin Muse. Submissions to [memetopia@shaw.ca](mailto:memetopia@shaw.ca).

# RCMP Call-Outs FEBRUARY 2016

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Feb 01 **Kangaroo Road area** – Complaint to check well-being of a person, found to be all right.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of person breaching bail/court conditions, one person arrested and held for court.
- Feb 02 **Hi Mount Drive** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle in the area at 3:45 am, vehicle not located.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of person in possession of drugs, still under investigation.  
**Metchosin Road area** – Complaint to check well-being of a person, taken to hospital by ambulance.
- Feb 03 **Pears Road** – Complaint of theft from vehicle during the night, window smashed and several items taken.  
**Duke Road** – Complaint of deer being hit by vehicle.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of loud noise, possible accident, nothing located.
- Feb 04 **Neild Road area** – Complaint of break, enter and theft during the night to a garage, several items stolen, investigation continuing.
- Feb 05 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of a helicopter landing on the road.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of threats, one person given verbal warning.
- Feb 06 **William Head Road area** – Complaint of illegally parked vehicles.  
**Sooke Road** – Complain to erratic driver, registered owner given verbal warning.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of loud party, home owner given verbal warning.
- Feb 07 **William Head Road** – Complaint of two suspicious males, patrols failed to locate them.  
**Neild Road** – Complaint of vehicle in the ditch, patrol attended and found a drunk male trying to get vehicle out of ditch, charged with impaired driving and vehicle impounded.
- Feb 08 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of suspicious male, male located and found to be intoxicated, given ride home.
- Feb 09 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of mischief, vehicle driven across the field on the municipal property causing extensive damage to grass and irrigation, investigation continuing.
- Feb 10 **William Head Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, minor injuries to driver, vehicle towed from ditch.  
**Duke Road** – Complaint of suspicious persons, patrol failed to locate them.  
**Pearson College Drive** – Complaint of household items being dumped in the ditch, investigation continuing.
- Feb 12 **William Head Road** – Assistance provided to the Coroner's Service regarding sudden death.  
**Glen Forest Way area** – Assistance provided to Ambulance Service, one person taken to hospital.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, registered owner of vehicle given verbal warning.
- Feb 14 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint to check on welfare of a person.
- Feb 15 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of disturbance/threats, still under investigation.
- Feb 17 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle leaking oil onto road.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of an abandoned vehicle.
- Sooke Road** – Complaint of an erratic driver, vehicle stopped by Sooke RCMP.
- Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of threats to a person, landlord/tenant dispute.
- Feb 19 **Arden Road** – Complaint of a disturbance at a residence, three people spoken to.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of a suspicious vehicle, not located.
- Feb 21 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.
- Feb 22 **William Head Road** – Complaint of theft of items from a residential property.  
**Taylor Road** – Complaint of theft of license plate from utility trailer.  
**Delgada Road** – Complaint of theft of items from a residential property.
- Feb 23 **Arden Road** – Complaint of suspicious person, patrols failed to locate.
- Feb 25 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of person breaking court-ordered conditions, charges forwarded to Crown Counsel.
- Feb 26 **Liberty Drive area** – RCMP member attended and gave presentation on Block Watch program.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of theft of money from road-side food stand. Still under investigation.
- Feb 27 **Lindholm Road** – Complaint of a possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate the vehicle.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle collision, driver found to be impaired, no injuries, driver to appear in court on impaired driving-related charges.
- Feb 28 **William Head Road** – Complaint of possible gun shot heard, patrols failed to locate anything.  
**Albert Head Lagoon** – Complaint of a found bike.  
**Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of possible disturbance/domestic dispute.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Complaint to check well-being of a person, located and taken to hospital.
- Feb 29 **Sooke Road** – Two vehicle collision, no injuries, one person rear ended the other.



The top section of a tree rests perilously in the powerlines on Metchosin Road near Wootton Road on March 12. The top of the tree landed upside down on the lines after breaking off during the windstorm.

Joan Kew photo

## Rough Voice Sing-along

Join us on Monday, April 11 (7:00 pm) for the end-of-season wind-up at the Community House. Lusty singing followed by a fun social. Last session until mid-September.

## Fire Dept. Call-Outs

FEBRUARY 2016

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

- Feb 05 **Kangaroo Road** – Medical  
**Metchosin Road** – Assistance – RCMP
- Feb 06 **Sandgate Road** – Assistance – Public Works
- Feb 07 **Assistance** – BCAS
- Feb 08 **Beach Fire**
- Feb 10 **Lindholm Road** – Medical
- Feb 12 **William Head Road** – Medical  
**Labonne Road** – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting  
**William Head Road** – Medical
- Feb 13 **Chalister Court** – Medical
- Feb 14 **Kangaroo Road** – Medical  
**Sooke Road** – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential)
- Feb 15 **Winter Road** – Assistance – Misc Complaint
- Feb 16 **Winter Road** – Assistance – General Public  
**Sundance Drive** – Medical  
**Pearson College Drive** – False Alarm Bells – Residential
- Feb 17 **Stillmeadow Road** – Medical  
**Sooke Road** – Assistance – Public Works
- Feb 21 **Cliff Drive** – Assistance – Public Works  
**Pears Road** – Medical  
**Felderhof Road, Sooke** – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential)
- Feb 22 **William Head Road** – Hydro – Lines Down RD
- Feb 25 **Rocky Point Road** – Medical
- Feb 27 **Rocky Point Road** – MVI
- Feb 28 **Lombard Drive** – HAZ MAT – Petroleum Spill/Fire
- Feb 29 **Sooke Road** – MVI: SOOKE RD

## 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.

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.

### HELP WANTED

**LOOKING FOR AN ENERGETIC PERSON** or persons to do occasional housekeeping and light garden work for a vacation rental, \$20/hr. Metchosin/Farhill Rd area, 250-893-0141.

**THE GRATEFUL POOCH GROOMING AND DESIGN** Trims/Bath and Brush/Nails/Ears/Certified CCST1 int. 598 Parry Rd. Please call 250-508-1777 for appointment. [Thegratefulpooch.ca](http://Thegratefulpooch.ca) and Facebook.

### FOR SALE

**ATTENTION GARDENERS:** composted hog, chicken and sheep manure available from local farm. Call 250-415-6540, 250-478-0588.

**HANDY MAN** – Yard and house maintenance int/ext painting, power washing, lawns, small construction, fences, decks and yard clean-ups. Call Scott, 778-922-3635.

### LESSONS

**FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 & 2, MARKETS SAFE & WHMIS** – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website [www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com](http://www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com) for

**SHILOH MUSIC STUDIO** Guitar lessons and stringed instrument repair. Multi-track recording services. Located in Metchosin school. By appointment only 250-507-5442 or [www.shilohmusicstudio.com](http://www.shilohmusicstudio.com).

# Events

**Rocky Point Bird Observatory: It Was a Very Big Year!** On March 31, Ann Nightingale will speak about her adventures to set a Vancouver Island Big Year record in 2015. This slide-illustrated talk will start at approximately 8:00 pm, following the AGM. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn more about Victoria's own migration monitoring station. Fraser Building Room 159, UVic, 7:00 pm. Bring your cup and a friend!

**Metchosin Uke Jammers** meets next on April 8. See House Happenings, page 11 for more information.

**Langford Legion Craft Fair**, April 10. Crafts, home party items, and garage sale items.

**Metchosin Bandwagon Music Night: Chickwagon Band**, April 15, 7:00-9:15 pm. \$5 donation goes to musicians. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Rd. Bar/kitchen open 5:30 pm. [www.chickwagonband.ca](http://www.chickwagonband.ca)

**CRD Parks events:** for information, please see <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/events>.

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

# Directory of Organizations

The following is contact information for not-for-profit organizations. 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**  
[www.848royalroadsaircadets.com](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
[www.facebook.com/848aircadets](http://www.facebook.com/848aircadets)  
 250-590-3690  
[848air@cadets.gc.ca](http://848air@cadets.gc.ca)

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

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

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

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

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

**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)

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

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

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

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

**METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**  
 250-478-1307, ham operators call in on 146.550. POD 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)

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

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

**METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB**  
 250-298-7877

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

**METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
 250-478-4778

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

**METCHOSIN PONY CLUB**  
 250-727-3595

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

**METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**  
[metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market

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

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

**POD LEADERS**  
 Kathleen Sutherland  
 250-474-3966

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

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

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

**SEA CADETS**  
 250-478-7813

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Email: [metchosinyogastudio@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinyogastudio@gmail.com) Facebook: Westshore Metchosin Yoga Studio

Website: [www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com](http://www.westshoremetchosinyoga.com)



**John Horgan, MLA**  
 Juan de Fuca

## Standing up for our Rural Communities

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

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)

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**250-478-5533**  
 2811 Jacklin Rd.  
 (near Goldstream)



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The above is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes to this information to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca). Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events, to be included under "Events" on this page. Deadline for submission is, as always, the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.

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