



Metchosin Muse

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



The Strait was a brisk 7°C for the 2016 version of the Metchosin Polar Bear Swim when 50 odd souls hit the drink (and jumped in the water too!)

Photo by Joan Kew

Keep Clam and Proofread

Volunteer Group of the Month – The Muse Team

Muse team member Jim MacPherson has offered to highlight a Metchosin volunteer group in each issue, and in the spirit of blatant self promotion, chose the volunteers who produce the Metchosin Muse 11 times a year as the inaugural group. If there is a volunteer group you think worthy of an article, please let Jim know at metmuse@shaw.ca.

BY JIM MACPHERSON

I think a lot of us take the *Metchosin Muse* a bit for granted. It appears in our mail boxes ... well, most of them, anyway ... around the beginning of the month. And it's free.

I'm not sure if many of us really think about it but this, and every other issue of the *Muse* since August, 1993, has been put together by a pretty dedicated team of volunteers.

I have only sat on the editing committee for the last couple of years, but during that time I have acquired just a bit of an inkling how much time, effort, imagination and organizing skill must have gone into that first issue. And how it was replicated for the second, and third issues, and then over the first, the second, the third and all the years since.

The first editors were Brian Graham and Barry Mathias. That first issue was put together by about 13 volunteers who wrote, edited, laid out the paper, sought out advertisers, collected the advertising revenue and paid the bills, and arranged for printing and distribution.

Most of the volunteers have changed during the past 22 years, but there has been one constant. Isabel Tipton, whose gardening column appears in every other issue of the *Muse*, is listed on the masthead of that first issue of the *Muse*, and has been a contributor to the *Muse* ever since.

It is remarkable how little has changed in 22 years in putting together a community newspaper. But the *Muse* has grown and matured, learned from mistakes, adapted to new technologies and

developed new ideas and approaches.

At first glance, today's *Metchosin Muse* doesn't look much like that first issue. Some of the changes can be laid at the feet of technology. Much of it can be attributed to the *Muse's* volunteers, some of whom bring years of experience to the paper.

One big change in the *Metchosin Muse* is that current issues are now available on the *Muse* website at www.metchosinmuse.ca. Like everything else at the *Muse*, it is also run and operated by volunteers. Eventually, we hope to have all issues of the *Muse* will be available on the *Muse's* website.

Today the *Metchosin Muse* is pulled together by about 17 people who work under the editor, Brian Domney.

Working "under" is probably technically accurate, but the *Muse* volunteers operate as a team with an extremely high degree of collaboration and consensus. We are, after all, volunteers.

The monthly costs associated with the *Muse* – layout, printing and delivery – are usually covered by advertising revenue with the occasional month having a slight deficit. If you think the paper is important to the community, please patronize our advertisers.

In the meantime, the rest of us gladly contribute where we can. Some write articles. Some of us get together twice each month to review and edit articles to be printed, making certain that words and people's names are spelled correctly, that the articles are

clearly written and that text and photos follow certain guidelines. Once each month volunteers meet as a business group to discuss upcoming issues, complaints, errors and omissions, advertising, revenues and expenditures, distribution issues, and any other matter that might affect the *Muse*.

Think you might be interested? We are always looking for volunteers to help out. We especially need people who would like to write. A writer does not need to make a full-time commitment to writing ... perhaps an article once or twice a year ... on a topic you think the readers would be interested in.

We would like hear from you. Just drop an email to Brian Domney at metmuse@shaw.ca.

Are You a Published Author?

JOAN KEW

Contributions from the people in the following list were included in the *Best of the Muse*, Volume 2, which was published in 2013.

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. We welcome your contributions, and who knows, maybe you'll end up in the *Best of the Muse*, Volume 3! Email metmuse@shaw.ca for more information.

Tony Austin
Bev Bacon
Stevie Bahrey
Janet Barclay
Susan Bowen
Shelanne Bulford
J. Burgis
Margaretha Burnett
Sherry Buttner
Scott Campbell
Peggy Capek
Janet Caplan
Carol Carman
Shannon Carman
Todd Carnahan
Valerie Cochran
Debbie Cooper
Terry Cue
Robin Dean
Brian Domney
Lynda Dowling
Stephanie Dunlop
Laura Farquharson
Ruth Fenner
Mary Gidney

Joan Butler Gilbert
Sally Gracelon
Jane Hammond
Peter Hammond
Kelly Hancock
Betty Hildreth
Kym Hill
John Hollemans
Robin Hopper
Madison Innes
Shivonne Kerr
Joan Kew
Dawne Kirwan
Joan Knightley
Liz Koolman
Bruce Laurie
Steve Lee
Barb Lewis
M.-T. Little
Kem Luther
Andy MacKinnon
Jim MacPherson
Kate Mansell
Martha McHardy
J. McRee Elrod

Moralea Milne
Jo Mitchell
Susan Mitchell
David Morant
Sunny Mowat
John Nsabimana
Dan O'Connell
Bess Page
Peter Pauwels
Janice Poulin
Christopher Pratt
Charles Priester
Margaret Roper
Doug Ruth
Ella Speckeen
Roger St Pierre
Amy Stach
Cynthia Stevenot
Shannon Tait
Isabel Tipton
Erin Van de Water
Anne van der Wereld
Ena Wallace
Derek Wulff

Important Dates

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

- Feb. 5 MCA Music Night: Pennybrook Celtic Duo ... p. 9
- Feb. 8 BC Family Day
- Feb. 13 Farm Forum 2016..... p. 4
- Feb. 14 Marmalade Workshop p. 12
- Feb. 16 Emergency Information Session p. 2
- Feb. 18 MCA Speaker Series: Site C – Keep the Peace! p. 8
- Feb. 19 History of Leechtown Talk..... p. 4
- Feb. 19 Metchosin Bandwagon Night: Curl Girls p. 7
- Feb. 26 Film Night: *All the Time in the World*..... p. 2

Metchosin Muse

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Joan Kew

**DISTRIBUTION
CO-ORDINATOR**
Barrett Fullerton

EVENTS metmuse@shaw.ca

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2600
(July/August: 3000)

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

AD DEADLINE
The 15th of every month for month-end publication.

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor

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

Or in this case, a letter to Metchosin ...

It's true what they say about Metchosin: it's a small place where the people have big hearts. That was never more true than at the party you threw for us on January 10 at Metchosin Golf Club. We laughed, Mary shed a few tears and we got to see friends again. Memories of Metchosin? We have many more good ones after the party. We'll come back now and then to keep up our amateur status. Love to all, and thank you especially to Avril Yoachim, Colleen Brownlee and Jo Mitchell.

Mary and Norman Gidney



Mary and Norm Gidney at their send-off.

Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Predictably, Mary Cried

BARB SAWATSKY

Who wouldn't when, at a party in your honour, so many people would stand up to thank and recognize you for your contributions to a community you've recently left? After 30 years in Metchosin for Mary and 16 for Norm Gidney, a party held at the Metchosin Golf Course was attended by approximately 50 fellow volunteers, friends and former neighbours who wished them well in the next phase

of their life's travels. Presented as a parting gift was a picture of Metchosin's "downtown core" and thus will they never forget the sight upon which they commented regularly. All the best to this dynamic duo, both of whom contributed countless hours of volunteering to the District of Metchosin.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Generators and Alternative Means of Power

DAWNE KIRWAN

Emergency Information Session: Generators and Alternative Means of Power

Tuesday February 16, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Fire Hall

It is a new year and with it brings a new calendar of Metchosin's Emergency Program free information sessions. Join us on the third Tuesday of each month for a fun and informative

talk on all things related to emergencies and then some.

January had us doing First Aid and CPR. Join us in February for a discussion on generators and alternate means of power. Most of us have some means of an alternate power source when the power goes out and many of us have a generator. This session will review safety and maintenance issues when using a generator, as well as reviewing the safety around locating and installing one.

Film Night at the Metchosin Community House

RIC PERRON

Friday, February 26, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Community House

All the Time in the World,
87 minutes

"If you don't change your direction, you may end up where you are heading"
– Lao Tzu

This is a family wilderness movie about regained time and a search for a new perspective. Mom and dad with their three children leave the comforts of society (Dawson City) to live remotely in the raw Yukon wilderness during the long northern winter. Nine months living in a small cabin with no road access, electricity, running water, phone, TV, Internet, or timepiece.

Filmed over nine months, off the grid, and without an external crew, this documentary also features the unique perspectives of children. It explores the theme of disconnecting from hectic and technologically laden lives in order to recharge and reconnect with each other, and their natural environment. The filmmaker and mom, Suzanne Crocker, says, "this is not a survival in the wilderness documentary nor is it a documentary about living off the grid. *All the Time in the World* is about opening

possibilities in the fabric of our lives. Throughout the film we are constantly reminded of how often we postpone truly important things due to a perceived lack of time."

"Anyone watching this film will have to ask what life is all about. Why am I in such a hurry? What is it that gives us true happiness? Thank you for making a film that demands we answer those questions." – David Suzuki.

Please bring your children to see this. *Suggestions, comments, please contact Ric at ricnic2@shaw.ca.*

On the web at www.metchosinmuse.ca

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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

Muse Subscriptions

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

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

Or you can email us at metmuse@shaw.ca



METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

Display Ad Sizes	1 Issue	2-5 Issues	6-12 Issues
Bus. Card (H) – 3.925" w x 2.5" h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
Bus. Card (V) – 1.866" w x 5" h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
2x4 – 3.925" w x 4" h	\$77.00	\$67.00	\$59.00
1/6 page (V) – 3.925" w x 5" h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
1/6 page (H) – 5.95" w x 3.3" h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
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Insert 8.5" X 11" (supplied only)	\$259.00	per month	per month
Full Width Banner x 2" h	\$96.00	\$88.00	\$76.00
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Discount on 2-5 and 6-12 issues. Full payment in advance of publication

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For more information please call Peter Lewis 474-3260, email petermlewis@shaw.ca

Classified Ads
25 words or less \$10
Deadline: 15th of each month.
Monthly payment in advance. Please call Eileen Carlson 250-478-1036.

Visit the *Muse* website!

<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

Metchosin Bids Farewell to a Quiet Hero

ROBIN TUNNICLIFFE



Bernie Martinwood Photo by Morgan Martin-Wood

On January 4, Bernie Martinwood passed from our midst after a courageous battle with pulmonary fibrosis and liver disease.

Born in Chilliwack in 1943, Bernie grew up in Kamloops where he married and raised his three sons. He moved to Victoria where he met his soul mate, Marti. They combined forces, minds and families, and together they raised seven children, moving to Metchosin in 1986. "Together they moved mountains," said Bernie's eldest son Dean (he was the eulogist), "mountains of compost for sure!"

Bernie had a career with BC Tel, where he was known as a quick study of all things technical, but mostly for his kind and generous ways. MLA Lana Popham recalls working

alongside Bernie. "Bernie was always smiling and kind-hearted, and although we were surrounded with technology, he introduced me to the importance of organic agriculture." Bernie retired from BC Tel and started a second career in the budding field of organic farming. Two Wings Organic Farm and Seed Company was certified in 1993.

Local farmer Dieter Eisenhower recalls meeting Bernie and Marti early on in the organic scene. "It is a good thing to have known a truly great person," said Dieter of his friend Bernie. Bernie's and Marti's vision of a different kind of food system fuelled their tireless efforts toward establishing the organic certification body, Islands Organic Producers' Association, and the Moss Street Market. They foresaw a world where people valued healthy local food that was produced in a way that honoured the land and the farmers. This vision lives on in the guiding principles of the organic movement.

Their work in farming and their keen sense of social justice naturally turned them to the contentious world of seed saving. Bernie and Marti saved a wealth of endangered seeds, including many varieties of heirloom tomatoes and peppers. They were pioneers at Seedy Saturday events, and their passion for seed saving has inspired a new generation of seed savers who are continuing their work.

Bernie and Marti shared their joy of life by playing in the Mufaro Marimba Band. They both served on the local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Metchosin. Nan Hsieh, a fellow Assembly member, recalls Bernie as her quiet hero whose grounded nature and smiling eyes were a source of inspiration. "He loved people and loved discussing ideas."

He had a deep concern for social justice and the environment, with a strongly held hope that people would some day realize the imperative for a more sustainable way of living and growing food.

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.

INVASIVE SPECIES: A PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROBLEM AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONTROL – Friday, February 12 with Joel Ussery

What makes a species invasive, why are some such problems, and what should be considered when deciding what to do? Metchosin local Joel Ussery graduated from the School of Resource and Environmental Management in 1997. His masters project was entitled "Managing Invasive Plant Species in Garry Oak Meadow Vegetation Communities: A Case Study of Scotch Broom."



Gorse, broom's "nasty brutish cousin."

There will be a Walk the following day on Saturday, February 13; meet at the Devonian Park parking lot at 10:00 am.

COEXISTING WITH LARGE CARNIVORES IN OUR REGION – Friday, March 4 with Nitya Harris

Why are large carnivores important to sustain the integrity of ecosystems? What large carnivores do we have in our region? What are the risks to these carnivores? And, how can we coexist with our large carnivores?

Nitya Harris, chair of the Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance and co-creator of WildWise Sooke, will speak to these questions. She will also speak on some of the initiatives presently underway with respect to coexisting with carnivores on Vancouver Island.

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

Funding Available for Community Projects

DAVID KIRKHAM

The West Shore RCMP Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) provides funding for non-profit community groups and schools in the West Shore including Metchosin. Programs must be:

- tailored to meet the needs of a specific school or community;
- involve youth, seniors or at-risk populations;
- promote healthy choices and lifestyle; or
- promote public safety

In your application, please provide a brief history of your group and details of how the funds will be used. Once your activity or service has been completed, you will be asked to submit receipts showing how the funds were used. You may be asked to provide a presentation in person to CPAC. In the past, funds have been awarded to the Metchosin Emergency Program Earthquake House, to students at West-Mont

School to support shoreline cleanup, to help people with special needs, and to provide a technical education course for seniors.

CPAC reviews applications twice a year and provides funding of up to \$500 for each approved project. The amount is determined on how well the project meets the four criteria.

The next deadline for applications is February 26. Applications should be sent to:

West Shore RCMP CPAC
Attn. Cpl. Bryson Hill
Funding Application
698 Atkins Ave.
Victoria, BC V9B 3A4

This information is provided by the West Shore Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC). Metchosin's representative on CPAC is David Kirkham. If you have questions or concerns that you would like raised at the Committee, please contact David at: CPAC-Metchosin@googlegroups.com

We Need You!

NAN HSIEH

Sometimes the needs that we see in the world and even in Victoria and surrounding communities can feel overwhelming – so much so that we feel like we cannot make even a dent in the need and so we shut down and don't want to hear about it.

But if we work together and pool our resources, we can make a difference, and that is why we are counting on you.

For the past nine years, every February, the Baha'is of Metchosin have made Bath Bundles for Our Place and the daily bath program that they run there. Because of the generous support of our fellow Metchosinites, someone who is homeless can come to Our Place and receive a bath bundle with towel, clean socks and basic toiletries, and bathe in privacy. What a difference this program makes to a person's dignity!

The problems in our world are huge and do feel totally out of our control, but we hope that our project offers hope, not only to the recipients of the bath bundles, but to all of us who participate in this project when we see that together our contributions to this program do make a difference by helping someone

who is homeless feel safer and cared about.

What a better place this world would be if everyone was part of a group trying to make a positive difference by helping others. So besides contributing to this project, why not start your own group and invite others to help? Let's start a movement to make a difference!

In the meantime, spread the word and invite others to donate too. We need new towels and socks and toothpaste. Lots of them! The more,

the better. **Deadline to donate is Friday, February 26.** Donations will be accepted at The Metchosin Community House Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and the day of the event, February 28 at the Metchosin Community Hall.

It's a party too! For parents of young children, do plan to come to the event from 2:00-4:00 pm to help make the bath bundles and stay for entertainment, children's crafts, and refreshments. It's great fun! Thank you in advance for your help.

Shop Locally

and tell them you saw it in the *Muse!*

'CHOSIN POTTERY
Robin Hopper & Judi Dyelle
250-474-2676

4283 Metchosin Rd., Victoria
Weekends 10am - 5pm Weekdays call ahead
www.chosinpottery.ca



Quiet, retired non-smoker gentleman is looking for a house on acreage/farm to rent, long term in the Metchosin area.

The house is to accommodate partner, one 11 year old dog and 2 sister indoor/outdoor cats. Also acceptable would be a vacant equipped cabin on the property.

Caretaking the property, OK. Able to move in, in March. Rent negotiable. References provided.

Call Jerry at 250 213 2077



You are Invited

to listen to author Bart van den Berk discuss the subject of his new book:

The History of Leechtoun Part I

Friday, February 19, 7:00 pm
at the Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road

Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided.
Sponsored by the Metchosin Museum Society

Metchosin Agricultural Advisory Select Committee presents

Farm Forum 2016

BRENT DONALDSON

Farm Forum 2016
Saturday, February 13
District of Metchosin
Council Chambers
4450 Happy Valley Road
(behind the Fire Hall)
No admission fee; all are welcome.

Farm Forum 2016 is fast approaching. Come and join our local farmers and producers to discover what it takes to grow, sell and purchase products locally.

Sponsored by the Metchosin Agricultural Advisory Select Committee. More information can be found on the District of Metchosin website; see www.district.metchosin.bc.ca or contact forum organizer, Brent Donaldson at 250-474-7303.

Schedule of Speakers

- 8:30–9:00 am **Susanne Hughes, Metchosin Producers;** selling at our local Sunday Market
- 9:00–10:00 am **John Buchanan, Parry Bay Sheep Farm;** raising and marketing sheep
- 10:00–11:00 am **Everett Dixon, Nutritionist for Top Shelf Feeds;** feeding in drought conditions
- 11:00 am–noon **Karen Hoffman, Southwind Honey;** beekeeping and honey production
- Noon–1:00 pm *Lunch Break*
- 1:00–2:00 pm **Ina Vanderwereld, Vanderwereld Farm;** raising meat birds
- 2:00–3:00 pm **Robin Tunnicliffe, Sea Bluff Farm;** market gardening and box program
- 3:00–4:00 pm **Brent Donaldson, Ewe View Farm;** raising and marketing pigs

Shop Locally
and tell them you saw it in the *Muse!*



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COUNCIL NEWS FEBRUARY 2016



GRANT IN AID PROGRAM

Is your community organization in need of funding? Not-for-profit societies can apply for a grant-in-aid until March 15. Council announces the names of recipients in June. Applications are available at metchosin.ca and at the Municipal Hall.

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

If you are interested in representing Metchosin on the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, please submit a letter of interest to the Council at the Municipal Hall or by email to info@metchosin.ca. For more information check their website at <http://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca/>

COUNCIL SEEKS A METCHOSIN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Do you have experience with environmental issues or are interested in the heritage of Metchosin? The Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee and the Heritage Advisory Committee are in need of new volunteers. If you're interested, please submit a letter of interest addressed to Mayor and Council to the Municipal Hall.

DOG LICENCES

Pick up your dog licence at the Municipal Hall or the General Store before March 1 and avoid a \$10 penalty. All dogs in Metchosin must have a licence. Having a licence helps locate your dog if it is lost, and funds animal control services.

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

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 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	Feb. 1, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting	Feb. 22, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting	Feb. 1, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC)	Feb. 23, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways Committee	Feb. 15, 7:00 pm	Heritage Advisory Committee (HASC)	Feb. 24, 7:00 pm
Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC)	Feb. 16, 7:00 pm	Budget Workshop	Feb. 29, 7:00 pm

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

Metchosin Municipal Hall | www.metchosin.ca | 250-474-3167 | info@metchosin.ca

Visit the Muse website!
<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

SIRC – Seniors' Information and Resource Centre

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

Hours of operation:

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Wednesdays and Fridays – 1:00 to 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 or go to our website: www.metchosinseniors.ca

Ongoing and Upcoming Programs

GEEKS AND GEEZERS

This is SIRC'S program where young savvy technocrats help not-so-tech-savvy seniors and others find their way around their computers, Skype, TV remote controls and whatever technical "else" is driving you up the wall!

Geeks and Geezers resumed Tuesday, January 19 at 4:15 pm. This continues to be a drop-in session but we would appreciate your calling ahead to let us know you

will be attending. If Santa left some new tech toys under the tree, bring them in and we will help to discover their secrets. Tech assistance is also available at other times by appointment. The drop in fee remains at \$5.00 per visit.

SIRC'S SERVICE PROVIDER SERVICE

Need a plumber, electrician, or just general help?

Even if you are not a senior, SIRC can help you locate a recommended service provider. Just drop in or phone and SIRC can help you access plumbers, electricians, etc., help with light housekeeping, or simply getting help with odd jobs. Our Service Provider Service awaits you.

SPANISH FOR SENIORS AND SENIORITAS

Learning a new language seems to improve overall memory and boost your brain power. Give your brain a mental workout. This course is designed to get you familiar with the language: pronunciation and intonation, some simple vocabulary, day-to-day expressions and a sense of the Spanish culture. We will do it in a fun, interactive way using specifically designed material, games, audio and video, and songs.



A couple of Geeks, Lucas Christ Rowling and Mariah Kivari, with a Geezer at SIRC.

Photo by Colleen Brownlee

Instructor: Vivi Curutcher is a native Spanish speaker from Argentina who has been teaching Spanish in the Sooke region since 2007.

Introductory Spanish Classes at SIRC

Thursday, January 28,
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February 10 to March 16

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With 10 students \$80

Fees are per person, plus \$10 SIRC membership (if you are not already a member).

House Insurance ... Changing Times?

JIM MACPHERSON

In recent years, the cost of property insurance has really climbed as we all pay for billion-dollar damage claims arising from flood, wind, drought, fire, landslide, earthquake and other events. Extreme weather events are likely to continue and possibly become more common. Because of the formulas insurance companies use, personal property coverage (for furniture, appliances and all the other "stuff" inside the house) may be exorbitantly high. We could also be paying for coverage for outbuildings that are not there.

We can probably look forward in the future to paying even more for property insurance.

Are there ways of cutting back the costs of insurance? Yes. There are some traditional cost-cutting measures such as increasing the deductible or eliminating coverage altogether on some items.

But there are other ways of reducing the costs of insurance without affecting at all the amount of coverage you may have. For example, since earthquake coverage is a separate rider on the

insurance policy, one may be able to reduce the personal property coverage to a much more reasonable amount and save significantly on the final insurance bill.

Another way is to become a member of an officially certified Block Watch program offered by the RCMP through a short educational course.

Insurance companies now appear to be starting to pay some attention to the needs of the insuring public. Some insurance companies are starting to advertise more customized policies such as choosing the amount of coverage on outbuildings and personal property.

And perhaps the best innovation of all, some insurance companies are offering policies which permit a cash payout in the event of fire or earthquake rather than forcing the policy holder to rebuild. This may be attractive to many seniors who do not want to be confronted with all of the hassle and problems associated with rebuilding in order to have a valid claim.

So after reading this, you may wish to explore with your insurance agent what

plans are available to better suit your requirements and budget.

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

Rough Voice Singers

BARB SAWATSKY

Metchosin's friendly sing-along group meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Mondays from mid-September to mid-April at 7:00 pm (not on Easter Monday, Mar. 28). This is a drop-in group with no commitment to sign up or to learn songs. We ask only that you bring a \$2 donation for the House and a love of singing for the joy of it.

Songs chosen by the musicians and organizers are up-beat and well-known and words are projected onto the TV screen. Rough Voice is attracts 40-45 participants so if you're worried about the quality of your singing voice, don't, as individual voices blend to make for a noisy and enthusiastic mix.

Christmas saw a full house, treats and hot apple juice and laughter way past our usual end time of 9:00 pm. If you want an evening with friends and potential friends, come to Rough Voice Singers to see for yourself how much fun we are having in the dark evenings of winter.

Sneak Peek at a Metchosin Classic

JOHNNY CARLINE

"And the next item to be auctioned is window and gutter services by Men in Kilts, valued at two hundred dollars."

A murmur rippled around the audience. Meaningful glances were exchanged. And I saw in my wife's eye that mischievous glint that invariably means she is out to have some fun.

Let's face it, the chap who created a window cleaning company named "Men in Kilts" was hardly being subtle. And the fact that his company motto, emblazoned on the shirts that the staff wear, is "No Peeking," only drives home a point that you would have to be a Tibetan monk not to have understood.

So the chuckles and stirrings in the crowd attending the 2015 Metchosin Community Association Services Auction were totally understandable, as was the fact that the early enthusiastic bidding came entirely from the ladies in the audience, while the men sat back and enjoyed the fun.

The bidding soon came down to a two-person contest and when my wife, with a huge grin on her face, switched tactics and entered a big jump bid to the full value of the item, her opponent gracefully nodded her head in defeat. With a whoop of triumph, my wife claimed her prize.

We didn't put our prize into effect until recently and I was curious to see whether the much-talked-about kilts would still be in evidence in the winter months. But sure enough, two good-looking lads rolled up our driveway in a tartan van and kilts to match. Needless to say my



Nadine Carline with the Men in Kilts from a hard-won auction battle at the MCA Services Auction. Photo by Johnny Carline

wife enjoyed their company immensely as they went about their window and gutter cleaning task. Happily the boys willingly posed for photos to record the scene for posterity.

But here is the point. We were just two of the people

who attended the 2015 MCA Services Auction, who all had a huge amount of fun bidding on items as diverse as log splitting, pet portraits and music lessons (*Editor's note: "and chicks"!*) and enjoying

continued on page 11 ...



The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

A very Happy New Year to all, may your weeds get a fatal disease which spares the rest of the garden.

One of the nicest things about writing this column is the necessity of keeping up to date on what is out there. In other words, it is an excuse for perusing the backroads of the Internet in search of tidbits of interest. While looking at garden trends, I was stopped in mid line by the word "Dogscaping," new to me. There are whole books out there telling you how to make a dog-friendly yard! There are long lists of plants poisonous to dogs, many of which are also fatal to people foolish enough to eat them. The one making the headlines lately is marijuana- if you indulge do not let the dog have a shot at it. Now this may seem superfluous, but certain breeds - labs and beagles for instance - will eat just about anything available and think later. This leads to large vet bills and a very unhappy dog. Dogscaping then led me to the library (which does not have the book in the collection) to Amazon, which states that those who bought *Dogscaping*, either Book 1 or Book 2, also bought *Barkitecture*, which might be fun to look at, as it features great doghouses from around the world. Here is a review: "In *Barkitecture*, architecture and design writer Fred Albert has collected some of the most wonderful and fantastic doghouses ever created. Examples include doghouses with clock towers and thatch roofs, doghouses shaped like TV sets and even some that look like dogs."

The book begins with an introduction that includes an entertaining history of the doghouse, accompanied by photos and drawings of noteworthy historical examples. Four chapters follow: "Putting

on the Dog" highlights stylish period reproductions; "Modern Barkitecture" includes cutting-edge "Bowhouse" designs; "A Breed Apart" features houses inspired by everyday objects; and the final chapter, "Puppourri," showcases wacky, one-of-a-kind structures that defy categorization.

Each house is illustrated by one or two colour images and is accompanied by a witty, tongue-in-cheek text that describes the structure's design and building materials, the creators' inspirations, and their dogs' reactions. This is hardly appropriate, but I couldn't resist.

Back to the garden trends: outdoor living, furnishing your deck as an outdoor room, and growing your own food are the biggies this year. With the current produce prices, we will all be growing everything we can. On the *Muse* website (www.metchosinmuse.ca/extras/) you'll find the most complete list I could find of BC organic suppliers of seeds and plants. I am sure there are more, and the various Seedy Saturdays will provide a plethora of delights for the avid gardener.

The hottest new plant in the edibles section appears to be tomato grafted onto potato root stock, with the trendy name of "Ketchup and Fries." This is available here and there, and Phoenix Perennials in Vancouver is advertising a limited number. They had a few last year, and contacted their customers to ask for reviews. They predominantly said the tomatoes, a cherry type, were delightfully sweet, and fairly numerous, but the potatoes were small and scanty. This year the grafting techniques have been improved and the growers expect much better potato production. It still seems to me

to be a plant to boast about at the garden club rather than a garden staple, but I do like the grafted tomatoes. If I can find the double banger I shall try one and see.

With the current price of produce, we had better grow all we can this year, even if it is only lettuce in a large pot. If so inclined, get ahold of a copy of one of the Deerholme cookbooks by Bill Jones. The *Deerholme Foraging Book* will give you lots of exercise, and possibly save a bit of money as you harvest from the forest. I have noticed several recipes this winter that flavour dishes with fir needles, either Douglas or Grand. I haven't tried it as I think it might taste like turpentine. I recommend a very light hand while adding them if you try this.

Don't forget this is pruning time, so attend to those apple and other fruit trees. Spray with dormant oil as soon as possible, as growth will start very early unless winter has a sting in its tail. If you use just the oil, not the lime sulphur as well, spray just as the buds break, so the oil gets into the crevices. This winter has not been cold enough to kill off much of anything, so 2016 may be a bad one for bugs and slugs. Starting now with Safers slug bait around hostas, daylilies and anything else beloved of slugs will help prevent lacy leaves. I find I simply cannot grow the blue corydalis cultivars as the slugs decimate them even surrounded by Safers, but the white one seeds just about everywhere and is never touched.

As weather permits, get out in your garden and see what is popping up - you may get a surprise as many plants think it is spring already.

See you in April.



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Metchosin Bandwagon Rocks Again

BARB SAWATSKY

Metchosin Golf Course was rocking past my bedtime thanks to The Shorty Parker Band on January 15. We were really looking forward to hearing this group after the accolades it received from friends who danced through New Year's Eve to their tunes. There was no disappointment; the dance floor was jumping the moment the music started.

The success of Bandwagon events stems from the bands "tailoring their play lists to the 50 and up crowd who enjoy a real mix of tunes, avoiding heavy metal, rap and too many slow songs," explained Maureen Glanfield. On top of being only five minutes down the road right here in Metchosin, admission

is only \$5/person and there's the option of ordering a reasonably priced dinner before the dance begins – a terrific combination and a large part of this successful story.

Prior to the Bandwagon's opening night, Maureen and Carol Hunt visited coffee houses, pubs, restaurants, summer concerts and markets to listen to a variety of bands and music styles. Having done their homework, the first night attracted a full house and the fun continues a year later. Maureen said, "The sharing and support that the musicians give us is amazing."

In keeping with their policy of booking bands largely from the West Shore, February 19

features Curl Girls, a group with a Metchosin connection. Playing a mix of rock and blues, you can preview them at curlgirls.shawweb.space.ca. March 18, Knackers Yard returns by popular demand. This Celtic group attracts a sell-out crowd so be there early to secure a table. As an aside, Sean McConnell, who grew up and still lives in Metchosin, plays percussion and bodhrun. On April 15, Bandwagon's first anniversary, Chickwagon (chickwagonband.ca) is featured.

The support from the community has been more than heartening. Don't miss out on this home-grown fun which takes place on the third Friday night of each month.

WANTED: PARENT & TOT COORDINATOR

The Metchosin Community House (MCA) is seeking a part-time coordinator for the Parents & Tots Program. The program runs every Friday at the Metchosin Community House (9:30–11:30 am) and operates as a Drop-In.

Parents, grandparents and guardians enjoy two hours socialising while their little ones, usually under four years old, play with the toys provided in the Community House. A separate contractor provides an occasional music program component.

The program runs continuously throughout the year, but operates without a paid coordinator during the summer months of July and August and school holidays.

The position is available immediately.

For details, please contact:
Metchosin Community House,
4430 Happy Valley Road,
Phone 250-478-5155
Email MCAHouse@telus.net



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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

Ongoing Programs

Mondays

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

Buddies – 2:45–4:30 pm. 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 to help with a project. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-478-5155 and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans, to see if you might be eligible.

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

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers – The Rough Voice Singers 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).

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (phone 250-595-6406, or email

blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs.

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

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program – 9:30–11:30 am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community Parent and Tot Program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones. For more information please call Heather at the Community House at 250 478-5155.

Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College.

Ukulele Gathering – 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: *Jumpin' Jim's Daily Ukulele* (as a base resource to work from) if you have it.

Film Night: *All the Time in the World* – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, February 26; 87 minutes. This is a family wilderness movie on regained time and in search of a new perspective. Film night is the last Friday of each month.

Events

Concert: Pennybrook – February 5, 7:00–9:00 pm. Pennybrook is a Celtic duo specializing in original instruments and old-fashioned songs. Their music is atmospheric, rich, and complex, grounded in and inspired by their love for Celtic music. Their original compositions draw on both traditional and contemporary influences, their unique sound ranges from quietly contemplative to fiery foot-stomping celebration. No pre sales, pay at door, suggested donation \$7–\$12.

Guest Speakers: Ben Parfitt and Anna Simeon on "Site C – Keep the Peace!" Thursday, February 18, 7:00–9:00 pm. Please join independent energy researcher Ben Parfitt and Sierra Club BC's Ana Simeon for a panel discussion on Site C.

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

Art on the Walls – February – Doug Gilbert in collaboration with the Metchosin School Museum Society has compiled and organized a show of 18 historic photographs of Metchosin dating back to the early 1900s. The works will be on display at the Community House for the month of February. 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.



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MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Site C – Keep the Peace!

MCA Speaker Series, Thursday, February 18, 7:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

RIC PERRON, MCA GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR

With **Ben Parfitt** (independent writer, researcher and expert in resource and energy policy) and **Ana Simeon** (Peace Valley campaigner for Sierra Club BC).

“The Peace Valley must not be destroyed for the sake of a 1950s dream. Blessed with rich river soils and a perfect microclimate, the Peace Valley in northeastern BC is an unlikely food oasis amidst the boreal forest. Long northern days ensure a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables sufficient to feed one million people. This is the land that the BC government is determined to destroy for the Site C dam – the last piece of W.A.C. Bennett’s 1950s-era dream of giant dams, rammed through by government fiat with no regard for aboriginal opposition or environmental costs.

“Yet it is now 2016 and the dream is turning into a nightmare. Going into debt in order to overbuild Hydro capacity doesn’t make sense when clean energy technologies are not only rapidly advancing, but becoming cheaper by the day. The LNG/fracking expansion, which Site C was



supposed to facilitate, has been revealed to be as much a climate threat as coal ever was. Meanwhile, agricultural loss due to climate change is already reflected in rising food prices, with nowhere to go but up. Furthermore, First Nations’ landmark legal victories and rising political power mean that governments can no longer ignore aboriginal will with impunity.

“Imagine what BC could do with \$9 billion if we applied it to real climate solutions. We could have solar panels on every roof in the province, help every family in the land retrofit their home with triple glazing and insulation, and fund world-class

public transportation. Meanwhile, the uniquely productive Peace Valley farmland could be put to work to produce healthy, affordable fruits and vegetables, providing a safety net for B.C. families against skyrocketing global food prices.

“All we need to do is wake up.”
 – Ana Simeon, Peace Valley campaigner, Sierra Club BC

Please join independent energy researcher Ben Parfitt and Sierra Club BC’s Ana Simeon for a panel discussion on Site C.

Inquiries? Contact Ric at ricperron@shaw.ca.

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Celtic Duo to Serenade Metchosin February 5

ERIN VAN DE WATER

Hey Metchosin (and those beyond)! Just a heads up so you don't miss what will surely be a superb evening of music at the Community House on Friday, February 5. Starting off the MCA music nights for 2016 will be Pennybrook, a Celtic duo specializing in original instruments and old-fashioned songs. Their music is atmospheric, rich, and complex, and is grounded in and inspired by their love for Celtic music. Their original compositions draw on both traditional and contemporary influences to create a unique sound that ranges from quietly contemplative to fiery foot-stomping celebration. Sounds like fun to me!

Jude and Charlie have been playing together for five years and have played concerts in every province and in the Yukon Territory. In 2011, they released their first full-length CD of original instrumental music titled "The Edge of



Pennybrook's Charlie and Jude.

Ina Vanderwereld photo

Waiting." Following a successful crowdfunding campaign, this talented duo is now working on their second album. We are extremely lucky that Jude and Charlie just happen to be staying in Metchosin for a few months

and are willing to share their music with us. Come join us from 7:00–9:00 pm on Friday, February 5 at the Community House. The suggested donation of \$7–11 will be worth every "Pennybrook," I'm sure!

Up to something interesting? Write an article for the Muse!

NEWS FROM WEST-MONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

West-Mont Montessori Teacher Training Program

MAGNUS HANTON, PRINCIPAL, WEST-MONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Many may not know that West-Mont Montessori School provides Montessori teacher training on our campus in addition to our pre-kindergarten to Grade 8 programs. West-Mont is the only active training centre on Vancouver Island to offer the Montessori Early Years Teacher Training Diploma Program.

The aim of West-Mont Montessori's Teacher Training Program (WMTTP), in association with The Montessori Partnership, is to provide training for Montessori teachers by offering flexible and personalized training that is of high quality, and remains true to the principles and ethos laid down by Maria Montessori herself. The task of the program is to ensure that each of our students fully understands and can implement the Montessori philosophy, which will equip them to manage a successful and stimulating Montessori class. To this end we provide our students with the opportunities and resources they need to gain the understanding, knowledge and practical experience to pursue a career as a Montessori teacher, while facilitating as far as possible a flexible and personalized study program.

Our students learn the skills needed to help children develop into independent individuals with strong self esteem. Our course explores Montessori's thinking within the context of contemporary

understanding of working with the relevant age group, and theoretical study is consolidated by directed observations of children and practical experience. The philosophical principles underpinning the Montessori approach are carefully outlined to the students, with their study enhanced by weekly written and reading assignments which require them to review instructional material, read Montessori's and other influential educationalists' texts and ultimately undertake individual research.

All the Montessori materials are carefully demonstrated to the students, and there is plenty of opportunity for supervised practice. Students are expected to practise on their own as well, so that they will be confident and proficient at presenting the Montessori learning materials to the children with whom they will be working. There is a strong focus on teaching techniques of observation, so that students are well equipped to make the most of the observational visits they carry out, and so that they benefit from their teaching practicum placement. All students undertake 400+ hours of teaching practice.

Many may not know that the term "Montessori" is not restricted in its use. This means that anyone can use the term "Montessori" to describe the program they are offering. This makes it

difficult for parents to really compare apples to apples when looking for a Montessori program. Parents can help clarify the quality of the program by finding out if the teachers in a program have taken an accredited training program. This accreditation is undertaken by various national organizations. The Montessori Partnership which oversees the WMTTP is a Montessori Education (UK) Accredited Training Provider. ME (UK) has systems in place to recognize Montessori awarding bodies and training providers as "Accredited Training Providers." Such recognition assures the quality of the training process and enables students and employers to be confident that courses in Montessori training offered by accredited training providers are both robust and rigorous in maintaining the standards set originally by Maria Montessori.

Since being established in July 2009, the WMTTP has trained teachers who have gone on to teaching placements all over the Greater Victoria region as well as up island. The WMTTP currently has one of its highest enrolments, and with the demand to get into West-Mont Montessori's preschool to Grade 8 programs at an all-time high (as it is at other Montessori schools on the Island), we anticipate that the need to have Montessori-trained teachers will only continue.



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14TH JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA



Left to right: Ben from Tomahawk, Jacob Gallant, Kyle Becker, Carson Loughridge, Markus Myers, and Curtis Becker.

14th Juan de Fuca Scouts

YVONNE BECKER

The Scouts' third annual 14th Juan de Fuca Venturer and 9th JdF Rover 2016 Christmas tree drop off/pick up service once again was a huge success. The Venturer Company youth of Metchosin started accepting calls on December 27 and followed through until January 10 as they stockpiled trees at the Luxton Fairgrounds. This year we saved over 500 trees from the landfill, chipping the trees and recycling the chips back to the community.

We even helped out the Wild ARC Rehabilitation Animal Hospital in Metchosin by giving them trees for the injured animal enclosures. Approximately 15 pounds of Christmas tree bags were also recycled with Encorp bottle exchange. Such a great way to help the environment.

Special thanks to Wendy and Rick Petillion of Race Rocks Automotive for taking in trees during the week when the company was not

manning the drop off. And a special thanks to Luxton Fairgrounds for the use of their grounds to host us and the trees, and to Aaron at Tomahawk Tree Service for supporting our tree chip with his chipper. We thank everyone that called us for a pick up or went out of their way to drop off and make a donation to our Scouts. The funds will be used wisely on outdoor scouting activities and special events.

14th Juan de Fuca Beavers Are Back in Metchosin!

SANDRA MEYER

We are very happy to report that we have a very happy and healthy Beaver Scout colony this year! We have been busy meeting new friends and having tons of fun! Our Beaver colony is looking for more friends to join us. Come down to Metchosin Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and see all the fun we are having at the Pond!

If you would like any additional information, please contact Sandra Meyer (Sunshine) at 250-858-4430 or on email: sandrameyer@shaw.ca



14th Juan de Fuca Beavers on a hike with Sandra and Curtis. Photo by Kyle Jamieson

Fire Dept. Call-Outs DECEMBER 2015

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

Dec 01 Kangaroo Road – MVI	Happy Valley – MVI
Dec 02 Metchosin Road – Alarm Bells – Commercial	Dec 19 Sutiacum – Medical – D
Dec 04 Taylor Road – Medical – B	Dec 20 Dupree – Medical – D
Dec 06 Sooke Road – MVI	Arronwood – Structure Fire
Dec 09 Happy Valley Road – Open Burn – General	Dec 22 Gilbert – Medical – D
Hillman Road – Open Burn – General	Raglan – Structure Fire
East Sooke Road – Open Burn – General	Dec 23 Sooke Road – MVI
Dec 10 Kangaroo Road – MVI	Grant – Structure Fire
Dec 12 Hockley – Alarm Bells – Commercial	Dec 24 Metchosin Road – MVI
LaBonne Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines	Dec 26 Neff – Medical – B
Jacklin Road – MVI	Dec 27 Connie – Vehicle Fire
Dec 16 Sooke Road – Hydro – Lines Down	Dec 28 Metchosin Road – Medical – C
Winfall – Medical – C	Dec 29 Brotherstone – Medical – C
Dec 18 Kangaroo Road – Assistance – Public Works	Farhill – Medical – D
	Dec 31 Happy Valley Road – Medical – C
	Brotherstone – Medical – C
	Matheson Lake Park Road – MVI

RCMP Call-Outs

DECEMBER 2015

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Dec 01 **Neff Road** – Complaint of person on court order curfew.
Kangaroo Road – Complaint of motor vehicle accident, truck into ditch, driver located some distance from scene, impaired driving investigation ongoing.
- Dec 02 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of ongoing harassment, still under investigation.
Metchosin Road – Complaint of deer hit by vehicle.
- Dec 05 **Taylor Road** – Complaint of gun shots being heard, patrols failed to locate anything.
- Dec 06 **Sooke Road** – Single vehicle accident, vehicle into rock face, no injuries.
Brookview Drive – Complaint of theft of gas, investigation ongoing.
- Dec 07 **Matheson Lake Park Road** – Complaint of lost/stolen licence plate.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, later located and driver spoken to.
Brookview Drive – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, patrols failed to locate it.
- Dec 08 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of road rage incident, one driver given verbal warning.
Sooke Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.
- Dec 10 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, one person injured and taken to hospital, driver charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint to check welfare of a person, found to be all right, family notified.
Metchosin Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, found to be gone on arrival.
- Dec 11 **Aquarius Road** – Complaint of a vehicle in the ditch, gone on arrival.
Taylor Beach – Complaint of a flare observed over the water, nothing located.
William Head Road – Complaint of an animal being neglected, CRD Bylaw investigating.
- Dec 12 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of an intoxicated male.
- Dec 13 **Lindholm Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle.
- Dec 16 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of attempt break in to a shed, nothing stolen.
Sooke Road – Assistance provided to Sooke Detachment, serious motor vehicle accident, investigation continuing.
- Dec 17 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint to check welfare of person, found to be all right.
- Dec 18 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of oil on the road causing dangerous driving conditions.
- Happy Valley Road** – Single vehicle accident, vehicle into a pole, no injuries, driver going too fast for road conditions.
- Dec 19 **Rocky Point Road** – Request from Saanich Police to serve violation ticket on an owner of a vehicle.
- Dec 21 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of a transit driver possibly having a problem, found that the bus was having mechanical problems.
William Head Road area – Complaint of person breaching court order.
William Head Road – Complaint of assault, investigation continuing.
- Dec 22 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, registered owner of suspect vehicle later located and charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of damage to rural mailbox, one youth admitted to causing the damage, investigation continuing.
Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located.
Happy Valley Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of person breaching court order, investigation continuing.
- Dec 23 **Kangaroo Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver charged under Motor Vehicle Act.
- Dec 24 **Metchosin Road** – Single vehicle accident, one person injured, investigation continuing.
Kangaroo Road area – Complaint of vehicle being operated with stolen licence plate, licence plate seized, investigation continuing.
- Dec 25 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of a drunk male on road, located and given ride home.
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of loud noise, fireworks.
- Dec 28 **William Head Road** – Complaint of mischief to private property.
Sooke Road – Complaint of criminal harassment, investigation continuing.
- Dec 30 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of a possible sexual assault, investigation continuing.
Sooke Road – Complaint of vehicle being driven erratically, stopped by Sooke RCMP.
Kangaroo Road area – Assistance provided to BC Ambulance Service.
- Dec 31 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of a disturbance, one person spoken to.
Matheson Lake Road – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, into ditch due to black ice.

... continued from page 6

the entertaining banter going on between the auctioneers and the bidders. The successful bidders obtained useful services often at a cost significantly below their value – we walked away with landscaping services, golf lessons and a gift basket for my son's cat, as well as the kilted window cleaners. The donors of those services received a lot of useful exposure and goodwill. And the MCA received vital funding to help keep it afloat for another year of providing a venue for a whole raft of community services and activities that help make this community what it is. Everyone who participated in any way was able to take credit and satisfaction for this bit of community building.

So this is a heads up that the 2016 MCA Services Auction is only a couple of months away. If you are a provider of services in the Metchosin and surrounding area and would like to get some profile and serve a good cause at the same time, give the MCA office a ring (250-478-5155) and let us get you into the 2016 event. If you just want to turn up and take part in the fun, then be sure to look in next month's *Muse*, for the precise details of date (around the end of March, start of April), time and place. You don't want to risk being double booked for this one! And you don't even have to have an MCA membership to attend!

Did I just mention membership? How did that get in

there? But as the subject has come up, let me pass on good news to those who have been meaning to join or renew but Christmas and other stuff just got in the way. As MCA's gesture to lighten those February bill-paying blues, we are once again offering our February special – membership all the way to the end of July 2017 for just fifteen dollars! And your whole household can join for that same fifteen dollars. You'll get your own emailed MCA newsletter with all the scoop on upcoming events, your input into what you want the MCA to do next and the deep satisfaction of being a supporter and an actual member of this village's very special community association. Your support is vital to our success.



John Horgan, MLA
Juan de Fuca

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

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\$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.

WANTED TO RENT: Professional woman leaving Nova Scotia practice Jan, Feb, March. Wants to house-sit or rent in Metchosin, East Sooke, West Shore. References. Cat-sitting, light gardening. Email sharron villanueva@hotmail.com.

LESSONS

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

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MASSAGE THERAPIST Registered Massage Therapist Clare Kearney available Thursdays in beautiful Metchosin space (Business Centre). Call Clare 250-532-2809. MSP and Blue Cross direct billing available.

FOR RENT

MASSAGE THERAPIST TO SHARE NEW CLINIC SPACE on Brookside Drive (by Red Barn) with Chinese medicine and osteopath practitioner, starting February. Contact: Colin@structure-health.com

It's the Pits, Man!



BRIAN DOMNEY (AKA THE BOILER OF SEVILLES)

There's a growing number of Metchosinites that every winter start watching the produce departments of local grocery stores for those bitter oranges known as Sevilles. It's Sevilles that are the basis of traditional Scottish marmalade, and they are only available for a few short weeks in late January and February.

There's lots of history (and legend) about the origins of marmalade, and there's a wide variety of opinion about the stuff as far as its taste. Some wouldn't contemplate a scone without it, others wouldn't bait rat traps with it, in fear of a visit from the SPCA.

There are also lots of theories about what makes a good marmalade. Although some believe the only way to

get marmalade to gel properly is to add pectin, local "Boiler of Sevilles" Brian Domney is committed to a marmalade version of the *Reinheitsgebot* or Bavarian Beer Purity Law. The law stated that the only ingredients allowable in the production of beer was water, hops and malt (yeast was later added when spontaneous generation was debunked), and Domney believes real marmalade should be made

with water, sugar and Seville oranges. Of course, a wee dram added at the end is fine. The secret to getting marmalade to gel without the addition of pectin is proper handling of the orange pits, and careful control of temperature.

If you're interested in getting together to make this year's supply, whether a seasoned veteran or a rank beginner, the Metchosin Community Association will again be sponsoring the Boiler of Sevilles Marmalade Workshop. The session will take place on Sunday, February 14, 1:00-3:00 pm and will be limited to 15 participants, with each bringing their own knife, cutting board and container in which to take their semi-processed oranges home to complete the magic.

Contact Heather at 250-478-5155 for further information and to register.

Juan de Fuca
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Directory of Organizations

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

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

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC
250-382-2052,
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)
250-478-1197, www.aprm.ca

BADMINTON
Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
250-478-2387,
ikmcken@islandnet.com,
www.bilstoncreek.org

'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS
info@chosinchatters.org,
www.chosinchatters.org

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

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)
tandwcampanandcomish@shaw.ca,
250-478-5484

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

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

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

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

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

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION
metchosinfoundation@gmail.com,
http://metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN 4-H
250-478-4677
Metchosin4H@gmail.com,
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB
250-298-7877

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

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB
250-478-4778

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

METCHOSIN PONY CLUB
250-727-3595

METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL, a parent-run cooperative
250-478-9241,
metchosinpreschool@gmail.com,
www.metchosinpreschool.com

METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market
c/o 3340 Wishart Road Victoria, BC V9C 1R3

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

SEA CADETS
250-478-7813

SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)
250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca

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

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

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL
250-478-2286,
info@westshorearts.org,
www.westshorearts.org

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND
250-474-3999

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION
250-478-8384,
www.westshorererecreation.ca

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250-514-1757

GORDON UNITED CHURCH
250-478-6632
www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

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OPEN GATE CHURCH
250-590-6736
www.theopengate.ca

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

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH
www.westsidefamily.org
250-478-8066

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What Was It?

The "What Is It?" picture in the January issue generated a surprising number of responses with many identifying the device as a carbide lamp. Some provided further details, from how the lamps worked to when patents were issued. These kind of lamps were used in a variety of applications, and from caving to carriages to bicycles. The winner of the Broken Paddle coffee is Gary Kangas, who was the first to correctly identify our version as a bicycle lamp.

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

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