

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

John's Journey to Hopeful Grape Success



Doug Clement photo

BARB SAWATSKY

John Kelly's vision of a vineyard was inspired by settings he has visited in Sonoma, California, and in France. His home and four-acre property at the end of Taylor Road have all the features he feels are perfect: a wide porch with steps leading down to a green lawn, then to grape vines, and beyond to an ocean vista. "The porch is pretty much

where I spend my summer," he tells me. No doubt.

"I'm good with plants and have grown basil for years," says John. Embarking on his journey to grapedom in Metchosin, he "...put up deer fencing, planted 250 grape vines on three quarters of an acre, plumbed it with a drip irrigation system from my well to every plant and after one season, pretty much had a complete crop failure. Only five vines made it." But

because this is not just about results but is a part of his life's journey, he was not about to give up on the dream. After more research, he contacted Paul Troop, an experienced propagator from Salt Spring Island, who looked at the site and pronounced it to be "a tough location" for grapes, what with the heat index and wind. However, Paul agreed to work with John for the next two seasons on a new planting.

Because "Metchosin drains through this property," a "French drain" was put in in early June of this year. Around the end of the month a new variety of grape, Petit Milo, recommended for the micro climate conditions of the property, will be planted.

Will John's and Julie's wine cellar eventually contain bottles of J&J Roadhouse wine from grapes grown in Metchosin? Who knows – it will take a minimum of three

years before results begin to show. In the meantime, sitting on the deck with a glass of wine, watching their two dogs chasing rabbits off the property, John and Lorraine Buchanan's sheep grazing the field next to the vineyard project, and the sounds of laughing kids and waves on the pebbled beach below, there could be worse ways to spend three years waiting for a harvest.

Village Square – Some Thoughts

BARB SAWATSKY

With so much interest shown on Facebook about creating a village square in the heart of downtown Metchosin, a citizens' committee was formed to push the project forward and to act as a clearing house for ideas. The inaugural committee meeting was held on May 29, at which time it was

agreed that the group will proceed to gather information prior to presenting a draft to Council for consideration. As written in the minutes, it was apparent that everyone at the meeting strongly supported the vision of a "multi-generational community space which represents the richness of the Metchosin community identity."

Now that the secret is out, rumours of School District #62 resolving to sell Metchosin Elementary School and the surrounding property can be reported as true. This sunny piece in the town centre could easily accommodate benches and picnic tables to be shared by all generations

continued on page 16

"Important Dates" has moved

The Important Dates and Events listing, as well as a Directory of Organizations for ongoing events, can be found on the back page of the *Metchosin Muse*.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: CAMPFIRE INFORMATION

Campfires are permitted, no larger than 2' x 2' in a contained fire pit, fully extinguished by midnight. No beach fires are permitted. Due to the High Fire Hazard rating, all open burning has been closed until further notice.

Metchosin Muse

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

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

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

The *Muse* is delivered, free of charge, to 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

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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

Muse Subscriptions

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

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Or you can email us at metmuse@shaw.ca



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Letters to the Editor

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

Call-Out to Brian Kerr

Sue and I would like to thank Brian Kerr for his commitment to keep our Metchosin community informed about local RCMP Call-Outs. Brian has been a long-term resident of Metchosin and started his coverage while a member of the Colwood RCMP and continued his coverage after leaving the RCMP and joining

the Central Saanich Police detachment as a corporal.

My wife and I have a long connection with Metchosin having been past residents, originally starting in 1968 at Pedder Bay Marina and continuing as absentee land owners with an unfettered interest in the community.

Brian has kept us informed through his column. Although we do not reside in Metchosin, we are regular subscribers to the *Metchosin Muse*. We look forward to receiving

our copy of local highlights and lowlights. I do hope that another police officer from the Colwood RCMP detachment will continue to keep all of us informed on local police activity. Again, we would extend good health and an enjoyable retirement to Brian Kerr. Thank you again and go relax and wet a line Brian, just make sure you don't catch too many!

Kind Regards,
Sue and Rob Waters,
Windover Terrace

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Disaster Emotional Response

DAWNE KIRWAN, METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PROGRAM

**Emergency Information Session:
Disaster Emotional Response**
Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Fire Hall

What is a disaster? One can describe disaster with words such as catastrophe, tragedy, and calamity and the word makes us think of such events as earthquakes, fires, and accidents.

A disaster is typically unexpected, sudden, and overwhelming, and can range from small in scale to massively large, involving few to thousands of people.

Do you think you know how you would behave in a disaster? Do you believe there is

a right or wrong way to respond? Stress can affect many areas of functioning, and understanding responses to disastrous events can help you cope with your feelings, thoughts, and behaviours.

At this information session we will discuss the physiological, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual responses to disasters. We will also explain the basic concepts of psychosocial interventions, psychological first aid and resiliency promotion.

Please join us on Tuesday, July 19 at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall and learn what the critical aspects of a disaster are.

Summer Camp for Kids at Pearson College!

ROSE PRIETO

This summer, Friends Uniting for Nature (FUN) Camps are coming to Pearson College! FUN Society is a dynamic, youth-driven organization dedicated to making learning about the environment, sustainability, and becoming an agent for positive change, a fun experience.

"In a nutshell we truly believe that kids can be the catalyst to change our world for the better," says Lucas Ker, the Operations Director at FUN Society. "Our mission is to empower them with the skills, tools and support to make it happen." He smiles and adds, "but most importantly, we make everything we do enjoyable – because it's not sustainable if it isn't fun!"

When asked what was special about FUN Camps, Ker points to the Passion Projects. "Every camper is encouraged to develop an idea he or she is really passionate about and believes will make the world a better place. It can be as simple as a song about endangered species or organizing a bike to school week. The goal is to inspire kids into action." In the past, these projects have evolved into social change movements involving whole

schools and communities. "It doesn't matter how young or small they are," Ker adds "they learn that every action makes a difference and that they have the power to enact positive change in the world."

FUN Society is a registered charity and accepts campers who otherwise could not afford summer camps. Each year one third of all spaces are reserved for the scholarship program, filled through the nominations of third-party organizations such as school councillors and social workers. FUN Society truly believes that everyone should experience having fun in nature regardless of economic standing.

Between July 4 and August 26 the FUN Society will be offering eight weeks of camps at the idyllic Pearson College campus. Children and youth between the ages of 5-16 are accepted with a focus on the power of peer leadership uniting the age gap. Highlight activities include: kayak and canoe excursions, marbling art workshops, T-shirt screen printing, nature watching boat trips to Race Rocks, an accordion performance and songwriting workshop, local organic farm tours, fort building, plant identification,



Kids having FUN.

Photo by Rose Prieto

origami paper activities, and much much more!

For more information, go to www.fun camps.ca. For questions or to volunteer, email Rose, the camp coordinator: metchosinfuncamps@gmail.com.

"We are looking at summer camps this year and because we know, appreciate and trust FUN Camps, these are our first choice. I appreciate the smiling and encouraging faces of the FUN leaders. I consider this process to be a great part of my children's development of self."

– Jennifer Baily, FUN parent of seven- and nine-year-old girls

Mac Elrod

March 23, 1932–June 16, 2016

“I’ve had a good life and I’m ready to go.” – Mac, on learning the prognosis



Mac at work advocating for change. Photo by Moralea Milne

LONA MANNING, WITH MORALEA MILNE AND MARYA NIJLAND

and place when such things were unusual, was a strong influence in his life.

He was raised in the Methodist Church, and met his wife, Norma Cummins, at a Methodist youth conference in Kansas. The Yankee girl from Illinois and the Southern boy from Georgia shared an altruistic zeal that long survived their adherence to traditional Christianity. While still in their early 20s the couple, along with their baby son, went to South Korea, which was recovering from a devastating civil war. Mac taught the first generation of modern Korean librarians at Yonsei University, while Norma taught English and fostered war orphans. They returned to the United States after five years, with two more children in tow. In later years, Mac delighted in surprising Koreans with his command of the language.

While working and teaching in Nashville, Tennessee, Mac became involved in the civil rights movement and participated in non-violence workshops led by James Lawson, one of the leading figures of the movement. Mac’s and Norma’s activism continued through the 1960s with their staunch opposition to the Vietnam War, which led to their decision to emigrate to Canada with their (by then) five children. A sixth child was adopted shortly after the family moved to North Vancouver.

In Canada, Mac and Norma found a congenial home for their liberal religious beliefs in the Unitarian Church. He became a Unitarian Minister, and their riverside home became a focal point for anti-war activism, with hundreds of war objectors passing through, receiving shelter, food and counselling.

Mac served as head of cataloguing at the University of British Columbia for two decades. After leaving UBC, he founded his own company, Special Libraries

Cataloguing, which provided remote cataloguing services to special libraries around the world. With the advent of the internet, Mac became an internationally known figure in the world of library cataloguing and was active in online librarianship forums up until a few months before his death.

As his children grew up and some married, Mac invited all of them to live at the North Vancouver property, emulating the multi-generational compounds he admired in South Korea. But, since he invariably disregarded irksome details like building codes and zoning bylaws, the district authorities finally intervened and Mac decided to move to Vancouver Island. He fell in love with a log home built by the late Bob McCulloch on Blinkhorn Mountain, and “Ty Mynydd” was his home from 1991 until his death. Mac loved the peace of the rural setting of Metchosin but also loved welcoming guests and telling anecdotes about the paintings and objects which filled his home. He graciously hosted numerous Unitarian meetings and potlucks at his home. He worked tirelessly on LGBT issues, organizing LGBT art shows at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, as well as First Nations’ Art shows for many years. He sheltered and supported many war resisters. A portion of the property is now protected by the Habitat Acquisition Trust.

Mac had come out as a gay man in the 1970s and he gradually became more vocal concerning gay rights. He personally paid for the Canadian Unitarian Council to be an intervenor in the 2004 Canadian Supreme Court hearings concerning same-sex marriage. He formed a number of significant same-sex relationships over the years. He and Norma lived apart but maintained their bond as well as their shared interests in politics, social issues, and literature.

In his final years, Mac’s eyesight began to fail and to the relief of his family, and countless other motorists, he gave up driving. However, the loss of his vision did not diminish his zeal for attending live theatre, ballet and concert events. Another cause that animated his last years was drug policy reform. Although he was a lifelong

non-smoker and teetotaler, he felt it was foolish and tragic to criminalize recreational drug use. Together with his son Matthew, he gave numerous talks on the topic.

Mac held strong and occasionally contradictory opinions – for example, he was progressive and socialist in his leanings but avidly looked for any means to avoid paying income taxes. Canadian author and humorist Bill Richardson modelled the character “J. Macdonald Bellwether II” in his book, *Bachelor Brothers’ Bed and Breakfast* after Mac, of whom he wrote, “saying ‘no’ to Mac when he expects to hear ‘yes,’ is as ineffective as standing in front of a herd of stampeding buffalo.”

Councillor Moralea Milne, a long-time friend of Mac, recalls his passion for causes – “Another issue that Mac felt I should be vocal in supporting was Dying with Dignity, and so we could be found on a cold and rainy day in October 2014 with our banners draped over the overpass by Uptown. Both of these issues are now being brought forward by our new federal government, demonstrating that Mac was absolutely correct in his advocacy for these and other issues. (Although perhaps not

so much regarding his insistence that Metchosin needs a roundabout at the junction of Metchosin/William Head and Happy Valley Roads.) At our last meeting we joked that we could call it the Mac Elrod Memorial Roundabout!”

Her thoughts about this intriguing man are no doubt shared by many others – “An unforgettable character, a committed humanitarian, never afraid to share his opinions nor speak on behalf of social justice and the environment, a friend who made me a better person through knowing him.”

Mac is survived by his wife Norma, Mike Rees, his companion of 16 years, his son Matthew, his daughters Lona, Cara, Christy, and Laura, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his oldest son Mark.

In lieu of flowers and cards, the family encourages contributions to:

BC Civil Liberties Association
<https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2040&AID=2001>

Habitat Acquisition Trust
<http://hat.bc.ca/donate>

After a brief illness, Mac Elrod died on June 16, surrounded by his loved ones in his home on Blinkhorn Mountain.

Mac began life in the Jim Crow South during the Depression, and ended it in Metchosin, but the distance from Georgia to Metchosin was not so far as the distance that Mac travelled in his beliefs and outlook on the world.

Mac’s memories of his Georgia childhood revolved around his grandparents’ house in the country. His mother’s family prided itself on its gentility and Mac rigidly adhered to certain practices – for example, men should take their hats off when indoors, teaspoons should not be used as soup spoons, and people “lie down on the sofa,” never “lay down on the sofa.”

Mac was christened Jefferson McRee Elrod but never used his first name, which has associations with Jefferson Davis, the president of the South during the American Civil War. He always went by “Mac.” His mother, a divorcée and career woman at a time



Mac with his first graduating class of librarians in South Korea.

Photo provided by the Elrod family

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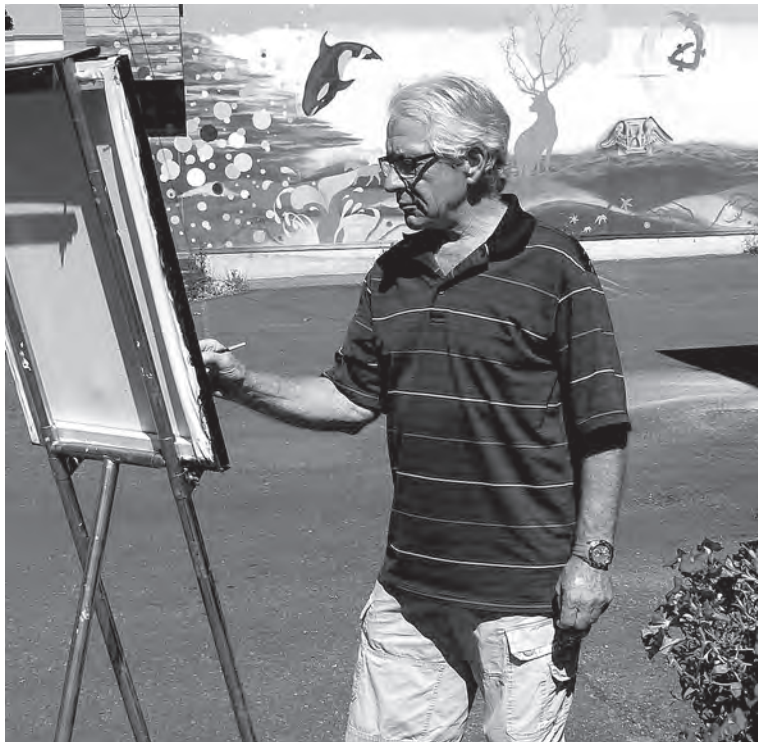
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Stairway to Heaven

Who said the stairway to heaven had go UP? The new stairs from Witty Beach Road down to Witty Beach – Metchosin’s own piece of heaven – are near completion! For information on the official opening and when the stairs will be open to the public, contact the District of Metchosin at 250-474-3167 or check the district website: <http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/>



Art Brendon painting at SIRC’s very successful Parisian Café. Visit www.metchosinmuse.ca for more pictures of the Café. Photo by Dar Churcher



COUNCIL NEWS JULY 2016

2016 METCHOSIN DAY – SEPTEMBER 11

Our annual Metchosin Day celebration is being planned again with many activities, exhibits and entertainment for the entire family, attracting visitors from across the island and beyond. This year we’re planning for the weather to cooperate, so we can again end the day with our traditional home-grown Lamb and Salmon BBQ dinner! The event would not be successful without the dedication of our volunteers and we welcome anyone who can offer help – even for a couple of hours, a half-day, set-up, tear-down and of course, on the day of the event! Please send a note to info@metchosinday.ca or visit our Facebook page @Metchosin Day – or call the Metchosin Community House at 250-478-5155. We’d really appreciate your help as one of our many volunteers!

SUMMER ROAD WORKS

Summer road maintenance works have begun and include mowing and brushing of roadside vegetation. Paving will take place on Barrow Road, Graceland Drive, Lindholm Road, Malloch Road and Neild Road.

TANSY RAGWORT DAY – SUNDAY, JULY 10

Tansy Ragwort is an introduced, invasive species which is increasing its toehold on southern Vancouver Island and is present along many of our roadways, encroaching into fields and meadows. It is most noticeable in August when it sends its brilliant yellow, daisy-like, flat-topped flower heads shooting up to six feet in the air. One multiple stemmed plant can produce 150,000 long-lived seeds per season. The plants contain a toxic alkaloid that can poison livestock by causing cumulative liver damage, particularly in cattle, pigs, horses and deer. Tansy Ragwort has shallow, fibrous root systems and can easily be pulled by hand, but wear gloves and protective clothing whenever you tackle invasive species removal as some people are more susceptible to allergic reaction than others.

WESTSHORE TRIATHLON – JULY 17

The Westshore Triathlon will be passing through Metchosin on July 17 at approximately 7:30 am, and will finish at approximately 10:30 am. The roads involved will be Happy Valley, Metchosin, and Latoria Roads.

TOUR DE VICTORIA 2016 – AUGUST 21

Ryder Hesjedal’s Tour de Victoria bike race will be coming through Metchosin on August 21 at approximately 7:30 am, and finishing at approximately 8:50 am. The roads involved will be Metchosin, Duke, William Head, Lombard, Rocky Point, Kangaroo, Lindholm and Happy Valley.

PLAQUE DESIGNATION – MARGARET “MADGE” WATT

South Vancouver Island District Women’s Institute, on behalf of the British Columbia Women’s Institute, joins with the Metchosin Museum Society, in placing a plaque in honour of Margaret “Madge” Watt, designating her as “A Person of National Historic Significance.” Wednesday, September 7 at 2:00 pm at the Gazebo on the Municipal Grounds. Please note this is an RSVP event. If you wish to attend, please contact, via email, donna_jack@telus.net or landrfenner@shaw.ca.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE (HCAC)

Our Healthy Communities Advisory Committee supports community activities that seek improvements in all aspects of living in Metchosin which reflect on our health, well-being and happiness while strengthening our sense of community. HCAC was very successful in helping the Senior Information Resource Centre (SIRC) get on its feet and has been on a bit of a break looking for new directions in which to take the committee. Young families and children is one direction HCAC would like to look into, and is in need of new volunteers for the committee. The committee usually meets every other month, or at the call of the Chair. Meetings are in the evenings for 1–2 hours, a small amount of time that can make a big difference in your community. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest addressed to Mayor and Council to the Municipal Hall.

HERITAGE ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE (HASC)

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

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – JULY 2016

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

Council Meeting	July 18, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Comm (MEASC)	July 26, 7:00 pm
Finance and Environment Committee	July 18, 7:00 pm	Heritage Advisory Comm (HASC)	July 27, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and PW Committees	July 18, 7:00 pm		
Parks and Trails Advisory Comm (PTASC)	July 19, 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

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




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SIRC: SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE

LOCATION

4495 Happy Valley Road (the former Metchosin Elementary School)
Telephone: 250-478-5150
Email: msirc@shaw.ca

HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Wednesday and Friday: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
CLOSED MONDAY
Coordinator: Colleen Brownlee

Seniors, nearly seniors, and their families are welcome to join. An individual lifetime membership is only \$10.

DEIRDRE CHETTLEBURGH

Parisian Café 2016

For two hours on a beautiful Saturday morning early in June, the courtyard in front of the Seniors' Information and Resource Centre (SIRC) was transformed into a Parisian Café. By 10:00 am the tables were set, the coffee was ready, trays of irresistible French croissants and pastries from Patisserie Daniel were laid out, and the first guests began to arrive. Music, chatter, and laughter filled the air until past noon.

There is nothing like a special event to bring people together and this is exactly what the Parisian Café did. Throughout the morning old friends greeted each other and newcomers were welcomed. It was wonderful to see former Metchosin residents Bess Page, Brenda Smith,

and Norm and Mary Gidney among the 100 people who attended. Connections were made and we were reminded (again) that the world is indeed small – Dar Churcher was thrilled to discover that the stranger sitting next to her was her print-making teacher in university in 1978. It had been almost 30 years since they last saw each other!

What fun to see Michael Borins playing a game of pétanque (boules) with an artist from France. Chris van de Water coaxed wonderful tunes from the piano and the Free Range Singers wandered through the tables serenading the guests. Lawrence, Francis and Joseph Barss circulated with the guest book and our plein air artists got to work. Nearly 30 people won door prizes kindly donated by Glow Gallery, Metchosin Soap Works, Stillmeadow Farm, Martha Haylor and Sandy Jenkins.

Events like this demonstrate how the effort and generosity of a team of people bring pleasure to the lives of others. Huge thanks to our sponsors and volunteers who together brought Paris to Metchosin. And thank you to all who came, for it is you who brought *joie de vivre* to this, the third annual Parisian Café. *Jusqu'à l'année prochaine!*

The Parisian Café is made possible by the generous support of the following: Barbra Hopkins – Independent Financial Advisor; Milton Carman; Peter Chettleburgh, Capamara Communications; Jane Johnston, The Briar Hill Group at Remax; M'akola ILBC Housing Society; Frank Mitchell; Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre; Patisserie Daniel; and Pure Pharmacy.

The Gourmet Dinner returns!

Elegant, effortless, entertaining. Treat eight of your friends or family to a delicious five-course dinner served in your home! Tickets are now on sale and available from the SIRC office and at upcoming community events such as Metchosin Day. Only 220 tickets are sold so your chances of winning are excellent. Tickets are \$20.

Check out the classified ads on page 15.

Do you need a ride?

If you need a ride to a medical appointment or to the grocery store please call the SIRC office, 250-478-5150. We have a roster of volunteer drivers happy to help. And if you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, we would be pleased to tell you more about the driver program. Every lift helps!

Help around the house

If you need a plumber, electrician, or capable handy man (or woman), call the SIRC office 250-478-5150. We keep a directory of recommended service providers and would be happy to pass along their contact information to you.

Technologically challenged?

SIRC is pleased to offer one-on-one sessions to help you with your computer or other electronic device. Just call the office at 250-478-5150 to set up an appointment.

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Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale 2016

Bargain hunters flocked from across the region to the Metchosin Community Association 2016 Mighty Garage Sale, looking to find that once-in-a-lifetime gem of a bargain, or simply looking to fill a gap in the kitchen. Watch for a full report on the Garage Sale in the September issue of the *Muse*.

Photos by Barb Sawatsky.



Many hardy souls risked the wet weather to find the deals of the year.



Accordion to some, it's one of the most fun days of the year in Metchosin.



Sparky arrived to try to catch the early birds.



The Garage Sale volunteers ready to start their day.



Dauna Neveaux holding back the hordes until opening time.



The fascination with "garage sailing" starts early for some.

METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

Metchosin Producers Association

JIM MACPHERSON

Sunday, and I forgot to take anything out for supper. So, I get myself over to the farmers' market, go over to the Hut and eventually decide on lamb chops over a pork roast or a whole chicken, browse through the produce stalls and pick up salad greens, carrots, onions, new potatoes, and a fresh rhubarb pie for dessert. Almost done, I see the wine and cider vendors and buy myself a bottle of Island-made wine. And a freshly cut bouquet. Maybe I'd better get Rover a bit of a treat, too – maybe something from one of the craft shops.

Now, this is a Sunday dinner, all made possible by the Metchosin Producers' Association (MPA) whose 45-50 members put on the Metchosin Farmers' Market as a means of fostering community spirit and rural life. And it seems to be working. The Market draws in excess of 200 visitors every Sunday from across southern Vancouver Island, and as the number of vendors gradually increases, so do visitations.

The Metchosin Market is a Sunday market. Most other farmers' markets in the CRD operate Saturdays or week-days. The Metchosin Farmers' Market offers opportunities for the sale of locally produced wine and mead. This has helped to make the Metchosin Market even more unique for not all markets have this offering. Another plus for an imaginative and innovative executive has been the development



The Metchosin Producers Association has erected signs directing people to the Farmers' Market. Photo by Brian Domney

of a Christmas Market, first held last year. This will be an annual event, with the 2016 event slated for December 4.

Vendors who want to sell at the market must belong to the MPA but volunteers who wish to help (rather than to sell) may also join the association. About half of the members reside in Metchosin. Other members live in Sooke, East Sooke, Colwood and even as far afield as Saanich and North Saanich. Anything sold at the market must be locally made, produced or grown. Food vendors have to comply with VIHA requirements. This year there are 18 full-season vendors. Of these, eight sell produce while the remaining ten offer prepared foods and crafts. There are also 22 "drop-in" (not full-season) vendors.

The MPA is self-financing through various nominal

vendor fees and membership fees. From this revenue, members organize and lay out the market, arrange for paid entertainment, cover insurance costs and still manage to advertise and promote the market. A promotion with My-Chosen Café and the sale of gift certificates helps round out marketing.

The Metchosin Farmers' Market would not be what it is without the Metchosin Producers' Association, broad community support and the active support of Council. The Metchosin Farmers' Market has an active Facebook page where you can catch all the latest information on hours of operation (every Sunday from Mother's Day through the last Sunday in October, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm), vendors, special events and tastes of things to come.



We look forward to continuing to help constituents with federal government departments, programs and services.

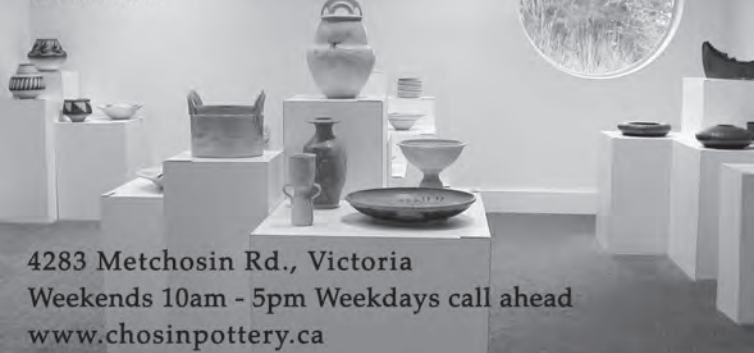


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Metchosin Foundation AGM Features Noted Journalist

CAROL CARMAN

Metchosin Foundation President Chris Pratt welcomed Canadian journalist, environmental activist and former host of CBC's *All Points West* radio program JoAnn Roberts as the feature speaker at their eighth Annual General Meeting on May 29 at St. Mary's Church. Her speech titled "If Not Now, When?" was backed by an excellent PowerPoint presentation and ranged from the need to act on global climate change issues to steps that can be taken by Canadians and by local communities to address the need for change.

President Chris Pratt recapped the year's achievements, highlighting the success of the April Biodiversity weekend that attracted over 100 people to the teaching shelter, walks and displays in Witty's Lagoon. Now in the sixth year of its biodiversity work, Metchosin hosts the second longest-running BioBlitz in BC. This annual combination of public celebration and scientific research by taxonomy experts has yielded a database of over 2300 species – second in BC only to Whistler. Targeted BioBlitzes this spring at Matheson Lake, the Albert Head DND property, and William Head Institution added about 120 new species including one extremely rare find.

Pratt noted that combining community education and awareness with good science fits well within the Metchosin Foundation mandate of Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters and a Healthy, Caring Community. Preservation and stewardship of Metchosin

ecologies are also strengthened by the monthly Walk and Talk sessions featuring speakers on key ecological subjects.

The Metchosin Foundation and the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) continue to work together to establish nature covenants on lands that are ecologically intact and unique to this region. Lands that straddle the Metchosin–Langford border on Humpback Road are the focus of work currently, and it is hoped that good news on this project will be announced this fall.

Potential may exist for a partnership between the Metchosin Foundation and HAT to establish voluntary covenants on environmentally sensitive shorelines. Via our website and through other means, we are seeking interest from land-owners who may wish to establish shoreline covenants.

Pratt also drew attention to the Valerie Cochrane Memorial Fund that was established in her honour by her husband Charles Priester to assist Pearson College students faced with family crises to fly home. It is modelled after a similar fund operating at McGill University in Montreal and is being managed by the Metchosin Foundation. Already two students have been able to address their family crises in person due to that fund's existence. Typically, these loans are repaid generously when the student is able.

In March, directors convened a meeting to review the formation, constitution, past and current activities of the Metchosin Foundation to help plan projects and future directions. Many great ideas

came forward and will form the basis for the work of the incoming board.

Vice-president Joel Ussery thanked Chris Pratt and Dan MacIsaac who have generously served their six-year terms with distinction and thus were stepping down from the Board. In thanks for their service, each was presented with potted blue-eyed grass-like (*Sisyrinchium idahoense*), native to Metchosin, although not common here. Pratt was further surprised when a birthday cake with his name on it was wheeled out, and the enthusiastic audience sang a warm Happy Birthday.

The slate of new directors was at that point proposed and elected. Incoming President Carol Carman, Treasurer Joel Ussery and Secretary Kem Luther are veterans of the foundation board. Three new board members were unanimously elected and welcomed:

- Jacqueline Clare – geographer with a background in ecology, cartography, GIS, and data management
- Mike Fischer – engineer with expertise in energy systems, energy efficiency, and software development for climate change research, and a small-scale farmer
- Beverley Hall – environmental scientist, instructor and photographer.

The new board invites members of the public to come forward with ideas and suggestions for the future. The annual fee for membership in the society remains set at \$10.00. Please contact us by email to metchosinfoundation@gmail.com.



Photo by Barb Sawatsky

St. Mary's Church Volunteer Clean-Up Crew

BARB SAWATSKY

Seen in passing one Saturday in mid-June at "new" St. Mary's Church on Metchosin Road was this group of volunteer gardeners. With the assistance of Doug Ruth's tractor, which saved much time and many sore backs, they were cleaning out a flower bed and preparing the site for a bench. A decision was made to dedicate the bench to the memory of Shirley Siteman, a long-time member of the congregation of St. Mary's and a Girl Guide leader. "Shirley was one of those people who knew everyone and everything and was a terrific volunteer," said Isabel Tipton, one of the gardeners. The group of men and women in the photo are proof, once again, that this is what keeps the wheels of Metchosin greased: volunteerism.

Mayor Ranns on the APRM AGM

JIM MACPHERSON

"I really believe in the necessity of having the APRM in the community," said Mayor John Ranns.

The occasion was the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin's AGM, June 15, which included a retrospective on the role of the APRM in Metchosin over its 25-year history. Chris Moehr, a founding member, described the massive effort APRM mounted in support of Metchosin District Council's legal and political efforts to seek a less destructive (to Metchosin) development plan for Royal Bay than that proposed by the owner, and ultimately adopted by Colwood, in the late 90s. Frank Mitchell highlighted some of the roles played by the APRM in the Official Community Plan and Regional Growth Strategies. He was generally upbeat about the direction of Metchosin's past response to threats to the rural environment but felt more action on bylaw enforcement might

have made things easier. Shirley Wilde described the Centre Mountain controversy, and the short-term setbacks felt by many individuals. It was an eye-opener for relative newcomers to hear for the first time the historic role played by the APRM in helping to keep Metchosin rural.

From Mayor Ranns' perspective, one of the most important APRM roles has been stimulating public feedback and holding politicians' feet to the fire. This role is critical as it helps keep politicians from becoming isolated from the community and convinced of their own positions. He described the APRM as broad-based advocacy and with a keep-Metchosin-rural mandate perfectly compatible with that of the district.

Mayor Ranns noted that while the APRM sometimes feels its voice goes unheard, this is not the case. Mayor Ranns described his decision-making filter as that of the "big picture," how to keep everyone happy here with what we have, to maintain

a high level of satisfaction and minimize divisions that provide entry to those who might ruin what we have. In reference to earlier comments on enforcement, he suggested that the district does in fact enforce bylaws, noting that two fines had just been issued over infractions to the noise bylaw.

Mayor Ranns emphasized that decisions are complex and that new councillors have been astounded as to how complex they are, and just how much work the councillors have to do. He said APRM presentations helped Council think things through as did other views from the public.

As for the future, Mayor Ranns said front-and-centre controversial issues are regional amalgamation and treaty issues. Centre Mountain may also come back. And there are undoubtedly other but unknown issues.

Mayor Ranns hoped that APRM would continue its activities working for a rural Metchosin.

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Annual RASC Metchosin Star Party!



RASC member Chris admiring the Milky way with visitors during the 2015 Rascal's Star Party put on by Victoria Centre of the RASC in Metchosin. W.J. McDonald photo, used with permission

SHERRY BUTTNOR

Once again, the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be holding its annual Star Party on the cricket field, on the weekend of August 26–28.

Everyone is invited! We will have guest speakers, door prizes, Talk-and-Walk among the stars, and viewing through our members' telescopes. Something fun for stargazers of all ages!

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

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

Where: Cricket field behind Metchosin District offices

When: 12 noon, August 26 to 12 noon, August 28

More info: <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party-2016/>

Contact: Sherry, 250-474-0554; president@victoria.rasc.ca

See you there!

The Opportunistic Owl

BARB SAWATSKY

I love going to Andy and JoAnne's to buy eggs partly to pat Lucca, the friendliest mutt ever and to catch a glimpse of Gemma, the wariest dog ever, partly to see their garden and projects, but what I love best of all is listening to their animal stories.

About two years ago, one early spring evening, Andy heard a racket in the hen house. Fearing raccoons, he ran down the path because, as he says, "if you have hens and you hear a chicken scream, it's a noise you don't ignore. And

an entire coop of screaming chickens is a racket you're not quickly to forget either."

Although he keeps a light on in the coop during the darker months of the year, he couldn't see anything but frantic chickens, some of them in the rafters. Turning around, he came face to face with a large owl which was sitting on the watering can. "I guess he was trying to decide which one to take. I tried shooing him away, smacking at him with the back of my hand but I thought he might bite me. I kept swatting at him and finally he jumped down,

walked past me and out the door. Then he flew away."

Now, this wouldn't be much of a story unless you've seen the coop. It was formerly a tree house. The chickens have to walk up a steep ramp to get inside "so the owl must have just walked up the ramp behind them."

Since that evening, JoAnne has criss-crossed the top of the run with string. Not many weeks ago, a good neighbour phoned to say there was a bald eagle sitting on the fence eyeing the chickens and by the time Andy ran out, it had swooped through the string and was sitting on a hen. When Andy clapped his hands, it flew up and had a bit of a struggle getting airborne because its wings caught in the strings "but it managed to get out okay." And, surprisingly, the hen survived in spite of the eagle's talons, which had penetrated her body.

Last week when I stopped for eggs Andy said, "you'll never guess what! Two nights ago there was another owl sitting on the fence looking at the chickens. The first one was mostly grey and white but this one was bigger and brown, so I know it wasn't the same owl. It's like word has gotten out."



Photo by Barb Sawatsky

June's Juncos

JUNE REIMER

All my hanging fuschia baskets wintered over wonderfully and I did a small amount of repotting, adding some soil and hung them up, one right outside my front door. A few days later I noticed a very green and large amount of moss in the basket!? I took it down quickly to look and out flew a frantic bird, scolding rapidly at me from the shrubs below! I checked it carefully the next couple of days and it seemed I had frightened the busy birds away, but then on about day three or four suddenly there were three eggs!

The parents did get used to the fact that every three days or so I might take a little look if they were not in the nest. However during their occupation of the basket, I had wood floors put into the hall and living room, which were right there, at the front door! My installer was great and mostly used the back entry.

By the last week before flight, the parents began to be somewhat agitated about my 17-year-old cat. Whenever he was outside, even if way down the driveway with me or out the back or side deck, they would come and sit on the railing close to the



The watchful parents.



The hanging basket Junco nest.

Both photos by June Reimer

windows and I am sure they were calling loudly to me to come and get that darn cat! Once they came down the driveway to find me where I was watering; sure enough, Oliver was outside! They also were quite upset when he was inside closed windows but sleeping within their sight on the sofa. They would sit side by side on the railing and scold him loudly! It seems they knew the babies would need to fly out soon and so suddenly the cat was a menace! I am pleased to report that all three survived and flew off as they should.

Tell them you saw it in the *Muse*!



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The great horned owl's stare.

Photo provided by Max van Manen

A Metchosin Moment

MAX VAN MANEN

I woke up at 4:00 am somewhat alarmed from loud banging noises on the balcony of the bedroom. I thought perhaps I was dreaming that a burglar was trying to scale the balcony but I knew that this would be quite impossible. The third-floor balcony overlooks the lagoon and ocean of Witty's Beach. However, the loud banging noises on the balcony continued. What could this possibly be?

As I apprehensively opened the sliding door I saw to my utter surprise, in the dark of the night, a large owl frantically trying to squeeze underneath the glass railing. The bird was much too big to get out from under the glass panels and the small space was too awkward for the bird to lift itself off the deck and over the railing.

As I cautiously stepped onto the small balcony the bird froze, as if glued to the glass it was pressing against. The same moment it turned its head full circle. The large eyes fixed on me. What did they see? They looked me straight in the eyes – an arresting sensation. I have never seen a great horned owl so near. I recall in a flash how my young son did not want to see the movie, *The Secret of NIMH*, because the eyes of the owl deeply disturbed him. Now these wild eyes were staring at my naked appearance on the balcony.

The bird had somehow landed there. Is it young? It looked quite full-grown – so large that it was instantly clear to me that it did not have enough space on the 5 x 20-foot narrow balcony to spread its wings and fly up and out.

Back inside, my wife Judith consulted the laptop computer for a contact in Metchosin for animal rescue, but that would not be available until 8:00 am.

We were really afraid that the distressed owl would exhaust and hurt itself from its constant thrashing around and striking against the glass. We kept the lights off. Meanwhile another Great Horned Owl was sweeping by in response to the screeching of the trapped owl on the balcony.

What to do? The most common solution suggested on the web: "Cover the owl with a towel and place it in a large cardboard box. Make sure you wear protected clothing and gloves so as not to be hurt by the sharp talons of the predatory bird." It did not seem like the right thing to do in that situation.

The bird and I, looking at each other, in the stark nakedness of the night, seemed to feel equally vulnerable. Waiting was no option. How to help and lift the bird above the glass deck panels? After some hesitation (I admit to having to gather courage), I opened the sliding door again. I stepped onto the balcony holding a soft broom, hoping the owl would not panic even more.

Talking in a quiet tone and moving slowly towards the bird, it occurred to me that I did not know what sound to make to calm down an owl (as you might while approaching a trapped dog or cat).

I gently moved the bar of the soft sweep of the wooden broom under the owl so that I might be able to lift it up. It seemed to work, but then the owl fell back, its wings spread out wide. I was surprised at the huge span.

Immediately but carefully I tried again while it was still hunkered down, wings wide open, in the corner of the balcony. Again I gently moved and pushed the broom under the big bird – then, once it seemed perched on the broom and had its wings folded, I lifted it slowly to the top and above the glass panels. It sat momentarily on the wooden broom bar sticking out over the glass. The owl seemed to hesitate for an instant, then it jumped and took off, sailing away with majestic flaps of its wings across Witty's Lagoon, towards the trees in the distance. It looked perfectly healthy and unhurt.

What a stupendous sight, what a marvelous moment!

The whole event unfolded like in a dream a few hours ago in the dark of the night. As I recount the experience it occurs to me that I did not question for a moment that the bird was stressed and fearful. I felt a sense of urgency to reduce this panicked distress and I could not go back to bed and wait for the morning when a solution might present itself. But how appropriate is it to empathize with a creature that is so utterly different from we humans? Are emotive words like "stress," "panic," and "fear" appropriate for describing the state of being of an animal, or rather, as in this case, the state of being of a great horned owl? I could argue that the frantic movements of the bird let me understand that it felt trapped and confused.

Over the years I have rescued several hummingbirds that have flown through the garage door opening and been trapped against the window. This rescue is now routine. I gently scoop up the hummingbird with my hands as it flutters up and down the window, and release it outside. I do sense that the bird is "panicked" as I scoop it up but it "happily" dives back into the air when I release it a moment later. Here again I use emotive words to describe what is going on in the tiny brain and body of a hummingbird. Is it appropriate to empathize with wild birds like this? I don't know. But this Metchosin moment has given me the richness of an encounter with nature's enigma.

Editor's note: Max has informed us that his nocturnal visitor managed to shift a very heavy glass panel and damage a post on his balcony, requiring professional attention at a cost of almost \$180!

MISSA 2016 Faculty Lecture Series at Pearson College

For the past 32 years the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA) has welcomed students and instructors to share in creative expression and exchange on the beautiful Pearson College campus. In 1984 a group of dedicated artists founded the school and five two-week courses were offered. Over the years MISSA expanded its workshop selection and developed an excellent reputation for bringing in a faculty of acclaimed practicing artists. In recent years the MISSA workshops have expanded from five courses and 53 participants the first summer to almost 40 workshops and more than 350 students each year from around North America and as far away as Israel, Brazil, and Belgium.

The MISSA 2016 Faculty Lecture Series is open to the public and is an opportunity to view slide presentations of the instructors' work and learn about their studio practices and creative processes.

Members of the MISSA 2016 faculty will discuss various aspects of their work, including methodology, practice, and creative process. Open to the public, admission is by donation.

Lectures are at the Max Bell Auditorium on the Pearson College campus at 7:15 pm on the following dates:

Saturday, July 2

Wendy Skog – painting
Julie Paul – writing
Judy Weedon – ceramics
Andrea Sirois – photography
Lisa Geddes – painting
Mary Fox – ceramics

Monday, July 4

Julia Lowther – jewellery
Shary Bartlett – encaustic
Pauline Conley – painting
James Watkins – ceramics

Tuesday, July 5

Susan Low-Beer – painting and ceramics
Jeremy Herndl – painting
Michelle Sirois – textile
Sarah Pike – ceramics

Saturday, July 9

Kathleen Raven – ceramics
Lorne Loomer – brushwork
Ying-Yueh Chuang – ceramics
Clive Powsey – painting
Ellen Statz – ceramics
Victoria Edgarr – printmaking
Laura McKibbin – ceramics
Maria Josenhans – painting
Loren Lukens – ceramics

Monday, July 11

Janna Vallee – textile
Lori Sokoluk – painting
Steven Hill – ceramics

Tuesday, July 12

Alan Burgess – ceramics
Pat Beaton – printmaking
Jan Edwards – ceramics
Samantha daSilva – painting

Please note: Schedule is subject to change without notice. For more information, please visit <http://www.missa.ca/about/faculty-lecture-series-2016/>.

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Philip Manning Returns to the West Shore!

KRISTI HOFFMAN, WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

Heads up!

Metchosin's Next Generation Dance is back to kick off your Metchosin Day weekend on Friday, September 9.

Get your tickets after July 20 at the Metchosin Community House.

Philip Manning and Braden Young in concert
Saturday, July 9 at 7:00 pm
St. Mary's Church
Tickets \$15; children 12 and under free. Tickets are available at Westside InstaPrint, Coast Collective, Metchosin Country Store, or online at westshorearts.org

Metchosin-born violin virtuoso Philip Manning eagerly returns to his hometown, with a performance at St. Mary's Church on July 9.

Manning's musical talent was evident at a young age, from the moment he picked up a violin at age six. Now as a young adult, his musical accomplishments continue to impress.

He recently completed a Graduate Level Artist Diploma in Violin Performance at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, having been granted a full scholarship. He returns to Vancouver Island after winning his first two professional auditions – an extraordinary feat for a new graduate. Fortunately for local audiences, Manning chose the position with the Victoria Symphony which was awarded to him following a blind audition on May

3. "I couldn't be happier to be back living and working in my favourite city in the world – Victoria, BC – and to be performing for my favourite audiences," Manning said.

Manning is no stranger to musical competition; at the age of 18, he won the position of Featured Soloist at Victoria's 2010 Symphony Splash, where he performed in front of an audience of 45,000. He was granted full scholarships to the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific in 2012 and to the intensive Violin Institute at Northwestern University in 2013. While in Pittsburgh, he won the Duquesne Concerto Competition and was Concertmaster of the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra. Manning was a finalist in the Canada Council of the Arts Instrument Bank Competition in 2015. He was accompanied by Braden Young, who will share the stage with him at the July 9 performance.

Manning and Young first met in 2006 as students in the Collegium Program for Gifted Young Musicians at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Together with a cellist, they formed a trio and performed for five years, winning several awards and competing at the national level.

Young has been studying the piano since the age of seven. He recently completed

his Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Toronto, and like Manning, has recently moved to Victoria to pursue music at a professional level.

Audiences can look forward to future collaborations between the talented young musicians. As a full-time member of the Victoria Symphony, Manning will be performing throughout the full season, beginning with the group's summer concerts in July.

Audiences of the July 9 concert will enjoy a varied program of music, beginning with Beethoven's *Sonata for Violin and Piano in E flat Major Op. 12 No. 3* and Bloch's *Baal Shem*. Following the intermission, Manning and Young will perform the *Sonata for Violin*



Metchosin's own Philip Manning

and Piano in D minor Op. 108 No. 3 by Brahms, finishing with two movements from Piazzolla's *Histoire du Tango*.



Craig and April Spurn (née Stewart, formerly of Metchosin) are proud to announce the birth of Aria Ann Spurn, on May 17 in Fort St John. Granddaughter to Anne and Kelly Spurn of 150 Mile House, and Brian and Ann Marie Stewart of Metchosin, Aria is also a third-generation descendant of the Witty family of Metchosin.



Braden Young

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A Story of Pamir Road, Metchosin

JENNIFER BURGIS

Located adjacent to the Blaney Trail and Tower Point Regional Park is, perhaps, the shortest gazetted road in Metchosin. It reaches from the corner of Duke Road and Olympic View Road, just a short run to a lovely igneous beach below the end of the Blaney Trail. Google "Pamir Road, Metchosin" and you are instantly provided with some amazing data about this area's biodiversity. An in-depth study of the cove at the end of Pamir Road was conducted in June 1975 by W.J. Noble and A.M. Crane. There are 40 records on file at the UBC Herbarium which identify the lichen species found here. The roadway is completely overgrown at this point in time.

However, I digress, as this story started with an unusual find. While sorting through

some black and white photos in a stored box of family memorabilia, I came across the photo of the barque *Pamir*. Out of my memory popped the connection with the name "Pamir." When the Friends of Tower Point Regional Park were researching the history of the CRD purchase, a Tower Point neighbour told me about the short roadway and how it came to be called Pamir Road. Adjacent to the short gazetted roadway stands a fine, two-storey house on Duke Road built many years ago. It has a high bank and a stunning view of the islands and this cove of Parry Bay. The house has only had four consecutive owners. Prior to the current owner, the Gardiners owned the property. Henry Gardiner was a retired Royal Navy pilot. Mr. Gardiner petitioned the municipality to list the roadway

as Pamir Road. It would seem that he had a great interest in merchant sailing ships. The *Pamir* was a four-masted barque of a famous line of German sailing ships. (Search Wikipedia and you will find great photos.) It was the last commercial sailing ship to round Cape Horn. In 1957 the *Pamir* sank off the Azores with only six of the crew and working sea cadets surviving.

The Duke Road house was the family practice office of Dr. Pledger for many years after the Gardiners moved to a home on Kangaroo Road. Just to conclude the Pamir Road story, it was to my surprise that there is a Pamir Highway that was part of the Silk Road. It is currently classified as one of the most dangerous roads on earth. Much longer than our short roadway, the highway runs primarily through Tajikistan and is



The four-masted barque *Pamir* in Sydney Harbour, circa 1947. Public domain photo

nicknamed "The Road from Hell"! Over 2000 kilometres and the second highest highway in the world, it is a true

contrast to our tiny, although just as historic, Pamir Road in Metchosin.



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 during the school year. Returns September 19.

Pearson College Students Outreach. Returns in September.

Knitting Café. Monday meetings on hiatus July and August and will return on September 19.

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers. Returns September 16.

Tuesdays

Drop In Painters Art Group. Returns September 6.

Knitting Cafe. On the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, the Knitting Café has afternoon sessions from 1:00–3:00 pm. Will continue through July, then hiatus for August, returning in September. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca.

Wednesdays

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

Garden Club Meetings – Returns in September.

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking. Returns September 1.

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. The house will be open and available to the group on Friday mornings in July and August, but without a paid coordinator.

Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In. Returns in September.

Ukulele Gathering. The group will restart in September.

Events

Film Night – Returns in September.

Guest Speaker – Returns in September.

Metchosin's Next Generation Dance – Friday, September 9, 8:00 pm–12:00 am. To kick off your Metchosin Day Weekend. Get your tickets after July 20 at the Metchosin Community House.

MCA at Metchosin Day – Sunday, September 11. Watch for notices announcing the friendly competitions sponsored by the MCA: Pie Baking Contest/Cake Baking Contest/Photo Contest (coordinated by the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association; contact: Art Brendon). Come visit the Metchosin Community House-sponsored Corn Booth for a steaming and delicious cob of Island fresh corn. When you are ready for rest and refreshment in a quiet setting, wander over to the Community House Tea Room. Each year the Metchosin Community Association is integrally involved in Metchosin Day.

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

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

It is always great fun being involved in helping to make this community event the special day we've come to enjoy.

Check out the Metchosin Day website at metchosinday.ca or contact the Metchosin Community House Office 250-478-5155. See you at the fair!

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 – July and August. 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 March. 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.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale!

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A Rocky Start for Baby Kingfishers

HEATHER SCHMITT

Summer at a wildlife rehabilitation centre like BC SPCA Wild ARC is never dull, with the continuous intake of so many patients in need of help. At this time of year between 20 and 30 injured or orphaned wild animals arrive each day, keeping the rehabilitation team of staff and volunteers busy from dawn to dusk (and beyond!).

While each patient who arrives is special, the very first day of June brought some particularly distinctive wild animals in need of help – a group of six nestling belted kingfishers. They were discovered huddled together in the rubble at the base of a dirt cliff, in the middle of an active gravel pit near Duncan. Kingfishers excavate nesting burrows high in earth banks, digging a metre or more into the bank before rounding out a hollow chamber in which to lay their eggs. In this case, digging from above with heavy machinery caused the bank to be disturbed, and part of it crumbled and gave way. The babies were later discovered in the resulting dirt pile, their nest no longer intact.

Luck was most certainly on these babies' side, because other than some bruising on their heads and bodies they were unharmed from their rocky tumble. However, with the nest site completely destroyed and no way to



The young Kingfishers feathered out. Photo by Christina Carrières


recreate such a specialized structure, intervention was needed for these vulnerable youngsters. They were brought to Wild ARC for care, and will be cared for by the rehabilitation team until they are grown and ready for release back into the wild.

Rather than eating a formula or slurry like many other young avian patients at Wild ARC, these voracious seafood-eaters are already able to consume pieces of whole food items like smelt and shrimp. They regurgitate pellets of the indigestible bones and scales, much like owls cast pellets with the hair and skeletons of their prey. Kingfishers continue to do this as adults – these pellets can often be found under roosting and fishing perches, so keep a sharp eye out for evidence of kingfishers during waterside hikes.

Uncommon patients like this clutch of kingfishers

provide both inspiration and challenge for Wild ARC's rehabilitators. "It's always refreshing when an unusual species arrives," explains wildlife rehabilitator Marguerite Sans. "We need to make sure we know as much as possible about their natural life history, so it's an opportunity to expand our knowledge. It also means the opportunity to get a little creative to ensure that they have a diet, enclosure setup, and enrichment materials that mimic as closely as possible their life in the wild." Wild ARC regularly admits adult belted kingfishers for treatment (often after they have collided with a picture-window or glass balcony railing), but these nestlings have a different set of care needs as they develop and learn the skills they will need to survive. It's one more new challenge that Wild ARC's rehabilitation team looks forward to meeting.

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Check out the classified ads on page 15.

Where 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 in a 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 location of 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 coffee of their choice, compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. We'll let them know to expect you!



Wendy Mitchell photo

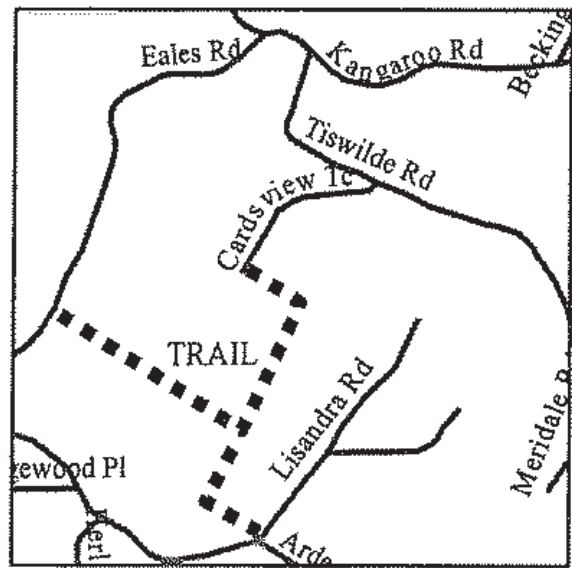
Nobody was able to identify last month's mystery item, which was a Vortec – a fuel injector assembly for a six-cylinder engine. Our imaginative readers suggested it could be for milking cows, or for curling hair. All we can say is, "Ouch!"

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

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.

Ann's Hands

CHIARINA LOGGIA

Ann Semple's hands are far from pretty. Knobby jointed, broken nailed, and roughened and reddened from years of dipping them in cold water and clay, they scream her passion – pottery. For over 40 years Ann has had a love affair with clay – kneading, slapping and shaping it into forms of beauty and function. Influenced by the nature and trees surrounding her Metchosin home and studio, she works textures and designs into her varied creations. The dragonfly is a signature motif, inspired by the many dragonflies that inhabit the creek behind her house. While much of her work is crockery for daily use, hence her studio's name, Clayfoot Crockery, she loves to create fanciful pieces like giant mushrooms, castles, dragons and other mythic creatures. Her mask series is enchanting, inspired by faces in the trees, myths, and legends. Each has its own story and personality developed in the firing. Many have, as Ann describes, wonky eyes, because she can't see straight.

Ann began having trouble with her vision in 2006, becoming almost completely blind by 2011. This was a devastating blow which changed her life and cut her off from her pottery work entirely. Thankfully, with a trial medication, she miraculously recovered much of her vision a year later. Her vision is still impaired but it imparts a new clarity and beauty to her work as she focuses less on decoration and more on form, glazing and colour. She has added brilliant, rich browns and reds to her palette of lovely cool greens and blues, and her crystallizing glazes add a rich, glowing patina to her pieces.

Ann's hands are not pretty, but they are imbued with a beauty that comes from nurturing her passion and honing her craft, at which she excels.

There will be two Ann(e)s displaying their art at Clayfoot Crockery during this summer's



Photo by Chiarina Loggia

Stinking Fish Studio Tour. Guest artist Anne Krauss, an Anne with an "e," is an accomplished jewellery maker who creates one-of-a-kind sterling silver jewellery which often includes copper and nine-karat gold elements.

Anne learned the skill of silversmithing in England where one of her early creations was chosen for an award at the Goldsmith Hall Exhibition. After moving to Canada she graduated from the four-year Alberta College of Art program, where she became fascinated by the intricate patterns known as chain maille, that can be created by a simple jump ring. She is currently designing and making unique pendants using a variety of techniques to set semi precious stones, create textures and add embellishments.

Take the opportunity to see the work of both Ann(e)s on the tour which runs from Thursday, July 21 through Monday, July 25, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can also learn more about how these artists work as Thursday, July 21, the first day of the tour, is "Demo Day," where you can watch them in action. In fact, ask them questions any day of the tour! For more information on the artists, the tour and the tour maps please visit <http://www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com/>

You Can Make It Happen

METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

We are all in favour of recycling, and most of us like to volunteer when we have the time. The next time you have a chance, check out Old Barn Books and see this happening. How do you find it? Go to the District of Metchosin Grounds, between the Fire Hall and the Riding Ring, and you will find the Metchosin Museum Society's Pioneer Museum. The entrance to the museum is through Old Barn Books. It is here that your donations of used books are turned into cash that is in turn used to maintain and improve the display and storage of most of Metchosin's history and artifacts, for both present and future generations to enjoy. The Metchosin Museum Society maintains two museums – Metchosin School Museum and Metchosin Pioneer Museum. Both museums



Photo by Bert Harrison

are staffed with volunteers and would not exist if it weren't for volunteers in past generations.

The used books that you generously donate are sorted and categorized by hard-working volunteers and are sold for \$1.00 paperback, \$2.00 hardcover. This raised \$6277 last year, and \$933 at

the recent Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale. This would not happen without the many Metchosinites dropping off their used books in the bin at the Old Barn Books, and the dedicated volunteers. Drop in and see volunteerism at work, preserving our past for the future.

Found on Facebook ...

Only in Metchosin would anyone read this and respond without laughing. (Or maybe not!)

"Hey guys, we have a bit of a farm hiccup ... 5 piglets running around loose somewhere. My husband moved them yesterday and they found a hole and escaped last night from the front field ... 3 month old Tamworth X piglets (2 white, 3 brown). If anyone sees them, PLEASE CALL JEFF."



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NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN SCHOOL

Librarian Retires and Leaves Library Lion in Charge

DEBRA STOUTLEY

After more than 40 years of service to many schools and libraries in the Sooke School District and beyond, Mrs. Dale Morrison has retired. Over the years, you will have seen her at several district schools, in classrooms and most recently in libraries and the district resource centre. Her passion for books and learning resources is strong and it shows in the work she has done. She leaves the "library lion" to continue his travels through the district on his own!



Mrs. Morrison with the Library Lion
Photo by Debra Stoutley

Mrs. Morrison came to Hans Helgesen this year (and worked at three other schools as well) and made some big improvements in our library! She has also taken our library into the present day by culling books out that are more than 20 years old. Most public libraries keep books for ten years but schools keep books slightly longer; our library had quite a few books that were from the 1970s, a big purchasing time for schools. Our collection is now current and relevant to today's students. We are grateful for all that work to modernize our library!

Libraries do not have full-time librarians any longer and the work of a librarian is always waiting. Travelling from school to school makes for interesting work. Mrs. Morrison has shared her learning and experience in all these schools. She also brought some of her friends along as volunteers to ensure that this work got done in the one year that she would be working at Hans Helgesen. A big thank you to those women who volunteered with Mrs. Morrison.

Libraries are now termed "learning commons" and Mrs. Morrison worked hard to teach us about how libraries are changing. As well as organizing books and making our library beautiful, Mrs. Morrison also helped us get our computer system up and running properly. We are now able to search for books that are in our system. This is a valuable skill that our students need as they move through the education system. One of her last projects was to run the "Battle of the Books," which encouraged students to read several books and then participate in a contest to demonstrate their learning. It was a popular event at our school.

I know I speak for the entire school when I say "Happy Retirement" to Mrs. Morrison. I wish her all the best as she enjoys her free time and continues to enjoy books, stories, libraries, and friends. I hope she will come back and visit!

NEWS FROM WEST-MONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Education Is Blooming at West-Mont

JAMES BOXSHALL

West-Mont Montessori School is a hidden gem in the heart of Metchosin. The school has been part of the West Shore community for over 50 years and has provided an independent educational experience to generations of local families. The school's strong ties to the community and to the natural bounty of our region have always been a strong element in the educational experience of students at West-Mont. Plans to strengthen these connections are part of the long-term vision of the school.

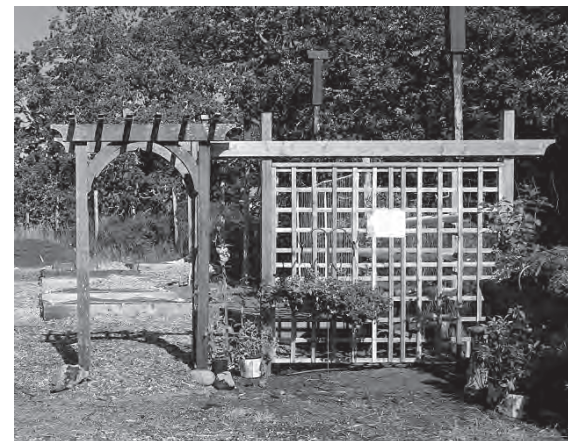
Over the last few months a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers have been transforming the learning garden at West-Mont Montessori School into something truly special. Connections with nature and learning by experiencing are integral to a Montessori education and the West-Mont learning garden is an ideal place to put this into practice. The garden at West-Mont has always been a favourite of students and families at the school, but in recent years has started to show some signs of needing a little lift. Step up Jen McAllister and her highly motivated team of like-minded parents and community supporters.

"Our vision is to transform this space into a true extension of the classroom – allowing students to explore the nature of agriculture, practice land stewardship, and foster a passion for locally grown food" Jen explained.

Plans for the garden include the building of ten raised beds, the planting of numerous crops and seedling fruit trees, and the installation of a compost system. "We also have plans to include a small sheep pasture and are partnering with local farms to mentor and support this initiative."

Several groups have stepped up to help cover some of the costs of the extensive renovations – the BC Farm To School program, the Whole Kids Foundation, the Plant a Seed and See What Grows Foundation, as well as the Sooke branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The project has also inspired several local businesses to donate equipment and expertise in support of the garden, including Bin There Dump That, who helped enormously with the removal of debris from the renovations. With this kind of community support the West-Mont learning garden is truly blooming!

"We are so grateful to all the volunteers, families and community groups who are helping to revamp our learning garden" said



The trellis in the Learning Garden
Photo by Raj Fontana

Principal Magnus Hanton. "The support of so many people not only makes the project possible, it shows our students just what can happen when you work together and inspire action in others. That is perhaps the greatest lesson of all."

While there is a lot of fun to be had by visitors to the garden, there is also an important educational component. The Learning Garden will build on the connections between healthy land use and our own health. Highlighting these connections and teaching life skills are integral to the culture of the school. At the heart of the garden there will be a student learning shelter – a covered space, hand built from local wood, that provides shade and shelter so that all students and visitors in the garden are able to take a break, reflect on what is around them, and have the opportunity and space to learn more about the ecosystems of southern Vancouver Island.

West-Mont Montessori School is proud of the community approach to the project and sees the learning garden as an important element in providing a world-class Montessori education. As Principal Magnus Hanton says, "West-Mont is a very special school and we are delighted to be able to offer our students even more depth of connection to nature through our blossoming garden project."

If you are inspired to support this great local project, West-Mont is happy and eager to hear from you! Contact Principal Magnus Hanton at principal@west-mont.ca.

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Metchosin's New MFD Forestry Crew

BARB SAWATSKY

Extreme temperatures in April and May preceded more temperate weather in June but hot days and low rainfall are just around the corner. Dig two inches into your garden and you will be reminded that the ground is pretty dry, so don't be complacent about the threat of fire over the next months. Living in the country, surrounded by forest, rain in the summer is a blessing and drought is feared.

"Where people live on property which meets the forest, it's called the interface zone," says Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop, "and when a fire breaks out, our primary concern is saving homes. In the event of a forest fire, the first line of defence would be our regular firefighting crew. We depend almost entirely on volunteers who work outside of the community and we do have mutual aid from other districts to assist us, but these fires often require lots of manpower to control them."

There are people who live here and are willing to assist when called but because of work and family constraints, they cannot carry a pager. They don't want to be called in the middle of the night to go to motor vehicle accidents or to attend structure fires. To accommodate their schedules and to provide additional manpower in the event of a forest fire, a bush crew has been trained.

"There aren't as many components to fighting a brush fire as there are to fighting a structure fire" says Dunlop, "and typically, these fires are easier to manage, so this crew is able to take a step back from our regular training program. It's also very cost effective." Fire departments run on a budget. "When you add up all the safety gear – jackets, pants, boots, hats, etc. – and the training which goes into each volunteer, it costs between \$5,000–\$10,000 to train each member." So obviously there has to be a cap on the number of people who want to be a firefighter.

The six-member newly formed forestry crew will be another wave of support for Metchosin. They have undergone 20 hours of training which includes practical theory, assessing dangerous trees, site tours of previous brush and forest fires, map knowledge, traffic control and setting up portable tanks, pumps, etc. They will drive around to assess spot fires and are trained to recognize when to set up sprinkler systems and to inform the command centre.

"They do not have to participate at every Thursday night practice, but they still have to work under our department's management system," says Chief Dunlop.

Adjacent districts are watching our unique model with interest. If it proves effective, it may become a regular program for people who would like to give back to the community without the more intense fire fighting program.

For further information, email Chief Dunlop at firechief@metchosinfire.ca.

Fire Department Call-Outs MAY 2016

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| May 01 Kangaroo Road – Alarm Bells – Residential | May 12 Rocky Point Road – MVI |
| Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General | Pears Road – Open Burn – General |
| Kangaroo Road – Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI) | May 13 Sooke Road – Medical |
| No location noted – Medical | Sandgate Road – Beach Fire |
| Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire | No location noted – Assistance – General Public |
| May 02 Windover Terrace – Medical | Winfall Road – Open Burn – General |
| Rocky Point Road – Medical | Rocky Point Road – Brush/Grass – Fire |
| Montreul Heights – Brush/Grass Fire | May 14 Rocky Point Road – Assistance – Public Works |
| Rocky Point Road – Vehicle Fire | May 16 Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire |
| May 04 Rocky Point Road – MVI | Taylor Road – Beach Fire |
| May 05 Barrow Road – Open Burn – General | May 18 No location noted – Assistance – RCMP |
| Taylor Road – Beach Fire | Sooke Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint |
| May 06 Metchosin Road – MVI | Park Drive – Medical |
| Sutiicum Road – Medical | May 20 Sooke Road – MVI |
| Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General | No location noted – Assistance – General Public |
| No location noted – Beach Fire | Kangaroo Road – MVI |
| May 07 Eagle Tree Place – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting | May 21 Happy Valley Road – Assistance – RCMP |
| East Sooke Road – Brush/Grass – Fire | Pears Road – Open Burn – General |
| Mutual Aid – SFRes (Structure Fire Residential) | No location noted – Open Burn – Camp Fire |
| Spayside Road – Hydro – Fire | May 22 Taylor Road – Beach Fire |
| Mutual Aid – Assistance – RCMP | Rocky Point Road – Medical |
| Mutual Aid – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting | Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire |
| Lombard Drive – Hydro – Lines Down | Taylor Road – Beach Fire |
| Mutual Aid – Alarm Bells – Commercial | May 23 Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General |
| Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire | Tiswilde Road – Alarm Bells – Residential |
| Mutual Aid – MVI | May 24 Sooke Road – Medical |
| May 08 No location noted – Beach Fire | May 25 Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire |
| May 09 Kangaroo Road – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting | May 26 Sooke Road – MVI |
| May 10 Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire | Dutnall Road – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting |
| Taylor Road – Beach Fire | May 27 Meridale Road – Medical |
| May 11 William Head Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint | May 28 Flesh Road – Assistance – BCAS |
| Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire | May 30 Albert Head Beach – Beach Fire |
| Metchosin Road – Open Burn – General | Meridale Road – Medical |

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Fax: 250-658-9316
Email: sandyhiggins@telus.net
www.sandyhiggins.ca



The Mortgage Centre

Sandy works for **you**, not the lenders.

The Mortgage Centre – Island Properties
New address: 890 Short Street, Victoria BC V8X 2V5
www.ipmortgages.ca

Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available now at the Metchosin Country Store.

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 at 250-415-9335 for pickup.

HEATED POOL for local business to offer aquatic massage, therapy and ai chi classes. Please call Kara 250-474-4622.

PASTURE Seeking pasture to rent on which to graze a few dairy cows producing real milk for local creamery. Contact Gordon Watson 250-654-0423, watson.gordons@gmail.com

HOME FOR RENT Seeking home for rent in Metchosin. Young professional couple, 2 years Metchosin residents, no pet, no kids, non-smoking.

Excellent references! Contact petra.heidenreichova@gmail.com or phone 778-967-3458

LESSONS

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

SERVICES

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

Important Dates and Events

- July 6 **Beach Seine** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- July 7 **Sandy Shore Explore** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- July 8 **Metchosin Karate** starts up at Metchosin Hall. Visit <https://metchosinkarate.ca/> for more information.
- July 9 **Philip Manning Concert** p. 10
- July 10 **Tansy Ragwort Day** p. 4
- July 17 **Westshore Triathlon** p. 4
- July 19 **Emergency Program Information Session: Disaster Emotional Response** p. 2
- July 19 **Seals! Seals!** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- July 21 **Marine Day** (CRD Drop-in Event*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- July 21–25 **Stinking Fish Studio Tour** p. 9 (“Ann’s Hands”)
- July 22 **Metchosin Bandwagon:** Rockin blues band Syzygy. Music 7:00–9:15 pm (kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm). \$5 donation and any tips go to the musicians. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Road.
- July 26 **Bear Necessities** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- Aug. 6 **Mystery Creature** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- Aug. 19 **Metchosin Bandwagon:** Lebeau-Petersen Band. Music 7:00–9:15 pm (kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm). \$5 donation and any tips go to the musicians. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Road
- Beach Seine (CRD Guided Walk*) – Witty’s Lagoon
- Aug. 21 **Ryder Hesjedal’s Tour de Victoria** p. 4
- Aug. 25 **Cougar Capers** (CRD Guided Walk*) – East Sooke Park
- Aug. 26–28 **RASC Star Party** p. 8
- Aug. 27 **Pictures of the Past** (CRD Guided Walk*) – East Sooke Park
- Aug. 28 **Feast of Fields** is at the Parry Bay Sheep Farm. See <http://www.feastoffields.com/vancouver-island/>
- Aug. 30 **Tree-mendous Trees** (CRD Guided Walk*) – Devonian Park

MISSA Faculty Lectures at Pearson College p. 9

*CRD Nature Events are free of charge but restrictions may apply. For more details, go to crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Clip and save this listing!



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www.thegratefulpooch.ca



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598 Parry Rd - Facebook

Village Square, cont'd from page 1

and could possibly be the site of a unique-to-Metchosin playground and picnic site. The fenced, grassy field in the downtown core, used now as an off-leash dog run, could also be used as a safe, off-leash kid run. The perimeter could easily accommodate a jogging track, a place for youngsters learning to ride bikes or a path for wheelchairs and others who are unable to navigate rough trails.

With the rich diversity of people who live here, much can be done to create a space which will benefit Metchosinites of all ages. Very impressive are the Metchosin Village Square Committee members and others in the community who have shown a willingness to donate time and labour, and to source materials and skills to work with Council towards turning this dream into a reality. Their ethic is what has made Metchosin the strong community where we

live and where we work for what we want.

If you have questions, suggestions or offers of assistance, please contact Shannon Carman, who has agreed to be the Village Square Committee’s communications lead, at shannonaorere@gmail.com or at 250-415-7977. Kyara Kahakauwilla, Council representative for the proposal, can be reached at kyara@metchosin.ca or through the Metchosin Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167.

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

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

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

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

BADMINTON
Women’s 250-478-9648

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

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

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

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

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)
info@metchosinartcentre.ca
www.metchosinartcentre.ca

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

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
Audrey 250-478-1352
Marni 250-999-6757

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

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

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND
250-474-3999

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

CHURCHES

BAHA’I FAITH
250-514-1757

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

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
250-727-3722

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

ST MARYS’ METCHOSIN
Anglican Church of Canada
250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

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

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY
250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca

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.