

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

Metchosin Community Hall says STOP

Stephen Gray

The Metchosin Community Hall Society has had to start new procedures to address the many volunteers wanting to take on projects at the Hall. "Our meetings have simply become too crowded," said the Hall Chair in a recent interview. "We think we are going to need to hold meetings weekly rather than monthly to absorb the throng," he added. "We are looking urgently to buy more chairs."

There is no longer standing room for volunteers attending the monthly meetings held upstairs at the Hall at 7:30 pm every third Wednesday of the month (followed by a social). The crowds attending Hall meetings are now so large and the meeting space so tight, the trustees have become concerned that the walls may blow off that Hall. Conversations have begun with the Fire Chief. One suggestion has been to hold outdoor meetings under the Hall tent.

A related problem faced by the Hall is the lack of new projects to occupy the time of new volunteers. The Hall Society has been faced with declining work, fewer projects, and so many volunteers that a public meeting has been called to ask the community for advice on how to confront the problem. It is expected that the Metchosin Mayor and Council will attend, given the serious nature of the situation.

"Meetings are too popular at the moment," said a disgruntled, newer committee member. "We should have fewer, longer meetings, not more meetings."

"If the Hall were to hold three meetings a week followed by two meetings the next, we may be able to satiate the horde," offered one long-time Hall volunteer, while another suggested: "Instead of buying more chairs, we should put the chairs away and have standing meetings."

But a lack of volunteer jobs may frustrate these efforts.

"Meetings are one thing. We all love meetings but we need volunteer work," pressed one member at a recent Hall meeting. Others agree. They are searching for volunteer work in Metchosin.

The rift amongst the committee runs deep but the Chair is confident that a new equilibrium can be found as we expand the discussion into the Greater Community of Metchosin; but he issued a grave warning. "We must find more volunteer work or we'll have a riot on our hands."

The Hall did think about sharing volunteers with other organizations in Metchosin, but recent inquiries have confirmed that most volunteer jobs in the community are full. No more work needs to be done. No more events organized and no more clean-ups are expected for the foreseeable future.

Metchosin Community Hall: crammed with too many volunteers with not enough to do.



Bylaw Enforcement Flying Squad Fails to Take Off



Is that a bylaw infraction I see? In Metchosin!?!

D.P. Throte

Bats are a topic of interest these days – witness the number of articles in this edition of the *Muse*. So readers might be interested in how close bats may have come to playing an even bigger role in our community. During the recent "land deal" negotiations, it appears that consideration may have been given to acquiring an additional parcel containing not only a swamp with a rare Northern

Red-Legged Limping Frog (*rana aurora legasora*), but also, the big attraction, a colony of bats being trained to become bylaw enforcement officers.

A spokesperson would not comment, possibly on the grounds that discussions of disabled amphibians are held in camera. However, informed sources suggest late-breaking information killed the deal. It was learned that, contrary to common understanding, bats actually possess quite keen eyesight.

No Foolin' – It's This Weekend!

Johnny Carline

One of the year's entertainment highlights takes place this Saturday, April 1, at the Metchosin Community House. Disguised under the work-a-day title of MCA Services Auction is an evening that, for the last several years, has left attendees smiling and aching with laughter.

Yes it's an auction and you can snaffle some of the best deals imaginable on services from tree cutting to culinary

lessons and many, many other neat services you need, want, or would just like to try out.

There is a silent auction and a wine-and-cheese session from 6:00 pm, just to get you in the mood. The real action begins with the live auction conducted by local TV personality and newscaster Stacy Ross and local man-about-town Mike van de Water, whose unscripted banter in their debut as a team last year rocked the house.

The cause is a worthy one – keeping the Community House running and supporting one of its very special programs, the Parents and Tots program. But you don't have to be feeling unselfish to want to attend this evening. Treat yourself to a wonderful and warm evening out at the Community House and maybe get lucky and come home with the steal of the night. A flier enclosed in this edition of the *Muse* will provide more details.



Right: TV celebrity Stacy Ross and local wit Mike van de Water will once again host the classic MCA Service Auction at the Community House on Saturday, April 1.

Barb Sawatsky photo

Dynamic Duo

Metchosin Muse

Email metmuse@shaw.ca Web www.metchosinmuse.ca

EDITORIAL TEAM

Brian Domney, 250-474-3966
Johnny Carline, 250-474-4601
metmuse@shaw.ca

MUSE TEAM

Joan Bradley
Johnny Carline
Eileen Carlson
Joannie Challenger
Brian Domney
Laura Farquharson
Barrett Fullerton
Joan Gilbert
Joan Kew
Peter Lewis
Jim MacPherson
Barbara Methvin
Dauna Neveaux
Susan Palmer
Barb Sawatsky
Cheryl Serpanchy

ADVERTISING

Please contact the editor (see above).

CLASSIFIEDS

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

ACCOUNTS

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

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Joan Kew

DISTRIBUTION

CO-ORDINATOR
Barrett Fullerton

EVENTS

metmuse@shaw.ca

MAILING ADDRESS

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

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

AD DEADLINE

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

ABOUT THE MUSE

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

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

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800
(July/August: 3000)



The work around the "Welcome to Metchosin" sign on Metchosin Road may be a clue to the new motto to be added to the sign shortly: "Metchosin, Where It's Okay to Lose Your Trunks." All to promote our wonderful beaches and carefree attitude, of course!
Brian Domney photo

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.

Thank you, emergency crews

Thank you RCMP, firefighters, first responders, paramedics and all who assisted in the recent car accident some weeks ago in which my granddaughter was pinned in the passenger seat wrapped around a tree on Happy Valley Road.

You spent two hours cutting her out with the jaws of life and carefully transported her, neck brace, backboard and all to ensure the best possible outcome. Your dedication and caring to the hard work you do means "the earth" to our family and did indeed give this precious young lady her best chance at recovery. Because of your careful attention to life saving

detail, and by the grace of God, my granddaughter has made a full recovery and the life-threatening injuries expected were diminished greatly.

Thank you again, each one of you attending, for the part you played in this rescue. You are loved and respected, each one, by the Morneau family.

Gloria Morneau

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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

Muse Subscriptions

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

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

Or you can email us at: metmuse@shaw.ca



Metchosin! Makes Reza's Day

Barb Sawatsky

On March 6, "recycling Monday," Reza, a self-employed finishing carpenter with his company Lindholm Construction, put his toolbox into the back of his truck, loaded the family's recycling, then dropped off the bins at the end of his driveway. But on this particular morning he walked in front of his truck to get back into the cab when normally he would walk behind it, so he did not notice that the tailgate was down before driving into town.

Arriving at the work site in Cordova Bay an hour later, he felt sick when he saw that his tools were gone. Hoping that the box had fallen out on one of the hills on Lindholm Road, where he and his family live, he headed back to Metchosin; but after searching, he had to admit that it was probably gone for good.

Once home, he placed a notification on the Metchosin! Facebook page before sitting down to compile a list of what he had lost that morning. No tools means no work and ordering

new tools wasn't going to be an easy task. "You can't remember everything when there are hundreds of small items," he said, "especially when the box contained irreplaceable hand tools that I have been collecting for over 15 years. Some of them you don't even miss until you go to use them."

Then, bingo – eight hours after he had posted his message, the call that Reza had hoped for came in. Aaron, a member of Metchosin!, sent him a message to say that his friend, James, had picked up a toolbox from the side of the highway at the Helmcken Rd. overpass that morning. The small-world twist to this story is that when Reza drove to James' house to retrieve the errant toolbox, they recognized each other. "James lives in Colwood, right across the street from my parents," Reza said. Pondering the thousands of cars heading south on the Trans Canada Highway every morning, Reza knows how lucky he is and sends thanks to Aaron, James, and the group at Metchosin! Facebook.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Charla Huber

April 18, 7:00 pm: Prescription Medications and Emergency Preparedness

When it comes to preparing for an emergency, people are quick to think of food and water, but another essential for many people is prescription medications.

If you are taking medications daily or frequently, it's a good idea to have some in your emergency kit. In the event of a major disaster, there may be no access to pharmacies. In a catastrophic disaster, there may be a significant

amount of time before pharmacies re-open, so it's important to ensure you can take care of your family's medical needs.

The Metchosin Emergency Program is hosting a session on April 18 with Pure Pharmacy, which is ready to share everything you need to know about emergency preparedness and prescription medications.

Learn tips about keeping a list of all of your prescriptions and medical supplies your family requires. The list can be on paper and on a USB. There will be information about storing prescription

medications and obtaining enough medication if you were required to shelter in place unexpectedly.

This is a great session for you to attend if you or someone in your family is taking prescription medications regularly. Ask questions and learn how to add prescription medications to your emergency kit.

Join us for the free session on April 18 at the Metchosin Fire Hall, 4440 Happy Valley Road. If you have any questions or would like more information, call 250-478-1307. We also have a door prize at every session.

METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

Display Ad Sizes	1 Issue	2-5 Issues	6-12 Issues
Bus. Card (H) – 3.925"w x 2.5"h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
Bus. Card (V) – 1.9"w x 5"h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
2x4 – 3.925"w x 4"h	\$77.00	\$67.00	\$59.00
1/6 page (V) – 3.925"w x 5"h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
1/6 page (H) – 5.95"w x 3.3"h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
1/4 page (V) – 4.9"w x 7.6"h	\$145.00	\$129.00	\$115.00
1/2 page (V) – 10"w x 7.5"h	\$285.00	\$265.00	\$240.00
Insert 8.5" X 11" (supplied only)	\$259.00	per month	per month
Full Width Banner x 2"h	\$96.00	\$88.00	\$76.00
Full Page Ad (if available)	\$569.00	~ no additional taxes ~	

Discount on 2-5 and 6-12 issues. Full payment in advance of publication

Cost To Design Ad

First time ad layout and design \$35.
Submit camera ready ad N/C.
Full payment in advance.
For more information please contact the editor, metmuse@shaw.ca.

Classified Ads

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

Metchosin Garry Oaks Home to Rare Butterfly!

Moralea Milne

There's a small rare butterfly known as the Propertius duskywing (*Erynnis propertius*) that is still found in Metchosin. Those who name butterflies must have been experiencing that zombie brain feeling that comes from a bad cold or a colossal hangover when they came up with this common name. The scientific species name, *propertius*, is considered to be in honour of Sextus Propertius, a poet from ancient Rome (born 50–45 BC). Since propertius duskywings only use oak trees as a host plant on which their caterpillars feed, perhaps they should have used the name oak duskywing. How much easier it would be to have a name that describes an important component of this butterfly's life, than the name of a long dead, obscure poet, but hey that's just me thinking out loud...

The (newly named) oak duskywing is a relatively small (wingspan 35–45 mm), somewhat inconspicuous butterfly of the skipper family, clothed in shades of grey and brown. The females are a little more flamboyant, with more white markings on the forewings. During April and May, males can be found on mud, sometimes on hill tops, and will perch on vegetation waiting for a female to accost.

In the few years I have been interested in butterflies, the oak duskywing has gone from being somewhat uncommon, to threatened (blue-listed), to rare (red-listed). With so many oak trees to feed on, you might wonder why the population



Propertius duskywing

Moralea Milne photo

has plummeted, and like many things, there are many reasons. Loss of habitat is paramount; many areas that were once Garry oak ecosystems have succumbed to development, whether for housing, industry, or agriculture. With development, not only the trees are lost, but also the flowering plants that are needed as a nectar source for the adults. Weather and climate change can be having an effect; with an early onset of the dry season, like last year, the flowering nectar sources were in short supply. Even where the oaks have escaped the axe and chainsaw, our compulsion to tidy the landscape has led to further losses.

In Canada, oak duskywings lay their eggs only on Garry oaks; the caterpillars spend their entire lives in the trees, eating the leaves, usually feeding at night and hiding during the day. In their younger stages they chew two channels in the leaf and

fold the resulting flap over themselves, securing it with their silk. They overwinter in the prepupal stage (just before they form a chrysalis), having woven themselves within a leaf. The leaf-enclosed caterpillar drops to the ground, nestling in among other leaves, hoping to remain safe from predators. Unfortunately, in many cases, soon after reaching the ground they are assaulted by rakes and tines, thrown into piles, and either composted or burned.

One of the ways in which we can help the oak duskywing to survive requires that we do less rather than more. On a sunny fall afternoon, this is the perfect excuse to save yourself the trouble of raking, to give yourself permission to go for a walk, watch sports, or read a book, all without guilt. And when someone asks why your yard is festooned with oak leaves, you can with all honesty say that you are hard at work saving this lovely rare species of butterfly!

The St Mary's Challenge

Sharleen Thompson



Elizabeth May speaking on food security at St Mary's.

The St Mary's Challenge has been a great success. The speakers who have already spoken sparked lively discussions.

The first speaker, Andy MacKinnon, spoke about the world-wide extinction of species and the correlation with human population growth. He did this on both a global level and a local level. The second speaker, Geoff Strong,

spoke on climate change. He did an excellent job of explaining the science and the current consequences on the refugee problem as well as other effects.

The third speaker was Elizabeth May, who spoke on food security and all the dynamics and interrelated effects of food companies' actions. For example, she talked about how the food companies that ramped up the fishing on the Grand Banks, leading to the collapse of the East Coast cod, subsequently sold all their factory ships to Africans who are now overfishing the African coastline and threatening that coast with a similar collapse.

The next two speakers were Wally Eamer, featured in the March edition of the Harvard business *Alumni Bulletin*, who spoke on Native reconciliation and inclusion; and Nancy Ford, who talked about marginalized people and the tent city.

The last speaker of this Lenten Series will be Herbert O'Driscoll, one of Canada's best known theologians. He will talk on grace and a call to action of communities of people to do something about all these issues of our times. He will be speaking at St Mary's church on April 5 at 7:00 pm.

Got feedback? You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to metmuse@shaw.ca.

TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise noted, all talks take place at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, behind the Fire Hall.

Springtime: Time for the Bats and the Bees

BATS with Dave Nagorsen and Jill Robinson from Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) – April 7 and 8

It is our great good fortune to have BC's premier bat expert residing in Metchosin, plus we are partnering with HAT to hold our Bat Talk and bat house building workshop. Vancouver Island has ten species of these marvelous nocturnal creatures. Please join us to learn more about their important insect devouring capabilities, their communal lives, and how we can best help to provide good stewardship. There is a rumour making the rounds of a surprise announcement ...

For those interested in attracting bats to your property, we now have 22 bat house kits that have been provided through funding by the Metchosin Foundation and by our awesome volunteer master carpenter, Ole Frang. **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** to attend the workshop as there is a limited quantity of kits.

The bat house workshop will be held at 10:00 am the next day, Saturday, in the pavilion at the municipal grounds. Bring your own cordless drills and hammers, we will supply everything else. The screws we will be using are #8s from 2 to 3.5 inches long, so select your drill bits accordingly.

THE BEES' NEEDS: Wild pollinators of the Garry Oak Ecosystem and why gardens are important for conservation, with Professor Elizabeth Elle, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at SFU – May 5 and 6

Professor Elle has been a member of national (the Canadian Pollination Initiative) and international (the Integrated Crop Pollination Project) research collaborations aimed at protecting pollinators and enhancing pollination services to wildflowers and crops. She is also an award-winning teacher dedicated to both traditional university education and public engagement with the important conservation issues of our day.

Although much of Elizabeth's time is currently dedicated to managing a large and complex university department, she really just wants everyone to know that bees are awesome, and if you are worried about pollinator declines, you should plant a garden.

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

NUMA FARMS NURSERY

THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR LANDSCAPE

THE BEST IN TREES & SHRUBS

QUALITY, SIZE, SELECTION...

Open Tues.–Sat. 8:30 am–5 pm; Mon. by appointment only. Closed Sun.
3459 Luxton Road, Langford, BC • Tel. 250-474-6005 • numafarms@shaw.ca



EXCAVATION, TRUCKING & LANDSCAPING MATERIALS

- Landscaping
- Ponds
- Driveways
- Perimeter Drains
- Livestock Burial
- Rock
- Sand
- Gravel
- Soil
- Mulch

250-589-6599

Fireproof Metchosin Day – Sunday, April 9

Banish the Broom!

Moralea Milne

Even though we've just been through the snowiest, greyest winter in Metchosin in recent memory, the long, dry days of summer are coming and it is a good idea to prepare to fireproof our community. Please consider removing broom and gorse from the roadway in front of your properties. With these fuel accelerants lining the road, carelessly disposed cigarettes from car windows cause many fires. The volatile oils within these plants act like cans of gasoline distributed throughout Metchosin. If your neighbours are less than able, please offer to help, or make it a fun block party event. A fire at anyone's place can spell disaster for you, too.

BROOM REMOVAL

The number one priority is to stay safe! Join with your family or neighbours and use the buddy system to watch for traffic. If you can pull the broom without straining your back, do so, otherwise try to cut below the surface. Young broom is vigorous and will usually resprout. However, there is a lateral root that comes out sideways from the main root; cut below there and the plant will not likely resprout. Old-growth broom can be cut higher up the stem; it doesn't resprout, but be careful to not leave tripping hazards. Gorse is a nastier affair; it produces more volatile oils, and you should be prepared for the vicious spines with which it is armed. It is

sure to resprout unless the root is removed.

DISPOSAL

If it is unsafe to burn on your own property, the Public Works Department is offering to burn on site on the road right-of-way. To take advantage of this offer, please call the Fire Hall (see below) and leave your house number and a telephone number, so that the Works Crew can plot the most efficient use of time.

Chief Dunlop has requested that we adhere to the following guidelines for residential burns and for piles left on the road right-of-way to help reduce the danger of fire and the discomfort from smoke in the community:

- Burning is permitted from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm only.

- Fires to be completely extinguished by 6:00 pm – no smoke/no flame.
- Only dry leaves, tree trimmings and residential yard debris are acceptable burning materials.
- The burning of any construction waste, demolition debris, garbage, food or household waste, plastic, rubber, asphalt shingles, or other similar materials is prohibited.
- The fire must be 20 feet away from any structure, trees or fence lines.
- A responsible person is in constant supervision of the fire.
- An adequate water supply is available at all times for immediate extinguishment if needed.

- The fire is kept hot to avoid excessive smoke.
- Do not ignite a fire in high wind conditions.
- Do not use petroleum products to accelerate or sustain the fire.
- Do not burn materials that have not originated from the property.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Metchosin Fire Department.

Officer Hours: 250-478-1307

24/7 Fire Duty Officer: 250-478-7770 (ask for the Metchosin Duty Officer)

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!

METCHOSIN HALL

Spring Fling Arts & Crafts Sale

Saturday & Sunday
April 8 & 9, 2017

- 10-4:30 pm
- Free Admission
- Food & Refreshments
- W/C Accessible

Metchosin Community Hall • 4401 William Head Road
www.MetchosinHall.com

COUNCIL NEWS APRIL 2017



WEST SHORE RCMP COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT

The District of Metchosin is looking for a Citizen Appointment to the Community Policing Advisory Committee. The West Shore Community Policing Advisory Committee was originally formed to provide a forum for local municipalities and various community groups and organizations served by the West Shore RCMP detachment to discuss policing procedures, address public concerns, and exchange information aimed at increasing public safety. If you are interested, please contact the District of Metchosin.

COUGARS AND BEARS

If you see a cougar or bear, please call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

The Municipal Office tracks all cougar and bear sightings for our residents. Please call the Conservation Officer first, then call the District Office at 250-474-3167.

The BC Ministry of Environment's Bear Smart Community Program encourages efforts to reduce bear-human conflicts. Some things you can do to help to bear-proof your home:

- keep garbage in the house or shed until pick-up day
- ensure garbage cans are securely closed on pick-up day
- don't add meat or cooked food to your compost
- pick ripe fruit and fallen fruit daily
- use bird-feeders only in the winter
- clean your BBQ after each use and store in a secure area
- don't feed pets or store pet food outdoors

COMMUNITY TRAILS

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

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Finance and Environment Committee Apr 3, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC) Apr 18, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting Apr 3, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting Apr 24, 7:00 pm
Healthy Communities Advisory Committee (HCAC) Apr 5, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC) Apr 25, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and Public Works Apr 10, 7:00 pm	Heritage Advisory Committee (HASC) Apr 26, 7:00 pm

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

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

Juan de Fuca VETERINARY CLINIC

250-478-0422

Compassionate, professional, courteous care.
Your pets... our family

Caring for pets in the Westshore since 1981. We are proud to be members of this growing community.

CAN DO!

Quality High Speed
Colour Copies
Blueprints • Typesetting
Rubber Stamps
Laminating
Business Cards
Public Fax Service

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
8:00 am–5:30 pm
SATURDAY:
10:00 am–5:00 pm

250-478-5533

2811 Jacklin Rd.
(near Goldstream)

SINCE 1988

CAN DO WESTSIDE INSTAPRINT

Visit the Muse website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE



Dawn Boshcoff

Did You Know ...

Metchosin is recognized throughout BC for promoting cost-effective, aging-in-place strategies to benefit seniors, their families and taxpayers. SIRC welcomes all ages of volunteers and members. A lifetime membership is only \$10.

Happy Easter Weekend!

Please note: SIRC will be closed from Friday, April 14 through Monday, April 17.

Geeks and Geezers

Thursday, April 27

TECH-TALK: Lunch 'n' Learn from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. This month's feature topic is "Building Communities Online." This session is for anyone who is part of an organization or group who wants to increase membership, build connections, improve online engagement and grow interest by using social media platforms and time-saving technology tools. We'll cover how to easily create, schedule and post content that enhances conversation and communication between group members. Bring your bag lunch, hand-held device or laptop for hands-on learning at SIRC in Metchosin. RSVP; sessions fill quickly and spaces are limited!

Open Learning Lab

1:00 to 3:00 pm, any Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

FREE Log-on, Learn and Play at SIRC's Open Computer Lab. Free wifi, laptops, desktops, printers, fax, tablets, Macs, smartphones etc., for members to learn on and borrow, while attending. We suggest you call to book your Geek Session for up to one-hour.

Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ... Together

It is estimated that 4-10% of older adults will experience one or more forms of abuse

at some point during their senior years. The BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN) has joined forces nationally to bring awareness and education to communities about elder adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

SIRC's coordinator, Dawn Boshcoff, was recently Certified as a Community INR Presenter for "It's Not Right!" The program teaches neighbours, friends, and family members of older adults, to learn how to identify adult abuse and warning signs, while recognizing and managing elder abuse issues with those we care about.

By engaging bystanders, the program is designed to increase the awareness of elder abuse in all communities in BC. SIRC will host "It's Not Right!" in Metchosin in June to celebrate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. Community groups can contact SIRC to book a presentation. For more information on the program, visit www.itsnotright.ca.

Better at Home Serves Local Seniors in Many Ways

SIRC's team of volunteers helps local seniors and their families with user support (US) for things such as driving to medical appointments, shopping for groceries, friendly visiting, dine and drives, outings, computer support, and home care assistance.

Operating under the direction of Pacific Family Services and Westshore Better at Home, Metchosin's program is funded by the United Way. Eligibility is based on individual needs. Please call SIRC's Better at Home Coordinator, Dawn Boshcoff, to find out how to access help for a senior, family member, or friend.

Drive and Dine

Want to meet some new neighbours and join us for lunch or dinner? We've added the "Drive and Dine" Program in 2017 to bring SIRC members and volunteers together for a free community meal, a few times each month. We also provide drivers for

Connecting the generations: Metchosin's 4H Photography Club youngsters visit the Metchosin Seniors' Association See "InterGen Connect," below.

Dawn Boshcoff photo

seniors who need help getting to and from these events! Please consider joining us. There is no cost to attend and all are welcome!

Gordon United Church in Langford serves a healthy home-cooked Community Supper at 6:00 pm, every other Monday evening (April 10 and 24 this month). We leave SIRC at 5:30 pm sharp and return by 7:00 pm.

Potluck Dinner and Board Games at Metchosin Community House on Saturday, April 15 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm – dine at 5:00 pm.

Potluck Lunch at Metchosin Community House on Thursday, April 27 at noon.

InterGen Connect

In an effort to promote inter-generational programming and community partnerships, the Metchosin Seniors' Association is pleased to welcome Metchosin's 4H Photography Club to SIRC on Sunday afternoons!

The young photography enthusiasts will use SIRC as their home base to learn new techniques for taking great photos. You will also see them out and about in our neighbourhood honing their new skills. A combined Spring Fundraising Farm Tour, with our local 4H Club, is being planned for this summer, and will showcase our 4H friends and provide a fun day on the farm for all ages!

SIRC News Updates

You can get SIRC News at our website, or have our latest news updates delivered directly to your inbox via email. Visit us online anytime at www.metchosinseniors.ca.

We're also on Facebook @ SIRC – Metchosin Seniors' Information & Resource Centre. We welcome your likes, shares and comments.

So ... you don't use email? We hear you!

Your SIRC newsletter in the mail is coming soon in age-friendly print. To get on our snail-mail list, please contact us with your information. And continue reading this column in the *Muse*.

Happening in April at SIRC

Hours of operation for phone enquiries and drop-ins: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am–3:00 pm.

Please drop by and visit us at 4495 Happy Valley Road or call 250-478-5150 for more information.

Play Mah-Jong*	Mondays	10:00 am–noon
Open Learning Lab	Tuesdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Tea Time 'n' Coffee Chat	Wednesdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Open Learning Lab	Thursdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Open Learning Lab	Fridays	1:00–3:00 pm

*Mah-Jong information? Please email mhaylor@telus.net.

Tech-Talk Lunch 'n' Learn. Thursday, April 27, 12 noon–1:00 pm (RSVP)

Got feedback?

You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to metmuse@shaw.ca.

11 years of serving the West Shore!



BY THE WAVE
HOME & GARDEN CLEANING SERVICES

Call now for a FREE estimate!
WestShore Chamber of Commerce member

- Housekeeping
- Exterior Cleaning
- Grass Cutting
- Yard Maintenance
- Junk Removal
- ... & More

Mark and Lisa
250-217-6128

Email: bythewave@msn.com

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



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

WESTCOAST TIRE and WHEEL Ltd.
since 1980



Nitrogen
Force Variance
Balancing

HOURS:
Mon.-Fri: 9am - 6pm
Sat: 9am - 5pm

250-889-6161
or
250-642-4044

4730 SOOKE RD. • VICTORIA • 15 mins from Colwood Corners
www.westcoasttires.com



Stillpoint Therapies

Helen Peacock CHSIP, CCST

Cranial Sacral Therapy
Hellerwork Structural Integration

Myofascial release

Craniosacral rebalancing

Movement re-education

(250) 744-7927

helen-peacock@shaw.ca

www.hellerworkvictoria.com



Brian Domney photo

It's Time to ... Consider the Lilies

Our 15th show opens at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 1, and runs until Sunday, April 9 at St Mary the Virgin, 4354 Metchosin Road. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:30 pm weekdays, 12:00 to 4:00 pm Sundays. The work of 12 local textile artists will be on display, from dolls to place mats, wall pieces, and always something different.

Rough Voice Finale until September

Barb Sawatsky

The success of Rough Voice has been exceptional this year! On average, 49 people meet at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday from September to mid-April. Twenty-one local folk now lead us on guitar, piano, accordion, and ukulele (and once, bagpipes!) in a wide variety of songs mostly from the eras of the 1920s to the 1970s. Supplying all of their own sound equipment, they deserve recognition for the hours of practice which makes each night unique. Enhancing the program are the computer skills of Doug Sawatsky, who adds history or amusing cartoons about each song.

As advertising is often at a premium on the events board outside the House, Al and Sharie Epp constructed our own bright red, can't-be-missed sandwich board sign which they place

beside the House sign on the weekend prior to the Monday night sing-alongs. Since this sign appeared, many new people have joined us as well as a guitar duo; so good on them for this initiative!

Last year the Rough Voice drop-in program donated just shy of \$650 to the Community House and with two sing-alongs remaining until our summer break in mid April, I'm guessing this year it will be close to \$750. This is quite an achievement as only \$2 is requested at the door, all of which is given to the House.

The last night for the Rough Voice season will be on Monday, April 10. We will wind up the season with a shorter program and a longer social so if you've been hearing about us and wondering what a community sing-along is all about, please join us. Solidly into our fourth year, we will return on Monday, September 11 for more fun; hope to see you there.

Growing Grass with Patty Brown

Judith van Manen

When I mention grass to my husband, he grimaces, thinking of the lawn mower that needs fixing. But many people have positive associations with grass (even if they have never smoked it). Who has not dreamed lazily while lying on the grass and looking up at the clouds on a perfect afternoon?

I recall the wonderful times when the snow had finally melted in our Edmonton garden, and we could walk barefoot in the fresh grass. My son, Mark, not yet a year old at the time, had only just happily started to walk. But when I sat him outside in the grass, he refused to get up and plant his feet in the growing green grass. The blades of grass were tickling terribly.

Later he would learn the wisdom of a saying by Maximilian Degenez that "bare feet on the grass comfort the spirit and connect the body to the earth all at once!" The humorist Dick Van Dyke said something similar in less exalted words, "When you're a kid, you lay in the grass and watch the clouds going over, and you literally don't have a thought in your mind. It's purely meditation, and we lose that."

There may be more recorded quotations and sayings about the lowly grass plant than about the universal spirit of love. Some quotations include both love and grass in one breath, like the movie connoisseur Roger Ebert who reminisced: "I will pass an old tree under which once on a summer night I lay on the grass with a fragrant young woman and we quoted e.e. cummings back and forth." Joseph Conrad elevates the unique singularity of each blade of grass to divine significance when he said, "each blade of grass has its spot on earth whence it draws its life, its strength; and so we are rooted to the land from which we draw our faith together with this life."

I love the quotation by D.H. Lawrence who wrote "it

is all a question of sensitivity. Brute force and overbearing may make a terrific effect. If it were a question of brute force, not a single human being would survive for a fortnight. It is the grass of the field, most frail of all things, that supports all life all the time. But for the green grass, no empire would rise, no man would eat bread: for grain is grass; and Hercules or Napoleon or Henry Ford would alike be denied existence."

But what all these writers share in common is that they think of grass primarily and in a primal way as the green turf around our homes and parks. As gardeners, we know that there is more to grasses than grass. Grasses belong to the Poaceae family and are the fifth largest plant family with over 12,000 species. Grasses are ancient, adaptable, and the subject of folk tales. According to one story, grasses refuse to grow where a violent death has occurred. Early specimens related to grasses of today are as old as the dinosaurs and became widespread at the end of the Cretaceous period.

I am a fan of growing ornamental grasses in my garden. They not only provide a backdrop for other plants, but are stately and command attention on their own. Ornamental grasses are incredibly versatile. There are grasses that will thrive in both wet and dry locations, in full sun or dense shade, and in acidic or alkaline soils. Grasses can be ground covers, act as a spiller or filler in container arrangements, but most spectacularly add stature and height to a mixed border. The most exciting prospect about growing ornamental grasses in Metchosin is that they are deer resistant and won't disappear throughout the growing season. Another benefit is that once grasses are established in a site that they enjoy, they are virtually carefree. Simply water a little in summer and prune annually.

You are invited to the Metchosin Garden Club meeting on April 5 to meet Patty



This grass really tickles!

Judith van Manen photo

Brown, Vancouver Island's ornamental grass guru. Find out about the best warm and cool season for grasses to flourish and gain an understanding of their unique attributes. Patty will recommend which grasses to plant for texture, colour, shape, and size, and teach us how to use ornamental grasses dramatically in our landscape. Whether you choose to plant the seven-foot *Miscanthus strictus* (Porcupine grass) which sports elegant gold bands along its leaves, or the new *Carex morrowii* "Everest" (actually a sedge) with its brilliant white and green foliage that shines like a beacon of light all winter long, you will add spark and brilliance to your summer and fall gardens.

Patty Brown is a landscape horticulture technician, a graduate of the Pacific Horticultural College (HCP) and has been a community educator there for over 15 years. Patty has taught courses in design, pruning, floral design, and general gardening. She is also the owner/operator of her own business, Brilliant Blooms Floral & Garden Design, in Sidney.

Don't let the grass grow under your feet. Instead, join us at our next Garden Club meeting: Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 pm to hear Patty Brown and learn about Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape.

**OAK BAY
GOLD
SILVER & COINS**

SILVER MAPLE LEAF
GOLD MAPLE LEAF
SILVER BARS
GOLD BARS
WAFERS

We buy anything made of gold, silver, precious metal, medals, jewellery, and collectibles.

Ron Floyde: 250.592.3808
2029 OAK BAY AVE. VICTORIA, BC V8R 1E5

www.oakbaygold.ca
info@oakbaygold.ca
PRECIOUS METAL RECYCLERS

westmont
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

encouraging dynamic • independent • connected

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

By focusing on citizenship, virtues and leadership, we model and teach good practice for functioning in the greater world...

Book a visit!

4075 Metchosin Rd | Victoria, BC V9C 4A4 | T: 250.474.2626 | info@west-mont.ca | west-mont.ca

**METCHOSIN
Country
STORE**

Phone cards • Movie rentals •
Galloping Goose sausage • Locally made meat and fruit pies • Bakery items • Fresh produce and cut flowers • Hardware and Grocery •
• Prepared sandwiches • Fresh brewed coffee •
You need it, we have it!

OPEN

Monday to Friday – 6:30 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday – 8:00 am to 9:00 pm
Sunday – 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

VISA, Mastercard, Interac

Phone & Fax: 250-478-2405

Bald Eagle Injured in Territorial Tangle

Heather Schmitt

As a wildlife rehabilitation centre, BC SPCA Wild ARC often sees animals arriving in need of help as the result of living in close proximity to humans – they might be hit by cars, caught by free-roaming outdoor cats, or strike windows. Sometimes, however, patients arrive with injuries that they acquired a little more “naturally.” For example, breeding season brings with it a high number of disputes over mates or territory, and not everyone escapes these altercations unscathed.

Bald eagles are notorious for their determined defence of their nesting territory or food resources. During the winter it is important for them to defend prime hunting grounds, perches, or roosting sites, while in the spring they are defending their nest and young. The typical territory of a pair of nesting bald eagles is one to two square kilometres, and both male and female eagles will challenge perceived interlopers.

This challenge can be as simple as vocalizations, threatening head and wing

motions, or circling flight. If these gestures aren't enough to ward off the new arrivals, things can sometimes get a little more physical. Eagles will charge each other mid-flight with talons extended and attempt to strike their opponents. Often these encounters are aborted before contact is made, but sometimes an eagle's sharp talons can cause puncture wounds and other injuries.

One such situation resulted in a patient arriving at Wild ARC this season in need of treatment. A female Bald Eagle who was obviously not the victor in a tangle with another eagle was found down on the ground in a local backyard. She had multiple puncture wounds on her legs and feet, bruising on her shoulder, and a deep wound inside her beak.

She needed several surgeries to make sure all the wounds were closed and healing well. Her legs healed quickly, but the more serious injury to her beak required more substantial treatment. Several weeks after she arrived at the centre, she was able to move out to Wild



Love Hurts.

Christina Carrières photo

ARC's large flight pen, where she had the chance to stretch her wings and rebuild her stamina in preparation for her return to the wild.

Changes at Wild ARC

Joannie Challenger

Wild ARC – the BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre – will undergo changes this Spring as assistant manager Heather Schmitt and manager Kari Marks move on to new adventures and Meg Hatch and Andrea Wallace take on those positions. For the past five and six years respectively, Heather and Kari have been intensely involved in the running of Wild ARC, and have given much energy and time above and beyond what most people would expect to expend in their daily work. It seems a good time to reflect upon their contributions to this Metchosin-based facility and the changes that have occurred in their tenure here.

Kari Marks will no doubt be a familiar face to many of you who have seen her on various newscasts whenever a story comes up about a hurt or injured animal. As well as being the face of Wild ARC in the media, Kari has been in charge of the facilities, finances, staff, and volunteers. Heather Schmitt, in her role as assistant manager, was responsible for coordinating the volunteer program – no mean feat, as volunteers outnumber staff twenty to one. She also helped with day-to-day operating of Wild ARC, gave training and was involved in the communications aspect – the website, social media, newsletters – getting the stories out to the community.

How has Wild ARC changed during their time there? “I've seen a lot of growth,” Kari noted recently. “We've added several new buildings in the past few years: new pool pens, expanded raccoon and avian pens. The number of staff and volunteers has increased, as well as the number of animals we serve – approximately 3000 in 2016.” Heather added, “We're constantly looking to improve our practices, such as how we reunite babies and

parents in their natural environment. On one occasion a volunteer found a family of Red-breasted sapsucker babies whose nest had been destroyed when the tree it was in fell over. We brought a nestbox, another volunteer located a ladder and the box was placed in a nearby tree. The parents returned but couldn't figure out how to get into the box to feed their babies, so we attached bark to the front and drilled a few extra holes on the side. Problem solved!”

As with any job, there have been challenges. “As the only facility of its kind on southern Vancouver Island, we need to know about 140 species of animals; how to assess them over the phone, how to help, care for and release them back into the wild,” Heather commented. Kari said, “My greatest challenge has been finding the funds to enable the growth of Wild ARC, though people have been wonderfully supportive.”

And their greatest satisfaction? “It's inspiring to have so many volunteers from diverse backgrounds come together to help wildlife, and to help each person find the best fit for their skills,” remarked Heather. Kari added, “The growth of Wild ARC is gratifying, and having it serve the needs of animals. I've been impressed with the way people from the community stop to help animals. For example, when an eagle was found in someone's yard, the homeowner phoned us, the police got involved and helped us get it into a kennel. A team effort.”

As Heather noted, “I've learned that there is no limit to the compassion of people towards local wildlife, and no limit as to what can be achieved when you tap into that energy.”

Many good wishes to both Kari and Heather as they head off in new directions, and to Andrea Wallace and Meg Hatch, as they begin their work at Wild ARC.

Did You Miss Your Muse?

If you don't receive your *Metchosin Muse* on the last Thursday of the month (or the first Thursday of the month if the first day is on a Wednesday or Thursday) – and there's not a postal strike – please let us know! You can email the editor at metmuse@shaw.ca, or

call 250-474-3966, and we'll try to make sure it doesn't happen again.

In the meantime, see page 2 under “*Metchosin Muse*” for a list of locations where you can pick up a copy.



Complete Bobcat, Trucking & Mini Excavating Services

4604 Morland Road, Metchosin, B.C. V9C 3X4
Locally owned & operated since 1984

Free Estimates 250-478-2980

- Custom low maintenance landscapes
- Boulder walls and rockeries
- Selective land clearing • Rockhound
- Concrete/rock breaker • Stump & brush removal
- Driveways/R.V. parking • Culverts • Drains
- Top soil, bark mulch, sand and gravel

CONTRACT OR HOURLY RATES



LIMOUSINES

“... it's how you get there.”

BBB Torch Award Winner - Community Service
Winner LCT Magazine Global Operator of the Year



Saanich and Cowichan Valley Wine Tours • Brew and Spirits Tours

Mother's Day • Airport Transfers • Father's Day

Gift Certificates • A Perfect Gift!

Mention this ad for 10% off our regular rates!



www.lalimo.ca info@lalimo.ca

250-391-9000



Proud to Call the Island our Home
www.treevictoria.com

24 HOUR
emergency
service

ADAMS TREE SERVICE

HIRE A LOCALLY OWNED METCHOSIN BUSINESS!

- Tree removal
- Spiral thinning
- Tree topping
- Lot clearing
- Stump grinding & removal
- Hedge trimming & shaping
- Fruit & ornamental pruning
- Excavating



Free estimates | 24 Hours **250-516-8315** Fully Insured | Since 2000

Tell them you saw it in the *Muse!*

An Evening of Conversation – A Refugee’s Story

A Refugee’s Story
 Saturday, April 8, 7:30 pm
 Metchosin Community House

Marti Martin-Wood

Come hear a refugee’s story of her harrowing escape from Iran in 1985 with two young daughters. Learn firsthand what it is like to lose everything, to fear for your life, and have to start all over again. Be assured that not only has Sorayya lived through, at times, a terrifying experience, she is also a good storyteller and will, at some points, have you sitting on the edge of your seat. This story has a happy ending. In 2005 Sorayya Erfani-Dousti settled in Metchosin with her husband Houshang Dousti. We invite you to meet her and her husband to learn first hand about her refugee experience.

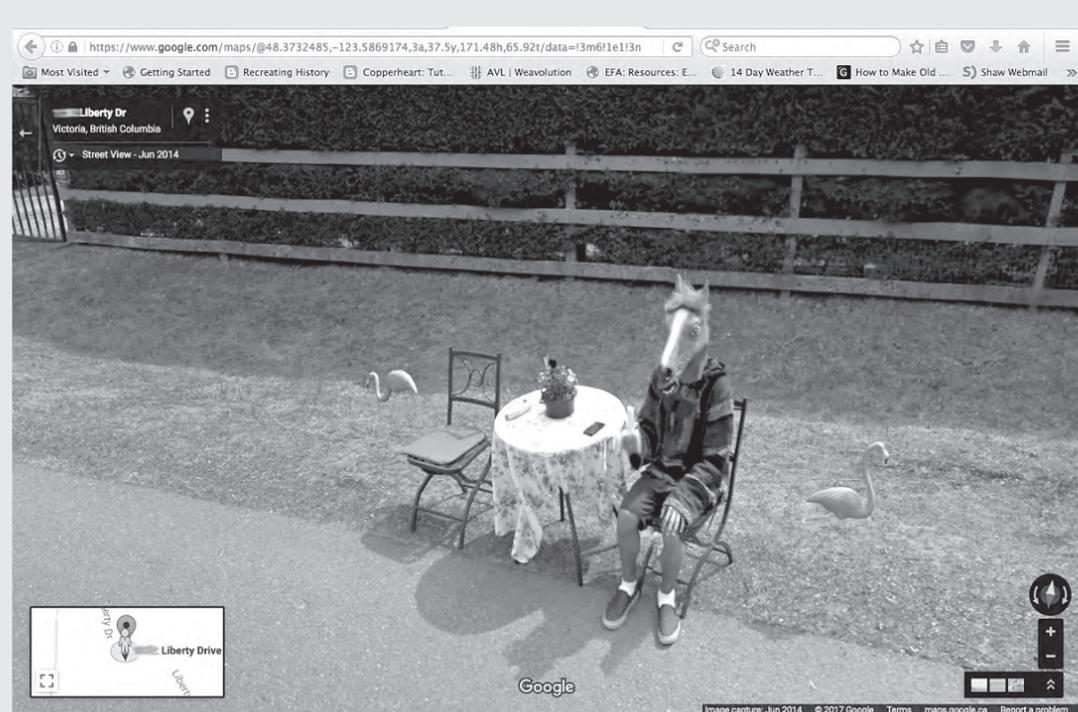
We hear daily in the news stories of refugees fleeing from life-threatening situations that many of us cannot begin to fully comprehend.

We may even begin to become accustomed and immune to the tragedy that these stories represent. To lose your home, and leave friends and familiar things behind, seems incomprehensible for us in the security and familiarity of our community. Yet daily we hear of people fleeing for their lives, seeing their homes and communities exploding, family members killed or maimed, and escape options often less than fair or secure, resulting in more hardship, and death.

It is sad to say that this current world situation is not new. In the late 1970s to mid 1990s many people escaped Vietnam either by boat or on foot and then languished in refugee border camps for years, waiting for sponsorship to a new land and life. Many of these individuals came to Canada and have led productive lives, and in the process contributed to our economy and in turn helped others.

A recent example of refugee contributions occurred last year when a number of brand-new Syrian refugees

Found on Facebook ...



Only in Victoria! (Or, well, only in Metchosin?) While searching for a place on Google Maps, Victoria Buzz staff spotted a person with a horse mask sitting on the side of the road. See it for yourself: <http://bit.ly/2nAJRo2>
 Google Maps photo; submitted by Barb Sawatsky

decided to raise funds for a Syrian cooked meal for Fort McMurray fire evacuees in the Edmonton area. The organizer of this event commented “I know the pain that the Fort McMurray people feel. I lost my home as well in Syria, and it really touched me.” This group, many without jobs or significant income, raised approximately \$3,500.

This example illustrates how reaching out to those who are suffering can bring us together in understanding and improve the lives of all concerned. When Sorayya

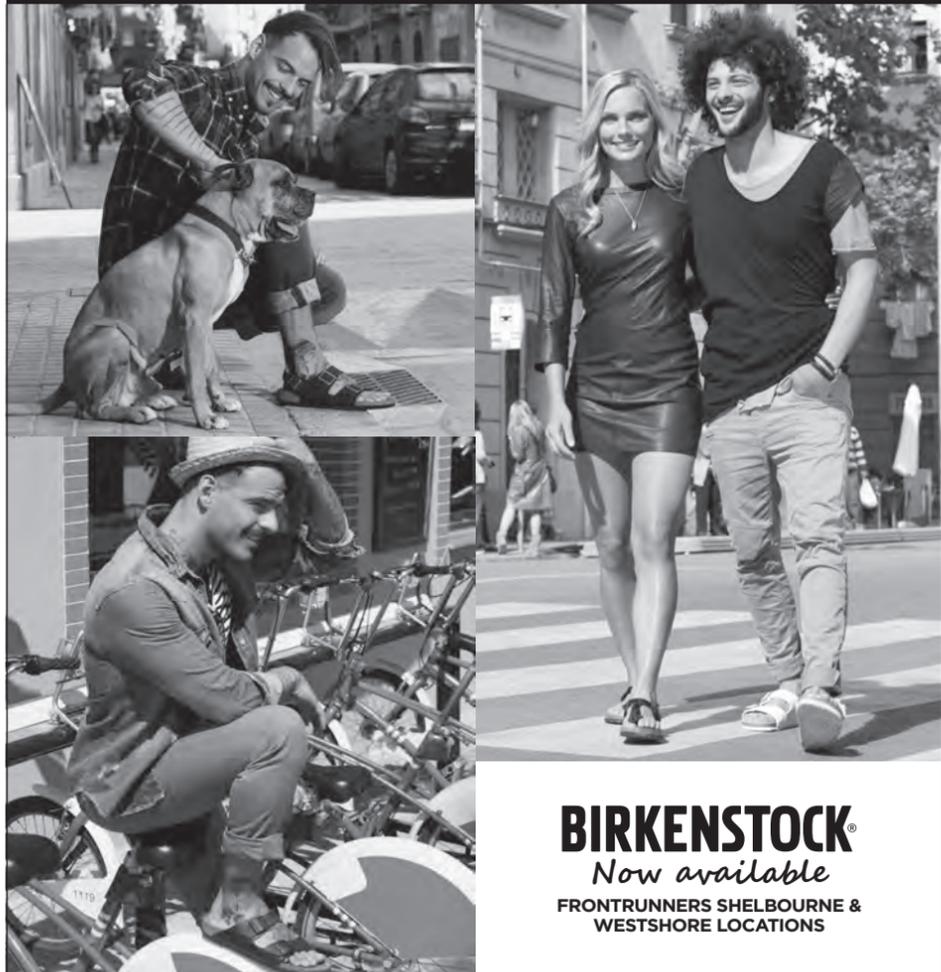
came to Canada, she and her daughters were amongst the 2300 Iranian Baha’is persecuted in their native Iran who settled in Canada as a result of collaboration between the government of Canada and the National Administrative body of the Baha’is of Canada.

Her story is an opportunity to grasp even more fully the experience of losing everything in the hope for a new life. We hope that this sharing together will stimulate the vision that refugees and people, who come with little and need

much support, also have the potential to become gems scattered throughout our society, enriching and contributing spirit, productivity and compassion.

We will have ample time for questions and answers following the presentation, and people will be welcome to socialize during refreshments and ask further questions. Please join us on Saturday, April 8, 7:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House to embrace and celebrate one of our very own Metchosin gems.

WE LOVE LOCALS.



BIRKENSTOCK®

Now available

FRONTRUNNERS SHELBOURNE & WESTSHORE LOCATIONS

STAIRS | STAIRCASES | LAMINATE & HARDWOOD FLOORS | EXTERIOR & INTERIOR DOORS

Floors, Doors and So Much More!

INSTALLATION SERVICES

at **Windsor Plywood Westshore**

WE DELIVER... INSTALL... FINISH

Your Complete Dealer,

with **Windsor Plywood** you are **OUTSIDE THE BOX**



888 Van Isle Way • 250-474-6111

windsorplywoodvanisle@shaw.ca

www.windsorplywood.com

FREE DELIVERY GREATER VICTORIA ON ORDERS OVER \$500.

100% LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

• EASY ACCESS • LOTS OF PARKING • DELIVERY



FRONTRUNNERS

SHELBOURNE #3-3659 SHELBOURNE ST. T 250.384.4786
WESTSHORE #123-755 GOLDSTREAM AVE. T 250.391.7373
VICTORIA 1200 VANCOUVER ST. T 250.382.8181

frontrunners.ca

Metchosin Talks Public Space

Fair and public consultation around community spaces April 23

Joel Roszman

Where in Metchosin do families meet for a picnic? Where do children play? Where do strangers cross paths and fall into a conversation? Where can folks of all ages and abilities sit on a summer's day and enjoy the beauty of Metchosin together?

We want to know! On Sunday, April 23 from 1:00–3:00 pm, the Healthy Community Advisory Committee (HCAC) will be hosting a community fair and public consultation at the municipal grounds that will aim to gather information and your views on the use of Metchosin's many outdoor, public access spaces.

Understanding that often only certain voices get heard in formal meetings, we are taking a new approach to make this event worth the trip, with a wide offering of activities. In addition to a facilitated consultation at the Municipal Chambers starting at 1:00 pm, this event will include a community fair that will host many of Metchosin's community volunteer groups, local leaders and organizations to gather feedback in creative and engaging ways and showcase what they do in the community. Everyone will also be invited to take part in a village-wide Scavenger Hunt in order to discover all the public spaces nestled around Metchosin's village core.

We also want the views of Metchosin's youngest members! A children's area will include opportunities for children of all ages to have their say about spaces in the village core, and shape the future we hope they will stay for and share.

Public community spaces are a central feature of strong communities, and every culture approaches them

differently, from the terraces and village squares of the Netherlands, or the rugged street corners of Spain, to the urban parks and rooftop gardens of New York. Open spaces vary with climate, population density, behaviour, and preferences, but we all know a good one when we see it. Often, we know because it is filled with people enjoying it.

There are many factors to consider in getting community spaces right. Traffic, noise, accessibility, ownership, safety, and comfort are just a few. Most often, the space is already there but the community doesn't know they have it, or doesn't feel like they have a right to it. We have a number of public spaces in Metchosin that are underused, and there are probably reasons for that. Sometimes, folks are unaware they exist. Often, however, they don't feel quite right – nobody wants to picnic where they feel like they're sitting in somebody else's garden, or right next to the road, and so on. But sometimes, it doesn't take much to make the space feel "right"; and when it does, the payoff is enormous.

Open community spaces are where strangers connect, where families meet, and friends gather. They are where we go sledding on a snow day, relax in the heat of summer, and where we gravitate towards when we just need to get out of the house. They are a place for teens to find their independence, for seniors to linger with parents and kids, and for the community to utilize for festivals and events. These spaces are invaluable to the health of a community, and we hope you'll help us make the most of ours.

Check the Metchosin Council website for updates, and be sure to come out and join the fun!



Guest chef Johan Wessels demonstrating how to spatchcock a chicken at the Community House in February.

Johnny Carline photo

MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Visions of Ice and Light – Memories of the Antarctic Expedition Guide

with Ashley Stocks, Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

Ric Perron

Ashley was halfway through her Scottish camping honeymoon (with Metchosin's James MacKinnon) when she received a cryptic message about a job offer to Antarctica. The contract would commit her to the peak of the Austral summer – she would miss Christmas at home, her grandfather's birthday, carolling by firelight with family and friends, all for a chance to see the 24 hours of glowing light on the winter solstice, and a thousand downy penguin chicks just metres away. As an almost knee-jerk reaction, Ashley said "yes" to the offer – another great chance, another great adventure.

The plane descended through the Patagonian mountains of Tierra del Fuego. She flew 36 hours and more than 100 degrees latitude to meet the expedition ship in the southernmost city in the world – Ushuaia, Argentina. There was a certain adjusting from pastoral Scotland to rugged Chile, from honeymoon wife to a kayak safety-boat driver and expedition guide, a transformation of mind, body and soul.

Ashley tried to imagine the hazards she would encounter and what she was expected to manage in the frozen landscape of the



Chinstrap penguins. Ralph Lee Hopkins photo

south. What she did not prepare for was the intensely beautiful landscape, and how the adventure and mystery in this barren and seemingly forgotten place would be imprinted on her soul.

But there were perils, as on any given excursion. She found herself constantly evaluating risks, recalibrating safety for her passengers, and counting heads in her zodiac. "The close encounter with a 1000-pound leopard seal, speeding away from a mansion-sized iceberg as it rolled over, and navigating through threatening sea ice was my daily job description. They all contributed to my appreciation of the great and frigid wilderness that is the Antarctic continent."

There's a lot going on in Metchosin!

For information on local events, see **Important Dates and Events**, p. 16.

The **Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale** is coming up May 27–28. Collections start May 20. Watch for more information in the May issue of the *Muse*.

Glenrosa Farm



Restaurant



Check out our Happy Hour Menu!

Food & Drink Specials:
Mon & Thurs: 3pm-4pm
Fri thru Sun: 3pm-6pm

Stop by post-hike or pre-dinner to try our locally-sourced food & craft beverages!



Check our website for hours & special events
www.glenrosafarm.com

5447 Rocky Point Rd. Metchosin
(km 30 on the Galloping Goose)
250-478-6186

Bella Yoga Studio

Yoga in the Neighbourhood - Duke Rd W.

Yoga For All! Hatha Yoga! All Levels

Curvy Yoga* Ayurveda*
Yogalites* Workshops.
Beginners Yoga & All Levels Welcome.
Beautiful - Fun - Safe - Peaceful - Explore
Wellness - Enjoy - Release - Love

Beginners Yoga! All Levels
Mindful Moments - Come Explore
Hatha Yoga - & Move your body!



www.Bellayoga.ca

Georgia 250-391-0497 • Email georgia@bellayoga.ca



RACE ROCKS AUTOMOTIVE

Repairs to All Makes & Models
Full Service Automotive Repairs

Rick Pettilion – Certified Mechanic, 20 yrs exp.

- Warranty Approved Scheduled Maintenance
- Computer Diagnostics
- Brakes, Steering & Suspension
- Engine Mechanical
- Clutch & Axles
- Pre-purchase Inspection
- Designated Inspection Facility



Phone: 250-478-1920

1057B Marwood Avenue

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-5:30

We accept Visa, MasterCard & Interac

Pearson at the McPherson

Brian Geary

The Capital Region's beloved springtime tradition, Pearson College UWC's *One World* performance and expo, brought a world of international talent to the stage – and this year, to the lobby – of the McPherson Playhouse on March 17 and 18.

For more than three decades, *One World* has been an inspirational mix of on-stage multicultural music, dance, and storytelling. This year, for the first time, the performances were complemented by a new interactive Student Expo in the theatre lobby highlighting community and worldwide service and engagement, Pearson's unique student population and

approach to education, and the College's singular waterfront learning opportunities.

Pearson College UWC is Canada's most international school and one of 17 United World Colleges around the globe. With 160 students, rising to 180 students in 2017, from every province and territory and 75 nations around the world, the college opened in 1974. It follows the vision of its namesake, Prime Minister and Nobel Laureate Lester B. Pearson, to use education as a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. For more information contact Brian Geary, Communications Director, Pearson College UWC at 250-391-2410 or bgeary@pearsoncollege.ca.

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

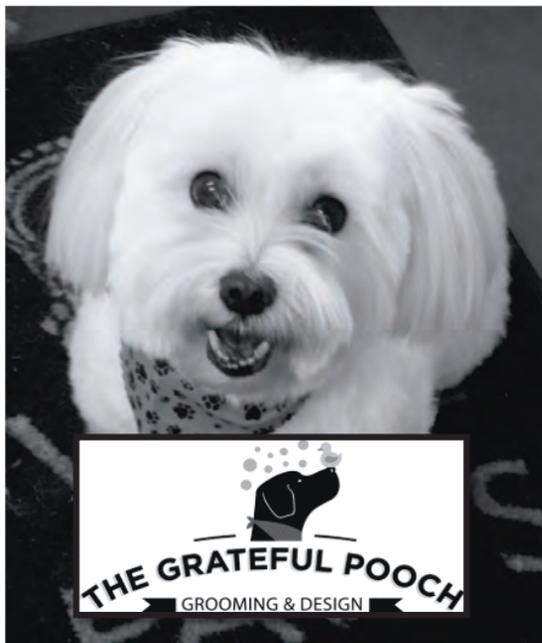


Sure Wire Electrical (1979) Ltd.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
Service Calls – Small Renos

DAVE RIGBY
250-478-3228 Tel/Fax
250-883-5992 Cell

815 Tiswilde Road
Victoria, B.C.
V9C 4E8



Open by appointment : 250-508-1777

598 Parry Rd www.thegratefulpooch.ca - Facebook!

941 Arden Rd.
Victoria, BC. V9C 4G3
Home: (250) 474-7403
Cell: (250) 514-7339

KIVARI AUTO REPAIR

A modern approach to car care with
good old-fashioned service.

Kevin Kivari

Certified mechanic/owner/operator

k_kivari@shaw.ca

www.kivaristudio.com



Film Night at the Community House: *Samuel in the Clouds*

Ric Perron

Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm

Samuel in the Clouds
(2016, 80 minutes)

In Bolivia, the glaciers are melting. Samuel, an old ski lift operator, is looking out of a window on the rooftop of the world. Through generations, his family lived and worked in the snowy mountains, but now the snow fails. While scientists are discussing and measuring ominous changes (the world's highest monitoring station), Samuel performs a ceremony honouring the ancient mountain spirits. Clouds continue to drift by without precipitation.

The juxtaposition between Samuel's defunct, rickety-old gondola station, the performing Mariachi band, old ski photos, Japanese tourists, and a desolate landscape, has a touch of absurdity. The filming is well done and has captured the feeling of desperation, and the death of an era.

Samuel, the inheritor of the faded mountain resort, is a first-hand witness to the disappearance of the ancient glacier on top of his divine Chacaltaya Mountain. Despite this reality, Samuel continues to chase the increasingly ludicrous fantasy to find the ski slopes of times past. On the mountain-top, the spiritual vision of Samuel contrasts with the rational work of the scientists, who seem even more lost than Samuel.



On the rooftop of the world.

Pieter van Eecke photo

Notes from the filmmaker: the research station (a shack at 5000 metres) has recently become part of the Global Atmosphere Watch, with research teams from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The station houses an advanced lab, equipped to measure a large array of atmospheric variables (gases, particle properties, radiation, and meteorology). Outside of the building, gauges and instruments collect data to observe the evolution of the atmosphere, to investigate the effects of global climate change, and to monitor atmospheric trends; all hopefully leading to making improvements on predictive models.

While this film doesn't come across like a regular "climate change" film, within 10 to 20 years the population of the Andes will face severe water shortages due to the disappearance of the glaciers. This promises to be an absorbing and relevant film.

A Night at the Opera

Johnny Carline

The Westshore Mall cinema recently interrupted its usual program of cartoons, fantasy, and action films to broadcast a performance of Gounod's opera *Romeo and Juliette* directly from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Judging by the small crowd many Metchosin residents may have overlooked this offering of high culture. If so, don't worry. Here is my take on what you missed.

In Shakespeare, Juliet (English spelling) is a 14-year-old, virginal waif of a girl. This is not a type normally found among operatic sopranos, so this French Juliette is played here by a soprano who's likely seen more than 30 summers but hasn't seen a size 16 for a while. She sings in the "colatura" style – opera-speak for "sounding like a mating cat."

The mere sight of Juliette causes Romeo to fall in love. What the mere sound of Juliette does, we are left to wonder. However, Romeo is soon 'round at her house ready for some wooing. Juliette appears on her balcony in what appears to be one of her grannie's nighties. It conceals everything but her ample cleavage. He serenades. She rushes down to throw herself into his arms. It takes his breath away. She's a big girl.

But the families are feuding. A tenor of Asian origin duels with a cross-dressing soprano. One wonders: can a Presidential tweet be far away? Then Juliette's cousin kills Romeo's best pal, so Romeo stabs him to death.

Corpses litter the stage. Romeo is banished. Getting Dad's permission to wed Juliette seems a long shot.

So the two lovers go to Friar Laurence. He looks like a scruffy, long-haired hippie wearing a brown sack but he prays loudly to urge God to bless their union with peace, long life, and children. It is the same prayer he has been saying on stage for over four hundred years. It hasn't worked yet. That's faith for you.

Intermission. At The Met you can enjoy a passable prosecco and a dainty treat for about 15 bucks. Here, for about the same price, you get ginger ale and popcorn. But you don't have to dress up.

Second half: a tennis-court-size bed sheet is dropped over the entire stage. It's the bridal bed! Juliette leaps onto Romeo and down he goes again. For a moment it looks like the opera may become unsuitable for children. But before you can say Viagra Falls, they hear the morning lark and Romeo jumps up and does a runner.

Now her dad appears with Paris, his selection for her husband. Paris has all the dash and panache of an out-of-work accountant. It's not going well.

But Friar Laurence has a plan. He slips her a drug (I told you he was a hippie) which will induce a death-like sleep. Juliette warbles on and on about what might go wrong before finally downing the drug. The audience applauds wildly. She has finally stopped singing.

Dad and Paris return for the wedding. The bed sheet

becomes Juliette's wedding dress. It gets caught in the furniture. Guests keep standing on it. Juliette finally faints away, exhausted, poisoned, whatever.

Everyone leaves except some ladies who realize Juliette's next scene is in the "tomb" upstage. They give her a nudge. Juliette leaps up, Lazarus-like, walks upstage, and lies down again on a slab, where the ladies re-cover her with a tablecloth. Don't ask ... this is opera.

We are set for the finale. Romeo appears. Juliette is still (mercifully) quiet. Romeo is not in on the plan. He believes she's shuffled off her mortal coil so he gets out his poison bottle – doesn't everybody have one? Lamenting loudly, he downs the lot. Juliette awakes but there's no poison left for her. But this Romeo has another trick up his sleeve or, rather, down his boot: a dagger. She takes it and plunges it into her stomach. Now they are both dying. In opera, dying people can sing for a very long time. And they do. Then it is finally over.

Two older couples in front of us get up to leave. The men talk cheerfully about nighties and cleavage. The women follow, murmuring that while Romeo wasn't up to much as a lover, his idea of husbands taking poison might have some merit.

We emerge from the theatre. It isn't Times Square. It's Langford; and it's raining. But after four hours, it looks okay. Culture can do that. And now you haven't missed a thing.



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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

Ongoing Programs

Mondays

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

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

Pearson College Students Outreach – 3:00–4:30 pm. Helping seniors and youth in our community. Invite Pearson College students to visit or help with a project. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-474-0634 and leave a message to see if you might be eligible.

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

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers – The Rough Voice Singers meet at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday from September to April from 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a good singing voice is not a requirement. \$2/person. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553).

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program – 9:30–11:30 am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their

young children to join us Friday mornings for our community program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones.

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

Music Night – 7:00–9:00pm. Second Friday of each month. Pre-empted in April.

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

Saturday

Monthly Community Potluck Dinners for all new and long-term residents of Metchosin! The community dinners are every third Saturday, from 4:00–7:00 pm; please mark your calendars. Thank you for sharing your cooking and love; please invite those you care about for a warm meal. The public and children are all welcome! Upcoming dates: April 15, May 6 (special date), and June 17.

Events

MCA Services Auction: Saturday, April 1. Doors open 6:00 pm for a Wine and Cheese tasting and preview of live auction items. 6:30 pm Silent Auction. 8:00 pm Metchosin Community Association Services Live Auction. Raising awareness and support of local skilled contractors and service providers in the Metchosin area. Skilled craftsmen, trades, contractors, entertainment, food preparation, health and wellness, hobbies, pets and more. For more information contact the MCA Office at 250-478-5155 or mcahouse@telus.net. Online bidding: <http://www.charityauctionorganizer.com/auction/mcacommunityauction>

Guest Speaker: Ashley Stocks on Visions of Ice and Light – Memories of the Antarctic Expedition Guide – April 20, 7:00 pm. Ashley Stocks speaks on her adventure and work experience in the Antarctic.

Guest Chef: Persian Dinner with Farz – April 22, 6:00 pm. Tickets \$30.

Film Night: Samuel in the Clouds (80 minutes) – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, April 28. This 2016 film by Pieter Van Eecke doesn't show anything like a climate change film. Yet within 10 to 20 years, the population of the Andes will face severe water shortages due to the disappearance of the glaciers.

Mighty Garage Sale – May 27 and 28; collections starting May 20. More details to come in May!

Art on the Walls: Doug Gilbert. 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.

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



Best Buds

Lueka is a very large Rottie cross who thinks the lamb (name unknown) is his baby. Although he is strong and usually very bouncy with happy enthusiasm, Lueka is extremely gentle with the lamb; he licks it to wash it then sleeps with it after the lamb has had its bottle.

Jo Ann Hirschi photo

Wail 'n Moan a Hit



Brian Domney photo

The jazz-blues duo Wail 'n Moan kept a packed Metchosin Community House spellbound for two full hours on March 10. Vince Pollitt on horn and Rockland Moran on guitar and harmonica brought some of the coolest music heard in Metchosin for quite a while. Awesome night.

Visit the Muse website!

- Current issue • Back issues • Extras
- Advertising rates • Contacts

www.metchosinmuse.ca

Charlotte's Bat

Barb Sawatsky

At 11:30 pm on February 21, Charlotte was reading in bed with her cat, Starr, beside her. From the corner of her eye she saw, fluttering on the ceiling, what she thought was a large moth. Then she realized that it was a little brown bat.

When it began to fly around the room, she scooted her cat into the living room, closed the door and opened the bedroom patio door hoping it would leave. At one point, as it flew around the room and she was attempting to shoo it outside, it brushed against the back of her hand. Unsuccessful in her attempts to make it leave and not wanting to spend the night with a bat in her bedroom, she opened the bedroom door hoping it would leave the way it had come in. However, before she could get her cat to come back into the bedroom, agile Starr had managed to catch it. Being aware not to touch bats, Charlotte swept it into a dustpan then slipped it into a Ziploc bag and put it into her unheated garage.

Knowing that bats are carriers of rabies, the next morning she looked up information on how to report the incident and what to do with the bat. Phoning the Centre for Disease Control, she was referred to Public Health who referred her to Environmental Health who referred her to ... over the course of a week, eight different government departments! "Even though each person I talked to tried to be helpful, no one really seemed to know what I

should do," she said. Should it be so difficult to get the information she needed to deal with this situation?

Finally, she was referred to the office for Vancouver Island Communicable Disease where a helpful person gave her appropriate advice. Starr would need to be quarantined and seen by a vet who would assess her for rabies. Then the vet would consult with the Public Health Veterinarian in Vancouver.

However, when she phoned the Public Health vet's office, she was told that the vet had left the position and a replacement had not yet arrived. Next, she contacted a Victoria veterinary clinic and was told that they would accept the bat and hold it for Wild ARC to pick up for testing; but it was destined to stay in her cooler after they learned that Wild ARC no longer offers this service.

Rabies symptoms generally appear ten days post-contact and time was now running short so Charlotte made an appointment with her own vet to check her cat and, if symptom free, to give her a rabies shot. An indoor pet, Starr had been semi-feral before being adopted and, although she now cuddles in bed and sleeps on Charlotte's lap, she does not allow anyone to pick her up. So she panicked and bit Charlotte's arm when she was attempting to put her into the carry cage for the trip to the vet. It was now time for further worry "so the next day I was given a tetanus shot and antibiotics and when I talked

to the person at V.I. Communicable Diseases on March 3, she reviewed protocol:

1. If there is contact with an animal, the bat is tested for symptoms of rabies.
2. If there is any contact between a human and bat, the bat is sent for testing.

Even if there is no bite, bats groom themselves like cats and the saliva on its body could contain the rabies virus."

Although Charlotte told her story to many officials, it seems that initially she may not have mentioned that the bat had brushed her hand. Once this fact emerged, it changed the situation immediately. "I was phoned back within half an hour and was told the bat would go to Lethbridge for testing." It is a very specialized test so not every provincial lab is set up to run it. On March 7, the tests came back negative for rabies so, thankfully, both Charlotte and her cat do not have to undergo post exposure treatment.

Charlotte plans to attend the Talk and Walk at 7:00 pm on April 7 (see page 3) at the Municipal Hall when Dave Nagorsen and Jill Robinson from HAT will give a presentation and answer questions about bats. The next morning a bat house building workshop will be held for the 22 interested people who have the best bat habitats. In the March 2017 *Muse* there is a bat article with contact information should you either find one dead or see a bat flying in winter (see <http://metchosinmuse.ca/archives.html>).



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



Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE
Critic for National Defence and LGBTQ

2904 Tillicum Rd, Victoria, BC V9A 2A5 / M-Th, 10-4 or appt
250-405-6550 / Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca
www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca

METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

Seniors' Information and Resource Centre

Jim MacPherson

Most of us by now should know about Metchosin's Seniors' Information and Resource Centre (SIRC). SIRC is a designated Better at Home Agency, funded by the United Way and the District of Metchosin, to serve local seniors and their families. SIRC's programs are planned and organized by a volunteer board and contracted coordinator, who keep the centre open 16 hours a week and organize volunteers to help keep SIRC's programs alive.

SIRC would be nothing without its volunteers, ranging in age from 14 years upwards to university students, and those aged 55 plus. Volunteers live in Metchosin and surrounding areas, and can be of any age. Through SIRC they extend help to neighbours and friends, build awareness of and participation in activities, and help to

reduce the isolation of our aging population.

SIRC has recently partnered with the Metchosin 4-H group to help provide inter-generational community support and more opportunities for seniors to engage with all ages. Since last December SIRC has welcomed ten new volunteers and will provide more programs and services as more individuals get involved.

Take, for example, the new "Drive and Dine" program. This new activity brings SIRC members and volunteers together for a free community meal and social gathering, a few times each month. "Drive and Dine" volunteers pick up and accompany members for a free meal and then drop them off following the event.

On a different note, SIRC's popular "Geeks and Geezers" program brings in tech-savvy volunteers to teach the rest of us how to choose a computer

or make better use of our gadgets, whether sending emails, ordering online, or storing and sending photos.

Volunteer drivers deliver seniors to and from appointments, do grocery shopping, arrange for outings, and take part in fundraising. Other volunteers offer care and companionship visits, accompany groups on outings or help out in the office or at special events. Volunteers give their time as they can, whether an hour or two a week or month or on occasion.

On Saturday June 3, SIRC will host their annual Parisian Café as an appreciation to volunteers and members. All ages are welcome. For further information on Metchosin Seniors' Information and Resource Centre, please go to www.metchosin seniors.ca, or call 250-478-5150 for more information or to get involved.

IS YOUR CURRENT MORTGAGE RATE TOO HIGH? Take advantage of the historically low rates now available.

Getting into a lower interest rate can potentially save you thousands of dollars. Give me a call to discuss your options.

- Shop dozens of lenders in the time it takes you to book an appointment with your bank.
- Refinance/Renew/Purchase/Consolidate

Appointments can be arranged in Metchosin.



Sandy Higgins, Accredited Mortgage Professional, MBABC, CAAMP
Office: 250-658-9315 • Cell: 250-589-9244
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

Metchosin Foundation Scholarships and EcoCards for Youth

Carol Carman

Calling all Grade 12 students who are Canadian citizens living in Metchosin! Have a look at each of the four \$500 scholarships being offered thanks to the generous donation of an anonymous Metchosin resident through the Metchosin Foundation. Each has different criteria as follows:

- **Academic Achievement:** Applicant must achieve high academic performance. Evaluation may be weighted by the difficulty of the course and program choices.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Applicant must have demonstrated concern for environmental issues through classroom or other projects. Could have worked on recycling, ecosystem restoration,

wild animal care, pollution reduction and remediation, renewable energy resources, or other projects related to the natural environment.

- **Community Citizenship:** Applicant must have demonstrated involvement and leadership in activities important to social health and community support. Relevant activities might include work with school or other governance bodies, social justice issues, senior care, child care and community service work with a range of organizations that contribute to community health and betterment.
- **Beecher Bay First Nation Student:** Applicant must be a member of the Beecher Bay First Nation who demonstrates excellence and shows leadership potential.

Paper applications must be submitted to the Metchosin Foundation before midnight, May 31, 2017. Applications will be available from the various schools and can be sent electronically or dropped off at Belmont, Royal Bay, and Edward Milne High Schools. To learn more about these scholarships, please watch the *Muse*, the Metchosin Foundation website, contact President Carol Carman at ccarman@shaw.ca, or join us at our Annual General Meeting May 7.

Annual General Meeting

On Sunday, May 7, 7:00 pm the Metchosin Foundation AGM is being held at the new St Mary's Church. Featured speaker will be Dr. Richard Hebda, curator of Botany and Earth History at the Royal BC Museum. He is also a University of Victoria faculty

member in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. Dr. Hebda has been co-author or co-editor of eight books and major reports, and serves as the province's expert advisor on Burns Bog and science advisor on paleontology. He was the 2015 recipient of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada's prestigious Bruce Naylor Award.

EcoCards for Kids

Students at both Hans Helgesen and Westmont Schools and their teachers continue to express keen interest in adventuring outdoors and learning about their environment. A team organized by the Metchosin Foundation has nearly completed a set of 50 waterproof cards that have photos and easy-to-read descriptions of the most

common local plants. Kem Luther, Andy MacKinnon, Danny Buchanan, Bev Hall and Moralea Milne are collaborating in the writing and photography. Sets of these cards will be available for public purchase and monies raised will help the Foundation pursue other ways of promoting environmental awareness among Metchosin youth. Please watch the Metchosin Foundation website for further information about the availability of these cards.

For further information about the scholarships, the eco-cards and/or our Annual General Meeting, please contact us or refer to our website at www.metchosinfoundation.ca. The Metchosin Foundation is a registered charity with the Charitable BN/Registration #8156 RR0001. Your kind donations are tax deductible.

Got Bats?

Jill Robinson for HAT

As blades of camas push through tired soils and birds begin to sing, staff and volunteers at Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) eagerly await the arrival of hundreds of bats that will soon occupy local roosts. With warming weather, the arrival of spring will trigger a haze of moths and mosquitos across ponds and marshes. With hunger-driven enthusiasm, bats will soon follow, bolting from their roosts in the cover of night.

In a flurry of wings, it's very difficult to differentiate between our local native species of bats. However, there are ten species of bats living on Vancouver Island, three of which are commonly found colonizing man-made structures like homes, barns, and sheds. There are 16 species living in British Columbia, all of which gorge themselves solely on insects. These talented aerial insectivores can consume more than their own bodyweight in a single evening on a balanced feast of mosquitos and moths. They owe much of this effective feeding and in-flight navigation to their ability to echolocate. Similar to their mammalian cousins of the sea (whales and dolphins), bats use echolocation to sense their environment, speedily identifying and steering around barriers and locating their prey with precision. They emit high-pitched frequency sounds that are mostly inaudible to humans. The sounds bounce off surrounding objects, and return to the bats' perked ears. Echolocation aids their already well-cued senses, including their sense of sight. (Yes, if you haven't heard it yet, bats are not blind and can see quite well.)

Generally, very little is known about the biology and whereabouts of these cryptic creatures, particularly during the winter. Some species are known to migrate in the winter to warmer weather down south, while others are presumed to hibernate in local habitats on the island. Bats play a critical role in our ecosystem. In southern parts of the world, fruit and nectar-loving bats play a significant role in pollination. In Canada, their role is invaluable in controlling nocturnal pests with their impressive insect-eating ability. As such, they are very useful in cycling nutrients between wetlands and forests by way of their feces (guano).

Of the 16 bats found in BC, half of them are considered vulnerable or threatened. This is largely due to issues around habitat loss and degradation, pesticide use, and wind turbines.



Townsend's big-eared bat

Christina Carrières photo

Most recently, the emergence of a distressing fungal disease, white-nose syndrome, is the most serious concern on the west coast for bat populations. This syndrome has devastated bat populations in eastern North America, killing six to seven million bats in just six years. The syndrome was detected near Seattle, Washington in late March 2016, confirming the presence of this syndrome for the first time ever in Western North America. Currently bat specialists across Canada and the US are on high alert to find out more about how to effectively conserve bats in our region and how to mitigate impacts of this disease.

The Habitat Acquisition Trust is working tirelessly within the community in the effort to learn more about these important creatures in order to protect and conserve their habitat. As a member of the BC Community Bat Program, HAT has provided bat boxes to over 100 private homeowners in the last three years and has reached out to landowners across the Capital Regional District (CRD) through community presentations and workshops. HAT has also been collaborating with local municipalities and CRD Parks to provide bat boxes at local public neighbourhood parks. So far, these boxes have been very successful in providing habitat, as they are placed in the most bat-friendly areas, where it's hot and close to a water source.

To help make a difference for bats, join us on April 7 and 8 for a bat workshop at Metchosin Municipal Hall. Join the conversation around bats in your belfry! Get expert advice, learn about bat box essentials and find out about a mysterious and important bat habitat in your community!

Along with providing bat homes to local residences, HAT and our many volunteers also conduct annual bat counts to better understand local populations. To learn more about HAT's bat program, contact us at 250-995-2428 or hatmail@hat.bc.ca.

TIMBER HAWK
HOMEBUILDERS LTD.



CUSTOM HOMES
RENOVATIONS
CARPENTRY
DESIGN
GENERAL CONTRACTING

250-888-9645

TIMBERHAWK@GMAIL.COM

ANGUS STEWART

CHRIS FRANG

METCHOSIN OWNERS



ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED BUILDERS



WHEN YOU LAST THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR WILL,
WAS THIS MAN STILL GOVERNOR?



Richard Blanshard

Is it time to review your will?

For a free consultation, call

MacIsaac & MacIsaac

250-478-1131

www.macisaacclaw.ca | 2227 Sooke Road, Colwood

ICBC / Personal Injury / Civil Litigation / Family Law
Wills and Estates



A Day at the Races



Nairn applies racing colours to his "kar." Karen Ritchie photo

Karen Ritchie

The 14th JdF Cub Scouts recently took part in the annual Kub Kar Rally. Cubs were challenged to design and build their "kar" from a standard block of wood, to which they had to carve, sand, paint, and attach the four wheels. The cubs then raced their "kars" against other cub

packs from the Greater Victoria area at Naden.

Cub Nairn Ritchie said "It was an amazing race, everybody did very well and we should give all the racers a pat on the back!"

The 14th JdF Cubs has boy and girl members aged 7 to 10 years old who meet on a Tuesday in the Metchosin Community Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!



It's all downhill from here! Karen Ritchie photo

Left: Zackery is ready to roll! Karen Ritchie photo



Lining up for seconds.

Sandra Meyer photo

Successful Annual Scouting Dinner

Sandra Meyer

Scouters, youth and parents of 14th Juan de Fuca Scout Group attended our Annual Potluck Dinner on Wednesday, February 22. We enjoyed a variety of home cooked meals that each Scouting family brought to share, and there was so much to choose from.

The Scouts did a small skit and a song. Our Group Commissioner was in attendance and thanked everyone for attending. Again this year, Scouter Curtis presented a wonderful slide show for everyone to enjoy, sharing memories of training experiences.

Scouter Ann arranged a small silent auction and it was great to see what had been donated and then bid on. We would like to thank all who attended as they helped to make it a memorable evening for our youth.

Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available at the Metchosin Country Store.

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. **Trick question for April fools: if you can identify the location of the objects below, email 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 compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. We'll let them know to expect you!



Congratulations to Gary Kangas, who identified the mystery item, a powder flask, in the March issue of the *Metchosin Muse*. We hope Gary enjoyed his free coffee compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House!

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



Sooke Philharmonic Society
presents the **FINALISTS**
of the 12th Annual

DON CHRYSLER

Concerto

COMPETITION

FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Saturday April 22, 2017 - 7 PM
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall
University of Victoria

FREE Admission • Donations Appreciated

- Tovin Allers, Violin
- Alyssa Fu, Piano
- Iris Hung, Piano
- Gillian Newburn, Flute
- Danielle Tsao, Viola
- Sophie van der Sloot, Cello

Tickets: 250-419-3569
www.sookephil.ca



Prizes donated by



Twenty years of making music!

756 Hillside Ave, Victoria, BC



Left: Pearson College's all-female response team. Brian Geary photo

Pearson College and the Metchosin Fire Department: A Learning Relationship

Brian Geary, Director of Communications, Pearson College

A big thank you to Cpt. Simon Chadwick (pictured at back) and the entire Metchosin Fire Department who spent many hours over the week of February 27 to March 3 training our keen PCERT (Pearson College Emergency Response Team) members. The five students – an entirely female group of on-campus first responders – are one of the most diverse international emergency response groups you could ever meet, hailing from Cameroon, Namibia, Germany, Hong Kong, and Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador).

Each year at Pearson College UWC, students like Cindy, Hannah, Lena, Zoe and Kirsten choose to become PCERTs to help ensure the campus remains a safe and healthy one for the entire student and adult community. Every student at Pearson is required to take on a job on the campus or within the wider community as part of the challenging experiential and International Baccalaureate-based curriculum. Twice a year, all students embark on a project week during which they pursue a wide variety of learning opportunities, such as PCERT training.

RCMP Call-Outs FEBRUARY 2017

Constable Alex Bérubé, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

- | | |
|---|---|
| Feb 1 Sooke Road – Report of erratic driver believed to be impaired. Driver located, not impaired. | Feb 12 Metchosin Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle. Driver spoken to, was trying to sleep. |
| Feb 2 Metchosin Road – Report of intoxicated man, unable to pay taxi fare. | Feb 13 Rocky Point Road – Two vehicle MVI as a result of two aggressive drivers. |
| Feb 3 Sooke Road – Report of several collisions due to snow. | Feb 15 Lindholm Road – Abandoned 911 call. Confirmed user error and no emergency. |
| Feb 4 East Sooke Road – Report of child walking on side of the road alone. Child located safe. | Feb 16 Pearson College – Abandoned 911 call. Confirmed no emergency. |
| Feb 5 Sooke Road – Traffic complaint regarding a vehicle that passed on a double solid line. | Feb 17 Happy Valley Road – Report of an abandoned boat trailer. |
| Feb 6 Kangaroo Road – Complaint of mischief to home property. | Feb 19 Happy Valley Road – Complaint of harrasment. |
| Feb 8 Sooke Road – Report of tree down on the road. Mainroad attended to deal with it. | Feb 20 Sooke Road – Report of intoxicated woman causing a disturbance. |
| Feb 9 Stillmeadow Road – Residential alarm received. Confirmed technical difficulties. | Feb 22 Happy Valley Road – three vehicle MVI. Violation ticket issued to a driver for following too closely. |
| Feb 10 Lomax Road – Complaint of lost plate valtag. | Feb 25 Rocky Point Road – Assist Metchosin Fire for vehicle fire. |
| Feb 11 Sooke Road – Diver impaired by drugs caught at road block. | Feb 27 Barrow Road – Report of a single vehicle roll over. |
| | Feb 28 Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver. |

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

Fire Department Call-Outs FEBRUARY 2017

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

- Check out Metchosin Fire on Facebook or follow me on Twitter @ ChiefDunlop
- | | |
|---|---|
| Feb 01 Sooke Road – MVI | Feb 13 Duke Road – Medical |
| Feb 02 Rocky Point Road – Assistance – misc. complaint | Feb 14 Metchosin Road – Brush/Grass – Smoke Smell/Sighting |
| Feb 03 Gemini Drive – Medical | Chalister Court – Medical |
| Sooke Road – MVI | William Head Road – Medical |
| Pears Road – Medical | Chalister Court – Medical |
| Sooke Road – MVI | Feb 15 Rocky Point Road – Medical |
| Glen Forest Way – MVI | Feb 18 Graceland Drive – Medical |
| Feb 05 Ferncliffe Place – Medical | Feb 20 Spellman Place – SFRes Smoke Smell in structure |
| Hi-Mount Drive – Alarm Bells – Residential | Metchosin Road – Open Burn – General |
| Feb 06 Pearson College Drive – Hydro – Fire | Feb 22 Olympic View Drive – Open Burn – General |
| Gilbert Drive – Medical | Feb 25 William Head Road – Medical |
| Happy Valley Road – Hydro – trees on lines | Rocky Point Road – Vehicle Fire |
| Feb 08 Happy Valley Road – Medical | West Coast Road – SFComm – Smoke/Smell in structure |
| Feb 09 Swanwick Road – Alarm Bells – Residential | Feb 26 William Head Road – Medical |
| Kangaroo Road – Medical | Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General |
| Feb 11 MVI | Feb 27 Duke Road – Medical |
| Arden Road – Assistance – Public Works | |
| Rocky Point Road – Medical | |
| Duke Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint | |
| Feb 12 Lombard Drive – HAZMAT – Petroleum spill/Fire | |
- HAZMAT: Hazardous Materials
MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident
SFRes: Structure Fire Residential
SFComm: Structure Fire Commercial

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

BACK PAIN? GOLF INJURY? CHRONIC PAIN?

778-265-9765

Ground Level, 627 Brookside Rd.
Complex Next to Red Barn Market

STRUCTURE-HEALTH.COM

MASSAGE THERAPY | COLD LASER THERAPY
ACUPUNCTURE | FOUNDATION TRAINING

MILLAR'S AUTOMOTIVE

Volkswagen Specialist (Other makes welcome)



4199 Stillmeadow Road
Metchosin, BC V9C 4H8
(Off Witty Beach Road)

Al Millar

Tel: (250) 391-0588

inquiries@millarsauto.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

WANTED

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

LOST

CAMERA – small blue Samsung camera with black case. Please phone 250-474-6412.

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.

Tell them you saw it in the *Muse*!

Important Dates and Events

- Mar. 31 **Film Night at the Community House: *Inside Peace*.** Metchosin Community House, 7:00 pm
- Apr. 1 **MCH Annual Services Auction** p. 1
- Apr. 1-9 **Consider the Lilies XV: Metchosin's great textile show** p. 6
- Apr. 5 **Lenten Speaker Series: Herbert O'Driscoll** ... p. 3
Garden Club Meeting p. 6
- Apr. 7/8 **Talk and Walk: Bats** p. 3
- Apr. 8 **A Refugee's Story** p. 8
- Apr. 9 **Fireproof Metchosin Day** p. 4
- Apr. 10 **Rough Voice Finale** p. 6
- Apr. 15 **Community Potluck Dinner** p. 11
- Apr. 18 **Emergency Information Session: Prescription Medications** p. 2
- Apr. 20 **MCA Guest Speaker: Ashley Stocks** p. 9
- Apr. 21 **Bandwagon Therapy at the Golf Course.** Metchosin Bandwagon is pleased to welcome back the band **Group Therapy!** Music 7:00 to 9:15 pm; kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm. Your \$5 donation goes to the talented musicians playing light rock. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Road.
- Apr. 22 **MCA Guest Chef: Persian Dinner with Farz** . p. 11
- Apr. 23 **Metchosin Talks Public Space** p. 9
- Apr. 28 **Film Night at the Community House: *Samuel in the Clouds*** p. 10

For SIRC events, please see page 5. For ongoing events at the Metchosin Community House, please see page 11.

CRD Nature Events take place throughout the year in Metchosin, East Sooke, Sooke, and Langford. For details, go to crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Clip and save this listing!

Metchosin 4H Club Needs a Small Engine Repair Venue

Marie-Térèse Little

The Metchosin 4H Club has just started its seventh year. In addition to the popular Cloverbuds program for kids aged 6-8 we are offering clubs in poultry, lamb, covey, rabbits and honey bee. This year we have expanded our club to also include Photography

and Small Engine Repair. The intent behind this expansion was to attract more rural children to our 4H program, especially those kids who do not have a farm animal.

The Small Engine Repair group is looking for a venue for their club this year. If anyone has a garage or shed to share with us we would

greatly appreciate it. The club consists of eight kids and two adult leaders and some tools/small engines. The club will meet once or twice a month from April until November.

For more information, please contact 4H A-leaders Marie Bell and Cindy Huckin at metchosin4h@gmail.com.

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,
Facebook: Metchosin APRM

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

250-478-2374,
tammyberry269@hotmail.com,
www.mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

metchosinfoundation@gmail.com,
<http://metchosinfoundation.ca>

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

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, 250-478-0765

METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

250-727-3595

METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL

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
<http://www.metchosinsar.ca>

METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)

250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)

250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

345 Wale Road, Colwood
250-886-2481
www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org

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

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Audrey 250-478-1352
Marnie 250-478-9637

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.westshorercreation.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.opengatechurch.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



My-Chosen Cafe

Come in and experience our quaint country atmosphere and enjoy our hearty portions of great home cooked foods!

OPEN: Mon.- Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. & Sun. 8am-9pm

250-474-2333

Corner of Happy Valley and Metchosin Road

MY-CHOSEN PIZZA

Pickup after noon, delivery after 4pm

OPEN: 11am-9pm seven days a week

Phone 250-474-5576

LATORIA PHARMACY I.D.A.

LATORIA PHARMACY

Ask about our foot care nurse.

115-611 Brookside Road by the Red Barn Market

Friday is **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY!** 15% OFF

Prescriptions & Natural Health





The above listing 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.