

# Metchosin Muse

A NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

## Happy New Year!

### Breakfast with Santa



December 18 saw another successful Breakfast with Santa at the Metchosin Fire Hall. Santa welcomed young visitors in a cozy little nook in one of the fire trucks. Kids of all ages came out to the breakfast, and one of the youngest decided to see if Santa's beard was real, much to his surprise! (See photo at right.)

Brian Domney photos



### Hello, Goodbye ... Or is it the other way around?

SOME THOUGHTS FROM CO-EDITOR BRIAN DOMNEY

The American publishing company Merriam-Webster has declared "surreal" as word of the year for 2016. Surreal is defined as "marked by the intense irrational reality of a dream." Although its decision was based on look-ups on its online dictionary, clearly events like the Brexit vote, terrorist attacks around the world and of course, the election of ... He Who Cannot Be Named ... contributed to the online popularity of the word.

Living in Metchosin brings many terms to mind – a few years ago, a broadcaster in Vancouver likened Metchosin to Narnia, the mythical place in C.S. Lewis' series that began with the publication of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. That kind of surreal might work for me as a view of Metchosin, as long as it's not put in the list with that other stuff. This is a good dream ...

2017 is starting as it has for years – with a select collection of lunatics (yours truly included) leaping into the Strait of Juan de Fuca for a brief dip

on January 1. January 28 will mark the day the residents of Metchosin decide whether the deal negotiated between Metchosin, Langford, Scia'new First Nation (Beecher Bay), and a corporation owning the so-called Centre Mountain lands off Neild Road is acceptable. The rest of the annual community calendar looks pretty typical, although there is an important event returning after a brief hiatus – you'll find a piece on the return of the Sheepdog Trial in this issue. Given where most of the world appears to be heading, it feels really good to be hunkered down here in Narnia.

2016 saw a number of developments for the *Metchosin Muse*. Since the sad passing of Valerie Cochran, I have held the responsibility of overseeing the creation of each issue over the past two and a half years. It's fun – the *Muse* team is an amazing group of people – bright and fun with a passion for language, but with the monthly cycle, one barely has caught one's breath before the whole thing starts again, so it was with delight that we saw Johnny Carline join the team as co-editor.

He's fit right in, and he brings all those team qualities I mentioned with him.

2016 has also seen some departures from the team. Peter Lewis has decided to finally hang 'em up after 17 years as the advertising coordinator. Peter has played a significant role on this little community newspaper. In its early years, the *Metchosin Muse* depended on an annual fundraising campaign to stay afloat. People would contribute what they could, recognizing the important role the paper played here. When Peter became involved, he generated enough advertising revenue for the paper to survive without prevailing on the generosity of its readers. Advertisers soon came to realize that the rates we charged for access to a very enviable demographic were a hell of a deal, and we continue, usually breaking even or better each issue.

A recent sad departure from the team came with the sudden passing of Stevie Bahrey. When I joined the *Muse*, Stevie was one of the regulars at the proofing sessions, and she was one that made me feel I'd made a good decision to get involved. She



Joan Kew photo

had a marvelous grasp of the English language, a phenomenal memory for anecdotes, and a mischievous sense of humour. Like us all, she had an opinion on the Oxford comma. Stevie was bright and with it right to the end. She was 93.

2017 marks the 25th year the *Metchosin Muse* has been published. The paper

continues to be a volunteer effort of the best kind. People generously giving of their time, energy and creativity to inform, reflect, and help maintain a sense of community in this special place.

Did you spot the Oxford comma?

Have a great 2017. And don't forget to vote.

# Metchosin Muse

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

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

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

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

# Pearson College Community Christmas Concert – A Fun Evening for Metchosin



It was another memorable Pearson Christmas Concert at the Metchosin Community Hall.

Photo by Somchit, Pearson student

## 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](mailto: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.

## Gratitude Day in Metchosin

Melody Beattie once said “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life, turns what we have into enough, a meal into a feast, a house into a home and a stranger into a friend.” On November 19 a group of Metchosinites gathered at the Community House for an evening of appreciation and thankfulness over a pot luck supper. There was sharing, talking, a video presentation and music to remind us of all

the things we are so blessed to have around us in Metchosin. People from all walks of life and all ages, from youth to seniors, attended. And, true to what Melody Beattie said, a few dishes brought to share did feel like a feast, the Community House felt more like a community home and many strangers became friends. All those present said that this should be an annual event. Thank you all for coming and being a part of our great community. The evening was sponsored by the Metchosin Baha’i Community.

Doug Wilson

See the Muse on the web at [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

## Notice to Advertisers

Our long-time advertising coordinator, Peter Lewis, has decided to step away from the *Muse*, so until further notice we would ask you to make contact at [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca), or call Brian Domney at 250-474-3966.

### METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

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## Muse Subscriptions

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

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

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



# Blinkhorn Nature Park – Volunteers Wanted



Blinkhorn Lake, a gem in Metchosin.

Moralea Milne photo

MORALEA MILNE

Blinkhorn Nature Park is my go-to park, within walking distance, if you care for two-hour walks. It's never crowded and has lots of interesting dragonflies, fungi, and slime molds. Close to heaven in other words!

However, this little patch of paradise is starting to need some TLC; there are a few invasive species trying to gain a foothold, so it seems a good time to canvas our neighbourhood and see if anyone would like to form a stewardship group to help maintain this little gem. Contact [moraleamilne@gmail.com](mailto:moraleamilne@gmail.com) if you are interested.

# Kick off 2017 with a Little Madness

ANDY MACKINNON

Join the madness at Metchosin's 28th annual Polar Bear Swim, at Taylor Beach near the end of Taylor Road, January 1, 2017! The swim is at 2:00 pm, usually until approximately 2:01 pm. For those so inclined, the swim is preceded by a gentle run of about six kilometres, or a walk of about three kilometres, both of which end at Taylor Beach just before 2:00 pm.

Following the swim, you are invited to join Mairi and Andy MacKinnon at their home at

504 Witty Beach Road. They have showers and places to change. They will have simple food and hot apple juice, and encourage everyone to bring food and drink to share. (This is often food and drink left over from Christmas and New Years, that doesn't fit with New Year's resolutions!)

For details about the run and walk, or any other questions, please email or call Mairi or Andy MacKinnon (metchosinmacs@gmail.com; 250-478-8232). Happy Hogmanay!

# Some Thoughts on Aging

CHRISTOPHER PRATT

We are all in different circumstances, yet our destination remains the same. My children used to like the thought that we are all standing on the same conveyor belt, from the day we were born. There are different challenges all along the way of course, but those who are fortunate enough to reach the upper levels encounter some new challenges that we're going to look at today.

First of all, we've probably seen a T-shirt that says "Old Age Isn't for Sissies," or something of the sort. We become the butt of jokes, and teenagers rather tend to shy away from the elderly. Unless they're family, that is. And we have to put up with unwelcome ailments. So, no, it isn't for sissies, and we do need some courage to face up to aging. "My hearing aid works, my teeth fit me fine. My glasses are new, but I sure miss my mind!"

Nevertheless, the "Troisième Age" as the French call it, has its advantages, and we should enjoy them. Longfellow said, "Age is opportunity no less than youth itself, though in another dress, and as the evening twilight fades, the sky is filled with stars invisible by day." Dylan Thomas on the other hand, advised his father "Do not go gentle into that long, dark night. Rage, rage, against the fading of the light." Of course Dylan didn't take his own advice. He drank himself to death when he was in his 50s. Which is another option.

On the other hand my Dad used to say, "Learn to cooperate with the inevitable." And, "The best thing you can do is to cultivate a garden of pleasant memories." He was always a keen gardener, and he had many challenges to deal with in his upper years, but people always enjoyed visiting and talking to him.

Our independence is a hard thing for any of us to give up. It certainly was for my Dad, who as a farmer and later as a good Metchosinite, was fiercely independent. He hated to ask for help. It was hard for him to lose his eyesight and was no longer able to drive his car. That's important for all of us in Metchosin, our ability to drive. It's a good idea to keep in practice, to keep up our driving skills. And occasionally have a road check with an instructor.

I'm going to use "F-words" quite often in what follows, so I plead your indulgence.



A couple of youngsters, Chris Pratt and Moralea Milne at Metchosin Day. Brian Domney photo

**FITNESS** – Exercise, to the extent that we are able. "Scientists have discovered a link between strong legs and a fit brain that resists the effects of aging. Leg power is more closely linked to age-related changes in mental function than any other lifestyle factor tested." So says *The Guardian* newspaper. And if walking is a challenge, I hope we're able to breathe; although I know that too can be a challenge for some people. Deep breathing is a wonderful source of oxygen for the blood, and almost a third of the energy we use comes from the air we breathe. I can heartily recommend regular yoga practice, which includes physical exercise and breathing; and there are some excellent teachers here in Metchosin, with classes for all levels. Any other form of regular exercise will produce benefits too, but I do recommend yoga.

**FINANCES** is the next F-word. I can't be of much help here, except to say that everyone, young people included, should have a Will and a designated Power of Attorney given to a senior family member or trusted friend.

**FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** come next and not in any order of importance. They're all-important. It's a good idea to have a plant or two in the house, or some flowers, and to keep a pet around. They're good company I must say. And take care of our appearance and general tidiness. Those are, I admit, rather personal remarks, but they do make visitors feel comfortable, and they reassure family members that we're getting along well on our own. If we are alone, that is.

When it comes to visitors, we are blessed here in Metchosin to have the students of Pearson College nearby. Their regularly scheduled visits to the Community House and SIRC offer opportunities to

meet them, and the College welcomes the friendships that grow between students and local residents. They are bright and interesting young people and I call them my "Fountain of Youth." It's a "win-win" relationship.

**FAITH** come next. Those of us who are blessed with a strong faith are indeed fortunate. (Unless we've led a very wicked life!) My father, when he arrived in Canada on his own, and still just 16, stayed briefly with a family in Winnipeg. There was a verse done in embroidery on the wall of his room:

*So many faiths, so many creeds  
So many paths that twist and  
wind*

*While just the practice to be kind  
Is all this old world needs.*

Dad adopted that as his creed. Although always a devout man, he didn't want to be known as a follower of any particular denomination. But he was indeed a very kind man and a good father.

The East Indian philosopher Krishnamurti said "The Truth is a pathless land. It is up to each one of us to find our own way across it." And then there are those of us who are filled with wonder at the "Mysterium Magnificum" and preserve an open mind.

**FINALLY** it's recommended that you sign and have witnessed a form available from your doctor with the declaration "Do Not Resuscitate." It should be known to family and friends and kept in a known place, if that is your wish. As for me, I'm very happy to know that I shall be able to decide for myself the time when I wish to step off the conveyor belt.

Let me close with the Senility Prayer: "God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference."

## 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.



*Leocarpis fragilis*

Moralea Milne photo

### SLIME MOLDS with Richard Winder – January 13

One of this planet's most fascinating organisms, being neither plant nor animal; did you know that slime molds can meander around the forest at about one millimetre per hour?

### MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES OF METCHOSIN with Jeremy Tatum – February 24

A subject dear to my heart and with endless possibilities to learn more!

### TEN BASIC LICHENS with Ryan Batten – March 10

While there are more than 1100 species of lichens in BC, we're going to start with learning ten of the most common in Metchosin. There will be a Walk on Saturday, time and location TBA.

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

Besides our great good fortune to have BC's premier bat expert residing in Metchosin, we are partnering with Habitat Acquisition Trust to hold a bat house building workshop on Saturday!

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



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# It's Baaack!

BRIAN DOMNEY

After a hiatus of several years, Metchosin will again be hosting a major sheepdog trial in the summer of 2017.

In the past the Metchosin Sheepdog Trial presented a real test for both dog and handler because the Parry Bay Sheep Farm stock was not “dog broke” (compliant because they have learned the routine...). John and Lorraine Buchanan have again offered to provide the sheep for the newly named “Metchosin-Swanwick Ranch Sheepdog Trial” to be held at the Swanwick Ranch off William Head Road on August 5 and 6. It is expected that the trial will bring dogs and handlers from western Canada and the United States, as well as a healthy contingent from Vancouver Island.

A planning group has been meeting to develop approaches to both the competitive and event elements of the trial. Swanwick Ranch presents an ideal field for the dogs and handlers, with adjacent parking, and an area for bleachers, seating and



“Seriously? It’s actually coming back?”

Brian Domney photo

concessions. The group has agreed that there will also be some educational events, including an introduction to sheepdog trialing – the various tests involved and the ways handler and dog work as a team. An overview of the important role sheep have played historically in Metchosin is also being considered.

The trial will depend on community support for a range of things – from sponsorship and donations for such things as the trial

programme, bleachers and seating, fencing, prizes, billeting of handlers and their dogs, swag for competitors with which to remember Metchosin, to volunteers for pre-trial tasks like finding sponsors and donors and for trial tasks like parking assistants and concession workers.

If you are interested in helping to bring this iconic event back to Metchosin, please email [metchosinsheepdogtrial@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinsheepdogtrial@gmail.com). That’ll do!

Check out the classified ads on page 11.

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## COUNCIL NEWS JANUARY 2017



### PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT – REFERENDUM

On Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the COMMUNITY HALL, qualified electors of the District of Metchosin will be voting on the following question:

*Do you support a municipal boundary adjustment, placing approximately 354 acres of private land into Langford, provided that the Beecher Bay First Nation agrees to transfer to Metchosin ownership of 250 acres of Crown Land offered to the Band as part of the Treaty process, and Metchosin receives a 112 acre greenspace buffer and a tax sharing agreement?*

**Advance Voting Opportunities – January 18, 2017 and January 25, 2017.** Electors are welcome to vote in advance on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 and Wednesday, January 25, 2017 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the MUNICIPAL HALL (behind the Fire Hall).

**Not on the voters list? You may be able to register to vote at the voting place.** Bring two pieces of identification that provide evidence of your identity and place of residence. Picture ID is not required, but one piece of ID must have your signature. For elector qualifications see [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) or call the Municipal Hall.

### WINTER ROADS

Please remember that ice control and snow plough service is provided on priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. Next are school bus and BC Transit routes, followed by all other roads.

### DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – JANUARY 2017

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

Meetings are subject to change; for updated information, please call the district office at

Council and Standing	Council Meeting . . . . .	Jan 23, 7:00 pm
Committees . . . . .	Environmental Advisory	
Parks and Trails Advisory	Committee (MEASC) . . . . .	Jan 24, 7:00 pm
Committee (PTASC) . . . . .		Jan 17, 7:00 pm

250-474-3167 or refer to the website at [www.district.metchosin.bc.ca](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca). Thank you.

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

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

# Music Nights at the Community House Begin Anew!

ERIN VAN DE WATER

Starting up again on the second Friday of each month is the MCA's monthly music night. Mark your calendar for January 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, featuring Elli Hart, a talented young singer/songwriter ready to leap into a high-profile role in the Canadian Independent music scene.

Originally from Metchosin, Elli's artistic presence, unique voicing and quirky instrumental timing bring an honest and charismatic sound to the Americana genre. At 29, she has written a portfolio of significant songs, drawing on the spirits of Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell and

Sarah McLaughlin. Her music moves all who hear it.

Hart's band, Dirty Mountain, released its debut album, "01" last March, followed by a Western Canada album release tour.

Coming from a musical family, Elli's singing and performing started at age six and currently includes hundreds of stage performances in community theatres, music venues and clubs. Her vocal prowess is enhanced by experience in a range of instruments with a unique form of finger-style acoustic guitar figuring prominently. Her abilities to blend moments of unorthodox time signature into her songs make musical points that few can match.



Metchosin's own Elli Hart

Come join us at the Community House on January 13 for an evening of sweet sounds from this lovely lady. Your ears will not be disappointed! Suggested donation \$7-12.

## SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE

DAWN BOSHKOFF

### Happy New Year from SIRC!

**NEW!** Monthly Tech-Talk Lunch n' Learn, Tuesday, January 31 from noon to 1:00 pm.

We can provide valuable tech support! Bring your own device or borrow ours. We've got desktop computers, printers, a fax machine, laptops, Macs, tablets, smartphones etc., for members to use and master. Call SIRC for more information. All Welcome!

### Health Events in 2017

The new year will see SIRC continuing to work in partnership with Latoria Pharmacy IDA. This past fall, 230 flu, 40 pneumonia, and 30 shingles vaccinations were administered. Coming up in the new year are:

**Medication Review** – Thursday, January 19

**NexGen Hearing Test** – Thursday February 16

**Tetanus Shot** – Thursday, March 16

Call SIRC to make an appointment for one or all of the above.

### Transportation

One of the most frequently cited challenges for seniors living in rural areas such as Metchosin, is transportation. Retired Camosun College nursing instructor, Board member, and volunteer, Sandy Jenkins, comments, "Imagine being housebound and not able to go to the store for milk, or to social or community events, or medical appointments. Our volunteer driving program is currently giving ten rides a week that are making all the difference to Metchosin seniors no longer able to drive themselves.



SIRC member Naomi Soleil and coordinator Dawn Boshkoff work together at SIRC's Open Learning Lab. Geeks and Geezers begins again in January 2017.

But we are in need of more volunteer drivers."

To become involved in this rewarding program, please call for more information.

### Better at Home

SIRC is a Better at Home Agency helping senior residents of Metchosin with transportation, companionship, home-care, light housekeeping and volunteer support services. If you, or a senior you know, could use Better at Home's essential services, please call SIRC.

### Trusted Service Providers

If you are seeking help around the house with repairs or maintenance, SIRC can

provide you with the names of referred local service providers, contractors and businesses.

### Volunteers Welcome!

Volunteers of all ages keep SIRC programs alive. We welcome drivers, office support, care team members, and help with special programs and events. Email [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca) or call 250-478-5150 for more information.

SIRC is located at 4495 Happy Valley Road and is open Tuesday through Friday 11:00 am-3:00 pm. You can reach us at 250-478-5150. Please feel welcome to drop in and say hello. A lifetime membership in SIRC costs only \$10.

### Happening in January at SIRC

MahJong*	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
Medication Review	Thursday, January 19	By appointment

\*Contact Martha Haylor, [mhaylor@telus.net](mailto:mhaylor@telus.net) for more information

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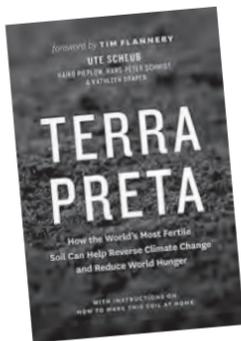


## The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

First I would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. May all your seeds be fertile and all your cuttings "take."

I had a book from the library, *Terra Preta*, which was interesting if not riveting. It extols the virtue of Amazonian soil, and gives detailed instructions for replicating it. This consists, briefly, of incorporating charcoal with compost. They give formulas for percentages of ingredients, and detailed instructions for making charcoal from your yard waste. All this I might have tried 40 years ago, but not now. However some of you dedicated organic producers might be interested. If anyone tries it I would be very pleased to hear how it went.



*Terra Preta: How the World's Most Fertile Soil Can Help Reverse Climate Change and Reduce World Hunger, with instructions on how to make this soil at home*

Authors: Ute Scheub, Haiko Pieplow, Hans-Peter Schmidt, and Kathleen Draper; foreword by Tim Flannery  
Publication Date: 2016  
ISBN: 9781771641104

Abstract (provided by publisher): "Terra preta, meaning 'black earth' in Portuguese, is a very dark, fertile soil first made by the original inhabitants of the Amazon Basin at least 2,500 years ago. According to a growing community of international scientists, this ancient soil, sometimes referred to as biochar, could solve two of the greatest problems facing the world: climate change and the hunger crisis. This comprehensive book condenses everything we know about terra preta and provides instructions for how to make it. Both passionate and practical, the book offers indispensable advice for how to create a better world from the ground up."

Meanwhile, back in Metchosin, we are appreciating the evergreens in the garden. Several are even deer proof. I have listed some favourites here.

Evergreen daphnes are fairly long-lived small shrubs, with incredibly lovely perfume when in bloom. One of the best is *D burkwoodii* "Somerset" but the variegated "Carol Mackie" is generally easier to find. Deer do not like daphnes, I find. They like a moist partly shady location, and hate being moved.

Skimmias are reliable, tough as nails, and produce red berries which can

substitute for holly. Get "Reevsiana" and you don't need both male and female – it is bisexual. They also like shade and a bit of summer watering. They are reliably short, so suitable for under windows and the front of the border.

Mahonias look good 12 months a year, and bloom in winter or spring. The two natives are great, as are the Asiatic species and hybrids, "Charity" being one of the best. It was in bloom a couple of weeks ago in a friend's Galiano Island garden.

Pieris are everywhere, with good reason. Look carefully at the label, the sizes and bloom colours are many! They seem bullet proof here, and take well to pruning to keep them dense.

Viburnums – many and varied, *dauricum* being the common shorter one; it is very hardy, and if at the front of the border, is self skirting. If you have two you will get dramatic blue berries.

*Viburnum tinus*, commonly called Laurustinus, is tall, to about ten feet if left to its own devices, blooms very early, generally late winter, and has black berries. It is very long lasting as a cut flower, and good in vases. *Viburnum rhytidophyllum*, or the leather leafed viburnum, is an awkward grower, pruning doesn't seem to do much, but it is hardy, useful, deer proof and good if something in front of it shades the awkward knees.

*Viburnum x bodnantense* "Dawn." The hybrid *V. x bodnantense* is a cross of *V. farreri* x *V. grandiflorum*. Dawn was selected from ten seedlings by Charles Puddle, head gardener to Lord Aborconway at Bodnant Gardens, Wales around 1935. Grows about eight to ten feet high and wide.

*Viburnum x burkwoodii* – A hybrid from *V. utile* pollinated by *V. carlesii* by Burkwood and Skipwith in Kingston-Thames in England, introduced in 1924. Exhibits upright growth habit reaching ten feet in height and six to eight feet across. Flowers are pink in the bud, opening to pure white in early May with spicy, almost intoxicating fragrance. Foliage is a lustrous dark green and evergreen in warmer climates but only retaining tip foliage in colder climates. Fruit is red, changing to black but can be sparse and insignificant. Fall colour is wine red.

*Viburnum carlesii* – An excellent, rounded shrub growing five to eight feet tall and wide. April flowers are pink in the bud, opening to white and very fragrant. Fruit is red changing to black. Although fruit is persistent through the winter, it is sparse and therefore not really effective. Foliage is pubescent (*Editor's note: Yes, this is a botanical term*), green, with a wine-red fall colour.

*Viburnum dentatum* "Pearl Bleu" – Thousands of

colourful blue fruit is the selling point of this cultivar. Pearl Bleu is French for blue pearls, which describes the fruit display provided by this 10–12' arrowwood. Fruit is smaller than most other *dentatum*s but there is probably none other with a greater abundance of fruit. An excellent selection for attracting birds.

Since we are discussing viburnums, I include three deciduous varieties commonly grown here.

*Viburnum macrocephalum* – common name: Chinese Snowball Viburnum. A dense, rounded shrub growing eight to ten feet high, but much larger here; introduced by Robert Fortune in 1844. The most spectacular of the viburnums when in bloom, being the largest of the "snowball" viburnums.

*Viburnum opulus* "Roseum" – European Snowball Viburnum. Originally known as *V. opulus* "Sterilis" which is still in use in lieu of the now accepted nomenclature. A large rounded shrub reaching 10 to 12 feet. Probably the oldest known garden viburnum as it was recorded in the 16th century as "Sambucus Rose." Considered to be an heirloom plant, possibly why it is the most commonly known viburnum to the public. Blooms profusely with large, double three-inch flowers in "snowballs" in mid May. Flowers are first apple green, changing to pure white for an extended period. In high demand by the floral industry as a cut flower for arrangements. All of the flowers are sterile so there is no fruit. Fall colour is shades of reds and yellows. Another common name for the European snowball is the guelder rose, referring to its origins in Gelderland, Netherlands. Zone 3.

*Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum* "Mariesii" – Very common in the trade. Introduced by Maries from Japan in 1879 for Messrs. Veitch. Grows eight to ten feet tall and wide with strong horizontally tiered branches. Outer sterile florets up to 1 3/4" across. The inflorescence is held horizontally above the foliage. Foliage has a more yellowish tint than other *plicatum f. tomentosum*. Although it flowers profusely, it reportedly sets very little fruit, but this could be the result of a lack of a proper pollinator. When fruiting does occur, it is red changing to black. Fall colour is reddish-purple. Zone 5.

There is also an unending list of rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas, just read the labels and be prepared for them to be somewhat larger than their descriptions would suggest.

Enjoy the seed catalogues, spend a wintry afternoon with a pot of tea or a glass of sherry and make lists. Then edit them, or you will have enough to plant the neighbourhood!

# Film Night at the Metchosin Community House

RIC PERRON

Friday, January 27, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House

**Salmon Confidential,**  
79 minutes

From the start, I don't want to apologize here for the rant or "airing of grievances," but this opinion has been researched to the core – both scientifically and politically. Just ask Alexandra Morton, who contends the government is covering up what is killing our wild salmon. This film documents Morton's journey as she attempts to overcome government and industry

roadblocks thrown in her path.

Never mind the back yard, this salmon issue presented in the film is happening in our front yard. Should you assume the farmed salmon you bought at local stores is tested and safe? I'm upset that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is denying all the scientific evidence submitted with laboratory documentation, and sealed away from us, Joe Public. What about transparency? No chance!

Plus, way more blatant than that, the CFIA is publicly muzzling our scientists in order to prevent the spread

of awareness, which would, in effect, stop people buying farmed salmon. Oops, there goes the industry.

This is all in the documentary by Twyla Roscovich, with no holds barred. Alex Morton gets test samples from the farmed fish and sends them to a world-sanctioned test lab in Nova Scotia where they find the results positive for either PVR virus, or HSMI virus, either of which could be present in our stores and restaurants in the form of blisters, blood clots, or weakened hearts. Hmm, sushi anyone?

# Getting to Know Our CAO

JOHNNY CARLINE AND BRIAN DOMNEY

When the *Muse* interviewed Mayor Ranns about the great proposed land deal for the November issue of the *Muse*, he took pains to attribute a lot of credit for the negotiations to Metchosin's Chief Administrative Officer (commonly shortened to CAO), Lisa Urlacher. In fact, he suggested the *Muse* do a profile of her for a future edition.

Well, the *Muse* does not let the grass grow under its feet, and before you could say "bewildering bureaucratise," we were down at the Municipal Hall for an interview.

Despite the title sounding something like a chief file clerk, the CAO is actually the chief of staff, responsible for seeing that councils are provided with the information and advice they need to make decisions and then for seeing those decisions are carried out, and for a host of other actions that never go to Council for decisions.

The Council and Mayor are similar to a private company's Board of Directors and Chair, while the CAO is like the Chief Executive Officer, though that varies a bit depending on the size and style of the municipality.

Lisa explained how it works in Metchosin. "We are a very small municipality and we have a very small staff. It makes no sense, for example, to have a full time planner, or other positions like that, so all that work is done by contractors. As well, the Council members themselves take on roles and responsibilities that in larger municipalities might be taken on by management level staff."

"Each councillor takes on a portfolio, like planning or finance," Lisa explained further, "and they serve as the political committee chair and also like a sort of middle manager."

So, Councillors work with staff and consultants to bring information together to address the questions issues raise. We suggested that this is different from the classic governance model where there is a strict separation of the role of staff and politicians. Lisa has over 25 years of experience, including spells with the Islands Trust and, most recently, Sooke, so we asked her for her views on that.

"Yes, it is different from the classic model," Lisa conceded. "But I have seen that model lead to an ongoing push and shove between Council and staff as to who can do what. It can almost become a war. Whereas in Metchosin, by adopting a team approach, not just among the politicians or among the staff, but between them both as well, we have avoided all that. I've been in both types of situation, and I can tell you that I much prefer what we have here in Metchosin."

So turning to Lisa's own role in this team environment, we asked her what she found personally most enjoyable and fulfilling. Her ready smile broadened and she replied with obvious pleasure: "Dealing with people and helping solve their problems. My door is



Metchosin CAO Lisa Urlacher Brian Domney photo

pretty well always open and I spend a lot of time, one on one, with Metchosin residents."

So you get a lot of complaints about decisions by Council and staff, we playfully asked. She grinned: "We get a few, of course, but most of the questions are to do with working out what is the best way to deal with an issue. Sometimes, it isn't even an issue within our jurisdiction."

So you just pass those along, we wondered. "No. Of course, we give out the contact information of the people we think have jurisdiction, where that is appropriate, but we still try to help them on what a useful approach might be."

What about the biggest challenge; what takes your time – the budget, public hearings?

"Everything takes time," she replied, "but I think what takes the most time for all of us is ensuring that Metchosin does not change. It is important to Council and the community that Metchosin remains essentially the way it is and it is amazing how much time that takes on a day-to-day basis."

So do these problems grind you down and follow you home?, we asked. "No" was the reply; "I work four days a week and usually that is enough." Her smile then broadened again, "I have a husband, three kids, two grandchildren, and I love them all. And when I am not with them, I am out hiking, which is my passion."

Think about way down the road, when you retire, we suggested. What would you like people to say about you and your career?

"That I helped people. That I made a difference," was the reply. To the *Muse's* eye, it looks like Lisa Urlacher is pretty well on track.

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### Found on Facebook

"What kind of chicken is that?!"



Rhonda Henry photo

# Westshore "Paint In"

SUSAN DAVIS

September 2015 was a significant month for many of us in Canada, as the plight of refugees in the Middle East finally caught our attention here in the west. The Westshore Refugee Sponsorship Group (WRSG) was begun as a response to the realization that a full-blown crisis was happening on the other side of the world; they wanted to do something to make a difference.

In January 2016, the core team, which comprised people from Church of the Advent, Westside Bible Church, and Westshore Alliance Church, was established. The wider circle of volunteers comprises individuals from our community, including Westshore businesses and groups, and other churches. The goal to raise the necessary funds, donations of household goods and support required to settle a refugee family in our community has been almost met.

The Anglican Diocese of BC, the Sponsorship Agreement Holder for the group, has matched WRSG to a family currently in Lebanon whose brother, parents and sister have already been resettled here in Victoria. The family includes a mom and dad and their three young girls, ages one to six. Originally from Syria, they have been living a severely restricted existence in Lebanon since January 2012.

As WRSG continues to raise money, you are invited to participate in their next fundraising endeavor.



"Northern Lights" by Paint In workshop leader Rebecca Barnard. Photo from <http://rebeccasartroom.blogspot.ca>

A series of "Paint In" workshops taught by Rebecca Barnard – a local artist who presents workshops, and is a member of WRSG – is planned for early 2017. Rebecca is fairly new to the Victoria area, but she is well known in the Cowichan Valley as a workshop facilitator. Her step-by-step method of teaching has proven to be highly successful among former participants. There are three workshops planned:

- the "Acrylic Paint In" workshop is planned for the morning of January 10 and the evening of January 13;
- the "Watercolour Paint In" workshop is planned for the morning of February 7 and the evening of February 10; and

- the "Mixed Media Paint In" workshop is planned for the morning of March 7 and the evening of March 10.

The \$50 fee provides all required art supplies for the complete project, and includes tea/coffee and dessert. This is the perfect opportunity to explore painting for the first time, or perhaps revisit a favourite art medium.

There is a limit of ten participants in each session; be sure to sign up early to guarantee your spot! Register at the office of the Church of the Advent (510 Mount View Avenue, Colwood) weekday mornings 9:00 to noon or email Bill Van Sickle at [bill@wrsg.ca](mailto:bill@wrsg.ca). Registration deadline is three days before each event.

Visit the Muse website!

[www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

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## MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

## David Higgins: A Journey to Eastern Tibet

RIC PERRON

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." – Dalai Lama

**David Higgins: A Journey to Eastern Tibet**  
Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House

This special night, I promise, will be a portal to another place, time, and dimension. It will be twisted by the images dancing in your own head. Last summer, Metchosin resident Dr. David Higgins and three of his colleagues made a research trip to Eastern Tibet where they had access to more than a dozen monasteries, discussed doctrinal issues with Tibetan lamas and abbots, and visited a number of sacred

sites. This presentation offers a glimpse of their fascinating journey.

David, an adventurer in every sense, is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria. He is part of a small research team that is investigating key developments in the Tibetan assimilation of Indian Buddhist philosophies on the basis of original Tibetan and Sanskrit scriptures (blowing the dust off ancient texts and translating them). He is the author of two books, numerous articles, and a prestigious international award received this year in London, England.

David has promised us a slide show and talk on this distinct place. He is reluctant to admit it, but his work for the University of Vienna is making history.



Ric Perron photo



## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

**Metchosin Community House** 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155  
Email: [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net) Web: [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

## Ongoing Programs

## Mondays

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

**Buddies** – 2:45–4:30 pm. 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. Returning January 9.

**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. The program will return January 9.

**Knitting Café.** On the first and third Mondays monthly, 7:00–9:00 pm, knitters of all skill levels, including beginners, are welcome to this informal and friendly get-together. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email [laura.farquharson@shaw.ca](mailto:laura.farquharson@shaw.ca). Returning January 16, 2017.

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

## Tuesdays

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

**Knitting 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. Returning January 10.

## Wednesdays

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

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

## Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking** – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (email [blueheronstudio@telus.net](mailto: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. The program will return on January 20.

**Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Returning the week of January 9.

**Music Night** – 7:00–9:00 pm, second Friday of each month. Program will restart January 13. See p. 5 for details.

**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 the suggested songbook, *Jumpin' Jim's Daily Ukulele* (as a base resource to work from), if you have it.

**Film Night: Salmon Confidential** – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, January 27. The documentary by Twyla Roscovich, no holds barred. Alex Morton gets test samples from the farmed fish and sends them to a world-sanctioned test lab in Nova Scotia where they find the results positive for either PVR virus, or HSMI virus, either of which can be present in our stores and restaurants in the form of blisters, blood clots, or weakened hearts. Hmm, sushi anyone? See also "Film Night" on p. 7.

## Events

**Concert** – Friday, January 13. See p. 5 for details.

**Guest Speaker: David Higgins: A Journey to Eastern Tibet** – Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm. Last summer, Metchosin resident David Higgins and three of his colleagues made a research trip to Eastern Tibet where they had access to more than a dozen monasteries, discussed doctrinal issues with Tibetan lamas and abbots, and visited a number of sacred sites. This presentation offers a glimpse of their fascinating journey. See MCA Guest Speaker series, this page.

**Art on the Walls:** Doug Gilbert, in collaboration with the Metchosin School Museum Society, has compiled and organized a show of 18 historic photographs of Metchosin dating back to the early 1900s. They are hanging on the Community House walls for all to come and enjoy. Viewing times are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm. The Art on the Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information, please call the MCH at 250-478-5155.

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**250-474-6368 or [info@end-dyslexia.com](mailto:info@end-dyslexia.com)**

## NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN SCHOOL

DEBRA STOUTLEY

There are many winter activities that become traditions in schools. At Hans Helgesen, we have several activities that are becoming our traditions; things we do that make our community more connected.

One such event is our Pancake Breakfast cooked for us by the local Knights of Columbus group. Students look forward to this opportunity to wear their pajamas to school and have a celebratory breakfast in the gym. We are very grateful to our parent volunteers who help serve this to our school, and our PAC who pays for this meal.

We also have had Family Groups participate in Craft Afternoon in December. This was another opportunity for students to get together in their "Family Groups" (which might include a sibling or cousin) to work together. Each group made a different winter craft that can be enjoyed by the student or given as a gift.

Our music teacher and her choir also toured the school the last week before Christmas to entertain classes with seasonal songs! I hope this is a new tradition that we continue.

In the final week of the year we had our Seasonal Giving Store, which was its second year. The store is a fundraising project by our PAC. It offers students an opportunity to purchase a gently used item for a parent or grandparent. This helps students find affordable items, teaches the value of money and the pleasure of giving. The money raised goes to classroom fieldtrips



Fun in the snow at Hans Helgesen.

Debra Stoutley photo

and equipment. Thank you again to the many parents and grandparents who participated in operating the store and donating their gently used items.

While we had started a tradition of walking to Devonian beach, the weather this year made that unsafe. Instead, students enjoyed a long stretch of sledding on the school hill. This was something that I think most students will remember fondly when they have grown

up and left their elementary school.

We return to school on Tuesday, January 3! Watch for our Music and Art Show (another new tradition) at the end of January. We have a wonderful night planned for our school community and we hope you will be able to attend.

On behalf of the entire Hans Helgesen staff, I wish you a safe and happy winter break! We will see you back on Tuesday, January 3, 2017!

## METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

# Volunteer Group of the Month – Metchosin Garden Club

JIM MACPHERSON

This has to be one of the oldest volunteer groups in Metchosin. Registered under the *Society Act* in 1981, the Metchosin Garden Club is older than the district itself.

It's been 35 years, and some of the original directors are still active members of the club.

The stated purposes of the Metchosin Garden Club were, among other things, to bring together people who have a common interest in gardening and to further the knowledge and practice of horticulture. If longevity and committed membership are any indications, the club has certainly fulfilled its intentions.

The club has always had a Metchosin focus but welcomes members from East Sooke, Colwood and other municipalities. And the club regularly draws visitors from across the CRD.

For all these years, club volunteers brought to its regular meetings speakers whose specialized knowledge and experience have been imparted to the gardening community whether members of the club or not. From magnolias to rhododendrons to grasses, from pests to soils, from organic to composting, from full sun to complete shade, from vegetables to native plant gardening, what works and what doesn't; there seems to be an endless variety of subjects the club brings to gardeners.

The Mother's Day Plant Sale is one opportunity where club members every year get

together and offer a large variety of home-raised plant species to help satisfy burgeoning interests in replacement specimens, different varieties, something new. The Mother's Day Plant Sale is the club's most important fund raiser.

Membership in the Metchosin Garden Club brings with it a few perks. The club has paid, for example, a professional arborist to show members how to prune their trees. The club has also financed excursions of members to more distant nurseries such as Frasers Thimble Farm Nursery on Salt Spring Island. You might also be interested in knowing that membership in the Metchosin Garden Club qualifies you for a discount at Garden Works.

One of the commitments of the club has been its contribution to the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific's scholarship fund where the club's contribution helps support a beginning horticulturist through post-secondary education.

You have no doubt read about upcoming speakers in the *Muse*. One of the club's volunteers writes these wonderful and amusing announcements inviting one and all to come and find out more about \_\_\_\_\_ (you can fill in the blank). And it's a fun group of people too – swapping stories, not always about gardening efforts.

*Editor's note: see Important Dates and Events (p. 12) for information on the first meeting of 2017.*

# Metchosin Foundation Reaches Out to Local Children

CAROL CARMAN

The Metchosin Foundation has begun a series of projects with Hans Helgesen and WestMont Montessori Schools. "The aim of the projects," says foundation director Kem Luther, "is to increase awareness of the local Metchosin landscape and environment among the younger members of our community. Over a period of years we will fund a number of learning resources at the two schools. We will also be coordinating some volunteer interaction with the schools' educational programs."

Hans Helgesen teachers often take their youngest students to a wild, forested area in the school grounds, weather permitting, to begin their school days. To enhance the children's experiences in the woods, the foundation

is supporting teachers by supplying a special outdoor backpack which contains a number of magnifying glasses, tweezers, collection bottles, and binoculars.

"When you give children a tool, it changes the focus of their play and how they interact with the forest," said kindergarten teacher Diana Wakelin. This equipment can be checked out by teachers and used for outdoor excursions. The backpack also contains a number of waterproof pamphlets that will help identify local flowers, trees, birds, seashells, pebbles, mushrooms and insects.

Driving past WestMont School on Metchosin Road, you may notice a new sign highlighting the school as a Habitat Steward of a strip of pristine, forested land that is cared for by the older grades. Metchosin Foundation has

helped to pay for the sign and discussions are ongoing with the school staff on future projects.

In mid-December, Metchosin Foundation Chair Carol Carman met with Principal Debra Stoutley and Kindergarten teacher Diana Wakelin at Hans Helgesen School to present the backpack.

"The Elementary Environmental Education (E.E.E.) initiative is a natural extension of our work with Metchosin adults in the various Myco-Blitzes, BioBlitzes and Biodiversity Days," says Carman. "These events are all open to children and youth but few of them tend to come out. We believe that working with teachers is one of the best ways to bring our message about the importance of local ecosystems to the children of the community."



Principal Debra Stoutley (left) and kindergarten teacher Diana Wakelin (right) happily accept the E.E.E. Backpack from Carol Carman of the Metchosin Foundation.

Other projects in the planning stages include a 3D map of Metchosin and species identification cards. The Foundation is also looking to provide class sets of outdoor wear so that teachers can take the children on more nature field trips in the rainy days of winter. Members of the public are invited to help. A donation of \$30 (tax-deductible) to the Metchosin Foundation will buy rain pants or a pair

of boots that the schools will be able to loan to students for the time they are outside. Please see our website at [www.metchosinfoundation.ca](http://www.metchosinfoundation.ca). You can also mail or drop off your donation to the Metchosin Foundation, c/o 4430 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, BC V9C 3Z3.

Happy New Year to all of you from all of us at the Metchosin Foundation. Thank you for your support.

## RCMP Call-Outs NOVEMBER 2016

CONSTABLE ALEX BÉRUBÉ, WEST SHORE RCMP | GRC DE WEST SHORE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Nov 1 <b>Pedder Bay Marina</b> – Report of a domestic assault. One suspect arrested.                           | Nov 16 <b>East Sooke Road</b> – Report of a single vehicle that went off the embankment.                       |
| Nov 2 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of a single vehicle MVI. Vehicle went in the ditch.                           | Nov 17 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Complaint of impaired driver. Vehicle located, driver sober.                        |
| Nov 3 <b>Winter Road</b> – Report of a suspicious male in a vehicle.   | Nov 18 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of Break and Enter from a shed.  |
| Nov 4 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Report of possible recovered stolen property.                                     | Nov 19 <b>Metchosin Road</b> – Report of an alarm. Confirmed false alarm.                                      |
| Nov 5 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of possible impaired driver. Vehicle located, driver sober.                   | Nov 21 <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – Report of a lost validation tag from licence plate.                           |
| Nov 6 <b>Castle Peak Trail</b> – Report of lost hikers; located by Search and Rescue.                          | Nov 22 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Driving complaint of vehicle weaving and crossing lines. Driver located sober.      |
| Nov 7 <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – Report of alarm going off. False alarm.  | Nov 23 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Responded to a family disturbance over a cell phone.                             |
| Nov 8 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Report of a collision that occurred over a month ago.                         | Nov 24 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Report of an MVI, car vs. deer.  |
| Nov 9 <b>Winter Road</b> – Complaint of squatters on property. Suspect arrested on warrant.                    | Nov 25 <b>Matheson Lake</b> – Responded to a vehicle burnt down in the parking lot.                            |
| Nov 10 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of stolen tools.   | Nov 26 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Complaint of an intoxicated man on the side of the road. Man located.               |
| Nov 11 <b>Aquarius Road</b> – Report of residential alarm. Confirmed false alarm.                              | Nov 27 <b>William Head Road</b> – Report of injured deer needed to be put down. Conservation Officer attended. |
| Nov 12 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Report of fraud. Complainant educated on scams and to not provide personal info. | Nov 28 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Report of a hit and run.   |
| Nov 13 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Drug paraphernalia seized during a traffic stop.                             | Nov 29 <b>Liberty Drive</b> – Report of a stolen vehicle.  |
| Nov 15 <b>Witty's Lagoon</b> – Licence plate found.  | MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident  |

## Fire Department Call-Outs NOVEMBER 2016

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Nov 1 <b>Taylor Road</b> – Assistance – Misc Complaint    | Nov 16 <b>Cardsview Terrace</b> – Medical                |
| Nov 3 <b>Pears Road</b> – Open Burn – General             | Nov 19 <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – Open Burn – General     |
| <b>Metchosin Road</b> – Medical                           | Nov 21 <b>Tavane Road</b> – Medical                      |
| Nov 4 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Commercial Structure Fire       | Nov 22 <b>Kaltasin Road</b> – Residential Structure Fire |
| Nov 6 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Assistance                      | Nov 23 <b>Derrien Place</b> – Medical                    |
| Nov 8 <b>Sandgate Road</b> – Assistance                   | Nov 24 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Misc Fire                     |
| <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – Alarm Bells – Residential       | Nov 25 <b>Matheson Lake</b> – Vehicle Fire               |
| <b>Winfall Road</b> – Medical                             | Nov 26 <b>Pearson College Road</b> – Medical             |
| Nov 10 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – MVI                         | <b>Sooke Road</b> – Brush Fire                           |
| Nov 11 <b>Metchosin Road</b> – Residential Structure Fire | Nov 27 <b>Badger Place</b> – Misc Fire                   |
| Nov 12 Brush Fire   | Nov 28 <b>Wedgewood Place</b> – Medical                  |
| Nov 15 <b>William Head Road</b> – Assistance              | Nov 30 <b>Lomax Road</b> – Hydro – Fire                  |
|   | <b>Neild Road</b> – Medical                              |
|   | MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident                              |

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## 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

**LOOKING TO BUY** smaller house in Metchosin. 1800 sq. ft. max. Please email [p\\_sterz@yahoo.ca](mailto:p_sterz@yahoo.ca).

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

### LESSONS

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

for information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

### SERVICES

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

**WEEDER'S BUCKET** Garden worker available. Spring bed preps. Weeding and invasive removal. Available until March 2, 2017. Scott in Metchosin: 250-478-5696, email [hscole@shaw.ca](mailto:hscole@shaw.ca).

# Important Dates and Events

- Jan. 1 2017 Metchosin Polar Bear Swim ..... p. 3
- Jan. 13 MCA House Concert: Elli Hart ..... p. 5  
Talk and Walk: Slime Molds ..... p. 3
- Jan. 19 MCA Guest Speaker: David Higgins ..... p. 9
- Jan. 20 Metchosin Bandwagon Music Night: We are excited to announce the band "Seacruze" ([www.seacruze.ca](http://www.seacruze.ca)) for your dancing pleasure, 7:00-9:15 pm (kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm). Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Rd. Cost: \$5 donation goes to musicians.
- Jan. 21 Metchosin Co-Op Preschool Open House, 10:00-12:00 pm. Come meet the teachers and some current families and pick up a registration package for the 2017-2018 school year. 3- and 4-year-old programs available.
- Jan. 27 Film Night: *Salmon Confidential* ..... p. 7
- Jan. 28 Boundary Adjustment Referendum ..... p. 4
- Feb. 1 Metchosin Garden Club, 7:30 pm, Metchosin Community House. Movie night featuring an episode of "The World in 80 Gardens," a BBC production with host Monty Don.

For ongoing events at the Metchosin Community House, please see page 9.

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

Clip and save this listing!



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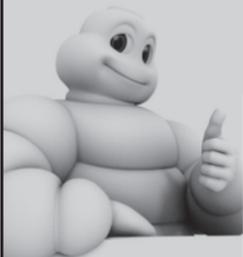
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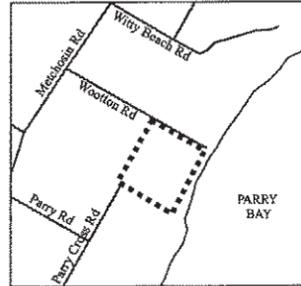
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# Take a Hike!

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

## Sea Bluff Trail



Trail around the perimeter of a sheep farm, with ocean views and picnic table. Suitable for all uses year round. Because of sheep please close all gates behind you.

Access from Parry Cross Road & Wootton Road.

# Directory of Organizations

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

### AIR CADETS

[www.848royalroadsaircadets.com](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
[www.facebook.com/848aircadets](http://www.facebook.com/848aircadets)  
250-590-3690  
[848air@cadets.gc.ca](http://848air@cadets.gc.ca)

### ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052,  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

### ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-478-1197, [www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca)

### BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

### BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

250-478-2387,  
[ikmcken@islandnet.com](mailto:ikmcken@islandnet.com),  
[www.bilstoncreek.org](http://www.bilstoncreek.org)

### 'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

[info@chosinchatters.org](mailto:info@chosinchatters.org),  
[www.chosinchatters.org](http://www.chosinchatters.org)

### CRD PARKS

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

### GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

[tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca](mailto:tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca), 250-478-5484

### LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

### METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)

[info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)  
[www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca)

### METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

### METCHOSIN COUNCIL

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

### METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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

### METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

250-391-7511,  
[exchanging@shaw.ca](mailto:exchanging@shaw.ca),  
[www.mesmetchosin.org](http://www.mesmetchosin.org)

### METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

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

### METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

[metchosin4h@gmail.com](mailto:metchosin4h@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosin4h.com](http://www.metchosin4h.com)

### METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

250-298-7877

### METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

250-478-6424,  
<http://metchosinhall.com/>

### METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

### METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989,  
School Museum, 250-478-5447

### METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

250-727-3595

### METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL

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

### METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

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

### METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

250-478-2210  
<http://www.metchosinsar.ca>

### METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)

250-478-5150, [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca)  
[www.metchosinseiors.ca](http://www.metchosinseiors.ca)

### METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)

250-478-5150, [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca)  
[www.metchosinseiors.ca](http://www.metchosinseiors.ca)

### MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

### PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

345 Wale Road, Colwood  
250-886-2481  
[www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org](http://www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org)

### POD LEADERS

Kathleen Sutherland  
250-474-3966

### ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

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250-478-0553

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford  
Ladies Auxiliary  
250-478-5484

### SCOUTS CANADA

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

### SEA CADETS

250-478-7813

### 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](mailto:programs@swanwickcentre.ca)  
[www.swanwickcentre.ca](http://www.swanwickcentre.ca)

### WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

250-478-2286,  
[info@westshorearts.org](mailto:info@westshorearts.org),  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)

### WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

250-474-3999

### WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384,  
[www.westshorercreation.ca](http://www.westshorercreation.ca)

## CHURCHES

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### GORDON UNITED CHURCH

250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

### HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

250-727-3722

### OPEN GATE CHURCH

250-590-6736  
[www.theopengate.ca](http://www.theopengate.ca)

### ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

Anglican Church of Canada  
250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)

### WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)  
250-478-8066

### WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

250-474-5967  
[www.westsong.ca](http://www.westsong.ca)

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