



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

Welcome, Spring?



Who, me? Yes, Ewe! The first family of the new lambing year at the Parry Bay Sheep Farm, a set of twins and their mama, proudly sporting the number "1." John Buchanan photo

Have a Blast and Bid to Win at MCA's Annual Services Auction

BOB BURGIS

MCA's Annual Fundraising Auction returns to the Metchosin Community House on Saturday, April 1 for an evening of high-spirited shopping with co-hosts, Stacy Ross, CHEK news anchor, and local fun guy, Mike van de Water, who will top up the entertainment with their lively commentary and auctioneers' anecdotes throughout this thrilling event.

This year's fundraiser will feature online bidding on the MCA website, beginning in March, culminating with silent and live auctions at the April event. An added cash prize will be enjoyed by the winner of a new 50-50 Draw. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a Wine and Cheese reception, hosted by Penny McCulloch-Barratt,

proprietor of The Winemaker. Silent auction items will be on display while patrons sip, socialize and compete between bids. Our local celebrity hosts will then play off each other during a highly exciting and enjoyable live auction, featuring many items to purchase, that will raise funds to support programs at the Metchosin Community House. Here's a sneak-peak of a few items:

- Jeff Craig Painting (valued at \$1000);
- A Luxury Wine Tour for two from LA Limousine and Transportation Services (valued at \$290);
- two hours of certified electrical work on your residence from Perron Electric (value \$150);
- and much, much more!

There's something for everyone at MCA's annual auction – online, silent or live – and 2017 is no exception. Every spend-thrift shopper on the West Shore will want to take advantage of the many great deals available for locally provided services and great stuff, that you can claim as your own, with the right winning bid!

Select items will be available for early online bidding as of March 7. Featured service providers and items will be highlighted at www.metchosincommunityhouse.com and @MCA – Metchosin Community House on Facebook. We are still accepting donations of auction items from service providers and suppliers. Please call 250-478-5155 for more details.

Goodbye, Winter!



Brian Domney photo

The sign says it all – STOP! Enough already! We actually had a real winter in Metchosin this year, with numerous school closures and fender benders. There were people heading for Rocky Point and William Head actually doing the the speed limit! As the Muse prepares to go to press, we are experiencing snowflakes the size of loonies when it's time for the flower count!

Metchosin Muse

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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)

A Resounding Yes. Next Is Who ...

BRIAN DOMNEY

Although the turn out was less than overwhelming, at less than 40% of eligible voters, it was roughly a 3:1 yes-no result in the referendum on the proposed land swap with

Langford held on January 28. It was a bittersweet result, with the future of a green and rural Metchosin protected at least for the foreseeable future, but at the cost of an ever closer urban Langford, particularly for those residents on the new edge.

The next big referendum Metchosin will face is the May 9 provincial election. In

the next issue of the *Muse*, we will be carrying profiles of the candidates in the new Esquimalt-Metchosin riding, so if there is a question you would like posed to them, send it along to metmuse@shaw.ca, and we'll try to incorporate it in to our grilling. Also watch for when and where the All Candidates Meetings will be held.

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.



The fine new gutters and down spouts on the School House Museum, generously donated and installed by the Ryan Craycroft family of Network Home Improvements. Brian Domney photo

Mayor Ranns to the Rescue

This winter has been a tough one, but I wonder how many Metchosinites recall the winter of 1996? Christmas that year was meant to be a special one for us as our son was to visit us with our two little grandchildren. We had purchased tickets for *The Nutcracker Suite* at the Royal Theatre, a treat which was sure to please the children. With the accumulation of snow, the only way we were able to drive downtown was by using our four-wheel-drive truck with the two little ones safely ensconced with blankets in the back of the truck. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance and with much effort, arrived safely back home.

Our son was concerned about the amount of snow that had fallen as he had to drive back to Comox where he was stationed with the military. With Herculean efforts, my husband Fred and son Rick shovelled three feet of snow off of our 350-foot-long driveway, only to realize that Dutnall Road also was impassable, and probably would not be cleared for several days. "Oh dear, what could we do?" In desperation Fred phoned the Municipal Hall and explained our situation, literally begging for some miracle to take place.

At 1:30 am the following morning came the unmistakable sounds of road clearing equipment on Dutnall Road. By early morning our son and children were able to make a safe departure from Metchosin, and a phone call several hours later from Comox assured us that they had arrived safely.

Fred decided that a call to the Municipal Hall was in order, so as soon as their office opened, he phoned to tender his thanks for the service which had been bestowed on us. The phone was answered by Mayor John Ranns. Fred said to him "I want to thank the Municipal Hall for coming to my aid last night by clearing Dutnall Road." To which the Mayor replied "That was me on the front end loader". Since then we have had total respect for Mayor Ranns!

Dauna and Fred Neveaux

Musings

My family health concerns have forced my early departure from our *Muse* team as advertising coordinator, and I would now like to express my deep appreciation to all of the *Muse* advertisers and volunteers that contribute to the *Muse*. You enable the *Muse* to exist. Thank you to the great *Muse* team who volunteer to produce the *Muse*. You are all exceptional people and wonderful to work with. Hopefully, I will be able to continue to contribute in a smaller role in the *Muse* photography department in the near future. My request is in! Your *Metchosin Muse* is in good hands. Support our *Metchosin Muse* newspaper and be a *Muse* volunteer today! Thanks everyone.

Peter M. Lewis

Some Thank Yous from the Metchosin Museum Society

With the Metchosin School Museum closed for the winter, this is the time for repairs.

We want to thank Angus Stewart and Chris Frang of Timberhawk Homebuilders Ltd. for donating labour to install combed fascia and corner boards at the Metchosin School. We also want to thank the Ryan Craycroft family of Network Home Improvements for supplying and installing the school's eavestroughs and downspouts.

For the Pioneer Museum, a thank you is owed to Peter Walsh, who built an oak display case for rare books.

On a different note, I am sure that most *Muse* readers know that a few years ago the Metchosin Museum Society was bequeathed approximately \$114,000 from the Eric Clay estate. This inheritance has given the Society financial sustainability.

Since then, the Metchosin Museum Society has benefited from donations from the Victoria Foundation and Metchosin Jazzercise. The Society also received contributions from Bess Page's memorial. Thank you.

Finally, I can't just let this go without giving a plug to Old Barn Books. This incredible bookstore, drawing readers from across the region, is located by the Pioneer Museum and is open every Sunday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, except holiday Sundays. All money raised from book sales goes to support the museums.

Jim MacPherson

Thanks, Metchosin!

We moved to Metchosin the first of May, 2016, and we are so impressed with the community functions we have been invited to attend at the Fire Hall.

My husband and I were asked to help out on Halloween night with the food. We were really surprised at the number of people who attended and the number of hot dogs prepared. The bonfire was huge and the fireworks were an amazing display.

Just before Christmas we took our granddaughter to the Breakfast with Santa. She had a wonderful time sitting in the fire truck with Santa, decorating cookies and making Christmas ornaments for our tree at home. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who put on these events for our community. We look forward to 2017 activities.

Cheryl Hanna

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



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Erik the Thespian Pony's Passing

GARY AND SYBIL KANGAS



Erik the thespian pony, a familiar sight on Metchosin's road and trails for 26 years, passed away on February 4, 2017 of old age at 32 years, 10 months and 2 weeks. Erik was a star of stage, screen and arena, famed for his exploits in Wild West Shows and multiple TV videos, plus news items.

Erik's fundraising abilities were legendary. His support of good causes included the Metchosin Community House, the Therapeutic Riding Association, and sponsoring young challenged horse enthusiasts. His efforts raised just under \$30,000 for multiple causes.

Erik was well known and taught a number of individuals to ride. He was a cheery, engaging small horse standing 14.1 hands.

Erik had a long and illustrious career. He was cherished by all who met him.

Gary Kangas on his beloved Erik. Photo supplied.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Learn about earthquake proofing your home

CHARLA HUBER, METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Earthquake Proof Your Home
 March 21, 7:00 pm
 Metchosin Fire Hall
 4440 Happy Valley Road

No one wants to think about earthquakes and especially the potential damage they can cause. Even though it can be scary to think about, there are things you can do to minimize damage and prepare yourself, and your home.

Metchosin's own Robert Patterson, an expert structural engineer, will lead a session

on how to earthquake proof your home. Using his safety tips, you and your family can secure your home, inside and out, for when the big one hits.

Most residential homes are built to be structurally sound and should be able to withstand an earthquake. The home should be able to move with the earthquake and be mostly undamaged. Robert will explain this in greater detail and talk about parts of the home you may want to focus on, and potentially dangerous issues that can arise.

Preparing your home isn't just about how it is structurally built, it's also important to focus on furniture and

other items in your home and how they may be affected by an earthquake. At the session Robert will discuss various ways to anchor items, and what types of items you should focus on first.

Robert has a lot of great information and tips to share. This is one Metchosin Emergency Program information session not to be missed.

For more information, call 250-478-1307 or email firechief@metchosinfire.ca.

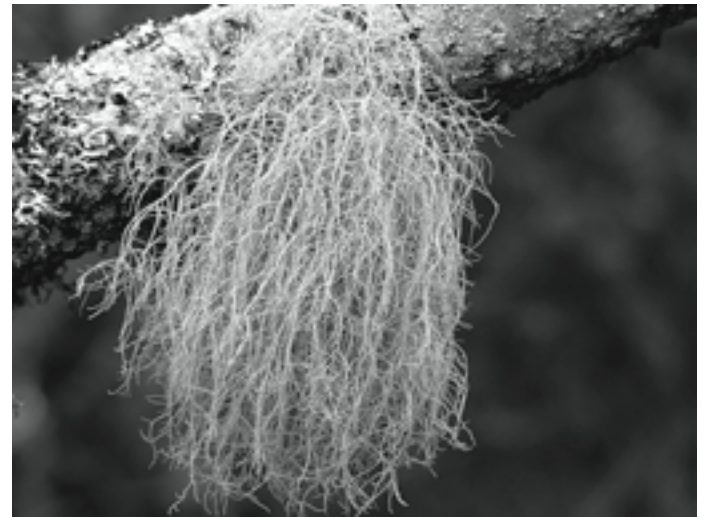
For a complete listing of Emergency Program presentations in 2017, go to <http://metchosinemergencyprogram.ca/upcoming-events/>



Many very old wooden buildings survived the quake that brought large buildings down in Christchurch, New Zealand – a reassuring fact for most home owners in Metchosin. Brian Domney photo

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.



Old Man's Beard

Moralea Milne photo

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.

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! The workshop will be limited to 10 spaces for those with the best habitats for bats. Send an email to moraleamilne@gmail.com for more information.

THE BEES' NEEDS: Wild pollinators of the Garry Oak Ecosystem and why gardens are important for conservation – May 5 and 6

Elizabeth Elle is Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at SFU. She 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.

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Hey! We Can't Do This by Ourselves!



How can you resist this plea for help?

Brian Domney photo

2017 Sheepdog Trial Update

KATHLEEN SUTHERLAND

The 2017 Metchosin/Swanwick Sheepdog Trial is looking for help from the community for the following:

ACCOMMODATION (places for handlers, their families and dog(s) to stay during trial event): *B&Bs* – Are you out here in Metchosin? Who are you and what are your prices? *Homestay offers* – Are you willing to put up a handler and their dog? Are you willing if they have their own camper/trailer etc.?

DONATIONS FOR PRIZES: Are there artists willing and able to donate some of our great local art for the top prize winners? Are there artists willing and able to donate small art or craft items for draw prizes or “swag bags”?

SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT:

We are looking for local companies and organizations to help. Are there companies out there willing to donate money or goods? Some of the things we need are Porta-Potties, bleachers, drinking water for the audience, fencing, shade tents, parking attendants, first aid attendants ...

Let's make this iconic event even more successful than in the past! If you are able to help with any of the above, please email metchosinsheepdogtrial@gmail.com or call 250-474-3966.



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COUNCIL NEWS

MARCH 2017



BUDGET OPEN HOUSE, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 5:30 PM (PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING)

Find out how council proposes to spend your tax dollars this year. Drop in to the budget open house on Monday, March 6 at 5:30 pm. Information will be available on the operating budget 2017 and capital projects.

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 (see below).

GRANT IN AID PROGRAM

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

DRIVEWAY CULVERT MAINTENANCE

Residents are reminded to clear driveway culverts of debris to help prevent flooding. It is also property owners' responsibility to ensure that water and gravel from your driveway does not enter onto the roadway. A permit is required to undertake any work on the municipal roadway, including installation of driveways and culverts.

SOIL DELIVERY RESTRICTED UNTIL MAY

Residents are reminded that soil delivery is restricted from November to April each year to help reduce damage to roadways from heavy truck traffic. Any person bringing in more than 80 m³ to a property in a year or bringing in soil to an area near to streams or wetlands must do so only with a permit. Please contact the Municipal Hall before bringing in soil, rock, gravel, or sand to ensure you comply with the community bylaws and to avoid hefty fines.

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	Mar 6, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting	Mar 20, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting	Mar 6, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC)	Mar 21, 7:00 pm
Healthy Communities Advisory Committee (HCAC)	Mar 8, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC)	Mar 28, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and Public Works	Mar 13, 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

Metchosin Foundation Outreach to All Age Groups

CAROL CARMAN

Environmental education for youth is a major focus of the Metchosin Foundation's activities this year, involving both of our local elementary schools as well as Belmont and Royal Bay High Schools.

In February, teachers and students at Westmont Montessori School were presented with an outdoor environmental education backpack to support student outdoor activities in the forests, fields and shorelines around the school. The packs include class sets of magnifying glasses, hand grip tweezers, and measuring sticks as well as a set of laminated pamphlets for doing field species identification.

"It is fantastic that the Metchosin Foundation can help enhance the education for students in our local schools," said Westmont Principal Magnus Hanton. "Projects like the backpacks and species identification cards allow our students to really engage with the amazing natural environment in which we are so fortunate to live."

An "Eco-Card" Project is also well underway. The Foundation is producing, with the help of local naturalists and writers, a set of 50 laminated cards. These four inch by six inch cards have pictures on the front of some of Metchosin's most common plant species. On the other side is a description of the plant written with ten-year-olds in mind. Sets of these eco-cards will be donated to the schools. The plan is to have them ready by summer. Also, teachers in both local schools have indicated their need for speakers, especially for the upper grades, who have expertise in environment, ecology, gardening, and natural history. We are currently developing a list of Metchosin experts, so please let us know if you would like to participate in your area of interest. Wildflowers in the spring? Birds in the summer? Mushrooms in the fall? Animal signs in the winter?

The Foundation is also working with teachers at Westmont Montessori and Hans Helgesen schools to produce laminated wall maps of

Metchosin and Metchosin environments. The map posters will be donated to the schools for classroom use.

On Friday and Saturday April 7 and 8, the Talk and Walk will focus on Native Bats in Metchosin. The presentation at the Community House Friday evening will be followed by an opportunity outdoors to build your own bat boxes. Materials will be provided in a kit format. Donations to the Metchosin Foundation will be welcome.

The new Metchosin Foundation High School Scholarship Project is being launched thanks largely to a generous donation from a Metchosin resident. Funds will be made available for students who are:

- residents of Metchosin,
- graduating from Grade 12,
- have demonstrated excellence in relevant areas, and
- are pursuing higher education opportunities.

Details are currently being worked out with the local high schools. If you are interested in enhancing this fund with a tax-deductible gift,



Metchosin Foundation's Carol Carman presents Westmont principal Magnus Hanton with an Environmental Education Backpack.

Kem Luther photo

please contact the Metchosin Foundation.

The Foundation's work continues to promote the establishment of conservation covenants on lands and regions of ecological significance. We will be partnering this year with the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) through their Good Neighbours Project, to focus on riparian corridors and on lands along

the ocean shorelines. If you are a landowner with an interest in this area, please contact us for more information.

Our website is at 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. Thank you for your support.

SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE

SIRC Gourmet Dinner Raffle – The Winner!

CAROL CARMAN

The name on the winning raffle ticket for the 2016 Gourmet Dinner Raffle was a very active member of the Metchosin community, Wendy Turner. The ticket was drawn on November 15 from over 200 tickets sold by the Seniors' Information Resource Centre (SIRC) as part of the annual fund-raising campaign.

"What a great idea for a raffle!" said Turner. "We so enjoyed this hosted Gourmet Meal for Eight on a wintery February evening."

The winner each year chooses options from a multi-course menu for up to eight people, to be prepared and served in their own home at a time of their choosing. Wendy asked that this celebration be held after Christmas and New Year's festivities, and February 6 was chosen.

The meal began with a wonderful bruschetta topped with tomatoes, herbs and capers. Next came a silky corn soup flavoured with shallots and cumin, with crab and shiitake cakes floating on top! The third course was an elegant salad made from asiago, sweet pears and greens, and topped with pecans. Exotically flavoured lamb shanks formed the main course, atop a tangy bulgur pilaf and with sautéed, shredded Brussels sprouts. A Hungarian hazelnut torte capped off the meal in style.

Many local gourmet hands participated in the preparation and serving of this grand repast. Many thanks to all the chefs, including Deirdre Chettleburgh, Helen Fletcher, Bob and Donna Gramigna, Betty Hildreth, Anne Richmond, Sheila Moulton and Star Weiss. Peter Hammond served as the photographer.



The lucky gourmets with their hosts, back row (l to r) Betty Hildreth, Nicole Lalonde, Wendy Turner, Roger St-Pierre, Helen Fletcher, Donna Gramigna. Front row (L to R) Heather Showers, Abby St-Pierre, Dave Turner, Ken Showers, Ric Perron.

Peter Hammond photo

Plans are already underway for the Gourmet Raffle of 2017 to continue to support SIRC's vision of an "age-friendly Metchosin." Tickets will be available beginning the end of May at the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale and sales will continue until the 2017 mid-November draw.

A lifetime membership in SIRC costs only \$10. For more information or to buy Gourmet Raffle tickets, drop by the SIRC office at 4495 Happy Valley Road, contact Dawn Boshcoff at 250-478-5150, or check our website at www.MetchosinSeniors.ca.

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



Mairi MacKinnon piped in the Rough Voice singers for their Robbie Burns Celebration. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Mairi MacKinnon and Her Bagpipes at Rough Voice Robbie Burns Night

BARB SAWATSKY

Having briefly mentioned Mairi's appearance at Rough Voice in last month's *Muse*, I would like to thank her further for helping us celebrate Robbie Burns Day. Learning to play the pipes only one year ago for her son James' wedding, she sounds like she's played them for years. When practicing outdoors, the sound drifts across the water from Witty Beach to the Farquharsons' property on Olympic View Drive, which prompted Laura to ask if she would come to the sing-along as a surprise entertainer. Mairi readily agreed, arriving in time to "pipe in" the musicians to the delight of everyone present. What a fitting and memorable start to a night of Scottish songs!

With only three Rough Voice evenings until the season is finished, join us at the House on March 13 and 27, then for the grand finale on April 10. You never know what we'll have planned for you.



The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

We have had a winter, haven't we? I hope the snow pack in the mountains provides more summer moisture than we have had of late, and that the cold killed most of the slug eggs lurking about. It is still too wet underfoot to do anything but prune. The *Muse* deadline is the 15th of each month, but by the time you read this it may have dried out. The pruning of the fruit trees and cutting back of the big grasses are February chores, rain or shine.

After Christmas I celebrated by getting whatever plague was going around, and spent two weeks or more looking, as my late mother would say, "like a dying duck in a thunderstorm," then came the snow, so I got a lot of reading done. For those with a limited attention span, such as semi-invalids, a pleasant read is *A Garden Miscellany* by Jane Billingshurst, an English-born woman currently living in Anacortes. The book is available at the Victoria Public Library. She starts out with selections from Christian, Islamic and Buddhist texts describing gardens as paradise, going on to give short excerpts proving her theory that all people have a garden paradise somewhere in their belief system. Most of the book comprises quotes from anywhere and everywhere that interests her. One poem struck me, written in by a Benedictine monk who lived from 808 to 849 AD.

GET A GARDEN

*Though a life of retreat offers various joys
None I think will compare with the time one employs
In a study of herbs, or in striving to gain
Some practical knowledge of nature's domain.
Get a garden! What kind you may get matters not
Though the soil be light, friable, sandy and hot,
Or alternately heavy and rich with stiff clay;
Lie it on a hill or slope gently away
To the level or sink in an overgrown dell –
Don't despair it will grow vegetables well!
Provided no sloth takes the edge of your zeal,
And you never permit yourself scornful to feel
Of the infinite pains a true gardener must take,
Or seek a short cut – the one fatal mistake!
And provided you have no objection to soil
And harden your hands with good open-air toil,
And are willing to push a dung-barrow out
On the parched earth, and there spread its
contents about.
The advice given here is no copy-book rule,
Picked up second-hand, read in books,
learned at school.
But the fruit of hard labour and personal test
To which I have sacrificed pleasure and rest.*

– Walafred Strabo

Of course I looked up Walafred, and found he lived in an abbey on Reichenau Island, which is in Lake Constance in southern Germany. In the 1800s it was joined to the

mainland by a causeway, but in Walafred's time a boat was necessary. (He seems to be a precursor of Brother Cadfael in the Ellis Peters medieval mysteries). The island is renowned for its vegetable farms to this day. I was fascinated by how current the poem is – the translator did a good job.

March is the major seed sowing month for most of us, whether we have the pot on the windowsill or a more professional set-up. Bob Peterson who used to own the much-lamented Royal Oak nursery, used to say he sold tomato plants twice to a lot of his customers – those who started their seeds too early, and those who bought tomatoes the first day they were available and put them out far too early. I hope you ordered your seeds early, thus getting what you wanted instead of a substitute, and that you are trying something new, be it a tomato, squash, or a new Japanese green. The last few summers shelling beans for drying have done well. I remember as a child that they simply didn't mature here, and as for peppers, only those who could give them major protection would even bother to try.

A major pleasure on a fine day is to play hooky and do a nursery crawl. There are two types of gardeners on such occasions – those who want something grey foliated, that has pink flowers in July, and those who fall for every pretty face or uncommon treasure. Unfortunately I seem to be a bit of both, though I am now having to think about where it will be planted, and whether the deer will love it or not.

The major panic this year is that one of my granddaughters wants her wedding reception in the garden – Yikes! So you know where I will be spending my time. Oh to be 35 again!

We did have one wedding here some years ago; it was lovely. They were a Sooke couple, and the Sooke pipe band led the bride up the aisle (otherwise known as the lower driveway). Didn't see the deer for days!

That reminds me of when the Canadian Scottish regiment was stationed at Mary Hill during the war, and the pipers led the men out on route marches. Our cows raced down to William Head Road and hung their faces over the fence in astonishment; Mr. Weir's cows broke out and ran for the hills. People were hunting for their cows for days, while ours waited impatiently for another concert. Metchosin was full of livestock in those days, and manure for the garden was easy to come by; now it is practically a municipal treasure. If you have a source, use it, mix it with your compost and let it mature for a while. The very best I have ever used is llama – it comes pelleted like rabbit, and doesn't burn the vegetation if it is put on fresh. It doesn't smell, and fairly quickly just becomes wonderful mulch.

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Richard Blanchard

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What does a bear do in the woods?



The Back Country Horseman of BC, South Island Chapter is sponsoring a Bear Aware presentation by Metchosin's own Peter Pauwels, Conservation Officer, at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 24 at the Community House. This is a fundraiser with a minimum \$5 donation suggested.

The 8th Quasi-Annual Metchosin Grafting Day

DEREK WULFF

Metchosin Grafting Day
Sunday, March 19, 1:00 pm
Metchosin Community House

One of the great joys of living in Metchosin is the annual events that celebrate our connections to the Earth. At this time of year we celebrate the return of the light after the winter solstice, the first peeking out of wildflowers in the spring, and those honey bees that emerge from their winter clustering in February and March.

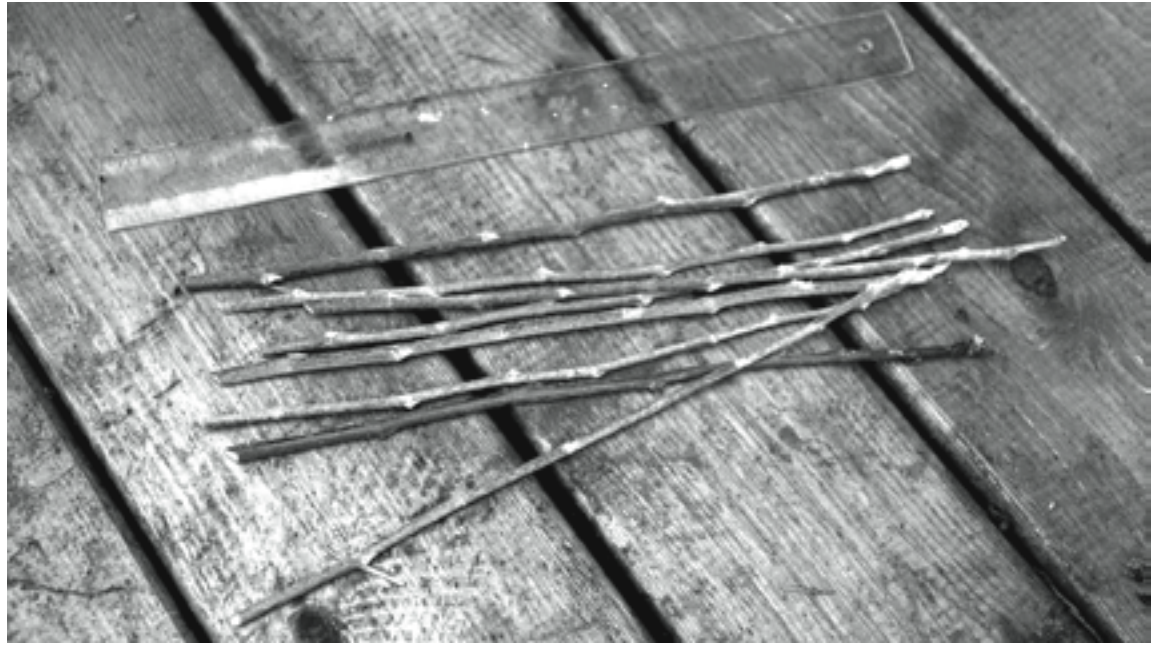
We continue the celebration of growing local fruit by hosting a day where Metchosinites can bring scionwood from their favourite fruit trees (mostly apples) and renew them by grafting them onto new rootstock.

Last year we bought 40 rootstock of various kinds and local residents scooped them up and either grafted them on site, or, after a quick demonstration (and some handouts) took them home to graft. Over the past few years I have met many people who gave me updates about the status of their new trees, and happily many grafts have been successful – even by beginners.

Grafting scions (last year's sucker growth, about the thickness of your baby finger) is actually pretty easy, and if the graft didn't take last year, you can try again on the same rootstock this year – so bring it along!

The heritage apples in our community are well suited to the conditions here and if you like the taste (or other attributes, like ability to keep well into the winter) then bring in some of last year's sucker growth and make a new tree and share with others. The Lennox Spartan, Jonagold, Liberty and Honeycrisp are a few of many local favourites – and this year we have a new exciting addition – the Metchosin apple and the Hakai – created by Fiona Hamersley-Chambers. There will be scionwood of those trees! We know John Papuc will bring some great varieties too!

We will supply rootstock and welcome anyone who is interested in trying their hand at grafting to come out on Sunday, March 19 at the Metchosin Community House from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Each rootstock is \$3 and we will supply all the grafting tape and materials! The rootstock will create semi dwarf trees, which are very easy to prune,



Scionwood ready for grafting.

Brian Domney photo

espalier, and pick from, without falling off a ladder!

If you have an apple that you want to share – tasty, a good keeper, great in pies (etc.) bring along a few extra scions for others. Heritage varieties – bring 'em!

We understand Bill from Cortes will also have some mason bees for sale – cool!

So go out now, cut off some one-year-old new shoots (no more than 30 centimetres long), store them in a tightly sealed plastic bag in the fridge. Make sure you label them for

their attributes – even if you don't know their name!

Growing and eating locally tastes better, brings happiness to your life (no fake news here!), and reduces your carbon footprint! This event is a great opportunity to increase the stock of heritage fruit trees, and keep Metchosin producing!

What better way to celebrate the warming of the

earth as the spring begins to spread its cornucopia of life!

If you have any questions please call me, Derek Wulff, 250-478-2677. See you on March 19!

Derek, along with Dan O'Connell and Jennifer Burgis, are part of the Metchosin Pomological Society, dedicated to celebrating the rich history of apple growing in Metchosin.

Making Metchosin Great Again: Growing Great Soil

JUDITH VAN MANEN

Christy Clark won her election with the slogan "Growing the Economy." Donald Trump won his election with the promise "Making America Great Again." But Christina Nikolic is no false prophet of political slogans. She will explain to our Garden Club members the secret of "Growing Great Soil." Growing soil? Yes, growing soil. If you want to grow great gardens you must first grow great soil. Christina is passionate about healthy soil and organic gardening. During her interactive presentation, she will show how to grow great soil for a beautiful, healthy garden.

Great soil is the foundation on which to build our gardens. A large portion of growth activity in plants goes on underground, so poor soil not only affects the growth of plants, but makes them more susceptible to disease and insect attacks. Find out how easy it is to create and support a healthy soil ecosystem. Learn about the soil partners and the roles they play – a partnership with benefits: beautiful, healthy plants with high nutritional value and natural resilience against pests and disease.

As gardeners, we must be stewards of our soil. When our plants are not doing well, what are the symptoms and the underlying causes? What are possible remedies? Christina invites us to consider pests and diseases as helpful

Four Tips for Healthy Soil

1. Take care not to overwork the soil as this can make it vulnerable to erosion and break the nutrient cycle. Soil structure is easily damaged by compaction and by working soil when it's wet or frozen.
2. Incorporate 15 to 30 centimetres of compost during garden installation followed by five centimetres applications in spring and fall to promote moisture retention and drainage, soil pH that is favourable for the organisms in the soil, and to encourage nutrient availability.
3. Add composted mulch to the soil surface to protect from weeds, erosion, and temperature extremes, and to retain soil moisture.
4. Plant cover crops (clovers, alfalfa, beans, peas) to feed the soil, build up its fertility, and improve its structure with each passing season.

messengers, rather than pesky problems. One sage piece of advice she will reinforce is that when it comes to soil, we need to focus on the three M's: Mulch, Moisture, and Microbes.

Christina Nikolic is more than a landscape designer. She is a holistic gardener, organic master gardener, and dedicated advocate of working with nature. She received her Landscape Architecture degree and extensive training in Germany. She has been teaching organic horticulture and ecological landscape design courses at Gaia College in the Cowichan Valley for over ten years. These courses are driven by pertinent questions: What does it mean to be really connected with nature? How do we collaborate with the ecosystem we live in rather than simply trying to control it? Yes, as gardeners

we love to be outside and watch our plants grow. But is this enough to connect us with the natural world?

Currently, Christina operates a local Victoria fertilizer business, the Organic Gardener's Pantry. She also serves as director on the board of SOUL (Society for Organic Urban Land Care). If there is any time left, Christina can be found in her garden, getting her hands dirty. She declares: "My garden is home to many beautiful ornamental and food plants mixing and mingling happily, with a thick mulch layer covering the ground at all times."

Come and secure a seat at our next Garden Club meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 7:30 pm at the Community House, to hear Christina Nikolic. Our motto: "Making Metchosin Soil Great Again."



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Film Night at the Community House: *Inside Peace*

RIC PERRON

Friday, March 31, 7:00 pm

Inside Peace
(55 minutes)

Join host Ric Perron with Susan Doyle, Justin Geaudoin, manager of programs at William Head Institution, and perhaps someone from The John Howard Society, to watch director Cynthia Fitzpatrick's documentary (insidepeacemovie.com).

Inside Peace follows a group of inmates doing hard time in a Texas prison as they embark on a journey of personal discovery while struggling with society's roadblocks and dangers.

The film provides a window into the hearts and minds of men doing hard time who choose to break the cycle of negativity. With a supporting cast of fellow inmates, prison officials, experts and family members, it takes the viewer down their difficult roads as they reintegrate with life on the outside, relying on the personal peace, self-worth, and dignity discovered at the Peace Class. If they can change the only belief system they've ever known, and are successful in understanding their value as human beings, they just may have a chance of living better lives by making better choices. The path becomes most treacherous when released from jail as they try to negotiate a world filled with conflict, rejection, and hostility. Faced with these familiar roadblocks at every turn, they must avoid the temptation to return to their old ways – those that led to failure and imprisonment in the first place.

"These stories bleed through *Inside Peace*, and are crucial to it. But this is only part of what the film is about. The men manage to take the message to heart that they have value as people – no simple lesson ... This is where, for the viewer, the awe comes in."

– "Peace Behind Barbed Wire" by Robert Koehler, *Huffington Post*



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MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Electric Vehicles – The Greening of Transportation

with Jim Hindson, Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm,
Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

RIC PERRON

"An Electric Vehicle has 20 moving parts, compared to the gasoline car of 2000."
– TeslaTap.com

Why are electric vehicles such an important strategy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Jim Hindson will cover the emergence of electric vehicles, how they are expected to quickly replace fossil-fueled vehicles, and the unique opportunity to make Metchosin a leader in electric vehicle adoption.

Jim is a retired Professional Transportation Engineer, Information Technology Director and Business Consultant. Now an 18-year resident of Victoria, Jim is an environmental activist and an advocate for balanced



A couple of Nissan Leafs (Leaves?!) at the charging station at the Community House.
Brian Domney photo

transportation infrastructure and electric vehicles.

New announcements: government incentives for purchasing an EV of \$11,000. And since our Liberal Government has a big-big

investment in electricity, namely BC Hydro, they have promised the "Greening" of some major highways such as from Vancouver to Cranbrook, installing EV chargers along the route.

WANTED: Reports of dead bats and of bats flying during winter

HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST

White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease responsible for the death of millions of bats in eastern North America, has moved to the west coast and was confirmed in Washington State in 2016. This is very worrisome for the health of bat populations in British Columbia, with a near 100% mortality for some species of bats exposed to the fungus. Although devastating for bats, WNS does not affect humans.

The BC Community Bat Program in collaboration with the BC government is requesting the public's help in monitoring the spread of this disease. "We knew this deadly fungus was moving westward across North America," says Mandy Kellner, Coordinator of the BC Community Bat Program, "but we thought we had many years to prepare." Instead, the disease was confirmed near Seattle last March, and we are gearing up to look for it in BC this winter.

The typical first sign of this disease is bats flying during the winter, an unusual sighting at a time of year when bats are hibernating. Another sign of the presence of WNS is the appearance of dead bats as they succumb to the effects of WNS. "We are encouraging the public to report dead bats or any sightings of winter bat activity to the Community Bat Project (CBP) toll-free phone number, website, or email below. Bat carcasses will



A little brown bat displaying White Nose Syndrome.
Photo by Marvin Moriarty, USA Fish and Wildlife Service

be submitted for testing for White Nose Syndrome and would provide the earliest indication of the presence of the disease in BC," says Kellner. Reports of winter bat activity will help focus research, monitoring and protection efforts.

If you find a dead bat in our region, report it to Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) by reaching Katie Bell at 250-995-2428 as soon as possible for further information. Never touch any bat with your bare hands. Please note that if you or your pet has been in direct contact with a bat, you should seek out further information regarding the risk of rabies.

Currently there are no treatments for White Nose Syndrome. However, mitigating other threats to bat populations and preserving and restoring bat habitat may provide bat populations with

the resilience to rebound. This is where HAT's Bat Stewardship Program and the general public can help.

HAT's program is funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Province of BC, the Habitat Stewardship Program, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Lush, and the Victoria Natural History Society. The BC Community Bat Program works with the government and others on public outreach activities, public reports of roosting bats in buildings, and our citizen-science bat monitoring program.

To contact the BC Community Bat Program, see www.bcbats.ca, email info@bcbats.ca, or call 1-855-922-2287.

There is an upcoming Talk and Walk on bats on April 7 and 8 (see page 3).

Skully: The Cat Who Came Back



Skully the cat. They thought he was a goner, but the cat came back, the very next year ...
Celina Holder photo

BARB SAWATSKY

On January 26, almost buried in the avalanche of Metchosin land swap Facebook posts, was a message from Celina Holder appealing to everyone to watch for Skully, her lost cat, who had been missing since March 22, 2016.

Moving to Metchosin from Sooke last March with her two cats, Celina was cautious about introducing them to the outdoors at their new home, so the first time she took Skully for a walk, she put him into a harness. But spooked by a noise, he twisted, broke free and was gone. Heartbroken, Celina never stopped looking for her pet. For ten months she posted lost cat notices, contacted the SPCA and the Facebook page "Find Lost & Escaped Cats" (FLEC) regularly and made monthly phone calls to all municipalities asking if they had picked up a body matching his description. There were sightings of a cat matching

Skully's description in the Winter Road area off Happy Valley Road so Celina would follow up on them, but with no result.

After a record hot summer followed by a six-week long, bitterly cold spell, the stars finally aligned and some Metchosin magic happened. Sandy Holland, recognizing Skully's picture on Facebook, drove to her neighbours' house on Winter Road, took a photograph of the long-lost-but-now-found cat sitting on Linda Cue's car, and posted the picture. Incredulous, Celina, who was at work, phoned her dad, who immediately drove from Sooke to Linda's where Skully was hunkered down in the garage. He showed up at Linda's property about two months prior, lonely and obviously hungry, so she fed him and let him sleep in her heated garage at night. Because she has two dogs, she couldn't have him in the house, but at least he was warm and safe.

"He was so affectionate and obviously came from a home. I couldn't let him go hungry," Linda said.

Skully was taken to the vet directly after being found and will now have to undergo oral surgery, probably losing most of the remainder of his teeth. "It will be expensive, but he is so worth it," said Celina. And when his groomer, Debra Norton at Whisker Tales Cat Grooming, heard that he was home, she contacted Celina and offered to groom him free of charge. Which she did, restoring all of his long-haired, black and white handsomeness.

Skully came into Celina's life seven years ago, following the clean-up of a house across the road from her home in Sooke where a "cat hoarder with over 70 cats" lived. Skully would follow an orange cat to their house and peer through the door at night, his white face and distinctive markings looking much like a skull – hence his name. She slowly gained his trust then adopted him, spending her time and earnings on grooming and vet bills. Skully weighs about twenty pounds – a Maine Coon-Rag Doll cross – and his coat was matted so badly under his front legs that he could hardly walk. Celina spent hours shaving him to remove the matted fur. His teeth were so rotted that the vet removed all but his incisors, canines and molars.

I met this now nearly famous and remarkable cat only five days after he was returned to his former digs in Sooke where he will stay with Celina's parents, Layne and Christine. He is spectacularly gorgeous; I fell in love with him immediately. After five minutes of shyness, he showed his endearing personality by butting his head into my hand repeatedly and rolling onto his back to have his tummy scratched. Watching



Skully the cat resumed snuggles with his humans quickly after nearly a year away.
Barb Sawatsky photo

him, I am amazed that he has so quickly readjusted to living indoors and, by all appearances, is a sublimely happy and contented cat.

I am just as impressed with Celina as I am with Skully. Brought up in "a home full of love and respect," she thanks everyone who helped to bring her kitty home. "I love Metchosin. The community support has been fantastic. Everyone on Facebook who shared and sent encouraging messages, especially to Sandy Holland who took the time

him warm and safe: a huge thank you! And also thanks to Debra, his groomer and his vet at Otter Point Veterinary Clinic."

Skully has tales to tell but prefers to remain silent on the subject of his walk-about for now. He didn't give up when the going was tough and neither did Celina. It is no wonder that when Layne arrived to pick him up, Linda teared up with happiness that Skully was finally going home to his loving family.

Fire Chief Presented on International Auto Extrication Competition



Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop presented to an interested audience on her role in a recent International Auto Extrication competition in Brazil. Our volunteer Fire Department, led by Dunlop, is a well-respected leader in auto extrication.
Photo by Brian Domney

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to post his picture and then

to contact me, and to Linda Cue who fed him and kept



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Congratulations!



Photo by Jim Challenger

The *Muse's* own Joannie Challenger and husband Jim are the proud new grandparents of grandson Gavin. Mom Kari and baby are both doing well.

Mozart in Metchosin with the Emily Carr String Quartet and AK Coope, Clarinet

Emily Carr String Quartet and guest AK Coope, clarinet, perform "Intimate Letters"

Date: Sunday, March 26, 2:30 pm

Where: St. Mary of the Incarnation, 4125 Metchosin Road

Tickets are \$25 and available at Ivy's Bookshop, Royal and McPherson box offices, online at Eventbrite, and at the door. Students free at the door.



AK Coope



The Emily Carr String Quartet

VALERIE KOHUT

Many of you have experienced the rich talents of the Emily Carr String Quartet over the past few years, including a memorable performance of Dvorak's *American String Quartet* in October. On Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 pm the Emily Carrs will return with guest virtuosic Vancouver clarinetist AK Coope to perform the sublime *Mozart Clarinet Quintet* at the St. Mary's Church in Metchosin.

Mozart wrote this fabulous piece of music in 1789 when he was 33 years old. Although this was a less than happy time in Mozart's life, this uplifting piece of music not only glows with mellowness and golden warmth, but the manner in which Mozart develops the moods and musical textures wrings

enormous richness from the material, allowing the clarinetist to display great virtuosity.

Some might recall the use of this piece in the final episode of the television series, *M.A.S.H.*, entitled "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen," where Major Charles Emerson Winchester and a group of Chinese musician POWs share some poignant moments to the strains of the *Mozart Clarinet Quintet*.

The title piece of this performance, *Intimate Letters* is by Czech composer Leos Janáček. The story is told that, at age 63, Janáček began writing a stream of more than 700 love letters to a married woman 37 years his junior. Even though Janáček filled his letters with passion the young woman, named Kamila, expressed little feeling for Janáček or his music.

At an age when most people slow down, Janáček, remarkably, found his creativity boundless and composed some of his best music, including the *String Quartet No. 2* – called, appropriately, *Intimate Letters*. The Emily Carr String Quartet (Muge Buyukcelen and Cory Balzer violins, Mieka Michaux, viola, and Alasdair Money, cello) practiced, professional and precise, is well equipped to perform this emotionally charged and intense piece.

Arrangements of folk tunes by Komitas, the father of Armenian classical music, will also be performed. The whole program will be repeated on Monday, March 27 at St. John the Divine, 1611 Quadra Street, at 7:30 pm.

There's a lot going on in Metchosin this month!

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

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Shake off the Winter Blues!

MCA House Concert

MCA House Concert:
Wail 'n Moan
Friday, March 10, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Community
House

ERIN VAN DE WATER

Mark your calendars for another great evening of listening to musical talent in Metchosin! Friday, March 10 at the Community House, the MCA presents Rockland Moran and Vince

Pollitt, coming together to share their jazzy and bluesy tunes on trumpet and guitar.

Together, these two bring close to 70 years of professional experience on stages and festivals all over North America. Vince has played trumpet in Victoria and Vancouver for more than 40 years, covering all genres from classical to jazz, while sharing his skills with young horn players throughout both cities. Rockland has honed his unique blues and folk

Appalachian styles throughout BC and Washington state. This duo, performing as *Wail 'n Moan*, tastefully paddlewheels you down through the early 20th-century Delta, blending old-school blues with early New Orleans jazz.

Don't miss out on this chance to shake off the winter blues and hop into spring! Suggested donation \$7-12.

Right: Rockland Moran and Vince Pollitt, aka Wail 'n Moan. Picture provided by the artists.



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 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.

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 the month (except 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.

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 (at 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. Preempted March 3, 10 and 17.

Music Night – 7:00–9:00 pm, second Friday of each month.

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.

Film Night: *Inside Peace* (55 minutes) – Friday, March 31, 7:00–9:00 pm. The *Inside Peace* documentary follows a group of inmates doing hard time in a Texas prison as they embark on a journey of personal discovery while struggling with society's roadblocks and dangers.

Saturday

Monthly Community Pot Luck Dinners for all residents (new and long-term) of Metchosin! The community dinners will be every third Saturday, from 4:00–7:00 pm; please mark your calendars. Thank you for sharing your cooking and love, and please invite those you care about for a warm free meal. The public and children are all welcome! Upcoming dates: March 18; April TBD.

Events

Art Opening: Doug Gilbert – Saturday, March 4, 1:00–3:00 pm.

Concert: Rockland Moran and Vince Pollitt – Friday, March 10, 7:00 pm. Rockland Moran and Vince Pollitt come together to share their jazzy and bluesy tunes on trumpet and guitar. Suggested donation \$7-12 (see above).

Guest Speaker: Jim Hindson – *Electric Vehicles – The Greening of Transportation*. Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm. See p. 8 for more details.

Apple Grafting – Sunday, March 19, 1:00 pm. See p. 7 for more details.

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SERVICES AUCTION – Saturday, April 1, 6:30–7:45 pm for the Wine and Cheese tasting and preview of items, 8:00–9:00 pm for the 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 starts March 7. Visit this website to view items and bid online: www.charityauctionorganizer.com/auction/mcacomcommunityauction (see p. 1).

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

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.

What Is It?

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

The *Muse* hopes to pull some of these treasures out of Metchosin's closet for your enjoyment. **If you can identify the item pictured 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!



Barb Sawatsky photo

Congratulations to Catherine Pledger, who identified the location of the lawn chair 40' up a tree at the corner of William Head Road and Lombard Drive. Judging from the replies, it's not the only chair up a tree in Metchosin!

sponsored by **The Broken Paddle Coffee House**
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METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

The Anonymous Metchosin Volunteer

JIM MACPHERSON

Up until now, I've been talking about Metchosin volunteers in organized or structured organizations. Some of these are pretty loosely organized but they are all part of named groups.

This time I want to mention Metchosin volunteers who may not belong to any specific group but who nevertheless contribute time, effort and skill to something they believe strongly in. I don't usually mention people's names in these articles but they all deserve our thanks and appreciation for the work they do.

I want to mention Metchosinites who value our natural environment and who work to maintain its natural character. Some of these volunteers take garbage bags when they go walking or running to pick up litter that always seems to collect beside our roadways.

Almost every day there are people walking along our beaches picking up litter. It seems that no matter how often these volunteers go out

and pick up litter, there is no end to the quantity of garbage that is thrown out of car windows, left at bus stops, over the side of the ditch and unwanted mail left on the ground ... and not just little things – furniture, too.

Others stop to pull tansy ragwort or Scotch broom along roads, trails, ditches and on their own properties. One group is working on restoration of the Garry Oak meadow covenant area outside Westmont School. A Metchosin Foundation project provides environmental materials to Hans Helgesen and Westmont Schools. One family maintains the Race Rocks website, a labour of love to inform people about our shorelines and marine life. And of course there is the immensely successful Talk and Walk series for years.

Still others volunteer at CRD Parks, especially at Witty's Nature House, Devonian, Matheson, and the Galloping Goose. A new group is starting to help with the stewardship of Blinkhorn Nature

Park. Some volunteers come together to help clear Devonian Park of invasive plant species such as laurel, Scotch broom and tansy ragwort. This Devonian group won a major BC award last year.

Metchosin volunteers are hugely important to BioBlitzes. There are two BioBlitzes in Metchosin, both part of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project. One BioBlitz runs special events throughout the summer. The second is the MycoBlitz in November, focusing on mushrooms. The 'Blitzes have provided Metchosin with the best, or perhaps second-best (after Whistler), species lists of any community in western Canada, at least.

And last but by no means the least, let's recognize all those people who volunteer to protect natural areas on their own properties by adding nest boxes, removing invasives, retaining habitat, and in general providing stewardship for the wild species of Metchosin.

Cute But Deadly

The Rough Skinned Newt is an important part of the Metchosin ecosystem. It has a dark brown upper body, a bright orange underbelly. Harmless unless ingested – an unfortunate person in Oregon died within two hours after swallowing one on a dare.

The Metchosin Foundation will be creating "Eco-Cards" about native plants (see p. 5). Perhaps native fauna cards will come out next?



And What Is THAT?!



Barb Sawatsky photo

Often seen on the side of trails, these mysterious, neatly tied bundles appear to be multiplying. Not blending with the natural landscape, this unwelcome blight has been declared an Invasive and Noxious Species.

Warning: do NOT participate in planting these objects!



Don't forget to Spring Forward!

On Sunday, March 12, Daylight Savings Time begins. Move your clocks one hour forward to gain that extra hour of daylight. More time for gardening!

The Wait Is Almost Over! Metchosin Community Association's Mighty Garage Sale Coming May 27/28

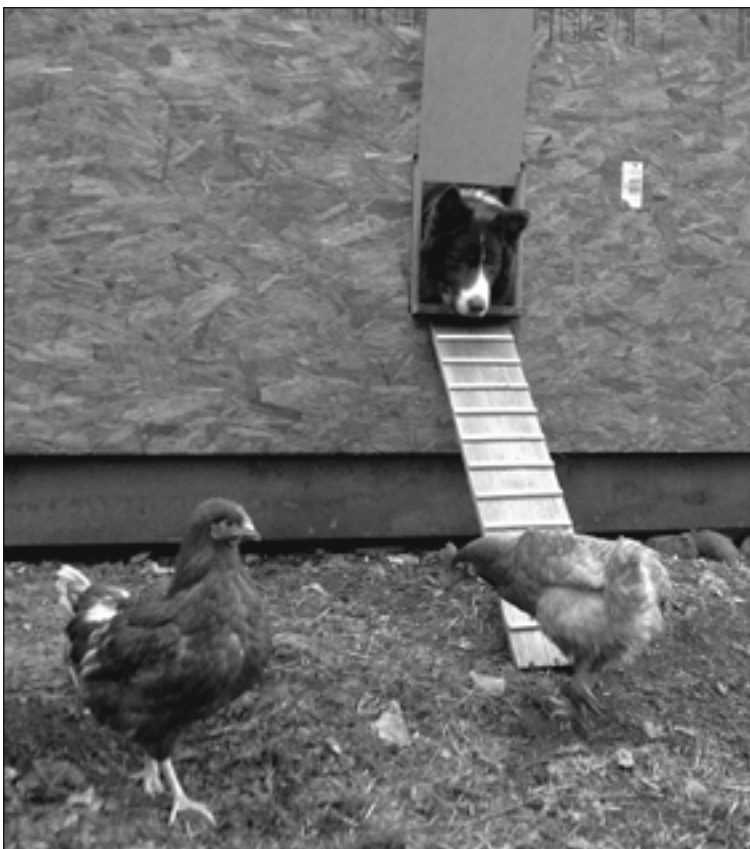


The Poultry Swap Is Back on March 12!

Theresa Sutton

Here we are – another spring season in Metchosin and the Poultry Swap is ready to go! Originally started by long time Metchosin resident Liz Cunningham, the swap has returned for its third year and the enthusiasm and attendance is on the rise! I am often asked what happens at a poultry swap. In the beautiful field to the left of the Municipal Hall, poultry keepers and enthusiasts from Metchosin and surrounding areas bring poultry, small farm animals, and farm items to swap or sell. At the upcoming swap you are sure to find lots of spring chicks and hens. In previous years we have had quail, ducks, pigeons, geese, rabbits and even goat kids. When people ask what will be there, I often say you never know what will show up and that is half the fun!

It is a great place to make contacts and get advice on all things poultry. We have a Facebook group (Metchosin Poultry Swap) where people post what they are looking for or what they will be bringing to the swap. The email



"Can you girls tell me where you laid your eggs today?"

Brian Domney photo

is metchosinpoulterswap@gmail.com. We also post the dates under farming on Used Victoria.

The Swap is held on the second Sunday of each month,

March through October, 11:00 am–1:00 pm. The September Swap will be on Saturday, September 9 due to Metchosin Day. Hope to see you there.



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Check out the classified ads on page 15.

Who Says Island Scouts Aren't Snow Savvy?



L to R: Kyle Becker, Kylie Milne, Tristan Becker, Joel Drysdale, Chris Budden (back), Hunter Broadhurst, Elliott Cove. Front: Eliza Church, Alysha Becker, Erin Toohey, Rachel Robilliard, and Curtis Becker. Wilson twins photo

ERIN TOOHEY, FIRST YEAR VENTURER, 14TH JDF COMPANY

Early on a Friday morning, 14th Juan de Fuca Venturers and Rovers set out to RoVent, a four-day social camp at Manning Park, with over 300 participants from BC. Not knowing if the roads were open or if they could get through on the account of the heavy snow and avalanche warnings, 14th JdF continued on. Luckily the highway finally opened up and all the participants were able to reach their destination safely at Cambie Creek in Manning Park.

The next challenges they faced were the temperature change and of course setting up camp in all the snow, which was over four feet deep. Throughout the weekend, 14th JdF braved the cold and had a great weekend, meeting new friends and doing a lot of winter-related activities. Some of the fun activities included a horizontal bungee run, snow shoeing, snow bowling, a mystery cook off, snow sculptures, a talent show, two nights of dancing in -15 degree temperatures listening to a DJ, and a hockey playoff. On top of all this fun, Juan de Fuca / Westshore Venturers and Rovers, the Van Isle Boys, kept up their winning streak for the RoVent Cup by winning the street hockey tournament. Our group was also a part of winning the camp spirit award along with many other Venturers and Rovers. It was a camping highlight for all of us and we look forward to next year's RoVent snow camp.



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Metchosin's Werner Kurz appointed International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry

During the 205th annual commemorative ceremony of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Metchosin's Dr. Werner Kurz and Quebec's Prof. Sophie D'Amours were appointed as this year's International Fellows of the Academy's Forestry section. Werner was recognized for over 25 years of research on the role of forests in climate change and for his contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The awards ceremony – held for the last 205 years on January 28 – was followed by a white-tie dinner for over 600 guests in the City Hall of Stockholm. The Academy is an impartial organization, economically independent of the authorities, business and interest groups. Speakers at the event highlighted that in the days of "alternative facts" and



Dr. Werner Kurz (right) and Prof. Sophie D'Amours (left) with the bust of King Karl XIV Johan of Sweden, who initiated the Academy in 1811. Mikael Rönnqvist photo

deliberate misinformation, the Swedish Royal Academies remain trusted sources of scientific information. Werner is a Senior Research Scientist with

the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria and leads the team that provides annual estimates of greenhouse gas budgets of Canada's forests.

NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN SCHOOL

DEBRA STOUTLEY

At Hans Helgesen we began the New Year with a focus on academics and the arts. This year we had our third annual Music and Art Show, we also enjoyed Literacy Week and are all busy with completing outcomes in anticipation of mid-March report cards. I would like to share a few highlights with you.

Literacy Week was the end of January and during that week we drew students' attention to all things literate. We had group activities such as "Poem in our Pocket," in which students chose a poem they enjoyed (or wrote one themselves) and read it to others in the hallway during a short scheduled time. We also held a "Read in the Gym with your stuffed toy and PJ" session, which is always popular! Teachers had many reading and writing activities for students during Literacy Week although, honestly, literacy is a large part of elementary school every day.

This year we welcomed the Beecher Bay Drum Group as a finale to Literacy Week to share a traditional oral story and teach us about the messages and stories told by the drum. We are particularly proud of all the students from our school who perform in this group. Literacy is a very large focus in elementary school and we approach this learning in many different ways and through a large variety of opportunities. There is even some digital literacy that is playing a larger role in schools; our intermediate students will be working at Google Apps for Education (GAFE) with our Learning Support and Integration support teacher Mrs. Shannon Miller.

Our Music and Art Show was fortunate to have singing, dancing and art as features



Some of the artwork at the Music and Art Show at Hans Helgesen.

Photos by Joannie Challenger

this year! Mr. Craig Marcuk, a professional Square Dance Caller, and two musicians – Ms. Miriam Sontenese and Ms. Amanda Blied from the band The Sweet Lowdown – taught our students for two days and performed at the show as well. It was wonderful to experience live music and square dance moves! It was fabulous to see the smiles on students' faces as they learned and practiced these dances.

One of our Grade 2/3 classes was also fortunate to learn a Métis spoon dance and jig taught by Mrs. Bertha Landrie, an Aboriginal Role Model for the Sooke School district. This was another excellent performance that students seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

Finally, our own music teacher, Mrs. Kristy Zinkowski, led each division in winter songs. It's always entertaining to see students sing. The show culminated with our Grade 5 class having a "sing off" of boys versus girls singing "Snow!" which was fun and very timely since the weather changed to match the song that very weekend.

The Music and Art show is a wonderful school-wide effort and is supported

financially by our PAC, which helps cover the cost of the performers we invite. Thank you to teachers and support staff for all you do to make the show such a success. Thank you to parents for your donations to each class to help us purchase more art supplies, and finally thank you to everyone in the community who came out to support our school and enjoy this cultural evening with us!



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

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Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available at the Metchosin Country Store.

An Evening for Prayer and Reflection

NAN HSIEH

“... pray ... in behalf of the people – so that the forces of Peace may gain ascendancy over the powers of war.”

– Abdu'l-Baha

The world news and media in general is overflowing with conflict and uncertainty resulting, for some, in feelings of anxiety and worry for the future. In response, we thought, let's do something positive and unifying. So, we would like to invite you to come together for an evening of prayer and reflection on how to counter the increasing number of negative and disunifying events that we have born witness to in our world

of late. This event is for everyone, the more diversity the better – all faith groups and spiritual beliefs. Bring your prayers, your thoughts, your stories on the power of prayer and let's come together to put positive energy out into the world and be of support and encouragement to each other. The evening will include refreshments and an opportunity for discussion and sharing thoughts and ideas. Please join us on **Saturday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at Metchosin Community House.** Sponsored by the Baha'i Community in Metchosin.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration

observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.

- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The motto of World Day of Prayer is “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.”

RCMP Call-Outs JANUARY 2017

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

Jan 1	Happy Valley Road – Report of single MVI, no injuries.	Jan 17	Matheson Lake Park – abandoned 911 call from payphone.
Jan 5	Matheson Lake – Report of broken window on vehicle in parking lot.	Jan 18	Lomax Road – Report of injured deer. Deer left upon police arrival.
Jan 7	East Sooke Road – Complaint of dog bitten by another dog. Parties spoken to and advised to contact CRD Animal Control.	Jan 19	Libra Place – Report of abandoned vehicle. Vehicle was stolen and then recovered.
Jan 8	Dallimore Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicles. Vehicles located and dealt with.	Jan 20	Bridlewood Court – Responded to a disturbance, parties spoken to. No further involvement.
Jan 9	Kangaroo Road – Report of single vehicle MVI. Minor injuries. Slick roads.	Jan 21	Rocky Point Road – Single vehicle MVI. Icy roads condition. No injuries.
Jan 12	Happy Valley Road – Report of Break and Enter to a business.	Jan 23	Metchosin Road – Report of stolen parcel.
Jan 14	Happy Valley Road – Traffic stop for a vehicle with expired insurance. \$598 fine.	Jan 25	Sooke Road – Complaint of two vehicles street racing.
Jan 15	Happy Valley Road – Report of single vehicle MVI. Spun out due to speed. Minor injuries.	Jan 27	Pedder Bay Drive – abandoned 911 call. Child was playing with phone.
Jan 16	Rocky Point Road – Complaint of erratic driver.	Jan 28	Duke Road – Complaint of lost licence plate valtag.
		Jan 29	Bridlewood Court – Report of found birth certificate.

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

Fire Department Call-Outs JANUARY 2017

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

Jan 1	Happy Valley Road – MVI	Tiswilde Road – Assistance – General Public	
	Rocky Point Road – Hydro – Lines Down	Jan 19	Ferncliff Place – Open Burn – General
	Happy Valley Road – Assistance – Public Works	Jan 20	Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General
	Tavane Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines		Stirrup Place – Medical
Jan 2	Duke Road – Hydro – Lines Down	Jan 21	Rocky Point Road – MVI
Jan 4	Chapel Heights Drive – Medical	Jan 22	Andover Road – SFRes – Chimney
	Chapel Heights Drive – Medical	Jan 24	Neff Road – Medical
	Delgada Road – Medical		East Sooke Road – Medical
Jan 5	Chapel Heights Drive – Medical		Whiffin Spit Road – SFRes
	Parry Road – Open Burn – General	Jan 25	Derrien Place – Medical
Jan 6	Happy Valley Road – Medical		Metchosin Road – Medical
Jan 7	Happy Valley Road – Medical	Jan 26	Chapel Heights Drive – Medical
	Metchosin Road – Medical	Jan 27	Rocky Point Road – Medical
Jan 8	Duke Road – Medical		Walpole Road – Open Burn – General
Jan 9	Kangaroo Road – MVI	Jan 28	Circle Drive – Open Burn – General
Jan 10	Olympic View Drive – Medical	Jan 29	Young Lake Road – SFRes – Mobile Home/Trailer
	William Head Road – Hydro – Fire	Jan 31	Happy Valley Road – Alarm Bells – Intrusion
Jan 12	Rocky Point Road – Medical		Happy Valley Road – Alarm Bells – Intrusion
Jan 13	Chapel Heights Drive – Medical		
Jan 14	Taylor Road – Open Burn – General		
	Neild Road – Medical		
Jan 15	Happy Valley Road – MVI		
Jan 16	Happy Valley Road – Medical		
Jan 18	Kangaroo Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines		

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

SFRes: Structure Fire Residential

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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! 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.

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.

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Tell them you saw it in the Muse!

Important Dates and Events

- Mar. 1 **Growing Great Soil – Metchosin Garden Club Talk** p. 7
- Mar. 4 **An Evening for Prayer and Reflection** sponsored by the Baha'i Community in Metchosin p. 15
- Mar. 6 **Metchosin Municipal Budget Open House** .. p. 4
- Mar. 10 **Talk and Walk: Ten Basic Lichens** p. 3
MCA Concert Series: Wail 'n Moan p. 11
- Mar. 12 **Spring ahead!** Move your clocks forward one hour.
The Poultry Swap Is Back p. 13

Royal Canadian Legion Spring Craft Sale
10:00 am–2:00 pm, Prince Edward Legion, 761 Station Ave, Langford; free admission. For information, call 250-478-5484. Fifty-two tables of Crafts and Garage Sale Items • Silent Auction • Meat Draws • Snack Bar • Handmade Items Jams • Sewing Children's Hats • Knitting Candy Soaps • Baby Items • Baking • Jewellery • Wooden Items • Many Home Party Items

Mar. 16 **MCA Guest Speaker Series: Electric Vehicles – the Greening of Transportation** p. 8

Mar. 17 **Metchosin Bandwagon Music Night**
Bijoux du Bayou (www.bijouxdubayou.com) will celebrate St Patrick's day in fine style! Music 7:00 to 9:15 pm; kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm. Entry by donation of \$5; all goes to musicians. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Road.

Mar. 20–31 **Spring Break.** You don't need to slow down for school zones, like you do when school is in session, right?

Mar. 21 **Emergency Info Session: Earthquake Proof Your Home** p. 3

Mar. 24 **Be Bear Aware** – A presentation by Peter Pauwels, local conservation officer p. 6

Mar. 26 **Mozart in Metchosin: The Emily Carr String Quartet in concert** p. 10

Mar. 31 **Film Night at the Community House: Inside Peace** p. 8

Apr. 1 **MCH Annual Services Auction** p. 1

Apr. 1–9 **Consider the Lilies XV** – Metchosin's great textile show. See the April issue for more details.

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!



A number of Metchosinites participated in a Canada-wide vigil for the victims of the attack on a mosque in Quebec in January that left six people dead.

Frank Mitchell photograph

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
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250-590-3690
848air@cadets.gc.ca

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

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

BADMINTON
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www.bilstoncreek.org

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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.metchosinseiors.ca

METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)
250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca
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

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.westshorererecreation.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

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250-478-0422

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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.