

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

That Was the Year That Was

A look back over the stories of 2017 – and why we love our RCMP call-out reports

Johnny Carline

The year started quietly – except for the gasps, screams and expletives coming from the Polar Bear swimmers. The January edition of the *Metchosin Muse* led with the warming pictures of youngsters having breakfast with Santa, but the February edition featured the photograph of Councillor MacKinnon surrounded by dozens of his constituents waiting to take the icy plunge. As a picture of enthusiasm, it could only be rivalled by a group photo of people waiting to have anti-rabies jabs.

In January the RCMP reported being called out to three separate complaints of suspected drunken drivers, all of whom turned out to be sober, and one lost pedestrian who, when found, turned out to be blotto. When you think about it, that's progress.

The February *Muse* reported two stories: that Robin Hopper was appointed to the Order of Canada for "his contribution as a ceramist" (how delighted he was!), and that Mayor Ranns hosted a public meeting on the proposed "land deal" with Langford and the Beecher Bay First Nation. The referendum on the deal passed by a three to one margin, reflecting the relief Metchosinites felt about finally solving the protracted Beecher Bay land issue. The Mayor was seen to smile for prolonged periods.

The RCMP reported a "complaint of a suspicious vehicle" which "left prior to police attendance," which

suggests this self-driving vehicle business may have gone too far.

In March, the *Muse*, to combat lousy weather and an ongoing flu season, turned to clever animal stories. We mourned the passing of Erik, the thespian pony, banged the drum for the return of the sheepdog trial, and celebrated the return of Skully, a cat gone walkabout for almost a year. The RCMP chipped in with a "complaint of dog bitten by another dog. Parties spoken to and advised to contact CRD Animal Control." Bet you couldn't do that, Lassie!

On April 1, the *Muse* led with an article from the Community Hall Society complaining of a surfeit of volunteers. Some readers apparently expressed genuine surprise. It was APRIL FIRST, folks!

May was not a day old and there was already a provincial election all-candidates meeting, courtesy of the Metchosin Community Association (MCA) and the Metchosin Hall Society. It went well. How the election went on May 9, you must decide for yourself. Metchosin events came thick and fast – an equestrian fundraiser, a prominent climate scientist at the Metchosin Foundation's AGM, the MCA's mightier-than-ever Garage Sale, and the joy of Jo and Frank Mitchell's 80th birthday celebration.

But May 16 was both the low and high point of the month. Low because we gathered to acknowledge the passing of the much-loved Robin Hopper; high because it could



Andy's trying to figure out where they keep their hankies.

Ed Watson photo

have been sad and solemn, but Robin had planned it and it was simply hilarious.

In June, news of the possible sale of the Metchosin School made headline news and stirred up the community. With the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) leading the charge, people descended on the District Hall, demanding action. The Mayor was seen not smiling for prolonged periods.

The pattern of RCMP reports on suspicious vehicles, erratic drivers, and abandoned 911 calls was broken by a report of a possible bomb near Witty's Lagoon. The military was called and several people put their clothes back on.

The July *Muse* headline was in Halq'emeylem, one of the indigenous languages of the Scia'new people, to celebrate the Beecher Bay / District of Metchosin Reconciliation Celebration. July was indeed a peaceful and quiet month, despite the RCMP being called out to respond "to a verbal argument between two individuals." Undoubtedly the officer dealt with it diplomatically. But it is tempting to imagine him yelling "you are too!" stamping his foot and leaving with a disgusted car-door slam.

August saw the return of the Metchosin Sheepdog Trial and a two-day crowd of over 700 people watched shepherds and border collies, from northern BC to southern California, try to herd John and Lorraine Buchanan's sheep on the beautiful Swanwick Ranch. The sheep behaved like troubled teenage boys who had lost their allowances. The American shepherds and dogs won. But then they could have been studying their President who exhibits similar behaviour, so maybe they had an advantage.

September saw the 50th anniversary edition of Metchosin Day and in keeping with this upbeat and celebratory mood, Metchosin announced a financial strategy which would enable the District to buy the Metchosin School. September was a happy month.

The October *Muse* featured an appeal to Metchosin residents to take reporting bear sightings more seriously

as an unprecedented summer of sheep being killed by bears came to a close – an issue that had perplexed the community for months. On a lighter note, CHEK-TV helped reinforce a more fun image of Metchosin as it visited the immensely popular Rough Voice Singers at the Community House.

November is, of course, the month when we remember those who served in conflict and why. This year's service was one of the best in memory. But what could surpass the December front page announcing the closing of the deal to secure the Metchosin School in Metchosin ownership? "It's Our Baby Now!" proclaimed the headline, while the photo showed a stork flying off from delivering the school into the community's hands.

The RCMP reported a "complaint of a rooster disturbing someone's sleep." The complainant is suspected of being from Uranus.

Pearson College students got the community off to a great start to the festive season with an exuberant multi-cultural night of entertainment, the MCA's mince pie sale sold out within hours and, at the time of writing, the community is filled with the smells of baking, the sounds of practicing carollers and the happy faces of children visiting Santa.

Yes, despite the bears, the weather and the passing of people we loved, 2017 was a wonderful year in Metchosin. But aren't they all?



Beecher Bay "library" Bert Charles tells the story of the origin of the name Metchosin at the Beecher Bay/District of Metchosin Reconciliation Celebration.

Barb Sawatsky photo

Metchosin Muse

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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 Beecher 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, East Sooke Grocer, Royal Bay Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Greater Victoria Public Library.

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2900

Fire Chief Wins Baha'i Gratitude Award of the Year



Lieutenant Gord Grivel accepts the Gratitude of the Year Award for Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop. Michael Hsieh photo

Nan Hsieh

In Metchosin we have so much to be grateful for: a pristine, beautiful, environment; passionate, caring community members; and a safe and secure lifestyle. On the dark, cold evening of November 25, Metchosin's Community House was brightened and warmed as people gathered together for an evening of sharing stories of gratitude and expressing appreciation.

The occasion was the second annual Evening of Gratitude sponsored by the Baha'i community, and this year part of the evening included presenting the Gratitude of

the Year Award to Stephanie Dunlop.

As a full-time employee of the District of Metchosin, our Fire Chief and Emergency Program Coordinator, Stephanie is kept busy with training, administration, budget management, recruitment and retention. We are all familiar with the regular notifications in the *Muse* of the public educational safety presentations and training that Stephanie arranges for the residents of Metchosin and of the community-building fun events that she supports. For example, the Halloween Fire Hall event – a fun time for adults and children where the people of

Metchosin come together each year for an evening of fun, socializing, hot dogs and hot chocolate – and then at Christmas, a pancake breakfast.

As well as providing for the educational, safety and social needs of Metchosin, Stephanie gives outside of her community. She is president of British Columbia Extermination Society, a non-profit society focused on training and teaching transportation, extrication and rescue to firefighters, first responders and the public. She is also secretary of Firefighters without Borders and has been on two deployments to Peru to provide needed assistance for training throughout that country. People who have been trained by Stephanie have commented on her impressive leadership skills, her ability to work with a team, communicate clearly in the face of crisis and effectively organize resources to address the needs of the situation.

We are most grateful to Stephanie for her generous sharing of her skills and abilities and the attention to detail that she brings to keep Metchosin safe. On the Evening of Gratitude, Stephanie was out giving more of her time and service to one of her societies and so Lieutenant Gord Grivel accepted the Gratitude Award on her behalf.

The evening was a wonderfully happy and uplifting event, shining a positive light of hope in the heart of Metchosin as we considered the example that Stephanie provides as a demonstration of the power of one person to make a difference.

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

The *Muse* website provides a quick way to access Metchosin's monthly newspaper, and it allows those with vision challenges to magnify the .pdf files to a comfortable reading size. The current issue and issues from the past year are there, along with contact information and information for submissions, advertisers, and deadlines.

Muse Subscriptions

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

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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.

Please Slow Down!

Recently our daughter was driving home from work one evening when a car traveling too fast down Neild Road crossed her lane at the Wild Cherry Drive corner forcing her to come to a quick stop to avoid a collision. This is the third incident that we are aware of on Neild Road at the Wild Cherry corner; the previous two weren't so lucky to just drive away as this one did, they both went into the trees.

People are driving too fast and not just on Neild Road. All too frequently when I pull onto Happy Valley Road and drive at the posted 50 km/h speed limit, I look in my rear view mirror and initially see no one behind me. A minute later I might see one vehicle tailgating me, another minute later I'll see several vehicles starting to bunch up, and yes I see this happen on the Metchosin part of Happy

Valley Road not just the busier Langford end. Please slow down; an otherwise preventable vehicle accident seriously injuring or killing an innocent person will be life-changing not only for the family dealing with the loss, but also the at-fault driver and their family.

Warren Littlejohn

Thanks for Your Help

Wow, I am totally blown away by the community's compassion and generosity. I would like to say a BIG thank you to those who helped me to raise just over \$3,000 for the young man who is battling cancer. I had a goal of \$2,500 in mind and with your help the total had passed the goal mark by \$600. Both the family and I were moved to tears that we as a community would do that for them. The family was in shock and in disbelief! Thank you again for your

contributions from the bottom of my heart

I would also like to thank you all for your continuing support and for believing in me. In the eight years I have been doing this bottle drive I have donated close to \$50,000 to a variety of local animal rescue organizations. All those who have received donations are listed on my website at www.cookiescrittercare.com if you are curious to see who were the lucky ones.

Moving forward, I invite you to jump aboard the bottle drive and keep my number to call me for pick-ups (250-415-9335; you can find my details in the classified ads). Here is to another \$50,000 in bottle donations to those deserving. 100 per cent of the donations go directly to the cause.

I hope you had a warm and enjoyable Christmas filled with love and wish you all the best and more in the New Year.

Yours sincerely, Cookie from Cookies Critter Care

PODs in Metchosin?

Jim MacPherson

No, I'm not talking about groups of orcas. And I'm not talking about movable storage containers either.

But if you live in some Metchosin neighbourhoods, you may have benefited from someone sending out email messages warning about fire, a bear or cougar sighting, a suspicious vehicle, or a questionable door-to-door canvasser. If you received messages like these, in all likelihood they came from your local POD volunteer.

PODS? This appears not to be an acronym; it may have come from Metchosin's whale theme and pods of orcas. Metchosin PODS are on-the-ground volunteers of the District's Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP). When a real emergency happens, PODS are a communication link between those who need help and those who can give it. I described above some of the day-to-day messages and warnings that a POD leader might send out.

A POD takes on an altogether different role in a real emergency. If there is a disaster, especially in winter, it may take emergency responders some time to arrive. Many of us remember how isolated we all were when Metchosin was hit by major snow storms a few years ago. Here POD volunteers worked to make sure a stranded resident could get to a hospital, make a doctor's appointment, or get to warm shelter.

Sprinkled about Metchosin are about 30 PODS, each with a leader or co-leader. A neighbourhood POD is a group of homes organized under a leader, who emails or telephones the messages of warning, assistance, or needed rescue. A resident may see something that should be communicated to neighbours; the resident contacts the POD leader and the leader sends out a message to all those in the POD.

Belonging to a POD is voluntary, but there is a real benefit to being part of one. You will receive the messages and warnings that are sent out to members via email and telephone.

PODS tend to be located in less accessible areas and where people live away from main roads that are priorities for snow removal. The areas not covered very well by a POD are along Sooke, Kangaroo, Metchosin, William Head and Rocky Point Roads.

The degree of POD activity varies but all have communication among neighbours as a priority. The amount of "work" is less than 5-10 hours a year once the initial contact with neighbours is made, to update the changing information as neighbours move in/out.

Kathleen Sutherland is the NEPP/POD coordinator. It's easy to get involved in a POD. If you wish to sign up for a POD in your area, contact Kathleen Sutherland at 250-474-3966 or email neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com.

A HUGE Thank You from Metchosin Co-op Preschool!



Preschool children singing jingle bells for the crowd.

Gary Beels photo

Jo Beels

This genuine, heart-felt thank you goes out to our amazing community and extended community who came out to support us at the Metchosin Fire Hall on a damp Sunday morning in December!

Collectively we ate over 1,000 sausages, flipped too many pancakes to count, and drank enough hot chocolate and coffee to sink a very large ship! Photos with Santa in a fire truck were a roaring success thanks to JR Productions, who kindly shared their profits to support the Preschool.

In just three hours we raised a whopping \$1,407 to help Metchosin's only community Preschool stay alive! Chief Dunlop's collective firefighters, and the many unseen kitchen heroes, all deserve a massive pat on the back for making the morning run so smoothly – thank you; it was very much appreciated by all.

The Preschool's Executive Board of dedicated mums and dads are now filled with hope that the New Year will

be a positive one, however, we know that we still need to keep up the momentum to ensure a prosperous future.

A second thank you goes out to all the lovely people who have been donating to our Bottle Depot bin outside the Preschool. We are new to this sorting job and are learning as each week passes; there really is so much money to be made from old junk! Sadly, some of the glass has been shattering inside the bin, so we have put a plastic bin by the side, especially for glass donations. Please continue to think of us. We will be doing a mini bottle drive after the Christmas and New Years celebrations, to collect as many recyclable cans and bottles, so keep dropping off your recyclables as you drive in and out of Metchosin village centre.

Our next big thank you goes out to Adams Tree Service of Metchosin, who kindly offered to take down a few of our trees close to the building. If anyone is looking to buy

some firewood, you all know where to come!

Stay tuned for the next big fundraising event, a Silent Auction with lots of fantastic prizes donated by many local families and businesses, Metchosin Jazzercise and the European Skincare Spa on Chapel Heights, to name just a few.

If you think you can help us with this in any way, or know of someone who could, please feel free to let us know. You can contact the Preschool Board President, Elizabeth, by email: presidentmetchosinpreschool@gmail.com

Lastly, we are still hoping to extend our Executive Board into the community to give us some stability and continuity. If you feel able to share your skills, we welcome any ideas. Enrolment and re-enrolment starts in earnest in February 2018. The more brains on our little community preschool's situation the better!

Thank you in advance for your help, Metchosin. Keep it coming – together we are stronger!

TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise stated, talks are at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, located behind the Fire Hall.

Winter 2018

Friday, January 12: MORE ON MUSHROOMS!

It's not exactly fungi season but it's good to be prepared! This presentation will focus on where to find and how to properly harvest mushrooms for food, for science and for fun. It will be accompanied by several instructional videos, pictures and tools of the trade. People are encouraged to bring in any specimens for possible identification.

Among the initiated, Kevin Trim is known as the "mushroom whisperer." He has spent and continues to spend much of his time in search of the next great mushroom patch. He enjoys teaching others the finer points of mushroom picking, and notes that given enough time all conversations will eventually turn to fungi.

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



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Taking on a Worthwhile Cause



The SPCA Club presents a cheque for Wild ARC. Tanya Phillips photo

Joannie Challenger

If you ever feel discouraged about all the not-so-positive events going on in the world, this story might help to reaffirm your faith in humanity. A small group of Grade 2, 3, and 4 students at Hans Helgesen School decided to take on a worthwhile cause this year – helping animals in need. Initiated and led by Grade 3 student Kaia, students formed the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Club, with the goal of earning money for the SPCA, and specifically Wild ARC (Animal Rehabilitation Centre).

“We love animals and want to help them,” stated Kaia. Students recently held a very popular bake sale and \$360 was earned! They were proud to present Wild ARC with the donation at an assembly in December.

Stay tuned for other fundraising events in the future!

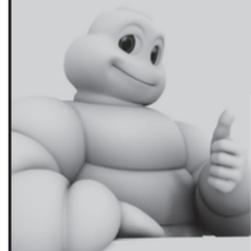
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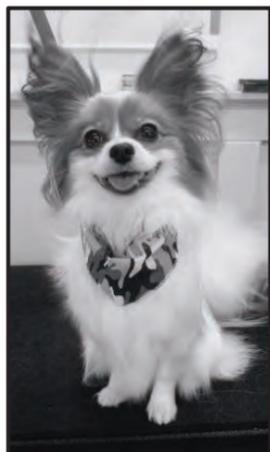
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New Rector for St. Mary of the Incarnation

Andrea Bennington

Aneeta Saroop, the new rector at St. Mary of the Incarnation, doesn't stray too far from the Pacific Ocean. Born in Guelph, Ontario to immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago, she moved with her family as a young girl to Prince Rupert, BC. Her next move was to Victoria to attend UVic in 1987 and she's considered herself an “island person” ever since.

She is married to Thomas, and together they have daughters Aleesha (15) and Maya (19), and son Eric (22) from her previous marriage. It has taken a lot of work to navigate the ups and downs of blending a family but life, as we know, can be filled with all kinds of challenges.

Aneeta found that sharing life's challenges within a loving and accepting faith community made all the difference for them and it reinforced her faith in God and also in the church.

Aneeta has worked in the Lutheran church as a Children's Ministry coordinator as well as a youth leader and served on the Anglican Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) Joint Youth Ministry Committee.

She attended seminary in Saskatoon at the Lutheran Theological Seminary and earned her Masters of Divinity in May of 2017. She will be ordained as a Lutheran pastor called to serve an Anglican parish and she is humbled by the privilege to

serve as pastor to the people of St. Mary of the Incarnation Anglican Church in Metchosin.

“I've only been in the office three days and I already get the sense that the people of this parish are a loving, caring and delightfully honest community. I feel very called to serve this community and I plan to walk alongside them on the journey, trusting that God walks with us every step of the way. I'm excited for us to get to know each other and to welcome others from the wider community who seek a place where people are just honest and real as they grow in their love of God and the world.”

COUNCIL NEWS JANUARY 2018



THANK YOU TO ALL COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank you all committee members for volunteering their time over the past year for the District of Metchosin. By offering their time, they are helping more than just the District of Metchosin – they are making a difference.

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.

PRIORITY ROADS SERVICE

Please remember that ice control and snow plow service is provided on priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. BC Transit routes and school bus routes are next, after which all other roads will be serviced. Response times will vary depending on weather conditions, however Council is confident that response times will be better than the required response set out in past roads contracts. If you don't see trucks pass your residence it may be that your road has been serviced before dawn.

HELP US AND BE PREPARED

Equip your vehicles with good winter tires and carry chains. All-season tires lose their pliability and traction at 7 degrees Celsius.

Avoid parking vehicles on the road or paved shoulders at all times during the winter. Clear snow from your driveway to allow for parking. Roads with vehicles parked on them may not be plowed.

Clear snow to the left side of your driveway (facing in) where it meets the road to minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway when the plows pass. If you have an urgent medical appointment or are a medical professional needing to get to work, call the Emergency Program Coordinator at the Metchosin Fire Hall at 250-478-1307; or after hours, Langford dispatch at 250-478-9555 and ask for the Metchosin duty officer to be paged.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE

Below are the meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

| | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| Council and Standing Committees . . . | Jan 8 | Finance and Environment Committee | Jan 22 |
| Healthy Communities Advisory (HCAC) | Jan 10 | Council Meeting | Jan 22 |
| Council Meeting | Jan 15 | Metchosin Environmental Advisory (MEASC) | Jan 23 |
| Parks and Trails Advisory (PTASC) | Jan 16 | Heritage Advisory (HASC) | Jan 24 |

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.ca. Thank you.

 **14TH JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA**

Kyle Jamieson

A Rainy Weekend at Camp Barnard

On Friday evening we arrived at Camp Barnard. We set up a giant tarp, built a huge fire and prepared for a rainy weekend adventure.

The following morning we had a break in the weather and the sun was coming out. A friend told me about a place called Cougar Caves, so we went out to find it.

The path was all grown over; I had my doubts if we were going the right way. The path opened up and we found the caves, and they were amazing. We explored, had our lunch, and took lots of pictures. On the way down from the caves, we explored an old fish hatchery.

When we returned to camp, we used the metal detector, and found 20 tent pegs, \$2.25 and an old Scout coin. The rain returned with a vengeance so we made pizza with a Coleman oven and built a blazing fire. It was a great weekend that the Cubs will remember for a long time.

Busy Beavers

The 14th Juan de Fuca Beavers have had a busy fall. They have been working toward personal achievement badges since the beginning of the year. One idea was to send Bucky the Beaver (our mascot stuffy, dressed in a Scouts uniform) to other Beaver Colonies in almost every province and territory across Canada. He will be staying with each group for about two weeks

and hopefully returning with great stories to tell.

With the easy access to social media, finding these groups was fairly easy and all were excited and eager to join in on the big adventure. We made a sending off video for our Bucky, in hopes that we will see videos of where he ends up and what the other groups have planned for him. We are hoping to create a Facebook group of just the groups who are going to be seeing Bucky the Beaver, and with every stop along the way we will be sharing and teaching something about that province or territory to the youth in the group. This has by far been our biggest project to date, and there will be a Canadian Beaver Badge for each youth at the end of this adventure.

We have also had each youth bring an item in for the less fortunate that we donated to a shelter downtown. The response from the parents was phenomenal. We had so many care packages made that we had them in two boxes. The items included clothing, food, hygiene items and basic needs for everyday life that are taken for granted but for some people are luxuries they cannot buy for themselves or their children.

We were proud of our youth and their families for this project which we started in November. We always end our weekly meeting by all saying, "busy building for a better tomorrow!" We've shown that so far this year.



A busy Beaver sorting bounty for the shelter.

Our group has more than doubled in size from last year, from six to fifteen registered so far. We are always looking for more youth to join. Beavers are Kindergarten to Grade 2. **January registration drops in cost as it only covers for part of our year. If you are interested, please feel free to email 14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca.**

SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE

Dawn Boshcoff

Happy New Year!

The Metchosin Seniors' Association extends best wishes for a healthy and happy new year throughout 2018!

Weekly Programs at SIRC

Monday, 2:00-4:00 pm
MSA and MCA Inter-Gen connect seniors and students. Pearson College Student and Seniors Outreach – Student Home Visits and / or Geek sessions

Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm
Tea time coffee chat – all welcome.

Monday and Thursday, 2:00-4:00 pm
Call to book your Geek session. Feel free to drop by SIRC with your tech toys! Our Geeks can help you learn how to use the best of latest technology with all kinds of tools and tricks.

SIRC is open to the community with free wifi, laptops, desktops, printers, readers, tablets, Macs, smartphones etc., for our members, to learn on and borrow. You can also book a personal session with one of our tech-savvy geeks, for up to one hour. Call to ask questions or to schedule an appointment.

Family Caregivers BC Training Program

For Community Support Group Facilitators

Volunteers from SIRC's Care and Companionship Program will attend Facilitator Training on January 18, sponsored by the Family Caregivers of British Columbia, SIRC and Westshore's Community Response Network.

"Family caregiver support groups can provide an opportunity for those caring for family to come together in a safe and supportive environment to share feelings and experiences," explains Lycia Rodrigues, BC's Family Caregiver Support and Engagement Lead.

"Being part of a support group can help family caregivers feel less isolated and provide the opportunity for mutual support, friendship and information sharing." Facilitator training is available to all interested community volunteers, free of charge – lunch will be provided.

Please email lyciarodrigues@familycaregiversbc.ca for more details.

Drive and Dine Monthly Meals

There is no cost to attend and all ages are welcome! We drive and dine twice monthly and enjoy a meal together at MC House Potluck Lunches and Gordon United Church Community Suppers.

January Potluck Lunch at MC House is on Thursday, Jan. 25.

New Year Gordon United Community Supper is on Monday, Jan. 15.

Please call SIRC to join us, RSVP or volunteer!

2018 Health and Vaccination Series

Medication Review Mondays take place throughout January. Pharmacist Mohamed Zeid, will provide an individual consultation either at SIRC or in the privacy of your own home, to review your prescription medications.

Tetanus Vaccination: The final shot for our 2017-2018 program will be available to the public on Thursday, February 15 at SIRC, by appointment.

Please call SIRC at 250-478-5150 to schedule your personal appointment time.

Bring, Browse and Borrow Books

Have you heard about our little secret bookshelf in the village? Many of our members are avid readers and have been sharing their page-turners by adding to our community bookshelf, located just inside the main entrance of the Old School, right outside SIRC's door. Anyone can come and lend or grab a book from our growing selection for borrowing, but don't forget about Old Barn Books for the best local book-buy bargains! Thanks to all who have been adding to our little local lending library. We encourage you to keep sharing your reading treasures!

Learn All About SIRC

Get your free copy of SIRC's 2018 Winter Newsletter or enquire about programs, services and volunteer opportunities. Drop by and visit us at SIRC! We're at 4495 Happy Valley Road at the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre, on the main floor.

We have applications on hand for helpful programs that serve seniors, including Premium Medical Assistance, Handicap Stickers, Registration for handiDART and Taxi Voucher program, info on BC Hydro's Energy Conservation Program, legal, health, emergency and safety resources, and quick access to information when you or your family need it most!

Subscribe or like us on Facebook @SIRC for updates! Call 250-478-5150.

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Exploring German Composers – A Recital for Violin and Piano

Exploring German Composers
Sunday, January 14, 2:30 pm St. Mary of the Incarnation Church, 4125 Metchosin Rd.

Philip Manning

Metchosin welcomes back two familiar faces to the recital stage: Metchosin's own Philip Manning from the Victoria Symphony on violin and Robert Holliston, pianist extraordinaire and Victoria's resident music historian.

Robert and Philip are pleased to bring you a delightful afternoon of music from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods for violin and piano. This recital will feature composers exclusively from Germany including Handel, Beethoven, Schumann and more. Please join us as we explore the vast diversity and amazing depth of composers from Germany.

Admission is \$20, children under 12 are free. Tickets available at the door. See you there!



Philip Manning, left, and above, Robert Holliston

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Just One Change

Kathleen Sutherland

Most, if not all, of us are well aware of the "three Rs" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) of environmental awareness, and fewer know of the four Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). In this first of a series of articles, I would like to encourage people to revisit their participation in these, especially focusing on Refuse, Reduce and Reuse and recognizing Recycling is only the lesser evil of "binning it," as they say in the UK.

Refuse. When dining out, refuse the straw. Ask for your water but ask that it come without a straw. "In the US, we use 500 million straws a day! That is enough straw waste to wrap the circumference of the earth two and a half times or to fill Yankee Stadium over nine times in a year! Now imagine that magnified by global consumption!" (<https://thelastplasticstraw.org/about-us/>) Granted these are US statistics, but it certainly applies to us on a smaller but just as significant scale.

Many restaurants are trying to break their habit of just shoving the straw into the glass

and are now asking the patrons to request a straw when they want one. Recycling the one-use-only straw does not make environmental sense at all (<https://davidsuzuki.org/story/plastic-straws-suck/>).

Reduce. Reduce the amount of paper coming into your home by unsubscribing to junk mail. Let the post office know you don't want junk mail (you will still get your *Muse*!) To stop getting unaddressed advertising, place the note in or on your mailbox, or on the inside lip of your community mailbox or postal box (<https://cornerstonewebmedia.com/cma/submit.asp>).

Reuse. With the holiday season past, you may have some items you didn't start December with! Most of the wrapping paper can be reused. Flatten it by putting it between books in your bookcase. Any gifts you don't think you will use, save them and re-gift them to someone you think will enjoy them, or give them to a charity that can use them to raise money (including saving them for the Mighty Metchosin Garage sale that takes place in May).

APRM Needs Your Note-Taking Help

Jennifer Burgis

When Metchosinites are asked what they appreciate most about the APRM, the answer is overwhelmingly the receipt of notes on council meetings.

Two long-time note-takers are retiring at the end of this year. To continue to provide this valuable service to the community, we need

two volunteers to take their places.

The mission is interesting, often entertaining and not overly onerous. It involves attending council meetings two months of the year and writing up notes on the most important or interesting issues discussed. The notes are then forwarded to be circulated to an email list that includes

not just APRM members, but many other residents of Metchosin and other communities.

No experience necessary – just an interest in supporting an informed, involved community. Please consider joining the note-taking team. For more information, contact Pattie Whitehouse, 250-478-3319, pattie@pacificcoast.net



The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

Gardening Notes from Europe

I was fortunate enough to have a trip to Ireland in late August/early September. The thing that hit us was the green landscape, green grass still growing. We were so used to the drought brown landscape here. Animals were grazing in many fields. Plants that bloom in June here were out there – Calla lilies for instance, and various annuals. I suppose they only got enough warmth to bloom at the end of the summer rather than the beginning.

Cultivars of Hydrangeas that are borderline hardy here thrived there, and the blooms were enormous, lacecaps almost a foot across, Annabelle with blooms as big as soccer balls. They

don't get quite as hot as we do, but I think the main thing is that they don't get quite as cold either. And, of course, any plant looks wonderful against a stone wall!

European style pages for 2018 are all for "re-wilding," very trendy and very green. That's not really necessary here, as most of us are pretty wild to begin with. An outdoor eating area was also featured on most sites - not on the deck, but under a pergola or some such structure at a distance from the house.

The colour of the year is purple: flowers and a long list of purple veggies, including broccoli, cauliflower and carrots. One site noted that a "signature Purple Rain cocktail incorporates Don Julio Blanco tequila, fresh lemon and lime juices, cranberry syrup and a lavender flower from the garden."

Pearson College Celebrates Nobel Anniversary

Brian Geary, Pearson College

Metchosin's Pearson United World College (UWC) is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its namesake and inspiration Lester B. Pearson's 1957 Nobel Peace Prize this academic year.

Canada's only UWC is sponsoring a number of campus, community and national events to mark the anniversary of this towering achievement by a characteristically humble Canadian. Pearson won the Nobel for his role in helping defuse the Suez Crisis and creating the first "Blue Beret" UN Peacekeepers.

The college cohosted an anniversary event on Parliament Hill and college officials visited Rideau Hall to meet with Governor General and UWC Atlantic graduate Julie Payette.

"The college draws students from across the country and up to 160 nations around the world to Metchosin and is based on Mr. Pearson's vision of bringing young people



President Désirée McGraw and Vice President Dan Hurley from Metchosin's Pearson College UWC recently met with Governor General Julie Payette (centre) in Ottawa. Payette, a United World College graduate (UWC Atlantic in Wales), also once served on Pearson's Board of Directors.

together to live and learn from each other as a way of creating peaceful and thoughtful international dialogue," said President and Head of College Désirée McGraw.

More than 4,000 students have graduated from Pearson over its 44-year history, the vast majority of them

attending on full scholarships. Alumni have gone on to become, for example, a UN Special Rapporteur, the head of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream company and the Chief Medical Officer of BC's First Nations Health Authority.

Andrew Cohen Visits Metchosin to Give the Lowdown on Lester Pearson

Johnny Carline

As part of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of Lester B. Pearson receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, the Metchosin college named in his honour invited celebrated columnist, author, academic and recognized Lester Pearson expert, Andrew Cohen, to deliver a lecture on Pearson's life.

A dozen or more Metchosin residents joined Pearson College faculty and students to hear an informative and, in some instances, surprising talk on the one-time Canadian Prime Minister and the inspiration for Pearson College (see article by Brian Geary in this edition).

Cohen is clearly a Pearson fan and his presentation of the fundamental principles of the Pearsonian brand of diplomacy struck a chord with many of the international students. It wasn't difficult to detect that Cohen believed that the world would be better off if more of the current world leaders (and one in particular) heeded Pearson's advice – "lower your voice," "respect your opponents and understand their needs," "always leave people a dignified way out and the opportunity to save face" and "don't be discouraged, respond to failure with perseverance."

The surprise came, therefore, in the bluntness of Cohen's recounting of Pearson's shortcomings. In 1954, as an inexperienced party leader, Pearson foolishly challenged Diefenbaker's hold on government too early. He was eaten alive by the forceful Conservative PM in the resultant election – condemning the Liberals and himself to five years in the political wilderness.

In 1965, by then an experienced Prime Minister, Pearson nonetheless ignored his own advice and publicly criticized President Johnson

on a trip to the White House, consequently losing all credibility with Johnson ("you pissed on my rug" was LBJ's comment to Pearson) and thereby also losing any possibility of influencing the conduct of the Vietnam War.

Most surprising of all were Cohen's comments on the Nobel prize itself – the highlight of Pearson's career. Undoubtedly Pearson's reputation as a skilled and honest diplomat positioned him to play the vital role in achieving the UN consensus on how to bring the "Suez Crisis" to a peaceful conclusion. And undoubtedly many lives were saved as a result.

But the legend that Pearson "invented" peacekeeping turns out to be dubious – it had been done before. And while Pearson was "the man of the moment", the desire to back away from the conflict was so universal that had Pearson not been in place to do what he did, then someone else almost certainly could have and would have.

No matter. Pearson may have been more of an athlete than a scholar (the only prime minister to have played professional baseball), he may have been occasionally naïve, and he certainly lacked the sexy sizzle of the Trudeau; but his character and style, his devotion to broad human causes, such as foreign aid as well as peacekeeping, and his humble personality, amounted to a combination that in the long pull served his country and the world well. One could feel the students at "his" college being inspired to follow his example: one asked Cohen "how can I put his principles into practice in my country?"

The last line, however, properly belongs to his wife Maryon who humorously, lovingly, and with fair insight observed that "behind every successful man, there is a surprised woman."

Men's and Kid's Hairdressing in Metchosin: A Clarification

In the December issue of the *Muse*, we published an article welcoming Matt Priestley (Redbeard) as a new men's and kid's hairdresser in Metchosin. We omitted to mention that there is an existing hairdressing establishment

in Metchosin who served men and kids, namely Debbie's Family Hair Studio. By this oversight we may have given the impression that Matt would be the only men's/kids' hairdresser in Metchosin. We regret that

oversight and wish to correct any such impression.

Men and kids, you have a choice. Debbie on Wootton Road in the village centre, or Matt on Rocky Point Road.

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FILM NIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Defensora (39 minutes),

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

Samuel Perez

Featuring the film, a panel of special guests including members of the Pearson College community as well as *Rights Action*, an NGO which supports the Guatemalan plaintiffs to find justice.

Defensora is a documentary about a Mayan Q'eqchi' resistance against mining in Guatemala. The story is set along the shores of Lake Izabal in the community of El Estor where a nickel mining company has operated for over 50 years. Tensions run high against a backdrop of pro- and anti-mining camps, violence and forced evictions.

Winner of the International John Basham Award at the 2013 Columbia Gorge International Film Festival, *Defensora* follows the story of sisters Maria and Angélica Choc, who lead a Mayan Q'eqchi' resistance in Guatemala to reclaim ancestral lands and seek justice in Canada for the murder of Angélica's husband, the shooting-paralyzing of German Choc Chub and the gang rapes of 11 Mayan women.

Set along the shores of Lake Izabal, the stakes are high for the Mayan Q'eqchi' people who risk their lives to protect their lands, speak the truth and seek justice and for Hudbay Minerals that continues to deny their allegations.

"*Defensora* is a timely documentary that provides candid insights into the brave struggles of Angélica, German and other Maya Q'eqchi' women and men in El Estor, Guatemala who, faced with the grave harm that Canadian mining operations have brought about, are on the frontline of the battle for justice in Canadian courts." (Jen Moore, MiningWatch Canada; from the *Defensora* press release on the movie's website at <http://www.defensorathefilm.com/>)

Information for anyone interested in supporting the plaintiffs will be available at the showing. *Suggestions, comments, please contact Ric at ricnic2@shaw.ca.*



MCA Services Auction – Save the Date!

Jim Challenger

The Metchosin Community Association's annual Services Auction is coming up on March 10. Mark your calendars now to ensure you don't miss your opportunity to bid on great services offered by local businesses.

As in past years, there will be a chance to preview and bid on the services offered

on an online website, followed by a lively event at the Community House where both a silent auction and live auction will be held. Don't miss out on the 50/50 draw, wine and cheese sampling, and good times.

If you, or someone you do business with, would like to offer a service for this year's auction please contact the MCA office at 250-478-5155 or email mcahouse@telus.net.

A Great Year for the Free Range Singers

Pattie Whitehouse

The Metchosin Free Range Singers wrapped up our third year as a community harmony choir with a tea-and-cookies social in early December.

It has been a great year, full of learning, laughter, spirited singing, and heavenly harmonies. Our director, Teodora Georgieva-Gitberg, has worked with us on a repertoire that ranges from a mesmerizing Russian Orthodox chant to a playful arrangement of that seasonal chestnut, "Let It Snow."

Asked what they like about the choir, members offered a variety of answers. One said she valued the education she is receiving

about music and how it works. Another commented on the social value in meeting as a group to sing together. Teamwork was mentioned, as was the welcoming, inclusive character of the choir. Several expressed appreciation for Teodora, who works us hard, but makes the hard work fun. "She brings out the best in us," one singer said.

Teodora also directs the Prelude Choir division of the Victoria Children's Choir and the Pearson College choir, teaches voice in Continuing Studies at UVic and is herself a member of Ensemble Laude.

She calls the Free Range Singers her fun choir, the one that energizes her and "will play with me with the

music." The group is open to exploring music with her, she says, even though few of us have much in the way of musical education.

More people in Canada sing in choirs than play hockey – and get a good physical, mental and social workout in the process. Singing is good for you!

The choir's 2018 season begins Monday, January 8, and we welcome new singers. There are no auditions, no experience is required and you can try us out at no obligation. For more information, check out our Facebook page (Metchosin Free Range Singers) or contact Pattie Whitehouse at 250-478-3319 or pattie@pacificcoast.net.

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MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

MACCA and the Old School

MACCA and the Old School

Thursday, January 18
7:00 pm at the Metchosin
Community House

Betty Hildreth and Ric Perron

You know who knows a lot about the old school? The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA). Come and hear MACCA's executive, Art Brendon, Chris van de Water, Gail Nash, and Betty Hildreth, tell us what they have been working on to maintain this valuable space within our community.

Learn about MACCA's plans for the year ahead and the current tenants in the studio spaces, MACCA's mission statement, and what MACCA has done for the community to preserve our unique vibe.

This centre has been, and continues to be an important part of our village core. Housed in the "old" 1914 portion of the Metchosin Elementary School, the Arts Centre has occupied this space for more than seven years. The board of directors negotiated

tenancy from Sooke School District #62 and then, when the District of Metchosin recently became the landlord, it has had the foresight to continue to keep MACCA as the tenant at 4495 Happy Valley Road.

To date, the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre hosts studio space for: Shiloh Music Studio, The Old School Gallery & Gifts, Blair Taylor Studio, Metchosin Soap Works, Canvasback Studio, plus the Metchosin Seniors' Information Resource Centre

and office. Offering classes, workshops, tutorials, seminars, and intergenerational activities that showcase Metchosin's undeniable personality, the studio tenants are eager to embrace public participation.

Are you interested in how MACCA's presence is going to be utilized as part of this publicly owned site? Be part of the local chatter, and find out the latest plans. The evening is meant to be informative, lighthearted, and inspiring.



Art by Blair Taylor, Blair Taylor Studio in the Arts Centre

Rough Voice Singers

Barb Sawatsky

Rough Voice Singers would like to voice their appreciation to the Metchosin community for their continuing support. Growing from the initial 20 people in February, 2013 to the room-filling, lustily-singing crowd who came to the Christmas sing-along, we are grateful for your support. Thank you to all who come to sing-along Mondays bearing treats for the break and to everyone who collectively donated a small mountain of goods for the Christmas hamper. Thanks also to the very generous folk who brought lots of zero-calorie goodies to the Christmas social. It has been suggested that we are sounding pretty darned good these days and should possibly change our name as we're not so rough any more. But no, this is who we are and a rose by any other name ... See you in January!



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HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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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. Not at the House January 1.

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; call 250-474-0634 and leave a message so we can determine if you are 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. Returning January 15.

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers – The Rough Voice Singers meet at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month at 7:00 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 or Doug (250-478-0553) or barbsawatsky@hotmail.com.

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. Will return on January 9.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (email blueheronstudio@telus.net, or call 250-595-6406) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are

invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs.

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. Returning January 12, 2018.

Music Night – 7:00–9:00 pm, second Friday of each month. **January 12.** "Frim Fram," a four-piece band melding the musical background of its experienced members to offer a repertoire including classic jazz standards by artists such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Diana Krall, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Michael Bublé, as well as rock and roll classics and modern rock classics by Dire Straits and others. Suggested donation \$7-12.

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 – January 26 at 7:00 pm. Pearson College is co-hosting the event in January with a short film and a panel discussion (students and professors). Please see this issue for more info.

Events

Guest Speaker – January 18 at 7:00 pm. Art Brendon and guests. Please see this issue for more info.

Art on the Walls: January – 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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A Very Busy Year for Metchosin Search and Rescue



The Metchosin Search and Rescue group assisting the Juan de Fuca SAR group, evacuating a woman with a fractured leg out of East Sooke Park in July. Photo by Brian Domney

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Brian Domney

2017 was a very busy year for Search and Rescue in British Columbia, with records set across the province for the number of call-outs; the number for Metchosin Search and Rescue (MSAR) being no exception.

MSAR's area of responsibility spans a significant amount of the CRD, from the border of East Sooke to Oak Bay, to the Durrance Lake area of the Saanich Peninsula and up to the Malahat. As a result, the group has perhaps one of the greatest range of searches, from urban to wilderness, and 2017 reflected that too. In addition to the regular assistance provided to local police, including the Westshore RCMP, the Victoria Police Department and Saanich Police departments, MSAR also responded to a number of calls for mutual aid from other SAR groups on the Island and on the Lower Mainland.

Perhaps November 22 reflected the nature of the year. On the evening of November 21, the Coquitlam Search and Rescue group issued a province-wide request for mutual aid to assist in the search for a missing 56 year old female dog-walker and three dogs who had been missing for two days and nights. Five members of MSAR responded and caught the 7 am ferry to Tsawwassen the following morning. Arriving at the Command site at about 9:30 am, they were assigned to teams, transported to their assigned search areas and were about to commence their tasks when the radios crackled and a team already in the field reported they had voice (and bark) contact with the subjects. Returning to Command, they learned that they would not be required to assist in evacuating the subjects because they were to be "long lined" out by helicopter, so they headed for the ferry after a brief stop at a food court (where a very kind Thai proprietor gave them a bag of spring rolls and thanked them for what they did). When the ferry was in Active Pass, all five cell phones went off simultaneously – a sure sign of another call-out. It turned out that the Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO) was requesting mutual aid to assist in a shoreline search for a missing boater. The five MSAR members looked at each other and decided they would respond. After a few hours of dark wet work along the rocky North Saanich shoreline, the search was stood down for the night and the weary MSAR folks headed home after a very long day. (Sadly, the missing boater's body was discovered some days later on a North Saanich shoreline).

In addition to the time put in on searches, which can range from a few hours to several days, search and rescue volunteers put in a great deal of time in training. MSAR currently has over 40 members with a waiting list of potential new members. If you are interested in learning more about this great group of

volunteers who provide a valuable service to our society, check out the Metchosin Search and Rescue website at www.metchosinsar.ca and watch for our new public Facebook page coming in early 2018.

2017 Metchosin Search and Rescue Call-outs

- Jan 29 Nanaimo mutual aid – missing male.
- Mar 2 Mount Work – missing hiker.
- Mar 22 Blinkhorn Lake – missing 14 year old female.
- Apr 21 Cattle Point area – missing despondent male.
- May 23 Finlayson Arm Road – missing female.
- June 12 PEMO mutual aid/Willis Point – missing male.
- June 17 PEMO mutual aid/John Dean Park – stranded skydivers.
- June 22 Blinkhorn Lake – missing male.
- June 25 Goldstream Park – missing mother and son.
- June 29 Martlet Road – missing male.
- June 30 Juan de Fuca mutual aid – stretcher carry, Sombrio Beach.
- July 7 PEMO mutual aid/Coles Bay – despondent subject.
- July 8 Matheson Lake – missing hiker.
- July 17 Juan de Fuca mutual aid – East Sooke Park evacuation.
- July 24 Gorge/Thetis Lake area – missing 93 year old diabetic woman.
- Aug 1 Juan de Fuca mutual aid – Mystic Beach fractured femur evacuation.
- Aug 1 Juan de Fuca mutual aid – Mystic Beach fractured ankle evacuation.
- Aug 4 PEMO mutual aid – missing female with dementia.
- Aug 8 PEMO mutual aid – missing developmentally challenged male.
- Sept 4 Mount Finlayson – injured female requiring evacuation; referred to Langford Fire Rope Rescue.
- Sept 6 Kangaroo Road/Blinkhorn Lake – missing autistic teenage boy.
- Sept 23 Juan de Fuca mutual aid – China Beach stretcher carry.
- Oct 23 Ladysmith mutual aid – missing 73 year old female.
- Nov 4 Camp Thunderbird – stranded Mycoblitz participants.
- Nov 21 Coquitlam mutual aid – missing dog walker.
- Nov 22 PEMO mutual aid – missing boater

Short-Term Rentals in Metchosin

Jim MacPherson

Short-term vacation rentals (SVR) have been much in the news lately as municipal government tries to come to terms with short-term, and sometimes not so short-term, accommodation rentals.

Now it's Metchosin's turn. At the November 20 meeting of Council's Planning Committee, some residents voiced their concerns regarding noise, garbage, visitor turnover and other aspects of the SVR phenomenon. Some of the same residents asked why B&Bs had to pay a business

tax and adhere to regulations while SVR did not. A staff report on SVRs had also been prepared by the planner and was attached to the agenda of the November 20 meeting.

The SVR issue was brought forward to the November 27 council meeting where many of the same issues were noted. None of the residents said that they opposed SVR but that they should be regulated and pay business tax. One councillor noted that the time for regulation had come but that regulations must be implementable and enforceable.

Council has identified 17 SVR establishments in Metchosin but a Google search suggests there are more than that. At least some of the rentals are handled by property management companies.

Council agreed to hold a workshop on SVR regulation on January 9, 2018, at 1:00 pm in the council chambers. The public is welcome to come and participate in the workshop. People who have written letters to Council about the subject will receive formal letters of notification of the workshop.

RCMP Call-Outs NOVEMBER 2017

Constable Matthew Baker, Media Relations Officer/Operations, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

- | | |
|--|--|
| Nov 2 Parry Cross Road – 911 call, accidental dial, nothing suspicious. | Nov 17 Sooke Road – Report of erratic driver, vehicle not located. |
| Nov 3 Woodruff Road – Break and Enter to outbuilding, suspect arrested outside jurisdiction. | Nov 19 Metchosin Road – Trailer with no lights, owner located and ticketed. |
| Nov 4 Glinz Lake Road – Missing mushroom pickers, found with help of Search and Rescue. | Nov 20 Lombard Drive – A slow driving van seen in the neighbourhood, vehicle not located. |
| Nov 6 William Head Road – Verbal domestic between partners. Parties separated for the night. | Nov 21 Rocky Point Road – Missing child, child in contact with family, child came home. |
| Nov 9 Farhill Road – Man seen throwing pumpkins in a ditch, ongoing issue. | Nov 22 Happy Valley Road – Car lost control, struck a hydro pole. |
| Nov 10 William Head Road – Attempted theft of truck. Nothing taken, no damage. | Nov 23 Sundance Drive – Assisted Mental Health Workers with elderly patient. |
| Nov 11 Happy Valley Road – Deer struck by vehicle. Police dispatched deer. | Nov 24 Sweet Chestnut Road – Lost chainsaw reunited with owner. |
| Nov 12 Tavane Road – Youth found after being missing for several days. | Nov 25 Winter Road – Break into residence, stolen vehicle found in driveway. |
| Nov 13 Hi-Mount Drive – Suspicious vehicle in the area on side of the road, removed by owner. | Nov 26 Tavane Road – Family disturbance. |
| Nov 14 Metchosin Road – Two car collision, weather conditions a factor, no injuries. | Nov 28 Pears Road – Sounds of gunshots in the area, Conservation office advised. |
| Nov 15 Park Drive – Theft of tools from home. Problem over unpaid rent, items returned. | Nov 29 Bennett Road – Arrest warrant issued for male in area, male not located at the time. |
| Nov 16 Sooke Road – A car with no insurance stopped, had temporary insurance not shown. | Nov 30 Branson Road – Male came to a house with crowbar in hand, no signs of damage. |

Fire Department Call-Outs NOVEMBER 2017

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| Nov 3 Sooke Road – Vehicle fire | Otter Point Road – Smoke/Smell in Structure |
| Nov 5 Barrow Road – Medical | Nov 20 Derrien Place – Medical |
| Nov 7 Happy Valley Road – Medical | Happy Valley Road – Medical |
| Happy Valley Road – Alarm bells – intrusion | Nov 21 Neild Road – Alarm Bells- Residential |
| Nov 8 Rescue – Rope/High/Confined | Nov 22 Happy Valley Road – MVI |
| Nov 9 Cains Way – Assistance – Misc Complaint | Nov 24 Cardsview Terrace – Assistance – Public Works |
| Zanita Heights – SFRes – Chimney | Arden Road – Open Burn – General |
| Nov 11 Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General | Barrow Road – Medical |
| Nov 14 Charles Road – medical | Nov 30 Chalister Court – Open Burn – General |
| Duke Road – MVI | |
| Nov 16 Albert Head Road – HAZ MAT – Natural Gas | HAZ MAT: Hazardous Materials |
| Nov 18 Rocky Point Road – Assistance – General Public | MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident |
| William Head Road – Smoke/Smell in Structure | SFRes: Structure Fire Residential |

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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

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

MANDALA PLACE – Metchosin's sacred space in a tiny home. Acupuncture, counselling, coaching, Bodytalk, Buddhist meditation. Offered by husband (Registered Acupuncturist), phone 226-748-7897, and wife (Ph.D. Clinical Psychology), phone 778-587-7468, team. Over a decade of experience.

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SELF CARE GROUP for women. Join Vibeke Vaerum (Ph.D. Clinical Psychology) February 8, 15, 22 and 29, 6:00-7:45 pm at Mandala Place (off Kangaroo Rd.). Email vnvaerum@gmail.com to register.

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

MCA Music Night Concert with Frim Fram

Music Night: Frim Fram
Friday, January 12, 7:00–9:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House

Erin Van der Water

Here's to another great year of musical talents to make the Community House groove! A special thank you to all of you who come out to share your time and support the monthly house concerts.

We'll be kicking off 2018 with Frim Fram, composed of some of the members of Seacruze, whom you might recognize from the Bandwagon music nights.

On bass will be George Koenig, who moved to Victoria in 1994 after completing double bass studies with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and principal bassist Ken Friedman at UBC. He has played from polka bands to nonets to

the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and the award-winning Mike Luno Band.

"Rocksteady" Freddy Brown will be on drums and vocals. He has been a professional drummer/singer since the 60s in Windsor, Ontario, Edmonton, and now Victoria, performing in a multitude of musical styles along the way.

Lead guitar and vocals will be played by Fraser Kerley, a touring musician in the 70s

and 80s before becoming a music teacher in the Sooke School District and performing in many local Victoria bands including The Waybacks, Backstage Betty, Soul Sonics, and Blue Cadillac.

On rhythm guitar and lead vocals will be Raman McArthur, who taught band and music before serving as Principal in the Sooke School District. Raman has sung a variety of genres over the

years with many bands and musicians.

Joining to form Frim Fram, the band melds the background of its members to offer a variety of music including classic jazz by artists such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Michael Bublé. Included will be rock and roll and modern rock classics like Dire Straits.

Please join us January 12. Suggested donation \$7–12.

Important Dates and Events

- Jan. 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- Jan. 9 **Short-term Vacation Rental Regulation Discussion** p. 11
- Jan. 12 **Talk and Walk: More on Mushrooms** p. 3
- MCA Music Night: Frim Fram** p. 12
- Jan. 14 **Exploring German Composers Recital** p. 6
- Jan. 18 **MCA Guest Speaker Series: MACCA and the Old School** p. 9
- Jan. 26 **Film Night: Defensora** p. 8

CRD Nature Events: see crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Clip and save this listing!

Directory of Organizations

AIR CADETS

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

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-881-8280
Facebook: Metchosin APRM

BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

250-478-2387
ikmcken@islandnet.com
www.bilstoncreek.org

CRD PARKS

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

FREE RANGE SINGERS

250-478-3319
<https://www.facebook.com/MetchosinFreeRangeSingers/>

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca
250-478-5484

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.metchosin4h.com

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

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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

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METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

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METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

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METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

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<http://metchosinhall.com/>

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989
School Museum, 250-478-0765

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metchosinpreschool@gmail.com
www.metchosinpreschool.com

METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

metchosin.sar@gmail.com
<http://www.metchosinsar.ca>

METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE/METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION

250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca
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The above listing is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes by email to metmuse@shaw.ca. Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events, to be included under "Events" on this page, or possibly as a separate article. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.