



Metchosin Muse

The Metchosin Muse has a new email address! metchosinmuse@gmail.com

Dogs and Sheep Don't Mix

Councillor Marie-Térèse Little, District of Metchosin

Like oil and water, dogs and sheep just don't mix. In the presence of a herd of sheep, dogs left to their own devices will often cause chaos. Such has been the case recently, where off-leash dogs were left to wander on the Sea Bluff Trail. Although the dogs appear to be having fun, the sheep have been left injured at worse and traumatized at best. Every year, there are four to five sheep either injured or killed by dogs in the area.

The Sea Bluff Trail was created as a Right-of-Way in 1988 by the generous donation of access to the land by Geoff and Jacqueline Mitchell. The trail constitutes a 1.1 km loop around the cliffside property above Parry Bay. The elder Mitchells loved the rural property with the views of the Salish Sea and the Olympic Mountains. They wanted to share this gem with their neighbours for their pleasure and recreation, in perpetuity, without assuming liability for others crossing over their private land. The District of Metchosin assumed this responsibility and agreed to maintain access to the trail on private land by providing signage and gates at the end of Wootton and Parry

Cross Roads. However, the beautiful trail skirts around two working farms – one with sheep. Thus, the gates must be kept closed at all times and any dogs walking the private property must be leashed and kept under control.

Sheep are a delight and valuable assets to this community and to the farmer. Any harm or loss can negatively affect the farmer and their livelihood. Although a dog may be obedient and good with children it is every dog's instinct to chase. Chasing sheep

"This is not about dogs but people who refuse to follow rules."

can cause serious injury to the sheep as they can be run to sudden death, a pregnant ewe can miscarry and lambs can starve after being separated from their mothers. Panicked sheep can often run into fences at full speed causing severe injury to the sheep and damage to the fences. Dogs nipping at the sheep's feet can cause painful wounds and infection and may lead to the sheep having to be put down due to the sustained injuries.

The District of Metchosin's Bylaw 421 states that owners must not permit an animal to be "at large" in Metchosin. An animal shall not be deemed "at large" if it is on the property of its owner or of another person who has the care and control of the animal, or under the direct and continuous control of a person who is competent to control it, or securely confined within an enclosure, or securely fastened so that it is unable to roam. An animal under any other circumstances shall be deemed to be "at large" and

the owner can be fined a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$1000 and the roaming animal can be impounded.

I asked advice from Monique Anstee, a local dog trainer and canine behaviour expert who said, "This is not about dogs but people who refuse to follow rules. I surveyed a group of my students last night and they suggested signage citing the legal consequences for dogs who chase livestock." Ms. Anstee also recommends that local residents take pictures of the owners and dogs off-leash and send them to the farmer, the district, and Bylaw Enforcement.

At the February 10 District of Metchosin Parks Committee meeting, Council and



Councillor Marie-Térèse Little with Gordon Hodson, animal control officer Photo by Marie-Térèse Little

members of the public had a good discussion regarding this issue. The common agreement was that nobody wanted any sheep to be harmed by dogs. A draft of signage to be placed at Wootton and Parry Cross Roads created by Bonnie Farris, our former Parks and Trails coordinator, was submitted for review. It was decided that such signage would be placed at the Sea Bluff Trail clearly outlining expectations for trail users and their dogs. The Metchosin Agriculture Committee will be tasked with

identifying potential conflict zones where dogs off leash may pose a risk to livestock. The Metchosin Parks and Trails committee will also be asked to identify parks and trails in Metchosin that are amenable to dogs that are off-leash and under strict control of the owner. As of this week, there is an increased presence of CRD by-law officers at the Sea Bluff Trail to strictly enforce Bylaw 421 and remind trail users that dogs are welcome on the Sea Bluff Trail only on leash.

Metchosin Muse

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 The 15th of each month, however February and March 2020 the deadline is moved up to the 13th. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metchosinmuse@gmail.com. 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. All submissions may be edited for length, style and suitability of content and language. Submissions are accepted on this understanding. Please visit our website for more information: www.metchosinmuse.ca

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 respectful and open dialogue 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, Glenrosa Restaurant, Nootka Rose Bakery and Mill, Pedder Bay Marina, Hans Helgesen Elementary School, Happy Valley Store, East Sooke Grocer, Royal Bay Bakery, Weirs Beach RV, Westmont School, William Head Federal Prison, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca, West Hills and Goudy branches of the Greater Victoria Public Library.

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 \$30 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 metchosinmuse@gmail.com, or leave it at the Metchosin Country Store. Please sign your letter. An address and telephone number are required but will not be published. Letters to the editor express the views of the writer who is solely responsible for their content.

Sunday walk unfolds into a nightmare on Sea Bluff Trail

I am a frequent walker on Sea Bluff Trail, off Wootton Road. How lucky we are to be able to enjoy that pastoral scenery at no cost to ourselves! Lambs curled up or frolicking in the green grass, pregnant sheep, or those that have just newly delivered, feeding quietly, blue skies above. A perfect, relaxing atmosphere overlooking the ocean.

On Sunday, Feb 2, this was the scene that greeted me. As I entered through the gates to start the trail, there were at least two dog owners that followed behind me with unleashed dogs. The sheep were enclosed behind fencing on both sides of the trail.

By the time I had reached the top of the bluff and half-way down into the forest a

whole new scenario unfolded. Sheep and lambs were running up to the fence crying and frantic with a large black dog in pursuit.

I ran to the fence screaming for the dog to stop but to no avail. The dog was on a mission with owner in pursuit. By the time I ran to the top of the bluff the sheep had been chased all over the field.

The owner was apologizing but unable to catch up to or secure his dog who was focusing in on one lamb paralyzed with fear. Realizing that the owners of the farm were probably at the pig farm down the hill, I ran down to report what was happening. Luckily Tom Henry was at the door when I approached him feeling very angry and distraught.

He said, "I will look after it." and what happened after that was unknown to me at the time. I found out afterward that it took a considerable amount of time to catch the dog. I was relieved to hear that no sheep were killed.

When are people going to realize that their 'sweet' family dog is more than capable of jumping a fence and will chase sheep?

You few, selfish dog owners are jeopardizing the privilege that the Mitchell family provided by opening this trail to horse lovers and general public.

Please be considerate of our farmers and their livestock.

Bev Somers



Metchosin Pilgrimage

Saturday, March 21, 9:00 am
 St. Marys Church
 4125 Metchosin Road

Wally Eamer

Everyone is invited to join the Second Annual Metchosin Pilgrimage on Saturday, March 21. Building on last year's successful first pilgrimage, people who love Metchosin are invited to join the one day pilgrimage. Enjoy nature and each other, and reflect on spiritual themes during your walk. Most of the route is on the Galloping Goose Trail, then along Rocky Point Road to the historic church and yard (with

springtime flowers!), and finally to St. Marys church at 4125 Metchosin Road. There is a shuttle service from 9:00 am. to noon, at the new church parking lot, to the five starting points – pilgrims can choose a walk as short as 5 kilometres, or as long as 23 kilometres. At 6:00 pm there will be a simple and hearty pilgrim supper at the church. People are still welcome to join the supper even if they cannot walk the route.

Registration for the shuttle service and the supper is on the website at www.eventbrite.ca, or by calling the church at 250 474-4119. Space is limited, so please reserve ahead.

PLEASE NOTE:

All photos submitted to the *Muse* should be in jpg or tif format only. Please do not send photos in word processing documents.

The Metchosin Challenge

Sharleen Thompson

Presentation will begin at 7:00 pm at the 'new' St Mary of the Incarnation Church at 4125 Metchosin Rd. This year's theme is 'Hands on Sustainability'. The presentations are designed to be hands-on, practical, and highly interactive. The Metchosin Challenge schedule is as follows:

FEBRUARY 27

Paige Erickson-McGee – Invasive plants in your garden and how to conquer them. Paige works with the Habitat Acquisition Trust.

MARCH 5

Rich McCue – Conserving energy one home at a time. Rich is a systems analyst at the University of Victoria.

MARCH 12

Claudia Copley – Wild about gardening – How to

garden to preserve native insects. Claudia is an Entomologist with the Royal British Columbia Museum.

MARCH 19

Derek Wulff – Grafting fruit trees to preserve historic genetic stock, and citrus farming. Derek is a Metchosin farmer and businessman.

MARCH 26

Dave Lovekin – The practicalities of renewable (solar) power. He is an energy consultant with the Pembina Institute.

APRIL 2

Fiona Hammersley Chambers – Conserving the genetic heritage of plants by preserving seeds. She runs Metchosin Farm Seeds and is finishing a PhD in Ethnobotany at the University of Victoria.



Derek Wulff cuts some scion wood from a tree at John Papuc's orchard watched by John and Dan O'Connell

The 2020 Metchosin Grafting Day

Derek Wulff

**Sunday, March 22, 1:30 pm
Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road**

We can still take part in one of the most ageless events since apples were invented, the grafting of the apple tree. We have done this for many years and invite all people, young and old, to come and be a part of one of the most interesting of all agricultural activities, grafting scion wood from one apple tree onto the rootstock of another.

The Metchosin Pomological Society invites you to bring scion wood from your favourite fruit trees (mostly apples, but we will have pears and plums) and make new ones by grafting them onto new rootstock. Do you have an old apple tree about to die? This may be the last chance to have it live on grafted on a new trunk.

We will have about 80 rootstock of various types and you can bring a piece of scion wood from a tree you really like and we will show you and help you graft it to the scion wood to make an identical apple (and other) tree of that type.

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

We will have a wide range of scion wood from local trees

for others. Heritage varieties – bring them.

So go out right now (unless it is dark when you are reading this), cut off some one year old shoots (no more than one foot long), store them in a tightly sealed plastic bag in the fridge (add some wet paper towel to the bottom to keep them

moist). Make sure you label them for their attributes, even if you don't know their name – and bring them on the day.

Growing and eating locally tastes better, brings happiness to your life, 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 at 250-478-2677.

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

“Do you have an old apple tree about to die? This may be the last chance to have it live on grafted on a new trunk.”

and experts who will help.

The Lennox Spartan, Jonagold, Liberty, Gravenstein and King are a few of many local favourites we will have.

We will supply rootstock and welcome anyone who is interested in trying their hand at grafting to come out on Sunday March 22 at the Metchosin Community House from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Each rootstock is \$3 and we will supply all the grafting tape and materials.

If you have an apple that you want to share (tasty, a good keeper, great in pies, etc.) bring along a few extra scions

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Ecosystem Stewardship in Metchosin – What’s New?



Carol Carman

The Metchosin Foundation has initiated and is participating in environmental projects. These include enhancing public awareness of environmental and related community development issues and opportunities as well as supporting local youth education through the provision of scholarships and bursaries.

Three emerging, environmental stewardship themes have recently been the focus of both conventional and niche science media. These have triggered the attention of our board because they relate directly to our community and region.

Ecosystem-based carbon storage: Two well-researched articles in 'Focus on Victoria' highlight the potential for us to use ecosystem-based carbon storage to slow increases in atmospheric CO₂ concentration. Please take the time for a full and thoughtful read, preferably in a comfy chair, with a large cuppa. Key points raised include:

- The potential for forest-based carbon storage to play a key role in municipal and provincial climate action plans.
- The huge loss in the capacity of BC's forests to store carbon, over the past 20 years. (In less than one generation, BC's forests have lost carbon storage capacity equivalent to more than

twice the emissions levels generated by Canada's oil sands industry.)

- The potential for forest-based carbon storage and related forestry management and certification activity to generate future revenue and employment.

Full articles can be found at www.focusonvictoria.ca.

Creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA): In January, a major environmental victory was announced in southeast B.C., thanks to the successful collaboration of four parties. The Ktunaxa people of the East Kootenays, both federal and provincial government ministries, and the non-profit Nature Conservancy of Canada have together taken first steps toward the establishment of a Central Purcell Mountains Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.

Several other IPCA initiatives, generally, in more remote regions of Canada, have encouraged the Metchosin Foundation to become familiar with this evolving conservation mechanism. We've learned that Canada's first IPCA was created at Meares Island. Moreover, IPCAs were recognized in 2017, by the Government of Canada, as a means of meeting federal commitments under the International Convention on Biological Diversity.

IPCAs also have relevance in the negotiation of modern treaties between First Nations and the federal and BC provincial governments. The inclusion of fee simple land as a treaty package consideration is a core negotiation element for governments. However, especially for those First Nations located close to larger cities, the remaining, undeveloped lands that are potentially available for treaty settlement may also have very high residual

conservation value. This creates a paradox. Indigenous communities that require a developable land base, to help achieve socio-economic reconciliation, may end up being conveyed land parcels that strongly merit conservation. The collaborative pursuit of an IPCA may help to resolve competing land use priorities.

Global Insect Populations – Conservation and Recovery: Research is telling us that more than 40% of insect species are declining by as much as 2.5% per year. These crucial components of many ecosystems aerate the soil, pollinate blossoms, and control insect and plant pests. On-line Nature magazine: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-019-1079-8> examines potential response approaches, including recommended avenues for directed research. Three of the recommendations seem particularly well-suited to our community, and to the work that many Metchosinites, with the University of Victoria's Professor Neville Winchester and our Foundation, have been supporting over the past two years:

- initiating long-term studies comparing insect abundance and diversity in different habitats and ecosystems ... at the intersection of agricultural and natural habitats;
 - designing and validating insect-friendly techniques that are effective, locally relevant, and economically sound in agriculture, managed habitats and urban environments; and
 - promoting and applying standardized monitoring protocols globally and establishing long-term monitoring plots or sites based on such protocols, as well as increasing support for existing monitoring efforts.
- Thanks for reading this "digest" article and for checking out the above references and links. We look forward to further exploration of "What's New in Stewardship", in conversations with all of you and our future contributions to *The Muse*.



Experience the Magic of Bisia Belina's Voice and Bodywork

Saturday, April 4, 2:00–4:00 pm
Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road

The Metchosin Free Range Singers are delighted to present a Voice and Bodywork Workshop led by Bisia Belina, massage therapist and founder of the Soundbody Studio.

"You are the instrument," says Bisia. Informed by her massage therapy work, Bisia helps singers understand the connection between body and voice and to learn how to transform body tension into creative vocal energy, improving both quality and tone. Under Bisia's guidance, workshop participants will engage in body-centred activities to

free up the voice and facilitate vocal improvisation that is fun and sometimes transformative.

Join the Free Range Singers as we engage with our creative selves, move to the music that comes to us and allow our voices to fill the space.

The workshop will take place Saturday, April 4, 2:00–4:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, at a cost of \$20. No previous experience is required. All are welcome, but space is limited. To register, email: metchosinfreerangesingers@gmail.com or call Naseem at 250-474-0646.

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COUNCIL NEWS MARCH 2020



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 through April each year to help reduce damage to roadways from heavy truck traffic. If your property is not within the Agricultural Land Reserve, you may be permitted to bring in a small quantity of soil without 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.

Grant In-Aid Program – Deadline Reminder Monday, March 16

Is your community organization in need of funding? Not-for-profit societies can apply for a grant-in-aid until March 16. Council announces the names of recipients in June. Applications are available at www.metchosin.ca and at the Municipal Hall.

Council Meetings

Please see meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise stated. Meetings are subject to change; for updated information please call the District office at (250) 474-3167 or check www.metchosin.ca.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Healthy Communities Advisory Committee | March 4 @ 7:00 pm |
| Finance & Environment Committee | March 9 @ 7:00 pm |
| Council Meeting | March 9 @ 7:00 pm |
| Planning Committee | March 16 @ 7:00 pm |
| Public Works Committee | March 16 @ 7:00 pm |
| Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee | March 17 @ 7:00 pm |
| Council Meeting | March 23 @ 7:00 pm |
| Parks Committee | March 23 @ 7:00 pm |
| Environmental Advisory Select Committee | March 24 @ 7:00 pm |
| Heritage Advisory Select Committee | March 25 @ 4:00 pm |

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Working for our community

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

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MitziDean.ca

Council Notice March 2020

Fireproof Metchosin – Banish the Broom!

This having been such a wet winter, it's hard to believe the long, parched days of summer are ahead. Living in the rain shadows of the Olympic Mountains, coupled with climate change, means that those days will dutifully arrive again. With this in mind, it is a good idea to prepare to fireproof our community. Carelessly disposed cigarettes from car windows account for many fires, especially with the fuel accelerant known as broom and gorse lining the roads. The volatile oils within these plants act like cans of gasoline distributed throughout Metchosin and we would ask that you consider removing broom and gorse from the roadway in front of your properties.

Grab your gloves, loppers, saws, and your determination, whatever it takes to rid our community of this hazardous interloper. If your neighbours are less than able, please offer to help, or make it a fun block party event. Fires do not respect property lines and a neighbour's broom patch can spell disaster for you too.

Broom Removal Priority #1 is to stay safe! Join with your family or neighbours and use the buddy system to watch for traffic. If you can pull the broom without straining your back, do so, otherwise try to cut below the surface. Young broom is vigorous and will usually resprout, however there is a lateral root that comes out sideways from the

main root; cut below there and the plant will not likely come back. Old growth broom can be cut higher up the stem; it does not regrow, but be careful to not leave tripping hazards. Gorse is a nastier affair, it produces more volatile oils, and you should be prepared with protective gear for the vicious spines with which it is armed. It is sure to resprout unless the root is removed.

DISPOSAL

If unsafe to burn on your own property the Public Works Department is offering to burn on site on the road right-of-way during the month of April 2020.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no roadside burning by the Public Works Crew following the April 30 date.

To take advantage of this offer, please ensure that your off-site location on the road right-of-way is clear of trees and aerial lines to provide a safe burn-site.

Please call the District Office (250-474-3167) and leave your house number and a telephone number, so that the Works Crew can plot the most efficient use of time.

Chief Dunlop has requested that we adhere to the following guidelines for residential burns to help reduce the danger of fire and the discomfort from smoke in the community:

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

- Fires to be completely extinguished by 6:00 pm – no smoke/ no flame.
 - Only dry leaves, tree trimmings and residential yard debris are acceptable burning materials.
 - The burning of any construction waste, demolition debris, garbage, food or household waste, plastic, rubber, asphalt shingles, or other similar materials is prohibited.
 - Must be 20 feet away from any structure, trees, or fence lines.
 - A responsible person is in constant supervision of the fire.
 - An adequate water supply is available at all times for immediate extinguishment if needed.
 - The fire is kept hot to avoid excessive smoke.
 - Do not ignite a fire in high wind conditions.
 - Do not burn materials that have not originated from the property.
- Should you have any concerns or questions – please contact the Metchosin Fire Department.

Office Hours: 250-478-1307
24/7 Fire Duty Officer: 250-478-7770 (ask for the Metchosin Duty Officer)
IF AN EMERGENCY – CALL 911

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!



Scotch broom photo courtesy of BCIInvasives.ca

Mighty Metchosin
2020
GOODS & SERVICES
AUCTION

All funds raised support your Community House and Programs

Visit us on MCA Facebook or www.metchosincommunityhouse.com to see a list of all of our generous donors.

LIVE AUCTION
Saturday, March 7 • 6:00–8:30 pm
Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road



50/50 Draw
Beer, Wine & Cheese Sampling
Silent Auction

Our lively and entertaining Auctioneers:
Metchosin's own Stacy Ross, CHEK News Anchor
and Metchosin Councillor, Sharie Epp



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- FOOD PREPARATION
- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- HOBBIES, PETS AND MORE

The Mighty Metchosin Service Auction is Coming on March 7

Johnny Carline

Saturday, March 7, 6-8:30 pm
Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road

Metchosin's liveliest gala event is just around the corner! It is the best 'party-with-a-purpose' on the annual calendar. The bare-bones description – the event where Metchosin residents bid on a wide range of services and goods donated by businesses and individuals to raise money in support of the Metchosin Community Association – doesn't begin to capture the flavour of the evening.

Far from being a conventional auction, this evening has been described as one of the funniest and most social events one could wish for; one where the auction is simply the vehicle which carries the comedy and social interaction which make the evening so memorable.

The evening starts softly, with wine, cheese, and beer available to ease people into conversations as they make or renew acquaintances. Silent auction items are on view for people to bid on and are often conversation starters. A fifty-fifty raffle (where the winning ticket gets one half of the money paid for tickets) gets underway and the noise level

and filter change and multi-point inspection (plus interior and exterior cleaning), all the way to such exotic items as a luxury limousine wine tour or half day fishing charter. (Go to metchosincommunityhouse.com to see a full list of the generous donors.)

Interspersed with these are the incredibly, one could almost say inexplicably, popular 'sheep dips' where folk bid on numbered sheep (depictions, not real ones!) where the numbers correspond to a secret list of numbered prizes. You have to be there to witness just how wild and woolly (of course) the bidding gets for these items and how the triumphant glee in claiming one of these, now highly prized, sheep sometimes leads a winning bidder to forget to ask what prize they have actually won!

There is no question that the enthusiasm of the Metchosin crowd, knowing that the proceeds go to their beloved

"This is a vital fundraiser for one of our most cherished and valuable institutions..."

starts to rise. Then the live auction begins and the whole evening changes gear.

Usually around forty items will be auctioned, ranging from a physical for your pet pooch (or cat) through a bicycle tune up or automobile oil



Stacy Ross and Counsellor Sharie Epp preparing for a fun evening. Photo by Stacy Ross

Community House, is the fuel which enables the evening to get so energized. But what ignites this fuel and keeps the evening going at a steady roar is the incredible performance of the auctioneers.

CHEK News anchor, Stacy Ross, has been keeping this event rocking with laughter for the last three years and will no doubt be inspired by her 2020 auctioneer-partner to reach new heights (or could that be depths) of provocative fun. For her partner this year is none other than Councillor Sharie Epp. For those who haven't seen Sharie let her hair down, let us say that it is as if all the

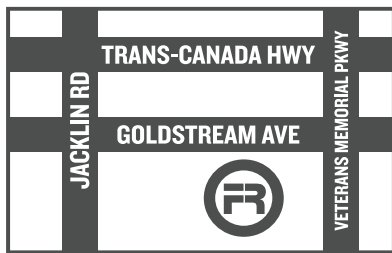
frustrations of having to sit politely through Council meetings, MCA executive meetings, and the like are let loose in an explosion of relief, energy and cheeky humour. And to top it off, she is Stacy's mom! Might a few things they may have always wanted to say to each other, but never dared, just slip out as they rev the crowd, and each other, up to new heights of revelry?

This is a vital fundraiser for one of our most cherished and valuable institutions, the Community House, and just about the most fun you can have in two and a half hours. Not to be missed!



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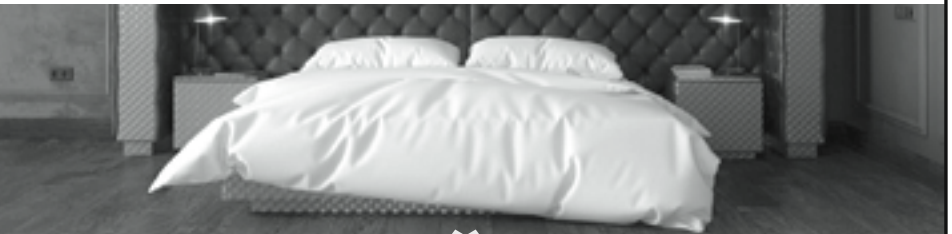
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Fallen tree William Head Road Photo by Allen Jones



Landslip at Witty's Beach Photo by Allen Jones



Piping the haggis at Glenrosa Farm Restaurant Photo by Brian Domney



Museum display at Juan de Fuca Library Photo by Michelle Jones



The view from Sea Bluff Trail Photo by Allen Jones



Ivy Eleanor with parents Keeley and Neil Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Editor's Musings

Allen Jones

At this time of year a lot of people are looking forward to the spring. Metchosin has had some snow fall and suffered the usual power cuts and difficult driving conditions. On top of that, some people have been troubled by land slips and tree falls. Let us hope that March is a better month for weather than the wet months of January and February have been.

Spring also brings new arrivals. The delightful sighting of lambs on the farms of Metchosin should also come with a reminder that lambs are the livelihood of local farmers and dog owners must be alert to the risks. This is followed up in this issue with a letter from Bev Somers and an article by Coun. Marie-Thérèse Little about the Sea Bluff Trail. Hopefully trails will not have to be closed because of inconsiderate dog owners.

A new family arrival is related to a member of the

Muse team. Joannie Challenger is grandmother to Ayla Kristine (8lb 3oz born on February 1). Congratulations go to the Challenger family including Joannie, Jim, Auntie Kristi, Uncle Lenny, brother Gavin, and, of course, mother Kari. We were also notified of the birth of Ivy Eleanor (9lb 2oz born January 7). Congratulations to parents Keeley Drummond and Neil Koenders (Neil operates Beacon Hill Children's Farm and they live on Happy Valley Road).

We also have to announce the death of Jane Smirl who was a former teacher at Hans Helgesen School. She died on February 15 after a long illness and is missed by husband Ron and daughters Kim and Sheena. A memorial event is to be announced.

Getting back to sheep, the haggis was duly addressed and piped in to the Burn's Supper at the Glenrosa Farm restaurant on January 25 as

celebration of the Scottish poet's birth. By the time you read this Valentine's Day will have been celebrated at the restaurant on Rocky Point Road. May the love carry you through to spring, or at least to St Patrick's Day on March 17.

This year, being a leap year, we gain a day in February and then we lose an hour on Sunday, March 8 at the beginning of daylight saving time. Happy birthday to Gail Nash, secretary of MACCA, who has to wait another four years for her next birthday. ArtPod is preparing for a new exhibition called 'Bird and Song' that will run in their gallery at the Old School on Happy Valley Road from 6 March until 12 April. In the same building, members of SRC are enjoying their new seniors' coffee room (details of the opening in this issue).

Further down the road (literally and metaphorically) the Museum Society is planning to lift the Old Schoolhouse in

order to carry out essential repairs to the building. We will look forward to releasing more details as they come to our attention. To help with the funding for the repairs, you are reminded that Old Barn Books, located next to the Heritage Museum, is open throughout the year on Sundays between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. All revenue goes towards the upkeep of our museums. At the time of writing there is also a small display of Metchosin Museum items to be seen at the Juan de Fuca Library.

Other events to come include the Mighty Metchosin Service Auction on March 7. The mystery presenters will be revealed elsewhere in this issue. Also to come, on March 20 and 21, is Pearson College's annual One World concert at the McPherson Playhouse. Call 250-386-6121 or book at www.rmts.bc.ca. Pearson College is looking for volunteers to carry out maintenance work

on the college grounds. If you are interested please contact Candice Hall on 250-391-2421 for details.

In order to have letters and articles considered for the April issue of the *Muse* please note our deadline of March 13. This is not an April Fool!



Jane Smirl Photo by Kim Smirl

Wild ARC



Wild ARC on Malloch Road Photo by Meg Hatch

Wild ARC's Open House and Spring into Wildlife Event

Tara Thom

Cocktail Event:
Friday, March 6, 6:00 pm
The Beach House Restaurant
5109 Cordova Bay Rd.

Open House:
Saturday & Sunday
March 28 & 29
Wild ARC Facility
1020 Malloch Road

Wild ARC is hosting a 'Spring into Wildlife' cocktail event on March 6 at the Beach House Restaurant in Cordova Bay. There will be food, cocktails, a silent auction, great company, and more, with all proceeds going to Wild

ARC. For tickets and more information please visit www.sPCA.bc.ca/events/event/spring-into-wildlife-wild-arc/.

With spring, too, comes the BC SPCA Wild ARC annual Open House. This is a rare opportunity to see what it takes to care for more than 3,000 wild animals a year. The event will take place on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 at Wild ARC in Metchosin (located at 1020 Malloch Rd). Enjoy a guided tour with our knowledgeable volunteers and peruse the educational displays and children's activities. There will not be any wild patients on display, but there

will be live educational raptors on site.

Four times must be reserved in advance and this can be done by going online and registering at www.sPCA.bc.ca/tourwildarc. Tickets are free but, as a not-for-profit organization, donations of money or supplies are always appreciated. Space is limited and the tickets go fast, so please register for your spot today while they are still available. For more information about Wild ARC and what we do, please check us out online at www.wildarc.com.



Andrea Wallace and Ginelle Smith Photo by Joannie Challenger

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Joannie Challenger and Andrea Wallace

Here in Metchosin, when we find an injured or orphaned wild animal we can bring it to Wild ARC (Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre) to be cared for. In fact, last year almost 3000 animals were brought to the Centre for treatment. We are the lucky ones, for many parts of British Columbia don't have the same type of care available for wildlife in need. More than 80 percent of animals treated at Wild ARC have been affected by human activities. Wild ARC aims to reduce this impact while also educating the public about wildlife, animal welfare, and co-existing with nature. There is still much work to be done.

Andrea Wallace, who has been the manager at Wild ARC since 2017, now has a new responsibility as she becomes

the first Manager, Wild Animal Welfare of the BC SPCA's Science & Policy Division. In her new role, Andrea will be working to improve wildlife welfare across all of British Columbia. In addition to overseeing Wild ARC, Andrea will also be supporting the BC SPCA Call Centre and other BC SPCA branches with wildlife welfare issues. There has been an increasing need for such support throughout the province with over 700 wild animals being helped by other BC SPCA branches and many more inquiries being answered last year. In Kelowna alone there are over 500 calls regarding wildlife each year. "The Manager, Wild Animal Welfare will look at priority wildlife rehabilitation and research initiatives to inform how we treat and care for patients," noted Andrea. "We are also discussing the potential for

opening centres like Wild ARC elsewhere in the province."

As Andrea begins her new role, Ginelle Smith becomes Wild ARC's new manager. With past experience managing veterinary hospitals, Ginelle is accustomed to working with companion animals, but "I have a passion for all animals," she readily admitted. Being a manager at Wild ARC has its challenges and rewards, and includes coordinating staff and a large group of volunteers, including international volunteers and practicum students. As Andrea noted, "It's important to maintain a work/life balance and to focus on the many positive aspects. Returning animals to the wild after they recover is one of the most rewarding parts of the job."

Best wishes to Andrea and Ginelle as they begin their new roles!

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Fun—It Starts with Scouts!

Laura Ward and Joan Kew

Cub update: The Cubs have been working hard on designing and creating their own Cub Cars. Almost ready for the Cub Car Rally next weekend. (This event took place February 22.)

Venturer and Rover update: The older youth attended their big annual snow camp, RoVent, February 14-17. The youth have to attend a snow talk, have their packs checked, give all their gear a pre-check, and shop for and prepare their own food during the weekend. As usual, they had an amazing amount of fun in sub-zero temperatures and returned tired but smiling.

If you or your children would like to be involved in scouting in Metchosin, please send an email to 14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca. To learn more about Scouts Canada, visit their website: www.scouts.ca



What fun to camp in the snow ... maybe? The kids thought so!



A Cub Scout proudly displays his Cub Car Photo by Laura Ward



Equipment checks must be taken seriously for sub-zero winter camps. Zuniel Sali, pictured here, attended RoVent for the first time this year. Photo by Curtis Becker

My Twilight Zone Moment

Charmaine Welch

This otherworldly tale centres on the Rhonda Byrne book and program called *The Secret*.

Do you know this theory that was very popular about 13 years ago? I first heard about this unlikely notion from my best friend and my oldest son, within 24 hours of each other. I have always believed in signs, and this seemed to be a definite signal that I should have a look at this very popular concept. The clincher really was that both parties had the DVD version, but when I asked to borrow it, they both said no, without hesitation! They both reiterated that they needed to watch it again and again.

So, I bought the CD version, as I prefer to listen to audio books as I go about my day.

Very soon, I was being mesmerised by Rhonda's melodic Australian voice. The basic idea of *The Secret* is 'The Law of Attraction.' What you're thinking is what you will attract to you. You can have health, wealth, and happiness. Or the flip side of the coin is

that if you think negatively, you will attract negative occurrences. This is said different ways, with lots of examples, on the CD.

OK, I know I'm very gullible, but even I was sceptical of this whole idea. I felt this was too weird, maybe too much like putting yourself in God's hands, or the like.

As intriguing as this whole idea was, I felt foolish to try this out. I was ready to shelve this peculiar program under the heading of "Not Anytime Soon." Do you feel the foreshadowing?

Carrying on with my life, *The Secret* CD landed in my give away pile. Two days later, I had to be at work for the 5:00 am price change shift. I woke up with my right eye running profusely. These tears seem to be burning my super sensitive eyes. At work, this condition was very aggravating and the thought that was running in a loop through my brain was the idea that I wanted, no, I needed an eye patch to cover up my light sensitive eye.

At my 9:00 am lunch break, I planned to go to the walk-in clinic and have the doctor diagnose my

problem. For an hour I thought only of this one idea. I needed an eyepatch. I wanted an eyepatch. I wished for an eyepatch. I was crouched down the floor placing a label on the bottom shelf when I glanced up and saw a plastic eyepatch hanging on a display case. I was gobsmacked. This wasn't anything we have ever sold in the store. It was a promotional product for the *Pirates of the Caribbean* video and I had never seen it before!

What was I to think now?

Well, I did the only thing that made any sense. I have harnessed this amazing power and have created a mantra for myself that I have used for more than 12 years and it goes like this:

I am happy.
I am healthy.
I am wealthy.
I am tall.

How is it working for me, you are probably wondering. Well, two out of four ain't bad!

Be Bear and Cougar Smart!

For information about staying safe around wildlife,
please visit the district website: www.metchosin.ca/content/wildlife-resources

Metchosin Seniors Celebrate Move to Spiffy New Digs



Coun. Andy MacKinnon helps Jennifer Burgis loading the new dishwasher. Photo by Johnny Carline

Johnny Carline

Officially the open house at the Seniors Resource Centre on February 12, attended by a veritable who's-who of the Metchosin seniors' community, was to celebrate the renovation of the seniors' coffee room. That renovation was worth celebrating indeed! I remembered the room as a glorified storage closet with

project, from writing the original grant application through recruiting the volunteers and managing the contracts with the professional installers. Jennifer described the two-year process, including references to the contributions made by husband Bob, and Ric Perron, who took care of all the electrical work, both of whom are, like Jennifer herself, volunteers extraordinaire.

a lonely coffee pot in it. Its transformation into an immaculate space lined with elegant cupboards and complete with a full-size refrigerator, dishwasher, sink, tables, and chairs was truly an eye opener. As Metchosin Seniors Association (MSA) vice-chair Helen Fletcher noted, "It is difficult to believe this is the same space. It seems to have doubled in size."

"It is difficult to believe this is the same space. It seems to have doubled in size."

But the event was also a celebration of an amazing demonstration of what volunteers, many of them seniors, have done in creating the new, relocated Seniors Resource Centre. It is still in the same building at 4495 Happy Valley Road and has really only moved a few feet. But if the old space was beginning to show its age, the new space reflects the Metchosin seniors who use it. It is bright, cheerful and invites conversation. The window which opens onto the corridor is a brilliant design feature that helps make the space feel not only lighter but also bigger. Standing there, amidst a throng of delighted seniors, it was difficult to believe that the new space is actually a bit smaller than the old space. It does not feel that way.

MSA director Bonnie Hardy soon had people feeling comfortable as she offered everyone a variety of delicious goodies which she had, of course, made herself. MSA chair, Deirdre Chettleburgh, then formally welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Jennifer Burgis who had been the driving force behind the

It was nice to see all four Metchosin councillors attending the event. The first two to arrive, Coun. Kyara

Kahakauwila and Coun. Andy MacKinnon, were soon put to work handing out the inevitable cake, leading to Andy quipping, "I like to think I can make myself useful for at least half an hour a week."

Also in attendance were Metchosin Arts and Culture Centre Association's vice president Chris van de Water, secretary / treasurer Gail Nash, and liaison director Betty Hildreth – three more driving forces in the renovation of the entire building.

Jennifer Burgis made reference to the fact that the original grant was \$20,000 and that she still had \$3,000 left, which she thought might be directed towards making the washrooms, originally installed for very small schoolchildren, not only a little more senior friendly but also low-flush to conserve water. As I left, I thought, this is what Metchosin volunteers do – plan and execute projects in a brilliant fashion, with a shoestring budget, and end up with money to do even more. How appropriate that this particular project should be for the benefit of seniors, most of whom have given years of volunteer service themselves, and some still do, helping to build this remarkable community.



MSA chair, Deirdre Chettleburgh, presents Jennifer Burgis with a well-earned bouquet of flowers Photo by Johnny Carline



Jennifer Burgis cuts the cake with Deirdre Chettleburgh, looking on are Linda Spiller, Betty Hildreth, Coun. Kyara Kahakauwila, and Gail Nash Photo by Johnny Carline

Film Night at the MCA

Film Night, *The Reluctant Radical* (77 squirming minutes)

Ric Perron

Friday, March 27, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road

"If a crime is committed in order to prevent a greater crime, is it forgivable? Is it, in fact, necessary?" asks director Lindsey Grayzel.

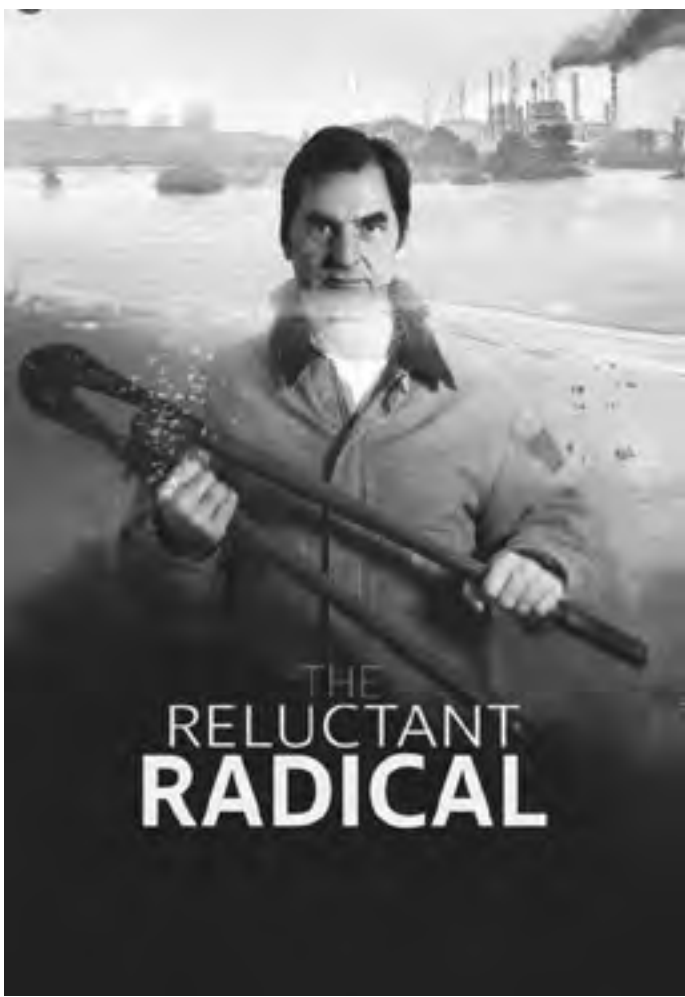
With all these public outcries in Metchosin about improper land use, check out this radical film. In contrast, Metchosinites appear polite in "appropriate" confrontation, well-behaved in action, and diplomatic in speech. I can admit my own actions are even lady-like.

Not so for Ken Ward, nor the four people filming his civil disobedience. For the reluctant radical, it was definitely a last resort to break the law. Yet it came down to bold last resorts. You have to see this year-and-a-half of filming to appreciate his personal obligation to bring environmental attention to the US Tar Sands, international shipping ports, and Fish and Wildlife conservation.

Boldly defying the law was all in good judgement, if you ask me. The film made me very uncomfortable, even from my easy chair with a bowl of popcorn on my lap. Yet, I could watch this over and over.

Working for environmental organizations, Ken saw "early scientific evidence of climate change." When environmental organizations and corporations alike refused to take action, he quit his positions and developed his own radical plan of attention, "as the most effective political tool to deal with catastrophic circumstances." Was Ken following his own irrational ideas, wondered his family and friends? Was he being supported by other irrational troublemakers and activists? Or was he the great thinker for future generations?

"Ken Ward has no regrets and his certainty leaves the audience to consider if he is out of touch with reality, or is it the rest of society that is delusional for not acting when faced with the unsettling evidence that we are collectively destroying our world," says director Lindsey Grayzel.



Prepare to squirm



Come on in



Sea Bluff Farm produce stand Photo by Barb Sawatsky



Robin Tunnicliffe, Bob Mitchell and Sasha Kubicek Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Sea Bluff Farm's Pilot Project

Barb Sawatsky

In 1953 Geoff Mitchell purchased ten acres of land and a small, two-bedroom cottage for his family of six at the end of Wootton Road. Shortly afterwards he bought the adjacent 40 acres on the bluffs overlooking Witty's Beach. He was primarily a sheep farmer but grew hay and assorted other crops. Geoff was a colourful character in Metchosin and could be seen every day driving his sit-on lawn mower (his version of a motorized wheelchair) to Metchosin General Store to buy a newspaper. Following the deaths of Geoff in 1990 and his wife Jacqueline in 2003, the property was distributed among the siblings and their son, Bob, "found myself with 30 acres and the Sea Bluff Farm name." Bob Mitchell, in his own right and, following in the footsteps of his father, is also a colourful Metchosin character. His term on council added to his repertoire of stories. He is

direct-speaking, hard-working, laughs loud and is not at all shy about airing his opinions.

For many years Bob worked Sea Bluff Farm, mostly single-handed, building it into a profitable business. He raised sheep, grew and marketed vegetables, then made deliveries to restaurants from Sooke to Victoria. He was instrumental in establishing the weekly Metchosin Farmers Market and his corn cobs fed the crowds on Metchosin Day. As time marched on, Bob started to think that having a manager would be beneficial to his business. He had hired farmhands off and on over the years and said, "There is a crisis with land access for new growers but I needed someone who had business as well as farming experience." In 2013 Bob approached Robin Tunnicliffe to come on board with the promise of a succession plan whereby she and her husband, Sasha Kubicek, could live on and farm the property

for the rest of her career. Having previously seen the farm with its fertile soil, she readily agreed to the arrangement, saying, "There is no security in being a gypsy farmer and Bob has given us what we require to build a viable business." For Sasha, having been a Metchosinite since age three, moving to Sea Bluff was a homecoming.

There is no doubt that Robin loves farming and said, "From an early age I was drawn to the garden and still have the same delight." She went tree planting after high school then enrolled in agriculture courses at the University of Guelph. She secured an apprenticeship in 1996 and went on to lease land in Saanich in 1997, "joining forces with two other young farmers and forming a collective, Saanich Organics."

Now, after having worked seven years with Bob, Robin says, "We have a great partnership. Bob is still very involved in the day-to-day operation

of the farm. He has so much knowledge, experience, and invaluable skills." Their growing area has expanded to a full seven acres with over 40 varieties of vegetables and they have constructed a well-designed wash station, which is invaluable after harvesting the vegetables. Their colourful, well-stocked farm stand, complete with refrigerator, is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays year round. Robin also loves cooking and shares recipes via an email list of interested and supportive customers.

This year Sea Bluff Farm started a new initiative in response to requests from people wishing to visit the farm. They are offering a season's pass "much like a community-supported agriculture program" where customers purchase a share of the season's harvest in the early spring at the time of year when the farmer has the highest expenses. "We're asking interested customers to pitch in \$500. They, in turn,

will receive \$500 in Sea Bluff Bucks to spend over the year at the farm stand plus a pass to our 'Family Without a Farm' program for families with kids or 'Food Love' for people without kids." The passes will include tours "and snacking, of course. In April, we'll plant potatoes and seeds, in June we'll sample strawberries and learn about pollinators, in August we'll harvest potatoes and taste tomatoes, and in October there will be pumpkin harvesting and squash tasting." For more information about Sea Bluff, visit:

www.seablufffarm.com.

Sea Bluff Farm has been a supporter of the Metchosin Community House Goods & Services Auction for many years, donating Sea Bluff Bucks for use at their farm stand. Their generosity continues and this year they have sweetened the package with a 2020 season's pass to the farm on Wootton Road to participate in the four programs listed above.

METCHOSIN

Seniors' Resource Centre

Coordinator Dawn Boshcoff

Hours of Operation

Noon–4:00 pm Monday through Thursday

Weekly Programs

Mondays 2:00–4:00 pm
Inter-Gen Connects Seniors and Students***Wednesdays 1:00–3:00 pm**
Tea Time/Coffee Chat – All welcome!**Thursdays 2:00–4:00 pm**
Geeks and Geezers Learning Lab*

*Please call to schedule an appointment

Drive & Dine Free Meals

Mark these dates and join us with friends at the free

community suppers in Langford, held monthly on Monday evenings. Request a drive to and from these events. RSVP by calling 250-478-5150. *Save these Mondays: March 16, April 20 and May 11***Monday, March 16 5:30–7:00 pm**

At Gordon United Church Supper in Langford a group of wonderful volunteers host a delicious, home cooked meal. We do the driving. All ages are welcome.

Thursday, March 26 Noon–1:00 pm

The Monthly Potluck Lunch will be held at the Metchosin Community House – Bring a dish to share with a dozen or so fine folks. Call us if you need a drive!

projects, website, and office administration.

Register Now for UVic's Diabetes Self-Management Program

On Tuesday evenings for six consecutive weeks from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, this popular six-week program will be offered again beginning Tuesday, April 14 and ending on Tuesday, May 19.

The course is targeted to individuals living with diabetes, along with their caregivers, families, and friends. Although designed specifically for persons experiencing Type 2 diabetes, people with Type 1 diabetes have also found the program very beneficial.

Self-Management Programs popular in Metchosin

In partnership with the UVic's Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health, Self-Management Programs are delivered locally by the university's trained volunteer facilitators.

For more details on these popular, free programs, call toll-free 1-866-902-3767 or email selfmanagement@bc.ca. Brochures and more information are available at SRC or visit www.selfmanagementbc.ca.

Study with a UVic Personal Health Coach

Under the Victoria Assistive Devices and Coaching Study (VADAC), local residents can now access three months of free, telephone-based coaching that supports people living with chronic conditions to help them become better self-care managers.

UVic pairs qualified health coaches with individuals in the study, based on gender, age and/or shared chronic health condition(s). Email vadac@uvic.ca to apply or visit SRC to learn more.

Metchosin Seniors' Association – MSA Lifetime Membership

A lifetime membership entitles you to all of SRC's programs, support, and services for only \$20 per person. Drop by to complete a membership form or volunteer** application at SRC.

**Please Note: All of our volunteers complete Vulnerable Sector Screening with the RCMP.

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Ongoing Programs

Mondays

Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program

9:00 am–3:30 pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillelke at 250-213-2440.

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 250-478-5155 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.

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 and from 9:30 am–2:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays. Everyone is welcome. For more info contact Arlene at 250-391-7905.

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.**Singalong:** Metchosin Rough Voice Singers – The Rough Voice Singers meet at the Community House on the second and fourth Tuesdays 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 donation/person. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553).

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 on 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 Activities:** 2:30–5:00 pm. We are in need of a board member or MCA volunteer to oversee the Friday program. For more information call 250-478-5155.**Ukulele Gathering:** 5:00–6:30 pm, 3rd 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**Metchosin Community House**
4430 Happy Valley Road
Info: 250-478-5155
Email: mcahouse@telus.net
www.metchosincommunityhouse.comthe songbook. Suggested songbook: *Jumpin' Jim's Daily Ukulele* as a base resource to work from, if you have it.**Film Night:** Friday, March 27, 7:00 pm. *The Reluctant Radical* (77 squirming minutes). Please see page 12 in this issue for more info.

Events

GUEST SPEAKER Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm. Owen Enright.**2020 MIGHTY METCHOSIN GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION** March 7, 6:00–8:30 pm. All funds raised support Metchosin Community House. **LIVE AUCTION** Saturday, March 7 starts 6:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road. Please see page 7 in this issue for more information.**APPLE GRAFTING** March 22, 1:30–3:30 pm. Please see page 3 in this issue for more information.**COFFEE HOUSE** fourth Saturday of each month (except May, June, July, August, and December) Open Mic starts at 7:00 pm, open mic musicians sign up at 6:30 pm on first come basis; feature musician at 8:00 pm. \$7 minimum suggested donation. Refreshments by donation.**Art On The Walls:** March Doug Gilbert in collaboration with the Metchosin 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 250-478-515.www.metchosincommunityhouse.com**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 91 LA
SPRING CRAFT & GARAGE SALE
Sunday March 8 • 10 am–2 pm**


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Metchosin Garden Club



Paul Spriggs at work on the rockery

The Art of Rock and Crevice Gardening

Judith van Manen

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 pm
 Metchosin Community House
 4430 Happy Valley Road

It is very fitting that Metchosin Garden Club's next speaker is Victoria's Paul Spriggs, an expert in rock and crevice gardening. Numerous gardens in Metchosin contain lots of rock beds and rock faces. Many local gardens cascade down rocky outcrops while others occupy large stony terrains.

So, we should take advantage of these natural rock formations and sunny south or southwest facing slopes and plant rock or crevice gardens.

What is especially exciting about this kind of gardening is the diversity and range of plants that will thrive in this habitat. Plants such as the common Gentian (*Gentiana verna*) with its flowers of intense blue in spring and mat-forming Knotweed (*Pesicaria affinis*) have a diminutive form and graceful habit that make


them well suited for growing together in brilliantly coloured collections.

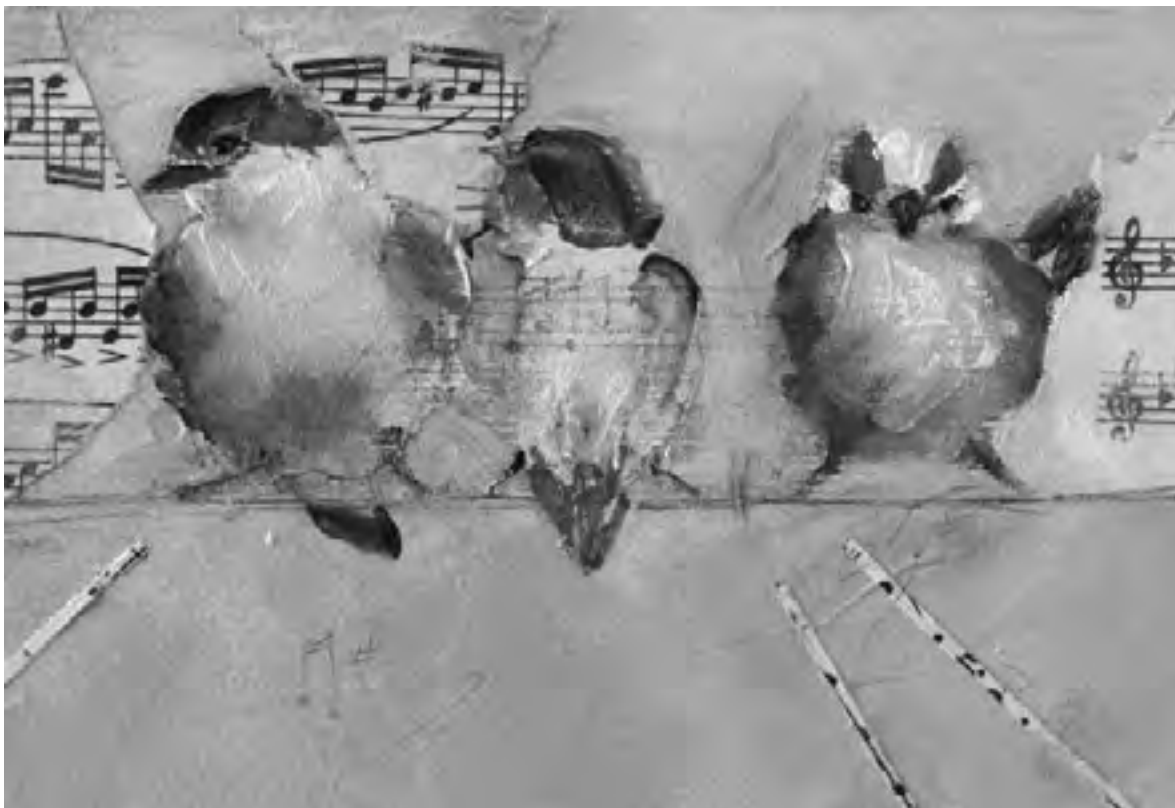
Paul Spriggs will present a PowerPoint that is titled "Cracks and Crevices: The Art of Rock and Crevice Gardening." In Paul's words, his talk is "basically a rock garden primer for non-gardeners." He will delve into the history, design, and construction of crevice gardens and will discuss the plants that he recommends collecting and growing. He has a passion for all wild plants, especially those of dwarf stature, and collects and cultivates them in various gardens in Victoria.

Paul has been rock gardening for roughly 22 years and building crevice gardens for over 15 years. He is an avid plant explorer, photographer, and mountaineer and gives presentations and workshops to garden clubs near and far. He is also the owner of Spriggs Gardens Landscaping Company, and currently is the president of the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society.

Over the last 15 years, Paul has created and constructed many gardens in local public parks and private gardens that range from small feature troughs to large installations involving many tons of stone. The crevice garden technique was developed by Czech alpine gardeners to mimic conditions found in the mountains where the most difficult of alpine plants grow successfully. Paul learned the craft of crevice garden building directly from one of its innovators, Zdenek Zvolanek of Czechoslovakia. Not surprisingly, Paul is currently working on the first North American book about crevice gardens.

As you can see, Paul is passionate about this subject. His mission is to inspire others to try rock and crevice gardening. Please join us at the Metchosin Community House on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 pm to meet Paul Spriggs, view a spectacular PowerPoint, and learn all about rock and crevice gardening.


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



Bird and Song exhibit Artwork by Nancy Slaght

Ruffle A Few Feathers for ArtPod

Linda Simrose

Gala:
Sunday, March 8, 1–3:00 pm

Show:
March 6 –April 12
Fridays–Sundays
11:00 am–4:00 pm

Workshop:
Saturday March 14
and Sunday March 15
10:00 am–2:00 pm

ArtPod Gallery
4495 Happy Valley Road

What could be more inviting and inspiring this March, than ArtPod's *Bird & Song* Exhibit? Collaborative artwork by pastel and shadowbox artist, Nancy Slaght as well as local

artists sharing their love of birds, song, and the beauty of nature, will have their work on display.

The Gala Opening Reception is Sunday, March 8, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

ArtPod welcomes the Rocky Point Bird Observatory for a bird awareness talk and fund raiser. Artists can donate a percentage of their work sold to this worthy cause. The Free Range Singers will also be there to entertain and get feathers flying in excitement!

Bird & Song runs from March 6 to April 12, with the gallery open Friday to Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

During the show Nancy Slaght will teach a pastel and multi-media workshop on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15, 10:00 am to 2:00

pm. Saturday's workshop is to learn a variety of application techniques on a choice of papers and unique surfaces. Sunday's workshop will be to complete two pieces by introducing multi-media and collage elements.

Cost is \$150.00, plus supplies. Register early as this workshop is filling fast.

For registration inquiries and supply list, email Memet at memetopia@shaw.ca, ArtPod Gallery and Studios, 4495 Happy Valley Road, Metchosin, www.metchosinartpod.ca



Milton Carman relaxing with a glass Photo by Shannon Carman

Celebrating the Life of Milton Carman

Carol, Tara and Shannon Carman

You may have met Milton Carman in various guises over his 90 years of life, the last 30 years of which were in Metchosin. He often rode his bike on the Galloping Goose Trail, always ringing the bell politely as he went by. If he knew you, he would stop to chat. Those chats could range from politics to children, the arts to meditation, global travel to your life and your problems. You never knew where a conversation with Milton might lead.

Perhaps you knew him from various Parent Advisory Councils, where, as the stay-at-home Dad in the '90s to daughters Tara and Shannon, Milton was always involved. He has been a community member since 1986. Community meant a lot to him.

Milton's first community was the tight-knit Jewish section of Toronto where he was born in 1929. Although Milton converted to Tibetan Buddhism in the '70s and was ordained as a teaching lama, he never lost the connection to his parents' culture. He wanted to be a journalist and/or a musician. But, following the early death of his father, he partnered in a hotel/beer hall in Oakville while attending the University of Toronto three days per week to earn a Political Science degree. He did become a journalist first at United Press, then the Toronto Telegram, and then CBC Radio. During these years he married Leila Rotenberg, welcomed son James into the world, and wrote his first of five musical dramas about the press gallery called "Make it Sing".

Then-Ontario premier, John Robarts made him the first Executive Director of the Ontario Arts Council. There, he revolutionized arts funding in a time when most government money went to large, Toronto-based organizations. Milton disagreed, speaking often about the smaller cities and communities that most benefitted by the funding. The Stratford Festival and countless other regional symphonies and arts programs all over Ontario benefitted from this approach.

By the end of the 1960s, however, Milton's mind had outgrown his environment. He left behind the high-paid, highbrow life of a senior bureaucrat to travel the world with his meditation teacher and his second wife, Erica Gorman. For a decade, he visited more than 30 countries and experimented with therapies and meditation systems.

This quest finally found him beached in a small, seaside town called Victoria in 1978, bereft of money, optimism, and his second wife. It was then he met Carol, an Albertan cattawoman with a science background, who generally had little time for Ontario bureaucrats. However, a world traveler was an interesting commodity. They met at *Monday Magazine*, over a deck of tarot cards, and she hasn't looked back since.

In 1979 they moved to Ottawa where Milton was appointed Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State. After saving some money, Carol and Milton moved to isolated Golden Bay, New Zealand, to write and raise their baby daughter, Tara. Life in oceanside Pakawau, population 52, was completely outside Milton's experience. Those five years were utterly glorious and it was there in the Aorere River valley that second daughter, Shannon was born. The four of them returned to Canada to market Milton's writing, to recoup the family finances, and to visit Carol's Victoria-based family on the way back to Ottawa. However, Tara had at that point started school three times in two hemispheres and was developing an ulcer. Moving again was not in the cards. They began to look for a place to live, and discovered Metchosin – a real community, just like Pakawau.

Milton continued to write, compose, and parent his children while Carol pursued employment in the B.C. government. He loved his life here surrounded in his last weeks by family: Tara, (John Verster) and children Cheyenne and Jemaine, Shannon, (Bob Mitchell) and children Gwendolyn and Lucy. Son James spent two weeks with him in early January. Friends and neighbours dropped by frequently, bringing love, conversation, and good food.

Milton passed, as he wished, in his own home, without pain and surrounded by the people he loved. Our thanks go out to the medical team who served him in these past months: Dr. Dan O'Connell, Dr. Rob O'Connor and his team, and Carol's nurse-sisters who were there to make sure everything was done well. The Island Health team and the Palliative Care unit were superb. Thanks to all who sent messages and who attended his Celebration of Life. It was a real celebration.

Fire Department Call-Outs JAN. 2020

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

| | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| Jan 01 | Leeron Place – Medical – D | Jan 14 | Arden Road – MVI |
| | Sooke Road – Alarm Bells – Residential | Jan 15 | Eales Road – Hydro – Lines Down |
| | Derrien Place – Alarm Bells – Commercial | Jan 16 | Rocky Point Road – Medical – B |
| | Selbourne Road – Hydro – Lines Down | | Metchosin Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines |
| Jan 03 | Pears Road – Medical – D | | East Sooke Road – Medical – D |
| | William Head Road – Medical – D | Jan 18 | Kangaroo Road – Medical – D |
| Jan 04 | Sooke Road – MVI | Jan 20 | Lomax Road – Alarm Bells – Residential |
| | Still Meadow Road – Medical – C | Jan 22 | Duke Road – Medical – D |
| Jan 05 | Barrow Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines | Jan 25 | Rocky Point Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint |
| | Barrow Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines | Jan 29 | Sooke Road – Medical – D |
| Jan 07 | Cliff Road – Medical – D | Jan 31 | William Head Road – Medical – C |
| Jan 08 | Pears Road – Medical – C | | Windover Terrace – Assistance – Misc Complaint |
| Jan 11 | Kangaroo Road – Medical – B | | |
| Jan 12 | La Bonne Road – Hydro – Tree on Lines | | |
| | Sooke Road – MVI | | |

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident.



A Metchosin Moment

The first Parry Bay lambs have arrived! Both black, one male and one female.

Photo by Lorraine Buchanan, Parry Bay Sheep Farm

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.

ACCOMMODATION/RENTAL

We don't wanna leave Metchosin! Mature professional (retired) couple and one mature (retired) low impact dog, seek long term 2-bdrm + house/cottage, possibly suite in quiet Metchosin environment. Minimum 1,500 sq ft; trees are great; vistas also; one level living or mostly, main level entry a big plus.

Excellent references. Call Chris or Jochen (250) 478-8060

Important Dates and Events

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------|
| Mar 3 | ArtPod Show opens | p. 15 |
| Mar 4 | Garden Club talk | p. 14 |
| Mar 5 | Conservation of energy talk. | p. 3 |
| Mar 6 | Wild ARC fundraiser party | p. 9 |
| Mar 7 | Mighty Metchosin Service Auction. | p. 7 |
| Mar 8 | ArtPod Gala | p. 15 |
| | Legion garage sale and craft show | p. 13 |
| Mar 12 | Gardening for insects talk | p. 3 |
| Mar 13 | Muse deadline for submissions. | p. 3 |
| Mar 14 & 15 | ArtPod class | p. 15 |
| Mar 19 | Tree grafting talk | p. 3 |
| Mar 21 | Metchosin Pilgrimage | p. 2 |
| Mar 22 | Apple Grafting Day. | p. 3 |
| Mar 26 | Practicalities of solar power talk | p. 3 |
| Mar 27 | Film night at the MCA | p. 12 |
| Mar 28 & 29 | Wild ARC Open House. | p. 9 |
| April 4 | Voice and bodywork Class. | p. 4 |

For Council meetings, see p. 5.

For ongoing events at the Metchosin Community House, see p. 13.

For Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre events, see p. 13.

Old Barn Books is open Sundays 11:00 am–2:00 pm

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

Clip and save this listing!



PLEASE NOTE:

All photos submitted to the *Muse* should be in jpg or tif format only. Please do not send photos in word processing documents.

Metchosin Directory

Emergency Calls

911

- Report a fire
- Report a crime
- Report an accident
- Save a life
- Imminent safety

Metchosin Fire Department:

250-478-1307

Police (Non-Emergency):

250-474-2264

Military Police Non-Emergency

250-363-4032

District Office (office hours):

250-474-3167

AIR CADETS

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

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-881-8280
FB 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
FB MetchosinFreeRangeSingers

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

250-478-5484
tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN ARTPOD

778-265-2787
metchosinartpod@gmail.com
metchosinartpod.ca/

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)

info@metchosinartcentre.ca
www.metchosinartcentre.ca

METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

www.metchosinbiodiversity.com

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 CRICKET CLUB

250-474-4601
www.victoriacricket.com
FB MetchosinCricketClub

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
metchosinequestrian@gmail.com
mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

contact@metchosinfoundation.ca
http://metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

250-360-7557

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

250-478-6424
http://metchosinhall.com/

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

METCHOSIN INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE (MISC)

metchosininvasives@gmail.com

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
FB 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
www.metchosinseniors.ca

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)

Kathleen Sutherland 250-474-3966
neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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

ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

October 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

Shelby Quissy
250-474-3812

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

250-478-2286
info@westshorearts.org
www.westshorearts.org

WESTSHORE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

250-474-3999
info@westshoreband.org
www.westshoreband.org

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384
www.westshorererecreation.ca

WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

U14.U16.manager@gmail.com
westshorerfc.com

FAITHS

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

Anglican Network
250-590-6736
www.opengatechurch.ca

ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

Anglican Church of Canada
250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

250-478-8066
www.westsidefamily.org

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca

The above listing is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes by email to metchosinmuse@gmail.com. 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.