



# Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca



## Metchosin Apple Tea Makes 9 L 45 servings

**Ingredients:**

- 12 Orange Pekoe Tea Bags
- 2 L Clear Apple Juice
- 2 L Fresh Pressed Apple Juice
- 3 Cinnamon Sticks
- 3 Whole Cloves
- 3/4 cup Brown Sugar

**Directions:** Boil 5 litres water. Remove from heat, add tea bags and let steep 5-7 minutes. Remove tea bags and mix remaining ingredients into pot together. Reheat mixture until hot and steaming. Serve and Enjoy.

A willing donor to the Food Bank. All Photos by Barb Sawatsky

# Open Day at Metchosin Community House

Allen Jones

Inspired by my wife Michelle, the Metchosin Community Association (MCA) held an Open Day on Sunday, December 5. It was timed to link with the last opening day of the year for the Farmers' Market and was intended to be an appreciation to Metchosinites who have missed the usual events of the year. Of course, all COVID precautions were happily carried out by the participants during the event.

These events are the result of many volunteers giving up their precious time before the Christmas holiday. Fortunately the weather was not unkind for a December day and well over a hundred people, including Councillors Little, Epp and MacKinnon, shared company, nibbled on snacks and sipped warming apple tea (see recipe).

The day before the event, the House was decorated inside and outside by volunteers, with Katy Nelson giving added greenery.

On the day, working the kitchen and most other things was Heather Showers (who must be in the running for Volunteer of the Year, if the Metchosin Day returns). She was ably assisted by members of the MCA Board including Brian Grant, Charlotte Robinson, and Barb Sawatsky, as well as Christel Kaiser and Joanne Knoles.

Music was provided on the piano by Lois Wiens and a convivial atmosphere pervaded the House inside and out. Members

of the MCA Art Group displayed seasonal gifts to be bought and, of course, copies of the *Best of the Muse* compilations were eagerly snapped up. In the spirit of Christmas, donations were collected for the Goldstream Food Bank.

All in all, it was a most successful event that may inspire something similar in the future (provided Heather is not too worn out).

*With the onset of Omicron and the consequent Provincial Health*

*Orders, uplifting events like these may no longer be possible. When conditions improve, that will change. When it does, it will still be necessary for organisers to continue to pay careful attention to the conditions attached to permitting such events – such as proof of vaccination, wearing masks, social distancing.*



Laura Farquharson, Bob and Margie Humphries, Joanne Knoles and Barrett Fullerton enjoying the air.



Brian Grant presents a gift to Lois Wiens pianist Lois Wiens.

**Please Note:** All events shown in the *Muse* this month are subject to change or cancellation due to new COVID regulations or precautions. Readers are advised to check prior to attendance.

# Metchosin Muse

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**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.

## Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for style or length. Please email your letter to [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com) (with electronic signature if possible). 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.

## Local Farms Are Greatly Appreciated

I have enjoyed the *Metchosin Muse* articles about local farms written by Marie-Térèse Little, Parks Chair. So often I drive by a road sign advertising farm produce, but don't have the time to visit. Being well informed, I will now make time for those visits.

Please keep Marie-Térèse Little's very informative and well written articles coming to my mailbox.

*Christina Hermanson*

*Editor's note: we do expect to have more of these articles in 2022.*

## Groundwater Licensing and Farmers of Metchosin

Councillor Marie-Térèse Little

On Thursday, December 2, 2021 a virtual conversation was held between farmers of Metchosin and Mr. Andrew Petersen, P.Ag, Water Management Specialist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries. Mr. Petersen presented information regarding groundwater licensing as it relates to agriculture. Members of our community were encouraged to ask questions specific to them and our farming community. A video of this presentation can be found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDXig6jTLoA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDXig6jTLoA).

Any person who diverts or uses groundwater from a well or a dug-out for non-domestic purposes, such as irrigation, stock watering, or processing must now obtain a

water licence and pay water fees and rentals. This change came into effect with the *Water Sustainability Act* on February 29, 2016. Any farmer that currently uses groundwater (a non-domestic groundwater user) must apply within the six-year transition period to maintain their date of precedence.

If an application is submitted on or before March 1, 2022, the one-time application fee will be waived, historic rights to that water will be granted, and there is less scrutiny on the application. The licence is linked to the parcel of land, not to the farmer or farm-user so any farmers leasing land should encourage the landowner to apply for the licence or apply on behalf of the owner, with their permission.

The application process has been streamlined and made

user-friendly. A checklist for all the items that are necessary for the application is available at: <https://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca/web/client/-/water-licence-application#what-you-need>.

Domestic water users on wells do not need a licence but they are encouraged to register them. Groundwater use is considered domestic when the water is used for household purposes in a private dwelling. Household purposes include drinking water, food preparation, cleaning, fire prevention, providing water for animals or poultry kept as pets or for household and small garden (under 1,000m<sup>2</sup>) use.

For more information, please contact Councillor Marie-Térèse Little at [mtlittl@metchosin.ca](mailto:mtlittl@metchosin.ca).

**Visit our website!** [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://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 \$35 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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## A Metchosin Moment



Boxing Day snows graced Metchosin with a blanket of white, which meant the plows were out working clearing the roads. Photo by Leslie Eaton

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

# Editor's Musings

Allen Jones

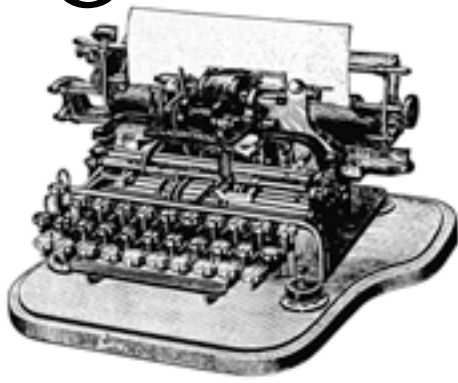
We wish all our readers a Happy New Year and trust that you have enjoyed and recovered from the holiday season. January is a time to plan the year ahead and hopefully there will be more fun events for this year.

The past year, although missing the usual yearly community events due to COVID precautions, was full of news items of interest. In January 2021, the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM) expressed concern, together with the Metchosin Foundation, about the proposed sub-division of land owned by the Boys & Girls Club, off Metchosin Road. This led to numerous letters in support of the opposition to this development and a fresh look at zoning and a review of bylaws by the Council.

Mayor John Ranns and Council started to use funds, received from the Province, to improve administration in a pandemic. Zoom meetings have become the norm for Council and other organisations in Metchosin.

COVID concerns were also related to the Deputy Mayor stepping down in February following her making the 'wrong decision' to travel on a personal trip to Mexico at a time when international travel was not advised. It is apparent that elected members of Council have had differences of opinions during 2021, sufficient for a mediator to be brought in, and, with municipal elections coming, 2022 should be a very interesting time for local politics.

In the summer of 2021, we endured a heat dome that lasted too long and caused record temperatures. Our beaches filled with visitors from far and wide, probably due to international travel restrictions and increased house building in Langford and elsewhere. The limited parking spaces near the beaches led to tow-away signs being put up on roads nearby. In the autumn, record rainfall followed, gasoline was rationed, and the cost of ignoring climate change became



more apparent. The good news in the summer was the success of the *Cougars* on the cricket field and the arrival of a local junior team: the *Westshore Predators*.

We were required to do our civic duty and vote in the federal election in September and Liberal supporters may have been disappointed if they expected a big change in Ottawa.

2021 was an interesting year for Pearson College. Students were kept on campus after comprehensive alterations to the buildings and new COVID-related regulation. The new President, Craig Davis, settled in and student numbers were reduced. Summer camps were successfully run during the holidays and a suspected child abduction was stopped by attentive camp staff members. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples and land was strengthened by the erection of new signage around the campus. The early death of Pearson alumnus Geert Jan van Oldenborgh was recorded. On a happier note, the students' Winter Concert returned in December, but it had to be held on campus with invited guests, as a precaution due to coronavirus.

Last year was a great year for grants. The Metchosin Museum Society continued to use funds from BC Heritage to restore and improve the Old Schoolhouse Museum. Bob Burgis, who manages the project may not have realised the effort needed to carry out the work. The Community Association also received some funds from Council that helped balance the loss of income due to cancelled events in the year. Council meanwhile obtained substantial new revenue starting with \$1.5m COVID relief fund



December rain at Sitting Lady Falls. Photo by Jim Challenger

and then, with the help of Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop, a \$945k grant to refurbish parts of the Old Secondary School, followed by \$530k for a new Fire Hall.

A pandemic was not enough to stop our artistic community. ArtPod put on several splendid shows throughout the past year. It began with a *Portraiture Show* in January and this was followed with *Re-Vision*: a photography-based show of art. With summer came *Feathers, Fur & Fauna*: a show celebrating art forms using animals as subjects. This linked with the Art Bird Card Project. Next up was *Fusion: Exploring Mixed Media* and the fall show

was *Connected* with the ArtPod collective showing their work alongside a retrospective of work by Frank Mitchell. The year was completed with a Fine Art and Crafts Show and Sale before an Open House with installations and performances.

We do not forget those who did not make it to 2022, including Don Knoles, Janice Poulin, Liz Jatkowski, David Richardson, Calver Webb, Marna Harris, Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, and Kenneth G. Farquharson.

Lastly, we would like to give hearty thanks to those readers who have shown their appreciation of the *Metchosin Muse* with

donations in 2021. They include the following: Christopher Pratt, Rachel French de Mejia, Heather Showers, Gary & Sybil Kangas, Doug Ruth, Laura Farquharson (in memory of her husband, Ken), and Hans Helgesen PAC. We hope to please and interest our readers further in 2022.

*P.S. In order to have letters and articles considered for the February issue, please note our deadline of January 15.*

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# Locals Providing Their Thoughts on 2021/2022

Johnny Carline

Last January the *Muse* asked some prominent Metchosin residents about their wishes for 2021. Readers reacted positively to this and so we asked the same people this year to tell us what they thought of the way their 2021 wishes had panned out and what they hoped for in 2022.

You may recognize the following: Betty Hildreth – Community volunteer, MACCA director; significant role in process to influence Council to buy the school, former MCA director; Barss Boys – three local youths, volunteers at events (e.g. Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale, Sheepdog Trials) – play in their own band *End of Arden* and write their own music and songs; Deirdre Chettleburgh – Chair, Metchosin Seniors' Association;

Frances Krusekopf – School Principal, Past President of the MCA; Jay Shukin – President of the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin; John Buchanan – local sheep farmer (with his wife Lorraine) who rents pastures around Metchosin; John Ranns – Municipal mayor and grandfather; Violaine Mitchell – Metchosin Day Co-ordinator, Businesswoman.

## Betty Hildreth

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** I held tight to the strength of the give-and-take of having a safe home and familiar people in my life. Spending some of that travel money on home improvements has made future

ageing in place manageable. I am thankful to all who continue to help keep our lifestyle possible.

**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** Although much in-person interaction was curtailed, our District and local associations continued to

weigh the various options under COVID restrictions. We all tried to like using Zoom (but I'm not there yet). The local trades and services providers were busier than ever. Small business innovations popped up. People looked around for joy ... from roadside baking stands to rent-a-chicken opportunities – the spirit was out there.

**PERSONALLY IN 2022:** I have decided to think of the coming year

as an opportunity – sort of like the “correction lines” along the vast stretches of road in Saskatchewan. It's an opportunity to adjust, to take stock, to clear out the crawl space – recycle stuff that was squirrelled away for some unknown project from the past. We will give away what we can. We keep only what we need (at least that's the theory!).

**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** “Grow your own” is taking on a new significance. As is staying focussed and shopping locally. Being on-site at the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre in the heart of our village core, I am

continually amazed at the creative ideas and initiatives which people bring through the doors and want to discuss! The artistic creativity is inspiring but the innovative ideas, related to sustaining and enhancing our unique local Metchosin vibe, are mind boggling. Now THAT is a living culture. To network, utilize, and protect what is within our community will require the attention and involvement of all our residents.



Betty's photo taken by Gail Nash

## Deirdre Chettleburgh

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** The safe arrival of our third grandchild was the highlight of the year! No doubt it won't be long before she joins her cousins looking for raspberries



in the garden. Thus, my quest to increase the yield continues!  
**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** It has been wonderful to see everyone, now protected, step out from the shadows of COVID. The pandemic kept us apart, limiting our ability to get together with family and friends, or to travel to visit people important to us. Many were isolated, some lost friends and family members. Fortunately, throughout those difficult days, Metchosin neighbours and friends were standing by to help, POD members looked out for each other, and Metchosin organizations – our churches, the Fire Chief and her department, the Metchosin Seniors' Association and its volunteers, and many more, provided support. To everyone in Metchosin caring for our community – thank you! I am also grateful to our farmers and their staff who continue to work so hard to provide us with such delicious, nutritious food. “You farm [and] we feast!”

**PERSONALLY IN 2022:** Peter and I look forward to watching our grandchildren grow surrounded by the beauty of Metchosin!  
**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** I feel fortunate and proud to be living in Metchosin. My hope for the upcoming year is that we will continue to work together with creativity, ingenuity, and kindness to sustain a community rich with agriculture, natural habitat, and beautiful parks; an age-friendly community where seniors, children, and everyone in between, feels cared for and safe. I wish you all a most Happy New Year!

Deirdre's photo by Krystal Panetta

## Lawrence, Francis, and Joseph Barss

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** In the first half of the year, school was all online, which was a little odd! In the spring and summer, our band, End of Arden, recorded three more singles and an EP, so we kept busy with music. By the autumn, although our lives weren't totally back to normal yet, we were pleased that we were able to return to some of our activities. In September, Joseph went back to Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax and Francis to North Island College in Port Alberni, while Lawrence was very happy that bi-weekly fencing practices in Royal Oak started again.  
**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** We were happy that some Metchosin events and activities resumed. Francis worked in Moralea's Meadow twice a week, while Joseph did some work for the Metchosin Foundation. Lawrence enjoyed SIRC's Parisian Café and several visits to the ArtPod, and

he also worked with Francis during lambing at Parry Bay Sheep Farm. We had some nice tea parties in the garden with Metchosin friends. It was good to see our neighbours again! Even brief encounters felt precious this year.

**PERSONALLY IN 2022:** The three of us are living in different cities now, which has never happened before; it feels strange. We have always been really close, and it seems odd not to have at least two of us in the same place. We hope we'll get used to it in 2022!  
**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** We're hopeful that there will be even more opportunities for Metchosinites to spend time together! We're sure we will all appreciate each other, even more than ever, after having been apart so much in the last two years, and that all of us will continue to look out for our fellow citizens in good times and bad.



The Barss brothers' photo taken by Sylvia Imeson

## Frances Krusekopf

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** Our daughter graduated from high school in June and made us very proud! Despite being

disappointed not to watch her cross the stage in person, we were pleased to be able to host a small celebration outdoors with family and friends after the ceremony. This fall, Louisa successfully launched a new chapter of her life at Wesleyan University.

A day after his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, our son passed his learners' licence test and has since been keen to drive his parents around town. That same month, with our environment in mind, I purchased an e-bike. I am hopeful that Metchosin will consider funding bike lanes in our community to ease my weekly ride to work.

**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** I am grateful to the MCA board

members who stepped into new Executive roles this summer, making it possible for me to assume the

Past President role. After very limited activity in the Community House during the first half of 2021, it was so exciting to welcome back our Office Coordinator and several House programs in September.

**PERSONALLY IN 2022 :** With a milestone birthday occurring in 2022, I am hopeful that a larger gathering of family and friends will be possible.

**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** Postponing larger MCA events, over the last 21 months of the pandemic, has unfortunately become a pattern. I am hopeful that 2022 will allow us to bring back the Services Auction, Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale, and celebrate our 20+ Year Anniversary.



## John Ranns

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** From a personal perspective: 2021 brought the birth of our seventh grandchild, Eden Grace and, for my wife Cheryl, the first to inherit her red hair. We are blessed by having all four of our children currently living in Metchosin.

**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** We received a \$944k grant for upgrades to the school and \$530k for the Fire Department/ EOC. Our work with Sc'ianew First Nation to help preserve Mary Hill is advancing and the opening of a major spill response capability in Beecher Bay is a benefit to all. Their efforts and vision have resulted in a major facility that reduces the response time to an oil spill off Metchosin's coastline from 18 to less than two hours. Metchosin staff and volunteers continue their outstanding service through difficult times. The Major Disappointment: for me in 2021 has been the endemic nature of COVID and the many problems our response to it have created.

**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** As this will likely be my last year as Mayor, I am looking forward to seeing the Metchosin School Centre become the community hub we envisioned when we purchased it, not just for us but regionally as well. I hope to see a return to in-person Council meetings. It is difficult to build Council cohesion on Zoom. Vio Mitchell has promised there will be a Metchosin Day this year and with it the ability to finally recognize publicly the contributions made by our volunteers over the past two years. And my most important hope is that, once again, good and reasonable residents will put their names forward for election in October so that we may continue the complex task of maintaining a happy, affordable, and sustainable rural future for this small piece of paradise we call home.



Johnny Ranns with baby Eden and Chelsea.  
Photo by Alenka Skrpnk

## Jay Shukin

Reflecting, as APRM president, on 2021 in terms of how we all did in protecting rural Metchosin, there were successes along with serious challenges. Successes first! Early in

2021, there was bold community and Council action to stop the planned subdivision of the Boys and Girls Club lands. We had a strong response to a petition to restore the emergency response calls to local first responders.

The wolf-pack that some feared had been destroyed by a hunter was later heard calling by many. We battled invasive plants, built roadside trails, engaged our seniors and honoured our past. Sadly, the community lost a dedicated and wise spirit with the passing of Ken Farquharson.

Rural Metchosin faced challenges in 2021. Beaches, parks and trails in Metchosin saw sooo many visitors. The District received a contentious proposal for industrial rezoning on Sooke Road; this came as unprecedented



levels of development loom on our borders (the project on the Langford side of Olympic View golf course is massive!). The potential sale of the 113-acre buffer land to the CRD was confusing and

a blow to trust with Council. A long-awaited bylaw enforcement review process had the urgency of a banana slug. In 2022, Council watchers will be eyeing the October

election: who is running? Who is not? Will new faces and new visions for rural Metchosin emerge? COVID has more surprises for us all. Will it continue to limit our ability to meet in person at events like Metchosin Day? And the weather: will we see more extremes, from heat-domes and drought to atmospheric rivers? As we cope with the dire impacts of climate change, perhaps there will be a deeper reckoning about the value of our own productive farms, waterways and forests. Health and safety to all in the New Year!

## Violaine Mitchell

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** Welcoming our first grandchild on June 2, a fantastic little boy! Another 2021 highlight for me is the deep community support and commitment to local agri-

culture and produce. A shout out to the many individuals, stores, restaurants, butcher shops, and our municipality for prioritizing local food and agriculture.

On the downside, I had hoped that we would have celebrated a successful Metchosin Day in 2021, but sadly that was not to be. Limiting numbers of attendees and ensuring social distancing are two things that don't go together when we plan Metchosin Day: an event that gathers over 5000 people for a day of festivities.

**METCHOSIN IN 2022:** for sure ... but we are going to have to rethink how we organize the day. We may still be required to

limit attendees at events and there have been some transitions that may affect our ability to offer sufficient parking and host the numbers of people we had in the past.

On a global level, we are closer than we have ever been to the eradication of polio. It's been ten months since a case in Pakistan, which is one of the last two countries with on-going transmission (the other

country is Afghanistan). In 1988, more than 350,000 people were paralyzed each year by wild polio virus; in 2021 we are down to just a handful of cases. I hope that 2022 is the year we finally put polio to rest.

And finally, I hope that 2022 is a year when we can all show up together, in person and as a community. I don't know who said this originally (many authors perhaps) but let's be optimistic, turn towards the sun and let the shadows fall behind us.

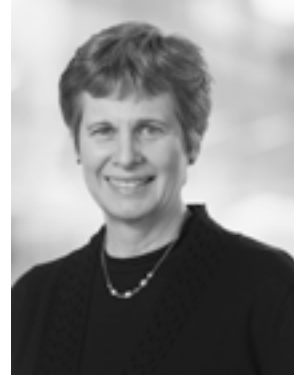


Photo by Tom Henry

## John Buchanan

**PERSONALLY IN 2021:** how did 2021 pan out in relation to my hopes at the beginning of the year? Last year my hope was that we would be vaccinated, and would be able to return to a life we were used to. It has largely happened with still some significant restrictions. I worry even more about how society as a whole can pay for the huge costs of this new disease, fire and floods.

**METCHOSIN IN 2021:** I had hoped that we would see a continuation of local buying that happened with the COVID scare. This has indeed happened as our meat sales are at least 50% higher than two years ago. On the hay side, there has been a general glut of hay, and through last winter and this spring and summer, sales have been very difficult, to the point that I have heard concerns about farmers being able to continue. This

fall though, the demand is through the roof and we are turning people away. We are in a crazy business.

Another concern was the change of ownership of several of the larger agricultural properties in Metchosin. It seems that the new owners are interested in having farming continue.

**PERSONALLY IN 2022:** is a wet May, a dry June and a good hay crop. I hope we reach some equilibrium with this virus, and the children stay healthy. I hope to still be able to hit a cricket ball, and be able to run after one when it is hit by me. I hope to be able to keep up with the grandchildren who have come to live with us. Despite everything, it has been a good year for Lorraine and me.

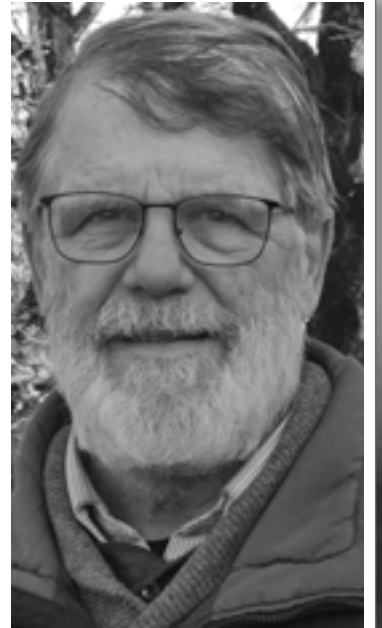


Photo by Lorraine Buchanan



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Bert Harrison in the Heritage Museum extension. Photo by Joannie Challenger



The AGM of the Old School Museum. Photo by Allen Jones



The new executive board of the Old School Museum left to right, Bob Burgis (Vice-President), Bob Houston (Treasurer), Suze Bowen (Secretary), Jim MacPherson (President). Photo by Allen Jones



Female hummingbird in the snow. Photo by Mary-Jean Payeur

# Keep Hummingbirds Safe During Winter Weather

Erin Ryan, BC SPCA's Wild ARC

Wild ARC has been receiving calls about hummingbirds with “sticky” tongues. There are a lot of reasons this could happen (injury, illness, birth defect), but it is often a sign of a bacterium or fungal infection due to improperly maintained feeders.

Nectar feeders provide a food source for hummingbirds in winter, but they're a big commitment. If you commit to winter feeding, you must commit fully. Non-migratory hummingbirds may come to rely on this food source and will suffer if it is interrupted. Don't put hummingbird feeders out if you're not prepared to clean them regularly and keep them fresh and thawed.

## KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN

- Feeders often attract unusually large numbers of hummingbirds to one area - this can be a joy to watch, but also means any fungus or bacteria in the feeder will affect many birds. These infections can cause their tongues to swell and often result in death - a sad outcome for birds and bird lovers. Clean feeders regularly to prevent fungal or bacterial growth.
- Clean feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water about once a week. Change the nectar solution every few days.

## DON'T LET YOUR FEEDER FREEZE

Feeders that are left empty or left to freeze can lead to starvation for the birds that have come to rely on them. Make sure your nectar never freezes, and can be provided through the whole winter. Have a friend or neighbour check your feeder if you're away. In harsh temperatures, you may need to bring your feeder in at night to prevent freezing - this won't disrupt the hummingbirds if the feeder is put back out first thing in the morning.

## MAKE NECTAR THE RIGHT WAY

While there are many different recipes available online, this is the only one we can recommend, and the one we use at Wild ARC:

- Boil water for two minutes.
- Mix one part white sugar to four parts water.
- Allow the mixture to cool before filling feeder.
- Never use honey, sweeteners, molasses, brown or raw sugar.

White sugar is closest to the sugars they find in nature. Other types of sugars or recipes could make them sick and die. In winter, do not change the ratio of sugar to water. Adding more sugar may help prevent freezing, but it's not healthy for these sensitive little birds.

## MAKE YOUR FEEDER VISIBLE

Hummingbirds are naturally attracted to red and other bright colours. To them, these colours signal nectar-rich flowers. This is why you see so many hummingbird feeders that come with a red base or red container. If your feeder isn't red, you can make it more attractive by adding a bright red ribbon. Over time, the birds



Hummingbirds at a feeder. Photo by Michael Hammond

will learn and remember where to find your feeder.

Don't add red food colouring, or buy pre-made nectar dyed

red. These additives simply aren't designed or tested for tiny hummingbirds and their lightning-fast metabolism. Stick to basics and

use our white sugar recipe to make sure you're keeping hummingbirds safe.

## Working for our community



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What does the Baha'i Faith say about how to acknowledge God?

*"The best way to thank God is to love one another."*

If you have your own questions on the Baha'i Faith please call or text: Mona at (250) 514-1756 / Doug at (250) 858-2053 / Bahai.org

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Happy New Year. Supplied by the Capital Regional District (CRD)

# Green New Year's Resolutions

CRD Environmental Services

Big changes are made up of little actions and achieving our regional targets of reducing waste and carbon pollution are only possible if everybody does their part. So, if you're still in need of a resolution for 2022, we've got a few ideas that won't just be good for you – they're good for the environment too!

Here are eight New Year's resolution ideas to help make 2022 a green one:

**SAVE WATER AT HOME.**  
By striving for five minute showers, checking your toilets for leaks annually, and only running full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, you can help save water at home. Reducing water waste not only helps conserve our region's water supply, it'll also save you money.

**MANAGE RAINWATER AND RUNOFF.**  
Help reduce pollution and impacts from flooding by reducing the amount of rainwater flowing from your property into storm drains. Consider installing a rain barrel or rain garden, or replacing impervious surfaces on your property with more permeable ones (e.g. grass, gravel).

**TAKE OUT A CLIMATE ACTION TO-GO KIT FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.**  
These free kits contain tools and activities to help you take action on climate change at home, like discovering air leaks or measuring how much electricity your appliances use.

**DITCH THE CAR ONE DAY A WEEK.**  
Driving gas vehicles is our region's greatest source of carbon pollution. Choosing to walk, bike or take transit to your destination is beneficial for your health, and helps fight climate change.

**REDUCE, REUSE, AND THEN RECYCLE.**  
Reduce the use of single-use items – carry a reusable mug or water bottle, reusable bags, pack a lunch in reusable containers, etc. If you have an item you no longer want, see if it can be donated or reused. If it's broken, see if it can be repaired before recycling it or throwing it out.

**TEST YOUR RECYCLING KNOWLEDGE.**  
Find out if you're recycling all that you can with our waste sorting game *Ready, Set, Sort!*, available on the free RecycleCRD app. Once you know what goes

where, it'll be much easier to keep your house clutter-free! Common household items like batteries, lightbulbs, paint, plastic bags, and other flexible plastic packaging (e.g. chip bags and crinkly wrappers) can be dropped off free of charge at many locations, including the Hartland Depot. Find a drop-off near you at [www.myrecyclopedia.ca](http://www.myrecyclopedia.ca).

**SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR BACKYARD.**  
Supporting biodiversity benefits us all and you can help by planting native plants in your yard, or on your balcony, keeping a fresh source of water outside (e.g. dish, bird bath) and leaving brush piles, sticks, and leaves in your garden to create wildlife shelter.

**JOIN A STEWARDSHIP GROUP.**  
Help clean, protect and enhance local natural areas by volunteering with a stewardship group in your community to remove invasive species, plant native plants or do a beach cleanup. Making a difference is just that easy – pick a resolution or two and get started!  
For more green resolution ideas, visit [www.crd.bc.ca/memories](http://www.crd.bc.ca/memories).



Thank you graciously

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**We Thank You!**

**The Metchosin Foundation**

# The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Through a Local Lens

Valerie Jaeger, The Metchosin Foundation

Winter: the season many people love to hate. The word 'winter' is very old, and very apt, being derived from Proto Germanic 'wintruz' which is derived from Proto Indo-European 'wed' meaning 'wet'. Being wet pretty much sums up most days this November/December. However, winter is also a good time for reflection, for nourishing roots and for laying the groundwork for what may come. It is in this spirit that the Metchosin Foundation approached the turn of the year and read with interest the *United Nations (UN) Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*.

The *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*, running from 2021 through 2030, is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. This joint project of the UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations presents a framework of eight participation levels, ten strategies, and five major foci. Ecosystem restoration is not the only work of the Metchosin Foundation but this UN document does provide some useful context for our work; reaffirming the significance of areas in which we are already involved, encouraging us to follow our instincts where we have taken tentative steps, and pointing to new possible directions.

The Metchosin Foundation agrees with the document's premise that there are no quick

fixes and that we must say 'Yes' to biodiversity and social goals. If asked, the Metchosin Foundation would say that we would be proud to consider ourselves among the 'Voices' participation group as described in the document – those shaping societal discourse by leading on education, scientific knowledge or through art. As a Foundation we have already connected with, and can do more to work with, those partners described as 'Actors' – small entities, businesses, and entrepreneurs who are part of a restoration economy in Metchosin.

*“...more can be done to set the right incentives, celebrate leadership, and shift behaviours.”*

Of the strategies (the ten actions that count every single day), the Metchosin Foundation's projects already address six: financing restoration on the ground, investing in research, building up capacity, celebrating a culture of restoration, building the next generation, and listening to learn. But, combined with the Metchosin community, more can be done to set the right incentives, celebrate leadership, and shift behaviours.

The five project areas of focus for the *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* are forests, peatlands, farmlands, oceans, and cities. The world's forests are where most is at stake, given that protecting, managing, and restoring forests offers roughly two-thirds of the total mitigation potential of all nature-based solutions. In the oceans around the world, mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass

beds trap and accumulate organic matter in their soils and prevent it from being lost to the atmosphere. These areas dovetail well with the Metchosin Foundation's vision: 'healthy lands and waters - the foundation for a healthy community', thus conserving Metchosin's forested and coastal ecosystems which is a vital part of the work of the Foundation.

Metchosin's temperate rainforests are within the Coastal Douglas fir and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones and comprise approximately 80 percent of Metchosin's land base. Metchosin's coastline includes a variety of ecosystems including estuaries, rock headlands, and sand and gravel beaches all connected inland via riparian areas. Healthy vegetated aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems store carbon, help maintain biodiversity, aid in flood regulation, decrease erosion, and create more liveable communities for us.

While the inclusion of cities on the UN's list seems at first a surprise, the majority of humanity now lives and works in cities. The Foundation recognizes that its work to conserve the precious ecosystems of Metchosin cannot be done without taking into account the burgeoning suburban growth around us, and without the inclusion of supportive voices from surrounding areas as the pressure on the land from local visitors becomes greater every year.

Since conservation at a global scale can be daunting, the *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* makes a strong case for the immediate need for conservation of ecosystems worldwide. The Metchosin Foundation will continue to act on a local level, to help realize the goals of this important initiative.



Nobody here but us birds! Photo by Leslie Eaton





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# Wait, what!?

Do you know something interesting that's happening in Metchosin?

We want to know!  
Talk to the *Muse!*

[metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com)

## Metchosin ArtPod

# Starting the New Year Safely at Metchosin ArtPod!

Elaine Hughes

**ArtPod will be closed for the month of January because of increasing COVID cases. We will re-open, all being well, February 4.**

ArtPod's new show *Crossroads: Art in Response to our Earth in Crisis*, will open February 4 and run to March 27. After our last year of heat domes, wildfires and floods, we thought it was timely to focus on the state of our planet. Our regular opening hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This show will feature art that addresses the current environmental emergencies we are facing. Our walls will be filled with art responding to these threats, from praise of the natural world to outrage at its destruction! There will be a Zoom opening for the show on Saturday, February 5 at 7:00 pm and the Zoom link can be found on our Facebook page in the Event listing. Masks are required to see the live exhibit in the gallery.

Our guest artists and jurors for the show are noted artists Claire Kujundzic, [www.claireart.ca](http://www.claireart.ca) and Bill Horne, [bill-horne.net](http://bill-horne.net). There will be two workshops taught by them during the show, one in February and one in March.

The February workshop is entitled *Crash Course in the Creative Process* and is intended for the person who thinks they aren't artistic and says, "I can't draw a straight line." This workshop taught by Claire Kujundzic, will

be held on February 19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Participants will learn basic colour mixing information, see demonstrations and participate in exercises in painting with watercolours. Everyone will leave having some basic art skills and more confidence in their creativity. The fee for this workshop will be \$95, plus a \$12 fee for supplies.

The second workshop, *Water-based Silk-Screening Process* taught by Bill Horne, is on March 19 and 20. It will be hands-on learning which will introduce you to a variety of silkscreen techniques using water-based inks and low-tech stencils. The workshop will focus on simple methods that can be used in a home studio without a huge investment in equipment. Cost is \$158. A 5% discount is available for Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens members. More information and a supply list is available on our website at [metchosinartpod.ca/event/silkscreen-workshop](http://metchosinartpod.ca/event/silkscreen-workshop)

Both workshops will take place in the upstairs studio (DIY room) in the MACCA building. Sorry, this is not wheelchair accessible. Masks are required indoors. To register for either workshop, just email us at [metchosinartpod@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinartpod@gmail.com)

For our next show in April and May entitled *Sub Text: The Message in Art*, ArtPod is looking for work that incorporates text into the art. Art using any media is welcome as long as it has a

textual element. The feature artist will be Diana Smith, highlighting her latest project *Abstract the News*. Deadline for submissions is March 11. Look on our Facebook page's events, and our website or sign up for our monthly newsletter for submission details.

We also have an open call to artists right now for our Mushroom Card project. This joint project is run by Metchosin ArtPod and the Metchosin Foundation. Artists sign up for, create, and donate the use of a mushroom image to the project to create 36 unique flash cards. The images are reviewed by naturalists to ensure their accuracy. Card decks will be produced and sold for \$25 with the profit going to the programming costs of these two non-profit organizations. The deadline to sign up is March 1, and to get more details about the project, please go to [metchosinartpod.ca/mushroom-cards-2022](http://metchosinartpod.ca/mushroom-cards-2022).

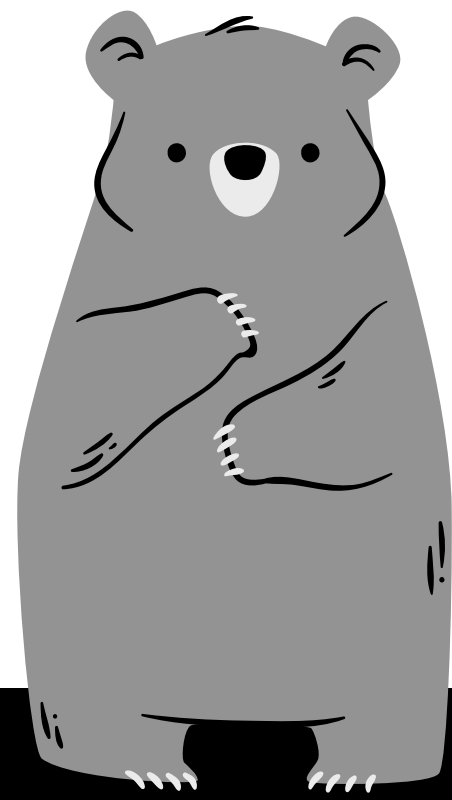
Artists can also participate in our ongoing weekly online portrait group and can check out our Facebook page's events for more information, including how to join in!

*We wish you all a creative New Year!*

## BE BEAR & COUGAR SMART!

For information about staying safe around wildlife, please visit the district website:

[www.metchosin.ca/content/wildlife-resources](http://www.metchosin.ca/content/wildlife-resources)

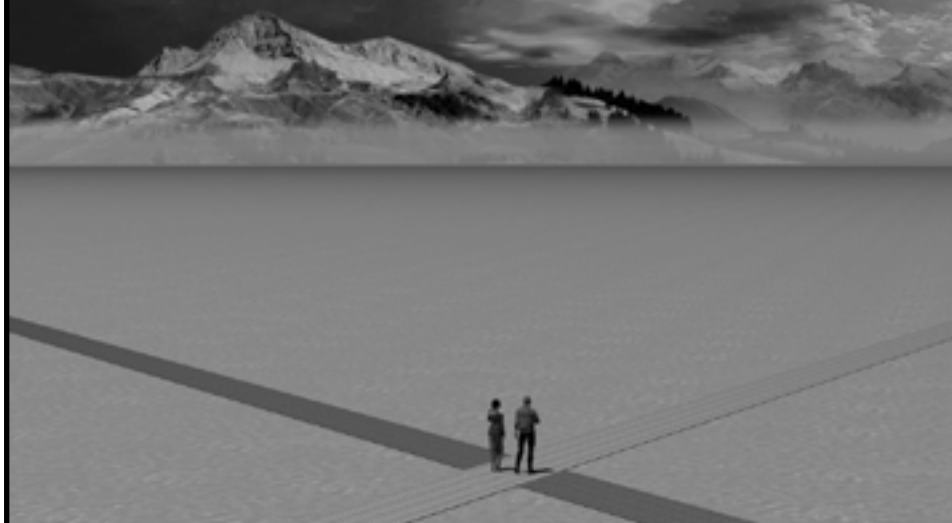


## CROSSROADS

ART IN RESPONSE TO OUR EARTH IN CRISIS

February 4 - March 27, 2022

Feature Artists & Guest Jurors:  
Claire Kujundzic and Bill Horne



Submissions invited for April show  
**Sub Text: The Message in Art.**

Art incorporating text - any medium

Deadline March 11

Submission details at [metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)



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Hours: FRI-SUN 11 am-4 pm

  #MetchosinArtPod

## Dear Santa

Bev Bacon

Dear Santa,  
Since you asked...  
all I want for Christmas  
is a waist.  
I have everything else I need.  
My one last request is a waist.  
I can buy all the cookies I want.  
I can't seem to find a waist.  
My favorite ice-cream  
just went on sale.  
Why don't the stores  
offer waists?  
I've searched  
and sampled  
and bought all kinds of treats.  
It doesn't matter how much I eat.  
Nothing will do the trick.  
My pants don't seem to fit.  
You know that I love you.  
And I know you'll understand.  
I don't need a new car.  
I don't want a man.  
Just make me happy this year.  
Bring me a waist and  
a jug of good cheer.

## METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

### ONGOING PROGRAMMING

#### 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 3, 2022.

**Knitting Café:** The evening group will meet 7:00–9:00 pm, on the first and third Mondays monthly. For more info on the evening group, call Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome. Restarting January 3, 2022.

#### Tuesdays

**Drop In Painters Art Group:** Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–Noon. This is a friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists where everyone is welcome. If you would like to join the group please contact Arlene at 250-391-7905. Returning January 4, 2022

**Knitting Café:** The afternoon group will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly 1:00–3:00 pm. For more information on the afternoon group, call Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00 am. Knitters of all levels are welcome. Returning January 11, 2022.

#### 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, monthly, 10:30 am–1:30 pm. Beginners welcome but should contact Sheila Stewart (250-595-6406, email: blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss supplies. Experienced rug hookers invited to bring own projects. Bring a bag lunch, tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs. Restarting January 6.

#### Fridays

**Ukulele Gathering:** 5:00–6:30 pm on the third Friday of each month. Tell all your ukulele-playing students, friends and relatives! Open to all ages and levels of talent. To join please contact Margaretha at memetopia@shaw.ca. 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. Returning Jan. 21, 2022.

### EVENTS

**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 250-478-5155.

## Metchosin Community House

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## METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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STUDIOS@MACC – highlights, find the full stories on our website!

## Adventures of a Volunteer

Charmaine Welch

Who knew that being secretary on the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association Board of Directors would be so much fun?

Since joining the executive members in September 2021, unique experiences have ensued. I've witnessed an honest-to-goodness internet dating love story, been inadvertently locked in the furnace room while resurrecting an ancient pine cone wreath, chatted with a real Canadian filmmaker (Devin Cooke), hobnobbed with our famous rock legend (Jesse Roper), and have seen many art treasures.

I have been meeting the movers and shakers of our community, as well as new arrivals to our gorgeous village.



MACCA gets ready for Christmas. Photo by Deb Bernier

Being part of the MACCA team means being instrumental in helping creative people realise their dreams and aspirations. Rather a lofty attribute, I know, but true.

Watch for further vignettes by Charmaine in the coming months.

#### Huber Studio

Room #1028:  
[charlahuber.com](http://charlahuber.com)

#### Victoria College of Art

Room #1030: [vca.ca](http://vca.ca)

#### Metchosin ArtPod

Room #1031:  
[metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)

#### Shiloh Music

Room #1033:  
[shilohmusic.com](http://shilohmusic.com)

#### Shaping Spirit Studio

Room #1034:  
[etsy.com/shapingspirit](https://etsy.com/shapingspirit)

#### MACCA Office

Room #1036:  
[info@metchosinartcentre.com](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.com)

#### Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

Room #1047:  
[metchosinseniors.ca](http://metchosinseniors.ca)

#### Do It Yourself (DIY) Community Art Studio

Room #2001:  
[metchosinartcentre.ca](http://metchosinartcentre.ca)

#### Art Lab

Room #2007: [blairtaylor.ca](http://blairtaylor.ca)

#### Point Of View exhibition spaces

Main floor entry hallway.  
Main floor west hallway.  
Upper floor hallway.  
[metchosinartcentre.com](http://metchosinartcentre.com)

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**Please Note:** All events shown in the *Muse* this month are subject to change or cancellation due to new COVID regulations or precautions. Readers are advised to check prior to attendance.



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# Seniors' Resource Centre METCHOSIN

Wishing everyone health and happiness in this New Year. The Seniors' Resource Centre is operated by the Metchosin Seniors' Association. We are open as of January 4, by appointment only, following covid restrictions at the building. The centre operates Tuesday through Friday from 12:00-4:00pm. Staff, board members and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, resources, and Better at Home services.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FRIDAY SOCIALS AT METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

January 21 and 28, 1:00–3:00 pm  
NOTE that January 7 & 14 socials are cancelled due to provincial restrictions. Drop in for refreshments and socializing. Please wear a mask and be fully vaccinated. If you'd like to volunteer to help serve or donate refreshments, call Laurie at the SRC.

### SENIORS' CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS, ON ZOOM

#### Orchids 101

Thursday, January 6, 3:00 pm  
Sasha Kubicek of Sea Bluff Farm will introduce us to the orchid plant family and give culture tips for the most commonly available kinds, including how to repot and rebloom.

#### Gates Foundation My Career with Vaccines

Thursday, January 13, 1:00 pm  
Vio Mitchell of Stillmeadow Farm and the Gates Foundation will share some of her varied experiences which have spanned many countries and many years. She has worked with childhood vaccines, polio, measles and COVID too. Visit the SRC website for all the details. We record many of our events and post them on Metchosin Seniors' YouTube channel.

#### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS THAT GIVE BACK

Become a Lifetime Member or gift one. Support seniors' services in the community. You will also get the latest MSA/SRC news delivered to your inbox or home. A lifetime membership is only \$20. Volunteer with the MSA. We need volunteers to drive seniors to appointments, for groceries, to have friendly one-on-one visits (in person or by phone), and to help at our events. Commit as much or little time as you can give.



Violaine Mitchell knows vaccines. Photo by the Gates Foundation



Sasha Kubicek knows orchids. Photo by Sea Bluff Farm

**Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)**  
1407-4495 Happy Valley Road  
250.478.5150 • [info@metchosinseniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca)  
[www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)

# Langford Fire Dispatch Centre Closes

Allen Jones

After more than 33 years the Fire Dispatch Centre at Langford closed on December 7. The Dispatch Centre, with nine staff under Chief Chris Aubrey, took calls from Langford, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and other CRD areas.

The reason given for the closure is the \$1m cost of necessary upgrading of the software and the equipment. This technical upgrade will give the operators more information about the caller.

Now Metchosin calls are dispatched from a 911 call centre in Saanich. Let's hope this is an improvement and not just a cost saving exercise.

# Santa Call-Outs

DECEMBER 2-31, 2021

Sleigh Chief Santa Claus  
Check out the North Pole on Facebook  
or follow me on Twitter @OfficialSanta

- |        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| Dec 2  | <b>Pears Road</b><br>– Medical (too many egnogs)   | <b>Beach</b><br>– Fire lit to guide passing sleigh                                     |
| Dec 4  | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>– Assistance – RCMP – Grinch arrested   | Dec 19 <b>Parry Cross Road</b><br>– Medical – Blitzen ate too much hay                 |
| Dec 5  | <b>Hi-Mount Drive</b><br>– Medical – reindeer with red nose disease  | <b>Wilderness Place</b> (East Sooke)<br>– Hay/Grass – Smoke/Smell/Sighting of reindeer |
| Dec 9  | <b>Hi-Mount Drive</b><br>– Christmas bells – Residential   | <b>Wild Cherry Drive</b><br>– Christmas bells – Residential                            |
| Dec 10 | <b>Ferncliffe Place</b><br>– Medical – shopper exhausted   | <b>Copper Mine Road</b><br>– FRes – Chimney blocked with parcels                       |
| Dec 11 | <b>Chalister Court</b><br>– Medical – two people treated after fight over last Christmas tree                      | Dec 25 <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– medical – elf electrocuted by solar panel                |
| Dec 13 | <b>Happy Valley Road</b><br>– Assistance – Public Works needed help to put star on top of municipal Christmas tree | Dec 26 <b>Pedder Bay Drive</b><br>– Medical – exhausted elves given egnog              |
|        | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>– Hydro – Lines Down – Christmas dinners put on hold                                      | Dec 27 <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– SVI – sleigh required full service                       |
|        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Assistance – Public Works decorating trucks with Christmas lights                           | Dec 28 <b>Matheson Lake Park Road</b><br>– reindeer returned to normal duties          |
|        | <b>Belvista Place</b><br>– FRes – Hanukkah celebration   | Dec 30 <b>Chapel Heights Drive</b><br>– Medical – new puppy given to helper            |
| Dec 15 | <b>Beach</b><br>– Fire needed to roast chestnuts   | <b>Beach</b><br>– swimmer rescued after practice Polar Bear swim                       |
| Dec 16 | <b>Taylor Road</b><br>– Medical – children over-excited by coming event  | Dec 31 <b>Hi-Mount Drive</b><br>– FRes   |
|        |  | <b>Tiswilde Road</b><br>– Fireworks to celebrate New Year                              |

SVI: Sleigh Vehicle Incident.

FRes: Fireworks Residential

# RCMP Call-Outs –

NOVEMBER 8 –  
DECEMBER 7, 2021

Brian Kerr, OPS Support, Media Relations Officer, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

- |        |  |        |  |        |   |
|--------|--|--------|--|--------|---|
| Nov 8  | <b>Kangaroo Road</b><br>– No charge drug seizure, seized for destruction.                  | Nov 17 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Vehicle on fire, determined to be stolen, one person later arrested and facing numerous criminal code charges. Still under investigation. | Nov 30 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Report of erratic driver, vehicle not located.   |
|        | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>– Mischief to private property, no suspects, damage about \$800.  |        | <b>Glen Forest Way</b><br>– Possible impaired driver; vehicle not located.   | Dec 2  | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Report of an impaired driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.  |
|        | <b>Kangaroo Road</b><br>– Erratic driver, vehicle located and driver given verbal warning. | Nov 19 | <b>Winter Road</b><br>– Found bike, turned in to fire hall.  |        | <b>Glen Forest Way</b><br>– Domestic dispute, no assault, investigation continuing.   |
|        | <b>Liberty Road area</b><br>– Civil matter regarding vehicle; vehicle towed.               |        | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>– Theft of fuel from three vehicles which had been siphoned.  | Dec 3  | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Check wellbeing of a person on highway; person not located.  |
|        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Welfare check on intoxicated male on highway who was not located.   |        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Erratic driver, warning given to registered owner of vehicle.   | Dec 4  | <b>Neild Road</b><br>– Report of a cougar on private property.  |
| Nov 9  | <b>William Head</b><br>– Military flare found on beach; recovered by Military Police       |        | <b>Happy Valley Road</b><br>– Vehicle stopped with stolen licence plates, driver charged.  | Dec 5  | <b>Witty's Beach</b><br>– Theft from vehicle, people on hike returned to find their belongings stolen from their vehicle, investigation continuing. |
|        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Report of possible impaired driver; driver found to be sober.       |        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Single vehicle accident, driver fled scene, believed impaired.  | Dec 7  | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Suspicious person possibly breaking into rural mailbox.  |
| Nov 11 | <b>William Head Road</b><br>– Check wellbeing of a person found to be in good health.      | Nov 20 | <b>Pears Road</b><br>– Noise complaint.  |        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Single vehicle accident, truck into power pole, driver fled scene, investigation continuing.                                 |
|        | <b>William Head Road</b><br>– Single vehicle accident; no injuries; vehicle towed.         |        | <b>Duke Road area</b><br>– Noise complaint, one person given verbal warning.   |        | <b>Kangaroo Road</b><br>– Male arrested for being intoxicated, held in cells until sober.   |
|        | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Single vehicle accident, driver fell asleep, no injuries.           | Nov 22 | <b>Rocky Point Road area</b><br>– One person apprehended under Mental Health Act.  |        |   |
| Nov 12 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Erratic driver, vehicle not located.                                | Nov 24 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  |        |   |
| Nov 13 | <b>Happy Valley Road</b><br>– Shoplifter at store, still under investigation.              | Nov 26 | <b>Metchosin Road area</b><br>– Complaint of harassment, one person warned.  |        |   |
| Nov 16 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.     | Nov 27 | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>– Road hazard in construction site.   |        |   |



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# Sc'ianew First Nation Gives SENĆOŦEN Language Names for Pearson Campus



The full signage proudly displayed. All photos by Allen Jones



Ivy Seward explains the language



Designers: Berenice Sanders and Lucas Olscamp



Chief Russ Chipps describes the journey

Allen Jones

The land on which Pearson United World College (UWC) was built was given to the College by the Department of National Defence, prior to construction beginning in September 1973. It was never ceded by the Sc'ianew peoples and they have ancestral ties that predate settlement by European settlers. A Memorandum of Understanding between the First Nation, Pearson College, and the District of Metchosin was signed at the end of 2018. In November 2020, Pearson College went further, aiming to recognizing the history of Mary Hill, with the adoption of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Respecting their commitments to reconciliation, the College has worked with the First Nation to bring new signage and nomenclature to the Metchosin campus. Thus, representatives of all parties were invited to a ceremony at the campus on November 18, 2021. Metchosin's mayor was not able to attend but Councillors Little, Epp,

and MacKinnon represented the Council.

After an introduction from the Vice President, Ty Pile, the evening progressed with presentations from College Head, Craig Davis; First Nation Elder, Henry Chipps; Chief Russell Chipps; designers, Berenice Sanders and Lucas Olscamp, and an emotional presentation involving language-learning by Ivy Seward of the WSÁNEĆ First Nation. The theme throughout was the relationship between the First Nation and water. Sc'ianew meaning 'the place of the big fish' (and we all know what Metchosin means in translation).

The presentation involved students unveiling the actual nameboards and a visual presentation including a preview of the new entrance board to the College.

Brian Geary, Pearson's Director of Communications, relates the event, in an edited version, as follows:

Chief Russell Chipps of the Sc'ianew First Nation and Elders Rick Peter and Henry (Hank) Chipps celebrated with the

Pearson College UWC community the gift of new SENĆOŦEN language names and artwork for five student dorm houses.

"The Sc'ianew community are People of the Salmon," said Chief Chipps at a ceremony hosted by Pearson Vice President Ty Pile that included 200 students, invited members of the Metchosin community, as well as faculty members and staff. "Together with our families and friends in all Coast Salish Nations, we honour the renewal and determination represented by the salmon in the Salish Sea and the rivers that run to those waters."

"We live, learn, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Sc'ianew First Nation," said College Head Craig Davis. "Our predecessors at Pearson built friendships and learned from our friends in the Sc'ianew community for nearly five decades and today, with gratitude and humility, we receive the gift of new SENĆOŦEN language names and artwork for each of our five student residence houses."

Chief Russell Chipps, Elders Rick Peter and Henry Chipps, and student representatives from each house officially unveiled the new SENĆOŦEN language names representing five species of Pacific Salmon:

**TEKI** (Sockeye), formerly Japan House,  
**STOKI** (Spring), formerly Victoria House,  
**HENEN** (Pink or Humpback), formerly McLaughlin House,  
**QOL EW** (Chum or Dog Salmon), formerly East House,  
**FÁ WEN** (Coho), formerly Calgary House.

Initial designs for the salmon were created and gifted to the campus by Chief Russell Chipps (who expressed a love of carving) and shared with the College's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. Chief Chipps consented for his designs to be worked on and transformed by student, faculty and campus community input to adapt and create the final form of these new visual identities which embody both Sc'ianew and Pearson visual elements in harmony. These were

then approved by Elders Rick Peter and Henry Chipps.

Each version expresses the salmon theme, with characteristics and colours unique to each house, and acknowledges the ecosystem and elements of campus land and water, including the sea, the land, the sky, the sun, and the moon. An egg sack within each salmon contains 40 eggs (representing the number of students living in each house) which is cradled by two hands, symbolic of Houseparents who care for students during the school year.

The prominent house signs were manufactured in wood by Brett Moorhouse at Douglas Signs in Esquimalt and were installed after the naming ceremony.

"This is both a celebratory and a solemn moment for us at Pearson," said Davis. "We celebrate this as one of many steps along our reconciliation journey with the guidance of our neighbours and friends. We also reflect upon the resilience of Indigenous Peoples here and around the world and we thank them for their stewardship of the lands and the places we live upon and honour."

Please note that this article is printed in a different typeface as it was necessary for the extended character set.