



# Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

## Public Access from Weir's Beach to Taylor Beach



A guard stands behind the new fencing. Photo by Allen Jones

Marie-Térèse Little, Councillor,  
Parks Chair, District of Metchosin

There has been some misinformation regarding a 'public trail' along the shoreline from Weir's Beach to Taylor Beach. I have met with many concerned citizens including the various property owners, Swanwick Farm owners, hikers, beach walkers, neighbours, as well as experts in Marine Science and Engineering. I have worked with District of Metchosin staff to review the maps of the properties, property lines and the associated documentation. There is no public trail along the foreshore between Weir's beach and Taylor Beach.

There is an easement granted to the Greater Victoria Water

District in relation to a water pipe across the SW corner of the land along William Head Road. In addition, there is a short right of way held by the CRD for installation and maintenance of backflow preventer vault on Swanwick Road.

For many years people have been hiking along the shore over the six private properties. This has led to many conflicts between waterfront property owners and hikers/dogs and this has now escalated into threats, intimidation, and harassment. This land is private and I would ask the public to please respect the rights of all the landowners.

The new owners at Swanwick Farm recently moved to the farm with the intent to farm the land. As experienced by other

neighbors, they have been severely impacted by the amount of traffic across their property, dogs running wildly off leash, visits to their house, and people and dogs using their property as a lavatory. Initially, they respectfully asked people to stay on the path and leash their dogs and reminded hikers that they were on private property, then they posted signs. All of this was to no avail. The abuse continued until a breaking point when the verbal abuse escalated into threats of harm. The abuse is and was unacceptable.

The landowners then felt that they were left with no other option than to fence their property. Ongoing aggression and threatening behavior ultimately led to engaging Commissionaires BC and placement of security cameras.

The cameras are stationary and point into the property and along the fence line.

Since their arrival the new owners have worked with a highly reputable local arborist, a local agrologist, as well as experts in Landscape Architecture and Forest Ecology with in-depth knowledge about the BC ecosystems especially Garry oak ecosystems. They had their land resurveyed, isolated the iron pegs, and asked for and received consultants' reports regarding the property and the natural boundary line.

This topic was discussed at the February 14, 2022 District of Metchosin Parks meeting that I chaired. See [metchosin.civicweb.net/document/6502](https://metchosin.civicweb.net/document/6502) and the

video [www.metchosin.ca/content/agendas-minutes](https://www.metchosin.ca/content/agendas-minutes).

It was agreed that the District has no jurisdiction over private land. However, the District can help with conflicts by posting signs and conducting educational campaigns indicating where private land is located. The Dogs in Metchosin Working Group has been tasked with an educational campaign to help remind the community of our bylaws and expectations. This strategy has worked in other conflict zones such as Sea Bluff Trail.

I trust that, with the facts in hand, our community will have a better understanding of private property along the foreshore from Taylor Beach to Weir's Beach.



Michael Hsieh, Nik Walker, Gord Grivel, Jacob Lamb, Trevor Brook, Mona Nakhjavani-Bossi. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

## Baha'i Annual Gratitude Award Update

Baha'i Community

Nan Hsieh, on behalf of the Baha'i Community of Metchosin, wrote an article in last month's Muse about the recipients of their 2022 Gratitude Award. Subsequently, a small noon hour ceremony took place at the Metchosin Fire Hall on February 10 when the well-deserved award was presented to the Metchosin Public Works crew by Michael Hsieh and Mona Nakhjavani-Bossi of the Baha'i community. As well as the framed certificate, each member of the crew was given a rock painted by local Baha'i artist and a gift certificate to The Broken Paddle Coffee House.

# Metchosin Muse

Email [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com) Web [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

## CO-EDITORS

Allen Jones, 778-265-6385  
Johnny Carline, 250-474-4601  
[metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com)

## ADVERTISING

Jennifer Burgis, 250-881-8280  
[j.burgis@telus.net](mailto:j.burgis@telus.net)

## DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Leslie Eaton

## DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATOR

Barrett Fullerton

## EVENTS

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

## MAILING ADDRESS

c/o L. Spiller  
4741 Lisandra Road  
Victoria, B.C., V9C 4G1

## AD DEADLINE

The 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for month-end publication.

## ACCOUNTS & CLASSIFIEDS

Linda Spiller, 250-590-0168  
[amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com)

## Classified Ads

\$15 for up to 25 words per edition.

Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Payment in advance preferably by e-transfer. Contact Linda at [amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com) or

250-590-0168.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

All articles and advertisements are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com). Do not send PDFs. Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or tif format only. Typewritten or handwritten copy may be acceptable if you have no computer access; please call Linda at 250-590-0168 for arrangements. 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](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

## ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local non-profit, arts, interests and activities publication, produced by the *Metchosin Muse* Society. 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.

## CURRENT CIRCULATION:

2700

# Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

At last we are starting to see signs of spring in Metchosin. Subject to BC Health advice we may be able to take off our masks more and see the smiles that we have been missing for the last couple of years. Organisations are tentatively planning events for the coming year and we may even see the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale again at the Community House.

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Bob Mitchell. He was a true Metchosinite of the old order and his achievements will live long after his passing.

As older residents leave us, so Metchosin is changing. The population has gone over 5,000 citizens and this has implications. The responsibilities of Council are increasing and we wish them well in their work.

The closure of a favoured 'trail' between Taylor Beach and Weir's Beach with the fencing erected around one of the coast line properties crystallised a division of perceptions of our rural life. The views from our coast line are being limited and our beaches are becoming crowded with people looking for the amenities that living in Victoria promised. The land that was once open to the

indigenous peoples and native wild life is now sectioned and regulated. Let us hope that there are some more people like Bob Mitchell ready to make their mark in the future of Metchosin. A good time for a brewery to start up in our village?

"There is hope as long as we remember that our dominion on Earth comes with great responsibility" – David Suzuki.

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

## 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.

## Apology to Pattie (with an e)

In the process of editing the February edition of the *Muse*, I deleted the address of one of our letter writers, which is our normal practice. I later noted that I had also accidentally deleted the writer's name, which I promptly restored. Except that I didn't. For reasons that probably only

Sigmund Freud could discover, instead of the name Pattie Whitehouse, well known to pretty well all of us, I substituted the name Patti Whiteside, known as far as I can tell to absolutely nobody, including myself.

I have, of course, apologized to Pattie Whitehouse and do so

here again, and to our readers, for that error. And if there is in fact a Patti Whiteside out there, and she knows how she managed to embed herself in my subconscious, I would appreciate receiving a call.

*Johnny Carline  
Co-editor Muse*

## Wanted! Host Families for Pearson's Project Week

As COVID restrictions begin to relax we have begun planning our 2022 Project Week, from March 28 to April 1. During this week Pearson College UWC students are welcomed into Host Families volunteer homes throughout

Greater Victoria. Each year, Project Week is an important chance for students to complete week-long community-based projects within our neighbourhoods. If you are able to accommodate one or more students in a

homestay environment, we look forward to welcoming your family to our expanding Pearson family of volunteers.

*Dawn Boshcoff,  
Host Family/Volunteer Coordinator  
250-216-6974 or email [dboshcoff@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:dboshcoff@pearsoncollege.ca) to apply.*

## Pearson Students' Sustainable Knitting and Crochet Club

Calling all Metchosin knitters! Pearson College UWC students have just set up a sustainable crochet and knitting club but are short of supplies and need your help with donations.

These creative and sustainability-focused young people would greatly appreciate any spare yarn scraps, knitting or crochet

needles or anything else that could be used for creating eco-friendly items for personal use or fundraising.

This would help so much to reach their collective goal of being as sustainable as possible while only using second-hand or 'pre-loved' materials.

Please call to arrange for pick-up or drop-off of materials. Donations and support from the community will, as always, be greatly appreciated!

*Dawn Boshcoff, Host Family/  
Volunteer Coordinator  
250-216-6974 or email [dboshcoff@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:dboshcoff@pearsoncollege.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:

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

Or you can email us at: [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com)



## METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

| Display Ad Sizes      | 1-5 Issues | 6-11 Issues           |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Business Card         | \$53.00    | \$42.00               |
| 2col x 4" (4x4")      | \$84.00    | \$68.00               |
| 1/6pg                 | \$105.00   | \$84.00               |
| 1/4pg                 | \$158.00   | \$131.00              |
| 1/2pg                 | \$305.00   | \$263.00              |
| Insert (8.5 x 11")    | \$280.00   | n/a                   |
| Banner                | \$105.00   | \$90.00               |
| Full Page             | \$600.00   | – no additional taxes |
| Subscription per year | 11 issues  | \$35.00               |

Discount on 6-11 issues. Full payment in advance of publication

Camera-ready ads only in PDF format; full payment in advance. We will happily recommend an ad designer with reasonable rates to create your ad. For more information please contact Jennifer Burgis, 250-881-8280, email [j\\_burgis@telus.net](mailto:j_burgis@telus.net).

**Classified Ads**  
25 words or less \$15  
Deadline: 15th of each month.  
Payment in advance preferably by e-transfer. Contact Linda at [amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com) or 250-590-0168

## Does Metchosin Need a Code of Conduct?

I was taken by surprise while watching the February 14 video of a Public Works meeting where the Council members were discussing the potential closure of Hall Bridge on Flesh Road. Councillor Little was gaslighted. I had to watch it twice to understand the lack of transparency as I watched the Mayor push his own agenda.

There are kind, mature ways to state a differing opinion. None of these were seen that evening in the Mayor's treatment of Councillor Little. He refused to supply more information regarding reasons for closing the road

and was simply demanding, divisive, and insulting. Interrupting, and leaving the room as he did when Councillor Little started speaking, are childish actions, not befitting someone who is elected to represent our community.

Frankly it was embarrassing to see such childish behaviour from an elected leader of our community. Unfortunately Councillor Kahakauwila was no better, simply agreeing with everything the Mayor said. None of the two would listen as Councillor Little even made some alternative suggestions to resolve the problem.

If the Mayor wants to spend taxpayers' money on lawyers' fees to assess potential liability he needs more background information. I agree with Councillor Epp who stated "I don't understand how we will get a legal opinion when we don't have an engineer's report on the safety of the bridge."

When Councillor Kahakauwila went on vacation to Mexico at the beginning of COVID, she realized her mistake and issued a formal apology. It would be nice to hear something similar from our present Mayor.

*Johanna Bubr*



Metchosin Public Works and MVFD volunteers\* L-R Trevor Brook, Jacob Lamb, Nik Walker, Mike Locke, Gord Grivel. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

# Preferable Attributes of a Councillor\*

Mayor John Ranns

One of the things I often hear when the topic of local elections comes up is “I could never do your job”. Admittedly, being a politician is not for everyone; however, it is not that difficult if you have the right attributes. I have put together, in no particular order, the top ten characteristics someone considering the job should have. Again, this is not science but merely my own observations.

- 1. A thick skin.** This single attribute will help more than any other to make your elected experience a positive one. You can never please everyone. No matter what you do there will always be some that will think you are an idiot and will quickly use social media to prove it.
- 2. Honesty.** Politicians come under close scrutiny and there will always be someone looking to discredit. If you are honest and true to yourself, you will be able to sleep at night.
- 3. Team player.** As a local politician you must function as part of a team that you had no part in picking. Likely the teammates will not share your philosophy or perspective, but you are expected to work together to solve difficult problems under trying conditions. In Metchosin the team also includes staff. A successful council trusts and respects one another, leaving disagreements and defeats at the table, ready for a fresh start at the next meeting.
- 4. Problem solving.** The biggest job for elected representatives is solving problems. We are continually required to make decisions on grey area issues, and it can become wearing. Usually when an issue is uncertain or not clearly defined in our regulations it will come to Council to resolve. If a problem is straight forward staff handles it. One thing for certain is that as soon as one difficult problem is solved another will take its place.
- 5. Big picture thinker.** Elected officials as policy setters must be able to look at issues in a broad sense, extrapolating results and determining unintended consequences. Process is handled by staff.
- 6. Patience.** Policy or bylaws created by Council impact the entire community, often for a long time, so it is essential to thoroughly examine an issue before implementing a response. That is why

our governance systems are structured to provide ample opportunity for sober second thought and why some issues seem to take forever to resolve, especially when other levels of government or the courts are involved. Frustrating as that can be, it causes far fewer problems and hardships than reactionary decision making.

- 7. Sense of humour.** Good humour contributes to good decision making. A Council that can laugh together can work together.
- 8. Courage.** Politics is not for the faint of heart. It takes a certain amount of courage even to run for office and risk possible rejection. It takes more to make the right decision in the face of harsh criticism from friends and neighbours. You will inevitably be party to more information than the general public and you are responsible for the long-term welfare of the entire community and its residents. Good decisions are often not easy.
- 9. Ability to think on your feet.** The strength of a Council is the distillation of collective wisdom and ideas, done through real time debate. You do not have time to make notes, take them home and analyze their merits. To be effective, you need the ability to quickly formulate and modify ideas while under close and sometimes hostile public scrutiny.
- 10. Practical and realistic.** Metchosin does not have a lot of money to waste so decisions must be practical and workable. At the CRD I often see costly policies fail because they were based on ideological theory rather than real world solutions. You also need to be realistic about your role as Councillor. It is a job, nothing more and nothing less. Do it well and you can feel good about yourself when you leave.  
If a candidate possesses most of these attributes, then there is a likelihood that their council experience will be a rewarding one. In the next edition I will cover what attributes I think are not necessary and should not be considered a barrier against seeking office.

\*Editor's note: this is the second in a series of exclusive articles Mayor Ranns has agreed to write for the Muse based on his long experience as Mayor of Metchosin.

## Community Cleanup for Liz

Jacob Lamb

**Community Cleanup**  
Saturday, March 12, 9:00 am to 3 pm  
Supplies/Drop off: Fire Hall 4440 Happy Valley Rd.

On Saturday, March 12 from 9:00 am–3:00 pm the Metchosin Firefighters will be hosting a community roadside clean-up in memory of Liz Jatkovsky.

Liz was a tireless steward of the environment, with her hound, Zosia. She patrolled Metchosin's trails, roads and ditches, picking up litter then taking it to the Public Works yard every week. It was

her contribution to making our community a better place to live. Liz's work was recognized in 2015 when Moralea Milne presented her with the Friends of the Earth Award on Metchosin Day.

The Public Works crew was always happy to make time to visit with Liz and now the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department is inviting everyone to also make time. Get out, walk the roadsides and trails of our beautiful municipality and pick up the litter that has accumulated since Liz's passing.

Gloves and garbage bags will be provided at the fire hall and bags can be dropped off at the fire hall when you're finished.

## Council News

MARCH 2022



### COVID-19 Update – Municipal Operations and Council Meetings

The District of Metchosin Hall continues to be closed to the public until further notice. Wherever possible, business functions and services will continue, by telephone, email, virtual meetings and by appointment (if absolutely necessary). If you have any questions, please contact the Office at 250-474-3167, or by email at [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)

### Grant-in-Aid Program

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

### Budget Open House via Zoom – March 2022 (see District website for date)

Find out how council proposes to spend your tax dollars this year. Drop in to the budget open house, information will be available on the 2022 draft operating budget and 2022 draft capital projects.

### 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.

### District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – March 2022

Please see meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held via Zoom unless otherwise stated. All meetings begin at 7:00 pm unless noted. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are subject to cancellation. For updated information please refer to our website.

|                                                |                    |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fire Hall Steering Committee .....             | March 1            |
| Finance and Environment Budget Workshop .....  | March 1 @ 11:00 am |
| Finance & Environment Committee .....          | March 7            |
| Council Meeting .....                          | March 7            |
| Planning Committee .....                       | March 14           |
| Parks Committee .....                          | March 14           |
| Public Works Committee .....                   | March 14           |
| Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee ..... | March 15           |
| Council Meeting .....                          | March 21           |
| Environmental Advisory Select Committee .....  | March 22           |

## Metchosin Municipal Hall

[www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) 250-474-3167 – [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)

Located Beside the Red Barn at Latoria Walk  
115-611 Brookside Rd.

**I.D.A.**  
LATORIA  
**PHARMACY**  
Your Friendly Neighbourhood Pharmacy

**Call 250-590-7012**

We proudly offer full prescription services, free delivery, immunizations, and the level of service and expertise you should expect from your community pharmacy

**Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 930-6 Sat 10-4**

## Metchosin Heritage Buildings



Museum workers look to start work on landscaping around the schoolhouse. Photo by Jim MacPherson

# Countdown to Completion

Jim MacPherson

Over the past two years—while COVID raged around us—much restoration and rehabilitation work has been undertaken at the Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum.

The Museum has been lifted to replace floor joists, deal with wood-rot, and seal the newly-poured foundation and crawl space against moisture. The many improvements include new heritage siding, updated electrical services, window and door repairs, and repainting of the interior of the school. As well, the exterior was repainted in white with black trim that matches the original colour scheme of this and other public structures built during the late nineteenth century. An exterior plan has been prepared and will include landscaping design, native garden, installation of

paver stone pathways, Baker brick patio, and seating area. A white picket fence, fitting of the historical period, and an irrigation system will complete the project. The adjacent municipally owned land has been annexed and will be included in the landscaping project and function as the new entrance to the Schoolhouse Museum.

There is still work to be done: installation of the wheelchair lift, repairs to the front porch and completing the landscape project. But now, with construction completion scheduled for the end of March, the end is in sight. Landscaping will extend beyond that date into the late spring.

All of this work has been made possible through donations and grants, most notably from Heritage BC.

At present, we are starting to inventory the artifacts that were in the Museum to determine

which of them are most appropriate for the educational theme of the Museum. Making allowance for wheelchair mobility within the Museum means that there is now less display space. The Museum will include student desks, piano, teacher's desk, and smaller educational items to be displayed in cabinets.

The educational theme of the Museum will focus on the period from 1872, when the Metchosin School offered its first classes, through to the mid-twentieth century. The educational vision of the Schoolhouse Museum will serve to distinguish it from the community focus of the Pioneer Museum.

The Metchosin Museum Society is most interested in hearing from you if you have relevant items that you may wish to donate to the Museum. These items should be of direct educational

significance for the 1872 to 1949 period. They might include, for example, pictures of early classes, school texts, teaching guides, slates, and other mementos that would have furnished or been used in the early years of the Metchosin School House.

The Metchosin Museum Society is a volunteer organization registered under the BC Societies Act. The Society is responsible for the Schoolhouse Museum and the Pioneer Museum. We are most appreciative of community support and thankful for contributions of people's time and artifacts, as well as for financial support to help pay for professional services and material in the renovation and upgrades. Should you wish to donate to the Society and the museums, please contact Jim MacPherson at [macpherson.jim@gmail.com](mailto:macpherson.jim@gmail.com).

## Councillor Little Elected to Chair Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Allen Jones

At their Annual General Meeting on January 19, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee elected Councillor Marie-Térèse Little chairperson for this year. Councillor Little, who has been active on the committee for three years, replaces Councillor Cynthia Day while Adam Flint became vice-chairperson.

I was interested to know what this organisation did so I downloaded the following from their website:

“Young people and families in the Capital region who become entangled with the justice system for any number of potential reasons are often faced with a daunting journey into the unknown. Established in 1966, under the *BC Provincial Court Act* and expanded under the *Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act* to also be the Youth Justice Committee in 1987, the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee is dedicated to educating the public about the juvenile justice system, reviewing family and youth legislation, advocating to legislative bodies, and monitoring court hearings and custody facilities.

The committee directly connects regional and municipal decision-makers with frontline service providers. Its voting members are a mix of school district trustees, local government elected representatives and appointees of the Capital Regional District, which collects and provides annual funding.

Subcommittees include Court Watch, Restorative Justice, Youth Mental Health, Family Matters, Youth Matters, Communications, Priorities and the Capital Region Action Team (CRAT).

As a result of its broad legislated mandate, the VFCYJC engages with many sectors of our community: children, parents, caregivers, teachers, youth-serving agencies, social workers, lawyers, judges, police, probation officers and restorative justice and victim services workers, among others.

**Committee members are asked to:**

- Be aware of the circumstances for youth in the justice, protection, divorce and custody systems.
- Review and comment on legislation.
- Facilitate collaboration between community service providers and governance bodies in the interest of better supporting youth and families.
- Be involved in maintaining the connections between youth and family serving agencies for each community.
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that improve outcomes for families and youth who may come in contact with the justice system.
- Increase awareness of the issues facing families and youth involved in the family or youth justice systems.
- Pursue and promote meaningful reconciliation with the Indigenous community.
- Support equity of access to resources across the region.”

It is a pleasure to know that Metchosin is capably represented by our busy and active councillor.



Phone cards • Movie rentals •  
Galloping Goose sausage • Locally made meat  
and fruit pies • Bakery items • Fresh produce and  
cut flowers • Hardware and Grocery •  
• Prepared sandwiches • Fresh brewed coffee •  
You need it, we have it!

**OPEN**

Monday to Friday – 6:30 am to 9:00 pm

Saturday – 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

Sunday – 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

VISA, Mastercard, Interac

Phone & Fax: 250-478-2405



BBB Torch Award Winner - Community Service  
Winner LCT Magazine Global Operator of the Year



“... it's how you get there.”

Saanich and Cowichan Valley Wine Tours  
Brew and Spirits Tours  
Airport Transfers • Restaurant Transfers  
Christmas Light Tours and Safe Event Transportation  
Gift Certificates • A Perfect Gift!



Introducing our new Audi e-tron electric vehicles!

*Luxury* WINE TOURS  [www.lalimo.ca](http://www.lalimo.ca) [info@lalimo.ca](mailto:info@lalimo.ca)  
**250-391-9000**

## NUMA FARMS NURSERY

### Hedging & Special Orders

**OPEN 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Tues to Sat**  
Closed Sundays, Mondays and most Statutory Holidays  
3459 Luxton Road, Langford  
250-474-6005 or Email [numafarms@shaw.ca](mailto:numafarms@shaw.ca)



Derek's collection of scionwood. Photo by Derek Wulff

# The Butterflyway Project

Bev Hall,  
Metchosin Foundation

You may be familiar with the Butterflyway Project after reading about it last year in the May edition of the Metchosin Muse. According to the David Suzuki Foundation, the Butterflyway Project is a volunteer-led movement that began in five Canadian cities in 2017. Its mission is to plant native wildflowers in neighbourhoods across Canada: in backyards, schoolyards, parks, and beside streets, in order to create healthy habitat that will support bees, butterflies and birds.

The Moralea Milne Meadow Project, sponsored by the Metchosin Foundation, was invited to participate in the Butterflyway project by our local Butterfly Ranger, Marnie Essery. In order to support and further expand food and shelter for pollinators, the directors of the Metchosin Foundation decided to offer financial assistance to the two local schools in our District: Hans Helgesen and Westmont, as well as to the Stewards of Sc'ianew Society at Beecher Bay. The very good news is that all three organizations are willing to participate in the project as they are already planting native species

in their respective environments. They were grateful for the opportunity to purchase additional locally-sourced native plants and seeds. A sponsor in each school and in the Sc'ianew Society has been identified and the Butterflyway Project will continue under the expert advice of Marnie Essery.

If you would like further information about the Butterflyway Project or tips on how to create your own pollinator-friendly garden, including lists of pollinator-friendly plants assembled by Habitat Acquisition Trust, please visit the David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Project [david Suzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway](https://david Suzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway). Perhaps talk to your neighbours about creating a neighborhood butterflyway, or volunteer at one of the local schools to help them establish their pollinator-friendly schoolyard.



What does the Baha'i Faith say about death?

*"To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes, is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed if the cage is broken."*

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

# The 2022 Annual Metchosin Apple Grafting Day

Derek Wulff

**APPLE GRAFTING DAY**  
Sunday, March 27 • 1:30–2:30 pm  
Bilston Farm  
4185 Metchosin Road

Ever since apples were invented people have realized that grafting apples is the best way to propagate the fruit of the gods (the exact god we are still researching).

The Royal Metchosin Pomological Society is once again having its annual Top Secret Spring Grafting Day.

Last year, even with COVID, we continued the fine tradition of pomological husbandry. With most of us boosted, we are ready to go at it again. Come and be a part of one of the most exciting of all agricultural activities: grafting scionwood from one apple tree onto the rootstock of another one!

As always we will have scionwood available for free but, if you have some, bring it along and share it with others. If you have an apple that you want to share – tasty, a good keeper, great in pies (etc.) bring along a few extra scions for others. Heritage varieties – bring 'em!

We will have about 40 rootstock of various types (mostly

dwarfing) and you can bring a piece of scionwood from a tree you really like and we will show you and help you graft it to the scionwood – to make an identical apple tree of that type. While not exactly apples, we will have some pear scionwood this year and quince rootstock – so you can make a pear tree. We will also have some plum scionwood available. Plums, while not as fun or romantic as apples, are still tasty and grow well in Metchosin, so we're inviting them along for the ride.

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 root stock this year – so bring the tree in that pot along!

We will have some local experts, helping in this annual event, and bring a child – it's about time they learned something useful.

### COVID RULES APPLY

Bilston Creek Farm rules are that you need to be fully vaccinated and bring a mask, and only come

if you are feeling well. Weather permitting we will be outside.

We will supply rootstock and welcome anyone who is interested in trying their hand at grafting to come out on Sunday, March 27 at Bilston Farm, 1:30–2:30 pm. Each rootstock costs \$5 and we will supply grafting tape and materials (start collecting elastic bands).

Go out right now, cut off some one year old new 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. Collect it right away – it looks like it may be an early spring.

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.

If you have any questions please call Dan O'Connell, our newly acclaimed president of the Royal Metchosin Pomological Society 250 474 2330. See you on the March 27.

dynamic • independent • connected

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
for the 21/22 school year.

Placements available for grades 4-12!

We are committed to academic excellence in a caring learning environment.

www.westmontschool.ca | T: 250.474.2626 | info@westmontschool.ca

**Metchosin bellyfit**  
*love how you feel.*

Come and join Shannon and Erin at the old Metchosin School to move your body, embrace your feminine wisdom and have so much fun while doing it!

It's **Bellyfit**: a holistic fitness class designed exclusively for women that combines fitness, dance and yoga.

Contact us at [metchosinbellyfit@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinbellyfit@gmail.com) or @metchosinbellyfit on Facebook for class times and more info!

## Farms and Farmers in Metchosin

# Round the Bend Farm Country Roads, Take me Home

Marie-Térèse Little, Councillor and Parks Chair, District of Metchosin

Coming home. Much has been said about this sentiment. Poets and songwriters have sought to reflect our feelings about coming home to a place of hope, comfort, and belonging. Extolling the virtues of returning to a place for solace and security. Coming home also best describes the little farm and its occupants located just around the bend of Hillman road in the Village of Metchosin. I was curious about these young farmers and their beginnings and how they managed to pivot during the pandemic.

The golden opportunity to purchase a small farm on 15 acres of Agricultural Land Reserve land within the heart of Metchosin arose in 2018. Having grown up in Metchosin and surrounded by all things equine, Candace Lecompte jumped at the chance to bring her family home from Ontario. The family consists of Candace and her husband Eric and their three children: Nicholas, Bentley, and Georgia, ages eight, six, and four, respectively.

We followed the kids around the farm as they ran from paddock to paddock eager to show me their animals. Around each corner yet another herd of animals revealed itself. Round the Bend Farm is home to pigs, cows, horses, and sheep. The farm animals are an extension of the family and they are treated well with excellent feed, plenty of space, and lots of outdoor time ranging the land.

Clearly, Candace and Eric love the farm life and the lifestyle it

can offer their family. The quality of the meat matches their commitment to treat their animals ethically with care and attention. Most importantly, they value the opportunity it presents to their children. With all the electronic



Georgia caring for her sheep

and sedentary trappings of our modern world at hand, farm life presents children with the opportunity to work hard in the fresh air, with consistent responsibilities, boundaries, and expectations. The opportunity to learn something new about every aspect of the farm lifecycle is also appealing. I, too, marvel at this ideal setting and upbringing. As I watched Georgia and her beautiful blonde curls roll horizontally in the muck, all I could think about was that these kids must have an amazing immune system!

Success thus far can partly be attributed to their enthusiasm, youth, hard work, and stamina. However, collaborative credit is also due to the community that surrounds them. Mentorship by Stef and Cam Prenevost at every step of the farming lifecycle has been central and crucial to their farming accomplishments. Candace and Eric have also been assisted by other long-time farmers in Metchosin who have the

knowledge and wisdom to share. Eric can fix just about anything; a versatile and crucial skill necessary when plenty of fences and buildings require maintenance.

Round the Bend Farm also experienced the urgency of people seeking a local food source at the beginning of the global pandemic. They didn't need to do a pandemic pivot because their farm is a small, easily isolated operation. Candace recognizes that they don't have the capacity to expand their operations believing in raising livestock on a small hands-on scale. They understand the expense of raising animals in an ethical and environmentally sustainable manner and the resulting time commitment; they are resolved to help as many people as they can, within their limits and resources.

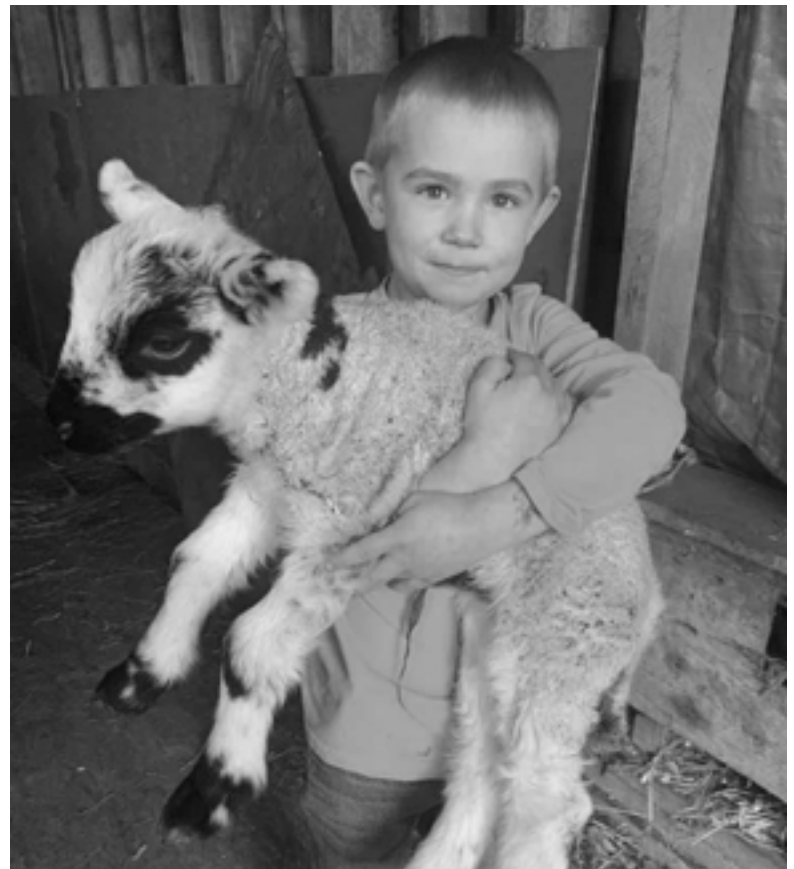
As articulated by other farmers, they hope that the demand for all local products will be sustained well after the pandemic. They agree that the key to maintaining the rural aspect of our community and a significant contribution to local long-term food security and sustainability lies with the strength, adaptability, resilience, and ultimate success of our local farmers.

Almost heaven I mused as I left this little farm around the bend as the lyrics, "Country roads take me home" echoed between Metchosin and Blinkhorn Mountains in our misty bucolic village.

Contact information for Round the Bend Farm is: 825 Hillman Road, Metchosin, candacez1@hotmail.com or Round the Bend Farm on Facebook.



Nicolas proudly displays a new heifer.



Bentley with his new charge. All photos by Marie-Térèse Little

**Supporting Environmental Stewardship and Education in our Community**

visit us at: [metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca) Registered charity

941 Arden Rd.  
Victoria, BC. V9C 4G3  
Home: (250) 474-7403  
Cell: (250) 514-7339

**KIVARI AUTO REPAIR**  
A modern approach to car care with good old-fashioned service.  
Kevin Kivari  
Certified mechanic/owner/operator  
k\_kivari@shaw.ca  
[www.kivaristudio.com](http://www.kivaristudio.com)

**Juan de Fuca VETERINARY CLINIC**

250-478-0422

Compassionate, professional, courteous care.  
Your pets... our family

**NDP**

**Proud to serve Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke**

**Randall Garrison, MP**

#2-50 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC V9A 1B5  
250-405-6550  
[Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca)  
[www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca](http://www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca)

**Bella Yoga Studio**

Yoga in the Neighbourhood - Duke Rd W.  
**Yoga For All! Hatha Yoga! All Levels**

Curvy Yoga\* Ayurveda\*  
Yogalites\* Workshops  
Beginners Yoga & All Levels Welcome  
Beautiful - Fun - Safe - Peaceful - Explore  
Wellness - Enjoy - Release - Love

Beginners Yoga! All Levels  
Mindful Moments - Come Explore  
Hatha Yoga - & Move your body!

**YOGA for Round Bodies™**

[www.Bellayoga.ca](http://www.Bellayoga.ca)  
Georgia 250-391-0497 • Email [georgia@bellayoga.ca](mailto:georgia@bellayoga.ca)

Caring for pets in the Westshore since 1981. We are proud to be members of this growing community.

**We ♥ Locals**

The Metchosin Muse!

# A Greener Metchosin Home



Allen Jones

One of our greatest challenges today is finding and utilising sufficient energy resources that do not release carbon dioxide to replace fossil fuels as our primary energy source. Following these concerns about climate change, Michelle and I decided to look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint. So, in July 2021, we registered for the Canada Greener Homes Grant which offered up to \$5000 reimbursement for eligible retrofits to homes in Canada. It also allowed up to \$600 towards Energuide evaluations. The Energuide is an indication of the energy consumption for the house in Gigajoule/year.

This is not a speedy process and it was not until September 27 that the required energy audit was carried out by a specialist company, Total Home Solutions Inc.

The audit involved a visual examination of the house and a test for air leakage. We were told by the inspector that work could start as soon as we wanted after the inspection was completed.

It was in November 2021 that we got a copy of the energy report. The report was very thorough and showed the efficiency of a house built thirty years ago. Despite having a wood burner installed a few years ago, our space heating was estimated at 43% of our total energy consumption. The important figure was the rating of the greenhouse gas emissions which was calculated to be 0.2 tonnes per year. As our house was shown to be slightly better than the average Canadian home, you can figure out how much Canadian homes are contributing to Climate Change.

Next we made enquiries to Victoria-based solar panel



Left: Brendan and Jeff from Shift Energy. Above: solar array to the rear south facing roof.

Photos by Allen Jones

installers. Using satellite pictures the installer quoted for an array that should produce up to 9.9 kW of energy. This would be connected to the BC Hydro supply and could mean that we get energy credit through the summer period. We contracted Shift Energy Group to carry out the work and paid a deposit before work commenced at the end of December.

Fortunately for the workmen, Brendan, Jeff and lead electrician Andrew, the roofing work was carried out before the snow came down. It only took a couple of days to install and great care was taken to access the roof, with safety equipment, and the house, with COVID masks. The solar panels now cover most of the rear south-facing main roof. I am not

sure if that gives protection from fires in the backyard but the snow certainly slipped off very speedily.

After installing, Solar Energy arranged for BC Hydro to approve the connection and, using Wifi, connected the system to an app provided by Solar Edge, an Israeli-based company. After free registration with Solar Edge it was possible to see a chart showing the efficiency of the solar panels in detail. After one week of poor weather and low sun (if any), it recorded over 20 kg of CO2 saved or the equivalent of planting 0.64 trees! By the middle of February, it showed that the first two weeks in February, with the increased sunlight, produced more energy than the whole of January.

The next project is to replace the gasoline burning Mazda and drive an electrical vehicle. For this to occur Shift Energy has installed an EV charger in the garage, for our use and guests as well.

We have had the final inspection by Total Home Solutions that will allow Canada Greener Homes to release the grant that has been promised. We are advised that this payment could take several weeks to arrive.

These improvements require capital expenditure but, with the available grants and the future cost savings, they do make economic sense and the fact that we are helping to reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is very rewarding.



## No-Dig Gardening!

Derek Wulff

**NO DIG GARDEN WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 10:00 am  
925 Clapham Drive**

With all the new information about mycelial connections in the underground world, more and more gardeners are turning to a type of gardening called 'no-dig'.

Much easier to do, and take care of, 'no-dig' gardening is a

method of gardening that entails merely adding a few centimetres of new compost (or soil) each year and planting directly into small holes that are made for the new plants.

Charles Dowding is the guru for no dig gardening, look him up on YouTube, and I have been following his techniques for a number of years with excellent results. So, to celebrate this great way of gardening for your home garden, I am holding a free no-dig gardening workshop at my house, 925 Clapham Drive, on Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 am to show how this type of gardening is both easier and very productive, and we will make a new garden while you are there!

Much of the sowing for no-dig is done from multi-sown seed starts and is fantastically efficient, and I will give demonstrations about this as well.

The price of vegetables has increased a lot this year and this is a great way to grow your own food at home at a fraction of the cost, and without having to do much work. I'm not saying you are lazy, but other people have been talking! No-dig gardening extends harvesting times and reduces weeding times, so bring the kids (about time they learned something useful) and grow your own – eat better, and save money.

Let's make Metchosin more self-sustaining and food secure!

If you have any questions, please call Derek Wulff at 250 478 2677.

**Making a difference with Responsible Investing**

Ethical & Socially Responsible Investing

Portfolios built to match your investments with your values

[Learn More](#)

Keith Haigh  
Financial Advisor  
2244 Sooke Rd, Unit 110,  
V9B 1X1  
250.391.1655  
keith.haigh@edwardjones.com

**Edward Jones**

**TIMBERHAWK HOMEBUILDERS LTD.**

CUSTOM HOMES  
RENOVATIONS  
CARPENTRY  
DESIGN  
GENERAL CONTRACTING

**250-590-2377**

TIMBERHAWK@GMAIL.COM

ANGUS STEWART  
CHRIS FRANG  
METCHOSIN OWNERS

ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED BUILDERS

# A Farewell to Bob Mitchell

Robin Tunnicliffe

Metchosin just got a little quieter, a little more docile and definitely less colourful. A library of local history has been lost. On February 13, Bob Mitchell passed away at the Victoria Hospice at the age of 83. Farmer, politician, thinker and International Man of Mystery, the tales of Bob's adventures in life will live on in the many lives he touched.

Bob was born in Saskatchewan but came to Metchosin as a young boy. He fondly recounted a rich childhood spent blowing up stumps with dynamite and tossing hay bales with his father. Bob's wild years were enlivened by running after-hours night clubs in Arizona and Seattle. He recalled these years as the best of his life. He met and married Jackie Slatter and fathered his wonderful son, Geoff. He wasn't one for domestic life, and soon ended up in jail after getting busted for turning his agricultural gifts to the cultivation of marijuana. We guessed that Bob's short stint in jail was the thrill of his life, for we heard many a soliloquy about his time behind bars. He continued to advocate for youth detainees and for prisoners at William Head for many decades.

Bob's adventures spanned some years up at Cloose on the West Coast trail. He loved recounting tales of incoming storms onto the beach, and having to sail out to anchor his boat, and then swim to shore to keep his rig from getting tossed into the rocks. He continued to visit the site,

and was there last fall when he had to hike out because of a misadventure.

Bob served on Metchosin Council for three terms, his slogan "I'm the only one running that has a conviction!" The folks of Metchosin will be familiar with the sight (and smell) of the tractor and trailer load of sea-



Bob Mitchell at home on the farm.  
Robin Tunnicliffe

weed coming up from Weir's Beach. He was a regular at the Broken Paddle, and could be seen whipping around Metchosin and beyond in his iconic Mini Cooper, the farm delivery vehicle. A point of pride for Bob was to be the first one to plough up his field in the spring, even when he got mired down in the mud.

Above all, Bob loved Sea Bluff Farm. He was so proud to feed the community 12 months of the year from our humble farm stand on Wootton Rd. "Things are really cooking!" he'd say with satisfaction while looking over our loaded display. Bob was rototilling in the greenhouse mere weeks before he died. He

would spend hours on the end of a hoe, methodically saving crops from the weeds. He was devoted to soil health and his legacy lives on in our giant beets and Hubbard squash.

Bob was happiest when he was sharing knowledge: helping out new farmers and scheming about local politics. "Welcome to Metchosin politics" was a favourite expression. Bob shone when he was the centre of attention, and he could regale tales drawing on a huge breadth of knowledge. He was extremely well read, always curious, and had an excellent memory for municipal history.

Bob leaves behind his family: son Geoff, siblings Frank (Jo), Susan, and Wendy (Wes). Nieces and nephews Violaine (Tom), Jax (Brian), Bob (Shannon) and grand-nieces and nephews. Bob also leaves behind his 'farm'ly: Robin and Sasha, Ernie, Heather, Graham, Sarah, Ariella and the many new farmers he inspired.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Bob Mitchell micro-loan Fund for New Farmers. Over the past 10 years, Bob has changed the lives of six new farmers who used the loan and were able to pay it back in the same year because of their strong start.

A memorial service for Bob will be held at the Sea Bluff Farm picnic shelter, March 12 from 1:00–3:00 pm. Come ready to share your favourite Bob stories!

Send donations to the Bob Mitchell New Farmer Micro loan fund to: seabluffbox@outlook.com with the subject line: Bob Micro loan.

*Memorial Service: Sea Bluff Farm picnic shelter, Saturday, March 12, 1:00–3:00 pm*



Photo from Sea Bluff Farm' by Barb Sawatsky



Coffee time at Sea Bluff Farm with Bob Mitchell, Robin Tunnicliffe, and Sasha Kubicek. All photos by Marie-Térèse Little unless noted



Bob in the pumpkin patch



Bob Mitchell

## A Memory of Bob Mitchell

Marie-Térèse Little, Councillor,  
Parks Chair, District of Metchosin

As a volunteer at Westmont school learning garden in 2007, I would spend hours hand-turning the compost bins. Being a farmer's daughter, I reasoned that we, the volunteers, needed a tractor to turn the compost bins.

My daughter and I had just experienced an autumn hayride to pick pumpkins with 'Farmer Bob from Sea Bluff. We bumped along the fields of Sea Bluff Farm, to Stillmeadow farm, in and out of the trees and barns and around to the top to the bluff on the edge of the Salish Sea. Imagine twenty four- to six-year-olds squealing with delight as Bob navigated the shuddering tractor and wagon as he came too close to the trees, particularly those that used to stand at the top of the Bluff. This remains one of my daughter's favourite memories of school in Metchosin!

After the hayride, I asked Bob if he could come by with his tractor and turn the school's compost bins and he enthusiastically threw up his arms and said "Sure ... I donated and supported the building of that school". He only asked for compensation in terms of gasoline money for the tractor but most times he didn't cash the cheque and he certainly didn't charge for

hayrides. This was my introduction to Bob Mitchell.

In 2018, when I submitted my name for a Council position, Bob approached me at the Municipal Hall reception area loudly proclaiming he wanted to take me to lunch to give me the lay of the land as far as Metchosin politics were concerned.

Bob chose one of his favourite places, Glenrosa Farm Restaurant because he loved the food and the owners. In 2015, he supported their municipal temporary use permit. I didn't realise we were going to be talking permits so I quickly researched 'District of Metchosin and permits' before our lunch.

He started off the lunch with the rhetorical statement "the food is good, are you having a beer?" His loud monologue started with "when I was in jail ..." You could see other patrons sitting up and leaning into our conversation. I am positive that the chef poked his head out the kitchen. The restaurateur, Jane Hammond, calmly walked by with the menus and gave me a knowing smile. I suspect the look on my face was priceless.

What an education! He had stories of the water board, the CRD, the wild west coast, and of course Metchosin politics and politicians. He supported my election campaign and, after I was

elected, we met every few months for lunch until the pandemic hit. We resumed our lunch time educational sessions in the summer of 2021 and we had planned to have a February lunch in Sooke.

I went to see Bob at the hospital during his last days and I remarked "I can tell you what happened at the latest in-camera meeting now that you are dying Bob ..." and we both laughed and cried about the situation. As he always did, his last comment was "Welcome ... to Metchosin ... politics" in that staccato, prolonged and fragmented way.

Bob was generous with his time and his resources. His utmost love was Sea Bluff Farm and the people he chose to work the land alongside him. He was a proud mentor for young farmers and, as I found out, to aspiring politicians.

Bob didn't suffer fools lightly, and I heard he could make stinging remarks he deemed necessary. He certainly took pleasure in shocking me with his many tales of his youth (and jail).

To me he was funny, quirky, dynamic, worldly, and well-read. He seemed to be equally in his element when at the helm of a tractor or dominating a political discussion. I shall miss him, indeed.

Sea Bluff Farm at [www.seablufffarm.com](http://www.seablufffarm.com) was featured in the February 2021 issue of the *Metchosin Muse*.



Sea Bluff Farms Photo from their social media account

## Metchosin Search & Rescue



Andrew Spray with his Lifetime Achievement Volunteer of the Year Award (May 6, 2018). Photo by Kendrea Wong: the Goldstream Gazette

# Three Eras

Metchosin Search and Rescue

Sometime around 1977 the first of three eras began in Metchosin. At that time, long-time resident Andrew Spray was a faculty member at the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific at Pedder Bay. Being immersed in the Pearson College lifestyle, Andrew was part of the Pearson College Land Rescue team that introduced Metchosin to the idea of volunteer search and rescue. Under the umbrella of the Provincial Emergency Program (now Emergency Management BC), this search and rescue team conducted search and rescue operations on southern Vancouver Island.

The second era began in 1988, a few years after Metchosin was incorporated. It was then that former resident Terry Cue, together with a small group of Metchosinites, collaborated with Andrew to establish a search and rescue group dedicated to our community. Metchosin Search and Rescue (SAR) was born. Running training out of the original Municipal Hall, around 15 dedicated volunteers met twice a month to train in search and rescue techniques. Many of these founding members still live in Metchosin.

Back then, to become certified as a search and rescue technician in BC, volunteers had to complete 70 hours of training. SAR instruction followed the program detailed in the 1990

Basic Search and Rescue training manual, whose primary author was Andrew. This ultimately became the template for the Ground Search and Rescue training manual that is still in use today. Since those early days of Metchosin SAR (MSAR), Andrew has been a Regional SAR Advisor, SAR Instructor, Team Leader, Rope Rescue Technician and SAR Manager. As Regional SAR Advisor, Andrew was instrumental in developing SAR standards for the entire province.

But that's only part of Andrew's story. Notwithstanding all his technical certifications, experience and SAR abilities, there is an intangible quality to Andrew and his understated contributions to MSAR. For those that volunteer for their community, most contribute volunteer hours for perhaps five years. As a founding member of MSAR and his earlier tenure with Pearson College Land Rescue, Andrew has given tirelessly of his time to Metchosin and the Province for over 45 years. During that time, he has attended hundreds of search and rescue calls throughout southern Vancouver Island, excelling at every level from searcher to SAR Manager. Search callouts can take place at any time, day or night.

For the 150 or so Metchosin Search and Rescue volunteers who have given their time to our community since 1988, Andrew has become a leader, mentor and friend

to each of them. Through his calm, unassuming demeanour and deep SAR wisdom, Andrew has been an unwavering constant with MSAR, always willing to step forward, in whatever capacity was needed.

In recognition of his volunteer service to the community, in 2018, Andrew was invited to the BC Legislature as the honoured and much deserved recipient of the Emergency Management BC Lifetime Achievement Volunteer of the Year Award.

The third era begins with something of an end. Recently, Andrew quietly announced his retirement from active duty with MSAR. No fanfare, no big announcement. Just an almost invisible statement to his peers that he has given all he can to MSAR. And that's the Andrew Spray we all know and respect. There is no doubt that he will be there to offer advice when called upon as an associate member. But, for now, he is leaving MSAR in good hands, a group of around 45 volunteers who continue to follow his lead.

In the words of Terry Cue, on hearing of Andrew's retirement, he simply stated that "Andrew was always a very important member of the group and was a leader and an example to all the members."

Thank you Andrew, for keeping one hand always firmly on the MSAR compass and helping all of us to guide the way. Well done, Andrew ... well done indeed.

*Metchosin SAR Out.*

## Embracing Change St Mary's Metchosin Challenge in its Sixth Year

Sharleen Thompson

The world is changing fast. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to plan for anything. The climate is changing and threatens Metchosin with fires, crop failures, and flood events. The population around us is growing fast and changing our environment. How do we handle this change and what can we do to mitigate the change that we do not want and how do we embrace changes that need to happen? St Mary's is leading another challenge to the Western communities to live better and be more informed. This series of interactive speakers will all present some aspect of Embracing Change. This will all happen by Zoom on Thursday evenings from March 3 to April 7.

This series continues the five years that the Metchosin Challenge has covered issues such as climate change, human right issues, big issues in the world, and practical things that we can do to make a difference. It is a secular approach to the self-examination that we try to do during Lent. The Challenge is an outreach to the community on the common issues we face.

In this Challenge we will hear from a panel of people debating water security and food security. We will learn about what kinds of new infections, like COVID-19, could be coming at us and why. We will explore how we can better personally handle change and other stressors. Pilgrimage and other contemplative ways will be explored as a way to seek change and finally

learn how our choices in how we consume affects our world.

The first one of this series, on **March 3**, is actually piggy-backing on a Diocese wide Panel presentation of three speakers. It is from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, rather than the usual 7:00 pm start. This will be followed by a local discussion on our own Zoom Link at 7:00 pm. This is the first time that we have joined the diocese in one of their Albert Hall Lectures with international level presenters. There are three speakers Tzaporah Berman, a well-known environment activist from BC, Deondre Smiles Geography Professor and Christina Zenner from Fordham University and author of the book, *Just Water*. The topic is water security.

**March 10**, 7:00 pm, we follow that with Dr. Edward Ishiguro from the University of Victoria (UVic), talking about new infections, where they come from, and their relationship to us and how we need to change.

**March 17**, 7:00 pm, we have Jim Cornelius, from Winnipeg, who just retired as head of the Canadian Food Grain Bank, a non-profit, which supplies food as needed all over the world. He talks about changes in food security all around the world.

**March 24**, 7:00 pm, Dr. Laura Lauzon, from the University of Victoria, will be presenting how we personally handle the stress of change.

**March 31**, 7:00 pm, Rev Matt Humphrey looking at how pilgrimage can be used for contemplating life changes. This will be a couple of days before St Mary's Pilgrimage walk.

**April 7**, the last speaker is Lauren Burton, a PhD. student at UVic. She will talk about choices we make as consumers and how these affect species diversity and the environment. What do we need to change to improve the environment?

To get more detail on Embracing Change, for the bio and topic schedule, and to be sent a Zoom link, send an email to [Sharleenthompson@hotmail.com](mailto:Sharleenthompson@hotmail.com).

## CAN DO!

High Quality Colour Printing  
Coroplast & Foam Board Signs  
Hanging & Stand Up Banners  
Wide Format Scan & Email  
Building Plans  
Laminating  
Business Cards  
Graphic Design  
and SO much more...

Public Fax Service

MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
8:00 am – 5:30 pm

250-478-5533

2811 Jacklin Road  
[www.westsidestaprint.ca](http://www.westsidestaprint.ca)

WHEN YOU LAST THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR WILL,  
WAS THIS MAN STILL GOVERNOR?



Is it time to review your will?

For a free consultation, call

MacIsaac & MacIsaac

250-478-1131

[www.macisaaclaw.ca](http://www.macisaaclaw.ca) | 2227 Sooke Road, Colwood

ICBC / Personal Injury / Civil Litigation / Family Law  
Wills and Estates

MY-CHOSEN  
Café  
250-474-2333

**Come in and experience our  
quaint country atmosphere  
and our hearty portions of  
great home-cooked foods!**

Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm | Closed Mondays

MY-CHOSEN  
PIZZA

Pickup after noon,  
delivery after 4pm  
250-474-5576

Tue & Wed: 4-9 pm | Thu-Sun 11 am-9 pm | Closed Mondays

Check our website for updates! [www.mychosencafe.com](http://www.mychosencafe.com)  
Corner of Happy Valley and Metchosin Roads

# A Season of Change for Witty's Lagoon Regional Park

## Nature Centre to Close Permanently

Colleen Long,  
CRD co-ordinator of volunteers

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park is a crown jewel of Metchosin. If you're someone who enjoys the outdoors, you've likely visited the park to enjoy the waterfall view, the expanse of sandy beach and network of walking trails. You may have even stopped by the Nature Centre to chat with Volunteer Naturalists and learn something new. The dedicated team of volunteers have touched many park visitors over the years, helping them connect with the area and better understand its complexities and brilliance.

In the interest of visitor safety, the Nature Centre closed in March 2020. Since that time, there has been much thought and discussion about the future of the site. Recently, it was decided to permanently close and decommission the Nature Centre due to safety concerns. The current building has outlived its intended lifespan and is no longer structurally sound. At this time, there are no plans to build a replacement Nature Centre at this location.

There will continue to be a volunteer presence in the park. Volunteer Park Stewards regularly check trail conditions and facilities and send updates to CRD Regional Parks staff. They also connect with park visitors, providing information and answering questions. Once outdoor events return, Event Volunteers will be a crucial part of the team that makes interpretive events memorable for all ages.

If you have been for a beach walk recently, you may have noticed

a new restoration project in progress, the goal of which is to protect the endangered and rare plant species that grow in the sensitive sand dune ecosystem. Both staff and volunteers will be involved in the project over the next few years.

If you're looking for more ways to connect with Witty's Lagoon, check out the CRD website for upcoming interpretive programming [crd.bc.ca/park-events](http://crd.bc.ca/park-events).

With everything from pre-school programs to adult guided walks, there's something for everyone. See page 15 in the *Muse* this issue for a listing. If you're visiting the park this spring, you'll likely see many excited students participating in regional parks school programs. They'll be busy exploring the outdoor classroom of the teaching shelter and the surrounding area of the Lagoon Trail.

To ensure visitors have access to up-to-date safety and park information, staff will soon be updating the information kiosks throughout the park. The kiosks will also highlight the diverse ecosystems and unique cultural significance of the area.

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park is a joy to discover in any season, with wildflowers in bloom, birds singing or fascinating creatures taking shelter in a tidal pool. When we combine the efforts of staff, volunteers and park visitors, we will ensure this gem is enjoyed for generations to come.

For information on upcoming programs and events, visit [www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events). If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, contact [parksvolunteer@crd.bc.ca](mailto:parksvolunteer@crd.bc.ca).



CRD educating youngsters at Witty's Beach. CRD image bank

## Gourmet Dinner Brings Family and Friends Together

Helen Fletcher

In August, at the Sunday Metchosin market, Riki Jessup talked her father Terry into buying a ticket for the 2021 Gourmet Dinner for eight. This is the annual fundraiser for the Metchosin Seniors' Association. When Terry learned in December that his raffle ticket had been drawn, he turned the planning for the dinner back to Riki.

Due to COVID restrictions, six Metchosin chefs arrived at the doorstep of the Jessup home at 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 5 and each presented their course to the family.

Terry Jessup and Janet Reynolds were effusive in their

praise of the dinner. They invited a couple they had not seen since COVID and, with their daughter Riki, her partner and her in-laws, they enjoyed a wonderful evening. They said the dinner was presented in a way that made it very easy for them to prepare and that each course was delicious. Riki took lovely photos of each course, except the appetizer which they happily tucked into before they remembered to take photos.

The Jessups promised they would all buy tickets next year and also gave the Seniors' Association a very

generous donation. Only 220 tickets are sold for this annual fundraising event. The MSA raised \$4,400! Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket.



Spencer Goodson, Riki Jessup and Barry Goodson with the thrice baked potatoes and sweet and sour red cabbage to go with the Metchosin lamb shanks tagine. Photo by Deirdre Chettleburgh

# Thank You Generous Donors!

The Metchosin Foundation Directors extend their gratitude to the owners and staff of Bilston Creek Farm and the many, generous donors to the December 16 "Oysters & Bubbles" Silent Auction Fundraiser.

We are grateful to the following individuals and enterprises, for their generous donation of goods and services, in support of the Foundation's 2022 activities:

### Original Artwork, Prints and Books:

- AJS Art
- Carol Voyt
- Claire Gaulin-Brown
- Green Heron Studios
- Joan Rosenberg
- Murray the Dragon

### Health & Well-Being Packages:

- Eir Mobile Medicine
- Kim Lobb @ Cedar and Sage Physiotherapy
- Wholistic Guidance with Maximilian

### Home, Garden and Self-Care Products:

- Barber and Fritz
- Beautiful Planet
- Bussard Grove Pottery
- Busy Bee Farm and Florals
- Hannington Millworks
- Hobson Woodworks
- Hyde Lea Farm

- Louisa Jones
- Makoha Farm
- Metchosin Farm
- Nootka Rose Milling
- Rocky Point Candle Co
- Satinflower Nurseries
- Smoky Mountain Apiary
- Terra Pacifica
- West Coast Refill

### Getaway Experiences:

- Bilston Creek Farm
- Smith Lake Farm
- Spinnakers
- Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour

### Private Tours, Workshops and Experiences:

- Amy Lobb Portraits
- The Chocolate Project
- Dageraad Brewing
- Legacy Drive In
- Olympic View Golf Club
- Pedder Bay Marina
- Saint Cecilia Coffee

### Dine Locally at:

- Bodega
- Brown's Social House
- Dumpling Drop
- Foo Asian Street Food
- Hanks & Nowhere
- The Hot and Cold Cafe
- Mile Zero Coffee
- My Chosen Cafe
- Spinnakers

### Additional Products and Services:

- Farsik
- Fjallraven
- The Good Party
- MOTHER lifestyle
- Pathfinder Toys
- Tall Trees Creative
- Vancouver Island Scrunch
- Yellow Mark Agency

## Seniors' Resource Centre

M E T C H O S I N

"Thank you for taking a load off my current difficulties and being my lifesaver for rides."

—a Metchosin Senior



### One Drive, One Visit, One Phone Call At A Time

Volunteers give the gift of time, care and kindness.

We need a pool of volunteers to drive seniors to appointments, make friendly visits and help out at events.

**Contact the SRC to get involved.**

# VOLUNTEER

[www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca) | 250-478-5150



Healthy Lands and Waters  
— The Foundation for a Healthy Community

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

## METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

**UPDATE:** The House is still OPEN to program users and private renters following COVID restrictions. However, some MCA programs and renters have cancelled events because of COVID concerns. Please contact your program organizers to confirm if, or when, the programs will resume.

### 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.

**Knitting Café:** The evening group meets 7:00–9:00 pm, on the first and third Mondays monthly. FMI call Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

#### Tuesdays

**Drop In Painters Art Group:** This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–12:00 pm. Everyone welcome. FMI call Arlene at 250-391-7905.

**Knitting Café:** The afternoon group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly from 1:00–3:00 pm. FMI call Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00 am. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking:** Currently on hold.

#### Fridays

**Ukulele Gathering:** 5:00–6:30 pm on the third Friday of each month. Open to community members of all ages and levels of talent. If you would like to join the group please contact Margaretha at [memetopia@shaw.ca](mailto: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.

### EVENTS

**Art on the Walls:** Currently on hold.

## Metchosin Community House

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

### Metchosin ArtPod

# Art in Response to the Earth in Crisis

**Art Show: Crossroads**  
Date: Until March 27  
Time: 11:00 am–4:00 pm, Fri–Sun  
Address: 4495 Happy Valley Rd.

Elaine Hughes

The new show at the gallery that opened in February continues until March 27. Entitled *Crossroads: Art in Response to the Earth in Crisis*, the show is available for viewing during our usual opening hours of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This show has turned out to be a fascinating look through artists' eyes at the beauty of nature and the pain of its destruction. Come in to see the unique and varied perspectives on some of the most troublesome issues of our time, including fabulous work by our guest artists Claire Kujundzic, [www.claireart.ca](http://www.claireart.ca), and Bill Horne, [www.bill-horne.net](http://www.bill-horne.net). Masks are required in the gallery, and we ask that all visitors be vaccinated for the protection of our staff and other guests.

Claire taught a workshop for beginner artists in February, and another workshop taught by Bill Horne is scheduled to take place on March 19 and 20, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on *Water-based Silkscreening Process*. The focus of this workshop will be on simple methods that one can use in a home studio, without a huge investment. While this workshop is already fully booked, we do have a waiting list and a second session may be offered if there is enough interest. More information and a supply list is available on our website at [metchosinartpod.ca/event/silkscreen-workshop](http://metchosinartpod.ca/event/silkscreen-workshop).

#### DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Our next show in April and May is entitled *Sub Text: The Message in Art*. The entries for this show are open until March 11, so artists still have time to get their work – in any media that incorporates text – entered into the show. The feature artist during *Sub Text* will be ArtPod's own Diana Smith, highlighting her latest project *Abstract the News*. Our guest juror will be well-known Sooke artist, Eunmi Conacher, [eunmiconacher.com](http://eunmiconacher.com). Our submission guidelines are available

on our website at [metchosinartpod.ca/submission-guidelines](http://metchosinartpod.ca/submission-guidelines).

More information on the show is available on our Facebook, website and Instagram accounts.

#### ART CARD PROJECT

The *Art Nature Card 2022 project: Mushrooms* is well underway. As of mid-February, 31 of the 36 artists are assigned to their mushrooms and creating away. Some artists took advantage of the mushroom walks hosted by Kem Luther in Fall 2021 and got to pick their mushroom first hand. Others knew exactly what mushroom they wanted to portray, while others researched and got inspirational pictures from Kem. The deck, complete with naturalist notes on the reverse side of the image, is slated to be ready for distribution by the end of May and will be available through Metchosin ArtPod. Until then, the 2020 and 2021 Art Bird Card decks are still available.

People wanting to get in the mushroom mood are invited to watch the Netflix film *Fantastic Fungi* featuring mycologist Paul Stamets. Also, remember to pick up Kem Luther and Andy McKinnon's bestseller from Munro's or from the RBC Museum gift shop – it is a must for any forager or mycologist – budding or experienced. It is now the definitive guide to BC Mushrooms... and it was born right here in Metchosin!

If you want a sneak peek at one of the artists who is participating in our project, check out Metchosin's Dana Nygard's Instagram. Her mushroom notebook drawings are spectacular and inspiring. Speaking of nature notebooks, ArtPod is still stocking Gretchen Markel's *Witty's Lagoon sketch and notebooks*. One lovely way to appreciate this gem of a book is to read the page appropriate to the date which is possible now as this is around when she started her project. We hope that these ideas inspire you to enjoy our lovely homelands.

As always, our online portrait group is still running and details about joining are on our social media. In addition, if you want to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, go to our website, scroll to the bottom, and enter your email. It's that simple!

## METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

"Sustaining arts and contemporary culture where most of us experience it."  
STUDIOS@MACC – highlights, find the full stories on our website!

## MACCA March 2022 Update

With new track lighting, additional picture hanging rails, and improved wall surfaces in place, Metchosin Arts and Cultural Association announces four Point of View (POV) hallway exhibition spaces open for public viewing at no cost. Everyone is welcome.

#### THE POINT OF VIEW HALLWAY GALLERIES INCLUDE:

- 1. Main Hallway Gallery** currently exhibiting a conceptual piece entitled *Honouring a Living Treasure*, which was cooperatively created by a small group of local artists. It is presented as rubbing on brown paper, extending the full length of the hallway.
- 2. Adjoining Hallway Gallery** area features works by The Monday Portrait Group who produce varied creations via a weekly on-line, open, collective lead by Diana

Farrell. They are planning to work in conjunction with Metchosin Seniors Association to create unique portraits of some of our local seniors.

- 3. West Wing Hallway Gallery** an upcoming display will feature current works by Victoria College of Art faculty and students.
- 4. Upstairs Hallway Gallery** features a modern conceptual exhibition entitled *Works by Sonja Ahlers / Lives of Women and Girls* curated through Metchosin ArtLAB.

Looking towards the future, MACCA is now taking submissions from local artists who would like to be featured in one of these spaces during 2022. Please contact Point of View (POV) coordinator, Art Brendon, [ab@islandnet.com](mailto:ab@islandnet.com). Note that exhibitions are typically on display for a two month period.

**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](http://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)

 Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

**METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE**  
4495 Happy Valley Road – [info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)  
[metchosinartcentre.ca](http://metchosinartcentre.ca)

Currently Showing at  
ArtPod  
Until March 27, 2022

## CROSSROADS

*Art in response to our earth in crisis*

Feature Artists & Guest Jurors:  
Claire Kujundzic and Bill Horne



Submissions invited  
for April show  
Deadline March 11

## Sub Text: The Message in Art.

Art incorporating text  
in any medium

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



4495 Happy Valley Road, Metchosin, BC  
[metchosinartpod@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinartpod@gmail.com)  
[metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)

Hours: FRI–SUN 11 am–4 pm

  #MetchosinArtPod

# Strike Out at Bird/Window Collisions Before Spring Migration

Erin Ryan, BC SPCA's Wild ARC

More than 25 million birds are killed by collisions with windows every year in Canada. While a crystal-clear window is a satisfying view for us, for birds it's a death trap. To them, it's hardly visible at all and birds are especially vulnerable during their spring and fall migration periods.

## THE DEADLY EFFECTS OF REFLECTIONS

Windows have become one of the bird's most costly threats, with more dying from striking them than collisions with power lines, communication towers or vehicles. From the smallest hummingbirds and songbirds, to majestic hawks or owls, they are all victims of this unfortunate situation.

Birds end up colliding with windows simply because they can't see the glass. When windows reflect the landscape or the sky, it may look like an inviting place to fly. At night, lit windows can attract birds and confuse or divert them from their regular path. This is a year-round hazard for birds, in all types of weather.

Often, when birds survive a window collision, it will temporarily stun them and they will fly off, as if recovered. In reality, the bird may die later from internal injuries or the bird will then be an easier victim to predators or other dangers.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN INJURED BIRD?

If you find a bird that has struck a window, take note of any obvious signs of injury while containing the bird in a cardboard box with air holes and a secure lid. Place the box in a dark, quiet place and contact Wild ARC at 1-855-622-7722 for advice. It's important to seek advice of experts rather than trying to provide care yourself – these birds need specialized care and attention, so wildlife rehabilitation is their best chance for survival. It is illegal to attempt to care for wild animals without a permit.

Every year Wild ARC cares for many victims of window collisions. Recently, a red-breasted nuthatch had collided with a home window. Before the homeowner could get to them, the bird, unable to react quickly enough to escape, was caught by a cat outdoors. Wild ARC's rehabilitation team found that in addition to suffering from mild head trauma as a result of the window-strike, the bird had sustained soft-tissue damage to the wing and several puncture wounds from the cat.

Fortunately, after nearly a month of treatment at the rehabilitation facility – including a supportive wing wrap, painkillers and antibiotics, and housing in a progressively larger series of enclosures to regain his fitness – he was released back to his home territory.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP?

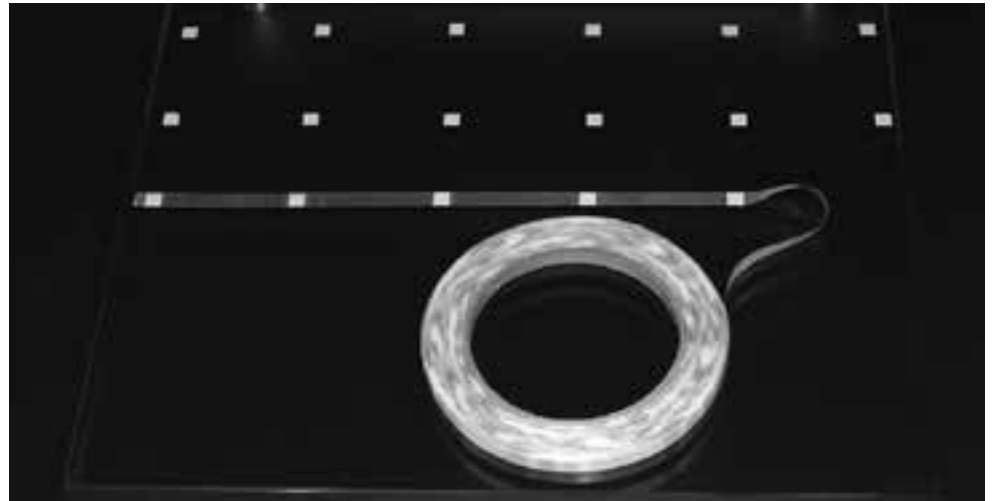
Don't wait until you hear a dreaded THUD. Get ahead of spring and make a plan to protect birds now. Luckily, there are easy steps you can take to help protect birds from window strikes. Anything that helps break up the reflection of the window will make it safer for birds.

For a fix, buy speciality tape designed to make windows visible to birds, yet still allow light to pass through for a low-impact on your view. The tapes are easy to apply and provide a more permanent solution for safe windows. 'WindowAlert' decals are also a visually pleasing option. These decals brilliantly reflect ultraviolet light – invisible to humans, but glow like a stoplight for birds. The UV coating will fade based on exposure, so you will need to replace or re-apply a coating of UV liquid every four months.

For a low-tech, DIY option, try using window markers or draw on your windows with a bar of soap, or hang mylar strips or well-secured strings of beads on windows – be creative! A dirty window is a safer window. Relax on your cleaning schedule, and know that birds are safer for it.



Nuthatch in care of Wild ARC. All photos by Wild ARC



'Feather-friendly' tape



'CollidEscape' tape on glass doors



DO YOUR SHOES FIT  
**PROPERLY?**



123-755 Goldstream Rd.

Stop by for a **FREE shoe fitting with a Fit Expert** at Fronrunners Langford in Goldstream Village.

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



OSPREY TREE SERVICE

☎ 250 474 7993

✉ [ospreytrees@shaw.ca](mailto:ospreytrees@shaw.ca)

Osprey Tree Service is a team of qualified arborists and forestry professionals who have been working in BC forests for over 35 years. Our collective knowledge and extensive resources mean that there is no job too big or too challenging for us to take on!

## SERVICES INCLUDE

- REMOVAL
- PRUNING
- CHIPPING
- HEDGE MAINTENANCE
- QUALIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENTS (TRAQ)
- B.C. FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS
- WILDLIFE TREE ASSESSMENTS
- DANGER TREE ASSESSMENTS



ISA, ITA & TRAQ  
Certified Arborist



**CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY**



### A Metchosin Moment

It's Lambing season at Sea Bluff Farm. Photo by Max Stec

## KEEP CALM AND POUR ON



The Wine Maker  
(250) 704-1000  
www.thewinemaker.ca

### WESTCOAST TIRE and WHEEL Ltd.

since 1980

**HOURS:**  
Mon-Fri: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**250-889-6161**  
or  
**250-642-4044**

Nitrogen  
Force Variance  
Balancing



MICHELIN  
BFGoodrich

4730 SOOKE RD. • VICTORIA  
15 mins from Colwood Corners

www.westcoasttires.com

## LIGHTHOUSE Painting

Interior & Exterior  
20 Years Experience  
Clean Reliable & Local  
WCB Insured • Free Estimates  
1-250-509-0439 | shwnbrwn@icloud.com

## Working for our community

Hon. Mitzi Dean  
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885  
#104-1497 Admirals Road  
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
MitziDean.ca



# Seniors' Resource Centre

## M E T C H O S I N

The Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC) is the go-to centre for seniors' information in Metchosin. We connect people with information, resources, and referral services. Staff and volunteers offer medical and grocery drives, friendly visits and phone calls, peer listening, events, and computer support. Our goal is to keep Metchosin age-friendly for our seniors and their families. The SRC is open from Tuesday to Friday from noon to 4:00 pm.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Metchosin Seniors' Association (MSA) will be held on Friday, March 25, 1:00–3:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House. The AGM will review activities, achievements, and operations of 2021. Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop will be the guest speaker. We will be following all public health protocols. Please wear a mask and bring your proof of vaccination card. The AGM documents are posted on the MSA website.

voice, to know that someone cares about how they are doing. Our aim is to have a pool of volunteers to draw upon. We need each other – find out how you can help.

Call Laurie at 250.478.5150 or email [info@metchosinseniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca) for information.

### FRIDAY SENIORS' SOCIALS

Join us on Fridays for socials at the Metchosin Community House from 1:00–3:00 pm. We follow public health protocols so please wear a mask and bring your proof of vaccination card. Our thanks to the volunteers who serve refreshments, including our members and the Baha'is of Metchosin, and to the Metchosin Community Association that provides use of the house.

### FREE TAX CLINICS

The Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program helps individuals and families in need by preparing their income tax and benefit returns. Community organizations such as Silver Threads host free tax clinics where volunteers file tax returns for eligible people. To qualify, a person must have a modest income (up to \$35,000 for a single person or \$45,000 for a couple) and a simple tax situation. For those 55+ you can book an appointment by phoning 250-382-3151. The CRA's website lists all the tax clinics in our area [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca).



MSA volunteer Sue Lee. Photo provided by MSA

### ONE DRIVE, ONE VISIT, ONE PHONE CALL

"Thanks for the opportunity to meet up and get to know some of our Metchosin seniors. They have enriched my life by sharing their stories and history of Metchosin. It is definitely a win-win arrangement." Volunteer Sue Lee.

Just a few hours of your time can be a godsend to someone who can no longer drive or who lives alone and appreciates hearing a friendly

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)



Larry and Betty Hildreth welcoming back their DeLorean after months of accident repair. Zoe Ducklow -The Westshore Newsletter

## Metchosin DeLorean Back on the Road

Betty and Larry Hildreth

We want to acknowledge the masterful restoration skills of Jason Stoch of Jetstream Automotive. Jason, Matt, and Ethan performed a miracle in stainless steel! We discovered Jetstream through a fellow member of the Old English Car Club and are indebted to him for the lead.

Also, sincere appreciation to the Metchosinites who seemed to magically appear along the way, from

the moment of the accident through to the returning of the car: Toby McClass, Bev and Bruce Somers, Al and Mary Wills, and Faby Lozupone. Contrary to the negative reports that vehicle owners so often hear, kudos to our wonderful ICBC rep (who shall go unnamed but definitely acclaimed).

*Editor: The repair work took several months after an unfortunate accident on the road last year. Finding parts for these classic cars is increasingly difficult but well worth the effort.*

# RCMP Call-Outs

Brian Kerr, OPS Support, Media Relations Officer,  
West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore  
JANUARY 9 – FEBRUARY 10, 2022

|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jan 9</b>  | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>Possible fraud, investigation continuing.                   | <b>Jan 19</b> | <b>Happy Valley Road</b><br>Theft from vehicle at the Goose Trail. Purse stolen.                                                                                          | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Erratic driver on highway, vehicle not located.                                                            |
|               | <b>Glen Forest Way</b><br>Single vehicle accident, minor injuries, icy roads.        | <b>Jan 21</b> | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Erratic driver, patrols failed to locate suspect vehicle.                                                                                            | <b>William Head Road</b><br>Check welfare of a person near the beach, male located and later transported downtown to a shelter. |
|               | <b>William Head Road area</b><br>Check welfare, one person taken to hospital.        |               | <b>Pears Road</b><br>Mischievous to private property, investigation ongoing.                                                                                              | <b>Feb 1</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Jan 10</b> | <b>Neff Road</b><br>Assistance provided to towing company.                           | <b>Jan 22</b> | <b>Lindholm Road</b><br>Intoxicated male on road, patrols failed to locate him.                                                                                           | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Two vehicle accident, one vehicle fled scene, investigation continuing.                                    |
|               | <b>Matheson Lake</b><br>Theft from vehicle, purse stolen, investigation continuing.  |               | <b>La Bonne Road</b><br>Report of shots fired, patrols failed to find anything.                                                                                           | <b>Feb 2</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Jan 11</b> | <b>Kangaroo Road area</b><br>Landlord/tenant dispute, advice provided.               | <b>Jan 23</b> | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Erratic driver, vehicle not located.                                                                                                                 | <b>Kangaroo Road</b><br>Assistance provided to ambulance service.                                                               |
| <b>Jan 14</b> | <b>Rocky Point Road</b><br>Traffic enforcement in school zone.                       |               | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Threats made to a person, investigation continuing.                                                                                                  | <b>Feb 3</b>                                                                                                                    |
|               | <b>Bennett Road</b><br>Report of gun shots heard, patrols failed to locate anything. | <b>Jan 27</b> | <b>Rocky Point Road</b><br>Patrols/speed enforcement in school zone.                                                                                                      | <b>Metchosin Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.                                                         |
|               | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, vehicle located by Sooke RCMP.        |               | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Erratic driver, vehicle not located.                                                                                                                 | <b>Liberty Road area</b><br>Landlord/Tenant dispute. Civil matter.                                                              |
| <b>Jan 16</b> | <b>Arden Road</b><br>Complaint of mischief to private property.                      | <b>Jan 28</b> | <b>Duke Road area</b><br>Complaint of threat to a person.                                                                                                                 | <b>Feb 4</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Jan 17</b> | <b>Rocky Point Road</b><br>Check well-being of a person, later located and safe.     | <b>Jan 29</b> | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, failed to stop for police, investigation continuing.                                                                       | <b>Pears Road</b><br>Noise complaint, ongoing problem.                                                                          |
|               | <b>Liberty Drive area</b><br>Mischievous to private property, suspect warned.        | <b>Jan 31</b> | <b>East Sooke Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped in Langford, driver found to be prohibited from driving and also given a twenty four hour suspension. | <b>Feb 5</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Jan 18</b> | <b>William Head Road</b><br>Domestic dispute, one person arrested.                   |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Albert Head</b><br>Complaint of noise, patrols made.                                                                         |
|               | <b>Liberty Drive</b><br>Landlord/tenant dispute.                                     |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Feb 6</b>                                                                                                                    |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.                                                             |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Meridale Road</b><br>Mischievous to private property, no suspects.                                                           |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Feb 7</b>                                                                                                                    |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped by Sooke RCMP. Driver found to be impaired, vehicle impounded.   |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Feb 9</b>                                                                                                                    |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Rocky Point Road</b><br>Patrols of school zone, three violators dealt with.                                                  |
|               |                                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Sooke Road</b><br>Erratic driver, vehicle not located.                                                                       |

# LESTER B. PEARSON COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC



## A Nobel Possibility?

Brian Geary, Pearson College UWC

Pearson College UWC has been nominated for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize!

Well, to be *completely* accurate, the United World College (UWC) movement, of which Metchosin-based Pearson was the second school to join back in 1974, was nominated for the prestigious award and yes, while many are nominated (more than 300 in 2021) only one individual, group or organization will be invited to accept the Nobel on the gilded stage in Oslo in the presence of the King and Queen of Norway this December.

So, while we're keeping it in perspective, we are still pretty stoked about the recognition of our commitment to students from around the world. The nomination by Norwegian parliamentarian Alfred Bjørlo was first reported in that country's media and the news has been making its way across the globe.

Bjørlo, a long-time supporter of UWC Red Cross Nordic (Pearson's sibling UWC school in Flekke, Norway), wrote in his submission, "Today I have nominated United World Colleges for the Nobel Peace Prize 2022. Young people from all over the world meet, live together and take education in teams, at UWCs and this is one of the most important things we can do for peace and a better world. UWC schools provide high-quality education, with an emphasis on respect and understanding for other peoples and cultures, contributing to more peaceful values. More than half of UWC students are girls and it is especially important to give

young women from countries less advanced in gender equality a chance to take further education." Bjørlo added, "the basic idea of UWC to use education as a tool to create peace and forge ties across borders is, in my view, entirely in the spirit of Alfred Nobel."

Faith Abiodun, the newly appointed Executive Director, UWC International said, responding to the nomination, "While we are still a very long way from being awarded the Prize, the nomination is such a wonderful recognition of UWC's mission and vision as we enter the 60th anniversary year of the UWC movement. It affirms the importance of education as a driving force for peace in today's world – just as in 1962, when UWC Atlantic opened its doors to the first generation of UWC pioneers."

Now, we at Pearson have a bit of experience with the peace prize. After all, our namesake and inspiration was former Prime Minister and 1957 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Lester B. Pearson. We like to think, nearly 50 years after the founding of this school, that Mr. Pearson is somewhere nodding his approval of this Nobel nomination.

We are privileged to learn, work, and live on the traditional territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation. Pearson College UWC was founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College (UWC) of the Pacific in 1974 as unique pre-university school. Up to 200 students from across Canada and up to 160 countries around the world are chosen based on their promise, potential and demonstrated commitment to actively engage in creating a better world.

## CRD Walks in Metchosin

**February 27, 2022, 10:00–11:30 am**

**Wonderful Woodpeckers – East Sooke Regional Park • Guided Walk • All ages**  
Discover all of the tricks of the woodpecker trade. What makes them so good at what they do? Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and learn how to identify different woodpeckers by sight, sound and habits on this fun guided walk. There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 23.

**Mar 19, 2022, 10:00 am–1:00 pm**

**Park to Park – Matheson Lake Regional Park • Guided Adult Hike • 18 years+**  
Here's your chance to explore two parks in one! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist at Matheson Lake for a walk to Roche Cove. Walk along the lake edge and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. Learn about the history of these two regional parks and the regional trail and cross two more parks off your "parks-to-visit" list. Bring a lunch and water and wear sturdy footwear. No fee but must pre-register by March 15.

**Mar 23, 2022, 10am–11:30 am**

**Exploring Indigenous Perspectives – Witty's Lagoon • Guided Walk • All ages**  
Metchosin, Witty's Lagoon Regional Park  
Join CRD Regional Parks cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry, for a walk at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park and discover a human history spanning thousands of years. Learn about the cultural significance of plants, animals and the seasons and how First Peoples deeply respect, appreciate and celebrate gifts from the forest and sea. No fee, pre-register by March 19.

**Apr 01, 2022, 1:30–3:00 pm**

**Slugs and Slime – Devonian Regional Park • Guided Walk • All ages**  
Stroll along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to learn about the giant gastropod that is one of nature's best recyclers. You'll find out how slime helps these slugs survive! No fee, pre-register by March 27.

**Apr 02, 2022, 10:00 am–2:00 pm**

**Exploring Indigenous Perspectives – East Sooke Park • Self-guided Walk • All ages**  
Visit CRD cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry, and participate in this self-guided walk. Discover the cultural significance of plants, animals and the seasons and how First Peoples deeply respect, appreciate and celebrate gifts from forests, rivers, lakes and the sea. Drop by anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. This walk begins near the information kiosk at the Aylard Farms Parking Lot off Beecher Bay Road.

To preregister for these walks please visit: <https://crdregionalparks.perfectmind.com>

Subject to change, check [www.crd.bc.ca/about/events](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/events)

**'Chosin Pottery**  
4283 Metchosin Rd. 250-474-2676  
Weekends 11am - 4pm Weekdays call ahead

Shop locally.  
Beautiful  
Pottery for  
all  
Occasions

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



**Authentic Neapolitan-Style Pizza To Go**

Fridays & Saturdays  
3pm – 7pm

House-Made & Local Ingredients  
Vegan & Gluten-Free Options  
Order Ahead or Drive-Thru!



**GLENROSA**  
FARM | RESTAURANT

5417 Rocky Point Road • 250-478-6186 • [www.glenrosafarm.com](http://www.glenrosafarm.com)



# Return Milk Containers for a Refund

CRD Environmental Services

The Return-It deposit system in place in BC for beverage containers like juice, pop, and water is expanding to include milk and plant-based beverage containers (almond, soy, oat, rice milk etc.).

You will be charged a ten cent deposit when you purchase these products and can return the empty containers to any Return-It depot, including the new Express & GO station at Hartland Landfill, for a refund along with your other beverage containers. Please be sure to rinse your containers before returning them.

This change does not include all dairy products, only ready-to-drink milk and plant-based beverage containers. All other

dairy products will continue to be accepted through the curbside recycling program, which is collected on behalf of Recycle BC, the organization responsible for residential packaging and paper product recycling throughout the province, as well as in your communal recycling bins if you live in an apartment.

**Recycling options for your milk and plant-based containers:**

While ready-to-drink milk and plant-based beverage containers will no longer be part of Recycle BC's program, they'll still be recycled if put in your curbside recycling bin; however, your deposit will be lost and this can increase the chance of scavenging – individuals sifting

through recycling bins for refundable beverage containers.

**Tips to prevent scavenging:**

- Don't include refundable beverage containers in your curbside recycling. Return to a depot, retailer or donate them to a bottle drive or community donation bin.
- Place your recycling at the curb by 7:30 am on your collection day, instead of the night before.
- Remove any personal information and shred sensitive paperwork (secure shredded paper in paper bag).

To learn more, or to find a Return-It depot near you, visit [www.return-it.ca/milk2022](http://www.return-it.ca/milk2022). For more information on the curbside recycling program, visit [www.crd.bc.ca/curbside](http://www.crd.bc.ca/curbside).

**New – 10¢ Deposit**  
*Return to depot for refund*

- Plastic jugs for milk and plant-based alternatives
- Plastic bottles for milk and plant-based alternatives
- Cartons for milk and plant-based alternatives
- Tetra Paks® for milk and plant-based alternatives

---

**Continuing – No Deposit**  
*Place in residential recycling bin*

- Meal supplements e.g. Boost, Ensure
- Infant formula
- Drink additives e.g. coffee creamers
- Drinkable yogurt e.g. Yop, Kefir
- Concentrates
- Buttermilk
- Whipping cream



Hair ice at Metchosin Wilderness Park. Photo by Kem Luther.

## Hair Ice in Metchosin

Kem Luther

January 28. The phone rings at 9:00 am. Andy MacKinnon is calling from his cell phone—he has something, he says, that I need to see. I hop in the car and five minutes later meet him and his dog Piper at the Arden Road entrance to Metchosin Wilderness Park.

There, covering dozens of sticks, is a sight I had hoped to see for the last ten years: a rare weather and wood phenomenon known as 'hair ice'. Hair ice is also called 'ice wool' and 'frost beard'. Hair ice consists of thousands of long, delicate strands of ice emanating from unbarked sticks. It resembles white cotton candy. It also looks a bit like the asbestos snow that was sold in the 1950s and 1960s as a Christmas decoration. I have read that asbestos snow was also used as fake snow in the movie Wizard of Oz.

For hair ice to appear, conditions must be just right. It only forms in broadleaf and mixed wood forests between 45° and 55° north latitudes, and only when temperatures are slightly below freezing and the air is humid. The

weather in the Greater Victoria area was just right in the winter of 2019, when hair ice was last widely reported. I missed seeing it then. In the last two weeks, several reports of it had been posted on local Facebook groups, so I knew it was happening again.

I pick up one of the iced sticks and look at it more closely. Each of the smooth, silky hairs is just a bit thicker than a human hair. The ones on this stick are about 5 cm long, but they can be up to 20 cm long. The frozen hairs emerge at the mouth of wood rays, the short lines of cells that extend in a radial direction across the growth rings of the tree branches.

Many people mistake hair ice, when they first see it, for some kind of fungus. They are not totally wrong as a fungus is involved. The meteorologist and discoverer of continental drift, Alfred Wegener, when he described hair ice on wet deadwood in 1918, prophetically assumed that some fungus was the catalyst. His theory was partly confirmed by German researchers in 2005. In 2015, the white crustose fungus *Exidiopsis effusa* (sounds like a Harry Potter spell) was identified

by German and Swiss researchers as the key to the formation of hair ice. The fungus helps to shape the ice into fine hairs and stabilizes the ice by providing a sort of antifreeze. Without the fungus, researchers found, the ice expelled by the wood just forms an ice crust. (This *Exidiopsis* species, by the way, has not been securely identified in BC, but we have several other *Exidiopsis* species and we have hair ice, so some other species may be involved.)

Hair ice is ephemeral – it disappears within a few hours. But it will emerge from the same piece of wood year after year. Several fans of hair ice have taken advantage of this repetition to capture time-lapse videos of the ice hairs being formed. You can find these fascinating videos on the web.

As I hold the stick, the hair ice disappears, melted by the heat of my hand and breath. I pocket the stick. I'll put it by my front door and see if it will perform its magic next year. When the weather is right, I'll wave an Alder wand over it and utter the spell, *Exidiopsis effusa*.

**Richard's**  
LANDSCAPING & EXCAVATING  
SINCE 1984

Complete Bobcat, Trucking & Mini Excavating Services

4604 Morland Road, Metchosin, B.C. V9C 4E2  
Locally owned & operated since 1984

**Free Estimates 250-478-2980**

Custom low maintenance landscapes  
Boulder walls and rockeries  
Selective land clearing • Rockhounding  
Concrete/rock breaker • Stump & brush removal  
Driveways/R.V. parking • Culverts • Drains  
Top soil, bark mulch, sand and gravel

**CONTRACT OR HOURLY RATES**

*Music by Nature*  
A fully-integrated approach to learning music

**Piano Lessons**  
Experience the joy and numerous benefits of learning to play the piano!

- All ages and levels of experience
- Beginners welcome
- Located near Royal Roads University

Free introductory meeting

For more information or to schedule a meeting, please contact Veronica Pemberton at [info@musicbynature.ca](mailto:info@musicbynature.ca) or call (250) 474-2301

## Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

**METCHOSIN LAND WANTED**  
Seeking private sale of arable land for small farm/wellness retreat. Prefer raw land. Ecological buyer. Open to subdivided property. 250-884-7061 [silasmal@gmail.com](mailto:silasmal@gmail.com)

---

\$10 per 25 words per edition. Deadline: 15th of each month. Payment in advance preferably by e-transfer. Contact Linda at [amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com) or phone 250-590-0168.

**Important Numbers:**

|                                                   |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Metchosin Fire Department:</b><br>250-478-1307 | <b>Military Police Non-Emergency:</b><br>250-363-4032  |
| <b>Police (Non-Emergency):</b><br>250-474-2264    | <b>District Office (office hours):</b><br>250-474-3167 |

**ALL EMERGENCY CALLS**

# 911

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