



# Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

## Metchosin Council Starts Anew

Allen Jones

The inaugural meeting of Council began on November 7 with the entrance of an honour guard of fire fighters, Inspector Stephen Rose, and Constable Kailyn McDonald of Westshore RCMP, and Chief Russ Chipps and Councillor Traci-Lynn Pateman from Sc'ianew First Nation, followed by Mayor-Elect Little and Councillors-Elect Donaldson, Epp, Gray and Shukin. Fire Chief Dunlop and a number of firefighters stood at the back. Sparky the Fire Hall cat (recovered from an unfortunate encounter with a dog) was also in attendance. Interim CAO, Sue-Lin Tarnowski, called the meeting to order and oversaw the swearing of the Oath of Office by each council member.

Mayor Little welcomed the Metchosin community and other attendees, including the delegation from Sc'ianew (acknowledging that the meeting took place on the traditional territory of the Sc'ianew people), municipal staff, Chief Dunlop and fire department members, the RCMP officers, former Metchosin councillors, families, neighbours, and community. She noted that members of her family were in attendance via livestream from locations on Vancouver Island, across the continent and Europe. She welcomed the new council, saying that they have her utmost respect.

Little noted that all council members are committed to keeping Metchosin rural. She spoke about the importance of building trust, holding respectful debate

and dialogue, and being open and transparent. Council will aim to begin strategic planning with community involvement and the Code of Conduct requires updating. While perspectives, ideas and neighbourhood issues are diverse, we have more in common than anything else. Community engagement and healthy communications with neighbouring communities will be welcomed. Challenges are complex, including mitigating climate change and preserving a sustainable community while preserving and protecting environmental values. Supporting sustainable agriculture and small businesses, respecting and protecting residents, and addressing policing costs, fire hall restructuring, and other financial concerns are additional priorities.

Comments from Councillors followed in a spirit that may give hope for the future of the new Council.

A week later, on November 14, Council met again, following the first 'in camera' meeting and a Finance Committee meeting with newly appointed Chair, Shelly Donaldson. With Mayor Little returning to the Chair, the council meeting commenced. After public participation, mainly concerning old growth forest conservation (see article on page 11), and other matters on the agenda, the Mayor laid out the new committee structure and members for this period of office. Full details should be made available on the [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) website. Previously, Finance and Environment had been a single committee which is explained by



The new Metchosin Council with CAO Sue-Lin Tarnowski. Barb Sawatsky photo

noting that the Chairperson was Andy MacKinnon. Metchosin now has a separate Finance Committee and an Environment and Natural Areas Committee (chair: Councillor Gray). Councillor Shukin chairs Community

Planning and Councillor Epp chairs Public Works and Protective Services.

After the fanfare of the Inaugural Meeting, it is heads down for the business in hand and the *Muse* will follow with interest.

*Editor's note:* Thanks go to APRM whose excellent recorded notes assisted in producing this article.



Inaugural meeting: Clr. S. Donaldson, Clr. S. Epp, CAO S-L Tarnowski, Mayor M-T Little, Clr. S. Grey, Clr. J. Shukin. Barb Sawatsky photo



Mayor Little certifying the vote. Allen Jones photo

## School District 62 Welcomes Trustees

The Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) comprises seven trustees representing the following areas:

- Four trustees from Belmont Zone (Area 1) – Colwood, Highlands, Langford, and Metchosin
- Three trustees from Milnes Landing Zone (Area 2) – Sooke, Port Renfrew

Trustees will be at-large, serving both zones for a four-year term (2022–2026).

Source: <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/board-education/trustees>

Left to right: Ravi Parmar, Chair; Trudy Spiller; Allison Watson; Cendra Beaton; Amanda Dowhy, Vice Chair; Ebony Logins; and Chief Russ Chipps. School Board photo



# Metchosin Muse

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## AD AND COPY DEADLINE

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

## ACCOUNTS & CLASSIFIEDS

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

\$15 for up to 25 words per edition.  
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## 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

## 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.

## Rooted in Community

Many of us feel a sense of pride in sharing with others that we come from the wonderful community of Metchosin. After all, we have one of the best Farmers' Markets, no traffic lights, and more beaches than we have places to shop. However, it's the people that make Metchosin really special.

Metchosin Coop Preschool would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support us at our recent Halloween Dance fundraiser. From Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop and partner Scott, who ran the bar for the entire duration of the night, to the many residents of all ages who dug through their tickle trunks and sported their best (and silliest!) costumes, to the neighbours of Metchosin Hall (who had only positive things to say about the late-night music that wafted through the air) "thank you". We are grateful to have each and every one of you in our community, and we feel fortunate to be raising our children with you and around you. Until next time (because those of you who know the Preschool know that there will be a next time), we thank you for your support.

Stacey Weir, President,  
Metchosin Cooperative Preschool

## Problems with Langford

I live on the boundary with Langford and suffer from the blasting, machinery noise, the trucks, etc. as the projects on Latoria, Centre Mountain, above Willing Pond, etc. proceed with reckless abandon. Never in all my years of being associated with the home building industry have I seen such a total disregard for natural surroundings. Changing water courses, drainage patterns, destroying any kind of ecological advantage filtering water on its way to the water table (aquifer). Instead, projects get rid of water in its most expedient form, channeled away from the natural course into fast flowing run-off ditches that do little to slow water down for seepage and filtering into aquifer 606.

Thank you Mayor of Langford for your 20 years of office in the name of reducing "Red Tape!"

Richard Hopkins (Metchosin)

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



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# Council News

DECEMBER 2022



### The Backpack Project

The District of Metchosin will be participating again this year in the Backpack Project and has a donation box inside the main entrance of the Municipal Hall during office hours – Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The Backpack Project is an annual local initiative, which provides necessities and comfort items (new items only) on Christmas Day and throughout the year, to community members who are homeless. Your support helps bring hope and dignity to those vulnerable in our community.

### Outstanding Property Taxes to Accrue Interest beginning in January

If you have unpaid 2022 property taxes, please make payment arrangements to avoid interest charges applied in January 2023. Metchosin offers a property tax monthly payment program and can work with you to arrange payments for outstanding taxes. Claim your Home Owner Grant prior to the end of the year at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant).

### Public Works

#### WINTER ROADS – PRIORITY ROADS SERVICE

Please remember that ice control and snow plough service is provided on a priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. Next are school bus and BC Transit routes, followed by all other roads.

#### BE PREPARED FOR WINTER ROADS

Signs are posted at every road entrance into Metchosin – "Winter tires are required on Metchosin Roads". Please ensure that your vehicle is equipped with good winter tires to handle Metchosin's hilly and winding roads. All-season tires lose their pliability and traction at seven degrees Celsius. In BC, appropriate winter tires are defined as those with either the M+S (mud and snow) or mountain/snowflake symbol, in good condition with a minimum tread depth of 3.5 millimetres.

- Avoid parking vehicles on the road or paved shoulders at all times during the winter. Residents are reminded to park their vehicles near the bottom of their driveway, **not** on the road. Snow plows require adequate room to maneuver and roads and cul-de-sacs with vehicles parked on them may be unable to be plowed. Vehicles parked on roads or paved shoulders hindering plow service may be towed.
- Clear snow to the left side of your driveway (facing in) where it meets the road to minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway when the plows pass.
- If you have an urgent medical appointment or are a medical professional needing to get to work, call the Emergency Program Coordinator at the Metchosin Fire Hall at 250-478-1307; or after hours, Langford dispatch at 250-478-9555 and ask for the Metchosin duty officer to be paged.

### Council Meetings

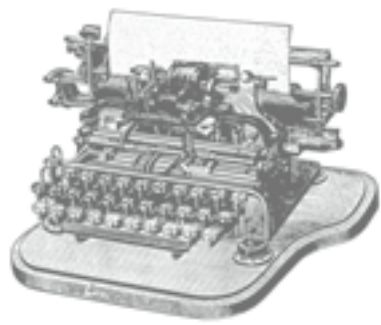
Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00pm unless otherwise stated. Meetings are subject to change. For updated information, please call the District office at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca). See the District website for Advisory Committee Meetings.

Council Meeting.....	December 5
Council Meeting.....	December 12
Finance Committee.....	December 12
Community Planning Committee.....	December 19
Environment & Natural Areas Committee.....	December 19
Public Works & Protective Services Committee....	December 19

# Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

# Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

Weather in Metchosin has gone from wet and windy to sunny and cold conditions, and back again, which we are used to. But we cannot ignore the extremes that we have experienced throughout the year. Hopefully, the municipal Climate Action Plan, when it goes ahead, will produce results that will do its part to mitigate the catastrophe that is forecast by scientists.

November was a month of elections and changes to Council and the *Muse* will continue to keep our readers informed of developments. Metchosinites had the opportunity to attend a flu and COVID booster clinic held in the Old School gym (see article on page 14). Remembrance Day was back with a ceremony that gave thanks to those who gave their all (see article on pages 8 and 9). The ceremony ended back at our Fire Hall whose structure is showing signs of deterioration that cannot be easily fixed.

Another subject of interest was the start of the trial of James Lee Busch and Zachary Armitage in

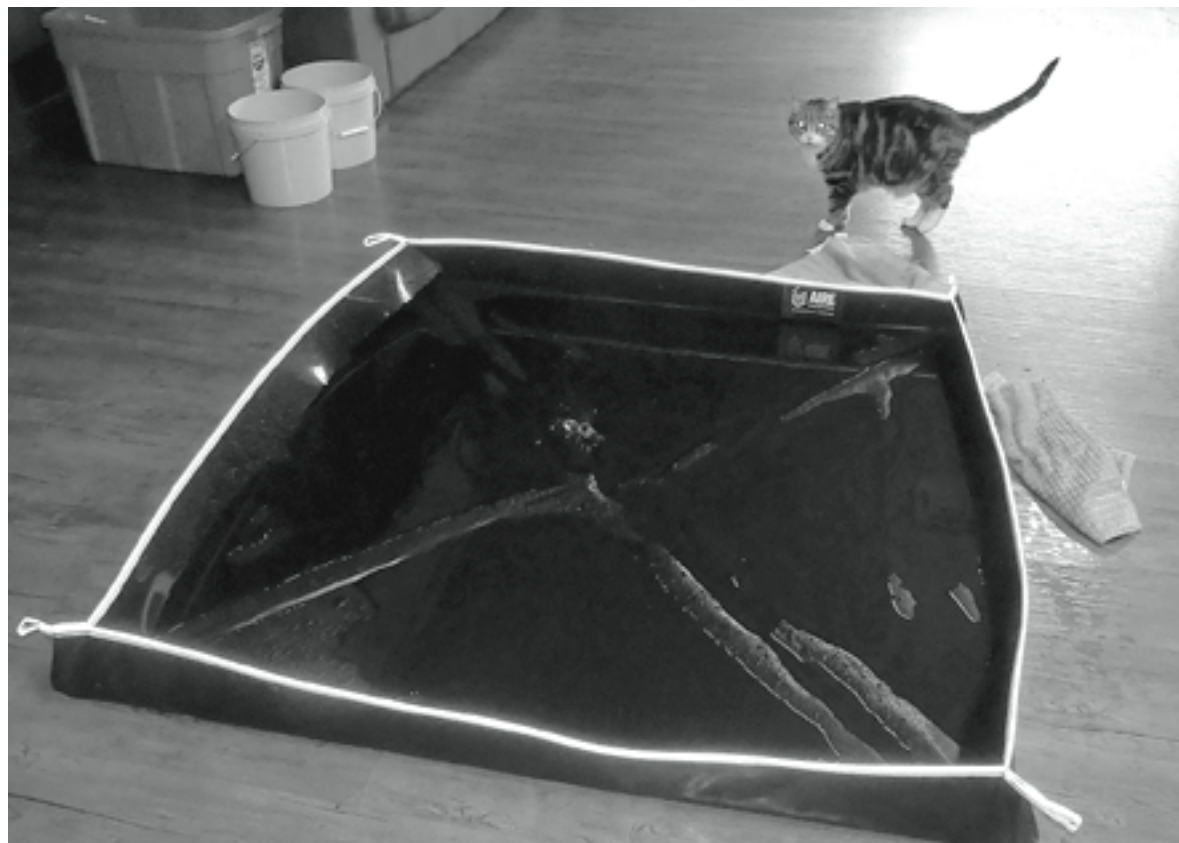
Vancouver. They have pleaded 'not guilty' to the murder of Martin Payne, whose body was discovered at his home in Metchosin in July 2019. The *Muse* will keep following the developments on this story.

The Metchosin Farmers' Market is looking to have another successful year and will end with a Christmas Market on December 4, opening from 11:00am to 2:00pm, when you can take your fill of festive fare.

On a festive note, we wish all our readers a merry, healthy, and peaceful Christmas.

Should any reader have difficulty finding the right present for a loved one, we gladly accept donations on behalf of our readers. Please contact *Muse* treasurer Linda Spiller, at 250-590-0168, who will help with the process. If requested, we will publish the names of donors and/or receivers in our New Year's issue. See our ad on page 5.

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



Sparky examines the result of a leaky Fire Hall during a *Muse* meeting. Barb Sawatsky photo

## Mack Remembered

Metchosin Search and Rescue

Mack was Metchosin Search and Rescue's (MSAR) first and only Certified Search Dog. He passed away at the end of December 2021. This month is the one year anniversary.

David Richardson, Mack's handler, was a member of MSAR for a few years before Mack joined the group and together they were a formidable team!

Mack was a noble, intelligent dog who applied himself fully to the work that had been given to him. He was engaging and resourceful. During his time as a search dog, he never baulked and never hesitated to do what was asked of him. He learned quickly and always retained what he learned. He was utterly committed to search tasks to the point that, in training, when David's spouse acted as the search subject and Mack located her, he would not come up to her, or wag his tail or even appear to look at her. He immediately left her to locate David and bring him in for the find. So strong was his focus that in one of his police tracking tests, a rabbit jumped right in front of him and he didn't lift his nose from the track even for a second.

The police officer commented that his service dog could never have done that.

His disposition was always peaceful, confident and accepting of everyone he met, human and animal. Mack made eye contact with everyone and he read people well. He was the most steadfast companion, who slept with one eye open to make sure he didn't miss anything.

Mack was validated the first time in early summer of 2010. Some quotes from the veteran RCMP dog handler who conducted the test include: "Mack is a young dog that loves to work." "Mack is a very nice tracking dog that is easy to read." "His corners are right on the mark with minimal overshoot." With regard to his field search, the officer said: "Mack's indications were easy to read and he showed good conditioning throughout the test."

Mack's first deployment was at Niagara Canyon in November, 2010. The deceased subject was located the next day in the water approximately 40 metres below a point where Mack had given an indication. In subsequent searches Mack was directly involved in five or six finds and, of course, was instrumental in clearing numerous

assigned segments. Mack's last deployment was in 2014 and in the spring of 2015, the Richardsons moved to Ontario.

In David's words, "Mack and I walked together every day of his life. Our walks in the woods were the anchor of my life and he made every walk a life affirming experience."

MSAR was lucky to have such a duo and honoured to have worked with both of them.

Thank you Mack.



Mack with handler David Richardson. Metchosin SAR photo

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### The Metchosin Museum Society

is organizing a fundraiser

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR December 20, 6-8pm

30 passenger bus donated by L.A. Limousines.  
2 hour tour following some of the *Times Colonist* lights map, plus a few extra light delights.

Tickets: \$30 adults  
\$20 youth (12-18) & 65+

For more info and to purchase tickets via e-transfer : [metmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:metmuseum@outlook.com)

Look for us at the **MAKERS MARKET** Dec. 10 & 11



# Season's Greetings

from the Metchosin Community House to all members and friends in Metchosin.

**Metchosin Community Association**  
 250-478-5155 | www.metchosincommunityhouse.com  
 4430 Happy Valley Road | Mon–Thurs, 9:00am–1:00pm

# Mince Pie Production at Metchosin Community House



Above: Pie production under way at MCHouse. Right: A bespoke pie for the discerning purchaser. Allen Jones photos

Allen Jones



Last month a group of Community Association members were brought together by director Heather Showers to design and produce a hundred mince pies. The pastry is kindly supplied by the Royal Bay Bakery in Colwood and the filling is made by Heather using a secret recipe involving local apples.

Although the pies could be identical, the fun event allows the pie makers to indulge their creative talents to give plenty of choice for the buyers who collected their purchases at the end of November. What would Christmas be without a MCA mince pie?

## Bella Yoga Studio

Yoga in the Neighbourhood - Duke Rd W.

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# All Candidates Forum 2022 – Reflections and Insights

APRM Executive

By the time you read this it will have been two months since the All Candidates Forum was hosted by the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM); the successful candidates will have been sworn in and have had their first meetings as a new Council. Yet it's still worth reflecting on how the event was organized to bring the most significant community interests forward and provide the candidates an opportunity to show how they would respond to them as individuals and members of an elected Council.

The APRM's challenge was how to tease out the top issues from the capacity crowd and develop pertinent questions for responses from each of the ten candidates – all in a two-hour period. The method chosen was to have a number of predetermined themes posted on the walls, a process to rank those themes, and a panel to develop a relevant, thought-provoking question for each of the top three themes. Those turned out to be governance, bylaw enforcement and farming challenges. Check out the video at <https://www.metchosinaprm.org/> to hear the questions and responses.

The forum provided the community and candidates an opportunity to get the measure of each other. Questions were tough and the candidates did a good job of responding in the 90 seconds allotted. But what about the other issues that couldn't be addressed due to time constraints?

Housing drew the most interest as the fourth theme. Affordability,

secondary suites, tiny homes, and land use zoning, all in the context of protecting rural Metchosin, were questions on the minds of a number of participants. Future provincial government mandates to impose affordable housing requirements on local governments was an interest of one of the participants.

Relationships with our neighbouring communities was ranked almost as high as the fourth theme but only drew one written question relating to anticipated traffic pressures from increasing populations in Langford and Colwood. This could also be considered as a 'protection of rural Metchosin' issue.

The climate crisis was the sixth theme identified but didn't result in any specific questions. Some of the candidates expressed their desire to see climate action plans developed specific to Metchosin. So it was already on their minds.

Treaty relationships and the buffer lands were tied for seventh place but only the buffer lands resulted in any questions. How to maintain the buffer lands as true greenspace, provide a corridor for wildlife, and maintain a buffer to Langford's development were concerns.

Water, health and safety, village core design and the fire hall were all offered as themes but generated less interest than the major topics. A question on the candidates' knowledge of Aquifer 606 was submitted, however.

Questions on the cost of a new fire hall and management of the school were submitted. With more time the panel might have been able to integrate them into the question posed to the candidates under the theme of governance.

A participant added bike lanes and road safety as new themes to the wall posters but they didn't draw significant attention from other participants.

Several questions were submitted that the panel considered to be inappropriate. They were rejected as they were directed to specific candidates for personal matters.

This event was the eighth All Candidates forum hosted by the APRM over the last 30 years. COVID capacity protocols and our Fire Chief held the audience to 155 people with many others being turned away. Together with more than 500 subsequent 'hits' of the video-recording, and the inevitable 'post game analyses' within the community that followed, helped to ensure that we were well informed before ballots were cast.

Special thanks go to Jackie Larkin for her excellent facilitation as our emcee/moderator for the evening and to Leonard Farr of Go Farr Productions for his video-recording of the event. We also express our appreciation to the many APRM volunteers who worked behind the scenes and on-site to make the evening a success.

Congratulations to the successful candidates for being elected and committing to serving our community for the next four years, to the unsuccessful candidates for being prepared to do so, and to all Metchosin residents for our above average voter turnout of 47.3% vs. a provincial average of 29.2%.

Your comments on the structure of the forum or how to make it better four years from now will be appreciated. Send them to [metchosinaprm@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinaprm@gmail.com).

**Metchosin FOUNDATION**

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

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

## 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

# Fire Hall Presentation

Jim McPherson

Earlier this year, the Metchosin Museum Society was given a manuscript copy of the Bickerdike family history. Included in the history was the story of Harry Bickerdike and the founding of the Metchosin Fire Department.

Harry enrolled himself as warden in the Metchosin district as a one-man fire department. His brigade consisted of a light Essex 1922/1923 truck formerly used for towing. It was fitted with two 50-gallon water tanks and a 24-foot extension ladder plus two extra ladders, a Fairbanks-Morse pump, and 250 feet of suction hose, hatches, sand and automatic fire extinguishers.

A picture of this fire truck was presented to Chief Stephanie Dunlop and the members of the Metchosin Volunteer Fire



Bob Burgis presents a photo to our Fire Chief. Barb Sawatsky photo

Department at their regular practice night on Thursday, October 27. Bob Burgis presented the

photo reproduction on behalf of the Metchosin Museum Society Board to Chief Dunlop.



Metchosin Fire Crew at the presentation. Barb Sawatsky photo

# Volunteering for a Better Community

Heloise Nicholl, Board member Metchosin Foundation

When we moved to Metchosin in 2017, my husband and I began to volunteer with community groups. It has been a wonderful way to meet people here. I decided to volunteer as a board member of the Metchosin Foundation. My reason for choosing this organization was because healthy lands and healthy waters are critically important for our family, for our community and for the good of our world. I am often faced with anxiety and grief over what we are losing ecologically – our shared lands, air, water, species, and climate ecosystems seem to face unabated destruction every day.

I know the only way to tackle these fears is to take action and contribute to meaningful change through supporting organizations like the Metchosin Foundation. Crucially, this organization is local and represents the most immediate form of education and promotion of ecological protection right here within our municipality.

What the Metchosin Foundation does locally can serve as a model for other communities. My work with them feels immensely important; for it serves Margaret Meade's famous quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." What her words imply is that small groups can compel other small groups and so on and so on, until large changes are realized through communal effort.

My part on the board has so far remained small. But I am really truly honoured to learn from great minds around the table, and in this way I hope to meaningfully contribute to future conservation successes in the future.

I represent a demographic that is often missing in volunteers: parents with young kids. It can be difficult and tiring to volunteer with demanding work

schedules, and the daily, hourly needs of children and family. But I feel it is critically important, as our kids will inherit the future we are creating in every moment. I want them to inherit a better Earth and, in our own beautiful corner, a better Metchosin.

It is becoming more difficult to solicit volunteers. Younger people are very over-subscribed and the high cost of living here means people often have multiple jobs and side-gigs too. I am concerned about the lack of volunteers, but also very sympathetic. I struggle with these competing demands myself.

So I would like to leave readers with one simple request: tell your friends, your neighbours, your family, your young people and your retired people to please volunteer, if you can. Volunteer in whatever capacity you want, with whatever group you want, with this organization or with any other, if for no other reason than it is rewarding and a wonderful way to grow community in an increasingly isolated world.

*Editor's note:* Wild ARC is looking for volunteers. See page 7.

## Can't find the right fit locally? Check out Volunteer Victoria!

Volunteer Victoria inspires and raises new generations of volunteers; supports volunteer led organizations, groups, and projects; provides tools and training; and creates opportunities that do not exist anywhere else in Greater Victoria.

For more information, visit their website: <https://volunteervictoria.bc.ca/>

**Need an easy, locally produced Christmas gift for someone who has everything?**

May we recommend a donation in their name to the *Metchosin Muse*?

Just contact Linda, *Muse* Treasurer at 250-590-0168 or email [amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com) by Friday, December 16.

The *Muse* will send a card on your behalf (by post or e-card, your choice), wishing them good tidings of the season while praising your generosity!

Additionally, they, and you, will be thanked in print in the January 2023 issue of the *Muse*!



Thank you for supporting the Metchosin Muse.

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Edward Jones

# THANK YOU

• METCHOSIN •

I look forward to working for you over the next four years.

- Working together
- Involving community
- Balancing budgets
- Protecting greenspace

Councillor Steve Gray



Authorized by financial agent Jason Gray: [ElectSteve@shaw.ca](mailto:ElectSteve@shaw.ca)

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Tell them you saw it in the *Muse*!

# OBITUARY: STUART H. CREASSER

1934–2022

Gary Nylander

My uncle Stuart died on Thursday, November 17. Known affectionately as “uncle Stu”, the lifelong Metchosin resident was doing yard work at his Metchosin property when he passed away suddenly. His sister Doris (my aunt) went to check on him and found him unconscious on the ground outside his log cabin garage. The local fire department and paramedics were called and did all they could for him but unfortunately, they were not able to revive him.

I always thought of my uncle Stuart as an artist in his own right as he was able to create things with his mechanically gifted mind, and many years ago he built an articulating tractor out of old car parts. In his younger years, Stuart worked as a surveyor and went on to operate a map-making business in Vancouver for many years before he retired. His ability to calculate numbers was incredible, no need for an electronic calculator when building something.

This past October, I spent time with him working on a garden planter box project at my parents’ home and we also worked on a vintage Peugeot bicycle that he gave me. It had been stored in the crawlspace of his house for the past 32 years. We met for the last time when I rode the refurbished bike from my parents’ home in Langford along the Galloping Goose trail to his house in Metchosin.

As Stuart’s older brother Ray said, “Stu would have not wanted to mess around with disability or care homes.” He lived his life the way he wanted and died in his own dignified way. Much like his grandfather who died while chopping wood. He was doing what he loved to do working around his yard either building things or fixing things like old motors. To me, he seemed so vibrant and relatively healthy for his age. Always quick to smile or laugh at a joke.

Rest in peace uncle Stu, well deserved.



Stuart Creasser in his log cabin garage.

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## Jason McBride to Become New President and Head of Pearson College

Brian Geary – UWC Media Contact

The Board of Pearson United World College (UWC), has appointed Jason McBride as President and Head of College, effective August 2023.

“I’m honoured to be selected to lead Pearson College into its next phase of global education towards peace and a sustainable future,” said McBride, currently Head of School at IGB International School in Malaysia. He brings more than 20 years of global educational leadership and intercultural understanding, including several years as Head of College at UWC Thailand. “The opportunity to lead international and independent schools around the world is a privilege,” he added. “The opportunity for me, as a Canadian, to return to Canada and support Pearson’s momentum, particularly in climate action learning, sustainability, and Indigenous reconciliation, has me incredibly excited.”

Following an extensive global search supported by a global leadership consulting firm and a committee of Pearson’s Board of Directors, each finalist candidate took part in a rigorous day of meetings with College advisory groups representing faculty, staff, and students involving intensive interviews with the Board committee.

“We were fortunate to have had an amazing pool of candidates who expressed interest in leading Pearson,” said Gloria Metzger, who led the Board committee. “In the end, we felt Jason was most capable of taking the College forward as we implement our five-year Strategic Plan, Indigenous Reconciliation Plan, and new Climate Action Leadership Diplomas.”

“This is a promising time to be leading Pearson,” added Board Chair Anne McLellan. “Jason will be guiding us as we approach the College’s 50th anniversary in 2024–25 which will set the stage for the College’s next era.”

“I look forward to getting to know and working with the students, the Board, alumni, supporters, and donors, as well as the College’s incredible faculty and staff,” said McBride. “I want to continue to build



Jason McBride, next Head of Pearson College. Pearson UWC photo

relationships with our neighbours on the Sc’ianew First Nation and throughout Metchosin and Greater Victoria.”

McBride was born and raised in Toronto and received undergraduate degrees from McMaster University (B. Kin) and Queen’s University (B. Ed), before pursuing his master’s degree with Michigan State University and completing his Doctoral coursework at the University of Calgary (all but dissertation). He will be joining the campus community with his wife and two daughters, ages 11 and 13.

Current President and Head Craig Davis, who announced earlier that he will be leaving the College for personal family reasons after this school year, will continue in his role to ensure a smooth leadership transition in summer 2023.

*Editor’s Note:* See more about Pearson College on page 16.

*There’s a lot going on in Metchosin!*

For information on local events, see **Important Dates & Events**, page 15.

# Wild ARC's Wonderful Volunteers



Sherry R. ready for the cleaning. Wild ARC photo

Rebecca Meyer, BC SPCA's Wild ARC

Wild ARC is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre on Southern Vancouver Island. It's already a pretty unique place. What really makes Wild ARC special is the people – more specifically, the volunteers.

Wild ARC admits almost 3,000 patients each year and it takes a dedicated team of hundreds of volunteers to make sure all of those animals receive the best care possible. From feeding and cleaning patients, to food prep and mountains of dishes, laundry scraping and washing, and enclosure cleaning and building, our volunteers keep every part of the centre running and without them, we wouldn't exist.

Since opening in 1997, Wild ARC has seen thousands of volunteers generously donate their time to saving the lives of wild animals in need. In 2021, over 20,000 hours were donated by 182 volunteers. To say we're grateful is an understatement. Every day we are touched by the positivity and compassion shown by our volunteer team and we will never be able to fully express our gratitude. Whether they've been with us since the beginning or have just finished their first summer, the hard work and dedication they put in for every shift makes a world of difference to both us and the animals we care for.

Wild ARC can be a messy and tiring place to be, but our volunteers show up every day with a smile to share and a helping hand to give. To the team that makes this such a special place to be: our gratitude for your support is endless, and we hope you know how incredible each of you is. From the bottom of our (and the critters') hearts – thank you.

If you would like to be a part of this incredible team, Wild ARC's volunteer recruitment season is underway! With seven different volunteer roles available, there's a position for everybody. From hands-on animal care to the crucial efforts of our fundraising

team, there are lots of ways you can help support our life-saving work. No experience working with wildlife is necessary, we'll provide all the training you need. The time commitment required is for six months (generally May-September) during our busy baby season consisting of one four-hour shift a week. Different roles have different requirements, but we're happy to work with your schedule and find the right fit for you.

You can read more and apply to be a volunteer at [www.wildarc.com](http://www.wildarc.com). We look forward to having you join our amazing volunteer team!



Sarah N. preparing for feeding. Wild ARC photo

## Metchosin Museum Society AGM

Jim MacPherson

On October 20 the Metchosin Museum Society held its very well attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Community House. The successes of the past year were reviewed, and focused on the Schoolhouse Museum, the Native Plant Garden, and the Opening Celebration held on September 24. Revised bylaws were also passed.

Members of the society were given a snapshot of the work to be undertaken over the upcoming year. Much of this work centres on the Pioneer Museum, an amendment to the Licence of Occupation boundaries, and defining priorities.

Routine business of the AGM included the confirmation of the executive and board of directors. The following executive members were confirmed: Jim MacPherson, President; Judith Van Manen, Vice-President; Bob Burgis, Treasurer; and Suze Bowen, Secretary. Directors confirmed were: Bert Harrison, John Barrs, Lynn Southgate, Sheila Mitchell, and Ed McLean.

Regular meetings of the Museum Society resumed on November 17 and will be held every subsequent third Thursday of the month, except December. Meetings are held at the Metchosin Community House at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

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

# We Will Remember Them

Allen Jones

In 1953, the Legion placed the cenotaph where it now stands, set back from Metchosin Road and in front of historic St. Mary the Virgin Church. On Friday, November 11, a short but poignant ceremony was held at the cenotaph. It commenced with a march from the Fire Hall on Happy Valley Road to the cenotaph.

Remembrance Day, November 11, was overcast and cool. By 10:30am a crowd had gathered all along Metchosin Road around the cenotaph. This year's Metchosin commemorative service was organized by Councillor Shelly Donaldson, and Tom Henry acted as Master of Ceremonies. Services began with past Metchosin Councillor Andy MacKinnon leading everyone in the national anthem sung in English then in French. Wreaths were presented by the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot, Rocky Point, Canadian Forces Base, Esquimalt, the District of Metchosin, the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department, Metchosin Search and Rescue and various children's and youth groups including the 14th Juan de Fuca Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts.

After these formalities, a bugler provided a rendition of "Last Post" which echoed across the silent crowds. After a minute of silence, the bugler played "Reveille" and then the piper, James MacKinnon, played "Amazing Grace." This was followed by the Legion Prayer.

Those in attendance were invited to join Veterans for a reception at the Fire Hall, where refreshments were served by the local Scouts.



On the march. Barb Sawatsky photo

Above: Arrival at the cenotaph. Allen Jones photo



Left: MC Tom Henry with Pearson student. Barb Sawatsky photo

Below: Mayor Little represents Council for the first time. Barb Sawatsky photo



A Scout contributes to the remembrance. Allen Jones photo



*Taking part in the ceremonies is a great way to help children understand the importance of Remembrance Day.*



Above: With the guns silent, the children can play again. Barb Sawatsky photo

Left: The same children, participating in the ceremony with the Beaver Scout group.



Metchosin resident Gary Kangas with 83 years of memories. Barb Sawatsky photo



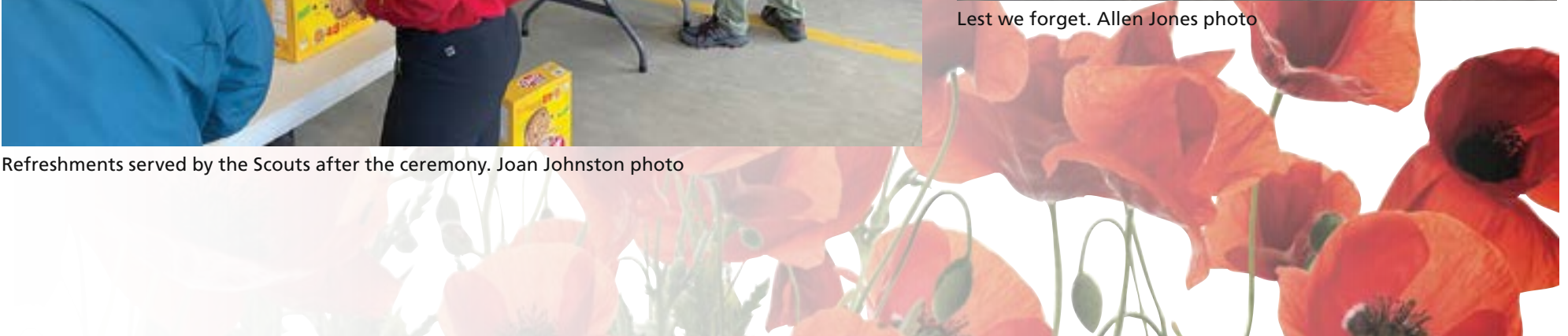
Madeline takes part on the day. Barb Sawatsky photo



Refreshments served by the Scouts after the ceremony. Joan Johnston photo



Lest we forget. Allen Jones photo



# Welcome Back, All!

Joannie Challenger

The construction is finished, the paint is dry and Hans Helgesen School is very happy to welcome their extended school community back into the building. Last year saw an extensive renovation at the thirty-year-old school: the roof and outer siding were replaced and painted, which took most of the year to complete.

To celebrate the start of a new school year, Hans Helgesen opened its doors for a 'Welcome Back Picnic' in September, when students and their families gathered to enjoy an outdoor picnic with staff. After the picnic they went inside so that students could show their families their books and artwork, and parents had a chance to meet the teachers and see the classrooms.

In October, families were invited to attend a Halloween dance at the school put on by the PAC, which was a very popular event. It seems that everyone was excited for the chance to dress up and take part in the fun! Grade five students held a bake sale and the children and adults enjoyed pizzas and treats.

The Remembrance Day ceremony in November was a more serious event, but demonstrated the same sense of community. Students' families were invited to attend, and it began with a territorial acknowledgement from Chief Russ Chipps and Elder Henry Chipps. Students sang the Coast Salish anthem, taught to them by their music teacher. The song, originally created by Chief Dan George, had been gifted to all people living in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish. Some students read poems or shared reflections, some participated in the school choir, and others presented a wreath of student-made poppies from each class.

"We are all so happy to welcome the parents and community back inside the school," enthused Acting Principal Sharon Schwartz. "We look forward to reconnecting further in person and to continue building partnerships to support our students along their educational journey."



Acting Principal Sharon Schwartz welcomes students back. Joannie Challenger photo

# 'Tis the Season – the ArtPod Gallery Winter Activities

Elaine Hughes

The third annual Mighty Fine Art and Craft Sale will continue until Christmas Eve. Featuring small works from ten southern Vancouver Island guest artists, as well as our own collective members, this show offers a wide variety of fine art and crafts, all affordably priced. Opening dates are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11:00am to 4:00 pm, from December 2 through to December 18, with additional opening times on December 22, 23 and 24. We will then have our winter closure from December 25 through to January 29, 2023.

In the New Year, we are looking forward to our next two shows, both of which are open to submissions from artists, both local and beyond.

Firstly, from February 3 to March 26, will be 'Iterations: Art in a Series'. We are looking for works in series (i.e., more than two). Each series will be cohesive, unified, and coherent. Each piece will be strong enough to stand on its own but taken together the series will elevate the viewer's experience.

The online submission process for 'Iterations ...' is opening on December 1, and the deadline for submission will be January 14. We will have some specialized guidelines – for this show only – regarding how to determine whether your series counts as a single entry or multiple entries for the purposes of this show. (Hint: it will relate to how much wall space your

series will occupy.) Look on our website for details of the submission process.

Our juror for the show will be artist and photographer, Kathleen Schmalz: [www.kathleenschmalzartist.com](http://www.kathleenschmalzartist.com).

From March 31 to May 28, it will be time for 'The Great Forgery Show'. For this show we invite people to paint in the style of a famous artist. Using your own reference material and subject matter you will create a previously 'undiscovered' masterpiece of extraordinary value! Note: we are NOT looking for copies of existing work but 'art in the style of' a famous historical or contemporary artist. So, create the never-before-seen Cezanne, the newly discovered Matisse, the Basquiat you bought at a garage sale, the Rothko you found in your granny's attic. Have fun and bring your best 'fake'. Submissions will close March 10. See our website and social media for details on when this call will open for online submissions.

Finally, we just want to remind you that we now have a Tuesday life drawing drop-in, upstairs in the MACC's DIY Studio space, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (\$10 per session), as well as our ongoing free online portrait group. If you are interested in either of these activities, check our website or Facebook for additional details. You can also sign up for our free e-newsletter by entering your email on the bottom of the home page of our website at [www.metchosinartpod.ca](http://www.metchosinartpod.ca).

## METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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**Metchosin Art Centre Open House and Pop-up Makers' Market:**  
December 10 and 11

Not just a table or two of doilies and dishcloths! Take in the fabulous Metchosin Makers' Market being featured in the gym and the hallways leading to the open studios and galleries. Check out this unique show and sale by our most creative artisans. Drop by the Centre's busy studios to see what is happening in the world of visual arts, music lessons/sound booth works, classes, the written word, and videography.

**Exhibitions – Point of View (POV) Hallway Galleries:**

**Main Hallway Gallery:** "Glass Mosaics" by Lorna Ball, Dec. 1 to Jan. 15.

**Upstairs Gallery:** "Electric Light Storm Series" by Sheree, Dec.–Jan.

**Defining Rural:** This is a Call Out for poems, prose, paintings, photographs, sketches, sculptures, soundscapes, and other artistic endeavours to add to MACCA's up-coming exposition in early 2023 (see article for details).

**Shaping Spirit Studio**  
Room #1034:  
[etsy.com/shapingspirit](http://etsy.com/shapingspirit).

**Shiloh Music**  
Room #1033:  
[shilohmusicstudio.com](http://shilohmusicstudio.com)

**Do It Yourself (DIY) Community Art Studio**  
Room #2001:  
[metchosinartcentre.ca](http://metchosinartcentre.ca)

**MACCA Office**  
Room #1036:  
[info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)

**Point Of View (POV@MACC) exhibition spaces**  
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Art Brendon  
[ab@islandnet.com](mailto:ab@islandnet.com)

**Greg Dow Studio**  
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**Edison College Canada Faculty of Fine Arts**  
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**Huber Studio – The Written Word and Functional Art**  
Room #2007:  
[charlahuber.com](http://charlahuber.com)

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

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### Third Annual MIGHTYfine SALE

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Metchosin ArtPod's Open Call for Submissions

# Iterations: art in a series

Submission Deadline: 13 January 2023

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Thank you for supporting Metchosin!

# How Can Metchosin Help Protect ‘Old Growth’?

Dr. Joan Rosenberg and  
Dr. Dan O’Connell

We are part of a group called Nurses and Doctors for Planetary Health and we also represent the Canadian Association of Doctors for the Environment (CAPE) and the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE). We recently returned from Metchosin’s November 14 council meeting after speaking to a submission asking Council to add the municipality’s name to a declaration entitled “United we stand for Old Growth”. This document aims to inspire the provincial government to act on prior promises to protect ‘Old Growth’ forests and reinforces the fact that we are united in our consensus to defer logging of our few remaining ancient forests.

Despite mass arrests, hunger strikers, blocked bridges, and thousands of phone calls to MLAs the old growth trees continue to fall. Over 100 signatory groups from across the spectrum are already on this declaration, the first being the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Others include: West Coast Environmental Law and the David Suzuki Foundation. We also have a myriad of communities of faith including First Metropolitan United and the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, also the Greater Victoria Teachers Association, Ecojustice, and RAVEN, to name just a few of the signatories.

A good discussion ensued in the Council Chambers ultimately deciding not to add Metchosin Council to the list of signatories at this time. Although all members of Council supported the cessation of old growth logging they weren’t sure of the appropriateness of this submission for a government body to act and needed more time to reflect. It will be reassessed by Council after deliberation in a month.

We understand their reticence. In 2016 the Council did vote to send a letter to the province asking for a cessation of old growth logging on provincial lands. However it is a clandestine process and the province won’t disclose what is being protected, in fact some ‘deferral zones’ are being logged as we speak and deferral doesn’t mean they are saved at all. Presently logging companies are preparing their arguments and lobbying for continued cutting. It is a heady mix of strong and polarized forces. So we commend our Council for trying to take seriously the weight of their signature and wondering if their signing properly represents their true commitment to act as a neutral government body which obviates their role to endorse private interest groups. Alternatively, can Council members represent their individual views as they were granted that consensus by getting elected?

While they are being cautious we are losing these singular old

forests, in fact the densest carbon sinks on the planet. Thousand year old trees will never be replaced, nor the biodiversity. In reality they are actually the salmon forests as the nitrogen from fish allows for their immense growth. In 1982 the Canadian Red Cross knew AIDS and Hepatitis C were in its blood supply but did not act. By the time they did, 2000 children and adults got AIDS and 30,000 got Hepatitis C. There is a parallel here. We know factually only 2.7 % of Old Growth is left (based on government scientists not industry). It could be all gone in five to seven years. We will wring our hands as the climate emergency worsens and we will try to plant trees, but forest fires and heat domes will be regular events, not to mention the smoke and heat of the Interior. At this point the relationship between municipal, provincial, and federal governments is dysfunctional and NGOs (especially environmental ones), are considered subversive. And yet, and yet ... someone has to take the lead other than a slight, 15-year-old Swede. And it might just be Metchosin?

Please submit any enquiries to Joan Rosenberg on Facebook.

*Editor’s Note:* If you would like to learn more about Nurses and Doctors for Planetary Health, this online article is a good read: <https://healthydebate.ca/2022/04/topic/health-professionals-role-play-our-planet-our-health/>



Local teens stopped by to see Big Lonely Doug, estimated to be 1000 years old, while on an excursion to visit old growth forests in order to better understand what was happening in the woods. Joan Johnston photo

## CRD Walks in Metchosin and East Sooke

Come out to enjoy some CRD Walks this fall!

December 2022

**Ecology of the Holidays** • Guided Walk • All ages • Dec 3, 2022, 10am-11:30am • Metchosin, Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park

**Exploring Indigenous Perspectives through Storytelling** • Guided Storytime • All ages • Dec 10, 2022, 11am-12pm • Metchosin, Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park

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)

# Have You Heard about the Westmont Prize?

Jason Bowers, Assistant Principal of Secondary, Westmont Montessori

The Westmont Prize is an annual design competition facilitated by Metchosin’s Westmont Montessori School. The second annual Westmont Prize is a group competition for students in grades 7 to 11. Students collaborate in teams of four and find solutions to the critical challenges of our time. The 2022 theme is building better, stronger communities in the post-pandemic world.

The Westmont Prize ran from November 7 to 25, and had students participate in online workshops facilitated by expert speakers, and take part in an all-day workshop led by professionals in various fields. They also attended an awards gala event at UVic on November 25 where a grand prize scholarship worth \$10,000 was awarded to the winning team. A second place scholarship of \$5,000 and a third place scholarship of \$2,500 were awarded to the teams running up.

The Westmont Prize gives students an opportunity to understand specific issues related to the competition’s theme through attending online workshops. Speakers explored the role of



Westmont students at Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion. Tricia Lang photo

social media, taking care of yourself (anxiety), social activism and volunteering, and reconciliation through the online sessions.

On November 14, students participated in an all-day workshop at the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion. There was a lineup of speakers who presented on how to frame complex problems, ideate solutions, advocate convincingly, and make a video documentary.

An expert panel of judges reviewed and judged the video

documentaries using Westmont Prize judging criteria. Matteo and Zeinab, two students from the winning team of last year’s Westmont Prize had this to say about their competition experience, “You have a lot more power on things than you think you do. You also have power to make changes and take action”.

Check out [www.westmont-prize.ca](http://www.westmont-prize.ca) for more information about the 2022 Westmont Prize.

## Metchosin -



### Defining Rural!

An exhibition of images and artworks that reflect the rural nature and culture of Metchosin.

The concept behind this exhibition is to involve the people of Metchosin in a showing of photography and art, that represents a personal vision of what rural means?

**Exhibition Dates - January 18 to March 17**  
**For submission information contact -**  
**[ab@islandnet.com](mailto:ab@islandnet.com)**



What is the position of Art and Artists in the Baha'i Faith?

“Art is Worship”

If you have a question call or text it to one of the numbers below.

For information on the Metchosin Baha'i Community please call or text: Mona at (250) 514-1756 / Doug at (250)858-2053 / Bahai.org

# Crazy Things Are Happening in Metchosin

Allen Jones

In Metchosin we are fortunate to have an abundance of farm stands across the district. Concrete statues, micro greens, pizzas, bagels, and fresh fruit – you are never truly far from a delight waiting to be discovered. If you’ve travelled along Metchosin Road recently, you can’t have failed to notice that a very special farm stand has popped up opposite the Metchosin Golf Course. The new, and even crazier, Crazy Cookie House, opened just in time for Halloween. Delighted students from Westmont Montessori School were the first to explore the new “Cookie Garden” before selecting their favourite cookie from the fun and whimsical Crazy Cookie House.

At the launch we caught up with owners Helen and David McArthur to find out where their inspiration for the new Crazy Cookie House comes from. “When we first opened our original farm stand in the summer, we thought it was a cute way of sharing our love of crazy cookies with the community”, says Helen (head baker). “What we were not prepared for was the incredible response we received – Metchosinites certainly love their cookies!”

“And we love Metchosin,” adds David. “We are so grateful to everyone for their support. In response to the positive feedback we wanted to upgrade the Cookie House with even more craziness! So, we came up with the plan to repurpose our kids’ playhouse and create a garden for it. We worked with some local tradesmen including Russell Yoachim and Dave Wilmshurst.”



Above: The Crazy Cookie House and Garden at Halloween.

Right: students from Westmont exploring the House. David McArthur photos

Exploring the Crazy Cookie House and Garden feels like stepping into a world full of magic and mythical creatures including a green fire-breathing dragon, playfully named Doug H. Dragon, and a small grey mouse. “Doug H. heats the stove we bake the cookies on” laughs Helen, “How crazy is that!” Both Doug H. and the mouse were crafted by local driftwood artist Paul Lewis.

Paul’s work will be familiar to you if you’ve visited the East Sooke Sasquatch or have seen the birds at Esquimalt Lagoon. The next makeover will be Christmas and we are confident more magic will evolve at the Crazy Cookie House.

*Editor’s Note:* If you haven’t seen the East Sooke Sasquatch, visit the East Sooke General Store!





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# Film Night at the Community House: *Horse Tamer*

Ric Perron

**Film Night Presents 'Horse Tamer' (75 minutes)  
Metchosin Community House  
Friday December 30, 7pm**

I love this film, so distant and foreign, invigorating, quickly paced, and Mongolian. There aren't many movies that start out fantastic and keep getting better as the movie progresses. It has many facets and moments of burly awe. With local family interactions, wild festivals and competitions, and bold interactions with horse rustlers within the surrounding valleys, this is the Mongolian cowboy frontier that outperforms the wild, Wild West.

Ten years in the making by French ethnographer Hamid Sardar, it follows the range cowboy Shukhert on his eternal voyage to protect and cleanse the land of horse rustlers.

Award winning in many 2021 Film Festival venues, I can't say



enough how fascinating this tribal journey is. You will bond with the central character and his trials and tribulations. As quoted by Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, "In the Darhat valley in northern Mongolia, the horses of nomadic tribes are disappearing. Bandits

steal horses from their owners and sell them for a few roubles in Russian slaughterhouses. But Shukhert, a vigilante Darhat horseman, pursues them relentlessly all the way to the edge of the Mongolian taiga, on the border with Siberia."

## METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

### ONGOING PROGRAMMING

#### Mondays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program** – 9:00am–3:30pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillicke at 250-213-2440.

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

#### Tuesdays

**Drop-In Painters Art Group.** This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30am–12:30pm at the MCHouse. December 13 is the last meeting of the year and we return January 3, 2023. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join the group, please contact Arlene at 250-391-7905.

**Knitting Café.** The afternoon group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly 1:00–3:00pm. Last session for the season is December 13, returning January 10, 2023. For more information on the afternoon group, call Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00am. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Thursdays

**Weights and Measures.** 8:30–10:00am weekly. Weights and Measures is a weight loss and healthy lifestyle support group for anyone in the community. All Community House COVID safety protocols observed. Contact Nan at 250-478-7688.

**Creative Rug Hooking** – Finished for the season, returning January 5, 2023.

#### Fridays

**Parent and Tot Program** – 9:30–11:30am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers, and their young children to join us on Friday mornings for our community program. Children have access to toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed and supportive environment as well as access to parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and children. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones. Not at the House on December 23 or 30, returning January 6, 2023.

**Ukulele Gathering** – Finished for the season and returning January 20, 2023.

### EVENTS

**BLUE MOON CHRISTMAS Returns to the Community House!** Thursday Dec 15 from 7:00–9:30pm. We're finally ready to bring back a much-missed Metchosin Christmas tradition – Blue Moon returns to the Community House with their warm evening of festive fun. Songs and stories, old and new, will be shared by

local performers just bursting to spread the neighbourhood Christmas spirit we've been sadly without for long enough. You'll hear colourful new tales and tunes along with a few old seasonal favourites. Admission is by cash donation (Santa will pass the hat!) with all proceeds going to help the local food-bank. Refreshments available.

Let's make this a fun-filled year-end reunion!

**Film Night, Friday, December 30 at 7:00pm – *Horse Tamer*** (75 minutes). Mongolian cowboy frontier that outperforms the wild, Wild West. Ten years in the making by French ethnographer Hamid Sardar, it follows the range cowboy Shukhert on his eternal voyage to protect and cleanse the land of horse smugglers.

**Art on the Walls: December** – Three members of the Drop-In Art Group, Linda Kirstein, Anne Ward, and Arlene Welch have put pictures on the wall for the month of December. You may visit with the artists any Tuesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The works are hanging on the Community House walls for all to come and enjoy. Viewing times: Monday–Thursday 9:00am–1:00pm.

The Art on the Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information, please call 250-478-5155.

## Metchosin Community House

4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155

mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com



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# Metchosin Learning Group Update

Lynda Hills

In October, the Metchosin Learning Group hosted an event that showed the National Film Board (NFB) film by Alanis Obomsawin, *Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair*. The event was well attended with approximately 25 people present. Following this impactful film, there was an opportunity for sharing and discussion.

The film documented the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) journey across Canada and the resulting 94 Calls to Action (CTAs). The commission's work from 2007 to 2015 included national events that resulted in these recommendations. The film also highlighted the power and wisdom of Senator Sinclair, whose speech provided a compelling overview of the fraught history between Canada and Indigenous Peoples.

The CTAs were developed "In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation" from the document *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*.

The key word in the CTAs is action. How to take real action, on a community or personal level, with care, consideration, and respect? Some of the discussion after the film revolved around this topic. Stay tuned for a future gathering with this topic in the forefront.

There will be no event in December. The learning group's next event will be January 18, when Ruth D'Hollander will speak about language revitalization and a response to Call to Action #61. More details will be included in the upcoming January *Muse*.

# Our Community's Flu Clinic



Early birds, Doug and Barb Sawatsky, at the November Flu Clinic. Deirdre Chettleburgh photo

Deirdre Chettleburgh, President of the Metchosin Seniors' Association

There can't be many flu clinics in the world with such a sense of community as there is with Metchosin's annual clinic. Heard throughout the Old School gym during the two days that the clinic ran in November were the warm voices of people greeting and chatting with neighbours and friends.

This year 680 shots were administered, a number consistent with the two previous years. This year did see some changes though. Paper consent forms were replaced with registration

and documentation completed on IMMS BC, the online database used by pharmacies and public health clinics throughout the province. This transition was not without its challenges, and we sincerely thank everyone for their patience as we worked through the system's idiosyncrasies. As well as flu shots, we were able to offer COVID boosters for the first time. Some notes of interest:

- Of the total 680 shots given, 365 were flu vaccines and 315 were COVID boosters.
- Nearly 60% of people attending the clinic were 65 years of age and older.

- More than 80% of the people attending were residents of Metchosin.
  - Over the two days an intrepid cadre of 33 volunteers contributed 126 volunteer hours.
- The clinic is a collaboration of the Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop and members of the Metchosin Fire Department; Pharmacist Mohamed Zeid (Sooke Pharmacy); Jeanette McMillan and nurses with Immunize Now; the Metchosin Seniors' Association; and every one of our volunteers. Thank you to each and every person who made this event possible. Lastly, to all those who came and rolled up their sleeves to help keep our community healthy – "Thank you". We look forward to seeing you again next year!

## Not registered to get vaccinated?

Registering is the first step to getting vaccinated. To register, you need to provide a Personal Health Number.

After you register, you will receive a text, email or phone call when it's your turn to book a vaccine appointment.

You may register online or by phone. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/> or call 1-833-838-2323.

# Seniors' Resource Centre METCHOSIN

Laurie Sthamann, SRC Manager

The Seniors' Resource Centre is operated by the Metchosin Seniors' Association. It is dedicated to helping seniors and their families with support, resources, and services. Our mandate is to support an age-friendly community. The Centre is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00-4:00pm. **The SRC will be closed over the holidays from December 24 to January 2, 2023.**

## CHRISTMAS WITH ROBERT K

Thu, Dec 8 | 6:30-8:00 pm on YouTube

Listen from the warmth and comfort of your home to a live stream on YouTube of Robert K playing many of your Christmas favourites. Hosted by MSA and the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues.



## THE MADILLS OF MY-CHOSEN CAFÉ

Fri, Dec 9 | 11:00 am on Zoom

Katlyn will interview her parents Shannon and Mike about their 35-year journey of running My-Chosen Café. They will share their memories of joys and bumps along the way as it grew from a modest café to a uniquely designed country restaurant, Critter Corner, pizza parlour and Sugar Shack. Visit [metchosinseniors.ca](http://metchosinseniors.ca) for all the details.

## FRIDAY SOCIAL CELEBRATION

Fri, Dec 9 | 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House

Join us for coffee, tea, Christmas baking, conversation, and entertainment to celebrate the upcoming holiday season and winter solstice. Everyone welcome.

## Season's Greetings!



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)



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## Randall Garrison, MP

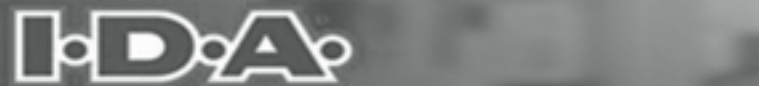
#2-50 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC V9A 1B5

250-405-6550

[Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca)

[www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca](http://www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca)

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# Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED – St. Mary's Metchosin Anglican church needs an Office Administrator. Flexible days/time, totalling 6 to 10 hours per week @\$20/hour. Contact [admin@stmarysmetchosin.ca](mailto:admin@stmarysmetchosin.ca) or call 250-474-4119.

\$15 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.

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

# RCMP Call-Outs

OCT. 11-NOV. 5, 2022

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

- Oct. 11 **Happy Valley Road** – Deer hit by vehicle.  
**Sooke Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located, registered owner given warning.
- Oct. 12 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of possible threats, one person given verbal warning.
- Oct. 12 **Glen Forest Road area** – Assistance provided to Ambulance Service.
- Oct. 13 **William Head Road** – Checked welfare, person found to be in hospital.  
**Metchosin Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.
- Oct. 14 **Sooke Road** – Motorcycle accident, one person injured.
- Oct. 15 **Matheson Lake** – Report of suspicious male, not located.
- Oct. 16 **Sooke Road** – Single vehicle accident, vehicle hit deer.
- Oct. 17 **Happy Valley Road** – Report of suspicious male on road, located and given ride home.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Report of possible domestic dispute.
- Oct. 19 **Devonian Park** – Complaint of female screaming in the park, patrols failed to locate anyone.
- Oct. 21 **Sooke Road** – Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober.
- Oct. 21 **Metchosin Road area** – Domestic dispute, female assaulted, male person arrested, investigation continuing.  
**Metchosin Road** – Person reported being threatened, reported for information.
- Oct. 22 **Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle accident, roll over, no injuries, vehicle towed.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Erratic driver reported, vehicle not located.
- Oct. 23 **Metchosin Road** – Assistance provided to ambulance service.
- Oct. 24 **Duke Road area** – Assistance provided to ambulance service, female transported to hospital.
- Oct. 25 **Sooke Road** – Vehicle stopped, driver found to be a prohibited driver, released to attend court and vehicle impounded.
- Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
- Oct. 26 **Rocky Point Road area** – One person taken to hospital under the *Mental Health Act*.
- Oct. 27 **Happy Valley Road** – Checked welfare of a person, investigation continuing.
- Oct. 28 **Kangaroo Road** – Possible domestic dispute, no assault.
- Oct. 29 **William Head Road area** – Assault/disturbance at private residence, no criminal charges.  
**Pears Road** – Report of male urinating in public.  
**Metchosin Road** – Noise complaint, loud music, one person given verbal warning.  
**Pears Road** – Report of shots fired, probably fireworks at Halloween party.
- Oct. 30 **Kangaroo Road** – Single vehicle accident, possible stolen vehicle, investigation continuing.
- Oct. 31 **Sooke Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.
- Nov. 1 **Duke Road area** – Possible prowler at private residence, no one located.
- Nov. 2 **Metchosin Road** – One person being harassed by another person, suspect given verbal warning.  
**Sooke Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.
- Nov. 3 **Sooke Road** – Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped, driver found to be sober.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Two vehicle accident, one person to hospital, vehicles towed from scene.
- Nov. 4 **Kangaroo Road** – Two reports of trees down on road surface during wind storm.
- Nov. 5 **Weir's Beach** – Report of possible person in the water during storm, patrols on the water failed to locate anyone.  
**Sooke Road** – Stolen utility trailer off private property, investigation continuing.  
**Hackamore Road** – Deer caught in a fence, assistance provided to Conservation Service.

# Important Dates & Events

- Dec. 10-11 **The Very Merry Makers Market** . . . . . p. 3
- Dec. 20 **Holiday Lights Tour** (tickets required) . . . . . p. 3
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**
- Dec. 26 **Boxing Day**
- Dec. 30 **Film Night at the MCH: *Horse Tamer*** . . . . . p. 13

**OTHER EVENTS:**

- Council Meetings** . . . . . p. 2
- CRD Walks in Metchosin and East Sooke** . . . . p. 11
- Metchosin Community House Events** . . . . . p. 13
- Seniors' Resource Centre Events** . . . . . p. 14



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Friday & Saturday, 11am-9pm. Closed Monday.  
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# Metchosin Directory

**Metchosin Fire Department:**  
250-478-1307

**Police (Non-Emergency):**  
250-474-2264

**Military Police Non-Emergency**  
250-363-4032

**District Office (office hours):**  
250-474-3167

## ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

# 911

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

### ORGANIZATIONS

- AIR CADETS**  
250-590-3690  
[www.848royalroadsaircadets.com](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
848air@cadets.gc.ca  
Facebook 848aircadets
- ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC**  
250-382-2052  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)
- ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)**  
metchosinaprm@gmail.com  
FB Metchosin APRM  
[www.metchosinaprm.org](http://www.metchosinaprm.org)
- BADMINTON**  
Women's 250-478-9648
- BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
250-478-2387  
ikmcken@islandnet.com  
[www.bilstoncreek.org](http://www.bilstoncreek.org)
- CRD PARKS**  
250-478-3344  
crdparks@crd.bc.ca  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)
- GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)**  
250-478-5484  
tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca
- LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA**  
250-727-4384
- METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB**  
metchosin4h@gmail.com  
[www.metchosin4h.com](http://www.metchosin4h.com)

- METCHOSIN ARTPOD**  
metchosinartpod@gmail.com  
[metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)
- METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)**  
info@metchosinartcentre.ca  
[www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca)
- METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**  
[www.metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://www.metchosinbiodiversity.com)
- METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
250-478-5155  
mcahouse@telus.net  
[www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)
- METCHOSIN COUNCIL**  
250-474-3167  
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca  
[www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings)
- METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB**  
250-474-4601  
[www.victoriacricket.com](http://www.victoriacricket.com)  
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- METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**  
250-478-1307, ham operators call in on 146.550. POD members can call FRS (Family Radio Service) radios: Channel 1 with "0" privacy tone
- METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY**  
250-478-2374  
metchosinequestrian@gmail.com  
[mesmetchosin.com](http://mesmetchosin.com)
- METCHOSIN FOUNDATION**  
contact@metchosinfoundation.ca  
[metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca)

- METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY**  
250-478-6424  
[metchosinhall.com](http://metchosinhall.com)
- METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
250-478-4778
- METCHOSIN INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE (MISC)**  
metchosininvasives@gmail.com
- METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY**  
Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989  
School Museum, 250-391-1295
- METCHOSIN PONY CLUB**  
250-727-3595
- METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL**  
250-478-9241  
metchosinpreschool@gmail.com  
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- METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**  
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- METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE**  
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[www.metchosinsar.ca](http://www.metchosinsar.ca)
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info@metchosinseniors.ca  
[www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)
- MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
250-642-0238

- NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)**  
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neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com
- PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION**  
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- ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION** Branch 91,  
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250-478-5484
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Email: 14thjdf@scouts.ca  
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and choose '14th Juan de Fuca'
- SEA CADETS**  
250-478-7813
- TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly**  
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- WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL**  
250-478-2286  
info@westshorearts.org  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)
- WESTSHORE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**  
250-474-3999  
info@westshoreband.org  
[www.westshoreband.org](http://www.westshoreband.org)

- WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION**  
250-478-8384  
[www.westshorererecreation.ca](http://www.westshorererecreation.ca)
- WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**  
U14.U16.manager@gmail.com  
[westshorerfc.com](http://westshorerfc.com)
- FAITHS**
- BAHA'I FAITH**  
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- GORDON UNITED CHURCH**  
250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)
- HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
250-727-3722
- OPEN GATE CHURCH**  
Anglican Network  
250-590-6736  
[www.opengatechurch.ca](http://www.opengatechurch.ca)
- ST MARYS' METCHOSIN**  
Anglican Church of Canada  
250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)
- WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH**  
250-478-8066  
[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)
- WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY**  
250-474-5967  
[www.westsong.ca](http://www.westsong.ca)

This listing is a directory of local organizations. Please email changes to [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com). Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events which may be included in an upcoming issue. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.

# Pearson College UWC's Renew and Re-found Campaign Celebrates Milestone in \$40-million Fundraising Effort



Above, UWC Serbian student Vukašin speaking at the benefit event at Oak Bay Marina Restaurant. Right, event attendees. Pearson UWC photos



Pearson Media

Pearson United World College (UWC) in Metchosin is one of Vancouver Island's unique and historic schools. The institution is well on its way to raising an unprecedented \$40 million through the Renew and Re-found Campaign launched both locally and worldwide recently.

"This is an exciting occasion – a chance for the Pearson community to come together to celebrate how far we have come with the support of our alumni, supporters and friends and how far we are going as we approach the college's 50th anniversary," said the college's Board Chair and Campaign Cabinet co-chair, Anne McLellan.

McLellan, a former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, told a both virtual and an in-person audience of leading South

Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland community leaders that the college has successfully raised \$33 million – more than 80 per cent of the \$40 million multi-year campaign.

At both events and in a campaign video, now posted to the college's website and unveiled at the launches, students shared their stories about how coming to Pearson positively changed their views and perspectives.

"One person cannot change the world alone," declared Detiny, a student from the Dominican Republic. "Places like Pearson teach you about community, about relying on others, about understanding other people around you to be able to make that change in the world. Coming to Pearson changed my life. My family in Dominica would never have been able to support me

to achieve a quality education. Thanks to some strangers (donors) that I don't know, I am able to be here. A normal Dominican girl like me would never get the chance to do any of this."

Serbian student Vukašin, who also co-hosted the live event, said, "The world is in dire need of change-makers. Supporting Pearson allows us to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Pearson really allows you to grow the seeds of culture and understanding inside."

"Friends and supporters here on Vancouver Island, across Canada and around the world have been extraordinary in their support of the Renew and Re-found Campaign," added Head of College Craig Davis. "Their ongoing commitment enables us to provide scholarships for more passionate and committed young

people from Canada and around the world who need an extended hand and, this year, to implement a world-leading Climate Action Leadership Diploma program," added Davis. "But we still have a way to go. Meeting and, I hope, exceeding our campaign goal will help ensure we can continue to equip students with the tools, the knowledge and the enthusiasm to tackle the world's biggest challenges."

While the college has already raised nearly \$33M, the event also served as a celebration of what has already been carried out and gave attendees the chance to learn about the campaign's five priority initiatives which include scholarship opportunities, Indigenous Reconciliation, climate action, leadership and renewal of both campus land and seafront infrastructure, and learning opportunities.

## Pearson student to receive a Rhodes Scholarship

Pearson Media

Graduate and Yukon resident Tess Casher was one of 11 Canadians to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, Class of 2023.

Casher, the 15th student from Pearson to receive a Rhodes Scholarship, attended the two-year, pre-university college from 2017 to 2019 and is currently an Honours English major at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.

The scholarship is a highly competitive post-graduate award given to exceptional students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford in the UK with the aim of nurturing public-minded leaders of the future.

"I'm still in a state of shock! I'm incredibly grateful to all my communities that helped me develop my passions and scholarship," said Casher. "I loved my time at Pearson and UWC helped me grow as a person and a scholar. I'm beyond grateful to the college and the UWC movement!"

Casher has recently written a novel, *Impedi(me) ents on Ice*, which will be published in 2023 and

will supplement clinical training at the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research.

"Together with the entire worldwide Pearson alumni community, we congratulate Tess and wish her every success in her continuing studies at Oxford and beyond," said President and Head of College Craig Davis. "Tess is remembered by many here on campus and her continuing academic and extracurricular achievements come as no surprise."



Tess Casher. Pearson UWC photo



Many of our exceptional students, from over 90 countries, can't wait to meet local families and spend their first Winter Break at a homestay for the holidays, from 16 Dec 2022 through 07 January 2023. Contact our Host Family Coordinator at [volunteer@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:volunteer@pearsoncollege.ca) and learn more at our website <https://www.pearsoncollege.ca/get-involved/>. Pearson College UWC is a registered charitable organization and more than 80% of our students attend on full or partial scholarship.

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