

Metchosina Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Metchosin Awarded a Bumper Grant

Allen Jones

The District of Metchosin has been awarded a grant of \$2,438,000 as part of a \$44m Growing Communities Fund distributed by BC Government to districts in the West Shore. The grant will have to be used to improve infrastructure and amenities. It could go towards planned capital projects such as a new Fire Hall but this will have to vie with the needs of Metchosin's roads and water systems. Other projects that could secure part of this grant would be improvement works to the Community House, the extension of the Pioneer Museum, and the alterations to the Old School. Also worthy of consideration might be investment in protecting the Buffer lands and Mary Hill and, if my co-editor hears of it, a new cricket pavilion!

To quote Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin, "People in our communities will soon be benefitting from new and improved

amenities and infrastructure through the Growing Communities Fund. I'm thrilled that our government is supporting municipalities so that we're able to meet the demands of our growing population." It could not come at a better time for the new Council and Mayor Little happily stated, "This is very exciting news for Metchosin and a much needed boost."

Metchosin Council will have to decide how to allocate the available funds and then report to the province how the money was used. This will allow for some community involvement in the decision-making and an Open House meeting is planned, details to be announced. Nonetheless, with a general tax increase of 13.9%, rising to over 20% in coming years, the grant will be heartily welcome by all.

Editor's note: Thanks to the provincial government's 'Strong Communities' initiative for some of the information in this article.

Muse Takes on New Cub Reporter



New Muse reporter, Robbie, suggests to long-time team member Laura that a red pen might be preferrable for proofing. Barb Sawatsky photo

Homer-Dixon Delivers Thrilling but Chilling Lecture on Climate Change



An enthralled audience enjoys the presentation. Barb Sawatsky photo

Johnny Carline

At the outset of his March 14 lecture, renowned scholar and writer, Thomas Homer-Dixon, confessed that he had his knuckles rapped by the parents of students to whom he had delivered a similar lecture, for the negative psychological impact they thought his lecture had. He warned of this possibility but promised that the latter part of his lecture might restore some hope. This article attempts to capture the essence of that, but you can also watch the recording of the lecture on the website of the Association for The Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM).

Homer-Dixon was the headline speaker for the APRM's Annual General Meeting. President Chris Moehr drew chuckles when she commented that the APRM Executive were under no illusions as to why people were there and were providing a break to allow people to leave before the actual AGM began.

After introductory remarks about his personal background,

Homer-Dixon began by outlining the "polycrisis" facing the world: the pandemic and resulting government-induced inflation, unrest, mass migrations, floods, fires, the war in Ukraine, and, "first among equals," climate change. They were not coincidental. They were causally related – mutually reinforcing, amplifying, and accelerating each other, as they synchronized, producing a century dominated by fear, then anger, and enabling people to take political advantage of these emotions. (Slide showed Donald Trump).

The main drivers are carbon emissions, economic inequality and insecurity, systemic racism, and the corrosive impact of social media. We are not dealing with their inter-connections and consequent synchronization. These are the engines of status anxiety, and we need to mitigate their psychological impact through hope that is honest and astute, with a powerful vision of where to go, which embraces inconvenient truths rather than reassuring lies.

Approaching "the nadir" of his lecture, he launched with a scathing attack on *New York Times* writer David Wallace-Wells' reassurances that cheaper green energy would result in global temperatures rising by only 2.5 degrees, as opposed to 4.0 degrees, Celsius. Homer-Dixon ladled scorn on this. An increase of 4.0 degrees would end civilisation, while a 2.5 degrees increase would still be catastrophic. The prediction was wrong; its supporting models unrealistic. One leading expert, James Hansen, actually foresaw temperatures rising from 4 to as much as 10 degrees Celsius.

Supporting graphs were equally alarming. Global surface temperatures, which had remained relatively stable for 11,000 years, had now risen off the charts. The significant drop in carbon emissions during the pandemic had no impact on the rising slope of atmospheric carbon-dioxide, such is the scale of the already existing problem.

Additionally, there are various "tipping points" around the globe, such as melting Arctic sea ice, which, once exceeded, could trigger the others in a domino effect. Impact models were not taking this into account and thus understated the problem.

Disturbingly, solutions are generally either sufficient but not feasible (e.g. global scale carbon sequestration), or feasible but insufficient (e.g. most individuals actions and responses like electric cars and energy efficient light bulbs, and most of the green energy initiatives such as wind or solar power). We need massive social investment in a high power-density (watts per square foot), low carbon emission, major power source. He ruled out nuclear power, which might meet these criteria, because of its other major problems.

Deep geothermal power is, however, one, perhaps the only, possibility of meeting our needs and which has enormous logistical advantages. Admittedly, drilling through hard rock to high temperature levels, kilometres deep, is a challenge, but we have overcome worse. This was the beginning of the "hopeful" part of his lecture, and I had found it powerful and convincing.

Homer-Dixon moved on to the need for "powerful hope" which had to encompass security, opportunity, justice, and identity (sense of belonging), and satisfy different personality types (exuberant, prudent, empathetic). He reflected optimistically on our

hyper-connectivity, abundant scientific knowledge, and awareness of our common fate.

This was good stuff but I began to feel uneasy. What if geothermal does not work out? It felt a bit like career planning in a hospice.

In the Metchosin context, continuing our "feasible but insufficient" actions, including adaptation, will help mitigate the problem in the short run and, as one questioner observed, fire is our existential threat and should be our most urgent local focus.

Otherwise, maybe the best we can do is to urge every senior decision maker we know to watch the recording of this lecture.



Thomas Homer-Dixon (centre) with APRM board members. Barb Sawatsky photo

Metchosin Muse

Email metchosinmuse@gmail.com Web www.metchosinmuse.ca

CO-EDITORS

Allen Jones, 778-265-6385
Johnny Carline, 250-474-4601
metchosinmuse@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Jennifer Burgis, 250-881-8280
j_burgis@telus.net

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Joan Johnston

DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATOR

Barrett Fullerton

EVENTS

metchosinmuse@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS

c/o L. Spiller
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Victoria, BC V9C 4G1

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Linda Spiller, 250-590-0168
amuselinda@gmail.com

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ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local
non-profit, arts, interests and
activities publication, pro-
duced 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
Becher Bay.

CURRENT CIRCULATION

2800

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 (with electronic signature if possible). An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

Save the Dark

My wife and I have lived in
Metchosin for over 25 years.
We've noticed as houses have
changed hands, more new owners
seem to embrace not the dark
but the light. Many homes now
leave exterior lights on all night,
or have had yard lights installed
that activate at dusk. CRD has
been upgrading a nearby water

reservoir and pump station
for the last year and we saw
new floodlights installed and
permanently switched on, a while
back.

I wrote to the CRD project
manager about the negative
aspects of light pollution, and
shared a superb *Muse* article
'Celebrate the Dark'. CRD was
extremely responsive – the flood
lights are now switch-activated

and only used when needed. Thus,
I wonder if a reprint of this article
might help inform residents new
and old, and give the night back
to the wildlife and the dark.

Gordon Stodola

*Editor's note: The article that is
noted in the letter was published
in the March, 2021 issue and is
available on our website; see [http://
www.metchosinmuse.ca/archives.
html](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca/archives.html).*

Our Only Home, How Then Shall We Live?

Janet Gray

Earth Week 2023
Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 p
St Mary's Anglican Church
4125 Metchosin Road

Climate scientists, internationally and locally,
have declared that we are in a climate emergency.
Municipalities like our own have acknowledged this
fact, and Metchosin resident, social scientist and
author Thomas Homer-Dixon told us, at his talk in
Metchosin, that we have all the information we need
about the emergency. We just need to take action.
Homer-Dixon says that this is where hope lies. So
what are our priorities for taking action on our one
and only home: Planet Earth?

Join us for an Earth Week 2023 event on
Wednesday, April 19, at 7:00 pm in St Mary's
Anglican Church, 4125 Metchosin Road.

A few residents of Metchosin have put together
an evening to celebrate, appreciate and learn about
the fantastic spectrum of biodiversity that live
amongst the oldest trees in our forests. Old growth
trees are known to sequester carbon but even more
importantly they are home to so much other life
that is connected to our own wellbeing. We are so
grateful that two well-known Metchosinites will
share their time and deep knowledge of these ancient
trees and the life they give rise to.

Dr. Andy MacKinnon, scientist, forest ecologist
and fungal species expert as well as the author
of many plant books and international award
winning nature and conservation photographer and
campaigner for Ancient Forest Alliance TJ Watt will
be our guest speakers.

An exhibit of some of TJ's photos will be on
display from April 19 to 27 at St Mary's – look for
more details here: www.stmarysmetchosin.ca, or call
Janet at 778-679-9011.

All are welcome to attend, young and old; please
invite your friends to visit you in Metchosin and
attend this event. The event is free but donations are
welcome. All donations will go to Ancient Forest
Alliance and the work they do to protect Old Growth
Forests.

*Editor's note: For articles on related topics, please see
pp. 1 and 9.*

Please note:
**The Witty Beach stairs will
be closed for maintenance
from April 3–14.**

Visit our website!

www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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Council News

APRIL 2023

Cougars and Bears

If you see a cougar or bear, please call Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

The Municipal Office tracks reported cougar and bear sightings for our residents and adds reported sightings to our website for public information. Please call the Conservation Officer first, then call the District Office at 250-474-3167. The BC Ministry of Environment's Bear Smart Community Program encourages efforts to reduce bear-human conflicts. Another source for information is online at www.wildwisesociety.org. Some things you can do to help to bear-proof your home:

- keep garbage in the house or shed until pick up day
- ensure garbage cans are securely closed on pick up day
- don't add meat or cooked food to your compost
- pick ripe fruit and fallen fruit daily
- use bird-feeders only in the winter
- clean your BBQ after each use and store in a secure area
- don't feed pets or store pet food outdoors.

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 Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at www.metchosin.ca. See the District website for Advisory Committee Meetings.

Council Meeting April 3
Finance Committee April 3
Community Planning Committee, Environment & Natural Areas
Committee, Public Works & Protective Services Committee April 17
Council Meeting April 24

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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Editor's Musings

Allen Jones

Weather in Metchosin has gone from wet and windy to mild and occasionally sunny. We see signs of spring appearing in Metchosin with shooting star, camas, and fawn lilies blooming again. We see newborn lambs in the fields and read stories of cougars in the area. While respecting the needs of wildlife in the area it must be heartbreaking for the sheep farmers.

Events are being planned to coincide with the improved weather. The Community Association is getting ready for another Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale in May and ideas

have been discussed in Council for the post-COVID Metchosin Day. It will be re-branded as 'Focus on Metchosin' Day with the intent of only attracting the local residents because of the reduced parking available. No vendors will be invited to attend this year. We also hear that Hans Helgesen School is having a bottle drive on Saturday, April 15, from 9:00am to noon.

In March, Council sent out a survey to residents of Metchosin to guide the proposed Climate Action Plan which we hope to review when it is available. Maybe the proposed pilot program by BC Transport for contactless access to public transport will make it

easier to use the few buses that service Metchosin. Perhaps we will get more charging points for electric vehicles that are becoming popular with residents. Tell the *Muse* what you would like to see.

Our front page gives details of the \$2,438,000 grant given to Metchosin but mention should also be made of a \$30,000 grant obtained by our ever-active Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop for the replacement of fire hoses and other equipment.

The mayor's Open House is attracting Metchosinites and leading to some interesting discussions on the second Tuesday of the month in the Council Chambers.

Lastly, readers may have noticed some (hopefully) amusing articles in this edition. Regular readers may have linked this with the issue date of 01 April.

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



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The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale is Coming!
Details on p. 13 under “House Happenings”

Co-existing with Cougars



Cougar track in Metchosin mud. Joan Johnston photo

Joan Johnston

Vancouver Island has the highest concentration of cougars in the world, with an estimated 800 of the big cats living here. Most of them are in the north, and most British Columbians will never see one in their lifetime. You wouldn't know it, given the number of cougar sightings in the Westshore over the last several months. I saw one last week myself, at midnight. It must have been right by my friend's house, and it ran ahead of me beside the driveway as I left.

If you've read the news, you will know that there have been a few cougar encounters over the past few months – unusual for Metchosin because they did not involve livestock. In one case, last November, a dog surprised a cougar that was eating a deer, and the cougar attacked, leading to the dog's death. In early March, Metchosinite Monique Anstee met a cougar which she described as “in a pounce position with ears flattened and tail wagging, less than ten feet from me”. As it turns out, this cougar was also protecting its kill, also a deer.

Richard Boness at Island Outfitters told me, “If you see a dead deer, avoid it” ... because there's a good chance that it's somebody's dinner, and that somebody may be watching you. (Now I know why I felt eyes on me while investigating my own

deceased lamb a few years back.) Richard also told me that male cougars will sometimes kill cougar cubs that are not their own and may kill a cat because it resembles a cougar cub. Dogs are also at risk, as are children because they are small, have high-pitched voices, and move quickly.

I asked Richard how we can protect ourselves if we run into a cougar. I learned that what is most important is to be loud enough that you don't surprise an animal, and make sure you are constantly aware of your surroundings. Bear spray is effective, but make sure you spray it in the air in front of the animal, not into its face. He also told me that, in urban

areas, bear spray can be seen as a weapon and not a “wildlife carry,” so be aware of that. Bear bangers and air horns can be effective as well.

For the full WildSafeBC article on cougars, visit: <https://wildsafebc.com/species/cougar/>

Safety Tips

- If you live in cougar habitat (we do!), ensure that you and your children know how to react in a cougar encounter.
- Make sure children are home before dusk and stay indoors until after dawn – the period of time cougars are most active. Do not leave children unsupervised.
- The best cougar encounter is the one you avoid. Stay away from dead prey. Avoid walking alone and avoid surprise encounters by making noise with your voice.
- Pets should be kept under control and on leash in wildlife country.
- Avoid hiking or using trails with poor sightlines at dawn and dusk when predators are most active.
- In the unlikely event you encounter cougar cubs, do not attempt to handle or approach them. Leave the area immediately.



A dog investigates the remains of a cougar kill. Monique Anstee photo

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Chinese Intelligence Spy Balloon Seen Over Metchosin



What's that in the sky? Avril Sotte photo

The events of March 15 were disturbing. After numerous sightings of a mysterious object were reported, the Muse assigned special correspondent Avril Sotte to investigate. Unfortunately, her brave dedication to duty resulted in her going to hospital and unable to file her article. However, we have Avril's notes, setting out the timeline of what happened that day and we print them verbatim here.

Avril Sotte's Notes*

8:40am DND receives first of several reports of a mysterious object spotted over parts of Metchosin. Description of object strongly resembles descriptions of 'Chinese Spy Balloon', previously shot down by the U.S. – bright light, disc shaped, and yellowish in colour, only seen intermittently. DND requests Metchosin EOC assume responsibility for coordinating response of the District and local organizations.

9:30am EOC sends message to District recommending immediate Council in-camera

meeting. Receives response that they are already in-camera and cannot be disturbed.

9:35am EOC alerts Metchosin organizations to possible threat.

10:00am The MCA executive holds an emergency meeting. Issues a bulletin, cancelling the upcoming event at the House, a community potluck lunch, stating, "This is no time to be organizing group meals."

10:15am ArtPod is the first organisation to raise the question with the EOC of the possibility that the object is an alien spaceship. EOC agrees to make enquiries.

10:30am Word is spreading and a small but growing crowd of curious people has gathered at Metchosin and Happy Valley Roads.

10:45am The APRM sends an enquiry to Council, asking whether object could be a developer's drone surveying the Buffer Zone.

11:00am EOC advises ArtPod that the DND believes there is no possibility that the object is an alien spaceship. ArtPod expresses its disappointment. They had hoped that an alien astronaut might have posed for their Tuesday figure drawing sessions. A nude alien would have made a nice change.

11:15am The crowd in the village continues to grow.

11:45am Council emerges from in-camera. They are briefed on events. Council sends an enquiry to the Fire Chief, asking whether all volunteer firefighters could be assembled in case the object causes a forest fire. Fire Chief responds that this is not necessary because, with all the rain and snow in early March, it would take nothing less than a napalm bomb to start a forest fire.

11:50am Councillor Gray sends message to Community Hall, instructing that it open their doors to allow people on the crowded roads to use the lavatories.

11:55am Council resumes in-camera meeting, presumably to discuss the crisis, but no-one knows because it is in-camera.

Noon Local radio broadcasts in the noon news that the Metchosin Fire Chief believes that the 'Chinese Spy Balloon' is armed with napalm bombs.

12:20pm Community Hall opens doors and invites the crowd to use their lavatory facilities. The offer is declined out of fear of causing a worse problem.

12:30pm Museum Society sends request to Council asking permission to display the alien spaceship outside the Pioneer Museum.

12:31pm Equestrian Society objects, stating that it will scare the horses. Unclear whether that refers to aliens or Museum Directors.

12:45pm As the MCA Executive is still meeting, they decide to request their spouses to bring dishes of food so they can organize a potluck lunch.

1:00pm Local radio asks the BC Premier what he is doing about the napalm threat. Premier replies they are monitoring the situation; if a large destructive fire does occur they will consider the site for low-cost housing.

1:15pm Metchosin Foundation offers \$15,000 scholarship for a student to undertake research into sustainable alternatives to napalm.

1:30pm Metchosin Muse team, comprising myself, Editor Emeritus Brian Domney and photographer Barb Sawatsky, head out in the hope of gaining

more definitive photographs of the mysterious object. It could be a long, damp wait, so Brian brings provisions.

3:15pm Muse Team returns, having survived a full 105 minutes in the bush on nothing more than two bottles of Shackleton Scotch and a jar of homemade marmalade. We finished consuming these to lighten our load on the return journey. I'm not feeling very well.

Editor's note: Avril was taken to Victoria General. Brian and Barb's photographs were declared classified by MOD. However, sources inform us that their photos reveal that the object was not a 'Chinese Spy Balloon', an alien spaceship, or a developer's drone. After consulting with NASA and the CHEK weather office, the mysterious, elusive flying object, which had raised much interest and alarm, was identified. It was, in fact, the sun.



Brian Domney provides supplies for balloon hunters. Avril Sotte photo

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The Annual Epic Metchosin Apple Tree Grafting Day

Derek Wulff

Apple Tree Grafting Day
April 2, 12 noon to 2:30pm
Bilston Creek Farm
4185 Metchosin Road

The Metchosin Pomological Society is having its 216th annual Apple Tree Grafting Day on April 2. Come and enjoy this exciting agricultural activity: grafting scion wood from one apple tree onto the rootstock of another one!

We will have scion wood 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, good for juggling, 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 scion-wood from a tree you really like and we will show you how – and then help you graft it to the root stock – to make an identical apple tree of that type. We will also have some pear and plum rootstock. Plums, while not as fun 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, but 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!

We will welcome anyone who is interested in trying their hand at grafting to come out on Sunday April 2 at Bilston Farm noon to 2:30 pm. Each rootstock is \$5 and we will supply grafting tape and other materials needed.

So go out and 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 along.

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, so we have better food security for the future.

If you have any questions please call Derek Wulff, president of the Metchosin Pomological Society, 250-478-2677.

Collected scion wood ready for grafting.
Derek Wulff photo



Metchosin Cricket Club Swimming for Charity



Cricket club members and friends take the plunge.
Jess Thomson photo

Rohan Gowda, Ross Sands, and Johnny Carline

Although it is the ‘off-season’ the Metchosin Cricket Club finds ways of staying together and

doing something of value. Already busy with replacing the main playing square on the cricket field and preparing the ground for new practice nets, members of the club and their families decided, in March, to turn their attention to

raising money for charity. Their first project has been to generate funds for Special Olympics BC to help people, who might otherwise encounter barriers, to participate in activities.

Their unusual method of raising funds was to invite sponsorship for club members to take icy plunges into the ocean. Their initial goal was to raise \$500. They have already raised over \$1000!

This is a club of very fine young families and its Board of Directors has indicated that it would welcome more involvement with its host municipality. One idea is to undertake another fundraiser, splitting the funds raised between the club and a Metchosin charity or project. Any ideas from readers along these lines would be welcome. Please send them to the *Muse*, attention Johnny Carline, and we will pass them along.



Sadly one of the team could not swim and the club is looking for a silly mid-off. Avril Feuille photo

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 Becher Bay.

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We’ve all seen materials left with the hopes of having someone take it. However, these materials are often damaged and end up being unusable. Think of that wet sofa you’ve seen left at the curb; it is unlikely to be picked up for reuse. Unfortunately, removal and disposal of abandoned waste often falls on to our municipalities at the taxpayers’ expense. So, if you’re doing some spring cleaning or preparing to move, don’t abandon the items you no longer want. You can follow these five recommendations for proper disposal!

Does your item really need to be replaced? Reducing our consumption is the first step to reducing the amount of waste we create. You can make a huge difference by taking care of your items and prolonging their usable life.

Updating the décor in your home? Give your outdated furniture a new look by repainting or re-staining old wooden furniture or upholstering your couch with a more modern fabric.

Find usable items a new home. With technology we now have a broader reach from the comfort of our home. Advertise your goods for free on multiple online platforms and others can come and collect. Donate to local charities – depending on the items, free pick up may be provided.

Most of the items we see abandoned can be recycled for free under various stewardship programs. A great example are electronics like TVs, vacuums, and small kitchen appliances – these can all be recycled. Find your closest depot on myrecyclopedia.ca

Anything that cannot be reused or recycled should be disposed of properly at a garbage facility in the region. You can make it easier by arranging a community disposal day with your neighbors and coordinate a shared visit and transportation to bring all the items at once.

Doing the right thing may not be as costly as you think! You can also help your neighborhood by reporting abandoned waste or witnessed illegal dumping to your local municipality. For more information, visit www.crd.bc.ca/dumping.



Ray and Elinor: Adios But Not Goodbye



Ray and Elinor. Barb Sawatsky photo

Barb Sawatsky

Ray and Elinor Creasser moved into their Metchosin home on Morland Road in March, 1966. In March, 2023, almost 57 years later to the day, they moved to Trillium West Shore Village in Colwood after selling their house.

Some folks might be sad when faced with saying good-bye to the family home but Elinor said, “Since Ray’s stroke last year, I have had to do all the work both inside and outside and I’m exhausted. The kids are great about helping out but we don’t want to always be calling them.” The past year has been difficult for Ray. After a lifetime of self-sufficiency, a stroke left him with severe balance issues. His doctor insists that he use his walker at all times “because we definitely don’t need a broken hip on top of other problems.” Their decision to move was validated when, with Ray recuperating at home, snow fell, then a lengthy power outage hit their street during a windstorm leaving Elinor to bring in firewood and hunt in the dark basement for the camp stove. “That’s what sealed it,” she said, so they met with their children and discussed selling. “It was a family decision. I felt overwhelmed, Ray was upset, and the kids were worried. There are better options out there; it was time to go!” Leaving has been easier knowing that a young family has purchased their home and is

excited to be moving into the place where their three kids, Kevin, Brenda and Nora, grew up.

With Ray and Elinor having relocated, this will be the first time in almost 100 years that a member of the Creasser family has not lived in Metchosin. In 1927, Ray’s dad purchased “a shack on one acre of land” at 5210 Rocky Point Road and built a house for their growing family. Ray, born in 1932, was the third of seven children and recalls walking to Rocky Point School which was located on what is now DND property. He then attended Belmont School from Grade VIII to Grade XII when the school comprised of army huts which had been moved over from Uvic and when “PE classes meant picking rocks from the field.” After graduation he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, lived for two years in Europe during the Suez crisis, and then was stationed at Cold Lake, Alberta.

On one of his trips home, Ray learned that the Glead property on Rocky Point Rd. was being subdivided so he purchased two acres on Morland Road for \$1200 through Fergus Reid and began to build a house, working on it when he had a week or two off. The house was only half finished when he became engaged to Elinor but he hurried and they were able to move in after their marriage. Working for DND, Ray commuted to Pat Bay and periodically to Nanose Bay to work in the sonar department then was stationed at DND Rocky Point. He retired after “13 or 14 years” as a radar technician.

“Aging in place is fine up to a point,” said Elinor. “But when staying in a house becomes a burden, you have to look at it from another side. We are independent people and now we can walk to the rec centre, our bank, and grocery stores. Our new place is pet-friendly so our two cats, Gracie and Mystic, could come with us. We are not saying goodbye – our roots are in Metchosin and we have a 30-year involvement with St. Mary’s Church. Colwood is only a short drive away and we still plan to come to the Farmers’ Market, My-Chosen Café, and I plan to continue to come to the knitting group.”

Wishing all the best to Ray, 91, and Elinor, 81, who celebrated their 57th anniversary on March 5, 2023 and have embarked on a new phase in their lives together.



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Volunteers ready to hit the roads. Barb Sawatsky photo

Barb Sawatsky

To honour the memory of Liz Jatkowski and her mission to clear Metchosin’s trails and roadsides of garbage, Jacob Lamb and Nik Wells initiated the first March for Liz community cleanup in 2022.

Liz endeared herself to the employees in the Public Works department and to the firefighters as well as to many Metchosin residents with her “tell it like it is”

opinions and it was a shock to all who knew her to hear of her death on March 2, 2021. Her story can be found in the May 2021 online edition (page 10) of the *Metchosin Muse*.

Possibly due to the cold, wet weather on March 5 this year, fewer people turned out to the event but appreciation is extended to the approximately 20 good folk who participated. At least two people from outside our community helped, one being Alison LeDuc’s son, Jesse. At the end of the day, a truckload of garbage was bagged

and taken to the dump and Katy Nelson left the municipal grounds smiling with some found treasures!

Thanks to all who supported the Metchosin Fire Department’s second March for Liz event. Liz would say to those who thanked her, “You can do it too, you know,” so if you were busy on March 5, it’s not too late to carry a bag on your next walk, pick up trash, and make our Metchosin a little tidier.

That Book

Kevin McClintock

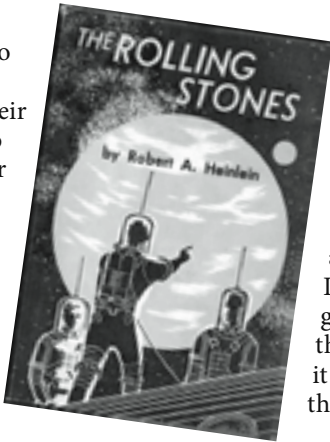
Remember that book that hooked you into reading? You would have been nine or ten, and the story grabbed you and wouldn’t let go, and you ended up wishing you were there instead of here.

For me, that book was *The Rolling Stones* by Robert Heinlein. Written in 1951, it has nothing to do with Mick and Keith. It revolves around 15-year-old brothers named Castor and Pollox Stone, universally referred to by neighbours as the Unheavenly Twins. You can imagine the trouble they got into. They were accompanied in their misdeeds by their 90-year-old grandmother, one of the founders of Luna City. Trying with little success to control their excesses were their

parents: Roger, who wrote radio serials for a living, and their mother Edith, who was a doctor. Older sister Meade and younger brother Buster rounded out the family.

The boys convince the family to get an RV and head out on the road. Of course, when you launch from Luna City, the RV is a spaceship, and planning the road trip consists of plotting courses for Mars and the asteroids. Even in deep space, 15-year-old boys can find trouble, and a slighter younger male reader can delight in how they frustrate their parents.

I looked for that book again when my oldest grandson was



ten, but with no luck. It was out of print, and no used store seemed to have a copy. He has since moved on to essays with baffle-gab academic titles, but I do have a younger grandson approaching the appropriate age, so it has always been in the back of my mind.

Last month, while visiting friends in Metchosin, we called into Old Barn Books. What should I find, but *The Rolling Stones*, for one dollar.

Time to buy a lottery ticket and a huge thanks to the person who donated the book to the Old Barn Books.

Editor’s note: The author lives near Golden BC, where he owned a bookstore before retirement.

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Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association’s AGM Draws Folks Together

The Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association

The Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association (BHWPA) held its AGM on March 9. Close to 70 people came out to the meeting with attendees including Metchosin’s Mayor Marie-Térèse Little and councillors Shelly Donaldson, Sharie Epp, and Jay Shukin. Two Langford councillors, Mark Morley and Mary Wagner, also attended the meeting.

Certainly the guest speakers from Friends of the Tod Creek Watershed – Mary Haig-Brown and Winona Pugh – were part of the magic. Pugh gave a powerful presentation describing several successful restoration projects in Tod Creek Flats, Prospect Lake, and Tod Inlet. Inspired by the vision of Mary Haig-Brown (daughter of renowned conservationist Roderick Haig-Brown), Friends of the Tod Creek Watershed have worked to bring salmon back to Tod Creek and restore the

agriculturally depleted Tod Flats to a native wetland.

Old and new advocates for Bilston Creek watershed were also a draw. Speaking to the questions of “Why should we care about the Bilston Creek watershed?” and “What upcoming activities will the BWHPA be hosting?”, presenters from Metchosin and Langford showed how crucial it is that we work together to protect interconnected surface and groundwater relationships in our watershed, which

is under extreme pressure from rapid development in the West Shore as well as climate change. Water knows no boundaries, and residents of Metchosin, Langford, Colwood, and Sooke proved the truth of that adage.

Bilston Creek watershed is the third largest watershed in the region. Its uniqueness lies in the branching, tree-like structure of the many streams and tributaries that feed into Bilston Creek, all of which deserve care. They add volume to Bilston Creek’s magnificent terminus at Sitting Lady Falls, where it falls down rock cliffs and into Witty’s Lagoon. This ensures that Bilston Creek continues to nourish the farms, species, and habitats through which it winds on its way to the ocean. This is critical, in light of accumulating threats up-stream.

Pictures of some of the 200+ species that depend on habitat in the Bilston Creek watershed were on display at the AGM, including magical species like fairy shrimp, water ouzel, crayfish, freshwater sponge, water shrews (they can run on water!), freshwater clams, and numerous amphibians. A genetically unique species of cutthroat trout also survives in the watershed.

After an overview of past BWHPA projects, a look forward to the Association’s plans for two restoration events and other activities in 2023, and a lively discussion period, the meeting turned to AGM business. All those standing for director positions were unanimously approved: Ri Blixrude, Kym Hill, Sasha Kubicek, Alison Leduc, Ian Mckenzie, Ric Perron and Nicole Shukin.

To learn more or become a member of the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association, please visit our website: www.bilstoncreek.org



Sitting Lady Falls, BilstOn Creek terminus. Bev Hall photo

Spotlight on Old Barn Books

Jim MacPherson

Old Barn Books is one of Metchosin’s genuine hidden gems. I believe the bookstore is “hidden”, not because people don’t know about it, but because it is so understated. Old Barn Books deserves attention and recognition in our community. Nestled at the entrance to the Pioneer Museum, it is a small, intimate place but, within that limited space, volunteers have managed to create room for extensive fiction and non-fiction book collections. A kid’s corner, containing a wide selection of children’s books, draws young and old.

Avril Yoachim, Nancy Hueston, and Karen Kirby spend many hours receiving, sorting, and displaying books every week; Karen Harrison prepares the volunteer roster; and Judy and Larry Tremblay, Dorothy and Richard Boisvert, Laura Farquharson, Jim MacPherson, Bert Harrison, and Karen Harrison sell the books on Sundays and assist customers with suggestions.

This bookstore is the primary fund-raiser for the Metchosin Museum Society which operates both the Pioneer and Schoolhouse Museums. Old Barn Books functions a little like a re-circulating library. People mostly from Metchosin donate their

books, which are then sold, and often returned and donated to the store to be shelved again.

Nowhere can you find a better price for books. Generally, paperbacks sell for \$1.00 and hardbacks for \$2.00. Some coffee-table books may be priced at \$5.00 while other special or unique books and sets may be priced differently.

Old Barn Books provides a special service to Metchosin readers. Its fame has spread across the district and welcomes visitors from far and wide. The bookstore has become an important draw to visitors of the Pioneer Museum. Many a visitor to Old Barn Books, even some Metchosin residents, discover the Pioneer Museum because they stopped to buy books.

Old Barn Books is open every Sunday, except winter holidays, from 11.00am to 2:00pm. If you have a large collection that you wish to donate to Old Barn Books, first contact Avril at ayoachim@telus.net to make arrangements. Not all books are accepted, especially if they are in poor condition, inappropriate or are dated and hold little customer appeal. Some examples include encyclopaedias, textbooks, magazines, and books in the categories of health, law, and finance.

It sometimes gets pretty crowded, especially during the summer when the Farmers’



John (left) and Gordon (right) Weir enjoy their time at Old Barn Books. Stacey Weir photo

Market operates. It is not very user-friendly to people with special needs, however, Old Barn Books is happy to arrange private visits. The Board of the Museum Society is taking a look at what can be done to help resolve these issues.

In the meantime, we thank Avril and the team of volunteers for doing such a commendable job.

Editor’s note: See “That Book”, p. 7, for a heartwarming story about Old Barn Books.

Old Barn Books is open every Sunday, except winter holidays, from 11.00am to 2:00pm.



Old growth forest in Metchosin. Bev Hall photo

Prominent Environmental Advocate Speaking in Metchosin

Morgan Yates

A Conversation with Tzepporah Berman
Thursday, April 27, 6:00pm
Bilston Creek Farm, 4185 Metchosin Road
Tickets \$5 online or at the door

On Thursday, April 27, internationally recognized environmentalist Tzepporah Berman will be sharing her views and experiences from decades of environmental advocacy and policy work at an event hosted by Bilston Creek Farm.

Bilston Creek Farm has partnered with UVic’s John Albert Hall Lecture Series to organize *A Conversation with Tzepporah Berman*. There will be a Q&A session following the conversation. Facilitating this conversation will be local best-selling author, and retired professional forester and professional biologist, Andy MacKinnon. This informative evening in Metchosin is being made possible, with additional support from both St. Mary of

The Incarnation Church and the Metchosin Foundation.

For more than two decades the John Albert Hall lecture series, a joint initiative of UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the Anglican Diocese of Islands and Inlets of British Columbia, has featured prominent thinkers speaking on topics related to the changing role of religion in contemporary society. For over a dozen years, the Metchosin Foundation has supported local environmental initiatives and related educational opportunities, such as this event.

Metchosin residents of a certain age may associate Tzepporah Berman with her strategic role in the campaign to protect the old growth forests of Clayoquot Sound. While this was an important early milestone in her work, she has been designing environmental campaigns and working on environmental policy in Canada and beyond for over thirty years. She is currently the International

Program Director at Stand.earth and Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative. Ms. Berman was one of the creators and lead negotiators of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement and the former Co-director of Greenpeace International’s Global Climate and Energy Program. In 2015 she was appointed to the BC Government Climate Leadership Team tasked with making policy recommendations to meet BC legislated climate targets.

Ms. Berman’s recent speaking events and videos have focused not only on her experience in the environmental policy and advocacy realm, but also on her personal views and underlying sources of inspiration and motivation.

Admission to the speaking event costs \$5 per person and tickets may be purchased online (see link below) or at the door. The speaking event itself is scheduled for 6:00 to 7:15pm but attendees are invited to arrive early, to enjoy a cedar distillation



Tzepporah Berman. Stand.earth photo

demonstration scheduled for 4:30pm on the Lavender Patio. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

This author anticipates a provocative, engaging and energetic conversation on. For more information, please visit: <https://bilston.ca/farm-attractions/a-conversation-with-tzepporah-berman/>

Lamb Chased by Cougars on Municipal Grounds

Joan Johnston

They say that trouble comes in threes and, sure enough, a trio of cougars was sighted chasing their prey on the municipal grounds last week. Their target barely managed to escape, taking shelter in the Municipal Hall after a mad dash across the field. Fire Chief Dunlop speculated that the big cats followed the Galloping Goose Trail from Colwood, having scented one Jacob Lamb at the Metchosin Fire Department.

Editor’s note: All kidding aside, cougars have been a cause of concern in Metchosin of late. Please see page 3 for an article on safety around cougars.



A Lamb being chased by ‘cougars’ in Metchosin. Barb Sawatsky photo

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Ways to Help Wildlife and Wild ARC

Becky Meyer, Assistant Manager, BC SPCA Wild ARC

Wild ARC is nearing our busiest time of year - baby season! From April to September, hundreds of wild animals will come through our doors each month in need of help. During this time, we receive more than 70% of our yearly patients.

Our dedicated staff and volunteer team will be working extra hard every day to care for all kinds of species – big and small – to give them the best chance at returning to their wild homes.

So what can you do to support our work and get involved?

As Wild ARC heavily relies on volunteers, consider joining our volunteer team. Whether you're interested in direct animal care, want to help out in the kitchen, or act as an "animal ambulance," we'd be happy to have the help! You can read more about our volunteer program and apply to join the team by going online to www.wildarc.com/volunteer. Enlistment for the 2023 season will only be available until mid-April, so be sure to apply soon!

If you can't commit to a volunteer position, consider donating to help keep us running. We're always in need of something, and that something could already be in your closet! We can always use more white pillowcases and white facecloths that are gently used; if you find any extras during spring cleaning, consider donating them to Wild ARC. Email us at info@wildarc.com to see what else we might need, or we can send you one of our wish lists. We're always appreciative of the support!

Maybe you'd like to add some "wild" art pieces to your collection. In that case, visit the upcoming 'Wild BC' Driftwood Art Exhibition by Artist Tanya



Wild ARC photo

Bub, at the Gage Gallery, 19 Bastion Square, Victoria (phone 250-592-2760), until April 16. Proceeds from the wild animal driftwood art pieces featured in the show will go to benefit Wild ARC.

There are hundreds of ways to get involved and show your support for local wildlife. Whether it's small or big, every act of kindness helps, and Wild ARC continues to be grateful to our amazing community for their continued kindness!

The Future of Metchosin – A Big Picture Approach

Avril Sotte

In 1543, Copernicus published the theory that the sun was the centre of the universe. Yet it appears that not everybody in Metchosin is persuaded. Many still hold to the idea that Metchosin is, in fact, the centre of the universe. Sophisticated Metchosinites tend to greet such attitudes with an indulgent, faintly dismissive smile. Here, we will re-examine the issue from a cosmological perspective.

Our universe began with everything concentrated into an infinitesimally small space. This was terrible planning. Even the current Victoria Council does not contemplate such density. Not unexpectedly, it ended badly and its violent demise, known as the Big Bang, propelled matter far and wide.

The resulting constituent parts of the universe were small and the universe became ever less dense. From a Metchosin perspective, this was an improvement, but some disagree. They are concerned that the constituent parts are not big enough to house all that is good and needed in the universe. They call this a 'housing crisis', see it as a grave problem, and look to an alternative force, appropriately named 'gravity', to stall the sprawl and reconcentrate the universe.

It was possible that the forces of gravity would indeed reverse the momentum of the Big Bang, returning everything back to its initial very dense form, in a process known as the Big Crunch. This would have been very bad. But now we know that, while gravity has not been eliminated, the momentum of the Big Bang will allow the universe to continue to expand and become less dense. We can rest content.

But can we? There is still another potential concern. Our



universe contains numerous black holes, clusters of matter so dense that even light cannot escape from their gravitational pull – hence 'black hole'. If the origin of our universe can be viewed as a vastly scaled up version of the black holes in our universe, might there also be a corresponding scaled up version of our universe, a kind of cosmic CRD, which contains many universes similar to ours. And if each experiences its own Big Bang, what will happen when these Big Bangs collide?

Let us assume we have a neighbouring universe. It could be bigger and denser than ours, or smaller and less dense. For easy reference, let us call our universe the "Metchosin universe" after its centre, and call the bigger of the possible neighbours the "Langford universe" and the smaller one the "East Sooke universe".

When expanding universes collide, the outbound matter at the boundaries experiences friction, reducing the outward momentum. Gravitational forces may once again threaten to turn expansion into contraction. What would happen next depends on the relative strength of the gravitational forces within each universe.

If we collided with the East Sooke universe, having less mass than the Metchosin universe, it would become subject to our gravitational pull. Metchosin would itself contract, with the mass of East Sooke added to it, increasing density and eventually resulting in a Big Crunch, possibly centred on the cricket field. This would undoubtedly

bring a premature end to any cricket match in progress, as well as other almost-as-tragic consequences.

If, on the other hand, we collided with the Langford universe, which has more mass, it would exert more gravitational pull than our Metchosin universe. The Langford universe would begin to contract but would also begin to suck in the Metchosin universe. Ultimately every bit of Metchosin would be absorbed into the ever-densifying Langford universe.

True, one could see some positives. The seemingly endless discussions of the history of the 'buffer zone' would come to an end, as would the squabbling between the museum and equestrian societies over their boundaries. On the other hand, imagine MACCA becoming LACCA, or the Metchosin Café becoming a chain fast-food joint. Horrors!

Is there any prospect that we can escape these catastrophes? Well, yes there is. They can only occur if there are worlds outside Metchosin. If there is nothing of any gravitas beyond the boundary of our Metchosin universe, everything will continue just the way it does now. Bliss!

So, all those who already believed that to be the case may have had a point after all. It's just a matter of seeing the *really* big picture.

Editor's note: This article was filed before Avril's medical problems as a result of chasing balloons in the sky.

The Pioneer Museum

Jim MacPherson

If you climb the stairs in the Pioneer Museum you will find a cougar skin draped over the banister at the top of the stairs. It was donated by a member of the Reid Family whose farm bordered on Joan Yates' property at Rocky Point Road. Elinor Whitney-Griffiths donated the picture, taken in 1948, of the cougar, her husband, Bernie, then 19-years-old, and his hunting partner, Joan Yates, also known as Metchosin's Cougar Queen. *Bernie with Joan Yates* is one of many historic pictures enlarged and on display at Metchosin Pioneer Museum.

The Pioneer Museum is open Sundays between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.



A cougar you might want to see in Metchosin. Elinor Whitney-Griffiths poses with the photo she donated. Barb Sawatsky photo

Join Us in April: Two Events

Brian Geary, Pearson College UWC Communications Director

Arts Open House
Pearson College Dining Hall
April 6, 4:00–5:30pm

Pearson College UWC student-driven community invites our Metchosin and Capital Region friends and neighbours to two events this April: one on campus and another at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre at 3277 Douglas Street, Victoria.

On Thursday, April 6, between 4:00 and 5:30pm, we are inviting the community to join us on campus as students showcase their talents and creative works at our Arts Open House in the College Dining Hall. Enjoy a quick peek at collections of

student artworks including paintings, mixed media, photography and pottery in this year-end visual arts exhibit. As a bonus, this event will also include short solo and group performances from Pearson's theatre students.

For space considerations and for ordering goodies for our guests, we kindly ask you to RSVP for this free event by April 3. Watch for the QR code RSVP link on our social media pages.

On Saturday, April 15, Pearson's international and Canadian students, together with the College, are pleased and honoured to present an afternoon of Ukrainian dance, music, visual arts, exhibitions, and storytelling to celebrate the passion and resilience of Ukrainian culture

and to raise funds to support relief work in Ukraine, for Ukrainian newcomers to the area, and Ukrainian Studies Society's Student Scholarship fund.

A Celebration of Ukrainian Arts & Culture – У Країна Мрій ("In the Land of Dreams"), presented by Pearson College UWC will be offered at 1:00 and 3:00pm for about 90 minutes each. Both sessions will feature the spectacular Ukrainian dance that was a highlight of past One World performances!

Admission is by donation (in advance or onsite) and space is limited at the Cultural Centre so please RSVP by Tuesday, April 11. Watch our social media for a QR code with links to the RSVP and options for donations.



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MUSIC FOR A SPRING EVENING

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary of the Incarnation church, 4125 Metchosin Road, Victoria, BC



Eva Bradávková
flute



Michael Kevin Jones
cello



Bruce Vogt
piano

PROGRAMME includes music by

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Any unsold tickets will be available at the door before the concert.

#MetchosinArtPod

Film Night: Four Short Movies

Ric Perron

Film Night, Four Movies for Your Pleasure (48 minutes)
Metchosin Community House
Friday April 28, 7:00pm

Janwaar (12 minutes)

This film shows how kids in an Indian village have their dreams realized when a skater girl and digital nomad Ulrike Reinhard, with her flashy board-on-wheels travels through Janwaar, Madhya Pradesh, to create play space for kids. The skate park bridges the caste system and turns dreams into a reality. Photographer Danny Schmidt.



Janwaar promotional image

Humpback Comeback (17 minutes)

A month ago, Bowen Island’s Bob Turner filmed three young humpbacks next to shore. These gracious creatures floated



Izembek promotional image

vertically with mouths hinged wide open, patiently waiting for a huge serving of a herring ball. Did you know that they can breathe and take in water at the same time?

If You Give A Beach A Bottle (5 minutes)

Max Romey sketches the trash that he finds on an Alaskan beach and transposes the ugly vision into treasures of art. He’s an amazing water colour expert, effortlessly painting mountains of plastic waste into colourful images that he often rips out of his book to create collages. The co-operative beach cleanup is inspiring. You will be amazed.

Izembek, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (13 minutes)

“A wilderness is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are

untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

– The Wilderness Act 1964.

Along the Bering Sea coast of Alaska, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge is a precious gem vulnerable to the development of an access road through this hyper-sensitive ecosystem. Filmed for Cornell Lab, Gerrit Vyn documents the area with wonderful filming and narration. The area has since been designated by the RAMSAR Convention with international importance as a unique wetland for migratory birds, walrus, bears, volcanoes, glaciers, marshes, and other magnificence of nature. It is America’s least known wildlife park.

PS. Sadly, this will be the last Film Night until next fall.

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 meet 7:00–9:00pm on the first and third Mondays monthly. For more info call Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Tuesdays

Drop-In Painters Art Group. This group of artists and hobbyists meet Tuesday mornings 9:30am–12:30pm. Everyone is welcome. To join the group, please contact Arlene at 250-391-7905.

Knitting Café. The afternoon group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly 1:00–3:00pm. For more information call Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00am.

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. This is a weight loss and healthy lifestyle support group. Contact Nan at 250-478-7688.

Creative Rug Hooking. First and third Thursdays, monthly, 10:30am–1:30pm, led by Sheila Stewart. Contact Sheila (250-595-6406, email: blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss supplies needed. No fees but donation jar to cover refreshment costs.

Fridays

Parent and Tots Program – 9:30–11:30am. The Parent and Tots Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings. Children will have access to toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed and supportive environment as well as access to a resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and children.

Ukulele Gathering – 5:00–6:30pm, third Friday of each month. We have a range of abilities, and songs can be

played with fewer or easier chords. More experienced players can bring a song to share with everyone. If you would like to join the group please contact Margaretha at memetopia@gmail.com. Bring: your uke, a tuner, a music stand.

EVENTS

Film Night – April 28, 7:00–9:00pm. Four Auspicious Movies for Your Pleasure (48 minutes): *Janwaar* (12 minutes), *Humpback Comeback* (17 minutes), *If You Give A Beach A Bottle* (5:14 minutes), *Izembek The Cornell Lab of Ornithology* (13 minutes). Please see this page for more details.

Mighty Garage Sale – May 27–28, 9:00am–3:00pm. Donations start May 20–26, 10:00am–2:00pm. Look for details in the *Muse* or at www.metchosincommunityhouse.com.

Art on the Walls: April – Three members of the Drop In Art Group, Linda Kirstein, Anne Ward, and Arlene Welch have put pictures on the wall. You may visit with the artists any Tuesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Viewing times: Monday–Thursday 9:00am–1:00pm. For more information, please call 250-478-5155.



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Metchosin Community House

4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155

mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com

A Crossword to Do During April Showers

Across:

1 Garden tool

5 Tool for wool

9 Community Place

10 Able I was ...

11 Former councillor

13 It's Broken

15 A drink with jam and bread

16 Local bay

17 Cloth-making tools

20 Farmer John

21 They can be black or blue

22 Pollinator

25 Trail

28 Mrs. Sheep

29 Local band, first part

30 Local band, second part

31 Amphibian

Down:

1 Rabbit's relative

2 Bread step

3 Mystery writer

4 ___-___, spaghetti!

5 So-___

6 Pre-butterfly

7 Exists

8 Fawn flowers

9 Helium

11 _____ Muse

12 Lover of Narcissus

13 Devonian _____

14 Firehall feline, to some

17 Out like a ...

18 Not off

19 Hoppy establishment in Metchosin

20 What you do for a cup of sugar

23 Fowl gifts

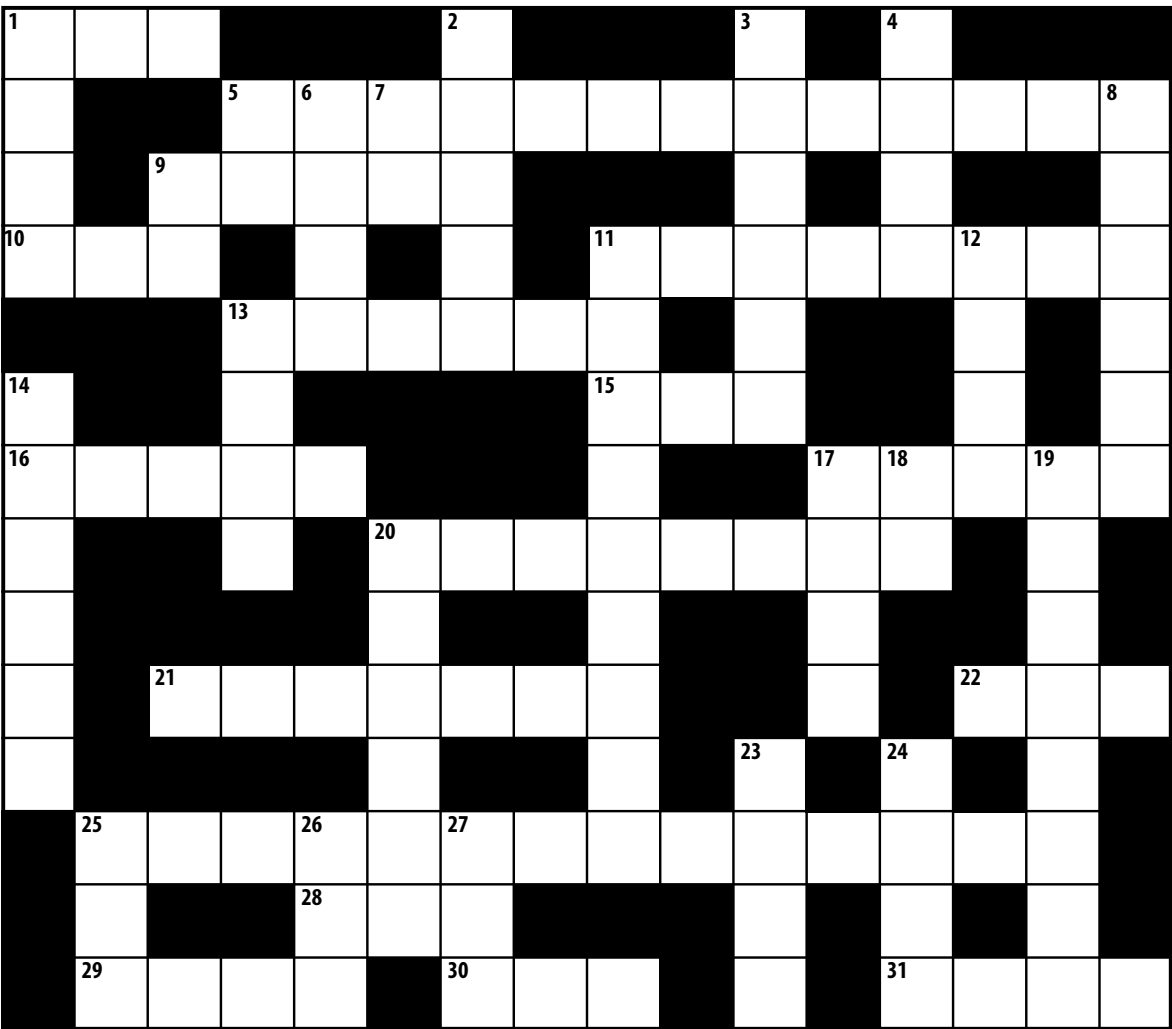
24 Equine foot

25 Can't get it in Metchosin

26 Where sheep live

27 Pig stall

This crossword puzzle was created in a barn full of sheep on a cold night in March, by Theresa Kew and Joan Johnston.



Metchosin Muse

CLASSIFIEDS

SUNNY DAY FARM SERVICES – medium sized tractor available for hire with 6’ rototiller, field mower, loader and manure spreader. Doug, 250-883-1343, dougbrubaker@shaw.ca

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

Metchosin Baha'i Community

• Friendship / Love / Service / Joy •

What does the Baha'i Faith say about civilization in the future?

Civilization will be “a prosperous one, in which the vast resources of the world will be directed towards humanity’s elevation and regeneration, not its debasement and destruction. ”

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

CRD Walks in Metchosin and East Sooke

Come out to enjoy some CRD Walks this spring!

April 2023

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Through Storytelling (Guided Storytime) • 5 years and under • Two sessions on Apr 19, 2023: 10am-11am and 11:30am-12:30pm • 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

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Thank You

Nan Hsieh

February 26 was a cold winter’s day, but inside Metchosin Community Hall the atmosphere was warm and buzzing with positive energy as over 80 people gathered for the annual Towel Project. Over 200 towels and many socks, along with toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo were collected for Our Place and Rock Bay Landing, local societies providing assistance to the unhoused. The focus for our Towel Project was to support the bath programs

for these organizations. Diana Gallivan, a speaker representing Our Place, provided an inspiring overview of its programs and shared success stories that demonstrated how people successfully use their resources to move forward and live independent successful lives. One fun aspect of our time together was the “gift bag worktable,” where adults and children worked together to make cards using cardstock, stickers, coloured pens, and encouraging quotes, and these were then enclosed in a gift bag

with a chocolate, a candy, and a hand towel. After completing the gift bags Metchosin’s marvelous marimba band, Mufaro, brought the energy level in the hall to a new level as they played, and people danced or clapped together for 45 minutes. What fun that was! Thank you Metchosin for yet again supporting the Baha’i Community in providing a needed service. We couldn’t do this event without your support.

Seniors’ Resource Centre

METCHOSIN

Laurie Sthamann, Office Manager

The SRC is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00–4:00 pm. Staff and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, connections, and services. Here is what’s happening in April.

CRA BENEFITS AND CREDITS
Thursday, April 20, 1:00pm | Seniors’ Resource Centre
A Canada Revenue Agency Outreach Officer will be at the SRC to give a presentation on the services, benefits, and credits available to adults 65 years +. Attend this event to make sure you are receiving the benefits and credits you are entitled to.

- Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement – including repayment calculation for OAS
- Canada Pension Plan
- Disability Tax Credit
- Caregiver Credit
- Home Accessibility tax credit
- Medical expenses

New one-time housing and GST benefits
• How to get free tax help
• Services and Tools
• Scam Awareness
This is a free event, but space is limited so please RSVP before April 17 by calling the SRC at 250-478-5150 or email: info@metchosinseniors.ca.

FRIDAY SOCIAL
April 28, 1:00-3:00 pm | Metchosin Community House
Drop in for coffee and conversation at our community social, which is on the last Friday of the month. It’s hosted by local members of the Baha’i faith and SRC. The SRC will drive anyone who needs a ride. Everyone is welcome.

MSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Metchosin Seniors’ Association held their annual general meeting in March. The board of directors was re-elected: Deirdre Chettleburgh (president), Helen Fletcher (vice-president), Kim Schlieper (treasurer), Jennifer Burgis, Carol Carman, Barrett Fullerton, Bonnie Hardy, Sandy Jenkins, and Sarah Richardson (directors).

Metchosin Seniors’ Resource Centre (SRC)

1407–4495 Happy Valley Road

250.478.5150 • info@metchosinseniors.ca • www.metchosinseniors.ca

RCMP Call-Outs

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

FEB. 10–MAR. 8, 2023

- Feb 10

Rocky Point Road – Traffic unit conducted speed enforcement.
- Feb 11

Rocky Point Road – Check welfare. Person found to be alright.
Glen Forest Way area – Domestic dispute/assault, investigation continuing.
- Feb 13

Pears Road area – ‘Keep the Peace’ regarding a civil matter.
William Head Road – Report of an assault, still under investigation.
- Feb 14

Happy Valley Road – Check welfare complaint, female located, one male arrested for breach of undertaking on a no contact order, in custody for court, investigation continuing.
Swanwick Road – Mischief to security camera, still under investigation.
- Feb 17

Delgada Road – Suspicious vehicle. Owner located and not an issue.
- Feb 19

Happy Valley Road – Three vehicle collision. Speeding vehicle hit two parked vehicles. Driver charged with driving without due care and attention.
Pedder Bay – Assist Coast Guard with the rescue of a boat/operator in high winds.
Metchosin Road – Assistance provided to Coroner’s Service regarding sudden death.
Metchosin Road – Erratic driver, vehicle not located. Registered owner given verbal warning.
Happy Valley Road area – Domestic dispute, no assault, one person left the residence.
- Feb 21

Rocky Point Road – Mischief to private property.
Sooke Road – Driving complaint, vehicle not located, registered owner given warning.
Rocky Point Road – Assistance to Fire Department, tree down on power lines.
- Feb 22

Rocky Point Road – Tree on road causing road hazard.
Pears Road – Landlord/tenant dispute, civil matter.
Sooke Road – Erratic driver, suspect vehicle not located.
- Feb 24

William Head Road – Assistance to Fire Department for a vehicle fire.
Sooke Road – Single vehicle accident, vehicle roll over, no injuries.
- Feb 25

Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, icy roads, minor injury to driver.
- Feb 26

Metchosin Road – Dog running loose on road causing traffic hazard, owner located.
Kangaroo Road – Single vehicle accident, icy roads, no injuries.
Metchosin Road area – Assistance provided to Coroner’s officer regarding sudden death.
- Feb 27

Metchosin Road – Break/enter to business, mischief to property, several items stolen, investigation continuing.
Glen Forest Way area – Mischief to private property, unfounded.
Happy Valley Road – Male heard screaming in the area, patrols failed to locate him.
- Feb 28

Pears Road – Abandoned vehicle causing hazard, owner located.
Swanwick Road – Mischief to private property, investigation continuing.
Happy Valley Road area – Assistance to ambulance for overdose victim.
Happy Valley Road – Domestic dispute, no assault.
- Mar 1

Rocky Point Road – Assistance provided to Sooke RCMP regarding a theft.
Sooke Road – Erratic driver on highway, suspect vehicle not located.
Albert Head – Loud music, one person given verbal warning.
Albert Head – Stolen vehicle and property recovered, one person arrested and held in custody, investigation continuing.
- Mar 2

Dallimore Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed.
Sooke Road – Erratic driver on highway, vehicle stopped and driver given verbal warning.
- Mar 3

Sooke Road – Sooke Wilderness Trail parking lot, two vehicles broken into through broken windows, several items stolen: investigation continuing.
- Mar 4

Neild Road – Report of possible gun shots heard, patrols failed to locate anything.
- Mar 5

Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
- Mar 6

Kangaroo Road area – Report of possible online fraud, reported for information.
- Mar 7

Rocky Point Road – Report of possible fraud.
Sooke Road – Erratic driver, suspect vehicle not located, registered owner given warning.

Important Dates & Events

Mar. 25–Apr. 2

Consider the Lilies, Mon–Sat, 10–4pm; Sun 12–4pm, Church of St. Mary the Virgin, 4354 Metchosin Road

Apr. 2

Apple Tree Grafting Day p. 5

Apr. 6

Pearson College Arts Open House p. 11

Apr. 7

Good Friday

Apr. 9

Easter Sunday

Apr. 15

Pearson College Celebration of Ukrainian Arts & Culture p. 11

Apr. 19

“Our Only Home” Event p. 2

Apr. 23

Repair Café; see ad p. 3

Apr. 26

Music for a Spring Evening pp. 11, 12

Apr. 27

A Conversation with Tzaporah Berman p. 8

Apr. 28

Film Night at the Metchosin Community House: Four Movies for Your Pleasure p. 13

OTHER EVENTS:

Council Meetings p. 2

CRD Walks in Metchosin and East Sooke. p. 14

Metchosin Community House Events p. 13

Seniors’ Resource Centre Events p. 14



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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

• Report a crime

• Report an accident

• Save a life

• Imminent safety

ORGANIZATIONS

AIR CADETS
250-590-3690
www.848royalroadsaircadets.com
848air@cadets.gc.ca
[Facebook 848aircadets](#)

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC
250-382-2052
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)
metchosinaprm@gmail.com
[FB Metchosin APRM](#)
www.metchosinaprm.org

BADMINTON
Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
250-478-2387
ikmcken@islandnet.com
www.bilstoncreek.org

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

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)
250-478-5484
tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB
metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN ARTPOD
metchosinartpod@gmail.com
metchosinartpod.ca

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)
info@metchosinartcentre.ca
www.metchosinartcentre.ca

METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
www.metchosinbiodiversity.com

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/COMMUNITY HOUSE
250-478-5155
mcahouse@telus.net
www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

METCHOSIN COUNCIL
250-474-3167
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca
www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings

METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB
250-474-4601
www.victoriacricket.com
[FB MetchosinCricketClub](#)

METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
250-478-1307, ham operators call in on 146.550. POD members can call FRS (Family Radio Service) radios: Channel 1 with “0” privacy tone

METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY
250-478-2374
metchosinequestrian@gmail.com
mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION
contact@metchosinfoundation.ca
metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY
250-478-6424
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
www.metchosinpreschool.com

METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com
[FB Metchosin Farmers' Market](#)

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE
metchosin.sar@gmail.com
www.metchosinsar.ca

METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION/ SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTRE 250-478-5150,
info@metchosinseniors.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY
250-642-0238

NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)
Kathleen Sutherland 250-474-3966
neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION
345 Wale Road, Colwood
250-886-2481
www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford Ladies Auxiliary
250-478-5484

SCOUTS CANADA
14th Juan de Fuca (Metchosin)
Email: 14thjdf@scouts.ca
To register: go to myscouts.ca and choose ‘14th Juan de Fuca’

SEA CADETS
250-478-7813

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Shelby Quissy
250-474-3812

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL
250-478-2286
info@westshorearts.org
www.westshorearts.org

WESTSHORE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND
250-474-3999
info@westshoreband.org
www.westshoreband.org

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION
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www.westshorerecreation.ca

WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
U14,U16.manager@gmail.com
westshorerfc.com

FAITHS

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www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

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OPEN GATE CHURCH
Anglican Network
250-590-6736
www.opengatechurch.ca

ST MARYS' METCHOSIN
Anglican Church of Canada
250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH
250-478-8066
www.westsidefamily.org

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY
250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca

This listing is a directory of local organizations. Please email changes to 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.

Spring Has Sprung!

“Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know.”
– L.M. Montgomery



Allen Jones photo



Photos by Barb Sawatsky unless otherwise noted



Joan Johnston photo