



Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

A New Co-editor for the Muse



Katie Pirquet and Allen Jones

With this month's issue, the *Muse* has welcomed new co-editor and long-time Metchosin resident Katie Pirquet to the staff and executive board. Katie has spent some 38 years getting to know and love life in Metchosin. She has been a volunteer in several capacities, such as tutoring with the "Metchosin Buddies" program, serving as medical reception centre co-ordinator and first-aid/CPR instructor with Metchosin Emergency Program, and selling dinner tickets at Metchosin Day for over a decade.

Katie comes with a background in journalism too, going back to high school, when she co-edited her school's student newspaper for two years, along with two years of journalism courses. She worked as associate editor and staff writer with an aquaculture trade journal, *Aquaculture*

Katie joins the *Muse* team. Barb Sawatsky photo

North America, owned by Metchosin's own Peter Chettleburgh. She wrote freelance articles for numerous magazines for nearly 25 years, and has done contract writing and editing for several BC ministries and NGOs.

From 2012 to 2014, Katie was an instructor in writing, journalism and magazine writing at the Western Academy of Photography and Photojournalism, a private post-secondary professional school in Victoria. Her students are now working all over the world.

Katie also has an interest in drawing and cartooning, so keep watch for her illustrations in future issues.

Katie welcomed the opportunity with: "It is a real honour to join the remarkable *Muse* staff. I know that Johnny Carline's shoes will be a challenge to fill, but I am eager to contribute, and delighted to be "back in the saddle" as a journalist and editor. This is quite literally a dream job in so many ways!"

Metchosin Preschool Fundraiser: Online 50/50 Raffle!



Erin Van de Water

The Metchosin Co-Op Preschool has been operating as a non-profit society in our community for over 60 years, providing a supportive, nurturing, and family-centred environment where children are encouraged to learn through play.

The preschool relies largely on fundraising initiatives to enhance our program while maintaining low tuition costs. As part of these efforts, the preschool will be having an online 50/50 raffle starting March 1 to March 14. If we're successful in selling tickets, one lucky winner could receive up to \$10,000! Ticket prices are one for \$5, five for \$20, 20 for \$50, and 100 for \$100 and can be found here: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/metchosinpreschool>. Draw date is Friday, March 15. Good luck to all of you potential winners!

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the preschool in one way or another throughout the years – we wouldn't have been able to have such a long-standing and successful program without your generosity!

New CAO Welcomed to Metchosin



Bob and Deirdre Payette at the Council reception. Allen Jones photo

Allen Jones

At the end of January, Council held a reception in the Municipal Hall for the newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Bob Payette. This was a great opportunity to meet Bob and his wife, Deirdre. Following a general invitation, it was attended by all members of Council as well as representatives of the main groups in Metchosin and others.

This appointment follows the resignation and departure of Lisa Urlacher in October 2022. In the meantime Sue-Lin Tarnowski, who acted as Chief Financial Officer, also took on the position of interim CAO. She has now left and is exploring other

opportunities elsewhere on terms that Mayor Little was unable to divulge at the Finance Meeting on February 8.

The new arrangement of responsibilities in Metchosin's Council Office, with a part-time accountant being employed again, is much the same as it was before Lisa departed under the previous Council. However, with the budget discussions underway, this must make the start for our new CAO somewhat challenging. Nonetheless, I understand that he has experienced (and survived) sailing in a hurricane so this should not be too difficult for an ex-navy man.

Website for Moralea's Meadow

Merrilee Hoen

The Moralea's Meadow website was launched in January. The volunteer group gratefully acknowledges the support of the Metchosin Foundation in making this a reality. Their grant enabled us to engage Westshore company Fairwind Creative for hosting and website services.

The website was the result of months spent designing the overall structure, collecting photos and writing content. This material was handed to Fairwind, who formatted it into a functional and beautiful site. Our logo was designed by Bonnie Farris, who also designed the signs in the Meadow. We acknowledge the support of other groups and individuals on our sponsors web page.

If you visit our website you will find a tribute to Moralea Milne, who envisioned this meadow from the time the land was originally purchased by the District. There is also a photo gallery containing many gorgeous images of the Meadow and its inhabitants, with links throughout the site to other sources of information about Moralea, plants, animals, and restoration techniques. Visitors are encouraged to get involved by joining the volunteer group, growing native plants in their own gardens or making a donation.

Group mail address: info@moraleasmeadow.ca
 Website: <https://moraleasmeadow.ca>
 Moralea's Meadow Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/3584934225083021/



Metchosin Muse

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AD and copy DEADLINE

The 15th of the month for month-end publication.

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

All articles and advertisements are due by the 15th of the month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: 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

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

2800

Weir Beach Stairs



The fenced-off entrance to Weir Beach. Allen Jones photo

Allen Jones

Since October 2022 the access to Weir Beach from William Head Road has been closed for safety reasons. After much discussion in Council and committee meetings, it seems that action to repair the damaged steps is now within reach.

At the Council meeting on February 5, Councillor Jay Shukin was presented with a petition from frustrated residents who have used the beach access trail for many years. Subsequently

Councillor Shukin made the following statement:

“District staff, led by CAO Bob Payette, are actively working toward repairing the Weir Beach stairs. A company has been engaged to provide a design of the stairs with a special focus on reinforcing the handrail. Any encroachment on the neighbour’s property will be addressed as part of this work. A contractor is being located to support our public works crew. The overall approach is to maintain the stairs and trail in a “natural” state.” The goal is

to begin work as early as possible, based on favourable weather and securing a contractor. Staff will watch for opportunities for volunteer support to expedite this process. I believe the desire among Council to get this work done remains unchanged.”

Council voted unanimously on the budget last year allowing \$15,000 for repairing the stairs and the local residents have been hoping that the closure will not carry on for another summer.

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.

Muse Subscriptions

We welcome subscriptions for the *Metchosin Muse* (11 issues/year), which can be mailed to Canadian addresses for \$35/year. Extra postage will be added to the cost for addresses outside Canada.

Please contact Laura Farquharson, 250-478-1197 or email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca, and include full address, email and phone number. If this is to be a gift for another person, please give the necessary contact information.

Payment can be made to the *Muse* Treasurer by e-transfer to amuselinda@gmail.com, or by cheque made out to the *Metchosin Muse*, c/o Linda Spiller, 4741 Lisandra Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4G1.



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Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for 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.

Council News

MARCH 2024



Soil Delivery Restricted Until May

Residents are reminded that soil delivery is restricted from November through April each year to help reduce damage to roadways from heavy truck traffic. Please contact the Municipal Hall before bringing in soil, rock, gravel, or sand to ensure you comply with the community bylaws and to avoid fines.

Grant-in-Aid Program

Is your community organization in need of funding? Not-for-profit societies can apply for a grant-in-aid until March 15. Council announces the names of recipients at the end of June. Applications are available at metchosin.ca > Council > Grant in Aid Program and at the Municipal Hall.

Council Meetings

The 2024 schedule for regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: www.metchosin.ca>Meetings>Meeting Schedule

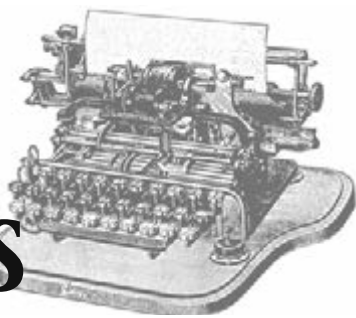
Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00pm unless otherwise stated, and are subject to change. For updated information please call the Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at www.metchosin.ca.

Finance Committee Meeting	March 4
Council Meeting	March 4
Special Finance Committee – Budget Meeting.....	4:00–6:00pm, March 7
Community Planning Committee, Environment & Natural Areas Committee, Public Works & Protective Services Committee	March 11
Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting	March 13
Council Meeting	March 18
Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	March 19
Special Finance Committee-Budget Meeting.....	4:00–6:00pm, March 21
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	4:00pm, March 26
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee	March 26

Metchosin Municipal Hall

www.metchosin.ca • 250-474-3167 • info@metchosin.ca

Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

It is still winter in Metchosin but we have had some warm days that have broken records. We are seeing the spring bulbs appearing, the trees blossoming, and the new born lambs in the fields. What a joy to live in a rural community!

Council has had a busy start to the year and is finding ways to balance the 2024/25 budget. This can't have been helped by the departure of the Chief Financial Officer. However, we thank her for her services and wish her well in the future. Council gave a warm welcome to the new CAO, Bob Payette, with a reception held at the end of January. He will be under pressure to produce speedy results on the more problematic

issues that have taxed Council in the last year.

Another notable departure is our long time Muse editor Johnny Carline who has decided to take a well-earned rest. One way of expressing your appreciation of the work that Johnny carried out over the past eight years is to donate to a cause that is close to his heart. If you do wish to donate, and have not done so already, there are two ways to do that. The first is to mail a cheque to: 'Vancouver Foundation', Suite 200, 475 W. Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4M9. Make the cheque out to 'Vancouver Foundation' but make sure you write 'Nadene Carline 761 Foundation' on the memo line, bottom left of your cheque. The second way to donate is

online. To do this access Nadene's donation page: <https://give.vancouverfoundation.ca/s/nadene-carline-761-foundation> Right click on this, and then click on "open hyperlink". Her photo and a description of the Foundation will appear. Scroll down and just below the photos, click on the box marked "Donate Now".

Exciting News! We are featured on Medioq, a platform connecting individuals with other media, news, and broadcasting companies worldwide. Explore our profile to stay informed, entertained, and connected with the latest news and updates: <https://www.medioq.com/CA/Metchosin/103748794789189/The-Metchosin-Muse>.

Celebrations in March include International Women's Day, Ramadan, St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday, the start of Easter, and don't forget Daylight Savings Time. Enjoy!

P.S. In order to have letters and articles considered for the April issue, please note our deadline of March 14.



New Lambs in February. Shelly Donaldson photo

Groundwater to Surface Water Interactions Presentation

Alison LeDuc

Groundwater to Surface Water Interactions
Saturday, March 23, 2:00-4:00pm
Metchosin Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road

Provincial government specialists from the Water Protection branch of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship will present information about drought management and implications for groundwater and surface water in Metchosin, in a workshop to be held Saturday, March 23 from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Municipal Hall.

Regional Hydrogeologist David van Everdingen and Groundwater Protection Officer Nicole Fulcher will address topics such as groundwater and aquifer basics; specific characteristics of the aquifers underlying Metchosin; interactions of groundwater and surface water (types of hydraulic connection between aquifers, wells and surface streams); streamflow and well depletion during drought; and the potential for seawater intrusion.

Information specifically for well owners will include information that supports sustainable well use and aquifer protection such as proper well operation and maintenance; well registration; water storage; what to do/not to do when your well goes dry; unused well closure.

University of Victoria Geography 380 (Community Mapping) students will present the Story Map

they are preparing about interactions of groundwater and surface water in Bilston Watershed. The team of four UVic students will also demonstrate how you can find information about wells, aquifers, water licenses and streams using a few of the more user-friendly online public resources.

The March 23 workshop is part of a series of community information events about water. While Gord Baird's February 28 presentation, Everything Water!, provided an overview that touches on some of the same topics, the specialists from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship will drill down into aspects specific to groundwater-surface water interactions, drought preparation and planning, and provincial resources/information specifically about groundwater. On April 27 an additional workshop at Metchosin Municipal Hall is planned, with respect to water resources for residents with wells drying up earlier each year. The April 27 workshop will explore options for domestic water including CRD piped water, bulk water, water stations and costs affiliated with each.

The March 23 workshop is being organized by members of the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association together with Councillor Shelly Donaldson, JdF Water Commissioner. It's free and registration is not required. Residents of Sooke and Langford are welcome too. For further information email bilstonwatershed@gmail.com.

Transformation Underway at Hartland Landfill in 2024

CRD Environmental Services

Ground-breaking changes started in January at Hartland Landfill aimed at reducing the amount of waste residents and businesses are throwing in the garbage. Tipping fee adjustments, material bans, and increased fines have been designed to reshape our region's approach to waste disposal.

Combining these changes has the potential to divert 40,500 tonnes of waste per year, aligning with the Solid Waste Management Plan goals to reduce the region's waste by more than one-third and extend the life of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond.

A crucial step in the waste reduction strategy involved banning clean wood that has not been painted or treated, such as pallets and lumber cut-offs, from the garbage. Instead of getting buried with the garbage, clean wood

is now being transferred offsite for recycling or energy recovery. If residents and businesses would like to bring clean wood to Hartland, it must be separated from their garbage. We still encourage everyone to reuse, give away, or sell clean wood before bringing it to Hartland, where they will pay a reduced tipping fee of \$80 per tonne.

In addition to the reduced tipping fee for clean wood, the general refuse tipping fee has increased from \$110 to \$150 per tonne. This measure aims to incentivize waste reduction and proper waste disposal practices, as nearly half of waste sent to Hartland Landfill can be recycled.

We understand change can be hard sometimes and time to assimilate the changes may be needed, which is why Bylaw staff will focus on education and issue

warning tickets before issuing fines as residents and businesses adapt to these new changes.

Further material bans and changes will come into effect later in 2024, including new processes for treated wood, salvageable wood, carpet, underlay, and asphalt shingles as they will all be banned from being accepted at the landfill as garbage. There will be a new process where they will be accepted as segregated materials at a reduced tipping fee, similar to what is already happening with clean wood.

To learn more about these changes and what you can do to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill, visit www.crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste. For more about Hartland Landfill, visit www.crd.bc.ca/hartland.

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Fire Hall Causes Fire Storm



Metchosin Fire Hall. Barb Sawatsky photo

Allen Jones

Following reports of Council looking at alternative ways to solve the problem of an ageing and outdated Fire Hall, a swell of outrage erupted in Metchosin recently. On this subject a Metchosin resident, Chris Moehr, spoke to Council at the meeting held on February 5. She said in a personal capacity: “Mayor and Council, ... ever since the Agenda for tonight’s meeting hit the street ... my phone has rung off the wall non-stop ... the traffic got so heavy I disconnected it for five hours on Saturday night. As of this morning my e-mail shut

down due to ‘overload’. As I am sure you can guess, this brouhaha is directly related to Agenda item 8c, i.e., the proposal relating to our Fire Hall and the inferred vision for same. In all, I heard directly from 62 households (not counting spouses) of whom 61 ... were, and I quote, “outraged” about what they had read. If you are wondering, only about half of these households are APRM (Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin) members. Any way you cut it, it is a broad-based response from our community. I suggest that this circumstance is both unfortunate and highly divisive. Your public has been

expecting that priority one for our problematic Fire Hall, i.e., addressing the long-standing repairs that clearly need to be done, would not come back in such an expanded and unacceptable way. To quote one caller, ‘the only thing missing in this narrative is: where is the detox clinic going to be?’ Please put this current version and approach to bed ASAP.”

The source of concern seems to have arisen from a meeting of the Fire Hall Steering Committee on October 2023. When first formed, this committee was intended to meet monthly but there were only two meetings last year. Nonetheless, in their October

meeting, Colin Doyle, director of Land Development and Acquisitions, and BC Indigenous Housing Society, gave a presentation on ‘Affordable Housing’ in conjunction with the Fire Hall redevelopment. The committee recommended to Council that they invite Mr. Doyle to give his presentation to a Council meeting which he did at a Planning Committee meeting. This has led to numerous expressions of concern and, at the February 5 Council meeting, Wendy Mitchell questioned whether Council was following due process on the matter when a memorandum from the Fire Chief was included in the agenda for the Council meeting.

At the Council meeting Mayor Little tried to address the concerns of some residents by noting that Council had to act with due diligence and explore the alternative ways to fund the renewal of the Fire Hall. This appears to include looking for Provincial grants, taking out a loan, and/or partnering with a developer with zoning for a mixed use development.

The Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, supported her funding suggestions with the following: “The replacement of the Metchosin Fire hall into a multi-purpose, affordable housing complex represents a significant step forward in meeting the community’s housing needs.” The

proposal included housing for responders, women and children fleeing violence, farm workers, and general affordable housing. A detox clinic was not included at this time.

The memorandum previously mentioned concerning the Fire Department was about a request for an additional part-time employee. Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, spoke to Council at their meeting on February 9 about this issue. She noted that the \$65,000 figure proposed in the budget was supplemented by grant money from the FireSmart Program. One of the reasons it was needed was because fire crew were being called out when only one responder was available in the Fire Hall. This has meant that responders were arriving at potentially unsafe addresses without any back-up. An example was given where the Fire Chief attended one location alone to give resuscitation and found numerous other drug users in the same accommodation. This was clearly an unsafe situation, yet waiting for back-up could have dire consequences. Our Fire Chief noted that previously there were five public works crew who could assist but this was down to two people now and increased provincial legislation was a further burden to operations in the Fire Hall.



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Fire hall volunteers ready for the call. Barb Sawatsky photo

Saturday, March 2 from 9:00am-1:00pm will be the third year that Metchosin Fire Department honours Liz Jatkovsky. She is remembered for her voluntary contribution in keeping Metchosin’s beaches, trails and roadsides clear of garbage.

Bags, gloves, safety vests, and long-handled ‘pickers’ will be available at the Metchosin Fire Department, 4440 Happy Valley Road. The collected garbage can be dropped off at the Fire Hall once volunteers have finished their route.

Emergency Preparedness Information Session: Group Lodging

Emergency Preparedness Information Session:
Group Lodging
Tuesday, March 19, 7:00-9:00pm
Metchosin Fire Department

People forced to evacuate their homes on short notice may be in need of safe, temporary lodging. The impact of a disaster and limited resources within the

community may necessitate the opening of facilities that can house large numbers of evacuees. This safe place provided as short-term shelter for evacuees is called Group Lodging.

Come to the Fire Hall to learn more at this Emergency Preparedness Information Session on March 19.

Tell them you saw it in the *Muse*!



Spring flowers at St Mary's Allen Jones photo

Keeping Up Appearances

Philip Wadham

Last year the church of St. Mary the Virgin recorded 150 years of service for the people in this rural village of Metchosin. From its earliest years the land around the church has been and continues to be a cemetery. Among the graves in the churchyard, the earliest is that of John Witty, an early pioneer in this part of Southern Vancouver Island.

The story goes that during an 1870/71 visit by Sir James Douglas, previously Governor of Vancouver Island, a conversation between Sir James and John Witty raised the idea that there be a school and a centre of worship for the local families. This led to an agreement that a school and church be built to serve the growing need for both in Metchosin and by 1873 this goal was achieved. The church would also have enough land around it to serve as a cemetery for residents. Sadly, the first person to be buried in this new cemetery was John Witty who, soon after the consecration of the church, died as the result of a horse shoeing accident.

The old church of St. Mary and its surrounding cemetery are very much a focal part of our community and are recognised as such not just by local residents but by others who no longer or may never have lived here. Visitors had learned from friends that Metchosin village, its church and churchyard are well worth a weekend trip.

By the pathway up to the church is a donation box that helps to cover the cost of the upkeep of the cemetery. One recent visitor on 27 December included with his gift the following note:

“Thanks to all the volunteers who keep this cemetery looking so nice. Have left a small donation to support the cause and will come back some spring to truly enjoy the beauty here. I’ve had a visit to this site on my ‘to do’ list for many years – didn’t realize I could have timed it better.”

Indeed, this generous donor could have better timed his visit to coincide with that part of our year, March and April, when the cemetery grounds are at their most beautiful. During these months the churchyard displays a wondrous white carpet of fawn lilies, neighboured with the contrasting blue of Camas and patches of orchids and shooting stars. It is nature in Metchosin at its springtime best.

The work of “all the volunteers who keep this cemetery looking so nice” is a year round task. On a Monday morning at around 9.00 am between six and eight retired Metchosinites labour to keep the churchyard manicured and the grave markers cleaned and repaired. As a quick note of the ages of these volunteers (some of whom have been volunteering on Monday mornings for more than twenty years), we span the decades from the 70’s through to the 90’s. As willing and determined as we are to continue the upkeep of this significant part of our community, some younger, perhaps recently retired, men and women to work alongside us would be a gift that we will very readily receive. It could even put a spring in the step of us oldies. To join us, all that is necessary is to come by one Monday morning after 9.00 am and meet the gang. You will be welcome to be with us and join in our labour of love.

The remaining schedule for the Metchosin Challenge at St Mary of the Incarnation Church (the new St. Marys’), starting at 7:00 pm:

- **March 6:** Audriana Montiero, Pain Management
- **March 13:** Haley Vecchiarelli, New Frontiers of Dementia
- **March 20:** Don Anderson, Current Research on Parkinson’s Disease
- **March 27:** Alida Moonen, Cancer Survivorship.

Working for our community



Hon. Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

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Blast from the *Muse's* Past

To celebrate the *Muse's* 30th anniversary, we are publishing one article per month from the past decade, 2013 to 2023. This month's article is timely because the lambs are just heading out to the fields. From the April 2015 issue of the *Muse*.

Sheep Markings 101



Marked-up lambs ready to head out to the fields with their mommas. Lorraine Buchanan photo.

JOAN KEW

Spring is here, and that means many of Metchosin's fields are dotted with ewes and their newborn lambs. It's not unusual to see cars pulled over, their occupants standing at the fence to watch the goings-on in the field. Most of the lambs you'll see in Metchosin belong to Parry Bay Sheep Farm, and most of the people looking at them are probably thinking that the sheep farmers around here have an artistic bent.

I'm not saying the Buchanans aren't artsy, but there IS a method to their markings. The most obvious marks are the numbers: each animal has

a number on its side, and each ewe has the same number as its lambs – unless they're black and the number won't show anyway. They number the sheep so that when a lamb can't find its mother among the other sheep, or vice versa, it's easy for the farmer to reunite them. The colour of the numbers is pretty basic: when it changes, it means the paint ran out and they had to start on a new can.

So much for numbering – now onto the real art! If the ewe and lamb have a long stripe of colour down their backs, it means the ewe has a single lamb. For the Parry Bay sheep, having a single lamb is a luxury and is unusual. Last I

heard, they were up to 18 sets of quadruplets and three sets of quintuplets so far this year.

A dot on the back at the tail end indicates triplets. Sometimes triplets in the field start out as quads but the ewes can't normally feed that many, so the fourth is either fostered onto another ewe, or ends up in the bottle-feeding pen back at the farm. If you see a triplet ewe that only has two lambs, don't panic – sometimes even three is too many to feed, so one gets taken back to the farm for bottle feeding.

The Buchanans also keep some large wax crayons on hand for special markings. A "rainbow butt" (terminology heard on the farm!) just above the tail indicates that a ewe has received treatment, perhaps for signs of vitamin deficiency or a sore foot. A line down the forehead of a lamb indicates that it was born with an inverted eyelid (entropion), and although the problem is always fixed, they like to keep an eye on it to make sure it doesn't reinvert.

So, next time you head out to watch the gamboling lambs, keep in mind this crash course in sheep markings. That way, you can impress the tourists who drive out to Metchosin to see the sheep and the lilies at this time of year!



Assistant Arwyn Ferguson applies a number to a day-old lamb. The line on its head indicates entropion, which they'll keep an eye on once the lamb is in the field. Lorraine Buchanan photo.

WANTED

Retired professional couple, Metchosin residents for 35 years, seek long-term rental accommodation in Metchosin or surrounding area.

2 br+, level entry.

Kitchen garden potential is desirable.

Excellent references.

Contact: (250) 478-8060 or e-mail: jmoehr@uvic.ca

Detect and Save: Fix a Leak Week 2024!

CRD Environmental Services

Did you know that household leaks can account for up to 14% of indoor water use? It's a significant figure but straightforward actions can make a big difference in preventing clean drinking water from being wasted.

Easy Steps to Leak Prevention:

- 1. Annual Checkup:** Be proactive by inspecting faucets and toilets at least once a year. It's a simple yet effective way to catch and fix potential leaks.
- 2. Emergency Preparedness:** Familiarize yourself with the location of your main water shut-off. This knowledge is invaluable in case of unexpected water leaks.
- 3. Pay attention to common leaky fixtures:**
 - **Toilets:** Silent water wasters! A running toilet can waste significant water – up to 350,000 litres per year. You can easily check for leaks using a dye tablet, food coloring or instant coffee. If the water in your toilet bowl changes colour after 15 minutes, you've detected a leak. Often, simple fixes like replacing a worn-out flapper can solve the issue, but you may need professional help from your plumber.
 - **Faucets and Showerheads:** Keep an eye out for drips! Even a small, intermittent drip can waste over 35,000 litres annually. Check for worn washers and "O" rings. A leaky showerhead may just need a tighter connection or a touch of pipe tape.

This year, we'll celebrate Fix a Leak Week from March 18 to 24. Join us in spreading awareness about leak detection and its role in reducing potable water loss.

Throughout this week, multiple locations in the region will offer free leak detection kits. These kits include toilet dye tablets, a showerhead flow rate measurement bag, an emergency water shut-off tag, and a handy household guide to water efficiency.

Visit www.crd.bc.ca/leaks to delve deeper into Fix a Leak Week and water conservation efforts in our region.



CRD Walks and Local Events of Interest

March 2024

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives (Guided Adult Walk)

• 18 years+ • Mar 16, 2024, 10:00–11:30am • 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



Metal bin notice from Williams Metal Recycling

There have recently been a number of oil tanks dumped at the metal recycling bin beside the Community House.

Please note that environmental hazard guidelines require oil tanks to have an 18" hole cut into one side and kitty litter poured in to soak up the residue. If anyone sees a tank being dropped off, please take a photo and write down the vehicle's license plate number for follow-up. Many thanks for respecting this notice.



Citrus trees in a greenhouse. Derek Wulff photo

Growing Citrus in Metchosin

Derek Wulff

I have recently branched out to citrus fruit to see how it would grow near Matheson Lake where it is a bit cooler than more central Metchosin. I bought the plants from Bob Duncan at Fruit Trees and More, up in Sidney. He has an incredible assortment of citrus trees growing inside and outside, along with olives, avocado, and pomegranate, among other exotics. For a few years I had them growing in medium sized pots – moving them into a small greenhouse in the winter, covered with Reemay fabric and with some incandescent Christmas lights around the base of each pot when things got below zero. They grew nicely when moved outside in our long summers. Moving in for the frosty part from November to March, then out again in the spring, they have grown steadily as I increased the size of the pots every year. I became even more intrigued when a friend invited me to have a look at his large-pot greenhouse-grown lemon trees – two- to three-metre-high

trees with many dozens of lemons on them – incredible! I decided to build a small, plastic-covered hoop house, with a neighbour's old carport structure (about 4.5 m high in the middle). Unlike a glass greenhouse, the inside of this greenhouse would be the same temperature as the outside when things started getting cold, but I'd had luck keeping them above zero in my small glass greenhouse, so had high hopes.

The varieties that seem to do well in our climate are the Meyers Lemon and the Persian Lime, along with the Kuno Wase Mandarin orange which start producing after only a few years of growing, and is a nice sweet orange. I also have a Kiyomi Tangor and a Sudachi Hybrid Yuzu citrus tree (these are mandarin and orange crosses). Just to keep things interesting I added some paw paw, pomegranate, and grafted a few hardier avocados to some seeds I grew from some grocery store avocados (best to graft hardier avocado scion wood, like Little Cado or Lila, onto a rootstock). No news on fruit from them, (will

update in a few years on those), but for sure our local climate can support lemons, limes, and oranges, and as the avocados made it nicely through this winter (even with the big freeze we had!), I'm optimistic!

I now have a reliable source of lemons and limes and this past year harvested 15 mandarin oranges off of each of the two small trees – incredible! The oranges are harvested in November.

Unlike apples, lemons and limes stay ripe on the plant for many months, so you can pick them when you need them, all winter – and they flower at all times of the year, so fruit will continually appear. As you can see in the pictures I cover the trees (small now) with two to three layers of Reemay in the winter and have a thermostat that turns the Christmas lights on just above freezing. That keeps the trees from freezing during the cold nights. They are now planted in huge plastic pots, in the ground (to keep roots under control), and I hope they will flourish in these conditions over the next many years. They don't need any more heat than what we have in the summer and I open the bottoms of the greenhouse so it doesn't get too hot.

Try starting with the plants in smaller pots, moving them outside in the spring and inside in the fall, then graduating to larger pots for a few years and then in the ground! Nothing like fresh citrus from your own back yard – eat locally! There are probably people growing citrus in Metchosin already, so find someone in your neighbourhood who does – and have a look (gardeners love to talk about plants ...).

If you are looking to get plants, check out Fruit Trees and More, but, be careful, fruit trees are addictive!



Citrus trees under cover for protection. Derek Wulff photo

Metchosin Biodiversity Project's 125th Talk & Walk

The Salish Sea Gull Project
Friday, March 15, 7:00pm, Metchosin Municipal Hall
and Saturday, March 16, time and location TBA

Please join us for the Metchosin Biodiversity Project's 125th Talk and Walk, on "The Salish Sea Gull Project". Sonya Pastran (Environment and Climate Change Canada) will review the results of four years of gull monitoring, much of it in

Metchosin. On Saturday March 16, time and location to be determined based on local conditions, we'll head out to observe some of those gulls for ourselves! As always, admission is free for this fun family event, and Friday night there will be tea and cookies! For more information, please contact Andy MacKinnon (metchosinmacs@gmail.com).

Scion wood collection notice

Apple Tree Grafting Day will be on April 7 at Bilston Farm. This is an early notice to get you out collecting scion wood for the event. The Pomological Society will supply rootstock for the event, so cut off some one-year-old new shoots (no more than a foot long), store them in a tightly sealed plastic bag in the fridge (add wet paper towel to the bottom to keep them moist). Make sure you label them for their attributes and bring them in April.

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



Apple scions for grafting. Derek Wulff photo



We thank you for the continued support. Please watch our website for 2024 updates.

Happy Spring!



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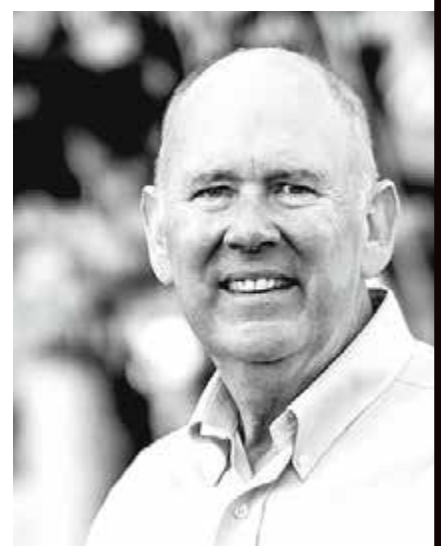
What are your priorities?

Councillor Steve Gray

Reach me at

SGray@Metchosin.ca • 250 478 5066

 **@metchosinsteve**



White-nose Syndrome Bat Monitoring Continues – Report Dead Bats

BC Community Bat Program

Last year, the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats was detected in guano in Grand Forks, BC. This winter and spring, the BC Community Bat Program, in collaboration with the Province of BC, is asking the public for help in the effort to detect and prevent the spread of WNS. Residents are urged to report any bat activity observed in winter and any sick or dead bats found before May 31.

There have not been any bats with WNS found to date in BC, but the detection of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), the fungus that causes it, was confirmed last year. Biologists are concerned that the arrival of WNS is imminent. “Increasing the number of bat reports from the public is the best chance to understand how WNS might spread and affect local bat populations,” says Julianna Laposa-Wilde, Southern Vancouver Island coordinator for the BC Community Bat Program. First detected in New York State in 2006, the disease continues to spread, with detections in western and central Washington and in south-central Alberta.

The fungus does not cause disease in humans and pets, but white-nose syndrome has devastated North American bat

populations. The fungus attacks bats while they are hibernating, growing on their faces to give an appearance of a white nose. Bats often wake to clean the fungus from their skin. This uses valuable energy, and eventually the bats die from starvation.

“Across North America, millions of bats have been killed, and seven of our 15 BC species could be severely affected by the disease,” says Laposa-Wilde. The Little Brown Myotis and the Northern Myotis are both listed as Endangered in Canada due to WNS. Though there is not yet a proven cure for WNS, several promising treatment options are being developed, and it may be possible to mitigate the effects of this wildlife health crisis.

If you find a dead bat or have sightings of winter bat activity, please report to the B.C. Community Bat Program online at www.bcbats.ca, via email at bat@hat.bc.ca or by calling 1-250-995-2428. All live bats should be left alone – keep your distance, snap a photo and report it to the B.C. Community Bat Program. If you must move a bat, visit www.bcbats.ca for advice and never touch a bat with your bare hands. Please note that if you or your pet has been in direct contact with the bat you will need further information regarding the risk of rabies to you and your pet. Please



Healthy Little Brown Myotis hibernate in caves, mines, and rock crevices. Reporting any winter sightings or dead bats helps researchers monitor and learn about bats. Photo: USFWS

contact the BC Community Bat Program for more information.

“The bats of BC are key predators of many night-flying insects. They are essential parts of BC’s ecosystems and provide a huge economic benefit by helping control agricultural, forest, and urban pests,” says Laposa-Wilde. In partnership with the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource

Stewardship, the BC Community Bat Program provides information and promotes local stewardship and citizen science. The BC Community Bat Program Southern Vancouver Island Region extends its gratitude to partners involved in bat conservation. The program is supported by funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation,

Forest Enhancement Society of BC, the Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Province of BC.

You can find out more about the BC Community Bat Program and options for helping local populations at www.bcbats.ca, or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/bcbats.

Celeste Joy Rambaran, Artist



Celeste. Travis Hesketh photo

Erin Van de Water

Celeste Joy Rambaran Art Show, March and April 2024
During taproom hours (see www.milezerobrewing.ca)
Mile Zero Brewery, 4495 Happy Valley Road

There’s a new art show in town. If you haven’t seen it yet, the Mile Zero Brewery has never looked better with this wonderful and diverse collection of artwork, created by local Metchosinite, Celeste Joy Rambaran (March 17, 1982–August 27, 2023). If you were lucky enough to have met Celeste, you will have witnessed her zest for life and felt her loving presence. She had a unique way of making everyone she met feel immediately seen, heard, loved, and appreciated. She was generous and kind, always taking the time to ensure everyone was included and having a good time. With her special gift of knowing when someone felt uncomfortable, Celeste would seek them out with a playful tug into her vast collection of sequined dresses and costumes, insisting that they looked absolutely gorgeous and must borrow the outfit. She was a firm believer that applying a little bit of lipstick could turn a bad day

around and make you feel beautiful. Try it! It really does work wonders.

Celeste was one of the first people to support me teaching Bellyfit, though would sometimes miss the Saturday morning class saying she was having a slow morning cuddling with Travis, her partner of 15 years. I always received this excuse with admiration for their sweet relationship. Celeste was a nurturing stepmother to Travis’ son, Clay, who Travis says she could always make smile. She created a safe space for their family to communicate openly with each other – even the hard discussions were made easier with her warm and tender ways.

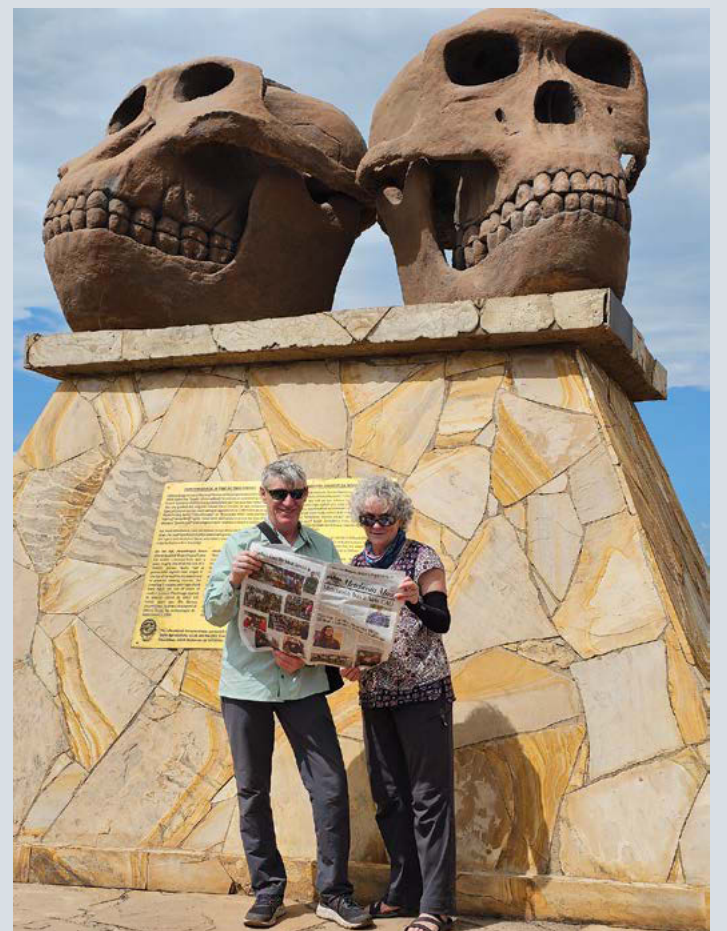
One of the stories told at Celeste’s Celebration of Life last September at Bilston Creek Farm, where she had worked behind the scenes in product development, relayed a recent conversation that Celeste and her friend, Rachel, had while discussing art. Rachel was asking Celeste how she found the time to fit art into her busy days – there always seemed to be so many other things taking precedence. Celeste said “I guess I just don’t see it that way. To me, creating art is the best possible use of my time so I make it a priority in my life”.

Celeste was a born artist. She loved to paint, draw, sketch, make collages and floral crowns, dance, sing, and create. Everything was art to Celeste – from food, to dance, to painting, to hosting yoga and art retreats – she loved it all. She took several art classes and painting workshops, and taught art classes at Passion and Performance – a dance studio she performed with and made many long-lasting friendships through. She also performed with West Coast Cabaret – a Sooke-based studio where Celeste welcomed shy newcomers and made them feel right at home and part of the dance family.

She enjoyed working with any type of media, and inspired and encouraged others to join her in creating art as well – no matter how much or how little experience they had. She was a bright light who lived life from her heart; bringing joy to everyone she met. She continues to inspire through the life she lived and the art she created.

Celeste’s artwork will be displayed at Mile Zero Brewery until the end of April. Go enjoy a brew and toast to Celeste while taking in this amazing collection of beautiful and inspirational art. You won’t want to miss it.

The Muse Traveller



Dennis and Jeanette McMillan reading the Muse at the Mary and Louis Leakey monument at Oldupai Ranger Post, Tanzania.

Where will the *Muse* take you? Share your photos with us!

metchosinmuse@gmail.com

BCSPCA Wild ARC Patient Highlight: The Hawk Who Wouldn't Be

Carlee Bouillon

On the afternoon of January 4, Wild ARC admitted a sharp-shinned hawk. These raptors are smaller than a Cooper's hawk, which puts them at roughly the size of a small crow, but they are one of the fastest and feistiest animals that Wild ARC receives.

This particular sharp-shinned hawk had hit a window at an incredible speed while chasing a smaller bird. The homeowner witnessed the event happen and safely contained her and brought her to Wild ARC for care.

Wild ARC receives many birds who have hit windows, and this hawk had all of the symptoms. Her eyes were swollen, inner ears were bruised, she had blood in her mouth, and the rehabilitators could feel that her right clavicle was fractured where she had made initial impact with the window. Amazingly, however, she was bright, standing, and did not appear to have significant head trauma.

The rehabilitators set up a small enclosure for her, with a perch and branches that she could hide in. Because of the fracture, she could not have a larger space, in case she tried to fly and misaligned the broken pieces of her clavicle. The rehabilitators also wrapped her right wing to her body to immobilize the fracture, gave her medication, food, and water, and then left her alone to calm down and settle in.

Next day, she was stable enough to have an eye exam and X-rays. The eye exam showed a small ulcer in her left eye, so rehabilitators started her on medicated eye drops. The X-rays showed that her clavicle fracture was well aligned and also confirmed that she had no other fractures. This was great news, and her prognosis was good: she should heal quickly, as long as she kept her wrap on. However, sharp-shinned hawks do not do what they are told.

On her third day in care, when rehabilitators checked on her in the morning, she had eaten all of her food and ripped her wrap off. This was not the worst news:

she was clearly not feeling very much pain. The rehabilitators re-wrapped her, double-checking the wrap was very secure.

The next several days in a row, she ripped her wrap off each night. Thankfully, when the rehabilitators gently felt her fracture each time, they found it was still properly aligned, but she was not forming a callous over the break yet. This was likely because of how much she had been moving it. It was time for a new plan. The rehabilitators secured her wrap with a stretchy vet wrap that is usually used to keep large mammals from pulling their bandages off. But the next day, her wrap was off again. So, time for another new plan. This time she got two different kinds of wraps at once, both double-secured with vet wrap.

The day after that – can you guess? – her wrap was off. New plan again: same double wraps, vet wrap secured, but now covered in “distraction tabs” which are little pieces of bandage that she could rip off without compromising her wrap.

This held for another full day. But the morning after that, it was off again. By this time, she had surpassed the length of time that a bird would generally have a wrap on, but rehabilitators were hesitant to hope that the fracture had calloused enough for flight. However, upon palpation, they found that somehow, in the short amount of time she had kept her wrap on, a callous had formed. They brought her to an outdoor enclosure to test her flight, and although wobbly at first, she was soon flying laps back and forth from perch to perch.

She stayed in the outdoor enclosure for the next week, regaining strength, eating well, and perfecting her flight. Nineteen days after intake, she was deemed ready for release! The senior rehabilitator, who is also Wild ARC's main bird bander, measured her wings and tail to confirm that she was a second-year female. She was banded with a unique number, so that if she is ever recaptured, the bander who reads it will be able to find this information. There was never a happier patient to leave Wild ARC!



The feisty hawk under Wild ARC care. Wild ARC photo



Wild ARC Assistant Manager, Ashley Currie. Joannie Challenger photo

Welcome Back to Wild ARC, Ashley!

Joannie Challenger

BC SPCA Wild ARC (Wildlife Animal Rehabilitation Centre) welcomed back a familiar face this past December to the role of Assistant Manager. Ashley Currie had worked as a wildlife assistant there from 2016 to 2020, after getting her biology degree at the University of Victoria. After her time at Wild ARC, she started a farm in Sooke, growing starter plants and fresh cut flowers to sell at local farmers' markets. Ashley also became a mom, and now has a one-year-old son.

In her new position Ashley helps the Centre Manager in a variety of ways, as well as coordinating the considerable group of dedicated volunteers. “I’m happy to return to Wild ARC, to work with familiar faces and engage with the dedicated people here,” she enthused recently. “We currently need volunteers to help in a variety of areas: animal care, support roles, maintenance, transport, and more. Please visit our website at wildarc.com/volunteer if you’d like to help!”

The Muse Traveller

Sharleen Thompson at Calcasieu River, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Wally Eamer photo

Where will the Muse take you? Share your photos with us!

metchosinmuse@gmail.com



Early spring minuscule Metchosin mushroom *Galerina* (left, by Theresa Kew), and pixie cup lichen *Cladonia* (below, by Joan Johnston), both photographed using an iPhone. Technology has come a long way!



Groundhog Day? A(nother) Nobel Possibility for Pearson?

Brian Geary, Pearson College UWC

I'm writing this article on Groundhog Day, because here at Pearson College UWC we're experiencing a bit of a time loop. For the second time in three years, the United World College movement, of which Pearson was the second school to join back in 1974, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize! As in 2022, in true Groundhog Day fashion, Norwegian parliamentarian Alfred Bjørlo, a great supporter of sister school UWC Red Cross Nordic in Flekke, Norway and the UWC movement as a whole, put forward the Nobel nomination.

Perspective, of course, counts. With hundreds of Nobel nominations submitted annually, while we are excited, honoured and humbled for the recognition of a worldwide education movement based on peace, dialogue and sustainability, we're realistic too about the chances of UWC International Executive Director Faith Abiodun walking across the gilded stage in Oslo this December.

"At a time of so much global uncertainty, this recognition for our mission is timely," wrote Abiodun in a message to over 60,000 UWC alumni, students,

and staff. "As we often say, the world needs UWC now more than ever before. We accept this nomination as added motivation to continue to do everything within our power to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future."

Fifty years ago, in September 1974, the first 100 students from around the world came to Pearson, a school created as a living memorial to Canada's only Nobel Peace Prize (1957) laureate Lester B. Pearson. We like to think Mr. Pearson is somewhere nodding his approval of this Nobel nomination!

Every one of the 18 UWCs around the world shares a mission but is uniquely shaped by its local community. We're always grateful to have the continuing support of the Metchosin and Greater Victoria communities, host families who've opened their homes to students, businesses who have cut a deal for a scholarship-based school, and local volunteers who have shared their knowledge and passions with our students.

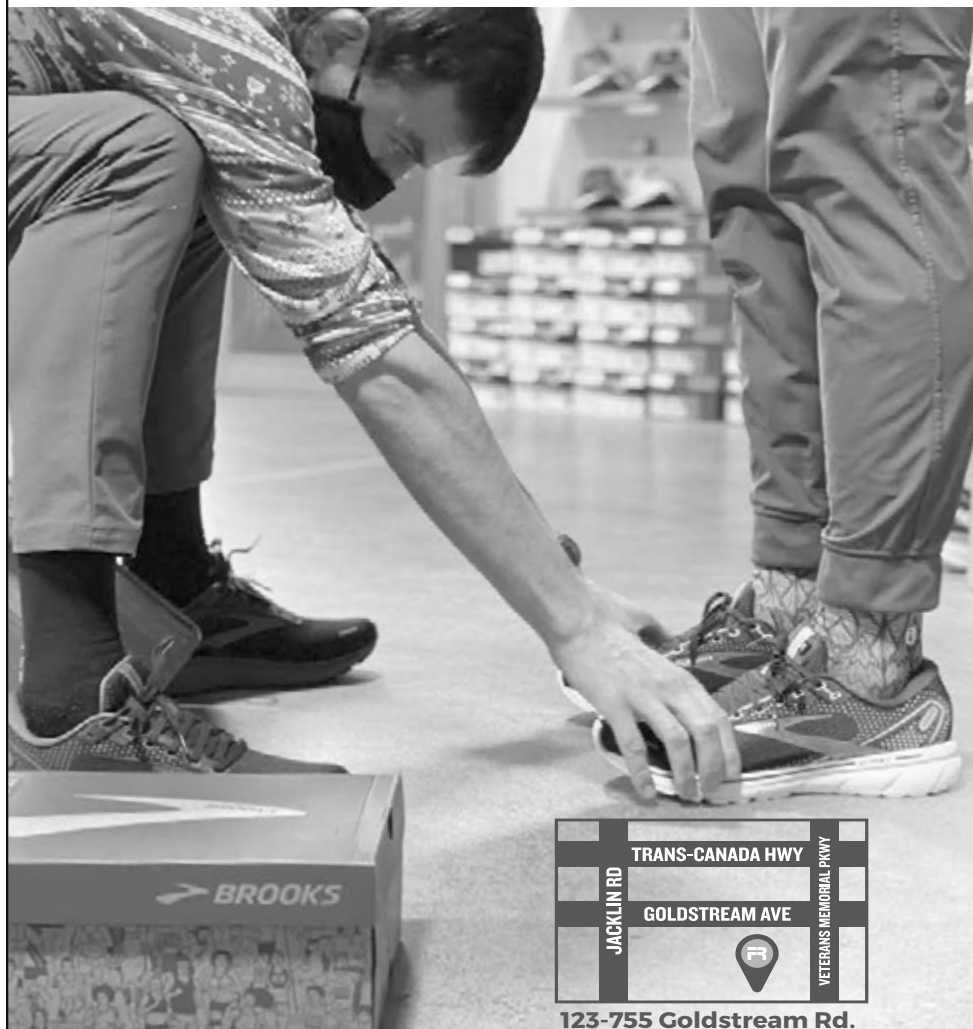
So, if that walk across the Oslo stage should come about in December, consider it a WIN for Metchosin and Greater Victoria as well!



Bottle-fed lambs at Parry Bay Sheep Farm. Joan Johnston photo



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The Value of Little Things and Small Actions

Mike Fischer, Metchosin Foundation (iNat ID: vanislander)

We are so lucky, here in Metchosin, to have a great diversity of flora and fauna to admire and wonder about, and often it is the larger or more charismatic animals that get the most attention. I'd like to bring attention to a group of animals that is often overlooked or misunderstood.

There is much to be observed, learned, and appreciated about the insects around us. I admit I have not always been a particular fan of insects prior to the commencement of the Metchosin Flying Insect Biomass Study which I help manage – a Community Science project led by UVic and supported by the Metchosin Foundation, whose field study area is distributed across 11 sites hosted and maintained by Metchosin's volunteers for six years running. I have long been a nature lover, but over the past few years I began to notice and much more closely observe the various insects present in or passing through my garden and backyard, and I started to realize what a great diversity of insect species we have right here in Metchosin.

Of course, to gain appreciation for any organism you must first know its name. This can be very difficult with insects, particularly at the individual species level (and there are many examples of mimicry and camouflage). I have been snapping pictures of insects over the past few years and uploading my observations through a simple app called iNaturalist

(iNaturalist.ca), iNat, for short. It is a wonderful tool with an online community of nature enthusiasts and experts who collaborate to positively identify each other's observations. Often you can get an instant identification from the software itself, enabling you to learn on-the-spot. Attaining research grade for a species identification is done through online consensus of the iNat community, and the observation is added to a global database where it can be picked up by scientific studies and catalogues (including our own Metchosin Biodiversity Project, 3,527 species and counting).

It has been a fun and rewarding experience, learning the names and – often very wacky – life cycles of these tiny animals. Take the Greater Bee Fly (*Bombylius major*), a parasitic fly mimicking a bumblebee often found visiting flowers in Metchosin from March to June. Aside from affording this fly some protection, the mimicry allows it to get close to solitary bee and wasp nests to deposit its eggs. Its hatched larvae then feed on the grubs of the unwitting hosts – the reason it is considered a parasitic species (it does not sting, bite, or spread disease). The adult *Bombylius major* is a generalist pollinator, bouncing from flower to flower, never landing, and precisely inserting its long proboscis horizontally into each flower to grab an in-flight drink. Sometimes you can see it exhibiting a unique flight behaviour called *yawing*, where it rotates around a vertical axis (the

purpose of which is still a matter of speculation).

I have come to appreciate the unique expressions of life and evolution that each insect species brings: their many nuanced survival adaptations, the important ecological niches they fill, the often-complex relationships they have with plants and other animal species, and how very important, precious and precarious their existence is. Insects account for an estimated half of all biodiversity on the planet, but are believed to be in rapid decline globally – some estimate by up to 80%. They are a generally understudied group, and society is only just waking up to how important they are to the ecosystem, and thus to our own survival. Every observation counts.

I encourage anyone with curiosity for the natural world to give iNat a try (a warning: collecting iNat observations can also become addictive). It is a great way to learn more about the species around you – not just insects, but any plant or animal – and at the same time contribute as a community scientist to our understanding of their occurrence, habitats, and movements across space and time. It can also be a fun way to get kids engaged with the wonders of biodiversity in their backyards and beyond, helping establish an early love and appreciation for nature that is so rewarding, and important for our future.

Recipe of the Month: Chili, Corn, and Squash Chowder

Ingredients

- 5 slices lean bacon
- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 each jalapeno, Anaheim and Habanero pepper, seeded, minced
- 1l. or 4 cups corn niblets (I prefer fresh or frozen, not canned)
- 2 large carrots, peeled, cut into coins
- 284 ml. or 10 oz. can chicken broth (or equivalent chicken stock)
- 20 ml. or 4 tsp chili powder
- 5 ml. or 1 tsp. salt
- 3 ml. or ½ tsp. coarse pepper
- 1 each – red and yellow bell peppers, chopped
- 1–1.25 l. or 4–5 cups peeled, chopped butternut squash
- 250 ml. or 1 cup light cream
- 90 ml. or 6 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

Method

Cook bacon in a large Dutch oven over medium heat until crisp. Remove from pan, dry with a paper towel, and chop. Add onion, garlic and the three peppers to the bacon drippings and cook 1 minute, stirring. Add corn, carrots, broth, chili powder, salt and pepper. Stir well and reduce heat to simmer. Tilt lid and simmer about 15 minutes or until carrots are almost tender.

Add bell peppers and bacon and simmer another 3 minutes. Add squash and cream. Simmer another 10 to 12 minutes or until squash chunks are tender. Add cilantro, stir, and serve at once in heated bowls or serve in a bread bowl with sour cream on top, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

Submitted by Barrett Fullerton



Yummy Squash Chowder. Barrett Fullerton photo



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Don't forget to "Spring forward" March 10 for Daylight Savings Time!

Elegy for a Beloved Cat

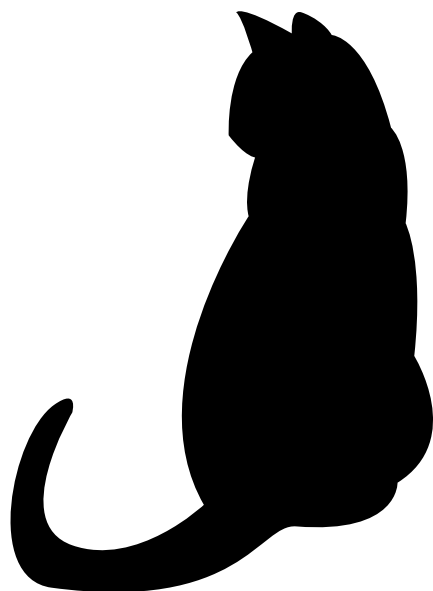
by Abrawn T.R. Shiskowski

For All Who Have or Are Bereaved of Their Precious Cats, and Those Who Delight in Simple Rhymes.

There is one that sleepeth in peace,
'Neath Death's enshroudment veil'd.
Thy mem'ry, dear cat, shall not cease;
Thou wast sorely bewail'd.

'Twas thee, O Hunter! which didst quell
All mice before thine eyes.
What dulcet chime, or burnish'd bell
Pealeth thy victories?

Yea, many! for thee they doth knell,
Sweet pet! thou art at rest!
Thoughts of thee cheereth and doth dwell
In those whom thy work blest!



Accessibility for Metchosin's Community House

Jim MacPherson

The 2023 *Accessible British Columbia Act* (ABCA) established a statutory framework for governments to work in partnership with people with disabilities to identify, remove and prevent barriers to the full and equal participation of people with diverse abilities.

Long before the current ABCA came into effect, the Metchosin Community Association (MCA) had shown an awareness to our guests with diverse physical abilities by constructing a ramp, allowing ease of access to the House, and configuring our washrooms to be a barrier-free space. When the House was renovated over 25 years ago we met the requirements for accessibility. Today, where we care so much more about those with diverse abilities and sensitivities, we have more work to do!

The MCA is committed to making the Community House a welcoming space for all our members, volunteers, employees, and guests and are looking at ways we can improve accessibility and safety. We are working with Metchosin Council (our

"landlord") and District staff on these improvements. We have submitted suggestions and budget requests for improvements to doorway openings and to improve the parking area for those with mobility challenges who may be unsteady on their feet or who use walkers, canes, wheelchairs, and strollers. We are also looking to embark upon a process to further evaluate the Community House to ensure it is a barrier-free space for all.

An important phrase in the ABCA is "... full and equal participation." This means persons with diverse abilities should be able to experience and participate on equal ground with everyone else.

The legislation pertains specifically to municipal government and the buildings, services, and infrastructure for which the municipality is responsible. The Community House is owned by the District of Metchosin, with the MCA leasing the building and managing the programs. Look for upcoming announcements about our progress as we navigate these changes with the help of Metchosin Council and District Staff.

Love-In, Metchosin-style

Diana Smith

The first ever Café de Love is happening at ArtPod this month. On Saturday evening, March 23, 7:00-9:00pm, the gallery will be transformed into a sultry bistro (without the cigarette smoke ... remember those days?). Surrounded by the art of our current show, *Look of Love*, people will be gathering around small tables, with a beverage and tasty pastry in hand (included in the price of admission), listening to a couple of numbers from each of a whole line-up of local musicians. Purchase your tickets early as there is limited seating (so we can stay on the good side of our Fire Chief).

There is no shortage of love in Metchosin when it comes to water, which is the theme of our next show, April 12 to May 26. The call-out for submissions is now open so artists can express their love of this precious substance and their appreciation of the hydrosphere. Deadline for submissions is March 17. The opening reception for *Wonder of Water* (WOW) is Saturday, April 13, 2:00-4:00pm. A complement to WOW will be a special student show in May, for youth K-12, so if you are (or know of) a young person who makes art we'd love to have your work. All details are available on our website: metchosinartpod.ca.

This year it is water, but with the help of our juror Samantha Dickie, we plan to celebrate each element over the next four years. Stay tuned!

Also in the works is an event featuring the film *Boil Alert*, to coincide with Earth Day in April. The film is a 90-minute hybrid documentary film following activist Layla Staats as she embarks on a dual journey to explore the Indigenous



One of the artworks in the *Look of Love* show: *Mombrain* by Shannon Butler, her headdress made of a year's worth of 'to-do' lists ... about self-love, about bravery as she balances being a stay-at-home mom and an artist. D. Smith photo

relationship to water as well as her own identity struggles she has grappled with her entire life as a Mohawk woman. This will be a collaboration with The Metchosin Learning Group. Details will be in the next issue.

Visit the Muse website!

Past issues and more! <http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod

THE LOOK OF LOVE 2 FEB - 7 APRIL

Art as a love language

- Juried show featuring local and area artists
- Juror & Feature Artist: **WILMA MILLETTE** (collage)
- **SAT 23 March. Café de Love. Vintage Coffeehouse** - like *Soirée of Poetry, Song and Pastries*
- **\$15 advance tix Eventbrite. See website for link.**

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE
4495 Happy Valley Road – info@metchosinartcentre.ca
metchosinartcentre.ca

WONDER OF WATER 12 APRIL - 26 MAY

- Guest Juror and Feature Artist **SAMANTHA DICKIE** (ceramic sculptor and installation artist)
- **SUN 17 March. Open Call to Artists closes**
- **SAT 13 April. Opening Reception 2-4pm**
- **Community Earth Day events (TBA)**
- **May Youth K-12 Water Show in POV Hallway and online slide show**

See metchosinartpod.ca for details

Metchosin ArtPod 4495 HAPPY VALLEY RD, METCHOSIN B.C.
WEB: METCHOSINARTPOD.CA
FB: [METCHOSIN_ARTPOD](https://www.facebook.com/METCHOSIN_ARTPOD) IG: [METCHOSINARTPOD](https://www.instagram.com/METCHOSINARTPOD)

Hours: Fri-Sun 11am-4pm

“Curious About Publishing?” Workshop A Success

Joannie Challenger

Authors Charmaine Welch, Terry Groves and Jim Challenger, along with publisher Zoe Duff, gave an informative presentation to prospective authors at

the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre on February 11. The audience went away with lots of useful information about steps to take when writing and publishing a book, as well as marketing it afterwards.



From left to right: Jim Challenger, Terry Groves, Zoe Duff and Charmaine Welch. Joannie Challenger photo



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METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Mondays

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

Knitting Café. 7:00–9:00pm on the first and third Mondays monthly. Contact Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Tuesdays

Drop-In Art Group. 9:30am–12:30pm weekly. Contact Arlene at 250-391-7905. Everyone is welcome.

Knitting Café. 1:00–4:00pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly. Contact Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00am. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Wednesdays

Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program. 9:00am–3:30 pm (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. Contact Nancy at 250-478-7487.

Creative Rug Hooking. The first and third Thursdays monthly, 10:30am–1:30pm. Contact Sheila at 250-595-6406, email: blueheronstudio@telus.net to discuss supplies needed. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects.

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 Friday mornings for our community program.

Friday Socials. The last Friday of each month from 1:00–3:00pm. Drop in for coffee and conversation. Hosted by Baha'is of Metchosin and the Seniors' Resource Centre. SRC offers drives to anyone who needs a ride; call 250-478-5150 or email SRC. All ages, everyone is welcome! Details: <https://metchosinseniors.ca/friday-socials/>

Ukulele Gathering. 5:00–6:30pm, third Friday of each month. Contact Margaretha, memetopia@shaw.ca.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FILM NIGHT. Friday, March 29, 7:00–10:00pm. Join our host Samuel Perez de Leon of Pearson College for this month's film, *He Named Me Malala*; 1h.28m. Rated PG-13

The remarkable story of teenager Malala Yousafzai and the battle for girls' education in Pakistan leading to Malala becoming the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Please check the MCA website for specific program details and contact information. www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

Metchosin Community House

4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155

mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com

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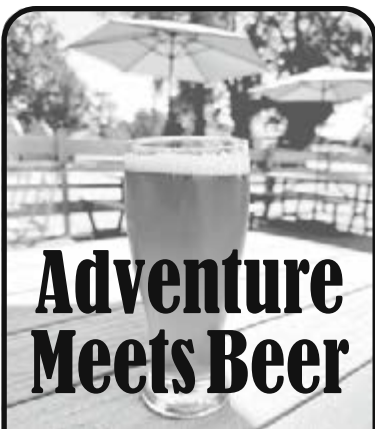


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Got something to say? Write an article for the *Metchosin Muse*!



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Saturday, 11:00am–9:00pm
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Seniors' Resource Centre METCHOSIN

Shannon Carman, Office Manager

METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION AGM

Thursday, March 14, 1:00–3:00pm
Metchosin Community House

Join us to hear our guest speaker, local RCMP member Justina Webb with the RCMP Fraud Prevention Unit, talk about how to recognize, avoid and report scammers.

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, March 21 at 10:00
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

This free monthly support group brings caregivers together based on a mutual experience of caregiving for a family or friend. You will find support and relief with others who understand what you are going through and who are dealing with similar issues. Facilitated by Family Caregivers of BC. Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

FRIDAY SOCIAL

Friday, March 29, 1:00–3:00pm
Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

Drop in for coffee and conversation on the last Friday of the month. Hosted by Baha'is of Metchosin and the SRC at the Metchosin Community House. Please call 250-478-5150 for a ride. Everyone welcome!

NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you're looking for ways to connect with your community and help neighbours who need it, consider joining the Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre as a volunteer! We provide rides, social calls, and other services to seniors in Metchosin who require support.

Contact the SRC office at 250-478-5150 or email us at info@metchosinseniors.ca.

The Seniors' Resource Centre at 4495 Happy Valley Road in the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00–3:00pm. Staff and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, resource information, and services.

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)

1407–4495 Happy Valley Road

250-478-5150 • info@metchosinseniors.ca • www.metchosinseniors.ca

Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

MEMORIAL SERVICE – IAN YOUNG: The memorial service for Ian Young, formerly of 715 Tiswilde Road, will be held at St. Mary the Virgin (“the old church”) on March 23, 2024 at 3:30pm. Afterwards, his family will serve Ian's famous “crunch”, with tea and coffee, at the Metchosin ArtPod, 4495 Happy Valley Road (in the former Metchosin Elementary School) – a hop, skip and a jump around the corner from the church.



Spring snowdrops on Lombard Drive

Theresa Kew photo

AUDREY ISOBEL COBURN 1926–2023



Sadly, Mum passed away peacefully early in the morning on December 30, 2023 at the Priory in Langford. She was born in Preston Pans, Scotland to Thomas and Lillian Wilson on March 25, 1926.

Mum was predeceased by her parents, husband Allan, sister Irene, brother Tom, son-in-law Derrick Auringer, eldest grandson Wesley Auringer, niece Coke, nephew Colin and brother-in-law Mike Whalen. Mum leaves to mourn, seven children: Judy

Auringer, Rex Coburn (Diane), Roy Coburn (Deborah), Joan Curtis (Cliff), Wynn, Janice Hill (Martin) and Mike; sister Janet, sister-in-law Lil, nieces Joanne, Pat, Linda, Mavis, Karen, Sandra and nephew Dale; Coburn family members throughout Alberta and BC, as well as 14 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. Close friends, the Jones, the Walkers, the Mycocks and the Hunters are remembered.

At the age of three, Mum and her family immigrated to Vermilion, Alberta, where she eventually met and married Allan in 1947. They followed Allan's parents to the coast in 1956 and eventually settled in Metchosin in 1957, where they raised their family on a small farm on Wootton Road. Mum resided on that small farm until 2017.

Mum devoted her whole life to her family. She and Dad instilled a strong work ethic in their children. While raising their clan, Mum worked seasonally with Vi Hiscock at the Hiscock Holly Farm on Parry X Road. She volunteered for many years at the Metchosin Museum and the Goldstream Food Bank, while Dad drove and maintained his gravel truck. Our home on Wootton Road was a gathering place for all. We recall one Christmas day when there were 21 visitor cars at our home, and Mum managed to feed everyone. Our three bedroom, one bath home was bursting at the seams.

Mum and Dad welcomed many grandchildren and great grandchildren over the years, most of whom had the opportunity to ride the tire swing on the old oak tree in the front yard.

Dad passed away in January of 1987. Mum got her drivers license that year. It was a newfound freedom for her and she enjoyed visiting family and friends. Mum had many wonderful holidays abroad with her children, including a trip to Scotland to see the place of her birth. She had many cherished dog companions at the farm, most recently Jet, Jetta and Mocha. Our Mum was a wonderful, caring, compassionate woman who lived for her family, her furry friends and her chickens. At Mum's, the kettle was always on. She loved to see a car rolling up the driveway. “How about a cup of tea?” She had a special relationship with each and every one of us. She will be deeply missed.

A special thanks to the wonderful staff at the Priory for the care you gave Mum during her final years. A sincere thanks to live-in companions Chona and Judith. A celebration of life was held in Metchosin on January 27, 2024. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the SPCA, Victoria branch would be appreciated.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Lesley Anne Scheeren
1958–2024



On January 19, 2024, we lost our devoted mother, Lesley Anne Scheeren. She passed away peacefully and with grace at her Metchosin farm, surrounded by her loving family. Lesley was 65 years old.

Lesley was born on July 21, 1958 in Comox, BC to parents Fred and Joyce Phillips (both predeceased). Her family eventually made their way into the Greater Victoria area, when Lesley was at a young age, and where she spent most of her life. She would marry

her high school sweetheart, John Scheeren, and they would begin their journey as parents in 1980 with the birth of their first son, John Richard (J.R.), and then, a couple years later, would add the final member, their second son Robbie. After spending many years in Victoria, Lesley and John eventually moved out to Metchosin in 2007 into their little piece of Heaven that they cherished.

Lesley had a career of over 25 years working for the provincial government, most notably with the BC Pension Corporation, where she made many close friendships and was very dedicated to her profession. Lesley also had a short career after her retirement, providing childcare at her home that she loved. Nana Coco, as she was known by her little ones, loved caring for the children and watching them grow up. Lesley, during that time, also housed high school exchange students and exchange program students from Wild ARC, with whom she formed very strong relationships. Lesley was also part of the horse community as she had three of her own. She was always thankful of the support of this community and the wonderful people she met along the way, whom she loved.

Lesley's (Mom's) true passion was her family that she was ever so dedicated to. Her absolute love and support for us through the years will carry within us forever as her flame burns bright. Mom is predeceased by her beloved husband John, and deeply missed by her sons J.R. (wife Kate) and Robbie (wife Patti) along with her most cherished grandson, Brooks. Mom was in her most happy place when she was surrounded by the family. She was a beautiful soul and we were blessed to have her as our mother.

Mom, you are free of pain. Go and ride into Heaven with the same grace you lived your life, and know that the love you had for your family is forever imprinted in all of us. Go be with Dad.

The family requests that donations be made in Lesley's name to the BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC) in lieu of flowers.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com.


RCMP Call-Outs

JANUARY 8–FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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

- Jan. 8 **William Head Road area** – Complaint of possible fraud involving a large sum of money, still under investigation.
William Head Road – Complaint of possible domestic dispute, patrols failed to locate the two people involved.
- Jan. 11 **Metchosin Road** – Single vehicle accident, driver hit black ice, vehicle rolled onto its side, driver taken to hospital with minor injuries, vehicle towed.
- Jan. 14 **William Head Road area** – Abandoned vehicle, owner located and vehicle moved.
Sooke Road – Check wellbeing of person in cold weather, person located and found to be in good health.
- Jan. 15 **Lindholm Road** – Theft of Christmas yard decorations, no suspects identified.
- Jan. 17 **Metchosin Road** – Report of a missing person who was located.
Sooke Road – Two motor vehicle accidents, no injuries, wet snow making driving hazardous.
- Jan. 18 **Sooke Road** – Single vehicle accident, vehicle rolled in ditch, no injuries.
Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
- Jan. 22 **Rocky Point Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located, registered owner given warning.
- Jan. 23 **Pedder Bay Drive** – Assistance provided to ambulance service, one person taken to hospital.
Neff Road – Person in breach of court order, still under investigation.
- Jan. 25 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious female on highway, patrols failed to locate her.
- Rocky Point Road** – Two vehicle accident, no injuries, driver of one vehicle charged with failing to yield on a stop sign.
- Jan. 26 **Lombard Drive** – Complaint of an abandoned vehicle which was moved.
- Jan. 27 **Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of possible fraud, reported for information.
La Bonne Road – Hit and run to a vehicle, suspect vehicle identified, still under investigation.
- Jan. 28 **Rocky Point Road area** – Person reporting threats and harassment, suspect identified and given verbal warning to stop communication with victim.
- Jan. 28 **Sooke Road** – Suspicious vehicle observed in park parking lot, vehicle departed prior to police attendance.
- Jan. 30 **Happy Valley Road** – Person turned over found property to police.
- Feb. 1 **Kangaroo Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
Happy Valley Road – Report of an erratic driver, vehicle not located.
Metchosin Road – Mischief to private property, reported for information.
Sooke Road – Possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate, passed onto Sooke RCMP.
- Feb. 2 **William Head Road** – Check welfare of a person, located and transported to hospital by ambulance.
- Feb. 3 **Witty's Beach** – Mischief to property, unknown person(s) spray painted logs on the beach.
- Feb. 4 **Happy Valley Road** – Report of gunshots heard in the area, patrols failed to locate anything suspicious.
- Feb. 6 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of fraud involving a large sum of money, still under investigation.

- Neff Road** – Assistance provided to the Coroner's Service regarding a sudden death of a person.
William Head Road – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.
- Feb. 7 **Sooke Road** – Erratic driving complaint, suspect vehicle not located.
- Feb. 8 **Rocky Point Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement by Traffic Section in school zone, one speeding ticket issued.
La Bonne Road – Complaint of a suspicious vehicle/person on the street. Patrols failed to locate the vehicle or the person.




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Important Dates & Events

- Mar. 2 **March for Liz** p. 4
- Mar. 10 **Daylight Savings Time** begins; clocks forward one hour
- Mar. 15 **Talk and Walk: The Salish Sea Gull Project** p. 7
- Mar. 19 **Emergency Preparedness Information Session: Group Lodging** p. 4
- Mar. 23 **Groundwater to Surface Water Interactions Presentation** p. 3
- Other events:**
- Council Meetings** p. 2
- Metchosin Community House Programs and Special 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
- Save a life
- Report a crime
- Imminent safety
- Report an accident

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
bilstonwatershed@gmail.com
bilstonwatershed.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.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club

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
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
250-382-1989
metchosinmuseum.ca

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 Auxilliary
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

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
250-478-7688

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

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

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION
250-478-8384
wspr.ca

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

FAITHS

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GORDON UNITED CHURCH
250-478-6632
www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

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250-727-3722

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

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

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

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

This listing is a directory of local organizations. Please email changes to the editor at 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, unless otherwise noted.

The Adventures of a Very Lucky Loggerhead Turtle

Joannie Challenger

In a world where it's becoming increasingly difficult to separate reality from fiction, it's hard to know what to believe. Such was the case last month when a story surfaced about a loggerhead turtle found in Pedder Bay. However, we realized that the story might actually be true when it was reported by multiple sources like CHEK News, the *Times Colonist* and CBC. They also interviewed the man who saw it and I remembered teaching that young man long ago, when he was in Grade 2 and 3. This is the story:

A few weeks ago Metchosin residents Sean Hutchinson and his father Ed were out on their boat in Pedder Bay, checking their crab traps and cleaning up their boat after the weekend's fishing derby. "I had started to take the boat back to the dock, when I noticed a large kelp bed," Sean remembers. "Usually I steer clear of kelp but, for whatever reason, I went over to it. There was a piece of garden hose and a large blue bucket caught in it, and, in the middle of the mass of kelp, there was something that looked like a stump. It had kelp all over it;

when I lifted the kelp off a head popped up. It was a huge turtle! We had no idea if it should be in these waters, but fortunately we had some cell coverage there, so we checked with friends and other fishermen, and called every hotline information line that we could think of. Finally I called my friend Brian who put me in contact with Dr. Anna Hall, who is with Seaview Marine Sciences and lives in Metchosin. She raced out to Pedder Bay with Brian and husband Chris. They headed out in their boat to meet us and then she sent photos of the turtle to Marine Mammals Rescue (MMR) and the Department of Fisheries (DFO)."

The turtle was obviously in distress and DFO gave permission for the group to bring the turtle aboard and get it to the MMR, which operates in cooperation with the Vancouver Aquarium. "To get the turtle into the boat was easier said than done," noted Sean. "They told me to grab it by the lower half of its body – if it snapped at my fingers they would be gone! The boat had high sides, so I had to be pretty much horizontal to grab the turtle. My friends held my legs as I stretched out to reach it, and when it tried to push away from me with its flippers I almost went into the water with it! Luckily my friends held on to me, and we were eventually able to haul it, and me, into Anna's boat."

"With a wheelbarrow and spray bottles to keep the turtle wet, we managed to get the turtle into the back of Anna's Range Rover, then we headed to the ferry, and the mainland. We were told to keep the turtle's body the same temperature so that it could later be warmed slowly. This made for an interesting ride for us, with car windows wide open on a cold night! DFO contacted the ferry.



A happy turtle. Sean Hutchinson photo



Rescue by Sean Hutchinson underway. Brian Hotovy photo

When we arrived at Tsawwassen, MMR was waiting for us. The turtle was transferred to their vehicle, and our work was done."

When asked what Sean was feeling throughout this time he responded, "We didn't really have time to feel anything while it was happening, just a sense of urgency. We also couldn't be sure that the turtle was even still alive; there were no apparent signs that it was breathing. When we transferred it to the MMR ambulance, though, it took a deep breath. A humbling experience, in all."

It turns out that the turtle is a loggerhead turtle; it's only the second confirmed sighting of one in this area, and the first confirmed one to be found inside coastal

waters. It's a rare occurrence. Anna noted, "It was serendipitous the way everything unfolded. We are so grateful to everyone who helped, including Pedder Bay Marina for loaning us their wheelbarrow, and BC Ferries for holding the ferry and arranging for our unexpected trip. Today (February 13) the turtle is doing well; currently she's playing with the bubbles in her enclosure!"

In looking back on this experience Sean advised, "Listen to your intuition. Be aware of what's going on around you. It's amazing that we ever discovered the turtle. It took a community, with everyone working together, to help it."



Metchosin Pullers

Kathy Atherton

The Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC) is active in the community! A crew of 21 came out to tackle English holly, spurge laurel and blackberries at a local property. MISC will be working with students and teachers from Westmont School for an upcoming pull.

For more information on MISC please email metchosininvasives@gmail.com or visit their website, metchosininvasives.ca.

Bonnie Farris photo

Daylight Savings!



Spring Ahead
One Hour
March 10