



# Conservation Success!



View of the protected environment. Bev Hall photo

Valerie Jaeger

Regular *Muse* readers might recall that in the 2023 July/August issue the Metchosin Foundation contributed an article describing a video that highlighted a very ambitious, multi-year conservation project: the Bilston Conservation Corridor.

This four-minute video was designed to inform, inspire and help launch fund-raising efforts for the establishment of a corridor of inter-connected, healthy native habitats within the heart of the Bilston Creek watershed, ultimately connecting headwaters areas all the way to Witty's Lagoon. We have good news to share. Our video outreach has contributed to a notable success!

Working in close collaboration with a local family, whose members were open to exploring ways to create a conservation legacy on their upland acreage, and with critical financial support and technical expertise provided by BC Parks Foundation (BCPF), the Metchosin Foundation has successfully facilitated a conservation outcome for 32 acres of prime riparian areas (including a large pond, year-round and seasonal wetlands and creeks), mature forests and rocky outcrops, within the headwaters of the Bilston Creek watershed.

Initial landowner outreach that began with a letter from the Metchosin Foundation in July, 2022, concluded with a successful acquisition by a new titleholder, BC Parks Foundation (BCPF), in late March of this year. Along the way, the Metchosin Foundation maintained a central role in landowner engagement and provided various forms of in-kind support to BCPF. In the concluding months of the transaction process, consistent with the terms of a bilateral contribution agreement between Metchosin Foundation and BCPF, the Metchosin Foundation was pleased to provide financial support to help defray ancillary costs incurred in completing the transaction, such as surveying, environmental assessment, legal drafting and review, and document registration.

Although the focus of this particular land acquisition was to establish an ecological reserve rather than a park, we are pleased that both the prior and current owners are supportive of future biodiversity surveys (bioblitzes) occurring on this very special property, as facilitated by the Metchosin Foundation.

The Metchosin Foundation's financial contribution would not have been possible without the generous support of our

local donors and of the Victoria Foundation. We thank everyone who has made directed donations to our land securement efforts. The Victoria Foundation's timely and generous grant, conveyed toward the end of 2023, supported not only this regionally significant conservation success, but also positioned the Metchosin Foundation to receive designations from BC's Surveyor General to hold conservation covenants, in future. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank the family who for generations have loved and cared for this land and who have now affirmed this love by creating a precious conservation legacy.

We look forward to working with other Metchosin landowners who may have an interest in exploring different options for creating conservation legacies. The particular approach employed in this instance was subdivision under section 99 of the BC *Land Title Act*, a provision which enables buyers and sellers interested in conservation to pursue a streamlined subdivision process. We'd be happy to share information on this and other tools which can support conservation outcomes in our community.

You can learn more and reach us, via our website: <https://metchosinfoundation.ca>

## Weird Event at Weir's

Allen Jones

During April, an elephant seal landed at the far end of Weir Beach. Fortunately, not many people are around at that end, particularly with the closed access from William Head Road.

The elephant seal was carrying out its annual moulting on land, which takes about four weeks. This process involves shedding their fur and underlying layer of skin to allow new growth. Some local residents put up posts around the area to warn beach users to keep clear, as seals can become cantankerous if disturbed, and are not slow movers when aroused.



Elephant seal moulting on Weir Beach. Allen Jones photo

# Metchosin Muse

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

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## 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](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com). Do not send PDFs. Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or tif format only. Typewritten or handwritten copy may be acceptable if you have no computer access; please call Linda at 250-590-0168 for arrangements. All submissions may be edited for length, style and suitability of content and language. Submissions are accepted on this understanding. Please visit our website for more information: [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

## ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local non-profit, arts, interests and activities publication, produced by the *Metchosin Muse* Society. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. The *Muse* endeavours to promote respectful and open dialogue in the community and aims to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Metchosin and Beecher Bay.

## CURRENT CIRCULATION

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](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com) (with electronic signature if possible). An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

## Aqueous Metchosin

I attended the presentation, on March 23, by a provincial government groundwater protection officer, Nicole Fulcher, in Metchosin's council chambers. I have worked for many years with hydrologists (at Sheringham & Beasley, near Nelson) for the protection of watersheds for quantity, quality, and timing of flow for the water users of those districts. We had mostly good relationships with users, land owners, forestry, and Prov. Water Rights. At council chambers we were presented with a groundwater presentation remarkably similar to what I used to teach in my middle school science classes for almost twenty years. In my discussion with the presenter afterwards, I was somewhat amazed by the lack of understanding of how development impacts the surface water finding its way into the aquifer. Perhaps, the next session, April 27, will address these issues?

Richard Hopkins

*Editor's note: the April 27 event was a workshop about 'well water and alternatives'.*

## The Budget

It is important for taxpayers to realize that, as CAO Bob Payette said in his report to the Finance Committee of April 4 "the required general tax increase for

2024 is 7.1%." However, he also said that "the RCMP portion of the municipal tax is also established and will be included within the bylaw for Council's approval". The proposed 2024 policing tax imposed by Metchosin is 2.7%. This means that we will be paying a 9.8% tax increase. It also means that taxpayers will have paid 23.2% in tax increases over two years. Council should be fully transparent on this issue to taxpayers.

On another note, despite a report in the April issue of the *Muse*, there will be no Open House this year to discuss the budget. This decision does not reflect the statement in the December issue of the *Muse* by Mayor Little that "this Council is committed to openness, transparency, and good governance and it is reflected in open debate even if the topics are awkward and difficult." We, therefore, will have no opportunity to openly discuss controversial issues such as the dollar value of the buyout to Sue Lin and Bob Payette's moving costs.

Kathleen MacPherson

*Editor's note: At the time of writing the April issue Council was still considering an Open House on the budget. However, I understand that on considering the staff effort involved, the limited numbers previously attracted to the event, and the numerous opportunities for public participation that occurred, it was found to be not needed this year. Another cost saving!*

*It has also been noted previously that personal contracts with staff members have to be discussed in camera.*

## Petition for Youth Mentorship Program

My name is Ares. I live in Metchosin and am a high school student at Westmont Montessori School. I have started a petition for the BC government to make a mentorship program so more young people can learn what it's like to be a politician in the BC legislature. People will be able to apply to this program and then go to the BC legislature and see what an MLA does and what it is like to be an MLA. I am trying to collect as many signatures as I can. If you would like to sign my petition just type this link into your browser which will take you to my online petition: [bit.ly/MentorPetition](http://bit.ly/MentorPetition)

Ares Van Koevinge

## Supreme Court Upholds Charity's Obligations

I read with great interest Roxanne Egan-Elliott's March 23 *Times-Colonist* article regarding the recent BC Supreme Court ruling about an attempted sale of donor-funded assets by the Boys and

*continued on page 3*

## Visit our website!

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

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

## Muse Subscriptions

We 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](mailto: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](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com), or by cheque made out to the *Metchosin Muse*, c/o Linda Spiller, 4741 Lisandra Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4G1.



# Council News

MAY 2024

### Residential Backyard Open Burning CLOSED May 31, 2024

Burning is permitted from October 1 to May 31 only (unless otherwise posted). Burning is permitted 6:00am to 6:00pm only. Fires must be completely extinguished by 6:00pm – no smoldering fires.

Please see [metchosinfire.ca](http://metchosinfire.ca) > Regulations > for more detailed information, or call the Metchosin Fire Department 250-478-1307.

### Metchosin 2024 Grants-in-Aid

Metchosin's 2024 Grants-in-Aid process was advertised in the March *Muse*. Applicants have been invited to present at the May 6 Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee will bring recommendations to its June 3 Finance Committee meeting. Council will adopt the recommendations at its June 17 council meeting.

### 2024 Property Taxes

Metchosin residents should expect to receive their 2024 property tax notices in early June. Taxes are due on Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

### Council Meetings

The 2024 schedule for regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: [www.metchosin.ca](http://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](http://www.metchosin.ca).

- Finance Committee..... May 6
- Council Meeting ..... May 6
- Community Planning Committee, Environment & Natural Areas Committee, Public Works & Protective Services Committee ..... May 13
- Agricultural Advisory Select Committee ..... May 15
- Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee..... May 21
- Council Meeting ..... May 27
- Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee..... 4:30 pm, May 28
- Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee ..... May 28

## METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

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See our rate sheets for advertising, obituaries and announcements on the [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca) website.

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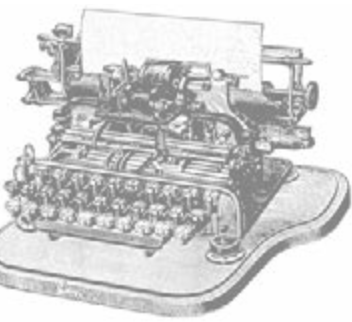
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## Metchosin Municipal Hall

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# Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

It is spring in Metchosin and the days are getting warmer. The spring bulbs are appearing, the trees are blossoming, and the newborn lambs are frolicking in the fields.

May brings the start of the Farmers' Market on the district grounds off Happy Valley Road. It starts on Mother's Day, May 12, from 11:00am to 2:00pm and runs every Sunday until the end of October, but some farmers in Metchosin want to know why there aren't more local farmers at the event.

On Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 am to 5:00pm, at the Metchosin Community Hall on William Head Road, everyone is welcome at the Women's Wellness & Metaphysical Fair. Free admission to see 'talented psychics,

inspiring wellness practitioners and a bewitching vendor & artisan market. Mocktails! Gift bags for the first 30 guests! Flowers for the first 100 Guests! Gift basket Draw Prize for one lucky winner!

Also in May, Choral Evolution is performing their concert 'Unplugged, a choral twist in classic hits', with a 50-member choir, including many Metchosinites: May 3 at 7:00pm and May 4 at 2:00pm at Holy Trinity Church in Sooke.

Another big event in May is the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale to be held on May 25 and 26. Always full of amazing offerings and a tribute to all the volunteers that make the operation run so smoothly. See the advert on page 7 for more details.

On May 15 Metchosin's five-year budget must be approved and submitted to the Province. It

has taken many months and eight meetings (two more than last year) to reach a satisfactory conclusion – a 7.1% increase in general rates – lower than Langford and Sooke ended up with!

There is also some news about re-opening the Weir Beach stairs. I understand that an on-site meeting took place last month. There is a contractor appointed and the work is anticipated to start in early May, as advised by Councillor Jay Shukin.

Meanwhile, Councillor Shelly Donaldson was busy organizing a 'Farm to Table' tour of Metchosin farms and Metchosin Council proposed a groundwater protection resolution that was approved during the AVICC Convention held in Victoria this April.

Schools and colleges are preparing for the end of another academic year. Exams are being set and end-of-term events being planned. Students and teachers are looking forward to the summer break.

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

Allen Jones photo



## Say Hello to the HICs – Metchosin's Housing Initiatives Collaborative!

Sarah Anthony and Anne Richmond

Is there a hotter topic (apart from climate change) than housing these days? Certainly not in BC. The province's Housing Bill 44 introduced a lot of new expectations and opportunities and everyone wonders what it all means, or could mean. Municipalities, including Metchosin, are required to produce a housing needs assessment report by the end of 2024. This is the context that has led a group of interested Metchosin citizens who have been thinking and talking about housing options for a long time, to come together to form a more organized group with two purposes:

1. To provide opportunities for learning and information sharing that relate to housing options, specifically in rural communities like ours.
2. To act as a focal point for developing and articulating innovative ideas on housing options that reflect Metchosin residents' interests.

We want to start with a series of "demystification" meetings: short sessions where there is a knowledgeable person to present key information about a topic and answer questions. We expect to provide information from the sessions to those who can't attend

and as an ongoing reference. The initial topics we have in mind are:

- "S\*\*t Happens" – septic systems
- Tiny houses – alone and in groups
- What the ALR means 2U
- Formalizing the informal housing supply
- "Living with your gardener" – creating farming opportunities
- Renovating to age in place
- Co-housing in a rural context
- Job-linked housing (agricultural, essential workers, etc.)
- And ... ?

HIC sessions will be held in the DIY room at the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre, on a regular schedule starting Tuesday, May 28. The information sharing part will be 7:00–7:30pm, and discussion for a maximum of one hour afterwards. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 7:00–8:30pm.

Our goal is to be in an informed position to respond along with individual residents to any calls for public input to Metchosin housing needs.

More information will be posted through the various Metchosin Facebook groups. You can contact us through e-mail at MetchosinHIC@shaw.ca.

### Letters to the Editor

*continued from page 2*

Girls Club of Greater Victoria Foundation. The corresponding, roughly 24-page judgement (Docket S-238667) also makes for enlightening reading for past and current supporters of the Boys and Girls Club.

In reviewing the Club's recent petition to allow a private sale of the donor-funded 98-acre Metchosin Wilderness Camp property, Justice Marzari's judgement noted that the Club's rushed sale petition process "was essentially designed to stifle public attention to the sale". Marzari

also noted the Club had "not established, or even attempted to establish, that its financial existence is put in jeopardy" if it must continue to act as trustee for the purposes of the charitable trusts associated with the donor-funded Metchosin Wilderness Camp assets. The judgement also called into question the Club's assertion of declining regional demand for outdoor youth programs.

The Marzari judgement was fair. It also embodied the basic moral clarity that any of the Club's youth program participants could likely articulate.

Carol Voyt



### Got a June ad update?

Please direct ad queries or changes for the **June issue** of the *Metchosin Muse* to Joan Johnston, joan.johnston@shaw.ca. Thank you.

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Event Info: [eventsbyla@hotmail.com](mailto:eventsbyla@hotmail.com)

### ANOTHER WATERSHED MOMENT!

Come join in the movement!

When: Thursday, May 2  
Where: SVI Rangers Hall, 3498 Luxton Rd.  
Time: 7–9pm...doors open at 6:30

A special AGM event being hosted by the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association



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

# Invitation to a Film about Water Issues on First Nation Reserves

Frank Mitchell

**Boil Alert film**  
Saturday, May 11  
1:00 to 3:00pm  
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Metchosin Learning Group will be showing a film, *Boil Alert* (2023), which raises issues about water availability and quality on First Nation Reserves.

Water – its availability, purity, and its location – is a critical determinant of the survival of all life forms, including humans. Human societies have evolved in different ways to take advantage of this resource. Pastoralism took advantage of seasonal variations in water availability over extensive landscapes. Larger populations became viable where dependable local water supplies, whether naturally supplied or using irrigation, rendered agriculture viable. Fishing communities emerged where lakes and oceans contained abundant fish populations. A common denominator of societies which have survived for millennia is that they developed systems of beliefs, values, knowledge, and institutions which ensured their continued access to the benefits of water (as well as the role of other life forms in their areas).

The survival of these ‘traditional’ societies has been rendered increasingly uncertain by the proliferation of ‘modern’ industrial society. The ‘moderns’ have developed a culture which

justifies their use of technology powered by non-renewable sources of energy and to take resources they need from anyone unable to stop them through physical force or moral argument. They have not yet recognized that there are limits to their growth.

*Boil Alert* documents the journey of a young Mohawk mother from living in a ‘modern’ city, her return to her grandfather’s land in a nearby First Nations reserve, and then her visits to four other First Nations where water supplies – and health and even survival – are compromised by extractive industries (pulp mills, uranium mining, a gas pipeline) or by the inadequacy of government technical measures to clean polluted water. The film provides valuable insights into how current First Nations people view water issues, how traditional knowledge and values persist, and on actions they can and are taking. Clearly, non-Indigenous people will affect outcomes. *Boil Alert* provides a useful basis for discussion.

The Metchosin Learning Group invites all Metchosinites (and interested others) to view and discuss *Boil Alert* at the Municipal Hall Saturday, 11 May, from 1:00 to 3:00pm. This event is a collaboration with Metchosin ArtPod to coincide with their current show ‘Wonder of Water’.

# Getting a Better Grip on Fraud – Part 1

Katie Pirquet

Did you ever get a phone call, email, or text that caught you off guard? Perhaps it’s a young person – says he’s your grandson – and he’s sick, or in trouble, and needs some money for medicine or bail. Perhaps it’s your bank saying that there has been a technical glitch and they need to verify your account numbers.

If you thought these calls were legitimate, or you have lost money through fraud, you are not alone. If you’re embarrassed that you were deceived, forgive yourself! The crooks are getting better organized and smarter. Their techniques are becoming more sophisticated. Some operate from big call centres outside of Canada. Ultimately, we need to get smarter, too.

According to the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (CAfC) (<https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>), reported losses due to fraud in 2023 amounted to nearly \$600 million dollars. In just the first three months of 2024, they have documented about \$123 million dollars in losses from more than 70 overall types and subcategories of fraud. That’s just a fraction of the total damage since many frauds go unreported.

Fraud affects people of all ages, not just seniors. Crooks can make hundreds of recorded robo-calls a day, and they will call again if they get an answer, or you seem ‘chatty.’ They will try to keep you talking, to learn about you, to gain your trust and your sympathy or to scare you. Personal information, tags, photos and comments on Facebook or other social

media can be used to compromise your privacy. Buying and paying online can open opportunities for theft, such as paying a deposit for an item, but the seller never shows up to hand it over.

RCMP Community Liaison Officer, Constable Justine Webb of the Westshore detachment, recently gave a pair of talks to groups in Metchosin, offering information, tips, and guidelines for handling the many forms of fraud that have proliferated in recent years. She has documented a disturbing number of incidents in Metchosin, involving losses of thousands of dollars. Constable Webb emphasizes: “there is no one answer for everything, or for every scam. You really need to pay attention to your tingling ‘Spidey-senses’ to avoid becoming a victim”.

Constable Webb offers a partial list of common scams she has encountered in her job as Community Liaison Officer. While new variations pop up every year, there are patterns:

- A “loved-one” impersonator phones to say they are sick or in trouble, and they need money urgently. One version asks you to speak as well to a “doctor” or the “arresting officer”.
- An unauthorized purchase has been made on your credit card, and you are asked to verify the account and/or the purchase by giving the caller your account numbers or other personal information.
- Your bank account has been compromised and the caller or sender needs either verification of account information, or wants you to transfer your

funds to another account “for safekeeping”.

- An online romantic acquaintance or “date” claims they suddenly have fallen on misfortune and asks for a “loan”.
- Extortion: a person claims to have photos or information that they will post in a prominent place online if you refuse to pay them.
- A person claiming to be with the police insists that you have an outstanding ticket for speeding or some other infraction, and the fine must be paid immediately to avoid additional penalties. A fake “officer” shows up at your home to collect the payment, or you are told to click on a link to pay.
- A person claims to be in dire need, and offers to sell you an item for cash. The item is worth far less than the asking price, and may be stolen.

Scams vary, but the aim is always the same: to get you to believe the fraudulent scenario, to buy into a need for urgent action and/or secrecy, to have an emotional reaction of fear or compassion, and ultimately, to have you part with personal or financial information, money, or both. Robo-call and text scammers may use software that “spoofs” phone numbers by tricking the call ID system into displaying untraceable, random numbers that actually belong to real people, who don’t know that their number is being used fraudulently.

What to do? Watch for Part 2 in next month’s Muse!

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# West Shore Transit Changes

Jamie Weiss, Senior Media Relations and Public Affairs Advisor, BC Transit

In January, BC Transit made significant changes to the West Shore Transit Network to meet evolving needs and population shifts within the region. These changes provide residents of Metchosin and the rest of the West Shore with more efficient and convenient transit service.

Key modifications include changes to the previous routes 54 and 55 into distinct, and more direct routes with clearly defined start and end points. Route 54 now navigates through Wishart, Royal Bay, and Metchosin, while Route 55 serves the Happy Valley area. With their new alignments, inbound trips to William Head on Routes 54 or 55 are designed to turn around and head back to Langford Exchange afterwards on the opposite route. The new service provides the same primary benefits as the previous loop-routes for connections within Metchosin, while being more direct and legible on a map. In addition, Sunday service received a significant boost with both the routes 54 and 55 now operational instead of just the 54, marking a substantial improvement in accessibility for weekend travellers.

For customers looking to explore these revamped transit options, detailed maps, schedules, fare information, and customer alerts are readily available at [bctransit.com/victoria](http://bctransit.com/victoria). Alternatively, people can reach out to BC Transit’s dedicated

customer service team at 250-382-6161 for further assistance.

Umo, our new electronic fare system, means you don’t have to use cash for your fares if you prefer other payment methods. Learn more at [bctransit.com/umo](http://bctransit.com/umo).

Now is a great time to choose a more sustainable way to travel! Contact BC Transit for more information: call 250-882-8402; email [jweiss@bctransit.com](mailto:jweiss@bctransit.com)

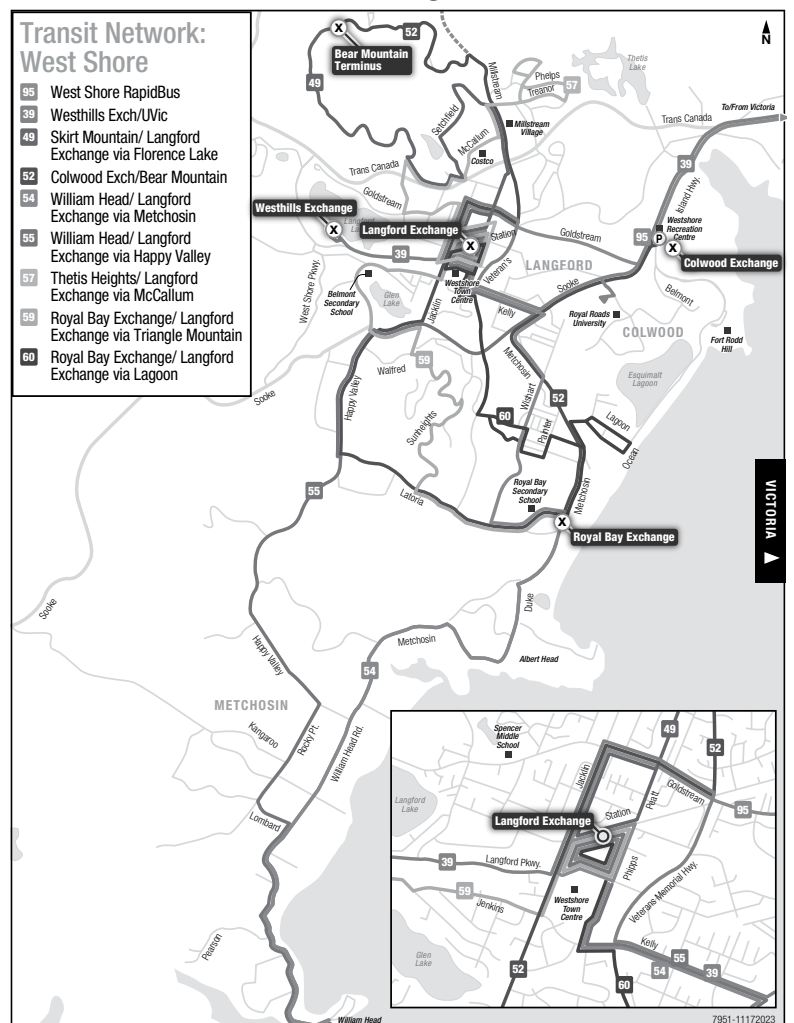
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## West Shore Transit Network Changes



Tell them you saw it in the Muse!

# William Fisher's Descendants Visit Metchosin's Community Hall

Judith van Manen

Two commemorative plaques hang at the Metchosin Community Hall, one outside and one inside. They are a tribute to William Fisher, who donated the land on which the hall is constructed. William's great-granddaughter, Diane Cowden, with her son Daryl Cowden and cousin Jane Stephenson, visited the Community Hall on March 7 to view these historical plaques and reflect on their family's historical life in Metchosin.

The plaques were created for the Hall, through the efforts of Eric Quissy. The inscription is significant:

"On February 9, 1889, one William Fisher, farmer, donated a corner of his property (situated at the intersection of Happy Valley and Metchosin Roads) measuring two chains by two and a half chains (approximately half an acre) for the purpose of erecting a Public Hall for the benefit of Metchosin."

William Fisher's farm was 320 acres and extended from what is now Rocky Point Road to Parry Bay. He cleared the land with oxen and built piggens, sheep cribs, a smokehouse and summer house for chickens while the big farmhouse known as Ferncliffe was constructed. William had a lifelong interest in horticulture, but his passion was fruit trees. He planted an orchard which included apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees.

William Fisher was active in his community. He was one of the first school trustees at Metchosin School in 1872. His wife, Elizabeth Fisher, was Metchosin's first schoolteacher. Before William bought the farm, she and her daughters, Emily and Edith lived for one year in a lean-to addition attached to the back of the schoolhouse. Every Saturday William would ride his horse from Langford to deliver supplies to his wife and daughters.

After William donated the land to the community, there was a flurry of activity to erect a suitable building in time for the

wedding reception of the Fisher's oldest daughter, Emily. She married Frederick L. Stephenson and most of their children attended the one-room school in Metchosin for four years, beginning in 1891.

Over the years, the Community Hall has changed. It was rebuilt in the 1930's, closed in 1948 due to a sagging roof and rotting floor, and repaired in 1951 (which included a basement excavation project built entirely by Metchosin volunteers). Since that time many renovations and upgrades have occurred.

The Metchosin Hall is one of the few remaining deeded halls in British Columbia. The land was deeded to the residents of Metchosin to be held in a trust. The first three trustees were Arthur Peatt, Thomas Stothard and William Fisher. Today, the Metchosin Hall Society runs the day-to-day operation of the hall. The two trustees are Steve Gray and Jim Russell.

The Community Hall serves as a venue for a multitude of activities. Whether you play pickle ball or badminton in the gym, attend jazzercise classes, celebrate a wedding reception, attend an arts and crafts fair, or participate in a political meeting, the Community Hall is a cornerstone of Metchosin's community. We should remember that this public hall is available for our use due to the generosity of William Fisher and his family. Other interesting historical details can be gained from visits to the unique one-room Schoolhouse Museum and the Pioneer Museum. More information is available from the Metchosin Community Hall website: [www.metchosinhall.ca](http://www.metchosinhall.ca).

*Editor's note: Metchosin Hall AGM will be held at the Hall, 4401 William Head Road on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00pm. All welcome.*



Right: Historic photograph of the benefactor, photographer unknown

Below: Judith van Manen and Steve Gray with Diane Cowden and son Daryl with cousin Jane Stephenson and the internal plaque. Barb Sawatsky photo

WILLIAM FISHER



Detail of the plaque. Barb Sawatsky photo

# Metchosin Preschool Has Found a New Home

Erin Van de Water

After many months (and some stress) weighing options and searching for potential locations to house the Metchosin Co-op Preschool, we are thrilled to announce that the preschool is moving to the old Metchosin School. A contract has been signed with the District to lease a classroom (Mr. Cook's old grade 7 class if you're familiar), bringing children and teachers back to the downtown core this September.

Our dedicated and hard-working President, David Bowie, was successful in receiving a grant to help cover costs of moving and renovations that will occur this summer. David was also instrumental in coordinating the agreement with the District to make this move happen, as well as organizing the temporary move to Westmont when we found out the old preschool building was no longer safe. He chose two exceptionally tough years to volunteer as President, and there is no way



Erin Van de Water photo

these two moves would have happened so seamlessly if he hadn't been at the helm. Thank you, David.

The cooperative model of the preschool is what makes this program so special – it builds community between families and enriches the lives of our kids.

Now that we know there will definitely be a preschool program this fall, registration is open.

There are two options for classes: Tuesday/Thursday and Monday/Wednesday/Friday. For more information, please email [metchosinpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinpreschool@gmail.com).

See you in September!

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*Visit the Muse website!*

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# Metchosin's Boys and Girls Club Loses Supreme Court Appeal

Allen Jones

Metchosin residents and past Club employees were among a group of people who came together in late 2020 to oppose the proposed subdivision into residential lots and the onward sale of the 98-acre property known as the Boys & Girls Club Metchosin Wilderness Camp. This property, which had been providing a venue for outdoor youth programs for several decades, was originally leased by the Boys & Girls Club from the province but in 2004, aided by the Club's "Create a Ripple" fundraising campaign, it was purchased by the Club. Donors to that campaign helped to offset the Club's corresponding mortgage and contributed to developing needed Wilderness Camp infrastructure and a dedicated endowment fund.

At a well-attended public hearing on the proposed subdivision in March, 2021 the Club was represented by its Executive Director, Treasurer and external legal counsel. As an outcome of this hearing, the District drafted and approved Bylaw 668, to help protect the property's back 37 acres from the proposed residential subdivision. It was then reported that a conditional sale of the property to the Thriving Roots Wilderness School had been agreed upon by the Club (see July/August 2021 Muse). Unfortunately, the Thriving Roots group was unable to successfully remove conditions and the sale did not proceed. However, Thriving Roots was later successful in acquiring an alternate, 54-acre wilderness campus in the Highlands.

In parallel with the above activities, a local GoFundMe campaign was initiated to raise the funds needed to secure an expert legal opinion on the potential, enduring obligations of the Club under BC's *Charitable Purposes Preservation Act*. The resulting legal opinion was shared with the BC Attorney General's office in the summer of 2021. After reviewing this opinion, the Attorney General's Office entered into an extended period of communication with Club representatives.

In a petition to the Supreme Court of BC on January 22, 2024, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria Foundation asked for an order *cy-près* (as near as possible) to alter the terms of the charitable trust upon which they hold the 98-acre property in Metchosin, and two investment funds associated with that property. In effect, the Foundation asked to convert



View of the club from Metchosin Road. Allen Jones photo

the specific charitable purposes for which it holds the property and related capital funds to something more like the Foundation's general charitable purposes, including funding services and infrastructure costs at other locations.

The purpose of the Foundation includes promoting and furthering the aims and interests of their sister Association, the Boys and Girls Club Services Society (the "Services Society"), receiving donations, managing assets, and disbursing funds in support of the Services Society. The Services Society is also a charitable society, providing services to youth and children on southern Vancouver Island, such as: licensed out-of-school community programs (before and after school, and during summer and school breaks); providing nutritious breakfasts to children before school each week; educational and support programs for parents of teens and pre-teens; programs for young people facing specific challenges; summer camps for children; and supportive living through youth care homes.

The Foundation argued that the programming that the services society provides on the property is waning in popularity and use, while the costs of running these programs and maintaining the property have substantially increased. At the same time, other important programs run by the Services Society elsewhere in the southern Vancouver Island region are over-subscribed and have waiting lists. The Foundation sought to reallocate the considerable equity in the property and in its related capital funds, to fund these more in-demand programs and services provided by the services society.

The petition was opposed by the Attorney General's office in its *parens patriae* role as the protector of the objects of charitable purpose trusts in BC.

The Attorney General did not say that the Foundation could never sell the property for bona fide reasons consistent with its trustee obligations, but said that the petition as it stood had to be dismissed because: first, the Foundation had not disclosed the full extent of its role as trustee in relation to the property and funds; second, the Foundation had proceeded in a rushed manner with limited disclosure; and finally, the Foundation had not established a level of impracticability that would allow it to relinquish its role as trustee of the specific charitable purposes for which it acts.

In rendering her 2024 decision to dismiss the Club's petition, Supreme Court Justice Marzari's concluding statement was: "It must be remembered that, so long as the Foundation holds the property pursuant to specific charitable purposes, the Foundation holds the Property as trustee, not as beneficiary, and it is required to administer the Property not just to serve its general charitable purposes, but also the specific charitable purposes pursuant to which it raised funds for the purchase and endowment of the Property." Any future sale of the Metchosin Wilderness camp will be required to adhere to this legal determination.

We understand that the Foundation still wishes to sell the camp and is looking at the options available. Also, after-school services and plans for a summer camp are still advertised on their website at the time of writing this article.

# BCSPCA Wild ARC Patient Highlight: A Very Predictable House Finch

Carlee Bouillon

In mid-March, a finder brought in a house finch who had been sitting at a bird feeder for a long time, unmoving. The finder had approached the finch and noticed that it did not seem to sense anyone coming, and the finder wondered if the finch was blind.

The rehabilitators needed to look at the finch only briefly to see that she was indeed non-visual, but this was not because her eyes themselves were damaged. Instead, the conjunctiva around her eyes were red and swollen, restricting her vision. This is an

extremely common case at Wild ARC, especially in the summer. It is called conjunctivitis, which is a disease commonly spread amongst birds, especially finches, at bird feeders.

The rehabilitators immediately put the finch on oxygen to help her settle and stabilize, as she was breathing heavily and not able to stand properly. When her breathing calmed and she was stable enough to be handled for a physical exam, the rehabilitators found that other than her conjunctivitis, she was in perfect condition. At this point, the rehabilitators could

be quite confident in a positive prognosis. What this finch needed was the standard, tried and true conjunctivitis treatment that has proven highly effective over many years of these cases: she would stay in a small enclosure indoors for minimum seven days, and receive medication for pain and swelling, as well as antibacterial eye drops and medicated antibacterial drinking water.

The rehabilitators expected that after seven days, she would be visual, flighted, and ready to

continued on page 7

# Senior Visits Are a Win-Win



Ruth and Ed Bennington with May Zheng, Pearson teacher, and students. Brian Grant photo

Brian Grant

Recently, two groups coordinated their efforts in a win-win relationship. Students from Pearson College spent an afternoon visiting some of our local seniors who were contacted by the Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC).

One of the Pearson College students, Michelle Chernobelsky from USA, described her visit: "We were able to connect with community members by listening to their stories and having fun conversations over some tea and cookies. It was so lovely to see the beautiful home and property, and also learn so much about the community and their experiences. Looking forward to doing this more often!"

Another student, Chloe Xu from China, mentioned that her visit with a local senior was absolutely delightful. Chloe commented: "Her house had such a unique and eco-friendly style that I love so much. The interior and outside were filled with lush green plants, and the wooden decor gave it such a warm atmosphere. I've always been drawn to this kind of aesthetic, and being in her house made me feel incredibly comfortable and cozy. After exploring her lovely home, we had a chance to sit down and chat about various

topics, including the development of Pearson College and the impact of technology on our daily lives. It was fascinating to hear her perspective on how much Pearson has grown over the years and how impressed she was by the changes. We also discussed our recent campus-wide no-phone challenge and shared our thoughts on how it affected us. It was eye-opening to hear everyone's experiences and reflections on being disconnected from our devices for a week. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of visiting the seniors. It was not only a wonderful opportunity to connect with them but also a valuable learning experience."

The feedback from the seniors was equally positive.

Pearson College students are engaged in helping out in Metchosin. This involves working on various projects, for example, cleaning the beach, helping with trash clearing in communal places like the parade grounds and so on. They help with the local farms and nursery gardens, planting, weeding, wood-chopping, etc. They also extend their services to the seniors in their homes or assisted living facilities. The main objective of the activity is to develop a deeper sense of

care and compassion for giving to others – with particular reference to the seniors. It is also a chance to share cultural experiences and to develop a deeper understanding of the realities that people face as they age. The Pearson College students are getting ready to break for the summer, but they will continue these activities in the fall term.

The Metchosin Seniors' Association operates our Seniors' Resource Centre, and has many wonderful services and programs for Metchosin seniors. One of the programs is the "Better at Home Program – Metchosin". Volunteers are also essential to drive seniors to appointments, shop for groceries and medications, and to keep in touch by phone and home visits. As a volunteer, you provide emotional support and social contact to a person who has become, or is in danger of becoming, socially isolated. Volunteers help to improve the senior's quality of life, assist them to stay independent and increase their self-confidence.

To schedule a home visit or if you are interested in volunteering at the SRC, please contact the Senior Resource Centre at [info@metchosinSeniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinSeniors.ca) or call 250-478-5150.

## BCSPCA Wild ARC Patient Highlight

*continued from page 6*

move to an outdoor enclosure, where she would regain her strength and continue the antibiotic water for fourteen days.

This house finch did not disappoint. A single day into her treatment, she was much brighter, perching on her branch and flitting awkwardly about her small indoor enclosure, using her other senses to navigate. By the end of the day, thanks to the pain control, she was eating ravenously.

On day three, her eyes had not shown signs of healing yet, but the rehabilitators noticed that she was picking through her bowl of seeds and selecting only the sunflower seeds. To satisfy her refined taste, she received a daily small amount of just sunflower seeds, which she instantly demolished every time.

On day four, the swelling around her eyes had reduced significantly, and she was flying around her indoor enclosure, navigating with sight. She continued improving consistently for the next three days, and on day seven, just as expected, the swelling and redness were gone. She no longer needed medication for pain and swelling, or eye drops, which meant that she no longer needed to be handled each day. So, after two additional days of indoor living, to make sure that her healing was consistent even after the medications had ended, she was pronounced ready to move outside.

Her outdoor enclosure, as all outdoor avian enclosures at Wild ARC are, was full of trees and branches, with her food presented in ways that allowed her to carry out her natural foraging instincts. From this point on, it was just a waiting game. The finch needed her antibiotic water for fourteen more days to ensure that the infection was fully resolved. Whenever possible, rehabilitators take a hands-off approach to reduce stress. So for the next two weeks, rehabilitators or volunteers carried out visual checks on this finch, from a distance, while putting food in the enclosure, and rehabilitators handled her only every few days, briefly, to weigh her and ensure that she was maintaining a healthy body condition as she finished her healing.

In early April, twenty-two days after she arrived at Wild ARC, she was a perfectly healthy house finch, ready to go home. Rehabilitators released her near where she was found so that she could go back to her familiar environment and carry on with the nesting season.

Although these cases are highly treatable, prevention is always best! The public can help prevent conjunctivitis in finches by cleaning their bird feeders regularly. This will help promote the health of the birds at your feeder, and by extension, the feeders nearby. For directions on how to properly clean a feeder, visit the SPCA website: <https://spca.bc.ca/news/get-the-facts-on-backyard-bird-feeding/>.

# METCHOSIN Out of this World

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We need your unwanted 'stuff' including antiques, collectibles, toys, clothing, books, furniture in reasonable condition, small appliances in working order, tools, sporting goods, china and household goods.

Donations can be dropped off at the tents beside the Community House starting Saturday, May 18th through to Thursday, May 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm

Please no mattresses, exercise equipment, TV's, sofas, stuffed armchairs, old shoes, soiled clothing, microwaves, computers, entertainment units, BBQs, large appliances, cribs, car seats, luggage, skis or magazines or Christmas Decorations.

### Sale and Auction

On Saturday and Sunday, come and browse through the big tents for toys, furniture, electronics, sporting goods, yard goods, tools, housewares, collectibles, clothing, antiques and mystery stuff. Also visit the Chic Boutique for high end, quality, gently used clothing items at bargain prices.

On Saturday, be sure to participate in the silent auction held inside the Community House for a chance to bid on the top quality donations and collectibles.

Entry to the Mighty Garage Sale is by cash donation at the gate.

All proceeds from the event go to support the Metchosin Community Association and their programs.

For more info call 250-478-5155 email [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net) [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

# Metchosin's Roadside Stands

Shelly Donaldson

Roadside stands play a significant role in local communities, offering more than just fresh produce. They serve as hubs, connecting farmers and consumers, fostering a sense of community and preserving agricultural traditions. These stands offer a direct line from farm to table, ensuring fresher and higher-quality products while supporting small-scale agriculture.

Additionally, these stands contribute to the preservation of agricultural biodiversity by offering heirloom varieties and locally adapted foods. This not only enriches the culinary landscape but also helps protect against the loss of traditional crops.

By supporting roadside stands, consumers not only gain access to nutritious, locally sourced produce but also contribute to the sustainability of small-scale farming. This symbiotic relationship

between communities and their agricultural roots underscores the importance of supporting local initiatives.

A roadside stand is a way for farmers to sell their produce in a place with (hopefully) high visibility. Location is usually the most important factor for potential customers of roadside stands, but location plays into a larger consumer desire for convenience. Part of convenience includes maintaining a safe and accessible area for sales. Even if your produce is the freshest and sweetest around, locating your stand where it is difficult or dangerous to park and shop may deter potential customers.

It's important to note that a roadside stand is a retail business. It must follow local regulations and obtain the necessary permits to ensure a successful and compliant business operation. Guidelines regarding signage,

permits, stand size, and location help entrepreneurs navigate the process. If you're thinking about starting a roadside stand or already have one, it's worth reviewing these regulations to make sure everything is in order. Check out page 28 of the Metchosin Land Use Bylaw for regulations about roadside stands: <https://metchosin.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/1/?preview=4091>

For more information about all things Agriculture contact Councillor Shelly Donaldson at [sdonaldson@metchosin.ca](mailto:sdonaldson@metchosin.ca).

Photos, clockwise from top right:  
Stand at 5050 William Head Road. Shelly Donaldson photo  
Metchosin Farm's stand. Allen Jones photo  
Sunrise Cottage Farm Stand. Shelly Donaldson photo



# Nan Brown – Living with Conviction

Joannie Challenger

My husband Jim and I have lived near Nan Brown for the past 40 years, but up until a few weeks ago, I had never really got the chance to speak with her. That opportunity came after her daughter-in-law Charmaine suggested that the *Muse* might want to write an article about Nan, who has led an interesting life. I truly believe that everyone has a story to tell and, at 92, Nan has more than most.

Nan began her life in England. As a junior reporter there, Nan didn't fit the norm; not only did she work in a "man's world", she also wore pants and rode her bike to work – which earned a reprimand at that time. It seems that Nan has always been an independent thinker and one to challenge conventional thinking.

Nan married and moved to Metchosin where she, along with other young mothers, started what is now the Metchosin Preschool. She also became a member of the local recreation committee, which included Mac Page, Geoff Mitchell, Val McDermott, and others. When the committee heard rumours about developing the area around Witty Beach it advocated for a trail to guarantee public access to the beach. "We sent around petitions and met with the provincial minister in charge of parks. Then the Capital Regional District came along, and Geoff was appointed as Metchosin's representative. We were able to secure public access to the beach, as well as a large piece of land which is now called Witty's Lagoon Regional Park. It was CRD's first park."

When her marriage ended, Nan moved into town with her five children, aged three to thirteen. "I knew I would need to get a job, and my children would have more opportunities living in town, to go to the library, take part in sports and other activities. I took a job as a reporter for the *Colonist*, which later became the *Times-Colonist*, and covered a variety of beats such as municipalities and the legislature. As the first female reporter in the legislative

press gallery, most of the press refused to speak to me, but I had to be there – I had five children to feed. I earned the nickname 'Yeah but' because I often countered comments from ministers with those words!" Nan spent 28 years working as a reporter for the newspaper.

One of Nan's assignments was to cover a story about pollution from a local industry into Bilston Creek. When a fisheries biologist confirmed that the water in the creek had been contaminated, Kym Hill from Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association (BWHPA) phoned the *Times-Colonist* with the news, and Nan was sent out to cover the story. "Nan's articles in the *Times-Colonist* made all the difference. We were getting nowhere and needed the magic ingredient – making the problem known to the public and thus the politicians," recounted Kym. "Metchosin has a hero in our midst."

Nan's influence also extended beyond Metchosin. She was one of several people who started the Co-op store, which has now expanded to include a chain of gas stations here on the island. "It was more work than we bargained for," she laughed. "There were many rules and regulations to initiate, and a lot of forms to fill out!" She served on its board for the first couple of terms.

Her children grown, Nan then moved back to Metchosin. Always an avid outdoors person, it's easy to understand why Metchosin was a good fit for her. She backpacked all over the island and beyond, hiking such areas as Paradise Meadows, Forbidden Plateau and the Olympic Peninsula. "I celebrated my 60th birthday on Mount Albert Edward, one of the tallest mountains on Vancouver Island," she acknowledged. She also completed several trips along the West Coast Trail. When asked what is important to her, Nan quickly responded, "Dogs and hiking!" Her Labrador retrievers have been a treasured part of her life.

An 'avowed peacenik', (Nan's words) and environmentalist, it's not a surprise that her message to fellow

Metchosinites is, "Plant trees. Don't cut them down." As the title of this article notes, she has lived her life with conviction, following her principles. If you have the opportunity to have a conversation with Nan, do so – it will be time well spent.



Nan Brown. Joannie Challenger photo

# 2024 AVICC Convention, Victoria – Celebrating 75 years of advocacy



Animal welfare at its best. Allen Jones photo

**Allen Jones**

In the first two weeks of April, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) held their AGM and annual convention in Victoria. AVICC represents in one organization the various municipalities, regional districts and other local governments of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, qathet/Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast. The objectives of the Association are to secure united action among its members to promote greater autonomy within local government, in co-operation with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and other associations of municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia, for the advancement

of the principles of local government.

AVICC has 53 members that represent municipalities, regional districts and other local governments within the region, including the Sechelt Indian Government District and the Islands Trust. The association is administered by an elected board of eight members and one part-time staff member.

During the conference, numerous topics are discussed in plenary sessions and workshops such as: Housing, Inclusive Governance, Open and Closed Meetings, First Nation Property Taxation and Assessment, Building Wildfire Resiliency in Coastal Communities, Oceans, The future of Energy in BC, and Vancouver Island Circular



AVICC members start the farm tour. Allen Jones photo

**Economy: Turning Goals into Action.**

Then there are the resolutions from communities that are presented and openly debated in the main convention hall. Points of interest and friendly debate are carefully moderated and processed with a parliamentary close at hand. In the words of Metchosin Councillor Shelly Donaldson, “This is where the true action is, so much to learn and so exciting to know how much voice our Coastal Communities have that will then be forwarded to the UBCM Convention in September

for a similar process; after that all endorsed resolutions are presented to the Provincial Government for action!”

On April 12 there was an outing to Metchosin for a ‘Farm-to-Table Tour’. The purpose was to see first-hand how food production is sustainable in our own community.

The tour started at Stillmeadow Farm, a family operation for 70 years. Stillmeadow Farm raises lamb and pork, and produces hay and grain, and their own feed. Their customers include butchers and restaurants in Victoria and the Mainland. Animal welfare, environmental protections, and continuation of genetics for rare and endangered breeds are priorities for the farm.

The group then walked next door to Sea Bluff Farm – a ten-acre piece of land with a unique micro-climate that grows

delicious fruits and vegetables and features a farmstand and intimate event space. After the tour, delegates were treated to a delicious lunch made from ingredients produced at these farms. Lunch was served in an outdoor event space, beautifully constructed of wood, and nestled in a Garry oak grove overlooking the farm. They enjoyed networking with their colleagues before returning by bus to the Victoria Conference Centre.

Metchosin sponsored the Farm-to-Table Tour that included elected officials from as far away as Prince Rupert and as close as Colwood and Saanich. About 40 people toured the Stillmeadow piggery and Sea Bluff organic produce farm. Also, a resolution on groundwater protection that was proposed by the municipality of Metchosin was passed at the conference.



Council consider farming matters. Allen Jones photo



In the pig pen. Allen Jones photo

*The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale is on May 25 & 26!*

Please save your treasures to donate! For information, see the ad on page 7, and “House Happenings” on page 13.

# Westmont Students Visit Saskatchewan

Luke Cantrill

Westmont Montessori High School values the importance of travel in our program and we are lucky enough to work with Experiences Canada to facilitate school exchanges to different parts of Canada. This year, we paired with Biggar Central School 2000 in Saskatchewan. So, in early March, we braved a winter storm to visit our twinned school and make lifelong connections with the Biggar community. During this trip we learned about life and culture in the Prairies, as well as explored Métis life on Treaty 6 territory.

As a part of this exchange, Westmont Montessori hosts students from their twinned school, and this year, we will host students from Biggar Central School from May 12 to 18, to show them life on Vancouver Island.

Student Merric Hanton writes about the importance of travel, the lessons learned during their adventure, and a reflection on the activities they did as a group:

“When I learned about where we were going for our exchange, part of me was disappointed that it wasn’t Toronto or the Maritimes. I was quickly proven wrong by the incredibly strong community that welcomed us so warmly despite the freezing cold. The community spirit of Biggar was a standout experience for the whole trip, which turned out to be an incredible and memorable experience.

“On landing in Saskatoon, we immediately felt the minus 38°C. When we got to Biggar, Sean the principal took us from the airport to our hotel. In the morning, we met our wonderful bus driver, Ray, who drove us into Biggar. We immediately took in the flatness of the landscape. When we arrived, we got a warm welcome from the school. We played icebreaker games so we could learn the names of the other students there and get to know them better. After lunch we split into groups to visit the Credit Union, which plays a huge role in the community there, providing funding and helping out for over 75 years. We also got to meet the Mayor of Biggar and he told us about how the town was built and about the infrastructure behind the town’s development. After that we went to the Biggar Museum & Gallery. We learned about the history of the town, about the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and the person who Biggar was named after. We also learned about the town’s famous slogan: ‘New York is Big, but this is Biggar.’

“Next morning, we went to the library to do activities including button making, drawing, and



The frozen North. Luke Cantrill photo

doing quizzes about Saskatchewan. Then we visited a Hutterite colony called Golden View. We learned about their daily lives and had a tour of their grounds, including their sign shop, shoe making shop, farming equipment, and the woodshop. This was a very interesting look into the lives of people we would otherwise never have met.

“Some of us were lucky enough to sample fresh farmed produce, while others experienced foods from different cultures. The homestay element was crucial to our experience in this small town and was a truly unforgettable experience.

“The next day we went to Saskatoon and the Western Development Museum. Some of my favourite exhibits were the historical cars, the train you could go in, and the mock 1900s town including the jail cell. There were also very detailed exhibits on farming equipment from the Industrial Revolution to now. The museum taught us a lot about the story of Saskatchewan, and how vital farming is to both the province and the country. Then we had a tour of the University of Saskatchewan, which is Saskatchewan’s biggest university.

“Next, we started the day bowling at Biggar’s five-pin bowling lane. In the afternoon we went on a ‘Goosechase’, where you run around town taking photos of Biggar landmarks such as a statue of the Hanson buck (the highest scoring buck in history), the water tower, and the Credit Union, or completing wacky tasks in certain locations.

“On Friday we participated in the school’s annual Métis winter festival. We learned some traditional Métis practices such as beading and dot art. At the end of the night, we had tacos with all of the homestay families together and got to watch the other teams’ videos from the Goosechase and play basketball in the gym. The next morning, we had to say goodbye to our homestay families and the community as we travelled back to Victoria.

“It was an incredible experience. What matters is who you are with and who you meet along the way. We met some amazing people and shared some incredible stories and experiences with them. This was a wonderful journey, and we want to thank Experiences Canada, Biggar Central School 2000, and the community of Biggar, for allowing this exchange to happen.

“We are looking forward to showing Biggar students a good time when they visit us in May.”

The High School has a goal of raising \$15,000 towards showcasing the best that Vancouver Island has to offer. If you can help out, please contact [lukec@westmontschool.ca](mailto:lukec@westmontschool.ca) for more information.



A Biggar sign. Luke Cantrill photo

Royal Bay Secondary’s Black Wing Theatre Company presents:

## The Magician’s Nephew

Melissa Young, Director,  
Royal Bay Theatre Company

**The Magician’s Nephew**  
Dates: May 8, 9, and 10 at 7:00pm,  
and May 11 at 2:00pm  
Teechamitsa Theatre  
Royal Bay Secondary  
\$17 adults, \$15 seniors, \$7 students

Based on the Narnia book series by C.S. Lewis, *The Magician’s Nephew* tells the story of a young

boy’s fantastical journey to find a cure to save his mother’s life. In the prequel story to *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Digory and his friend Polly travel to the newly created land of Narnia by way of a series of magic portals. Once there, they encounter the struggle between Queen Jadis and Aslan, and Digory is faced with a difficult

decision between the forces of good and evil. This lively new musical adaptation with singing and dancing offers a contemporary approach to this classic story that will appeal to audiences of all ages.

Tickets are available online or at the Royal Bay School office during regular school hours.

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# Pearson student named Loran Scholar

Andrew Walker, Pearson UWC

Pearson College UWC is proud to announce that second-year student Kira Young has been selected as one of 36 Loran



Scholars for the 2024 school year. This prestigious recognition celebrates her outstanding character, unwavering commitment to service, and potential to lead with integrity. The value of the award is more than \$100,000 over four years.

“Kira exemplifies the United World College mission and Loran’s recognition of young people being a force to create positive change in the world,” said Head of College Jason McBride. “We are incredibly proud of Kira as a soon-to-be Pearson College graduate, as someone who will continue to challenge the status quo in a way

Kira Young – Loran Scholar 2024. Pearson College UWC

that our graduates from the last half century have done.”

The 36 newest recipients hail from over 30 diverse communities across Canada. Each student undergoes a rigorous nationwide selection process to attain the prestigious title of Loran Scholar. From submitting applications to participating in regional semi-final interviews and attending national interviews, the journey is not just about recognition but also about personal growth. It allows students like Kira to delve deeper into themselves, connect with other change makers, and foster their potential to drive meaningful change.

As we celebrate her achievements, we are reminded of the importance of investing in

promising students like Kira, who embody the spirit of optimism and resilience that will drive our nation forward.

The Loran Scholars Foundation is dedicated to identifying and empowering values-driven youth who demonstrate exceptional character, commitment to service, and leadership potential. Through rigorous selection processes and comprehensive support programs, they aim to foster the next generation of change makers who will positively impact their communities and beyond.

To view the full list of Loran Scholars, visit [www.loranscholar.ca](http://www.loranscholar.ca). For more information, please see [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca).

## Calling all Shutterbugs

Metchosin Day Photography Team

To all of Metchosin’s budding and practiced photographers, we have a contest for you – the Metchosin Day Photography Contest on September 8. You have over four months to capture just the right ‘story’ with your camera.

Almost everyone has a camera in their pocket these days and everyone is welcome to participate in the Photography Contest. Look for more information in next month’s *Muse*.

# Pearson College UWC unveils New House Signs

Andrew Walker, Pearson UWC

Pearson College UWC is proud to announce the launch of a ground-breaking QR code project. This project will improve the way visitors and new arrivals connect with the SENĆOŦEN language student house names that were gifted to the College by Chief Russell Chipps of the Sc’ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation to enrich their understanding of Indigenous culture, heritage, and community.

The heart of this initiative lies in the unveiling of five new QR codes mounted on the outdoor wall of each student residence house which, when scanned by a smart phone, will take a user to a short video which teaches the viewer how to correctly pronounce the SENĆOŦEN language house names. The house names: QOL, EW, STOKI, FEKI, TÁ, WEN and HENEN, are SENĆOŦEN language names for five local species of salmon: chum, Chinook, sockeye, coho and pink salmon, respectively.

What sets this project apart is the involvement of two Indigenous students who lent their voices to narrate the respective pronunciation videos, detailing how the naming and designs associated with each student house came to be.

“Taking part in this project was an amazing opportunity,” says second-year student Grace Goudie, one of the narrators. “I hope that with the QR codes, we can fully shift to correctly pronouncing the house names and honouring what was gifted to us. I’m happy and proud that, together with my colleague, Nathaniel Stuit, our voices represent a shift in campus culture that I care deeply about.”

“Having accessibility to the pronunciations of each house name that is heard and spoken in SENĆOŦEN (one of the languages spoken in the WSÁNEĆ Territory) is holding the respect and origin of the word itself,” says Rebecca Beauchamp, Pearson’s Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement. “These QR codes should be utilized to bring greater understanding and care to our roles that uphold our relationship to each other, the natural world and origin stories.”

Visitors, including media, are welcome to visit our campus along Pedder Bay, and we hope more people will learn about the SENĆOŦEN language.

For more information, please visit the college’s website, [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca).



Nathaniel Stuit, second-year student with new signage. Andrew Walker photo



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# Improv Theatre Comes to Metchosin

Shannon Carman

Imagine a world where there are no mistakes, only happy accidents ... where the only reply is "Yes, and" ... where playfulness is the name of the game, and being present is the only requirement ... Welcome to the world of Improv Theatre!

This past April 13, a group of brave souls gathered in the DIY room at the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre to spend an afternoon with improv legend Dave Morris, of Paper Street Theatre in Victoria. We played games that taught us to: fail gracefully; to create stories collaboratively; to listen

very carefully to each other, and to laugh. A lot. By the end of the workshop, we were all keen as beans to do it again.

Improv is not just about performing – it is helpful in all kinds of areas, including boosting confidence, creativity, camaraderie, leadership skills, and social and emotional skills including empathy, body language awareness, and personal interactions.

Interested in getting into improv theatre, or learning more about it? Please email Shannon at shannaorere@gmail.com if you'd like to hear about upcoming classes and events!



The players take a selfie. Dave Morris photo

# Artists Dive into Water

Diana Smith

A record number of local artists responded to the theme of water and 53 artworks are now on display at Metchosin ArtPod until May 26. The show, Wonder of Water, really is wow! The gallery was overflowing with people attending the opening at the beginning of April. Samantha Dickie, besides being the guest juror, has a large ceramic installation on the floor of the gallery, sensuous, abstract forms but all suggestive of a marine environment. With so many submissions, Samantha was able to choose a diverse range of mediums and interpretations of the theme.

There will be an accompanying student art show in the Point of View Gallery, the exhibition hallway on the main floor of the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre, from May 1 to 31. The Family Opening Reception will be Saturday, May 4 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. There is usually something fresh and wacky included in a student show so it will be fascinating to see what local young people will come up with for the topic of water.

Still on the water theme, but on a more serious note, ArtPod is collaborating with the Metchosin Learning Group to consider water issues for First Nation reserves in Canada. The documentary film, *Boil Alert*, will be shown followed by a discussion on Saturday, May 11, 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Municipal Hall.

Water is not just the concept-du-jour but also the medium of ArtPod's newest regular drop-in



This view of the Wonder of Water show features artwork by Kim Money and Irene Ives. Angela Menzies photo

art opportunity. Local artist Jean Maddison gives a mini-lesson at the beginning of the two-hour session and participants can then dive into exploring this most fluid of art mediums. Jean has a wealth of experience in water-colour and is happy to share her knowledge. The drop-in is every Monday, from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the DIY room and open to people with all levels of experience, starting from none.

ArtPod's next show is all about expressions of ourselves. The call-out for the Pieces of Me show is now open and we are hoping to get as many and as interesting a range of submissions

to this show as the current one. Deadline for submissions is May 17.

During the show we will be offering a fascinating workshop into the world of tintypes\*, a specialized photographic technique. People are invited to have their portrait taken in this historic, beautiful black and white medium June 15 and 16 by Ken Miner, a fine art photographer based in Colwood.

See details on our website [www.metchosinartpod.ca](http://www.metchosinartpod.ca).

\*Tintype: a photograph taken as a positive on a thin tin plate coated with enamel.

## EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod

12 APRIL - 26 MAY

### WONDER OF WATER

Guest Juror and Feature Artist **SAMANTHA DICKIE** (ceramic sculptor and installation artist)

- May. Youth K-12 Water Show POV Hallway & online
- SAT 11 May. Film Screening "Boil Alert" then discussion, from 1-3pm, Metchosin District Council Office. (Brought to you in conjunction with the Metchosin Learning Group.)

**ARTPOD TURNS 5!**

SAT 1 June. Come eat some cake, check out the first ever ArtPod BOOK & celebrate 5 wonderful years at our PoM Opening!

**HEADS UP.** Metchosin Foundation and Metchosin ArtPod are pleased to reveal the next deck of Art Nature Cards: **INSECTS.** Coming to an ArtPod near you early June!

31 MAY - 28 JULY

### PIECES OF ME

Guest Juror & Artist. **Adrien Smart**

Open Call to Artists. MON 15 April - FRI 17 May

Opening Celebration For Artists & Fans. SAT 1 June

Tin Type Selfie Workshop. SAT 15 & SUN 16 June

See [metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca) for details

Metchosin ArtPod

4495 HAPPY VALLEY RD, METCHOSIN B.C.

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Hours: Fri-Sun 11am-4pm

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---

**POV Main Hallway Gallery Exhibition**

"Echoes" by Angela Menzies

Award winning signature pieces in the style of disruptive realism.

"Painting what is felt vs. what is seen."

---

**POV Upstairs Gallery Exhibition**

"Change" by Westmont School's Wolf Class Art Students and art instructor Jessica Elwell

"Exploring natural elements over the changing seasons."

---

**POV West Wing Gallery Exhibition**

"The Wonder of Water" by invitation of ArtPOD

Student Art (K-12), "... our place in the Hydrosphere"

---

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**METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE**

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[metchosinartcentre.ca](http://metchosinartcentre.ca)

# Will Gordon – MCHouse “Art on the Walls” Exhibition

Barb Sawatsky

Will Gordon was born and trained in the UK, and emigrated to Canada in 1975. He taught art at the University of Calgary before moving with his wife, Cindy, to Victoria, where he taught at UVic. He is no stranger to Metchosin, having participated in an art show at the Metchosin Art Gallery in 2013. Cindy participates in the Metchosin Community House Knitting Group, where she learned about the Art on the Walls program. She passed on the information to her husband, who pronounced it to be a “wonderful place to display,” and has now hung some of his work which shows his wide-reaching interests from birds to found objects and abstract paintings. His art will be “On the Walls” for the next month leading up to the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale, so please stop in to view it.



Will Gordon at MCHouse. Barb Sawatsky photo

# Movie Time at Pearson

Carly Milloy, Pearson College UWC

**UnCharitable Film**  
 Sunday, May 5, 2:00–5:00pm  
 650 Pearson College Drive  
 (parking at Visitor Parking Lot)  
 Free; light refreshments provided

In honour of Pearson’s 50th anniversary year, we are delighted to invite you to join us for a special screening of the movie *UnCharitable* on our Metchosin campus. This visionary film is changing the way people think about the impact of our local charities and the support they need to thrive. Thanks go to our sponsor, IslandSavings, for making this event possible.

This screening will be followed by a live Q&A with Pearson Head of College, Jason McBride, and Impact Advisor and Pearson College Patron, Jim Hayhurst. We encourage you to invite friends, family and anyone who would like to be part of this vital conversation.

### About *UnCharitable*

What if everything we’ve been taught about charitable giving is wrong? What if it’s undermining the very causes we love the most? *UnCharitable* is a one-of-a-kind movie that shows how our charitable traditions and prejudices have suffocated the charitable

sector and prevented it from leading the charge to truly change the world. This movie is based on the book *UnCharitable*, by Dan Pallotta, which became one of the most talked-about TED talks of all time.

This feature-length documentary directed by Stephen Gyllenhaal exposes the dark side of philanthropy and introduces a radical new way of giving. In a powerful call to action, *UnCharitable* demands that charities be freed from the traditional sackcloth-and-ashes constraints, so that they can truly change the world.

# Eating Cake Is How I Take My Coffee

Shelly Donaldson

The Mayor’s Tea is a monthly event hosted by Mayor Marie-Tèrese Little for Metchosin



residents to meet in a friendly, informal environment to discuss any topic of interest. Accompanying the Mayor is the Acting Mayor, which is a role rotated amongst the four Councillors. Tea and coffee are served alongside sweets like cookies, loaf, or squares. It has become my practice as an attending Acting Mayor to bring an offering of cake at every visit as it marks

Left: Councillor Shelly Donaldson Marie-Tèrese Little photo

an occasion for bringing people together, a time for sharing!

Beneath the pattering of April showers outdoors, we gathered in a circle, with cake in hand, accompanied by steaming cups of coffee or tea. With each bite of the delicate home-baked cake, we tasted the freshness of the first harvest of rhubarb, locally sourced from the roadside stand of Sea Bluff Farm. This cake, with its tangy sweetness, is a perfect complement to the bright flavours of spring.

### Rhubarb Cake

- ½ cup butter
- 1½ cups brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp cloves

Cream together butter, sugar, vanilla, and egg until light and creamy.

Dissolve baking soda in buttermilk. Combine flour, cinnamon, cloves and rhubarb.

Add buttermilk and flour mixture to creamed ingredients. Stir until just mixed.

Pour into a prepared 9” x 13” or 10” springform pan.

### Topping

- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp butter

Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over cake.

Bake in 350°F oven for 45–50 minutes.

## 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.** 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.

**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, 10:00am–1:30pm. Contact Sheila (250-595-6406, email [blueheronstudio@telus.net](mailto: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](mailto:memetopia@shaw.ca).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale – May 25 & 26, 9:00am–3:00pm**

Accepting donations May 18–23 (NO DROP-OFFS FRIDAY), 10:00am–2:00pm at the Metchosin Community House. See our ad on page 7 for further details.

If you are interested in Volunteering for the Garage Sale, please contact the MCA Office: 250-478-5155 / [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net)

Please check the MCA website for specific program details and contact information. [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

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# New Manager for the Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)

Deirdre Chettleburgh, MSA President



A very warm welcome to Wendy Buckland, who stepped into the position of manager of the SRC early in April. She is delighted to be a part of the Metchosin Seniors' Association (MSA) and looks forward to contributing her skills and experience to support Metchosin's age-friendly community.

Wendy holds diplomas in social work and business management. She has managed and delivered community-based programs, has owned and operated her own business, and is experienced in responding to inquiries and coordinating resources.

Wendy can be contacted at the SRC 250-478-5150 or by emailing [info@metchosinseniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca).

Wendy Buckland, new SRC manager. SRC photo

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# Seniors' Resource Centre

## METCHOSIN

Wendy Buckland, Office Manager

House. Please call the SRC 250-478-5150 for a ride. Everyone welcome!

### METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Thursday, May 16, 10:00am**  
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

This free monthly support group brings caregivers together based on a mutual experience of caregiving for a family or friend. Join us in a safe environment where you will find support from 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](mailto:cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca) or phone 250-384-0408.

### FRIDAY SOCIAL

**Friday, May 31, 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 at the Metchosin Community

### SAVE THE DATE! 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISIAN CAFÉ

**Saturday, June 1, 10:00am-12:00pm**  
Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre

The Metchosin Seniors' Association invites you to our 10th Annual Parisian Café. This is an opportunity to catch up with neighbours over a cup of coffee and some delicious French treats, from Patisserie Daniel. Look for the berets and umbrellas at the MACCA Courtyard.

*The Seniors' Resource Centre at 4495 Happy Valley Road in the Metchosin Arts and 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](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca) • [www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)

# Handicap Accessibility

Jim MacPherson

Addressing the ability of the handicapped to access the full range of public and private services has become a priority of the Canadian and British Columbian governments. In BC, this priority is expressed in the *Accessible British Columbia Act*. The Act defines a barrier to access as anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment. ... Barriers can be caused by environments, attitudes, practices, policies, information, communications or technologies, and [be] ... affected by intersecting forms of discrimination. Impairments are also very inclusive, from physical handicaps and invisible handicaps as diverse as being blind or deaf, to autism, to inability to understand English to mental health issues.

The Province requires that Metchosin Council address accessibility through the establishment of an Accessibility Committee. This committee will seek direct

participation by the handicapped to identify means of addressing barriers and ultimately providing actionable recommendations to Council.

Metchosin has responded by joining forces with other municipalities (Colwood, Esquimalt, Highland, Sooke and View Royal) to form the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee (CWAAC). The committee's mandate is to develop an Accessibility Plan, and establish a process for receiving public feedback on the plan and barriers people may face in interacting with local governments.

The City of Langford has been hosting public surveys on behalf of CWAAC. There were three questions on the first survey and there is another survey being finalized now. There is no timeline at this point, but a Request for Proposals will be issued to engage a Consultant to conduct public consultation for an Accessibility Plan.

The District of Metchosin has developed an 'Accessibility' page

**If you have ideas about overcoming barriers to access, please send them to this email address: [accessibility@metchosin.ca](mailto:accessibility@metchosin.ca). All ideas will be collected and shared with the Accessibility Committee.**

which will be updated as the CWAAC moves forward with the public consultation process for an Accessibility Plan. The District has established a feedback tool on their website, or email address [accessibility@metchosin.ca](mailto:accessibility@metchosin.ca) to provide feedback from the public.

It is unknown what the Plan will look like at this point. However, once the initial Plan is in place, it is envisioned that the CWAAC will become a "community" committee with appointed public members from each of the member municipalities.

# Lost and Found Department



A confused sheep ponders the fate of its fellow mammal while chewing its cud.

If this is your hat, email the *Muse* editor at [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com) for its location.

Allen Jones photo

# RCMP Call-Outs

MARCH 10–APRIL 10, 2024

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

Mar. 10 **Lisandra Road** – Report of suspicious vehicle parked on road for several hours. Complainant asked occupants to depart the area.

Mar. 11 **Sooke Road** – Report of male lying on the highway, patrols made but male was not located.  
**Sooke Road** – Vehicle stopped by Traffic Section, driver charged with driving while prohibited and vehicle impounded for seven days.

Mar. 13 **Kangaroo Road area** – Two people arrested for assault/uttering threats, one male held in custody, investigation continuing.  
**Kangaroo Road** – One male arrested for possession of cocaine, investigation continuing for possible drug-related trafficking charges.  
**Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of threats being made, male suspect located and given verbal warning.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of threats being made, female suspect given verbal warning, investigation continuing.

Mar. 14 **Happy Valley Road** – Cst. Webb attended at the Community House and gave a presentation on fraud to Metchosin residents.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Single vehicle motor vehicle accident, vehicle sheared off a power pole. Minor injuries to driver and vehicle towed from scene.  
**Sooke Road** – Two-vehicle accident. Vehicle blew a tire causing it to veer into oncoming lane hitting another vehicle. No injuries and vehicles towed from scene.  
**Barrow Road** – Noise complaint.

Mar. 15 **Sooke Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted during early morning hours by Traffic Section.

Mar. 17 **Glen Forest Way** – Two males observed passed out in a vehicle, patrol vehicle attended with Fire Department, males who were under the influence of drugs refused medical treatment, vehicle towed from scene.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Report of an abandoned vehicle, owner confirmed vehicle had broken down.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.

Mar. 18 **Taylor Road** – Report of attempt to extort a person online for money, reported for information purposes.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Police requested to keep peace at a residence regarding a domestic incident.

Mar. 21 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of a suspicious vehicle with occupants possibly doing a drug transaction, vehicle not located, further investigation being conducted.

Mar. 23 **Derrien Place** – Report of possible gun shot being heard.

Mar. 24 **Happy Valley Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.  
**Liberty Drive area** – Assistance provided to Saanich Police regarding a missing person who was located.

Mar. 25 **Sooke Road** – Report of a possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.

Mar. 26 **Sooke Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.

Mar. 27 **Sooke Road** – Two-vehicle motor vehicle accident, one vehicle rolled over, two

people taken to hospital. Driver of one vehicle being investigated for impaired driving related charges.

Mar. 28 **Sooke Road** – Report of possible impaired driver, vehicle located in Langford and driver found to be very impaired. Driver charged with impaired driving and vehicle impounded.

Mar. 29 **Metchosin Road** – Two vehicle accident, rear-end collision, no injuries.  
**Neild Road** – Report of possible gun shots heard, patrols failed to locate anything.  
**Sooke Road** – Vehicle broken into while parked at Sooke Wilderness Park, wallet and other items stolen, still under investigation.

Mar. 30 **Witty Beach Road** – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed.

Mar. 31 **Sooke Road** – Assistance provided to Fire Department for vehicle fire on highway.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Single vehicle accident, vehicle went down an embankment, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.

Apr. 1 **Albert Head** – Noise complaint from beach, suspect not located.  
**Sooke Road** – Vehicle stopped for excessive speed by Traffic Unit, driver charged and vehicle impounded for seven days.  
**Pedder Bay Road** – Police asked to keep the peace regarding a civil matter.

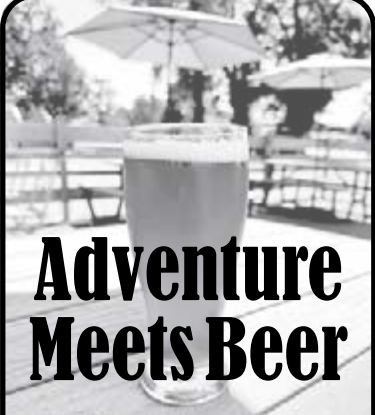
Apr. 2 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of an indecent exposure on Goose Trail. Complainant was riding her bike and encountered a nude male just off the trail. Male described as being in his 60s, balding. Investigation is continuing.

# Important Dates & Events

- May 5 **Pearson College UnCharitable film** ..... p. 13
  - May 11 **Metchosin Learning Group: Boil Alert film** ..... p. 4
  - May 12 **Farmer's Market Opens**
  - May 25/26 **Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale** ..... p. 7
  - May 28 **Housing Initiatives Collaborative meeting** ..... p. 3
- Other events:**
- Council Meetings** ..... p. 2
  - Metchosin Community House Programs and Special Events** ..... p. 13
  - Seniors' Resource Centre Events** ..... p. 14


**Kangaroo Road** – Motorcycle accident, minor injuries to driver who was taken to hospital, motorcycle towed from scene.

- Apr. 3 **Sooke Road** – Road rage incident, both drivers spoken to.
- Apr. 5 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of motorcycle being driven in a dangerous manner, patrols failed to locate it.
- Apr. 6 **Sooke Road** – Road rage incident, passed onto Sooke RCMP.
- Apr. 7 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of two youths riding an ATV on the road, patrols failed to locate.
- Apr. 8 **William Head Road** – Complaint of a suspicious male, suspect located and spoken to.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of an erratic driver, registered owner given written warning.
- Apr. 9 **Metchosin Road** – Complaint of an erratic driver, vehicle not located.
- Apr. 10 **Rocky Point Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit in the school zone.



## Adventure Meets Beer

Local ingredients, brews filled with love and a touch of the unconventional. Stop in for a pint and stay for the community. Looking forward to seeing you soon!



4495 Happy Valley Road  
Phone 250.883.2793  
Monday–Thursday, 4:30–8:00pm  
Friday, 2:00–9:00pm  
Saturday, 11:00am–9:00pm  
Sunday, 11:00am–8:00pm

**Be Bear and Cougar smart!  
Ensure attractants are out of reach.**

# 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](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
848air@cadets.gc.ca  
Facebook 848aircadets

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC**  
250-382-2052  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

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

**BADMINTON**  
Women's 250-478-9648

**BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
250-478-2387  
bilstonwatershed@gmail.com  
[bilstonwatershed.org](http://bilstonwatershed.org)

**CRD PARKS**  
250-478-3344  
crdparks@crd.bc.ca  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

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

**LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA**  
250-727-4384

**METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB**  
metchosin4h@gmail.com  
[www.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club](http://www.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club)

**METCHOSIN ARTPOD**  
metchosinartpod@gmail.com  
[metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)

**METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)**  
info@metchosinartcentre.ca  
[www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca)

**METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**  
[www.metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://www.metchosinbiodiversity.com)

**METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
250-478-5155  
mcahouse@telus.net  
[www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

**METCHOSIN COUNCIL**  
250-474-3167  
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca  
[www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings)

**METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB**  
250-474-4601  
[www.victoriacricket.com](http://www.victoriacricket.com)  
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](http://mesmetchosin.com)

**METCHOSIN FOUNDATION**  
contact@metchosinfoundation.ca  
[metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca)

**METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY**  
250-478-6424  
[metchosinhall.com](http://metchosinhall.com)

**METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
250-478-4778

**METCHOSIN INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE (MISC)**  
metchosininvasives@gmail.com

**METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY**  
250-382-1989  
[metchosinmuseum.ca](http://metchosinmuseum.ca)

**METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL**  
250-478-9241  
metchosinpreschool@gmail.com  
[www.metchosinpreschool.com](http://www.metchosinpreschool.com)

**METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**  
metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com  
FB Metchosin Farmers' Market

**METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE**  
metchosin.sar@gmail.com  
[www.metchosinsar.ca](http://www.metchosinsar.ca)

**METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION/ SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTRE**  
250-478-5150,  
info@metchosinseniors.ca  
[www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westshorearts.org)

**WESTSHORE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**  
250-474-3999  
info@westshoreband.org  
[www.westshoreband.org](http://www.westshoreband.org)

**WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION**  
250-478-8384  
[wspr.ca](http://wspr.ca)

**WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**  
U14.U16.manager@gmail.com  
[westshorerfc.com](http://westshorerfc.com)

**FAITHS**

**BAHA'I FAITH**  
250-514-1757

**GORDON UNITED CHURCH**  
250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

**HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
250-727-3722

**OPEN GATE CHURCH**  
Anglican Network  
250-590-6736  
[www.opengatechurch.ca](http://www.opengatechurch.ca)

**ST MARYS' METCHOSIN**  
Anglican Church of Canada  
250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)

**WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH**  
250-478-8066  
[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)

**WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY**  
250-474-5967  
[saconnectionpoint.ca](http://saconnectionpoint.ca)

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

# Members' Creativity Dazzles at Annual Show by Fibres and Beyond: Consider the Lilies XXII



"Adorned ceramic basket, gourd bowl and vase", by Kelly Minish

Katie Pirquet

Perfectly timed and titled for the profusion of Easter lilies that festoon Metchosin's original St. Mary's churchyard, the Fibres and Beyond annual April arts and crafts show was truly, in the words of several visitors, "a feast for the eyes and the soul". The exhibitors, a loosely organized, but tightly knit group of fibre artists and innovators, pulled out all the stops this year.

Through dazzling, exquisitely crafted works, the artists explored new possibilities for combining fibrous materials with many other media. The results were compiled into an impressive exhibit designed and curated by group member Mary Wolfe. Mary finds the church a perfect setting for a quiet and more intimate personal experience of fine arts and crafts. "Yes, the pews do slow you down," she agrees. It encourages visitors to focus on a few works at a time, and maybe to purchase something very special – a "Plant Pixie" perhaps?

This year's show featured a selection of remarkable works created specifically to honour the life of a much-loved, longtime group member, Isabel Tipton, who passed away in the autumn of 2023.

"We are not like a guild," Mary explains, "where everyone is making the same kinds of things. What we have in common is working with all sorts of fibres, using many different techniques. This opens up a multitude of

possibilities. Our members use weaving, knitting, wet and needle felting, quilting, embroidery, silk painting, silk fusion, eco-dyeing, basket weaving, doll making, garment making, thread painting, and more! This year, we



"Frosted Leaves", fabric and thread painting by Joan Taylor

really embraced this trend with the addition of pottery and fibre paintings," she adds.

Fibres and Beyond eagerly welcomes new members to their fold. According to Mary, they adhere to a somewhat "organic" structure. "We have gifted members, and we function according to our gifts: organizers, minute takers, designers, technology wranglers, mentors ... There are no executives, no official positions. There's no hierarchy. We are a community!" she says. That community includes all ages, too. For example, artist Joan Taylor, who will celebrate her 95th birthday in June, exhibited several works in this year's show.

A few years ago, Metchosin's long-standing Fibre Arts Group shifted their moniker to Fibres and Beyond, to reflect their continuing journey together, and to highlight the innovation that keeps them moving forward in artistic inspiration, expression, accomplishment, and friendship.



"Fractured", dye on silk by Irm Houle



"Young Isabel Tipton at Play", doll sculpture by Linda Danielson

## The Northern Migration of the Stone Goose

Barb Sawatsky

Wandering through a local thrift store as one does, I came across a display of tchotchke in the middle of which was a small carved stone goose. Although a stone goose was the last thing I needed, it looked so dreadfully sad and out



The stone goose. Barb Sawatsky photo

of place among the cheap trinkets that I paid the \$4.99 and brought it home. There on a bookshelf it languished for some years.

As with many people these days, and much to the delight of our daughters, the spirit of downsizing has thankfully struck our

household. I am a member of the Inuit Art Enthusiasts Facebook group, so I posted photographs of the goose with its underside syllabics and signature on a quest to hopefully learn of its origins. Shortly thereafter a reply arrived from a resident of Kimmirut, Nunavut saying that one of the pictures displayed his grandfather's signature. He related that many years ago his grandfather had moved to the Victoria area, but sadly fell from a scaffold while working and subsequently died. "Mingeriuk is buried somewhere in Victoria, I think," he added, and assumes that the goose was carved while his grandfather was living here, which would explain why it was in a local shop. He said that he would be interested in purchasing it when I was ready to let it go, as did a cousin who messaged separately two days later.



Underside detail of the carving. Barb Sawatsky photo

It was with a warm feeling that I packaged the carving, addressed it to Jawlie (as a gift, not a sale), said goodbye and handed it over to Canada Post. Two weeks later I was pleased to receive a message informing me that the stone goose had completed its migration and

had landed safely at its traditional home. It now rightfully rests on another family's shelf, that of the grandson whose grandfather carved it decades ago. From Nunavut to Victoria and Metchosin, then on to Kimmirut, 3500 km north: the circle closed.