

# Metchosin Muse

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## Metchosin Artist Joanne Beels Chosen to Exhibit at Artists For Conservation Festival in Vancouver

K.T. Pirquet

Metchosin resident and wildlife artist, Joanne Beels, creates huge, startling, emotionally moving images, set by her husband, Gary, into beautifully crafted, handmade wood frames. Her work focuses on conservation issues. Her images are both minutely detailed and powerfully expressive. Through gesture and intimacy, they demand attention to the need for urgent action to rethink and rebuild our relationship with the remaining fellow inhabitants of this planet we call home. Each image can take months to re-search, develop and render.

This year, Joanne became one of the members of Artists For Conservation (AFC) whose works were selected to highlight the 2025 Artists for Conservation

Festival, held at the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver last month. The annual, juried “International Exhibit of Nature Art” is the world’s most prestigious conservation-themed art exhibition and sale. This very popular event encompasses an exhibition preview and three days of exhibits and programs highlighting animal species whose future has become precarious due to human activities and environmental change.

The jury selected two of Joanne’s acrylic paintings – one for the virtual, online exhibition, and one for the in-person art show at Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, from September 25 – 29. Forty percent or more of the proceeds from sales of the exhibition’s 86 art works is shared between AFC and a conservation charity of each artist’s choice. The festival also features musical performances, films, live animal

encounters, presentations on wildlife conservation, and live art demonstrations by featured exhibitors.

Joanne was born and raised in England, and earned her BA (Hons) degree in Textile Design, and a Post-graduate Certificate of Education in Art, Craft and Design. She worked as a Graphic Artist/ Designer for a zoological park in Devon, before moving with her family to Canada. Now a Canadian citizen, she dedicates herself to what she calls “Wildlife Activism” at her home-based Artbutus Studio. She was recently awarded status as a Signature Member of Artists For Conservation, which confers the right to include “AFC” after her name.

For more information about AFC and its annual celebration of wildlife art, visit the AFC website: [www.artistsforconservation.org](http://www.artistsforconservation.org).



Sea lion: Out of Sight, Out of Mind, Joanne Beels, AFC.



Koala: On\_Fire\_with\_Smoke, Joanne Beels, AFC.

## Parks and Trails Masterplan – Work Continues

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

Metchosin’s natural environment and spectacular landscapes are foundations of our community’s unique rural character. The District’s parks and trails provide opportunities to appreciate our dynamic coastline, complex forested ecosystems, and the terrain that captures the wind, rain, and sun of each successive season.

Work continues on a comprehensive Master Plan for our parks and trails network. The process is being led by the District’s Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC).

Community input is an important element of this effort. PTASC would appreciate your thoughts on a range of matters: Where do you walk? What’s great about our parks and trails? Do you have concerns? Are there new opportunities you want the District

to explore? What should the District be aware of and be planning for in the future?

PTASC sought comments at Metchosin Community Day on Sunday, September 7. Prior to that, an open house was held on Saturday, April 5. Input is always welcome at PTASC’s regularly scheduled meetings, normally held on the third Tuesday of the month. In addition, you can email your input to [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca).

The goal is to develop Metchosin’s first unified Parks and Trails Masterplan. A plan focused specifically on trails was completed in 2009 and a Parks and Recreational Masterplan in 1986.

A new Master Plan will provide a resource for the District and its many volunteers and put the District in a better position to receive grants to support further parks and trails projects. Grant applications often benefit when specific projects

are identified within a comprehensive framework.

Metchosin’s parks and trails Master Plan process will focus only on District owned parks and trails assets, such as Blinkhorn Nature Park, Eleanor Mann, Metchosin Wilderness Park and our many trails. It will not include the parks and trails managed by the Capital Regional District, such as Devonian, Witty’s, Matheson, Sooke Hills, or East Sooke. Please share your photos! Do you (or your kids or grandkids) have photos of the wonderful elements of Metchosin’s parks and trails? Please send these on! We’ll aim to include as many as possible in the Master Plan. We’d request that the photos be of the natural elements of our parks and trails and not include recognizable images of people (sorry, even kids or grandkids). Please send your photos (with photo credit) to [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)



Footbridge on a Metchosin trail. J.Shukin photo.



# Metchosin Muse

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## CURRENT CIRCULATION

2700

## AD AND 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 in Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com). Do not send PDFs (ads excepted). Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or tif format only. 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.

## Save this Date! Flu and Covid Vaccination Clinic - Saturday, November 1

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, the Annual Metchosin Flu and Covid Vaccination Clinic will be held in the Gym of the Old Elementary School. This clinic is made possible through the collaboration of the Metchosin Fire Department, Metchosin Pharmacy and the Metchosin Seniors' Association.

## 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.

## Metchosin Muse Ad Rates

Display Ad Sizes	1 - 5 Issues	6 - 11 Issues
Business Card (H) – 4"w x 2.5"h	\$56.00	\$44.00
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# Council News

OCTOBER 2025



## Business Licence Renewal

Businesses will be receiving their annual renewal notices by mail in October for the business licence year of November 2025 to October 2026. Every business operating in Metchosin, including short-term rentals and home-based businesses requires a business licence. Metchosin participates in the regional intermunicipal business licence program so that businesses such as contractors and mobile sales based in Metchosin but operating in other municipalities obtain one licence to operate in the region.

## Halloween at the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department

Join Metchosin Fire Department for the Annual Halloween Celebration Friday October 31, 2025 - doors open at 6:30 pm. Fun for the whole family!!

**FireSmart Chipping Pile** – the Metchosin FireSmart Program Chipping Pile located behind the Fire Hall is now CLOSED. Please contact [firesmart@metchosinfire.ca](mailto:firesmart@metchosinfire.ca) for other FireSmart opportunities.

## Subscribe to Receive Updates from the District

The District of Metchosin hosts several Council and Committee meetings throughout the year. Be the first in the community to review the agendas at the time they are published by subscribing through E-updates on the District of Metchosin website - [Metchosin.ca](http://Metchosin.ca)> Council > Council Meetings > Agendas & Minutes > SUBSCRIBE

In addition to meeting agendas, you can receive the most recent News & Notices to stay informed on important matters in the community –

*Metchosin.ca* > *Municipal Hall* > *News & Notices* > *Subscription Sign Up*

## District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – October 2025

**The 2025 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings are posted on the website:** [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca)>Meetings>Meeting Schedule

\*Please see below meeting dates and times for October 2025. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

\*Meetings are subject to change. For updated information please call the Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or check the website at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca).

Council Meeting.....	October 6
Firehall Steering Committee.....	7:00 pm October 8
Community Open House – Housing Policy Update.....	4:00 – 8:00 pm October 16
Committee of the Whole.....	October 20
Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	October 21
Special Finance Committee (Budget Meeting).....	4:00 pm October, 23
Council Meeting.....	October 27
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	4:30 pm October 28
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee.....	October 28

## Metchosin Municipal Hall

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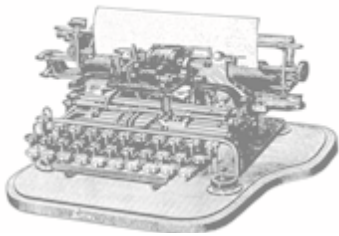
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# Editor’s Musings



Katie Pirquet

Metchosin has settled well into this “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,” with generous harvests of fresh farm and garden produce (... and weeds!), welcome rain and new routines. A long list of pre-winter chores rattles around in my head. Some will be accomplished; others will wait or become pointless from neglect. The weather, drought and spells of sloth killed a lot of plants in the garden and on the deck this year. But as a master gardener once reminded me many years ago, “A dead plant leaves some room for a NEW one!” The geraniums nevertheless did not disappoint, bless ‘em.

Our beloved Metchosin Muse may or may not appear in mailboxes this month, due to a likely Canada Post workers’ job action. But we’ve prepared for the worst, and have a “Plan B.” Our staff will ensure that generous stacks of fresh, crisp copies are made available in numerous public places around Metchosin on the first of the month. I would encourage readers to pick up a few extra copies and deliver the October Muse to those with transportation or mobility issues and who might appreciate the kindness.

Speaking of volunteers, our Fire Department is planning another warm, funny, fanciful, and delightfully creepy Annual Hallowe’en Celebration at the firehall. There will be a traditional bonfire – the largest bonfire on the Westshore!, a sp-o-o-o-o-o-ky Haunted Hall, a costume contest beginning at 7:30 p.m., hot dogs, candy, coffee and juice, glow sticks and bags of fun! It all happens on Friday evening, October 31. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., for another Metchosin Community-style Good Time!

I have been asked to remind readers to give our Public Works crews a generous berth and

much reduced speed when passing by them while they’re on the job keeping the District highways and byways in good nick. They should not have to worry about being injured by the traffic – or worse – while on the job. I am sure that we all admire the results of their diligence in all four seasons, so let’s all stay alert, slow down, be patient if it is safer to wait a few minutes. Let them know that we really do appreciate all they do for us, and that we care about their safety.

A recent challenge for us here at the Muse has been the unpleasant reality of increased costs and revenue failing to rise to the occasion, despite modest increases in ad pricing. We are working on several strategies for re-balancing our monthly budget. In the meantime we have had to operate with less by restricting our publication to 12 pages. We regret that some submissions may have to be forwarded to the next month, or left out if time constrained, or edited for word count. In the meantime, we are working on a way to divest the Muse of the need to reduce delivery costs and endure interruptions of service due to labor disputes at Canada Post.

One possibility would be to place a Muse box adjacent to every community mailbox in the municipality. We would continue to leave stacks at all the usual places, and maybe a few more. All the deliveries would be executed by our own staff of volunteers. In the spring, we also plan to launch a fundraising drive to refurbish our dwindling reserves.

Stay tuned; your Muse staff will not allow our independent, volunteer-run community publication to dwindle away or be gobbled up and homogenized by some mass media conglomerate. We are well aware of how rare the Muse is – and how important it is to support and sustain independent local journalism in Canada.



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Metchosin work crew on the job. B.Sawatsky photo.

## 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. *Editor’s note: The opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of the authors, not of the Muse.*

### Let’s Get the Facts Right...

I gained insight into Metchosin’s Official Commuinity Plan (OCP) from an excellent Staff report presented to Council at their September 15 meeting. The report, “Application to the Agricultural Land Commission – 4450 Happy Valley Road,” was requested by Council to help inform their discussion of firehall options. I hadn’t realized that 4450 Happy Valley is designated “Community Institutional” – not “Agricultural” – in the OCP. As the report traces the history: “In 1995, 4450 Happy Valley Road (~4.4 ha) was endorsed by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) as ‘Community Institutional’ in the

OCP, and it included the District ofices, the community house, firehall and other approved municipal and recreational non-farm uses.” Our OCP further states: “Future public buildings should be close to the Municipal Hall, Metchosin Elementary School and the Community Hall near the intersection of Metchosin and Happy Valley Roads” (Section 12.2.1). In an era of rampant mis- and dis-information, this report is an example of the due diligence that’s needed to ensure that Council, community as-sociations and the public possess an accurate understanding of our OCP in order to contribute meaningfully to firehall discussions.

Nicole Shukin



## DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, British Columbia V9C 3Z3  
Telephone: 250-474-3167 • Fax 250-474-6298

### 2025 Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Housing Updates

To meet new provincial housing requirements, the District of Metchosin is undertaking a housing focused review and update of its Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw. This update will ensure our housing policies meet our community housing needs and align with the District’s Housing Needs Report. The Province requires these updates to be completed by the end of 2025.

#### Phase 1 of Community Engagement is now complete!

Thank you to all who participated in the housing survey from July 3 to September 8, 2025. We received 371 survey responses. A What We Heard report is available to view on the September 15, 2025, Council Meeting agenda. Feedback from this first phase of public engagement will be used to help inform draft housing policy options that will be prepared in Phase 2 of the project.

#### PHASE 2 - Next Steps

**September 2025:** The District has entered Phase 2 of the housing update project. Housing revisions and housing policy options will be drafted to respond to Provincial legislative requirements, phase 1 community engagement and direction from Council. The draft revisions and draft housing policy options will be presented to Council in early October for feedback and direction.

**October 16, 2025 – HOUSING POLICY OPEN HOUSE (Between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.)** Phase 2 of community engagement! An open house is scheduled to be held at Metchosin Municipal Hall (4450 Happy Valley Road, V9C 3Z3) on Thursday, October 16, 2025, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This will be a drop in style open house for the public to review draft housing policy options, ask questions and provide feedback.

#### Remaining Key Dates in Project Timeline:

- October 6, 2025: present draft revisions & housing policy options to Council for direction
- October – Early November:
  - Initiate early referral process to government agencies, stakeholders, and staff
  - October 16, 2025 – Housing Policy Open House.
  - Draft revisions & housing policy options will be available on the District project webpage
- Early November 2025: consider feedback from stakeholder and the public, prepare draft bylaws for Council consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading
- All of November 2025: Statutory referral process
- End of November/ December 1, 2025: Public Hearing
- December 2025: Bylaw Adoption (Council discretion)

For more information and project updates, please visit [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) or contact the District by email: [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca) or phone: 250-474-3167

2

Draft Policy Development

September - October





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## Secure Finances and Ecological Protection

**Councillor Steve Gray**  
*Conversations welcome.*

Reach me at  
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**250 478 5066**



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# Why Visit Art Galleries?

Memet Burnett

Metchosin ArtPod is a non-profit, 15-member artist-run gallery located on the main floor of the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre (MACC). We have been a part of the Metchosin community for over six years. However, when staffing Metchosin Community Day, I was surprised to find that many locals I chatted with had never visited the gallery and some were completely unfamiliar with ArtPod altogether. In the broader Victoria and Vancouver Island art scene, we are quite well-known, hence my reflections on this issue.

Why haven't more locals heard of ArtPod? We advertise monthly in the Muse and display banners and signs each weekend, inviting visitors to join us from Friday to Sunday, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our website is dynamic and informative, updating every eight weeks with new content. We offer weekly accessible ateliers, various workshops related to our current shows, and recently hosted an artist talk. All activities and events are accessible to people of all skill levels.

Could it be that people think there is an entrance fee? (There isn't.) Do they assume that only an elite crowd visits art galleries? (People of all ages and backgrounds walk through our doors!) Or do they believe we are not accessible to individuals with mobility challenges? (We are! Our outside entrance allows for level entry.) I think the issue may stem from a general unfamiliarity with art galleries. Some people may feel pressured to make a purchase (which is not expected, although we certainly welcome it if you feel inspired!), or they might believe that one must be an artist to appreciate art. This is simply not the case—art is for everyone.

Art galleries serve as places of sanctuary, introspection, speculation, debate, and wonder. Guests enjoy discovering interpretations on rotating themes throughout the year, seeing new works by favourite artists, discovering new artists to follow, checking out which pieces have won the Juror's Choice Award (all our exhibitions are externally juried by leaders from Victoria's arts community). Each ArtPod exhibition features a People's Choice Award, encouraging all visitors – both young and old – to vote (once!) and step into a juror's shoes for a moment.

The show opening receptions are free events which take place on the first Saturday of each new show and are one of Metchosin's best-kept secrets. Attendees can enjoy delicious snacks while hearing directly from the showing artists about their inspiration and creative processes. During this event, gallery visitors also have the opportunity to meet the juror, listen to their thoughts on their own art (usually also on show) and the selection process, and witness the presentation of the Juror's Choice Awards.

ArtPod enthusiastically welcomes family visits, as there is always something intriguing in a painting for children to discover. Usually there is a scavenger hunt or some other activity that relates to the theme of the show that is appropriate for your younger art lovers.

Introducing children to art helps them start defining their own preferences in a low-pressure environment. Paintings and sculptures serve as excellent starting points for further discussion or home-based art activities.

October's exhibition, Talisman: The Art of Power and Meaning, was juried by tattoo and fine artist Scott Robertson and shows some diverse work. Come see if your personal talisman is on show in any of the new art works. ArtPod will soon announce an associated Talisman workshop—be sure to check the website for more details.

As Metchosin's largest and most diverse art gallery, ArtPod typically showcases 50 works of art from over 40 different artists in each show. The gallery also offers a selection of gift cards and exhibition books, while the Small Works Gallery displays and sells art pieces perfect for gifting.

ArtPod's gallery is a peaceful and serene space, providing a lovely environment to center yourself amidst beauty and inspire new ways of seeing the world. Come see why people travel from afar to experience your local art gallery!



Edward Peck photo.

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# Metchosin Vaccination Clinic – Saturday, November 1

Deirdre Chettleburgh

With the approach of fall, Flu and CoVid vaccinations may be on our minds. Again, this year, Metchosin pharmacist, Shaddi Geris, will administer vaccinations at a special Saturday clinic on November 1, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Old School Gym.

- No appointment is necessary
- Please bring your Personal Health Card/Number
- Parking will be available in front of the entrance to the Old School Gym, in the lot between the School and Museum and adjacent to Metchosin Pharmacy. For those with

mobility challenges, parking is available beside the ramped entrance on the field side of the school.

- Vaccinations will be administered to those five years of age and older.
- If you need a ride to the Clinic, please contact the Seniors' Resource Centre, (250) 478-5150

The Clinic is offered each year by the Metchosin Fire Department in collaboration with the Metchosin Pharmacy, Metchosin Emergency Preparedness, and the Metchosin Seniors' Association. For more information about this year's vaccinations, please speak with your health care provider or pharmacist.

## Baha'i Community of Metchosin Annual Gratitude Award – an Invitation for Your Input

Nan Hsieh

The Baha'i Community of Metchosin is getting ready for our Annual Gratitude Award evening in November and would like to invite members of the community of Metchosin to share their recommendations for individuals or groups who are members of our Community and are providing needed services that contribute in a consistent and positive way to the well-being of our Community.

To nominate a person or group please send your submission to [lsametchosin@hotmail.com](mailto:lsametchosin@hotmail.com). Include the full name, the service provided and why you feel moved to make this suggestion. We will need your nominations no later than October 12 to allow us time to review and consider all the recommendations and choose our Gratitude Award recipient for this year. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Schoolhouse Museum Celebrates Archival Collection

Judith van Manen

Did you ever go to school in Metchosin? If so, which one? Did you know that there were six small schools in Metchosin? Many of the early students had to walk significant distances to their schools. The Schoolhouse Museum recently held a first archival event. It featured hundreds of class photographs (along with student names) from 1893 to 1996. Visitors were delighted to find themselves, classmates, relatives, and former teachers in our binders.

Jane Denny, one of the museum's docents, led this archival initiative. The various schools included Metchosin Schoolhouse, Metchosin Elementary School, Rocky Point School, Albert Head School, William Head Quarantine Station School, and Han Helgesen School. Supplementary materials provided further information. The exhibit was so successful that it was held over to the following weekend. We plan to repeat this popular event every year.

In September, we featured the earliest class photograph in our archives. It is a wonderful

photo, from 1893, of 12 students and their teacher, Mr. Dawson Elliot. Of particular interest are the elegant, quite formal clothes worn by the two girls and ten boys, and the very different, highly personal ways in which the children pose.

Next to the enlarged photo visitors could read stories about all these students, among them Sophie Pears, who later won an essay contest and was awarded a life-sized portrait of Queen Victoria; Bertie Dodgson, the great nephew of Lewis Carroll of Alice in Wonderland fame; Stanley Clark, who became the first postmaster and then the local constable of the Metchosin District; and Frank Pears, who tragically drowned accidentally at Sitting Lady Falls when he was just 18 years old.

On the weekend of October 11 and 12, the schoolhouse museum will focus on the renowned Helgesen family. Please join us to see portraits of Lillian and Hans Helgesen and learn about this Metchosin pioneer family who contributed so much to our

community. Saturday hours are 1 – 4 p.m. and Sunday hours are 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October is the last month the Schoolhouse Museum will be open this year. We will reopen on Saturday, April 4, 2026. Watch for our special events, which will be held each month from April to October.

Please consider joining the Museum Society and helping us celebrate Metchosin's rich history and culture ([www.metchosinmuseum.ca](http://www.metchosinmuseum.ca)). We are always looking for volunteers!



Pioneer Sarah Jane Helgesen was 21 in 1888 when this photo was taken. Museum archive photo.

## Beginner Pickleball Lessons – and More!

Carol Voyt, Metchosin Pickleball Club


Once again, Metchosin Pickleball Club (MPC) is offering adult introductory pickleball lessons at the old school gym. No experience necessary.

The cost of \$8 per person per lesson includes facility rental and the use of equipment. Our certified coaches teach for free! Please email us at [metchosin-pickleball@gmail.com](mailto:metchosin-pickleball@gmail.com) to let us know that you are interested. Please leave your full name,

email address and phone number.

We also have opportunities for experienced players to join already established groups. Please email your contact information, availability and an indication of your level of play. Let's play pickleball!

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# Metchosin Community Day 2025



Every kid loves a chance to operate the digger -- with adult help, of course. Especially the girls! B.Sawatsky photo



Boy Scouts' hamburger & pop concession is ready for the rush. . B.Sawatsky photo



Metchosin master chefs keep watch over the day-long prep of the legendary Metchosin Day Lamb and Salmon dinner. B.Sawatsky photo



Nicole Lalonde is all smiles as she welcomes visitors to the Cobbler Cafe. B.Sawatsky photo



Tessa and Sylvia show off their prizewinning "Baby Zucchini". B.Sawatsky photo.



Hannah Davies (Age 12) winning cake Heart of Metchosin.



Sheer Delight! Five-year-old Brennan Clarke's mom won the People's Choice Photo Award for "Oak Leaves and Acorn." Janet Gray photo.

## Zucchini Races Fuel the Need for Speed at Metchosin Day

Robin Tunnicliffe

It took a while for the zucchini chips to settle after the 2nd Annual Zucchini Race on Metchosin Day. The day was a blur; the tent was a flurry of racing hopefuls. In addition to zucchinis of all shapes and sizes, we had pickles, we had potatoes, eggplant and carrots all racing down the 28 ft track to chase glory. We had double-deckers, three wheelers and a zucchini car with a pickle caboose. There was no shortage of imagination, of daring or of gusto as racers lined up to have a go, and another, and another. You could smell the neurons burning on the designer's table as racers of all ages focused on customizing their craft. They carved out wheel grooves, and shaved away clearance; they moulded and shaped their vessels to shed seconds and to add balance and flare. There were serious smash ups, epic derailments and design catastrophes. Some racers abandoned their mounts and tried again, while others grabbed discarded cars and added their own flourishes with flags and capes and colours. Race track builder Todd Perkins and his assistant Keaton Roulette were on site with a keen eye on making improvements for next year. I heard them discussing hub caps in serious tones as a necessary upgrade because the 20 sets of homemade wheels they built were catching on the guard rails. There was an emergency call back to Sea Bluff Farm at

2pm: more zucchinis were required because the original stock of 30+ pounds was completely...squashed. Luckily, in early September, this was no problem. Another load made it up in the nick of time because every second counted in the lead up to the heats, and then the final races at 4pm. Unfortunately, inexperience of the Sea Bluff sponsors nearly flubbed the whole thing. Our failure to grasp the importance of proper parameters and exact regulations nearly sent the event into peril. Luckily, the situation was so hilarious and sweet no one could keep a straight face but there was mock-serious debate nonetheless. At the 11th hour, we were discussing the legality of strapping a zucchini to an actual toy race car. Should it or shouldn't it be allowed to race? Could a pickle weight be entered in the monster weight class? We only set upper weight limits and there was a zippy pickle car threatening all three classes. Then, no one specified that you could only race once, and the under-age-4 set were getting the upper hand. The judging proved impossible. Lead officiator Sasha threw up his hands. Who could imagine such complexities? Fortunately there were tons of great prizes donated by local businesses. My-Chosen Cafe splashed out four first place prizes and four consolation prizes that were invaluable in the confusion, Metchosin Pharmacy filled the prize table with very popular and colourful

toys that were coveted by our main racing demographic, and Metchosin Country Store and Nootka Rose Milling chipped in with some choice quality items that appeased discerning racers. A heartfelt thanks to these generous donors who really showed community spirit. The silver lining for the farmers at Sea Bluff is that the hard work of farming feels like a breeze in comparison to staffing a tent full of zucchini racing zealots. Thanks for a fun day everyone, and we'll see you next year. Start dreaming up your winning entry now!



Zucchini racers ready their entries on Metchosin Community Day.R.Tunnicliffe. B.Sawatsky photo.



# Metchosin Community Day – Field and Garden Contest Results 2025

Judith van Manen

On Sunday, September 7, gardeners of all ages and levels of experience exhibited and shared their exquisite fruit, magnificent vegetables, and beautiful flowers at this year’s Metchosin Community Day Produce Contest. The entries were numerous, dazzling, and often simply lovely. Eric White won the best vegetable entry with his attractive Peaches and Cream corn. Salish Sea Farm won the best fruit entry with its large, luscious, and deeply red Seascape strawberries. Lynda Witthoeft created the winning elegant floral arrangement while Judy and Joel Roper presented the best entry of the show with their gracefully abundant mixed garden basket.

We congratulate the following recognized ribbon winners of the 2025 Metchosin Community Day Field and Garden Contest.

Finally, we especially thank our expert and fair judge Derek Wulff, a real connoisseur of fruits and vegetables for

his sharp and sensitive insights.

**VEGETABLES**  
**Beans:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden; 2nd Kara Ingalls; 3rd Metchosin Community Garden  
**Longest Bean:** 1st Kara Ingalls  
**Beets:** 1st Carly Ingalls; 2nd Kara Ingalls  
**Carrots:** 1st Kara Ingalls  
**Corn:** 1st Eric White  
**Cucumbers:** 1st and 2nd Sarah Gray  
**Garlic:** 1st Metchosin Farm; 2nd Wayne Ingalls; 3rd Marchand Family Farm  
**Kale:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden  
**Onions:** 1st Marchand Family Garden  
**Peas:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden  
**Peppers:** 1st Salish Sea Farm  
**Hot Peppers:** 1st Metchosin Farm; 2nd Marchand Family Farm; 3rd Carly Ingalls  
**Potatoes:** 1st and 2nd Metchosin Farm; 3rd Bill Parker

**Largest Potato:** 1st Bill Parker  
**Pumpkin:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden

**Giant Pumpkin:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden/Eric White (tie)  
**Squash:** 1st Carly Ingalls; 2nd Metchosin Community Gardens; 3rd Bill Parker  
**Tomatoes:** 1st and 2nd Gillian Hammond; 3rd Eric White  
**Cherry Tomatoes:** 1st and 2nd Johnny Ranns Jr.; 3rd Bill Parker  
**Zucchini:** 1st Metchosin Community Garden  
**Longest Zucchini:** 1st Steve Lee; 2nd and 3rd Marchand Family Farm  
**Weirdest Vegetable:** 1st Kara Ingalls (carrot); 2nd David McArthur (cucumber); 3rd Jay Shukin (peppers)  
I haven’t seen that before! 1st Metchosin Farm (tomato); 2nd Metchosin Community Garden (unidentified vegetable); 3rd Tessa & Sylvia, Metchosin Community Garden (zucchini)  
Garden Produce Mixed Basket; 1st Roper Family; 2nd Freya McArthur

**FRUIT**  
**Apples:** 1st and 3rd Salish Sea Farm; 2nd Wayne Ingalls  
**Blackberries:** 1st David McArthur;

2nd Lee Family  
**Raspberries:** 1st Lee Family  
**Grapes:** 1st Wayne Ingalls; 2nd Salish Sea Farm; 3rd John Ranns Sr.  
**Kiwis:** 1st John Ranns Sr.  
**Melons:** 1st Eric White; 2nd Karen Williams; 3rd Salish Sea Farm  
**Pears:** 1st Metchosin Farm; 2nd Salish Sea Farm; 3rd Jane Hammond  
**Asian Pears:** 1st Wayne Ingalls; 2nd Salish Sea Farm  
**Plums:** 1st and 3rd John Ranns Sr.; 2nd Salish Sea Farm  
**Jams & Jellies:** 1st and 2nd Wayne Ingalls  
**Cut Flower Arrangements:** 1st Lynda Witthoeft; 2nd Sarah Gray; 3rd Marchand Family Farm  
**BEST CUT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT** Lynda Witthoeft  
**BEST FRUIT ENTRY** Salish Sea Farm (Strawberries)  
**BEST VEGETABLE ENTRY** Eric White (Corn)  
**BEST IN SHOW** Roper Family (Garden Produce Mixed Basket)



The Roper family’s “Best in Show” bountiful garden basket displays the fruits, flowers and rewards of months of hard work. WOW!!! B.Sawatsky photo



“Best Cut Flower Arrangement” winner Lynda Witthoeft shares the moment with her proud children. B.Sawatsky photo

## Winter Break Adventures at the BC Youth Parliament

Colin Sparks

I am a third-year student at the University of Victoria, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography with a minor in Economics.

This past winter, I had the great pleasure and deeply rewarding experience of being sponsored by the District of Metchosin to attend the British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP). For those unfamiliar with it, BCYP is a youth-run organization with the aim of promoting youth service in our community. Founded in 1924, BCYP is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any political party.

Every year, between December 27 and New Year’s Eve, the parliament provides a forum for 97 youth from across

British Columbia, ages 16-21, to develop skills in public speaking, leadership, and parliamentary procedure. The BCYP is a platform for young people to grow, unlock new passions, meet like-minded individuals, and make an impact in a world where youth are so often under-represented.

During last year’s parliament, I was thoroughly engaged with debating the Cabinet’s legislation that outlines projects to be run throughout the session (from January to September) and other youths’ Private Member Resolutions. I learned a tremendous amount about parliamentary procedure and its history, and voted in our elections for the next BCYP Premier, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition.

Many of my fondest memories during the parliament came from the hilarious question periods.

For the coming parliament, I have applied for the position of Minister for the Islands. As I write this, I do not yet know the outcome, but will by the time this article is printed and released. Additionally, in the upcoming 97th parliament, I am planning on running for the Official Leader of the Opposition. A challenge nonetheless, but one that should be exhilarating and full of personal growth, regardless of the outcome.

Thank you again to the District of Metchosin for sponsoring me and for your ongoing support for the youth in our community and province! Words cannot properly

describe the sheer fun it was last year nor can words describe how much I am looking forward to this coming parliament. To anyone interested in politics or community service and who wants to meet like-minded people, I highly recommend looking into applying to join BCYP for its upcoming parliament. Applications are due on October 31, so do not procrastinate.

To learn more about BCYP and information about how to apply, please visit <https://bcyp.org>

*Editor’s note: Colin Sparks grew up in Metchosin and has lived here since 2008. He attended Hans Helgesen Elementary School, Dunsmuir Middle School, and graduated in 2023 from Royal Bay Secondary School.*



Students learn parliamentary procedures and issues in the Legislative assembly in downtown Victoria. 2024 file photo.

## Double Fall Fun: Open House, Scavenger Hunt & Pumpkin Fundraiser

Councillor Shelly Donaldson and Shannon Carman

Metchosin residents are in for a treat this autumn as two lively community events come together in the heart of the village. On Saturday, October 18, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at 4495 Happy Valley Road, families and neighbours can enjoy an afternoon filled with seasonal fun, food, and the warmth of community connection.

Step inside the Metchosin School gymnasium and pick up your Pumpkin Passport for our Scavenger Hunt— a playful exploration designed for kids (and kids at heart) to discover the wide variety of programs, services, and small businesses that call this community space home. From art and

music to fitness and learning opportunities, the scavenger hunt offers a playful introduction to what’s happening inside the school site.

When the passport is complete, participants will return to the gym. The brand-new stage will be in use with performances by local talent, young and old, showcasing the creative energy of the community. For an extra bit of fun, children can dive into the tickle trunk, pull together costumes, and strut their stuff under the lights!

Just steps away, behind the tennis courts, the Metchosin Grown Society will host its first-ever Pumpkin Harvest Fundraiser at the Community Garden, offering a full afternoon of hands-on, all-ages fall activities. Visitors can wander through a friendly mini corn

maze (don’t worry, you won’t get lost!), choose a pumpkin, learn carving tips from a local pumpkin-carving master, help build a scratchy scarecrow, and learn the timeless skill of saving sunflower seeds for next year’s garden.

More than a celebration, it is also a way to support the agricultural traditions that sustain Metchosin’s rural character. Residents are encouraged to extend that support year-round by visiting local farmstands and choosing locally grown produce, which helps our community’s growers thrive.

With two dynamic events running side by side, there is truly something for everyone. Seasonal snacks, festive activities, and a strong sense of community promise to make this afternoon one to remember.

For more information contact Shelly Donaldson at [sdonaldson@metchosin.ca](mailto:sdonaldson@metchosin.ca) .



S. Donaldson photo.




For information on local events, please see **Important Dates & Events**, p. 11.

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

“HOUSE HAPPENINGS!”

Regular House Programs. See anything that interests you?

Adult Day Program	Monday, Wed., Thurs	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Evening Knitting Café	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Drop-In Art Group	Tuesdays	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Afternoon Knitting Café	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Embers	Tuesdays	6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
Conversational Spanish	Wednesdays	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Weights and Measures	Tuesday Mornings	8:30 am - 10:00 am
Scouts	Thursdays	12:00 am - 3:00 pm
Creative Rug Hooking	1st & 3rd Fridays	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Parents & Tots Program	Fridays	9:30 am - 11:30 pm
Friday Socials	Last Friday of the Month	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Ukulele Group	3rd Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Friday Night Films	Last Friday of the Month	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Rough Voices	3rd Sunday - Starts Oct. 19	1:00 pm - 4:30 pm



SOUP SOCIAL

Saturday, October 25th • 11:30 - 1:30

Pearson College students will be there. All are welcome!

By donation (\$5 per person recommended)  
All proceeds are donated directly to the Goldstream Foodbank

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METCHOSIN

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19 Sept 2025 - 2 Nov 2025



Talisman:

the art of power  
and meaning

• Guest juror: Scott Robertson  
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upcoming related workshop!

FRI 7 NOV - SUN 21 DEC 2025

WHITElight:

absence. emergence.  
possibility.

• Guest Juror: TBA  
• Inviting works that investigate the colour white  
not only as an inclusive space on the colour  
spectrum, but also as metaphor, material, and  
mood. Looking for works that reveal through  
restraint, find beauty in simplicity, truth in  
minimalism, hope in brightness.  
• Open call CLOSES: FRIDAY 24 October  
• Show Opening Celebration: SAT 8 NOV 2-4pm

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• Wednesdays - Rural Sketching- see website for details  
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See metchosinartpod.ca for details




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FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

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In Loving Memory

# Garth Dickman

Garth Dickman was born August 28, 1953 in Victoria, BC and lived his entire life on the same verdant ‘farm in the forest’ in beautiful Metchosin that his parents John and Beth arrived upon in 1952, and began to wrestle from a mess of post-logging stumps and slash.

While by nature someone who would learn almost everything there was to know about any subject he approached, Garth practiced his trade as a millwright in lumber and paper mills, eventually becoming expert in computerisation of their systems.

Later he became a Mechanical Fitter in the submarine division of CFB Esquimalt for the Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton. A co-worker says he was instrumental in breathing new life into old subs, both confident and capable, and quickly became a cornerstone of the tight knit submarine mechanical department. He mentored more than his fair share of apprentices and his work ethic and accumulated knowledge was appreciated by all. His nickname of "Iron Garth" was not an exaggeration, but an accurate reflection of both his strength of character and his willingness to see the job through no matter what.

Most of all, he loved all aspects of working on the land, including persisting in battling spurge laurel anywhere he saw it in Metchosin, recycling everything, as well as his favourite hobby, repairing equipment others had long given up on.

Garth passed away peacefully, just at the turn into the new day of August 19, 2025, surrounded by his loving family, and the deeply caring staff of the respiratory ward of the Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.

It was much too soon for us all, yet almost all his immediate family, and many of his friends were

blessed to be able to visit him for those short and long conversations he loved to engage in, upon all topics, in his hospital room with a view, or in the beautiful Nitobe garden there, over the last several months.

While adapting to the changes forced in his battle with ALS, with his gentle warmth Garth clearly made a deep impression and found a place in the hearts of the many wonderful people caring for him, and to all of whom his family owe a great debt of gratitude. Among the too many to mention: GP Dr. Robert O’Conner and clinic staff, retired family GP Dr. Dan O’Connell, the expert staff at ALS Clinics GF Strong and UBC, deeply dedicated Dr. Young and staff of the Jubilee Respiriology Ward, Ellen Mahoney and staff of ALS Society Victoria, Massage Therapist Anna, Physiotherapist Pauline, Psychiatrist Mike, Pharmacist Yoshi.

Garth’s family and friends, and many others he touched for a time in his life, will remember and miss him always. They include: Garth’s wife of 47 years Kelly, daughter Natasha (Chad), son Aaron, son Braeden (Jodee), almost sons Diego and Jeff, and a gaggle of grandchildren Kattia, Sofia, Oliver, Quinn, Abigail, Amelia, and step-grandchildren Cohen, Logan, Lennox (and in memory, foster daughter Judy).

Sisters Alisa (Jim) Heather, Meredith, brother Tim, sister-in-law Kim (Don) brother-in-law Tom, and their families.

Longtime friends Hans and Jan, Troy and Cindy, Alex and others, also stepped up unfailingly to Garth’s and Kelly’s immense challenges of the last 2 years.



*The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made directly to:*

- ALS essential patient support:  
<https://www.alsbc.ca/support-us/>
- New research centre in treatment of ALS at UBC:  
<https://projecthopecbc.ca>

## Metchosin Learning Group Tours Satinflower Nurseries

Don Plank

On a bright and sunny Saturday morning in June, the Metchosin Learning Group ([metchosinlearninggroup@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinlearninggroup@gmail.com)) organized an informative tour at the Satinflower Nurseries’ ( [www.satinflower.ca](http://www.satinflower.ca) ) location at 4286 Metchosin Road.

Briefly, the Metchosin Learning Group is about “an opportunity to explore learning and unlearning ways that support or hinder respectful relations with First Nations communities.”

The tour leaders at Satinflower were SNEMIFIYE Dominique James, Kristen

Miskelly and Jill Fraser. We were given experiential presentations and discussions featuring several of the eco-region’s native plants grown locally here on southern Vancouver Island. Dominique shared several of her childhood memories on these native plants and described how many local plants are important for food and medicine and featured prominently in her W̱SÁNEĆ culture. Dominique shared with us what a ʔO̱EL Camas bulb looked like and what size it had to be before her family would harvest it for food (about the size of a tennis ball).

As a member of the Metchosin Community Hall Society along with the advice and guidance of Katy

Nelson (my go-to person about all things green and local), I would like to create a ‘Moralea’s mini Meadow’ at the back of the Hall property. Since there are native oaks around the property, it was suggested that we plant mature ʔO̱EL Great Camas bulbs in the fall. After it is approved by our members, we want to take an area of 11.5 sq. meters, prepare it, and choose what plants are best to introduce there with the ʔO̱EL Great Camas.

This will not be a ‘dig, plant and forget’ it project, yet it is not that much work to keep it local and natural (no invasive, non-native plants allowed). It should not be too

hard, as all the plants we select will be compatible with the local soil and be drought-tolerant.

I invite other residents to “make a start.” Do learn about and create areas for our plant heritage and thus spread more ‘good’ plants to every corner of the district. In a few years I would love to see many ‘Moralea’s mini Meadows’ all over Metchosin.



Group photo at Satinflower Nurseries. Eve Routh photo.

## How to Double Your Money While Giving It Away

Kyara Kahakauwila, President  
Metchosin Community Association



Metchosin Community Association presents Goldstream Food Bank with a check for \$5,500. Food Bank photo.

The Metchosin Community Association (MCA) recently learned the best way to stretch a dollar is by giving it to the Goldstream Food Bank. When the MCA donated \$5,500 this past month — the proceeds donations collected at the gate of the the successful 2025 Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale — volunteers gratefully shared that the food bank’s purchasing power effectively doubles with every donation. MCA Board Vice President Kirsten Quealey and Treasurer Mojdeh Baghaei were thrilled to hear that our

community’s generosity goes twice as far.

Supporting the Goldstream Food Bank has become a core program of the MCA, thanks to the inspiration of the late board member, Jim MacPherson. Jim was a tireless champion of the food bank, organizing and delivering our food and cash drives each Christmas season.

Join us Saturday, October 25, from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Metchosin Community House for a warm bowl of soup with friends and neighbours. The meal is by donation, with 100%

of proceeds going directly to the Goldstream Food Bank.

Our soup program, launched last year, has already raised \$998.79 in additional funds. Alongside hosting the community meal, we prepare extra soup that is frozen and available for purchase by donation in single or double portions—through the MCA or the Seniors Information Resource Centre (SIRC).

Together, we can continue to support local families while sharing meals and building community.

## Come and Learn with Us: UVic Professor to Speak on Native Plants, Indigenous Law

Metchosin Learning Group

The Metchosin Learning Group is pleased to announce an upcoming talk by Dr. Pamela Spalding, an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Victoria, who works in the areas of ethnobotany, ethnoecology,

Aboriginal Rights and Indigenous Law.

Her talk will draw from her extensive research on Indigenous peoples’ relationships with native plants, ecosystems, resource stewardship, Indigenous legal orders, property and customary legal landscapes that are largely associated with Coast Salish women’s plant practices.

There will be time for discussion and questions after the talk. All are welcome!  
When: Thursday, October 30 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)  
Where: Classroom # 2 in the old Metchosin School (entrance by Mile Zero Pub)  
Please send queries to: [MetchosinLearningGroup@gmail.com](mailto:MetchosinLearningGroup@gmail.com)

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# Seniors' Resource Centre

## METCHOSIN

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

### WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

**Monday, October 6 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

### 55+ BUS TRIPS!!!

**Thursday, October 9 Rocky Point Bird Observatory 10:00 – 12:00 p.m**

A visit to RPBO station is a unique opportunity for those who would like to learn more about bird banding and bird conservation.

**Thursday, October 23 Royal Bay Shopping Centre 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.**

Hop on the bus for a fun new way to connect with friends, run errands, grab some coffee or lunch, or renew insurance.

### LEGAL MATTERS WITH OANA GRANT FROM DINNING HUNTER LAW

**Thursday, October 16 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Legal Matters for Seniors – personal and estate planning session. Learn about incapacity, powers of attorney, estate planning tools and more!

### METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Thursday, October 16 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Share the experience of caring for family members or friends. Register at [cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca](mailto:cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca) or phone 250-384-0408.

### LIBRARY PRESENTATION WITH LIBRARIAN BROOKLYN KEMP

**Thursday, October 23 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Join us to get or renew your library card. JDF Library has a huge collection of books, audiobooks, and special online tools like Ancestry.

### FRIDAY COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE BAHAI' GROUP

**Friday, October 31 1:00–3:00 p.m.**

Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd.

Enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, and friendly conversation. Please contact SRC to register for presentations and rides to our events.

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)  
1047–4495 Happy Valley Road  
250-478-5150 • [info@metchosinseniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca) • [www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)

## Important Dates & Events

October

### Important Dates & Events

Oct. 17 Preschool Firewood Raffle.....p. 11  
Oct. 18 Double Fall Fun .....p. 7  
Oct. 25 MCA Soup Social .....p. 9  
Oct. 30 Learning Group Talk .....p. 9  
Oct. 31 Hallowe'en at the Firehall.....p. 3 (Editor's Musings...)  
Nov. 1 VACCINATION CLINIC .....p. 5

Council Meetings.....p. 2  
MCA House Happenings.....p. 8  
MACCA Events.....p.10  
ArtPod Events.....p. 8

The intellect is good but until it has become the servant of the heart, it is of little avail.

### Baha'i Writings

Peace

Prayer

Pancakes

*Pancakes followed by prayers & messages of peace.*  
First Sunday of the Month at the Metchosin Community House  
The Metchosin Baha'i Community (250) 858-2053

## Fire Department Call-Outs

AUGUST 2025

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

August Stats:

MVI - 18  
Med - 31  
Fires - 13  
Other - 2

Total of 64 Incidents  
\*Motor Vehicle Incident

# Metchosin Preschool Firewood Raffle Fundraiser Will Warm a Lucky Winner

Caitlin Eindhoven

Metchosin Preschool is hosting a firewood raffle to raise funds for its programs. Thanks to a generous donation from Bird Dog Developments, two cords of split firewood are up for grabs. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20, available at The Flying Dutchman, Daniel's Market, Metchosin Corner Store, or directly from preschool parents. The raffle

runs from October 1 to 17, with the lucky winner receiving their firewood delivered at the winner's earliest convenience, perfect for stocking up before winter sets in.

## It's Happy Hour!

2PM – 5PM & 7PM – 8PM  
*Monday to Friday*

### FOOD BEER WINE

ORIGINAL POUTINE \$8.99  
CAULIFLOWER BITES \$11.99  
YAM FRIES \$7.99  
HOUSE SALAD \$11.99  
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# A Praying Mantis Joins the Pets in the Ring

Deirdre Chettleburgh

Nearly 50 well-loved pets and their handlers entered the ring for this year’s Metchosin Community Day Pet Show. There were beautiful dogs (small, medium and large), unusual chickens, a very debonair-looking rabbit, a tortoise and for the first time (I think) - a praying mantis! Warm congratulations to all!! Many thanks to our Marshall, Bob Payette, and to all our judges – Pattie Whitehouse, Sofia Bingham, Jane

Denny, Danielle Eilertsen, Sachi Ihara, Krystal Panetta, Erin Ronsse and her daughter Joie, and Roxan Shanks. Special thanks to Willow Wind Feed and Tack who generously donated amazing bags of treats for all the pets.  
\*Best Costume: Freya’s 007 Special Agent Rolo, a Holland Lop rabbit, Best Costume Reserve: Toni’s little pirate dog, Simon,  
\*Most Rural: Collette’s Finn, a Lavender Orpington chicken, Most Rural Reserve: Chantal’s

Frankie, a Naked-necked Silkie chicken,  
\*Most Unusual: Jean-Paul’s Edwin, a large, green praying mantis, Most Unusual Reserve: Keltie’s Vito, a smart, loyal Cane Corso dog,  
\*Best in Show: Tamara’s Charlotte, a clever, well-trained, calm Australian Shepherd dog who has one blue eye and one brown eye,  
Best in Show Reserve: Francis and Evaline’s Oliver, a very happy, tail-wagging Boxer dog.



Who’s a Good boy?! Francis and Evaline congratulate “Oliver,” their Boxer buddy, on his “Best in Show Reserve” award.



Most Rural Reserve went to “Frankie”, a Naked-neck Silkie chicken. J. Sawatsky photo.



Best Costume was awarded to “007 Special Agent Rolo”, a Dutch Holland Lop rabbit.



Best in Show went to Tamara’s “Charlotte” a very clever and calm Australian Shepherd.

## Did you know ...? Fun Facts to Help you Thwart Invasive Thistle

Metchosin Invasive Species Collective (MISC)

Did you know that despite its name, Canada Thistle (also known as Creeping or Cursed Thistle) is not native to Canada, but actually native throughout Europe and Northern Asia?

And did you know that if plants are cut prior to flowering, the plant can

be left on the site to decompose? If plants are cut post-flowering, all plant parts, including flower heads, should be bagged or tarped and properly disposed of at a designated landfill.

It’s good to know that pulling out the entire plant with its roots is the most effective way to permanently prevent thistles from spreading.

Canada Thistle is just one of many invasive thistles in B.C. Others include Bull Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Plumeless

Thistle, Musk Thistle and Marsh Plume Thistle. All of them displace native plants and reduce biodiversity.

More information on Canada Thistle can be found on this factsheet: <https://bcinvasives.ca/invasives/canada-thistle/>



## Metchosin Foundation Helps Fund the Future

Valerie Jaeger

At a recent meeting, the Metchosin Foundation board of directors voted to donate \$1000 to support the MycoMap BC project. A few days later, I sat down with Andy MacKinnon, co-author of The Mushroomrooms of British Columbia and President of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society (SVIMS), to find out more about this groundbreaking, timely and promising project.

What makes this project groundbreaking is the fact that it involves a lot of digging (!) and has never been done before. While MycoMap BC is the brainchild of a small group of fungal enthusiasts and will also involve the participation of the University of Northern BC, UBC and UVic, it will rely hugely on individual citizen scientists across BC to forage for, dig out and submit local fungal samples. It is a great opportunity for school groups, social groups and businesses to work together.

Myco refers to all things fungal while the ‘Map’ part of the title has a dual meaning: mapping out the DNA sequencing of each of the fungal samples and plotting the location of these samples on a geographical map. Fungi, like mushrooms, yeasts, and molds, are classified primarily on their physical characteristics, reproductive structures, and genetic information. Andy explained that, while scientists estimate that about 95% of the existing plants and animals in BC’s have been identified, probably only about 35% of the different fungi in BC have been identified.

The project is very timely because in the face of potential environmental upheaval due to climate

change it is necessary to know what currently exists before we can know what we have lost. DNA sequencing will provide precise identification for many BC mushroom species. In North America, fungi were often given the names of European species that they resembled on a macro or micro level. It turns out that they are often not genetically the same. In other words, in North America not only have we yet to identify most of our fungi, many of those we think we have identified are misnamed. MycoMap BC will help to fix that.

The time is now right for such a project. Ten years ago, running the DNA analysis on a single fungal sample would have cost about \$5000. Today, the thousands of samples submitted can be processed for that amount making MycoMap BC financially feasible in 2025. The actual testing will be done at MYCOTA Labs in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Those who submit useable samples will receive a copy of the results.

When asked whether this study held promise to yield practical benefit, Andy’s response was an emphatic ‘Yes’. Even though he could not say exactly what those benefits would be, he expressed confidence that there would be some. Humans share approximately one quarter of their active genes with fungi and fungal DNA is similar to human DNA in structure and in the genetic information it carries. Older antibiotics such as Penicillin and tetracycline were discovered from molds and the fight against the new super-bugs involves fungi. Mushrooms have a place in the promotion of mental health and positive immune response in addition to tasting good!

Precise details on how to collect samples, how to dry them and prepare them for submission and where to mail them is available now on the SVIMS website (www.svims.club). The official launch of the project was September 16 will be a few weeks from now and will involved Metchosinites Kem Luther, Andy MacKinnon and others.

MycoMap BC is the kind of map Metchosin should be on! The Metchosin Foundation was happy to be able to provide 20% of the funding for MycoMap BC through the generosity of Metchosin donors. A donation today (donate@metchosinfoundation.ca) will help the Foundation say ‘Yes’ to future requests to fund other Metchosin-based research that will benefit Metchosin and beyond.



Scientists estimate that only about 35% of BC’s fungi have been identified. Bev Hall photo.

## Birds of Metchosin- Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)

Carol Carman

Metchosin hikers and birders are likely to see these colourful birds of the woodpecker family foraging for ants along the ground, or making nest holes for themselves in dead or decaying trees. You may often have heard their calls: ‘woika woika woika’, a repeated ‘kuk’ and a piercing ‘keeww’.

Males have a gray face, with a red “moustache”, and distinctive salmon-red stripes under their wings and tail. A white rump is most visible when the birds are in flight. Females lay 5 – 10 white eggs each season.  
This bird is seen regularly in southern B.C., as well as widely from Alaska and Alberta through the U.S. to northern Mexico and

Guatemala. In the south and east of B.C., it is known to interbreed with the yellow-shafted flicker, producing hybrids with orange-yellow under their wings.  
Flickers are protected under the North American Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Environment Canada), which prohibits the killing or harming of these impressive birds.



In the spring, male Flickers looking for love will drum repeatedly on tree trunks, metal chimneys, house siding and other elevated, available, resonant surfaces. A.Jones photo.