

Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Tax Exemption for ‘Non-profits’ Questioned by Council

Allen Jones

A report was presented by Chief Financial Officer Geoffrey Kreek to Metchosin Council at their meeting on 15 September concerning the permissive tax exemption for several organisations with facilities in Metchosin. The following organisations were noted in the report:

- BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre ‘Wild ARC’, received \$24,740.
- Camp Thunderbird Society (three properties), \$94,525.
- The Metchosin Hall Society, ‘Metchosin Community Hall’, \$6,018.

- The Anglican Diocese, ‘St. Mary’s’ (two properties), \$33,539.
- The Victoria Motorcycle Club, (two properties), \$14,771.
- The BC Parks Foundation, (two properties), \$10,548.
- The Victoria Humane Society, applied too late in 2025.

It was stated that these organisations in 2025 (except for the Victoria Humane Society) were given over \$180,000 by the District of Metchosin – the equivalent of 6.0% of the total taxes that were collected.

Before the Council could discuss the report Councillors Donaldson and Gray raised conflicts of interest and

were recused. This left the Mayor and Councillors Epp and Shukin to respond to the options in the report. These options were:

- To prepare permissive tax exemption bylaws as previous years.
- To provide a grant only for the District portion of the 2026 property taxes for the approved organisations.
- Not to provide any tax exemptions or grants for the applicants.

Mayor Little opened the discussion noting that these organisations “provided value and contributed to our community”. There was also some surprise expressed generally about the extent and cost of the tax exemption.

Following contributions by Councillors Epp and Shukin, it was agreed unanimously that the District would continue to provide grants for the District portion of the 2026 property taxes for approved applicants.

What’s changing is that the District will not be covering the amounts for school tax, the library, West Shore Parks and Rec, the CRD, BC Transit, the regional hospital levy, etc. This means that an estimated \$92,500 must be found by these organisations which could mean that additional grants (available in the spring) or charitable donations could be needed to support their future operations.

New Community Group forms for Buffer Land

Richard Simpson, BLFriends interim chair

A new community group has formed to support land conservation efforts within Metchosin’s largest public land parcel. The 113.5 acre property known as the Buffer Land came to the District as part of the 2017 land swap involving the SC’IANEW Nation, the City of Langford and Metchosin. Community members have formed Friends of the Buffer Land (BLFriends) to help steward this environmentally important area.

The Buffer Land is a significant, community-owned property. This greenspace, is rich in ecological value, but lacks dedicated municipal environmental oversight, making community involvement essential. It contains the headwaters of Metchosin Creek, which is a critical tributary of Bilston Creek. It’s a rich coastal Douglas fir environment, which needs protection and care. The Buffer Land is also immediately adjacent to a new residential subdivision currently being constructed. That subdivision will bring hundreds of new people into that area and will present major challenges on how the Buffer Land is managed.

In 2023, a District-appointed advisory committee explored a range of management options for this land. During the six month process, there was a consistent view that the Buffer Land should remain owned by Metchosin

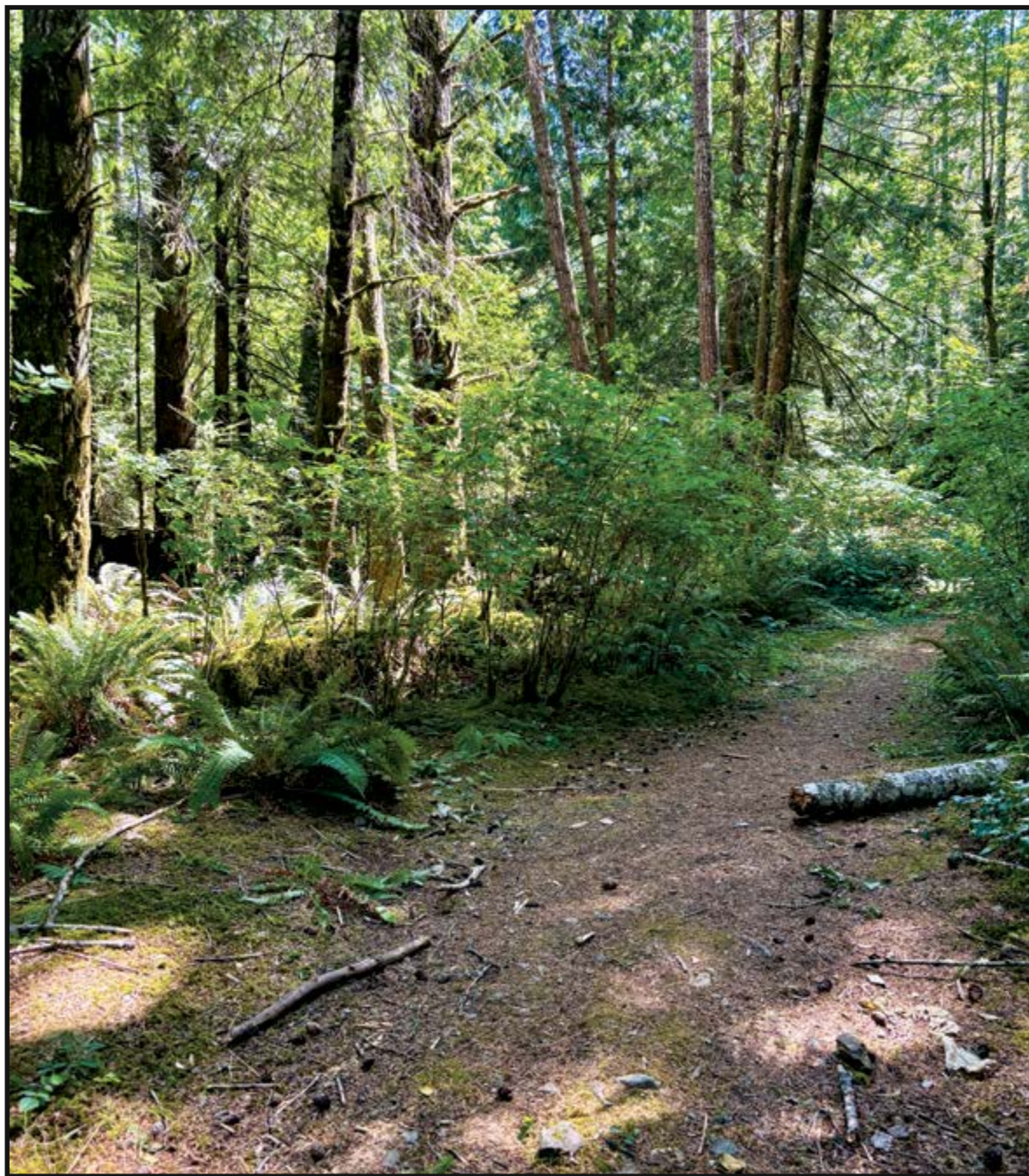
and managed to protect and enhance its natural environmental features. In short, keep the land quiet and natural – not a busy park.

In October 2024, District Council considered an option to rezone the Buffer Land to a new conservation-oriented zone. More information on land use options is expected to be presented to Council by early 2026.

We are a dedicated group of volunteers working to protect the greenspace along Metchosin’s northern district boundary—for the long-term benefit of all residents, local wildlife, watercourses, and natural vegetation.

The founding members of the Friends of the Buffer Land have already been involved in several invasive removal events in 2025 and more are being planned. With the Buffer Land being an important part of the region’s watershed, connections have also been made with the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association. Advocacy efforts will be a big focus of the group, particularly as District Council considers the future of this parcel, whether through rezoning or an option like a protective covenant.

Friends of the Buffer Land is in its early stages and so it’s a great time to get involved. To find out how you can be involved contact bufferland-friends@gmail.com.



View inside of Buffer Land. Richard Simpson photo

Council Reopen Weir Beach Access

Allen Jones

The access to Weir Beach from William Head Road was closed following the storm damage last winter. The ocean had washed away the stone-filled platform below the recently erected timber stairs, and this

had made access to the beach ‘challenging’. The new reinforced concrete structure looks like it could withstand normal storm surges for some time to come.

With some temporary wooden guarding in place (planned to be replaced with

metal), the stairs will serve the Mary Hill community and, due to limited car parking, other occasional users. It could also be a valuable means of vacating the beach in case of a tsunami warning.



The repaired access to Weir Beach. Allen Jones photo.

Metchosin Muse

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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. 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

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.



Council News

NOVEMBER 2025

Remembrance Day March – November 11.

Marchers muster behind the Metchosin Fire Hall at 10:30 am.

Ceremony starts at 11:00 am sharp at the Cenotaph, St. Mary the Virgin Church 4354 Metchosin Rd. Return march to Metchosin Fire Hall where the 14th Juan de Fuca Scouts will be serving refreshments at the Fire Hall following the service.

SAFETY NOTE: temporary road closure Rocky Point at Happy Valley to William Head at Metchosin to Wootton Rd. Adhere to the direction of designated traffic control personnel.

For more information contact Councillor Donaldson at sdonaldson@metchosin.ca or 250-580-4039.

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

With fall's rainy season upon us, residents are reminded it is homeowners' responsibility to clear their driveway culverts free of debris to help prevent flooding. It is also property owners' responsibility to ensure that water and gravel from their driveway does not enter onto the roadway. A permit is required to undertake any work on the municipal roadway, including installation of driveways and culverts.

No Soil Delivery

Property owners are reminded that, in accordance with Metchosin's Soil Removal & Deposit Bylaw, no soil (soil, sand, gravel, rock) is to be delivered from November 1 to April 30, unless otherwise permitted under certain purposes. Contact staff to find out the requirements for soil delivery.

District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – November 2025

The 2025 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings are posted on the website: www.metchosin.ca>Meetings>Meeting Schedule

Please see below meeting dates and times for November 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.

Council Meeting.....November 3.

Special Council Meeting -

2025 Official Community Plan & Land Use Bylaw Housing

UpdatesNovember 5

Special Finance Committee – Budget Meeting.....4:00-6:00 pm, November 6.

Committee of the Whole.....November 10.

Council Meeting.....November 17.

Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee.....November 18.

Special Finance Committee - Budget Meeting.....4:00-6:00 pm, November 20.

Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....4:30 pm, November 25.

Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee..... November 25.

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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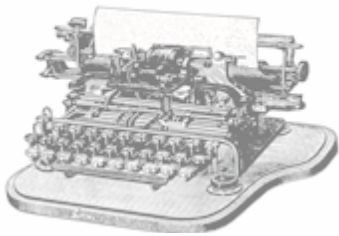
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1/6 page (V) – 4" w x 5" h	\$110.00	\$88.00
1/6 page (H) – 6" w x 3.3" h	\$110.00	\$88.00
1/4 page (V) – 5" w x 7.5" h	\$165.00	\$138.00
1/2 page (V) – 10.3" w x 7.5" h	\$320.00	\$276.00
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Advertising is grayscale/B&W format. Camera-ready ads only, in PDF (images minimum 200dpi). For more information contact Al Murray at almurray.design@gmail.com or 250-383-7243

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes volunteers who would like to help out with the community newspaper. Please send an email to metchosin-muse@gmail.com if you are interested.

Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

As the leaves fall from the trees, we find that some organisations in Metchosin will no longer be fully sheltered from the full burden of taxation. These organisations are mainly staffed by volunteers, so it is to be expected that the concerns of some Metchosinites have been expressed strongly on social media. With an election year approaching, citizens will be able to balance Metchosin Council's reduced taxation largesse with the needs for financial prudence.

Perhaps the housing development proposals that were set out in the Open House presentation by Council on 16 September will lead to some future additional tax revenue. It could be helpful to have unlicensed development regulated properly.

Canada Post has experienced industrial action, and this will affect mailing of our

publications until this is resolved. We apologise for any problems that this may generate.

Our thanks to all who have supported the Muse over the past three decades including our loyal advertisers! We welcome new advertisers to help to balance our budget. In the past, financial donations from Metchosinites have ensured the Metchosin Muse carried on for thirty years. As we must keep our advertising rates level with annual inflation, we cannot ask our advertisers to dig deeper. Nonetheless, it is possible that we will be seeking help from our readers within the next few months. We thank you for your understanding of these necessities.

P.S. To have letters and articles considered for the December issue, please note our deadline of November 14.

Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for style or length. Please email your letter to metchosinmuse@gmail.com (with electronic signature if possible). An address and telephone number are required but will not be published. *Editor's note: The opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of the authors, not of the Muse.*

Meet the Challenges of Parenthood

The Metchosin Co-op Preschool invites you to join us for our Parent Education Night on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:15 pm in Classroom #2 of the Old School House, 4495 Happy Valley Road. Our guest speaker, Julie Marrast, will be leading a session on "Parent Overwhelm." Julie is a best-selling author, TED Talk speaker, and

mother of two, as well as a trauma-informed emotional healing practitioner and certified Hand in Hand Parenting instructor. We're thrilled to have her share her insight and practical tools for navigating the challenges of parenthood. We hope to see you there!

Caitlin Eindhoven

A Plea for Harmony

We have a small, dedicated group of five Council members who were elected to represent Metchosin and make decisions on behalf of all residents. Whether or not we agree with every outcome, these individuals are doing their best to navigate complex choices in a challenging financial environment. Public service in a small community is often a thankless task, and the people sitting at that table are our neighbours, not adversaries.

Disagreement is a natural and even healthy part of democracy but, when it turns personal, we all lose. When discussions drift from ideas to accusations, or when those who've stepped forward to serve are portrayed as working against the community, the focus shifts away from the real challenges we face, like long-term financial sustainability. We can, and should, debate

passionately, but always with respect for one another.

Metchosin is facing significant financial pressure. Rising costs for policing, 911 and other provincial expenses, combined with the costs for current and future infrastructure replacement, inflation and limited taxation revenue sources are taking a toll. Unlike neighbouring communities that can offset costs through development, Metchosin has remained proudly rural, and that comes with both benefits and financial constraints.

Budget deliberations begin in October. This is the time for residents to ask questions and provide input as priorities are set. Let's keep conversations rooted in facts, patience, and mutual respect. We don't have to agree, but we should remain accurate and kind as we work toward a sustainable rural community.

Shari Rourke
Metchosin Resident



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Metchosin Firehall Feasibility Study Community Open House

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Metchosin Fire Hall**



A **Community Open House** with consultants from Johnston Davidson Architecture (JDa), Firehall Steering Committee members and District staff will be held on the Firehall Feasibility Study Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the **Metchosin Fire Hall**, 4440 Happy Valley Road.

Information will be presented on the Firehall Feasibility Study (Metchosin Firehall Building Assessment) including conceptual drawings and financial information.

Fire Department staff will be conducting tours of the existing firehall, and current facility issues will be discussed.

Opportunities to provide feedback will be available at the Open House.

Copies of the [Metchosin Firehall Building Assessment](#) along with background information is available on the District of Metchosin website at www.metchosin.ca

For further information, please contact:

Bob Payette, Chief Administrative Officer
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Arden POD thanks Betty and Ellen, with a Special Request...

Linda Spiller, Interim Arden POD Coordinator

Thanks go to Ellen Dewar and Betty Hildreth (Coordinator Co-chairs), and the road captains that are stepping down from their Arden POD positions. Arden POD was successful for many years under their guidance and motivation, and we are very grateful for their leadership and participation.

Metchosin has organized streets and homes into groups called PODs. The primary purpose of a POD is to meet our neighbours and to facilitate communication in order to keep us, them, and our community informed and safe. PODs function within the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) which is locally led by Director Kathleen Sutherland. The B.C. Government’s guide for NEPP tells us, “Being prepared isn’t just about what supplies you have. It’s about the people around you and how you can work together in an emergency. Getting to know your neighbours ahead of an emergency can help you to work together and offer support when you need it the most.”

POD volunteer roles consist of coordinator, road captains (the neighbourhood meeters and greeters), ham radio operators and participants. I have been one of this POD’s road captains for five years and have now committed to the interim role of Arden POD Coordinator. Along with the road captains that are staying on, our hope is for Arden POD to continue to function and thrive in our neighbourhood and community. That’s where you come in!

Do you live on Arden Road, or on any road off of Arden Road? Then you reside in the Arden area neighbourhood, or Arden POD. If you want to join our Arden POD distribution list, are interested in becoming a road captain or in helping our POD in any way then please send me an email at spillerlinda@gmail.com. We’re open to any ideas you have for an effective, informative, and fun neighbourhood POD.

If you live in or are new to another area of Metchosin and want to join a POD, or want to create a POD where one doesn’t yet exist please contact Kathleen Sutherland at neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com.

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Bobbi Kurtz, Ayurveda Head Massage with ASMR

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Many of my clients share that they feel lighter, clearer, and more patient after a session, as though their whole being has exhaled. I invite them to take a short walk afterward, if possible, before returning to the rhythm of their day. A gentle stroll along one of the beautiful local trails allows the body to integrate the experience more fully.

I offer Ayurveda Head Massage sessions in Colwood and the surrounding area. This helps clients reconnect with calm through the art of relaxation, energy awareness, and mindful presence. To learn more or book a session, visit www.getoutofyourhead.ca.



Bobbi Kurtz in her studio. Carla Ungerphoto.

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A Turkey Vulture Rescue

Ashley Currie, Manager Wild ARC

In early October Metchosin residents likely saw approximately 200-300 Turkey Vultures take to the skies and start their annual Southern Migration. Wild ARC had one as a patient this summer!

Last June a Turkey Vulture, usually a commanding presence in the skies, was found in Saanich, grounded and under attack by a group of ravens. The bird, clearly distressed and vulnerable, needed immediate care. A concerned citizen quickly intervened, and the rescue was swift. The Turkey Vulture was transported to BC SPCA's Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC), where expert wildlife rehabilitators were ready to help.

Upon arrival, the exam revealed the cause of the vulture's weakened state. It had attempted to swallow a large bone, which had become lodged deep in its mouth and throat. This blockage had caused multiple internal wounds, leaving the vulture emaciated and severely dehydrated.

Stabilization became the immediate priority. Wild ARC staff began administering fluids under the skin, pain relief, antibiotics, and nutritional support via oral tube feeding. Slowly but surely, the

vulture began to show signs of recovery, becoming brighter, more alert, and strong enough to undergo anaesthesia for further diagnostics.

With the bird safely sedated, X-rays were taken to determine the bone's exact placement. The medical team was able to carefully extract the obstruction and clean the damaged tissue. Several of the wounds required sutures, while others began healing well on their own. One larger wound, however, presented a challenge because it was in a difficult area near the nasal cavity, and its full extent couldn't be determined with the equipment on hand. A CT scan would be necessary before any decision about release could be made.

In the meantime, the Turkey Vulture was kept in a quiet indoor enclosure to limit movement and allow for rest and recovery. Over the next two and a half weeks, the bird's condition steadily improved. As its weight climbed and energy returned, the vulture was moved to a flight pen for the next stage of rehabilitation: reconditioning its strength and agility for the wild.

Following an intensive course of antibiotics and two weeks of exercise, the vulture was sedated one final time for a CT scan. Wild ARC engaged Dr. Lana Bissett, DVM, DACVR, at Evergreen

Veterinary Dentistry Services to perform the procedure. The scan images were reviewed by radiologist Laura Ziegler, who confirmed what the team had hoped to hear - no signs of lingering infection or abnormalities remained.

After nearly two months of specialized care this resilient Turkey Vulture was fully healed. On a clear day, the Wild ARC team returned to Central Saanich to give the bird its well-earned return to the skies. Thanks to the bystander's compassion, expert veterinary care, and weeks of dedicated rehabilitation by Wild ARC's staff and volunteers, this majestic scavenger has a second chance at life in the wild.



A turkey vulture gets a second chance at life. Wild ARC staff photo.

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Richard Blanshard

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Celebrating with Gratitude

Nan Hsieh

It's that time of year again when the Bahai's of Metchosin come together to celebrate and appreciate a group or individual(s) in our community for the valuable service that they provide. This year we have been especially gratified to those of you who participated in this process by sharing with us your nominations. The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Metchosin has met and reviewed your submissions and are delighted to announce that this year's recipients of the eighth Gratitude Award are Barb and Doug Sawatsky.

We hope that many of you will accept our invitation to come and be part of this inspiring evening to celebrate the gifts of time and service that Barb and Doug have given to the Metchosin Community. The evening will begin at 7:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House on Saturday, November 29, and will include an exploration of Gratitude and how we manifest it in our lives, an appreciation for this year's recipients, Barb and Doug Sawatsky, and end with socializing and refreshments. We look forward to seeing many of you at this evening as we celebrate and share our gratitude to Barb and Doug for their gifts of service.

Got something to say?
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Helgesen Event at the School Museum

Allen Jones

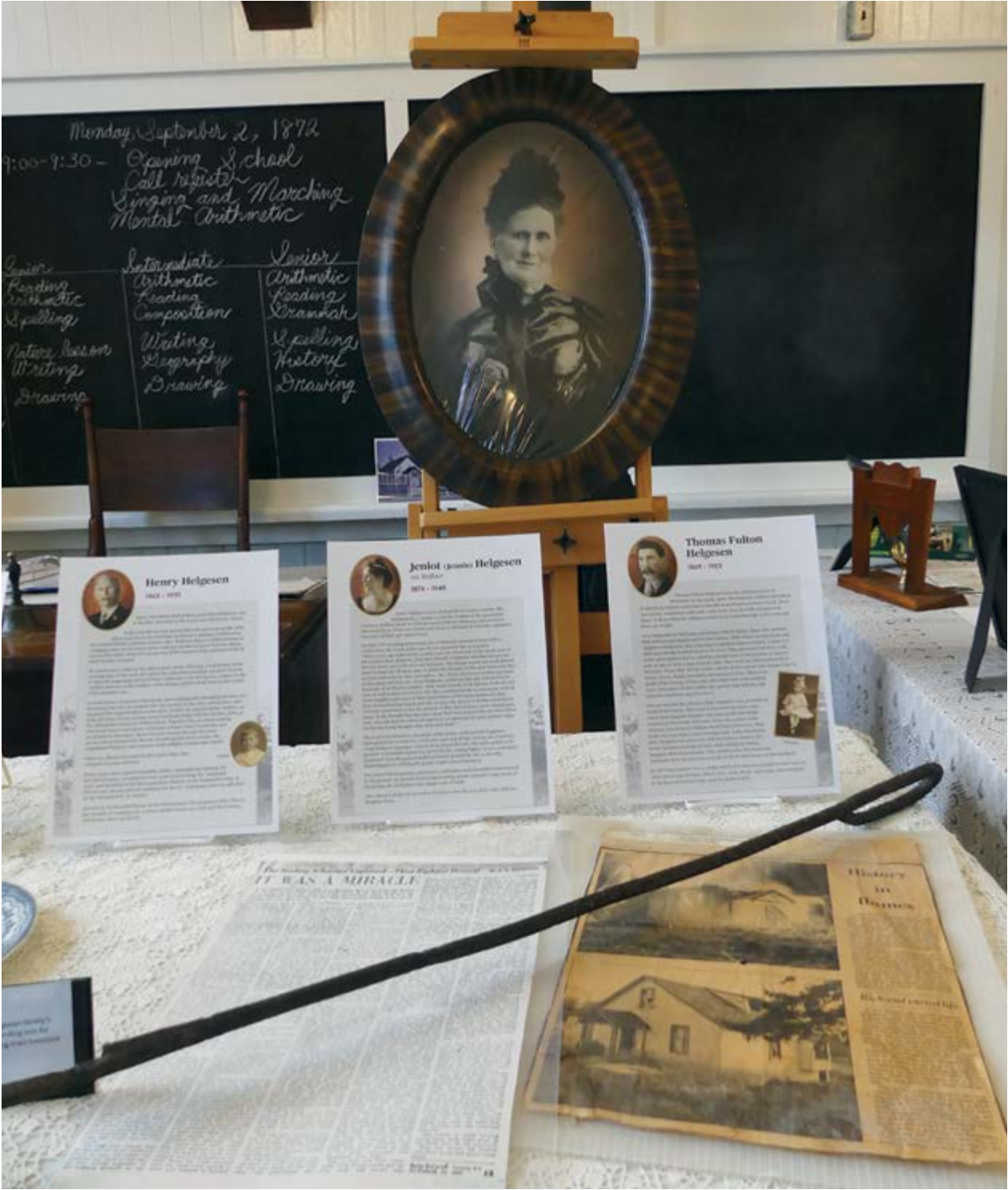
On Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, and the following weekend, October 18 and 19, the Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum presented historic records of the Helgesen family.

This was prepared by Margaret Roper, one of the museum’s docents and longtime Museum Society supporter. With assistance from graphic designer Stephanie Verhagge and Lynn Southgate, she created a very interesting exhibit of the remarkable pioneer Helgesen family.

The Schoolhouse Museum is open on Saturdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.



Sarah Jane, Henry and Thomas Helgesen. Museum Soc



Records of the Helgesen family. Allen Jones photo



Records of the Helgesen family. Allen Jones photo

Metchosin Community Day Volunteer Awards 2025

Allen Jones

Due to limited space last month, we were unable to fully report Metchosin Community Day events.

Citizen of the Year
Pioneer of the Year
Volunteer of the Year
Volunteer Group of the Year
Friend of the Earth

Art Brendon
Bob Ferris
Jacob Lamb
Metchosin Seniors Association
Jim Nan

Mayor Little also acknowledged the work of Jim MacPherson for his years of volunteer work in Metchosin.

A new event this year was the Westshore Tomato Challenge. Capping off ReImagine Westshore’s months-long grow local challenge and part of this year’s Farm to Fork Initiative, Metchosin Mayor Marie-Thérèse Little and Langford Mayor Scott Goodmanson, who grew their own tomatoes, threw down for an epic Tomato Salad Skirmish. After a tight competition, Mayor Little came away the victor to claim the coveted ‘Big Tomato Trophy’! Thanks go to the judges - Colwood Mayor Doug Kobayashi, View Royal Mayor Sid Tobias, Chef Michael Williams of Urban Forage, and Culinary Play-by-Play maestro EV Baker (aka Colwood Councillor David Grove).

Lastly, a few photos included last month about Metchosin Day were wrongly credited to B. Sawatsky and should have been credited to Deirdre Chattleburgh. We apologise.



Clr. Shukin presents Friends of the Earth award to Jim Nan. Tina Hansen photo.



Clr. Donaldson presents Citizen of the Year award to Art Brendon. Tina Hansen photo.



Clr. Gray presents Pioneer of the Year award to Bob Ferris. Tina Hansen photo.



Clr. Epp presents Volunteer Group of the Year award to Metchosin Seniors Association. Tina Hansen photo.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Jacob Lamb

I am truly humbled to be recognized as a Volunteer of the Year. I was able to plant my roots to raise a family in Metchosin through a volunteer organization. In a community built with volunteers, this award holds special meaning. The names on this trophy are so important, and, as you may know, the ‘March for Liz’ is a community event dedicated to a winner of this award. To stand alongside the names of those who have made significant contributions is legendary, and I’m honored to be part of this legacy.

A few years ago, the late Chief Lance Caven from the Langford Fire Department approached Metchosin Fire with the opportunity to take over a bike program from their society, and the Metchosin Firefighter Society accepted.

This program consisted of holding all the bikes collected by Westshore RCMP and hosting an auction annually to raise charitable funds. Since our Society has taken over, it has evolved into a partnership with SJ Burnside. This high school has a program to teach students the mechanical skills to fix and build bikes for high school credits. Now I have students fixing the bikes that I give away to kids in need, trade out for growing toddlers – free of charge - and sell others, raising funds for our charitable cause. This program embodies the essence of community support, and I am grateful for the recognition it has received.

Thank you to everyone one who has been part of this journey. This honour fuels my passion to continue serving and giving back to our amazing community.



Mayor Little presenting the award on Metchosin Day. Tina Hansen photo.



Winner Sada Poppe with family. Molly Demorest photo.

Local Businesses Fuel Raffle Success

Morgan Bley

The Hans Helgesen Elementary Parent Advisory Committee is thrilled to announce the success of our recent Firewood Raffle fundraiser! Thanks to the incredible support of our community, over \$2000 was raised to benefit current and future HH students.

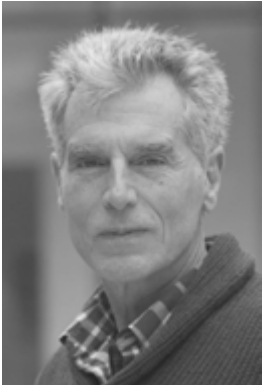
Congratulations to our lucky winner, Sada, who will have over three cords of chopped and seasoned firewood delivered right to her door!

This fundraiser would not have been possible without the generosity of our local

sponsors. A heartfelt thank you goes to Island Paving for donating the wood, Waste Wise for donating the bin and providing free delivery, Global Pro Services for felling, Ocean West Tree Services for splitting, and to Mile Zero Brewing and the Metchosin General Store for helping sell tickets. Your community spirit and support are deeply appreciated.

Stay tuned for another raffle coming up in the spring — and thank you, Metchosin, for keeping the fire burning for our students!

The APRM Proudly Presents
an Evening with
THOMAS HOMER-DIXON, PHD



The Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin is honoured to again offer an evening with Metchosin's own Thomas Homer-Dixon. The Director of the Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University and Research Chair at the University of Waterloo is a visionary political scientist tackling the causes and solutions to current world crises. He will update us on the unorthodox trailblazing work conducted at the Cascade Institute. It will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the APRM. Homer-Dixon's award-winning book "Commanding Hope" is offered as a door prize.

Annual General Meeting
Friday, November 14th, 2025

Old Metchosin School Gym,
4545 Happy Valley Road

Doors Open @ 6:30 p.m.
Session Begins @ 7:00 p.m.

Come early, bring your questions, comments, sit back and enjoy an evening you will not likely forget.

All Welcome!

Proudly hosted by the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM)



EVENTS at
METCHOSIN

ArtPod

FRI 7 NOV- SUN 21 DEC 2025

WHITE light: absence.
emergence.
possibility.

- Guest Juror: Kevin Keliher
- Show Opening Celebration: 2-4pm SAT 8 NOV
- Welcome to a world of calm.
- Come see how artists respond to the colour white not only as an inclusive space on the colour spectrum, but also as metaphor, material, and mood.



Upcoming Workshops at ArtPod



The Language of Power: Symbols, Colour & Intention
Date: SUN 16 Nov 2025
Time: 12:30 -4:30pm
Where: MACC Event Room, 4495 Happy Valley Rd., Metchosin
Price: \$70

Come learn to combine symbols, colour palettes, and expressive mark-making to create personalized talismanic works of art with Scott Robertson.

Playing Abstractly: Analogue Sketch to Digital Montage
Date: SAT 6 Dec 2025
Time: 12:30- 4:00pm
Where: MACC Event Room, 4495 Happy Valley Rd, Metchosin
Price: \$70

This workshop, for all skill levels, invites you to explore and uncover the beauty in your immediate surroundings, then learn how to use these raw materials to create abstract layered digital collages. With Kevin Keliher.



ArtPod Weekly Ateliers

- **Mondays*** 1-3pm Watercolour (*except holiday Mondays), **\$10**
- **Tuesdays** 10-12pm Life and portrait drawing w/ live model, **\$10**
- **Wednesdays** - Rural Sketching- see website for details
- **all levels welcome** • **MACC Event Room, top floor** • **cash SVP**

What is an atelier?
Art **ateliers** provide space and/or training to art students in the skills and techniques associated with creating a form of representational art.

See metchosinartpod.ca for details



4495 HAPPY VALLEY RD, METCHOSIN B.C.
METCHOSINARTPOD.CA
FB: METCHOSIN_ARTPOD IG:#METCHOSINARTPOD



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METCHOSIN ARTS & CULTURAL
CENTRE ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2025
10AM - 4PM
4495 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD

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metchosinartcentre.ca/makers-market



Metchosin Arts Community Celebrates Creativity with Watercolour

Edward Peck and Phyllis Schwartz

Every Monday afternoon, the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre comes alive with the rustle of brushes and the gentle murmur of artists in their creative element. The weekly Watercolour Atelier, hosted by the Metchosin ArtPod, has become a vibrant hub where artists of all skill levels come together to explore, experiment, and share the joy of painting.

At the centre of the atelier is Jean Maddison, retired Professor Emeritus of print-making and digital imagery at the University of Guelph. Maddison, a past Metchosin resident of many years, shares her extensive experience and passion for teaching by inspiring many throughout the South Island. Maddison helps individuals explore the expressive potential and technical skill of watercolour with her kind, supportive approach.

“The atelier is all about discovery,” says Maddison. “We experiment with colour, brushwork, and different papers—but most importantly, we learn from each other.”

Every Monday, watercolour sessions attract a lively mix of curious beginners trying watercolour for the first time and seasoned painters refining their skills. The studio buzzes with conversation and focus as participants exchange ideas, offer feedback, and inspire each other to view familiar subjects in new ways.

“It’s a supportive, creative environment,” says one participant. “You leave not only with a better painting but also fresh inspiration and a sense of belonging.”

The Watercolour Atelier is more than just a class; it embodies Metchosin’s thriving arts community and reflects the Metchosin ArtPod’s commitment to accessible, inclusive spaces for creativity and cultural connection—places where art is a shared experience rather than a solitary pursuit.

When: Mondays, 1:00–3:00 pm.

Where: Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre, 4495 Happy Valley Road

Fee: \$10 drop-in

Moderator: Jean Maddison



Photo collage by Memet Burnett of artwork at a recent watercolour atelier

New agreement between MISC / CRD allows for Increased Invasive Species Removal

Nadine Collison, Volunteer Coordinator, CRD

Brenda and Neil West began hiking in Metchosin parks to stay active and fell in love with the Cedar Grove Trail in Matheson Lake Regional Park. During their walks, they noticed the abundance of English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and assumed it was native to BC. When they discovered it was invasive, (thanks to the opening of Satinflower Nurseries, which focuses on native plants), they saw it everywhere!

They did more research and in 2019 created a presentation for the District of Metchosin’s Parks and Trails Committee. The committee voted to remove all English holly from Metchosin parks. Thanks to a generous grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC) was born. Over the next three and a half years, MISC recruited many dedicated volunteers and ran events to clear the holly in 230 acres of Metchosin parks. In 2021, MISC started pulling holly

in Matheson Lake Regional Park and by 2022 they had cleared 40 acres of holly, pulling approximately 10,000 saplings, suckers and trees!

In 2023, MISC received the Friends of the Earth award at Metchosin Day. They also regularly take part in the University of Victoria’s Society of Ecological Restoration’s “Make a Difference Week”. To increase their impact in Metchosin, MISC has signed a new agreement with the Capital Regional District’s (CRD) that allows them to remove English holly and other invasive species from parts of Matheson, Roche Cove and Witty’s Lagoon regional parks as well as sections of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

“This is one of the most extensive multi-park agreements ever granted by the CRD to a volunteer organization,” explained Morgan Davies, CRD Regional Parks Conservation Biologist. “We are thrilled and know that MISC is eager to revive their volunteer events and expand into more parks.”

Neil agrees, “We’re excited to start work in Witty’s Lagoon – there are a lot of invasives in the park which is very meaningful to many Metchosin residents,” he said. “We want to do what we can to restore this park so that our grandchildren and their children can enjoy it in its original form.”

With the signing of these agreements, Metchosin volunteer groups now have access to remove invasives from every public park within the District of Metchosin. MISC would like to speak to any individuals or groups that would like to organize themselves to remove invasives along the Galloping Goose Trail. Please email Neil to discuss.

If you are interested in learning more about MISC, check out www.metchosininvasives.ca and if you are interested in joining the effort, you can email Neil at metchosininvasives@gmail.com.



MISC members ready to start work in Witty’s Lagoon Park. CRD photo.

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

“Sustaining arts and contemporary culture where most of us experience it.”

Rob Owen
"Where The Path Leads"

I feel fortunate to have found a medium that allows me to express my creativity and connect with others on a deeper level. As I continue on this path, I'm excited to see where my art takes me.

Kim McGuckie
"The Colours of the Archipelago"

Meticulously painted acrylics inspired by the rich colours of the Broughton Archipelago, Kim also enjoys doing pet portraits using polochromos pencil crayons to capture the personalites in pet portraits. Most of her paintings are done in Arylic.

Xmas is coming ...
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Crafts, Condiments, Freeze Dried treats, Baked goods, Liquor.



Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

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

Did you know? Past issues to 2013
of the Metchosin Muse are available online.

How lofty is the station
which man, if he but
choose to fulfill his
high destiny, can attain!

Baha'i Writings



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



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Metchosin Directory

Metchosin Fire Department:
250-478-1307

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

Military Police Non-Emergency
250-363-4032

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

ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

911

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

ORGANIZATIONS

AIR CADETS
250-590-3690
www.848royalroadsaircadets.com
848air@cadets.gc.ca
Facebook 848aircadets

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

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

BADMINTON
Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
250-478-2387
bilstonwatershed@gmail.com
bilstonwatershed.org

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

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

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB
metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club

METCHOSIN ARTPOD
metchosinartpod@gmail.com
metchosinartpod.ca

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

METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
www.metchosinbiodiversity.com

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

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

METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB
250-474-4601
www.victoriacricket.com
FB MetchosinCricketClub

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

METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY
metchosinequestrian@gmail.com
mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION
contact@metchosinfoundation.ca
metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY
250-478-6424
metchosinhall.com

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB
250-478-4778

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

METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY
250-382-1989
metchosinmuseum.ca

METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL
250-478-9241
metchosinpreschool@gmail.com
www.metchosinpreschool.com

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

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

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

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY
250-642-0238

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

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

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

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

SEA CADETS
250-478-7813

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
250-478-7688

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

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

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION
250-474-8384
wspr.ca

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

FAITHS

BAHA'I FAITH
250-514-1757

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

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
250-727-3722

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

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

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

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

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

Seniors' Resource Centre

METCHOSIN

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

FLU AND COVID VACCINATION CLINIC

Saturday, November 1, 8:00 – 4:00 pm

No appointment is necessary, please bring your Personal Health Card/Number. If you need a ride to the Clinic, please contact us at SRC. This Event will take place in the old gym at Metchosin elementary school.

WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, November 3, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

55+ BUS TRIPS!

Thursday, November 6, GVPL Library Bus Trip 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us to experience what the library has to offer and borrow a book or two! JDF Library has a huge collection of books, audiobooks, and special online tools like Ancestry.

DEALING WITH STRESS WITH DEBRA SWAIN

Thursday, November 6, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

None of us can lead totally stress-free lives. Excessive stress can harm your quality of life. This workshop helps to identify stressors and offer tips on how to handle sources of stress.

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, November 20, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Share the experience of caring for family members or friends. Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE/STROKE RECOGNITION PRESENTATION WITH SHANNON COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC EHS

Thursday November 27, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Join us to learn the crucial signs of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease. Learn about the Risks, the F.A.S.T. Method, Warning Signs and what steps to take in an emergency.

FRIDAY COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE BAHAI' GROUP

Friday, November 21, 1:00–3:00 pm

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 • www.metchosinseniors.ca

Important Dates & Events

October

Important Dates & Events

Nov. 1	Flu and COVID Clinic.....	p.11
Nov. 2	Daylight saving ends	
Nov. 8	ArtPod show opens: White Light.....	p. 8
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	p. 2
Nov. 18	Parent Education Night.....	p.3
Nov. 29	Bahai Gratitude event	p.5

Council Meetings.....	P.2
House Happenings.....	P.11
MACCA events.....	p.10
Seniors' Resource Centre events	p.11

Fire Department Call-Outs

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

SEPTEMBER 2025

There were 53 fire call-outs in September 2025.	These included: Other - 4 Motor Vehicle Incident - 13 Medical - 24 Fires - 12
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Visit the Muse website!

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

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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	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Creative Rug Hooking	1st & 3rd Fridays	12:00 am - 3:00 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	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Rough Voices	3rd Sunday	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Scouts Canada Fundraiser

PAINT NIGHT

Nov. 14 · 7:00 - 8:30 · \$45
Details at www.eventbrite.ca

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METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

4430 Happy Valley Road • 250-478-5155
mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com

Canine Helpers

Allen Jones

I came across ElderDog some time ago when my wife read about a border collie, called Charlie, who had to be rehoused because his owners were no longer able to give him the care that he needed. ElderDog enables older adults to continue to enjoy their relationship with their dog by providing support in the form of walking the dog, transportation to and from the vet or groomer, assistance with obtaining food, feeding, minor grooming or hygiene issues.

ElderDog is made up entirely of volunteers who are over 18 and undergo a Police Information Check for Vulnerable Sector, before being approved as an ElderDog walker and there is no charge to seniors who use our services. They also provide fostering for dogs when owners are temporarily unable to look after them due to an emergency, such as hospitalization. All foster homes are fully checked out and approved under ElderDog’s

stringent requirements. In some cases, as was Charlie, it is necessary to permanently rehome dogs in approved homes.

ElderDog is a nationwide charitable organization founded in 2009 in Nova Scotia; and relies entirely on donations. The Sooke-Westshore Pawd covers the communities of Sooke, East Sooke, Metchosin, Langford, Colwood and View Royal. Currently Lois and Sarah are two of the volunteers who live in Metchosin. If you, or someone you know might need their services, please email sookewestshoredsc1@elderdog.ca

If you would like to volunteer, drop an email to: sookewestshorevc@elderdog.ca

Just need more information before committing? Please call Bev at 778-587-5212.

Check out the ElderDog website at www.elderdog.ca or Facebook “ElderDog Canada Sooke-Westshore”.



Charlie finds a new home. M Jones photo

Muse Traveller



Carol and Cynthia read the Muse in a tropical paradise. Bahia, Brazil. Unknown photo.

Apple Bee Festival 2025

Derek Wulff, Metchosin Pomological Society

Metchosin’s annual Apple Bee Festival at the end of September was a wonderful way to bring in the fall season. Our tradition of celebrating the fall harvest of apples is a great reminder of the bounty of the land that our community brings forth.

There were many yummy activities, including the popular tasting table - with over 50 varieties of apples and some pears to choose from, to the apple juicing, caramel apples, dried apples, and apple sauce. Once again, the Karmijn de Sonnevile was one of the more popular apples, along with the Spartan, Gravenstein and King.

This year the apple-hurling included a new Roman Catapult, along with a Ballista, and three other catapult designs from different eras, that kept kids of all ages on their toes as they launched apples towards a target. There was even talk about the difference between centrifugal and centripetal forces and how they balance when apples were launched.

Also, this year a wonderful band from Cortez Island - the Awakeners, entertained everyone with their soulful music,

and Peter Michaud, the apple doctor, gave practical tips for taking care of apple trees, along with Werner and Karen Grundlingh who showed everyone where the wax comes from under the belly of the bees, with their demonstration hive!

Grateful thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who, every year, make this event possible, from setting up and taking down tents - to the kitchen team in the Community house serving soup and apple pie. Special thanks to the 2nd and 3rd groups of the Colwood Guides, they come every year and help make it run smoothly, including helping the making of 100 apple pies by the visitors.

Food security is an important part of our lives and while apples and bees (the pollinators) fill just one of the parts of that link to the earth. It reminds us that we should, whenever possible, grow food for ourselves and share with those around us. Thanks to all those who donated apples!

We are blessed to live in such a bountiful community, from the riches of the earth to the wonderful people who love to share their time and enthusiasm celebrating it!



The ever popular ballistic event with Dave Cuddy in charge. Derek Wulff photo.

Bird of the Month: American Tree Sparrow

Allen Jones

The American tree sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*), also known as ‘winter sparrow’ is similar to the chipping sparrow. Breeding in Alaska they migrate to winter in Southern Canada and California. The rufous cap and grey underside are similar to the chipping sparrow but a small black spot in the middle of the breast will help to identify it.

They are ground nesters and can be found at feeders mixing with juncos. Listen for a sweet high warble descending in pitch.



The American Tree Sparrow. Allen Jones photo.