



Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Metchosin to Host Exhibition of Icelandic Saga of Njal



Katie Pirquet

Thanks to a Metchosin artist and her connection to her Icelandic roots, this month, from May 12 - 19, the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) will host a special exhibit of an extraordinary, collaborative work of art, the Saga of Njal Tapestry (Njalurefill in Icelandic).

Heidi Bergstrom, artist and proprietor of Studio H Canada International Artist Residencies in Metchosin, had a keen desire to learn more about her Icelandic roots, which led her to join an online, video chat group called "Sam Tal Hour" ("Conversation Hour" in English). Through Sam Tal, she met Reykjavik resident Claudia Petursson, who had spent 125 hours sewing on the Njalurefill project. When it was

include Metchosin, where many and varied artists live, work, and display their creations in regular shows at the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre (MACC).

In the tradition of the revered 11th Century Bayeux Tapestry, a librarian and a high school teacher in the South-Iceland village of Hvalsvollur conceived the idea of creating an



Top: Founder, Christina M. Bengtsson, center, supporting Culture Minister, Lilja Alfreðsdóttir and her daughter, as they sew on the tapestry.

decided to send a section of the tapestry on tour, Claudia became the North American tour representative, planning exhibits of a 20-foot section of the original tapestry across the US and Canada. Heidi suggested that her friend

embroidered rendition of the Brenner-Njals Sagas. They formed a group to manage the project, and chose award-winning artist Kristin Ragna Gunnarsdottir to design the work in the French Bayeux Tapestry style. The embroidery was entirely hand-stitched by an army of volunteer locals and visitors that totaled 12,518 individuals from 150 countries on 6 continents. All participants were taught the special stitches, and then painstakingly sewed the tales onto 91.16 metres of carefully prepared, 50 cm wide fabric.

The finished Njalurefill would exceed the former world-record length of the Bayeux Tapestry by 71 feet (21.7 metres). Begun on February 2, 2023, it was estimated that the project would take 10 years.

Continued on page 8

What Art Do You Like? ArtPod Wants To Know!

Diana Smith

Is art really 'in the eye of the beholder'? What art are people drawn towards or away from? And why? At ArtPod our juror is asked to choose three or four artworks for the Juror's chose Award. For AIR: Exploring Our Place in the Atmosphere, juror Samantha Dickie choose four works for varying reasons: two photographic pieces, by Monica Reekie and Edward Peck, an installation piece by Dyan Marie and an abstract acrylic painting by Kim Money. Were her choices idiosyncratic or did they represent works that many others would gravitate towards?

One way ArtPod finds out what artwork people prefer is to have a People's Choice Award. Each show visitors are invited to vote for their favourite. Results for the last show, STILLlife, on one hand seemed to suggest taste in art is quite subjective and 'in the eye of the beholder' as many artworks were chosen. From the gallery's point of view this is good. It means we are offering a range of artwork that various people respond to. On the other hand there was a clear winner suggesting there

are works that many people like, often for similar reasons. The People's favourite was called Jubilation by Ranjeet Dhaliwal. (See accompanying photograph). Although the subjects of the photograph were known to the artist, for viewers the obvious joy in the image transcended this personal connection. It was easy for viewers to relate to the emotions expressed. For Ranjeet the photograph 'is a celebration and embrace of the spontaneity of life. The spirit of the moment is caught, converging on the vortex of their dance. Still. Alive. Forever.'

The current show runs until May 25th. It will be interesting to see what viewers choose as their favourite for this show! Please drop in and vote for your own favourite.

As usual each of our shows combines submissions from both ArtPod members and the public. The next show is Pattern: rEpEAt, rEpEAt, rEpEAt. The deadline for submissions is May 16th. The show runs May 30 to July 20 and the opening reception is Saturday, May 31, 2:00 pm to 4:00pm.

There is an additional call-out for artwork this month—slightly different than usual. ArtPod is offering a \$700



"Jubilation" by Ranjeet Dhaliwal won the People's Choice Award for the STILLlife show. Ranjeet Dhaliwal photo.

artist commission to create and lead an Ocean Art Walk event on July 1st, to be experienced along the route from the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre (MACC) to the ocean at Witty's Lagoon. Artist-led projects may include—but are not limited to—performance, installation, storytelling, poetry, dance, movement, mindful forest bathing, or ecological experiences. The Ocean Art Walk invites both community and ecological engagement through a self-guided journey from the village of Metchosin to the sea.

Continued on page 15

Metchosin Muse Welcomes New Designer

Katie Pirquet

This issue of the Metchosin Muse is the first of what we hope will be many, many future editions designed and brought to life by our new graphic designer, Ian Taylor.

Ian lives here in Metchosin with his wife, two daughters and a son. They decided two and a half years ago to move to Metchosin from Victoria in search of a return to country living. (Fun fact: Ian once raised over 30 alpacas and had over 200 chickens, so the desire for a rural lifestyle feeds on authentic echoes from the past!)

Ian has worked as a web developer and is a former small business owner with additional experience in farming,

landscaping and operating a food truck.

He still does the food truck thing, and he can be found on Sundays at the Metchosin Farmers' Market and serving the queues at local music festivals.

What excites him about joining the Metchosin Muse staff, says Ian, is the opportunity to bring community stories to life through thoughtful, creative design. "I am inspired to contribute something meaningful while continuing to settle into this great community. What I love about Metchosin is the remarkable people I've met, like Shannon at the Broken Paddle, Michael, Michelle and Dirk at Mile Zero Brewing, I could go on and on!"



Ian with his son Linden and daughter Saoirse.

Metchosin Muse

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CURRENT CIRCULATION

2900

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. 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.

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.

Dear Muse Editor,

I would like to remind readers about the triple significance of May 11, 2025. As well as being Mother's Day and the opening of the Metchosin Farmers' Market, it is also the second annual Open Day at Moralea's Meadow, located next to the Farmers' Market. Last year was a great success with over 140 visitors to the Meadow, many for the first time. This year, there will be even more to see with

the newly established BC Hydro section. Metchosin received a Regreening grant for the purchase of native plants which were installed last fall transforming a plot of rough invasive grasses into a haven for native pollinators.


Visitors will see Camas, Fawn Lilies, Sea Blush, Red and Pink Flowering Currant, Shooting Stars and native Buttercup all in bloom. We encourage everyone on the way to the Farmers' Market to stop by between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm

to see the progress we are making in the restoration of this Douglas fir-Garry oak meadow. For more information, see our website and Facebook page.

<https://moraleasmeadow.ca/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3584934225083021/>

Merrilee Hoen

EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod




4 APRIL - 25 MAY 2025
AIR:
Exploring Our Place in the Atmosphere
• Guest juror: Ceramicist and installation artist Samantha Dickie


SAT 10 May, 12:30-4pm
World Collage Day WORKSHOP.

• Out of Thin Air: A Collage Workshop with Phyllis Schwartz

• All skill levels welcome

• \$70 (incl. some supplies)





30 May - 20 July 2025
PATTERN:
rEpEAt, rEpEAt, rEpEAt

• Guest juror: Pierrette Vezina

• 16 MAY: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS CLOSES

• SAT 31 MAY, 2pm: Opening Gala

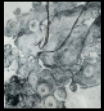
• SAT 21 June 12:30-4:30 Patterns of the Everyday Workshop

8 June 2025, 11am-12:30pm
WORLD OCEAN DAY Print-Making WORKSHOP.


• Gytaku Print-making with artist Dyan Marie

• MACC Event Room


• by donation: (sugg)\$30



See metchosinartpod.ca for details




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Council News

MAY 2025



2025 Property Taxes

Metchosin residents should expect to receive their 2025 property tax notices by end of May, early June. If you have not received your notice by mid-June, please contact the municipal office. Taxes are due on Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

Claim your Home Owner Grant

- If you are eligible for the Provincial Home Owner Grant, please claim your grant with the Province by the property tax due date (July 2) to avoid a mandated penalty on that portion of taxes. Taxes do not have to be paid to claim the grant.
- Instructions on how to claim your grant are on the reverse side of the property tax notice. Complete the application online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or by phoning Home Owner Grant Administration at 1-888-355-2700 or 250-387-0555.

Deferment of Taxes

Eligible BC residents apply for or renew their applications online to the property tax deferment program. Find out more at gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment. For questions about property tax deferral, please call 1-888-355-2700 or 250-387-0555.

Remember if you defer your taxes, you still need to apply for your Provincial Home Owner Grant by July 2.

Burning Rules

Burning is permitted :

- from October 1 to May 31 only (unless otherwise posted)
- 6am to 6pm only.
- Fires must be completely extinguished by 6:00 pm – no smoldering fires.
- Please see metchosinfire.ca>Regulations> for more detailed information, or call Metchosin Fire Department 250-478-1307.

District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – May 2025


The 2025 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings are posted here: [www.metchosin.ca>Meetings>Meeting Schedule](http://www.metchosin.ca>Meetings>Meeting%20Schedule)

See below for meeting dates and times for May 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.

Thank you.


Council Meeting.....	May 5
Committee of the Whole.....	May 12
Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	May 20
Council Meeting.....	May 26
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	4:30 May 27
Environmental Advisory Select Committee.....	May 27




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Editor’s Musings



Katie Pirquet

Ahhhh...the “merry month of May!” I seem to emerge with new energy into the less gloomy days of spring. No more rolling over and curling up under a fat duvet until the house warms up! Despite longer days and shrinking nights, I have been found now and then faffing about with potted plants on our deck, in my bathrobe, well before the sun has inched over the fog bank on the Olympic Peninsula shore, the newspaper’s ink still drying in its little tube at the end of the driveway. There is deep pleasure in taking time to notice leaves peeking out of fattened buds, flowers blooming, birds passing through or setting up housekeeping, the sweetness of the dawn chorus, and the acceleration of growth everywhere. I can smell the stages of the tide, the snow from the mountains on a south wind. It all reaches a crescendo in May!

Among the winter’s devastation wreaked in my garden there are, nevertheless, flowers in bloom, Miners’ Lettuce to pick for a salad, and resurrections of a few plants I thought I’d killed – newly robust and in flower! Also weeds...so many weeds... No worries: “Smelling of dirt,”

as Margaret Atwood says, is the right thing for this time of exuberance and joy. In the expanse of a full year, spring is my happy place, when everything seems possible.

“May month,” as they say in Newfoundland, is about to extend this sense of joy, connection, creativity and exuberance to all of Metchosin, through a tidal wave of coming events. These include the 41st annual “Fired Up!” ceramics show and sale; the opening of the Metchosin Farmers’ Market on Mother’s Day; the extraordinary MACCA exhibition of a 20-metre section of a 91-metre Icelandic tapestry depicting a collection of ancient sagas, with evening talks and an embroidery workshop; and the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale. We finish up with the monthly Friday film and discussion on May 25. Many of Metchosin’s numerous committees, societies and associations have plans for initiatives and activities this month, too. This is by no means a complete list, so read on and let us all make the most of enjoying this lovely season in the good company of friends and neighbours.

Metchosin firefighter Gloria LeJour recently came to check out our home’s FireSmart-ness, or lack thereof, and astutely identified a number of things we can do, with a bit of financial assistance from the provincial FireSmart Program, to protect our home from wildfire. She was both helpful and thorough, and she followed up with a list of specific measures that would qualify for a 50% grant, up to \$1,000 a year. I am deeply impressed by the competence, hard work and fierce dedication of Chief Stephanie Dunlop and all of our firefighters. Gloria had to fly off and attend to an emergency call-out in the middle of our FireSmart inspection, after which she returned to complete the job. Our firefighters do periodic spasms of first aid training and teaching, wildfire training, firefighter training, bonfire hosting and supporting other community events, equipment and firehall maintenance, and many, many other services that make a difference. They even welcome the Metchosin Muse staff to muster around their enormous table in the Fire Hall for Muse meetings and proofing sessions. They bring us mugs of coffee, and then wash the dishes! In addition to going so many extra miles in service, they remain ever prepared and willing, every single day and night, to drop whatever they are doing and put their lives on the line for us. Our firefighters are nothing short of amazing! They earn our admiration, appreciation and full support all year ‘round.

FUNDRAISER FOR GAZA OFF TO A GREAT START

Small Step Collective

Since our last article in the Muse, the tenuous ceasefire in Gaza has been broken. Death and destruction have resumed. All the more reason then to renew efforts to send aid. Metchosinites are doing just that. Our fund-raising dinner on May 17 has sold out and donations have poured in including raffle items from local producers and businesses. We have a full program for the evening with Dr Gabor Maté giving his perspective on the situation, Dr Dierdre

Nunan speaking of her recent experience as an orthopedic surgeon in Gaza and Dania Shawwa of the Shawwa Gaza Emergency Relief Initiative updating us on their relief activities in Gaza. Bob Bossin will provide music and Sima Elizabeth Shefrin will speak briefly of the textile art created in Palestine that she is donating for sale that evening. Guests will enjoy a delicious vegetarian Middle Eastern meal prepared by Metchosinite Rehan Higgins and friends. Rehan’s sister, Sophia, will close the

evening by leading us in a song of peace and hope.

While we do not have dinner tickets available, we are still accepting donations sent by e-transfer to smallstepcollective@gmail.com, and items for the raffle.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this small step to make a difference in Gaza. As with all such efforts, the benefits are mutual.

Metchosin Co-operative Preschool Fundraiser Prize: TWO Round-trip Tickets to ANY Westjet Destination

Caitlin Eindhoven

Metchosin Co-op Preschool is hosting an exciting fundraiser with a grand prize you won’t want to miss—two round-trip tickets to any destination WestJet flies! Raffle tickets are available online from May 3 to 25th. To enter,

simply visit www.rafflebox.ca and search for “Metchosin Preschool.” In addition, as part of the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale, the preschool will be hosting a huge garage sale at the old preschool site, featuring hidden treasures and unbeatable deals.

Both events aim to support the preschool’s programs and educational initiatives for the kids. Don’t miss your chance to win a dream trip, score some great bargains, and contribute to a fantastic community cause—all for the kids!



Canada Day Festus

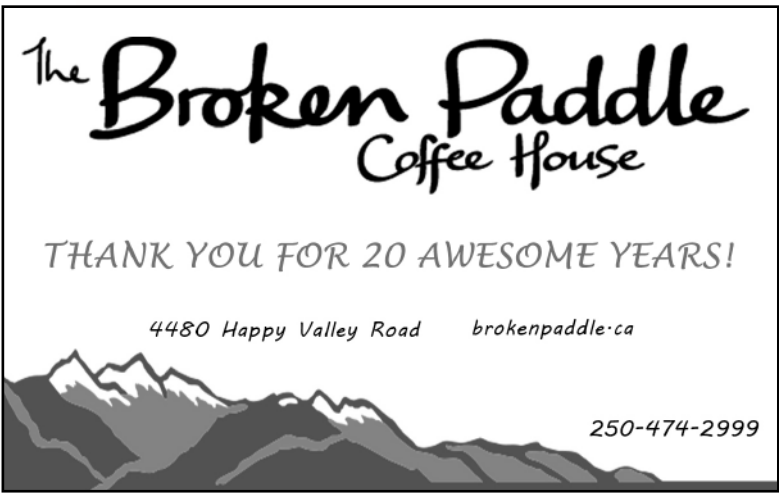
Save the Date
Tuesday July 1st

Open House at
Metchosin Arts Centre
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Family Fun
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More details coming

For information on The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale See p.4



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A ‘Miracle on Nice’: Metchosin Volunteers’ Contribution to Victoria’s Stanley Cup Centenary

Robert O’Connor

A bit of Metchosin engineering helped mark the Victoria Cougars’ 100th anniversary of their Stanley Cup win. A custom bubble hockey machine was kitted out in roaring twenties retrofuturistic style as an ‘Electrified Ice-Hockey Simulator Machine’ matchup between the 1925 Victoria Cougars and 1915 Vancouver Millionaires. Art design and logistics were donated by Dr. Robert O’Connor. The custom solid oak mobile base was designed and constructed by carpenters Kurt Wagner and Kevin Tisdale. The tiny players were kindly handpainted by volunteer Gaye Goldie, with period-correct Cougars and Millionaires uniforms. Custom play-by-play audio for the video jumbotron was donated by veteran Canuck sportscasters Matt Sekeres and Blake Price (of the Sekeres and Price Show), featuring callouts with a

BC twist, such as a goal marked by “Top shelf where mama keeps the kombucha!” The machine was built to highlight British Columbian contributions to hockey. The game’s pedestal base describes how the Irish-Canadian Patrick brothers innovated blue lines, penalty shots, creases, forward passes, playoffs, and line changes during play. It also features trivia nuggets such as Victoria Cougar player Frank Fredericton later coaching Princeton hockey, where he became friends with Albert Einstein. It also tells the tale of how the Victoria Cougars were renamed the Detroit Red Wings, who would go on to win the cup eleven more times. The hockey game was initially assembled for the Canadian national family doctor conference in November 2024, to help encourage family physicians to consider BC as a possible future workplace. Upon seeing the machine enter

the building, the conference organizers kindly placed it in the center of the venue to be enjoyed by the approximately 4000 physician attendees. At the completion of the multi-day family doctor conference, it was donated and transported to its new home at the BC Sports Hall of Fame, located inside BC Place stadium. At the Hall of Fame, families can enjoy a round of Cougars-versus-Millionaires bubble hockey as a break from the exhibits for Terry Fox, Rick Hansen, and the BC Winter Olympics. Fast forward to March 30, 2025. BC hockey historian and organizer Helen Edwards heard about this custom hockey machine and arranged a ferry ride for it to be brought back to Victoria for the 100th anniversary celebration. As part of the festivities downtown, the actual Stanley Cup was brought in for folks to enjoy a photo with the trophy.

The bubble hockey machine was parked next to the Stanley Cup for families to enjoy a game after their photo. Next time you find yourself at BC Place for either a Lions game, Taylor Swift show, or even an AC/DC concert, feel free to stop at the BC Sports Hall of Fame to enjoy a bit of bubble-hockey fun, Made-in-Metchosin style.



Counter clockwise from top: Carpenters Kurt Wagner (left) and Kevin Tisdale (right) deliver the donated machine to its permanent home at the BC Sports Hall of Fame inside BC Place stadium. (BC Sports Hall of Fame Curator Shelby McCannel Photo) At the national family doctor conference, Jessica (left) and Stella (right) play a round. (Robert O’Connor photo) The historic players were kindly custom painted by Gaye Goldie. (Robert O’Connor photo) The custom machine completed its construction in Metchosin. (Robert O’Connor photo) Young fans gather around the Bubble Hockey machine in Oak Bay, during Victoria Cougars’ 100th year anniversary of winning the Stanley Cup. The actual Stanley Cup showed up for photos with fans, too. The Cougars were the last non-NHL team to win the Cup. (Rob O’Connor photo)

MIGHTY METCHOSIN GARAGE SALE!

The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale is known for incredible finds and clean, quality items! It’s a great time to get your donations ready!

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

- | | | |
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NO DROP-OFFS ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE SALE WEEKEND

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24 & 25

9-3

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Baha'i Writings


Come gather as a community to pray for peace

Everyone is welcome to join us for a pancake breakfast followed by prayers, inspirational readings and messages of peace.


When/Where: 10am first Sunday of the month at the Metchosin Community House.



PEACE



PRAYERS



PANCAKES

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Sponsored by the Metchosin Baha'i community.

The Language of Cricket

Johnny Carline

If your son came home and said, "I bowled a maiden over today," you might be pleased that his self-confidence was increasing. If, however, he increased that to four, or even six maidens, you might be concerned that your parental guidance had gone astray. But fear not, he was simply using the mysterious language of cricket in which "bowling a maiden over" consists of bowling six consecutive legal deliveries without conceding a run.

The language of cricket is part of the sport's joy and there are not just books on cricket full of it, but there are even books addressed solely to the language of cricket. So, within the limits of a Muse article, I cannot begin to do it justice. But, maybe a small taste will suffice.

Many find the language of cricket difficult, not just because of their unfamiliarity with it, but also because of its ambiguity. The same word can mean many different things. I'll use the word "wicket" as my example. It means the twenty-two yards by ten feet (attempts to transfer cricket to a metric language are doomed to failure) stretch of field with sets of three stumps at either end, where the action of a cricket match is focussed. If it has recently rained and the field is just beginning to dry out, it may be called a "sticky wicket" – not because clumps of dirt stick to your shoes, but because a clever bowler can

make a ball deviate unpredictably on such a surface, putting the batter in a "sticky" situation.

But "wicket" is also the word describing the set of three stumps the batter defends, and if a batter accidentally whacks the stumps rather than the ball, he is called "out, hit wicket!" The word "stump" is used because originally the target was a convenient tree stump. When something more portable was desired, it was modeled on the little gates used to enter the temporary pens erected by shepherds, which were known as "wickets". However, if a batter is said to have "lost his wicket", it does not mean that he is wandering around the field wondering where the stumps are. He simply has been called "out", ending his turn as a batter.

"Wicket" is also used to describe the partnership between two batters (there are always two batters "in" at the same time – one facing the bowler and trying to score and the other at the "bowler's end" waiting to run to the other end should the opportunity arise.) So, a third wicket partnership is that between the fourth batter to come in and the one of the three first batters who is still surviving.

When a batter is out, in most cases the bowler is credited with "taking his wicket" and an important bowling statistic is how many wickets a bowler is credited with, set against the number of runs conceded off his bowling.

But describing fielding yields the richest cricket terminology. When facing the bowler, the batter will stand on one side of the wicket or the other, depending on whether he is right or left-handed. The side on which he stands is then appropriately known as the leg side and the opposite is the off side. The former yields fielding position-names such as "fine leg" (behind the batter), "square leg" (level with the batter) and "long on" (a long way in front of the batter). Off-side fielders may be "slips" or "in the gully" (behind the batsman), in the "covers" (level or somewhat in front of the batter) or "long off" (a long way in front of the batter). However, some fielding places are very close to the batter, ten feet or so, and these rejoice in names such as "short leg", "silly point", "silly mid on" and "silly mid off". Having been knocked unconscious after being struck by the ball in one of those positions, I can testify that they are well-named.

I will conclude this episode by relating the story of a television broadcast which turned on the commentator's use of the word "tickle," used to describe a ball which just touches the edge of the bat, often leading to a catch by the wicketkeeper or slips. The cameras focused on the English captain fielding at leg slip. "There is Cowdrey", the commentator intoned, "crouching down, waiting for a tickle down the leg."

Ah, the language of cricket!

The Goose

Steve Lee

Twenty five years ago my wife and I moved to Metchosin from downtown Victoria following my early retirement. Not yet fifty years old, I was full of energy and took to hobby farming with a passion, trying everything from chickens, sheep and even a brief, forgettable foray into cattle farming on our little two and a half acre patch. For recreation we hiked all the spectacular backcountry trails around Metchosin, often twisting ankles and knees on the irregular paths. Well all that, for better or worse, is behind us now. Almost all our hiking now is along various sections of the Galloping Goose trail. We are so blessed to have this unique amenity, twisting its way throughout our community providing us with quiet, safe, nature trails. We've been walking various sections of it now for years and keep discovering new little hidden features. Unlike most other trails in this region where you must at all times keep both eyes cast down to avoid a devastating knee injury, the flat, smooth Galloping Goose trail allows

your mind to wander, taking in the beauty of nature and contemplating the origins of the old railway line that it once was, over a hundred years ago.

If you look closely you might find small piles of old sleepers (railway ties), off to the side of the trail buried under moss and forest litter, and even perhaps a few sleepers still embedded in the trail itself. Then there are the old concrete culverts, some still with steel markers at the side of the trail so their locations could be identified by the railway maintenance crews. A few of these culverts are at the base of very high "fills" which begs the question, what happens when a debris flow plugs the culvert and backs up the water until the fill blows out? Food for thought. I wonder if anybody regularly inspects them?

Then there are the hidden little gems that get me excited: the telegraph poles. From the time railways came into being up until the modern era, all railway lines had adjacent telegraph lines for communications that facilitated railway operations. This was just a single cable strung between

untreated poles erected at regular intervals beside the railway line. Atop these poles was a cross piece with protruding, threaded wooden dowels. Onto these threaded dowels was screwed a glass insulator with the cable looped around it. By the late 1950's the telegraph lines were mostly obsolete, at least I like to think so.

I googled "Galloping Goose telegraph poles" and found one fellow who claimed there was only one pole remaining; another claimed there were some still up near Leechtown. Well, if you keep your eyes peeled and look carefully, which is easy when walking the Goose, you will in fact find plenty here around Metchosin, like the very well preserved pole near km 29 on the Trail near Matheson Lake. Many still have the crossbars with the short steel support rods, and although you can still often see the wooden dowels at the top, alas, I have yet to see an intact glass insulator. So, next time you're walking the Goose see if you can find some of these historic artifacts and try to avoid the speeding E bikes.



MLA Dana Lajeunesse to Speak May 8 at Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association AGM

Alison LeDuc

The Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association (BWHPA) Annual General Meeting will be held May 8 at 7:00 pm at the SVI Rangers Hall, 3498 Luxton Road (off Happy Valley Road).
Bilston Watershed stretches from areas north and west of Sooke Road through creeks in the Centre Mountain and Latoria neighbourhoods, taking in tributaries between Lindholm and Kangaroo Road, ultimately flowing into

Witty’s Lagoon via Sitting Lady Falls. Bilston Watershed covers 3,129 hectares and includes small sections in Colwood and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.
The AGM will kick off with a PowerPoint presentation of BWHPA activities in the past year and our ambitious plans for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, including an expanded water testing program, flow monitoring, riparian restoration projects and volunteer training.
Continue on page 10.

Metchosin Pickleball Club Introductory Sessions and Continued Play Prove Popular

Carol Voyt, Metchosin Pickleball Club

Since last November, Metchosin Pickleball Club (MPC) founding members have facilitated eight introductory pickleball sessions attended by 60+ players. For most of these players, their session with MPC was their first experience with pickleball. Sessions were very capably taught by long term Metchosin residents Wayne and Myrna Forland. If you missed out and would like an opportunity to give pickleball a try, please email MPC at

metchosinpickleball@gmail.com. We will keep a list of interested parties and will contact you when we can offer additional introductory sessions. For those of you with pickleball experience looking to join a group, please email MPC with your request. In addition to your name and email address, please provide your phone number(s), an indication of your level of play (if you know it) and number of months/years playing pickleball. We will try to connect you with players that have a similar skill set. Let’s play pickleball!

April Discussion of the Official Community Plan and Housing

Anne Richmond

April 8 was the seventh Housing Initiative Collaborative (HIC) meeting. We started with an overview of the Official Community Plan (OCP): what its purpose is (to document current consensus on the community’s vision of its future); why the province is requesting review of the OCP by December 2025 (to ensure the plan allows for development of housing in line with Metchosin’s Housing Needs Report); and the structure of the OCP (descriptive elements describing the population, natural and built environment, statements on the community’s objectives, and the policies that support those objectives). We noted the current public engagement processes on OCP reviews in neighbouring communities, and that we were not aware of such a process planned in Metchosin, although the OCP itself calls for review and update every five years. The current OCP was developed in 1995, updated in 2010, and there have been 22 subsequent amendments up to September 2020. A lively discussion followed the presentation, initially in small groups and then as a whole, and some of the main points were:
Adequacy and accuracy of the factual/ descriptive parts of the OCP.
• Much of the factual information (population, dwellings etc.) has not been updated and doesn’t reflect information relevant to projecting 20-30 years ahead.
• Information on actual dwellings and occupancy may be very inaccurate
Current environment and community consensus on a future vision.
• The original purpose of Metchosin’s OCP was to ensure that its rural character was preserved. This has to a great degree been achieved, as Metchosin’s character is very different from its neighbours.
• There was agreement that Metchosin’s unique and rurally oriented character should be preserved, but that the context for that vision has changed significantly since 1986. Factors such as dramatically increased land values, opportunities for home-based work and short

term rentals potentially impact on how a rural character is understood and maintained.
• The group felt that there should be scope for exploring how the OCP’s statements of objectives for Metchosin’s future could better reflect the current and future context and community views.
The Village Centre
• Many people supported the idea of a more robust plan for the Village Centre: providing more services and more opportunities for living and working.
• Taking the Village Centre out of the ALR and encouraging more development, including housing, within that area was an idea many wanted to see discussed as part of the OCP review.
Diversifying the tax base and making it more resilient.
• Currently the OCP emphasizes residential uses for land, and limits options for commercial and industrial use which would potentially provide a more sustainable source of tax revenue.
• People emphasized that they would want such development only in one or two limited areas: the village centre, and in areas adjoining Colwood or Langford where water and sewers were available.

A more flexible approach to land use decisions to preserve rural character.
• People would like to see the OCP be clear about principles and objectives: such as maintaining agricultural viability and preserving open and woodland spaces, while allowing for some flexibility. For example:
• Allowing for development of larger parcels as clusters (already in the OCP but in a limited way) to concentrate housing and protect larger areas of open land.
• Allowing for the development of agricultural co-housing/cooperatives to improve access to farming.
• Balancing protection of larger parcels of land while allowing for smaller lots in other areas.
• Enabling a wider range of housing options.
• Aging parents and their children with young families would benefit from being able to create good housing options on their land.


- Seniors who wish to downsize, remain in the community and reside in a supportive environment.
- Existing models of garden suites, carriage houses and other types of housing could be incorporated in Metchosin’s overall vision.
- Suites and secondary buildings are an important source of income for some Metchosin residents.

Simplifying the OCP and avoiding conflicts with other legislation.
• The current OCP includes many detailed provisions which may conflict with other legislation such as the ALR and Building Code, as well as Metchosin’s bylaws.
• As the purpose of the OCP is to state the community consensus, it should focus on higher level goals that are implemented through detailed bylaws such as Land Use and Building.
The meeting concluded with a good discussion on the extent to which Council was aware of the opinions and ideas being expressed in the meeting. The HICs encourages people to write to Council raising concerns about the OCP review process. The HICs are developing a survey on issues of concern on housing among Metchosin residents. Find a link to it on our Facebook page or contact us at metchosin-hic@shaw.ca.

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
Business Card (V) – 2”w x 3.5”h	\$56.00	\$44.00
4”w x 4”h	\$86.00	\$71.00
1/6 page (H) – 4”w x 5”h	\$110.00	\$86.00
1/6 page (V) – 6”w x 3.3”h	\$110.00	\$86.00
1/4 page (H) – 5”w x 7.5”h	\$145.00	\$136.00
1/2 page (H) – 10.5”w x 7.5”h	\$320.00	\$276.00
Header 10.3”w x 2”h	\$110.00	\$95.00
Full Page Ad (if available)	\$630.00	n/a
Insert - 8.5” x 11”	\$295.00	n/a
Classified (25 Words)	\$20.00	n/a

Ad Booking Deadline: 15th of each month
Advertising is grayscale/CMYK format. Camera-ready ads only. In PDF (images minimum 200dpi). For more information contact Al Murray at al@metchosin-muse.com or 250-383-7343



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www.frontrunners.ca

Metchosin Seniors’ Association: Helping to Meet the Needs of Seniors in our Community

Just over one quarter of Metchosin’s population is over the age of 65, and an undeniable fact of aging is that at some point we or a member of our family may need to reach out for support. The Metchosin Seniors’ Association (MSA) operating as the Seniors’ Resource Centre (SRC) has been working to help meet this need for over ten years.

In June of 2024, Yvonne Cottrell became the new manager of the SRC. It is she, supported by the Board of Directors and many capable and kind volunteers, who connects seniors with the support and services requested.

In 2024, close to 360 requests for information were received. The manager responded to questions such as, “Who could seniors turn to for handywork or help in the garden?” “Who might be able to help with homeowner grants or tax filing?” “Who could help complete government forms online?” “Who could assist with information on health or estate matters?”

Addressing requests for transportation, social connection, and help with technology, Yvonne coordinated volunteers who contributed over 400 hours of their time,

- Driving seniors to a total of 91 medical appointments, logging nearly 3,000 kilometers.

-Helping with 229 visits and wellness checks

- a phone call and chat, a personal visit or a bi-monthly gathering in the SRC.
- helping 25 people with their technical devices.

Eleven educational and health information sessions at the SRC drew attendance ranging in number from 7 to 15.

Other accomplishments of 2024 include:

- Selling all 250 tickets for the Gourmet Dinner (a fundraising project yielding \$5,000 to support the work of the SRC).

- The Parisian Café, always on the first Saturday in June in the courtyard of the MACCA, attracted 70 people who came to enjoy coffee, delicious pastries and conversation, maybe even in French. Thank you to local individuals, organizations, and businesses who make generous donations to cover the costs of this popular event, the plein air artists who add to the ambiance, and our volunteer servers.

- Four hundred vaccinations were given on November 2, when the Metchosin Pharmacy partnered with the Metchosin Fire Department, and the MSA coordinated volunteers, for Metchosin’s Flu and Vaccination Clinic. Eighty percent of those attending were seniors.

- The Christmas Lights Tour provided an opportunity for 24 seniors (some of whom no longer drive at night) to see the holiday lights. Thank you

to LA Limos for the donation of a small bus and driver.

- In partnership with the Community House, the program of Pearson College students visiting seniors was successfully reintroduced.

- Also in cooperation with the Community House, a team of volunteer chefs made delicious individual portions of soup for pick up from the SRC or Community House and the Soup Social was introduced.

- In partnership with the Family Caregivers of BC, the SRC is used once a month for a meeting of caregivers providing support to family or friends.

The MSA Board along with the manager of the SRC gratefully acknowledge the support of the District of Metchosin and the Province of BC’s United Way Better at Home Program. Many thanks as well to all our wonderful volunteers. The MSA looks forward to continuing to do all we can to keep Metchosin an age-friendly community in which seniors thrive and may remain in their own homes for as long as they are able, supported by collaborative community organizations.

(The information above is taken from the MSA 2024 Annual Report submitted to Metchosin Council in March 2025.)



Above: As part of the Metchosin Seniors Resource Centre’s “Better at Home” program, Metchosin seniors are invited to gather at the SRC office at MACCA on “Wellness Wednesdays,” the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm for coffee, goodies and a great social time. To join the program, which offers an impressive list of helpful services to seniors – including a ride to Wellness Wednesdays! – contact Manager Yvonne Cottrell at the SRC office, 250-478-5150.



Above: Yvonne Cottrell, Manager of the SRC(R), with Metchosin resident Anne Greenwood(L). Diana Clare photo.


METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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

May 2025

Opportunity Knocks.

MACCA has begun the process of casting about for community volunteers who would be interested in serving on the Association Board of Directors. You don’t have to be an artist to be involved in the arts. Join our enthusiastic crew and help to manage the Art Centre in the old school building. Arrange for a tour and a chat by writing to info@metchosinartcentre.ca



“Jade” by Diana Farrell

POV Hallway Galleries

Feature Artists

Diana Farrell, Pastel Artist

Soft pastels breathe life into ethereal scenes and soulful portraits, capturing the quiet magic of nature and the intimate beauty of the human spirit.

Westmont School, Grades 7 & 8 Fine Art students

This year-end show entitled “Our Voices” is both creative and thought provoking being focused on political and activist art.

Anita Doorncamp, Encaustic Artist


Pieces of bright, colorful, and cheerful images full of texture and joy.

Angela Menzies, Illustrative work from “Sammi’s Worry”

For the first time since the publication of this children’s book Angela’s intriguing original illustrations will be on display.

What a great outing to celebrate Mother’s Day.

Everyone welcome.

 Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

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

Atmospheric

The Alchemy of Atmospheric Firing



Fired Up! Show & Sale Featuring 16 Ceramic Artists
May 24 & 25 · Sat-Sun · 10 am - 5 pm

Fired Up!

Contemporary Works in

CLAY



Metchosin to Host Exhibition
(Continued from page 1)

The embroidery was entirely hand-stitched by an army of volunteer locals and visitors that totaled 12,518 individuals from 150 countries on 6 continents. All participants were taught the special stitches, and then painstakingly sewed the tales onto 91.16 metres of carefully prepared, 50 cm wide fabric. The finished Njalurefill would exceed the former world-record length of the Bayeux Tapestry by 71 feet (21.7 metres). Begun on February 2, 2013, it was estimated that the project would take 10 years.

All of the yarn used for the tapestry was made from local Icelandic sheep’s wool, and hand-dyed with natural plant dyes. The very first stitches were sewn by Icelandic adventurer Vilborg Arna Gissurardottir, the only woman ever to have summited Mt. Everest and also trekked to the South Pole. The Saga of Njal Tapestry was completed on September 15, 2020, 2 ½ years ahead of schedule.

The region in which the great Icelandic sagas were born has a tumultuous history. It lies in the shadow of an active volcano, Eyjafallajokull. Over thousands of years of repeated eruptions, the volcano has created a large, elevated plain of deep, rich volcanic soils in the southern part of the country, surrounded by mountains and the sea. This is Iceland’s only large area of arable land, and was the subject of conflicts and calamities both human and climatic, deeds both egregious and heroic: the very stuff of sagas. Eruptions of the volcano caused great hardship. Crops and livestock were decimated, people starved. Feuds raged and battles were fought over who would control the land that

produced the food, who would survive the harsh winters. A “library” of sagas has been preserved in the Icelanders’ oral tradition, from the time of settlement in the 870s until the island’s conversion to Christianity and the rise of written language in the 11th Century. The sagas contain many lessons about greed, vengeance and betrayal, as well as documenting the nation’s history and lore. For Canadians of Icelandic descent, the sagas continue to be a meaningful bond with the culture of their ancestors and extended families.

The most recent eruption of Eyjafallajokull occurred in 2010. Its plumes of corrosive ash and gases disrupted airline traffic, ruined crops, killed livestock, and darkened the skies on and off for months. Across Europe, over an eight-day period after the eruption, some 105,000 European flights were cancelled. Perhaps the lessons of the sagas, along with new technologies, enabled Icelanders to avoid major feuds and endure with cooperation and calm resolve.

In addition to the week-long viewing of the Njals Saga Tapestry, Claudia Petursson will give two evening lectures, provide tours for school groups, and provide two days of hands-on embroidery workshops, where attendees will learn and practice the stitches using the same materials as the original. All events will be free of charge (donations are always welcome!), and embroidery kits with individual scenes from the tapestry and original, hand-dyed Icelandic yarns, will be available for purchase. For dates, times and more information, visit the MACCA website: www.metchosinartcentre.ca.



In the foreground on the right, the artist, Kristín Ragna Gunnarsdóttir, who drew all the images of the tapestry. The community has gathered to sew at the Saga Center.



Young stitcher celebrates her 7th birthday by sewing on the tapestry.



Founders, Gunnhildur Edda Kristjánsdóttir and Christina M. Bengtsson testing the wool dyes, made from local plants.



Detail of angry woman from the Njals Saga Tapestry.

The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale & You

Here's your chance to wear the coveted and fashionable MCA Orange Safety Vest! Help customers make purchases, keep the displays organized. Sign up for your favourite department and be part of this great community event. Volunteer Opportunities! We have openings for Department Leads in the following departments:

Bikes!
Put your bicycle knowledge and experience to good use!

Crafts, Puzzles & Games!
A department full of fun.

Electrical & Small Appliances!
Are people shocked when they find out about your extensive electrical knowledge?

Holding Corral!
Babysit other people's purchases before they pick them up.

Sporting Goods!
You'll have a ball leading this department. Bring your whole team.

Call or email The Metchosin Community House to volunteer. 250-478-5155 | mcahouse@telus.net

Donation Receiving & Sorting.
This is where the fun begins! Meet the nicest, most generous people in Metchosin and help them unload their treasures.

Saturday, May 17 – Thursday, May 22 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Pick a day, pick a shift then call or email.

Sale Days – May 24 & 25
First Shift: 9:00 am – noon |
Second Shift: Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Post Sale Clean-up

This is where the real heroes shine. Clean up, recycling and disposal. If you have a good truck we might be able to reimburse your gas and dump expenses.

For more information:
Metchosin Community Association, 4430 Happy Valley Road, Victoria BC 250-478-5155
mcahouse@telus.net.



Above: Jim & Ken: Gentlemen, start your mowers



Above: Ina and her jugs. B.Sawatsky



Above: Judith goes for a test drive. B.Sawatsky

Below: Not for Sale! B.Sawatsky



Left: Byron finds a treasure. B.Sawatsky

Below: Lineup before opening. B.Sawatsky



The Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale is May 24th & 25th!

Experience the Marvel of Race Rocks

Andre Meesschaert

Pearson College United World College (UWC) is extending their support of KULE again by offering interpretive boat tours to Race Rocks. This is your chance to participate and see the exceptional variety of marine life found on and around the collection of islands, rocks and reefs. Race Rocks is a BC Parks ecological reserve, jointly managed with Pearson College UWC. The light-house, the second oldest on the Canadian West Coast, is managed by the Canadian Coast Guard and is vital to the safe passage through the Juan de Fuca straits.

Pearson College UWC empowers students from around the world through International Baccalaureate (IB) education, experiential learning and a commitment to cultural understanding. Pearson students have participated in KULE missions since its inception 25 years ago (www.pearsoncollege.ca) KULE is a non-profit which brings together volunteers from around the world to make a difference in rural communities in Kenya and Uganda. ([www.KULE foundation.com](http://www.KULEfoundation.com)) The trips are offered at a donation (tax receipts available) of a minimum of \$100 per person. All funds raised go directly as bursaries for Pearson students to

participate in the 2025 KULE summer program in Kenya. The dates for these tours are yet to be finalized as they are very dependent on the weather conditions. The provisional dates for the tours will be in the weeks of May 26 or June 2. As we close in on the weather forecasts, the actual dates will be finalized. For more information, or to register your interest in participating in one of the tours, please contact Andre Meesschaert at ameessch@gmail.com or on 250-880-6700. Don't miss this once-a-year-only chance to see and experience this vibrant and ecological reserve and the wildlife it supports.

KULE (Kumbuka Universal Learning Experiences) is a non-profit organization that brings together volunteers from around the world to make a difference in the rural communities of Kenya and Uganda. They are an international and non-profit organization registered both in Kenya and Canada.



METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION “HOUSE HAPPENINGS”

VIHA Adult Day Program	Monday, Wed., Thurs	10:00 am-2:00 pm
Evening Knitting Café	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Weights & Measures	Tuesdays	8:20 am-9:45 am
Drop-In Art Group	Tuesdays	9:45 am-12:45 pm
Afternoon Knitting Café	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Conversational Spanish	Wednesdays	5:00 pm-6:00 pm
Creative Rug Hooking	Fridays	12:00 am-3:00 pm
Parents & Tots Program	Friday Mornings	9:30 am-11:30 pm
Friday Social	Last Friday of the Month	1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Ukulele Gathering	3rd Friday of the Month	5:00 pm-6:30 pm
Friday Night Films	Last Friday of the Month	6:00 pm-10:00 pm

NOTE: HOUSE PROGRAMS WILL BE “ON HOLD” DURING GARAGE SALE WEEK. MAY 17-25

MIGHTY METCHOSIN GARAGE SALE!

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DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS
SAT., MAY 17 - THURS., MAY 22 • 10 am - 2 pm

NO DROP-OFFS FRIDAY BEFORE THE SALE WEEKEND

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CONTRACT OR HOURLY RATES

MLA
Continued from page 6. Metchosin Foundation director Morgan Yates will give an update on the Foundation's multi-year Bilston Conservation Corridor Project, which aims to secure an interconnected corridor of protected habitats in the heart of Bilston Watershed. The Metchosin Foundation recently facilitated the acquisition of the 32-acre Bilston Headwaters Nature Reserve, as a first step in the Conservation Corridor Project. Juan de Fuca-Malahat MLA Dana Lajeunesse, elected in November 2024 to represent Metchosin residents (among others), will come straight from the Legislature the evening of May 8 to address topics of interest to BWHPA

question and answer period will be followed by the AGM business section of the meeting (treasurer's report and election of directors). The BWHPA will display our new 3D watershed model, funded by the Canada Water Agency and crafted locally by Soren Henrich of Watershed Moment. Soren made the Bowker Creek watershed model that many have seen at community events. Maps and displays will include the new BWHPA brochure and the most recent CRD map showing revised watershed boundaries. Everyone interested in Bilston Watershed is welcome! Light refreshments including Aquifer 606 water will be available. Email bilstonwatershed@gmail.com with any questions.

members and guests. A short

“Atmospheric” Fired Up! -- Contemporary Works in Clay 2025

Katie Pirquet

The members and guest exhibitors of Fired Up! have planned an exciting 41st anniversary ceramic arts show and sale this year, featuring a wide range of styles and techniques used to transform blobs of wet clay and powdered minerals into spectacular, intriguing, often useful, always masterfully crafted works of art. As in past years, it will be no ordinary pottery sale.

Sixteen ceramic artists will present their latest work on this year’s theme, “Atmospheric,” featuring creative explorations of many different firing methods that alter the atmospheric conditions within the kiln. Use of combustible materials such as leaves, grass, coal, wood, sawdust, straw, and/or minerals like salt and soda, can create myriad – sometimes surprising -- colours, shading and textural effects on the surface of the clay. Temperature and position in the kiln also influence the final result.

Many of the techniques chemically “starve” the kiln of oxygen, reducing some of the metal oxides in the glazes to their elemental metallic form.



Handbuilt, smoke fired porcelain stones by Samantha Dickie. S.Dickie photo

Others produce ash, carbon soot and smoke that deposit new marks or shadows, and affect the texture of the surface. Some techniques, such as saggar, raku and Obvara are traditional technologies with long histories. Every piece is unique because the processes inside the kiln are largely random, unpredictable and unreproducible. It’s a sort of alchemy that is only somewhat controllable by the artist.

Fired Up! was the brain-child of renowned Metchosin ceramicists, the late Robin Hopper, and his wife, Judi Dyelle, who still lives and works in Metchosin. In 1984, they brought together 12 ceramic artists with a vision to highlight a wide variety of modern methods and styles, and to promote appreciation of ceramics as a highly developed art form with a long and remarkable history.

The Fired Up! members are well-known across North America, and have exhibited in shows and galleries in Waterloo and London, Ontario, Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington, among others. They hold the distinction of being the longest running ceramic exhibition group in

Canada. There are now 28 members. The BC and Alberta core group, as is their custom, has invited six additional BC and Alberta artists to participate in this year’s Metchosin Fired Up! show and sale, to be held as usual during the last weekend in May.

Where? Metchosin Community Hall, 4401 Metchosin Road.

When? Saturday May 24 & Sunday May 25, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Assemblage of pods, smoke fired porcelain by Samantha Dickie. 50 components. Created as a private commission in 2023. Cathi Jefferson photo.


Left: Reduction fired, porcelain charger plate by Peter Flanagan. Daphne Flanagan photo.

Below Gordon Hutchens stokes his Anagama wood kiln on Denman Island. Photographer, unknown.



Cups by Cathi Jefferson. Cathi Jefferson photo

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Activist Malala Yousafzai and Pearson College UWC Team up for Education Equality for Girls



Malala celebrates 50-year anniversary in London, England with Canada High Commissioner Ralph Goodale and distinguished speakers. Pearson College photo

Pearson College UWC and Malala Yousafzai have aligned missions to create a scholarship for females from Pakistan and Afghanistan to study at Pearson. The scholarship removes the financial and access barriers to education that can exist in those countries and will allow the selected students to join the mission-based, experiential learning program on Canada’s only UWC campus. The new scholarship in honour of the Nobel Peace Prize winner secures opportunities for females to study in Canada on the shores of the traditional territory of the SC’IAEW First Nation

“The United World Colleges give students a learning experience they may otherwise never be able to access,” said Jason McBride, Head of Pearson College. “Partnering with Malala ensures we’ll continue to break barriers to education and create changemakers who can further the mission around the world.”

Yousafzai knows the challenges better than most. She was shot on a school bus at the age of 15 for speaking out in support of education for females and has become a beacon for those denied that opportunity. According to the Malala Fund there are more than 120 million girls out of school every day, and she is committed to finding a seat for everyone.

“I travel to many countries to meet girls fighting poverty, wars, child marriage and gender discrimination to go to school,” said Malala Yousafzai, co-founder of the Malala Fund. “We are working so that their stories, like mine, can be heard and together with Pearson we can amplify the message.”

Hassin Mehtarkhil has lived that same fight for education. A student from Afghanistan in her final year at Pearson College, it was the scholarship she earned that gave her an opportunity that otherwise wouldn’t have been available.

“I’m one of the lucky people from Afghanistan and having access to education inspires me so much,” said Mehtarkhil. “I see myself in the future as one of the top lawyers focused on girls’ education and I want everyone to have access to education along with justice and fairness in the world.”

The selection process to identify the first recipient of the Malala Yousafzai Peace Scholarship will begin as soon as possible with an intake target for August 2026.



Malala Yousafzai and Pearson College Head of School, Jason McBride announce the Malala Yousafzai Peace Scholarship for Pakastani and Afghani girls. Pearson College photo



Doris Truscott knitting by her garden gate. Nylander family photo.

Doris M. Truscott November 08, 1929 - March 17, 2025

Marjorie Nylander

Doris was the first child born to Harry and Mary Creasser in Kelliher, Saskatchewan. The young family came to the Metchosin area in 1930, eventually settling on Rocky Point Road and over the next 20 years six more children were added to the family. Doris began school first at East Sooke and then Rocky Point School when it opened. She and her siblings walked three miles each day to the little one-room school.

When she was ready to start high school she had to get up early and walk to Taylor Road each day to catch the old Veteran Stages bus that would take her to Victoria High School. She enjoyed school but it was a long and tiring day, so with still another two years of high school left, she decided to leave school and find a job in Victoria. It also meant leaving home and she found a place to board where she could walk to her job.

After working at various places in about 1948, she started working at the old Bank of Montreal on Government Street. In the next few years, she worked at different branches around Victoria and finally finished her banking career at CIBC in 1964. She married Lewis Truscott in 1950 and Lewis always had a yen to go

farming in the Peace River area. So, in 1964, they packed up and left to buy a farm near Eureka River, Alberta. It was a sad day for the family she left behind; they were moving such a long way away. Doris drove a little Volkswagen and Lewis drove a good-sized farm truck, filled with their possessions. They stayed in the Peace River area for nearly 40 years, the last few years at Fairview Alta.

Doris always missed her family who was so far away on the Island and in 2003 she got her wish when they returned to the Metchosin area and moved in with her brother Stuart on Morland Road. Lewis passed away in 2007 and in 2022 Stuart died suddenly. Doris, then in her nineties, made the decision to move to the Trillium retirement home at Colwood, where she spent the final two years of her life.

Doris was always ready to go somewhere or do something at the drop of a hat. She loved to tell stories of how she and her siblings roamed the forests and hills near our home on Rocky Point Road.

Throughout her life, Doris remained firm in her resolve to “carry on” even in the face of unimaginable heartbreak, she had great faith in God and her church and the Christian community helped her get through challenging situations in her life. Doris will be very much missed by her brothers, Clarence (Joyce), Ray (Elinor) and Don (Felice), and sisters, Marjorie and Joan (Mike), as well as many nieces and nephews, and many friends whom she loved dearly.

COMMITTED TO METCHOSIN

Secure Finances and Ecological Protection

Councillor Steve Gray

Conversations welcome.

Reach me at

SGray@Metchosin.ca
250 478 5066



@metchosinsteve

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WILDE, Shirley Diane (nee Higgins)

August 16, 1933 – March 18, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved mother and Nana, Shirley.

She will be greatly missed and dearly remembered by her twin sons Dean (Diane) and Douglas (Valerie), grandsons Bradley (Angela) and Bryan, granddaughters Rebecca (Alex), Sophia (Jack) and great grandson Colter. She will also be remembered by her sister Norzie and many other relatives and friends.

Our mother led a very active life. She studied nursing at Ryerson in Toronto, then served in the RCAF Military Police and retired from Western Special Investigation Unit. She was a realtor in Victoria for 28 years. Mom was very political and served as Chairman of the CRD and was the last Regional Director of Metchosin, leading them to incorporation. She was also a Certified Professional Parliamentarian. Mom owned and operated Gracefield Manor Bed and Breakfast, and had worked as a property manager for many years.

We will treasure her memory and the legacy she has left behind. Special thanks to the Unit A1 care team at Veterans Memorial Lodge for taking such wonderful care of Mom while she was a resident there. Flowers are gratefully declined but if so chosen, donations can be sent to Veterans Memorial Lodge at Broadmead. At Moms request there will be a private family service held at a later date.

The Muse Traveller



Inspired by the centuries old-streets of Chipping Campden, Jay Shukin pulls out the April Muse to reconnect with home. The photo catches the moment someone shouted at Shukin from a passing car, “Hey, watch those local taxes!” The person was gone before Shukin could respond with “The increase is under 4% this year!” Nicole Shukin Photo.

Share the Muse with your friends!
www.metchosinmuse.ca

JOHN TIPTON’S FABULOUS CARROT CAKE

3 Cups flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
1 pound carrots, grated
1 C butter
1 C brown sugar
1 C white sugar
4 eggs
2 Tbsp grated lemon rind
2 Tbsp grated orange rind
1 C chopped walnuts
1 C seedless raisins

Lightly grease and flour a bundt pan.
Sift dry ingredients and set aside.
Beat butter with brown and white sugar until light and fluffy – about 5 minutes.
Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition.
Mix in lemon & orange rinds then stir in dry mixture, 1/3 at a time, to wet ingredients and mix well.
Bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool in pan approx. 20 minutes.

Glaze: 3 oz. cream cheese, 1 Tbsp lemon juice, 1 tsp lemon rind, 1 1/2 C icing sugar. Beat until smooth.
Spread on cooled cake. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts.



Tipton china@museum

John Tipton (L) and Bert Harrison (R) meet in the Pioneer Museum in the “dining room”. On the table and the window seat shelves to the left & right of the hutch is Lillian Helgesen’s wedding china that John very recently donated to the museum. Lillian Helgesen was John’s great-grandmother - his mother, Isabel (Helgesen) Tipton’s grandmother. B.Sawatsky photo.

METCHOSIN

Seniors’ Resource Centre

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

Spring is in the air! Learn about Healthy Eating, Birds and Dealing with Conflict!

SAVE THE DATE!

June 7, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Save the Date! The Parisian Cafe will be held on Saturday, June 7, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the courtyard in front of the MACCA. We hope to see you there!

LIFELINE PRESENTATION WITH BRIAN FALCON

Thursday, May, 1st 1:00 – 2:00pm

Safety & Freedom at Your Fingertips
Learn how Lifeline gives you and your family peace of mind.
Home Safety: Get help instantly even if you can’t reach a phone.
Mobile Security: Stay safe on the go with 24/7 assistance.
Live confidently, knowing help is always a button press away!
Call or email SRC to save your spot! 250-478-5150
info@metchosinseniors.ca

WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, May, 5th 10:00 to 11:30am

Metchosin Seniors’ Resource Centre
4495 Happy Valley Road
Join us for Coffee and Support.
Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

CELEBRATE BIRD WEEK AND DISCOVER METCHOSIN’S FEATHERED FRIENDS!

Wednesday, May, 14th from 1:00 am to 2:00 pm

Join us Wednesday, May 14th from 1:00 am to 2:00 pm for a fun and informative presentation on the beautiful birds that call Metchosin home! Presented by Terry Bird of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, this is a perfect event for bird lovers of all levels.
Call or email SRC to save your spot! 250-478-5150
info@metchosinseniors.ca

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, May, 22nd 10:00–11:30am

This free monthly support group brings together caregivers who share the experience of caring for family members or friends.
Facilitated by Family Caregivers of BC.
Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.
Call or email SRC to save your spot! 250-478-5150

DEALING WITH CONFLICT WITH DEBRA SWAIN, SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Thursday, May, 29th 1:00 – 2:00pm

Navigate Conflict with Confidence: Find Win-Win Solutions!
Conflict is inevitable, whether it’s over small disagreements or major life challenges. Learn practical communication strategies to calmly work through conflict and find solutions where everyone feels heard and valued. Discover how to transform

conflict into opportunities for understanding and growth.
Call or email SRC to hold your space 250-478-5150
info@metchosinseniors.ca

FRIDAY SOCIAL

May, 30th 1:00–3:00 pm

Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd.
Drop in for coffee and conversation. Hosted by Baha’is of Metchosin.
Please call the SRC 250-478-5150 for a ride.
Everyone is welcome! Call or email SRC to save your spot! 250-478-5150

JOIN OUR BETTER AT HOME PROGRAM

Enjoy visits or phone calls from our lovely volunteers, get a ride to a medical appointment or grocery shopping and more! This program assists older adults to live independently in their homes and remain connected to their communities by providing simple, non-medical support services. Visit the centre or call us to find out more.

BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER FOR ONLY \$20!

Your support helps keep Metchosin age-friendly and keeps you informed of how we are achieving that. You don’t have to be a senior to support us. Sign up on our website or stop in to receive regular updates for news and events.

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

Metchosin Farmers’ Market Opens on Mothers’ Day May 11

Carol Carman

On Sunday May 11 (Mothers’ Day) the Metchosin Farmers’ Market (MFM) is launching its 2025 season. Each Sunday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Western Community vendors will be offering edibles such as vegetables, fruits, preserves, and baked goods on the municipal grounds at 4450 Happy Valley Road. Creations including pottery, sewing and a range of crafts make each week’s experience even more interesting.

“Please come and enjoy browsing through the many stalls with music in the background and perhaps a barbequed Galloping Goose Sausage on a bun,” says MFM President Jacqui Anderson. “We have a really good mix of vendors returning this year, as well as several new faces. Everyone is welcome.” The market will run each Sunday until October 26, 2025. For further information go to metchosin-farmersmarket@gmail.com

Fire Department Call-Outs

MARCH 2025

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

Mar 1 Metchosin Road – Medical	Mar 20 Sooke Road – Motor Vehicle Accident
Mar 1 East Sooke Park – Rescue	Mar 20 Derrien Place – Fire
Mar 1 Neff Road – Fire	Mar 20 Sooke Mutual Aid – Fire
Mar 1 Brookview Road – Public Assist	Mar 20 Neff Road – Medical
Mar 1 Kangaroo Road – Medical	Mar 20William Head Road – Medical
Mar 4 Sooke Road – Medical	Mar 20 Happy Valley Road – Public Assist
Mar 5 Sooke Road – Medical	Mar 20 Albert Head Road – Medical
Mar 6 William Head Road – Medical	Mar 21 Sutiacum – Medical
Mar 8 Hi Mount Road – Medical	Mar 21 Stillmeadow Road – Medical
Mar 8 Glen Forest Way – Medical	Mar 21 Kangaroo Road – Medical
Mar 8 Parry Cross Road – Alarm Bells	Mar 21 Arden Road – Brush Fire
Mar 8 Albert Head – Beach Fire	Mar 22 Rocky Point Road – Brush Fire
Mar 9 Woodley Ghyll Dr – Medical	Mar 22 Metchosin Road – Medical
Mar 10 Happy Valley Road – Medical	Mar 24 Pearson College Dr – Medical
Mar 11 Lombard Road – Medical	Mar 24 Impala Road/Sooke Road – Public Assist
Mar 11 Lombard Road – Motor Vehicle Accident	Mar 25 Metchosin Road – Motor Vehicle Accident
Mar 13 Happy Valley Road – Public Assist	Mar 25 Happy Valley Road – Medical
Mar 14 Sooke Road – Medical	Mar 26 Sutiacum Road – Medical
Mar 14 Pears Road – Medical	Mar 26 Kangaroo Road – Motor Vehicle Crash
Mar 14 Sooke Road – Motor Vehicle Accident	Mar 27 Happy Valley Road – Public Assist
Mar 14 Kangaroo Road – Motor Vehicle Accident	Mar 28 William Head Road – Medical
Mar 16 Sooke Road – Fire	Mar 29 Delgada Road – Open Burn
Mar 16 Tiswilde Road – Motor Vehicle Accident	Mar 29 William Head Road – Medical
Mar 17 Sooke Road – Medical	Mar 29 Metchosin Road/Duke Road – Fire
Mar 17 Sutiacum Road – Fire	Mar 29 Sutiacum Road – Medical
Mar 18 Whale View Cresc. – Medical	Mar 30 Graceland Drive – Medical
Mar 19 Sooke Mutual Aid – Fire	Mar 31 William Head Road - Medical
Mar 19 Happy Valley / Derrien Place – Motor Vehicle Accident	

Important Dates & Events

Important Dates & Events

May 3-25	Metchosin Preschool fundraiser	p.3
May 8	Bilston WHPA AGM	p. 6
May 10	World Migratory Bird Day	p. 16
May 11	Mothers’ Day	
May 11	Farmers’ Market reopens	
May 12-19	MACCA Tapestry exhibition	p. 1
May 16	KULE Race Rocks Trip	P. 10
May 17	Gaza benefit dinner (sold out)	p. 3
May 24, 25	MCA Garage Sale	p. 4
May 24, 25	Fired Up art exhibition	p. 11
May 31	End of fire burning	p. 2

Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Metchosin couple, licensed RC Pilots, looking for fairly large open space for occasional flying electric planes. Please call Terry at 250-478-4335 to discuss rental/ donation.

Bella Yoga Studio

Yoga in the Neighbourhood - Duke Rd W.

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Mindful Moments - Come Explore
Hatha Yoga - & Move your body!



www.Bellayoga.ca
Georgia 250-391-0497 • Email georgia@bellayoga.ca



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
250-474-5155
mcahouse@telus.net
www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

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

METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB
250-474-601
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
westshorerffc.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.

PODs on the March for Liz – A Case Study

Erin Ronsse, Jeanette McMillan and Patti Williams

As part of the Metchosin Firefighters’ 2025 “March for Liz” litter removal event, several neighbourhood PODs in Albert Head banded together to do a comprehensive area cleanup.

By picking up litter from public right-of-ways along each of the area’s 21 roads, and from all trails and ditches, we were hoping that as many neighbours as possible could experience the benefits of a coordinated litter cleanup. We also wanted to benchmark the effort for future community stewardship and restoration efforts.

Key takeaways:

- Goal: To clean up litter in Albert Head from 23.9 km of public walkways, ditches and trails throughout the area’s 177 ha (440 acres)
- Volunteers: 30 people, ages 6–91, largely from Albert Head, but some from elsewhere in Metchosin and even from

Langford. Many thanks to all of them, and to the unsung heroes in our neighbourhoods who regularly pick up litter on their own. It’s a better place because you’re here.

- Time: 76 hours spread over four days
- Average time per volunteer: 2.5 hours
- Litter removed: 98 cubic feet (imagine two large pickup loads)
- Public value: \$1,748–\$2,560 (per calculation by volunteer.ca formula)
- Community benefit: neighbours in 289 numbered residences, plus fellow Metchosinites and others (humans and non-humans) who live in, visit or pass through the area
- Types of litter: cigarette butts, full dog poop bags, drink cans and plastic bottles, broken glass, fast food waste, construction debris, realty and election signs, garden pots and broken statues,

razors, styrofoam, disintegrating fake plants, various other recycling blow-arounds, and hundreds of bits of plastic.

Although the March for Liz event was set for a single four-hour slot on a Sunday, the firefighters generously allowed us to borrow tools early so that the Albert Head cleanup could occur over a four-day timeframe to enable as many interested neighbours as possible to participate. Volunteers were organized into litter picking teams to cover eight routes.

Together we found lots of litter—some rusted, broken or dated items that were clearly more than ten years old, and other items were yesterday’s fresh beer cans. We picked up everything we could reach without injury. Admittedly, brambles defeated us in a few cases.

Nevertheless, everything the volunteers picked up was taken to the firehall for disposal and recycling. But that’s not all.

It’s priceless when neighbours work together for the good of the

community, with some folks meeting each other for the first time. It’s valuable when multiple generations find a shared purpose in caring for our public spaces, making this place more welcoming for residents and visitors alike.

Research shows that “litter begets litter,” so if we turn things around in any particular area of Metchosin—and maintain it—our community can be a cleaner, healthier place for everyone to enjoy. Moreover, it’s been shown that most roadside litter is thrown from cars by drivers, and arterial and major roads tend to carry a greater concentration of litter per km than local roads, which suggests that there’s a tendency for people to litter in a place that they are only driving through.

The next community cleanup effort may well be easier because the 2025 “March for Liz” occurred. Neighbours now have practiced working together on litter removal, and additional volunteers are welcome to help with ongoing efforts. In this case, the average time spent was only 2.5 hours per person. That’s doable for so many of our neighbourhood PODs in Metchosin.



Left to right: Volunteers strike a pose, L-R: Matthew Webster, Janine Webster, Dawn Stoll, Erin Ronsse; credit Matthew Webster
Volunteers take a breather, L-R: Marj Vachell, Mike Duffy and David Shanks; credit Patti Williams
Jeanette McMillan helps finish the job; credit Dennis McMillan

Top: Intrepid young pickers brave the ditch; credit Tanya Penna
Bottom: Eight litter picking routes mapped for Albert Head; credit Erin Ronsse



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Life, After Litter

To the Pacific Chorus frogs and Northern Red-Legged frogs
who still sing lullabies in our ditches on spring nights,

To the Black bear
who once limped heavily on our trails, prying open any bin,

To the California quail
whose diminutive chicks will again bathe furtively in our roadside dust,

To the stricken Black-tailed deer
who bequeath us their bleached, sculpted skulls at our crash-prone intersections,

To the lagoon fish and waterfowl
who contend with our microplastics in your drinking water and food sources:

We hope you now have a better place to live your lives with us. We think of you—many of us remember you and care.

What Art Do You Like?

(Continued from page 1.)

Proposals are accepted until May 25 via ArtPod’s website. Unlike our regular shows where the artwork of many artists is chosen, only one artist (or perhaps group) will be selected.

The second Saturday of May every year is World Collage Day. ArtPod is celebrating this with a workshop led by Phyllis Schwartz on May 10 12:30 to 4:00 pm. Collage, is a technique about transforming ready-made materials into artwork. Participants will learn techniques for creating four unique pieces.

Another workshop is offered on June 21 by juror Pierrette Vezina to accompany the Pattern exhibit. In Patterns of the Everyday, she will be guiding participants to translate the patterns of their own life visually into a concertina-style book.

World Ocean Day – June 8 is celebrated by ArtPod with a Gyotaku Workshop led by Dyan Marie, marking the start of the day’s self-directed Metchosin Ocean Art Walk from

MACC to Witty’s Beach. Gyotaku is an intimate, tactile art-form involving direct engagement with fish, octopus, or seaweed. Participants will each create an original print. They will handle and prepare the specimen, apply sumi ink, and press washi paper to its surface—creating a sensory experience beyond visual observation. Originally developed by Japanese fishers to record their catches, Gyotaku has evolved into a widely practiced art that blends scientific observation with expressive image-making. Each print is both a

record of and a tribute to the complex relationships between marine life, human activity, and ecological systems. Sign up on the ArtPod’s website for the World Ocean Day Walk, Canada Day Ocean Art Walk, and Gyotaku Workshop, Sunday, June 8, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, in the MACC Event Room.

Details of all shows, events and workshops at metchosinartpod.ca.

Consider the Lilies XXIII Fibre Arts Show and Sale

Katie Pirquet

The lilies, daffodils, shooting stars and the sun all came out for the Fibres and Beyond group’s annual show and sale. During the week of April 5-13, steady, uncrowded and leisurely traffic moved as though enchanted through the sanctuary of old St. Mary’s Church, a unique venue where beauty, creativity, gentle humour and spectacular workmanship drew visitors and kept them wandering in and out of the pews all week, discovering treasures at every turn.

Examples of highly accomplished, classic fibre arts like silk painting, weaving, knitting and doll-making found excellent



Harbour Sunset scene. Joan Taylor.

Another Win for Naughty Dogge Dog Training

Barb Sawatsky

A well-known fact is that Metchosin is home to a diverse cross-section of singular and often quirky, gifted personalities. Because our population has thankfully not yet exploded, we are fortunate to be friends or acquaintances with many of these people who generously share their skills and knowledge, contributing to the weave of our municipality. Monique Anstee, dog trainer and owner of Naughty Dogge Dog Training, is one of these Metchosin folk. Monique has been training dogs for 35 years and has again won Best Business in Pet Training as she did last year and the year prior. That

makes three in a row – no small accomplishment. I love a friendly dog but I am always appreciative of pets who are under control, if not by voice command then by leash. I regularly read the Naughty Dogge posts on Facebook, not because I have a dog (I don’t) but because I do not speak ‘Dog’ and have found that her advice to owners of dogs with behaviour problems is always clear: fur babies? Nonsense! They are dogs and they need to learn manners. Monique has an indoor training facility in Metchosin where she teaches puppy classes, Pet Manners, and also works with socializing, leash training and recall. She



Monique and friends take a break from training and competitions.

company with innovative works in clay (adorned with seashells, wood and other natural materials), vintage stuffed moths bearing beads, ribbon, lace and lush fabrics, Japanese SaOri weaving and astonishing “paintings” rendered in strands of richly coloured silk thread. Large, cheeky, exquisitely ornate Easter rabbits - or hares, perhaps? - with enormous ears lounged here and there among the pews, as sunlight beamed through the leaded windows to enhance the rich wood tones of a quiet and revered space.

On a table near the door rested a photograph of Joan Taylor, a founding member of the local Fibres and Beyond group, who practice their magic all year long, and then bring their worthiest accomplishments to this show. Sadly, Joan passed away in December 2024 at the age of 96. She had produced stunning works well into her 90s, and several of her new works were featured in last year’s show. Members of the group loaned this year’s show many examples of Joan’s art from their own collections, and they were

displayed around her image like a gathering of old friends come to call – a moving tribute to a true friend and a great artist.

Outside, white fawn lilies in their thousands neither toiled nor reaped, nodding gently in the sunshine among the dark monument stones and tall Garry oaks in the churchyard, as visitors stepped with care along the narrow trails that meander amid the wonder of the flowers.



Tribute to Joan Taylor. K.Pirquet photo



Splendid Bunny. K.Pirquet photo



Lilies in full glory in St.Mary’s churchyard, Metchosin. K.Pirquet photo



“Charlie” slurps a cold one. Photo Brian Asmussen

Celebrating Victoria Bird Week and World Migratory Bird Day 2025

Ashlea Veldhoen

As spring blossoms, the captivating world of birds takes centre stage during Victoria Bird Week and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2025. These events highlight the beauty and diversity of avian life while underscoring the urgent need for conservation amid biodiversity loss.

World Migratory Bird Day, observed on the second Saturday of May, is a global campaign encouraging

communities to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The theme for 2025, “Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities,” invites everyone to participate in preserving habitats and fostering environments where birds can thrive. Whether through individual actions or community initiatives, every effort counts in protecting bird populations.

On Saturday, May 10, Rocky Point Bird Observatory will host a celebration of WMBD at Beacon Hill Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year’s

festivities promise plenty of fun! Exciting events include a dress-like-a-bird costume contest, thrilling demonstrations by the Pacific Northwest Raptors, and the spirited first-annual “Scream Like a Gull” contest. Local partners will enhance the lively atmosphere, ensuring a memorable day. Learn more at rpbo.org.

In Victoria, WMBD marks the beginning of the 5th Annual Victoria Bird Week, running from May 10 to May 17. Supported by Nature Victoria and the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, this

week is packed with guided birdwatching tours, interactive workshops, and family-friendly activities designed to deepen appreciation for local birds.

To learn more and get involved, visit rpbo.org to find our events calendar, where you can see event details and register for events. Join us in celebrating and conserving our feathered friends, making a positive impact on their future. Together, let’s spread our wings for conservation!