



Networking for Community and Environment



Location plan of the new Bilston Conservation Corridor Project for the Bilston Creek Watershed.

Morgan Yates

In the short and darker days of January, the Metchosin Foundation initiated an

opportunity for multi-agency collaboration, bringing diverse parties together to celebrate intersecting interests and values. When representatives from

St. Mary's Church, Bilston Creek Farm, and the Metchosin Foundation got together to discuss a potential joint project, the very act of connecting with each other to develop a shared project vision generated a sense of optimism, in the face of disturbing events on the global stage.

Initial exploratory dialogue with the Church and the Farm (adjacent landowners located at the southern or downstream terminus of the Foundation's Bilston Conservation Corridor Project) has now blossomed into a compelling vision for an interpretive pathway for walkers of all ages and abilities. Thanks to their generous offers to provide access to portions of their lands, a plan for an approximately 300-metre long trail connecting the beautiful Douglas-fir and arbutus forest on the Church property to a hidden Garry oak meadow and a venerable aged orchard on Farm property has unfolded.

Collectively, we envision a phased project that, through interpretive signage, will celebrate the diverse ecosystems, flora, fauna, and fungi, as well as a long and celebrated history of local agriculture within the Bilston Creek watershed. A sign at the pathway entrance on Church property will provide visitors with information

about the Foundation's multi-year Bilston Conservation Corridor Project, which is an ongoing initiative based on collaboration with local landowners who aspire to have ecosystem features and local biodiversity protected for future generations.

A concept sketch of the budding collaboration between Church, Farm, and Foundation shows the notional pathway route. This initiative will proceed in phases and at a pace determined by available funding; the Metchosin Foundation will play a lead role in applying for grants and issuing charitable receipts to donors. At this early stage, we see exciting potential opportunities for further collaboration with local groups, including ArtPod and the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association among others.

Acknowledging the approach of Earth Day 2025 on April 22, this new multi-agency initiative is intended to provide a community-centred focus for appreciating the local lands and waters that sustain us.

For more information on the Bilston Conservation Corridor Project, please visit: <https://metchosinfoundation.ca/bilston-conservation-corridor-project/>

Pearson Students Spring Forward



Pearson students in the Sooke 10k; credit Farhana Ibrahim

Allen Jones

The Media Relations Coordinator at Pearson UWC, Andrew Walker, tells me it was a busy start to March.

Pearson students competed in a 10k Race in Sooke. Eighteen students crushed the Westcoast Sooke 10K, making the college proud. Student Mary dominated the age 16-19 female category, securing 1st place (47:38), while Gracia claimed 3rd (57:34). Teo powered through to 3rd place (44:23) in the male category, with seven more of our runners finishing in the Top 10! Adult lead Zoe Hamel came in second overall in the female division.

Back on campus, Pearson students explored a new Royal Canadian Marine Search and

Rescue (RCMSAR) simulator. On March 7, RCMSAR hosted Pearson students and community members as it showcased its new

fast rescue craft simulator, which is helping save lives on the water. The simulator was the Kongsberg Fast Craft Simulator.



Using the new simulator; credit Yigit Avci

Laura St. Jean is the Recipient of Metchosin Search and Rescue's Extra Mile Award

Chelsea Marle

Each year Metchosin Search & Rescue (SAR) likes to recognize one member who has contributed significantly to the group. Laura St. Jean was chosen as the recipient of the 2024 Extra Mile Award.

Laura joined Metchosin SAR in 2018 and continues to make a significant contribution to the SAR group. She brings new and innovative ideas to life. Laura brings professionalism, positivity, and a tremendous amount of skill and knowledge to the team. Laura's many contributions include:

- acting/being a team leader.
- facilitates and organizes monthly training activities for the First Aid team.
- liaises with neighbouring response teams for both training and First Aid.

- served on the board for four years, including filling the role of President.
- is active on the AdventureSmart team by delivering outdoor education presentations to members of the community.
- co-developed and organizes our role as a support crew for the Finlayson Arm Ultra Race.
- takes a leadership role on our rope training, including creating "Knot Topic" presentation guides for members to practice at home.

Laura, thank you for all that you do to support Metchosin SAR. You are a very deserving recipient of this award.

Below: MSAR President Marie Burgess (left) presents the award to Laura; credit Chelsea Marle



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.

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Visit our website!

www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

Metchosin Muse Ad Rates

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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

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*.

Farming in Metchosin

Four years ago, I alerted Metchosin Council that food trucks from California would no longer bring inexpensive produce year around to Canada due to drought, their own growing population, and increased shipping costs. Metchosin is a designated agricultural area both in our OCP and CRD plan.

Last year I spoke to Mayor Little about this challenge. She was interested but did not re-engage. The idea – gain as much land for food production as possible ... trusts, and incentives for an agricultural co-op leasing land to want-to-be farmers; promote and increase food production; address aging-out food producers ... meat and poultry production: increase it and expand to retail markets.

Our new agricultural plan falls short of addressing current and predictable issues that have arrived sooner than anticipated. Food security concerns were purposefully omitted? WHY?

Now is the perfect time for local farmers to come into their own and make a decent living. Canadians want to buy local. Imported produce costs are rising. We do not produce enough.

BC Premier David Eby demands increasing local production. Will Metchosin react to this opportunity, amend our inadequate plan, and pivot to increase our output for the people of the South Island, fulfilling our role in the CRD?

Owen Clarke

Small Potatoes

At the March 17 Council meeting, a Metchosin councillor spoke to a remark about the number of projects that are using up revenue. Referencing the \$20K Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee master plan, he commented, “but I don’t believe we’re doing a lot of spending. It tends to be small potatoes.” which reminded me of the rocks and jar parable.

As Metchosin purports to be an agricultural community, let’s visualize potatoes instead of rocks. The size of the potatoes represents the importance and what should be the order of prioritization. The big potatoes must fit into the jar but if you fill the jar with all the small potatoes you won’t be able to fit in the big potatoes. However, if you put the big potatoes in first then many of the small potatoes will fall into the remaining spaces.

The moral is, of course, that you can fit into the jar most of

what you want if you first take care of the bigger issues and if you keep the number of small potatoes to a minimum.

Barb Sawatsky

2021 Census


The 2021 census is an interesting report because it revealed that, with a population of over 5,000 residents, 1,855 households paid income tax in 2020. It is worth noting that 20.5% of taxable households had an income of \$150,000 or more after tax. At the other end of the scale, the census revealed that 7.5% of Metchosin’s households had an after tax income under \$30,000; 19.7% from \$30,000–\$59,999; 28.6% from \$60,000–\$99,000; 13.2% from \$100,000–\$124,999; and 10.5% from \$125,000–\$149,999. What this shows is the dichotomy between two ends of the income scale.

As a community, with the ongoing high taxes under this mayor and council and their propensity to spend tax dollars on vanity projects, it is highly likely that residents will see a progression to Metchosin becoming an enclave for the wealthy. The 2026 census should prove interesting!

Kathleen MacPherson

Council News

APRIL 2025



New On-Line Bookings Calendar

Looking for an event facility space to rent in Metchosin? Check out the District’s new online bookings calendar on the District’s website under: Community Tab > Community > Community & Arts Centre – Metchosin School.

See availability for the gym, classrooms, field or kitchen and submit your booking request today. Drop off your completed application at the District Office or email: rental@metchosin.ca. A fillable digital form is coming soon!

Metchosin is Bear Country – Manage your Attractants

Bears are more active in the spring. Please secure your garbage in a garage or suitable shed and do not place it at the road until the morning of pick up.

Leaving your garbage outside not only attracts bears and habituates them to your property or neighbourhood but, when animals get into your garbage, they drag and spread it all over leaving your neighbours or Metchosin’s public works crew with the unpleasant and costly task of cleaning it up.

Other attractants include bird feeders, ripe fruit, pet food, livestock feed, outdoor fridges, freezers or barbeques, uncovered compost.

For more information about co-existing with bears please see:

- wildwisesociety.org
- spca.bc.ca/ways-to-help/take-action/urban-wildlife/bears

Council Meetings

The 2025 schedule for regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: www.metchosin.ca > Meetings > Meeting Schedule.

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

Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee – Open House on the Parks & Trails Master Plan at the Old Metchosin School, 4495 Happy Valley Rd, Classroom 2 2:00–4:30 pm, Saturday, April 5

Public Hearing – Bylaw No. 693 “Village Centre” 6:00 pm, April 7

Council Meeting April 7

Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee. April 15

Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee 4:30 pm, April 22

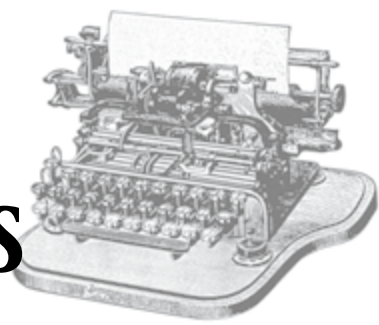
Environmental Advisory Select Committee April 22

Council Meeting April 28

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

These are interesting times. While we expect to be shaken by the occasional small earthquake we are more stirred by events south of our border. Luckily, Vancouver Island is insular by nature and may not get the financial shock to our way of life that tariffs can cause. However, it will surely be a troublesome period for many in the next four years.

Here in Metchosin people are stirring after the frosty winter and we have a full issue for our readers this month. However, a note of

warning, this is our April *aMuse* issue and, like most things online nowadays, all may not be what it seems. You have been warned!

One thing that is certain is taxation and we have an update in this issue which can be taken seriously. While Metchosin has been hit with increased RCMP and 9-1-1 call charges, new grants keep being reported such as the B.C. Emergency Preparedness Fund that provided \$39,635 to our Fire Department for upgrading and replacing hose equipment. All we need now is a couple of million for a new firehall.

It seems likely that I won't need my trusty snow shovel at all this year which is a pleasant surprise but I am still hoping for someone to manufacture a robotic snow mover. One thing is sure: we don't know what the future will be like but we should be wary about the course that we steer.

This issue will see our designer, Joan Johnston, leaving us, after ten happy years, and being replaced with a new local designer, Ian Taylor. It may be an opportunity to refresh our services and readers may find our website getting a makeover in the future to be cellphone-friendly!

Lastly, a happy Passover and Easter to all our readers. May all your planets align in the future.

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

Metchosinite Makes a Difference

Patti Williams

As an avid hiker and trail walker who lives in Metchosin, I sometimes use trail apps when traveling abroad. I used a satellite app to guide me while hiking in Guatemala and the Portuguese Camino last year. I only turn to Google Maps when I want to check out local traffic conditions.

However, in February, a friend jokingly mentioned on her Facebook page that parks were showing up on Google Maps as "state parks." I assumed she was talking about parks in the U.S. But her post prompted me to check my Google Maps app. Imagine my surprise when I found that Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in the District of Highlands was labelled as a 'state park'.

Startled ... and worried ... my next step was to google other provincial parks in B.C. I found that 22 parks were labelled the same way, that is, as "state

parks." My morning was spent sending edits to Google for each site.

Then it hit me that I needed to do more. So I emailed parksinfo@gov.bc.ca to alert them of what I was seeing on Google Maps. From there, I fanned out to friends. They emailed local MLAs and the media. By Monday, February 24, CHEK News had run a story on Google Map's labelling of parks in Canada as "state parks," using my friend's screen shot and Parks BC's response to my email.

By Tuesday, this story was being covered by the *Times Colonist*, the *Globe and Mail*, and even on U.S. media. On February 24, the *Globe and Mail* published a story by Brenna Owen titled "Google actively working to fix mislabelling of Canadian 'state' parks." By Wednesday, Google committed to fixing the error.

It was a good lesson on how we all need to speak up against incorrect information.

International Women's Day Gathering



Municipal, provincial and federal women leaders gathered for breakfast in Victoria on International Women's Day to celebrate united achievements, allies, and positive discussions looking forward.

Breaking News! Metchosin Muse Saved by American Investor

Avril Trumpazon

Over the years the *Metchosin Muse* has struggled to balance income with expenditure. This became more apparent recently when Canada Post raised their mailing charges substantially. The *Muse* Team tried to pivot and find an alternative means to distribute our publication. However, despite assistance from the *Goldstream*

Gazette, we still haven't been able to achieve an economical distribution system as yet.

Nonetheless, from April 1 that will all change. The *Muse* has been acquired by a large American, multi-national technology company. After 30 years as a community publication we can now gain the advantage of modern technology. There will be a few changes as the new owners

replace the current *Muse* Board members and, sadly, our designer of ten years will no longer be required. However, with stunning new AI the *Muse* can be prepared in offices in California and copies will be distributed using the ubiquitous delivery vans that we see regularly in Metchosin.

All in all, the *Muse* will be made financially viable again! Thank you! You've been amazing!

WELCOME TO ALL

MAGICKAL MOTHER'S DAY FAIR

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“Transparency” and the District’s Advisory Committees

Jay Shukin, Councillor

My recent social media post on “transparency” and the District’s volunteer advisory committees was characterized by a personal contact as “the most boring thing I’ve ever read on Facebook.” Mildly offended, I replied that matters like transparency in local governance are important but might not make for a thrilling read.

My contact agreed, saying that she would keep a copy of the Facebook post at her bedside in the event of insomnia. Encouragement was given to give the gift of sleep to the broader community; thus this article.

Let’s start with the basics. The District has four volunteer advisory committees, which have specific focuses: Agriculture, Environment, Healthy Communities, and Parks and Trails. Each committee has seven to nine members. Questions

have been raised about transparency and Metchosin’s Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC), which prompted the Facebook post.

PTASC, as with the other three volunteer advisory committees, is governed by the District’s Advisory Select Committee Bylaw No. 493. Their primary role is to “advise Council on various matters requiring specialized knowledge or experience.” The committees’ Terms of Reference (ToR) also enables each body to proactively raise issues of concern with Council.

The Committees strive to meet regularly throughout the year, with PTASC’s normal meeting day (per its ToR) being the third Tuesday of every month. In 2024, PTASC held 10 regular meetings.

On advisory committee meetings, it’s important to know the following: meeting agendas are posted on the District website prior to the meeting; they’re open

to the community; public input is welcome at every meeting; meeting minutes are duly posted on the District’s website, and these are later brought to Council’s committee of the whole (COW) meetings. A Council-liaison is appointed for each advisory committee and that person is often the route through which committee input is relayed to Council. I am Council-liaison for PTASC.

The motivation for my social media post was to address recent concerns about the use of subcommittees, several of which were recently appointed by PTASC. The ability to establish subcommittees is clearly stated in Bylaw No. 493 (see section 5 (L) and applies to all advisory committees.

PTASC recently created two subcommittees for the Parks and Trails Masterplan and one for the ongoing study of Duke Road East and pedestrian safety improvements, including the consideration of a roadside trail. These

subcommittees were appointed at an open meeting. The subcommittees report to the full body of PTASC, whose proceedings are reported to Council.

The driver for creating these is to get work done: subcommittees allow for small groups of people to focus on specific tasks. They can meet and work as they feel best; they are not required to post agendas or keep minutes of their meetings (i.e. they can focus their time on their task). For volunteers (several of whom work full-time and have young families) effective use of time is critical.

In short, like the District’s other volunteer advisory committees, PTASC is working under the District’s established processes, which provide multiple opportunities for community input, engagement, and public scrutiny. Many thanks to all of the volunteers that serve on these committees!

The Metchosin Muse welcomes volunteers who would like to help out with the community newspaper.

Please send an email to metchosinmuse@gmail.com if you are interested.

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An Update on the District Budget

Jim MacPherson

On March 5, Geoffrey Kreek, Chief Financial Officer, presented Metchosin District’s budget information as part of an Open House that included the Active Transportation Plan. It presented to discerning citizens the current (to March 5) thinking on Metchosin’s 2025 budget and the 2025-2029 Financial Plan. The following was noted:

Revenue Projected for 2025:

- These are currently expected to amount to \$9,046,556 in 2025, up from \$8,803,550 in 2024.
- Municipal taxes in 2025 are expected to generate \$2,815,341 of revenue, compared to \$2,698,527 in 2024.


- Other major sources of revenue come from grants in lieu of taxes (federal grants), and various transfers and reserves.


Expenditures Projected for 2025

- Total budgeted expenditures in 2024 amounted to \$8,803,551, while total expenditures in 2025 are currently expected to amount to \$9,046,556.
- Protective services (police and fire) costs amount to \$2,628,183 compared to \$2,205,402 in 2024. This is the category with the largest expenditure.
- The second largest category of expenditures is transportation (mainly including roads) at \$2,046,306, compared to \$2,092,326 in 2024.

- General government expenditure (including admin costs and salaries) are estimated at \$1,460,400 compared to \$1,653,101 in 2024.
- Capital expenditures in 2025 are estimated at \$1,339,500, compared to \$1,166,000 in 2024.

How this translates into property tax bills will be finalized in May, but a breakdown of property taxes in 2024 may offer a degree of approximation when 93.36% of District property tax revenue came from residential properties.





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Consider the Lilies XXIII

Anne Richmond

Consider the Lilies Fibres and Beyond Show
April 5-13
Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Sundays 12:00-4:00 pm
St. Mary the Virgin Historic Church
4354 Metchosin Road

The Fibres and Beyond group is delighted to announce that its very popular annual fibres + art show and sale will be returning to St. Mary’s Church at 4354 Metchosin Road for the 23rd year. Isabel Tipton initiated this show as a member of the group and showed her work every year. Although she and others of the founding members have passed on, the group continues to thrive and grow, evolving with the energy and spirit of new

members adding to the rich tapestry that lights up the church every year.

This year will see a range of works including wearable art, scarves and other textiles, sophisticated wall and three-dimensional art, and a range of cards and other small items. All will be presented as a feast for the senses in the setting of the lilies blooming in the church grounds. Please join us! The artists represented are:

Linda Danielson	Judy Seely
Irm Houle	Dana Sitar
Phyllis Lysionek	Karen Smith
Kelley Minish	Elizabeth Tanner
Anne Richmond	Lisa Watson
Eri Sawatzki	Mary Wolfe

For information on local events, please see **Important Dates & Events**, p. 15.

Open Day for Transport and Finance Presentations



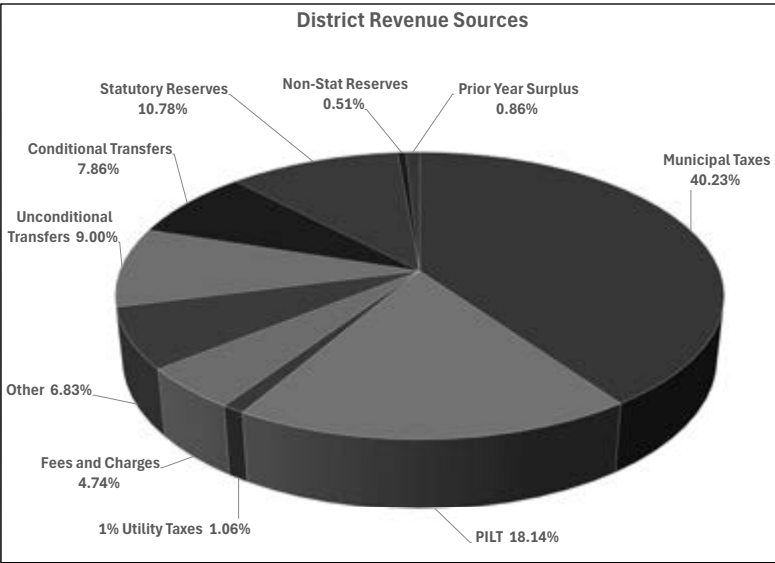
Early visitors to the Open Day; credit Allen Jones

Allen Jones

A Community Open House with consultants from Urban Systems was held on the draft Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) on Wednesday, March 5 in the District of Metchosin Council Chambers. This related to the District of Metchosin releasing for comment, prior to a second round of engagement, the draft ATNP, which provides a strategy to improve active transportation in Metchosin. At the same event, the 2025-2029 draft Five-Year Financial Plan and 2025 Property Taxes were presented to a steady flow of Metchosinites

with a full house of elected Council and municipal officers in attendance. Currently, 93% of all trips made by Metchosin residents are by vehicle and only 2% of trips are made by active transportation modes, including walking and cycling. Metchosin has lower rates of walking and cycling compared to its neighbouring Westshore communities. The ATNP, funded by a BC grant, identifies network improvements to support people cycling, walking, and wheeling (including people with disabilities) to improve safety, remove or minimize barriers, and facilitate

connectivity across the community and to neighbouring municipalities. During the first round of engagement, some priority projects appeared to be emerging for future transportation improvements, including the expansion of roadside trails on Happy Valley Road around the village centre, and a roadside trail on Metchosin Road that will enable connections to the village centre, Galloping Goose, Witty Lagoon, and Colwood. The District is now conducting a phase 2 engagement to ensure the draft ATNP reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

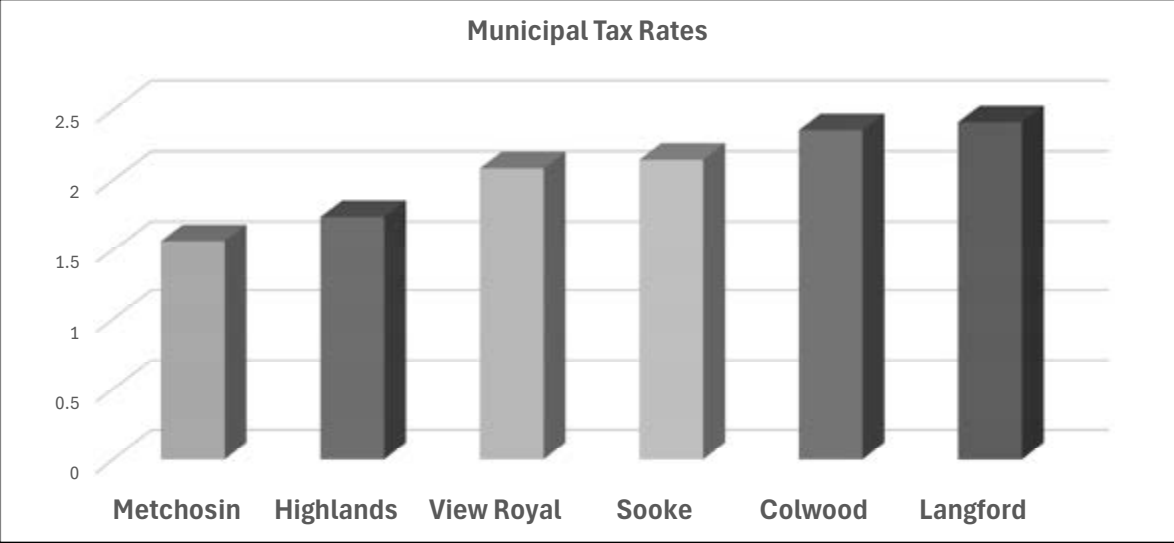


One of several pie charts prepared by CFO Geoffrey Kreek

Public input received will help refine the draft plan and prioritize projects for future investment, including the selection of one project to apply for funding (70% available) through the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant program.



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A comparison of current municipal tax rates

Open House on Parks and Trails Master Plan

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee

Saturday, April 5, 2:00 to 4:30 pm
Room 1006, Old Metchosin School (newer side)
4495 Happy Valley Road

A drop-in style open house on the Parks and Trails Master Plan will take place on Saturday, April 5 at the Old Metchosin School. This new Master Plan will not only cover the District's five parks and over 30 trails but will also look ahead to how we manage some of the community's most valuable natural assets. The District's Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC) is leading this effort, as approved by District Council in January. The goal is to develop Metchosin's first unified Parks and Trails Master Plan. A plan focused specifically on trails was completed in 2009 and a Parks and Recreational Plan in 1986. The current process follows calls in 2024 for an overall update. The process to develop a new Master Plan is an opportunity to connect with residents about their

interests, hopes, and concerns about our parks and trails. It will provide a planning tool to the District and its many volunteers and will also put the District in a better position to receive grants to support further parks and trails projects. Grant applications often benefit when specific projects are identified within a comprehensive framework. At the April 5 event, PTASC will seek community input on several questions: Where do you walk? What's great about our parks and trails? Do you have concerns? Are there new opportunities you want the District to explore? What should the District be aware of and be planning for in the future? The process will focus on district-owned parks and trails, such as Blinkhorn Nature Park, Eleanor Mann, Metchosin Wilderness Park and our many trails. It will not include the parks and trails managed by the Capital Regional District, such as Devonian, Witty's, Matheson, Sooke Hills, East Sooke, or the Galloping Goose. Please join us on Saturday, April 5 for this drop-in event.

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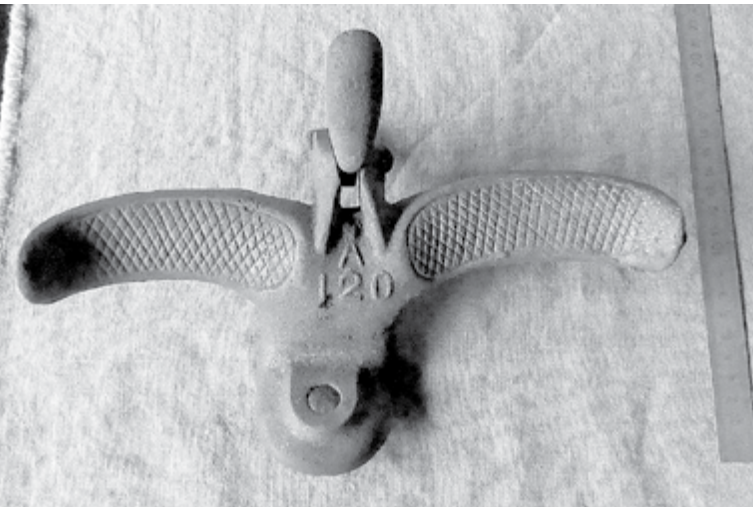
Please note: Due to the significant rainfall in March, this year's April showers have been cancelled.

What is That Thing?

After many guesses, some late night researching, then a little google obsession, I've come to the conclusion that these are footrests on a horse-drawn implement, hay rake, hay mower, planter, disc, etc., as the farmer sat on a metal seat (attached to the implement) and drove the team. The lever I would presume was to adjust the footrest and set it. As for the letter/ numbers, I think that is a part number. I guess this foot rest is dated back as far as 1850-1900. Fingers crossed as this is my final answer. May the best answer win!

Curtis Becker

Editor's note: We had several responses to our picture puzzle in the March issue and this response seems to be a possible winner subject to further confirmation.



B. Sawatsky photo

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Housing Initiatives Collaborative: Everything you wanted to know about Subdivision

Anne Richmond

March 11 was the sixth Metchosin Housing Initiative Collaborative (HIC) meeting. Our goal continues to be to improve awareness and understanding of the issues, rules and processes around housing, and to create a space for residents to have productive discussions on this topic, and to create innovative ideas for housing that are in line with Metchosin's character.

Our March meeting was planned to focus on subdivision, which had been identified as a topic of interest. This timing turned out well as Metchosin Council held a "Special Community Planning Committee Meeting" in February, which included a presentation developed to inform council and citizens about planning issues, including the subdivision process and the role of the Official Community Plan (OCP). HIC recommends reading this presentation as it is an excellent summary on planning issues. The presentation is available on the District website.

For the people attending the HIC's discussion on March 11, it was an opportunity to be briefed on the purpose and processes of subdivision by Ellen Frisch, and to discuss their questions and concerns. (We recommend the full slide presentation on HIC's Facebook page for details).

The presentation highlighted two issues which may not be well understood. First, "subdividing" means changing the boundaries of existing lots, which might range from a boundary adjustment, to creating an additional lot, to creating a strata, or, at the most extreme, creating a number of new lots within the boundaries of a single large lot, including creating road(s) etc. Second, that a request for subdivision is a largely administrative process, where applications are reviewed and decisions made by the "Approving Officer" in the District, who refers to established bylaws in terms of zoning, lot size, etc. If the conditions are met, the proposal is approved.

Where the conditions are not met, other processes are required. This might be because the existing zoning doesn't allow it (for example a six-acre lot in an area zoned RR4 couldn't be divided into two three-acre lots) or because it is in the ALR. In these cases, the zoning or other requirements must be adjusted first before an application for subdivision can be made.

Other issues that came up included:

- There is provincial law providing for subdivision of land for occupation by a relative which intends to remove barriers to this; however, municipalities set the minimum lot size for such a subdivision, and around

B.C. most municipalities have established minima that effectively prevent it.

- The "Subdivision Servicing Bylaw" for Metchosin is available by request, (a copy has been placed on the HIC's Facebook page).
- The 2010 OCP identified 400 "subdividable" lots in Metchosin, with the potential to create 850 new housing units. Metchosin staff members are currently reviewing this to see if it is still accurate and if any subsequent changes have affected the number of subdividable lots, and will report on this at a future council meeting.
- The District is required to review the OCP by the end of 2025 as part of the housing needs assessment process.

This meeting definitely met HIC's objectives: lots of information shared, lots of engagement and a very positive and constructive discussion. We strongly encourage citizens to continue to follow Metchosin Council's work on the Housing Needs Report and their review of the OCP, and to engage with councillors and the mayor regarding housing in Metchosin. The next HIC meeting will be on April 8 and will focus on the OCP, specifically what it says about housing, and how it has been developed and revised over the years.

Salish Lake in Our Future

Tony Van der Wereld

Rising ocean levels caused by climate change are an increasing concern for ocean-level cities around the world. In our area, an international plan is being developed to protect all cities and properties bordering the Salish Sea. A consortium of dike builders from the Netherlands has been enlisted for a multi-city-saving project.

Canada will donate a few spare Sooke hills and the USA will do the same with some unused Olympic mountains. These will be crushed and used to create a dike across the opening of the Juan de Fuca Strait, although possibly between William Head and Port Angeles.

A similar dike will be built towards the north end of Vancouver Island. At the completion of these dikes the Salish Sea will be renamed the Salish Lake. It is estimated that the Fraser and other rivers will flush most of the salt over the dikes in a few decades, leaving a freshwater, non-tidal lake.

The dikes will be constructed with multi-lane highways on top. Embedded solar panels, along with wind turbines, will generate electricity to pump river water over the dikes and into the now higher-level ocean. The William Head option will see the penitentiary repurposed as a customs facility and the Galloping Goose trail repurposed to a highway to Langford and places beyond.

Locks for ships, two-way fish ladders, and larger whale and seal ladders will be incorporated into the structure. The Swiftsure yacht race will be re-routed towards Nanaimo and around Gabriola Island.

The removal of mountains will open the western sky and lessen the wind funnel effect through the Juan de Fuca Strait, bringing calmer and warmer summer evenings to the entire area, especially Metchosin.

Construction is expected to start April 1, 2030.

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

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The Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin elects new Executive, avoids a Tricky Debate



Rick Worrall (President), Chris Moehr (Past President), Rob Chabot (Vice-President), Rachel French de Mejia (Secretary), and Directors-at-Large Jim McPherson and Michael Desjardins; credit Barb Sawatsky

Johnny Carline

The Annual General Meeting of the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM) was running along smoothly. The President’s and Treasurer’s reports had been received, certificates of appreciation had been presented, a revised mission statement* had been adopted, minor amendments to the bylaws had been approved and a new Executive** had been acclaimed without the necessity of any divisive elections. It looked very much like the event would be over before we got to the tea and cookies.

Then, responding to questions from the members, new Director Jim MacPherson reflected that the traditional APRM position of opposing any urban development of designated agricultural land might have to be reconsidered.

There being very little non-residential/non-agricultural land in Metchosin, the District relies mainly on revenue from residential property taxation. This could be a problem, given that District expenditures have been rising sharply and may continue to do so. Relying largely on residential property taxes could place unacceptable financial burdens on some people, especially those who had lived in their homes for a long time and whose financial resources had not increased at the same rate as their property taxes.

One response to this, which had been considered before, is the possibility of increasing non-residential property tax opportunities by allowing more industrial or commercial development along some parts of Sooke Road. This, MacPherson suggested, might be something to which both Council

and even the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin might have to give some careful thought.

That immediately brought yelps of protest from members of the audience, one of whom said she would oppose one square inch of agricultural land being turned over to non-agricultural development.

At this point newly elected Director-at-Large Michael Desjardins intervened and successfully steered the Board around a potentially heated public discussion. The job of the executive, he said, was to listen to the opinions of the membership and not take positions based simply on their own opinions. The conversation sailed into the calmer waters of a discussion about the importance of maintaining good communication between the

executive and the membership. Finally, the meeting adjourned to enjoy refreshments without further disputation.

*New Mission Statement, following workshops by members: ‘To monitor and provide input to the policy and decision-making process as they impact the preservation and sustainability of the rural character of Metchosin.’

**The newly elected executive of the APRM is:
President: Rick Worrall
Vice-President: Robert (Rob) Chabot
Treasurer: Darren Brown (not present)
Secretary: Rachel French de Mejia
Director-at-Large: Jim MacPherson
Director-at-Large: Michael Desjardins

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Councillor Steve Gray

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Egyptians were here before!



Cliff carving at a beach in Metchosin; credit Allen Jones

Avril Feuille

Recent carvings found at a local beach may change the history of Metchosin! Archaeologists must fully investigate the mysterious hieroglyphics, with apologies to those living near the discovery. Did Egyptians trade with First Nations? How long were they here? Why did they leave? A closer look at the carving suggests aliens were involved.

Archaeologists are not yet sure what this carving signifies, but plans are underway to excavate the cliffside to look for evidence of a North American Egyptian outpost. Egyptian sandstone carving was used to decorate palaces, temples, public buildings, and, frequently, the tombs of

pharaohs and other wealthy Egyptians (<https://study.com/academy/lesson/history-egyptian-carvings-characteristics-materials-significance.html>). These are exciting times!

This new find may trump other claims to Canada from south of the border, making our country the 28th muḥāfza, rather than a 51st state.

Editor’s note: While this graffiti is skillful, carving into the cliff face will speed up bank erosion and make the people who live up top a little nervous. There are many outlets for artistic expression in Metchosin. Please see pp. 11 and 12 of this issue of the Muse for information about ArtPod and MACCA.

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A Thank You to the Metchosin Community!

Sandra Robinson

Scouts Bonfire, All Welcome!
April 26, 5:00–9:00 pm
Behind Metchosin Firehall
4440 Happy Valley Road

The 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting Group would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support over the years. Your generosity, kindness, and sense of community have been instrumental in providing valuable opportunities for the youth in our Scouting program. Through your contributions, we've been able to offer our Scouting sections unique experiences, from outdoor

adventures to leadership training that help them grow into confident, responsible, and compassionate individuals. As a small token of our gratitude, we invite you to a community bonfire on April 26 to celebrate all that we've achieved together. Hot dogs, hot chocolate and coffee will be served!

Join us for an evening around the bonfire with fun skits, lively cheers, and songs performed by our different Scouting sections. It is a great chance to see first-hand the positive impact your support has had and to enjoy the talents

of the youth you have helped support. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our community spirit! Thank you once again for helping us continue to provide these opportunities to the next generation of Scouts!

Photos, clockwise from right:
Beavers on Remembrance Day
Cubs at Mt. Washington
Scouts Klondike Derby
Credit: Sandra Robinson



Pi Night at the MCHouse

Barb Sawatsky

The first annual Pi Day, an idea put forward by MCA Vice-President Kirsten Quealey, was celebrated at the Metchosin Community House on Friday, March 14 (3.14 = π). Board members baked an assortment of round pies, quiches and cookies and welcomed Metchosin residents and a group of senior visitors who arrived in style via

LA Limo. Scrabble and crokinole games were enjoyed at some tables and laughter often drowned out conversations. Pi Night was voted to be such a successful first-time event that promises were made to hold it as an annual event.

Photos, clockwise from right:
Playing games on Pi Day
Pi's for the participants in the House
Credit: Barb Sawatsky



Westmont Montessori’s Trip to the Sagkeeng First Nation



The school party heading for Manitoba; credit Luke Cantrill

Merric and Ares, students

In late February we visited the Sagkeeng First Nation as part of an ‘Experience Canada’ exchange with the Sagkeeng Anicinabe High School in Sagkeeng First Nation, Manitoba. As part of this exchange, we will be hosting these students when they visit Victoria in May.

We started the week with a tour of the Whiteshell Laboratories nuclear power plant. The power plant is inactive and being decommissioned. When it was active in 1965 to 1985, it was used for research to test different materials to be used in future reactors. We stood on top of where the main reactor was located, learned about its time in use, and how the decommissioning process is going. We also had a tour of the Fire Hall at the nuclear power plant where we sat in their firetruck and learned about the tools they have to fight fires.

On Tuesday, we learned about ice fishing on the Winnipeg River. Fishing is an integral part of the lives of the First Nations people of Sagkeeng, Manitoba. It has been a major source of food for them for a long time and we were lucky to be taught by experts in their craft. We learned how to cut holes in the ice and how to bait our rods. It was fun to try to catch fish and a few people caught fish. Congratulations, Jasper! We also found out how to gut a fish on the ice. Ice fishing taught us a lot of patience and fishing skills.

I hadn’t fished a lot before this, though I still found it exciting and everyone learned a lot.

On Wednesday, our group went on a 30-minute Ski-Doo ride into the bush. We cooked marshmallows on a campfire and drank hot chocolate. We played hide and seek before a lunch of Bannock burgers and hotdogs and learned some Ojibwe words and phrases, as well as shared stories. After that Black Sky, an elder who is also the Ojibwe language teacher, took us on a trail walk. He told us some of the Ojibwe names of the plants around us, as well as their traditional uses and had us pick some mashkiigobag (Labrador Tea) to make into a tea. We also learned about the names of animals and how to identify their tracks and traces in the bush.

On Thursday morning we were taught how to make ribbon shirts and ribbon skirts. These are important pieces of cultural attire that we were honoured to get the opportunity to make with guidance from experienced ribbon skirt and shirt makers. Some are used for daily wear, and some are used for cultural celebrations. We picked the colours of ribbons, and we sewed them to the shirts and skirts. We also visited the local planetarium, and they had some excellent videos about First Nations star stories projected on a dome. They told stories of constellations in the night sky from Cree and Anishinaabe cultures. We then went into a sweat lodge led by an elder named Gilbert. Sweats

are for physical and spiritual cleansing and healing. Gilbert sang songs, told stories, and gave us juniper medicine. He talked about the importance of sharing in these times of turmoil and the importance of sticking together, no matter how many horrible things happen in the world. In the evening, we went to a round dance hosted by the community. A round dance is an event where drummers in the centre will sing songs and people will hold hands and dance in a circle around them. The round dance is a celebration for healing, honouring ancestors, celebrating life, and fostering community unity. It was held to welcome us to their community and show how much they appreciated us coming, for which we were extremely thankful and honoured. We were welcomed so beautifully, and they gave us a handmade beaded medallion with the community emblem on it and other gifts.

On Friday, we drove into Winnipeg. We first went to the Manitoba Museum and learned about many things including the environment of current and past Manitoba and the people who lived there over the ages. For lunch, we went to the Forks which is an indoor market where the Red and the Assiniboine rivers combine. It was a trading spot for thousands of years for Indigenous groups and still is today. We then went to the Human Rights Museum and learned about the evolution of human rights across



Riding on a Ski-Doo; credit Luke Cantrill

Canada. We also saw the Witness Blanket and the Canadian Journey’s exhibit. It would have been great to have stayed longer, though, due to time constraints, we sadly had to leave. We learned so much about Canadian history and it was a great day to round off the trip before flying back to Victoria on Saturday.

While on this exchange we learned a lot about the Sagkeeng First Nation and Ojibwe ways of life. We also learned lots of Indigenous techniques and Indigenous ways of knowing and we are excited to host the students from Sagkeeng in May when we will show them around Victoria and the South Island.

On May 4, our visitors from Sagkeeng arrive in Victoria to experience life on Southern Vancouver Island. We are currently fundraising for this experience in a variety of ways

including an upcoming silent auction for goods and services in the local community. If you would like to support this incredible program, we are seeking sponsorships for the following activities:

Activity	Cost
WildPlay	\$1200
Prince of Whales	
Whale Watching	\$4000
Royal BC Museum	\$350
Dinner at Red Fish Blue Fish	\$750
Dinner at Fisherman’s Wharf	\$750
Bus Transportation for the Week.	\$3200

Please reach out to Luke and Sarah, lukec@westmontschool.ca or sarahg@westmontschool.ca if you have any questions, or if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience, bridging worlds for students from Sagkeeng First Nation and Westmont Montessori.

The Power of Encouragement

Morgan Evans Bley

My eight-year-old son joined a soccer league for the first time this year. He is definitely the least experienced and skilled player on his team. At the start of the season, Charlie mostly ran back and forth with his team, trying to stay out of the way. Over time, thanks to fantastic coaching and supportive teammates, he gained some confidence and started tentatively participating in plays and actually going for the ball.

Then today, at his penultimate game of the season, Charlie scored a goal for his team when they were down 4–0. Sure, it kind of bounced in off his foot as he stood in front of the goal, but he was in the right place at the right time and didn’t duck away from the ball. Let me tell you, his teammates went CRAZY for him.

They rushed the field, high-fiving and hair ruffling and jumping excitedly in a circle together. They chanted his name and called him the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) and told him what a great shot he made. Charlie absolutely lit up from the inside.

On his next shift I could see him running a little faster, pushing a little harder, and even calling for passes. And, guess what, a couple of minutes later, HE SCORED AGAIN! And again his team surrounded him in jubilant celebration. They didn’t care that they were still losing, they were just happy for their teammate to be successful.

It was a very moving and humbling reminder about the power of encouragement and the hope that we can keep raising kids that build each other up and celebrate each other’s accomplishments. Let’s try to be like those kids.

... we can keep raising kids that build each other up and celebrate each other’s accomplishments. Let’s try to be like those kids.



Charlie; credit Morgan Evans Bley

Cricket – the Basics



Johnny Carline at the crease; credit W. G. Grace

Johnny Carline

Cricket has a reputation for being a very complicated game and there are indeed a lot of fine points to the game. However, in essence it is not difficult to follow and, once you have the basic idea, it is more satisfying to watch and play than almost any other field sport.

A game is played between two teams of eleven players each. One side “bats” while the other team “fields”, trying to get the batters “out”. In the “one day” version of the game, which is what Metchosin plays, each side only gets one innings. While in baseball getting three people out ends that team’s “innings”, in cricket you have to get ten men out to end an innings. So, a one-day match usually lasts from four to six hours. “Two innings” games are played to higher levels and, at the international level, these can last from three to a maximum of five days in length.

The game begins with a coin toss, and the winner decides whether to bat first or to field. The batting side sends in two batters, each to take a position at opposite ends of the 22-yard playing “pitch” to defend the “wickets” that are there. The wickets consist of three stumps placed vertically in the ground with two “bails”, little wooden pegs, balanced on top of the stumps, between the middle stump and an outer stump.

The fielding side will hand the hard, leather-encased ball, about the size of an orange, to their first “bowler” who will go to one end of the pitch, while the rest of his team will be strategically placed around the field, including a “wicket-keeper” who stands behind the wicket at the opposite end from the bowler.

Now the game can truly begin. The bowler “delivers” a ball generally directed towards the stumps at the batter’s end. He must keep his arm straight as he bowls. If his arm bends during the delivery motion he will be judged to have “thrown” the ball, which is not allowed. This is the skill that beginners find the hardest to learn.

The bowler is trying to get the batter “out” typically by hitting the stumps with the ball or by inducing the batter to hit the ball to where one of the fielders can catch it before it hits the ground. By the rules, a ball that comes off the batter’s glove is deemed to have been hit, just as if it had been struck by the bat.

The batter, on the other hand is trying to avoid being bowled or caught out. He is also trying to score a “run” which is scored when the batter runs from his end to the other before the fielders can hit the stumps he is running toward with the ball. The second batter, who is standing at the “bowler’s end” must, at the same time run to the batter’s end before the fielders can hit the stumps of that wicket with the ball.

If the batters think it is safe to do so, they can continue to run and score two, three or even more runs. If the ball reaches the boundary rope, four runs are scored, and if it goes over the rope without a bounce, six runs are scored.

The team that scores the most runs in its innings wins. I told you it was simple!

In my next article, I will introduce some of the details that make this a fascinating game, such as all the different ways a batter can be given out, as well as some samples of rich, and sometimes unintentionally salacious language that make cricket broadcasts so entertaining. But I will conclude this article with a story about a great character called W.G. Grace. A huge man, with an enormous beard, he was one of the most famous Englishmen of the Victorian age and commonly regarded as the best player of his era, and he had an ego to match.

In one game, he was obviously out and the umpire so ruled, but Grace remained at the crease. When the umpire protested, Grace gestured with his bat at the huge crowd in attendance. “They’ve come to watch me bat, not you umpire! Now get on with it!” In contemporary terms, I sometimes think of him as a sort of cricketering Donald Trump – except perhaps with a tad more talent.

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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 5 APRIL, 2pm: Opening Gala

SAT 12 APRIL, 12:30-4pm
WORKSHOP:
making air visible

A mobile-making exploration. Learn about history, materials & techniques in this hands-on workshop \$70



30 May - 20 July 2025

PATTERN:

rEpEAt, rEpEAt, rEpEAt

- Guest juror: Pierrette Vezina
- CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:
OPEN: 11 April CLOSE: 16 MAY
- SAT 31 MAY, 2pm: Opening Gala
- PATTERN WORKSHOP: TBA

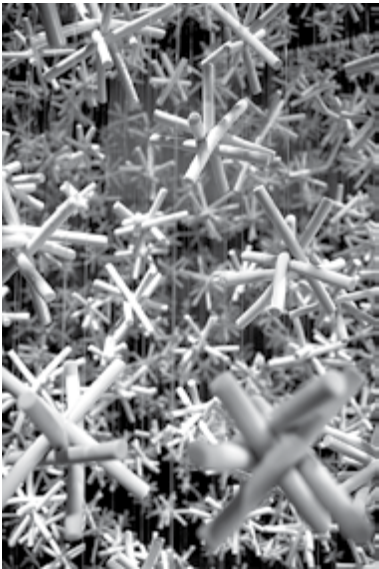
See metchosinartpod.ca for details



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The Many Ways of Making Air Visible



Detail of ceramic sculpture by Samantha Dickie; credit Samantha Dickie

Diana Smith

How have artists interpreted AIR: Exploring Our Place in the Atmosphere, the theme of the current show at ArtPod? Let me count some ways:

- by using storm maps from satellites as inspiration for abstract compositions and noticing how colours correspond to more intense temperatures and severe storms;
- by transcribing microscopic images of dust motes onto transparent organza;
- by playing with images of smoke curling in air to meditate on how smoking can be a social ritual, a transgressive act, an articulation of the body’s interaction with the environment;
- through an homage to bumble bees who are harmed by air pollution – including damaging their immune systems and reducing their ability to learn and remember where to find food;
- through an homage to the death’s-head hawkmoth which is adversely affected by air pollution that changes the smell of flowers, making them harder to find and pollinate;
- by noticing and capturing images of steel, transformed by the elements into abstract compositions;
- by using intentional camera movements on a flock of birds in flight to make air visible;
- by depicting movement of cedars in wind and experiencing this air filtered through the trees into the lungs as a path of healing;
- by depicting a metaphysical storm which, once over, ‘you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive ... But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the

same person who walked in.’ (Haruki Murakami)

Ceramic artist and guest juror, Samantha Dickie, has considered all the artwork submitted to the show and chosen over 50 to make up the exhibit which runs from April 4 to May 25. Asked what the theme represents for her, Samantha said, ‘Air holds the breath of life. Its invisible animacy can be seen, felt, embodied, and experienced. Air holds the aliveness of wind, the elusiveness of fog, the force of storms, the infiniteness of cosmic dust, the luminousness of the sun, the respiration of the elemental. Air’s magnitude cannot be underestimated even when its quiet presence is all pervasive.’ As a juror Samantha was looking for a combination of aesthetic interest, technical precision, conceptual engagement, a degree of originality, and professional presentation.

The opening gala is on Saturday, April 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. All are welcome to hear artists talk about their work and Samantha describe the process she used to select the artwork.

Complementing the show is a mobile-making workshop: Making Air Visible, led by two ArtPod members: Khione Gardner and Memet Burnett. It will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 12:30 to 4:00 pm.

The workshop will include a discussion of the history of

mobiles, an exploration of design principles, forms and functions, and different mobile-making types, techniques and joining methods, before digging in and constructing personal floating artwork.

Following AIR will be a show featuring ‘PaTTeRN: rEpEAt, rEpEAt, rEpEAt’. We invite submitting artists to investigate how the repetition of units can

We are pleased to partner with Samuel Perez de Leon, who hosts the Metchosin Film Nights, to screen *Sugarcane*, a 2024 National Geographic documentary, on Friday, April 25.

This film documents the 2021 discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Mission residential school in Williams Lake. It is “an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning.”

A recent Oscar nominee and first film for Julian Brave NoiseCat, he and co-director Emily Kassie have portrayed the dark history in our country of

create new understandings and interpretations by emphasizing structure and rhythm, while uncovering emerging relationships and revealing deeper meanings. Submissions accepted April 11 to May 16.

Our program for all of 2025 as well as information about all events are on our website: www.metchosinartpod.ca.

children forcibly separated from their families and communities and put into boarding schools run by the churches. Under this system that has been well documented and was set up to “kill the Indian in the child,” the film lifts up and illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere.

Due to the length of the film, at 107 minutes, we’ll start at 6:45pm. We plan to follow the film with discussion, and expect to have Indigenous students from Pearson College joining us to share their thoughts. Hope to see you there!

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 Socials	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
Rough Voices	3rd Sunday of the Month	2:00 pm-4:00 pm

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M

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MACCA Renos Underway



Chris Van de Water and Greg Dow in the renovated work space; credit Dyan Marie

Metchosin Preschool Registration is Open

Erin Van de Water and Caitlin Eindhoven

Metchosin Preschool is excited to announce that registration for September 2025 is now open! We can't wait to welcome new friends to our beautiful new classroom at the old Metchosin School located in "downtown" Metchosin at 4495 Happy Valley Road. Our preschool provides a warm and welcoming environment where children can explore,

learn, and build lasting friendships. Whether your child is starting their preschool journey or continuing their learning, we'd love to have them join us for an exciting year ahead. The co-op model of Metchosin Preschool is becoming more of a rarity these days, with only a handful of co-op preschools left in Victoria. This style of education means that families have an opportunity to become more engaged in learning together;

parents can be more involved in their child's preschool experience while building lasting friendships with other families. It truly is the best place to be! Interested in enrolling or learning more about our program? Reach out to us at metchosinpreschool@gmail.com for more information. We look forward to meeting our new friends this fall!



View of the refurbished preschool room; credit Erin Van de Water

The Federal Election is Monday, April 28.
Make a plan to vote for our future!

X

It's Our Vote



X

Elections Canada

Visit elections.ca for the official information you need to vote

1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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POV Hallway Galleries

Features three displays for April 2025

Dyan Marie's "FLOW"

A collective painting created over the past year by Metchosin citizens and SC'IA'NEW youth explores the movement and circulation of water on its journey to the ocean.

Marcia Semenoff

Impressionistic oils and watercolours capturing historic landscapes and city scenes featuring snippets of Victoria over the past 30 years.

Etsuko Kaji-Holley

Abstract acrylic paintings influenced by Japanese calligraphy and Ikebana composition.



Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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New Victoria Humane Society Rescue Centre in Metchosin



New nursery wing for puppies; credit Katie Pirquet

Katie Pirquet

Spring is always a busy time for the Victoria Humane Society (VHS). In addition to the usual flush of puppies and kittens to nurture and rehome, there are surrendered, stray, injured, starving and/or mistreated animals to rescue. There are spay/neuter clinics to run, volunteers to train and coordinate, dogs to rehabilitate and train, and fundraising required to pay for all of that. However, VHS now has another labour of love underway and it's happening in Metchosin.

For some time, according to Society Executive Director Penny Stone, VHS has struggled with the perennial problem of far too many animals, mostly dogs and cats, needing to be rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed, and far from adequate facilities to accommodate them. Since its inception in 2013, VHS has managed

to rescue thousands of dogs, cats and other small animals without a dedicated rescue facility. According to Penny, the Society has always had only two paid employees. They depend on volunteers. The problem remains: it isn't nearly enough and the need is overwhelming.

Ten years ago, a generous gift from the Mearns Family Foundation, through Director Craig Mearns, funded the establishment of a spay/neuter clinic on Glanford Avenue in Victoria. Donated time by two local veterinary surgeons has enabled this VHS clinic to prevent the creation of hundreds, maybe thousands, of unwanted, stray pets in Victoria, and yet, VHS is still swamped.

The Society's rescue, rehab work, fostering, and animal care are mostly done by volunteers. "We couldn't manage without them," says Penny and yet, the society regularly faces "the

heartbreaking reality" of turning away some five to seven dogs in need of help every day for lack of space to house them, tend to their needs, and prepare them for adoption. She notes that post-COVID, fewer people are available for fostering the many animals that need assessment, care, recovery, socialization, training, and "learning how to live in a home environment".

In the fall of 2024, Penny had a conversation with Craig Mearns, who loves dogs. That conversation resulted in an offer from the Mearns Family Foundation to donate a gift of two million dollars to buy a property and build a full-service rescue facility. A very suitable 38-acre parcel with two adaptable buildings came available in Metchosin, near the Langford border, and was purchased. Now, the hard work is well underway to turn the forested property into a fully functional animal rescue centre, purpose-built, with both indoor and outdoor facilities. By the spring of this year, they will have completed a one-way trail system called "Penny Lane" that wanders up and down among maturing second-growth Douglas-firs and maples, circling through the forest. Within the entirely fenced property, there will be areas sectioned off for training, play, exercise, and where prospective adopters can get acquainted with prospective adoptees. There will be an indoor nursery for mothers and pups, and a reception area with facilities for bathing, grooming, medical care, food preparation, storage, and assessment.

Also planned are facilities for volunteer training, and offices. According to Penny, there has been nothing like this in Greater Victoria, or indeed, on Vancouver Island. "The new centre will provide unprecedented capacity for fully serviced rescue efforts, in a calming, natural environment," she says. It will even have furnished "living rooms," where dogs can be house-trained and re-oriented to what might be termed a normal home. Penny hopes to welcome more fostering and volunteers from the local communities of Metchosin, Langford, East Sooke and Colwood. "This property and this facility really will allow us to save more lives," she said.

The new rescue centre on Woodruff Road in Metchosin is not open while construction is ongoing, but more information will be available as this year's work progresses. Vigorous fundraising over the next year will be the key to realizing the full development of the rescue centre's facilities and getting its services up and running.

For more information, to foster, volunteer or donate, readers

may contact the Victoria Humane Society by sending email to victoriahumane.society@shaw.ca or by calling 778-265-0788. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the Victoria Humane Society, #5-4217 Glanford Avenue, Victoria V8Z 4B9.



Director Penny Stone at the start of a forest trail; credit Katie Pirquet



New Intake/Reception Building; credit Katie Pirquet

Mearns Family Foundation Champions Higher Education and Animal Welfare

Bill Mearns didn't do things by half. Having earned his engineering degree from Stanford, and an advanced management degree from Harvard, and working as a meter reader with the BC Electric Company (the precursor to BC Hydro), he eventually rose to Vice-President and Senior Director of BC Hydro. He was appointed Chairman of the BC Harbours Board during the development of the Roberts Bank Superport, and later became a founding director of the Bank of British Columbia.

From the mid-1950s onward, Mearns became a supporter of the University of Victoria. He encouraged and helped to facilitate the purchase of the land in Gordon Head and was appointed to a committee to spearhead the development of

the University. For 40 years, Mearns and his wife, Loula, remained dedicated to the growth and success of UVic.

Bill passed away in 1998, but the Mearns Family Foundation continues to support both education and humanitarian causes. In 2005, the Mearns family made a gift of \$5 million to fund the development of a major extension to the UVic library. Named the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning, it opened in the spring of 2008. More recently, the Foundation has made significant contributions to the care of stray, abandoned, injured, and neglected animals on Vancouver Island through major donations to the Victoria Humane Society.

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Visit the Muse website!

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

Rebuild Gaza for Palestinians: Fundraising Dinner in Metchosin

Small Step Collective

The UN recently estimated the cost of rebuilding Gaza to be at least \$53 billion US. Around the world, including here in Metchosin, people are finding ways to contribute to the cause of rebuilding Gaza for Palestinians. A group of concerned Metchosinites who want to be part of this effort – the Small Step Collective – is organizing a fundraising dinner event on Saturday, May 17 (venue TBD). Please join us on that evening from 6:00–9:00 pm. Enjoy delicious Middle Eastern dishes and bid on raffle items while learning more about on-the-ground challenges and resilience in Gaza from guest speakers. The highlights of the evening will be an exhibition of Palestinian-themed fabric art by Elizabeth Shefrin and live music by Bob Bossin, both from Gabriola Island.

All proceeds from dinner tickets will go to the Shawwa Gaza Emergency Relief Initiative, a family initiative that provides fresh drinking water freely to people in Gaza by partnering with a desalination plant in Rafah. Guests also have the option of directing their donation to Save the Children Canada’s Gaza Emergency Appeal. Tickets are \$100 per person.

This is a chance to make a material difference, even modestly, in the lives of Palestinians, and to come together with like-minded and like-hearted people in Metchosin. Tickets are limited to 40 and are going fast. Please contact smallstepcollective@gmail.com for tickets or for more information.

Those unable to attend the dinner but who want to make a donation can also send e-transfers to smallstepcollective@gmail.com.



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Seniors’ Resource Centre

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Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

CLAIM YOUR PROVINCIAL HOME OWNER GRANT NOW

Did you know you can claim your Provincial Home Owner Grant right now? To make it easier, you can claim it online or by phone.

Avoid the June rush! If you’d like assistance completing your grant application online and saving yourself a long wait, please call or email the Centre at 250-478-5150, info@metchosinseniors.ca.

BC TRANSIT BUS TRAINING PRESENTATION

Friday, April 4, 12:00–1:30pm

Learn tips on how to ride BC Transit. Plan trips, check maps and schedules and payment options. Discover accessibility options, safety, rules and behaviour guidelines. The presentation will be followed by a hands-on tour of the Transit Bus onsite.

Call or email SRC, 250-478-5150, info@metchosinseniors.ca to register.

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, April 24, 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.

Please register by emailing cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

FRIDAY SOCIAL

April 25, 1:00–3:00pm
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!

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 Seniors’ Resource Centre (SRC)
1047–4495 Happy Valley Road
250-478-5150 • info@metchosinseniors.ca • www.metchosinseniors.ca

“O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home.”


Baha’i Prayer

.....


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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Fire Department

Call-Outs

FEBRUARY 2025

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

Feb 1	Lindholm Rd – Alarm Bells Kangaroo Rd – Motor Vehicle Crash Olympic View Dr – Medical	Feb 13	East Sooke Rd – Medical Happy Valley Rd – Assist
Feb 2	Kangaroo Rd – Motor Vehicle Crash Lindholm Rd – Public Assist	Feb 14	Elna Rd – Misc. Fire
Feb 3	Malloch Rd – Medical Sooke Rd – Medical Malloch Rd – Medical	Feb 15	Sooke Rd – Motor Vehicle Crash
Feb 5	Challister Ct – Medical Kevere Rd – Medical	Feb 16	Leefield Rd – Medical Pearson College Dr – Alarm Bells
Feb 6	William Head Rd – Medical Lindholm Rd – Structure Fire Happy Valley Rd – Assist	Feb 18	Rocky Point Rd – Medical
Feb 7	Sooke Rd – Brush Fire Still Meadow Rd – Medical Happy Valley Rd – Medical	Feb 19	Rocky Point Rd – Public Assist
Feb 9	Kangaroo Rd – Medical Happy Valley Rd – Medical Sutiacum Rd – Medical	Feb 20	Brookview Dr – Medical
Feb 12	East Sooke Rd – Brush Fire Kangaroo Rd – Motor Vehicle Crash	Feb 23	Happy Valley Rd – Medical Winfall Rd – Medical
		Feb 25	Kangaroo Rd – Explosion Sooke Mutual Aid – Structure Fire Duke Rd – Medical
		Feb 26	Rocky Point Rd – Motor Vehicle Crash
		Feb 27	Lindholm Rd – Medical Metchosin Rd – Medical Pears Rd – Hydro Lines Elna Rd – Chimney Fire
		Feb 28	Liberty Dr – Medical William Head Rd – Medical

CRD Local Walks and Events of Interest

Come out to enjoy CRD events happening in Metchosin and East Sooke!

- Exploring Indigenous Perspectives (Guided Walk)** – All ages • Sat, Apr 12 2025, 10-11:30am • Metchosin, Devonian Regional Park
- Egg-cellent Nests (Guided Walk)** – All ages • Sun, Apr 13 2025, 10-11:30am • Metchosin, Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park
- Beginner Birding Basics (Self-guided Walk)** – All ages • Sat, Apr 19 2025, 11am-2pm • East Sooke, East Sooke Regional Park
- Exploring Indigenous Perspectives (Self-guided Walk)** – All ages • Sat, Apr 26 2025, 11am-2pm • East Sooke, East Sooke Regional Park

Some events require registration. For more information, visit: www.crd.bc.ca/about/events

RCMP Call-Outs

FEBRUARY 2025

Cpl Nancy Saggar, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

62 calls for service in Metchosin in February (not every call is listed below, details have been omitted to protect the caller/ victim’s identity)

- Feb 1 **Driving Complaint, Chapel Heights Dr** – Patrols conducted, vehicle found parked
- Single vehicle collision, 900 block Kangaroo Rd**
- Feb 2 **Suspected impaired driving complaint** – Patrols conducted, vehicle found parked
- Feb 3 **Two-vehicle collision** – 3700 block Sooke Rd
- Feb 4 **Missing Person Report** – Metchosin – person located, unharmed
- Feb 5 **Coroners Act** – Next of Kin Notification for Metchosin Resident
- Check well-being** – 4800 block Sooke Rd
- Criminal Harassment** – Metchosin
- Feb 6 **Two vehicle collision** – 3900 block Sooke Rd
- Single vehicle collision** – 3900 block Sooke Rd
- Traffic complaint** – no insurance ticket and driver was prohibited – Albert Head Lagoon
- Feb 7 **911 call** – accidental dial – Happy Valley Rd

- Feb 8 **Traffic Complaint** – 3700 block Sooke Rd
- Traffic Complaint** – Happy Valley Rd
- Feb 9 **Traffic Complaint** – No driver’s licence, 4000 block Metchosin Rd
- Feb 13 **Driving while disqualified** – 6000 block William Head Rd
- Feb 14 **Suspicious Occurrence** – bone found at Witty’s Lagoon, bone was determined to be non-human
- Traffic complaint** – Happy Valley Rd – Vehicle not located
- Feb 15 **Check well-being** – Chapel Heights Dr
- Two-vehicle collision** – 4700 block Sooke Rd
- Keep the Peace** – Near Metchosin Rd and Pears Rd
- Feb 18 **Suspicious occurrence** – Bike and trailer full of bike parts found near Happy Valley Rd and Glen Forest Way. Owner not located.
- Feb 19 **False Alarm** – Happy Valley Rd
- Check well-being** – Metchosin
- Proactive traffic enforcement and patrols** – 4400 block of Happy Valley Rd, 5000 block Rocky Point Rd and 3700 block Sooke Rd

- Feb 21 **Abandoned vehicle** – Happy Valley Rd/Lindholm Rd
- Theft of camper** – 3700 block Duke Rd
- Feb 22 **Theft of personal belongings** – Weir Beach
- Feb 23 **Hazard** – fallen tree on road near Sooke Rd at Kangaroo Rd
- Check well-being** – Metchosin
- Check well-being** – Metchosin
- Feb 24 **Check well-being** – Metchosin
- Feb 25 **False Alarm** – 3800 block Graceland Dr
- Hazard** – Fallen tree affected powerlines near 1500 block Kangaroo Rd
- Proactive traffic enforcement and patrols** – Rocky Point Rd
- Feb 27 **Check well-being** – Metchosin
- Collision involving vehicle and cyclist** – 4000 block Metchosin Rd
- Report of possible impaired driver headed toward Sooke** – near Kangaroo Rd, Patrols made, vehicle not located.
- Feb 28 **Traffic complaint, erratic driver** – Sooke/Kangaroo Rd, patrols made, vehicle not located

Important Dates & Events

- Apr. 5 **Open House: Parks and Trails Master Plan** p. 5
- Apr. 5–13 **Consider the Lilies Fibres and Beyond Show** p. 4
- Apr. 25 **Film Night: Sugarcane** p. 11
- Apr. 26 **Scouts Bonfire, all welcome!** p. 8
- Apr. 28 **Federal Election**; see elections.ca for information
- May 17 **Rebuild Gaza for Palestinians: Fundraising Dinner in Metchosin** p. 14

Other events:

- Council Meetings** p. 2
- Metchosin Community House Happenings** p. 11
- Seniors’ Resource Centre Events** p. 14

Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

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Metchosin Directory

Metchosin Fire Department:
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Police (Non-Emergency):
250-474-2264

Military Police Non-Emergency
250-363-4032

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

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www.alzheimerbc.org

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

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bilstonwatershed@gmail.com
bilstonwatershed.org

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crdparks@crd.bc.ca
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)
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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

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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
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www.metchosinsar.ca

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info@metchosinseniors.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

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250-642-0238

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

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION
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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 91,
Station Rd, Langford Ladies Auxiliary
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SCOUTS CANADA
14th Juan de Fuca (Metchosin)
Email: 14thjdf@scouts.ca
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SEA CADETS
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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
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info@westshorearts.org
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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.

One Last Act of Generosity

Johnny Carline

Ken and Laura Farquharson were outstanding contributors to the Metchosin community. They were active in both the political life of Metchosin and in many of the social activities. Now they are both gone and around fifty people gathered in the Metchosin Community House for one last event held in their memory.

Ken and Laura’s house was full of works of art they had collected over the years, not as financial investments, but as works they enjoyed. Given the involvement with and support for the Metchosin Community House that both of them had, their family – in the spirit of generosity that typified Ken and Laura – donated their

art collection to an auction, the proceeds from which went to the Metchosin Community Association.

The auction was organized by the Community Association and local CHEK TV personality and newscaster Stacy Ross served as the auctioneer, despite having one leg in a cast and being at the tail-end of a bad cold. It is not the first time Stacy has served the community in this capacity and we should be grateful, for she is not only very generous with her time, she is very, very good at it. She not only persuades folk to open their wallets for a good cause, but also ensures that people have a really good time doing it.

Penny, from the Wine Maker, oversaw the supply of good wine

to complement the goodies provided by the Association, and the mood of the crowd was both lively and sentimental.

Twenty-eight works of art were auctioned off to a near-full house, interspersed with people coming forward to offer memories and stories of Ken and Laura. Many observed how much they both would have enjoyed and appreciated the event. The benefit to the MCHouse was estimated to be in excess of \$3,000, but the value of the memory of Ken and Laura’s friendship to the people present was worth a lot more.

Right: MCA VP Kirsten Quealey thanking Stacy Ross with Laura’s son-in-law, Ritchie Morrison behind



Grey Jay by Glen Smith; credit Barb Sawatsky



A shock discovery of a work by a Spanish artist dated about 1905



A Cooper’s Hawk painted by Joanne Beels; credit Barb Sawatsky

The 18th Annual Baha’i Service Project



Volunteers at work on the supplies; credit Emily Makarenko

Iman Zandieh

On February 23 the energy and music emanating from the Metchosin Community Hall was felt by all who were walking or driving by. The 18th annual service project, sponsored by the Metchosin Baha’i Community, was taking place inside. A diverse group of participants brought generous donations of towels, socks, and toiletries to support the hot shower programs at Our Place and Rock Bay Landing, two local societies that provide invaluable assistance to many. Personalized cards and care packages were also lovingly put together.

Emily Makarenko, a representative from Our Place, provided inspiring insights on

the importance of the hot shower program. She shared her observations of the therapeutic effect of a hot shower for many who attend their facility. Beyond just the physical and hygienic results, the emotional and mental consequences of having access to a safe, warm shower are profound and have resulted in a heightened feeling of dignity and self-worth for many of their clients.

The spirit of service was palpable, and coupled with the amazing music of the Mufaro Marimba band, resulted in a joyous afternoon! Thank you to all who attended, donated to, and supported the service project. We are already in the process of planning next year’s event and hope that you’ll be able to make it!

Birds of Metchosin: Canadian Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Avril Stultus

This is a common resident found in backyards and mountains alike. The Latin name indicates that it is a member of the thrush family (and has no reference to the current resident in the White House). Migratorius shows that robins may fly south in cold weather (migrate) and can be found as far South as Guatemala (prior to the troops closing our southern border).

The appearance is of a bulky thrush with a solid grey back, yellow bill and raised elbows. The orange breast is lighter in the female and spotted in the juvenile bird (not to be confused with the spotted towhee). The robin’s birdsong comes in rising and falling phrases: ‘nooo tu tu arrriiiff’s’.



Canadian Robin; credit Allen Jones