



Metchosin Muse

A N O N - P R O F I T C O M M U N I T Y P U B L I C A T I O N



Santa gets an escort from the fire department on his annual Santa run - handing out candy canes and bringing joy.

Pearson Christmas Concert At The Hall

MUSE ROVING REPORTER

WOW! This was a stunning evening of extremely talented Pearson students. If this is the warm-up for One World, what a performance that will be!

Despite the exams and papers due, the Pearson students turned out to support the Metchosin Community House and the community in general with a magnificent evening of music.

The Pearson Wailers started off with *Lo How a Rose*, followed by *Dans og Drikk* (in Danish, meaning dance and drink – so now we all want to go to Denmark soon). Then came the Pearson Virtuoso with a beautiful *Jazz Solo*, the *Russian Duet*, *O Mio Bobbino Caro*, *Il Mio Bell Focco*, *Ombra Mai Fu* and *Palladio*.

The PC Fame of Five then performed *Let it Be* by the Beatles. Then Ukeroos and PC Wailers sang *Il est ne le Divine Enfant*. This was followed by a short intermission. Then the Latin American Singers did a number, followed by the Pearson College Parodies doing *The Twelve Days of Pearson*. Very humorous, especially “on the fifth day of Christmas David gave to me five hours of sleep (which was generous).”

The East House Girls Choir sang *Donna Nabis Pacem* then the general Choir sang *Muziki Vuma*, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* and *It Takes a Whole Village*. This was followed by the Choir leading us all in various carols. Everyone was very energized but a bit sad when the evening ended.



Photo: John Hollemans

Important Dates (for on-going events in Metchosin, check Events on page 16)

Jan. 11 – Talk and Walk on Sasquatch – see p. 6

Jan. 13 – Natexa Verbrugge Recital – see p. 10

Jan. 05 – Scouts Annual Bottle Drive – see December Muse

Jan. 02, 03 and 04 - Recycle your Christmas Tree - see p. 14

Metchosin Muse

c/o E. Carlson, 4985 La Bonne Road, Victoria, BC, V9C 4C5

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CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2600

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

The 15th of each month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, RTF or Appleworks to: metmuse@shaw.ca. Typewritten or handwritten copy is acceptable if you have no access to a computer. Do not send PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles not sent via email in the Muse box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax to 250-483-5352.

AD DEADLINE

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

ABOUT THE MUSE

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

The Muse is delivered, free of charge, to every household in Metchosin. Additional copies are available at My-Chosen Café, Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, Happy Valley Store, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop and Willow Wind Feed & Tack Store on Sooke Road. It is also available at the Juan de Fuca Library.

MAILING ADDRESS

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Letters to the Editor

The Metchosin Muse welcomes letters to the Editor, of not more than 200 words. Please leave your letter at the Metchosin Country Store, or E-Mail it to metmuse@shaw.ca. Please sign your letter. An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.



Preschoolers getting ready for the pancakes.

Pancake Breakfast

What a wonderful turn out we had at our fourth annual pancake breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 8 at St. Mary's Church. It has become a truly wonderful family tradition. We would like to give a huge thanks to the Westsong community for all their hard work and kind hearts. The event would not have succeeded without them. We would also like to thank St Mary's Church for their generosity. The day started off with a delicious pancake breakfast that was enjoyed by many. After breakfast there were crafts and yummy Christmas baking for sale. Around 10:00 am both our awesome preschool classes sang Christmas songs with their teacher Wendy. It was so delightful to see the children sing. When Santa came out, you could almost feel the magic. The children all ran over to him and his very tall elf. Once all of them had a chance to sit on his knee and get their picture taken, it was time for some more hot chocolate. Thanks to all our parents who worked so hard on their contribution. Lastly, but not least, we would love to thank the community of Metchosin for buying their Christmas trees from us and supporting our wonderful preschool.

We are happy to announce that we are having an open house on January 26. We are going to be putting a new look on Metchosin Preschool and we would like to invite everyone to come join us from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be a casual lunch and fun and exciting conversations about the preschool. Please feel free to stop by if you are new to Metchosin or looking for a preschool, or if you are a former preschool family and want to see the changes.

Hanna Davis, Metchosin Preschool

Letter to the Editor

Cookies Critter Care would like to send out a huge thank you to the community of Metchosin! September 2012 marked the two-year anniversary of the bottle collection. Over the past two years, your donations have added up to a whopping \$11,000 !! This was donated to local animal rescues along with donated pet food and other pet supplies.

This is only the beginning. I will be continuing to collect your empties and supplies when you call. I make it easy for you, I bring plastic recycle bags and can swap out recycle bins if you need them and there is no need to sort the bottles, just throw them all in! Instead of tossing your empties in the trash or into your blue bin, please call me for pick up. It might only be five cents per can, but every nickel adds up. The money all goes to a good cause, and it reduces waste. I do not keep any of the money, one hundred percent of your donated bottle refunds is donated. This provides rescues, with some extra help to care for those who cannot speak for themselves. You can see the rescues to which I donate, and the amounts as they increase on my website: www.cookiescrittercare.swebby.com. All pop cans and bottles, tins, water bottles, beer and liquor bottles and cans are accepted. If possible please keep beer bottles in their original cases. Juice bottles, gable boxes and tetra packs are accepted, but please, no soy beverage containers and broth (soup) boxes or milk products.

You can call, text me at 250-415-9335 or you can email me at metchosincookie@gmail.com for pick up. Regular pick up can be arranged as well. Thank you and keep up the donating!! It is for an undeniable good cause. Please drink responsibly too!

With the holiday seasons coming up I am certain a lot of partying will be happening! Please keep my number on hand for bottle pick up. I will be at your house in a flash if you call!

Happy Holidays from Cookies Critter Care!

Letters from Metchosin Technical Centre

Ein glückliches neues Jahr!

Every month I have the privilege of reading our students' letters in the Muse. It is gratifying to me that the students enjoy school and have fun learning at the same time. Our staff believes that if school is fun students will come and if they come they will learn. We also believe that students cannot learn if they are hungry. To that end, we are participating in the BC Fruit and Vegetable program and we feed many of our students every day. Two local gentlemen, Bradley Doney and Wayne Fotty, learned of our school, through our students' writings in the Muse. They began to take a keen interest in the wellbeing of our students. Jane Denny, our IS teacher at MTC, fellow Metchosinites and friend of the two gentlemen, has worked with them to develop a pilot program to help feed our students. These fine men have made a very substantial donation to the school to implement a hot lunch program. Mary Gidney, I'm certain all Metchosinites know, purchases the supplies, prepares the food and delivers it to the students with the help of Rocky Cook. On behalf of the students and staff of Pacific MTC, I would like to offer a most sincere thank you to Bradley Doney, Wayne Fotty, Mary Gidney and Jane Denny for their generous contribution, and the many hours of volunteer time, as well as the financial support of Cobbs Bakery.

Keith Boggs, Vice Principal, Pacific MTC
Feliz año Nuevo!

Muse Photos

Most of the photos in the Muse are taken by Roger St. Pierre or Peter Lewis (who also handles our advertising). They do this for us on a volunteer basis, and we think you will agree that their expertise has added greatly to the appearance of our newspaper. If you wish to order copies of any of these photos, please go to their respective websites for details of how to order:

Peter M. Lewis - www.intothelightimages.com
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Muse Subscriptions

We can mail the Muse to you each month for \$20 a year if it is to be posted to a Canadian address, and \$25 a year if you wish it posted to the United States. Please send your information and cheque to the Head of our Subscriptions Department, Joan Bradley, 10 Bradene Road, Victoria BC, V9C 4B1, Tel: 250-478-3451. Or you can email us at metmuse@shaw.ca



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Mayor Ranns Receives Diamond Jubilee Medal from MP Randall Garrison

MORALEA MILNE

On the first snowy December evening of 2012, Metchosin Mayor John Ranns was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for his many years of service to Metchosin and the Capital Region. The Mayor was marched into the municipal hall by the very impressive Fire Department Honour Guard, where Randall Garrison, MP for Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca, following heartfelt words of appreciation from former CRD Chair Geoff Young, presented him with the medal.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Prior to being elected a Metchosin councillor in 1987, Mayor Ranns served eighteen years as CUPE local union president and chief negotiator. This was followed by continuous service to this community, either as a lacrosse coach, District Councillor, School District Trustee or as Mayor. He is one of the CRD's longest serving municipal officials and has chaired CRD Parks, Finance, and Planning departments. And he has never lost an election!

Mayor Ranns has long trumpeted Metchosin as the best place to live in all of BC and has been an unwavering advocate for the vision of Metchosin as a vibrant, independent, fully rural community.

After receiving the medal and being subjected to a rousing rendition of "For he's a jolly good fellow" (thankfully rescued by Andy MacKinnon's superior vocal harmonies...), John paid tribute to his wife Cheryl for her patience and forbearance with his career, as well as acknowledging the fact that his children never ever gave him cause to worry, allowing him the time and space to handle municipal and regional issues.

The hall was beautifully decorated in a festive theme by staff, and a variety of delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all. Jane and Peter Hammond, local growers, donated the delicious hot apple cider.

Thank you Mayor Ranns, for all you have done to preserve Metchosin's rural integrity.



Fire Hall Honour Guard.



Randall Garrison presenting the award to Mayor Ranns.

Keeping the Westshore Vandalism Free

PHILIP M. WILLIAMS

The Westshore Community Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) provides an open forum where members of the community come together once a month to give feedback and direction on policing initiatives. The committee has also established a grant program whereby local not-for-profit organizations can apply for up to \$500 in funding for initiatives that help reduce or prevent crime and promote public safety. Metchosin is represented at CPAC by David Kirkham.

One of the recent recipients of grant money is the Westshore Graffiti Outreach Program which is a municipal initiative sponsored by the City of Colwood with the addition of contributions from BC Hydro and Rona Home and Garden Centre.

The program, which is coordinated by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, incorporates an improved regimen of record keeping, abatement, education, and enforcement strategies to reduce visible graffiti in and about the City. Victims of the crime are given direct assistance with abatement and are also offered target-hardening advice. Furthermore, program contributors can benefit from discounts on services from professional remediation providers.

All new graffiti damage is meticulously recorded and shared with other enforcement agencies. This data proves to be of significant evidentiary value when profiling offenders. Criminal charges for graffiti vandals are sought when necessary; however, the Graffiti Coordinator works closely with parents, police, and other agencies to explore and deliver restorative justice options such as restitution, fines, counselling, and supervised community service work, painting out damage and conducting shoreline clean-ups.

One of the most important aspects of the campaign is education. Youth involved in graffiti are at risk. Many display addictive behaviours and have substance abuse issues. Racking, the term that those involved in the graffiti sub-culture use to refer to shoplifting, is the preferred means of obtaining graffiti tools. Trespassing is common and efforts to paint tags in high profile or prohibited areas can sometimes end in tragedy. Furthermore, battles for territory have been known to end in violence. As a result, literature is being distributed to the public and information and awareness presentations are going to be offered at local schools and special events.

The Westshore Graffiti Outreach Program has proved to be a great success thus far. During the first twelve months, ninety-four percent of the 1,115 tags that were recorded in the municipality were quickly painted out or removed. Twelve graffiti vandals were identified, resulting in the issuance of five warnings, sixteen tickets, three restitution orders, and an aggregate of fifty-five hours of community service work.

Graffiti vandalism is a regional problem. Looking to the future, the City of Colwood wishes to share their achievement by partnering with neighbouring municipalities to expand the impact of the program. For more information readers can visit the City of Colwood website at www.colwood.ca. Phil Williams is Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the City of Colwood and Westshore Graffiti Outreach Coordinator.

This information is provided by the West Shore Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC). Metchosin's representative on CPAC is David Kirkham. If you have questions or concerns that you would like raised at the Committee, please contact David at: CPAC-Metchosin@googlegroups.com.



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'Tis the Season at Hans Helgesen School

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

December always seems to be a busy time at school, with all of the regular school activities combining with the special events that accompany the approaching holiday. Hans Helgesen School has many traditions surrounding the season and if you are a former student or parent you are already well acquainted with them!

A long-standing event is the book fair that took place again this year at the end of November. The fair is always popular with children, and many students went home with new books! The fair raised \$1,150, which will help to buy quite a few new books for the school library!

Once again this year each class took part in CFA Santa's Anonymous. First, the students raised money by doing extra chores at home during two Loonie Toonie weekends. Then their hard-

earned money was used to buy gifts for children in Victoria who might otherwise not have presents at Christmas. It was gratifying to see the children focus on giving at this time of year, with less focus on what they would like to receive.

The Christmas concert was held on the afternoon of December 12, and was well-attended by parents and other family members. This year every student was involved in preparing for, and taking part in the concert!

A not-so-traditional event this term was the visit by the Victoria Grizzlies hockey team on December 4. The players talked to the children in their classes about the importance of reading. A highlight was when the Grizzlies challenged students – and some staff members – to a few games of floor hockey. Every interested student had the opportunity to try their skill in a game against the players.

As is evident by the number of special activities, this past month at the school has been a busy time.

In addition to the special events there have been all the regular classroom activities that keep everyone busy, focused and productive. And now it is holiday time, and time for all to take a well-deserved break. Happy holidays to all!



The Grizzlies Hockey Team visits Hans Helgesen

Happy Retirement, Mr. Kruse!

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

George Kruse, the principal at Hans Helgesen School, will be leaving his position at the end of December to begin a new phase in his life – retirement! He has been involved in teaching children for 33 years, in a variety of positions and locations. George started his career in northern BC, before moving to Sooke District to teach English as a second language. During his time in our district he has worked at several schools, as a classroom teacher, vice-principal and, more recently, as a principal. Now George is looking forward to spending time with his family, and playing a little more golf! Sue Tonnesen, who is currently the vice-principal at Hans Helgesen School, will step into the role of principal at the school in January.

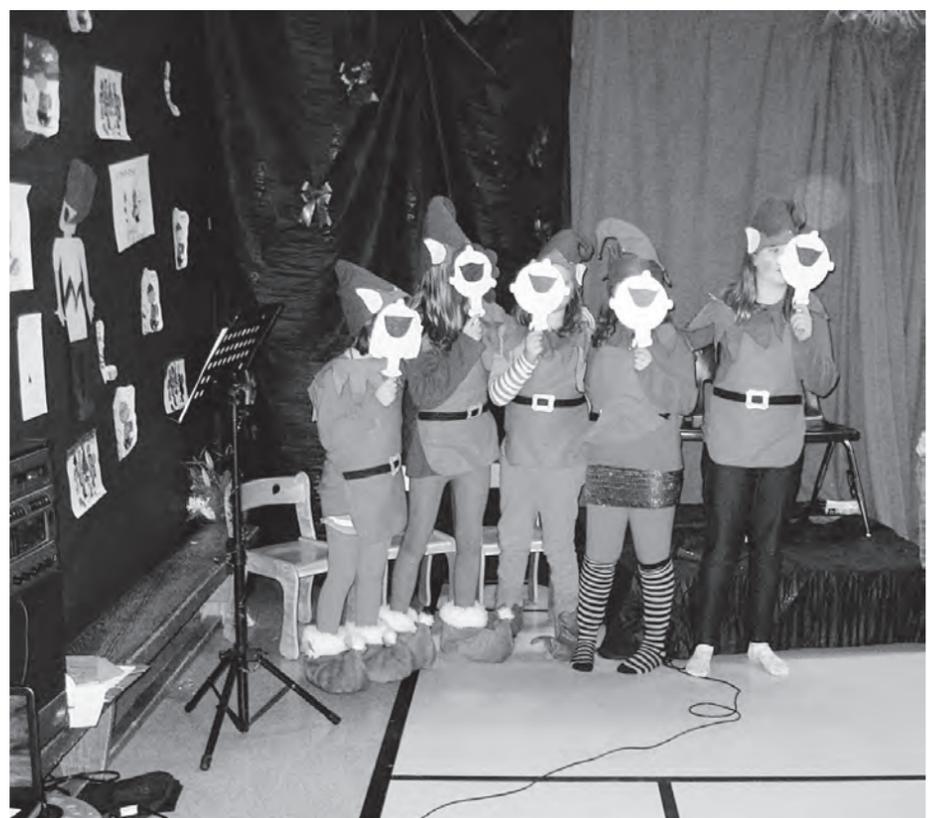
Best wishes, George, for a wonderful retirement!



Principal George



The Christmas Concert



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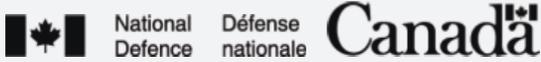
KEN FARQUHARSON

At 7:00 pm, Wednesday, January 16, at Metchosin Community House, residents can hear and talk with Dana Larsen. Dana Larsen is the former NDP leadership candidate who is preparing a petition drive to force a referendum known as *Sensible BC* to decriminalize cannabis in our province. Specifically, his organization is calling upon the BC government to pass the *Sensible Policing Act*, which would (a) decriminalize cannabis possession for adults and (b) work towards a legally regulated system for cannabis.

This event is sponsored by the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin. While decriminalizing marijuana is not critical to keeping Metchosin rural, supporting our local government and constructive conversations among residents on significant issues do contribute to that end. In addition, Metchosin played an important role in advancing the decriminalization campaign. Councillor Milne initially acquainted Metchosin Council with this issue in 2011, and Council decided to place it on the agendas of regional and provincial local government associations. The eventual result was the overwhelming September 2012 vote by BC's mayors, councillors and regional directors to "decriminalize marijuana and research the regulation and taxation of marijuana." This, in turn, provided the impetus for *Sensible BC* to go into high gear on promoting a referendum. (For our Mayor's take on the subject, go to item number four at <http://sensiblebc.ca/watch-the-forum/>).



COUNCIL NEWS



Public Notice: DND to Conduct Underwater UXO Survey at Albert Head
The Department of National Defence (DND) Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) and Legacy Sites Program will be conducting an underwater survey of the area around Albert Head, commencing mid-January 2013 for approximately 1 month. This survey will allow DND to gather more information on potential UXO on the seafloor that may have resulted from past weapons training at Albert Head. This survey work will be carried out by a commercial diving contractor under the authority of the Department of National Defence and under supervision of Defence Construction Canada. The public is requested to remain clear of the site while diving operations are being carried out. For more information, please visit the DND UXO and Legacy Sites Program website at

AGE-FRIENDLY GRANT

Metchosin has been approved for Age Friendly funding for a Seniors Drop in Center project on the ground floor of the old Metchosin Elementary School (now Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre MACCA). The SIRC 'store-front' facility will be a vibrant, welcoming place in the Village Core, where the coffee is always on; where friends gather for fellowship, learning, cultural and social events and where the seniors' advocate or her volunteers assistants are always ready to assist seniors and their families. It is hoped this will be up and running by mid-January, 2013.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES NOW ACCRUING INTEREST

As required by provincial legislation, overdue property taxes and any penalties are now accruing interest at 6%. Please contact Allison at the Municipal Hall to arrange a payment plan.

COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in Agriculture, Healthy Communities, or do you enjoy Metchosin's parks and trails? Metchosin council's advisory committees need new volunteers. If you're interested, please submit a letter of interest addressed to Mayor and Council to the Municipal Hall.

INTERMUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES (IACDI)

If you are interested in representing Metchosin on the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI), please submit a letter of interest to the Council at the Municipal Hall or by email to info@metchosin.ca. For more information, call 250-474-3167 or check the website at www.metchosin.ca.

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

If you are interested in representing Metchosin on the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, please submit a letter of interest to the Council at the Municipal Hall or by email to info@metchosin.ca. For more information, call 250-474-3167 or check the website at www.metchosin.ca.

WINTER ROADS SERVICES

Metchosin's public works is ready for ice control and snow plough service. New stainless steel salter/sanders have been installed on all 4 trucks. For extreme weather, the large blade grader is available along with a contracted front end loader. Watch for the Metchosin Mail or visit the website for more details www.metchosin.ca.

PRIORITY ROADS SERVICE

Please remember that ice control and snow plough service is provided on priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. BC Transit routes and school bus routes are next, after which all other roads will be serviced. Response times will vary depending on weather conditions, however Council is confident that response times will be better than the required response set out in past roads contracts. If you don't see trucks pass your residence it may be that your road has been serviced before dawn.



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WALK & TALK

Sasquatch! –

7:00 pm, Friday, January 11, at Municipal Hall

MORALEA MILNE

Does the Sasquatch exist or not? Dr. John Bindernagel is a long-time Bigfoot Field Research Organisation Curator, who has spent decades researching the Sasquatch mystery in BC. Convinced the species exists, he has published *North America's Great Ape: the Sasquatch* and *The Discovery of the Sasquatch*. Please join us for what will be a fascinating exploration of Sasquatch research.



Starry Night Skies – 7:00 pm, Friday, February 22

Please join local resident Bill Weir and Pearson College teacher Nazim Acar as they take us on a journey through the Metchosin Night Sky. Weather and space permitting there will be a walk at the Pearson College Observatory at a date to be announced. Nazim is looking for interest in starting an astronomy group that could meet weekly or monthly.

Spiders – 7:00 pm, Friday, March 22

Is your spidey sense tingling in anticipation? Even I admit spiders can be tough to love, but they are fascinating creatures that play an important role in our ecosystems. Robb Bennett will be presenting an illustrated seminar on spiders. He will discuss the general biology and natural history of spiders and will introduce you to interesting Canadian spiders in general and British Columbia spiders in particular. Anyone with a curiosity about the natural history, identification, and ecology of spiders (including spider folklore and medical mythology) will find this of interest.

Robb Bennett, PhD FESC – Previously an entomologist with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Robb Bennett is currently a research associate in the Entomology Department of the Royal British Columbia Museum. In addition to his entomological expertise, Robb has a specialist's interest in the natural history, taxonomy, and classification of spiders. He has studied them for over thirty years and has published a wide variety of scientific papers and other articles on spiders.

JIM MACPHERSON



Metchosin Passes No-GMO Resolution

JIM MACPHERSON

I trust that all of our readers had a very good Christmas. And now, I wish all of you and all of Metchosin the very best in the New Year.

November 26, Metchosin Council passed a resolution recommending no GMO plants be grown in Metchosin. The resolution originated at the Metchosin Agriculture Advisory Select Committee, was forwarded to the Parks and Trails Committee, and then to Council.

The background and rationale for the resolution might best be described by citing directly from the resolution: "Whereas genetic modification of agricultural crops has to date focused on large-scale commercial crops such as field corn, soybeans, canola and cotton. None of these crops have been grown in Metchosin. Recently, however, genetic modification of sweet corn and fruit, particularly apples, pears, cherries and peaches, and the marketing of these crops beginning in 2013 means that GM plants may be directly or indirectly introduced to Metchosin and;

"Whereas organic production is important to the agricultural economy of Metchosin. The sale of organic produce to individuals as well as to restaurants, farm markets and food retailers underpins individual farm economics and contributes significantly to Metchosin's branding. Market demand for organic – and locally grown – produce simply keeps on expanding;

"Whereas the diversity of produce and the broad range of varieties grown provide and preserve genetic material of which seed is sold around the world; the preservation of this genetic pool is freely acknowledged by the largest seed companies which also contribute to seed banks;

"Whereas Metchosin's isolation from other agricultural areas in southern Vancouver Island along with the prevailing wind direction together provide Metchosin farmers with practical approaches to avoiding contamination by genetically modified organisms (GMO); and

"Whereas these conditions suggest that there is an opportunity for Metchosin farmers, with continuing organic production, to maintain long term sustainability, to foster a living seed bank, and to be a refuge from genetic contamination."

Small Art with Big Impact Comes to the Metchosin Art Gallery

HAILEY FINNIGAN

One hundred and thirteen of the finest small-scale original artworks are on display at the Metchosin Art Gallery in the current exhibit *Massively Mini Art*. Tiny two and three-dimensional artworks are at the gallery including photography, paintings, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture and jewelry.

This show provides an excellent example of how small art sparks the imagination. For example, in *Massively Mini* there are forests made from metal, a kissing booth, a stone with a sail and a one-eyed orange monster. To date, this might be the most fun exhibit at the Metchosin Art Gallery.

The show is comprised mostly of local artists, but a couple are from farther afield, one being from Delta and another from Calgary. Featured artists include Rachel Evans, Will Gordon, June Haynes, Dallas Doubaitis, Cheryl Taves, Bert Lambier, Robert Chabot, Beverly Petow, Kathy and Selby Saluke and the Menzies brothers.

Massively Mini Art runs until January 27. The Metchosin Art Gallery is located at 4495 Happy Valley Road and is open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 5:00pm. More information about programming, submissions, volunteering and membership can be found at www.metchosinartgallery.ca.



Metchosin Foundation Welcomes Major Donation

CAROL CARMAN

It is with great pleasure that we can now announce the Metchosin Foundation has received a \$10,000 donation to be directed jointly towards the activities of the Seniors' Information Resource Centre (SIRC) currently being coordinated out of the Community House by Colleen Brownlee, and ongoing environmental projects. SIRC was created as a response to Metchosin Council's Healthy Communities consultations in 2011, followed by a \$20,000 grant to Council from the Union of BC Municipalities. The philanthropist(s) in this case have asked to remain anonymous, but share our foundation's commitment to enhance a healthy, caring community by supporting SIRC to become a strong, stand-alone community asset over the long term as well as protecting our environment by way of covenants and other activities to help preserve Metchosin's unique open and green spaces.

If you have begun your financial planning for the 2012 tax year, please note that any donations to the Metchosin Foundation are tax deductible. Charity BN/Registration #81576 1556 RR0001

The Board of the Metchosin Foundation is happy to extend our best wishes for 2013 to all readers of the Muse. With the help of many of you, we have been able to make great progress this year both in safeguarding the qualities of our unique environmental assets and focusing strongly on our healthy community mandate.

We have been privileged to work closely with the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and local landowners to facilitate the establishment of nature covenants. We hope to be able shortly to announce the completion of one such major such covenant. Several more covenant projects are at various stages of assessment. If you have a property with significant natural heritage that you would like help in protecting far into the future, please contact us.

Hundreds have attended our regular Walk and Talk events that feature expert presentations on fascinating local plants, mushrooms, birds and animals. In May, we co-hosted a second successful BioBlitz with the District of Metchosin, the Victoria Natural History Society, the Boys and Girls Club and the Capital Regional District Parks. Sixty scientists and many keen amateurs identified over 950 species that share living space with us, bringing the total Metchosin species counted to date to over 1200. The next BioBlitz is planned for April 27 2013, so please mark your calendars.

Our Halloween Dance has become an annual event and a successful fundraiser for

the foundation. Many thanks to all of you who dressed in extraordinary costumes, danced to Metchosin's 'Fine Spirits' band and enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Hall. Also this fall, the Foundation partnered with the Metchosin Community Association to sponsor our community's first Apple Festival. Heritage apples were collected and identified from all over the community and the baking and jam-making activities at the Community House delighted children and adults alike.

Anyone who wishes to support the preservation of our harmonious community and eco-jewel for future generations is welcome to become a member of the Metchosin Foundation, make a donation and/or consider a bequest in your Estate Planning. Becoming a member is easy and inexpensive. For only a \$10.00 annual membership fee you can work with us to sustain our remarkable environmental and community heritage. Please join us at the Community House for our next public meeting Sunday January 13.

To become a member and/or donate, please drop by the Community House with your contribution and fill out a membership form. You may prefer to access the form on our website and mail your fee to: The Metchosin Foundation, c/o Metchosin Community House, 4430 - Happy Valley Road, Victoria, BC, V9C 3Z3. For more information, our website is www.metchosinfoundation.ca

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WEST-MONT

December At West-Mont School

SKYLAR CONSTANCE LORRAINE MABER-COUSINS

These past three weeks at West-Mont School have been fun. I have enjoyed swimming at the Juan de Fuca pool on December 7. We all had a wonderful time there.

We are also doing a play called *The Best Christmas Ever* written by Jason Bowers. We all auditioned for the parts. The play is about one family, the Trumbull's. Mrs. Trumbull loses her job and the children think Christmas is over when she explains what happened at her work. While the parents prepare dessert the children come up with an awesome plan to make gift certificates. Of course, it being Christmas, it all turns out great. I am very excited about putting on this play because I got the role of the mother. I like singing the song *All You Need Is Love* which is for the finale.

We are also working on an interesting socials project. It is about our cultural background. We interview people in our family, get feedback, and make a poster or PowerPoint presentation.

That is what I've liked about the last few weeks of school. By the way, all our classes are named after trees.

What I Like About West-Mont School

QUINLAN WALKER

At West-Mont School I enjoy learning new things. You get to learn about whales and maps in science class. You also get to go on awesome field trips. Grades four to eight students got to go on a field trip to the JDF pool. We got to go on the water slide and jump off the rope swing. You also get to do plays at the Christmas concert. You get to do fun activities in December. All the kids can bring in Christmas decorations and we have a Christmas decoration competition. Also grades four to eight students get to go to Maria Montessori to play basketball. You get to play at least two games per field trip; when you are not playing you get to sit on the stage and watch the other teams play basketball. At our school grade one to three students play intramurals. Every Friday we also have exploratories. We either do sewing, cooking or art. I think cooking is the best because you get to try food from different countries.

Metchosin Museum Society – 1872 to 2012

GAERT LINNAEA

Metchosin's one room school house is now 140 years old. For the past forty years the school house has been used as a museum and cared for by the Metchosin Museum Society. We are recognizing this fortieth anniversary and are looking for ideas from the community for a new logo.

This logo is for the Metchosin Museum Society which is the umbrella organization for two museums – the Pioneer Museum and the School Museum. Please see our website at <http://metchosinmuseum.ca>

Are you artistically inclined? Are you interested in helping us come up with a Logo? Most organizations identify themselves with an image or brand and we are reaching out to the community for ideas for one logo that is representative of both the school and the pioneer museums.

There may not have been much branding, other than livestock, happening back in 1872, but in 2012 our community now has two superb museums which warrant a logo that reflects our unique historical roots. Contact Gaert at linnaea1@telus.net for more information.



Metchosin Museum Society Heritage Week – February 18 to 24

Heritage Week will be celebrated with the Metchosin Museum Society hosting an evening event at the Metchosin Community House Friday, February 22 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Our guest speaker is Dorothy Mindenhall. Dorothy is the author of *Unbuilt in Victoria*, a book which covers many never built design projects in Victoria. Dorothy is an architectural historian with a particular interest in the Victorian era. She is a contributor to *Building the West*. A publication about architects and the architectural environment of early British Columbia and she is involved in various projects for heritage conservation.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event in celebration of the Museum's Fortieth Anniversary. Please come and learn more about Victoria and Metchosin heritage. Refreshments will be served. For further information please call Gaert at 250-381-5752.



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from The Muse team



The Rural Gardener

By Isabel Tipton

A happy, prosperous and successful gardening year to you all. I thought that with the current brouhaha about deer, geese, rabbits and the like, I would write about what I do to preserve both my plants and my sanity. Selecting plants the deer do not generally destroy helps, but the odd deer will eat just about everything on the deerproof list. However, here goes with the least appealing things I grow.

Large grasses – I have never had deer-damage on those, whether *Miscanthus*, *Molinia*, *Pennisetum*, *Stipa*, *Panicum* or the like. Deer are browsers by nature, and grazing on large grasses does not seem to be in their nature. Herbs are also pretty safe, as fuzzy or scented vegetation does not appeal, so your sage and lavenders are safe. Iris are one of the guaranteed deerproof species. The iris specialist on Saltspring grows his unfenced and deer congregate on his property. Heathers, ferns, lily of the valley and *skimmia* seem OK, as do buddleia, cotoneaster and *liatris* for me. One person has wailed to me about deer damage on *Hellebores*, which seems unlikely, but don't tell her!

Needle bearing evergreens fare well, but small yews may get chewed, and prickly plants like *acanthus* are usually left alone. I grow the real deer candy, like lilies, in tubs on the deck, and just outside a bedroom window that is open at night seems a safe place. Roses and hydrangeas are irresistible to most deer, so plant carefully and take measures. I have successfully used *Plantskydd*, and *Bobbex* is supposed to do the trick too. Do not even bother with vegetables unless you have a fence at least eight feet high.

If rabbits are the problem, nothing beats a terrier, but the gardener does not always want a small headstrong dog. Inviting one to call every so often helps, as rabbits seem to have long memories. Around the vegetable garden chicken wire bent at right angles so half is up the deerproof fence and half on the ground, facing out does the trick, but it has to be flat to the ground or the lawn mower will have difficulties, and the person pushing it will have unpleasant words for you.

Another problem with deer is that the bucks rubbing their antlers on small trees simply destroys them, so any newly planted trees need a cage for the first few years until they get to a size that discourages the rubbing. I have lost several small trees that way and have learned to cage immediately.

Have you got any seed catalogues yet? Stokes sent theirs before Christmas, and it has many tempting entries, from artichoke to zucchini and everything in between. I always start out with a list that would plant the whole municipality, but fortunately common sense intervenes and I only end up with about twice what I need. I always think there are worse failings as I fall for every pretty face or intriguing description – talk about purple prose! For instance Chiltern Seeds' description of *Achillea Colorado*: "With all the colours of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River, this is indeed an exceptional modern variety of Yarrow. The range and intensity of colour is very diverse and includes red to pink to apricot, yellows, beige and bronze tones and occasional whites plus some hues new to the plant. True perennials, marvellous for cutting (for use fresh or dried), they come into bloom in May and then bloom away merrily until the first frosts - hopefully five months away. 2 ft."

Now how can you resist that? Particularly since deer do not like it. As for vegetable catalogue writers, Thompson and Morgan employ a good one: "offered exclusively by Thompson & Morgan, these fabulous 4 'baby plum' varieties - Katiebell (yellow), Lizziebell (orange), Luciebell (red) and the unusual Flamingo (pink) - were selected from over 70 tomato varieties by 3 different breeders. Selection for sweetness, flavour and colour has produced this blend of the best 'baby plum' tomatoes. Plants are productive as well as attractive - up to 12 fruits per truss and up to 10 trusses per plant when grown under glass. When grown outside, gardeners should allow just 4-5 trusses to encourage fruits to fully ripen. The 'baby plums' are very juicy, boasting deliciously high levels of sweetness, 8 to 9 on the Brix scale, and weighing on average 16-20g (½-¾oz).

The prettily contrasting tomato colours will brighten the garden or greenhouse and once picked, will make delicious and colourful additions to salads, tomato sauces and a whole host of other tomato dishes. Their thin skins mean that fruits resist splitting on the plant and are well-suited to being cooked as well as eaten raw.

"Always pleased to be bringing a new and interesting variety to its customers, Thompson & Morgan believes that Tomato Rainbow Blend will appeal to gardeners who like to grow something a little 'different', as well as to anyone who appreciates the wonderful taste of home-grown tomatoes.

Seductive reading aren't they? And the garden is always perfect in the imagination in January.

"Do order your seeds early, as the more popular sell out, and many firms offer a discount for early orders."

Here are the Canadian seed companies that I have tracked down:

Canada Bamboo World (incl. edible varieties) – <http://bambooworld.com>

Dominion Seed House – <http://www.dominion-seed-house.com/en-CA/>

Greta's Organic Gardens – <http://www.seeds-organic.com/>

Halifax Seed Company – <https://www.halifaxseed.ca>

Henry Field's – <http://www.henryfields.ca>

Kettleby Herb Farms – <http://kettlebyherbfarm.kettlebyherbfarms.com>

La Vie En Rose Gardens – <http://www.lavieenrosegardens.com>

McFayden Seeds – <http://www.mcfayden.com>

OSC Seeds – <http://www.oscseeds.com>

Prairie Garden Seeds – <http://www.prseeds.ca>

Richters Herb Specialists – <http://www.richters.com>

Salt Spring Seeds – <http://www.saltspringseeds.com>

Shoal Lake Wild Rice Ltd. – <http://www.slwr.com>

Stellar Seeds – <http://www.stellarseeds.com>

Stokes Seeds – <http://www.stokeseeds.com>

Sunshine Farm Organic Seeds – <http://www.sunshinefarm.net>

T&T Seeds – <http://www.ttseeds.com>

Thompson & Morgan – <http://www.thompsonmorgan.ca>

Veseys – <http://www.veseys.com/ca/en/> Watercress Seeds and Kits –

<http://www.watercresskits.com/sproutingkitsca>

West Coast Seeds – <http://www.westcoastseeds.com>

Wildflower Farm – <http://www.wildflowerfarm.com/>

One I had never heard of is Stellar, so I followed the link, and they are organic growers with an address in Kaslo, but apparently they grow in Johnson's Landing., where the catastrophic landslide occurred last July. They could do with some support, I should think.

See you in March.



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Natexa Verbrugge In Concert, January 13, 2013.

NASEEM JANMOHAMED

The Metchosin Community Association is proud to present another piano recital by Natexa Verbrugge on Sunday, January 13, 2013, 2:30 pm at St. Mary of The Incarnation. As with her previous concerts, Natexa is generously donating all proceeds from the concert to the Metchosin Community Association.

Originally from Holland, Natexa has lived on her small Metchosin acreage for twenty-seven years now. She retired from the practice of law in the Western Communities in 2003. Many will also know Natexa from her nine years on council, seven of those as deputy mayor. Since her retirement in 1999 from nine years on Council, she has been chairing Metchosin's Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee. Thanks to this Committee and its wonderful volunteers, Metchosin has an extensive and beautiful trails system. Natexa can be seen on some of these trails with her horse Sonny!

The piano was always Natexa's first love although in recent years she has also enjoyed singing with the Ekoos Vocal Ensemble and the Sooke Philharmonic Chorus. For many years she studied piano with Michael Redshaw and has recently started studying with Arthur Rowe, Canadian Pianist and Professor of Piano at the University of Victoria. A fervent believer in the value of music for society, she is serving for the fifth year on the Board of Directors of the Victoria Symphony. Her other interests include Bikram's hot yoga, bridge and tennis.

This year's programme, inspired by the requests of local friends, will be as follows: Claude Debussy – Nocturne in D Flat Major, Frederic Chopin – Phantasie in A flat Major, Op. 49, Premiere Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23, followed by a brief intermission. Then Frederic Chopin – Prelude in D Flat Major, Op. 28 #15 (Raindrop), Johannes Brahms – Rhapsody in B Minor, Op. 79, Rhapsody in G Minor, Op. 79, concluding with Claude Debussy – Reverie in F Major L. 68 and D.anse in E Major L. 69 (Tarantelle Styrienne).

Tickets, \$15 for adults and \$5 for students/children, will be available at the door or may be reserved or purchased in advance from the Metchosin Community House, 250-478-5155.

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Ongoing Programs

Mondays

Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.
 Contact Mobile program at 250-213-2440 or Vicki McNulty at 250-370-5789.

Buddies Program – 2:30 – 5:00 pm. Buddies offers Reading and Math support as well as help with homework for Metchosin kids. Kids receive a half hour to one hour, one to one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer. Registration forms and contact info are provided to Hans Helgesen School. Program will restart January 7, 2013. For more info you can call MCH at 250-478-5155.

Pearson College Students Outreach – Helping seniors and youth in our community. Invite Pearson College students to visit or help with a project. Particularly aimed at Metchosin seniors, but call 250-478-5155, and leave a message for Jane Hammond or John Hollemans, to see if you might be eligible. Starts again January 7, 2013.

Tuesdays

Drop In Painters Art Group. This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meet Tuesday mornings 9:30 am – noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome. Program will restart Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

Games Afternoon. Every third Tuesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. (**Pre-empted in January; will restart in February**). Bring a game of your choice, bring a friend and a snack if so inclined and prepare to have some fun. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesdays

Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (see Monday for details).

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program 9:30 – 11:30 am – Calling all Metchosin Tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In program invites Moms, Dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community Parent and Tot program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We hope to see you and your little one(s)! For more information please call Nina at 250-590-2540.

Pearson Student Tea Time Drop-In 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Starts again January 7, 2013.

Events

Concert – Sunday, January 13, 2:30 pm. The Metchosin Community Association is proud to present another piano recital by Natexa Verbrugge on Sunday, January 13, 2013, 2:30 pm at St. Mary of the Incarnation 4125 Metchosin Road. As with her previous concerts Natexa is generously donating all proceeds from the concert to the Metchosin Community Association. Tickets, \$15 for adults and \$5 for students/children, will be available at the door or may be reserved or purchased in advance from the Metchosin Community House, 250 478-5155

Potluck Lunch – Thursday, January 31, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

KNITTING CAFE Meetings for January are Monday, January 7 and 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm and Tuesday, January 15 and 29, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Then each month thereafter regular meetings will be held on the first and third Monday, 7:00 – 9:00 pm and the second and fourth Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm monthly. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and new comers, whether experienced or beginning knitters, are always welcome. For more info. call Laura, 250-478-1197 or email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca.

Foot Care Program – Every third Monday of each month a foot care nurse will be offering foot care services. Appointments are ½ an hour and cost \$40.00. Appointments are between 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. Please call 250-478-5155 to book.

Art On The Walls – January. Doug Gilbert in collaboration with the Metchosin School Museum Society has compiled and organized a show of eighteen historic photographs of Metchosin dating back to the early 1900's. They are hanging on the Community House walls for all to come and enjoy. Viewing times are Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

The Art On The Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information please call the MCH at 250-478-5155.

Office closure dates for Christmas & New Year

The MCHouse will be operating as usual with regard to the rentals that have been booked (see on-line calendar at www.metchosincommunityhouse.com), however the MCH Office will be closed December 24 to January 7.



Christmas Centrepiece at the Hall

MUSE ROVING REPORTER

All at Isabel Tipton's Christmas Centre Piece course at the Community House had a fun time. She brought many different variety of plant material and containers and everyone's creative got into high gear. This was the best \$10 I have spent this Christmas season, netting me two great centrepieces. I am looking forward to it happening again next year! Thank you Isabel for donating your time, plant materials and your skills.



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Letters from Metchosin Technical Centre *continued*

It has been a while since my class has written to this wonderful newspaper. And for this edition we are writing about our five goals for the New Year. I plan to try to get better grades, get in better shape, improve my skill in surfing and snowboarding, and to beat Dayna my P.E teacher in the T.C 10 K 2013. During the countdown to the end of school, and the supposed end of the world, we are doing many fun things including: skating, going to Olson's gym, and a final feast before Christmas.

Have a Happy New Year.

Calvin Currie

Godt Nytt År!

In the year 2013 I have a few goals I'm not going to keep any of them but I thought they deserved their fifteen minutes of fame. I am going to try to be kinder to people. I am known to be very negative, which is a habit I'd like to break. I'm going to try and get a job, even though I have no employable skills or work ethic (See, I broke goal number one already). I'm going to buy new speakers for my computer. I love music; I love music LOUD, but the speakers I have now are extremely poor quality. It's already too late to repair the damage I've done to my family's ears with Marilyn Manson and Slayer with the acoustic quality of sand in a blender, but I can spare my friends in the future.

In other MTC news, we've tried a hot lunch program. It turned out very well and I'd like to thank the donors. We have finished our unit on electricity. I didn't make the boxes work quite as intended, but I accidentally turned a drill into a dimmer switch so I'll chalk it up as a "W" (win).

Happy Holidays

Noah MacDonald,
Grade 10 MTC student

"If you were born without wings, do nothing to prevent them from growing."
— Coco Chanel

Hello. I am A.J. and I would like to share my goals with you today because Dayna is making me put down three goals for 2013. I am currently doing well academically, at Metchosin Technical Centre, but my school goal is to do better in science. Another personal goal would be to get into fewer conflicts with friends and family. My last goal is to train for and complete the 10k *Times-Colonist* run with Dayna. Now that I've said my goals, I would really like to thank Bradley Doney and Wayne Fotty for donating money for hot lunches on Mondays. Thank you very much. So far the soups we have been having are amazingly good. Last week we had little buddies from Hans Helgesen come in to make bug houses at MTC. My buddies and I had some problems since one of the bug houses I had didn't have holes drilled into it. They were very patient while I did the drilling. This week we went to Hans Helgesen to help put their stage up for the Christmas concert. Well this is all I have to say so bye Metchosin until next month signing off.

Alex Jensen,
Grade 9 student
Bonne année!

Wow, I can't believe it is December already and with that comes the New Year and goals for 2013.

Now is the time to plan for the future and a few goals I would like to work on are to find my own place, learn how to play guitar with my friend Butch and seek regular employment. I feel goals are very important because they motivate me. I would like to wish everyone a

very Merry Christmas and fantastic New Year.

Sincerely, Randy Laird,
Grade 10 student
Felice Anno Nuovo or
Buon anno!

Hello my name is Sean Tierney;

I'm a student at MTC and I'm going to tell you a little about my goals. I would like to get into carpentry because I really enjoy building and working with my hands and I feel there will be lots of money in the trades with time. I also feel that I would enjoy being a car mechanic because I like to fix things and I believe I'm very good at that. When I was a child, around four or five years old, I could build toys like *Bionicles* without the instructions. I have a keen sense of where things should go and how to make them work. I would like to graduate with good report cards too. I'm trying to work hard but it seems I have trouble paying attention in class with all the distractions; so I'm going to try to work on that. I'll let you know how that goes. Before Christmas my class and I helped the kids at Hans Helgesen build bug houses. That was very interesting and kind of scary when you're holding a piece of wood and having a child hammering a nail in it!

So thank you for reading my letter as a start to the New Year!

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.

Sean Tierney

"Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off his goal." — E. Joseph Cossman

My name is Brad and I would like to share some of my goals I am setting for myself in the future. First of all I love cars and trucks so I believe an automotive technician may be a good trade for me. I know there will always be a demand for the trades. I would like to work in Ontario to be closer to my Grandma and Aunt and Uncle. I have a Nissan 240 SX car which I have been restoring and equipped this car with a Corvette V8 motor which will have so much power. I feel it is so important to choose a career which you enjoy making money while you are doing it.

I would also like to thank Bradley Doney and Wayne Fotty for donating to MTC for a hot food program because I wasn't able to bring a lunch today and I had some soup from yesterday and now I'm happy with a full tummy. Peace bro.

Brad Blanchard —
Grade 9 student

Without goals, and plans to reach them, you are like a ship that has set sail with no destination. Fitzhugh Dodson

As a student at Metchosin Technical Centre I have been asked to reflect on my New Year's goals. Here are some of my many goals. I want to get an A in sciences, woodshop, English and in P.E. You see a pattern here, I am sure. I am also reading a fantastic book called the Mark of Athena by Rick Rogerind. This year I plan to read many great books and improve my spelling and vocabulary. The school has a team that runs the Times Colonist 10k called the MTC Power Tools; I intend to train and do the 10k with the team. This year I happily got a well-paying job and with my paychecks, I opened a savings account and plan to save for a big purchase. I hope to get a driver's license when

I have enough money; I am already sixteen so I can start studying now. Have a Happy New Year and many more!

Taylor Abbis, Grade 10
student at MTC

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." — C.S. Lewis

Happy New Year! This is a different year. This means that there are going to be a lot of goals that people set for themselves. A couple of my goals for the New Year are to complete high school and start a career in welding. I also want to get my driver's license and start to drive and to figure out the cure for cancer (just kidding). I would like to thank these two wonderful people, Bradley Doney and Wayne Fotty, for volunteering their time and money to our school by giving us a food program.

We had John Horgan come to our class and talk about his job and how to make change in the world. I liked him; he is a solid person. I may even vote for him one day soon.

Calen Craig — MTC grade 11 student

"An aim in life is the only fortune worth finding." — Robert Louis Stevenson

Dear readers of all ages, I am a student at Metchosin Technical Centre and would love to share my 2013 goals with you. I think goals are important because it helps me map out my future. My goals for 2013 are; to complete high school, get a job, and make lots of money. I enjoy drumming and I would like to continue practicing to better my skills. I am looking forward to the rest of the year at MTC because it's my last year here and it's been a blast. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I wish you a happy New Year.

Sam Stokoe

Bonne année!

How is everybody this fine week? It is December and we are almost done school till after Christmas. We have the rest of this week and all next week then we are done. I have a few goals that I would like to work toward this New Year, well, three big ones. One of these goals is to finish this semester of grade 11 and start the second semester while doing English 12 along with my other courses. Another goal I have is to start a career in Heavy Duty Mechanics. Hopefully, I can find a job this summer in the trade. It would be a nice starter to get into the trade as I need thirty hours of work experience to get into a program. The third goal I have is to graduate a half year early in grade 12. Well, I would like to thank you Metchosin for putting up with us for the last three years.

Alex Parise, Grade 11 student

Attention Metchosin Residents!



Earth's Option

Now you don't have to drive into Victoria for cremation or burial services, **we come to you!** All arrangements are made in the comfort of your home, in person or by

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www.earthsoption.com

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Battery operated
smoke detectors?

Check the
batteries!

When Help is a Hazard

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

What hazards come to mind when you think about storms in Metchosin – wind storms that often cause fallen trees and downed power lines or snow storms that can make roads impassable and dangerous or even rainstorms that can cause flooding? During these scenarios, we often rely on various pieces of equipment to help us cope with the situations – situations that more than likely involve power outages.

Ironically the very equipment that we use to mitigate the consequences of the power outages can often become hazards themselves. Many of us look to alternative sources for heating, lighting and cooking. How many of us use generators, candles, and woodstoves, for example, to accomplish these tasks?

These tools can add a great deal of function and comfort to an unpleasant situation, but they can also add a great deal of danger. It is important to use such equipment correctly and safely.

Generators:

Incorrect use can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fire.

- Never try to power house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet – a practice known as “back feeding.” It can be a major fire hazard and can lead to electrocution of utility workers and neighbours served by the same transformer.
- Generators must be used outside, at least fifteen feet away from buildings.
- They must be kept dry and under cover.
- Do not touch a generator if you are wet.
- Do not overload a generator – make sure it produces more power than will be drawn by the equipment you connect to it.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance load.
- If your equipment draws more power than the generator produces you may blow a fuse or damage the connected equipment.
- Turn off generator before refueling; gasoline spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Always use the correct fuel, store the fuel safely and clean up any spilled fuel.

Inverters:

- Useful to hook directly to small appliances, such as a radio or kettle.
- They are powered through a large Sealed Lead Acid Battery (SLA), primarily a car battery, thus the leakage, spillage and explosion of battery acid is a possibility.
- Wear safety goggles and work gloves when handling the SLA.

Kerosene Lanterns:

- Make sure your lantern has a chimney.
- Keep wick at a moderate length.
- Refill the lantern outside wearing safety goggles.
- Be careful of spillage – kerosene is flammable.
- Use the correct fuel – kerosene – not gasoline or white gas.

Candles:

- Use sturdy candleholders, preferably with glass chimneys.
- Make sure the candles fit snugly.
- They should be set away from combustible materials, such as curtains, blankets and papers and away from edges of tables, counters, children and pets.
- Do not carry candles around your home; keep them stationary.
- Always extinguish a candle before leaving a room.

Wood Stove:

- Make sure your wood stove is maintained correctly (See November 2012 *Muse*).
- Do not keep spare wood up against the stove.
- Keep flammables well away from the stove.
- Have a fire extinguisher within reach.

NEVER USE:

- a gas range or stove to heat your home.
- a charcoal grill, gas barbecue, hibachi or portable camp stove to cook in your home.
- a generator inside your home, basement, crawlspace, workshop, garage, carport, shed or barn, even with ventilation or fans.

USE:

There is one piece of equipment that each of us uses that does not, however, pose a hazard – the flashlight. Every home needs at least one. They are a safe alternative light source. People often ask what is the best type of flashlight to use – LED or incandescent?

Incandescent:

- Less expensive.
- Offers a wider spectrum of light emission, making it easier to see detail.

LED:

- More powerful light emission.
- Can be seen from considerable distances.
- Can light up a pitch-dark room.
- More durable – most are shock proof.
- Have a longer run time – offers more light for a longer period of time.

THREE ITEMS EVERY HOME SHOULD NOT BE WITHOUT:
SMOKE DETECTOR (battery operated)
FIRE EXTINGUISHER
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTOR (battery operated)

Did You Know CO...

- kills more than 400 people every year in Canada?
- is an odourless, colourless toxic gas?
- builds up in enclosed and partially enclosed (ventilated) spaces?

Did You Know CO Poisoning...

- can cause headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, confusion, unconsciousness and death?
- In people who are sleeping or have been drinking alcohol can die without presenting any of the above symptoms?

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 Email: sandyhiggins@telus.net
www.sandyhiggins.ca



The Mortgage Centre

Sandy works for **you**, not the lenders.

The Mortgage Centre – Island Properties
 New address: 890 Short Street, Victoria BC V8X 2V5
 www.ipmortgages.ca

Church Directory

The directory is a free service. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca or call 250-478-1197.

BAHA'I FAITH

Children's classes are based on Baha'i teachings of peace, unity and collaboration - stories, games and activities for building community spirit. Trained teachers with criminal record checks. Meetings now held every other Sat., 1:30-3:00 pm. Contact Mona, 250-514-1757. **Devotional Gatherings** for spiritual sharing. All faiths welcome. 10:00 am every Sunday at Metchosin Community House.

GORDON UNITED CHURCH.

Rev. Heidi Koshchzeck, Minister. A friendly, inclusive congregation. Sunday service begins with singing at 10:15am and worship service and Sunday School at 10:30 am. Coffee time follows. Visit us at www.gordonunited-church.ca, 935 Goldstream Ave., 250-478-6632.

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Traditional, Liturgical, Scriptural. Rector: The Rt. Rev'd Charles Dorrington. Services from the Book of Common Prayer and Holy Communion every Sun., 10am. 2656 Nugget Tce. Call 250-727-3722 for directions.

OPEN GATE CHURCH

www.theopengate.ca (250-590-6736) Lead Pastor: Chris Zoepfel, Associate Pastor: Andrew Hewlett. **Sunday services**, 1289 Parkdale Dr. (Lighthouse Christian Academy). Traditional Service, 8:30 am; Contemporary Family

Service with kids' activities 10:15am. Holy Communion at Alexander Mackie Lodge, Wed.10:30am.

PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH

We are a joyful, Christ-centered people with open minds and open hearts. Please join us for worship and children/youth activities on Sundays, 10:30am, 3319 Painter Rd., just off Metchosin Rd. Call our minister, Erin, at 250-478-2533, or email pilgrimuc@shaw.ca or visit our website at www.pilgrimunited.ca

ST. MARY OF THE INCARNATION—ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

4125 Metchosin Rd., 250-474-4119, website: www.stmarys-metchosin.weebly.com. Vicar: Rev. Rob Hutchison. Sunday service 9:30am. All are welcome. Seniors Lunch Wed., Jan. 9 at noon.

WEST SHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. Harold McNabb. Sunday service 10:30am (Nursery and Sunday school). 760 Latoria Road, phone 250-474-0452.

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

Relevant biblical topics, contemporary music, positive atmosphere, casual dress, real people, kidsquest program, great coffee. Isabelle Reader Theatre, 1026 Goldstream Ave. 10:30am, Sundays. Pastor George Katchanov, 250-474-5967, www.westsong.ca.

The events page is a free service for local volunteer organizations and societies, space permitting. Deadlines for submissions is the 15th of each month. Email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca or call 250-478-1197.

Could your household be safe and self-sufficient in an extended emergency, for at least 72 hours?
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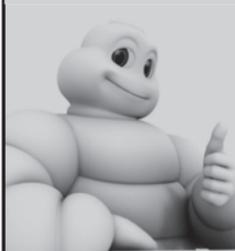
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Randall Garrison, MP
ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

Constituency office is now open to serve constituents:

A2-100 Aldersmith Place
 Victoria V9A 7M8
 10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday
 or by appointment
 T: 250-405-6550
 E: Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca
 F: 250-405-6554

We are here to assist constituents with Federal government programs and services.

14TH JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA

Recycle Your Christmas tree!

BY CURTIS BECKER

14th Juan de Fuca Venturer Scouts Annual Tree Chipping Fundraiser
 Drop Off: Luxton Fair Grounds 1040 Marwood Avenue, December 29 and 30, January 5 and 6, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Drop off at Race Rocks Auto 1057B Marwood Avenue. January 2, 3, and 4 drop off at 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. Suggested donation for drop off \$5 or \$10 for pick up. Proceeds go to yearly programming for the Venturer Scouts! For more information and pick up call 250-589-7715.

Our first Tree Chipping Fundraiser last year was a great success and something we look forward to doing again this year. We saved over 300 trees from the landfill, contributed to the environment and supported recycling in our community. The 14th JDF Venturer Company will be using the proceeds towards funding various scouting activities.



While hiking outdoors, the Beavers pause for a photo with their leaders, Rusty (left) and Rainbow (Laura)



Ocean-rama – a collaborative effort from the Beaver Colony demonstrates that cooperation truly does create an imaginative masterpiece

Shop Locally
 And tell them you saw it in *The Muse*

Fire Department Call-Outs - NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 14, 2012

BY FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP - Check out Metchosin Fire on Facebook or follow me on Twitter @ ChiefDunlop

Nov 17	Metchosin Area – General assistance. Duke Road – Open burn.	Nov 29	Metchosin Road – Alarm bells, residential.
Nov 19	William Head Road – Medical emergency – cardiac.	Dec 01	East Sooke Road – Medical emergency – chest pain.
Nov 20	Rocky Point Road – Medical emergency – seizures.	Dec 02	East Sooke Road – Medical emergency – chest pain.
Nov 23	Rocky Point Road – Motor vehicle accident.	Dec 05	Rocky Point Road – Motor vehicle accident.
Nov 24	Arden Road – Medical emergency – chest pain. Sooke Road – Medical emergency – chest pain. Glen Forrest Way – Medical emergency – shortness of breath.	Dec 06	Sooke Road – Motor vehicle accident.
Nov 25	Latoria Road – Medical emergency – allergic reaction. Duke Road East – Medical emergency – diabetic. Duke Road West – Medical emergency – shortness of breath.	Dec 08	East Sooke Road – structure fire.
Nov 26	Pears Road – Structure fire. Happy Valley Road – Medical emergency – seizures	Dec 10	Setchfield Road – Mutual aid, HazMat. Peatt Road – Mutual aid, structure fire.
		Dec 12	William Head Road – Medical emergency, shortness of breath.
		Dec 14	Graceland Drive – Medical emergency, chest pain. Winfall Road – Medical emergency, seizures. Pears Road – Medical emergency, shortness of breath.

RCMP Call-Outs NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 15, 2012

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

Nov 17	Rocky Point Road – Complaint of garbage on the road. Sooke Road – Complaint of a possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober. Kangaroo Road – Complaint of trees down across the road.
Nov 18	Duke Road area – Complaint of missing youth.
Nov 19	Metchosin Road – Complaint to check well being of a person, found to be all right.
Nov 20	William Head Road – Complaint of a person shooting deer, one person stopped and weapon seized, investigation continuing. Sooke Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.
Nov 21	Rocky Point Road area – Assistance provided to Campbell River RCMP, trying to locate a person on a warrant. Happy Valley Road – Complaint of residential break and enter. Nothing stolen.
Nov 22	Metchosin area – Complaint providing police with information related to drugs, investigation continuing.
Nov 23	Rocky Point Road – Complaint of single vehicle accident, vehicle into tree, no injuries.
Nov 25	Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of single vehicle accident, vehicle into a tree, driver fled scene, investigation continuing. Kangaroo Road – Complaint of possible intoxicated female, female stopped and given ride home. Pearson College Drive – Complaint of theft, two wallets stolen. Duke Road – Assistance provided to the Coroner's Service.
Nov 27	Rocky Point Road – Complaint of a cougar observed near Hans Helgason School, patrols made.
Nov 28	Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle stopped and driver given verbal warning.
Nov 30	Kevere Road – Complaint of loud party and intoxicated youth.
Dec 01	Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle stopped and driver given verbal warning. Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of domestic, possible assault, investigation continuing.
Dec 02	Glen Forest Way area – Complaint of landlord/tenant dispute. Duke Road area – Complaint of disturbance, one person arrested for being drunk. Sooke Road – Assistance provided to Victoria Police on a warrant. Rocky Point Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
Dec 04	Happy Valley Road – One person arrested on a warrant for breach of probation. Happy Valley Road – Complaint of hit and run, minor damage to a vehicle. Arden Road – Complaint of stolen licence plate. Duke Road – Complaint of impaired driver, vehicle not located.
Dec 05	Kangaroo Road – Complaint of threats, charges pending, investigation continuing. Sooke Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver charged under the Motor Vehicle Act. Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, driver charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.
Dec 06	Happy Valley Road – Complaint of found bike. Rocky Point Road – Complaint of vehicles speeding in the school zone, patrols requested.
Dec 07	William Head Road – Complaint of vehicle in ditch, towed from scene.
Dec 09	Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of threats, one person warned.
Dec 12	Happy Valley Road – Complaint of two wallets stolen from business, investigation continuing.
Dec 13	Arden Road area – Complaint of dumped garbage, investigation continuing.

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 per 25 words to go in this monthly paper which is mailed to every Metchosin household. Envelopes are provided at Metchosin Country Store.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month and can be dropped off at Metchosin Country Store.

WANTED

COOKIES CRITTER CARE is collecting beverage containers, dog food, leashes, collars, clean dog bedding, toys for animal rescue. Call Cookie @ 250-415-9335 for pickup.

FOR SALE

METCHOSIN RAISED CHICKEN, LAMB & PORK. Processed in fully inspected facilities. Call for info: 250-478-9628.

SWEETART SUPPLIES is located in Metchosin. Cake and cupcake decorating supplies, edible images, goodie bags, fondant, natural food colours and more. Call Gwen @ 778-432-0298.

LESSONS

FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 AND 2, MARKETSAFE AND WHMIS – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com for information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

VIOLIN LESSONS: personalized approach - all ages welcome - have Suzuki training - with Victoria Symphony - \$20/half hour - Langford - call Dexine Wallbank: 250-384-2799.

SERVICES

COOKIES CRITTER CARE - Metchosin's Professional Pet-Sitter and Dog-Walker since 2006. Fully Insured, Bondable and First Aid Certified. Cookie 250-415-9335. Comes Highly Recommended and Recognized

FOOT CARE – MOBILE SERVICE – By Certified Foot Care Registered Nurse. Nail care, corns, calluses, diabetic foot assessments and other foot concerns. For appt. or info, call Nina at 250-889-7940.

PAWSITIVE K-9 DOG WALKING SERVICES (4 dogs max.) Custom made leashes. Stephanie is an Apprentice Dog Trainer and First-Aid certified. More info: call Stephanie 778-265-4940 www.pawsitivek9.ca.

JOBS

ADVERTISING SALES –PART TIME Southern Tip Publishing, producer of Small Farm Canada magazine, seeks a part time advertising sales person to work from the publishing office in Metchosin. Preference given to applicants with print sales and/or telephone sales experience. Good computer skills essential. Send an email and resume to tomhenry@smallfarmcanada.ca. Visit our website: www.smallfarmcanada.ca to learn more about our publication.

*All The Best
in 2013
from The Muse team*

Events – January 2013

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca or call 250-478-1197.

NEXT MUSE MEETING

Wed, 9:30am, Jan. 2. All interested readers, potential writers, workers, etc., very welcome. Call 250-391-6718 for info.

AIR CADETS

Tues., 6:30–9:30 pm, Masons' Hall, 679 Goldstream Ave., youth 12 to 19 years. Flying, gliding, leadership, sports, rifle shooting, band, first aid, biathlon, public speaking, bush survival summer camps. Get your pilot's license. Cadet training gives you high school credits. Call 250-590-3690 for information.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

Caring for someone with dementia, experiencing early symptoms or just interested? Call the Society at 250-382-2052 or visit www.alzheimerbc.org.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

On Wed., Jan. 16 at 7pm, Community House, long-time activist for marijuana legislation, Dana Larsen, will be the guest speaker. All welcome for this interesting talk and discussion. For more info. call Frank, 250-478-1671. www.aprm.ca.

BADMINTON

Sunday Night Mixed Badminton 7:00-9:00 pm at the Community Hall. For info. call Dennis 250-474-3749.
Women's Badminton Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm, at the Community Hall. New members welcome. Call Margaret at 250-478-9648 for info.

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Meetings are held at the call of the chair, and notice of meetings will be posted on the BWHPA website: <http://www.bilstoncreek.org>. For more information call Ian McKenzie, 250-478-2387, or ikmcken@highspeedplus.com

'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

Meets 7:00-8:30 pm, Tuesdays at the Community House. Develop your communication and presentation abilities in a friendly and supportive setting. Our goal is to help participants build skill and self-confidence – and have fun at the same time. Everyone 19 years and older is welcome. Contact: info@chosinchatters.org; website: www.chosinchatters.org.

CRD PARKS

Sat., Jan. 19, 1-2:30pm, Devonian Regional Park, Guided Walk, 5 years+ – Winter Wander. Join a parks' naturalist to explore this beautiful seaside gem and learn about the plants and animals that make the park their home. Meet at the info. kiosk in the parking lot off William head Rd.

Sun., Jan. 20, 1-2:30pm, Witty's Lagoon Regional Park, 8 years+. Could you survive as a deer? Learn how a deer finds food and shelter and avoids cougars and cars. Meet the parks' naturalist at the Nature Centre off Metchosin Rd.

Full details of programs in other CRD parks can be found at www.crd.bc.ca/parks, or in brochures available at the JDF library and the Nature Centre at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park, phone 250-478-3344, or email crdparks@crd.bc.ca.

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

Register for fun and adventure with Sparks (5–6), Brownies (7–8), Guides (9–12), Pathfinders (12–15) and Senior Branches (15–17 and up). For information on units and volunteer opportunities, including leaders, call Trudie Wilson at 250-478-5484. *Please help the girls by recycling your old phone books in the Lions yellow recycling bin by Fire Hall.*

JDF PROGRAMS IN METCHOSIN

Phone Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre at 250-478-8384 to register for classes or for further information.

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

Breastfeeding information and mother-to-mother support through monthly meetings and telephone help. We welcome all pregnant or breastfeeding mums; babies; and children. For info or support call 250-727-4384.

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

Website www.metchosincommunityhouse.com, phone 250-478-5155. See "House Happenings" on page 11 for full details of programs.

METCHOSIN COUNCIL

Meetings are held in the Municipal Office Council Chamber at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted
Mon., Jan. 7 – Finance and Environ. Cttees, Council
Mon., Jan. 14 – Planning, Parks and Highways Cttees
Mon. Jan. 21 – Council

Please call Council office, 250-474-3167, to confirm all meetings and check on schedule changes. Everyone welcome. <http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings.htm>

METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Meetings every Wed. at 7:00 pm when the Emergency Communications Group gets together at the Emergency Operations Centre. Ham operators can call in on 146.550. POD members can call us on FRS (Family Radio Service) radios: Channel 1 with "0" privacy tone. EOC tours can be arranged for your POD group by calling Stephanie Dunlop at 250-478-1307. Be prepared in Metchosin!

METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

To learn new trails on guided rides on your own horse call Ellen 250-474-4704. For general info. call President Heidi 250-391-7511. To book the Metchosin Riding Ring contact Nadyne, 250-478-7541, email exchanging@shaw.ca. www.mesmetchosin.org

METCHOSIN 4H CLOVERBUDS

4H is a club for animal-loving children who would like to learn about agriculture. We meet the second Sun. of each month, from 2-4pm at the Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd, and the program runs from Jan. to Oct. Contact: Debbie Cooper, 250-478-4677, email debbiecooper@shaw.ca

METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

No meeting in January, but on Tues., Feb.12, 7:30pm, at St. Mary's Anglican Church, the guest speaker will be Jeff deJong, a professional, award-winning horticulturist, instructor and Site Manager at The Land Conservancy's renowned Abkhazi Garden. New members always welcome and for more info. call Suze Bowen 250-298-7877.

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

Meetings are held upstairs in the hall at 7:30 pm on the third Tues. of every month except July, Aug. and Dec. For hall rentals or info call 250-478-6424 (please leave a message). Website: <http://metchosinhall.com/>

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

Meets Tues. mornings, 9:00 am, rain or shine, outside the Community House. Everyone welcome. For more info call Runa, 250-478-4778.

METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Society operates two museums. The Pioneer Museum on the Municipal Grounds gives a fascinating insight into the lives of Metchosin pioneers

through beautifully set up displays, while the Old Barn Books supports the Museum through its sales. Both Museums are now closed for the winter season, but group visits can be arranged by calling Bert Harrison, 250-382-1989 for the Pioneer Museum and Margaret Roper, 250-478-5447, for the School Museum. Membership in the Society is \$5 annually and new members warmly welcomed.

METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

New members welcome. For club membership and information call Anita Rados, 250-727-3595.

METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL

We invite parents outside the preschool to join us on Tues. Jan. 8, 7pm, to discuss kindergarten enrollment and we will be hearing from schools in our community. We also invite families to our Open House on Jan. 26 from 11am-1pm. For any other inquiries, please contact us at 250-478-9241 or visit our website at www.metchosinpreschool.wordpress.com.

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

Metchosin Search & Rescue welcomes new members. Involves one Tues. evening and a half Sat. per month for training exercises. Contact Craig Barlow, 250-478-2210.

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Please call Mark Leblanc, 250-642-0238, for upcoming meetings and information.

POD LEADERS

For more information about the Neighbourhood Response Program call NRP Coordinator Brian Domney, 250-474-3966, email MetNRP@shaw.ca.

SCOUTS CANADA

Scouting offers a world of adventure, outdoor experience, friendship and fun. Our programs support healthy, active

living, discovering the best in yourself and others. It starts with Scouts! For more info. contact us at 14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca

SEA CADETS

If you want to be part of a unique organization, join 263 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Beacon Hill. Ages 12–18. Activities include sailing, music, drill, range, outdoor adventure training and much more. Parade nights Thurs. at 6:30 pm, 948 Dunford Road, Langford. For more info call 250-478-7813.

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets Thurs. mornings from 9:00–11:00 am in St. Mary's Church. For more information call Bonnie Tipton Rennie 250-590-3100.

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

WSAC supports the arts, groups and individual artists in the West Shore. Monthly board meetings are Saturdays, 10:00 am. See <http://www.westshorearts.org/meeting.php> for dates. Members are welcome to attend. If you wish to address the board about a project proposal contact the office at 250-478-2286.

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

The band welcomes new players. Join Greater Victoria's newest musical ensemble, bringing together musicians of all ages from the southern Vancouver Island communities of Metchosin, Colwood, Langford, Sooke, Highlands and View Royal. Practices are Tues., 7:00–9:30 pm at the Forge Church (formerly Western Communities Baptist Church), 2612 Sooke Rd. Bring your band instrument and rekindle your passion for playing. Call Mike at 250-474-3999.

The events page is a free service for local volunteer organizations and societies, space permitting. Deadlines for submissions is the 15th of each month. Email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca or call 250-478-1197.

Please see page 13 for the Church Directory



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