Earthquakes and tsunamis are often considered the big threats on the west coast, but for many residents of Metchosin, wildfire is the threat that causes the most concern. It’s been a while since we had a serious one here but the fire on Mount Blinkhorn in early September should be a wakeup call to us all. In fact, this is reported as being the largest fire on South Vancouver Island since 2002. This fire was measured at six and a half hectares, in comparison to the 2002 Sooke fire which reached ten hectares, and the Pedder Bay fire in 2003 of just over two hectares.

The fire started about noon on Friday, September 12. Fire crews from Metchosin were alerted to the incident and immediately requested mutual aid from Langford, Sooke and the BC Forest Service (BCFS). Over thirty firefighters from seven different fire departments, and three BCFS unit crews were involved in the response, as well as two helicopters and an air tanker/water bomber dropping fire retardant. It took four days to fully extinguish the fire and crews remained on the mountain for an additional four days to watch for hot spots and ensure any underground fire did not re-establish itself. A number of residences were potentially under threat, a tactical evacuation alert was hand delivered to the homes along the perimeter of the fire, but at no time was an evacuation order issued.

Chief Stephanie Dunlop says that this was a particularly challenging situation. “Fighting this fire was made more difficult due to rocky terrain, lack of water and steep access. Tanker trucks were used to fill holding tanks positioned on the mountain, and over six and a half kilometres of hose was laid throughout the top of Mount Blinkhorn. Although the fire generally did not ‘crown’ into the canopy, approximately five trees became unstable and had to be removed, as the fire burned into their roots and decayed the supporting trunk portion. There are other trees on the mountain top that will require continual observation for danger tree indicators.”

Several factors led to a successful conclusion to this potential disaster. Obviously, the commitment and competence of the firefighters involved played a major role, but their work would have been made much more challenging if there had been the typical high Metchosin winds.

Dunlop says “We do have a general area of origin and speculate the fire was started by human carelessness, but may never have an exact origin and cause. We were lucky this time. A timely response continued on page 8
Thank You, Fire Fighters and Colleagues

As the homeowner nearest the Blinkhorn Mountain fire (200 feet at one point), please allow me to express my admiration for, and gratitude to, the firefighters, paramedics and forestry folk who attended the blaze and succeeded in containing it.

Both paid and volunteer staff worked round the clock to control the fire. Community members who provided food for those fighting the fire, as well as those who offered me a place to stay if needed, are much appreciated. We have a wonderfully caring community.

Having a humongous fire truck in the front yard for days and nights, and fire retardant dropped on the house, are interesting experiences. I will have red dots left by the retardant in various places for some time, to remind me of the experience.

Gratefully, J. McKe (Mac) Elrod

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 more information and to order.

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Letters to the Editor

The Metchosin Muse welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for editorial style or length. Please email your letter to metmuse@shaw.ca, or leave it at the Metchosin Country Store. Please sign your letter. An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

Letters continue on page 18.

Witty Beach Access

My wife and I are retired and live along Metchosin Road between the Witty Beach access routes. As most know, the Witty Beach Road access was recently closed off leaving only the long and difficult route down past the lagoon and indeed we found the return route up the staircase to Witty’s Beach Road blocked. It was quite obvious though that the barriers put up by the CRD at the base and at the top of the staircase had provided little deterrent to any able bodied beachgoer.

The reason given for closing this beach access is soil instability, which is obviously bogus as our ground at this time of year is dry and very stable. There may be a case to be made though for seasonal closures through the wet season. This is a very popular beach access and pressure is sure to continue to grow in certain sections of the community to put in a safe year around pedestrian access across this public right of way. As it currently stands the CRD has aggravated the situation by creating an attractive hazard putting up obstacles to using their existing stair case. Had they been less serious the stairs should have been removed. Rather than spending all this time and money though on trying to stop us from accessing our beautiful beach, how about spending a little on trying to provide us with safe access.

Steve Lee

Editor’s Note: The following update was found on the CRD website:

Update on Stairs at Witty’s Beach Regional Park

Aug 21, 2014

Victoria, BC – The stairs to the main beach at Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin will be closed for the remainder of the year. Third-party engineering reports recommended closure of the stairs this spring because the hillside on which the stairs are built is unstable and natural erosion is occurring; as a result, the stairs are not safe to use by the public.

The Capital Regional District is engaging an engineering consulting firm to explore options to provide safe public access from Witty Beach Road to the foreshore. Until safe access is provided, the CRD has a public responsibility to keep the stairs closed from public use.

Visitors can still access the beach from the main parking lot off Metchosin Road, via a 1.2 km moderate beach trail through the forest.

The CRD understands that the main trail to the beach is not easy for all park visitors. Within the park Tower Point, off Olympic View Drive, offers excellent picnic areas and ocean views via a 500m flat footpath.

For further information please contact:
Laurie Shammam, Communications Coordinator
CRD Regional Parks
Tel: 250.360.3332 | Cell: 250.889.8030
Don’t miss St. Mary’s Blackberry Festival!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Come and join us at this popular Metchochin event featuring homemade blackberry pies, baking and preserves. Take a break and enjoy our fresh-baked scones with blackberry jelly and a “cuppa.”

St Mary the Incarnation Anglican Church
4125 Metchochin Road, Victoria, BC
250-474-4119

Don’t miss St. Mary’s Blackberry Festival!
Valerie Cochran – A Celebration of Life

The Metchosin Community House was overflowing with people attending the Celebration of Life for Valerie Ann Cochran on Saturday, September 13. Friends, former colleagues and family members came to celebrate the life of a remarkable woman, and to support her husband Charles Priester.

With Larry Hildreth as master of ceremonies, people spoke of the contributions Valerie made to Metchosin – she and Charles were very involved with Pearson College; she was a volunteer cook at the Fire Hall; she was very involved with the Metchosin Community Association; and perhaps her greatest love of all was working with the volunteers of the Metchosin Muse. Former colleagues came from the mainland – a past President of Capilano College/University, along with fellow faculty members; co-workers from when she was a legal secretary; sailing friends. A testament to the range of her influence came when a message was read from Beverly McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, who was instrumental in getting Valerie to enter law school.

Valerie’s brother Doug, also a lawyer, spoke of the role Valerie played in their family, and Chris Pratt encouraged people to consider contributing to the Valerie Cochran Memorial Trust Fund administered by the Metchosin Foundation.

One of the most poignant moments happened when three Pearson students spoke of the impact Valerie had had on them, and when David Haslery read messages from former students from around the world about her influence on them.

The formal part of the afternoon ended with a playing of the “Mull of Kintyre” by Paul McCartney and the Campbelltown Pipe Band, a favourite of Valerie’s that reminded her of the wonderful time she spent there with the love of her life, Charles.

The Celebration wound up in a way Valerie would have approved – informal conversation over a wonderful spread of delightful appetizers.

The Walter Pearson College Foundation is a registered charity, and will issue tax receipts on request. For more information, contact Walter Pearson College of the Pacific at 250-391-2411 or email the Metchosin Foundation at metchosinfoundation@gmail.com (no space in email address).

Murchison Muse • October 2014

Do you need assistance voting? If you have mobility difficulties and are unable to enter the voting place, election officials can attend to you in your vehicle. If you have difficulty marking a ballot, you may be assisted by an election official or someone accompanying you.

MUNCHON HALLOWE’EN AT THE FIRE HALL

The Metchosin Volunteer Firefighter’s Society and the District of Metchosin welcome everyone to the annual Halloween party at the Fire Hall on Halloween night. Doors open at 6:00 pm with a haunted house for the brave of heart from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Halloween costume contest at 7:00 pm, free hot dogs and juice, a huge bonfire and of course fireworks around 8:30 pm! For more information check out www.metchosin.ca or call the Fire Department at 250-478-1307.

HALLOWE’EN FIREWORKS AND YOUR LIVESTOCK

To help reduce stress on pets and livestock, this year’s Halloween fireworks will consist of “no report” fireworks to help lessen trauma to your animals. The fireworks will start shortly after 8:30 pm with a single warning shot, followed three minutes later by the fifteen-minute show. The exact start time of the fireworks will depend on the weather.

More exact information on the time frame will be posted at www.metchosin.ca on October 31. Please check this website so that you will have the latest information.

For more information, contact the Metchosin Municipal Hall.

COUNCIL NEWS OCTOBER 2014

MUNICIPAL ELECTION – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

Vote for mayor, councillors and school trustees on Saturday, November 15 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the COMMUNITY HALL.

Advance Voting Opportunities – November 5 and November 12

Electors are welcome to vote in advance on Wednesday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 12 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the MUNICIPAL HALL (behind the Fire Hall).

Not on the voters list? You may be able to register to vote at the voting place.

Bring two pieces of identification that provide evidence of your identity and place of residence. Picture ID is not required, but one piece of ID must have your signature. For more information, contact the Metchosin Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or info@metchosin.ca.

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The 20th Annual Bite-Me! Fishing Derby

HEATHER JOHNSON

The 2014 Bite-Me Fishing Derby President, Richard Jones, presented a cheque for $10,000 to Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society President, Robert Gamache on Tuesday, Sept 23. The Bite-Me Fishing Derby, this year sponsored by Alpine Marine, celebrated their twentieth anniversary. A total of more than $143,000 has been raised by this small derby in the last twenty years and the net proceeds have been donated for local salmon conservation to ensure the continued future of sport fishing. The hatchery raises and releases many thousands of salmon into local spawning streams from where they migrate into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and then to the open Pacific Ocean. They return to spawn in local waters, thus ensuring the survival of a most precious asset – wild Pacific Salmon!

As well as supporting local salmon conservation, this year the Derby, with contributions from some generous Victorians, provided automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) to five local marinas including Pedder Bay. This was the brainchild of Ted Pedder, Bite-Me Fishing Derby committee member. Having been shocked back to life with a defibrillator in January of 2013, Ted knows firsthand how effective AEDs are for the victims of cardiac arrest, but he also knows that if his attack had happened on his boat at Pedder Bay his chance of survival would have been slim.

The Derby continues to support their local community by processing the top three winning fish and donating it to the West Shore Food Bank to help fill the Christmas hampers. Linda and Bryan Mooney, owners of the E-Fish-Ent Fish Company Ltd, have generously donated their time to process the salmon.

When the fishing is done everyone on the Derby continues to enjoy rural Metchosin at the 20th Annual Bite-Me! Fishing Derby – now including honey bees and their offerings!

The Apple–Bee Festival

DEREK WULFF

This year along with great apple activities such as making your own apple pie, candy apples and apple cider, we’ve added the excitement of those striped rascals – honey bees (and that elixir of life – honey!) with many interesting activities such as extracting honey, a demonstration hive and information on beekeeping. There are hands-on activities such as making your own honey-based facial scrub, beeswax-based body bar, and a mead-making demonstration!

There will be vendors selling apples by the bushel, apple trees and cider, as well as honey, and beeswax and honey products, but the classic activities of hurling apples and exotic hive extracts. Bring the family and join us for this Metchosin Foundation “foodie-fundraiser.”

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When the fishing is done everyone on the committee looks forward to organizing and driving the hay wagons for Metchosin Day.

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Sunday October 5, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Community House. Sponsored by the Metchosin Foundation and the Metchosin Pomological Association – and your local Metchosin Bee Rodeo group.

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Metchosin Garden Club Welcomes Linda Gilkeson

JUDITH VAN MANEN

We are very fortunate to feature Linda Gilkeson as our guest speaker on October 14, 2014. Linda is an entomologist, author, instructor in the Master Gardener programs in BC, and a popular gardening speaker. Her recent book, Backyard Boutery: The Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, has become a BC best seller.

In her presentation, “Feeding Your Organic Garden: Compost, Fertilizers, and Soil Preparation,” Linda will discuss the nutritional needs of plants, easy composting, amendments worth buying, and soil pH.

We will all be interested in Linda’s suggestions on how to prepare soil for a successful garden without backbreaking work! Did you know that Metchosin Garden Club is thirty-three years old? We are looking for new members, and welcome you to attend. Regular meetings are held from 7:30–9:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month (February to June, and September to November) in St. Mary’s Anglican Church, 4125 Metchosin Road, across from the Metchosin Golf Course.

Our monthly meetings include knowledgeable and eloquent speakers who stir us with enthusiasm and helpful ideas for gardening challenges. Annual membership is $10. Please contact the following members for more information:

Dorothy King, MGC Program Coordinator
778-679-3994, email: mkking@telus.net

Suzie Bowen, MGC President
250-288-7677, email: susiebowen@shaw.ca

Please join us at our October meeting and check out what you are missing; and please circle these dates on your calendar:  

- November 11, 2014: Rachelle McElroy, Director of Coastal Invasive Species – “Grow Me Instead”  
- February 10, 2015: Jeff de Jong, “Plants We Love” (Valentine’s Day theme)  
- March 10, 2015: Deborah Walker, CRD, “Tap Into Sustainability”  

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What’s next? Garden Math 102 in your garden!

Christmas, Easter … Metchosin Day! Seasonal markers for you gardeners out there. I will be sure not to mention that the evil of the Autumn Solstice is upon us, our current endless lazy summer, ends on the horizon only 10 days away. Keep on top of it as temperatures cool to renovate our busy-ness energy. Find some time to sit down, part grump, part Grasstopper the story teller … only real rain will penetrate our day-to-day gardening and change us into true fall action mode.

A fun project right now is treasure hunting in the squash and pumpkin patch! You never really know what you will find between those flagging mildew elephant-ear leaves … At Metchosin Day, my red ribbed pumpkin (West Coast seeds) was still green, a lovely Hal- loween orange now, a beauty weighing in at forty-seven pounds with a “waist” of forty-seven inches. It was one of seven pumpkins from one plant on my compost pile. My friend Stan Fry is still hesitant to pick his phenomenal pump-kins as yet in case they can get even bigger! His definitely deserves an honorary Blue ribbon: grown on a six-foot pile of horse manure! Weights yet to be determined – if he can move them.

Dahlia, dear dahlia, the ultimate heat of summer is my first indicator of seasonal changes. As night time tempera-atures drop below ten°C so do dahlia’s temperature-sensitive bottom leaves. Some years my first frost in the valley came as early as September 12 and I awoke to dramatically blackened dahlia plants top to bottom overnight. At one time, I used to hoop and cover even with bed sheets, but over time I have learned to accept their life, faithfully uncovering mid-morning; in some ways it was a relief from this circus act when they were dead … What was I thinking!

So during late August I have learned to start har- vesting heavily and freezing Zopicc pouches of simply whizzed fresh basil with a dash of lemon juice and enough grapeseed or olive oil to roughly turn into a herbal paste to freeze – “pesto” simply meaning an herbal paste or purée… now on season on availability of fresh garlic, parmesan cheese or nuts to turn this herbed basil packs into basil pesto and less expensive to do it on demand rather than all now. I dougal complete pesto container marked December 25 for that festive taste of summer. The bonus – in extended sum- mer years, I have seemingly endless basil to freeze - dehydrate and get bored of pesto! In 2013, frosts did not arrive until late October … so get plucking your last basil.

Next – seed collecting before the rains really set in with molds and mildews. This is where Garden Math 102 be- gins as does your abundance to share, swap and plant for next year’s garden. I find little brown paper lunch bags useful, labeling with a felt tip pen as I collect. Many of my flower parents have run out of energy early and have gone to seed, allowing even more varieties to collect this year! I set the little bags on a dry table in my greenhouse, open ended, shaking them from time to time to help air circulation and the drying process. Do try to pick your seed heads on a dry day. If you must collect in the rain, pre-dry on a tray or in an open shallow container in your house before bagging. On a miserable November day I happily sort, sift and place in finished labeled small paper or cello envelopes. Label your dahlias, especially by colour, leaving them until a “killing frost” before cutting back, lifting, drying and dividing. Here frost is your friend, signalling your dahlias to stop and hibernate! I do not have the luxury of leaving my dahlia tubers in the ground for winter as my water table rises and they will rot. Instead I tuck them in old potting soil in five gallon plastic pots, labelled, under my greenhouse middle benches where they keep frost free. The last chance to trim your lavenders to keep them short, fat and tidy, as well as sturdy for any heavy wet win- ter snows is here. This care really does extend their life. If you were fast in harvesting or trimming your laven- der bushes in August, look for healthy new three or four inch shoots and try your hand at propagating new lavender plants! Take a clean cutting, or a “heel” cutting if there are side shoots; place in a shallow tray or plug style insert filled with a mix of sand, dry, sterilized soil or fresh Sunshine Mix. Do not over water. No fertilizer – you want a diet of just “bread and water” to force new roots. You will be able to tell if they have taken by new growth at the crown. Let them hunker up before transplanting into the next size or separate containers. This job can even wait until next February as they will not truly get a growth spurt as temperatures consistently decline. Do not take them into your house. They are tougher than you think and can hap- pily remain in a coldframe or cold greenhouse through the worst of winter and out of too much wet.

Now the big jobs – shuf- fling plants, shrubs, or small trees. “War” larger shrub- bery by cutting in the root zone about a foot or two away from the main stems or trunk now, then lift when the rains come. Water well if your garden is deeply dry before moving any sized plant AND pre-water the planting hole where you plan it to go to reduce transplant shock. And yes, do it now before freeze- ing weather, mud and rain… or the procrastination list! I procrastinated about dividing the rhubarb last fall and it is now on a priority list because the morning glory that just was tips last fall … is now a rampant jungle. Green!

Most of all keep Mr. Grass- hopper close, to keep all of your lawn action mode. Keep all of your compost lying in your heart and head as Mr. Squirrel runs around getting ready for winter!
You Want Me to Do What?

DAWMIE KIWIWAN AND STEPHANIE DUINOP

Evacuate.

In the event of imminent or actual threat to your safety and life, and the safety and life of your family, you may be asked to leave your home.

Evacuation is the removal of people from an area of imminent or actual threat of emergency or disaster. Depending on the nature and scope of the event, an evacuation may be limited to a single roadway or home or it may affect an entire neighborhood.

The following events are some of the potential hazards, which could present a risk and lead to an emergency or disaster in the District of Metchosin:

• severe windstorm
• earthquake/tsunami
• hazardous materials spill
• thunderstorm with power outage
• heavy rain, flooding
• rupture of vessel or piping containing propane, natural gas or other volatile materials under pressure
• forest fire/wildfires

In the case that one of the above events becomes a reality for Metchosin, a notice of potential hazards, which could present a risk and lead to an emergency or disaster in the District of Metchosin:

Evacuation Orders will be in written and verbal (radio) formats.

Stage one – an Evacuation Alert is initiated when the situation may necessitate the need to evacuate within a certain perimeter until the initial situation is contained. It allows for the affected population to begin an orderly preparation to leave the affected area while being informed of the hazard.

Stage two – an Evacuation Order is issued when you must leave the area now – you have been ordered to leave the area. There is no discretion on the part of the population. An order like this usually involves an area on a large scale and possibly for a long period of time.

If an Evacuation Order is issued, a State of Local Emergency has been declared by the Mayor or Designate. If your home receives an Evacuation Order, you should:

• Stay calm.
• Gather your family; take a neighbour or someone who needs help;
• Take critical items (medications, purses, wallets, eyeglasses, keys etc);
• Turn off lights, heaters, gas and stove;
• Close all doors, windows and vents;
• Close gates and latches, but do not lock;
• Do not use more vehicles than absolutely necessary;
• Do not use the telephone unless emergency services are required;
• Go immediately to the Reception Centre listed on the Order;
• If you require transportation, call the Emergency Operations Centre at 250-474-3167.

Even though an evacuation is mandatory, there may be those who will refuse to evacuate. In fact, there are a number of variables that determine one's needs or desire to evacuate as ordered. It can be assumed that:

• spontaneous evacuation will occur when there is sufficient warning of the threat. Between five and twenty per cent of the people at risk will self-evacuate before being directed to do so;
• some people will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat;
• some individuals will require transportation support to evacuate;
• some owners of animals will refuse to evacuate unless arrangements have been made to care for their animals;
• many evacuees will seek shelter with relatives, friends or motels;
• designated evacuation routes may be required to safely evacuate people;
• day of week and time of day may determine if families will be home or at work/school; and
• many hazards provide a warning period, which allows for a planned evacuation and re-entry.

Evacuation Orders will be in written and verbal (radio) formats.

Would You Have Been Ready?

BRIAN DOMNEY

There were a lot of people living in the smoky downwind side of the Blinkhorn fire who spent a nervous couple of days wondering how the effort to contain and extinguish the fire on the mountain was going. Some prepared for the possibility of an Evacuation Order.

The reality is, if the wind had been stronger, and if the fire had crowned into the trees, it would not have been a couple of days to worry and prepare – it could have been minutes. So why not use the event as a reminder – if you had, let’s say for this purpose – thirty minutes (and for people on the western end of Lochside, mid-Kangaroo Road and lower Barrow, that might be generous), what would you be able to accomplish in that time?

What if there was a knock on your door as you read this, and a member of the Metchosin Emergency Program, most likely a member of the Search and Rescue group, were standing there telling you an Evacuation Order has been issued for your neighbourhood, and you have thirty minutes to evacuate? What would be important to you? Could you walk away from your home with a credit card and a toothbrush, or would you need to do more? Is it a bag with clothes and personal things? Toiletries, and medications? Would you want to make arrangements to move your pets? Ensure important documents and heirlooms are packed and ready to go with you? It’s probably worth thinking about in advance.

Just saying …
and low winds prevented a disaster.”

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated at approximately 5:00 pm on Friday, and fully staffed by volunteers. The EOC functioned to support the emergency responders with tasks such as securing trail access to Blinkhorn for public safety, managing the EOC to answer public inquiries through the night, feeding responder crews and ensure the public evacuation alerts were hand delivered to the affected residences.

Chief Dunlop has expressed appreciation for the assistance received from the community. “On behalf of the Metchosin Fire Department firefighters – we would like to thank all the residents for your show of support – the cookies and treats were spectacular and truly appreciated.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the volunteers who supported us by making meals – there was not a moment went by that we didn’t have enough food.”

If winds had been stronger and the fire had crowned, this could have been disastrous. As Chief Dunlop explains “The dangers of a wildfire fire are two-fold – the first is the obvious threat of direct fire growing into interface and residential areas. Typically fire breaks, retardant drops along with direct water application will assist in controlling this hazard. The second, and more difficult threat to control, is the danger of flying embers landing on rooftops and tree canopies thereby starting multiple spot fires. Metchosin was very fortunate this fire was a crawling ground fire and did not give off a large amount of these embers.”

Stephanie hopes this close call will serve to motivate residents to be prepared in the future. “Take action now to prepare your family, home and property for any future fire events – learn how to FireSmart your home, and make sure you have a ‘Grab & Go’ kit in the event you are evacuated. Know the resources within our community and where to go for information. Sign up for our Emergency Notification email and phone contact list, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Additional Emergency Preparedness links and resources can be found on our website: metchosinemergencyprogram.ca or by calling the Emergency Program at 250-478-1307.”

Metchosin is grateful for the hard work of its volunteer firefighters, supported by neighbouring crews and the BC Forest Service.

continued from page 1

A helicopter dumps water on Mount Blinkhorn; Race Rocks is visible at top left. Photo by Jacob Mellish.

The view was good, but for many, the fire was a little too close to home. Lorraine Buchanan photo.

Metchosin Day Awards

Metchosin Day is the day people come together to celebrate what this place is, to see old friends, to recognize excellence, whether the ability to grow a perfect head of garlic, to be another element establishing itself a bit more - the participation and attendance by people from outside Metchosin, West Shore folks are always here, Greater Victoria seems to be discovering our day more, but this year seemed to be more people from much farther afield. Vancouver, the Okanagan and even Washington State were represented in the crowds. Alberta license plates were seen in the parking area. Perhaps the delay in the start-up of the school year contributed to this, but it would be nice to think that maybe more people are coming to realize that there is much to be envied in our quiet, pastoral, green existence that is becoming more and more difficult to find, particularly if you live near a large urban centre.

They've done it again! Thanks to Mary Gidney and the Metchosin Day Committee for another great Metchosin Day.

2014 Citizen of the Year

PRESENTED BY MAYOR JOHN RANNS

Captain Jason Humphries has been a member of Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department for eleven years. Jason has distinguished himself, not only for the number of calls responded to, but as a mentor to new recruits. He is an equipment specialist in the department, as well as a member of the Rope Rescue Team and the Auto Extrication Team. He has been recognized as Firefighter of the Year twice.

His commitment to his team and to his community is exemplary and it is an honour to recognize Jason Humphries as Metchosin’s 2014 Citizen of the Year.

Youth Group of the Year

PRESENTED BY MORALISA MILNE

The Geeks and Geezers program came about as a result of the awarding of a New Horizons federal government grant to SIBC. The program began in July of 2013. The Seniors Information and Resource Centre was most fortunate to have connected with six “geeks” who have shared their knowledge with many members of the community.

They have faithfully been available the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month and the first and third Wednesday of every month from July 2013 to June 2014. These young, “teachers” have patiently navigated any who attend the sessions, on an individual basis, as they worked their way through becoming more familiar with technology. The “toys” they work with are computers, both PC and Mac, iPads, smart phones, digital cameras, and tablets, among other things.

Their communication and connectedness to our seniors has been extraordinary.

Mariah Kivari, Abbey Christ-Roling, Lucas Christ-Roling, Liam Donaldson, Daylin Cooper and Dawson Tindale – you make us seniors confident that we are in good hands, now and in the future.

Metchosin Search and Rescue – Volunteer Group of the Year

PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR LARRY TREMBLAY

Metchosin Search and Rescue gets called out to look for lost hikers, elderly people at risk, despontion people, lost children, and people in need of medical evacuation. In addition it plays a key role in supporting the Metchosin Emergency Program in local emergencies such as evacuations and notifications and assists police investigations by undertaking evidence searches.

In recent years, the group has averaged about twenty callouts per year. Currently the group comprises around twenty-five years, the volunteer members of this organization have been on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and in all kinds of weather.

Initially responsible only for Metchosin, now its areas of responsibility include the West Shore, View Royal, Victoria, Oak Bay and Esquimalt. In addition, Metchosin Search and Rescue is called out on mutual aid searches to help other SAR groups throughout the Island and even, from time to time, on the mainland. Metchosin Search and Rescue gets called out to look for lost hikers, elderly people at risk, despontion people, lost children, and people in need of medical evacuation. In addition it plays a key role in supporting the Metchosin Emergency Program in local emergencies such as evacuations and notifications and assists police investigations by undertaking evidence searches.

Metchosin Search and Rescue was formed in 1989 by a group of local volunteers and Pearson College. For
METCHOSIN DAY AWARDS

Bev Hall – Metchosin’s Friend of the Earth

MORALEA MLNE

The District of Metchosin, lying within one of the most rare and arguably beautiful ecosystems within Canada, has for many years honoured a Metchosin resident with the Friend of the Earth Award, for their contributions to environmental protection, stewardship, sustainability and commitment.

This year, Metchosin honours Bev Hall for her years of contribution to the Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC).

As a member of MEASC, Bev has been intimately involved with the preparation of the District’s Sustainability Report, the Ecological Values of Potential Parklands in Metchosin Report and, more recently, the Shoreline Report and brochure. In each of these she has spent innumerable hours and days that stretched to months in researching, editing, photographing, laying out and all the other tasks that go into preparing major research reports.

Bev has been the foundation and workhorse of the teams that created these important documents.

Bev has expressed her love of Metchosin’s rural character in many ways. She is a superb photographer who has been extremely generous in donating her photos of Metchosin, which have found their way into many documents – the Metchosin Biodiversity Project, the District website, and the Metchosin Green Map.

Whether it’s taking notes for meetings, photographing Metchosin and spreading the beauty of Metchosin around the world, or exercising her joy of paragliding, Bev has shown and practiced her commitment to protecting Metchosin’s environment.

Recently Bev helped Chris Pratt create a book of his recent journey on the Great Silk Road and Chris graciously volunteered to accept the award on Bev’s behalf, in her absence.

Produce Contest

With close to thirty categories and six-eight foot tables groaning with produce, it was a sterling year for the Veggie Contest. The squash entries were outstanding this year, with a nod to Mother Nature for providing such excellent “squash weather.” Judges Cheryl Ranns, Mayor John Ranns and Derek Wulff ensured that entries got intense scrutiny, and though First place ribbons were depleted by the time the judges reached the squash table, another ribbon bundle was quickly found. Apples were rolling off their paper plates. Next year a three-apple entry rule will apply. Five Gravenstein apples are only just beginning to escape.

Longest Carrot – Junior: 1st – Malia Francis

Fastest Corn – Junior: 1st – Sea Bluff Farm

Flower Arrangement: Junior 1st – Malia Francis

The Mixed Fruit Pie table. Unless you were a judge, you had to stay for the famous Lamb and Salmon BBQ in order to get a piece of one of these delicious pies.

A sampling of the late-summer fruits in the produce contest. The apples are only just beginning to escape.

Best Farm Basket: Sea Bluff Farm – Kristen Nammour

Metchosin Day visitors admiring the bumper crop of local produce in this year’s contest.

Weirdest Vegetable – Junior: 1st – Malia Francis (carrot); 2nd – Arwyn Ferguson (cucumber); 3rd – Kara Ingalls (bean); Honourable mention Kara Ingalls (squash)


Best Junior Basket: Allie Hourigan (7 yrs. old)

Best Farm Basket: Sea Bluff Farm – Kristen Nammour (watch for a winter Sea Bluff Farm stand). Basket contents: Delicata squash, hops, apples, pears, garlic, potato, eggplant, radish, sunflower, lettuce mix, fennel, raspberries, hazelnuts, leeks, artichoke, plums, radicchio, nasturtium, pumpkin. Metchosin Report

Best Junior Basket: Allie Hourigan (7 yrs. old)

Flower Arrangement: Junior 1st – Malia Francis

Jams (appearance only) – Honours: John Ranns and Derek Wulff


Longest Carrot – Junior: 1st – Malia Francis

Corn: 1st – Sea Bluff Farm

Cherry tomatoes – Adult: 1st – Metchosin Farm
Browsing through the photo entry exhibit at the Community House.

And they’re off on the Metchosin 5K!

5K winner Jericho O’Connell (right) with runner-up Sean Nelson.
Metchosin Muse • October 2014

Under 16: A Wild Wand – Eve Ruth
Under 10: A Light at the End – Ben Ruth
Black and White: Night in the Park – Doug Clement
Under 16: Mystical Mystic Beach – Claire Martin
Best in Show: Camus Moonrise – TJ Watt
Reserve Best in Show: La Vieux, Quebec – Claire Martin
Best in Show 11 to 16: Caught in Mid Air – Claire Martin
Best in Show Under 10: Light at the End – Ben Ruth
Reserve Best in Show Under 10: Ancient Arch – Ben Ruth

Metchosin Day 5K Run/Walk
ANDY MACKINNON

Metchosin Day 2014 kicked off with the 21st annual Metchosin Day 5K Run/Walk. We had 155 participants who completed the gently rolling 5 km course in nearly perfect conditions – windless under bluebird skies. Fastest women were Claire Morgan (18:30), Cassidy Steen and Noa Bridson. Fastest men were Jericho O’Connell (16:20), Shawn Nelson and Lehlohonolo Khilleng. Once again all race awards (except for under 13) were fresh Metchosin produce. A complete list of finishers and times can be found at raceday-timing.ca/results.html under “2014 Metchosin Day 5K.” The event generated a profit of approximately $250, which will be donated to the Metchosin Foundation.

Our thanks to our many sponsors: to Race Day Timing Services for timing/results; to Frontrunners Westshore and Metchosin Country Store for accepting registrations; to Derek Wulff, Karen and Don’s Blueberry Patch, LA Limo, Sea Bluff Farm, Clare Lowery, Wind Whipped Farm and Metchosin Farm, for produce and other excellent Metchosin prizes; to Oak Bay Cycle, for a good deal on the bike; to Martha Haylor and Sally Walker for their delicious cinnamon buns; and to the Metchosin Hall Society, for letting us use the Community Hall for race day registration. And thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with everything from registration and traffic control to water stops and finish line. See you all next September for the 22nd annual Metchosin Day 5K!

Pet Show: Quack, Quack, Quack
VIO MITCHELL

It was another brilliant Metchosin Day Pet Show – an amazing range of pets including Maggie, a talking blue-fronted Amazon parrot, squeaky guinea pigs, many chickens (all kinds, all types), cats, and dogs, large small, medium and many in-between, Judges Violaine Mitchell (Chief Judge), Diane Johnson, TJ Johnson, Cory Siebert, Deirdre Chettleburgh, and Leslie Zinger had a tough time handing out those magnificent prizes and ribbons. Announcer Frank Mitchell kept the pets and judges moving and had to shout extra loudly to be heard over Bianca the Call Duck who quacked throughout the show to the winner’s circle. The final results:

Best in Show: Bianca the Call Duck with owner Julia Lozupone
Reserve Most Unusual Pets Sashy and Tayla with owner Cassidy Steen

Most Unusual: Peeps the Australian Spotted Duck with Jovanna Lozupone
Reserve Most Unusual: Sashy and Tayla – Dogs in bike basket with Cassidy Steen

Thanks to Sarah Bryan for handing out dog biscuits and candies, and to Graham Bradley for the many wonderful photos that could not all be printed here.
Imagine leaving reality, going across the world and the thing that matters is the people you meet who become your family. That whole different world, that’s what CISV is to me.

What is CISV? CISV is an international youth organization that helps build global friendships through many different programs. It was created in 1951 after World War II by a woman named Doris Allen. Doris believed that peace starts with children. Through that idea, CISV was created.

Since 1951 CISV has taught youth many important values and concepts. The four main pillars that CISV focuses on are conflict resolution, human rights, sustainability and diversity. It has made youth realize that even though we speak different languages and we live in different countries, we are not so different.

For the second summer in a row I’ve had the pleasure of attending two different programs. Last year I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to attend an International Youth Meeting in the Netherlands. A leader and six delegates, including me, traveled to the Netherlands; we were the Canadian delegation. When we got there we were welcomed with open arms into a home-stay before the camp/program started. There were four different countries attending the youth meeting: Canada, Spain, Colombia, the Netherlands, as well as the Faroe Islands, a self-governing archipelago associated with Denmark. Becoming so close with those forty people was one of the best three weeks of my life.

Experiencing what CISV has to offer, I was overjoyed to go on another program called Peace Bus this summer. Peace Bus is a five-and-a-half-week long trip where you travel across Canada in a van with two leaders and twelve delegates. There is an eastbound trip that goes from Victoria to Halifax, for ages thirteen-and-a-half to sixteen and there is a westbound trip that goes from Halifax to Victoria for ages fifteen-and-a-half to eighteen.

Peace Bus is one of the most unique programs because it incorporates volunteering while on the way to the other end of the country. Some of the exciting volunteer projects that we got to participate in were sorting clothes at a homeless shelter, serving food, decorating cages at an animal sanctuary, building harm reduction kits for substance users, pulling out non-native plants in Banff National Park and more.

Along the way we had the opportunity to meet all the participants’ families as they so kindly let us stay in their homes; we would also camp or stay with families that are involved with CISV. As a group, we learn how to cook, clean up, sit beside each other for hours on end in the van and all around live and work with each other.

Through CISV I have met some of the most amazing friends and bonded with people from everywhere. I would love for other youth to experience what I did. Anyone from the age of 11+ is welcome as a delegate or as a part of the Victoria Junior Branch. You do not have to travel to be a part of CISV, there are many local opportunities. If you or your child is interested visit the website at http://www.cisvvictoria.ca/ or contact communications@CISVVictoria.ca.
MCA Guest Speaker Series

Vio will not only discuss her international development work on polio and immunization but also how she copes with the demands of frequent travelling, periods away from home and operating in an entirely different culture. When asked to be guest speaker, it was suggested she talk about how she “balances her life” and the prompt response was, “I don’t!”

Future Speakers

This season the MCA Guest Speaker program plans to feature other Metchosin residents who work or volunteer overseas and on Thursday, November 20 our next speaker will be Derek Wuliff.

Derek's life, like Vio’s, involves considerable international travel. He arrived in Metchosin in 2002 and started a small business teaching homeschoolers. He learned from his students and has gone from making medieval siege engine models in his studio to self-publishing, to an award-winning global educational science kit business, with plants now in over 20 countries, which can now be found in major museums, science centres and toy stores around the world.

Derek and his family have embraced Metchosin’s rural lifestyle and he is a beekeeper, a constant gardener and apple advocate. He will tell you how this happened, the pitfalls and triumphs and the difference this has made to his life.

Please put both Thursday, October 18 and November 20, on your calendars. These will be very interesting evenings. All welcome to these free events, with the opportunity to ask questions and to enjoy light refreshments and socialize.

If you have suggestions for other speakers in this series please email me at laura.farquharson@shaw.ca or call 250-479-1197.

Laura Farquharson Co-ordinator, MCA Guest Speaker Program

MCA Music Program presents

Iska Violin and Guitar Duo

Concerto de Aranjuez with the Civic Orchestra of Victoria. Doug is on the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, where he teaches guitar and lute. He performs with Daryá, a classical Persian music ensemble, and teaches tar, setar, oud and santur, which he studied with Iranian masters in California and Paris.

Currently on the string faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Tatiana Kostour is a well known and highly respected musician and teacher from Ukraine where she graduated from the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Kiev. In 1996, Tatiana received a Wilfrid Laurier University Music Faculty Scholarship to study with the Penderecki String Quartet, earning a Diploma in Performance. While in Ontario, Tatiana performed with the Brantford Symphony Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony, London Symphony and Thunder Bay Symphony. She has also performed with the Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra in Kiev, Ukraine. She was concertmaster of the Grand River Chorus Orchestra in Brantford, the KW Chamber Orchestra in Waterloo and the K-W Philharmonic Choir. Besides performing, she loves teaching. Her students have received Silver and Gold Medals from the Royal Conservatory of Music as well as scholarships from provincial festivals. She has recorded Royal Sequence, a series of CDs used by violin students throughout Canada and the USA. Tatiana’s passion, dynamic energy and natural playing style allow her to express her ideas with a flair that truly communicates music to people’s hearts.

We look forward to seeing you on October 19 for an afternoon of lovely music. Tickets, $15 for adults and $5 for students and children over 12, are available in advance from the Metchosin Community Association (4430 Happy Valley Road, 250-478-5155) and also at the door. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly encouraged as it helps us plan for the concert and refreshments. As usual, freshly baked goodies will be available for purchase during intermission.

Violinist Tatiana Kostour and guitarist Douglas Hensley.

MCA Music Program presents

Iska Violin and Guitar Duo

NASEEM JANMOHAMED
**Ongoing Programs**

**Mondays**
- **Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program** – 9:00 am–3:30 pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillicke at 250-213-2440.

**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 to one hour, one-to-one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer.

**Pearson College Students Outreach** – 5:00–4:30 pm. 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.

**Tuesdays**
- **Drop In Painters Art Group**. This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome.

**Games Afternoon**. Every third Tuesday of each month from 1:00–3:00 pm. 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).

**Thursdays**
- **Creative Rug Hooking – A New Drop-in Program**. First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but please contact Sheila (250-595-6406, or email: blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs.

**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 look forward to seeing you and your little ones! For more information please call Nina at 250-590-2540 or email daleolina@shaw.ca.

**Events**

**CRD Septic Savvy Workshop** – Thursday, October 2, 7:00 pm. How to care for your septic system. Learn how to protect the local environment and your health while saving money, at this free workshop at the Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road on Thursday, October 2 from 7:00–9:30 pm. One lucky attendee will win $75 off the cost of their next pump out! Pre-registration is required. Please call 250-360-3030 or email hotline@crd.bc.ca to register. Testimonial from past attendee: “Thank you again, so much, for a wonderfully interesting and informative workshop. Really grateful to have access to such a great resource, and for free! Wow!” Visit www.crd.bc.ca/septic for information on septic system care.

**Apple-Bee Festival** — Sunday, October 5, 11:00 am–3:00 pm. This year, along with the great apple activities such as making your own apple pie, candy apples and apple cider, we have added the excitement of those stripped rascals — honey bees (and that elixir of life, honey!). There will be many interesting activities such as extracting honey, a demonstration hive, and information on beekeeping. There are hands-on activities such as making your own honey-based facial scrub, beeswax-taxed body bar, and a nifty, making-demonstration! Sponsored by the Metchosin Foundation and the Metchosin Pomological Association — and your local Metchosin Bee Rodeo group.

**Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Choir**. Second and fourth Monday of each month, 7:00–9:00 pm. A random group of Metchosinites gathers for an informal evening of singing at the Community House. All are welcome (a good singing voice is NOT a requirement) and families with children and grandparents are encouraged to come. If you have questions prior to this date, please contact Barb Savatsky at 250-478-0553.

**Knitting Café**. Regular meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 7:00–9:00 pm, and the second and fourth Tuesday, 1:00–3:00 pm. Monthly, looking forward to seeing everyone again and newcomers, whether experienced or beginning knitters, are always welcome. For more information, call Laura, 250-478-1197, or email: laura.farquharson@shaw.ca.

**Concert** — Sunday, October 19, 2:30 pm. MCA Music Program presents Iskra Violin and Guitar Duo. After a summer hiatus, the Metchosin Community Association’s Music Program resumes with a concert of chamber music by the Iskra Violin and Guitar Duo, on Sunday, October 19 at 2:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House. The duo consists of violinist Tatiana Kos-tour and guitarist Douglas Hensley. Tickets available at the House or call 250-478-5155.

**Community Potluck Lunch** — October 30, 12:00–1:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

**Foot Care Program** — The last Monday of each month, a foot care nurse will be offering foot care services. Appointments are half an hour and cost $40. Appointments are between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Please call 250-478-5155 to book.

**Art On The Walls** — October: Museum Historical Photos. 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 1900s. They are hanging on the Community House walls for all to enjoy, on display for the month of October. 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 478-5155.

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Who Is It?

In Metchosin, it’s not unusual to come across something a little different. With its history and diverse population, this is a great place to find uniqueness, whether person, place, or thing.

The Musk hopes to pull some of these treasures out of Metchosin’s closet for your enjoyment. If you can identify the person in the photo below, send an email to the editor at metmuse@shaw.ca. The sender of the first email received that correctly identifies the person, place or thing will receive a free regular coffee, compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. We’ll let them know to expect you!

Congratulations to Deb Thiessen for being the first to identify September’s image as Jan Poulin’s “Root Cellar” on Witty Beach Road.

sponsored by The Broken Paddle Coffee House
4480 Happy Valley Road, Metchosin

The Mortgage Centre – Island Properties
4283 Metchosin Rd., Victoria
Weekends 10am - 5pm Weekdays call ahead www.chosinpottery.ca

The Blair Atholl Jamborette
Allysha Becker

The Blair Atholl Jamborette is Scotland’s Scouting premier international event. It brings together over 1,000 Explorer Scouts and Leaders from eighteen countries around the world for a ten-day camp in a picturesque corner of highland Perthshire. Every two years since 1946 the tranquil grounds of Blair Castle have been transformed with participants from all over the world coming together to camp and share in fun, friendship, and a massive range of adventurous activities and challenges.

This summer, the 2014 camp had around 1350 Scouts and adults that took part, including the twelve youth and three leaders from the Victoria-based Pacific Explorers. Scottish Scouts representing every district and region in the country were paired with counterparts from as far as Japan, Canada, South Africa, Hong Kong and the USA. We overseas visitors to the camp were treated as the guests of the Scottish Scouts and all we needed to bring with us was our own personal luggage; everything else was supplied for us. The Scottish Scouts and their overseas guests camped in joint patrols in sub-camps and lived and worked together under the watchful eye of the sub-camp teams.

The Jamborette is the only of its kind in the world and is an outstanding opportunity for young people from different countries to meet, befriend and learn from others as they camp and participate together in a range of adventurous and culturally diverse activities. Activities at the Blair Atholl camp this year included twenty-four-hour hikes, mountain and white water river rescue training, bush craft, and celtic craft-work, with over 140 activities to choose from. Scouts from every one of Scotland’s fifty-three districts attended, giving them the opportunity to be a wide range of scouts from all over the globe. Our Canadian troop came in first at the country fair, cooking pancakes with real Maple syrup. We cooked up over 1500 mini pancakes and we trumped Japan who had a few years run at winning.

After the camp, the Blair Atholl experience continued with a period of up to five days’ home hospitality with the friends made at the camp. As a participant of the Pacific Explorers, I had the opportunity to travel overseas and to be part of this event was an incredible experience. After the Jamborette and homestay, we also travelled to Bowness Island, the birth place of scouting that hosted the first boy scout camp with Baden Powell. We experienced the culture of the UK and even had the privilege of going up to the front door of the most famous address in England, 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister wasn’t home but the experience was memorable.

We had a fantastic trip and want to thank our home scouting group, 14th JDP here in Metchosin for all its support, along with all the community for supporting us in fundraising for this amazing trip. Thank you all for all the support! It was an incredible experience that will stay with us for a life time.

Thank you Metchosin!

14th Juan de Fuca Scouting Group would like to thank the community of Metchosin and surrounding areas for helping to make another fun-filled Metchosin Day. The weather was outstanding and the turnout was amazing.

“Metchosin Day” is the largest fundraiser for the 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting Group, supporting programming for all our aging youth throughout the year. Our leaders, families and friends operate the concession with help from many people in the community. The Dunk Tank was run this year by the Venturer youth. The Chicken Poo Bingo booth was operated by the Victoria Area Medical Venturers this year and helps them to raise funds for their program as well.

We would like to recognize and thank these folks that helped to support our fundraising efforts at Metchosin Day:

• The Knights of Columbus. This wonderful group of gentlemen came out every year and do the cooking in the concession. From the pancake breakfast to the hot dogs and hamburgers, their fun and efficient manner make them a joy to work with.

• Steve Rensing “On the Moove” Dairy Delivery. Without Steve and the loan of his refrigerated truck for this event, it could not run!

• Level Ground Trading and Broken Paddle Coffee House: Level Ground donates the cups and thermal units for this event and Shannon (who also arranges the thermal units and donates the coffee) at the Broken Paddle allows us to go in and start brewing at 5:00 am. Thank you both.

• My-Chosen Pizza, Glenwood Meats and Island Bakery who all provide their wonderful product at a reduced rate to help with our fundraising efforts.

• Thank you to Mitchell and Tom Henry, for lending us the hay and fences for the Chicken Poo Bingo booth.

• And, of course, Mary Gidney and the Metchosin Day Committee that puts the entire event together we say a big thank you.

Many people, unfortunately, helped to make this possible and were not mentioned here. Please know that you are appreciated. We are already looking forward to next year!

Finally, the 14th Juan de Fuca Scouts and Venturers are in the midst of fundraising for the upcoming Pacific Jamboree which is being held next summer at our very own beautiful Camp Barnard! There are currently two ongoing fundraisers – a bottle collection bin at the Community Hall, and a metal collection bin at 1293 Liberty Drive. Your support to help our youth raise money for this amazing event would be greatly appreciated!
In the midst of BC SPCA Wild ARC’s busy summer season, a handsome Barred Owl was admitted from the Metchosin area. The owl was hit by a truck as it flew from the bushes near the roadside – it was likely in search of the small rodents that make up the majority of its diet. A local resident rushed the owl immediately to Wild ARC, and upon full examination rehabilitators found that the owl had a broken wing.

X-rays showed that the fracture was in the middle of the bone between the owl’s elbow and wrist, a promising place for full recovery. The fracture was severe, however, and would require surgery to repair. Wild ARC contacted the fantastic team at Island Veterinary Hospital in Nanaimo, where veterinarian Dr. Langelier specializes in orthopedic surgeries and generously donates his expertise to help wildlife. A volunteer transporter drove the owl up island and back for its day surgery, making sure it received treatment as quickly as possible.

The surgery was a success. With careful monitoring, physiotherapy to retain flexibility as the bone continued to heal, and time in Wild ARC’s large outdoor flight pen to rebuild its fitness, at the end of the summer this beautiful owl was released back to its Metchosin home. Very pleased with this patient’s recovery, Wild ARC senior rehabilitator Christina Carrières explains, “It takes an incredible team effort of rehabilitators, volunteers, and community supporters to help our patients return to the wild – every successful case is a reflection of this network of support for our local wildlife.”

This Barred Owl is just one of the nearly 2,500 wild patients that Wild ARC will admit this year. Coming on November 1 is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to support Wild ARC’s rehabilitation work at their annual Fall for Wildlife Dinner Auction. Centre manager Kari Marks eagerly anticipates the evening, saying, “This event is a chance for the community to experience the journey of some of Wild ARC’s patients, bid on some truly unique items, and enjoy a lively night on the town.” Tickets are available now at www.spca.bc.ca/wildarc-auction – reserve yours today.
David Hawley says goodbye to Pearson College

Dear Members of the Pearson College Community,

For me, coming to Pearson College was a dream come true. There are few organizations in the world where the mission is so important, the level of engagement so high, the idealism so untrammeled and the potential to make the world a better place so real.

Recently, another one of those few organizations reached out to me with an irresistible opportunity. I was writing to tell you I have accepted it.

Starting January, 2015, I will become the Chief Academic Officer of the United World Colleges (UWC) Organization and Manager of the IB Global Centre in The Hague, Netherlands. My brief will be to provide strategic direction for the educational philosophy and curricular leadership and appeal for all IB academic programmes, which now serve over one million students worldwide.

I will continue to serve as Head of Pearson College through December 2014.

While I will be leaving the College, I will remain very much connected through my work with the IB, whose history and mission are closely connected to the United World Colleges (UWC) movement. Here are excerpts from the IB mission: “…to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect … to encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.” And, perhaps most compelling to me, is the commitment of the IB in its strategic plan to “Develop a more diverse, inclusive IB community by enabling access to an IB education regardless of personal circumstances.”

I will remain indebted to Pearson College in so many ways. Lorna and I have developed relationships that will last a lifetime. We have learned so much from, and taken such delight in, the diverse and exceptionally talented people we have had the privilege to live, learn, play and work with for the past eight years. We are inspired to continue to keep Pearson and the UWC movement alive and well supported.

From my first day at the College I have strived to do four things: improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the community; create more sustainable practices in everything we do, make the curriculum outside the classroom more purposeful, coherent and explicit; and, finally, to improve our financial foundation. We have made progress in all four areas. We have a great team with solid systems to support our students and each other – from healthy food to house buddies; we have reduced our use of energy and our production of waste and are well on our way to comprehensively monitoring and control of our resources as part of our environmental impact; we are giving birth to a College-wide effort to develop 21st-century skills through our Theory of Knowledge + UWC Skills course; and, with a needs-based approach to funding scholarships coupled with our investment in fundraising capacity and our dramatically increased support from alumni, we are healthier financially.

These are not projects with completion dates. Whoever has the privilege of succeeding me as head of Pearson College will have the thrilling challenge to continue all of these good initiatives and more. What a joy it has been to be here. I will miss you all.

David Hawley, Head of College

Pipelines: Let BC Vote

Dear People of Metchosin,

We are incredibly fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth, in one of the most magnificent shorelines in the world.

If we allow oil tankers carrying bitumen (toxic crude) to multiply in our waters, it will change all that.

Stephen Harper (late one Friday afternoon) approved Enbridge’s proposed Northern Gateway pipeline through the treacherous Douglas Channel. The approval comes with 299 conditions, one of which is consultation with First Nations. The Haida Nation has already rejected the decision.

A little under the radar, but a lot closer to home, is the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline through Burnaby. TransMountain, the corporate interest behind this expansion, recently felled thirteen trees in a conservation area on Burnaby Mountain simply to survey the pipeline route. Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan is the David standing up to this massive Goliath, and he is backed by a growing number of people who believe local governments should have control over decisions which affect the air, land, and water upon which local communities depend.

Metchosin has forty-three kilometres of magnificent shoreline to protect. An oil spill will devastate all that we so highly value: marine habitat, wildlife, scenery. Jobs will be lost. Our economy will suffer. Our livelihoods will be adversely affected for years to come. And our property values will plummet.

On September 15, a group of concerned citizens urged Metchosin Council to pass a motion opposing the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline through Burnaby. TransMountain, the company behind the proposal, has twenty days to withdraw its application and face additional scrutiny.

One day later, on Monday, September 16, TransMountain withdrew its application. The citizens’ victory is a testament to the power of good journalism and committed local government.

On Sunday, September 21, TransMountain announced it would appeal the decision.

A BC Court of Appeal panel will review the Kinder Morgan decision. If the Court upholds the City of Burnaby’s decision, the TransMountain application will be halted.

We have a better chance of convincing the Court than we had of convincing Council. Council passed the motion, four to one. If you agree, let them know you appreciate their direction.

And, the next time you visit Albert Head, Tower Point, Witty’s Lagoon, Head, Tower Point, Witty’s Lagoon, Taylor Beach, or Weir’s Beach, think about the effects of bitumen washing up on those shores. If Kinder Morgan is approved, instead of one tanker a week, nearly one a day will travel out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, right past Race Rocks.

A Town Hall Meeting on the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline will be held in October. Watch for details. Meanwhile, let your voice be heard. If you approve their strong stance opposing increased tanker traffic off our coastline tell Mayor Ranns and the Metchosin Councillors that. Tell them you support local councils making their own decisions.

Nature hikes through the forest have been interesting and fun. Nature hikes through the forest have been interesting and fun. Nature hikes through the forest have been interesting and fun. Nature hikes through the forest have been interesting and fun.

By Sampson McNiel and Ashley Lewis – Grade 3

The new middle school program (Grades 7 and 8) has been bustling with activity every day. Students are especially excited about making a class lunch together every Thursday. Friday afternoons will be spent doing different community service activities. Spending time at the Lushion Fair with special needs folks from the community was a great experience for everyone.

It has been an amazing start to the 2014-15 year at West-Mont School. We have 170 students in attendance.

Our early primary students (ages 3-6 years) have been busy getting to know each other. Learning to care for class pets (a hamster, bunny and fish) has been a rewarding experience.

In our grade 1-3 program, students have been busy with botany studies, cooking projects, journal writing, math work, and French and art classes.

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Karyn Woodland on behalf of LetBCVote.ca
RCMP Call-Outs August 12-September 07, 2014
By CPL Brian Kerr, Central Saanich Police

Aug 12 Rocky Point Road – Complaint of speeding motorcycles.
Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of harassment, landlord/tenant dispute, one person warned.
Albert Head Lagoon – Complaint of military flare being found on beach, turned over to the Military Police.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of theft from vehicle, several items stolen, still under investigation.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of deer being hit by vehicle.
Sooke Road – Complaint of abandoned vehicle, gone on arrival.
Bradene Road – Complaint of person observing flare over water, reported to Search and Rescue.

Aug 18 Bennett Road – Complaint of cougar being observed on Goose Trail, reported to Conservation.

Aug 19 Neild Road – Complaint of possible disturbance, no problems found.
Neild Road – Complaint of deer being found dead with arrow in it, reported to Conservation.
Kangaroo Road – Complaint of possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate.

Aug 20 Olympic View Drive – Complaint of lost property.
Winter Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, vehicle located with no insurance, persons in vehicle found to be prowling in the area during early morning hours, asked to leave.

Aug 21 Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of possible threats, two people given verbal warning.
Lombard Drive – Complaint to check welfare of person, not located.
Glen Forest Road area – Complaint of possible disturbance, one person spoken to.
Glen Forest Road – Single vehicle accident on bridge, vehicle found to have no insurance, driver charged and vehicle towed.
Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, road rage, one driver given verbal warning.
Liberty Drive area – Complaint of landlord-tenant dispute, one person spoken to.

Aug 22 Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of fishing line being put along road causing hazard.
Happy Valley Road – Two vehicle accident, one person taken to hospital, severe damage to one vehicle.
Eales Road – Complaint of disturbance, one person spoken to.
Rocky Point Road area – Complaint of possible disturbance, one person taken to hospital.

Aug 25 Sooke Road – Complaint of erratic driver, one person given warning.
Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of possible disturbance.
Leefield Road – Complaint of lost property.
William Head Road – Assistance provided to Corrections office.

Aug 26 Duke Road – Complaint of people setting off fireworks, no one located.

Aug 27 Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of person possible breaching court conditions, still under investigation.
Glen Forest Way area – Complaint of possible disturbance, one person spoken to.
Kangaroo Road area – Complaint of person making threats to another person.

Aug 28 Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of sexual exploitation, still under investigation.

Aug 30 Sooke Road – Complaint of possible disturbance, no problems found.
Rocky Point Road – Complaint of disoriented elderly male on road, patrols failed to locate person.
Happy Valley Road area – Assistance provided to Saanich Police regarding a hit and run.

Sep 01 Happy Valley Road – Vehicle stopped after it was driving erratically, driver found to be impaired by drug, vehicle impounded.

Sep 02 William Head Road area – Complaint to check wellbeing of a person, found to be all right.

Sep 04 Sooke Road – Complaint of truck with an insecure load.
Happy Valley Road – Complaint of residential break, enter and theft, several items taken, investigation continuing.

Sep 05 Pedder Bay Drive – Complaint of stolen boat trailer.
Glen Forest Way area – Complaint of domestic dispute/assault, charges pending, investigation continuing.

Sep 06 Sooke Road – Complaint of speeding motorcycle, found to have no insurance, driver charged.
Happy Valley Road area – Complaint of assault, one person arrested, investigation continuing.

Aug 29 Metchosin Road – Complaint of possible disturbance, more problems found.
Sooke Road – Complaint of domestic dispute, one person given warning.

Sep 07 Happy Valley Road – Complaint of dog being left in vehicle in the sunshine, owner removed dog.
William Head Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, driver located and no problems noted.

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Freedom to change

Saanich Yoga in the Village
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suzanne@straiths.com

Over 30 years of service on the South Island.

CLASSIFIEDS
$10 per 25 words to go in this monthly paper which is mailed to every Metchosin household. Envelopes for submissions and payments 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
ACCOMMODATION Looking for a cottage with wood electric combined heat in rural private natural setting, garden space on land with sustainable values. Mature professional herbalist and writer. Local references, 250-381-6171.

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

HORSE LEASE Mature rider seeks part time horse lease in Metchosin. For riding lessons and trail rides, English or Western. Call Suzanne at 250-217-7231.

FOR SALE
PORK, LAMB & CHICKEN Enjoy delicious, healthy pork, lamb and chicken, raised in Metchosin. Buy direct from the farm: Saturdays only, 12-3 pm, 4198 Stillmeadow Rd. www.parrybaysheepfarm.com, www.stillmeadowfowl.ca

FOR RENT

LESSONS
FOODSAFE – LEVEL 1 AND 2, MARKETSAFE AND WHMIS – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website www.hospitalitytrainingpdx.com for information or contact Evelyn on site group classes. Call 250-474-5969.

GUITAR LESSONS – Adults and kids of all ages. Beginners to advanced. Personalized lessons. New children’s teacher that kids love! Evenings and weekends 250-888-9808.

PIANO LESSONS – Experienced teacher, RCMP trained and certified for teaching (RCMP) and students of all ages. Location – Conestoga College, Cowichan. Phone 250-391-7915.

SERVICES

Free Information Sessions: Home Security and Scams
These FREE sessions take place at the Metchosin Fire Hall, sponsored by the Seniors’ Information and Resource Centre, in conjunction with the Healthy Communities Committee, the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department, and West Shore RCMP.

How to Target Harden Your Home and Vehicle
October 8, 7:00 pm
SCAMS – What to Watch for and How to Protect Yourself
October 15, 7:30 pm
Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served.
The following is contact information for not-for-profit organizations, but fuller descriptions are given in the "Directory of Organizations," available at the Municipal Hall and the Community House. Brief articles highlighting special events should be mailed to mcm.herobees.ca by the 15th of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.

Know an interesting resident of Metchosin? Submit a story about them to the Muse!