



# 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

## Season's Greetings!

### Merry Christmas Naucoria

KEM LUTHER

In the decayed trunk of an arbutus growing in Blinkhorn Nature Park sat a clump of dark red *Tubaria punicea*, the Christmas Naucoria. Though only a single example of the 165 different species of fungi found by searchers at the 2015 Metchosin MycoBlitz, the lonely mushroom gathered into itself many of the experiences of the November 6 and 7 weekend. Oluna Ceska, who with her husband Adolf gave the Friday night presentation that kicked off the MycoBlitz events, was co-author of an article that established the name and identity of the striking species of *Tubaria*.

A large audience packed into the District Council Chambers to hear Oluna and Adolf and to view, on the District's new HD display screen, slides that illustrated the Ceska's ten years of research on Saanich's Observatory Hill. Over the last decade Adolf and Oluna have identified more than 1300 species on the Hill, making their project one of the world's longest and most complete science-based surveys of the fungi of a single area. For this and other contributions to the natural history of BC, the Ceskas recently received two honours: a mushroom named after them (*Cortinarius ceskae*) and a scholarship endowment in their names at the University of British Columbia.

At 9:00 am the next morning, ten invited experts and

80 guests assembled in the parking lot outside the district office to begin their own fungal survey. Undeterred by a steady rain, they would, in the next three hours, survey four key Metchosin properties and bring back 280 mushroom samples. The four groups encountered a surprising array of mushrooms on their forays. This has been a good year for mushrooms in BC as a whole, and even over most of Vancouver Island, but the southern end of the Island where Metchosin lies has not seen the usual abundance of fungi. Get enough eager searchers together, however, and even the hidden will reveal itself. For many of the experts and guests on the forays, though, the third Metchosin MycoBlitz was not about numbers. It was a time to celebrate the raw fungal energy of the coastal forests, to appreciate the smells and colours of the mushroom caps that emerge in autumn fields and woods, and to hobnob with others who share the same fascinations.

The search groups returned to the district office grounds at noon. They brought their mushrooms into the Council Chambers and placed them on sorting tables. While the experts began to arrange and label the fungal finds, searchers went down the hill to Community House where the Metchosin Biodiversity Project had arranged a

### Remembrance Day 2015



The annual Remembrance Day ceremony, with Tom Henry as Master of Ceremonies, was held on November 11. The traditional parade, led by pipers, marched from the Fire Hall to the Metchosin Cenotaph at St Mary of the Incarnation on Metchosin Road. Photo by Brian Domney

bring-your-lunch film festival. Attendees watched *Know Your Mushrooms*, which combines material from the famous Telluride Mushroom Fest with animation, archival footage and a neo-psychedelic soundtrack by The Flaming Lips. They then viewed the *Andy and Kem Fabulous Fungal Film Fest*, a collection of mushroom clips from the web.

At 2:00 pm, MycoBlitz guests made their way back up the hill to the Metchosin district office to see what the experts had done with their mushrooms. They found labeled specimens laid out on four double tables representing the four surveyed properties. Crowds pressed around the displays to touch and smell the 'shrooms they had helped to collect and to chat with the experts about what they were looking at. Scattered among the 165 different species were almost a dozen mushrooms that residents of Metchosin have been known to collect for the table, including hedgehogs, chanterelles, pines, laccarias, shrimp russulas, and cauliflowers.

Afterwards, everyone pitched in to restore the room to its original condition. Experts drifted over to Andy and Mairi MacKinnon's house for

supper. Later analysis of the day's data revealed that the third MycoBlitz had added 33 new species to the tally of Metchosin fungi. The 400 fungal species in the database are now almost 20% of the total of the 2180 species found in the five bioblitzes and three mycoblitzes, making mushrooms the largest single category of Metchosin organisms.

The Metchosin Biodiversity Project thanks its donors

and supporters, including the Metchosin Foundation and the District of Metchosin. Food for the workers was provided by Mairi MacKinnon, Eileen O'Donnell, Kem Luther, Joel Ussury, Cobbs and Royal Bay Bakery. A more complete report of the MycoBlitz and dozens of pictures from the event can be found on the website of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project at [metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://metchosinbiodiversity.com).



The Christmas Naucoria, *Tubaria punicea*, one of 165 fungi found during the 2015 MycoBlitz. Photo by Luke Mikler

### Important Dates

See also the Events listing on the back page, and for ongoing events, the directory of organizations.

Dec. 4	MCA Music Night .....	p. 10
Dec. 6	SIRC Community Consultation .....	p. 4
	Art on the Walls Opening Reception .....	p. 11
Dec. 12	Metchosin Soap Works Open Studio .....	p. 6
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Dec. 13	Christmas Light Parade .....	p. 3
	Songs for a Winter's Night .....	p. 3
Dec. 20	Breakfast with Santa at the Fire Hall.....	p. 3
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Dec. 28-Jan. 10 (excl. Jan. 1)	Scouts Tree Chipping .....	p. 13
Jan. 1	Polar Bear Swim 2016 .....	p. 10

# Metchosin Muse

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**CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2700**  
(July/August: 3000)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND  
HOW TO SEND COPY**  
The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metmuse@shaw.ca. Typewritten or handwritten copy is acceptable if you have no access to a computer. Do not send PDFs. Photos should be high resolution, i.e., not taken with phone or tablet. Leave hard copies of articles in the *Muse* box at the Metchosin Country Store or fax 250-483-5352. Please visit our website for more information: [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

**AD DEADLINE**  
The 15<sup>th</sup> 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 most households in Metchosin. Copies are also available at Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, the Municipal Hall, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop, My-Chosen Café, Red Barn Market, Happy Valley Store, Bill's Food and Feed, Royal Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Victoria Public Library.

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On the web at [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

**Visit our website!** [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

The *Muse* website provides a quick way to access Metchosin's monthly newspaper, and it allows those with vision challenges to magnify the .pdf files to a comfortable reading size.

The current issue and issues from the past year are there, along with contact information and information for submissions, advertisements, and deadlines.

## Muse Subscriptions

We can mail the *Muse* to you each month for \$25 a year if it is to be posted to a Canadian address. 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



## METCHOSIN MUSE AD RATES

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2X4 - 4" w X 4" h	\$77.00	\$67.00	\$59.00
1/6 page - 4" w X 5" h	\$95.00	\$87.00	\$75.00
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petermlewis@shaw.ca

**Classified Ads**  
25 words or less \$10  
Deadline: 15th of each month.  
Monthly payment in advance. Please call Eileen Carlson 250-478-1036.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Only in Metchosin, You Say?

Sometimes acts of human kindness should be noted and appreciated. We are quick to find fault and perhaps a little slow in acknowledging kindness.

On November 17, the Metchosin Country Store owners, Tony and wife Ariana, did a remarkable thing during a storm that rendered all of Metchosin (and most of the southern Island) without power and in some cases, without the use of some motorways due to heavy rains and high winds.

When I drove by the store in the dark late afternoon, the door of the store was open and a couple of customers were being ushered in and out by the owners and staff, with flashlights to guide them.

As amazing as it seems, the owners were so knowledgeable about their merchandise, prices, and location of stock that they could personally assist their neighbourhood clientele at a difficult time.

Now that's beyond the call of duty really. Okay they are a store. Yes, they are a business.

But accolades to Tony and Adriana for being thoughtful and neighbourly.

What was the most "in demand" merchandise? Batteries of course!

Carol Hunt

## Driver Says Thanks

On November 4, at about 6:30 pm, I drove my car into the ditch about three kilometres from the William Head Institution, where I volunteer. I was unhurt, just shaken up. The police arrived, and the car was towed away.

Local people came running to help, and I am afraid I left in the police car without thanking the people who had been helping. They lived close by, and could not have been more solicitous and comforting. The RCMP officer's name was Scott, and he too could not have been kinder.

I guess I won't forget the accident in a hurry, and I shall always remember the people who came to help, and were so kind and helpful.

Dr. Ivor Williams

## They've Started

KATHLEEN SUTHERLAND

Welcome to the season of winter storms. These could be high winds, heavy rain or, egads, snow! Even though we can't prevent any of these events, we can at least be better prepared. I found the following article online on the BC Government's Emergency Preparedness site. It is a slightly humorous, yet serious piece that can get you started on preparing for your comfort and safety.

## Avoid Humiliation, Get Storm Ready

This article was written by Jennifer McLarty, a self-declared "Victoria mom, recovering news reporter, member of the Emergency Management BC Social Media Unit and yes, obsessive emergency planner."

My lowest preparedness moment was in 2005 during a snowstorm on Vancouver Island. Since it was just my hubby and me back then, the first two days were actually pretty fun. Card games by lantern light – what's not to like? But by the time day four rolled around, the cupboards were bare, the hot water gone and the road to our little house buried.

Desperate for grub, we managed to dig out our tiny beater and make it to the main road. I vowed to never be so ill-prepared again while stealing a hot shower at the local hockey arena, the knee-buckling smell of sweaty sports gear wafting around me. I disclose this humiliating tidbit in the hopes my cautionary tale will stick in your head. My state of poor preparedness

was not a good feeling. In fact it was downright embarrassing. So learn from my pain, get storm ready, and may you never experience the joy of a locker room shower.

**Pack an emergency kit:** If you have one of these you're pretty much prepared for anything. Basic rule of thumb is enough food and water to comfortably support your family for a minimum of 72 hours – and I do mean minimum. If you can stock more, do it. Go to <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit> for recommended contents.

**Let there be light:** Storms mean power outages. Have a good supply of flashlights around the house along with two full replacement sets of batteries. Candles can be romantic, but it's best to avoid them. One unattended candle can lead to a whole other emergency.

**Go camping:** That gear can come in handy year round. Store your sleeping bags and Coleman stove in an easily accessible place. Just remember to use your stove outside where it's not going to pose a fire or carbon monoxide risk.

**Portable generators:** These can be a lifesaver, but only if used properly. Follow all manufacturers' instructions and just like camp stoves, never run one indoors.

**Fashion forward:** Dress to stay warm by layering. Since we lose a lot of heat via our head and hands, add gloves and a snug knit hat.

**Grab & Go:** Storms don't always hit while you're at home. You could be at work or on the road. Make sure to have a kit for both the car and office.

**Don't open it!** Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. A freezer that's fully packed will hold food safely for 48 hours. A freezer that's half full will hold food safely for 24 hours. Keeping containers of water in your fridge or freezer is a good way to fill extra space and maintain an extra water source.

**Pull the plug:** Unplug computers, TVs, stereos and other unnecessary electronics to avoid a power drain or surge when service is restored.

**Stay clear:** Wind, ice and snow can bring down power lines. Give them a wide berth and call 911 with the location.

**Stay in touch:** Have a battery-operated radio to track power outage info and directions from local authorities. If you're a social media fan, follow the #BCstorm hashtag along with these reliable Twitter handles on your smartphone:

@EC\_BCWeather  
@BCHydro  
@FortisBC  
@EmergencyInfoBC  
@PreparedBC  
@DriveBC

For a comprehensive guide to a variety of preparedness strategies, go to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-recovery/preparedbc>

If you live in Metchosin and have a situation that may need additional support consider talking to your NEPP/POD leader (EOC@metchosinemergencyprogram.ca); call the Metchosin Emergency Program at 250-478-1307; or contact SIRC (Seniors Information Resource Centre) Coordinator: Colleen Brownlee: 250-478-5150/msirc@shaw.ca

# Norm and Mary Say Goodbye

NORM AND MARY GIDNEY

Yes it's true, we're leaving the promised land of Metchosin for a smaller house and property in Saanich, exchanging the land of the "stinking fish" for a place with "fertile soil," as the Coast Salish place names translate.

We'll be 25 kilometres away from some of the most beautiful rural landscape anywhere, some great regional parks and delightful country folk.

But Saanich has sewers! Recreation centres! Shopping plazas! Higher taxes! Bookstores! Streetlights! A university! There are even storm sewers, not roadside ditches, as we've discovered at the new house while watching guys dig up the old ones and lay perforated plastic pipes.

We'll also be living halfway between two major hospitals, a feature of urban life that is probably going to loom larger as we creep into our golden years.

Why the move, as friends have asked? The short answer is, the distance. We go back and forth a few times a week, to see friends, dine out, watch a movie, visit family, and it's a 50-kilometre round trip every time.

It's also time for a change, after living for a while in Metchosin. Actually it's been almost half a life for Mary, who came in 1986 to teach at Dunsmuir, and later Belmont. Norman's a newcomer, from a long line of city folks. Both



Norm and Mary Gidney

Photo by Norm Gidney

of us are widowed – the same month, actually – and we married in 2002 in a memorable outdoor summer wedding at 4630 Rocky Point Road.

Since we retired from real work, it's been fun to pick among volunteer activities out here – Fire Hall kitchen, MACCA, Metchosin Day and SIRC for Mary, trail stuff

and tagging along as Mary's charming assistant, for Norm.

It's not you, Metchosin, it's us. New volunteering opportunities beckon, parks we've never seen, bike routes to learn. Goodbye to great friends and neighbours in Metchosin, but the phone number stays the same, and Mary will always bake fresh cookies.

*Looking for gifts?  
Best of the Muse*

Volume 2 is available now at the Metchosin Country Store.

## More Service, Closer to Home

JOANNIE CHALLENGER

One of the challenges of living in Metchosin can be the long drive into town to access government services, such as applying for a new passport or a Canada pension. I was surprised, then, when my friend Janice mentioned that there was a government office open on Jacklin Road. "It's great," she enthused, "No more driving into town to wait in line for a passport!" I'm usually the last to know about what is up in the neighbourhood, so I checked with others on the *Muse* team as to whether they had heard of this office. Some had, some had not; I certainly wasn't the only one who was unaware of it. Hence this article, to spread the word that such services are now available closer to home.

**Service Canada is located at 3179 Jacklin Road**, just down the road from the former Belmont School site. When I stopped by the office a few days ago it was gratifying to see an information booth just inside the door, with no lineup and a young man who was most helpful and ready

to answer any and all of my questions. He provided the following answers to my questions, which might be useful for you to know:

**What are some of the services offered at the Jacklin Road office?**

**You can apply for a passport here.** It does take longer to receive your new passport – up to five weeks instead of ten days if you go to the main office in town. However, if time is not critical to you, then you may avoid an extra trip into town to accomplish the same task.

**Basic Canada Pension and Old Age Security (CPP/OAS) services are available.** You can take in your application form, along with any questions you may have, and it will be reviewed to be sure that it contains the necessary information. Forms are then sent to the main office. Necessary documents may also be copied and certified for use within Service Canada.

**Changes can be made to Employment Insurance information**, such as deposit information or your address. Advice is available regarding application questions.

**You can apply for a social insurance number, replace a lost card or reprint one** at the Jacklin Road office.

**When is the office open?**

The Service Canada office at 3179 Jacklin Road is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am–4:00 pm. It is closed for lunch from 11:30 am–12:30 pm.

**What should you bring when you visit the office?**

When you visit the office please bring identification, and know your social insurance number. Also, as this is a smaller office which does not offer as many services as the main branch, employees may need to refer you elsewhere for additional services.

For more information, visit the Service Canada website at [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca).

## Holiday Events

### Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday, December 12, 9:30–11:30 am** at St. Mary's Anglican. Presented by Westsong Community Church and Metchosin Preschool. Bake sale, crafts, carols by the children, Christmas tree pickup, and photos with Santa. Breakfast admission by donation.

### Christmas Light Parade

**Sunday, December 13, 6:00–9:00 pm**, throughout Metchosin. If you are interested in putting a truck into the parade contact the Fire Chief at 250-478-1307 or [firechief@metchosinfire.ca](mailto:firechief@metchosinfire.ca).

### Sooke Community Choir presents "Songs for a Winter's Night"

**Sunday, December 13, 2:00 pm**, Metchosin Community Hall. Join us for a stunning collection of music and poetry that weaves a tapestry of spirit, reflection and peace. Accompanied by pianist Kathy Russell and under the artistic direction of Bruce Ruddell. Special guests Trevor MacHattie on cello and Dave Cunningham on guitar. Tickets \$15, under 16 free, at the Metchosin Country Store. For more information, visit [sookecommunitychoir.com](http://sookecommunitychoir.com), email [sallyt@shaw.ca](mailto:sallyt@shaw.ca) or call 250-642-3566.

### Breakfast with Santa at the Fire Hall

**Sunday, December 20, 9:00 am–1:00 pm.** Santa and his elves have decided to reduce Santa's Workshop's carbon footprint by changing from an extended tour around Metchosin in a gas (diesel?) guzzling fire truck to a green "Meet Santa" at the Metchosin Fire Hall. Pancake breakfast, hot chocolate/cider, kids' games. Please bring a donation for the Food Bank.

### St Mary of the Incarnation

**Thursday, December 24, 5:30 pm.** Our famous drop-in Christmas Pageant – no rehearsals; costumes provided. Come and fill your fantasy of being a wise man (or a sheep). Held early so families can attend.

**Thursday, December 24, 11:00 pm.** Traditional Christmas service in Old St Mary's. All are welcome at these services.

Check out the classified ads on page 15.

NDP

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for your support.

Randall Garrison, MP  
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# SIRC – Seniors' Issues Community Discussion – Your Viewpoint Is Needed

Ageless in Metchosin – with or without a dog;

Aging Gracefully in Metchosin; or

Priorities for the future – meeting the needs of Metchosin seniors.

**SIRC Community Consultation – Your input is IMPORTANT**

Metchosin Council Chamber  
Sunday, December 6, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Established in 2011, the Metchosin Seniors Information and Resource Centre (SIRC) is seeking your input on how best we can continue to meet the needs of current and future seniors. What issues are important to you? What challenges do you face?

The consultation will open with a brief presentation by Theatre Works. Short skits featuring a local volunteer cast are sure to help spark some lively discussion.

Metchosin's SIRC is recognized throughout the province as a leader for its work and innovation supporting seniors as they age at home. Help SIRC remain at the forefront, and join us for a community consultation on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

For more information or to arrange a ride, please contact Colleen Brownlee at 250-478-5150.

# Very Successful Metchosin Seniors' Association AGM

JO MITCHELL

More than 40 members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Metchosin Seniors' Association (incorporating SIRC) on November 5 at the Municipal Hall. The newly elected Board of Directors, which includes new members Deirdre Chettleburgh and Peter Hammond, is as follows:

*President:* Jo Mitchell  
*Vice-President:* Helen Fletcher  
*Secretary:* Carol Carman  
*Treasurer:* Kit Chapman  
*Directors:*  
Deirdre Chettleburgh  
Peter Hammond  
Anne Richmond  
Star Weiss  
*Fire Hall Liaison:*  
Stephanie Dunlop

Jo Mitchell introduced a new resolution regarding membership, which was passed unanimously:

To be a member of the MSA one must complete a membership form and pay a one-time fee of \$10. Existing members will be automatically transferred to the new membership program with no additional

membership fee required. All members will receive a yearly letter confirming their membership.

As Jo Mitchell explained, directors and volunteers are expending a lot of time and energy on annual membership renewal. Briefly, we need membership volume, particularly when applying for grants, not the relatively small amount of dollars a yearly renewal would generate.

## Sooke Resident Wins Gourmet Raffle

The winner for the Dinner for Eight Raffle served in the winner's home, or home of his/her choice, was Al Champ of Sooke. Bon appetit to Al.

## November Flu Shot Program Well Attended

The SIRC/Metchosin Fire Hall free Flu Shot Program was very well utilized with 170 people taking advantage of this joint effort organized by Alan Hicke of Pure Pharmacy on Latoria Road, with assistance from local nurses Donna Gramigna, Sally

Walker and Sandy Jenkins. Many thanks to Pure Pharmacy, Alan and the nurses for making this event such a success and also to Stephanie Dunlop and our coordinator, Colleen Brownlee, for their excellent organization which almost completely eliminated any waiting time.

## SIRC Office Hours

SIRC (Seniors Information and Resource Centre), 4495 Happy Valley Road, is located on the ground floor of the former Metchosin Elementary School Building right opposite the Broken Paddle Café.

Opening times are as follows:

Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
10:30 am to 2:30 pm  
Wednesdays and Fridays,  
1:00 to 3:00 pm.  
Closed Mondays

Call for special appointments (250-478-5150). Coordinator Colleen Brownlee is always very happy to hear from you with any queries or problems.

**MY-CHOSEN CAFE**  
Presents  
*the 9th Annual*  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
Thursday, December 24  
Three Seatings: 9:00 am, 10:30 am or 12:00 noon

Children \$10, Adults \$15  
100% of monies collected will benefit Westshore Foodbank. All staff are volunteering their time for this great event!

Featuring our homemade pancakes, topped with strawberries and whipped cream, two pieces of bacon and coffee, tea or juice

We will be closed for business Dec. 24, 25 & 26 to provide our staff with very important family time.

Tickets go on sale starting at 10:00 am, November 23. Purchase by phone (250-474-2333) or in person. *Purchase a Helping Hand for \$2 and make a difference!*

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**COUNCIL NEWS** DECEMBER 2015

**MUNICIPAL HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURE**  
The Municipal Offices will be closed at noon Thursday, December 24, 2015 and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 8:00 am.

**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. Next are school bus and BC Transit routes, followed by all other roads.

**OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES TO ACCRUE INTEREST BEGINNING IN JANUARY**  
If you have unpaid 2015 property taxes, please make payment arrangements in order to avoid interest charges beginning in January 2016. Metchosin offers a property tax monthly payment program and can work with you to arrange payments for outstanding taxes.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCY**  
Metchosin Council is seeking to fill vacancies on the Environmental Advisory Select Committee. Preference will be given to applicants having familiarity with environmental issues. Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please submit a letter of interest and a brief resume. For more information, please contact Councillor Moralea Milne at 250-478-3838.

**CRD DOG LICENCES**  
Neutered or Spayed: \$25; Intact Males and Females \$45.  
Spayed or Neutered within the last 12 months prior to licencing FREE (receipt of spay or neuter must be presented at time of purchase).  
CRD will be sending out dog licence renewals on December 1, 2015. Purchase your dog license before December 31 and save \$5.00 per licence.  
Check out CRD website for information on new for 2016 Permanent Dog Tags!  
[www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

**DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2015**  
Below are the meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise stated.

Standing Committees	Dec 7, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC)	Dec 22, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting	Dec 14, 7:00 pm		
Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC)	Dec 15, 7:00 pm		

Meetings are subject to change; for updated information please call the district office at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at [www.district.metchosin.bc.ca](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca). Thank you.

**Metchosin Municipal Hall | [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) | 250-474-3167 | [info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)**



Photo courtesy of Parry Bay Sheep Farm

# Farmland and the ALR – Do They Have Futures?

JIM MACPHERSON

On October 28, the Farmland Protection Coalition sponsored “An Evening with Richard Bullock, Harold Steves and Nathalie Chambers” to take a look at the future of farmland and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in British Columbia. The Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM) was one of the nine sponsors of the evening. The event was held at the Sooke Harbour House.

Harold Steves, long-time Councillor for the City of Richmond, is considered to be the father of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). He related the history of loss of agricultural land in the municipality. When proposed industrial and port facilities posited the removal of hundreds of hectares of agricultural land from production, the impetus was provided for the creation of the ALC by the 1973–76 NDP government, of which he was a member. Mr. Steves noted that originally the ALC provided for insurance to farmers and the establishment of a land bank to support beginning farmers. In 1978 the ALC was gutted of its insurance and land bank provisions. Mr. Steves also described the 2014 revisions to the ALC Act, the division of the province into two zones and what he generally described as the gutting of the Act as it applied to Zone 2, all of BC outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. Mr. Steves expressed strong opposition to the removal of high quality lands from the ALR in the Peace River Valley to allow for the development of the Site C dam. He strongly felt that the dam is not needed and that climate change makes those high quality agricultural lands essential for food production.

Mr. Steves illustrated the support the City of Richmond has been giving to agriculture and local food production in recent years through the acquisition and development of

three parcels of land, totalling several hundred hectares, to be devoted to urban agriculture. Land is made available to farmers on long-term leases.

The municipal support for agriculture illustrated by Richmond was complemented by a presentation given by Nathalie Chambers of Madrona Farm and the protection of the property for agriculture by The Land Conservancy when heirs to the farm considered selling it. She provided a detailed description of the effort and community support brought to bear on preserving this historic farm for agriculture. David and Nathalie Chambers hold the first long-term agricultural lease on the property.

The City of Richmond and Madrona Farm experiences illustrate two approaches to farmland preservation where there seems to be little provincial support. Richard Bullock noted that metro Vancouver has been a big supporter of the ALC/ALR.

Richard Bullock, former Chair of the ALC, admits he was fired in 2014 – for doing his job. While he vociferously opposed the ALC when it was established, he became and remains an avid supporter of the ALC and the ALR which he sees as essential for the preservation of agricultural land for the production of food. He described the pressure on the individual commissioners and on the ALC to approve applications for the removal of land from the ALR. The establishment of regional panels in the last decade, and now the appointment of commissioners by the province, rather than by the chair, has weakened the authority of the chair and increased the influence of local interests and the government over specific applications. Mr. Bullock also noted that the ALC Act was changed to stipulate that the Commission “must consider economic,

cultural and social values” and that this requirement is a “killer” to the integrity of the commission’s mandate. The recent creation of Zone 1 (following more or less traditional procedures) and Zone 2 (which is subject to many more allowed uses and subject to direct influence by the Oil and Gas Commission) was a step back. Mr. Bullock also felt that legal challenges will eventually erase the distinctions between Zones 1 and 2 and that piece by piece the ALR will be lost.

In answer to a question before the meeting started, Mr. Bullock expressed a strong conviction that the ALC should be concerned about protecting the soil resource rather than the agricultural land use and that agricultural structures such as greenhouses and marijuana grow operations built upon impermeable foundations should be located in industrial areas and not on agricultural land.

An extensive question and answer session after the presentations focused on approaches to protect agricultural land, finding and lobbying decision makers who listen, community organization, and the need for national and provincial agriculture policies. Mr. Bullock said that ALC should be basing its decisions on potential requirements 100 or 200 years into the future, not on today’s short-term pressures. And that means that the politicians need long-term vision and the will to act on it.

*Editor’s note:* To see a fascinating video of Bullock discussing his time at the ALC and why he went down, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCpwNKIb0Zc>. To see Harold Steves discussing the Site C dam project, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXSodfIVcXI>.

## A Glowing Christmas



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Know any interesting residents of Metchosin?  
Submit a story about them to the *Muse!*



## The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

First of all, I have not retired from writing for the *Muse*. I offered to when Lynda did, as I thought they might like a wholesale switch, but apparently not, so here I am again.

The December issue is always fun as I indulge myself with a Christmas list – sometimes things we all ought to have, sometimes those items I covet! Amongst my garden essentials are good tools – Felco pruners, a good foldable saw, a shovel and a fork with the handles you prefer, long or D-handled are an individual preference generally dictated by the gardener's back. A wheelbarrow should suit your leg length and stride – nothing is more annoying than a cross bar on a barrow hitting your shins at every step. As a follow up to having good

tools, taking care of them is a fall must. If you have not already done so, make sure all are stored in a dry place, clean all metal surfaces and oil lightly, wipe down, sand if necessary and give wood handles a rub with boiled linseed oil or a wood preservative of your choice, generally whatever is on the shelf. Himself, now departed this world, was a boiled linseed oil man. I decided to look it up and see why "boiled" as opposed to just linseed oil. Apparently straight oil will take forever to dry and your tools will be sticky for a season. Then I found a handyman site which scorns linseed and says synthetics are easier on the environment, the wood and the gardener as "boiled" linseed oil contains solvents

not good for either man or environment, thus providing yet another dilemma for the conscientious gardener. Get all hoses under cover, and remove and store sprinklers, timers and such in a dry place; they will last longer.

Back to the Christmas list – a "Bucket Buddy" that fits around a five gallon bucket is invaluable, as the pockets keep all the small hand tools organized and ready. It is easy to haul about the garden and very visible if you wander off without it.

For those with a limited budget wanting to give token gifts, try ordering catalogues to be sent to your gift list; nothing beats sitting with a cup of tea and a wish book on a wet day between Christmas and New Year's. The garden is at its best then, too, in the mind of the gardener. The peonies never get blight, the deer haven't found the roses and all the vegetables are worthy of the fall fairs. Then, after making a provisional list of purchases, you need a good dose of reality, but the dreaming is fun. There are catalogues covering everything from serious indulgences to 47 varieties of lettuce – the choice is endless. Books are also on most people's wish list, but you had better know the recipient very well – garden books are not cheap

and not all need to be in the collection – the library has a pretty good selection. I have just got, from the library, the new book of epimediums. Now epimediums are a personal favourite. They love dry shade, look good all year round and the only predator mine are a victim of is the leaf-cutter bee, and a pest that leaves perfectly cut out half circles in leaves can be tolerated. I have four varieties of epimediums, but the selection currently available in England is mind boggling. I have a serious case of plant envy. Most of the new ones are Chinese species or hybrids thereof and look wonderful. Now this book is fine for browsing for three weeks, but I certainly don't need it on my shelf. I have succumbed to Timber Press' last offering of *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West. One review goes as follows: "A real-world guide for creating beautiful ecologically connected landscapes. There is not a designer or property owner that would not benefit from their approach." This has not yet arrived, and I expect it to be a cross between my way of gardening and Moralea's. This is not a snide remark about Moralea, but she does prefer a landscape much closer to the totally natural environment than I. However with the droughts we seem to be in for every year, and the environmental concerns, I should be moving towards more natural plantings. On looking hard at the garden, I already am, as the prima donnas have succumbed over

the last few years of ageing knees and slower completion of tasks. The good doers have spread, and are providing drifts of similar foliage. The garden is slowly adjusting itself to bigger blocks of fewer cultivars, quite in keeping with the scale of things.

My own Christmas wishes would be for a competent fruit tree pruner to magically appear about the middle of January, and the deer to adopt a new garden. I cannot think of a gadget I need; the long handled loppers have been sharpened and tightened up; the Felcos are sharp and have acquired a new holster, the old one having disappeared into the limbo somewhere. I do hope for a reasonable winter – no climatic excesses, please.

A real surprise this November is the winter blooming camellia sasanqua. Mine is over 20 years old and after it attained teenager status, it started to have a few small blooms each December, usually coinciding with severe frost. Last year it had maybe 200 blossoms in November, no frost damage. This year by mid-October it has had the odd blossom, but by the first of November had at least 200 blooms all twice the size of those in any other year. I met Robin Hopper and was boasting about this and he said his was the same, with blossoms larger than any previous year. Weird, we both proclaimed. Long may weird reign!

Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice, or whatever you celebrate; be thankful for where we live! I am so grateful to great grandfather for choosing Canada.

See you in the New Year.

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## Get on Metchosin's Soap Box

BETTY HILDRETH

Complex emotion and memory can be triggered by a simple sensory clue. Smells ring bells. One of Metchosin's organic farmers, Debbie Cooper, has recently created a thriving business, Metchosin Soap Works, based on principles of natural ingredients, minimal environment impact, and healthy living. Soap recipes are based on the age-old tradition of using pure olive oil, while avoiding any trace of palm oil (considering preservation of the native habitat of the orangutan), parabens, and phthalates. Even the soap display boxes that are now located at many of our island retail outlets are made of reclaimed wood, and Metchosin Soap Works labels are printed on 100% recycled paper.

Debbie learned how to make this natural soap during travels to Hawaii. She picked up many of the craft's secrets and soap-making techniques from workshops held at a soap factory in Maui.

Her locally produced soaps are often named after locations to match the scent of the place. "I wanted to make soap that reflected the rugged West Coast. That is where the trademark, rough-ridged soap top came from – resembling the craggy West Coast shoreline and our fabulous forests.

The jagged top on each bar also makes the product easier to grip so the that the soap does not slip out of your hand. I name my soap after places where I have ventured, matching the scent to the location, because scent holds the longest living memory – like a hike through East Sooke Park – the smell of evergreen forests lingers in the air."

In October, Debbie began offering *Soap Making 101* lessons in her studio located in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre. Attendees learn about the art of making handcrafted soap. Each student will make four pounds of handcrafted soap from scratch, 18 one-inch bars. Students design their own soap, choosing essential oils, clays, exfoliates and colour to make their own unique designer bars. "The lessons have been so much fun and we have met so many enthusiastic people this way – moms/daughters, husbands/wives, friends and co-workers who all come out to Metchosin to learn about the art of soap making. To register, go to [www.MetchosinSoapWorks.com](http://www.MetchosinSoapWorks.com). Join our Facebook page (search Metchosin Soap Works) and see pictures of all of the handcrafted soap created by our students.



One of the students in *Soap Making 101* proudly displays her creations.

Photo by Debbie Cooper

On December 12, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Metchosin Soap Works will be open to the public. Please come and view this local soap art – handcrafted and made right here in Metchosin. There is a promise of designer soaps for sale, along with bath salts, felted soap, candles, essential oil sprays, sugar scrubs, body butters, handmade deodorant and bath accessories. See (and smell) the fabulous holiday gift ideas. And consider giving a gift certificate to that special someone for one of the *Soap Making 101* workshops during 2016.

# Chris Pratt and an Interesting Connection

KEN SHOWERS

During the late '60s a friend of mine bought a dismantled 1929 Packard Roadster which, in the late 1950s, had been taken apart by some well-intentioned amateur restorer, who then in some sorry mood of frustration dumped the pieces into a swampy area near Shawnigan Lake.

This Packard had been in earlier years quite well known in Victoria, being originally owned and driven by Miss Kerr. Her father, an investor in BC Tel, had bought the car new for her.

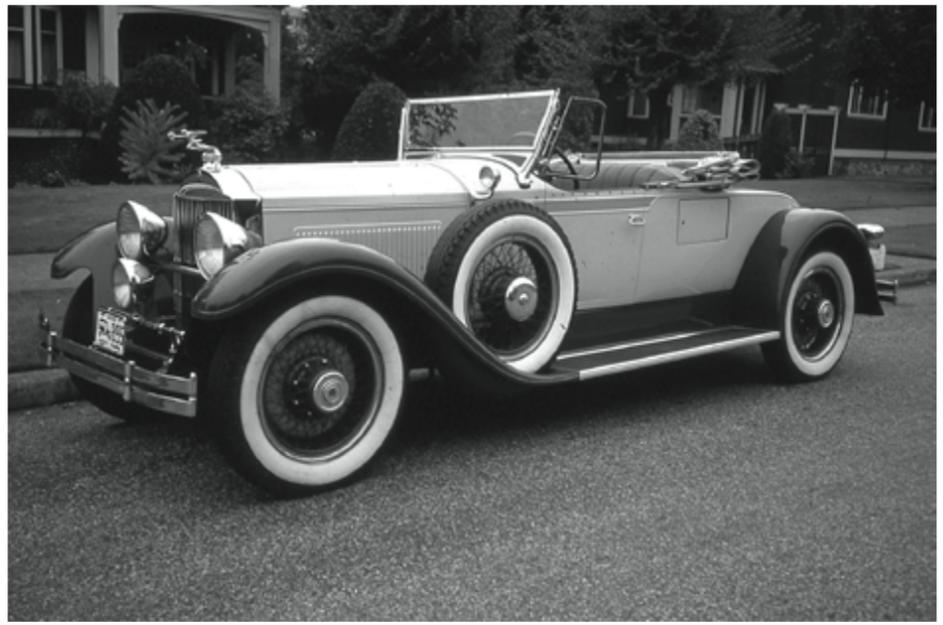
Sometime in the late 1950s, the car ended up in Eskimo Abbot's field in Central Saanich, where it sat neglected until the Shawnigan Lake person got ahold of it.

In 1963, Art Slater brought the "swamp pieces" from Shawnigan, with a serious intent to properly restore the Packard.

On close examination, he found that the metal parts were in remarkably good condition. However, the wood inner body structure was in

pieces and complete, but due to rot, were only good for patterns to make new wood structural members. The only parts missing were the rear fenders, wire-spoked wheels, headlight lenses and a spare tire lock.

1973 saw Art Slater complete the restoration of the Packard. After paying a visit to Miss Kerr, who was still alive and well, he was able to confirm the original colour of the car – butter yellow with dark chocolate fenders, the colours with which he then painted the car. Years passed, and I was approached by Chris Pratt in the parking lot of My-Chosen Cafe. He was interested in the old blue Packard I had just parked. In the ensuing conversation, Chris told me of a 1929 Packard he once owned in the 1950s. The car was a roadster, originally belonging to a Miss Kerr in town here, said Chris. After he completely described the car, and said that he had no idea of what finally happened to it, I told him that my friend had rescued that very car from a swamp, and



The 1929 Packard, after painstaking restoration by Art Slater. Photo by Ken Showers

restored and repainted it in the same original colours as described to him by Miss Kerr.

Chris then went on to say that he actually knew the car in 1929 when it was brand new, and he would admire it when the car was parked near his home.

What a connection! To talk with a person who knew a brand-new Packard in 1929, eventually owning it himself, and then finding that I experienced the rescue and restoration

of that very car by a friend in the late 1960s and early '70s.

This Packard Roadster was featured on the 1985 ICBC calendar. Sadly, Art sold the car, and we believe it is now owned by someone on the Sunshine Coast.

*Editor's note:* The picture in black and white does not do this beauty the justice it deserves. To see it in butter yellow and dark chocolate, check out [metchosinmuse.ca/extras/](http://metchosinmuse.ca/extras/).

# Green Opium Still Legal in Metchosin

JOHNNY CARLINE

I confess. I occasionally read newspapers other than the *Muse*; papers that have stories about faraway places with strange sounding names ... like Esquimalt and Saanich. And when I come across particularly exotic stories, I like to imagine how they would have played out here in Metchosin.

I was indulging in this silly pleasure recently when I came across a headline announcing that "green opium" had been outlawed in China.

Green opium? I thought China had solved their opium problems 50 years ago. I wondered – had decadent western influences taken the opportunity through trade not only to reintroduce opium, but to create a market in designer shades of the stuff? I imagined adverts with the oriental equivalent of the Marlborough Man sniffing tiger orange opium to show his manly qualities, or lavender opium to show his softer, artistic side.

The Chinese president, Xi Jinping, a social conservative, would surely clamp down on such nonsense. A country that can come up with a clothing design that serves equally well as overalls, pyjamas or your best suit doesn't need opium made like M&Ms.

Well that is what just reading the headlines does for you. Marx said that religion was the opium of the masses, one of the more delicious unintended puns in history. Alas, it seems old Karl was wrong again. In China, at least, golf is now the opium of the masses. Green opium is golf!

But worse, it turns out that golf is the way unscrupulous people carry out "a kind of elegant bribery" in dealing with public officials and leading them into the sand trap of corruption.

I tried to imagine how President Xi's perception of golf and politics would work out in Metchosin.

Good and Evil would square off at the Green Acres golf course. The black hats would be the Developers; they always are in municipal political melodramas, while Council would of course wear the white hats.

Given the origin of the story, it would have to be a game between

collectives. No problem. Council is used to cooperative approaches. One could carry the bag and tee up the ball, a second, the captain, would hit it, two environmentally sensitive councillors could go look for it and care for any wounded wildlife, while the Finance chair would keep score.

The losers must pay all the green fees, so the white hats have a determined look. Little do they suspect that the real intention of the bad guys is actually to lose, a ploy to help "build relationships." That is black hat code for gaining influence!

The pond at the sixth hole is a problem. Council loses not only the captain's ball but also the two ball-seekers as they abandon their golf gear in favour of hip waders and the joy of searching for red legged snakes and sharp tailed frogs.

At the final hole, despite their best efforts, the bad guys are well ahead. Then Captain Black Hat takes 17 putts, leaving our captain just a two-foot knee-knocker to win.

But, nobody's fool, our captain has rumbled their nefarious scheme and realizes the dilemma he is in. Make the putt, and risk falling into the influence trap, or miss and have to pay the green fees?

Could that ever happen in Metchosin? I say not in a million years!

First, Metchosin politicians are too smart to play golf, and, for that matter, Metchosin golfers are too smart to play politics.

Second, one development a decade just isn't enough for them to remember the rules, let alone any sense of obligation.

Third, the black hats would have to have all the athletic acumen of a wombat in wellies before our guys would even think of a wager for green fees of ten bucks. We didn't get to be a debt-free municipality taking reckless gambles like that!

And it just isn't Metchosin. Friendship and good deeds count here like everywhere else. But golf as a "kind of elegant bribery"? Not here! We don't even do elegant – imagine a big fancy hat in the Metchosin wind – let alone bribery.

So our green opium addicts will surely be able to continue enjoying what, at ten dollars a round, is the second-best deal in Metchosin.

The best? Phone Heather at 250-478-5155 and for the same ten bucks you can get a year-long MCA membership! You knew that! And Christmas is

coming, so including MCA memberships in your loved ones' stockings would be an inexpensive but wonderfully thoughtful surprise.

'Tis the season to be merry, and all of us at the MCA wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

*Sooke Philharmonic Chamber Players*  
and  
*Sooke Philharmonic Chorus*  
conducted by Norman Nelson & Nicholas Fairbank

## Festive Harmony

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**Tickets: [www.sookephil.ca](http://www.sookephil.ca) - 250-419-3569 - Sooke/Metchosin outlets**

Partnering with the Sooke Christmas Bureau for the Sooke concert.  
A portion of ticket sales will support Christmas fundraising activities.

*Making Harmony... Naturally*

# Halloween at the

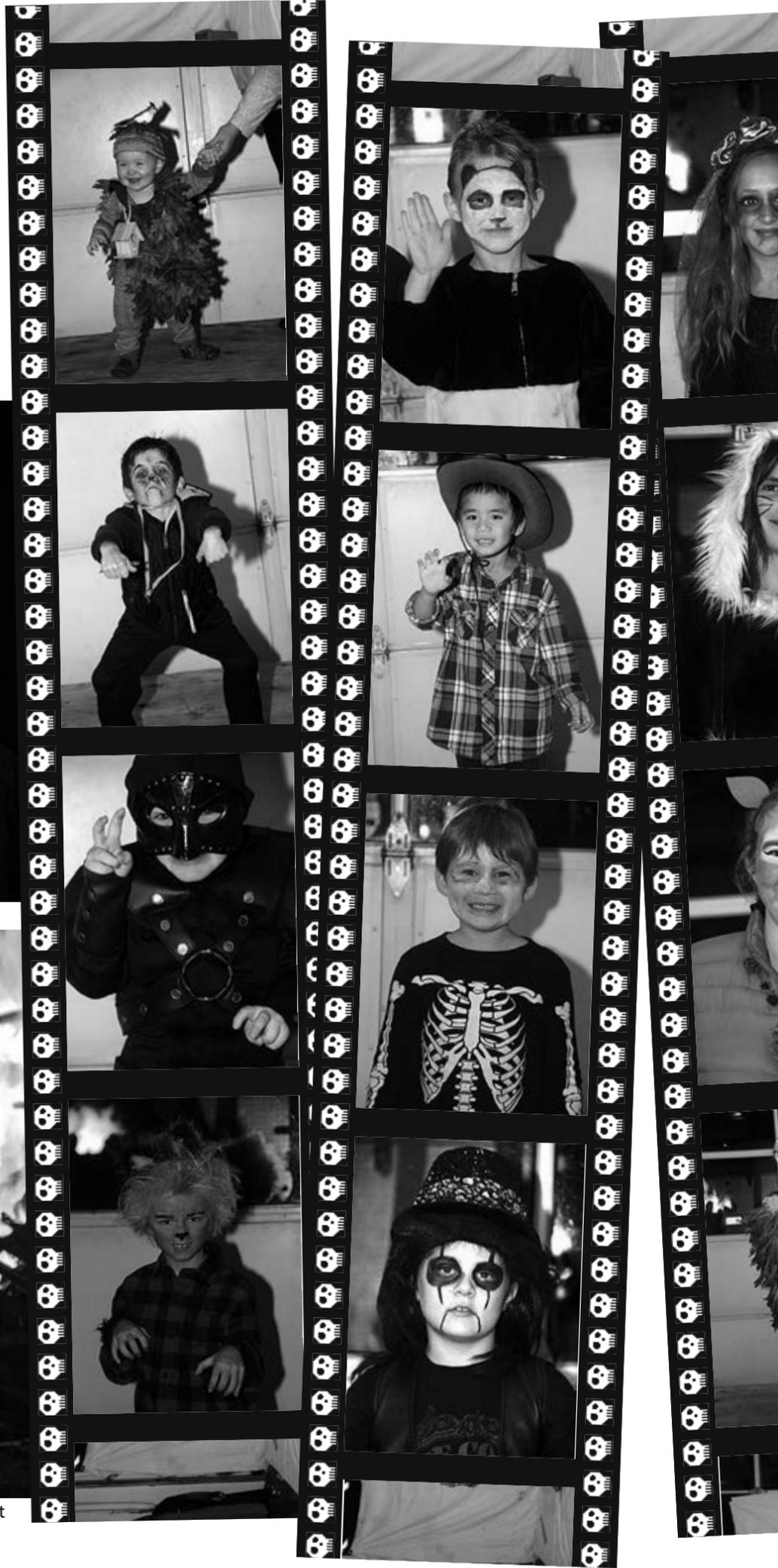
2015's Halloween at the Fire Hall saw a sizeable number of participants in the Costume Parade. We couldn't fit them all in this issue, but here is a sampling of the wonderful costumes. This year's costumes were amazing, with some outstanding creativity. All participants received a Halloween medallion and everyone was a winner. Thanks to Kathleen Sutherland and Ruth Kaasa for herding the cats and to Ric Perron for his work on the mic.

A big thank you to the Fire Hall for putting on another great event! The bonfire and fireworks were spectacular as usual, and the hot drinks and hot dogs were appreciated.

Photos are by Brian Domney unless otherwise noted.



Photo by Doug Clement





# Stay "Tuned" for the MCA's Next Music Night: Friday, December 4

ERIN VAN DE WATER

The November music night at the Community House was a great success! Mbira Spirit brought their high-energy music and many interesting stories to create a night of "edutainment" and laughter. At one point, the kitchen even turned into a hopping dance floor! It was an excellent start to the regular monthly music nights at the Community House. If you missed out, not to worry, your next chance to enjoy the MCA's music program will be Friday, December 4, featuring Thomas P Radcliffe.

Currently ranked #1 on the ReverbNation charts in Victoria, Thomas P Radcliffe is described as a "musician's musician" – an accomplished singer-songwriter, finger-style virtuoso and legendary folk singer. His sound is similar to Leo Kottke, Neil Young, Tommy Emmanuel, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and Lindsay Buckingham. Thomas' passion and sensitivity exude from the strings when he plays, and his voice brings love and messages through song directly to your heart.

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Thomas has performed in many places in the U.S. and Canada, including Seattle, Berkeley, Phoenix, Santa Fe, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Nashville, St. Louis, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Sooke and beyond. From the earliest strains of singing in class in elementary school, to taking up the violin in fifth grade, music has been integral to and synonymous with Thomas' joy in life. His musical resume includes string instruments



Thomas Radcliffe Stock photo

of many shapes and sizes: violin, guitar, mandolin, banjo, Appalachian dulcimer, autoharp, 12-string Spanish Laud, and the 10-string Puerto Rican Cuatro. He has performed in orchestral and solo settings on a variety of stages for many years, and is currently touring as a solo singer-songwriter, solo finger-style guitarist.

Thomas' performances are intimate and personal, and his songs and stories will lift your spirits, and stimulate and inspire you so that you are left smiling, tapping your feet, and humming along. His Metchosin performance will feature five guitars of various shapes and sizes, all in different tunings, as well as the lovely Spanish Laud and the Puerto Rican Cuatro (whatever those are!). He's even promised a few Christmas songs to get us into the holiday spirit! This performance is sure to be a treat. If for some reason you must miss out, you'll have to wait until February for the next music night since the first Friday of January falls on New Year's Day, and the Community House will be closed. Don't miss out!

# Polar Bear Swim 2016

ANDY AND MAIRI MACKINNON

Please join us for Metchosin's 27th annual Polar Bear Swim, this year at Taylor Beach near the end of Taylor Road, January 1, 2016. The swim is at 2:00 pm, usually lasting until approximately 2:01 pm. For those so inclined, the swim is preceded by a run of about 6 km, and a walk of about 3 km, both of which end at Taylor Beach just before 2:00 pm.

For details about the run and walk, please call Mairi or Andy MacKinnon at 250-478-8232. Following the swim, we encourage everyone to join us at Mairi's and Andy's house, 504 Witty Beach Road. We have showers and places to change. We'll have simple food and hot apple juice, and we encourage everyone to bring food and drink to share. (This is often food and drink left over from Christmas and New Year's Eve that doesn't fit with New Year's resolutions!) For more information, please call us at 250-478-8232 or send us an e-mail at metchosinmacs@gmail.com.



Andy demonstrating how it's done – quickly!



Metchosin's Katie Nelson, assisted by mom Bonny and father Phil, made jams, preserves and baked goods to sell at the Christmas Crafts Fair in the Metchosin Community Hall on November 21 and 22, raising \$1035 for the Goldstream Foodbank. Leftovers were distributed to needy recipients in the CRD "who looked like they needed the extra love." Thank you Katie; you make us proud!

Photo by Barb Sawatsky

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# The Other Great White North

JURI KOBAYASHI

Finland is a place of mystery and intrigue for folks here on the west coast as well as the majority of North America. For us there is a small northern island in the strait that you might have heard of

called Sointula, which literally means a place of harmony. Although harmony on Sointula might have been only a dream of the Finns who had made their home on the island, their motherland is still considered a place of harmony. Ranked as one of the best places to live in the world, it is noted for its

high standard of education, social equality and air quality, which are only some of the highlights.

As a Canadian it might be difficult to see how a place so far away has influenced our lives. The language, even with its perplexing difficulty, is present in our culture – as any

avid sauna goer would know, the sauna came from Finland. From Nokia phones and winter tires and Fiskar scissors, Finland is present in nearly every Canadian household. They play a pretty good game of hockey too.

My adventures in Finland over the last 11 years have

brought me back home to Metchosin to raise my family on the wild Pacific coast. Educated as a musician and classical guitarist, I hope to set up shop here. To follow my story, please visit my site at [www.jurikobayashi.com](http://www.jurikobayashi.com).



## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155  
Email: [mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net) Web: [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

### 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** – 2:45–4:30 pm Buddies offers Reading and Math tutoring as well as help with homework for Metchosin students grades K–6. Students receive a half hour, one-to-one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer. Registration forms are available at Hans Helgesen School or call MCH at 478-5155 or the coordinator, Nancy Evans at 250-642-4613. **December 7 is the last day of the season; the program will restart in the New Year.**

**Pearson College Students Outreach** – 3:00–4:30 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. **Finished for the season December 4; will restart January 11, 2016.**

**Knitting Café.** On the first and third Mondays monthly, 7:00–9:00 pm, knitters of all skill levels, including beginners, are welcome to this informal and friendly get-together. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email [laura.farquharson@shaw.ca](mailto:laura.farquharson@shaw.ca). **Last session for the season is December 7 for the evening group and December 8 for the afternoon group. The next session for the evening group is January 4 and January 12 for the afternoon group.**

**Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers** – meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month from 7:00–9:00 pm. December 14 is a Christmas carol sing-along and the last 2015 session. We return on January 11, 2016. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a “good singing voice” is not a requirement; only \$2. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553).

#### 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. **Last session for the season December 15, restarting January 5, 2016.**

**Knitting Cafe.** On the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, the Knitting Café has afternoon sessions from 1:00–3:00 pm. See the Monday listing for contact information. **Last session for the season is December 7 for the evening group and December 8 for the afternoon group. The next session for the evening group is January 4 and January 12 for the afternoon group.**

**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. **Last session for the season December 15, restarting January 19, 2016.**

#### Wednesdays

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

**Metchosin Garden Club Meetings** – 7:30–9:00 pm. Our enthusiastic and informative club features guest speakers on relevant garden topics on the first Wednesday of every month (except July, August, December, January) from 7:30–9:00 pm. Membership is \$10/year or \$2 for drop-in visitors. For more information call Suze Bowen (250-298-7877) or email [suzebowen@shaw.ca](mailto:suzebowen@shaw.ca).

#### Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking** – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (250-595-6406, or email: [blueheron.studio@telus.net](mailto:blueheron.studio@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.

**Community Potluck Lunch** – Last Thursday of each month, 12:00–1:30 pm. All welcome. **No potluck December 31.**

#### 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 toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, 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 [dalenina@shaw.ca](mailto:dalenina@shaw.ca). **No P&T December 25 or January 1.**

**Pearson Student Tea Time Drop-In** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. **Finished for the season December 4; will restart January 11, 2016.**

**Ukulele Gathering** – 5:00–6:30 pm second Friday of each month. Tell all your ukulele-playing students, friends and relatives! Spread the word! Open to community members of all ages and levels of talent. Bring: a ukulele, capo, tuner, music stand, and a few songs you are willing to share/lead/teach others with appropriate song sheets for others, if not from songbook below. Suggested songbook: *Jumping' Jim's Daily Ukulele* (as a base resource to work from) if you have it.

**Film Night** – There is no film night in December. Suggestions, comments, please contact Ric at [ricnic2@shaw.ca](mailto:ricnic2@shaw.ca).

### Events

**Made-In-Metchosin Mince Pies** – Enjoy a locally created Christmas dessert. Fill your kitchen with the delicious smell of baked mince pies. Pies are sold frozen and unbaked: 8” pies @ \$12 each; 9” pies @ \$15 each. Only a limited number of pies is made each year. **Place your order with MCH at 250-478-5155. Pick up orders on Thursday, December 3 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road.**

**Music Night** – Friday, December 4, 7:00–9:00 pm, door open at 6:30 pm. Thomas P. Radcliffe – Songs of Peace and Love. An evening of acoustic wizardry and music of inspiration and hope. No pre sales, pay at door, suggested donation \$7–\$12.

**Art Reception – Doug Gilbert and Friends.** Sunday, December 6, 2:00–4:00 pm. All welcome.

**Pearson College Christmas Concert** – Sunday, December 6, 7:00 pm, Metchosin Community Hall, 4401 William Head Road. The choir of international students promises to delight its audience with songs of the season. A delicious dessert raffle and refreshments will be served with the proceeds going to the Metchosin Community House. Admission is by donation. There will also be a food bank donation box for non-perishable goods.

**Blue Moon Christmas** – Thursday, December 17, 7:00 pm. Dave and Lesley Preston host their annual Blue Moon Christmas, featuring festive songs and stories performed by local artists. Refreshments available. Admission by donation of cash or non-perishable goods for local food banks.

**Foot Care Program** – The last Monday of each month a foot care nurse offers foot care services. Appointments are half an hour. Appointments are between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Please call 250-664-6810 to book.

**Art On The Walls – December: Doug Gilbert and Friends.** The participating artists are: Doug Gilbert, Donna Robertson, Lloyd Houghton, Mary Wulff, Merrilee Soberg, Richard James, Tom Gore, Vicky Vintrs. The art ranges from pure abstract to abstract portraiture to whimsical landscapes. The works will be on display at the House for the month of December with an open reception on December 6, from 2:00–4:00 pm, all welcome. The House is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm for viewing.

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 and New Year:** The MCHouse will be operating as usual with regard to the rentals that have been booked (see online calendar at [www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com), however the MCH Office will be closed December 24, 2015 to January 4, 2016.

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# Wild Green Children: Beaches

## Kid-friendly things to do in and around Metchosin

MARGARETHA BURNETT

Here in Metchosin we are blessed with many great beaches, and though I may be content to walk up and down a beach in the company of my dog and my thoughts, sometimes the kids need more entertainment. Below is a list of kid-tested beach activities ... you might like to try one or two with your green beasts!

### Rock Wishes

A while ago we went to the beach to hold a memorial service for my mother-in-law's partner, a retired merchant mariner, ferry captain and harbour pilot. The kids had loved Bobbo, but they were bored – they did not know any of the songs we were singing; the anecdotes we were telling did not interest them, and all I had in the car were some sharpies. Bingo.

First we found 20 or so special, smooth stones. Then we thought of words that described Bobbo. They came up with: "Silly Sausage," "Sailor," "Big ears," "Floppy feet," "Cribbage-lover," "Mechanic," "Mae's Special Friend," "Grandad."

Together and individually we wrote these words and other more private messages to Bobbo on the stones with sharpies. My girl drew pictures of flowers. Someone

else wrote a short poem. Once everyone was done, we lined up along the shore. Each rock was read out then everyone shouted that word or phrase into the wind as the kids threw the rocks into the water. My son tried to skip any flat ones. It was unconventional, but what a great memory, and a memorial any sailor would be very pleased with.

Since then we often bring sharpies to the beach. They also have been used to mark driftwood, to make driftwood TVs, cell phones, and keyboards, though marking up the smooth stones is a real kinaesthetic joy. We've also used Sharpie paint pens on stones for a more colourful effect – these we have given to friends as gifts. We have also taken larger stones and painted them at home with acrylic paints – I have one that I heat over our wood stove and snuggle into bed as a foot warmer on cold winter nights when my husband is away.

### Land Art

Another activity we love doing on beaches is making land art. If the beach is a sandy one, we may start with a sand sculpture – perhaps a mermaid – and embellish it with seaweed hair, a pebble swimsuit, wooden fingers, limpet necklaces, and a clamshell mer-tail.



Photo by Margaretha Burnett

If we are on a rocky beach, the art becomes all about colour and size. Collecting white rocks to shape into a heart or spiral on a bed of dark stones is very satisfying. Making more abstract ephemeral art from found material mandalas that are designed to disappear over time can bring out your inner Tibetan monk.

Rock balancing can also be very satisfying – or competitive! You can see who can stack the most pebbles, or make the highest tower, or make and name an inukshuk, or make the most towers along a log and take a picture before they fall! We may not all be Andy Goldsworthys, but we can dream!

### Beach Writing

Writing in sand is excellent therapy and a visual aid to letting go of things that need to be set free. Kids can draw pictures if they are not up to writing yet.

Writing in pristine sand and taking photos of the writing is a cheap and fun way to make a personalized card (and to rub in the fact that we west-coasters get to hang out on beaches year round!)

Another favourite of ours is beach Hangman. Who needs Post-It and a pen when the paper can be the size of an entire beach, and the hangman can be the size of a giant.

add an orchestral element to the songs.

### Rock Bocce and Checkers

Some games lend themselves to beaches. Bocce is an obvious choice. Have people find four favourite rocks about the size of their fist and about the same colour. Perhaps mark said rocks with Sharpies and their initial or sigil.

Use an unusual rock, piece of wood, or a shell as your pallino. Toss it first, then the closest to the pallino wins the round. Rock checkers is quick too – scratching an 8x8 board onto a larger rocker piece of driftwood gives you the board, and a quick search for 12 small black and 12 small white rocks sets you on your way.

### Slow-Mo Fight Scene

This idea I got from my drama friend, Bessie Wapp. Make a deep skinny hole that is big enough for both your feet up to your knees. Step in and fill it all up. Your friend should make a similar hole just over a metre away and be in that one. Then get someone to film a slo-mo cartoon fight scene with dramatic punches, windmilling arms and off balance falls (that never really fall!). Great for the clowns of the family.

### Beach Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts on the beach get people exploring. Here is a basic one for you to try:

1. A piece of sea glass
2. A round black rock
3. A flat white rock
4. A gull feather
5. Pieces of litter / garbage
6. A piece of driftwood shaped like a letter
7. Two different kinds of shells
8. Something dead
9. Something alive
10. A piece of algae
11. Something that begins with the first letter of your name
12. Something that belonged to someone else once
13. Something soft
14. Something metallic



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# The Very Rich Life of Clare Lowery

BARB SAWATSKY

Clare Lowery welcomed me into her home with tea and zucchini loaf. Her *joie de vivre* and her calm acceptance of the world around her stayed with me for hours and days after.

Clare grew up in Calgary in difficult economic times, the middle child of seven. When she was ten years old her mother died and much of the raising of the family fell to her eldest sister. Although her dad only had a Grade Five education (not unusual in those times), he had steady work in his brother's fruit and vegetable wholesale business until the Great Depression hit and his brother could no longer afford an employee. "Dad had a huge vegetable garden and did odd jobs to pay the bills. The trickle down effect," says Clare, "was that my grandparents owned a grocery store and they would arrive by buggy with groceries for us." In spite of the short supply of money, her dad made sure that all his kids had music lessons. "I played the piano; there were dances, there was basketball (it was free) and swimming in the Mewata Swim Club, and to earn some spending money, I worked in a music supply store and did ironing and cleaning mid-week. Growing up in these times was very rich."

After completing high school at age 18, Clare enrolled in nursing school at the University of Calgary. There

was no tuition because nursing students were considered to be free labour and after 12-hour shifts, they were expected to attend lectures. Fun took the form of bicycling to Banff, Canmore and Bragg Creek, staying in hostels with a group of friends. "We always had chaperones, either a parent or a teacher. It was all very proper," she says, "and more rich times."

After graduating as an RN, she went on to earn a post-graduate nursing degree in obstetrics and gynecology in Vancouver. Wishing to work overseas, Clare then moved to Ontario and enrolled in the Deaconess Missionary Training Course at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. "They gave me a wonderful world view of life and the needs of the world at large," she told me.

Life turned a corner for Clare Lowery when, "Four girls, myself included, were invited for tea in the living room of Jack Lowery, a recently ordained United Church Minister who was home for a visit before moving to his first appointment in Hardisty, Alberta." When Clare graduated from Emmanuel College she was commissioned by U.C.C. and sent to the Bonneville, Alberta Women's Missionary Society where "Jack visited me once or twice"! They married in October, 1954 in Toronto then moved to Hardisty where she "did women's work, directed church camps and taught CGIT and Sunday School"

and had two daughters, Janet (now Gray) and Nancy. "This was a very rich time of my life," she stated. Discussing marriage and children, Clare said she believes that what makes a marriage successful is that "each person has to give 75% because 50% doesn't always work."

Fast forward through moving to Calgary, the birth of two more daughters, church commitments, more training, a nursing career while continually updating courses ("I love to learn"), 18 years in Ottawa when Jack was offered a position in the Chaplaincy Bureau of Management, and Clare and Jack retired to Victoria to be close to two of their daughters. "On our arrival, Nancy moved to Calgary and Janet left for Uruguay," she laughs.

In 2000, at the age of 71, Jack died suddenly. Their daughters convinced Clare to move to an easy care house where she lived happily for eight years. Then six years ago, Janet and Steve asked if she would like to join them on their Metchosin Road property. "To live so close to family is such a privilege," she said. Keeping up her home and garden, attending chair yoga classes, film nights and seniors' lunches, volunteering at Metchosin Days, the Pearson College Home Stay Program and the Metchosin Community House as well as being a member of the APRM, the Garden Club and the congregation of the Metropolitan United Church keeps

her connected to people. When she says that she feels she integrated easily into the Metchosin community, I chuckle because something tells me that with her acceptance of what life doles out, Clare would integrate just about anywhere.

This short story leaves out many fascinating aspects of Clare Lowery's life. I wish there was room to write more about her childhood, her views on politics, meeting Pierre Trudeau, her Pearson College extended family as well as the young Somalian student, Khadijo, who grew up in a refugee camp and who could not return to her home so lived with Clare, then Janet, for a few months. Then there is her membership in Kairos, the worldwide justice group formed from seven



Clare Lowery  
Photo by Barb Sawatsky

major religious denominations, Oasis and so very much more. Mulling over my meeting with Clare, I am reminded again that you get out of life what you put into it.



14<sup>TH</sup> JUAN DE FUCA (METCHOSIN) SCOUTS CANADA

## Scouts Annual Bottle Drive – Saturday, January 2, 2016

The 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting sections would like to help you recycle your returnables! This annual Scouting Bottle Drive is throughout Metchosin and this is one of our major fundraisers for the youth of 14th Juan de Fuca Scout Group.

We recognize the environmental impact wasted bottles can create in our landfills and so collecting your bottles

helps us do our part to recycle and reuse this material. We will receive full deposit value for beer cans and bottles, liquor, juice bottles and pop cans and bottles, so you can be sure that the maximum value will be received to support our programming goals.

If you would like help by dropping off your returnables, we will be at the Municipal grounds behind the Fire Hall

on January 2 from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm.

If you would like to arrange for an earlier pickup please contact our Group Commissioner, Tony Friesen, 250-474-8899.

Many thanks to Metchosin residents for your continued support of 14th Juan de Fuca Scouting.

## Scouts Christmas Tree Chipping Fundraiser

Our last Tree Chipping Fundraiser was a great success and something we look forward to doing again this year. We saved over 500 trees from the landfill, contributed to the environment and supported recycling in our community.

The 14th JdF Venturers and 9th JdF Rovers will be using

the proceeds towards funding various Scouting events.

**Drop off at Luxton Fair Grounds**, 1040 Marwood Ave., December 27, January 2 and 3, 9 and 10, all day from 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

**Drop off at Race Rocks Auto**, 1057B Marwood Ave.,

December 28–30, January 4–8, 8:00 am–5:30 pm.

Suggested donation for drop off \$5, or \$10 for pick up. Call to reserve pick up starting December 27.

Proceeds go to yearly programming for the Venturer Scouts! For more information and pick up, call 250-589-7715.



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# SAR Helicopter Orientation

BRIAN DOMNEY

On rare occasions, Search and Rescue groups in BC are assisted by 442 Squadron in Comox. Kent Gulliford, a senior SAR Tech with the RCAF who joined Metchosin Search and Rescue (MSAR) in 2015 coordinated an orientation session for South Island SAR groups hosted by MSAR on November 14. A Cormorant helicopter with a crew of five flew in to Albert Head, simulating a typical rescue. Members of Metchosin, Juan de Fuca, Saanich, Saltspring and Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization had the opportunity to speak with the three flight crew and two SAR Techs, and to tour the Cormorant.



## NEWS FROM WEST-MONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

# West-Mont Learning Garden Continues to Grow

JAMES BOXSHALL AND JASON BOWERS

West-Mont is a local community-minded independent school committed to academic excellence in a caring, learning environment. The school is well known and highly regarded for our exceptional Montessori programs from Preschool to Grade 8 on our fabulous eight-acre Metchosin property. We are committed to building and strengthening this unique learning environment for our children.

The school has a large garden area that has been in dire need of renovations. Our vision is to transform this space into a true "learning garden." We want to see the garden become a true extension of the classroom that encourages students to explore the nature of agriculture, practice land stewardship, and foster a passion for locally grown food and a love of nature. Plans include the building of ten raised beds, the planting of numerous crops and seedling fruit trees, and the installation of a compost. We also have plans to include a small sheep pasture and are partnering with local farms to mentor and support this initiative.

We are very lucky to have a group of committed and skilled parents who are volunteering their time and energy to the task of overhauling our garden. The lead volunteer for our learning garden is Jennifer McAllister, who has a bachelor of science (biology) from the University of Victoria and is a Certified Organic Master Gardener. In her spare time, she volunteers with the LifeCycles Project, which cultivates community health by connecting people to the food they eat and the land it comes from, and the Greater Victoria Green Team, which conducts habitat restoration activities. Jennifer is passionate about the role that gardens can play in a student's education. "I am convinced that happy, healthy children understand how their personal, social,



Kim Maan photo

and natural worlds are connected. If students can spend time in nature, plant and harvest their own food and connect to local farmers, they cannot help but become aware of their ecological footprint and their role in shaping the world. As a parent, I hope all children fall in love with nature" (Jennifer McAllister, WMS parent and volunteer).

We also have key partners in the Metchosin community who see the value of the learning garden and are committed to support the endeavors of students at West-Mont. Sea Bluff and Metchosin Farms have been kind enough to offer their support in assisting us in enhancing our learning garden program.

Our learning garden will create a unique opportunity for West-Mont Montessori School students to engage with the new BC curriculum

as it unfolds next year. The learning garden will allow our students to meaningfully explore all of the core competencies outlined in the curriculum as they spend time working in, experiencing, and learning from nature.

Thanks to all those who attended the annual West-Mont Montessori School charity Auction at the Olympic View Golf Course. Due to the generous support of all those in attendance, our learning garden dream will become a reality! This year the event was held on Friday, November 20 and was a tremendous success. The funds generated from this year's auction will go to support the restoration and development of our learning garden. We look forward to developing it into an amazing outdoor space which promotes exploration and discovery.

# Fire Dept. Call-Outs

OCTOBER 2015

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

Check out Metchosin Fire on Facebook or follow me on Twitter @ChiefDunlop

- |        |  |        |  |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| Oct 01 | <b>Sooke Mutual Aid – Str Fire</b>                         | Oct 17 | <b>Albert Head Road – Medical</b>                          |
| Oct 02 | <b>Kangaroo Road – MVI</b>                                 |        | <b>Taylor Road – Open Burn – General</b>                   |
|        | <b>Elan – Medical</b>                                      | Oct 19 | <b>Sooke Road – Open Burn – General</b>                    |
|        | <b>Sooke Road – MVI</b>                                    |        | <b>Matheson Lake Park Road – Alarm Bells – Residential</b> |
| Oct 03 | <b>Sooke Road – Rescue – Search</b>                        |        |  |
|        | <b>Clapham – Medical</b>                                   | Oct 21 | <b>Kangaroo Road – MVI</b>                                 |
| Oct 04 | <b>East Sooke Road – Medical</b>                           | Oct 22 | <b>Hi-Mount – Fire</b>                                     |
|        | <b>Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General</b>              |        | <b>East Sooke Road – Medical</b>                           |
|        | <b>Sooke Road – MVI</b>                                    |        | <b>Sutiacum Road – Medical</b>                             |
|        | <b>Rocky Point Road – Medical</b>                          |        | <b>Rocky Glen Road – Medical</b>                           |
|        | <b>Happy Valley Road – Assistance – General Public</b>     | Oct 23 | <b>Pears Road – Open Burn – General</b>                    |
| Oct 09 | <b>Willam Head Road – Medical</b>                          | Oct 24 | <b>Metchosin Road – MVI</b>                                |
| Oct 10 | <b>Sooke Mutual Aid – SFRes – Smoke/Smell in Structure</b> | Oct 25 | <b>Pears Road – Alarm Bells – Commercial</b>               |
| Oct 11 | <b>Lindholm Road – Open Burn – Camp Fire</b>               |        | <b>Rocky Point Road – MVI</b>                              |
|        | <b>Taylor Road – Medical</b>                               | Oct 27 | <b>Rocky Point Road – Open Burn – General</b>              |
| Oct 12 | <b>Happy Valley Road – Assistance – Misc Complaint</b>     |        | <b>Willam Head Road – Medical</b>                          |
|        | <b>Albert Head Road – Alarm Bells – Commercial</b>         | Oct 28 | <b>Glen Forest Way – MVI</b>                               |
| Oct 14 | <b>Kangaroo Road – Open Burn – General</b>                 | Oct 29 | <b>Duke Road – Hydro – Fire</b>                            |
|        | <b>Happy Valley Road – Open Burn – General</b>             |        | <b>Duke Road – Hydro – Fire</b>                            |
| Oct 15 | <b>Weirs Beach – Beach Fire</b>                            | Oct 30 | <b>Sooke – Hydro – Tree on Lines</b>                       |
|        | <b>Willam Head Road – Alarm Bells – Residential</b>        |        | <b>Kangaroo Road – MVI</b>                                 |
|        | <b>Sooke Road – MVI</b>                                    | Oct 31 | <b>Kasani – Medical</b>                                    |
| Oct 16 | <b>Taylor Beach – Beach Fire</b>                           |        | <b>Sooke – Assistance – Public Works</b>                   |
|        |  |        | <b>Sooke – MVI</b>   |

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# RCMP Call-Outs OCTOBER 2015

BY CPL. BRIAN KERR, CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

- Oct 01 **Parry X Road** – Complaint of theft of items from a residence.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle not located, owner given warning.
- Oct 02 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle in ditch, driver found to be impaired, impaired driving related charges laid along with vehicle impoundment.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of deer hit by vehicle.  
**Metchosin Road area** – Complaint of person with drug paraphernalia.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of motorcycle accident, one person taken to hospital, investigation continuing.
- Oct 03 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of lost hiker, later located.  
**William Head Road** – Complaint of protestors blocking the road.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober.
- Oct 04 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, one person taken to hospital, investigation continuing.  
**Albert Head** – Complaint of gun shots heard, patrols failed to locate anything.
- Oct 05 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of elderly female walking on road who appeared to be lost, patrols failed to locate her.
- Oct 06 **Liberty Drive area** – Assistance requested to check well being of a person, found to be all right.
- Oct 07 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of disturbance at a residence.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Assistance provided to BC Ambulance Service, one person taken to hospital.
- Oct 09 **Hibbert Lane** – Complaint of several items stolen from the yard of a residence.
- Oct 10 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of erratic driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be impaired, vehicle impounded, charges laid.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of an erratic driver, vehicle not located.  
**Glen Forest Way** – Complaint of found wallet, returned to owner.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of suspicious person, not located.
- Oct 11 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of motorcycle accident, one person taken to hospital. Investigation continuing.  
**Malloch Road** – Complaint of gun shots being heard, patrol failed to locate anyone.
- Oct 12 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of suspicious male on private property during night with a flashlight, patrols failed to locate anyone.  
**Taylor Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, not located.
- Oct 13 **Taylor Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, patrols failed to locate.  
**Glen Forest Way** – Complaint of possible theft.
- Oct 15 **Weirs Beach** – Complaint of tractor on the beach.  
**Duke Road area** – Complaint of harassment, investigation continuing.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of two vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicles towed from the scene.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of a deer being hit by a vehicle.
- Oct 16 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of theft of wallet from a vehicle.

- Happy Valley Road** – Complaint that someone may have tried to light a fire at the school, still under investigation.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Crime Reduction Unit stopped a vehicle which resulted in drugs being seized, one person under investigation.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Crime Reduction Unit arrested a male on outstanding warrant, male under investigation for several offences.
- Oct 17 **William Head Road area** – Complaint of theft from a residence.  
**Lombard Drive** – Complaint of youths with fireworks.
- Oct 18 **Lindholm Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, caused by distracted driving.  
**Glen Forest Way area** – Complaint of loud noise, one person given a verbal warning.
- Oct 19 **Duke Road area** – Complaint of threats, reported for information.
- Oct 21 **Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of threats, possible assault, one person given a verbal warning.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, driver tried to avoid hitting a deer, vehicle ended up on its side in ditch, no injuries.
- Oct 22 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate the vehicle.
- Oct 23 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle being driven erratically, patrols failed to locate the vehicle.
- Oct 25 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of possible theft of lumber, attendance made and complaint unfounded.  
**Sooke Road** – Complaint of vehicle being driven erratically, vehicle stopped and driver found to be under the influence of drugs, driver served with road side prohibition.  
**William Head Road** – Complaint of bear being observed in the area.
- Oct 26 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of disorientated person. Person located and assistance provided.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of deer being hit by a vehicle.  
**Neff Road** – Complaint of a speeding vehicle, patrols advised.  
**Happy Valley Road area** – Complaint of threats being made to a person.
- Oct 27 **William Head Road** – Assistance provided to Ambulance Service, one person taken to hospital.  
**Lindholm Road** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle, patrols failed to locate.
- Oct 28 **Glen Forest Way** – Complaint of single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
- Oct 30 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of two vehicle accident, one person injured, one of the drivers charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of attempted theft from vehicle and stolen motorcycle from a residence, still under investigation.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of theft from vehicle, several items stolen.

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Please contact my  
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http://www.metchosinmuse.ca

## 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

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

**PC-BASED LAPTOP** (i.e., not Apple) with HDMI output wanted urgently for Metchosin Rough Voice Singers. Must be cheap or free. Barb 250-478-0553 or barbsawatsky@hotmail.com.

**WANTED TO RENT** Professional woman leaving Nova Scotia practice Jan, Feb, March. Wants to housesit or rent Metchosin, East Sooke, West Shore. References. Cat sitting, light gardening. Email sharron villanueva@hotmail.com.

information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

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.

**THE GRATEFUL POOCH GROOMING AND DESIGN** now open in Metchosin. Certified CCST1-Intermediate, Pet First Aid. Heather, 250-508-1777; please call to book appointment.

**MASSAGE THERAPY** Gift certificates available for massage therapy, aquatic massage therapy, hot stone therapy, ayurvedic treatments, reflexology and facials. Contact Atman Massage Therapy Clinic for details or to book an appointment; 250-474-4622.

LESSONS

**FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 AND 2, MARKETSAFE & WHMIS** – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website [www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com](http://www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com) for

# Events

## Bedtime Shenanigans!

Monday, December 7, 6:00–7:00 pm at David Cameron School. A free Ready, Set, Learn program for preschoolers (0 to 5 year olds) and their parents/caregivers. For more information, contact sjolivet@sd62.bc.ca.

## Bandwagon Music Night,

Friday, December 11 at Metchosin Golf Course. The Matheson Party Band will play danceable tunes

7:00–9:30 pm. Bar and kitchen open at 5:30 pm. \$5 donation goes to musicians. Great place to bring your holiday guests. Check out the band's website: <http://metchosinbandwagon.shawwebsitespace.ca/>

**Ukelele Jam**, Friday, December 11, 5:00–6:30 pm at the Community House. For more information, see House Happenings on page 11 or contact Margaretha at

memetopia@shaw.ca or call 250-391-9667.

**CRD Parks events:** for information, please see: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/events>

**Film Night** – There is no film night in December.

For more on events of interest to Metchosinites, please see "Important Dates," page 1.

# Directory of Organizations

*The following is contact information for not-for-profit organizations, but fuller descriptions are given in the "Directory of Metchosin," available at the Municipal Hall and the Community House. Brief articles highlighting special events should be mailed to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.*

## AIR CADETS

[www.848royalroadsaircadets.com](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
www.facebook.com/848aircadets  
250-590-3690  
[848air@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:848air@cadets.gc.ca)

## ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052,  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

## ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-478-1197, [www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca)

## BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

## BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

250-478-2387,  
[ikmcken@islandnet.com](mailto:ikmcken@islandnet.com),  
[www.bilstoncreek.org](http://www.bilstoncreek.org)

## 'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

[info@chosinchatters.org](mailto:info@chosinchatters.org),  
[www.chosinchatters.org](http://www.chosinchatters.org)

## CRD PARKS

250-478-3344,  
[crdparks@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdparks@crd.bc.ca),  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

## GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

[tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca](mailto:tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca),  
250-478-5484

## LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

## METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

250-478-5155,  
[mcahouse@telus.net](mailto:mcahouse@telus.net),  
[www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

## METCHOSIN COUNCIL

250-474-3167,  
[mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca),  
[www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings)

## METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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

## METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

250-391-7511,  
[exchanging@shaw.ca](mailto:exchanging@shaw.ca),  
[www.mesmetchosin.org](http://www.mesmetchosin.org)

## METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

[metchosinfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinfoundation@gmail.com),  
<http://metchosinfoundation.ca>

## METCHOSIN 4-H

250-478-4677  
[Metchosin4H@gmail.com](mailto:Metchosin4H@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosin4h.com](http://www.metchosin4h.com)

## METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

250-298-7877

## METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

250-478-6424,  
<http://metchosinhall.com/>

## METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

## METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989,  
School Museum, 250-478-5447

## METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

250-727-3595

## METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL, a parent-run cooperative

250-478-9241,  
[metchosinpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinpreschool@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosinpreschool.com](http://www.metchosinpreschool.com)

## METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

250-478-2210

## MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

## POD LEADERS

Kathleen Sutherland  
250-474-3966

## ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

September to April  
250-478-0553

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford

Ladies Auxiliary  
250-478-5484

## SCOUTS CANADA

[14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca](mailto:14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca)

## SEA CADETS

250-478-7813

## SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)

250-478-5150, [msirc@shaw.ca](mailto:msirc@shaw.ca)

## TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Brian 250-474-1665  
Marni 250-999-6757

## SWANWICK CENTRE

A centre for spiritual inquiry  
538 Swanwick Road  
250-744-3354  
[programs@swanwickcentre.ca](mailto:programs@swanwickcentre.ca)  
[www.swanwickcentre.ca](http://www.swanwickcentre.ca)

## WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

250-478-2286,  
[info@westshorearts.org](mailto:info@westshorearts.org),  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)

## WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

250-474-3999

## WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384,  
[www.westshorererecreation.ca](http://www.westshorererecreation.ca)

# CHURCHES

## BAHA'I FAITH

250-514-1757

## GORDON UNITED CHURCH

250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

## HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

250-727-3722

## OPEN GATE CHURCH

250-590-6736  
[www.theopengate.ca](http://www.theopengate.ca)

## ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

Anglican Church of Canada  
250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)

## WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)  
250-478-8066

## WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

250-474-5967  
[www.westsong.ca](http://www.westsong.ca)



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Wills and Estates

The above is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes to this information to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca). Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events, to be included under "Events" on this page. Deadline for submission is, as always, the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.