

A NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

Herbie Returns to School



Herbie, who is once again sitting at his desk in the Metchosin School classroom, is first on the right side row, with wife, Malinda, behind in second row. Others shown are daughter and grandchildren, nieces, nephews and half-brother.

Laura Faquharson photo

LAURA FARQUHARSON

It was looking like a quiet Saturday afternoon at the Old School Museum where I was a volunteer docent, when there was the sound of voices and laughter outside and in came a group of 12 people of assorted ages. The oldest introduced himself as 82-year-old Herbie Dong and explained he had brought some extended family members to see his first school, which he attended at the age of eight in 1942. His teacher was Mrs. Helgesen, and her daughter, Isabel Tipton, who was at the school at the same time, still remembers the Dong children.

It was a fascinating experience to learn something of the history of the family, whose children were the first Chinese students at Metchosin's one-room school. Herbie was the seventh child in a family of eight boys and four girls, and his older siblings had preceded him in the school. Ten of the children were born in a four-room cottage on Kangaroo Road, close to the junction with Rocky Point. Very sadly, his 38-year-old mother

died giving birth to her last daughter.

Herbie explained that his father had been sent from China at the age of 14 under contract to load coal from the mines in Nanaimo. His family lived in a region suffering from a terrible famine and the only hope of the family's survival was for this young lad to be sent to Canada and to send his earnings home. He was eventually transferred to Cobble Hill and it was here that an arranged marriage took place with the bride, just 16, who had also been sent at 14 to work as a maid and nanny to support her family. It is hard to imagine just how difficult it must have been for these young teenagers – still children in fact – to have to leave home, undertake the long voyage to Canada, and then struggle to support their families despite no knowledge of English, and in a completely different culture.

Two daughters were born to the young couple whilst at Cobble Hill, and Herbie is not sure how the family came to move to Metchosin. His father supported the family through a cordwood business.

The work was hard and hours long, but despite all the hard physical labour and walking everywhere, Herbie's father lived to be 94, and fathered three more sons in a second marriage.

Herbie and his siblings walked to school, regardless of the weather, and they were a little scared with cows wandering on the unfenced road. He remembers how cold the school was in the winter, despite the wood burning stove. As no English was spoken at home, it must have been difficult for both the young Dongs and the teacher as they struggled with the new language. In addition, the children were expected to help both at home and in their father's business.

On leaving school, Herbie first worked with his father and then went into construction. It was an accident on a building site which sent him to the Royal Jubilee Hospital and there he met a charming young nurse, Malinda, from Kelvington, in northern Saskatchewan. Romance blossomed and they have now been married for over 50 years, although they recently had quite a surprise.

It happened when Herbie was renewing his driver's licence, and took along his birth certificate as a piece of required official ID. This was in his Chinese name, Dong Yow Wai, whereas all other

documentation, including the marriage certificate, listed him as Herbert Dong. This was the name given to him at school to make it easier for his classmates, and which he has used ever since. His driver's licence renewal was refused because of the discrepancy in names shown on other documents to that on his birth certificate. It was quite a shock for Herbie and Malinda to discover that even the marriage certificate would not be considered legal. A lawyer, an official ceremony, and some \$2,000 later, and Herbie is now officially Herbert Wai Dong.

When I popped into the School Museum the next day to talk to Gaert Linnea, who was the volunteer on duty, she was showing photographs to Herbie's 89-year-old brother, Ray, and his grandson.

It was a delight to meet part of the Dong family and to have the contact with a very fine gentleman who, 74 years ago, had been a pupil at the school. All the family members really enjoyed the exhibits, particularly identifying Herbie and his siblings in the school photos and listening to some of his stories about the two years he spent at the school before the family moved to Victoria. It was very interesting for both Gaert and me to welcome these special visitors.

The Pioneer Museum and the School Museum are both operated by the Metchosin Museum Society and have a wide variety of interesting artifacts and photos. From April to October the School Museum is open on Saturdays from 1:30–4:30 pm and Sundays, 11:00 am–4:30 pm. Contact: Pat Holloway, 250-478-0765.

The Pioneer Museum's opening hours coincide with the Farmers' Market on Sundays, 11:00 am–2:00 pm. Contact: Larry Tremblay, 250-478-8543.

The proceeds from Old Barn Books support both museums, and is open during the Farmers' Market.

Metchosin Day is coming soon!

See page 8 for more information.

"Important Dates" has moved

The Important Dates and Events listing, as well as a Directory of Organizations for ongoing events, can be found on the back page of the *Metchosin Muse*.

Metchosin Muse

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

The 15th 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

AD DEADLINE

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

ABOUT THE MUSE

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

The *Muse* is delivered, free of charge, to 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.

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800
(July/August: 3000)

On the web at www.metchosinmuse.ca

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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



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Bus. Card (V) – 1.866" w x 5" h	\$47.00	\$42.00	\$38.00
2x4 – 3.925" w x 4" h	\$77.00	\$67.00	\$59.00
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Eileen Carlson 250-478-1036.

Welcome Johnny, Alex, and Charla!

BRIAN DOMNEY, EDITOR

Well, we're back after our traditional one-month summer hiatus, and champing at the bit to continue the *Muse's* traditional role of informing Metchosin about what has happened, what is happening, and what is going to happen, along with folks' thoughts or memories on our community and who is in it. You'll find a typical selection of *Muse* pieces in this issue, along with information about Metchosin Day. Look for some important details about the event and a different approach to parking, along with guidelines for submitting entries in the produce, baking, and photography competitions. There is a skookum Metchosin Day website with a wealth of information at metchosinday.ca.

A couple of developments emerged over the summer. First, it's a great pleasure to welcome Johnny Carline to the editorial team of the paper. Johnny has been a regular contributor on behalf of the Metchosin Community Association (MCA) (of which he has recently become President). Since the passing of Valerie Cochran, yours truly has carried the editor's burden alone, and I'm looking forward to both the help and another perspective on how the paper moves forward. Incidentally, I have recently assumed the role of Vice President of the MCA. I'll leave it to your imagination to determine if there is any connection between these developments.

Another arrival on the *Muse* team is Constable Alex Bérubé of the West Shore



The *Muse* editorial team, co-conspirators Brian Domney and Johnny Carline. Barb Sawatsky photo

RCMP Detachment. Alex is taking over responsibility for submitting the RCMP Call-Outs in Metchosin, a job our good friend Brian Kerr carried for many years. Brian is easing himself into retirement, and I've warned him to be wary of requests to meet for a coffee. Our sincere thanks to Mayor John Ranns and Inspector Larry Chomyn of the RCMP who helped ensure Metchosin continues to be informed about the diligent work of the RCMP in the community, and of course a huge thanks again to Brian Kerr.

It's also a pleasure to welcome Charla Huber as the writer for the Metchosin Emergency Program. Charla

brings a strong journalism background to the job, having worked as a reporter for the *Goldstream Gazette* for many years. Welcome Charla.

Finally, here is the traditional reminder to consider becoming involved in this modest little community paper. It's a volunteer effort, so you don't have to have a degree in journalism or English. You don't even have to have a strong position on the Oxford comma; in fact, it might even be good not to. You just have to have a love for the community and a desire to make it better. Enjoy.

Letters to the Editor

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

Can we take the heat?

I am a Metchosin resident who is passionate about our community. I recently shared the following in the Metchosin! group on Facebook and thought more people need to be talking about this issue.

I took an Earth and Ocean Sciences class in university. One of the big concepts discussed was deep ocean currents, which are like massive thermally driven rivers that pull water from the ocean floor along an underwater river, bringing nutrients from the sea floor to the surface of the water.

This upwelling supplies nutrients for phytoplankton at the surface and in turn all the other ocean life that eventually feeds us.

These conveyor belts

are powered by thermal gradients, where (very basically) cold water from the south pole flows downward toward deep oceans toward the equator, where it mixes with warmer water. The warmer water rises in this current and flows toward the surface of the water farther north.

The deep water contains many nutrients because things sink. The nutrients that are brought to the surface feed most of the ocean.

These deep currents play a significant role in stabilizing temperatures and climate, as well as controlling (and sinking) CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The frightening thing is, when I learned all this information ten years ago, the professor was very clear – even a few degrees' change in ocean temperature can halt these conveyor belts. Sudden changes in these conveyor

belts in Earth's history have been thought to trigger ice ages.

This year in Metchosin and Victoria we saw more record-breaking temperatures than ever before.

This year's high temperatures have broken records across the planet. Ocean temperatures have seen increases world wide. Ice is melting.

I am afraid that we may already be passing the point of no return in terms of our long-term survival on this planet. A few degrees here and there make for very lovely summers, but I fear the chain reaction of such changes will see us witnessing far more serious changes.

And I don't know what I can do, except write this ... More people need to know about this, so we can figure out what we might be able to do about it. Thank you.

Kelly Munro

Istvan Kiss

1945–2016

Istvan Kiss (pronounced Kish) was born May 11, 1945 in Egyed, Hungary. He had apprenticed to be a machinist by age 18. In his 20s, during the Hungarian Revolution, he fled Hungary, leaving behind a pretty town and countryside, his parents, and two brothers, Gabor and Gurri. His escape from Hungary involved being smuggled through underground channels ending in Italy and then on to Canada. There he married, travelled, lived and worked in Toronto, then Vancouver. In the mid 70s he bought a hilly piece of property in Metchosin, and was able to get work on the island.

Istvan wanted a family and island life, but his wife, a career woman, wanted city life and they divorced over the phone. His family back in Hungary, Istvan believes, were punished because of his escape, and he had little contact from them. He put his energy into transforming his property, and his neighbours on his road became his new family. He had many acquaintances, nursery friends, coworkers, landscapers, and developers.

John Papuc remembers: We first met Istvan in 1989 when we were surveying the 12-acre lot across from his property. We were about to leave when a short, stocky man, rather wild looking with a headband, his pants held up by a piece of rope and carrying a long machete, came bursting out of the bush. I whispered to my wife that he was like the character Rambo from the movies. Istvan warned us that we were trespassing on private property until I informed him that we were buying it. After this initial rather shocking introduction, Istvan over the years became a good neighbour and friend. He and I shared a love of plants and gardening and I presently have five giant sequoias and an unusual variety of spring daphne that fills the air with the scent of vanilla and cinnamon, courtesy of Istvan. He had an intense attachment to his land and was always thinking of new ways to transform it, spending hours planning his new venture. Now that he is no longer with us I know that when I smell that spring scent and watch his trees grow he will be in my thoughts. I like to think that Istvan just went to sleep one night and awoke to a garden paradise he could start improving.

Vanessa Cooper's memories: When I moved to Metchosin in September of 1989, I would see



Istvan Kiss

Roger Morton

Istvan as I walked the street with my dog. He would say "I want to pick your brain" regarding whether to put a rock wall here or to put the rock wall there. A water fall here or there.

In the 90s, Istvan had a nursery business – sequoia and monkey puzzle trees. He was always looking for unique plants. By 2000, Istvan was planning a woodland scented garden, with a waterfall that could be used for weddings. His nemeses were the grey squirrels; each year we all heard how many walnuts he had on the tree, the measures he went to in order to protect them, and how one by one the grey squirrels took them. He planned to spend his 80s in a rocking chair with a shotgun to get the squirrels, and a computer to research unique plants.

He loved his cat, Fargo 2, and his gold and koi fish, and he could tell you exactly how many he had at any one time, something I could not understand until I fed them.

Jason Mawle remembers Istvan: I have been a neighbour and friend of Istvan for about eight years. I enjoyed helping him with his projects around his property which he called his "sandbox," forever changing and creating. Istvan always talked about creating a huge monkey puzzle tree forest. I'm sure wherever he is, he will finally have his forest. I will always remember the stories and Kokanee beer aka "real beer" he shared with me over the years. I will miss my friend.

For details on a celebration of Istvan's life, contact Jason Mawle at 250-507-9418.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Food and Water – Important Parts of Emergency Planning

CHARLA HUBER, METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PROGRAM

**Emergency Information Session:
Food and Water: Important Parts of
Emergency Planning**
Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Fire Hall

With summer ending and fall approaching, winter is just around the corner. Living in a rural community it is important to ensure there is enough food and water in your home for all family members (both two and four legged!), in case of an emergency.

"Here in Metchosin we may face different challenges than other communities on the West Shore, such as prolonged power outages, accessibility issues and possibly even limited outside assistance in a major event. When people are properly prepared, it makes a big difference when disaster strikes," says Stephanie Dunlop, Metchosin Emergency Program Director. "Winter storms can leave us without electricity for extended periods of time, and for many, this means no water or heat. In many instances, it may not be possible to leave your home. Preparing for these types of events and ensuring you have sufficient supplies on hand in your home is important."

Not only are winter storms a reason to prepare, but an earthquake could occur at any time, in any season.

Planning for an emergency can be a daunting task and even a bit scary to think about. If you are interested in better preparing your home and family, the Metchosin Emergency Program is hosting an information session on Emergency Food and Water.

"We are hosting this session to help residents in our community understand their potential needs, get prepared and feel better about making a plan. Once you have a goal, it's easy to start preparing," Dunlop said, adding "We also have a lot of interesting things to share with people that you might not already know."

In addition to creating a plan for essential needs, the session will also include several methods to disinfect your water along with other pieces of information to help you and your family prepare for unexpected events.

The Metchosin Emergency Program Emergency Food and Water information session is held at the Metchosin Fire Department, 4440 Happy Valley Road on September 20 at 7:00 pm.

TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise stated, talks are held at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, behind the Fire Hall.

ISLANDS IN THE SKY: Tales of exploration from a place of many floors: a celebration of ancient forest biodiversity, counting the uncounted – Friday, September 23 with Dr. Neville Winchester

Join us for a journey that explores the high frontier of British Columbia's rainforests. As we examine the floral and faunal symphony that characterizes these forests – spectacular plants, birds, mammals, and insects will be highlighted.

Dr. Neville Winchester is currently a research entomologist and a member of the teaching staff in the biological sciences department at the University of Victoria. His special areas of research and interest include diversity of arthropods, ancient rainforest ecology and conservation biology.

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP of our homes, property and farming practices – Friday, October 14



Gord Baird, with his wife Ann, are co-owners of EcoSense, and both are Highlands Councillors. Their objective is "to live a reasonable life where our home is an extension of nature; where the systems incorporate biomimicry for both function and beauty. All systems work with nature to create a space that is safe and provide for our needs sustainably without compromising the needs of future generations to enjoy the same level of comfort."

MYCOBLITZ! – Friday, November 4

Our 4th Annual MycoBlitz will start off with a presentation by one of our favourite speakers, Britt Bunyard, mycologist, and editor and publisher of *Fungi Magazine*. Topic to be announced.

MycoBlitz forays! – Saturday, November 5: Details of this ever popular event to be announced. To date, 402 species of fungi have been identified!

Contact moreamilne@gmail.com for further information about these programs.

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Metchosin Museums: A Call for Volunteers

JIM MACPHERSON

Over the last few months I have been showcasing one volunteer organization a month for the *Muse*, paying special attention and thanks to all the volunteers who make these organizations successful.

A while back I wrote an article on the Metchosin Museum Society and described the incredible role of volunteers in maintaining the Metchosin School Museum, the Pioneer Museum and that special fund-raising phenomenon, the Old Barn Books.

The Metchosin Museum Society operates the two museums and the society now has the financial resources to undertake improvements in both museums. So, it's onward and upward!

But we need more volunteers to help us keep on top of our responsibilities. What we really need are volunteers with curator and/or archival experience.

We welcome all volunteers. And, aiming high and knowing the huge range of skills that Metchosin residents have, we would really like to have the help of volunteers who have some museum experience; not essential, but it would be really nice to have.

Interested? Please call Larry Tremblay at 250-478-8543 or drop him a note jadefrog@telus.net. And on Metchosin Day don't forget to drop by the Museum Society's display at the Pioneer Museum. Visit Old Barn Books. Learn a bit more about the society, the School and Pioneer Museums, and discover that for a mere \$10 your membership in the society will help support these Metchosin jewels.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." – author unknown



COUNCIL NEWS SEPTEMBER 2016

2016 METCHOSIN DAY – SEPTEMBER 11

Our annual Metchosin Day Celebration is being planned again with many activities, exhibits and entertainment for the entire family, attracting visitors from across the island and beyond. This year we're planning for the weather to cooperate, so we can again end the day with our traditional home-grown Lamb and Salmon Barbeque dinner!

BURNING

All open burning – including yard debris, incinerators, and land clearing burns – remains closed until October 1, unless otherwise posted. Please check www.metchosinfire.ca and www.metchosin.ca for updated burning information, or call the Fire Department at 250-478-1307 before you burn.

DRIVEWAY CULVERT MAINTENANCE

With Fall upon us, residents are reminded to clear driveway culverts of debris to help prevent flooding. It is also property owners' responsibility to ensure that water and gravel from your driveway does not enter onto the roadway. A permit is required to undertake any work on the municipal roadway, including installation of driveways and culverts.

CRD BLUE BOXES AND BAGS

You can no longer purchase blue boxes or bags at the Municipal Hall, other than the few bags we still have. If you require a new or replacement CRD blue box or bag, please contact their collection contractor, Emitterra Environmental, at 250-385-4399. For blue box or bag pick up, their office is located at 304 John Street in Victoria and is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 am–5:30 pm. Additional locations to pick up a CRD blue box or bag free of charge:

Langford: 877 Goldstream, Tel: 250-478-7882 (bags only)
Colwood: 3300 Wishart Rd, Tel: 250-478-5999 (all residents)
View Royal: 45 View Royal Avenue, Tel: 250-479-6800 (all residents)

For more information visit the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE (HCAC)

Our Healthy Communities Advisory Committee supports community activities that seek improvements in all aspects of living in Metchosin which reflect on our health, well-being and happiness while strengthening our sense of community. HCAC was very successful helping the Senior Information Resource Centre (SIRC) get on its feet and has been on a bit of a break looking for new directions to take the committee, and the status of young families and children is one issue HCAC would like to examine. The committee is looking for new members who share this interest. HCAC usually meets every other month, or at the call of the chair. Meetings are in the evenings for one to two hours – a small amount of time that can make a big difference in your community. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Municipal Hall, addressed to Mayor and Council.

HERITAGE ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE (HASC)

Are you interested in the heritage of Metchosin? HASC needs new volunteers. If you're interested, or would like more information regarding this committee, please contact the Municipal Office, 250-474-3167.

COUGARS AND BEARS

If you see a cougar or bear, please call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277. The Municipal Office tracks all cougar and bear sightings for our residents; please call the Conservation Officer first, then call the District Office at 250-474-3167. The BC Ministry of Environment's Bear Smart Community Program encourages efforts to reduce bear-human conflicts. Some things you can do to help to bear-proof your home:

- keep garbage in the house or shed until pick up day;
- don't add meat or cooked food to your compost;
- pick ripe fruit and fallen fruit daily;
- use bird-feeders only in the winter;
- clean your BBQ after each use and store in a secure area; and
- don't feed pets or store pet food outdoors.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER 2016

Below are the meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise stated.

Council Meeting	Sept 19, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee	Sept 20, 7:00 pm
Finance and Environment Committee	Sept 19, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee	Sept 27, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and Public Works Committees	Sept 19, 7:00 pm	Heritage Advisory Committee	Sept 28, 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. Thank you.

Metchosin Municipal Hall | www.metchosin.ca | 250-474-3167 | info@metchosin.ca



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DEIRDRE CHETTLEBURGH



Colleen Brownlee
Deirdre Chettleburgh photo

Farewell to Colleen Brownlee

Sadly, Colleen Brownlee has stepped down from her role as Coordinator of SIRC. Colleen became the organization's first coordinator in 2012

and since then has cheerfully, energetically, and efficiently managed the SIRC office, fielding hundreds of inquiries regarding services and support available to Metchosin's seniors. Colleen leaves SIRC in order to have more time to pursue her other passion – teaching – and enjoy a little well deserved R&R.

On behalf of the board, members of SIRC, and the Metchosin community, we thank Colleen for all she has done and wish her every happiness in this next phase of her life. Fortunately we will continue to see lots of her as she will stay on as a volunteer with the Metchosin Emergency Preparedness Group.

We are delighted to announce that Dawn Boshcoff has accepted our offer to be the new Coordinator of SIRC. Dawn (already a familiar face in Metchosin) has rich experience as an entrepreneur and in management. We look forward to working with her.

Please join us for tea on **Wednesday, September 7, 2:00-4:00 pm**, at the SIRC office, 4495 Happy Valley Road,

to say farewell and thank you to Colleen and welcome to Dawn.

Gourmet Dinner

Tickets for the Gourmet Dinner are now on sale! Don't miss this opportunity to win a gourmet dinner for eight served in your home by some of Metchosin's best chefs. Tickets are available at the SIRC office and at the SIRC booth at Metchosin Day. Cost: \$20 per ticket.

LOCATION

4495 Happy Valley Road (the former Metchosin Elementary School)
Telephone: 250-478-5150 | Email: msirc@shaw.ca
Website: www.metchosin seniors.ca

HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
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Check out the classified ads on page 18.

50 or Better? Mark Your Calendars!

Vaccinations for those 50 years and older

According to Immunize Canada (www.immunizecanada.ca) Canadians over 50 tend to be under-immunized for vaccine preventable diseases. SIRC, in cooperation with **IDA Latoria Pharmacy** (formerly Pure Pharmacy), located next to the Red Barn Market, will be offering a series of vaccinations beginning with pneumonia on Thursday, September 15.

Please refer to the schedule below for the vaccinations planned for 2016/2017. For more information, contact the SIRC office, 250-478-5150, stop by the SIRC booth at Metchosin Day or visit the SIRC website, www.metchosin seniors.ca.

Pneumonia	Thursday, September 15, 2016	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm or By Appointment	SIRC Office	No Charge
Shingles	Thursday, October 20, 2016	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm or By Appointment	SIRC Office	\$183-\$197
Flu	Wednesday, November 2, 2016	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm	Metchosin Fire Hall	No Charge
Flu	Thursday, November 3, 2016	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm	Metchosin Fire Hall	No Charge
Flu	Monday, November 7, 2016	4:30-8:30 pm	Metchosin Fire Hall	No Charge
Tetanus	Thursday, March 16, 2017	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm By Appointment	SIRC Office	No Charge

In addition to this opportunity to have your vaccinations brought up to date, SIRC, again in cooperation with Mohamed Zeit, pharmacist, at IDA Latoria Pharmacy is offering the following:

Medication Review	Thursday, January 19, 2017	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm By Appointment	SIRC Office	No Charge
Nexgen Hearing Test	Thursday, February 16, 2017	10:00 am-12:00 noon and 4:30-8:30 pm By Appointment	SIRC Office	No Charge

Did You Miss Your Muse?

If you don't receive your *Metchosin Muse* on the last Thursday of the month (or the first Thursday of the month if the first day is on a Wednesday or Thursday) – and there's not a postal strike – please let us know! Email the editor at metmuse@shaw.ca, or call him

at 250-474-3966, and we'll try to make sure it doesn't happen again.

In the meantime, see page 2 under "*Metchosin Muse*" for a list of locations where you can pick up a copy.

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Got feedback? You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to metmuse@shaw.ca.

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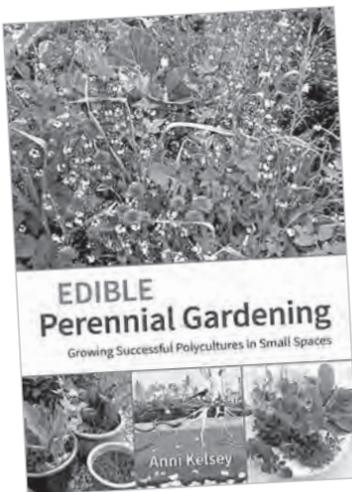
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The Rural Gardener

by Isabel Tipton

I got a new book from the library, purporting to give lists of perennial vegetables enabling eating from the garden 12 months a year. The writer gardens in Norway, so presumably all would be hardy here. What a disappointment – aside from several varieties of kale, rhubarb, asparagus, daylilies, scorzonera and such, it was a list of obscure plants, the shoots of which one can eat. Hops and hostas were the only ones I knew. I have just wasted half an hour searching the library catalogue for the book, but cannot find it. However, this one addresses the same subject:



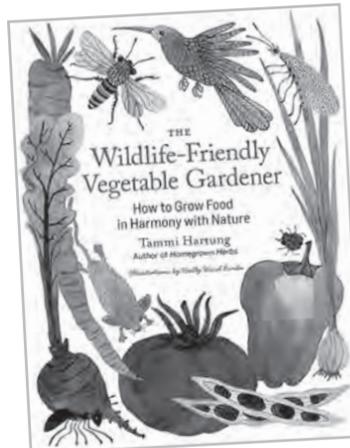
Edible perennial gardening: growing successful polycultures in small spaces

Author: Anni Kelsey
Publication Date: 2014
164 pages, colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781856231497

Abstract: “Do you dream of a low-maintenance perennial garden that is full to the brim of perennial vegetables that you don’t have to keep replanting, but have only a small space? Do you want a garden that doesn’t take much of your time and that needs little attention to control the pests and diseases that eat your crops? Do you want to grow unusual vegetable varieties? You can have all of this with *Edible Perennial Gardening*. Anni Kelsey has meticulously researched the little-known subject of edible perennials and selected her favourite, tasty varieties. She explains how to source and propagate different vegetables, which plants work well together in polycultures, and what you can plant in small, shady, or semi shady beds, as well as in sunny areas.”

While on the hunt I saw the following book, and feel the title is probably an oxymoron, but there might be an idea or

two. My latest deer story is of the doe standing on her hind legs and hopping to get the plum leaves and fruit. She can reach a surprising height!



The wildlife-friendly vegetable gardener: how to grow food in harmony with nature

Author: Tammi Hartung
Publication Date: 2014
143 pages, colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781612120553

Abstract: A medical herbalist and certified organic grower, through gentle, smart methods, shows gardeners how to create a peaceful co-existence between their vegetable garden and the wildlife who consider it part of their habitat.

Contents: Rethinking our relationships with nature – Encouraging friends in the underground – Garden elements that welcome wildlife – Attracting pollinators and beneficial predators – Creating habitats for wildlife – Smart strategies for peaceful coexistence – Blocking access for unwelcome guests – Designing wildlife-friendly food gardens.

While we are on the subject of edibles, I was in a friend’s garden the other day and she just cut off the tops of her scarlet runner beans last fall, and they grew again in the spring. I didn’t know they would do that! Mind you she has a sheltered garden and we had a mild winter, but it might be worth trying.

This summer I am in danger of losing plants due to lack of water. I have a well and a pump, so am always careful with watering. Even a holly is looking frail, and the signature tree in the main flower bed may be on borrowed time; it is a *Cercidophyllum*, planted 20 years ago to replace a laburnum which twisted and broke in the wind. I was working nearby and watched it twist at least a full 360 degrees, and then

as it untwisted it split to the ground! Island Specialty nursery recommended the *Cercidophyllum* as being smallish and wind tolerant. Well, it is wind tolerant but requires much more water than I can spare. It has always been the first to lose its leaves, but the first week in August is a bit much. It did fine until the current drought spell; climate warning has hit my garden. I have been having great fun wondering about a replacement for full sun, poorish soil and drought tolerance. So far the *Sorbus pseudohupehensis* “Pink Pagoda” with pink berries is leading the list. I can only find it on UK sites, but will start looking in the fall. I also don’t know if it is deer candy; the two regular orange-berried ones that have planted themselves here are bare trunked to above browsing height. It is pricey in England, so will be here too, and had better be deer proof!

The other matter that is influencing my garden plans is that we will be hosting a wedding in June next year, which is exciting, and a bit frightening. I am making plans, such as over-seeding the field we mow and laughingly call the south lawn when the rains start, and getting some help come spring when my son is at his busiest and the plants are growing like crazy. I keep reminding people where the septic field is, and will probably surround it with surveyor’s tape the week preceding the function, when trucks may be trying to place tables, tents, and such, as right over the septic field is the easiest access. Over my dead body! The wedding colours are silver and deep purple, and if anyone has ideas about what is purple and in bloom in late June, give me a call! Lavender and petunias are about my list so far. They will be great in containers, so my big pots will be purple and silver next year. That should be relatively easy.

Finally, the bears, which were unheard of years ago, seem to have found Metchosin, even our most developed areas, so pick your fruit, or find someone who will, as windfall fruit is essentially bear bait.

Remember that an hour spent cleaning up in the fall will save several hours next spring. Look at the produce at Metchosin Day and consider planting something new to you. See you in November.

Found on Facebook

Only in Metchosin ...

“There is a chance I’ve become ‘that neighbour.’ If you find three sheep, it is confirmation that I have. Please pm me if you see these naughty animals.”

Summer Invasion: Albert Head Cadet Training Centre

CAPTAIN ANGELA SARGENT

Every summer there is an invasion at the Canadian Armed Forces Base of Albert Head. It is an invasion of laughter, experiences, fun, and opportunity, an invasion of almost 1,000 cadets and officers from across British Columbia and the Prairies who come to attend the Albert Head Cadet Training Centre (CTC) in Metchosin. During the cadet training year which runs from September to June, cadets earn places on the variety of courses offered at Albert Head CTC. Each course has entry requirements which the cadets achieve during regular training at their squadrons or corps. This year the courses offered included General Training, Fitness and Sports Instructor, Basic Survival, Basic Aviation Technology and Aerospace, Military Band Instructor and Military Band Advanced Musician.

General Training is a two-week course which offers first-year cadets a taste of everything. They learn leadership skills, how to make a good bed, and execute good drill. They learn survival skills and practice them during two nights in the wild. They visit 443 Squadron at Victoria Airport and go flying with Victoria Flying Club. They tour the Legislature and downtown Victoria as well as Witty's Lagoon and Gyro Park. Some cadets have never seen the ocean before and love the smells and sounds that waft over Albert Head.

Second-year cadets become a little more specialized and attend three-week courses such as Basic Survival and Basic Aviation Technology and Aerospace (BATAc). Survival cadets learn how to survive

in the wilderness, building rainproof shelters and collecting food and water. They learn that the pitfalls of being alone and cut off from others extend far beyond having no watch and cell phone. After four days with one buddy towards the end of their course, they have a confidence in their skills that is enviable and they all walk a little taller. They may be muddy and smelly, but they have stepped out of their comfort zone and succeeded, and their pride is reflected in the width of their smile.

Cadets on the BATAc course find themselves building an aeroplane wing, stargazing and tearing apart an engine. They tour the maintenance department of CFB Esquimalt, hike up Mount Finlayson and visit the Coast Guard.

The cadets on the intermediate and advanced military band courses work with their instruments all day and then, for fun, hang out in the evenings with their friends playing their instruments! They put on a Concert in Beacon Hill Park on August 1, and played the anthems for the Harbour Cats on August 7. They have played in Cowichan Days Parade and at all the parades at Albert Head. We hope the neighbours enjoyed the music.

Another group of cadets take the Power Pilot course and carry out their training at Vancouver Airport. At the end of the course these cadets hope to have earned their pilot licence. Some of them will do so before getting a driver's licence. This is a scholarship course and cadets go through an intensive selection procedure before being awarded the training by the Air Cadet



Cadet Lovelady demonstrates a charcoal water filter made from a wool sock.

Capt Angela Sargent

League of Canada. This, like all other courses, is free and the cadets are given a small training allowance each week.

Senior cadets are able to work as staff in various positions around the site. They can be associated with a specific course, with management as part of the chain of command, or with training operations ensuring the smooth running of the site.

Many staff cadets are saving for secondary education and are paid a generous training allowance, making the positions here highly sought after. Adult officers are employed for the summer from around the province, many of whom work in local corps or squadrons during the year and who have a variety

of expertise utilized by the Training Centre.

The skills learned by both course cadets and staff cadets are transferable to many areas of life and in some cases are unique to the cadet program.

If you were to ask any cadet or officer on the site what they believe to be the best part of a summer at Albert Head CTC, they might

say how rewarding it is to watch the cadets exceed their potential; they might say they have unique experiences. But they would probably say the friendships they made and renew each year, or maybe the unbelievable fun everyone has every single day in one of the most beautiful places on earth!

Associated Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/AHACSTC/>
<http://www.cadets.ca>



The best way to learn about the ecosystem is outdoors. Cadets Xiao, Mancusa, and Fisher at Witty's Lagoon near Albert Head. Capt Angela Sargent

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



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METCHOSIN DAY 2016



Best in Show, 2014 Pet Contest: Bianca the Call Duck with owner Julia Lozupone.

Metchosin Day – one of the iconic days of the year in our community. Like Fall Fairs in communities around the world, we all come out to be ourselves by sharing food, entertainment, or arts and crafts, and to show off our talents, whether it's growing produce, baking cakes or pies, making memorable photographs, or singing and dancing.

After a memorable run as the organizer of Metchosin Day, Mary Gidney passed the torch to Dawn Boschkoff after last year's Metchosin Day, and it appears Dawn has risen to the challenge. You'll find important information

about Metchosin Day here and in the insert included with this issue of the *Muse*, and on the Metchosin Day website at www.metchosinday.ca.

Access to the site has changed this year, to free up additional space, and to reduce traffic congestion. The entrance to the Knights of Columbus field is now off Rocky Point Road, with the Fire Hall area an elderly and handicapped drop-off area.

See you at the fair!



Tasty and beautiful pies from the Metchosin Day 2014 competition.

Metchosin Day Baking Competition and Sale

FRANCES KRUSEKOPF

It is time to get creative and display your talents at the Metchosin Day Baking Competition on Sunday, September 11. Entries should be dropped off at the Metchosin Council Chambers between 9:30 and 11:30 am on Sunday morning. Late entries will not be accepted. Judging will take place from noon to 1:00 pm and viewing will occur from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Competition entries, with the exception of junior and youth entries, will be sold throughout the afternoon as a fundraiser for the Metchosin Community Association. Please take note of the following list of categories, which includes a new bread category, and instructions:

Cake categories:

- Chocolate
- General (e.g., butter, egg or nut cakes)
- Junior (ages 6–11)
- Youth (ages 12–16)

Pie categories:

- Apple
- Berry
- General (e.g., fruit or nut pies)
- Junior (ages 6–11)
- Youth (ages 12–16)

NEW! Bread categories:

- General
- Junior (ages 6–11)
- Youth (ages 12–16)

Be creative and consider naming your entry. All crusts, dough, and fillings should be made from scratch. Decorations should be edible.

Disposable platters or pie plates are preferred. If you do use your own baking dish, please place your name and phone number on the bottom.

The "Best of Show" cake, pie, and bread will be raffled off. There will be \$2 raffle tickets for sale at the contest area all day.

Adult entries will be sold to the public throughout the afternoon, and can be picked up at 3:00 pm, so keep an eye on which entry you may wish to take home! Cakes for \$20, pies for \$15, and bread for \$10.

Please see the Metchosin Day website, www.metchosinday.ca, for more information. Good luck and happy baking!

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Produce and Vegetable Competition

JENNIFER BURGIS

Join the "grow local" revolution and take part in the Metchosin Day Produce Contest. No pre-entry needed. Just drop off entries at Metchosin Council Chamber between 9:00 and 11:30 am. Doors close for judging to take place from noon to 1:00 pm, then come and see your ribbons!

Produce should be entered in the categories specified below. Bring a paper plate on which to display produce and write (on the bottom) your name and contact information, plus any special information about variety, especially heritage variety. Include age if you are a junior entry (under 12). It is so great to find as many juniors as adults entering in all categories. Come and see the amazing display in the afternoon. Produce should be picked up in late afternoon. Heritage varieties are particularly welcome at the festival. Happy Growing! (Any lovely displays

gracefully received! Display Helpers welcome.)

Vegetables

- Peas, shell/snap – six pods
- Pole Beans – three specimens
- Cauliflower – one head
- Broccoli – one head
- Beets – three only
- Carrots – bunch of three tied with tops
- Corn – Sweet, three cobs, one stripped
- Garlic – three bulbs
- Onions – three specimens
- Peppers, Hot – named, three specimens
- Radishes – three specimens
- Tomatoes – stems on, named, three only
- Tomatoes, Cherry – any colour, three only
- Squash – named variety, one specimen
- Giant Pumpkin/Squash – named, one only
- Longest Bean – one specimen
- Longest Carrot – one specimen
- Longest Zucchini – one specimen

- Largest Sunflower head – one-foot stem
- Largest Potato – one only
- Weirdest looking vegetable – one only

Fruit

- Apples – named variety, three only
- Pears – named variety, three only
- Plums and prunes – five only
- Blackberries – five only
- Melon – named variety, one only

Cut Flower Arrangement
In a vase

Vegetable Basket Assortment
Representing a farm or garden

Preserves/Jams and Jellies
Note: These will be judged on appearance only.

For any questions, please contact Jennifer at 250-881-8280. (Please let her know if you would like to help receive and arrange produce and/or give growing advice!)

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Photography Contest

ART BRENDON

Here is a chance to show off your amateur photo skills. Enter your photography before 4:00 pm on Friday, September 9. Judging takes place on Saturday and all submissions are hung in the Metchosin Community House for Metchosin Day on Sunday, September 11.

IMPORTANT ENTRY DEADLINE:

Submissions accepted **no later than Friday, September 9.** Bring photos to:

- the Metchosin Community House (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm);
- the Municipal Offices during office hours, deadline 4:00 pm on Friday, September 9;
- Glow Gallery, studio space located in the MACCA building, 4495 Happy Valley Road

Categories:

- Scenery (Local/Vancouver Island)
- Travel (Abroad)
- Animals
- People
- Abstract
- Montages (theme collections mounted on a page)
- Black and White

Awards:

Ribbons, rosettes, and cash prizes awarded in each category. Special ribbons for young photographers aged 11 to 16, and 10 and under. *No late entries accepted* as the contest is hung and judged on Saturday morning for display to the public on Sunday, September 11, Metchosin Day.

Entries:

Eligibility: photos of Metchosin (by anyone) or photos of anything by Metchosin residents.

Presentation: photos can be any size, but ready to hang – matted and/or framed.

Identification: Please put a label on the back of your entry photo with your name, age (if under 18 and eligible for young persons awards), title of photo, address, and telephone number. Labels are available at the Community House and the Municipal Hall and can be completed when you drop off your entry. Limit of three entries per contestant.

Photos will be on view at the Community House on Metchosin Day, Sunday, September 11 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Photographers can return to collect their entries during office hours the following week at MCH. For more information, call Art at 250-474-3346.



“Gen-Next” Metchosin Day Kick-Off Party

This is an MCA event for Metchosin’s younger generations aged mid 20s to mid 50s. Please join us for local food and brews and live music. This is a 1980s-themed event to celebrate Metchosin’s incorporation in 1984. Friday, September 9 (7:00 pm to midnight) at the Metchosin Community Hall. Tickets available at the Community House.



Andy MacKinnon nimbly gets out of the path of serious runners at the start of the 2015 Metchosin Day 5K. Brian Domney photo

Metchosin Day 5K

ANDY MACKINNON

Metchosin Day 2016 kicks off with the 23rd Annual Metchosin Day 5K run/walk. This fun family event starts at 8:00 am at Metchosin Community Hall, and ends five gently rolling kilometres later at the Metchosin Fairgrounds. The route is the same as last year’s: southwest on William Head to Lombard, up Lombard to the Galloping Goose, north along the Goose across Rocky Point, then Walpole, Morland, Winfall, north on Rocky Point to Happy Valley,

and east on Happy Valley to the finish. And please leave pooches at home – no dogs are allowed in the event.

We are encouraging all participants to register online beforehand to help reduce the line ups and rush of last minute registrants on race morning. Registration forms are also available at Metchosin Country Store or Frontrunners Westshore if you are unable to register online. Registration is \$8 for under 19, \$10 for adults, and \$20 for families (up to four members). Race day registration (7:00–7:45 am) is \$15

(all ages) and \$30 for families. For more information, check out the Metchosin Day website (www.metchosinday.ca) under “Contests.”

There will be awards for rapid runners in various age classes. There will also be draw prizes for all participants, rapid or not, including a draw to win a beautiful new mountain bike.

For more information, contact Andy MacKinnon (email metchosinmacs@gmail.com, phone 250-478-8232).

Yikes Bikes!

GARY AND SYBIL KANGAS

On Sunday, September 11, Yikes Bikes appears for the second year. A Metchosin Day bike extravaganza, Yikes Bikes is an event inviting all ages from small children to seniors to decorate their bikes, come in costume, ride an unusual bike or have an unusual bike accessory. There will be awards in all age categories – Junior Wheelers to age 10; Young Wheelers, aged 11 to 14; Youth Wheelers, aged 15 to 19; Adult Wheelers, aged 20 to 55; Senior Wheelers, 56 and up. There will be awards for decorated bikes, costumed riders, an award for the most unusual bike and best bike accessory. There will be a display of varying bike styles from unicycles to vintage. So, put on your beanie with propeller on top, attach some spinners on the handle bars and pedal your way to Yikes Bikes. The event will run from 11:00 am to



Gary and Sybil Kangas at the 2015 Metchosin Day.

1:30 pm. Early registrations are recommended starting at 11:00 am. There will be a grand parade and ribbon awards at 12:50 pm. All participant registration numbers will be put into a hat for draw prizes. We look forward to your participation at the Metchosin Community Grounds.

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Childhood Memories of Rocky Point – Doris Truscott's Story

BARBARA METHVIN AND JOANNIE CHALLENGER

You may not know her by name, but chances are good that you have seen Doris Truscott in your travels about Metchosin. A keen volunteer, Doris Truscott is involved in many activities, from manning the phones for her volunteer shift at the Community House, to knitting teddy bears to be shipped overseas by the Compassionate Warehouse. When we caught up with Doris she was sorting items for the annual Metchosin Garage Sale. A person with long-standing ties to this community, we were interested to hear Doris' life story, and particularly her memories of Metchosin.

Doris was born in 1929 to Harry and Mary Creasser in Saskatchewan, but by the time she was one year old her family settled in Rocky Point, a small farming community in what is now part of Metchosin, near where Liberty Road and Rocky Point meet now. Her father found work on the Miller ranch, and her family lived there: with no electricity, running water or telephone. "There weren't too many chores," Doris remembers. "I just did what I had to do, like carrying water from the well." For fun she played with her six siblings and friends in the woods. "We never got lost," she said, "we just followed the deer trails."

The family attended St. Mary's Church and bought their necessary supplies from Elwoods' store on Rocky Point Road or at Harold Walker's store at the corner of William Head Road and Happy Valley Road.

Doris started school at Metchosin School, then attended East Sooke School, Rocky Point School and later Victoria High, as Belmont High School did not exist then. She remembers going with her classmates to stand along the Gorge to watch King George and Queen Elizabeth pass by. World War II played a large role in the school life of young Doris. Rocky Point was the largest dry dock in the Pacific, and there was a practice field near her school. She remembers planes practicing for combat by dropping bags of flour on the soldiers below – a bit unnerving for students! One day two planes crashed during practice and the pilots



Doris (back row, second from left) at school.

were killed. It must have been upsetting for the students as they walked past the wreckage on their way home from school.

As she grew up, Doris worked at odd jobs, settling in a job at a bank in Victoria. She boarded in town, with trips home on the weekend. In 1948 she met her husband Lewis at a dance at the Colwood Community Centre, and they married soon afterwards. In 1964, they moved to northern Alberta to farm, first general produce, then grain. Through the following years, they adopted three young children. Tragically, one night their farmhouse caught fire and was lost, along with their children. Doris had a long recovery from the smoke inhalation she suffered, but she and Lewis rebuilt the farmstead. When asked how she managed to cope with the loss of her young family, Doris simply noted, "That's life, and life has to go on. I take one day at a time." In 2003 they sold the farm and returned to Metchosin and her "beloved island."

Metchosin has changed somewhat since Doris' childhood. "There used to be the quarantine station. Now there are more cars, a marina, a penitentiary and the Department of National Defense at Rocky Point," Doris observed. It is still home, though, with family nearby, and for Doris it's a place that's close to her heart.

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

A Festival of Art, Music, and Light on the West Shore

KRISTI HOFFMAN, WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

On September 24, the West Shore Arts Council and Westhills proudly present Light Up the Hills, a family-friendly outdoor festival of music, art, performance, and light!

The event begins at Belmont High School – participants are encouraged to follow a pathway past illuminated artwork, music, and performers, using handmade lanterns to light the way. The lanterns will create a spectacular glowing effect throughout the community!

By registering in one of three lantern-making workshops on September 17, 20, or 21, participants will be allowed access to the main stage area for live musical performances from the Victoria Conservatory of Music. The Lighthouse Academy of Dance will also present choreographed dance performances at Westhills Park.

Celebrate the creativity of local artists, musicians, and performers with your West Shore neighbours!

Visit our website, westhillsbc.com/lightupthehills, for all of the details on how to register and how to become involved!



Kristi Hoffman instructs the lantern-making workshop at Coast Collective. Cindy Moyer photo

METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

Metchosin Search and Rescue – Volunteer Group of the Month

JIM MACPHERSON

The Metchosin Emergency Program plans for the response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters in order to help protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Metchosin.

One part of the program is the Metchosin Search and Rescue (SAR). The Metchosin SAR started in the late 1980s to provide a year-round complement to the search and rescue team at Pearson College. The Pearson College team comprised primarily students but because the college closed over the summer and students dispersed, there was a summer void in search and rescue capability, when the need for search and rescue was at its greatest. Over time, with increased provincial involvement in search and rescue, minimum age requirements and improving standards, the Metchosin SAR gradually replaced the Pearson College search and rescue contingent.

Standards for volunteers in SAR are set by Emergency Management BC (EMBC). Volunteers must be 18 years old to qualify for certification. New SAR members must take mandatory introductory courses from the Justice Institute including basic training in first aid, radio communications, and search techniques. With more experience, members take on more advanced training in such areas as team organization, search management, swift water awareness

and critical incident stress management.

Originally the Metchosin SAR comprised about ten volunteer members; today there are 38. Each volunteer provides their own boots, rain gear and personal clothing with MSAR providing jackets. As well many volunteers use their own compasses and GPS units, although MSAR has its own supply. A recent injection of money from the provincial government to the BC Search and Rescue Association (BC-SARA) has allowed MSAR to obtain more personal protection equipment (jackets and helmets) and provide more training for its members.

Metchosin SAR volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. EMBC takes the lead role in calling out SAR, working through Metchosin's Emergency Program Coordinator, who will in turn call Metchosin SAR.

At each call out, there is an incident commander, usually a member of the police. MSAR's area of responsibility extends from East Sooke to Oak Bay to Goldstream and the Malahat, and includes the Gowland Tod and Durrance Lake area on the Saanich Peninsula. The group averages about 15 call-outs a year. Recent call-outs included a search for lost hikers on Prospectors' Trail in Goldstream Park, and mutual aid to the Cowichan SAR group to search for a 62-year-old man with a mental age of six. Both searches ended successfully. When a SAR group finds itself overextended or exhausted, or



A few of the MSAR volunteers on the top of Mount Finlayson on a training exercise. Brian Domney photo

in need of more boots on the ground, it can request mutual aid from other groups in the province.

The SAR also provides services to the District of Metchosin and is a part of Metchosin's Emergency Program. SAR members are available to help out with evacuation services, traffic control, and other activities requested by Metchosin's Emergency Program Coordinator. Support from the District of Metchosin and the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department have helped make the Metchosin SAR the success that it is.

Some volunteers in the Metchosin SAR do not reside in Metchosin but because the SAR team also provides local services, the Metchosin SAR wants to keep a healthy contingent of Metchosin residents.

Not all volunteers can respond to every call. Some volunteers may be away; others may not be able to take time away from work; still others may be sick. So the Metchosin SAR is always looking for new volunteers.

The Metchosin SAR always has a booth at Metchosin Days. So, if you like the

outdoors, like to help out, get a keen sense of satisfaction from a successful operation, and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded volunteers you might want to drop by the SAR booth and have a chat about volunteering.

For further information on the Metchosin Search and Rescue, see the Metchosin Emergency Program website at metchosinemergencyprogram.ca/who-we-are, or visit us at Metchosin Day at the Emergency Operations Centre beside the Fire Hall.

Happy Birthday Singers

SHEILA MOULT

The event – a birthday party. The surprise – a chorus of “Happy Birthday” sung by the Metchosin Free Range Singers. The reason – the community choir donated this service to the Community House fundraising auction in spring, and the big day had arrived!

Coincidentally, this summer marks the first birthday of Metchosin's harmony choir. Our group has been singing together in four-part harmony since last September, and has contributed to the literary festival opening at Glow Arts Gallery in April and SIRC's Parisian Café in June.

Community choirs are founded on the belief that we can all sing, and that singing with others is easy and fun. Everyone is welcome to join the Free Range Singers. There are no auditions, you don't have to read music, no prior choir experience is necessary



The Free Range Singers deliver and support the Community Association at the same time. Vreni Kuret

– and performing is totally optional.

Choir members enjoy the teamwork and learning that go along with making music together. As one choir member put it, “I so value our little choir. Voices singing in harmony enhance my feeling of wellbeing. I want you all to

know how much I love singing with you.”

Please join us in September! For more information, look for us at Metchosin Day, check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MetchosinFreeRangeSingers), call Diana at 778-432-4386, or email us at metchosinfree-rangesingers@gmail.com.



John Horgan, MLA
Juan de Fuca

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www.johnhorganmla.ca

Please contact my office if you need help with any provincial government issue.

Best of the Muse

Volume 2 is available now at the
Metchosin Country Store.

The Mighty Garage Sale Blues

JOHNNY CARLINE

In the May *Muse* the MCA asked you to donate, volunteer, and buy at the Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale. And despite the rain, you did, in mighty numbers. We are very grateful for that. Yes, we needed the revenue, but even more we needed your support and you came through for us again and helped make the whole event fun.

I received some kind feedback on my *Sound of Music* parody ("Some of My Favourite Things") that the *Muse* published as a pre-Garage Sale promo. So, to bookend the event and offer a contrast to the sweetness of Julie Andrews, here is a more savoury Johnny Cash/Tennessee Ernie Ford style post-Garage Sale memoir. Its all tongue-in-cheek, of course, and volunteering really is fun. Though as I recall, my tongue and my cheek were probably the only two parts of me that didn't hurt! And for punctuation purists, the commas are "phrase break guides" for those singers who can't resist testing how this fits the original.



Don't let Johnny fool you. Sometimes, volunteering at the Garage Sale can be a picnic, at least on the days leading up to the big event! Joan Kew photo

Mighty Garage Sale Blues

(to the tune of "Sixteen Tons")

Some people say that its great, to be a volunteer
That the Mighty Garage Sale, just has no peer
Working with neat people, all through the day
Raising needed money, for our own MCA

I went the first morning, arrived about nine
Receiving donations, that job was mine
Unloading furniture, from the back of a truck
Kept getting the heavy end, just my luck

Chorus:

You unload sixteen tons, and what do you get
Deals for Metchosin folk, MCA has no debt
You've trapped your fingers, and your feet are a bit sore
But President Bob's reassuring, "only nine days more"

By Friday Ken is organized, Larry's still telling jokes
Jen's table of kitchenware, looks like a sale at Stokes
But my furniture showroom, is lacking in glitz
Its more like a junk yard, that was hit by the blitz

The sale starts tomorrow, better make it look good
Rearranging heaps of furniture, it takes sweat and blood
Then it rains in the evening, gotta haul out the tarps
And my language ain't fit, for those with halos and harps

Chorus:

You move sixteen tons, and what do you get
Deals for Metchosin folk, MCA has no debt
But I'm buried under bookcases, chairs and a bed
My arms are on fire, and one leg has gone dead

Saturday is sales day, and I'll do what I can
To help load your treasures, in your car or your van
"Need help with that table miss? Your car's round the bend?"
Well it was at least in Metchosin, and my body will mend

Sunday is the last day, it's all got to go
A sweet senior sensed, that my defences were low
"Deliver and assemble it, for an extra five bucks?"
Half way up her stairs, I knew this deal really sucks

Chorus:

You load sixteen tons, and what do you get
Deals for Metchosin folk, MCA's not in debt
But golf buddies don't you call me, 'cause I can't come
My back is a-a-a-achin', from my neck to my bum

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Nicholas Fairbank - Choral Director



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info@sookephil.ca

Creative Rug Hooking – Beginner Class at the MCH

Creating Rug Hooking
Thursday, September 8
10:00 am–1:30 pm
Metchosin Community House
Cost: \$75

Building on the success of a drop-in program for rug hooking that was started at the Metchosin Community House

in 2013, a beginner class will be offered at the House on September 8.

The class is from 10:00 am–1:30 pm and students are encouraged to bring their lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. The cost of the class is \$75 and includes instruction, a design on burlap with a frame, and fabric to complete the design. A rug hook is also required and can be

purchased in the class or at Blue Heron Rug Hooking (www.blueheronstudio.ca). The class will be taught by Sheila Stewart, a McGown-certified instructor of traditional rug hooking. Pre-registration is required by calling 250-595-6504 or by email: sheila@blueheronstudio.ca. The class will be limited to 15 students.

Rug hooking is both an art and a craft that can be enjoyed

by both men and women of any age. It can be used to make not only rugs and mats but also colourful wall hangings, pillows, purses and bags, as well as table runners. In its more developed form, it is like painting with fabric. Many different fibres can be used for rug hooking including new dyed wool, recycled wool, cotton T-shirts, and yarn. This class will show how recycled

fabric can be mixed with new fabric to give a dynamic effect.

There has recently been a revival of interest in rug hooking and there are now over 300 “hookers” on Vancouver Island with several groups within Victoria itself. Students from this class are welcome to join the Metchosin Rug Hookers group (see below for information).



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155
Email: mcahouse@telus.net Web: 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. The program will restart September 19. 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 250-478-5155 or the coordinator, Nancy Evans at 250-642-4613.

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.

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. Due to Labour Day, the first meeting of the evening group will be on Monday, September 19. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email laura.farquharson@shaw.ca.

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Choir – The Rough Voice Choir meets at the Community House on the second and fourth Monday each month from 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at this fun, drop-in sing-along group where a “good singing voice” is not a requirement. \$2/person. Contact Barb Sawatsky (250-478-0553). Will return in September 12.

Tuesdays

Drop In Painters Art Group. This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30 am–12 noon at the MCH. Everyone is welcome. Returns September 6.

Knitting Café. On the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, the Knitting Café has afternoon sessions from 1:00 pm–3:00 pm. Will return September 13. See the Monday listing for contact information.

Wednesdays

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

Garden Club Meetings – 7:30–9:00 pm – Metchosin Garden Club. Our enthusiastic and informative club features a guest speaker on relevant garden topics on the first Wednesday of every month (except June, July, August, December, January) at 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.

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 blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs. Returns September 1.

Community Potluck Lunch – Last Thursday of each month, 12–1:30 pm. All welcome.

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program – 9:30–11:30 am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their

young children to join us Friday mornings for our community Parent and Tot program. Children will enjoy our new toys, books and craft opportunities. Parents will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment, parent resource library and opportunities to connect with other parents and kids. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones.

Pearson Student Teatime Drop-In – 2:45–4:30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Will return September 9.

Ukulele Gathering – 5:00–6:30pm, third Friday of each month. The group restarts September 16. 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: *Jumpin' Jim's Daily Ukulele* (as a base resource to work from) if you have it.

Events

“Gen-Next” Metchosin Day Kick-Off Party – An MCA event for Metchosin’s younger generations aged mid-20s to mid-50s. Please join us for local food and brews and live music. This is a 1980s-themed event to celebrate Metchosin’s incorporation in 1984. Friday, September 9 (7:00 pm to midnight) at the Metchosin Community Hall. Tickets available at the Community House.

MCA at Metchosin Day – Sunday, September 11. Watch for notices announcing the friendly competitions sponsored by the MCA: Pie Baking Contest/Cake Baking Contest/Photo Contest (coordinated by the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association; contact: Art Brendon).

Come visit the Metchosin Community House-sponsored Corn Booth for a steaming and delicious cob of Island fresh corn. When you are ready for rest and refreshment in a quiet setting, visit the Community House Tea Room and Cobbler Café from 11:00–4:00 pm for coffee/tea and cobbler; enjoy the relaxing sound of harp entertainment inside.

Each year the Metchosin Community Association is integrally involved in Metchosin Day. We are looking for an hour or two from volunteers who may be willing to assist in coordinating or to helping man some of these activities:

- Set up and/or take down
- Strawberry Tearoom
- Photo Contest
- Pie & Cake Baking Contest
- Bake Sale (contest entries)
- Corn Booth
- Rest Area canopy

It is always great fun being involved in helping to make this community event the special day we’ve come to enjoy. Check out the Metchosin Day website at metchosinday.ca or contact the Metchosin Community House Office 478-5155. “See you at the Fair!”

Guest Speaker – 7:00–9:00 pm, Thursday, September 15.

Film Night – September 30, 7:00–9:00 pm; film TBA.

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 – September. Doug Gilbert, in collaboration with the Metchosin School Museum Society, has compiled and organized a show of 18 historic photographs of Metchosin dating back to the early 1900s. The works will be on display at the Community House for the month. Viewing times are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm.

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

Metchosin Golf Club Member Gord Boland Scores a Hole-in-One!



Gord Boland (left) receiving his Hole-in-One trophy, awarded by the Metchosin Golf and Country Club to hole-in-one golfers. June Reimer photo

JUNE REIMER

Congratulations to Gord Boland on his hole-in-one at Metchosin Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, July 27. Gord joined the club over 15 years ago when he took up golf after he retired. He is a regular on the course and golfs with a great group of friends. When Gord got his hole-in-one on the second hole, the group knew "it was close" but when they approached the green,

no one could find the ball. Gord thought it must have run to the bottom of the green but someone suggested they look in the hole. Gord is a pretty serious guy but apparently he had a very large grin when they discovered his ball IN THE HOLE! The Metchosin Golf and Country Club awards all its hole-in-one golfers a keepsake trophy and Gord's will be treasured for sure.

Manestream Vaulters Return

KIM SCOTT



Manestream Vaulters will not only be giving their annual demonstration at Metchosin Day this year, but are also giving the community a chance to join in! For \$5, Manestream is inviting the public to come out, meet our horses and try out the sport of equestrian vaulting, which is dance and gymnastics on the back of a moving horse. Drop in times are 11:00 am to 12:00 noon, and 2:30 to 3:30 pm.

To learn more about Manestream Vaulters, please visit our website: www.manestreamvaulters.com

Meredith Glidden and Rachel Brears on Victor. Dylan Cameron photo

Where Was It?

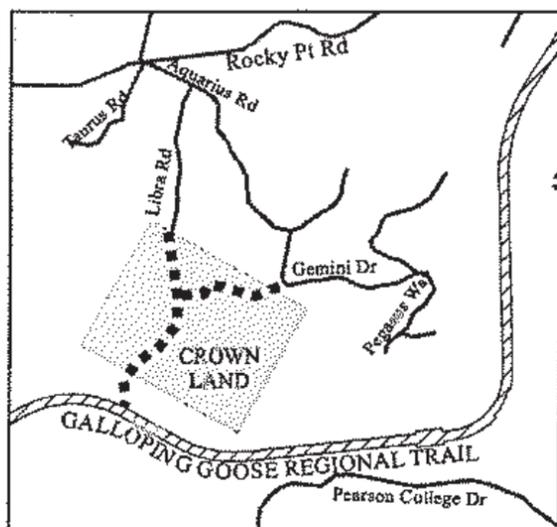
Nobody was able to identify the location of the tree that had grown around a hose, which was featured in last issue's "Where Is It?" The tree can be seen at the West-Mont School parking lot. Thank you to Wendy Mitchell for sending in the photo.

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

Take a Hike!

This trail map is from the Metchosin Parks and Trails brochure on the District of Metchosin website. To find more trails, please visit: <http://district.metchosin.bc.ca/content/parks-and-trails>

Libra & Gemini Trails



Trails through 48 acres of Crown Land (10 year licence). Users must stay on trails. Suitable for all uses year round. Libra Trail extends from the Galloping Goose at Matheson Lake Park to Libra Road.

SWIM IN OUR POOL!

Stinking Fish

2016 FALL SHOW

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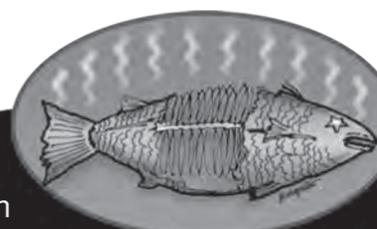
is open to Metchosin or East Sooke artists to apply for jurying! Please use application form online. Go to "Contact" on our website.

Jury date - Sept 15th (Sorry no late comers)

SHOW date is November 19 & 20, 2016
Saturday & Sunday from 10 am - 5 pm

Cost for Full booth 10 x 10 = \$100.
Half booth 5 x 10 = \$50.

For more information, call Tour Co-ordinator
Elaine Morton - 250-478-4358



stinkingfishstudiotour.com

Stellar Steppers

SHELLY DONALDSON

There's a new company in town, an equestrian drill team called the "Stellar Steppers" led by local coach, Stella French. We are a small group of dedicated, enthusiastic riders that meet weekly to develop our skills riding in unison performing choreographed maneuvers that are set to music.

Drill teams can range in size from four horses (quad team) to upwards of 20 or more. Teams perform a rhythmic ride creating space, uniformity, and visually attractive patterns with a complimentary selection of music.

Both horse and rider are uniformed in appearance including clothing, tack or specialized costume based on theme or breed origin. Drill teams generally perform at parades, fairs, benefits, and competitions.

The Stellar Steppers will be debuting at the Saanich Fall Fair and Metchosin Day!

Watch for us in our new colours performing at 12:00 noon and again at 2:00 pm in the Metchosin Riding Ring. We will be seeking new members after Metchosin Day. If you are interested, please come and speak with us or contact Shelly at eweview@telus.net.



Past drill team members.

Don Dewar photo

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

Road signs, not decorations!

SHELLY DONALDSON

Remember on the front page of the April issue of the *Muse* there was a picture of a series of yield signs for drivers to be aware of the multitude of species sharing our corridors? It was an April Fool's joke, but in reality, the signs in our community are not erected as a joke – they are there for your consideration.

Recently there have been directive signs popping up to indicate to cyclists where to access riding throughout our community, signs for electric car hook ups, signs advertising resorts, artisans, and businesses. Some people feel there are already too many signs for a rural community. Maybe they are right, so what are acceptable signs for a rural community?

Signs provide information for you to travel safely, to be aware of what is around the next bend in the road, how far to a destination, school zones, and various attractions or locations. We want all our residents and visitors to be safe and knowledgeable of others in our community. This includes all vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and horses. Speed zones are in place to help drivers manage their rate of passage at different points on the roadway. Not everyone follows those posted speed limits, but they are not to be ignored completely. Another example of useful information that signs provide are deer crossing signs that indicate higher than usual crossings in specific areas of Metchosin. This is very good information as a

collision with such an animal can cause great damage or death.

Another animal on our streets that is even bigger than a deer – and can therefore cause more damage – is the horse! We do not yet have horse traffic signs! In order for equestrians to travel safely to the many trails in our community, they must cross roadways or travel along them. Most of the crossings are connected to the Galloping Goose Trail, areas of high vehicular traffic. Other key areas are roads that have many curves and possibly blind spots. A speeding motorcycle or work truck can be frightening to a horse. Horses are flight animals – they run first, look later. To them, vehicles may be a predator: they are loud, big, and unpredictable. Riders do their best to manage their horses while traversing the roads and crossings they have to share with vehicular traffic, but horses have minds of their own and can be unpredictable.

Our rural Metchosin is enjoyed by many different people and user groups and our very diversity should be respected and protected. Let's all do our part to consider others as we travel our shared roads.

Drivers, please be mindful; you are not the only people using our roadways!



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The Muse Traveller

Johnny Carline recently visited Milan and while there found himself in the main square, dominated by the statue of Victor Emmanuel III. Johnny thought: "He was the man who brought all the quarrelling, parochial city states and principalities together and persuaded them that cooperation was better and thus created the wonderful state of Italy. I wonder what he would have done with the CRD? I'll read the *Muse* to him, to bring him up to date."

And here is Johnny doing just that.

Tell them you saw it
in the *Muse*!

Rough Voice Restarts Monday, September 12

BARB SAWATSKY

Rough Voice starts up again on Monday, September 12 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, next to the Fire Hall. Admission, all of which goes directly to the House, is only \$2 per person, light refreshments and tea included.

This drop-in, sing-along group has been going strong since February 2013 and has grown in popularity each year. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from September to May with the exception of statutory holidays. This is a casual, friendly group that welcomes everyone who enjoys singing with others just for fun. As such, there are no auditions and no sign-up is required because we are not a performance choir.

Singers are accompanied by The Barn Cats (a three-piece band), piano, accordion, ukuleles and harmonica. Songs that are chosen by the musicians are popular and familiar and, using a computer, the lyrics are displayed on a TV monitor. All this for only \$2, folks!

If you play an instrument and would like to accompany our very non-judgmental group, please phone Barb at 250-478-0553.

Rough Voice organizers would like to acknowledge and thank MACCA for generously approving a grant to purchase a laptop computer, which was needed to continue. Their support is so appreciated!

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feast of fields

The Island Edition



Friendly staff from The Whole Beast provided delicious fare, made with local lamb, for hungry feast-goers at the Feast of Fields event on August 28 in Metchosin. Joan Kew photo

Improve Reading and Learning

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www.end-dyslexia.com

250-474-6368 or info@end-dyslexia.com

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture, Celebrating Local Food

Feast of Fields is FarmFolk CityFolk's annual local food celebration and fundraiser, held each year on a different farm in the Okanagan Valley, in Metro Vancouver and on Southern Vancouver Island. Over the past 20 years they have hosted 46 feasts with 20 events in Metro Vancouver, 17 on Vancouver Island and six in the Okanagan Valley. This year's Vancouver Island Feast of Fields took place on August 28 in Metchosin at Glengarry Farm adjacent to Taylor Road, and was hosted by Parry Bay Sheep Farm.

Feast of Fields is a four-hour wandering gourmet harvest festival that highlights the connections between farmers and chefs, field and

table, and between farm folks and city folks. With a wine glass and linen napkin in hand (or, in this year's case, on head, due to rain), guests strolled across the field, travelling from tent to tent, listening to live music, and tasting gourmet creations from BC top chefs, farmers, fishers, ranchers, food artisans, vintners, brewers, distillers and other beverage producers. Metchosin 4H supplied a pen of friendly sheep to greet passersby, and local marimba band Chikoro Marimba provided some of the live entertainment.

Feast of Fields in part fulfills FarmFolk CityFolk's mission to cultivate a local, sustainable food system by

building a market for local food through celebration. Since its inception, Feast of Fields has only featured local producers, artisans, winemakers, brewers and distillers, and only those chefs that have existing relationships with local farmers and producers. For those businesses, Feast of Fields offers a great way to highlight their commitment to local, sustainable food and to promote their business to customers that truly love and support the local food movement. As well, for the host farm Feast of Fields provides a boost by introducing guests to their products and their farm. For more information, visit www.feastoffields.com.

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Metchosin's Famous Potter – Robin Hopper



Robin relaxes in his gallery, surrounded by work spanning decades.
Brian Domney photo

KARYN WOODLAND

Renowned potter Robin Hopper was born in London and has travelled the world, from Asia to Australia, teaching ceramic art. He could live anywhere. Lucky for us, he chose Metchosin.

Robin and his wife, Judi Dyelle, also an acclaimed potter, have been creating and selling their art from their home studio, 'Chosin Pottery, in the heart of Metchosin, for almost four decades.

Born six months before the start of World War Two, Robin says, "The Battle of Britain took place over my head." While many English children were evacuated to safer areas, Robin remained in London, where his parents owned a small family grocery store.

London is built on clay, and since Robin had no playmates, he amused himself by playing in the mud. "At the age of three I found clay and hot shrapnel. I was fascinated by this stuff long before I knew what Raku was about." By age seven he was making and selling jewellery.

Trusting his "street smarts," his parents gave

him liberty to explore London's museums and zoos on weekends. His curiosity turned into an abiding fascination for art and beauty, in sharp contrast to his early life experience.

"Sometime in my early youth, seeing all the carnage and destruction, I decided to focus my life on making beautiful things."

Robin found his calling; the "up side," you might say, of spending early childhood in a war zone.

Those circumstances shaped his life in other ways. Being a "loner and a light sleeper" (four to five hours a night) fueled a prolific career, which began with painting and printmaking at Croydon College of Art.

He only accidentally later discovered the ceramic department. "Clay had always been there, but I never thought of it as a career."

"I really thought my first job would be as a zookeeper," he says, recounting his favourite character in the London Zoo, Guy the Gorilla. "I was fascinated by the diversity of animal life all around us."

He was also enticed by the world of theatre. "It's pure magic," says Robin. He took up acting, performing in four West End London shows before deciding there was more money and job security backstage.

He spent summers hitchhiking across Europe, "picking up languages on the side," and later became a travel guide.

He enthusiastically recounts the summer he spent living under a Paris bridge with artists and young people from every corner of the globe.

Robin knew Europe "like the back of my hand," but he had a hunger to expand his boundaries, and his insatiable curiosity took him to Expo 1967 in Montreal. He immigrated the following year, and spent the first decade of his life in Canada in Ontario.

When he visited Metchosin in the mid '70s, he exclaimed, "Jesus! I've come to paradise!" He and his first wife, Sue, bought the house on Metchosin Road in 1977.

Metchosin reminded him of a small village in the South of England, where he had his first pottery studio. "Kintbury was a busy little town, with lots of sheep and a thriving wool industry. And lots of eccentric characters, just like Metchosin," he adds.

After Robin and Sue parted ways, Robin and Judi established 'Chosin Pottery in 1984.

They arrived in British Columbia in the midst of a recession. "People were miserable," Robin recalls. "Nobody was doing any work." He thought a pottery show could enliven the ceramic scene, so he and Judi got together about 20 of the top clay people in the area and said, "What do you think?"

Fired Up was born. "If you don't take risks when you're in the art business, you're dead," says Robin.

That same year they also started the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA) on the campus of Pearson College. "I'm an ideas guy, but Judi is a terrific administrator," says Robin, acknowledging the critical role of his wife.

To Robin, creating an ideal learning environment is key. "People learn better when they are laughing and having fun," he says, adding, "We had lots of dinners and parties."

At the end, a group of MISSA students approached him with a handful of money. "Keep doing what you're doing," they said. Both events continue to draw art lovers from near and far 32 years later.

"Artists support community," says Robin. "They give back." Robin has spent a lifetime lobbying on behalf of artists, "because we get short-changed all the time," he says, noting funding for the arts in British Columbia is the second lowest of any Canadian province.

After pottery, gardens are Robin's second passion. Nature is his muse. "I get a lot of my ideas in the garden." He began developing gardens in England, but was thwarted by the "wet and muggy climate." In Ontario, he appreciated the fantastic fall colour of sugarbush country, which he has tried to replicate with myriad maples in his Metchosin garden.

He has long had a fascination for plants and forms and space, and loves to spend time sketching in his "Anglo-japanadian" garden. When he's short on ideas he thumbs

through his sketchbook, and transforms one of his drawings to ceramic art.

Failing health doesn't allow him much garden time these days. When he began experiencing health challenges, he decided to undertake a parting gift, "for my children and grandchildren to remember the old fart," and has created a DVD of his life and work, which he calls *Swan Song*.

Like Robin himself, the DVD is entertaining, informative and educational. His love of the theatrical is evident in the opening, with Robin's Mick Jagger "impersonation."

The mood turns reflective as Robin takes the viewer through a tour of his garden, discussing the various styles of Japanese gardens. The section on ceramic techniques is likewise fascinating.

A renowned potter, respected author, and consummate storyteller, Robin Hopper is a man of many hues; creative, original, and, like the characters of Kintbury, eccentric. He dove into a 10,000-year-old medium, clay, in which you'd think there could be nothing new, and he has made something new. His favourite saying – "Try it and see!"

Like his sought-after ceramic art, Robin Hopper is one of a kind. "My life has always been a process of layering," beginning in dire circumstances which might cripple others, and ending amid the surreal beauty of nature and his own original creations.

"I've had an absolutely amazing life," he says. "It's been a ball."

SWAN SONG, Robin Hopper's DVD of his life and work, is available at 'Chosin Pottery. Proceeds will be divided between funding for early children's art education in BC and treatment for pediatric cancer in the US.

Robin Hopper's Anglo-japanadian garden is open to the public, by donation.

Left: A work of love that began over 35 years ago, Robin stands in his garden on his Metchosin Road property.

Brian Domney photo

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



RCMP Call-Outs JULY 2016

CONSTABLE ALEX BÉRUBÉ, WEST SHORE RCMP | GRC DE WEST SHORE

The *Muse* team wishes to thank Constable Alex Bérubé of the West Shore RCMP Detachment for taking over responsibility for submitting the RCMP Call-Outs.

- Jul 1 **Sooke Road** – complaint of a single vehicle collision, driver and passenger both arrested as they were bound by a no-contact order between each other.
- Jul 2 **Kangaroo Road** – Complaint of a vehicle racing, vehicle not located.
- Jul 3 **Happy Valley Road** - Assist Sooke RCMP with possible impaired driver. Vehicle located and driver found impaired.
- Jul 4 **William Head Road** – Abandoned 9-1-1 call. Confirmed pocket dialed, no emergency.
- Jul 5 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of stranger putting his hand on two young girls. Suspect located but no charge laid due to insufficient evidence.
- Jul 6 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of shots heard near Witty's Lagoon. Patrols were negative.
- Jul 7 **William Head Road** - Complaint of single vehicle collision into a power pole. Vehicle towed from scene, no injuries.
- Jul 8 **Bradene Road** – Complaint of a theft from vehicle. Door was pried open. Stolen wallet and passport.
- Jul 9 **Pears Road** – Report of a disturbance. Two males fighting. Parties intoxicated. Warned.

- Jul 10 **Metchosin Road** – Report of single vehicle collision. Driver charged for using cellphone and drinking while driving.
- Jul 13 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of trespasser on rental property. Police attended, trespasser had left prior to police attendance.
- Jul 15 **Pedder Bay Marina** – Report of lost boat trailer plate.
- Jul 16 **Elna Road** – Report of 4-5 people with flashlights walking on property. Patrols were negative.
- Jul 19 **Bradene Road** – Complaint of fraud involving stolen or misplaced credit card. Credit card company is investigating.
- Jul 20 **Happy Valley Road** – Complaint of mentally challenged man wandering on the road. Police located the man and transported him back to his residence.
- Jul 21 **Glen Forest Way** – Complaint of suspicious man peering in windows. Patrols made, man not located.
- Jul 24 **Leefield Road** – Complaint of abandoned vehicle. Police located vehicle, owner lived nearby.
- Jul 25 **Matheson Lake Park** – Complaint of stranger verbally abusive towards complainant. Dispute over dog not on leash. Suspect unknown.
- Jul 26 **Rocky Point Road** – Complaint of youth breaking his court condition.

Fire Department Call-Outs JULY 2016

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| Jul 01 Sooke Road – MVI
Beach Fire
Beach Fire
Hibbert Lane
– Medical | Jul 13 Sooke Road – Brush/
Grass – Smoke Smell/
Sighting |
| Jul 02 Beach Fire
Neff Road – SFRes
Derrien Place –
Assistance – Public
Works
Beach Fire | Jul 16 Park Drive – Medical
Bennett Road –
Brush/Grass – Smoke
Smell/Sighting
Beach Fire |
| Jul 04 Lindholm Road
– MVI
Rocky Glen Road
– Alarm Bells
– Residential
Beach Fire
Beach Fire | Jul 17 Barrow Road – Open
Burn – Camp Fire
Beach Fire |
| Jul 05 Sooke River Road
– SFRes
Witty Beach Road –
Assistance – BCAS | Jul 18 Beach Fire
Jul 19 Rocky Point Road
– Medical
Beach Fire |
| Jul 06 Matheson Lake Park
Road – Alarm Bells
– CO
William Head Road
– MVI | Jul 23 Sweet Chestnut Road
– Medical
Sooke Road – Brush/
Grass – Smoke Smell/
Sighting |
| Jul 09 Barrow Road – Open
Burn – General
Metchosin Road
– MVI | Jul 26 Zanita Heights
– Medical
Jul 30 Sooke Road
– Medical
Sooke Road –
Assistance – General
Public |
| Jul 11 Boat – Distress/Fire
Witty Beach Road –
Open Burn – Camp
Fire | Jul 31 Rocky Point Road
– Medical |
| Jul 12 Kangaroo Road
– Medical
Beach Fire | |

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident
SFRes: Structure Fire
Residential
BCAS: BC Ambulance Service
CO: Carbon Monoxide Alarm

NEWS FROM HANS HELGESEN SCHOOL

Back to School!

DEBRA STOUTLEY

One of the things students will be looking forward to this year as they head back to school at Hans Helgesen is our newest piece of playground equipment. Paid for through several years of PAC fundraising, the support of local businesses and a contribution from the Metchosin Council, the new playground piece is a climber. The new playground sits where the monkey bars had been before the storm blew a large tree right through the fence, shed and old playground pieces! It was installed late in the year and so it will still be something of a novelty for students when they arrive back this September. Also, it is a great accompaniment to the natural play spaces and other equipment that our school has for students to enjoy.

Our CUPE workers also upgraded our sand area with



The new climber at Hans Helgesen School. Brian Domney photo

a beautiful wood border and gave us a new modern edging to keep all the processed wood fibre chips in place. The back playground is now something to see and I speak for all the students and staff when I say a big 'thank you' to all the people who contributed to this new piece of equipment for our school.

Our first day back is Tuesday, September 6, for the morning only. Busses will be running and picking students up three hours earlier than their usual time. Please call the school starting August 29 if you have any questions.

Visit the *Muse* website!

Current issue • Back issues • Extras

Advertising rates • Contacts

<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

Got feedback?

You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to metmuse@shaw.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.

HEATED POOL for local business to offer aquatic massage, therapy and ai chi classes. Please call Kara, 250-474-4622.

FOR SALE

ESTATE SALE – YARD AND SHOP TOOLS – SP lawn mower, B&D Jobmate folding bench, airless paint sprayer, routers (2) + Pro.Table + stand + 50 bits, chain saw, plate jointer 2 dowel gauges, Rotzip spirals saw + 30 blades, 4" X 24" shaper, Dovetail router template, 16" scroll saw,

10" compound mitre saw, Halogen tripod work light, 12" thickness planer, 3 coolers. Metchosin area. Ph 250-474-6969.

LESSONS

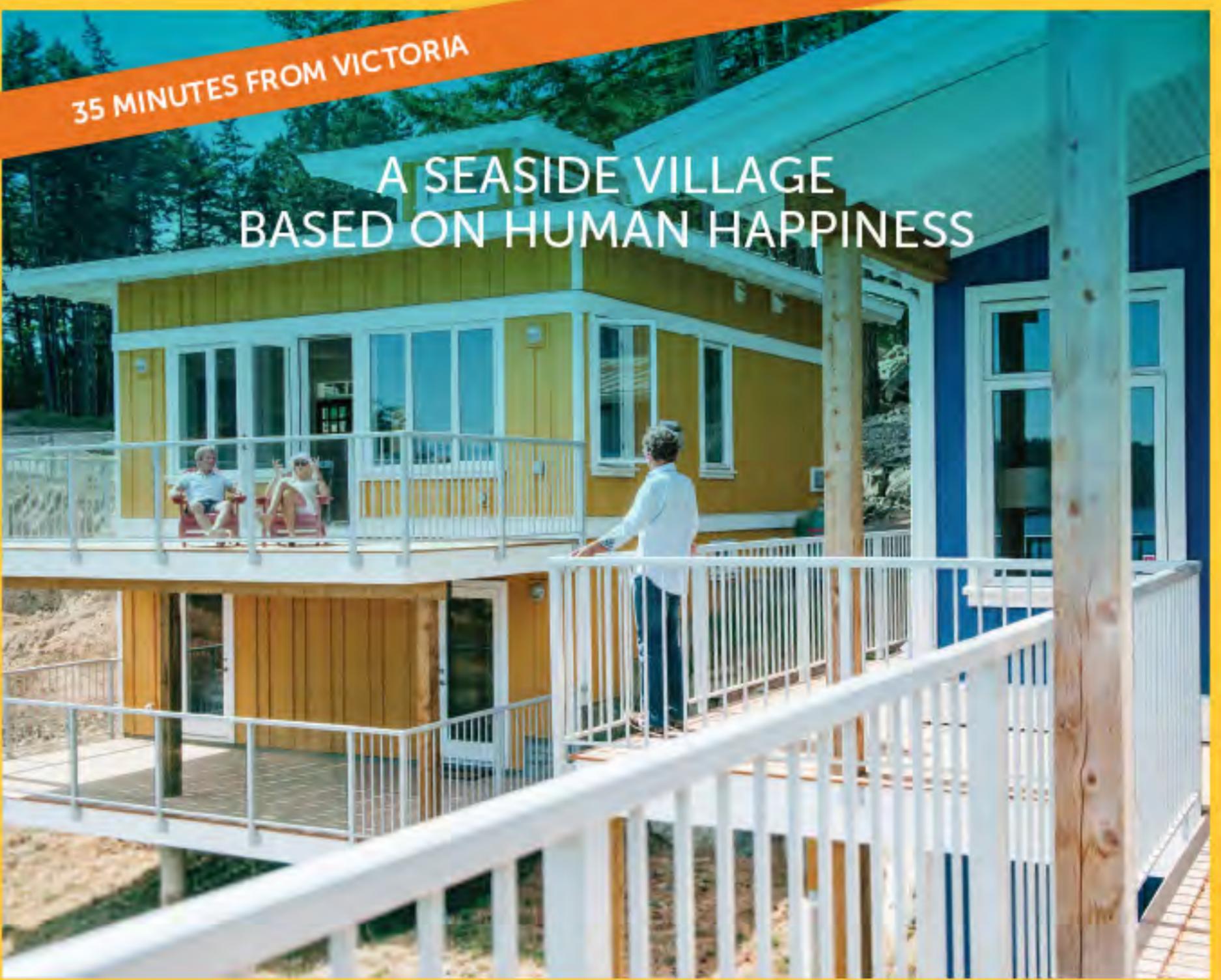
FOODSAFE – LEVELS 1 & 2, MARKETAFF & WHMIS – Classes taught by certified instructors. See website www.hospitalitytrainingplus.com for information or contact Evelyn for on-site group classes. Call 250-474-5596.

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.

35 MINUTES FROM VICTORIA

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or visit us in Metchosin at 4901 East Sooke Road.

spiritbay.ca



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Save the date!
Metchosin Day is September 11.
See page 8 for more information.

Important Dates and Events

- Sept. 5 **Labour Day**
 - Sept. 6 **Back to school!** Don't forget to slow down in school zones.
 - Sept. 7 **SIRC Tea: Goodbye Colleen, Hello Dawn!** . . . p. 5
 - Sept. 8 **Creative Rug Hooking Class** p. 13
 - Sept. 9 **Gen-Next Dance** p. 9
 - Sept. 11 **Metchosin Day** p. 8
 - Sept. 15 **Guest Speaker Series; speaker TBA** p. 13
 - Sept. 16 **Metchosin Bandwagon Music Night** at the Metchosin Golf Course. We welcome back the dance band Matheson. Music 7:00–9:15 pm; kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm. \$5 donation for musicians.
 - Sept. 18 **WestShore Terry Fox Run**, Royal Roads University, Colwood. Registration begins at 9:00 am. The formal run/walk begins at 10:00 am; participants can begin after that time, with the event closing at 2:00 pm. Suitable for runners, walkers, wheelchairs, cyclists. Leashed dogs are welcome.
There will be one kilometre, five kilometre and ten kilometre routes available. Support the legacy of a remarkable Canadian and support the battle to defeat cancer!
 - Sept. 20 **Emergency Program Information Session: Food and Water** p. 3
 - Sept. 23 **Talk and Walk: Islands in the Sky** p. 3
 - Sept. 24 **St. Mary's Blackberry Festival** p. 10
West Shore Arts Council Light up the Hills Festival p. 10
 - Sept. 30 **Film Night; film TBA** p. 13
- CRD Nature Events will be happening throughout the month in Metchosin, East Sooke, Sooke, and Langford. For details, go to crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Clip and save this listing!



The leaders in the 140 kilometre Tour de Victoria howl down Lindholm Road above Parry Bay Sheep Farm.

Brian Domney photo

Directory of Organizations

The following is contact information for not-for-profit organizations. 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 by the 15th of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.

AIR CADETS
www.848royalroadsaircadets.com
www.facebook.com/848aircadets
250-590-3690
848air@cadets.gc.ca

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC
250-382-2052,
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)
250-478-1197, www.aprm.ca

BADMINTON
Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
250-478-2387,
ikmcken@islandnet.com,
www.bilstoncreek.org

'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS
info@chosinchatters.org,
www.chosinchatters.org

CRD PARKS
250-478-3344,
crdparks@crd.bc.ca,
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)
tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca,
250-478-5484

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)
info@metchosinartcentre.ca
www.metchosinartcentre.ca

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE
250-478-5155,
mcahouse@telus.net,
www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

METCHOSIN COUNCIL
250-474-3167,
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca,
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,
www.mesmetchosin.org

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION
metchosinfoundation@gmail.com,
http://metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN 4-H
250-478-4677
Metchosin4H@gmail.com,
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,
www.metchosinpreschool.com

METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market

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

SEA CADETS
250-478-7813

SENIORS' INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)
250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Audrey 250-478-1352
Marni 250-999-6757

SWANWICK CENTRE
A centre for spiritual inquiry
250-744-3354
programs@swanwickcentre.ca
www.swanwickcentre.ca

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL
250-478-2286,
info@westshorearts.org,
www.westshorearts.org

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND
250-474-3999

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION
250-478-8384,
www.westshorererecreation.ca

CHURCHES

BAHA'I FAITH
250-514-1757

GORDON UNITED CHURCH
250-478-6632
www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
250-727-3722

OPEN GATE CHURCH
250-590-6736
www.theopengate.ca

ST MARYS' METCHOSIN
Anglican Church of Canada
250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH
www.westsidefamily.org
250-478-8066

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY
250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca

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Mindful Moments - Come Explore
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The above listing is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes to this information to 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.