

# Metchosin Muse

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

## Robin Hopper Appointed to Order of Canada



Robin Hopper

Brian Domney photo

BRIAN DOMNEY

Congratulations to Metchosin's own Robin Hopper, appointed to the Order of Canada by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, "For his contributions as a ceramist who has

advanced the discipline by introducing a number of innovative techniques."

"I am delighted to recognize these new recipients of the Order of Canada in this milestone year," said the Governor General. "Besides marking Canada's 150th anniversary, 2017 marks the

50th anniversary of the Order. So let's be inspired by the examples set by these remarkable Canadians and use this occasion to build a smarter and more caring country in which every individual can succeed to the greatest extent possible."

## Searching for the Cure

Throughout the holiday season, Metchosin residents were besieged by head colds and flu-like symptoms. The *Muse* asked our good friend Councillor Andy MacKinnon to help us investigate whether we could identify the origin of this outbreak, hoping that might help

find a cure. Andy sent us this photograph of himself (centre, back), following a lead in the very opening hours of 2017. We think he might be on to something. Unfortunately we haven't been able to check with him further. We've all got colds.



Andy's trying to figure out where they keep their hankies.

Ed Watson photo

## Land Deal Meeting a Friendly Affair

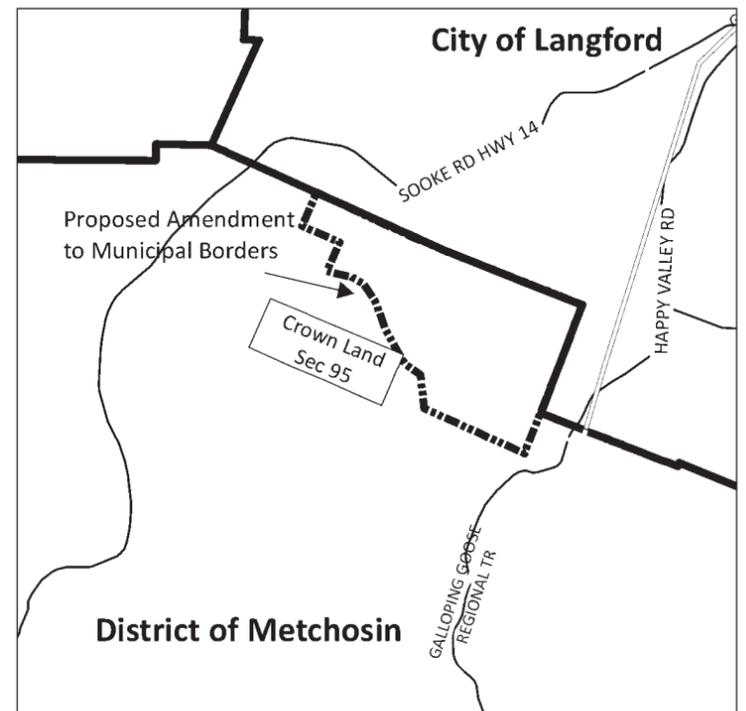
JOHNNY CARLINE FROM NOTES BY KEN FARQUHARSON FOR THE APRM

The Council meeting on the proposed Metchosin/Beecher Bay/Langford land deal played to a packed house at the Community Hall on January 16.

Highlights included: Mayor Ranns stating how they had searched for an alternative and found none, Chief Chipps apologizing for the impacts on Neild Road and wishing they could be fixed, developer Jim Hartshorne explaining how they would be excluded from any tax incentives offered by Langford, so Metchosin would not lose taxes, and Beecher Bay lawyer Robert Janes stating that if the referendum failed, Beecher Bay would reluctantly have to develop the three other parcels, knowing that it would "tear the heart out of Metchosin."

Questions asked included: would the proposed development gain access from Happy Valley Road and would it include manufacturing (it would do both); and if the referendum failed would Metchosin pay any of the costs for water or sewer to the three other parcels (it would do neither).

Despite some concerns expressed about environmental and traffic impacts, the general tone of the meeting was overwhelmingly one of mutual understanding and support.



## Your vote counts!

### PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT - REFERENDUM

On Saturday, January 28, 2017, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the COMMUNITY HALL, qualified electors of the District of Metchosin will be voting on the following question:

Do you support a municipal boundary adjustment, placing approximately 354 acres of private land into Langford, provided that the Beecher Bay First Nation agrees to transfer to Metchosin ownership of 250 acres of Crown Land offered to the Band as part of the Treaty process, and Metchosin receives a 112 acre greenspace buffer and a tax sharing agreement?

**Not on the voters list?** You may be able to register to vote at the voting place. Bring two pieces of identification that provide evidence of your identity and place of residence. Picture ID is not required, but one piece of ID must have your signature. For elector qualifications see the website [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) or call the Municipal Hall.

# Metchosin Muse

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**AD DEADLINE**  
 The 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for month-end publication.

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

The *Muse* is delivered, free of charge, to most households in Metchosin. Copies are also available at Metchosin Country Store, the Community House, the Municipal Hall, The Broken Paddle Coffee Shop, My-Chosen Café, Red Barn Market, Happy Valley Store, Bill's Food and Feed, Royal Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Victoria Public Library.

**CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800**  
 (July/August: 3000)

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

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

The current issue and issues from the past year are there, along with contact information and information for submissions, 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](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca)



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## Letters to the Editor

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

## Thank You, First Responders!

On January 4 my husband Dave came home from work, opened the door, and had a heart attack. I called 911, and within minutes the Metchosin Fire Hall first responders were on

scene, followed by the ambulance service. We are both so very grateful and impressed with their rapid response time, professionalism, and compassion. It truly was a matter of life and death. Thank you to all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Dave and Maxine Angus*

## MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

# Metchosin's Chief Dunlop: A Contributor to World Road Safety

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road



**MCA Guest Speaker: Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop**  
 Thursday, February 16  
 7:00 pm  
 Metchosin Community House

BOB BURGIS

Are you curious about collections of vehicles at the Fire Hall that, a few days later, appear as complete wrecks scattered across the concrete apron? Come and listen to our Fire Chief explain how our fire fighters are trained to extricate victims from vehicle accidents. Thursday, February 16: put it in your calendar!

Stephanie Dunlop, our Fire Chief, is talking about

her experiences as one of the 15 international judges at the World Rescue Organization (WRO) Competition at Curitiba, Brazil. She was the only judge from Canada and the only female judge at this competition, which involves crews simulating a crash scene with victims in critical need of medical assistance, often entrapped in the vehicle(s).

The international competition has been running for 25 years and virtually every country sends a national team. In Canada and the US, the competitions are run by the Transport Emergency Rescue Committee (TERC). A few years ago, Canada was represented by the Metchosin

team at the Prague world extrication competition.

One of the principle objectives of WRO is to promote roadside safety and to work with automotive manufacturers to improve road safety. While in Brazil, Stephanie attended a meeting of the WRO with the UN as an observer, where she noted that the 24 country representatives there had many common issues with road safety. This promises to be an interesting evening.

Your Fire Chief travels and represents this community at her own expense. Donations at the door will go to offset Stephanie's costs.

## Notice to Advertisers

Our long-time advertising coordinator, Peter Lewis, has decided to step away from the *Muse*, so until further notice we would ask you to make contact at [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca), or call Brian Domney at 250-474-3966.

Got feedback?  
 You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca).

# Mary Myfanwy (“Stevie”) Bahrey

February 11, 1923–December 15, 2016

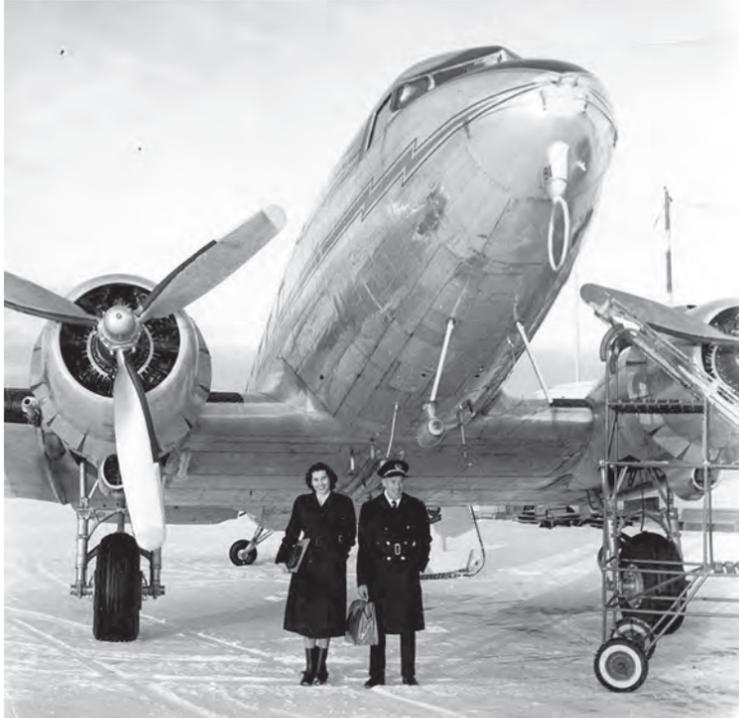
GREG BAHREY, AS TOLD TO  
BRIAN DOMNEY

Mary Myfanwy Bahrey (née Stephens), known as Stevie to her friends, died suddenly while visiting Government House in Victoria on December 15. She was 93.

Stevie was born on February 11, 1923 in the log cabin on her family’s homestead in northwest Saskatchewan, near what was to become Spiritwood, a community on a rail spur servicing local farmers. She was the daughter of Reginald and Blanche Stephens, Brits who emigrated to Canada when Reginald’s father informed him he was to go to the far east to manage a tea plantation. Stevie was the third of four children, Roy and Idris, who were older, and Miles, the youngest. The family ran a mixed farm, and Reginald was also the local postmaster.

When Stevie was 15, she moved to Saskatoon in order to complete her secondary education, working as a maid, nanny and general servant for her room and board. As was the norm of the day, if a young woman was to continue her education, she had a choice of teaching, nursing or stenography. Stevie chose nursing and went off to the University of Alberta, completing her RN program and being selected as the class of ’46 valedictorian. She interned for room and board and a salary of \$7.50 a month.

Stevie began her nursing career in Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver and in 1948, decided to move to Hawaii where she worked as a nurse in the Diamond Head Navy Veterans Hospital. Always looking for a new adventure, she became a stewardess for Canadian Pacific Airlines, working DC3s north of 60. It was there she met Andy Bahrey, her future husband, who was in the Signal Corps in the Canadian Army in Yellowknife. Stevie returned to nursing, running an office/clinic for two doctors in Yellowknife. She and Andy were married on January 17, 1950 in Edmonton, and honeymooned by flying to New York City to board the Queen Mary to Europe. When they



The DC3 crew.

hunted down distant relatives in Wales, they were surprised to discover affluent relatives who arranged to show them around Wales in a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce! After a visit across the Channel, including a visit to Paris, they returned to Yellowknife.

Son Gregory was born in March, 1955 and after moving to Edmonton and buying a house, the young couple added daughter Jocelyn in November, 1956. Stevie continued to work as a nurse and in 1962, the Province of Alberta hired her to work in the fledgling Alberta Alcoholism Foundation, later to become AADAC, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, where her counselling talents were discovered. She later became the Director of the Alberta Association of Retired Persons, where she advocated for seniors.

Stevie was not afraid of adventure. In 1973 she decided she wanted to see Machu Picchu but because Andy had work commitments, off she went on her own, well before Peru or UNESCO protected the site.

Andy and Stevie moved to the Victoria area in 1976, buying five acres on Latoria Road. Andy continued working in communications, contracting with oil companies working in the far north while Stevie contracted with

the government of Canada to deliver counselling services to the Navy and Corrections Canada. Stevie then began yet another career, working as a tour guide for Capitol Tours, shepherding tours all over North America. As their careers began to slow down, their international travel began to ramp up. From China and India (where they met the Dalai Lama), to Russia (where they visited Star City, the cosmonaut training centre), to the Middle East, and the Caribbean, they continued to explore the world.

Andy and Stevie moved to Pears Road in Metchosin in 1990 and in addition to travel, Stevie became very involved with the local writing club, and eventually joined the *Muse* team, where her love of language, her quick wit, and her amazing memory made every proofing session a joy. Andy died in January, 2010 and Stevie moved into a retirement home in 2016.

Stevie died on December 15, 2016 and is survived by her son, Gregory and her daughter, Jocelyn. A Celebration of Life will be held on February 10 at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, Building 5 (the Kinsman Field House), from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. All her Metchosin friends are invited to come and celebrate the life of this remarkable woman.



Stevie at Machu Picchu.

## Linda Hemus on Stevie:

Stevie was one of the first people Cy and I met when we moved to Metchosin ten years ago; she lived at the end of our road. Enthusiastic, happy, open, caring, perceptive, non-judgmental; it was a joy to be with her. That hearty welcome when the door opened, then up the stairs and settling into the kitchen for “a cup of” and a catch-up. Regardless of the time lapse between contacts, we just picked up where we left off! You could talk to her about anything ... Andy obviously felt the same since he induced her to give up Hawaii and marry him. The world definitely was a better place when she was around!

Stevie phoned me three days before she died; we “caught up” for over half an hour and made plans to set up baking days at my house beginning in January. Our “spoiled rotten hens” would keep us well supplied with eggs. Stevie loved to cook and would enjoy sharing the treats with the residents. I don’t know if we can make cookies in heaven but Stevie will be in my thoughts from now on when I place dough on cookie sheets and pastry in pie pans.

## TALK AND WALK

Unless otherwise noted, all talks take place at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, behind the Fire Hall.



The moth *Grammia nevadensis*

Moralea Milne photo

### MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES OF METCHOSIN with Jeremy Tatum – February 24

Jeremy Tatum was born a long time ago in Scotland, was educated in England and has lived in Canada since 1963. He has been interested in butterflies, moths, and their caterpillars for as long as he can remember. He is a member and past president of the Victoria Natural History Society, a retired professor and currently sessional lecturer in physics and astronomy at the University of Victoria. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Charter Member of the Canadian Astronomical Society, but he promises not to mention a word about astrophysics during his talk. Well, maybe just one. He has achieved immortality by having an asteroid named after him, which circulates around the Sun in the company of the gods Mars and Jupiter.

### TEN BASIC LICHENS with Ryan Batten – March 10

While there are more than 1100 species of lichens in BC, we’re going to start with learning ten of the most common in Metchosin. There will be a Walk on Saturday, time and location to be announced.

### BATS with Dave Nagorsen and Jill Robinson from Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) – April 7 and 8

Besides our great good fortune to have BC’s premier bat expert residing in Metchosin, we are partnering with Habitat Acquisition Trust to hold a bat house building workshop on Saturday!

### THE BEES’ NEEDS – May 5 and 6

Elizabeth Elle is Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at SFU. She has been a member of national (the Canadian Pollination Initiative) and international (the Integrated Crop Pollination Project) research collaborations aimed at protecting pollinators and enhancing pollination services to wildflowers and crops.

Contact [moraleamilne@gmail.com](mailto:moraleamilne@gmail.com) for further information about these programs.



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# New time for Uke Jammers!

MARGARETHA BURNETT

Same fun group, same time, same day of the week but now the first Friday of the month from 5:00–6:30 pm. This jam is open to community members of all ages and levels of talent.

Bring a ukulele, tuner, music stand, clip-on light, and a few songs you are willing to share/lead/teach others. Please bring some extra copies of appropriate song sheets for others, if your song is not from one of the suggested song-books (see "House Happenings," p. 11).

Please direct any questions to your host Margaretha (aka Memet) at memetopia@shaw.ca, or just show up!

Sessions are free, but buying a membership to the Community House is appreciated.

# West Shore RCMP Community Policing Advisory Committee News

DAVID KIRKHAM

## Grade 12 Scholarships for West Shore Students

If you are graduating from high school this year, there are two scholarships you may be eligible for. CPAC and the Youth Justice Family Court Committee (YJFCC) are offering two scholarships for graduating grade 12 students in the West Shore, including Metchosin.

The first scholarship for \$500 is called the "Helping Profession Scholarship." This scholarship is targeted to students who are entering an accredited post-secondary institution in a field of study that directly helps people, such as nursing and firefighting.

The second scholarship for \$1000 is called the "Full Potential Scholarship." This scholarship will be awarded to an individual in recognition of their ability to overcome adversity. Examples include but are not limited to: death of a parent, disability, drug or alcohol addiction, leaving a gang, mental health issues, and overcoming bullying. A student can either apply directly or an adult can apply on their behalf. CPAC would like to thank YJFCC for partnering with them to make this scholarship possible.

**The deadline to apply for these scholarships is April 1, 2017.** For more information and to receive an application form, please send an email to westshore@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

## Funding Available for Community Projects

The West Shore RCMP Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) provides funding for non-profit community groups and schools in the West Shore including Metchosin. Programs must:

- be tailored to meet the needs of a specific school or community
- involve youth, seniors or at-risk populations
- promote healthy choices and lifestyle
- promote public safety.

In your application, please provide a brief history of your group and details of how the funds will be used. Once your activity or service

has been completed, you will be asked to submit receipts showing how the funds were used. You may be asked to provide a presentation in person to CPAC. In the past, funds have been awarded to the Metchosin Emergency Program Earthquake House and to students at Westmont School to support shoreline cleanup, to help people with special needs, and to provide a technical education course for seniors.

CPAC reviews applications twice a year and provides funding of up to \$500 for each approved project. The amount is determined on how well the project meets the four criteria. **The next deadline for applications is February 24, 2017.** Applications should be sent to:  
West Shore RCMP CPAC  
Funding Application  
698 Atkins Ave.  
Victoria, BC V9B 3A4

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# COUNCIL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017



### BUDGET OPEN HOUSE, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 5:30 PM (PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING)

Find out how council proposes to spend your tax dollars this year. Drop in to the budget open house on Monday, March 6 at 5:30 pm. Information will be available on the operating budget 2017 and capital projects.

### GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

Is your community organization in need of funding? Not-for-profit societies can apply for a grant-in-aid until March 15. Council announces the names of recipients in June. Applications are available at [www.district.metchosin.bc.ca](http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca) and at the Municipal Hall.

### DRIVEWAY CULVERT MAINTENANCE

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 driveways do not enter onto the roadway. A permit is required to undertake any work on the municipal roadway, including installation of driveways and culverts.

### 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
- don't feed pets, or store pet food, outdoors

### DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Finance and Environment Committee. . . . . Feb. 6, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC). . . . . Feb. 21, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting. . . . . Feb. 6, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting. . . . . Feb. 27, 7:00 pm
Healthy Communities Advisory Committee (HCAC). . . . . Feb. 8, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC). . . . . Feb. 28, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and Public Works (PPHPW). . . . . Feb. 20, 7:00 pm	

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

Shop Locally ...  
and tell them you saw it in the Muse!

# SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE



SIRC's Better at Home program is a win-win for participants and volunteers alike. From left to right: Audrey Jenkins, Deirdre Chettleburgh, Betty Hildreth, and Doris Trustcott.

DAWN BOSHCOFF

## Did you Know ...

... Metchosin was recognized in 2013 by the Government of BC as one of the province's most age-friendly communities?

**We're giving seniors a hand.**

Better at Home is a new program designed to help seniors remain independent at home.

## Metchosin's Better at Home

About 750 of our neighbours in Metchosin are over the age of 65, and many are living alone. SIRC partners with a United Way program called "Better at Home" to help seniors continue to live independently at home for as long as possible.

As a Better at Home agency, SIRC volunteers help local seniors and their families with things such as transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits, social outings, computer support, and home care. The extent of these non-medical and support services is determined by individual need. Please call SIRC to find out how to access help for yourself or a senior family member or a friend in need.

## V-Day Volunteer Appreciation and New Volunteer Welcome

What better day to share the love ... volunteers of all ages keep SIRC programs alive and we value our helpers beyond words. In recognition of all those who find time to help our community's seniors, we will be hosting a Valentine's Day Volunteer Appreciation event from 2:00–4:00 pm on Tuesday, February 14. Past, present, and future volunteers are invited. Feel welcome to drop by and learn what SIRC is all about! Meet our team and enjoy refreshments,

a warm welcome, and of course, yummy chocolate.

## Hearing and Your Health

In partnership with Latoria Pharmacy IDA, SIRC will be hosting **NexGen Hearing Tests** on Thursday, February 16. Appointments last 10 minutes and are available from 10:00 am to 12 noon and 4:30 to 8:00 pm.

The final vaccination day in our series of offerings is **Tetanus Shots**, taking place on Thursday, March 16. Pharmacist Mohamed Zeit will accommodate patients by appointment. Please call 250-478-5150 to schedule a convenient time.

## Geeks and Geezers Helps Seniors Get Connected

SIRC's Open Learning Lab is here for you to log on, learn, or just play online. Drop by anytime from 1:00–3:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, or call to book an appointment with a Geek. We're the most tech-friendly place in town with free Wi-Fi, desktop computers, printers, a fax machine, laptops, Macs, tablets, smartphones, etc., for members to use and learn on. We can help you become friends with technology. All are welcome!

## 2017 Tech-talk Lunch and Learn Series

Back by popular demand, we're offering a repeat session of *Digital Photos for Sharing Online* on Tuesday, February 28 from 12 noon–1:00 pm. Bring your bag lunch, hand-held device, or laptop for hands-on learning. Discover useful tools, and the best platforms and places on the web for sharing your photos with friends and family. There will be plenty of time for questions. Please RSVP to 250-478-5150. Spaces are limited!

## NEW! Drive and Dine

We are pleased to share a few great opportunities for local seniors who want to get out more often to socialize, dine, and meet new friends. Gordon United Church in Langford serves a healthy home-cooked community supper at no cost, every other Monday evening, to anyone interested.

Locally, Metchosin Community House provides space for potluck lunches on the fourth Thursday of every month, as well as a new monthly potluck community dinner every third Saturday.

If you would like to join other SIRC members and volunteers attending these meals, we have added the "Drive and Dine" program to help get you to and from these events.

**Community Supper at Gordon United Church** will be held on Monday, February 13 and Monday, February 27 at 6:00 pm.

**Potluck Lunch at Metchosin Community House** on Thursday, February 23 at 12 noon.

**Potluck Dinner at Metchosin Community House** on Saturday, February 18 from 4:00–7:00 pm – we'll plan to eat at 5:00 pm.

Please call us at 250-478-5150 for more information or to sign up for a community meal. All events are age friendly.

## SIRC Is Online

Visit us online at any time. Subscribe to regular SIRC E-News updates and visit our website at [www.metchosin-seniors.ca](http://www.metchosin-seniors.ca) to stay in the know. Like and follow us on Facebook @SIRC – Metchosin Seniors' Information & Resource Centre.

Got feedback? You can contact the *Muse* team by sending email to [metmuse@shaw.ca](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca).

## Happening in February at SIRC

**Hours of operation:** Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am–3:00 pm. Please drop by and visit us at 4495 Happy Valley Road or call us at 250-478-5150. A lifetime membership is only \$10.

Play Mah-Jong*	Mondays	10:00 am–noon
Open Learning Lab	Tuesdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Tea Time 'n' Coffee Chat	Wednesdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Open Learning Lab	Thursdays	1:00–3:00 pm
Open Learning Lab	Fridays	1:00–3:00 pm

\*Email [mhaylor@telus.net](mailto:mhaylor@telus.net) for Mah-Jong information

**V-Day – Volunteer Appreciation and New Volunteer Orientation.** Tuesday, February 14, 2:00–4:00 pm

**NexGen Hearing Test.** Thursday, February 16, 10:00 am–12 noon and 4:30–8:00 pm by appointment

**Tech-Talk Lunch 'n' Learn.** Tuesday, February 28, 12 noon–1:00 pm (RSVP)

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# Heavenly Hellebores

JUDITH VAN MANEN

The hellebore is the one plant that impressed me most when moving to Metchosin from Edmonton in the early winter of 2005. There was a bed of hellebores growing right next to a large window of the house we had bought. Instead of the snow and ice of Edmonton, I saw to my astonishment flowering hellebores during much of our first Metchosin winter. When, a few years later we moved to our present house on Olympic View, I took some of the hellebores along to keep us company. It is still the one plant that induces wonder: growing beautiful flowers and showing an attractive foliage in the middle of winter!

So, as winter storms rage and rain soaks our West Coast gardens in December and January, I longingly gaze for early signs of spring. I have come to realize that anticipation is a driving force of many avid gardeners. Very few cold-loving plants assuage this sensation, but the hellebore and its family of over 20 species is the one that is singularly impressive.

Astonishingly, some hellebores begin to bloom in early winter and continue for a month or more. Some cultivars bloom later in February through to April. Both the flowers (sepals) and the foliage are beautiful. The plants form large clumps of exotic

leathery evergreen leaves from fibrous-rooted crowns and may reach 18 inches or more in height. Long after the flowers have faded to green, these leaves grace the garden withstanding both winter frost and summer heat!

Growing conditions are important and easy. Most hellebores prefer a site in partial shade to full shade, humus-rich, limy, well-drained soil, and regular watering. Hellebores will not thrive in acidic soils. It is important to cut off old leaves of hellebores as soon as the flower buds appear. Like most plants, the hellebore prefers to live outside in our gardens but is versatile enough to be a "thriller" or "filler" in a large pot. Companion plants such as ferns, bulbs like anemones, foamflowers, Virginia bluebell, and wild gingers complement and share similar growing conditions. I have also seen hellebores used as a ground cover under shrubs and trees.

The hellebore boasts a fascinating history. Hellebores are poisonous; the name is derived from *hellein* (to kill) and *bora* (food). In ancient times, Helleborin drops from hellebore roots were administered as a cure for insanity. The drops cured the daughters of Argos (in Greek mythology) from madness that made them run naked through the city, screaming and yelling obscenities. Superstitious

villagers planted hellebores to guard their homes from evil spirits. So, hellebores are a true *pharmakon*: a medicine but also a poison.

The most common species of this remarkable plant include *Helleborus foetidus*, called the stinking, bear-foot or bear-paw hellebore since it has tall two-foot stems, deep green leaves, and clusters of lime-green, bell-shaped flowers. Another species is the *Helleborus niger*, one of the first hellebores to bloom. It is also called the Christmas Rose. An old legend tells that it sprouted in the snow from the tears of a young girl who had no gift to give the newborn Christ child. *H. niger* features three-inch blooms of the purest white that emerge as a tight cluster at the centre of last year's leaves. A third species is the *Helleborus orientalis* or lenten rose, which shows pink-to-plum speckled flowers, and was even used for weight loss in Russian medicine.

I have read that most of the *Helleborus orientalis* in our gardens today are actually *Helleborus x hybridus*. There are countless varieties of these new hybrids that feature double flowers in colours ranging from creamy white to rich purple to pink and dark maroon with contrasting spots. It is worth collecting them all. The varieties that have worked most successfully in my Metchosin garden



Helleborus "Double Purple"

Photo credit carolynsshadegardens

are the *Helleborus orientalis* "Blue Lady," and "Jubilee Lenten Rose," *Helleborus* "Ivory Prince," and the *Helleborus x hybridus* "Blue Metallic Lady." A last hellebore worthy of mention is *Helleborus purpurascens*. It has massive umbrella-like leaves and produces nodding green flowers flushed with purple.

To view many of these hellebores, visit a remarkable collection in the Doris Page Winter Garden at the Horticultural College of the Pacific in Central Saanich or take a ferry to Fraser's Thimble

Farm on Salt Spring Island in February. For descriptions and photos of new hellebores, visit their website at [thimblefarms.com](http://thimblefarms.com)

Will you find a special place in your garden for the heavenly hellebore? I hope that you do, so you can revel in its remarkable qualities.

**Next Garden Club meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 pm, Metchosin Community House.** Movie night featuring an episode of "The World in 80 Gardens," a BBC production with host Monty Don.

*Visit the Muse website!*

[www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

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## Don't let Glossophobia ruin your life

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JULIE WARREN

There will be a free open house on Tuesday, February 21 from 7:00 pm sharp to 8:30 pm to celebrate 'Chosin Chatters Toastmasters sixth anniversary and International Toastmasters month. Light refreshments will be provided. The event will be at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, next to the Fire Hall.

*"According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy."* – Jerry Seinfeld

At 'Chosin Chatters Toastmasters we have an antidote for "Glossophobia," or speech anxiety, better known as the fear of public speaking. (Sorry, we can't do anything about death.)

We can show people how to transform symptoms of lock-jaw, nervous twitching, and churning stomach acid into focused energy they can use to become fluent communicators. Join us on February 21 for an informal gathering to find out how.

The evening will feature a rousing session of "Table Topics," a staple of Toastmasters meetings. Table

Topics is like speed-dating, only with speeches. Topics are a closely-held secret, known only to the Table Topics Master. Anyone in the audience can choose one of the mystery topics and deliver an impromptu speech, lasting no more than two minutes. Imagination, prevarication, and even outright fabrication, are encouraged – as well as the use of interesting grammar!

Table Topics is one of the learning methods used in Toastmasters to help people communicate with confidence. With practice and positive feedback, speakers discover that "stage fright" can be mastered.

Public speaking is only one aspect of the Toastmasters' experience. At Chatters we stress peer-to-peer learning in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. Our goal is to help each other to become better communicators, leaders, and mentors, skills which enhance our professional and personal lives. At Chatters, we say, "You provide the potential – we provide the opportunity."

Toastmasters International is a world-wide organization with 15,000 chapters in more than 120 countries, open to any adult 19 or older.

For more information about 'Chosin Chatters, send an email to [info@chosinchatters.org](mailto:info@chosinchatters.org), or visit their website: [www.chosinchatters.org](http://www.chosinchatters.org)

# Royal Year for Metchosin Resident

STEPHEN SAWYER

I was at home minding my own business during the summer of 2016 when a phone call interrupted my reverie. It was an officer from the staff of Maritime Forces Pacific who asked if I was interested in working on a project for them for the next three months. The subject was the Royal Tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I considered for only a few seconds and accepted the task.

Let me introduce myself. I am Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Sawyer, the Commanding Officer (CO) of The Canadian Scottish Regiment in the Bay St Armoury in Victoria, but I live in Metchosin. My duties as the CO of an army reserve unit keep me busy as a part-time soldier and I knew that I could fit this task in.

After two and a half months of planning and coordinating all of the Canadian Armed Forces support to the Royal Tour, the day finally arrived when all the work came to fruition. I moved into Victoria for the week with all my uniforms etc. and accompanied the couple throughout their visit to BC and the Yukon. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was in all of the motorcades – best visit to Vancouver ever with no stopping for red lights, traffic stopped by police and no pedestrians or cyclists crossing streets when you wanted to turn.

The federal and provincial support teams were fantastic people to work with and wherever we went, the local government officials were also happy to showcase their regions. I crossed off some areas of Canada on my bucket list to visit, saw people from all walks of life whose only common interest was to welcome the royals to their towns. The story wouldn't be complete without telling you that when I was in Whitehorse, I heard a voice from the crowd call my name. I was as surprised as anything to learn that in my almost 40 years of uniformed service, someone I knew had decided to settle in Whitehorse.



Hotel lobby, dressed to go to the palace. Left to Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Sawyer, Honorary Colonel Murray Farmer and Regimental Sergeant Major Mikel Knutsson.

I have got quite a few stories from the Royal Tour, some of which I won't be passing on. But my story isn't over. In August, I received an email from the Private Secretary to Princess Alexandra, who is one of the Queen's cousins and was a bridesmaid at her wedding, and coincidentally, the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment which I command. It seems that Her Majesty intended to host a reception to honour Princess Alexandra's lifetime commitment and patronages to many causes and asked if I would like to attend along with two other members of my choosing from the unit. The location was Buckingham Palace and of course I accepted with alacrity.

On November 29, accompanied by Honorary Colonel Murray Farmer (former Chancellor of UVic and Board Member of Farmer Construction and Accent Inns) of North Saanich and my Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Mikel Knutsson of Nanaimo, I passed through the security measures to enter Buckingham Palace. We were escorted to a reception room along with about 400 other people, all of whom represented organizations of which Princess

Alexandra was a patron or Colonel-in-Chief.

At a certain point, a grand entrance was made by Her Majesty the Queen, Princess Alexandra, the Countess of Wessex and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. A speech of welcome was made and then the serious mingling began. The three of us met some very interesting people from many walks of life and a variety of interests and had a chance to have discussions with both the Countess of Wessex and Princess Alexandra. It was a very interesting evening.

Of course, if one is going to spend more time in airports and airplanes than actually inside Buckingham Palace, it is preferable to get there at least a day early and stay for a few days and be a tourist for a while. We did all that and I even had a chance to see two of my cousins near Winchester whom I hadn't seen since my aunt's wedding in 1973 (they've changed a bit).

If you see me around Western Communities and want to learn more about these exploits, please don't hesitate to stop me and ask.

# Send Your Community a Valentine

JOHNNY CARLINE



Valentine's Day is usually a personal affair. But you could also think of expressing your affection for this wonderful community of Metchosin.

There are several community volunteer organizations that work hard to provide facilities, events, and services that keep this community active and engaged, and at virtually no cost to the taxpayer. And for that, we love them all.

But they could use our help. As president of the Metchosin Community Association (MCA), which runs the Community House, I know the MCA is always desperate for people to offer to volunteer, sign up as a member or even just make a donation to help us make ends meet. I also know that there are other very worthy organizations, like SIRC serving the needs of seniors, and the Metchosin Museum Society helping keep our history alive, to name but two, in just the same situation. Others are listed in this newspaper's Directory of Organizations with their contact information (see p. 16).

So this February 14, why not show your love for this community by calling up one of these wonderful organizations and offering to volunteer, take out a membership, or just make a donation. You'll make a difference and you'll feel good about doing it – I promise!

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# Step One Services Fundraiser

CAMAS USSERY

Step One Services Society is a local organization that is committed to supporting collaborative projects in health, education, and food security using local knowledge, capabilities, and solutions. Founded in 2006, Step One Services has been involved in projects such as collecting 1600 teddy bears to send to children affected by the 2004 tsunami in Chennai, India; providing textbooks for One Love Africa, a grass-roots organization that trains women in East Africa to run small businesses; and an annual delivery of hundreds of care packages to local homeless shelters.

Next month, we are hosting an open house event to share our projects with the community. This event is open to everyone, whether you are interested in supporting Step One Services, want to volunteer with us, or just want more information. There will be live music, international food such as sushi and samosas, and locally made items for sale. The event will take place at the Metchosin Community House on March 11 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Check out the classified ads on page 15.

## Where Is It?

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

The *Muse* hopes to pull some of these treasures out of Metchosin's closet for your enjoyment. **If you can identify the location of the lawn chair about 40' up a tree, email the editor at metmuse@shaw.ca.** The sender of the first email received that correctly identifies the person, place, or thing will receive a free coffee compliments of the Broken Paddle Coffee House. We'll let them know to expect you!



sponsored by **The Broken Paddle Coffee House**  
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# Investing Time in Restoration



Werner Kurz and Andy MacKinnon enjoying restoring the landscape.

Danny Buchanan photo

DANNY BUCHANAN

Over the past three and a half years a small group of experts and enthusiasts have worked to restore the Garry oak ecosystem at Westmont School. The group of volunteers meets twice a month and the nature of the meetings can vary considerably. We have removed daffodil bulbs, completed an inventory of the native and invasive species, and pulled broom and daphne. Sometimes our actions have a considerable visual impact, sometimes we will go months without interacting directly with the site.

That was a big lesson for me, as a novice working with experts. I expected restoration to yield immediate returns – every week the ecosystem would become healthier, vibrant – like the time-lapse of a blooming flower. That was not the case at all. For a long time we measured and planned, doing little to change the landscape.

Those with more experience in restoration were able to see forward, from the beginning, to where we are today. Our careful planning over the years has led to a whirlwind of action in the last six months. We have removed

a considerable thicket of brambles, a number of small invasive trees and bushes, as well as the descendants of last spring's daphne cull. Larger Douglas-firs have also been marked for removal. We have been able to do so with confidence, building from a strong foundation of thoughtful foresight.

This process has retaught me that constant lesson which seems to pop up in all areas of life: there is no substitute for planning, consistency, and dedicated companions.



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NAN HSIEH

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." – Barack Obama

These words from former US president Barack Obama, remind us that we have the power to make a difference. In this unsettled world where we sometimes feel at the mercy of those in power and incapable of making a difference, we may question our ability to have any influence at all. However, Obama's quote, above, would imply otherwise.

As organizers of the Bath Towel Bundle event for the past ten years, our experience has been that when we work with many individuals together, we can increase the difference we make. So, our Baha'i community invites you to help us make our tenth annual Bath Towel Bundle project even bigger than ever.

Let's go over the top and make 200+ bath bundles this year. All bundles will be given to Our Place, a downtown shelter for the homeless to support their bath program where a person living on the street can come in to have a shower.

Last year we not only invited you to help us – and thank you to the many of you who did – we also challenged you to start your own groups of service to make a difference somewhere in your world. This year we are going even further to invite you to work together with us on ideas for service and to consult on our community needs. When we work together from a position of unity our diverse backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and thinking create a richness of possibilities on how we can help our world to be a better and a happier place. We look forward to the opportunity of working with many of you in the coming year to create a sense of belonging and

an opportunity to make a difference.

**So, for starters, please come to our Bath Towel Bundle event at the Metchosin Community Hall on Sunday, February 26 from 2:00-4:00 pm – bring towels, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hear a brief presentation about Our Place and their services, join in the fun of bundle making, and enjoy the party with refreshments and entertainment. This event is an especially good opportunity for children to learn about involvement in service to others and we encourage and welcome their participation with parents.**

If you can't make it to the event, then towels, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes can be dropped off at the Metchosin Community House Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to noon up until the day of the event. **NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE.**

And don't forget, we *can* make a difference! Yes, we can!



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Check out the classified ads on page 15.

# Paths to Nature

ALANAH NASADYK,  
HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST  
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT  
CO-ORDINATOR

A little girl of about five years old hops along the stepping stones of her grandmother's garden. Stopping under a coniferous tree she spies the lovely blue of a cracked egg shell. "Look! A Robin's egg!" says Grandma. It is around this time that the little girl decides, "blue is my favourite colour, Robin's egg blue."

Later on Grandma laments the small, dark, and speckled birds, "Starlings, those awful things. They'll kick other birds' young out of their nests." Somewhere in the mind of that little girl the concept of an invasive species takes a very rough form, waiting to be molded and put to good use.

The next day while watering the garden, Grandma finds a fuzzy bee buzzing helplessly in a pool of water. Little bright eyes watch with wonder as Grandma gently lifts the bedraggled bee onto a stone to dry. "Let's call her Isabelle the Bee." Every time a particularly plump and fuzzy bee is spotted in the garden, it's considered a visit from Isabelle the rescued bee. Perhaps Isabelle was in fact a male worker bee, but what the child remembers most from this is that bees are good, bees are not scary.

A single father takes his growing little girl fishing on the ocean but she is more interested in what she can see and less in what she can catch: sea stars, Dungeness crabs, spot prawns, rock cod, salmon, seals. Wow! "Can we stop along this beach, Daddy?" Among the beach rocks the little girl stands holding a sun-bleached jaw bone. "Look at those flat teeth for grinding, it's a deer's jaw," says Dad.

Ranging across hill, bluff, and meadow, the not-so-little girl follows deer trails in the Sooke Hills collecting wildflowers. One of every type,

until she can't hold any more, to make a bouquet for someone special. She creates her own names for plants along the way. Proudly presenting her collection to Daddy, he remarks, "Those flowers are beautiful, but you shouldn't pick them." After that, she learns to take photos instead of plucking flowers, and then later to learn their proper names.

It turns out, this little girl was me. Today, I am glancing back at the tracery of paths that brought me to nature. Everyone has their own paths to and through the land. There are so many wonderful ways to connect with nature that we can all share. There are many ways of appreciating and finding the common ground to protect these natural places that bring enjoyment and health to us all.

I first became involved with Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) two years ago. That same summer, I jumped at the chance to count bats as a HAT volunteer team leader. With eyes skyward and clicker in hand, I took in the pleasant fragrance of a mock orange bush and delighted as each bat thrust itself out against the dusky sky. By the end of 2015, I was a full-fledged HATter and member of the team. Now, after one full year as a staff member of Habitat Acquisition Trust, I have had the pleasure of helping people



A blue-grey taildropper slug.  
Dr. Kristiina Ovaska photo

find ways to connect with their own paths to nature.

One of my greatest memories so far with HAT was in January 2016 at a Ruby Creek restoration party. I reached down to pull up a small laurel-leaved daphne plant and saw something incredible: a little blue-grey slug. The slug was no bigger than the tip of my pinky finger. Dr. Kristiina Ovaska confirmed it was one of only 15 sites in Canada documented to have the rare blue-grey taildropper slug that HAT has been working so hard to protect and study. I was overjoyed!

At another restoration party, I met the incredible woman who is protecting Camas Hill in perpetuity. One of the most inspiring places in the Sooke Hills that I've visited is this HAT-protected covenant. On a rainy night in early spring, I went out with Dr. Ovaska to survey amphibian road mortality. That night I saw dozens of squashed amphibians, and learned the sad



Ensatina salamander.

Dr. Kristiina Ovaska photo



The author on Camas Hill looking towards the Sooke Basin.

## Film Night at the Community House

RIC PERRON

Friday,  
February 24,  
7:00 pm

**Occupy Love**  
(84 minutes)

How can a crisis create a love story? This is the central theme by Vancouver filmmaker, director Velcrow Ripper. It's nice to see a protest film based on love,

and protests capturing the heart-felt emotions expressed by disgruntled crowds. There is a deep exploration of public love, and compelling stories of an emerging new paradigm.

*Occupy Love* explores the growing realization that the dominant system of power and money is failing to provide us with health, happiness, or meaning. The resulting crisis has become the catalyst for a profound awakening: millions of people are deciding that enough is enough.

There are some great dialogues: "It's about people talking to one another. That's what they're supposed to do, take care of each other and settle their differences in conversation." And: "Time passes swiftly and an opportunity lost. Let us awaken. Do not squander your life."

The film connects the dots in this era of rapidly evolving social change. It captures scenes from the Egyptian Revolution, the Indignado uprising in Spain, Occupy Wall Street in New York, and indigenous activists at the Alberta Tar Sands.

**OCCUPY LOVE**  
A FILM BY VELCROW RIPPER



truth about driving country roads on rainy nights. Amazingly, for the first time I saw a live *Ensatina* salamander and a long-toed salamander too. Although it was difficult to see so many injured and dead amphibians, it was really gratifying knowing that we were working to better understand local threats to these important creatures.

As we spend time outdoors, we come to better understand nature's wonders, and appreciate what it means to care for these special places, plants, and animals. I have many people in my

life to thank for nurturing an interest in the great outdoors. From hopping along stepping stones in my grandmother's garden to the work I do with HAT today, I continue to pursue my passion for wild things in nature.

Looking back, what were your paths to nature? Where have they led you, and where would you like to go with them? If there's a way that you'd like to connect your path to local conservation with HAT, let's be in touch. Call me at 250-995-2528 or email alanah@hat.bc.ca.

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# Rough Voice Recap

BARB SAWATSKY

**1** To acknowledge Robbie Burns, how better than with bagpipes? Thank you, Mairi MacKinnon, for the memorable start to our evening and also to Laura Farquharson for contacting Mairi initially and for her very eloquent and moving talk.

**2** I also want to thank Sharie and Al Epp for making the bright new Rough Voice sign outside. We can't always reserve the Community House signboard and now, thanks to them, we have a dedicated one for our group alone and you sure can't miss it as you drive by! That was a lot of work and much appreciated!

**3** After the January 13 sing-along we received an email from The Encores – Maureen and Richard – saying that they are withdrawing from Rough Voice because of their busy schedule. We hope they do well with their music and wish we could thank them in person for being with us for the past four months.

**4** Just prior to The Encores leaving, Ken Fiege and Richard Gaunt offered to accompany us for some songs. They are long-time residents of Metchosin, former volunteer firefighters in our community, and play guitar together. Hopefully we'll see you at more sessions after tonight.

**5** So if Rough Voice had a motto, I think it would be "have fun and keep 'em guessing." In keeping with this, tonight The Barn Cats are joined by the Barn Rats and the Barn Bats – all of Sharie's ukulele students.

**6** Please remember that the next sing-along will be on February 27. There will be no sing-along on BC Family Day.

## METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

# Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA)

JIM MACPHERSON

There is a large, vibrant and diverse arts and culture community in Metchosin. Ten years or so ago, the old (1914) Metchosin School sat forlorn, boarded up and a potential blight in the middle of Metchosin village. At the same time several arts groups had expressed frustration over the lack of local, affordable and accessible studio/meeting space.

We can credit Jo Mitchell, Colleen Brownlee, and Mary Gidney for connecting these two situations, and for having the vision and commitment to convert the school into what it eventually became ... an artistic and cultural focus for Metchosin. In due course, the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) was established to help showcase artistic and cultural endeavour and to promote Metchosin as a destination community for the arts.

MACCA is a registered non-profit organization and is governed by a volunteer

Board of Directors who oversees operations.

When we're talking about volunteer groups in Metchosin, MACCA is a little different from some other volunteer organizations. Yes, it is volunteer, in that the seven board members are all volunteers, but MACCA is also a physical Arts and Cultural Centre and it is really there to help Metchosin's cultural community.

These volunteers arrange for rentals of space at the centre, raise funds for operations, review and select applicants for grants, and otherwise make certain that the centre provides the facilities, services, and programs for the arts and cultural community in Metchosin. Some volunteers help with social media communications, some volunteers visit schools to support the arts in schools.

MACCA receives no financial support from any level of government. MACCA has developed a modest, self-sustaining budget that includes returning money to the community through grants as well

as providing affordable studio space. Volunteers deserve a great deal of credit for generating consistent levels of funding that have supported MACCA.

The variety of renters at the centre is really quite remarkable. Artists in leatherwork, soap making, sculpture, painting, music, and woodworking operate at the centre and there is a waiting list of about ten artists who would like to rent space. All the artists at the centre have workspace and interaction with other artists that provides collaboration, inspiration, mentoring, and support from like-minded individuals. Artists arrange for their own events, displays, and exhibitions. MACCA is looking into the possibility of arranging for group events.

But all of these artists are volunteers as well. Whether assisting in clean-up, mentoring a young student, or contributing muscle to a fellow artist's exhibition, MACCA succeeds because it is responsive to the Metchosin arts and culture community.

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

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# MCA House Concert: Owl & Vulture

ERIN VAN DE WATER

Owl & Vulture Concert  
Friday, February 10  
7:00–9:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House

The MCA House Concert for February brings you “Owl & Vulture,” a musical husband and wife duo featuring Riley and Natasha. Residing in Metchosin, Owl & Vulture brings you dark country-inspired folk music with haunting melodies to the Community House on Friday, February 10 from 7:00–9:00 pm. This duo writes about life and death, magic and nature, experiences with

mental illness, and living as an artist in the world today. These two share the realities of human emotion through folk music, inspired by the haunting sounds of long ago when sung ‘round the campfire with good friends.

Riley and Natasha have been living in Metchosin for over two years and received a grant from the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) last spring to record their first Owl & Vulture album entitled “Through Darkness, We See,” which was released in Spring 2016. All of the songs on the album were written locally and inspired by the tall trees, rural

beauty and wildlife that Metchosin has to offer.

Over the last six years together they have spent countless hours with various musical projects busking on street corners and playing at markets, cafés, community fundraising events, bars and festivals for audiences of all ages.

“Through Darkness, We See” is available on bandcamp at <https://owlandvulture.bandcamp.com>, and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/owlandvulture/>

Riley and Natasha are also crafters and artists. Visit their full website, which includes their music, at: [www.soaringscavengers.com](http://www.soaringscavengers.com)



Owl & Vulture members Natasha and Riley.



## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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

### Ongoing Programs

#### Mondays

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

**Buddies** – 2:45–4:30 pm. Buddies offers Reading and Math tutoring as well as help with homework for Metchosin students grades K–6. Students receive a half hour, one-to-one tutoring session with an adult or teen volunteer. Registration forms are available at Hans Helgesen School or call MCH at 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 250-474-0634 and leave a message 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. For information call Laura, 250-478-1197, email [laura.farquharson@shaw.ca](mailto:laura.farquharson@shaw.ca).

**Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers** – The Rough Voice Singers meet 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).

#### Tuesdays

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

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

#### 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). Membership is \$10/year or \$2 for drop-in visitors. For more information, call Suze Bowen (250-298-7877) or email [suzebowen@shaw.ca](mailto:suzebowen@shaw.ca).

#### Thursdays

**Creative Rug Hooking** – First and third Thursdays, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Beginners are welcome, but should contact Sheila (email [blueheronstudio@telus.net](mailto:blueheronstudio@telus.net), or call 250-595-6406) to discuss needed supplies. Experienced rug hookers are

invited to bring their own projects. Bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee available. No fees but donation jar available to cover refreshment costs.

**Community Potluck Lunch** – Last Thursday of each month, 12:00–1:30 pm. All welcome.

#### 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 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.

**Music Night: Owl & Vulture** – Friday, February 10, 7:00–9:00 pm. See top of this page for details.

**Ukulele Gathering** – 5:00–6:30pm, first Friday of each month. Tell all your ukulele-playing students, friends, and relatives! 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.

**Film Night: Occupy Love** (84 minutes) – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, February 24. See p. 9 for details.

#### Saturdays

**Monthly Community Potluck Dinners** – third Saturday of every month: February 18 and March 18, April TBD, from 4:00–7:00 pm (eating at 5:00 pm). For all new and long-term residents of Metchosin! Please mark your calendars. Thank you for sharing your cooking and love, and please invite those you care about for a warm free meal. The public and children are all welcome!

### Events

**Guest Speaker** – Thursday, February 16, 7:00–9:00 pm. Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop will talk about her experiences as one of the 15 international judges at the World Rescue Organisation (WRO) at Curitiba, Brazil.

**Art on the Walls:** 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. They are hanging on the Community House walls for all to come and enjoy. Viewing times are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm. The Art on the Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. For more information, please call the MCH at 250-478-5155.

# Community Potluck Dinners!

CHERYL SERPANCHY

2017 Monthly Community Potluck Dinners welcomes all new and long-term residents of Metchosin! The public and children are all welcome!

The community dinners will typically be every third Saturday, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm (eating at 5:00 pm). Mark your calendars, and please RSVP on the Metchosin! Facebook event invitation and indicate the dish you will be sharing!

Thank you for sharing your cooking and love, and please invite those you care about for a warm, free meal!

**Dates:** every third Saturday: February 18, March 18; April TBD. For up-to-date information, check the Community House website ([www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)) and on bulletin boards, as well as in the *Metchosin Muse*.

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# Valentine's Day

JOHNNY CARLINE

February 14, as we all know, is Valentine's Day, the occasion when we blokes are expected to get as sloppy as a spaniel with an ice lolly over our beloveds.

It was not always so. Legend has it that the first "Valentine" was sent by a priest, called Valentine, imprisoned by the Romans for giving help to Christians and performing marriage ceremonies for Roman soldiers, both no-no's to Roman generals.

While in prison, he miraculously restored the sight of his jailer's daughter. He then sent her a note, which of course the girl would be able to read for the first time, and signed it "from your Valentine"; a lovely gesture, provided you don't dwell on how she learned to read so fast. But it did him no good. The Romans executed him the next morning. Reason enough, perhaps, for the fact that no one else thought about sending Valentines for about another thousand years.

In fact, romantic associations with St. Valentine's Day aren't recorded until the late 14th century, when Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem to celebrate the engagement of Richard II to Anne of Bohemia, including the lines: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

To me, that's doubtful. The prospect of mating outdoors in England in mid-February would surely have been enough to deter even the sauciest of sparrows. But maybe it's not just humans who have gone soft since the Middle Ages. Maybe everything was harder then.

It didn't improve in 1600, when Shakespeare had a slightly barmy Ophelia sing:

*Tomorrow is Saint Valentine's day, all in the morning betime, And I a maid at your window, to be your Valentine ...*

*Let in the maid, that out a maid never departed more.*

If this was wishful thinking then, like the original Valentine, it didn't work out and Ophelia was soon toes up at the bottom of the river. Mind you, pretty well everybody in



"Ophelia," by Alexandre Cabanel (1883; public domain)

*Hamlet* finished toes up somewhere, so we can't blame Valentine's Day for everything.

But these unfortunate outcomes seemed to have gone unnoticed and, by the end of the 18th century, lovelorn but not necessarily literary swains were getting help in the form of the publication of suggested verses and even the beginning of mass-produced cards. While we might lament the loss of individual creativity which resulted, perhaps the ladies preferred these cards to what the typical English aristocrat produced, which I suspect was something like:

*Roses are red, Violets are blue, When I'm not riding at hounds, shooting grouse, going to the races, playing poker, drinking claret at the club with the lads, or just swanning around the estate with the gamekeeper's wife, I'll be thinking of you.*

In the mid-19th century, the invention of the postage stamp allowed Valentines to be delivered by mail, which meant privately and even anonymously. Would-be lovers could now get right to the point, and in a sea of prudish Victorian morality, Valentines became an outlet for racier inner feelings. I will at this point trust the readers' imaginations and not risk offence by creating examples.

Of course, the post office in those days did not enjoy the benefits of automated sorting machines, postal codes, motorized delivery systems, and an enormous dedicated workforce that characterize the modern system. As a consequence, Valentines were

actually delivered on February 14 rather than some time in March.

The mass produced card soared in popularity and Valentine's Day, despite its checked history and commercialized present, still remains one of our most treasured festivities. This is surely because it gives us men, who are often tongue-tied in expressing affection, the opportunity, for once, to express those feelings, with some easily obtained outside help. And if that means a mass-produced card, a bunch of grocery store-bought flowers that start to wilt before we get them home, and a box of Black Magic because we didn't remember you liked milk chocolates, so be it. As my mom often said: "it's the thought that counts."

And that thought that we men have is simply the appreciation that the sparkle, the joy, the kindness, the sense that we might actually be special, those feelings that make our chests burst and our eyes shine, virtually all originate with the women in our lives. And for that, to the Janes and Joans, Jennifers and Joannies, Barbs and Barbaras, Susans and Suzies, to the Daunas and Dawns, Lauras and Giselas, to the multitude of Heathers and all the other wonderful women of Metchosin, including of course the Kathleens, Eileens, and Nadenes:

*We happily doth get on bended knee  
And send this, our Valentine,  
to thee*

Happy Valentine's Day, ladies.

# Then There Were Four

## Update on the idea for a community pottery and art/craft studio in Metchosin

DIANA SMITH

This is an update to the article in the November issue of the *Muse* where I floated the idea of a community studio for clay, sculpture, and other arts and crafts. The studio would be in the old school building which presently houses MACCA, SIRC, The Glow Gallery, and independent studios. A shared studio could provide an affordable space for independent work, a way

to share equipment, such as electric potter's wheel and kilns, a venue for workshops and artist's talks, and an easy way to bulk-buy supplies.

Three people responded. One has a kiln but no space, another has space but no kiln, and a third is a part-time resident of Metchosin who currently uses studio space in Colwood. None of us is a full-time artist who makes a living from our work so a shared space makes sense for

a number of reasons, including affordability, access to resources, and inspiration from being around other art and craft makers.

We are now on a waiting list for studio space but would like to hear from a few more people who may be interested in this idea. You can contact us at [dsmith2006@shaw.ca](mailto:dsmith2006@shaw.ca) or 778-432-4386. Looking forward to hearing from you.

# Metchosin Equestrian Society – Annual Stirrup Cup Ride 2017

WILL LOW

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail (and by the way, did you notice the wind?) could stop the Metchosin Equestrian Society (MES) holding its annual Stirrup Cup Ride on Sunday, January 8. The Stirrup Cup Ride has been an annual event for MES since the 1990s to welcome in the New Year – sort of the horse equivalent of a polar bear swim – and a celebration of the wonderful horse riding facilities that help to maintain Metchosin's character as a rural community.

It was cold, windy, and wet when three stalwart riders met up at the Metchosin Community Riding Ring for the first leg of the ride to Penny Woodworth's barn on Morland Road. They were joined there by two other hardy souls who arrived independently for a quick stop for refreshments and some seasonal cheer.

Suitably fortified but barely warmer, the merry-makers made their way up to Rachel Young's establishment on Deer Park Trail. The intrepid riders were joined by some club members who chose to walk rather than ride in the icy conditions. The horses

enjoyed a welcome stop and hay in Rachel's barn. Meanwhile lucky MES members took the opportunity to thaw out, while stocking up on good food and warm drinks, so as to be ready to brave the weather for the return leg to different parts of Metchosin and beyond. We enjoyed the chance to catch up with old and new friends about the past year, festive celebrations and New Year plans. Everyone would like to thank Penny and Rachel, this year's wonderful hosts. We are eagerly looking forward to more MES adventures soon.

The Metchosin Equestrian Society was formed in 1988 to develop and maintain the Municipal Riding Ring, to help establish a permanent trail system in Metchosin, and to represent the interests of horse owners in Metchosin. But it is not all work and no play; we also organize trail rides, fun shows, clinics, and lectures.

So please consider joining MES to support trails and horses in Metchosin. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, usually at the Metchosin Community House. Your membership in our society helps us maintain our



Ellen Dewar and Sugar, Skippy (Rachel's dog), Sabine David and Bandit, Rachel Young and Spirit, and Bev Bacon and Skip. Glenys Berry photo

community's precious trail system and riding facilities. No horse required! Fill out the contact form on the website at [mesmetchosin.org](http://mesmetchosin.org) or call Ellen at 250-474-4704 for more information. We are also on Facebook; search for "Metchosin Equestrian Society" to find us.

## Let's Start with Spatchcocked Chicken

BETTY HILDRETH

Lately the question keeps coming up – "Whatever happened to the Guest Chef evenings at the Metchosin Community House?"

Local people may recall tickets being sold for intriguing sessions of cooking lessons which were then followed by an evening of dining.

Do you remember the hands-on classes where participants helped to prepare dishes for Spicy Indian Curry (by Seso Bains), Dead Duck Dinner (by the Gramignas), Thai Cuisine (by Jennifer Brandle-McCall), Cooking Your Catch (by Jim and Joanie Challenger), Indonesian Rijsttafel (by Gerry Praising) ... and on and on with local "chefs" stepping up to share their expertise?

These evenings managed to capture some of Metchosin's unique colour and talent. Hosted three or four times a year, the Guest Chef events gradually resulted in the competitive cooking challenges of Mexchoshin Chili Cook-off, Mulligatawny Cook-off and the "feast de resistance" – The Iron Chef, Metchosin 2008 – where three teams of three amateur, but oh-so-talented

"chefs" duked it out for the title and the audience/ticket holders acted as the dining judges.

Metchosin Community Association volunteers have decided it is time to reactivate the Guest Chef evenings in 2017. Instruction/preparation time will be limited to about 30 minutes so that people can get to the important task of eating by no later than 7:00 pm. Come with a good appetite and a good attitude as there will be participation time, so don't be afraid to do a little cooking – we assure you will be well fed.

Our first 2017 class/dining experience will be hosted by Metchosin's own Johan Wesels, of the Galloping Goose Sausage Company. Johan has kindly agreed to demonstrate spatchcocking a chicken.

"Chef Johan's" culinary assistants will then talk people through the prep of a kale Caesar salad with toasted yam croutons, and a version of a traditional English trifle. When demonstrations and instructions are over, diners will sit down to a meal of Johan's version of juicy spatchcocked fowl plus marinated, roasted new potatoes, kale Caesar salad and English trifle.



Participants should come prepared to help put this meal together under the chef's instruction, set the table and do the dishes.

This Guest Chef evening is slated for February 25. Class is at 6:00 pm, dining is at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and number of spaces is limited to 16 participants/diners. Call the Metchosin Community House Office at 250-478-5155 to make reservations and arrange to prepay for tickets.

Future foodie ventures currently being considered include a Persian Dinner, an Outdoor-Oven Pizza Field Trip, French Country Cuisine, and a Mexchoshin Chili Cook-off 2017. Any creative ideas and assistance is welcome. Call Barrett at 250-474-2233 or Betty at 250-474-1865.

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On the job in January, Mike from Adams Tree Service scales a Douglas-fir. Not my idea of fun in sub-zero temperatures, or at any other time!  
Joan Kew photo

**NEWS FROM WESTMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

# Middle School Waxes Poetic

STACEY VAN DE WATER

Westmont middle school students have been working hard for the past three weeks on reading, comprehending, and creating poetry. Here are a few examples of what they've come up with!

**BASEBALL**

*by Walker Selley*

Baseball is like a stream  
how it flows so fluently  
with some interruption  
from pebbles.  
Sometimes it's slow  
like a turtle  
and others  
it's fast like the wings of a  
hummingbird.  
Baseball is like the weather  
So unpredictable  
yet sometimes still enjoyable  
And sometimes the opposite.  
There is no time limit  
Only the path of game  
can decide how long it takes.  
Oh how I enjoy it  
Like a nice ice cream  
on a hot summer's day.  
Around the world people love  
baseball  
like a hot chocolate  
on a winter's eve.

**ODE TO THE ORANGE**

*by Myles Johnson*

Round and juicy  
plump and sweet  
tangy and tasty.  
All these things  
make you,  
beautiful orange.  
Picked from the tree,  
the peak of your ripeness,  
shipped to a store,  
somewhere around the world.  
What a journey  
you have made,  
little orange.  
As sweet as a small jar  
of honey,  
as tangy as a lemon tart,  
as juicy as a watermelon.  
You are perfect, little orange.  
You are an orange ray of  
sunshine,  
wrapped in green  
tissue paper, nestled in a box.  
You are perfect, small orange.

**SHAKESPEARIAN SONNET**

*by Hannah*

With you I think of all the  
glitt'ring stars,  
Thou art so beautiful and  
shining bright.  
Time I spend without you  
leaves me with scars;  
My love for you is not taken  
too light.  
Whenever you're around you  
make me smile,  
The love I have for you is like  
a fire.  
For you I'd walk much farther  
than a mile,  
And you're the only one I do  
admire.  
By now you must know that I  
fancy you,  
My feelings will go on until  
I die.  
And all my thoughts are stuck  
to you like glue,  
Just thinking of you makes me  
want to fly.  
You are the only one I truly  
love,  
Our romance shines just like  
the sun above.

The slime on the deck  
Shining in the morning sun  
That nobody can see  
Seeing the big fish  
With the hook snagged  
in its mouth  
Now to get it on  
*– by Evan Cowan*

**ODE TO AN ODE**

Write an ode.  
Yes, that –  
that is my wish.  
For you to learn  
about the  
ancient Greek  
aeidein.  
The aeidein,  
with the  
Strophe, antistrophe and  
erode.  
The ode,  
with such  
figurative language.  
Similes are  
like metaphors –  
and personification;  
why,  
The teapot whistled  
as it ran.

Why?  
Why, you might  
ask,  
do people  
write  
poems called odes?  
Without odes the  
human race  
wouldn't know what  
is vital,  
more necessary than  
oxygen.  
Odes make words  
sing and dance  
right off the page,  
like ballerinas  
following  
the Pied Piper.  
People express  
true feelings,  
like odes are  
their personal diaries.  
Feelings  
more intense  
than pasta at  
boiling point,  
than paper getting  
eaten  
by flames,  
than fireworks  
on the 4th  
of July.

Odes  
explain why  
onions are more  
beautiful  
than stained glass,  
why,  
why,  
why.  
Everyday objects become  
abnormal,  
immortal,  
vital.  
After reading,  
after composing,  
one runs straight  
to the  
object  
and embraces it,  
loves it with  
all their  
Heart.  
Odes are  
like air,  
like nutrients,  
necessary.  
I plead,  
write an ode.

**ODE TO CHEESE**

*by Samuel Beels*

cheese  
made from goats' milk  
then churned  
into curds  
then  
salted and aged  
but  
there is only one  
kind that I like  
with a strong flavour  
that will go excellent  
on a cheese platter  
not the old parmesan  
as hard  
as a rock  
nor the gooey  
brie  
like sap  
from a tree  
or the ancient asiago  
as crumbly  
as slate  
not the smoked  
gouda  
as old  
as the Earth  
definitely not  
cottage cheese  
with its high moisture content  
as if it is sweating  
surprisingly not  
carboncino  
with its pale yellow  
interior  
as if it was sick  
no  
it is none  
of those  
it's the  
Blue Juliette  
from the  
Salt Spring island cheese  
factory  
with its squishy  
inside  
and blue mold  
all around it  
there has never been  
such a heavenly cheese  
crafted with passion  
experience  
and beautiful  
Salt Spring island  
goats' milk

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## 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](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca), or call 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.

# Boiler of Seviles 2017

BRIAN DOMNEY

The Seville oranges have arrived early this year – a fine-looking crop but even more dear than last year, with rumours of a shortage. Migrant workers bailing south out of Arizona and southern California? Who knows, but if you're interested in getting together to make this year's supply, whether a seasoned veteran or a rank beginner,

the Metchosin Community Association will again be sponsoring the *Boiler of Seviles Marmalade Workshop* on Sunday, February 12.

The session will be limited to 15 participants, with the possibility of a second session if numbers warrant. Participants are expected to bring their own knife, cutting board, and container to take their semi-processed oranges home to complete the magic.

The workshop fee is \$20, giving participants knowledge, enough processed Seviles to make about six 250 ml jars of marvelous marmalade, and fun! Contact Heather at 250-478-5155 for further information and to register.



## RCMP Call-Outs DECEMBER 2016

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Dec 1 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Complaint of an abandoned vehicle. Vehicle towed.                                       | Dec 16 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Complaint of erratic drivers. No licence plates obtained.   |
| Dec 2 <b>La Bonne Road</b> – Complaint of a suspicious vehicle. Vehicle left prior to police attendance.             | Dec 17 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Report of speeders/road rage. Drivers charged.  |
| Dec 3 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of single vehicle collision which lost control due to speed.                        | Dec 18 <b>Duke Road</b> – Request to check on well-being of individual.   |
| Dec 4 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Complaint of intoxicated person walking on the road.                                       | Dec 19 <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – abandoned 911 call received. Child playing with phone.   |
| Dec 5 <b>Hi Mount Drive</b> – Check on well-being of an individual. Individual was fine.                             | Dec 20 <b>Matheson Lake</b> – abandoned 911 call from payphone. Over 160 abandoned 911 calls were made from the payphone in the last year, tying up police resources. |
| Dec 6 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Report of a tree down. Metchosin public works attended.                                 | Dec 21 <b>William Head Road</b> – single vehicle MVI in a ditch. No injuries.   |
| Dec 8 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Report of a disturbance. One individual arrested.                                       | Dec 22 <b>William Head Road</b> – Check on the well-being of an individual. Individual cared for by paramedics.   |
| Dec 9 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Report of a two-vehicle MVI. No injuries.  | Dec 23 <b>William Head Road</b> – Single vehicle MVI in ditch. No injuries.   |
| Dec 10 <b>Tavane Road</b> – Checked on the well-being of an individual.  | Dec 24 <b>Chalister Court</b> – Neighbour dispute over property lines. Police not getting involved in civil matters.  |
| Dec 11 <b>Chalister Court</b> – Noise complaint. Police did not need to attend. Forwarded to bylaw officer.          | Dec 25 <b>Zanita Height</b> – Report of a suspicious man. Individual left prior to police attendance.   |
| Dec 12 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Abandoned 911 call. Company forgot to advise police of telecommunication testings. | Dec 28 <b>Neild Road</b> – Abandoned 911 call. Confirmed false.   |
| Dec 13 <b>Barrow Road</b> – Complaint of harassment.   | Dec 30 <b>Sooke Road</b> – Complaint of possible impaired driver. Driver intercepted and was sober.   |
| Dec 14 <b>Arden Road</b> – Intoxicated individual causing problems.  |   |
| Dec 15 <b>Branson Road</b> – Report of alarm. Alarm deemed false.  |   |

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

## Fire Department Call-Outs DECEMBER 2016

FIRE CHIEF STEPHANIE DUNLOP

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Dec 1 <b>Taylor Road</b> – Medical                     | <b>Taylor Road</b> – Medical                                    |
| <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – MVI                             | <b>Jacklin Road</b> – Medical                                   |
| Dec 2 <b>Ferncliffe Place</b> – Open Burn – General    | <b>Derrien Place</b> – Medical                                  |
| Dec 3 <b>Sooke Road</b> – MVI                          | Dec 11 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Assistance – General Public   |
| Dec 4 <b>Badger Place</b> – Open Burn – General        | <b>Rocky Point Road</b> – Medical                               |
| Dec 5 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Assistance – BCAS     | Dec 12 <b>Arden Road</b> – Hydro – Lines Down                   |
| Dec 6 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Assistance – Public Works | Dec 17 <b>LaBonne Road</b> – Medical                            |
| <b>Hillman Road</b> – Assistance – Public Works        | Dec 20 <b>Dutnall Road</b> – Hydro – Lines Down                 |
| <b>Lindholm Road</b> – Hydro – Fire                    | Dec 22 <b>Delgada Road</b> – Beach Fire                         |
| <b>Park Drive</b> – Medical                            | <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Assistance – Miscellaneous Complaint |
| Dec 7 <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Medical               | Dec 28 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Medical                           |
| <b>Happy Valley Road</b> – Assistance – General Public | Dec 29 <b>Gemini Drive</b> – Medical                            |
| <b>LaBonne Road</b> – MVI                              | Dec 30 <b>Lindholm Road</b> – MVI                               |
| Dec 8 Medical  | <b>Stillmeadow Road</b> – Medical                               |
| Dec 9 <b>Kangaroo Road</b> – Medical                   | <b>Neild Road</b> – Open Burn – General                         |
| Dec 10 <b>Eales Road</b> – Assistance – Public Works   | Dec 31 <b>Neild Road</b> – Open Burn – General                  |

MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

SFRes: Structure Fire Residential

BCAS: BC Ambulance Service



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## 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

**HOUSE FOR SALE?** Out-of-province small family looking to buy a house preferably in Metchosin or close by. Contact by phone 1-306-373-4192 or Natalie @ 1-306-381-8898 and/or email at: rddc2004@yahoo.ca and leave message. Thank you.

[stinkingfishstudiotour.com](http://stinkingfishstudiotour.com) under "Contact."

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

### SERVICES

**CALL TO ARTISTS** – The Stinking Fish Studio Tour welcomes applications now for the 2017 summer studio tour. Interested fine artists and fine craftspersons should apply by March 1. Forms are available on the website at

**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.

## Important Dates and Events

- Jan. 27 **Film Night: Salmon Confidential** (79 minutes), 7:00 pm at the Community House
- Jan. 28 **Boundary Adjustment Referendum** . . . . . p. 1
- Feb. 1 **Metchosin Garden Club**, 7:30 pm, Metchosin Community House. Movie night featuring an episode of "The World in 80 Gardens," a BBC production with host Monty Don . . . . . p. 6
- Feb. 4 **Book Sale:** RCL #91 Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their first-ever book sale at 761 Station Avenue, February 4, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be assorted items from \$1 to \$3. Admission is free and the facility is wheelchair accessible.
- Feb. 10 **MCA House Concert: Owl & Vulture** . . . . . p. 11
- Feb. 12 **Boiler of Seville's Marmalade Workshop** . . . p. 15
- Feb. 13 **BC Family Day**
- Feb. 14 **Valentine's Day**
- Feb. 17 **Metchosin Bandwagon Music Night**  
Welcoming back The Kicks ([www.facebook.com/SookeKicKs/info/?tab=page\\_info](http://www.facebook.com/SookeKicKs/info/?tab=page_info)). Music 7:00 to 9:15 pm; kitchen and bar open at 5:30 pm. Entry by donation of \$5; all goes to musicians. Metchosin Golf Course, 4100 Metchosin Road.
- Feb. 18 **Community Potluck Dinner** . . . . . p. 12
- Feb. 21 **'Chosin Chatters Open House** . . . . . p. 6
- Feb. 24 **Talk and Walk: Moths and Butterflies of Metchosin** . . . . . p. 3  
**Film Night: Occupy Love** . . . . . p. 9
- Feb. 25 **MCH Guest Chef: Spatchcocked Chicken** . . p. 13
- Feb. 26 **Change Makers' Bath Towel Bundle** . . . . . p. 8

For SIRC events, please see page 5. For ongoing events at the Metchosin Community House, please see page 11.

CRD Nature Events take place throughout the year in Metchosin, East Sooke, Sooke, and Langford. For details, go to [crd.bc.ca/parks-events](http://crd.bc.ca/parks-events).

Clip and save this listing!

## 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>

### Madill Trail



Trail from William Head Road near Parry Road to Municipal Grounds. Suitable for all uses year round.

## 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](mailto:metmuse@shaw.ca) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, as should any amendments or additions to this list.

### AIR CADETS

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

### ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

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

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

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

### BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

### BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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

### 'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

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

### CRD PARKS

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

### GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

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

### LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

### METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)

[info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)  
[www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca)

### METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

### METCHOSIN COUNCIL

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

### METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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

### METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

250-478-2374,  
[tammyberry269@hotmail.com](mailto:tammyberry269@hotmail.com),  
[www.mesmetchosin.com](http://www.mesmetchosin.com)

### METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

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

### METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

[metchosin4h@gmail.com](mailto:metchosin4h@gmail.com),  
[www.metchosin4h.com](http://www.metchosin4h.com)

### METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB

250-298-7877

### METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY

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

### METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB

250-478-4778

### METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY

Pioneer Museum, 250-382-1989,  
School Museum, 250-478-0765

### METCHOSIN PONY CLUB

250-727-3595

### METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL

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

### METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

[metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market

### METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

250-478-2210  
<http://www.metchosinsar.ca>

### METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC)

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

### METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)

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

### MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

### PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

345 Wale Road, Colwood  
250-886-2481  
[www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org](http://www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org)

### POD LEADERS

Kathleen Sutherland  
250-474-3966

### ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

September to April  
250-478-0553

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Branch 91, Station Rd, Langford  
Ladies Auxiliary  
250-478-5484

### SCOUTS CANADA

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

### SEA CADETS

250-478-7813

### TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Audrey 250-478-1352  
Marnie 250-478-9637

### SWANWICK CENTRE

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

### WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

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

### WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

250-474-3999

### WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

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

## CHURCHES

### BAHA'I FAITH

250-514-1757

### GORDON UNITED CHURCH

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

### HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

250-727-3722

### OPEN GATE CHURCH

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

### ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

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

### WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

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

### WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

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

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Fax: 250-658-9316  
Email: [sandyhiggins@telus.net](mailto:sandyhiggins@telus.net)  
[www.sandyhiggins.ca](http://www.sandyhiggins.ca)



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Al Millar

Tel: (250) 391-0588

[inquiries@millarsauto.ca](mailto:inquiries@millarsauto.ca)

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