

School's Out – Or Is It?



Metchosin School after the addition in 1949.

Metchosin School for Sale

Chris Van de Water

Everyone knows that the Metchosin Elementary School is located in the very centre of the Metchosin village core, but far fewer know that School District 62 proposes to dispose of this quiet set of buildings and property.

I want to encourage everyone to come together and show Metchosin Municipal Council our support to acquire Metchosin School property in its entirety – buildings and playing fields. It is incumbent upon us that we show Council that this school, in the heart of our beloved Metchosin, could, with Council's blessing, become a municipal showpiece for the shared use of its citizens.

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) has presented

to Council a very workable business plan which would allow the property to serve as a mixed-use arts and cultural centre based on a self-sustaining model at no financial burden to Metchosin. Metchosin's acquisition of this property is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to immeasurably enrich the social fabric of our community. Please let our District Council know that you support this proposal.

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) is, of course, in the old elementary school in downtown Metchosin. This is where we gather for our official MACCA meetings. MACCA leases the two-storey edifice on the right, with the large set of stairs on the front, commonly called the 1914 building.

In a convoluted arrangement, the School Board leases this building to the municipality, then the municipality leases it to MACCA. The newer building is retained by the School Board for storage, although most of it is vacant.

Every nook and cranny in the 1914 building has been rented out by MACCA to various arts and cultural groups or individuals, and there is a long waiting list for spaces.

MACCA believes that the municipality needs to actively step up to the plate and purchase a controlling interest in this property. An informal poll shows overwhelming support for municipal action on this issue.

There are schools throughout BC that have been closed and sold in recent times. Some of them have been transformed into the very concept

that MACCA is proposing and have become the pride of their respective communities.

Moms and their kids have been attending preschool beside St. Mary the Virgin church on Metchosin Road for generations. It's in a very convenient location, the rent from the church is reasonable, and the kids love it. The tots form bonds and friendships there that last lifetimes. The moms, too, meet other moms, finding out that they are neighbours, and many stay in touch long after the tots have moved along.

But as much as the kids may love their preschool, the building has seen better days. Parking could be better, and the playground is very close to the road.

The preschool could move to a clean, bright, and roomy space in Metchosin School, with a kitchen any facility could be proud of. There is a lot of outdoor space in which to run and play. These are the types of human investments that help to grow impressionable young children into the Metchosin residents of the future.

On a final practical note, at the Metchosin School, wastewater drains into an up-to-date sewage treatment plant, after which it gets pumped into a well-maintained pressurized septic field. This engineered system is super-sized to meet the needs of an entire student body and staff, day after day, year after year, far into the future. As a publicly owned facility we could, at some point, perhaps link this system to the Metchosin Community Hall, which is sorely lacking in septic drainage. A strategy such as this could save that venerable old building from being torn down.

The MACCA Business Proposal

The following is an excerpt from a business proposal for the old Metchosin School building.

MACCA Directors

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) is exploring the potential for utilizing the entire Metchosin elementary school – buildings and property – as a public access facility.

Building on the model that has operated successfully over the past seven years, MACCA believes that a community organization could secure tenancy and facilitate the management of operations at no cost to the District of Metchosin.

The facilities would be made available for various community groups and individuals as a public resource. MACCA has collected a substantial list of interested parties. The auditorium, especially, is attracting attention, as are the grounds and playing fields.

The space would be operated by a registered society under a contract with the owner. The society would be appropriately constituted for the purpose and include directors with suitable expertise.

An initial meeting with Metchosin community groups in October 2016 suggested significant interest and support, and that this would be followed up with more detailed consultation as the proposal is developed, including collaboration on some elements (heritage preservation, Metchosin School Museum Society, Village Square Initiative).

Significant further detail is needed on the buildings, including contents, operations costs, current conditions, repair and maintenance requirements and fire and earthquake safety status. First reading has been given to School District 62 bylaw for disposition of the property. Disposition could mean either by sale or other method such as leasing.

A Brief Profile of MACCA's Tenants

Gail Nash and Anne Richmond

Editor's introductory note: With the discussion of the future of the school intensifying, we thought it timely to provide this brief profile of the current activities undertaken by MACCA and its tenants in the school.

The *West Shore Arts Council* is the anchor tenant, offering opportunities for residents of West Shore municipalities, and visitors to experience concerts, art shows, family participation festivals, speaker series and other forms of art, culture, and heritage.

SIRC (Seniors' Information and Resource Centre) is a Metchosin grassroots-initiated, district-sponsored

seniors' association that offers resources, advocacy, a meeting space, a technology learning lab, and friendly ears for a chat.

Metchosin Soap Works, started by Debbie Cooper as a home business, both makes soap and offers classes in soap making. The same huge room accommodates *Schoolhouse Studio* operated by Blair Taylor, who specializes in sculpture and photography.

Touchstone Studio is the space where stone sculptor Lesley Graham works with chisels, hammers, fine sandpaper, wax, and oil to bring out the hidden beauty of the stone. In *Canvasback Studio*, Christina Morrisette fashions sturdy, functional items from canvas and leather. Next to *Canvasback* is *Shiloh Music Studio*. There Joshua Mansfield

teaches guitar, offers guitar repair and sound consultation for recording and performances.

Glow Art Studio and Gallery fits well into the old school library and offers an eclectic assembly of mixed media arts. *Glow* is also a supportive network and social gathering place for many local artists, especially on Sunday around noon.

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association sponsors events and provides financial grants to arts, culture, and heritage activities. In 2016 MACCA events included: Authors' Evening (a panel presentation and discussion), a "Farewell to Mary Gidney" event, and a community meeting on the future of

For an historical perspective on Metchosin School, please see page 2.

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AD DEADLINE

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

ABOUT THE MUSE

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

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

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800 (July/August: 3000)

The Metchosin School and Village – An Historical Perspective

Wendy Mitchell

Every community has a heart and it may include church, school, hall, store, restaurant or post office. Metchosin has had all these, and over the years they have moved and changed or even vanished (like the post office). In 1871 John Witty donated an acre of land to the citizens of Metchosin for a school. He also donated the adjoining property for a church and cemetery, making the area the centre of the community for all time. The Metchosin Farmer's Institute built their community hall in the 1890s, and the Metchosin General Store was built in 1930, soon joined by Mr. Bickerdike opening his motor garage, thereby completing the heart of Metchosin until the opening of the popular My-Chosen Cafe in the 1980s.

In 1913 the old school, now the museum, was moved back and a grand classroom was built on high foundations with two flights of stairs leading to the cloakroom. One set of stairs was for the boys and one for the girls, which is odd as they all hung their coats together and sat in the same classroom! Over the years the second classroom was added and the foundations skirted in for a welcome covered play area. It must have been then that the indoor washrooms were built. At some point one of the two outhouses found its way to the corner of Taylor Road and William Head (Quarantine) Road as a bus shelter. In 1971 a group of Metchosin's finest men moved and restored the dilapidated building to the back of the museum, not without stress, but that is another story!



The original Metchosin School, 1898.

City water was piped to the Quarantine Station in 1922 and the Women's Institute raised the money to install a single spigot in the school. The outdated hand pump has found its resting place in the garden of the School Museum. Later a wood-burning furnace in the basement replaced the stove in the classroom, the heat rising through a huge grated hole in the floor. The early 1930s brought four pendant electric lights with metal shades to the school room. With a jump from 60 to 80 pupils after the war, a larger school was needed. In 1949 an army hut was purchased and installed as the second classroom, which is now home to the West Shore Arts Council. The old school had to be moved further east and was officially closed. It was used as a classroom for the last time in 1953, and in 1959 it was moved for the third time to where it sits now. Before being opened as a museum in 1971, by a massive community effort, it was home to the Boy Scouts.

The 2000s saw the official closing of the school, but in time-honoured fashion it has

been used as a sort of portable by the School District. 2015 saw the very last children attending classes, and since then it has been used by the School District as storage.

A group of farsighted citizens came together and worked tirelessly with the School Board and the Municipality to repurpose the historic site, ensuring it would continue to be the heart of Metchosin. The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Association was formed and has managed the historic part of the school successfully by nurturing artist studios, galleries, offices and small businesses. The Metchosin Museum Society shares Metchosin's most valuable artefacts with the public with the enthusiastic help of dedicated volunteers.

But the "times they are a'changin'." It is 2017 and the school and grounds are for sale. We must step up to build on the vision of 147 years ago not just to preserve the heart of our community but to grow it. Heritage, learning, and public space are vital to the needs of a cohesive progressive community.

Visit our website! www.metchosinmuse.ca

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

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

Muse Subscriptions

We can mail the *Muse* to you each month for \$25 a year if it is to be posted to a Canadian address. Please send your information and cheque to the Head of our Subscriptions Department:

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Or you can email us at: metmuse@shaw.ca



Letters to the Editor

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

School Still Has Value

The Metchosin School property in the village centre is for sale because School District 62 has decided that it no longer requires the property for school use and needs money for other school-building projects. This development puts the future use and preservation of the school buildings and property in doubt.

I was privileged to be on the Board of Directors of the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) and West Shore Arts Council, and witnessed how the use of the 1914 school building and adjoining property for community services, cultural events and rental spaces for

artists and community-based enterprises encourages the health and creativity of our residents, and adds materially to the ambience and vitality of the village centre. The 1914 school and its 1949 addition also contribute significantly to the architectural merit of the village and should be considered buildings of heritage significance.

We ought to do whatever is possible to have a public presence in this space and to work towards a long-term lease or purchase of the building. Please let us continue to meet and share our dreams for a continued Arts and Cultural Centre, and consider how we can make this a reality.

Thank you.

Gaert Linnaea

On Leash on the Goose!

The Galloping Goose trail has recently been made on-leash only for dogs, although no signage has yet been changed out our way. This makes me cry as it is a much loved and much used trail by many considerate dog owners in Metchosin. I walk it with off-leash dogs for several hours every day. I am hoping that, as a dog community, we can request that the CRD reconsider.

In the meantime, let's learn to share the trails. Be considerate of all users, train your dogs, and control them.

Let's hope this decision will be reversed!

Monique Anstee

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Insert 8.5" X 11" (supplied only)	\$259.00	per month	per month
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Robin Charles Hopper – A Celebration of a Wild, Wacky, Wonderful and One-of-a-Kind Life!

Brian Domney

Robin went out like he lived his life – with fun, irreverence, mischief, and style. There was a full house at the Olympic View Golf Club on May 16 for the Celebration of Life for Metchosin's most famous ceramics scholar, an event planned by the man himself. Co-MCs Steven Young and Dave Skilling got things underway, making sure that everyone knew that Robin wanted the event to be fun and full of smiles; he had said he could forgive some tears, but the intention was laughter, and his intentions were met admirably.

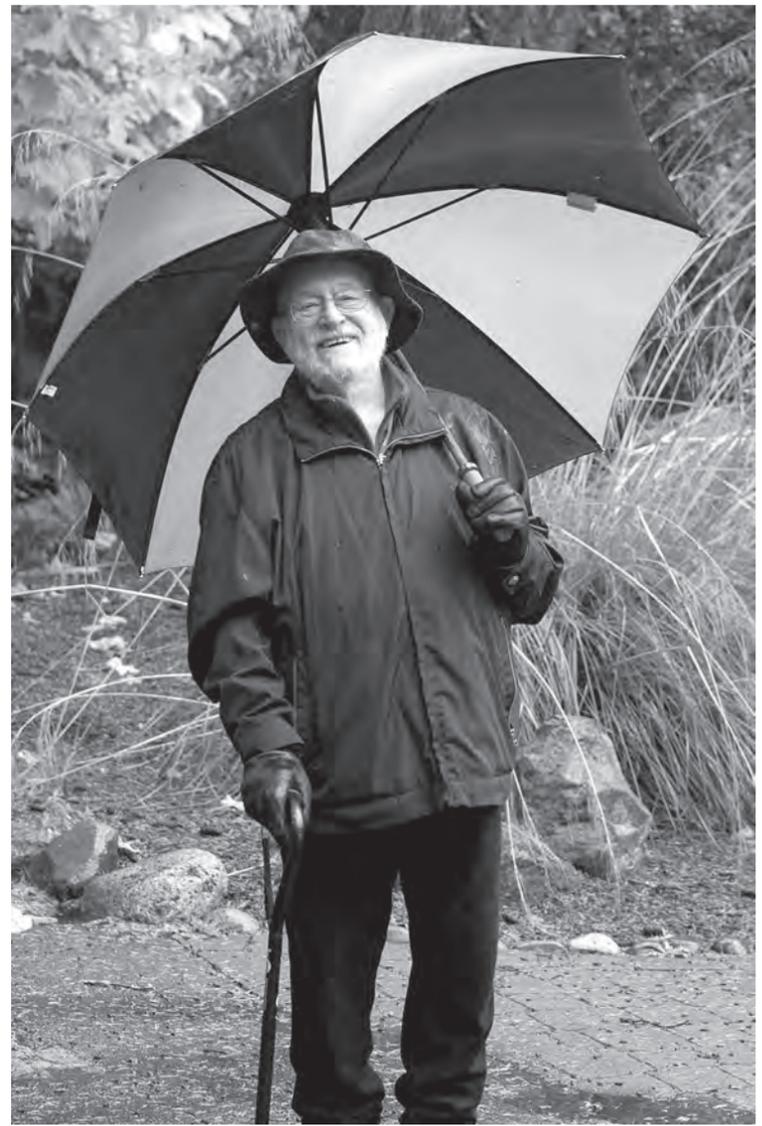
After some opening remarks by the MCs, a video of Robin doing a personalized version of the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil" – "please allow me to introduce myself, I'm a man of clay and glaze ..." quickly got people in the right mood for a real

celebration. Wonderful music and song, images of the man and his work, tributes – written and spoken – some moving, some hilarious, followed, all reflecting what a remarkable man Robin Hopper was. Formalities (if that is the right term) ended with a karaoke sing-along of Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," with the bouncing ball replaced with a small Robin Hopper head.

When Robin was told his time was limited last year, he bought several hundred daffodil bulbs to be handed out at his Celebration of Life. He had a brief recovery, so the daffodils ended up planted at Robin's son's home. Apparently the first bloomed on the day Robin passed. Instead of daffodils, everyone left the celebration with a packet of wildflower seeds and an art card of one of his creations, both fitting reminders of what was important to him.

The *Muse* has written about Robin several times, and rather than recount his many accomplishments and recognitions again, decided to help him achieve his wish to go out with laughter and smiles. However, please take the time to read the words of Senator Patricia Bovey spoken on the floor of the Senate Chambers eulogizing Robin (https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/debates/111db_2017-04-11-e#4), and read Karyn Woodland's article in the September 2016 issue of the *Muse* (look for it here: <http://metchosinmuse.ca/archives.html>), to be reminded of a life well lived.

In his own words at his Celebration of Life, Robin thanked everyone for being part of his life because his life was better for it. And the same right back to you, Robin.



Robin Hopper, looking on the bright side.

The Election: Metchosin Triumphs over the Rest

Johnny Carline

At the time of writing, whether the province will have a tenuous right of centre majority government or an even more tenuous right or left of centre minority government is not known. It may be determined by the way as few as half a dozen people have voted. Not just any half dozen, mind you; a half dozen in one particular riding. Our system of democracy is a wonderful thing.

Surely, that is all the more reason to celebrate the decisive victory for Metchosin in the election in the riding of which Metchosin is a part. Of course, I'm not talking about which party won. That is important of course, though I've always had my doubts about the use of the term "party." When you look at how earnest all the parties are, and sometimes how downright nasty, it would take an awful lot of wine and beer to turn any of them into a party I would want to go to.

Do not misunderstand me. I had the pleasure of meeting all the candidates at the Metchosin all candidates meeting, organized jointly by the Metchosin Community Association and the Metchosin Hall Society. It struck me that, regardless of the fact that the range of views they held varied enormously, they all were extremely nice people



The Metchosin team: Mitzi Dean, above, and Andy MacKinnon, right.

who articulated intelligent views of how the province should be governed (even though I disagreed strongly with some of them). They were worth listening to and I was pleased that the Metchosin audience did exactly that. More than one candidate commented to me afterwards that the Metchosin all candidates meeting was easily the best and allowed all the candidates to present their views without it degenerating into a mindless yelling match.

No, I am talking about the contest between Metchosin and "the rest." I love a good sporting contest and invariably support the "underdog." I viewed our local election as a battle between our two local contestants and the four "others" from places elsewhere. Pulling for the outnumbered "home team" seemed like a pleasant perspective to take to help distract from the largely



irrelevant and distinctly unpleasant "party" exchanges occurring in the latter part of the campaign.

And how well our team of Mitzi and Andy did! They both spoke extremely well and both finished the campaign still sounding like people you wouldn't mind spending an evening with over a pleasant libation.

And they crushed the opposition. According to Election BC's preliminary results, over 70 percent of the votes cast in the riding went to the Metchosin team! Over 70 percent of the votes, despite having less than 15 percent of the population! It just goes to show that Metchosinites have got what it takes and that people elsewhere realize it.

The only thing left to do now is fix the name of the riding. Enough of "Esquimalt-Metchosin." Just call it "Metchosin and the Rest."

'CHOSIN POTTERY
Robin Hopper & Judi Dyelle
250-474-2676

 A black and white photograph of a pottery gallery. Various ceramic pieces, including vases, bowls, and plates, are displayed on white pedestals. A circular window in the background shows a view of trees.

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 A black and white illustration of a person in a yoga pose, standing on one leg with arms raised.

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Schwalbe Cycling Classic – June 3

Johnny Carline

The popular and challenging Schwalbe Cycling Classic is back on June 3! The riders will ride multiple laps of the ten-kilometre course starting at Rocky Point Road, up the steep climb on Liberty Road, continuing to La Bonne Road, down Kangaroo Road and back to Rocky Point Road. Hundreds of spectators are expected to be encouraging the riders up and down the inclines of this gruelling race.

Juniors, Masters and Novices go at 7:30 am and the elite racers start at 10:00 am. The men's elite race is expected to finish around 1:30 pm.



Riders in the 2014 race.

Brian Domney photo

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EMERGENCY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

How do your driving skills measure up?

Charla Huber, Metchosin Emergency Program

How do your driving skills measure up?
Tuesday, June 20, 7:00 pm
Metchosin Fire Hall, 4440 Happy Valley Rd.

For many of us it has been a long time since our last drivers' test and we all know that bad driving habits can creep up on us.

The Metchosin Emergency Program is hosting a free information session with DriveWise Driving School to help all of us refresh our driving skills.

We can learn some of the different challenges that driving in urban and rural settings brings, as well some new tips you might not

be familiar with. With the weather warming up there will be more children outside playing and cyclists on the road. Learn some safety tips for sharing the road and learning the best and safest way to handle some of these situations.

Bring any of your driving questions to this information session and we can all work together to make our roads a safer place to travel.

Join us for the free information session on June 20 at the Metchosin Fire Hall, 4440 Happy Valley Road. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please call 250-478-1307. We also have a door prize at every session.

COUNCIL NEWS JUNE 2017



2017 PROPERTY TAXES AND HOME OWNER GRANTS

Metchosin residents should expect to receive their 2017 property tax notices by June 1. If you have not received your notice by June 1, please contact the municipal office to obtain a duplicate copy. Taxes are due on July 4, 2017 – penalties will be levied on the following day and cannot be waived, even if you have not received your tax notice. Do not forget to claim your Home Owner Grant (HOG). This can be done online now; check our website: www.metchosin.ca

SUMMER ROAD WORKS

Summer road maintenance works have begun and include mowing and brushing of roadside vegetation, ditching and the placement of centre line reflectors. Paving will commence in July / August on Metchosin Road from Bilston Creek Bridge to Happy Valley and William Head Road from Lombard to Pearson College.

BURNING INFORMATION

Please be advised we will be closing Open Burning and all Land Clearing (Class A, Permit) Fires as of May 31, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Small cooking campfires are still allowed. Call the Fire Department at 250-478-1307 for more information.

METCHOSIN FARMERS' MARKET

Metchosin Farmers' Market is open on Sundays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm from Mother's Day to the last Sunday of October. Buy fresh vegetables, breads, jams, salsa, baked goods, and gifts (or crafts) for your loved ones. Then come again the next week.

TANSY RAGWORT DAY – SUNDAY, JULY 9

Tansy ragwort is an introduced, invasive species which is increasing its toehold on southern Vancouver Island and is present along many of our roadways and encroaching into fields and meadows. It is most noticeable in August when it sends its brilliant yellow, daisy-like, flat-topped flower heads shooting up to six feet in the air. One multiple stemmed plant can produce 150,000 long-lived seeds per season. The plants contain a toxic alkaloid that can poison livestock by causing cumulative liver damage, particularly in sheep, cattle, pigs, horses and deer.

Tansy ragwort has a shallow, fibrous root system which can easily be pulled by hand, but wear gloves and protective clothing whenever you tackle invasive species removal as some people are more susceptible to allergic reaction than others.

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	June 5, 7:00 pm	Council.	June 19, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting	June 5, 7:00 pm	Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC).	June 20, 7:00 pm
Healthy Communities Advisory Committee (HCAC).	June 7, 7:00 pm	Environmental Advisory Committee (MEASC).	June 27, 7:00 pm
Planning, Parks and Highways and Public Works	June 12, 7:00 pm	Heritage Advisory Committee (HASC).	June 28, 7:00 pm

Meetings are subject to change; for updated information, please call the district office at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at www.metchosin.ca. Thank you.

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

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

SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE



SIRC seniors enjoy Ravenhill Farm animals and museum this spring.

Dawn Boshcoff

New SIRC Summer Hours

June through August, SIRC is open from noon to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Call us at 250-478-5150 or drop by for more information!

Note: Throughout the summer, SIRC will be closed Friday through Monday. However, our email and telephone access for volunteers and caregiver support, KIT (Keep In Touch) and service pro referrals, will remain active.

Please leave a message at 250-478-5150 or e-mail info@metchosin seniors.ca and we will address your request as soon as possible. We check messages regularly and will do our best to respond within 48 hours. For emergencies, please dial 911.

SIRC welcomes all ages of volunteers and members. A lifetime membership is only \$10. Please drop by and visit us at 4495 Happy Valley Road or call SIRC for more information.

Claim Your Free Smile Card at SIRC

With your Thrifty Foods Smile Card you can give something back to your community and help to raise funds to support SIRC's many local programs.

Each time you use your Smile Card to shop locally at Thrifty Foods, they will kick back five per cent of your total spend to SIRC. Call SIRC to get your free Thrifty Foods Smile Card.

SIRC's 4th Annual Parisien Café

On Saturday, June 3 from 10:00 am until noon, the school yard in front of SIRC will come to life as a delightful, Parisien-style outdoor café, in the centre of Metchosin Village.

Brought to you by the Metchosin Seniors' Association, the annual celebration features several local artists and entertainers, and real French pastries! We warmly welcome SIRC members, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate with us.

Better at Home: User Support and Services

SIRC is a designated Better at Home Agency* providing support to families and services to seniors in Metchosin.

Please call Metchosin's Better at Home Coordinator at SIRC to find out how to access help for a senior neighbour, family member or friend. Our team of volunteers provides driving and transport, technology learning, companionship visits and more.

*Better at Home is funded by The United Way and the Province of British Columbia

WEA GLOW Luncheon

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Luncheon in Metchosin is brought to you by BC Community Response Networks Westshore, SIRC and Glow Arts Studio and will take place on **Wednesday, June 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm.**

The event will provide an opportunity for education

and conversation about the important issue of elder abuse and guests will learn about the community response network, available resources, and our role in keeping vulnerable people safe. Please RSVP and wear purple!

Can't make it? Community organizations and individuals can contact SIRC to book a presentation. For more information on the program, visit www.itsnotright.ca.

Drive and Dine: Save the Dates

All are welcome to join us for Summer Drive and Dine Community Suppers. We leave SIRC at 5:30 pm sharp and return by 7:00 pm.

Summertime Drive and Dine Dates: June 5 and 19; July 3, 17 and 31; August 14 and 28.

There is no cost to attend and all are welcome. SIRC's volunteer drivers and diners travel to and from Gordon United Church in Langford to enjoy a meal together. Please RSVP for Drive and Dine and Metchosin Community Potlucks or call us to learn more.

- **Saturday, June 17, 4:00-7:00 pm:** SIRC Outing to Potluck Dinner
- **Thursday, June 29, 11:30 am-1:00 pm:** SIRC Outing to Potluck Lunch

Summertime Learning at SIRC

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

attending Open Learning Lab from 1:00-3:00 pm on any **Tuesday or Thursday.** Book your personal Geek Session for up to one hour. We guarantee that you can become friends with technology!

Note: Monthly Tech-Talks will resume in September. Please call SIRC or email your topic ideas to info@metchosin seniors.ca.

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2017 Dinner Raffle

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Draw Date: November 15, 2017 at SIRC. Dinner Raffle Tickets are \$20 each.

MSA Member Matters

Please drop by SIRC and complete our MSA Member Survey to help us understand your needs. Pick up a copy of our spring/summer newsletter and join us at SIRC! We welcome new volunteers throughout the year.



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Andrea Westfall

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the Employment Program of BC to help citizens and newcomers alike obtain employment that is significant and long term.

We are offering one-on-one, free support services in your career search, such as: learning how employers look at résumés, mastering the interview and how to search for the right career. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Westfall at 250-361-9433 or via email andrea@vircs.bc.ca. We can come meet you within the Metchosin area.

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METCHOSIN VOLUNTEERS

'Chosin Chatters

Jim MacPherson

'Chosin Chatters is our local chapter of Toastmasters. The club was started in 2010 and has been a chartered club of Toastmasters International since 2011.

When we think of Toastmasters, many of us think in terms of public speaking. Toastmasters is that, but the 'Chosin Chatters group tells me it is a lot more. It is also about confidence building, leadership development and self-improvement.

'Chosin Chatters is a small group, but gradually increasing in numbers. Most members are from Metchosin but some Langford residents are also members. One member has been a member of Toastmasters for 25 years. Most have been members for several, if not many, years and it is a testament to the value of membership that few seem to leave.

Members seem to join because they recognize a need to improve their public speaking skills and to become more comfortable in a speaking situation ... maybe to learn to be more expressive, maybe to get a better sense of body language, maybe to learn to insert more humour into speaking, maybe to learn to make better use of voice and inflection. Members stay because of improvements in public speaking, increased confidence and the resulting enhancement of leadership skills. Members have from time to time been called upon to judge speaking events and to speak at ceremonies.

There is an \$18 membership fee to cover the costs of room rental and materials supplied by Toastmasters International. After that, however, 'Chosin Chatters operates as a self-contained entity with a high degree of independence. The club is managed by a seven-person executive, all of them volunteers.

From the 'Chosin Chatters meeting that I attended, it is clear that meetings are fun. Most meetings include one or two prepared speeches by members, followed by a set of ad hoc and impromptu talks which get the speaker to talk off the cuff on the topic given. Speeches and talks are constructively evaluated stressing what was done well and what could benefit from some improvement. All speaking is timed under the general consideration that most speakers will only have a few minutes in real life to give their message.

Members take turns with everything. From chairing the meeting, to speaking, from evaluating to time keeping, from setting up the room at the beginning to clean up at the end, everything is done by volunteers.

From **September through June**, 'Chosin Chatters meets weekly at **7:00 pm, Tuesdays**, at the Metchosin Community House. For more information, email info@chosinchatters.org.

Metchosin Day Is 50! Send Stories

Wendy Mitchell

This year is the 50th year for Metchosin Day! That seems worth celebrating. And one fitting way of celebrating such a milestone would be to look back on memorable Metchosin Day experiences.

We are inviting our readers, and indeed anyone with a Metchosin Day memorable

experience, to share those with the rest of us. Do you remember your first Metchosin Day? What is your best Metchosin Day memory? Or the worst? Or the funniest?

If you have a memory that you wouldn't mind sharing, please email it to metmuse@shaw.ca, and we'll try to print a selection in a future edition of the *Muse*.

Meeting, Metchosin Style



"Honestly, Doug, it was this big!" In a scene which surely defines the difference between Metchosin and our urban neighbours, Al Epp appears to be explaining the size of the rabbit that got away to an attentive Doug Sawatsky.

Barb Sawatsky photo

Wendy Morton, Sooke's Gardener and Poet of the Skies

Judith van Manen

Garden Club Meeting:
Earth Market, Eating Out of Your Garden 12 Months a Year

Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 pm
Metchosin Community House

What does poetry have to do with gardening? Every gardener knows that plants, flowers, and even landscapes evoke emotions. Most of us have a difficult time finding words to describe our gardening discoveries. Our next garden club speaker, Wendy Morton, does not. She will show us photographs of plants and read the poems that they evoke.

Many poets are introverted or reclusive but Wendy is very forthcoming and opinionated about the place of poetry in our lives. She believes that we are all poets at heart.

Wendy Morton's story is an interesting one. This is how it is relayed on the Canadian Poetry Online website. "Wendy Morton's first book of poetry, *Private Eye*, was published in 2001. She knew she had to find some way to turn her poetry into currency.

She had once been stopped by a police officer for speeding, read him a poem and escaped a ticket. She was thus convinced of the power of poetry.

"One day she called up WestJet Airlines, suggested she read poems for the passengers and write poems for them in exchange for flights. After some enthusiastic urging, they said yes, and so she became WestJet's Poet of the Skies. She has turned her poems into the currency that has provided her with a PT Cruiser from DaimlerChrysler, luxurious hotel rooms from The Fairmont Hotels, vitamins from Prairie Naturals, a digital camera from Fujifilm. She was also sponsored by Green Beaver skin care products and AbeBooks. Her poem 'If I had a name like Rosie Fernandez' appears on the label of Southbrook Vineyards' Cabernet Merlot as part of their Poetica series. The queen in *Alice in Wonderland* says to Alice, 'Why, when I was your age, I imagined six impossible things before breakfast.' Wendy imagined that poets all across Canada could commit 'random acts of poetry': read them a poem and give them a book."

Wendy Morton has published five books of poetry and a memoir. She is the founder of Canada's Random Acts of Poetry and the recipient of the Spirit Bear Award, the Golden Beret Award, the Colleen Thibaudreau Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Poetry Award from the League of Canadian Poets, and is an honorary citizen of Victoria.

Wendy is also an accomplished and knowledgeable gardener and teacher. She facilitates classes through Royal Roads. One class, "The Apothecary Garden," has participants gather at her unique garden in Sooke and, in an afternoon, are shown how to concoct fragrant oils and floral waters. Another class, called "The Kitchen Garden: How to Grow Your Own Food All Year Long," sets out to inspire students to grow a successful kitchen vegetable garden.

Please join us at our next Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 pm to hear Wendy Morton's slide/poetry presentation: *Earth Market, Eating Out of Your Garden 12 Months a Year*.

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Celebrating National Aboriginal Day together – June 21

Charla Huber

Metchosin and Beecher Bay Reconciliation Celebration
June 21, 4:00 to 8:00 pm
Metchosin Municipal Grounds
4450 Happy Valley Road

Leadership from the District of Metchosin and Beecher Bay First Nation have come together to celebrate their friendship, partnership, and history with residents from each community.

The Metchosin and Beecher Bay Reconciliation Celebration will share history from both communities, open the conversation between residents and offer the opportunity to enjoy a salmon barbecue with each other.

"We are coming into a new era when First Nations are taking their proper place as equal partners in governance and business," said Mayor John Ranns. "It is essential for everyone to accept First Nations as equal partners."

For the past few months both communities have been working together to plan co-hosting the event to bring

members of each community together for a meal.

"I haven't always felt equal, but now I do," said Chief Russ Chipps. "Metchosin doesn't treat us with false guilt that some groups do. We have a legitimate relationship."

One of the solidifying moments in building the relationship for Chipps was when Metchosin acknowledged and accepted Beecher Bay's Douglas Treaty rights, explained Chipps. "That gives us the will to lift our heads a little bit higher."

The reconciliation celebration will open with a witnessing ceremony involving Elders from both communities. In the traditional manner, Ranns and Chipps hand-delivered invitations and small gifts to the Elders. "Beecher Bay and Metchosin have a special connection. We are not just friends, we are partners," said Ranns.

When Ranns attended school in Metchosin as a child, he remembers students from both communities playing with each other and getting along. Ranns mentioned that, during his visits, many of the

Elders spoke of remembering this time when there was no divide. Over the years, things changed and Chipps had a very different experience in school.

Now the two communities are closing the divide. "We are all in the same canoe, it was built by our Elders. They have laid the foundation and need to work together to ensure that our children know not to go backwards," said Chipps.

The Beecher Bay Drum Group will perform at the event. Students from Westmont and Hans Helgesen Schools are also learning the songs, and children from both communities will perform together.

"This is what we want. We want all the children to feel safe. We want the children from the band to embrace their culture. It is really something that we appreciate," said Ranns. "I went to Beecher Bay and watched the youth drum group practice. They were having fun and appreciating their culture, it was really great to watch."

Residents of Metchosin and Beecher Bay communities



Chief Chipps and Mayor Ranns working towards reconciliation.
Charla Huber photo

are invited to attend the reconciliation celebration at the Metchosin Municipal Grounds. Along with a salmon barbecue, entertainment and children's activities, leaders from both communities will speak to and explain what reconciliation means to our communities.

This is a free, family-friendly celebration and all residents of Metchosin and Beecher Bay are encouraged to

attend. Costs will be shared by the District and the Nation.

Volunteers are needed for set up, as well as during and after the event. Please contact Gaert Linnaea by email (linnaea@telus.net) or telephone (250-514-9750) if you would like to help.

Editor's note: We apologize for misidentifying Chief Russ Chipps as Randy Chipps in the May issue of the Muse.

Iconic Mary Hill – Metchosin's Ecological Treasure

Karyn Woodland, on behalf of the APRM

No one knows Mary Hill better than Metchosinite Christopher Pratt, who celebrated his first birthday close to Mary Hill on Weir's Beach (Sandy Bay), in 1925.

Chris spoke of Mary Hill's history to a full Community House at the April 19 meeting of the APRM (Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin). Todd Manning, also a nearby resident and forest ecologist/biologist, followed Chris, expanding on the ecological significance of Mary Hill. The following is largely based on the material they presented.

Mary Hill lies at the end of William Head Road, bordered by William Head Institution (the federal prison) and Pearson College. It has long been off limits to the public as it contains unexploded ordnance from the days it was used as a training station by the Department of National Defence.

Most of Mary Hill is Douglas-fir forest. The summit includes numerous rocky outcrops and small stands of Garry oak. Some of the lower slope areas also contain Garry oak meadows, likely prevented from becoming forest by First Nations burning to maintain camas and other food plants. These open areas of Garry oak were also used by the military for training.

The site is home to a significant proportion of the remaining old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir forest worldwide; some of the trees growing on Mary Hill are over 600 years old.

The oak meadows of Mary Hill, where gnarled and ancient Garry oaks grow, provide habitat for many uncommon and rare species, such as the red-listed sharp-tailed snake, the blue grey tail dropper slug, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the small wildflower Macoun's meadowfoam.

The site is also home to other more common wildlife, from the octopus in its rocky lair along the shore to the eagles nesting in the ancient trees.

When war broke out in 1939 the Canadian Government expropriated 500 acres (202 hectares) to build a coastal defence fort, which, after Pearl

Harbour, seemed both prudent and urgent. Guns were installed and huts were built to accommodate soldiers. One hut remains.

After World War II, Mary Hill was used for military training until about 1990, which, somewhat ironically perhaps, has resulted in its preservation.

Long before DND days, Mary Hill, like the rest of Metchosin, was occupied by the Coast Salish people. Burial cairns and culturally modified trees can still be found there, along with fire pits for roasting camas.

The purple camas (which can be seen blooming in late April to mid-May) was cultivated for its bulb – a staple food for First Nations people. The bulbs were dug out with a stick and steamed or baked in large open pits.

It is believed family plots were passed on through the generations. Part of the regime of this early day agriculture was to set annual brush fires in the fall that maintained open meadows and oaks (a role later served by grazing sheep), and kept the coniferous forest relatively open for easy travel.

The "Mary" of the hill is a bit of a mystery. An 1858 map shows it as "Buck Hill." Spanish explorer Manuel Quimper anchored in Pedder Bay in 1790, and is the first person of written record to climb Mary Hill.

British settlement followed some 60 years later. Members of the Weir family were the first European settlers. As they never logged the property, Mary Hill today contains some of the oldest Douglas-firs on the planet. Invasive species such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, holly, and daphne are now rampant.

In the 1990s the Victoria Natural History Society conducted a topographical survey of Mary Hill, describing it as "the most nearly pristine of all the ecosystems examined in the Greater Victoria Region, and as such should be regarded as highly valuable ecologically."

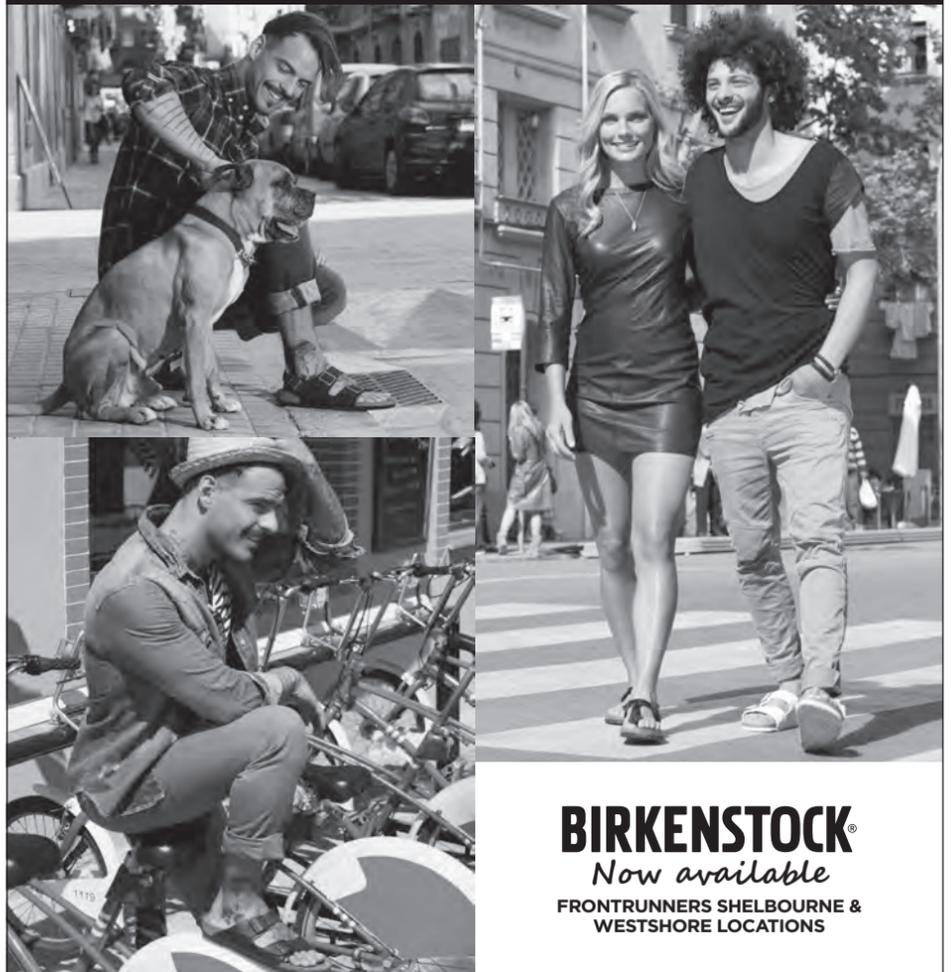
Today all surplus Crown Lands (federal and provincial) are being considered in Treaty Negotiations.

The future of Mary Hill is at this point uncertain.

Save the Date! The Annual General Meeting of the APRM is Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 pm, at the Metchosin Community House.

Guest speaker TJ Watt, who grew up in Metchosin, is an award-winning nature and conservation photographer and co-founder of the Ancient Forest Alliance. Check out his work at tjwatt.com.

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The Market Is Back

The Sunday market returned to Metchosin on May 14, complete with a new structure to shelter the vendors. Barb Sawatsky's camera captured some of the flavour of that locally anticipated and welcomed event.



Sunday morning in Metchosin.



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Barb Sawatsky photos



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A Metchosin Man (at Heart)

Bret Schuurman

My name is Bret and my Papa has Parkinson's disease (PD). He's had it my whole life.

We have lots of things we do together. He really likes to play crokinole, do sudoku and crossword puzzles, go water-skiing and bike riding. Lately we have been riding our bikes together a lot to train for "Shakin The Rock." This is a fundraiser for PD that my family has organized, and it's a 500-kilometre bike ride from Port Hardy to Victoria.

I decided to ask my Papa a few questions about all of this. (Editor's note: in the following, A is Alf Todd who is, of course, Papa.)

B: Have you always liked to ride your bike?

A: As a youth I rode out of necessity because I couldn't drive, then in my 30s I began taking more of an interest again.

I have three kids and in their younger years I took my two sons with me on our bicycles to San Francisco; then again in 2000 with my daughter Cindy. And 2012, in my honour as well as a fundraiser, my kids organized the first Parky's Pedalers ride. There were 16 riders and we took two weeks to ride from Victoria to San Francisco. We raised over \$30,000 for Parkinson's research and it was an amazing time.

B: What brought about this recent Island ride?

A: I was very convinced as to the benefits of cycling for

Parkinson's, and had a desire to ride Vancouver Island. I had wanted to do a ride with one of my grandchildren and was very pleased when you (Bret, my oldest grandson) said that you would do the "Shakin' the Rock" ride with/for me.

B: How long did you live in Metchosin?

A: I moved to Metchosin in December 1995 and left in the spring of 2013. So I lived there 18 years all together.

Originally we lived on Pears Road for eight years, and then we moved to Barrow Road. We had 33 acres of land at the end of Barrow Road that we decided to subdivide, and in doing so it was required that we put a road in to service the lots. We had to pay to put this road in so we figured we may as well leave our legacy behind and call it Todd Lane! We had originally hoped that all three of our kids could buy one of the lots so that the family would all be together. Due to the changing market as well as the onset of Parkinson's, that dream never came to fruition. My daughter Cindy and her family (Bret's family) did build a house on one of the lots and still live there now.

B: When did you get PD?

A: I was diagnosed 10 years ago in 2007 but I had been having symptoms that I couldn't explain for probably three years prior to that.

B: How does Parkinson's feel?

A: That's a very difficult question because Parkinson's is different for every single person that has it. For me the most noticeable symptoms that I have is my body is very stiff most of the time and the other thing is I have freezing, where my brain tells my feet to walk but my feet don't cooperate. As far as pain goes, I don't have pain. Some Parkinson's patients do have pain but I don't. It's just a very frustrating disease.

B: Why do you like to ride your bike?

A: It's a bit of a strange phenomenon bicycling and Parkinson's, but when I've been riding I feel almost as though I don't have PD anymore. For the most part when I'm on my bicycle I don't have Parkinson's.

B: Why did you leave Metchosin?

A: In 2012 we decided to move out of Metchosin, away from the hilly terrain. It was getting hard for me to negotiate the land and we needed to be in a rancher on flat ground. It was hard to leave, and my heart will always be in Metchosin.

B: If people want to help, what should they do?

A: We are on Facebook (The Parky's Pedalers) or www.therock.org. Both have a link where you can donate to our efforts.



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Sheepdog Tales

Johnny Carline

A small group of people, supported by the Metchosin Community Association, are trying to bring the wonderful tradition of the Metchosin Sheepdog Trial back again after an absence of six years. We were very lucky to secure an open slot on the sheepdog trial calendar but it has been made clear that we have to make a go of it this time. If we don't, we won't get a second chance for a very long time, if ever. To take advantage of this opportunity, we need a lot of help and, on the day, a lot of interest from the local community. So even if you have never seen a sheepdog trial and never thought you would ever want to, please read on and see if I can possibly change your mind.

All of the trials I have seen had three basic things in common which gripped my imagination as a child and never let go of it since.

First and foremost you have the dogs. Other than in New Zealand, where they also use "huntaway" dogs, almost all trials involve border collies, a breed defined by its functional working characteristics, rather than the particular physical characteristics that one sees in other "pedigree dogs." Border collies take you back all the way to Neolithic times when our ancestors, sitting round the cooking fires, took the decision to try and use the animals that hovered around those fires and see if they could put them to better use than just catching them and eating them.

To watch a border collie at work is to witness the achievement of our ancestors in transforming the predatory instincts of a wolf into an amazingly intelligent and flexible partner of the human farmer. When you watch a shepherd and his border collie, you are seeing the culmination of the process that lifted the human species from an animalistic existence and put it on the road to civilization.

Just how intelligent is the modern border collie? I watched a trial in central BC where some of the dogs, not actively engaged, were allowed to play by themselves in a separate field. I was amazed to watch them self organize what could be described as a reverse

game of tag. One dog took on the role of herder, while the other dogs ran around like sheep. After a few minutes of mixed success, the herder would be replaced by another, and the game would continue. If you are tempted to buy into the Pavlovian stimulus-response theory as the exclusive explanation for animal behaviour, watch border collies at play. It will blow your mind.

Secondly, there are the shepherds, immensely patient, immensely kind. I've heard that some farmers shoot their animals when they have lost their usefulness, without a scrap of sentimentality. Not these guys. It is a relationship of profound affection. I saw one shepherd in an Ontario trial send out his novice dog on a wonderful "out" on the left-hand side of the shepherd. It reappeared, moments later, on an equally wonderful "back" on the right-hand shepherd and sat at his feet, looking up at him with an irresistible, tongue hanging out, "haven't I been good" expression. There was not a sheep in sight. Raising and driving the sheep home was a lesson still to be learned. The shepherd looked down, smiled, and said "that'll do" and together they walked off to warm hearted applause. If you want to see love, watch shepherds and their dogs.

Thirdly, there are the sheep. I've heard people worry about how trialling may be cruel to the sheep. But a dog that nips at a sheep is almost certain to be immediately withdrawn, and only once have I seen a border collie be aggressive to a sheep in a trial in that way.

What I have seen is stubborn sheep refusing to respond to coaxing of the collie. It seems like the whole audience holds its breath when a sheep and a border collie, paw poised in the air, utterly motionless, stand in silent confrontation. On a rare occasion I have seen a sheep charge and try to stomp the dog.

John and Lorraine Buchanan, our Metchosin sheep champions, are only too happy to commit their sheep to this trial and are strong supporters. But we desperately need Metchosinites to signal that they will also support this venture. Please call 250-474-3966 to volunteer some help for this local tradition.

Thank you.

Say Hello, and Goodbye, to Sheila MacKay

Brian Domney

When the *Muse* did a profile on Lisa Urlacher, CAO of the District of Metchosin, the intention was to introduce readers to municipal employees, the unsung heroes of our local government. However, this profile has become one of an "ex-municipal employee" as Sheila MacKay has traipsed off to the world of retirement after a career of almost 20 years with Metchosin.

Sheila was born in Paisley, Scotland and moved to the USA at the age of six, and shortly after to Kitchener, Ontario, then on to Courtenay-Comox. Returning to Ontario, she became involved with CUPE, and the Toronto Labour Council, where she worked with new immigrants as an ESL teacher. She also worked for the Metro Toronto Library, and attended the University of Toronto and the Toronto School of Art.

Sheila moved to Victoria from Toronto where she began working for the Victoria Intercultural Association in 1993, as well as volunteering with the Healthy Communities initiative in the Highlands. In 1998, Sheila joined the municipal staff of the District of Metchosin, initially in reception, then inspection and, after flirting with land use planning, she really got into GIS mapping,

which became her niche. On one of the visits I made to her office, she was moving a Metchosin data set into Langford to reflect the recent land swap involving Beecher Bay / Scia'new and Langford.

When Sheila moved to Metchosin, she had put a classified ad in the *Muse* looking for rental accommodation, adding she would "feed livestock." Three years later, with her new husband whom she "imported from James Bay," they bought their home on Walpole.

I asked Sheila about her almost 20 years with Metchosin. The most rewarding part? Getting to do a lot of things, direct contact with good people, and demystifying policy for them. The most challenging? People who didn't like a policy and ascribed personal motives to staff. Having worked in a variety of settings, Sheila believes the governance/staffing model that Metchosin has adopted, with a small permanent staff, contracted services and elected officials taking on work that might ordinarily be done by staff, is unique and has allowed us to be in the enviable situation we are as far as lifestyle and debt-free status.

So wither now, Sheila? She's off to Scotland for a holiday, and, as a very serious knitter, Sheila is planning on becoming an active member of the "knitterati."

continued from page 1

the school property. 2016 grants included support to potter Sarah Leckie, musician Natasha Lefevre, the MCA's Rough Voice Singers, and website developer Larry Moss.

Events being considered or worked on for 2017 include Aboriginal Day

activities at the Beecher Bay - Metchosin Reconciliation Ceremony, Metchosin Day stage events, and the return of the Metchosin Sheep Dog Trial.

Editor's concluding note: a review of what we actually do, however brief, may sometimes help us better envisage what we might strive to do.

Blinkhorn Nature Park Restoration



The Beautiful Blinkhorn Lake

Moralea Milne photo

Moralea Milne

After a shout-out for volunteers earlier in the year, a group of Metchosin residents, in collaboration with the District, have begun a stewardship initiative in Blinkhorn Nature Park, in particular to remove invasive species from the park.

It was recently discovered that an introduced, invasive European ash has been colonizing a small wetland area, and holly has been spreading throughout the park. Neither of these tree species are native

to BC and we are hoping to curtail their spread. What seemed to be a single large ash and a manageable number of saplings has now been recognized as a much larger problem, with many fair-sized trees that will need to be removed. We are hopeful that the European ash can be eradicated and not spread further throughout Metchosin. There is an acknowledgement in restoration circles that invading species can often be unrecognized as a serious issue for 60 years, when suddenly they appear everywhere across

the landscape. Starting this project now will forestall the spread throughout Metchosin. This will be an ongoing project, recommencing after the nesting season has been completed, provincially regulated as August 1. "Restoration in Progress" signage will be erected.

We are fortunate to have this small gem of a park in our midst and we are grateful for all the offers of help that have been received.

Contact moraleamilne@gmail.com for further information.

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Local Musician and Teacher Allison Marshall

Allison Marshall will be giving a benefit concert at St. Mary's Church on June 4. She is one of Metchosin's many interesting artists; here are excerpts from her profile that she recently provided to the *Muse*.

Allison began lessons at age five, and was a proficient accompanist and solo performer by 17. At 21 she moved to Victoria to continue studying music while working full time as an R.N.

In 1965 Allison received her A.R.C.T. for Performance and in 1967 began studying at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and later at the University of Victoria. She also taught part time at the Conservatory. In 1973 she received a Bachelor of Music in Performance.

In 1978, she instructed classes in Music Rudiments, and Harmony at Malaspina College. She took a course in the Kodaly Methodology of music instruction for children

and began experimenting with ideas on a new way to teach beginning piano students. To further develop her ideas, Allison enrolled as a graduate student in music education at the University of Victoria to study child development, and curriculum development and implementation. The result was the creation of "Childhood Horizons to Keyboard Musicianship," otherwise known as "Folk-songs for Little Folks."

Allison then set up private practice as a music teacher and also taught at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Some of her many students have gone on to successful careers in performance. She now teaches at home in Metchosin, and in Langford at the Westshore Music Academy.

In 2005, she began to study with Kathryn Ely, retired harpist for the Victoria Symphony, who suggested Allison should teach harp. Allison

successfully adapted her piano program to harp and since 2010 has been instructing students in that as well. She currently enjoys studying with the acclaimed harpist, Josh Layne.

See Allison Marshall in concert on June 4 at 2:30 pm with harpists Willow Hamilton and Taylor Wash. Tickets are \$15 from St. Mary's Church, Westside Instaprint and Long & McQuade. Free to youth 16 and under.

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! You can email the editor at 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.

MCA GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Yukon Journey 2016

with Nitya and Scott Harris, Thursday, June 15, 7:00 pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

There's a land where the mountains are nameless,
And the rivers all run God knows where;
There are lives that are erring and aimless,
And deaths that just hang by a hair;
There are hardships that nobody reckons;
There are valleys unpeopled and still
There's a land—oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back—and I will.

– Robert Service, "The Spell of the Yukon"

The Yukon has beckoned us for a long, long time and finally last summer we made our way to the High North. You can fit 15 Vancouver Islands within the area of the Yukon, a territory that has 38,000 people (one tenth the population of the CRD). So, it's easy to find places without people and we went looking for some of those for over three months.



Alpine meadows awash in wildflowers,
camping on top of the world;
Days without darkness,
searching for the Beringian butterfly;

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smoked pickerel and blueberries,
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Film Night at the Community House: Ghosts of The Joe Henry and Return to Zanskar



Phugtal Gompa

Andy Sutton photo

Ric Perron

Friday, June 30, 7:00 pm

Return to Zanskar
(23 minutes)

There is only one word to describe a visitor's vision of Zanskar: stunning. In fact, no word can do it justice. Zanskar is one of the most inaccessible regions on earth. Sandwiched between Pakistan

and China, little has changed in a thousand years in this remote, roadless Himalayan Buddhist area in northern India.

Thirty years ago, two American college friends hiked for seven days up the frozen Zanskar River to reach an ancient monastery built in the seventh century into the side of a cliff. Only a few outsiders visit each year; but this

is about to change. The first ever road through the region and up to the monastery is nearing completion. The two friends have returned to try to find the people they met in 1986 – and to discover what they think about the dramatic changes coming to the Zanskar way of life.

Ghosts of The Joe Henry
(26 minutes)

This is a Yukon follow-up film after Nitya and Scott Harris's talk (Metchosin Community House, June 15).

Ghosts of The Joe Henry is an assemblage of sensations of the land, the people, the flora and fauna that inhabit the lands that the highway traverses. The film has several gears, thankfully, throwing a lot of images at you thoughtfully, with clever animation over the film footage, like an artist's palette knife actively scraping oil paint onto the film as we watch the footage of the scenery change.

Mountains, beaver dams, rivers (frozen – then not frozen), archival footage of caribou running on the tundra, then suddenly animated by the artist's imagination: stuffed moose and elk heads over a fireplace, ice-crystallized bushes, then yellowed and bleached by autumn, arctic fireweed waving in the breeze like their provincial flag.

Though rarely in the film do we see The Dempster (Joe Henry) Highway, it is the only road in Canada that crosses the Arctic Circle. It is the meeting of a man-made entity and some of the most isolated landscapes on the planet. Initially constructed as a "Road to Resources," it was started in 1959 and completed in 1979.

The music by Doug Cox is like the ending of an anthem, or echoes in a cave, or a hollow tube being circled above your head, or a didgeridoo on vitamins.

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



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road **Info: 250-478-5155**
Email: mcahouse@telus.net **Web: www.metchosincommunityhouse.com**

Ongoing Programs

Mondays

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

Buddies – 2:45–4:30 pm. The program will start again in September.

Pearson College Students Outreach – Finished for the season and will return in September.

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.

Singalong – Metchosin Rough Voice Singers. Finished for the season. Restarting in September.

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).

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, 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 – Finished for the season, will return in September.

Music Night – 7:00–9:00 pm. Second Friday of each month. Finished for the season and will return in September.

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 – 7:00–9:00 pm, Friday, June 30. Two short films: *Ghosts of The Joe Henry* (26 minutes), and *Return to Zanskar* (23 minutes). Look for details in this issue.

Saturday

Monthly Community Potluck Dinners for all new and long-term residents of Metchosin! The community dinners will be every third Saturday, from 4:00–7:00 pm; please mark your calendars. Thank you for sharing your cooking and love, please invite those you care about for warm shared meal. The public and children are all welcome! **Next dinner: June 17.**

Events

Guest Speaker: Yukon Journey with Nitya and Scott Harris – June 15, 7:00 pm. Look for details in this issue.

Art on the Walls: MCHouse Art Group. The Art Group will display some of their works for the month of June. There will be a variety of works such as carvings, photos, paintings, and cards. 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.

Drone Dynamics



What do you do when a drone lands at your feet at Hans Helgeson playground? Isaiah and Mitchel took the opportunity to explain drone dynamics to an astonished Kian and Jahan. Barb Sawatsky photo

Nature Cards

Kem Luther

A deck of cards can be both fun and educational, as shown by the Metchosin Foundation's new set of plant cards, featuring 50 of the most common plants around Metchosin. They are printed on glossy, waterproof, heavy stock paper and feel to the hand like a pack of overly large playing cards. But there the resemblance ends.

Instead of suits and numbers, the cards have pictures (with inset close-ups) of the plants on one side. On the reverse is a description of the plants' appearances, habitats, and uses. Written in a simple, jargon-free prose that most intermediate students should be able to read, the cards also introduce and define 50 important botanical terms.

The plant cards were developed as part of a series of Metchosin Foundation initiatives to help increase awareness of the natural environment among the young people of southern Vancouver Island. Teachers from local schools, when interviewed about their instructional needs, expressed an interest in a set of cards for classroom use that would have pictures and descriptions of everyday local organisms. The Foundation set up a project team of local photographers, naturalists, and educators to develop the cards. The team included (in alphabetical order) Danny Buchanan, Beverly Hall, Kem Luther, Andy MacKinnon, and Moralea Milne.

The team analyzed data from the Metchosin BioBlitzes in order to determine which



plants young people were most likely to encounter in the field. As a result, the bulk of the cards represent common native species. However, 11 of the set show introduced, mostly invasive, plants. Pictures for the cards came from local photographers and from Wikimedia royalty-free sources.

Sets of the nature cards were donated to local schools by the Metchosin Foundation and printable versions have

been made available on the web to all teachers. Boxed sets of the nature cards are also available for purchase. Cost of the set is \$35 (plus shipping, if necessary), with all proceeds going to the Metchosin Foundation. Ordering information can be found at <http://metchosinbiodiversity.com/tools>. The boxed cards make great gifts. If you have connections with non-Metchosin schools, consider donating sets of the cards to them.



Nature cards for the students! Hans Helgeson teachers Kelly Holtan (left) and Diana Wakelin (centre), with Metchosin Foundation Chair Carol Carman (right). Kem Luther photo

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We look forward to continuing to help constituents with federal government departments, programs and services.



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Metchosin 4-H Club's Winning Speakers

Samantha Matechuk (Club Reporter)

The Metchosin 4-H Club started the year off with a flurry of activity. This is the club's seventh year, with a record number of 49 members aged nine to 21. This year the club has the following projects: bees, rabbit and cavy, poultry, photography, lamb, and small engines.

On February 19, members got together and had their Communication Competition, which was held at the Metchosin Community House. Members were free to choose a public speaking topic and also had the choice of completing an Education Board, a Speak and Show, or a Demonstration. The senior level members were also given impromptu speech topics. There were 26 public speeches, five impromptu, two demonstrations and one speak and show. The Communication Competition gives members the skills of preparing a speech and speaking in front of an audience. Both are extremely useful life skills. Topics this year included: electric cars, martial eagles, power of persuasion, arctic foxes, horses, and how to make chocolate chip cookies.

The winners in the Senior Public Speaking category were Dahlia Plett, Austen Brown, and Silas Mackenzie-Moore. The Junior Public Speaking category winners were Amber Brown, Annalise Steadman, and Ella Hurschler. The Junior Demonstration category winners were Brook Huckin and Emily Barro, and Michael Penn and Mackenzie Penn. The Junior Speak and Show category winner was

Annalize Loubser. Winners of the Education Board category were Tayla Sinkenwicz, Dahlia Plett, Hailee MacMillan and Kattia Bingham, and Kendall MacMillan. Congratulations to all the winners and all the members in the competition.

The winners from the senior and junior public speaking categories went on to represent the Metchosin 4-H club at the South Malahat 4-H district competition. Annalise Steadman, with her speech Fake News, won the competition and will proceed on to regionals to represent our district.

The Cloverbuds (ages six to eight) had a field trip to the Royal Bay Bakery to learn how breads are made.

On March 18, Parry Bay Sheep Farm opened its gates to the Metchosin 4-H Club. Members learned how to pick out the best sheep for each project and helped wrangle the sheep into the barn. The 4-H members had a lot of lamb cuddles.

On April 29 at the Metchosin Community House, our club had its first Judging Field Day. Members judged a variety of classes by first listening to a specific set of criteria, and then judging each class accordingly. Each member was marked on how they placed the class and the reasons for their decisions. The day also included a BBQ and games.

Metchosin 4-H will be participating in many upcoming community and club events. Stay tuned for more updates.

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NEWS FROM WESTMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Lieutenant Governor Visits Westmont Montessori School for Canada 150



Grade five student Sampson McNeill shows the excitement of having made a presentation to Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon. The L-G's aide de campe seems to be enjoying the moment as much as anyone.

Janelle Breese Biagioni

The Honourable Judith Guichon, 29th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia visited students at Westmont Montessori School on May 10 as part of her commitment to engage with 150 BC schools in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday.

During Her Honour's presentation she spoke about her role as the Crown's representative. She referred to "Canada as a nation of conversation, not of confrontation." The Lieutenant Governor asked the students questions and in turn, they were invited to quiz Her Honour about her role. Questions included, "Are you friends with the Queen?" and "Are you allowed to vote?"

Magnus Hanton, Principal of Westmont, commented, "The visit by Her Honour, the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia was a great experience for students, staff, and families. Having Her Honour visit right after a fascinating election night really gave context for Her Honour's speech about her role in the fabric of Canada's governance. It was a delight to see the genuine interest of Her Honour when visiting our Juniper classroom, and the enthralled students as they showed off their work."

The Lieutenant Governor's visit to the school came only days after students completed their participation in the Three Things for Canada

initiative, which encourages all Canadians to do three acts of service, or three acts of kindness, in commemoration of Canada's 150th birthday. The idea behind the initiative is that if every Canadian participated, we would realize over 100 million acts of service to build community and develop good citizens in Canada.

Each student was provided with a ballot to record the three things they had done to be of service, which could be as simple as doing something nice for a friend, to doing something in the community like picking up garbage. Upon returning their completed ballot, students received an official Three Things for Canada pin. The ballots were then placed on a large display board in the school's hallway for parents, teachers, students, and visitors to enjoy. Hanton observed, "Westmont was excited to have students participate in the Three Things for Canada project. It allowed students to come up with ways they could help others around them, but also recognize some of the great things they already do for their community. The Three Things for Canada project really gets to the core of what it means to be Canadian."

Sampson McNeill, a grade 5 student, presented the Lieutenant Governor with a Three Things for Canada pin as a keepsake from her visit to the school.

Westmont's Garry Oak Meadow to Become a Pathway to Learning



Westmont teacher Stacey van de Water, with students Samuel Beels and Rowan Kew, talk to Moralea Milne about how they can implement a learning path through the school's Garry oak ecosystem, in order to teach others about native plants and their uses by First Nations people. Joan Kew photo



Moralea Milne and Larry Hildreth enjoying the chaos of selling at the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale. Barb Sawatsky photo

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Scouting News



Left to right: Leaders Brenden Bagley, Karin Richie, and Curtis Becker.

Curtis Becker

14th JDF would like to congratulate Brenden Bagley as our newest Scouter in our Cub section. It was great to see such an enthusiastic father step up to the challenge. He worked very hard to receive his Wood Badge Part I, which took several months to accomplish. He was invested with the honour of wearing our black and yellow coloured necker and officially recognized as 14th newest Cub Scouter.

We are very saddened that our other Cub Scouter, Karin

Richie, will be leaving us. It has been a privilege to work alongside her in the Cub program. She has brought such a positive cheery attitude and great organizational skills to our team. Karin and her two children came over from Scotland with her husband on a work visa last summer for one year. She didn't miss a beat in joining the Canadian Scouts here and enrolling her son to continue with his scouting experience as they were previously members of the Scottish Scouting organization. Karin has brought a lot of enthusiasm and programming ideas to

the group. It was an honour to have her and her family so involved in our group.

We are really looking forward to finding some more enthusiastic parents or adults to step up and assist in our exciting Scouting youth organization in Metchosin. Scouting has been a big part of our community and we are always actively looking for new youth and leaders to join our group. If you are an energetic, crafty, outdoor enthusiast who likes to have fun and give back to the community, please consider joining us. Even if you are not so outdoorsy, we are also looking for those that have organizational skills and are good in administration to run our group committees as well.

If you fit this description, please consider volunteering with us. Contact Bill Schulte at wschulte@scouts.ca.

Green Eggs and Venturers



Left to Right: Eliza Church, Curtis Becker, Alysha Becker, Hunter Broadhurst, Erin Toohey. Missing from picture is Elliot Cove as Thing 5.

Venturers had an exciting weekend assisting the younger youth with a station at the annual Scout Spring Challenge held at Camp Barnard the weekend of May 6. It was a Dr. Suess theme and the 14th JDF Venturers ran the fire building challenge that consisted of a green egg being cooked to perfection. They rated the scouts on their team work and achievement of the challenge. They all had a great time and the camp was a success.



Cubs Tackle Broom

Broom bashing and trail maintenance are some of the ways in which Scouts give back to the community.

Left to Right: Jean, Zack, Jayda, Scouter Curtis, Rylan, Brenden Jr., Nairn, Scouter Karin, and Connor.

Cubs Turn Pirate at Wolf Howl Camp



14th JDF Cubs preparing to defend themselves against pirates.

Wolf Howl held at Camp Barnard was a hit for the Cubs of 14th JDF. It was a fabulous Pirates of the Caribbean theme and had loads of great challenges such as rope obstacles, fire building, catapult shoots of cannon balls into Young

Lake, a swab-the-deck sponge battle, designing their own buccaneer shirt with their own artwork, and winding up with a major sword battle between the 200 young pirate Cub participants. Lots of great outdoor fun for all.

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Scouting Is a Blast

Anna and Matthew Krop

On an early morning at the beginning of May, the 14th Juan de Fuca Scout Troop went rocket launching at a top-secret site in Metchosin. We had constructed the rockets at the previous Monday's meeting in the Metchosin Community Hall. Upon arrival at the field, we were greeted by a band of friendly sheep, which sounded more like cows. We then traversed the mud of the treacherous field to the launch site. We used an electrical ignition device built by one of the Scouts to light the rockets. They were quite spectacular, nearly disappearing from sight in the sky. Well, maybe the Scout leaders' sight ...

There was only one casualty – a rocket, not a Scout. After the launch, several of the Scouts visited an old bomb shelter on the property. All in all it was a fun experience.

Bryce Polinsky is ready for blast off.
Todd Polinsky photo

14th JDF Members Receive Chief Scout's Award

Joan Kew

On May 13, several 14th JDF Scouts received their Chief Scout's Awards at a ceremony attended by the Lieutenant-Governor of BC, the Honourable Judith Guichon. The Chief Scout's Award is the highest award that can be achieved at the Scout level in Scouts Canada, and recipients receive high school credits for their achievement.



Left to right:
Matthew Krop, Rowan Kew,
Will Buhr, Justin Ferguson,
Nick Voss, Theresa Kew, and
Anna Krop.
Joan Kew photo

RCMP Call-Outs APRIL 2017

Constable Alex Bérubé, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr 1 Happy Valley Road – Report of large traffic pylons placed across the road. | Apr 19 Matthews Road – Report of a suspicious vehicle. Vehicle left before police arrived. |
| Apr 2 Sooke Road – Report of a single vehicle in the ditch. No injuries reported. | Apr 20 Metchosin Road – Report of an injured deer. Deer was put down by police. |
| Apr 5 Witty's Lagoon – Report of a possible bomb. Military advised and disposed of the explosive. | Apr 21 Stillmeadow Road – Report of residential alarm. Alarm cancelled, police did not attend. |
| Apr 6 Lindholm Road – Report of a suspicious vehicle. Police attended but vehicle was gone on arrival. | Apr 22 Chapel Heights Drive – Report of a residential alarm. Confirmed false alarm. |
| Apr 7 Rocky Point Road – Complaint of a missing person. Person located in Sooke. | Apr 23 Sooke Road – Report of an erratic driver. Vehicle not located due to time delay. |
| Apr 10 Wootton Road – Report of theft of cash from farmstand. | Apr 24 Sooke Road – Report of a possible abandoned vehicle. Police attended and vehicle parked legally. |
| Apr 11 Metchosin Road – Report of theft of sculptures. | Apr 25 William Head Road – Complaint of suspicious vehicle. Vehicle left prior to police attendance. |
| Apr 12 Sooke Road – Report of a single MVI. No injuries. | Apr 26 Rocky Point Road – Traffic complaint regarding a reckless driver. Wrong plate provided to police. Vehicle was not located. |
| Apr 13 Duke Road – Abandoned 911 call received. Confirmed dialed by accident. | Apr 27 Happy Valley Road – Report of a driving complaint regarding an aggressive driver. Driver warned. |
| Apr 14 Happy Valley Road – Report of intoxicated man. Man located and arrested. | Apr 28 Sooke Road – Report of a single vehicle MVI. Vehicle left abandoned. Still under investigation. |
| Apr 15 Happy Valley Road – Report of two trucks driving aggressively. No plates obtained. | Apr 29 Pears Road – Report of a lost licence plate valtag. |
| Apr 16 Rocky Point Road – Complaint of impaired driver. Driver located and deemed impaired. | |
| Apr 17 Park Drive – Complaint of dumped garbage. Incident passed on to District of Metchosin. | |
- MVI: Motor Vehicle Incident

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<http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

<p>WANTED</p> <p>COOKIES CRITTER CARE is collecting beverage containers, dog food, leashes, collars and toys for animal rescue. Call Cookie @ 250-415-9335 for pickup.</p> <p>HOUSE – Small family looking to buy house/ acreage or land in Metchosin area. Please email rddc2004@yahoo.ca or call 306-230-7793 and leave voice mail. Thank you and good day.</p>	<p>SERVICES</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE Pearson College, June 3, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have at least five families participating. Clothes furniture, ornaments, tools.</p>
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Important Dates and Events

- June 3 SIRC Parisien Café p. 5
Schwalbe Cycling Classic p. 4
- June 4 St. Mary's Church Benefit Concert p. 10
- June 7 Metchosin Garden Club Meeting p. 6
- June 15 MCA Speaker Series: Yukon Journey p. 10
- June 20 Emergency Program Info Session:
How do your driving skills measure up? p. 4
- June 21 Metchosin and Beecher Bay Reconciliation
Celebration p. 7
Metchosin Hall Society Annual General Meeting,
7:30 pm, Metchosin Community Hall
- June 24 Metchosin Community Association Annual
General Meeting, 3:00 pm, Metchosin Community
House
- June 28 APRM Annual General Meeting p. 7
- June 30 Film Night at the Community House p. 11

For ongoing events at the Metchosin Community House, please see p. 11.

For Council meetings, please see p. 4;

For SIRC events, please see p. 5.

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

Clip and save this listing!



Music Night at the Community House

Knacker's Yard really played their hearts out and their throats dry at the Community House, May 12, with hand-clapping, foot-stomping Celtic tunes from beginning to end.

Ric Perron photo

Directory of Organizations

AIR CADETS

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

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC

250-382-2052
www.alzheimerbc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)

250-478-1197
Facebook: Metchosin APRM

BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

250-478-2387
ikmcken@islandnet.com
www.bilstoncreek.org

'CHOSIN CHATTERS TOASTMASTERS

info@chosinchatters.org
www.chosinchatters.org

CRD PARKS

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

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca
250-478-5484

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA

250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB

metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)

info@metchosinartcentre.ca
www.metchosinartcentre.ca

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

250-478-5155
mcahouse@telus.net
www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

METCHOSIN COUNCIL

250-474-3167
mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca
www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/meetings

METCHOSIN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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

METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

250-478-2374
tammyberry269@hotmail.com
www.mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION

metchosinfoundation@gmail.com
<http://metchosinfoundation.ca>

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
www.metchosinpreschool.com

METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Facebook: Metchosin Farmers' Market

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE

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

METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (SIRC) and METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)

250-478-5150
msirc@shaw.ca
www.metchosin seniors.ca

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

345 Wale Road, Colwood
250-886-2481
www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)

Kathleen Sutherland
250-474-3966
neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com

ROUGH VOICE SINGERS

September to April
250-478-0553

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

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

SCOUTS CANADA

14thjuandefuca@victoriascouts.ca

SEA CADETS

250-478-7813

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
www.swanwickcentre.ca

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

250-478-2286
info@westshorearts.org
www.westshorearts.org

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY BAND

250-474-3999

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384
www.westshorercreation.ca

WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

U14.U16.manager@gmail.com
westshorerfc.com

CHURCHES

BAHA'I FAITH

250-514-1757

GORDON UNITED CHURCH

250-478-6632
www.gordonunitedchurch.ca

HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

250-727-3722

OPEN GATE CHURCH

250-590-6736
www.opengatechurch.ca

ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

Anglican Church of Canada
250-474-4119
stmarysmetchosin.ca

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

www.westsidefamily.org
250-478-8066

WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY

250-474-5967
www.westsong.ca



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The above listing is a directory of organizations only. Please submit changes by email to metmuse@shaw.ca. Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events, to be included under "Events" on this page, or possibly as a separate article. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.