

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

Province Honours Jo Mitchell



Jo Mitchell receiving the British Columbia Achievement Award at Government House from the new BC Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin.

If you have been in Metchosin for any time at all, the one name you will certainly have come across is that of Jo Mitchell. The results of her energy and devotion to this community are evident and ubiquitous. She has been the founder or driving force of so many of the key volunteer institutions which define this community, including The Metchosin Community Association, The Metchosin Community Arts and Cultural Centre Association, The Seniors' Information Resource Centre and the *Metchosin Muse*.

Jo was also, of course, a highly respected member of the Metchosin District Council where, among other things, she took the lead role in establishing the

District's Agricultural Advisory Committee. Even today, in the autumn of her career, she will take the time to have a chat and provide useful advice.

Jo is one of the reasons why this little place gets noticed for the remarkable way we do things and, on April 25, the Province itself took notice and formally recognized Jo Mitchell's special contribution by presenting her with the British Columbia Community Achievement Award.

Nobody deserved such an award more and we at the *Muse*, one of the beneficiaries of her energy and vision, are delighted to offer our congratulations. Well done, Jo!

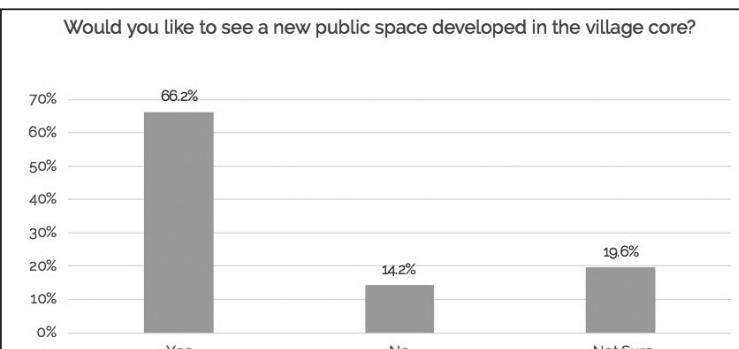
The Survey Says...Metchosin wants new Community Space

Shannon Carman

Residents of Metchosin are strongly in support of a new public community space in the village core, according to a three month community consultation process organized through the Healthy Communities Advisory Committee and funded through their Active Communities Grant.

Following public events, interviews with eighteen Metchosin community groups and a community-wide survey, Council was presented this May with a full report

detailing the responses from Metchosin residents around recreation in our community and their interest in the creation of a public gathering space in central Metchosin.



Survey Stats on New Community Space

Mayor Ranns praised the report for its content and insight into Metchosin's character. "We get so many reports that we have to deal with that just end up on the shelf,"

the Mayor said. "But not this one."

The 47 page study contains data on residents' recreational habits, their activities and interests in the community, as well as their input into what they think would constitute a more vitalized and interconnected village core.

Of the 314 households that responded, two-thirds supported the creation

of a new public space in the Village Centre, and fewer than 15% were opposed. The remaining respondents were undecided.

IMPORTANT TRAFFIC NOTICE

June 2, 7:30 am – 2:00 pm (approx.)
Motus Design Cycling Classic

A bicycle road race will be taking place in Metchosin. The riders will be utilizing a circuit starting at Rocky Point Road, turning onto Liberty Road, then turning right on La Bonne Road, merging with Barrow Road, where they turn right onto Kangaroo Road taking them back to Rocky Point Road. Hundreds of spectators are expected to line both sides of the climb up Liberty Road to cheer on participants.

Please be aware, drive cautiously and watch for participants. Plan on embarking on trips earlier than expected as there may be delays to local traffic.

Thank you.

Metchosin Muse

Email metmuse@shaw.ca Web www.metchosinmuse.ca

EDITORIAL TEAM

Brian Domney, 250-474-3966
Johnny Carline, 250-474-4601
metmuse@shaw.ca

MUSE TEAM

Joan Bradley
Jennifer Burgis
Johnny Carline
Eileen Carlson
Joannie Challenger
Brian Domney
Leslie Eaton
Barrett Fullerton
Lily Jackson
Joan Kew
Jim MacPherson
Barbara Methvin
Dauna Neveaux
Barb Sawatsky

ADVERTISING

Jennifer Burgis, 250-881-8280
J_burgis@telus.net

CLASSIFIEDS

Eileen Carlson, 250-478-1036
elcarlson@shaw.ca

ACCOUNTS

Eileen Carlson, 250-478-1036
elcarlson@shaw.ca

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Leslie Eaton

DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATOR

Barrett Fullerton

EVENTS

metmuse@shaw.ca

MAILING ADDRESS

c/o E. Carlson
4985 La Bonne Road
Victoria, BC V9C 4C5

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

AD DEADLINE

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

ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local non-profit, arts, interests and activities publication, produced by the *Muse* team. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. The *Muse* endeavours to promote harmony and involvement in the community and aims to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Metchosin and Beecher 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, East Sooke Grocer, Royal Bay Bakery, Willow Wind Feed & Tack, and at the Juan de Fuca and Goudy branches of the Greater Victoria Public Library.

CURRENT CIRCULATION: 2800

Local Councillor wins Island Business and Community Award



Metchosin councillor Kyara Kahakauwila was recently named as one of the "Top 20 Under 40" business and community award winners for all of Vancouver Island. The annual award seeks to celebrate Vancouver Island's top young entrepreneurs.

Kyara operates L.A. Limousines Inc. here in Metchosin with her husband Ed, and together they have expanded the company from six cars to twenty cars in the last eighteen years. Some of us have enjoyed taking our visitors to sample the wineries of the region with Luxury Wine Tours Inc. which Kyara developed as a specialty dimension (the fun side) of the company.

The *Times Colonist* write-up on her award noted her political career here in Metchosin: when first elected Councillor in 1999, she became the youngest elected woman in Canadian politics; she served three consecutive terms and then came back to be re-elected in 2014, resigning her position on the B.C. Chamber to do so. She was previously chair of the WestShore Chamber of Commerce.

Kyara has had extensive community board experience and still found time to be an active mom of two teenage boys, even running the occasional soccer practice when the coach was absent.

Congratulations Kyara!

Kyara Kahakauwila is happy in her work on the Luxury Wine Tour circuit

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.

To the editor

There has been a lot of talk, effort and money spent recently on the idea of creating a new active public space somewhere, to be called the 'Village Square'. There are also a number of people who would argue that it would be preferable to spend that energy on bringing a pub to the village.

The other day I heard a bright idea that might get a lot of people behind both ideas.

Why not bring a pub to the village; put some tables and chairs in an open space outside where people could sit, come together, drink or not drink, as they chose; maybe play bocce or horseshoes and we could call the whole darn thing, pub and all, the Village Square.

It would be interesting to see what Metchosin residents thought about that!

Avril Yoachim

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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I'm not a cynic, nor a movie critic (a surprise to some), but I will criticize some people's judgment. For instance, I'm not sure why some deny their bodies basic comforts and abandon all reason of sane mind. But here you have it, this crazy "Red Bull" action/adventure documentary. I like to think of as a horror/adventure. I'm trying to get you worked up for another wonky film night at the House with plenty of popcorn to throw at the screen.

Three die-hard National Geographic adventurers cross Greenland on skis (when they

FILM NIGHT

Into Twin Galaxies (52 minutes)

Ric Perron

Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road
Friday, June 29, 7:00 pm

worked) in a horizonless void for one thousand kilometers of windblown rutted ice. 120 kmh winds, towing kayaks with sometimes the aid of their flimsy kites. Why the kayaks? Their mission is to paddle a river they saw on Google Maps (hmmm, was that blue ice or open water they spotted?). Sarah McNair-Landry says "Google Maps has helped scout new areas – and it's the main reason that we found the two rivers that we call *Twin Galaxies*. At the same time, Google Maps has horrible resolution in the north and is very outdated (the only images we found were from August 2012), so there was still a lot of unknown."

Let's find out how this virtual vision plays out. It's an epic tale worthy of the popcorn. National Geographic and Red Bull teaming up – it is really good.

From the frozen mouth of another adventurer, Erik Boomer, "Any worthwhile objective requires a certain amount of risk. For me, the greater the risk, the greater the reward. It's important to remember that fear and risk don't always mean danger." (Ric, sometimes it does!)

Inquiries ricperron@shaw.ca

Metchosin Garden Club

Garden Club Treasurer Travels to Sicily

Jim McPherson and Judith van Manen

Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road
Wednesday,
June 6, 7:30 pm

Jim McPherson, Garden Club's trusty Treasurer, recently returned from a trip to Sicily. He will share this experience at our next Garden Club meeting. I asked Jim a few questions to gain some insight into this remarkable trip.

Why did you decide to travel to Sicily?

I took an Insight tour to Italy four years ago and had a very brief introduction to Sicily. I really liked what I saw and resolved to return and spend more time there. This was the year. I took another Insight tour, which matched Sicily with Malta, but I left early to spend a few extra days in Palermo to see the World Heritage Site, the Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina, which is not included in most tours. Palermo itself is greatly under-appreciated. Within a few blocks of the old city, the Kalsa, are some of Sicily's twenty or so World Heritage sites representing Norman, Norman-Arab, Arab and French/Spanish Bourbon art and architecture.

Sicily has long been known for its beautiful black sand beaches, a volcano, Mount Etna, where people can ski, an active Mafia that most tourists never see, and desserts that satisfy anyone with a sweet tooth.

Do you have any comments on these subjects?

When I was there during the last two weeks of April, Mount Etna was more or less quiet although you could see plumes of gases venting through the cone. Pretty common I understand and people seemed not to be very concerned.

Considering today's conflict in the Middle East, it is amazing that in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries, Norman, Greek Orthodox and Muslim partnerships existed in constructing castles, churches, fortifications, and palaces.

In contrast to the ancient history, the Baroque Palermo Cathedral exhibits the history of the Mafia. A chapel dedicated to a priest who was assassinated by the Mafia is in the process of being sanctified. He tried to organize boys' clubs in Mafia strongholds to remove some of the incentive for poor, urban youth to join Mafia-sponsored gangs. The death of the priest together with the assassination of leading Sicilian judges, prosecutors, and witnesses led the Italian government to take over control of the war against the Mafia. The Mafia still exists in Palermo and

Sicily but it is a shadow of its former self.

How did you feel about the people of Sicily? I have heard that they have an indomitable spirit in part because of centuries of foreign domination.

Spending time in Palermo and taking the bus to Piazza Armerina and Catania provided a little opportunity to see Sicilians. They were friendly, much more laid back than Northern Italians, seemingly more religious, and just as prone to drive on sidewalks and park in no-parking spots. Most Sicilians seem to know enough English to get by. Perhaps, because Sicily is seen as the poor relation in Italy, Sicilians seemed more anxious to please than their northern compatriots.

What might a gardener find of interest in Sicily?

There was a time when Sicily had heavy forests and lush valleys. Then the Romans came and stripped the island of its forests in order to build a navy to take on Carthage. The island has never been the same since.

Apparently, there are only one or two sites left where the ancient Mediterranean

Sicily has long been known for its beautiful black sand beaches, a volcano, Mount Etna, where people can ski, an active Mafia that most tourists never see, and desserts that satisfy anyone with a sweet tooth.

pine still grows. Elsewhere, all has changed. The Greeks introduced the olive tree; the Arabs planted lemons, oranges, and date palms; and the Spanish Bourbons introduced cacti. The world's first botanical garden was established in Palermo in 1779 where in due course a comprehensive selection of palm trees from around the world, banyan trees, fig trees, succulents, grasses and many other species were introduced and nurtured under Palermo's frost-free climate.

In the old quarters of old cities, few if any places were set aside for plants. Urban greenery became more of a feature after the seventeenth century, and even today plants seem hidden. In the countryside the story is different. Prickly pear cacti serve as fences to keep animals in or out; oleanders line many roads. And in rougher, uncultivated areas, Sicily supports its own version of Scotch broom.

Sicily presents an interesting set of the familiar and strange, the new and ancient, the common and the surprising. To learn a little more about the gardener's perspective of Sicily from Jim, please join us at the Community House at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, June 6.



Old, established, prickly pear cacti attest to the hot, dry Sicilian climate, especially in the summer.



Plant pots of various sizes, shapes and configurations are typical of the oldest settlements where greenspace is generally absent.

Wait, what?

Is something interesting happening locally?

We want to know!

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COUNCIL NEWS

JUNE 2018



District of Metchosin Website Change

Please note: The old District of Metchosin website www.metchosin.bc.ca is no longer available on the internet. Please use the District's new address www.metchosin.ca. If you have had the old District's website set up as a bookmark, it will no longer work. You will have to delete your bookmark. Search for www.metchosin.ca and create a new bookmark.

Burning Information

Please be advised we will be closing Open Burning and all Land Clearing (Class A, Permit) Fires as of May 31, 2018 (Sunday) at 6 pm. Small cooking campfires are still allowed. Call the Fire Department at 250-478-1307 for more information.

Infrastructure Upgrades

Currently the Public Works Department is working on the following infrastructure upgrades and traffic will be affected during these times. Ruby Creek bank stabilization

- Farhill Road to be paved
- Dallimore Road to be paved and culvert upgrade
- Duke Road to be paved and culvert upgrade
- Metchosin Road to be paved from Bilton Creek Bridge to Green Acres Golf Course
- Hydro pole replacements happening throughout Metchosin

Any questions or comments can be directed to the Public Works Foreman.

Metchosin Farmers' Market

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

Public Facilities and Picnic Tables

Did you know that there are public washrooms on the Municipal Grounds, complete with a baby change table? They are open daily, from approximately 8 am to 6 pm. There are also picnic tables available. The washrooms and picnic tables are both located by the Farmers' Market area.

Tansy Ragwort Day – Sunday, July 8, 2018

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, particularly cattle, pigs and horses, as well as deer, by causing cumulative liver damage.

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 at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

Finance and Environment Committee 7:00 pm June 4, 2018

Healthy Communities Advisory (HCAC) 7:00 pm June 6, 2018

Planning, Parks, Highways and PW Committees 7:00 pm June 11, 2018

Metchosin Environmental Advisory (MEASC) 7:00 pm June 26, 2018

Heritage Advisory (HASC) 4:00 pm June 27, 2018

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.ca. Thank you.

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

Be Bear and Cougar Smart!

For information about staying
safe around wildlife, please
visit the district website:
[www.metchosin.ca/content/
wildlife-resources](http://www.metchosin.ca/content/wildlife-resources)



Metchosin embraces English Roses and Vice Versa



International rugby teams typically take ice baths after a hard workout. When team liaison Brian Domney suggested Taylor Beach as an alternative after a workout at Juan de Fuca, the English Roses jumped at the opportunity. Photo by Brian Domney

Johnny Carline

The program for the recent Canada Women's Rugby Sevens tournament at Westhills had Metchosin content. Muse co-editor Brian Domney was identified as official liaison to the English team – known as the Roses.

Last year, Brian was liaison for the Brazilian team, and they finished twelfth of twelve. This year he was promoted to the much stronger English side. They barely made it to the quarter finals. One might begin to wonder whether inspiring

successful rugby is Domney's forte. However, between these two women's events, he was liaison for the Fijian men's team at the Vancouver Rugby Sevens and takes credit for inspiring them not only to winning that tournament but also the subsequent tournament victories in Hong Kong and Singapore and even for their silver medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Whatever his inspirational qualities may be on the field, off the field is altogether a different matter. In the best Metchosin tradition, showing off this special place and inspiring an enthusiastic



One English Rose managed to find a crab, which fascinated her teammates. Photo by Brian Domney

embracing of this wonderful environment, regardless of trivial details like wins and losses in rugby games, is what he does well. Regardless of their indifferent experience on the field, the English Roses really got into the spirit of Taylor Beach. The pictures tell the story.

Back at Westhill stadium, after yet another English defeat, this reporter ran into a chattering, laughing Roses team walking with a beaming Brian Domney. I asked him what he was doing. He said he was taking them to the showers.

I confess to the sin of envy.

Metchosin Old School Centre Arts Festival and Open House

Betty Hildreth

Festival and Open House
4495 Happy Valley Road
Sunday, July 15
Time TBA

Plans are in the works to feature an Arts Festival on July 15, 2018.

Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association (MACCA), which has the lease on the 1914 portion of the building and rents studio space for the practice and production of arts and artisan pursuits, will be hosting the festival in cooperation with the District of Metchosin.

A big draw will be an Open House inside the Metchosin Old School Centre. This is a golden opportunity to drop by and see how the elementary school space is being used to date. Want a piece of your old classroom? The District of Metchosin has identified items that have been set aside as surplus. These items will be available for purchase on a cash and carry basis.

In and around the Metchosin Old School Centre, festivities will include performances by local musicians, displays of visual arts, kids' activities, and a literary arts corner featuring samples of writing from local authors, poetry reading opportunities, and a station featuring a manual typewriter experience.

Open Burning prohibited starting May 31

Temperatures are rising, the land is drying, the risk of fire is increasing. As a consequence, open burning will be prohibited over the summer months.

Please keep an eye on the Fire Hall notice board for possible changes, and please, act responsibly, follow the regulations and keep this precious environment of ours safe.



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Shedding is perhaps the hardest part of the trial. Lee and Gus perform the task at the 2017 Canadian Open Championship.

Canadian World Team handler to compete in Metchosin Sheepdog Trial

Johnny Carline

The Metchosin Sheepdog Trial is still a couple of months away but the organizers are busy lining up competitors for this iconic event, scheduled for July 28 and 29.

While, for most of us, a sheepdog trial is a near-perfect way to spend a relaxing summer weekend in the beautiful outdoors, for sheepdog handlers, trials are just that: trials, tests of their skill and the hours of work they have put into training their dog.

But it is a labour of love. I remember in one trial I attended in Ontario when an experienced handler was running a young dog in the novice class. The crowd murmured its appreciation as the young dog performed its out run – low, sleek and fast, in a

wide arc. A quarter of a mile away, the sheep munched the grass, oblivious to the dog's approach.

The dog disappeared behind the rise on which the sheep stood and we waited for them to move, curious to see how the novice dog would raise them and get them moving, a tricky task which risks panicking the sheep. But they didn't move. The dog reappeared on the opposite side of the field, still low, sleek and fast, and returned to his master's feet with the same wide arc in reverse.

As the crowd suppressed their chuckles, the handler reached down to the panting pup, sitting looking up, eager for praise. He caressed its ear and in a low, warm voice, said

the magic words used by so many handlers. "That'll do."

I recalled Kipling's words: "If you can meet with triumph and disaster; and treat those two imposters just

"I have trained all my dogs from puppy age on and have been fortunate that they have taken me to top levels of competition..."

Lee Lumb

the same." Sheepdog handlers do that and when you watch them, their love for the animal is always evident and moving.

But when you see an experienced handler with a fully trained border collie, the experience is mesmerizing.

The organizers of this year's Metchosin Sheepdog Trial are going flat out to attract just such handlers to come and test themselves and their dogs against the notoriously difficult Buchanan sheep on the spectacular course at Swanwick Ranch, off William Head Road.

So, it is with considerable delight that we can announce that Lee Lumb has accepted the invitation to compete this year. Lee has twice been on the Canada world team and is truly an outstanding handler. Lee was kind enough to share the following biographical notes and photographs to introduce herself and her dogs to the Metchosin community. Hopefully, they will help persuade many of you to come and watch her in

person on the last weekend in July.

"I live in Coldstream, British Columbia, in the scenic Okanagan Valley. My husband and I are both retired but we farm 40 irrigated acres. We produce hay and have 60 hair sheep and some wool breed sheep that are primarily used in my year-round training facility. Besides the farm work, I am involved with custom training, lessons and hosting field trials and clinics throughout the year.

My start in training a stock dog began over 25 years ago with Stirling, a five-year-old rescue border collie. I currently have six border collies – four are competing, one is getting ready to compete and one is retired. I have trained all my dogs from puppy age on and have been fortunate that they have taken me to top levels of competition including: Finalist at the US Finals, the Canadian Finals and the invitational Soldier Hollow Classic in Utah, and representing Canada at the 2014 (Scotland) and 2017 (Netherlands) World Trials. This year Gus and I were proud to be on the Canadian team that placed second out of 30 countries in the World Trial team competition in the Netherlands."



Eight year old Gus is a real character. Here Gus congratulates Lee on a job well done.



Bet is just one and still learning the game.



Three-year-old Nico is all attention – keeping a sharp eye that this ewe goes where it's supposed to.



Lee and Gus – one of Canada's premier sheepdog trial duos.

Metchosin Cougars Roar into Action

Johnny Carline with contributions from Doug de la Mare

Metchosin's premier sports team opened their 2018 cricket season against the Nanaimo Cricket Club, making their debut in the Victoria-based league. The venue was the Beacon Hill Cricket Ground, the headquarters of cricket in this region. It was April 22, a crisp spring Sunday. The action was to make it a lot warmer.

Metchosin captain, Rohan Gowda, started the season where he left off last season, losing the toss. Nanaimo, with a strong bowling attack, decided to put the Cougars into bat first. Metchosin opener Duke gained some quick runs but his opening partner Sogani was not so lucky and soon returned to the pavilion to explain what went wrong.

Thomas was quickly dismissed 'leg before wicket', a way of getting out in cricket that baffles novices and often confounds even umpires. This brought White to the crease and Metchosin hopes for a promising partnership rose; but they were dashed when Duke tried a flamboyant drive, and was caught out on the boundary, a mere three runs short of a deserving fifty.

With skipper Sukh Singh (four wickets for 13 runs) leading the Nanaimo attack, the Metchosin middle order started to collapse until veteran Peter Machin steadied the ship, as he has done so often. He and White put on a critical 50 partnership, Machin scoring a valuable 24

while White finished at 41 not out, helping the Cougars to a total of 169 runs.

With a total allowance of 45 overs (an 'over' is six deliveries by one bowler) Nanaimo faced the challenge of scoring a shade over 3.75 runs per over to win – a moderate target, gettable but not easy – setting the stage for a heart stopping finale.

Metchosin opened their bowling attack with Gowda and Duke and the Nanaimo opening batsmen capitalized on some early season control problems. However, Nanaimo's Chopra, who had been looking dangerous, skyed a ball from veteran Simon Smith. Doug de la Mare got under it, ran around in circles, and took the catch. The Cougars had finally struck.

However, Nanaimo was scoring at over five runs per over and 31 runs from Sacdeva and 33 from Brar helped them approach their target of 170. But some brilliant swing bowling from White (three wickets for 32), supported by three top catches from Duke, brought the match back to even.

So even, in fact, that Nanaimo found themselves with needing to score only one run to tie, two runs to win while Metchosin needed to dismiss just one more batsman to take the match. What tension! Seventh game Stanley Cup Overtime? A recount in a tied Provincial election? All that and more!

Thomas bowls. The ball skids off the mat. Nanaimo batter Pannu makes



Nanaimo fielders are waiting, and the Metchosin openers and the umpires tread their lonely path onto the Beacon Hill Park Cricket field, as the first ball of the first game of the 2018 season is about to be bowled.

a desperate stroke. The ball rattles around hitting pad, bat, maybe several times each. Metchosin appeals, more in hope than conviction. The umpire hesitates. Is he bewildered or just making sure? Then the umpire raises his finger. Pannu is given out and Metchosin wins by 169 runs to 168!

What a match! What a finish! What a victory for Metchosin's own Cougars!

There have been two more away matches since then, but let's not talk about them. Metchosin's home opener is on Saturday, May 26 against the Colts – so by the time you read this *Muse*, hopefully their record will be two wins, two losses. There are more home matches in June, all starting at noon: June 9 versus Alcos and June 24 versus the Incogs. There are two more home matches in July, one on the 8th and the other on the 21st. Mark your calendars and come and enjoy some cricket.

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Honouring Ron Jenkins

Barb Sawatsky

Celebration of Life

Metchosin Community House 4430 Happy Valley Road

Sunday, June 10, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Ron Jenkins began to build his log home on Bennett Road in 1970 with trees he cut from his property. "He peeled the logs, did everything himself," his daughter, Justine said, "while our family lived in a small travel trailer until the house was ready to move into." He worked as a roofer and a log house builder, 14 of them, and "he was also a scrounger and a barterer, a taxidermist, a birder, an historian, a gardener, and often not politically correct."

"Growing up, I always felt different from other kids," Justine continues. "It wasn't just that our phone was hanging on a tree but it was like a farm outside AND inside. The doors were always open so we had chickens, goats, whatever wandering through the house. Plus there were skulls of animals boiling on the stove!" But as an adult, she grew to see how talented and meticulous her dad was and appreciated his unique personality, noting "he was very easy going. I never heard him raise his voice even once while we were growing up."

Most of all, Ron was a passionate musician and this is especially how he is remembered by the Metchosin community. When he was 13 his father presented him with a guitar and told him that if he learned to play bar chords, he could join a band. So "he practised like hell" and played to the end of his life.

He and his first wife, Lynn, formed a country and western band, The Gamblers, that regularly played at the Metchosin Community Hall in the 1970s and '80s. Practices were held in the kitchen of their home in the evenings "while we kids were trying to sleep upstairs!" said Janine. Many are the Metchosinites who danced to The Gamblers' tunes – everyone knew Ron Jenkins' band.

After Lynn and Ron divorced he met Sandy, a nurse who taught at Camosun College and who shared his love of nature and hiking. Sandy says, "I wasn't a country and western fan at first but I became one after meeting Ron." They were friends for two years before becoming life partners and then were together for twenty. "Ron loved all history but especially BC history," said Sandy, so he constructed a museum on his property to house his collection of antiques, some of which his family has now donated to Metchosin's Pioneer Museum. He also



Ron Jenkins: Metchosin Minstrel. Photo from the Jenkins Family Photo Album

loved exploring so they travelled around BC in their camper, canoeing in the Merritt lakes area, photographing birds. Once home, with Sandy's help, he compiled his pictures into nature videos to add to his collection of music videos.

Very social, and "because he wanted to keep the music going," Ron jammed on Sunday nights at the Langford Legion. He was known to be generous, always happy to lend his equipment, mics and amps when needed.

Ron Jenkins died at Victoria General Hospital on February 15, 2018 surrounded by his family, five days after suffering a stroke. A Celebration of Life was held on March 25 at the Langford Legion and on Sunday, June 10, approximately one week after what would have been Ron's eighty-third birthday. An informal, drop-in gathering will be held from 12 noon to 2:00 pm at the Community House to honour his memory. Mike Griffin, Ron's friend and music partner in their duo, will play a musical tribute to him at the Farmer's Market from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the same day. Please take extra time when going to the Market this day to drop into the House to say hello to Sandy and the girls. They would love to hear some of your memories about Ron.

Metchosin, how do I love thee? Let me count the bats

Paige Erickson-McGee

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is seeking volunteers and bat colonies for the Annual Bat Count. This citizen-science initiative encourages residents to count bats at local roost sites.

"Bat counts are a wonderful way for residents to get involved in collecting important scientific information" says conservation specialist Paige Erickson-McGee. "No special skills are needed, you can be any age, and you can relax in a deck chair while counting."

The Annual Bat Count begins June 1 and will collect baseline data on bat populations before the devastating White Nose Syndrome fungal disease affects bats in the province.

"White Nose Syndrome is estimated to have killed more than seven million bats since it was first discovered in eastern North America a decade ago," says Mandy Kellner, provincial coordinator of the BC Community Bat Program. "In March 2016, the disease was detected just east of Seattle, and has now spread within Washington State. This has greatly increased our urgency to understand bat populations in BC. We need

the public's help to census local bat populations - we never know when it is our last year to obtain population estimates before White Nose Syndrome causes widespread declines in western North America."



Townsend's Big-eared bat is one of the species people may encounter. Photo by S. Laughlin

Counts are easy - volunteers wait outside a known roost site, such as a bat-house, barn, bridge or attic, and count bats as they fly out at twilight. They record the final number along with basic information on weather conditions. Ideally, 1 – 2 counts are done between June 1 and 21 before pups are born, and

1 – 2 more between July 11 and August 5 when pups are flying.

"We know relatively little about bats on Vancouver Island, including basic information on population numbers," says Erickson-McGee.

"This information will be extremely valuable, particularly if it is collected annually. If people want to get involved but don't have a roost site on their property, we will try to match them with a roost site nearby."

To participate in the count program on Southern Vancouver Island, contact HAT's Bat Coordinator at bat@hat.bc.ca or phone the HAT office 250-995-2428.

Funded in part by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and private bat-loving donors, with technical support of the BC Conservation Foundation and biologist expertise from the Province of BC, the BC Community Bat Program provides information for people across the province dealing with bat issues on their property or who have questions about how to attract bats. To find out more about bat counts, or to get assistance dealing with bat issues, visit www.bcbats.ca or call 1-855-9BC-BATS.



Volunteers counting bats. Photo by J. Craig

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Planning in a Rural Environment

Charla Huber

Metchosin Fire Department

4440 Happy Valley Road

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm

You may have an emergency kit at home filled with food, water, first aid and other items, but do you have a plan for your large farm animals? Emergency preparedness doesn't stop at your front door and everyone needs to plan for their properties and the animals living on them. In a rural community like ours this often includes, horses, cows, sheep and pigs. In the event of an emergency that includes an evacuation, this can include all farm animals.

Last summer Metchosin firefighters assisted in many large animal evacuations while they were assisting with the 2017 wildfires. This month they will share their experiences and offer tips and planning suggestions to include in your emergency preparedness.

Join the Metchosin Emergency Program for its free information session on Large Animal Evacuation. Bring your questions and suggestions on June 19, from 7pm -9pm at the Metchosin Fire Department, 4440 Happy Valley Road.

For more information please call 250-478-1307

Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association
and Metchosin Foundation Present

Metchosin, Naturally! Seasons through the lens

A photographic Contest and Exhibition

October 28 ~ November 10, 2018

Metchosin Arts and Culture Centre 4495 Happy Valley Road



The theme of the contest and exhibition is the biodiversity of Metchosin. Photographic categories are: Landscapes and seascapes ~ Plants, lichens and mushrooms ~ Birds and insects ~ Wild animals

For details on submissions and entry forms please visit websites:
<http://metchosinbiodiversity.com> or MACCA website www.metchosinartcentre.ca

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Firewood Drying

Jim Challenger

Dry firewood is good firewood. It didn't take me long to learn that green wood was hard to light, hard to keep burning, gave off more smoke and created more creosote in my chimney. But how long does it take for firewood to dry before you should burn it?

Back in 2013 I did some tests to determine how fast Douglas fir firewood dried in outside conditions. I measured the level of drying by comparing the weight of the freshly cut green wood to its weight as it lost water

during the drying process. At the point the weight stabilized, I figured the wood was as dry as it was going to get. That test demonstrated that split Douglas fir dried in approximately 180 days, or 6 months. The dry wood weighed around 63% of its original weight. I still have those 2013 test pieces and they still weigh the same – so once wood is dry it doesn't get any dryer, even after five years.

Last year I decided to do a follow-up looking at two other variables that might influence drying time. One was split versus whole rounds to see if splitting your wood might dry faster. The other was to compare drying times for Arbutus and Maple hardwoods and Douglas fir softwood.

WHOLE ROUNDS VERSUS SPLIT WOOD

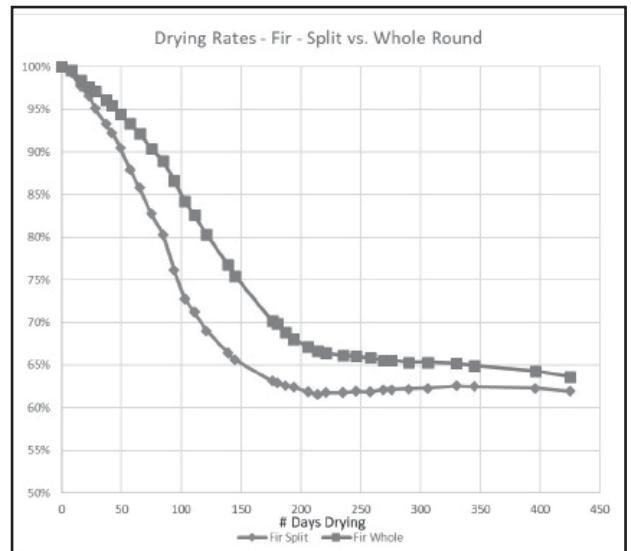
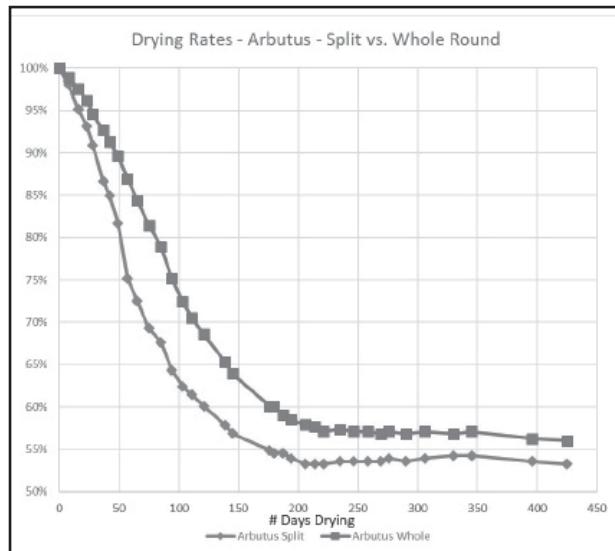
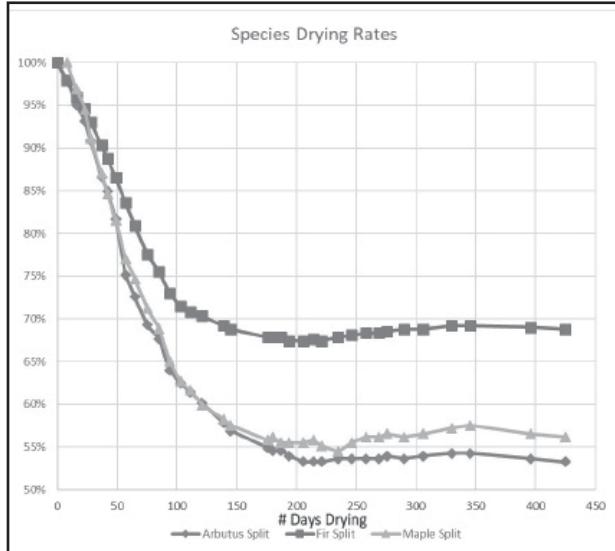
For this test I took two Douglas fir rounds from the same section of a tree.

I left one whole and the other I split into two pieces. I did the same for two pieces of Arbutus. As I suspected, the split rounds of both species dried faster – at 180 days they both had leveled out...but surprisingly at different levels of dryness compared to the whole rounds. The split Douglas fir pieces were at 63% (as per my original 2013 test) but the whole round was still at 68% or a 5% higher level of moisture. I kept measuring the two and the whole round very slowly started to lose that extra 5% but even after a year it was still a couple of percentage points higher. The same test done with Arbutus had similar trends for the split pieces compared to the whole round. However, after a year the whole Arbutus round was still 3% higher in weight and did not seem to want to complete drying out any time soon. The lesson learned from this test is that it pays to split your rounds as

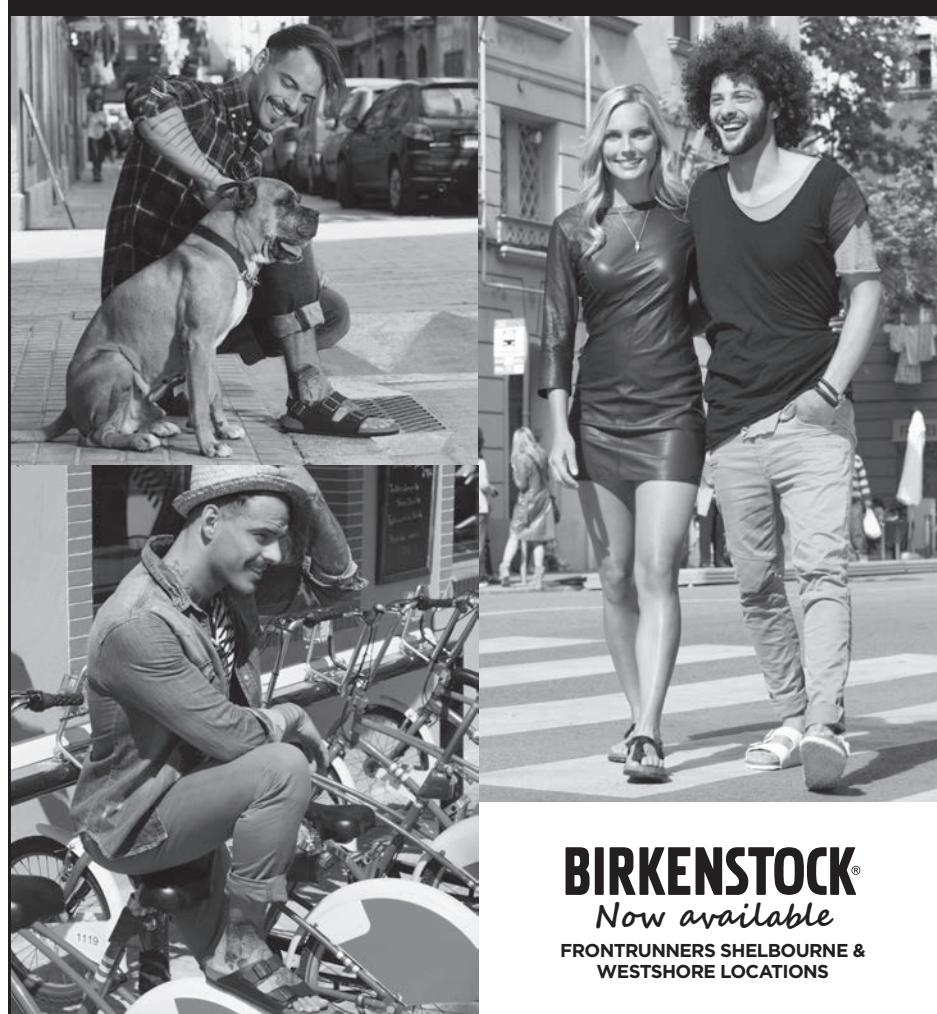
soon as possible if you want the wood to dry quickly, especially with hardwoods like Arbutus. If you don't, be prepared to wait a year or longer for it to dry to the maximum level.

DOUGLAS FIR VERSUS MAPLE AND ARBUTUS

For this test I took a piece of split wood from three species of trees to see how Maple and Arbutus hardwoods compared in their time to dry to softwoods, like fir. The hardwoods both dried at a far faster rate than the Douglas fir but in the end, the hardwoods leveled out at a 12% lower weight than the Douglas fir. All three leveled out at around 180 days so it seems to take the same amount of time to dry regardless of the species. The lesson here is that hardwoods start out with more water content, but they also seem to be able to dry at a faster rate.



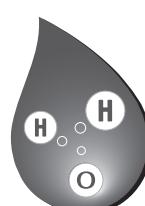
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Check Out What is Happening at the MISSA 2018 Summer Session

Marna Lynn Smith, Executive Director

This summer marks the 34th year that Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA) has shared the campus of Pearson College to host its annual two-week art program. MISSA 2018 will take place from June 23 to July 6. Professional artists and serious adult art students come from near and far to study with local, national and international instructors. There will be 45 workshops offered to over 350 artists who are all making the trek to the edge of the Pacific Ocean to be creative in this inspiring natural environment.

The public is invited to drop by and take a sneak peak at what is happening on campus.

MISSA Open Studio Tour (new for 2018), Saturday nights, June 23 and June 30 from 7 to 9 pm, will be an opportunity to drop by the Dining Hall and pick up a map to visit some of the studios, check out the Silent Auction and browse for MISSA merchandise. A few presentations will be scheduled in the LLT (Little Lecture Theatre) including Heather Spears doing a reading, sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets www.poets.ca.

MISSA TALKS will be hosted in the Max Bell Hall by visiting instructors teaching five-day workshops and will happen on a Monday and Tuesday evening of each week starting at 7:15 pm.

These presentations are free to the public, and donations are gratefully accepted.

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association (MACCA) has given a grant to MISSA specifically to award a tuition bursary to an artist living in Metchosin. Interested artists can apply through the MISSA website and bursaries will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

Every year MISSA strives to attract high calibre instructors to teach at MISSA and this year is no exception. Harold Klunder, a contemporary Canadian painter from Montreal, will be the mentor for the nine-day Mentored Independent Studies Program. Winchester Galleries will be hosting a show of his work while he is in town and there will be an Artist Reception on Thursday, June 28, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Please note the following is a detailed schedule but the order is subject to change, so please check the website www.missa.ca for the most up-to-date information.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23,
7:00 TO 9:00 PM**
MISSA Open Studio Tour – start in the Dining Hall

**MONDAY, JUNE 25,
STARTING 7:15 PM**
MISSA Talks
Bill Horne (BC), Screen printing
Curtis Golomb (AB), Watercolour
Tony Bounsal (BC), Mixed Media Encaustics

Carol Gouthro (WA), Ceramics
Renee Duval (PQ) - Painting

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26,
STARTING 7:15 PM**
MISSA TALKS
Chris Snedden (ON), Ceramics
Heather Aston (BC), Printmaking
Daniell Pope (BC), Creative writing
Dani Ives (AR), Needle felting
Don Taylor (ON) - Bookbinding
Steven Hill (MO) - Ceramics

**FRIDAY, JUNE 29,
5:30 PM TO 9:30 PM**
Celebration of the Arts, An Evening Under the Stars (Tickets \$40, can be purchased online). Honoring Coast Salish artist Susan Point www.susan-point.com with an Ambassador of the Arts award. Special musical guests Karel Roessingh, Joey Smith for cocktail hour and later, The Millies www.themillies.ca

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30,
7:00 TO 9:00 PM**
MISSA Open Studio Tour - start in the Dining Hall
Heather Spears - Poetry reading (7:15 pm)
Musical guest TBA

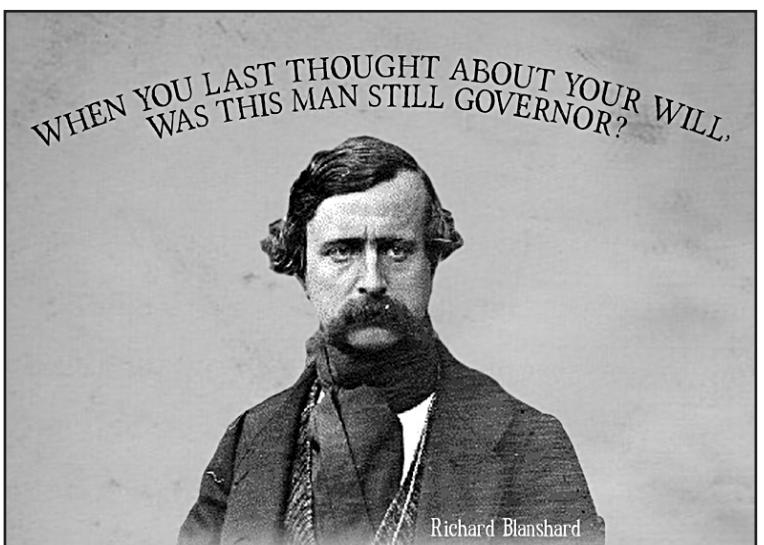
**MONDAY, JULY 2:
STARTING 7:15 PM**
MISSA TALKS
Judith Kruger (Connecticut), Metallic painting
Marney McDiarmid (ON), Ceramics
Jan Edwards (OR), Handbuilding
Mo Hamilton (BC), Block painting

**TUESDAY, JULY 3,
STARTING 7:15 PM**
MISSA TALKS
Jean Bradbury (Washington), Painting/Metallic leaf
Adam Field (Montana), Throwing
Gail Sibley (BC), Pastel plein air
Tina Puckett (CN) - Basketweaving
Julia Lowther (WA), Jewelry

**THURSDAY, JULY 5,
STARTING 7:15 PM**
Down at the kilns, GUMBO Ceramics Fundraiser (limited tickets \$20, can be purchased on-line) Musical guest: TBA

**FRIDAY JULY 6,
5:30 TILL LATE**
MISSA Wrap-up Party and Silent Auction (Tickets \$40, can be purchased online). Musical guest: TBA

There are still a few workshop spaces left! Register today! For further details check our website www.missa.ca or call the office 250-391-2415.



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HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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.

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.

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. 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.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking: Finished for the season, will return September 6.

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.

Ukulele Gathering: 5:00 – 6:30 pm, 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: Friday, June 29 at 7:00 pm. See the article in this issue for more information.

Events

Guest Speaker: Friday, June 15 at 7:00 pm. Dan O'Connell and Joan Rosenberg. See this issue p. 14 for more info.

Metchosin Community Association AGM: Friday, June 22 at 7:00 pm. All Welcome.

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

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



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

Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE
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Summer Symphony



Saturday June 9, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Sooke Community Hall
2037 Shields Road, Sooke
Just off Sooke Road near Eustace Road

Sunday June 10, 2018 | 7:30 PM
Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall
798 Goldstream Avenue, Langford
Corner of Goldstream and Peatt Road
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Oboe Concerto in C - Haydn

Violinist: Russell Bajer

Symphony No. 2, Op. 73 in D - Brahms



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Meet the Russells

Barb Sawatsky

It's an intriguing fact that many of the families who are scattered around our community have lived here for generations. Hard-working, self-sufficient people, they are the strong threads that have held this crazy quilt that we call Metchosin together. Such are the Russells who might not be early day pioneers, but the Russell family has owned property on Kangaroo Road since the 1940's and their stories provide a glimpse into our not-so-distant past.

Jim Russell grew up in Metchosin in the early 1950's, moving here with his mother and sister following the death of his father when he was five years old. His grandfather built a house for them on a five-acre property on Kangaroo Road near Sooke Road where Jim and his wife, Ardella, still reside. Jim attended Metchosin School "when Kangaroo wasn't much more than a narrow gravel lane. If two cars met, one had to back up to where it could pull over. Which was interesting if one of the vehicles was the school bus."

His mother raised mink to support her family with her

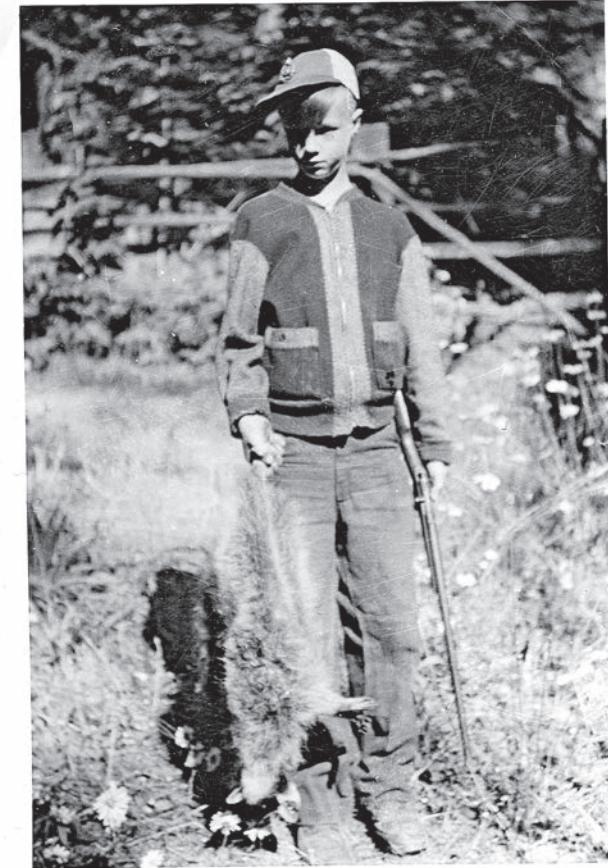
business, the Jimjac Mink Ranch. Jim owned a gun when he was about eight years old, not uncommon then, and he added raccoon pelts to the pile of his mother's mink. "The ones that were breaking into the hen house; I made 25 cents for each pelt." He frequently walked or rode his bike to 'Red' Clinton's house at Glengarry Farm on Taylor Road to watch the only television set in Metchosin, walking home in the dark. Groceries were trucked to the house by Scott & Peden and vegetables purchased from Lum Yen who delivered them from his farm on Dewdney Flats.

Jim worked at Ed Clapham's mill for Butler Brothers in the Sooke Hills and in Duncan. After marrying Ardella whom he had met in high school, his best pal, Bruce Wachter who was caretaker at Ben Acre, arranged for them to live in the Taylor Beach cottage. There was no power and Ardella laughs as she talks of the gas engine washing machine Jim hooked up for her. In 1966 they purchased 'Nana's' Kangaroo Road property where they raised their daughter, Wendy, and son, Jim. Now retired, Jim Russell Sr. stays busy welding and fabricating and doing small engine repairs and Ardella gardens and beach combs for driftwood to make the driftwood trees she sells

at craft fairs. These are welcoming people with decades of stories that, once they begin to roll, open windows into life in Metchosin in the mid-20th century.

Wendy Petillion is the daughter of Jim and Ardella and she has her own stories of growing up on her family's small hobby farm. "My brother, Jim, and I had lots of freedom. In the summer when we were around 10 to 14 years old we would bushwhack over the hills to Matheson Lake, spend the day, then walk home again. It was about two hours each way. Bikes were our transportation when we wanted to go anywhere. I rode to my best friend's house on William Head Road all the time when Kangaroo was still gravel."

Ardella said she never worried about her kids because Metchosin was such a safe place to grow up. The Russells hosted parties for family and friends where her dad played guitar, accordion, electric organ and harmonica, all of which he taught himself, learning by ear. In the summer when parties were often at the Hemstreets' on Rocky Point Road, he would entertain everyone with his motorcycle tricks. And because Metchosin is home, Wendy and her husband, Rick, bought a house where they raised their sons, Curtis and Stuart, on Kangaroo Road, but at



Another Pelt for the Pile. Photo from the Russell family photo Album

the Rocky Point end while Jim Jr. lives not far away in Saseenos.

As well as bringing up their families and working their properties, the Russells have quietly contributed to the integrity of the Metchosin community for four generations. Jim stepped forward to be a Metchosin Hall trustee, "Oh, a long time ago," dropping off the committee when he was busy then returning to

it when needed. Decades later, he still sits as a trustee. Wendy and Ardella also volunteer at the Hall saying, "there is always lots to do and we really welcome new volunteers."

Jim, Ardella and Wendy agree that "there haven't been a whole lot of changes to our community and so far the changes are slow. Hopefully it stays this way."

Think Globally: Act Locally – Metchosin Foundation AGM, June 3 2018

Carol Carman

Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road
Sunday, June 3, 7:00 pm

Your ideas, energies and questions will be welcome at the 2018 AGM of the Metchosin Foundation at the Community House on Sunday June 3 at 7:00 pm. Meet the board

members for the coming year, learn about the Foundation's past achievements and plans for the next 12 months.

The guest speaker will be the internationally recognized research scientist Dr. Werner Kurz who will focus on "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally". He is an adjunct professor at both UBC and Simon Fraser Universities, and a resident of Metchosin. His degrees include both a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from UBC

and an honorary doctorate from the Swedish Lund University. Currently, Dr. Kurz is Canada's leading expert on National Forest Carbon Monitoring, and he heads the Forest Carbon Management Project of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.

The rapidly changing seasons are a great encouragement to purchase the decks of 50 Nature Cards developed by the Metchosin Foundation to teach our young people about the living world around them. The colour photos together with the easy-to-read text show plants in their habitats and describe their appearances and uses. They fit easily into any backpack and their popularity is spreading through southern Vancouver

Island and the Lower Mainland.

On Saturday, July 14, the biodiversity group will be working with CRD to present a fun day at the beach and environs. It's a combined Metchosin Biodiversity Day / Marine Day. Bring the family, lots of interesting activities, including short guided walks into the forest at Witty's and into the estuary lands.

Metchosin Naturally – Seasons Through the Lens is a photography competition being co-sponsored by the Metchosin Foundation and the Metchosin Arts and Culture Centre (MACCA). Photographers are being encouraged to focus on the biodiversity of Metchosin during 2018 in the categories of:

- Landscapes and seascapes
- Plants lichens and mushrooms
- Birds and insects
- Wild animals

Don't miss this contest and exhibition being held October 28 to November 10, 2018 at MACCA's center, 4495 Happy Valley Road. Check out the MACCA website at www.metchosinartcentre.ca

For further information please contact us through e-mail at metchosinfoundation@gmail.com or visit our website at metchosinfoundation.ca.

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"I know I volunteered for something, but it's way too early in the morning for me to figure out what!" Silent Auction organizer for the Mighty Garage Sale, Wendy Mitchell (not a morning person) gets ready for another long day of sifting for treasures.

Photo by Joan Kew



One and One do make Four!
Sandy Jenkins with Chihuahua-sized quadruplets born to her miniature Nubian goat on May 1.

Photo by Barb Sawatsky



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Just One Change

Kathleen Sutherland

This month's Refuse, Reduce, Reuse focuses on getting ready for the end of the school year and the beginning of summer.

REFUSE

Refuse the 'Fast Fashion' push. Fashion items have become so cheap it is hard not to buy something new on a regular basis. Unfortunately this costs a great deal to the environment, the garment worker or both. *The True Cost* is a ground-breaking documentary film that pulls back the curtain on

the untold story of the fashion industry and asks us each to consider, who really pays the price for our clothing? I challenge each of you to watch the film, *The True Cost*. Check out truecost-movie.com/watch-now/index.html

REDUCE

Reduce the giving of unneeded items. As the school year winds down and as summer get togethers are getting started re-think the social pressure of needing to give 'stuff'.

Thank you gifts to teachers from the heart (yours or your child's) are extremely meaningful and can be in the form of a plant, something to eat or a letter. Some of the best gifts I got as a teacher were things made, like a loaf of homemade bread from an eastern European culture, or a handmade card from a student who explained

how much I had helped. Others included some very lovely one-on-one times, such as being invited to coffee at a local shop or to a home for waffles and fruit by two students and their parents; the students took turns serving me.

For the 'Hey Look Who's Turning 40/50/60 etc.' parties and the like, there are lots of creative ideas. You could write a limerick, make a gag gift (lots of ideas online) or find some music reminiscent of their age. Gift cards also make good gifts when you don't know the person as well and more and more places have this option now: garden shops, book stores, drugstores, bakeries and grocery stores. This way, you give a gift when you feel you should but you also know it will be used. Too often we go to the dollar store to grab a quick gift so that it is

'done' but that gift usually ends up being thrown out or given away to a charity.

REUSE

Reuse the school supplies that are still perfectly good for next year. Get a new set of pencil crayons for the new back-to-school feel if that is important. Duo-Tangs can be reused for years with a new label. Teach your children to take care of things even if replacing the item is cheap. Lined and plain paper are very often left over at the end of the school year and will be just fine to use in the new school year. Pens and pencils seem to almost multiply so there will likely be lots of those as well. Did you know you could still buy refills for a number of types of pens as well as additional lead and erasers for the mechanical pencils?

Holly: Foreign and Invasive

Neil West

Holly makes a great hedge. Unfortunately, it's not very selective about where it creates a great hedge. This European import has already created "great hedges" in many parts of Metchosin, including its parklands, and is quickly becoming a greater problem than Scotch broom in many places.

The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia states:

English holly has become a serious invasive because of its adaptability to grow in shade or sun, and the ease with which its seeds are spread by birds. Seedlings are now commonly found in mixed deciduous and coniferous forests around the south coast, along the edges of wetlands and especially near residential areas.

English holly grows rapidly seven to ten metres tall, casting deep shade that deprives native plants of light. Its roots effectively out-compete many native species for nutrients and water; it is a notorious water hog, thus preventing native plants from obtaining sufficient water. It can grow from seed (in berries) and vegetatively.

My wife Brenda have been enthusiastically exploring Metchosin's parks since we first moved here, 30 years ago. We have become increasingly interested in the native plant species of the area and more aware of the invasive species that threaten them.

We have paid increasing attention to English holly, which has become prevalent throughout Metchosin and other parts of the CRD. Holly in Metchosin was originally introduced as an ornamental plant (and continues to be grown commercially for this reason), but is currently multiplying dramatically and expanding its territory, threatening not only the value and integrity of our parklands, but also

the value and integrity of our private properties. Left to spread, holly can become impenetrably thick, rendering large areas useless, detracting from property values, and destroying wild habitats.

Holly thrives in riparian zones,

"English holly grows rapidly seven to ten metres tall, casting deep shade that deprives native plants of light. Its roots effectively out-compete many native species for nutrients and water; it is a notorious water hog..."

of which Metchosin has many, and does particularly well in areas where it can get direct sun while rooted in wet soil. Riparian areas are critical and sensitive habitats, particularly for fish stocks, and their protection is a specific priority of the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate change.

Holly reproduces using its plentiful red berries which only the female holly tree can produce. These are eaten by birds and other animals, which then spread the seeds throughout the surrounding area. As more holly trees in Metchosin are reaching berry-producing maturity, these seeds are spreading further and further into the wilderness. On a recent hike to Peden Lake in the Sooke Hills, we found a large patch of holly over 1.5 km north of the Galloping Goose Trail. If left unchecked our parks and wilderness may have only a passing resemblance to those we currently enjoy.

But the good news is that, unlike broom, holly takes several years to reach berry-producing maturity, which gives us the time needed to rein it in. In our opinion the sooner we deal with holly the better. Through the excellent work of Councillor Milne and other volunteers, holly is well

on the way to being eradicated in Blinkhorn Lake Park. The Metchosin Parks and Trails Committee recently passed unanimously a resolution to eradicate holly in all Metchosin parks. We wish to thank and congratulate them for their efforts... but they need help! Several districts of greater Victoria, the Gulf Islands, the lower mainland, and Washington State are well ahead of Metchosin in dealing with it. Unfortunately, the CRD has yet to adopt a similar stance, but we're pressuring them to do so and hope you will too.

If we focus our efforts on removing young sprouts and the feral, berry-producing trees we can dramatically reduce the spread, and buy sufficient

time to get the problem under control. If you have a berry-producing tree on your property, please consider "giving it the axe!" With the possible exception of Oregon Grape, holly is difficult to confuse with native plants, so significant collateral damage associated with holly removal is unlikely. We have spent many hours pulling and cutting holly in the parks and have had good success, particularly with smaller plants. Holly stumps put out suckers and thus need to be occasionally revisited, but these are easily dealt with until the stump finally dies.

Like so many other ecological issues, the spread of holly in BC is a problem of our own making, with the potential to seriously impact our environment, natural resources, and future generations. Fortunately, it is a problem that's well within our power to fix.

Sunday, July 15, 2018

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

4495 Happy Valley Road

Come and discover what is happening now at the old Metchosin Elementary School, where there will also be

- * open studios in the art centre
- * local bands
- * crafts & face painting for the children
- * a magician
- * a literary corner: spoken word from local poets & the written word from local authors
- * refreshments to help you keep your strength up
- * a cash & carry sale of surplus items from the school

While you are in the neighbourhood, don't forget to check out the Metchosin Market just down the road.

hosted by



and the District of Metchosin



EVENTS**Bluster and Pontification at the Metchosin Community House**

Dr. Joan Rosenberg and Dr. Dan O'Connell

Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road
Friday, June 15, 7:00 pm

On June 15th at 7 pm join Drs. Joan Rosenberg and Dan O'Connell at the Metchosin Community House for a shout out on 30 years of impassioned forays into reaches both far and near pursuing medicine and adventure.

From Thailand to Vanuatu to remote BC to both polar realms, they will bluster and entrance with tales of sickness and health, dealing with rich and poor, the birthing, the dying, and the worried. From penguins to walruses, oolichan to grizzlies, and a volcano to boot; it can't but be the finest of Bluster and Pontification.



Metchosin Golf Club
4100 Metchosin Road
Friday, June 15, 5:30 pm

On June 15 it's Seacruze!Denis Corriveau,
event coordinator

Great music, great band; dinner from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm; dancing 7:00 to 9:30 pm; come early as seats are limited.
Large group? Please email us at metchosingolf@gmail.com



Mariah Kivari, MSA 2018 Volunteer of the Year

SIRC SENIORS' INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE**Parisian Café Celebrates Community and Volunteers**

SIRC's 5th Annual Parisian Café, planned for **Saturday, June 2, 2018**, is our annual celebration of our residents, many who contribute as volunteers, supporters and service providers to those living in age-friendly Metchosin.

The courtyard at Metchosin's Art and Cultural Centre will be transformed into a delightful outdoor Café from **10:00 am until noon**, where friends and visitors can enjoy refreshments and fresh pastries from Patisserie Daniel, in a celebratory start to our summer. The Metchosin Seniors' Association (MSA) repeats this lively event each year to recognize our team of 30 plus, active volunteers and to celebrate those who support us.

This year we congratulate our 2018 Volunteer of the Year, student Mariah Kivari, who had helped to pioneer SIRC's Geeks and Geezers Program over three years ago, and continued to serve as a master geek, successfully helping hundreds of seniors to become more comfortable with technology. We extend best wishes to Mariah, as she moves on to experience new lifetime adventures.

Thanks to generous sponsors, Patisserie Daniel, MACCA, families Carman and Mitchell, Greg Kotzer, DriveWise, Victoria Nannies, Home Instead, Capamara Communications and Southern Tip Publishers, for financial support that lends to the success of this event.

Picnic and Potluck in June

We drive and dine twice this month to enjoy a healthy meal. All are invited to the annual Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI) Picnic, a family summertime celebration, being held at the Metchosin Community House on **Thursday, June 7 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**.

The monthly MC House Potluck Lunch will take place on **Thursday, June 28 from noon to 2:00 pm**. There is no cost to attend and all ages are welcome - facilities are fully accessible! Please call SIRC

Hours of Operation

SIRC is open from noon to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday and closed Friday through Sunday.

Weekly Programs

Mondays 2:00–4:00 pm	Geeks and Geezers Learning Lab Seniors and Students Inter-Gen Connects
Wednesdays 1:00–3:00 pm	Tea Time – Coffee Chat All welcome!
Thursdays 2:00–4:00 pm	Geeks and Geezers Learning Lab Please call to schedule an appointment!

Note: We will be closed for summertime long-weekends from Friday, June 29 to Monday, July 2 and from Friday, August 3 to Monday, August 6.

Any time at SIRC's Open Computer Lab, you can log on, experiment, learn or play with tech tools. SIRC has free Wi-Fi, laptops, desktops, printers, readers, tablets, macs, smartphones etc., for our members, to learn-on and borrow.

Book your personal Geek Session for up to one-hour.

to RSVP or to volunteer as a driver.

Wear Purple for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – WEAAD

A special afternoon WEA tea and presentation is being planned for residents of Metchosin and East Sooke communities, on **Friday, June 15 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm**, at the Metchosin Community House.

The Westshore Community Response Network (WSCRN), in partnership with SIRC, Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) and RCMP Community Policing, welcomes everyone for free refreshments, conversation and recognition of WEAAD, on June 15. Celebrating across the globe, event attendees are encouraged to wear purple to highlight this important issue. For more information or to arrange a ride to the afternoon event, please contact SIRC.

MSA Board Member, or drop by SIRC to a check-out the new Menu. The winning draw (odds of winning are 1 in 220) will take place on **Wednesday, November 14**.

Metchosin's Services and Support for Seniors

SIRC's team of amazing Better at Home Program* volunteers serve local seniors by delivering information, resources and free services, like transportation, care and companionship and personal technology help.

We refer residents to local service providers and to those willing to assist and support our aging population. Can you spare an hour or two each week or each month? If so, our volunteer team needs you! Visit SIRC to apply.

*Better at Home is funded by the Government of BC and managed by the United Way.

SIRC Welcomes All Ages
We invite local seniors, their families, friends and caregivers, to visit us at 4495 Happy Valley Road in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre on the main floor. We offer support, services and volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Call us at 250-478-5150, subscribe with your email or follow us on Facebook @ SIRC – Seniors Information & Resource Centre in Metchosin.



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Fire Department Call-Outs APRIL 2018

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

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

- Apr 01 **Charles Road** – Medical
No location specified – Rescue
– Rope/High/Confined
- Apr 02 **No location specified** – Beach fire
- Apr 03 **East Sooke** – Medical
- Apr 04 **Winter Road** – Medical
- Apr 05 **Arden Road** – Medical
- Apr 06 **Tiswilde Road** – Alarm bells
– Residential
Albert Head Road – Medical
- Apr 07 **Kangaroo Road** – Medical
Boulderpath Road – Open burn –
Camp fire
- Apr 08 **Sooke** – Open burn – General
- Apr 11 **Metchosin Road** – Medical
- Apr 12 **Derrien Place** – Medical
- Apr 13 **Winter Road** – Medical
- Apr 15 **Happy Valley Road** – Alarm bells
– Intrusion
- Apr 18 **Happy Valley Road** – Alarm bells
– Intrusion
Lisandra Road – Open burn – General



RCMP Call-Outs APRIL 2018

Constable Daniel Forslund
West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

- Apr 3 **Sooke Road**
Vehicle being driven by person without a licence. Violation ticket issued and vehicle towed.
- Apr 3 **Rocky Point Road**
Youth reported missing. Safely located and returned home.
- Apr 4 **Winter Road/Happy Valley Road**
Report of hitch hiker wearing very dark clothing late at night. Patrols made but hitch hiker not found.
- Apr 5 **Happy Valley Road**
Report of a vehicle for sale which was possibly stolen. Members attended and confirmed it was a legitimate sale.
- Apr 6 **Sooke Road/Kangaroo Road**
Erratic driver complaint. Vehicle located. Driver issued a violation ticket.
- Apr 6 **Park Drive**
Stolen vehicle recovered. Reported stolen from Saanich.
- Apr 7 **Sooke Road/Kangaroo Road**
Erratic driver complaint. Road rage. Warning given to the registered owner.
- Apr 8 **Sooke Road/Veitch Creek Bridge**
Erratic driver reported. Vehicle not located. Other jurisdictions advised.
- Apr 10 **Happy Valley Road/Neild Road**
Possible impaired driver reported. Vehicle not located. Other jurisdictions notified.
- Apr 11 **Arden Road**
Check well-being of an individual. Subject was located. Family and care providers assisting.
- Apr 11 **Park Drive**
Reported possible break and enter. Involved people identified and spoken to at the scene. Members determined no offence took place.

- Apr 13 **Happy Valley Road/Rocky Point Road**
Minor motor vehicle collision. No injuries. No charges.
- Apr 13 **Sooke Road/Metchosin Road**
Road rage incident. Both parties warned.
- Apr 14 **Rocky Point Road**
Missing youth. Returned home safe the following day.
- Apr 14 **Rocky Point Road**
Disturbance and minor altercation. Parties separated. No charges.
- Apr 15 **Metchosin Road**
Stolen credit card. Store clerk refused the card as payment and the suspects left but were not located.
- Apr 16 **Sooke Road**
Check well-being. Person was spoken to. No issues.
- Apr 17 **Winfall Road**
Check well-being. No issues.
- Apr 18 **Rocky Glen Road**
Abandoned 911 call. No issues.
- Apr 19 **Rocky Point Road**
Two reports of damage to two separate mailboxes. Canada Post notified and will follow up.
- Apr 20 **Neff Road**
Breach of probation. Charges being forwarded against one adult.
- Apr 21 **Rocky Point Road**
Two missing youth. Located the following day. No issues.
- Apr 21 **Happy Valley Road/Metchosin Road**
Motor vehicle collision and subsequent vehicle fire. No injuries. Media release was provided April 23.
- Apr 22 **Sooke Road/Kangaroo Road**
Report of erratic driver. Vehicle was stopped. Driver issued 90 day IRP. Vehicle towed and seized for 30 days. Passenger arrested for breaching court conditions.
- Apr 22 **Rocky Point Road**
Theft from motor vehicle. Still under investigation.
- Apr 23 **Sooke Road/Kangaroo Road**
Horses loose on road at night. Animals were located and safely contained.
- Apr 24 **Happy Valley Road/Metchosin Road**
Driving complaint. Failed to stop at intersection. Offending driver warned.
- Apr 25 **Matheson Lake Park**
Report of suspicious people checking parked vehicles. Patrols in the park increased.
- Apr 25 **Rocky Point Road**
Break and enter into residence. Patrol Members and Forensic Identification Members responded. Media release disseminated.
- Apr 26 **Sooke Road/Kangaroo Road**
Single vehicle collision. No injuries. Vehicle towed.
- Apr 28 **Sooke Road**
Single vehicle collision. No injuries. Vehicle towed.
- Apr 29 **Rocky Point Road/Matheson Lake Road**
Theft from motor vehicle. Window smashed and items stolen. No suspects identified. Patrols of area have been increased.
- Apr 30 **Kangaroo Road**
Two lost hikers on Mt. Blinkhorn after dark. Police attended and notified local Search and Rescue. Hikers found unharmed prior to Search and Rescue attending.
- Apr 30 **Park Drive**
Two missing hikers last seen in Metchosin. Both located after extensive search in Jordan River area by RCMP Sooke, Search and Rescue, Police Dog Services, and air services.

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it's all good fun!

Errands & Appointments

-Appointments or run pet-related errands

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- Pet First Aid

- Dog Safe (www.dogsafe.ca)

- Dog Aggression.

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- References Available



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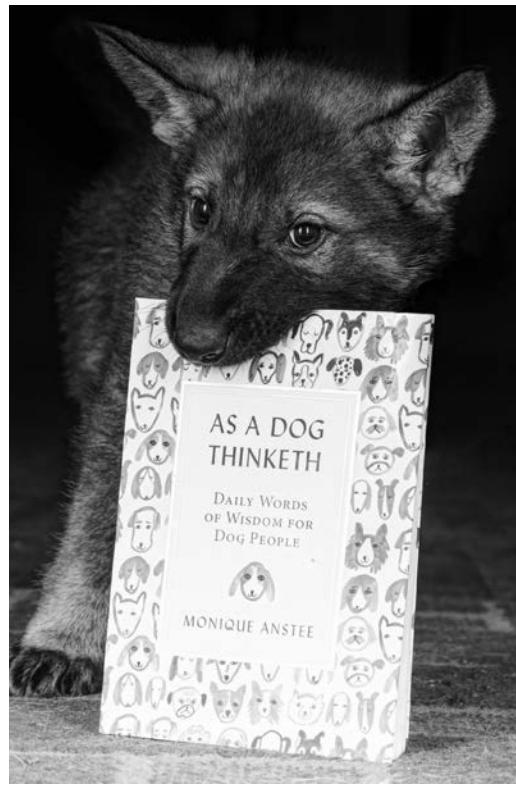
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Monique Anstee: Metchosin's Latest Published Author

Barb Sawatsky

Monique did not intentionally embark on the road to becoming a published author. Although her 100% Metchosin-based dog training business is a full-time enterprise, she decided to compiled her experiences into a book after following the many comments and questions on Facebook about canine problems. The result is *As A Dog Thinketh: Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People*. A ten year resident of Metchosin, Monique is a full-time, dog trainer, puppies and up; her unofficial motto is, "If it barks I train it".

"This is an incredibly active dog community," she says. "I am only one of many local dog walkers and trainers who use the municipal grounds and cricket field daily for training. And yes, we do pick up after our dogs



Important Dates and Events

May 31	Open Burning Prohibited	p. 4
June 2	SIRC Parisian Café	p. 14
June 3	Metchosin Foundation AGM	p. 12
June 6	Garden Club Meets	p. 3
June 10	Jenkins Celebration of Life	p. 7
June 15	Bluster and Pontification Talk.....	p. 14
	Seacruze Dinner and Dance	p. 14
June 19	Emergency Planning	p. 8
June 20	Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin meeting @ 7:00 pm	
June 23	MISSA Open Studio Tour	p. 10
June 29	Film Night	p. 2
June 30	MISSA Open Studio Tour	p. 8

For Council meetings, please see p. 4. For ongoing events at the **Metchosin Community House**, please see p. 11. For SIRC events, please see p. 14.

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

Clip and save this listing!

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)

250-881-8280
 Facebook: Metchosin APRM

BADMINTON

Women's 250-478-9648

BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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

CRD PARKS

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

FREE RANGE SINGERS

250-478-3319
<https://www.facebook.com/MetchosinFreeRangeSingers/>

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA (Metchosin and Colwood)

tandcampandcomish@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

metchosin.sar@gmail.com
<http://www.metchosinsar.ca>

METCHOSIN SENIORS' INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE/METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION

250-478-5150, msirc@shaw.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

250-642-0238

NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)

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

PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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

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

TOASTMASTERS

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

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Shelby Quissy
 250-474-3812

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 CONCERT BAND

250-474-3999
info@westshoreband.org
www.westshoreband.org

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

250-478-8384
www.westshorerecreation.ca

WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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

FAITHS

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 MARY'S 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

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

Yard work one day per week \$25 per hour. Call 250-474-4862

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