



Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Buffer Lands Review Launched

Advisory committees to look at environmental review and stewardship options



Credit: Bonnie Ferris

On January 28, 2017 Metchosin residents voted in a referendum on a boundary adjustment involving Metchosin, Langford and the Beecher Bay (Sc'ianew) First Nation. The result was 76% approval of the following question: "Do you support a municipal boundary adjustment, placing 354 acres of private land into Langford, provided that the Beecher Bay First Nation agrees to transfer to Metchosin ownership of 250 acres of Crown Land offered to the Band as part of the Treaty process, and Metchosin receives a 112-acre greenspace buffer and a tax sharing agreement."

Jay Shukin

Metchosin Council has opened a door for more community input into the future of the 112-acre buffer lands that came to the district from the 2017 land swap. As part of addressing the controversy over the potential sale of the buffer lands to the CRD in late 2021, Metchosin Council, through the Parks Committee, agreed to turn to two advisory bodies for further input. Council will seek the advice of Metchosin's Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC) and the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC). The move was made at the January 17, 2022 Council committee meetings.

"It was clear near the end of 2021 that there was growing apprehension with the Metchosin greenspace buffer lands," said Councillor Marie-Térèse Little,

who brought forward the recommendation for the MEASC/PTASC review.

"During the Parks Committee meeting of December 13, 2021, I promised to start a public engagement process. There is a need for broader community engagement and information sharing. It is important that the community understand the facts pertaining to the buffer lands and that Metchosin Council hears and understands the community concerns," Councillor Little stated.

Specifically, the advisory bodies will be tasked with providing advice to Council on an environmental review of the land and for stewardship options.

In December, PTASC chair Mark Atherton indicated in a letter to the Parks Committee "our willingness to become involved with developing a range of options and recommendations for the green space lands generated from the land swap agreement."

The buffer land controversy erupted in early October when a notice appeared in the *Goldstream Gazette* announcing Metchosin's intentions of selling the 112-acres for \$272,400 to the CRD. This notice appeared without any prior public discussion about the buffer lands and without any information of the CRD's intentions if it were to acquire the land. Questions were raised about the low price that had been negotiated, as the 2021 assessed value of the land was over \$1.34 million.

Two petitions opposing the sale were sent to Metchosin Council, the second signed by over 270 residents. A letter to the District, in November of 2021, by a group of residents stated: "Metchosin residents and taxpayers, including but not limited to those in the Neild Road area, recognize that the Buffer Land parcel is one of the most significant District-owned assets and that the future use of this parcel

should not be prejudiced or otherwise decided by the actions of our Council or CAO, without the benefit of prior and broad public input."

The issue attracted significant interest among residents of Neild Road, who not only live close to the buffer lands, but also near two parcels central to the 2017 land swap: Centre Mountain Business Park and a planned residential development, known as Centre Mountain Estates (CME). An initial layout for CME showed well over 200 residential lots being considered for the area surrounding Centre Mountain and directly adjacent to the southern portion of the buffer lands.

The buffer land controversy deepened in December, when a Letter of Understanding (LOU) surfaced between the CME developers and Metchosin, stating that "CME will work with the District to plan and develop a trail system within the Metchosin Lands." The

LOU clearly defines Metchosin lands as the buffer lands.

The LOU, which expired in July 2018, raised concerns that any developed trail system through the buffer lands would be for the primary benefit of the eventual residents of CME.

No specific dates were provided for next steps by MEASC and PTASC in this process. Councillor Little indicated that responses to questions on the buffer lands from residents would be addressed in March.

Metchosin Muse

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All articles and advertisements are due by the 15th of the month. Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metchosinmuse@gmail.com. Do not send PDFs. Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or tif format only. Typewritten or handwritten copy may be acceptable if you have no computer access; please call Linda at 250-590-0168 for arrangements. All submissions may be edited for length, style and suitability of content and language. Submissions are accepted on this understanding. Please visit our website for more information: www.metchosinmuse.ca

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AD DEADLINE
The 15th of the 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 respectful and open dialogue in the community and aims to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Metchosin and Beecher Bay.

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 \$35 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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Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for style or length. Please email your letter to metchosinmuse@gmail.com (with electronic signature if possible). An address and telephone number are required but will not be published. Letters to the editor express the views of the writer who is solely responsible for their content.

Gratitude

As a Metchosin senior who gratefully received a free hot turkey dinner on December 24, provided under the auspices of My-Chosen Café and Metchosin Senior Citizens, I wish to convey my thanks and appreciation to My-Chosen Café staff, and Metchosin Senior Citizens for providing such a timely and tasty Christmas meal. It truly was delicious, and appreciated.

Thank you, Laurie, for the delivery.

Cecil Cole

Do Metchosinites Have a Death Wish?

Or is it that reformed city folk have moved here without being taught the basic traffic safety rule

those born in rural areas learned before we even started school?

Whatever the reason, it horrifies me to see so many people, increasing numbers of them, walking on The Wrong Side of the Road.

The law is clear. Sec. 182 (2) of the BC Motor Vehicle Act states: "If there is no sidewalk, a pedestrian using a highway [that means any road, not just the Trans-Canada] must use only the extreme left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway, facing traffic approaching from the opposite direction."

There's a reason for it. The reason is that if you are facing the traffic, you can see when the idiot texting while driving swerves towards you. Or when the normally competent driver unexpectedly hits a patch of ice and heads for the ditch you're walking beside. And you can take evasive action.

Can't do that if you can't see them because you're facing the wrong way.

Metchosin has no sidewalks. If there is a roadside trail, use it; but if you are walking along the road, you should walk on the left, facing traffic.

Please, because I care about you.

Patti Whiteside

Lost

Black Diamond Green collapsible walking/hiking poles last Sunday, January 9 or Monday, January 10 at Sitting Lady Falls-Metchosin or Aylard Farm in Sooke. They were perhaps put them down on the trail or leant on the back of the car. They are used for assisted walking.

If you have any information, please contact 403-561-9310.

Thank you, Cindy Riley

Council News

FEBRUARY 2022



COVID-19 Update – Municipal Operations and Council Meetings

The District of Metchosin Hall continues to be closed to the public until further notice. Wherever possible, business functions and services will continue, by telephone, email, virtual meetings and by appointment (if absolutely necessary). If you have any questions, please contact the Office at 250-474-3167, or by email at info@metchosin.ca.

Business Licence Reminder

Businesses should have received their renewal notices in the mail for the 2022 businesses licence year in November 2021. Every business operating in Metchosin, including home-based businesses, requires a business licence. Metchosin also participates in a regional intermunicipal business licence scheme so that businesses such as contractors and mobile sales based in Metchosin only need one licence to operate in the region.

Snow and Ice Removal

Priority Roads Service Please remember that ice control and snow plough service is provided on priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. BC Transit routes and school bus routes are next, after which all other roads will be serviced. Response times will vary depending on weather conditions, however Council is confident that response times will be better than the required response set out in past roads contracts. If you don't see trucks pass your residence it may be that your road has been serviced before dawn.

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

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

District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – February 2022

Please see meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held via Zoom unless otherwise stated. All meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are subject to cancellation. For updated information please refer to our website.

Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	February 2
Finance & Environment Committee	February 7
Council Meeting.....	February 7
Planning Committee.....	February 14
Parks Committee.....	February 14
Public Works Committee	February 14
Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	February 15
Environmental Advisory Select Committee.....	February 22
Council Meeting.....	February 28

All photos submitted to the *Muse* should be in jpg or tif format only. Please do not send photos in word processing documents.

Metchosin Municipal Hall

www.metchosin.ca 250-474-3167 – info@metchosin.ca

Editor's Musings



Johnny Carline

In this edition of the *Muse* I got my usual kick out of the variety of articles submitted by our contributors. The biodiversity project article by Kem Luther, for example, is remarkable both in its content and the way it reflects the strong environmental ethic in this community. The collage of photographs makes me wish (again!) that we could afford to publish every issue of the *Muse* in colour.

The front page brings us up to date on the Buffer Zone issue, while the article by the Bring Back Our Calls team holds out a tantalizing prospect of success in the long running endeavour to restore our Fire Department's ability to respond to local emergency calls.

We welcome our long serving Mayor as a new contributor to the *Muse* and look forward to his unique perspective on our local political system.

Personally, I found the call to send cards with the towels, socks and toothbrushes, in the article on Our Place, very moving, while the photos of Jim Challenger and his granddaughter preparing for the tsunami are just a hoot. I had a lot of fun putting together the list of "Valentine" recipients, all genuinely deserving of a little note of affection, as are many

more folk that limited space forced me to exclude. And I so enjoyed Barb Sawatsky's photograph and the caption for the Metchosin Moment; I know our editor emeritus has a great sense of humour and won't mind a bit.

Some time ago this paper had a mission statement which simply promoted harmony, which meant we tended to avoid controversial issues. Then we switched to one which promoted respectful dialogue, which means we tackle thorny issues hoping to increase communication and understanding between people with different views. We may favour one position or another, but always try to respectfully understand different points of view.

This issue contains an article I wrote on COVID, a topic we have largely avoided in the past, as another step along that road, building a case for more caution while respecting what the Province has done.

If that one is no fun, and it isn't, there are many other positive and uplifting articles in this issue for our loyal and resilient readers to enjoy. Thank you for reading the *Muse*.

Mayor & Council Descriptions

Mayor John Ranns

It is now less than a year before the next municipal election and some of you are probably contemplating seeking a seat on Metchosin Council or perhaps running for a School Trustee position.

In this and future articles I will endeavour to give a perspective of what the job requires, what are preferable skills, and what to expect if elected. Please understand that I am speaking only from my own observation and experience.

To begin with I have always been a fan of local government and consider it the only level of governance where functioning democracy still exists. You are able to set policy to reflect your residents' wishes rather than being instructed how to vote, which is what happens at the senior levels under the adversarial party system.

As a Councillor or Trustee, you will find yourself working with and supporting others on common issues regardless of personal beliefs or ideology. In Metchosin, due to scale, you will also be in a position to genuinely make things better for your fellow residents, individually and collectively.

The downside, again due to scale, is that the pay is barely above volunteer status, the hours can be long and difficult and there is no pension. The upside is that the job can be quite rewarding if taken in perspective. Being a Councillor for Metchosin is different than most other

municipalities. In larger jurisdictions Councillors are strictly limited to policy setting and there is little or no interaction with the staff other than the CAO who is well versed in 'managing the politicians.'

In Metchosin, because of its limited workforce, a Councillor can be expected to assume a partial administrative role depending on their ability to work with staff. With only four Councillors there is a broad range of duties and a good deal of independence that

"Being a Councillor for Metchosin is different than most other municipalities ..."

is not normally found elsewhere. The following is a brief synopsis of each elected position as it pertains to Metchosin.

Mayor: The buck stops here. The Mayor is ultimately responsible for everything that happens in the District. There is a significant administrative component to the job which involves working closely with the CAO and to a lesser degree with staff. The Mayor is the spokesperson for the community and is regularly called upon to represent the District. Combined with the duties of CRD Director the time commitment is often more than 40 hours per week.

Councillor: with only four Councillors the time

commitment can be significant depending on how much work a Councillor is willing to take on. Each Councillor is assigned a committee to chair and manage, (Planning, Finance/Environment, Highways/Public Works, and Parks), and again there is an administrative crossover. In addition, each Councillor is expected to participate in regional or sub-regional committees that require a municipal representative.

School Trustee: The School Board has a narrower focus than Municipal Council and generally requires less time commitment. There is much less public involvement but what there is can be demanding. Finances are always an issue as more than 90% of funding is locked into wages and salaries. I served two terms as a School Trustee and, despite the challenges, found it very rewarding to be part of an organization genuinely dedicated to the well-being of our youth.

With each position, be prepared for a long learning curve. Invariably, the newly elected are surprised at how much more there is to the job than it appeared from the audience. That said, holding public office can be a remarkable experience and well worth the time necessary to properly learn it.

Next month I will comment on some of the personal attributes that, in my experience, help make a successful politician.

Annual Gratitude Award Recipient of the Year

Nan Hsieh

Every year the Baha'i Community of Metchosin presents its Annual Gratitude Award to a deserving group or individual in recognition of their services to our community. This year we are acknowledging the Metchosin Public Works crew for keeping our roads ploughed and sanded. The most recent occasion for our appreciation relates to the Arctic Front that brought record breaking cold temperatures, snow and freezing rain making our roads treacherous for travel.

A huge thank you goes out to Gord Grivel, Nik Wells and Trevor Brooks, our full-time folks and our auxiliary drivers, Scott Hennings (Metchosin Assistant Fire Chief), Jacob Lamb (Metchosin Fire Lieutenant) and Randy Josephson. This crew worked up to 12 hours a day salting and ploughing and road clearing to keep roads passable, often working in potentially dangerous conditions when snowfall at night resulted in limited visibility, and ice made traction especially treacherous on hills. Did we mention that they were also maneuvering five-ton trucks and

big ploughs which are particularly problematic especially on dead end streets and narrow roads! Add in the snow and ice and it is a testament to their skill and dedication that our roads stayed open. In the course of these few days of snow and ice, this crew cleared Metchosin's approximately 100 kilometres of road numerous times which would translate into driving thousands of kilometres, much of it at night and in unfavourable driving conditions.

Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop shared that most of this team are firefighters which means that they carry their papers in their trucks

so that they can assist in bad weather when needed. As an example, one year they ploughed in front of an ambulance all the way to the hospital. She also noted that they coordinate with our emergency program to help get people out to doctors' appointments and even will assist in clearing a road when a care aide is having issues reaching a patient.

To quote Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop, "It's an amazing system we have working in our small community – these guys are the best – always looking out for our safety."



A big thank you to our Metchosin Public Works crew, the recipients of this year's Gratitude Award from the Baha'is of Metchosin. We appreciate you for your experience and for your qualities of confidence, dedication, and courage.

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2022
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Wild ARC

Wild at Heart

Record-breaking number of patients treated at Wild ARC in 2021

Erin Ryan, BC SPCA's Wild ARC

As we finally leave 2021 behind us, Wild ARC is reporting a record-breaking year. Thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers, and the community, Wild ARC was able to care for 3,128 animals last year from 137 different species. Each one has their own unique diet, treatment and enrichment needs.

In an average year, 70 per cent of our patients are birds, and the remaining 30 per cent are mammals, only occasionally admitting amphibians or reptiles.

Spring and summer bring the start of the "busy season" at Wild ARC; we need all hands on deck to care for the many baby animals that come through our doors. The happiest days for our staff and volunteers are actually when babies can be reunited with their moms in the wild, and skip Wild ARC entirely! From April to September, Wild ARC successfully reunited 84 baby animals with their wild moms including fledgling birds, deer fawns, raccoons, goslings, squirrels and rabbits.

Although every year has a pattern, no two days are alike. Take a look through some of Wild ARC's most memorable patients of the year.

AMERICAN MINK

In August, Wild ARC admitted a baby mink in big trouble without its mother. The distressed orphan was brought to Wild ARC for care, where staff immediately set to work providing specialized care to get it stable. At this age, mink would still be living with mom and littermates. Luckily,

another orphaned mink came into another wildlife centre and was transferred to Wild ARC so the two could be raised together. After a cautious introduction, the two became fast friends.

Together, the pair enjoyed their large enclosure full of hiding places, tunnels, branches, open areas, and their favourite amenity – a pool! – where they were free to practice natural behaviours like swimming. After a couple months in care, the mink were released near to where they were found. 2021 was a big year for mink, with the province announcing a phase out of the inhumane mink farming industry.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS

Without fail, Anna's hummingbirds are one of our most frequent visitors in all months of the year. Last year, Wild ARC admitted 152 Anna's hummingbirds. These high-metabolism, nectar-eating birds are vulnerable to cold snaps in the winter months, heat exhaustion in the dry summer months, and orphaned hummingbirds are often the first babies to arrive at Wild ARC each spring. These fragile babies require constant care, needing to be hand-fed every 10 minutes when they are young.

It's hard to believe that these beautiful little birds can grow from eggs no larger than a jellybean! When it's time for spring pruning and trimming, look out for any bird nests that could be hidden among the branches. It takes a sharp eye to spot these nests sometimes.

AMERICAN BEAVER

In September, Wild ARC admitted a beaver who had been shot multiple times and had life-threatening injuries. Unfortunately, the damage to one of her eyes was so severe that it had to be removed. Wild ARC's rehabilitators worked closely with a local veterinarian, who performed the surgery, and then got to work providing the specialized care she needed to get her stable and recovering.

She was given lots of time in our specialized enclosures to navigate her surroundings and transition to a new life with only one eye. She grew to love playing in her pool and enjoyed spending time in the water. Once we were confident that she was healthy and ready, she was released. After 23 days in care, this beaver finally got to go back to the wild where she came from.



Baby mink wrapped sleeping in blanket



Orphaned Anna's Hummingbird on the way to recovery



A wounded American Beaver learning to live with just one eye. All photos courtesy of Wild ARC

Thank You To Our Generous Donors!



The Metchosin Foundation directors thank the owners and staff of Bilston Creek Farm and the many, generous donors to the December 16 "Oysters & Bubbles" Silent Auction Fundraiser. We are grateful to the following individuals and enterprises, for their generous donation of goods and services, in support of the Foundation's 2022 activities:

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The Metchosin Foundation

Putting the Fun in Fundraising



Morgan Yates

The Metchosin Foundation Board wishes to thank Andrew and Melanie Penn and the outstanding Bilston Creek Farm team, for their generosity in hosting an amazing soirée and fund-raiser on December 16.

The unequalled ambiance of Bilston Creek Farm was the perfect setting for a year-end event that met and indeed exceeded all COVID-related BC public health orders extant at the time. With outdoor lighting complemented by a cool, clear sky and nearly full moon, oysters and champagne and lots of other tempting treats were served up by Bramble, inside the lofty and very well-ventilated Bilston Barn. Outside seating set up around fire pits and propane heaters welcomed small groups of guests, while inside the barn, diners had a great view of the big screen (courtesy of Legacy Drive-in) and an opportunity to get their bids in on dozens of great silent auction offerings.

Our sincere thanks to each of the more than fifty donors of silent auction items. These ranged from original artwork, to handmade toys, fine dining, weekend getaway packages and much more. Kudos to the Bilston team, for procuring such a compelling selection of goods and services. Thanks are also due to Brian Domney for his energetic, entertaining and effective role as auctioneer and, of course, a big shout out to all of the folks who attended, making the evening such a success.

The Metchosin Foundation board is thrilled to announce that the silent auction event raised over six thousand dollars. We look forward to directing the proceeds toward local environmental stewardship and educational initiatives in this new year. We are grateful to everyone involved in this fund-raiser to support healthy lands and waters, the foundation for a healthy Metchosin community!

Top: Outside Diners. Above Left: Serving Champagne. Above Right: The Silent Auction. Lower Right: Inside Diners.
All photos by Amy Lobb

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What does the Baha'i Faith say about education?

"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."

If you have your own questions on the Baha'i Faith please call or text:
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Jesse Roper Rocks the McPherson Playhouse



Local star musician Jesse Roper. Photo by Berkley Vopnfjord; submitted with permission from Jesse Roper.

Premiere Concert
 Date: February 5
 Time: 8:00 pm
 Address: 3 Centennial Square

Barb Sawatsky

Jesse Roper's Solo Soiree at the McPherson Playhouse, which was originally scheduled for December 30, is still on-track at press time for Saturday, February 5, at 8:00

pm. Excitement is building for this very talented musician as it will be his first solo theatre show, something he has wanted to do for years. Asked if he thinks that it will be a highlight of his career he responded, "Every show at the McPherson is a highlight. Especially solo."

Jesse has opened for other bands at theatres but has not had his own show so I wondered if

there is perhaps some nervousness about this big step. His reply was, "When I was younger I used to get unnerved playing to a quiet audience as you feel quite naked. Now I revel in it so I'll probably enjoy it more than anybody in attendance." He went on to explain, "Often when you're playing with a band or in a bar setting you lose some of the detail in the music as there's a lot of noise and chatter to compete with. With my own show, I can take my dynamic all over the place and folks will hear all of it."

I reckon there are very few Metchosin folk who haven't heard the musically talented Jesse perform, whether at Metchosin Day, dances or concerts, so when he talks about playing to a "quiet audience," I'm thinking that perhaps the evening might have a quiet start, but by the end of the show not so much. He always leaves his audience pumped for more. There is no doubt this popular Metchosin lad's Solo Soiree will be memorable and we're looking forward to his reflections on the evening.

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 METCHOSIN





Volunteers roaming the beach looking for rubbish. Photo by Marie-Térèse Little

Surfrider Beach Cleanup

Councillor Marie-Térèse Little, Parks Chair, District of Metchosin

On Sunday, January 9, Surfrider Foundation Vancouver Island hosted a beach cleanup at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin. The mission of Surfrider is to protect the world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. The local volunteer group is quite active with helping to maintain clean, healthy beaches and with providing educational campaigns regarding the types of materials that often wash up on

our local shores and beaches, and how to dispose of them.

The Sunday cleanup at Witty's Beach proved to be a popular event as hundreds of people and their dogs turned up with their buckets and garbage bags ready to tackle discarded rubbish. Many people brought their young children to help with the cleanup. Beachgoers came from far and wide, from Metchosin and Colwood to Mill Bay, Comox, and even Poland.

The warm weather and clear skies provided a glorious quintessential west coast sunny day and a wonderful respite from the

recent snow. Sitting Lady Falls was magnificent and Bilston Creek was roaring with activity. To the south, the mighty Olympic Mountains sparked with recent snowy additions rising to touch the brilliant blue sky. It was truly a glorious day to savour our great landscape and to be a resident in this splendid community. The next two scheduled beach cleanups are for Selkirk Waterway and Whiffin Spit on February 13 and March 13, respectively. For more information and a yearly calendar of events please see www.surfrider.org.



A Metchosin Moment

On January 15, there was a Tsunami warning and, Granddad Jim Challenger and Granddaughter Ayla (right) showed that they believed in being prepared. Here Jim (above) studies the latest bulletins from EmergencyInfoBC while Ayla works on her fashion statement. Photos by Joannie Challenger

CRD Walks in Metchosin

www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

February 05, 2022, 10:00 am–11:30 am

Mystery Creature of the Forest – Witty's Lagoon • Guided Walk • All Ages
Solve the riddles along the trail with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover who the mystery creature is. We'll learn fascinating facts and enjoy the beauty of Witty's Lagoon along the way. There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 1.

February 13, 2022, 1:30–3:00 pm

Rascally Raccoons – Devonian Park • All Ages Guided Walk • All ages
A CRD Regional Parks naturalist will lead you on the trail for a day in the life of these little rascals. You'll find out they may not be so rascally after all! There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 9 as space is limited.

February 19, 2022, 1:30 pm–3:00 pm

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives – Witty's Lagoon Park • Guided Adult Walk • 18 years+
Join CRD Regional Parks cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry, for a walk at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park and discover a human history spanning thousands of years. Learn about the cultural significance of plants, animals and the seasons and how First Peoples deeply respect, appreciate and celebrate gifts from forests, rivers, lakes and the sea. There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 15.

February 27, 2022, 10:00–11:30 am

Wonderful Woodpeckers - East Sooke Regional Park • Guided Walk • All ages
Discover all of the tricks of the woodpecker trade. What makes them so good at what they do? Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and learn how to identify different woodpeckers by sight, sound and habits on this fun guided walk. There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 23.

To preregister for these walks please visit: <https://crdregionalparks.perfectmind.com>

Subject to change, check www.crd.bc.ca/about/events



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The Pandemic and Us

How Eager Should We Be to Renew Events?

Johnny Carline

I have a number of relatives and friends in New Zealand and they keep me up to date on events there, including COVID. They have had the Alpha, Beta and Delta variants and now Omicron is on their shores. I became interested in their seemingly different approach.

Using the words of Dr. Henry and B.C. Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, B.C. uses a “reluctant” approach to employing compulsory Orders, enacting Orders that are the least disruptive and last the minimum time necessary. Dr. Henry suggested a more regulatory approach may be unnecessary because the vast majority of people knew what was the right thing to do. They also stressed that they were taking a “balanced” approach and Dr. Henry spoke frequently about her concern about the potential negative impacts of COVID-related constraints would have on the economy and mental health.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, appears to have taken a more direct approach. Within days of the COVID threat appearing, she locked down the entire country and enforced compulsory quarantines at points of entry. She introduced a multi-level system of restrictions, imposed on a regional basis, depending on the level of infection. She imposed a ban on travel between regions with different levels of infection, and enforced it with road blocks.

Many factors moderated the impact of COVID in New Zealand relative to British Columbia, including its isolation and the later arrival of COVID. However, New Zealand deaths number 52 while B.C., with virtually the same population, approaches 2500. So far, they have controlled Omicron but things may change, their vaccination program is well behind B.C.'s. Nonetheless, it is hard to argue that their approach, more heavy-handed and regulatory as it may be, has had no role in their

success and New Zealanders still seem pretty content. Is there anything we can learn from that?

No-one living today has had to respond to a pandemic the scale of which we have been dealing with for the last two years. So, we should expect differences in approach and not be overly critical. The decisions taken by Dr. Henry and Minister Dix have usually proved correct, and sometimes inspired, for example delaying the second dose of vaccine. In terms of many key indicators of the impact of COVID, B.C. has outperformed many jurisdictions. So, the fact that they have received gross verbal abuse and threats is shameful.

But the “reluctant” and “balanced” approach, as reasonable as it sounds, is certainly open to respectful questions.

*“When in doubt,
stand still and wait
for a while.”*

Even though Minister Dix has sternly warned us to follow all the suggested restrictions, not just those in Orders, would a less voluntary approach increase the adoption of precautions and thus reduce infections? Should we perhaps not rush to lift those restrictions (now extended until at least February 16) if another wave or variant could be just around the corner?

One can now see many businesses closed or operating at a reduced capacity because of COVID-induced staff and customer shortages; and while restrictions are obviously irksome, even stressful to many, the ongoing fear of serious illness, delayed surgeries and worse may be even more stressful. It can be argued that if a “balanced approach” fails to suppress COVID it might actually worsen the impact not only on our health but also on our economy and collective psyches.

But what does it all mean for Metchosin? Consider what may happen when Omicron infections abate, as they likely will soon? The Orders restricting

events will likely be eased. The memory of Minister Dix's stern warnings to obey all precautions, including advisories, will fade. We will feel the urge to gather again and, if it is allowed, we will probably do so. And the cycle may begin once more.

Experts seem to agree that more variants will likely come. Could one be even more deadly than Delta and Omicron? Omicron ambushed the world. Could we again be ambushed; caught with rules that have been relaxed and sometimes interpreted in ways which increase risk? So far Metchosin has escaped the worst, but we could lose much-loved, vaccinated but still vulnerable people, and hospitals may no longer be able to meet our needs. This is the dark unthinkable.

If “following the rules” was correct the first time, would it still be correct just doing that the second time round? There is no doubt that our politicians and health professionals have our wellbeing at heart. Their sincerity and angst are written on their faces. But are they trying, in part, to interpret our resolve? Some people, including some health professionals, advocate stronger measures. Many others strongly object to those we have. Where do we stand?

Can we Metchosinites have our own resolve – follow the “rules” but decide for ourselves whether or not to apply a more cautious approach to our community events?

There is an old World War II army saying, “When in doubt, stand still.” It probably saved a lot of men who got caught in minefields. Later it got developed into something more complex and given the fancy name, “the precautionary principle.” Fancy or plain, it may still have some relevance for the minefield we find ourselves in today. If and when the Province eases the rules, it will be up to us to decide whether to move ahead with events, or just stand still and wait for a while.

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Returning to Campus, With Some Caveats

Brian Geary, Pearson College UWC

As I write this in mid-January, we are in the midst of *gradually* welcoming Pearson students back to campus for the spring term after their well-earned respite during the annual Winter Break! Why gradually? With 200 students returning from around the world, across Canada and from local homestays (thank you, Host Family volunteers!) and the Omicron COVID variant chasing them – and everyone else – we are being as cautious as we can be by, among other measures, spreading student arrivals over a longer period.

This allows us to set up a limited rapid test regime* for returning students (and staff and faculty) on campus and to ensure that all students comply with applicable federal regulations regarding testing and self-isolation for travellers, which vary depending upon their individual situations. For instance, while all Pearson students were fully vaccinated before they left in December to see family and friends, those returning from international destinations (except the U.S.A.) are required to isolate until they receive a negative test result upon their return.

While managing the ever-evolving rules and protocols of the pandemic during Omicron, one thing remains the same: our campus is still closed to non-essential visitors – including pass-through hikers, walkers and boaters, please!

For a temporary period, we are moving to online learning and teaching, asking our students not to venture off campus and minimizing our employee numbers on campus at any one time. Across campus, we are temporarily limiting interactions between students in different residence houses and re-instituting staggered dining and, in some cases, introducing residence in-house dining. Physical activities – essential for ongoing good mental health – are on, but with House rotation schedules in effect.

On campus, our Health Centre and Operations team, have, as a precaution, and as required by the provincial authorities, designated a number of on-campus self-isolation areas to accommodate any student who tests positive during the term while continuing to support their health, wellness and academic needs. Obviously, we hope these are not needed!

All of these measures were carefully considered by the COVID-19 Response and Operations working groups, which include student representatives.

**The B.C. government is making rapid tests available to schools, like Pearson, that fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. Publication deadlines mean that some measures noted may have been revised. Please check with us if you have any questions!*

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H A P P Y Valentine's Day



Metchosin
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Fire Chief
Stephanie
Dunlop

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Health
Care
Workers



Metchosin
Mayor &
Council

Photo by John's Photography



Metchosin's
Generous
Hearted
People

Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Happy Valentine's Day

Johnny Carline

February is Valentine's Day month, so its time to make a list of worthy recipients, with a personal perspective added.

As I gaze over the snow drifts on my lawn at the perfectly cleared street, the first group that springs to mind is our amazing local public works crews, recipients of this year's Gratitude Award. (See page 3 of this issue of the *Muse*). What a job they do! They always step up when needed. Public servants don't often receive bouquets; I know, as I was one for over forty years, and rarely got a smell of one. So, it's nice to be able to say: Happy Valentine's Day, guys; we love you.

Next up are, of course, the nurses and other front line medical workers. While I escaped anything more serious than cataract surgery in 2021, I did have to have

numerous injections and more blood tests than I cared for. I am one of those guys with deep phobias about such things. But the nurses were all gentle, kind and mercifully quick. Behind your masks, you were all absolutely beautiful. Happy Valentine's Day!

Then come all the tradespeople, retail staff, delivery people and the like who continually risked contact with all of us to keep us supplied with all the essential goods and services we need to get through life. There is one that I particularly get along with. We kibbitz, and I always remember her name (which I won't share). I suspect that, each time I greet her, she hasn't a clue who I am. But she pretends really well. To her and to all, a Happy Valentine's Day.

All the wonderful people of Metchosin should, perhaps, have been top of the list. What a generous spirited lot they all are. It's not uncommon, when I'm busy with

the *Muse*, for me to find that my driveway has been cleared, or my lawn mowed, by some mysterious visitor. I'm sure others experience the same thing. We are kept well supplied with home made jams, marmalade and other delicacies. And one neighbour, in his nineties, negotiated the slippery slopes and amazingly appeared on our doorstep on Christmas Day, no less, with a bottle of wine for me and an incredible bouquet of flowers for Nadene. Here is a misty-eyed Valentine for all of you.

Now here may be a surprise, a Valentine for our Mayor and Council. They have to make decisions that inevitably cannot please everybody, and do it largely under open public scrutiny. It's a tough, and sometimes thankless, job. At the *Muse*, we try to be fair and balanced, but occasionally we do have to point out that one or more of them didn't quite get it right. They have been gracious

about that and probably deserve a few more pats-on-the-back than they receive. So here is a Valentine for all of you. As we'll be covering the upcoming election contests, maybe you should enjoy this while it lasts.

Of course, there is the *Muse* team. It's not just the incredible work that they do, largely invisible to our readers. It is also the warmth, the fun and the unfailing support that they provide. They are wonderful people and I know I could not have performed as editor for the last several years without them. So Happy Valentine's Day, team, and of course I will be relying on you, as usual, to quietly, discretely and conspiratorially, correct all my *faux pas* without me noticing.

Finally, I'll embarrass our indefatigable but modest Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, who regularly pushes herself closer to her limits than anyone should. In my career,

I have known a number of Fire Chiefs, all competent and committed. None of them came close to the total dedication Stephanie shows to this community. Beneath her cool, calm professionalism lies a deep emotional commitment that no senior or vulnerable person in Metchosin will suffer if she can possibly do anything to alleviate it. She has earned this community's respect, admiration, and for those who know her well, affection. Happy Valentine's Day, Stephanie.

Valentine's Day is a day when we get romantic and mushy over our dearest. I'll keep that private. But it is also an opportunity to reach out more broadly and pass on your good feelings about people to them personally, even if it is just a smile and a brief good wish. This now third year of the pandemic is surely a good year to do that. Make it a Happy Valentine's Day all round.

Metchosin Property Assessments Increase By 35%

Johnny Carline

The BC Assessment Authority has mailed out the updated property assessments for 2022 and, according to a report in the Times Colonist, the assessed values of single-family residences in Metchosin have increased by 35%, from an average of \$852,000 in 2021 to \$1,150,000 in 2022, the highest in all of Greater Victoria. Other areas where assessed values jumped over 30% were Sooke (34%), Highlands (34%), North Saanich (32%) and the Gulf Islands (35%), all reflecting perhaps an increased desire for people to “escape to the country.” Other areas in Greater Victoria had increases ranging from 22% (Esquimalt) to 29% (Colwood).

So, what does this mean for Metchosin homeowners? First, rest assured that it does not mean a 35% increase in property taxes. The municipality calculates tax rates sufficient to yield enough revenue to fund its budget. The amount you pay as an individual homeowner is determined by the relationship of the assessed value of your home to the average assessed value of all the homes in Metchosin. If your home is valued at more than the average value, then naturally enough you will pay proportionately more municipal taxes than the average.

When assessments change, if the ratio of your resulting assessment to the new average assessment is greater than it was last year, your taxes will likely increase. If that ratio decreases,

then your taxes will likely decrease. If every property had a 35% increase, then it would not have an impact on your municipal taxes. Checking the increase in your property’s assessment against that 35% average increase is a good first indicator of what is going to happen to your taxes.

School taxes are calculated in the same way. However, there is a Provincial homeowner grant that, if you qualify, is applied to these taxes. This year you have to apply directly to the Province for that, not through the municipality as in previous years.

The increase in assessed values may have particular effect if your new assessed value exceeds the “grant threshold”, which for 2022 is \$1,975,000. If you meet all requirements but your property’s

assessed value is over \$1,975,000, the grant is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value over \$1,975,000.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) also levies property taxes through their member municipalities. Again, they allocate their tax bill to municipalities on the basis of assessed values, so the fact that these increased in Metchosin more than in any other municipality will result in an increased allocation to Metchosin. However, the numbers are likely to be relatively small.

If you believe your assessment is clearly too high, then you can appeal that to the Property Assessment Review Panel (PARP), but you’d better be quick about it because all appeals to PARP. However, unfortunately, by the

time you read this the January 31 deadline for such appeals may have passed.

Assessed values are intended to reflect market values, so this jump in assessed values is really an indicator that residential properties have become a lot more expensive. Your equity in your home has increased, but prices have increased in most places, so selling out and moving likely won’t yield you as much cash as you might think. The downside is, and this is more of a concern than the impact on taxes, that it makes it ever more difficult for young couples, and others, to afford to buy their first home. As the song goes, “God bless the child that has its own.”

Belonging or Belongings

Joan Rosenberg, Metchosin Foundation

“It is the Windigo way that tricks us into believing that belongings will fill our hunger, when it is belonging that we crave.”

-Robin Kimmerer

So many thanks to Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther for choosing to support the Metchosin Foundation with their holiday book sales of *Mushrooms of British Columbia*. The Foundation was honoured to have their willing endorsement.

Both Andy and Kem are scientists, educators and community members, so their vote of confidence means a great deal to the Metchosin Foundation. Their Zoom talk was fascinating and it was entertaining to hear how *Mushrooms of British Columbia* came together. It was an illustration of the authors’ humbleness that they recognized the community, photographers, naturalists, mushroom experts (both professionals and amateurs) who came forward to create the book.

As both of them are willing to identify every mushroom found on the hundreds of mushroom walks they have led, they would also have liked to identify each of these contributors to their book. This recognition creates community, which is a gift Andy and Kem have. They deepen our Metchosin community but they also create a community between us and the woods. They introduce us, “That is a *Cortinarius sanguinous*. It will dye wool a beautiful red.” Once introduced, we feel slightly more at home in the woods and we build community with our nonhuman allies. Recognition gives a feeling of belonging.

Many of us despair at the relationship we currently have with the natural world. And how are we going to change that? How are we going to get to the Metchosin Foundation’s mission statement of Healthy Lands and Healthy Waters? We need a new way to feel good, get that dopamine flush, without consuming and increasing our belongings, instead maybe we need to focus on belonging.

Andy and Kem offered the Metchosin Foundation a way to belong last December and the Foundation offered them the same. A gift of reciprocity that left us all happier. Thanks to all who participated!



Westmont Prize participants received mentor guidance during an all-day workshop at Olympic View Golf Course. Photo supplied

The First Annual Westmont Prize

Magnus Hanton, Head of Westmont School

Given the recent devastating floods, mudslides and washouts in British Columbia, it’s obvious that the climate is changing here on Vancouver Island and around the world. Climate change and a host of other issues are having significant impacts on our communities. One response people have in these situations is to ask, “What can I do?”

In the fall, Westmont Montessori School hosted the first annual Westmont Prize, where students in grades 7–11 collaborated in teams of four, and picked one of five sustainability issues and found workable solutions to be agents of change.

Teams could pick one of five issues: the toxic drug overdose crisis, climate change, living wage, affordable housing and old growth logging. The Westmont Prize is designed to have students identify solutions that can answer the question, “what can I do?” about these important issues, and have them ideate solutions that can be implemented.

The Westmont Prize had students pick one of the five sustainability topics and participate in a

one-hour presentation by an expert speaker. These presentations were then followed by a question-and-answer session for students to explore the issue in greater detail. Expert speakers also provided a resource list for further learning.

Students then met at the Olympic View Golf Course for an all-day workshop on how to better understand problems using a problem-solving framework, develop solutions using a solution-framework, and received professional presentations on impactful pitches and how to create powerful videos.

Students then had four days to create a five-to-seven-minute video that outlined the problem they picked, a solution that they created and that could be implemented by teens like them, and a reflection on the collaboration process. A panel of five judges then reviewed all 18 video submissions and using a scoring rubric, determined the top winners.

The winning team was announced at the awards gala, held at the Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria in late November. A summary video from each team was viewed by the audience and every team received feedback from one of five judges.

Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich Gulf Islands along with Magnus Hanton, Head of School at Westmont awarded a shared \$10,000 scholarship prize to the winning team made up of Zeinab Guitouni, a grade 9 student from Glen Lyon Norfolk School, Thea Damian, a grade 9 student from Claremont Secondary, Matteo Carere and Sebastian Damina, both grade 7 students from Ecole Brodeur. Silver prize winners were given seasons passes to WildPlay and the two teams tied for bronze were awarded gift cards for IMAX.

The Westmont Prize challenged students to collaborate and find solutions that could be implemented by teens in the region. It was inspiring to see middle and high school students dig deeper to understand issues that are impacting our communities and find real solutions through working together. Students were inspired by the process and to have a platform to share their ideas.

The Westmont Prize showed all involved that the answer to “what can I do” when faced with significant sustainability issues can be answered by passionate teens working together.



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Metchosin Biodiversity Project

Kem Luther

This year the Metchosin Biodiversity Project celebrates its tenth year of counting and documenting the thousands of non-human species that live within the bounds of the District of Metchosin.

COVID has not slowed down the work of the Project—if anything, the pace has picked up. Until three years ago, the work of the project was largely carried on at specific scheduled events, bioblitzes and mycoblitzes. The inventory work was done by a few specialists and their volunteer helpers and the results were recorded in lists that were moved into a spreadsheet. In 2018, the Project database was transferred to iNaturalist, a citizen science platform. The inventory work—which now includes pictures and GPS data—is done by local people with varying degrees of expertise and their work is vetted, via pictures and descriptions that are posted on iNaturalist, by a world community of internet-connected experts.

In 2021, an impressive number of observations were logged within the bounds of Metchosin. Some 280 people made more than 4500 observations of more than 1300 different species. Another 690 people, almost all with significant expertise in their various fields, chimed in to help with the identifications.

These observations raised the total number of species that have been identified in Metchosin and the neighbouring Race Rocks. At the end of 2020, the species count stood at 2920. By the end of 2021, the species

total had climbed to 3280, an increase of more than 350 species in a single year—the largest year-over-year increase since the early days of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project.

The people who played the biggest roles in finding and logging new species in 2021 were Garry Fletcher, James Miskelly, and Ian Cruickshank. The three of them accounted for about 30% of the observations.

Here are some highlights from the iNaturalist work of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project work in 2021:

- Metchosin biodiversity census takers finally observed the elusive Common Green Darner dragonfly, *Anax junius*. It gets its nickname from its resemblance to a darning needle.
- One iNaturalist user found a grasshopper that had not been logged in earlier bioblitzes, the Fontana Grasshopper, *Trimerotropis fontana*.
- House finches are red and brown, right? Apparently not all of them. One citizen scientist, Valerie Meesschaert, photographed a “leucistic” (i.e., whitish) house finch.
- Hanna Glass snapped a wonderful photo of the Northern Pacific Tree Frog, *Pseudacris regilla*.
- There were several black bear sightings from the fall, especially from the area across the Pedder Bay inlet from Pearson College.
- Lots of seals and sea lions were captured on camera this year. Some were observed by a Toronto wildlife photographer who was visiting Metchosin.



Northern Pacific Tree Frog



Fontana Grasshopper



Common Green Darner



Shamrock Orbweaver



Steller Sea Lion



House Finch



Black Bear

Images of some species found in Metchosin in 2021. Photos by Hanna Glass (frog), Ian Cruickshank (bear and darner), Liam Regan (spider), James Miskelly (grasshopper), Valerie Meesschaert (finch), and Michael Gallo (sea lion). Collage by Kem Luther

- Liam Ragan, a prolific naturalist and coordinator of the IBA project, was in our area this year and captured a beautiful image of a local web-making spider, *Areneus trifolium*, the Shamrock Orbweaver.

- Tasha Lavdovsky, local documentary filmmaker and artist, the one who found, identified, and documented a rare *Pseudocyphellaria* lichen in Fairy Creek, was in the District working on her lichen ID skills and shot some remarkably good pictures.

- Local resident Mike Fischer photographed a spider that gave us a new species record. It is a spider from the the genus *Habronattus* (Paradise Spiders).

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A Metchosin Moment
 Wife Kathleen Sutherland smiles indulgently as *Muse* Editor Emeritus, Brian Domney, declares his willingness to explain the mystery of Schroedinger's Cat to anybody who wished to listen. Apparently, nobody did. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Metchosin ArtPod

Crossroads Comes to ArtPod

Art Show

Date: February 4–March 27
Time: 11:00 am–4:00 pm, Fri–Sun
Address: 4495 Happy Valley Rd.

Elaine Hughes

Our latest show, *Crossroads: Art in Response to the Earth in Crisis*, is up and running, (assuming no last-minute public health restrictions). Art from the show will also be spilling into the POV Exhibition Space, in the hallway outside the Gallery.

The new juried show, with over 25 artists displaying their work, will run February 4 to March 27 during our usual opening hours of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 11:00 am–4:00 pm.

After our last year of heat domes, wildfires, and floods, we thought it was timely to focus on the state of our planet, so this show will feature art that addresses the current environmental emergencies we are facing, and the walls will be filled with art responding to these threats, from praise of the natural world to outrage at its destruction!

Online Opening

Date: February 5
Time: 7:00 pm
Online, link on Facebook Events

There will be a Zoom opening for the show on Saturday, February 5 at 7:00 pm and the Zoom link can be found on our Facebook page in the Event listing. Visitors are asked to be fully vaccinated and wear masks when coming to the gallery as well as practice distancing, use the provided sanitizer, and keep to no more than ten people in the exhibition space at any one time. With these safety measures, as well as ArtPod members staffing the gallery being vaccinated, we hope to ensure and encourage visitor safety.

Our guest artists and jurors for the show are noted Vancouver Island artists Claire Kujundzic, www.claireart.ca and Bill Horne, bill-horne.net. There will be two workshops taught by them during the show, one in February and one in March. Proof of vaccination will be required for workshop participants.

Workshop 1

Date: February 19
Time: 10:00 am–2:00 pm
Address: 4495 Happy Valley Rd.

A Crash Course in the Creative Process is our February workshop taught by Claire Kujundzic. It is intended for the person who thinks they aren't artistic and says, "I can't draw a straight line." In this one-day workshop on February 19 from 10:00 am–2:00 pm, participants will learn colour mixing information, see demonstrations and participate in exercises in painting with watercolours. Everyone will leave having some basic art skills and more confidence in their creativity. The fee for this course will be \$95 plus a \$12 supply fee.

Workshop 2

Date: March 19 & 20
Time: 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Address: 4495 Happy Valley Rd.

Water-based Silk-Screening process workshop taught by Bill Horne is on March 19 and 20, from 9:00 am–4:00 pm. This hands-on class will introduce you to silkscreen techniques using water-based inks and low-tech stencils with a focus on simple methods that don't require a huge investment in equipment. The cost will be \$158 (5% discount for Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes Canadiens members). More information and a supply list are available on our website at metchosinartpod.ca.

Both workshops will take place in the upstairs studio, Room 2001 in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre building. Sorry, this is not wheelchair accessible. To register for either workshop, just email us at metchosinartpod@gmail.com.

We also have two open calls to artists right now. The first is for our *Mushroom Card* project. This joint project is run by Metchosin ArtPod and the Metchosin Foundation. Artists sign up for, create, and donate the use of a mushroom image to the project to create 36 unique flash cards. Card decks will be produced and sold for \$25 with the profit going to the programming costs of these two non-profit organizations. The deadline to sign up is March 1,



Road to the Cariboo® Claire Kujundzic. Photo by Bill Horne

and to get more details about the project, please see our website.

We also have an Open Call for our next juried gallery show that will run April 1 to May 29. *Sub Text: The Message in Art* will be focused on art that includes, or is based on, the use of text. Deadline for entry is March 11. The feature artist will be Diana Smith, highlighting her latest project *Abstract the News*. Our submission guidelines including entry fees and commission are available on our website.

Last but not least, artists can also participate in our ongoing weekly online portrait group and can check out our Events listing on Facebook, or our website, for more information, including how to join in!



Disturbance® Claire Kujundzic. Photo by Bill Horne

Metchosin Garden Club

Sharing Seeds and Ideas

Seed Exchange

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 16
Time: 7:00 pm
Address: 4430 Happy Valley Rd.

Dorothy King

"One for the blackbird, one for the crow, One for the cutworm, and one to grow." (18th century Virginia proverb)

It's time to dream of gardening again! The theme for our first meeting this year is sharing seeds and ideas. Growing plants for food or flowers for their beauty is a magical event. You plant something as tiny as a tomato seed, it germinates, and with proper care produces tomatoes that may nourish you and your loved ones for weeks.

Metchosin Garden Club's first meeting of 2022 will take place on Wednesday evening, February 16, at 7:00 pm. It will take the form of a 'round table' discussion with no formal speaker.

We hope to help foster a green growing gardening community in Metchosin. Sharing and helping always makes things more fun. New members are welcome. Our

yearly membership fee is \$10 while drop-in participants pay \$2.

Please come and join other enthusiastic gardeners to share ideas, frustrations and successes in your garden. Bring samples and stories. Whether you are a novice, or an experienced gardener we welcome your interest and company.

We especially ask that you bring along your spare seeds to share. We realize that some seed packages, such as kale and zinnias, generally contain many seeds, but their viability doesn't last forever. We will also have empty envelopes on hand, but if you have extra ones to contribute, please bring them to our meeting. If you don't have any seeds to share, please come anyway.

We also hope that you will consider telling us about your wish list for those hard-to-find seeds. Some gardener in our club may know where to find these seeds and offer tips for successful purchase, growing, and harvesting.

Please join our seed exchange and discussion event: Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 pm at the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road.

CROSSROADS

ART IN RESPONSE TO OUR EARTH IN CRISIS

February 4 - March 27, 2022

Feature Artists & Guest Jurors:
Claire Kujundzic and Bill Horne

Submissions invited for April show
Sub Text: The Message in Art.

Art incorporating text - any medium

Deadline March 11

Submission details at metchosinartpod.ca



4495 Happy Valley Road, Metchosin, BC
metchosinartpod@gmail.com
metchosinartpod.ca

Hours: FRI–SUN 11 am–4 pm

#MetchosinArtPod



METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

UPDATE:

The House is still OPEN to program users and private renters following COVID restrictions. However, most MCA programs and renters have cancelled near-term events because of the recent high number of COVID cases and impact on hospital capacity. Please contact your program organizers to confirm if or when the programs will resume.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Mondays

Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program: 9:00 am–3:30 pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillicke at 250-213-2440. Not at the House January 3, 2022.

Knitting Café: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19.
Call Heather at 250-478-6590 FMI.

Tuesdays

Drop In Painters Art Group: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19.
Contact Arlene at 250-391-7905 FMI.

Knitting Café: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19.
Call Heather at 250-478-6590 FMI.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Creative Rug Hooking: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19. Contact Sheila Stewart (250-595-6406, email: blueheronstudio@telus.net) FMI.

Fridays

Ukulele Gathering: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19. Please contact Margaretha at memetopia@shaw.ca FMI.

EVENTS

Art on the Walls: Temporarily cancelled due to COVID19. The Art on the Walls program offers the House as a wonderful venue for artists to show and display their works. Please call 250-478-5155 FMI.

Metchosin Community House

4430 Happy Valley Road

Info: 250-478-5155 Email: mcahouse@telus.net

www.metchosincommunityhouse.com

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

"Sustaining arts and contemporary culture where most of us experience it."
STUDIOS@MACC – highlights, find the full stories on our website!



All masked up at the MACCA Open House in December. Photo by Art Brendon

Life Lessons Learned at MACCA

Installment #2

Charmaine Welsh

Nosebleed Kit: volunteering at MACCA brings me into contact and conversation with many creative souls who I would never ordinarily meet. As a result, useful and unusual information flows freely.

A sweet lady, maybe in her sixties, related an incident that happened to her on a recent flight. The dry air on the airplane brought on a nosebleed, from which she occasionally suffered. Calmly she pulled

a feminine hygiene product from her pocket, unhooked one side of her face mask just long enough to discreetly insert it up her nose, and then promptly replaced the facemask's elastic around her ear.

No embarrassing facial tissue hanging from one nostril for all to see and the mask covered up any evidence of a nosebleed and how she staunched the flow!

Hardly anyone loves wearing a mask, but at times they do come in handy. Stay safe out there.

Huber Studio

Room #1028:
charlahuber.com

Victoria College of Art

Room #1030: vca.ca

Metchosin ArtPod

Room #1031:
metchosinartpod.ca

Shiloh Music

Room #1033:
shilohmusic.com

Shaping Spirit Studio

Room #1034:
etsy.com/shapingspirit

MACCA Office

Room #1036:
info@metchosinartcentre.com

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

Room #1047:
metchosinseniors.ca

Do It Yourself (DIY) Community Art Studio

Room #2001:
metchosinartcentre.ca

Art Lab

Room #2007: blairtaylor.ca

Point Of View exhibition spaces

Main floor entry hallway.
Main floor west hallway.
Upper floor hallway.
metchosinartcentre.com

Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

4495 Happy Valley Road – info@metchosinartcentre.ca
metchosinartcentre.ca



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250 474 7993

ospreytrees@shaw.ca

OSPREY TREE SERVICE

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- B.C. FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS
- WILDLIFE TREE ASSESSMENTS
- DANGER TREE ASSESSMENTS



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Certified Arborist

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY

Please Note: All events shown in the *Muse* this month are subject to change or cancellation due to new COVID regulations or precautions. Readers are advised to check prior to attendance.



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Hon. Mitzi Dean
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MitziDean.ca

 

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GLENROSA FARM RESTAURANT

Back from our winter break on February 11th!

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Seniors' Resource Centre METCHOSIN

The Seniors' Resource Centre is operated by the Metchosin Seniors' Association. We are open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00–4:00 pm, by appointment only due to COVID restrictions. The Centre operates Staff, board members and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, resources, and Better at Home services.

MUSINGS OF A VOLUNTEER – MARIANNE OSTOPOVICH FREEMAN

The Centre has been an important part of Metchosin being a community, a place where you can go to connect with seniors that are aging well and supporting one another.

The regular drop-in seniors' social is a place where many seniors come to have a cup of tea and have a visit and catch up on the weekly happenings of the group; what is new for them, what's new in the community, and in the world. It feels great to pick people up and get them to the Centre, enjoy providing a visitation time and then return them to their homes. (Note: Sadly the Centre is not open at this time, because of COVID and all teas are currently cancelled.)

One of the seniors I have connected with has lived in Metchosin for almost 50 years. I call her regularly as a senior listener and through our regular chats she was able to come out to some of the tea times and connect more with her community.

These are simple activities, but it has been great building relationships with people that really appreciate our precious time together.

I would recommend volunteering a few hours of your time at the Centre. It's a warm and friendly place to be and I have come away feeling quite connected.

SRC: We are recruiting for volunteers, especially to drive seniors to medical appointments and for groceries. Our aim is to have a large pool of volunteers to draw upon. As little as two to three hours of your time once a month yields a huge contribution to the seniors in the community. Almost a quarter of the local population is aged 65 or over, so please consider volunteering to help seniors live independently in Metchosin. We will reimburse you for gas and use of your car.

Call Laurie at 250-478-5150 for information.



Marianne Ostopovich Freeman

SENIORS' CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS REPLAYS

Through 2021, SRC held over 21 events on Zoom. Many were recorded and posted on Metchosin Seniors YouTube channel so you can watch it at anytime.

- Vio Mitchell's Career with Vaccines
- Orchids 101 with Sasha Kubicek
- Trivia with quiz master Andrew Spray
- Carol Carman in conversation with Chris Pratt
- Parisian Café highlights
- Independence through technology with UVic CanAssist
- UVic's Health Programs for Health Conditions
- Isabel Tipton and Jenny Millar's Memories of Metchosin

SENIORS' SOCIALS

We hope to have the Friday Socials running again in February at the Metchosin Community House from 1:00–3:00 pm. Proof of vaccination is required, as are masks. Please check in with the SRC by phone, email or on the website as in-person events are dependent on provincial COVID restrictions, and capacity may be limited.

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)
1407-4495 Happy Valley Road
250.478.5150 • info@metchosinseniors.ca
www.metchosinseniors.ca

RCMP Call-Outs

Brian Kerr, OPS Support, Media Relations Officer,
West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

DECEMBER 10, 2021 –
JANUARY 6, 2022

Dec 10	Sooke Road – Two vehicle accident, no injuries.	Dec 24	Pears Road – Complaint of person having loud music.
Dec 12	Metchosin Road – Report of impaired driver, vehicle located and driver found to be impaired, driver charged and vehicle impounded. Metchosin Road – Domestic dispute, no assault, one person removed from residence.	Dec 26	Sooke Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle overturned. Happy Valley Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, extensive damage to vehicle.
Dec 13	Sooke Road – Erratic driver, vehicle later located by Victoria City Police.	Dec 27	Rocky Point Road – single vehicle accident, no injuries.
Dec 14	Kangaroo Road – Two reports of vehicles in ditch, black ice present. Metchosin Road – Erratic driver, patrols failed to locate the vehicle. Neff Road – Firearm seized from a vehicle, investigation continuing. Metchosin Road – Possible impaired driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.	Dec 30	William Head Road – Lost wallet reported.
Dec 16	Sooke Road – Two vehicle accident, no injuries, both vehicles towed from scene.	Dec 31	Matheson Lake – Suspicious male who threatened a person, male not located.
Dec 19	Gemini Drive – Vehicle in the ditch. Happy Valley Road – Assist Fire Department with structure fire.	Jan 1	Neff Road – Two suspicious males, patrols failed to locate them. Sooke Road – Abandoned vehicle. Sooke Road – Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped, driver found to be a new driver and was sober.
Dec 20	Kangaroo Road – Possible prowler on private property, no one located.	Jan 4	Kangaroo Road – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, icy road. Lindholm Road – Single vehicle roll over accident, no injuries, icy roads.
Dec 21	Sooke Road – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.	Jan 5	William Head Road – Report of possible disturbance, two people questioned at the scene, no further problems. Metchosin Road – Person apprehended under Mental Health Act and taken to hospital.
Dec 22	Kangaroo Road – Possible theft of donated bottles.	Jan 6	Kangaroo Road – Single vehicle accident, snow plow off an embankment, no injuries. Metchosin area – Report of a missing person, ongoing investigation.
Dec 23	Sooke Road – Possible impaired driver, vehicle not located.		

Ham Radios to the Rescue

Mark Muldoon

Have you ever wondered how you will call for help in a serious situation if there are no working cell towers or telephone lines and no electricity?

Volunteers working with the Metchosin Emergency Program train to keep a channel of communication open in the district if other forms of communication fail. The volunteers are a group of licensed amateur (ham) radio operators who practise regularly to provide communication support by amateur radio in a disaster.

The Emergency Radio Communications group, or EmCom, is led by an Emergency Radio Coordinator and a group of dedicated volunteers. In the event of a catastrophic incident where all lines of communication have become inoperable, a network of ham radio operators becomes the most reliable tool to connect people, not only in the district but the region, the province and the country.

In the last two years, the Metchosin Emergency Program has placed over 20 radios with licensed amateur radio operators

in the district so that they can communicate with the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) during an event.

Many of these volunteer operators belong to neighbourhood PODs that work towards emergency preparedness. PODs are organized by the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) into a grouping of homes on a street or in close proximity. Each POD has a designated POD leader.

The EmCom plan is to have each organized POD affiliated with a licensed radio operator during a catastrophe. To assist organized POD members and residents in general to know who is a licensed ham radio volunteer in their neighbourhood, each operator will display a sign on their property visible from the road. The sign will have a square shape and resemble a wi-fi icon with a royal blue background and white reflective borders. The signs will be installed sometime in February. Locate one near your residence so that you can provide a situation report to your POD leader and to the EOC in case of a major event and normal communication avenues are unavailable.

If you are not part of an organized POD or don't know who your POD leader is, or if you would like to organize a POD for your neighbourhood, contact NEPP@metchosin.ca. Being connected at the neighbourhood level to the EOC could make all the difference in a critical situation.

The Metchosin Emergency Program is staffed by volunteers. We welcome new volunteers with support and training. You might even consider becoming a POD ham radio operator. A beginners' class will be organized for 2022. Check the *Metchosin Muse* regularly. If you are interested in knowing more or volunteering, contact MetchosinHAM@shaw.ca.

Keep your eyes peeled for the radio signs in your neighbourhood.



Hans Helgesen

Kindergarten in Nature

Joannie Challenger

If you walk by Hans Helgesen School any morning you might notice a group of young children playing in the forested ravine in front of the school. You might wonder why they aren't in the school building, sitting at their desks, where many of us imagine that the real learning takes place. I was interested to speak with Kindergarten teacher Jayne Struch recently, to find out what learning looks like nowadays, and why students may be found outdoors as well as inside the school.

I asked her the following questions, and Jayne's thoughtful responses are summarized below: **Would you consider your program to be a "nature Kindergarten" class?**

No, it's more of a hybrid. We do our mornings outdoors, rain or shine, and the rest of our day in, with the exception of gym time and our two recesses. We try and tie as much nature into our indoor learning as we can. I really believe it is vital to use both spaces to connect, inspire, explore, learn and grow.

What is the rationale for outdoor learning?

I believe that we need to spend time outdoors to develop a relationship with the environment and connect to it so that we can be advocates for the planet and therefore for ourselves.

What are the advantages to spending time outdoors?

Physical health – we are moving our bodies and gaining balance and strength through building, exploring and play. We are also breathing fresh air vital for our bodies function. Learners are calm and satisfied at the end of the day.

Mental health – we are developing perseverance, connection, a sense of purpose, and mindfulness.

Autonomy and Growth – There are no boundaries on learning so the learning becomes very learner centered. For example, when one of my students noticed that plants in the forest were being damaged by other children, they came up with a plan to make posters and talk to other classes about caring for the forest plants. Being able to take such initiative increases focus and the WANT to learn, as well as encourages a sense of curiosity, wonder and innovation.

Purpose and Equity – When children can see math, science, socials and literacy blend in their real environment they see purpose and validity. Learners can ask questions, be tactile and hands-on, as well as show their learning in a way that best suits them at that time.

What subjects are taught outside?

Learners weave science, mathematics, language arts, social studies and other subjects into their outdoor learning. This learning is brought inside where we then research and record what we are doing outside.

What would a typical day in your kindergarten class look like?

We do a morning check-in to greet and connect with each other. We then go into the forest where we read a story and learn about several topics. We go in for a snack and back out for recess. We return inside to learn letter sounds or math in a mini lesson and explore what we've learned in play-based activities. We eat lunch, have outdoor recess and then quiet time. After we have centered ourselves, we come together for art or more learning. **What goals do you have for your kindergarten students?**

My goals for my learners are pretty simple. I want them to develop a love for nature so that they can appreciate and protect the planet. I want them to learn kindness, acceptance, caring and cooperation so that they can work together to solve the greater issues we have. I want them to want to learn coping strategies, mindfulness, independence and perseverance so that they continue forward even when things get hard because life is not always easy. I want them to know that we can and will be able to do things we cannot do YET, as long as we persevere. I want them to be curious about their surroundings and to explore, discover, wonder and create, to become the innovators we need.

Finally, I want them to feel a sense of purpose and autonomy, to know that they are valued and that they can and do make a difference in this world.

Photos by Jayne Struch



Using our four senses in the forest.
No, we don't taste anything in the forest ;)



Showing our appreciation for the Earth ...
and maybe brightening someone's day along the way."

To Show You Care and to Give a Smile is Your Best Donation by Far

Drop Off Contributions

Date: Sunday, Feb. 27
Time: 1-4:00 pm
Address: 4401 William Head Rd.

Doug Wilson

The 15th annual towel and sock fundraiser for Our Place is on again. The community support and spirit of giving that has made this service project for Our Place by the Metchosin Baha'i community and the Westshore 4-H clubs such a success, will not be stopped by COVID, snow or any atmospheric river.

This time of year, supplies given to shelters and service providers during the holiday season are beginning to dwindle. Winter storms and COVID have added to the suffering faced daily by our most vulnerable populations.

While the disadvantaged regularly face dark times, there are also many bright moments of hope when, through the generosity of many different individuals and groups, they receive a smile, a meal and even a hot shower. The smile and a kind word are often the best part of anything we can give those members of marginalized populations, as it tells them that there are people who care about them and their suffering and that they are not just part of an unwanted problem.

We have learned in our last 14 years of collecting bath bundles that enclosing a card with a kind word and a greeting is as welcome as the towels, the socks and the toothbrush, and always brings a smile.

Our Place is a shelter for the unhoused in downtown Victoria. It has a shower program which runs from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm each day and hundreds of people a week come for a warm shower. The bundles provide them with everything they need for their personal hygiene.

In prior years we have had what we called a towel-bundling event at the Metchosin Community Hall where people would bring newly purchased towels and socks and toothpaste to create bath bundles by adding in toothbrushes, soap, candies, homemade cards and inspiring quotes and bundling everything up inside a towel. Each bundle was then given to individuals or families coming in off the street to get out of the cold and have a shower.

This year, because of COVID, we cannot congregate but still wanted to be able to collect the towels and socks and toiletries to provide Our Place with the materials needed. This is where we hope you will help make this the biggest year yet for supporting Our Place's shower program.

We are inviting you to participate from the safety of your car to drop off your contributions in the parking lot of Metchosin Community Hall at 4401 William Head Road. A contactless drive-through drop off will be set up so you will stay in your car. Please wear a mask and be assured that we will also wear masks and gloves and will maintain social distancing.

We will not be able to make bundles this year but Our Place has told to us that they need the following articles:

1. new towels,
2. new socks, suitable for men or women,
3. tubes of toothpaste,
4. individually packaged toothbrushes,
5. packaged underwear of varying sizes,
6. bars of soap, and
7. small bottles of shampoo and conditioner.

If you or your children want to make up a poster or a greeting card to go along with your towel donations that would also be greatly welcomed.

We are sorry that we will not be able to thank you with food and music as we have done in past years. We instead wish you the pure joy of being of service and helping someone less fortunate.

The Our Place website outlines the many services they provide. www.ourplacesociety.com/how-we-help.

We thank you in advance for your participation and assistance. Tell your neighbours, friends and family to be part of the action. We can make this service project a success. Let's shine our light of positivity in these dark times.

The drop off will be available between 1-4:00 pm on Sunday, February 27 at the Metchosin Community Hall.

For more information or to answer questions please contact our secretary Mona Nakhjavani-Bossi at 250-514-1757

A Hopeful 2022 the Ongoing Saga of Bring Back Our Calls

Chris Moehr and the "Bring Back Our Calls" Action Team

This update is to advise Metchosin residents and *Muse* readers that on January 7, 2022, your local volunteer action team for Bring Back Our Calls received notification from provincial authorities that Metchosin may expect to be approved for notification of all of our former 911 Call-Outs. This means that our Fire Department/First Responders will, on a trial pilot-project basis, once again be notified of all 911 calls originating from Metchosin's capture area including Beecher Bay.

Early indications are that next steps will involve working with an assigned project manager from the BC Ministry of Health to hammer out the requisite processes and response protocols to enable Metchosin responders to once again provide the level of enhanced comfort and care we have been missing.

At the time of writing, the current plan is that Ministry reps will meet with our Fire Chief, Councilor Little, and Chief Chipps to work out the details of a new agreement in the coming weeks. On this basis, we hope to hear an announcement of a roll-out date for the new revised emergency response process sometime in late February or early March.

As you are likely aware, the effort and dedication to achieve what appears to be an upcoming milestone for our community has taken no less than two plus years with particular focused effort and dedication during the past 14 months. As a consequence, the Bring Back Our Calls team is highly encouraged by these recent initiatives. In the words of our Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, "Holy Cow - Happy New Year!" Stay tuned for further updates in upcoming editions of the *Muse*.

Editor's Note: It's not over until it's over; but we are hoping for front page news in the next couple of months. Way to go Team; you have all our support.

Metchosin Muse CLASSIFIEDS

EXPERIENCED BRUSH REMOVAL, ROTOTILLING in Metchosin area. Hayfields, broom patches, brush thickets, etc. Have own equipment. Call or text Hayden 778-676-6379

METCHOSIN LAND WANTED Seeking private sale of arable land for small farm/wellness retreat. Prefer raw land. Ecological buyer. Open to subdivided property. 250-884-7061 silasmal@gmail.com

\$10 per 25 words per edition. Deadline: 15th of each month. Payment in advance preferably by e-transfer. Contact Linda at amuselinda@gmail.com or phone 250-590-0168.



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ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

911

- Report a fire
- Report a crime
- Report an accident
- Save a life
- Imminent safety

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)
metchosinaprm@gmail.com
FB Metchosin APRM
www.metchosinaprm.org

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
FB MetchosinFreeRangeSingers

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

LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA
250-727-4384

METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB
metchosin4h@gmail.com
www.metchosin4h.com

METCHOSIN ARTPOD
metchosinartpod@gmail.com
metchosinartpod.ca

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

METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
www.metchosinbiodiversity.com

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/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 CRICKET CLUB
250-474-4601
www.victoriacricket.com
FB MetchosinCricketClub

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
metchosinequestrian@gmail.com
mesmetchosin.com

METCHOSIN FOUNDATION
contact@metchosinfoundation.ca
metchosinfoundation.ca

METCHOSIN GARDEN CLUB
250-360-7557

METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY
250-478-6424
metchosinhall.com

METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB
250-478-4778

METCHOSIN INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE (MISC)
metchosininvasives@gmail.com

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
FB Metchosin Farmers' Market

METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE
metchosin.sar@gmail.com
www.metchosinsar.ca

METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION/ SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTRE
250-478-5150.
info@metchosinseiors.ca
www.metchosinseiors.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
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
Shelby Quissy
250-474-3812

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

WESTSHORE 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
Anglican Network
250-590-6736
www.opengatechurch.ca

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

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

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