



Metchosin Muse

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Metchosin Firefighters Prove to Be Good Provincial Citizens



Brian Domney

2023 has been unequivocally the worst year for wildfires in the history of British Columbia, with massive areas of the province being burned, hundreds of homes lost, and sadly, here and in other parts of Canada, lives of young heroes lost. Firefighting resources, particularly human resources have been stretched to a breaking point, and without the cooperation of local fire departments, and the arrival of firefighters from around the world, things would undoubtedly be a lot worse. The British Columbia Wildfire Service oversees the annual battles, with Wildfire Service personnel taking on the fires, and local fire departments protecting threatened structures.

For many years, Metchosin has met its “good provincial citizen” obligations by providing equipment and firefighters to many parts of the province and has developed a reputation as a good group of highly competent brothers and sisters in arms.

At the September 11 Council meeting, Chief Stephanie Dunlop presented an overview of her department’s involvement in the 2023 provincial battles, outlining where it has gone, numbers of crew and equipment involved and how the finances work.

This fire season, Metchosin crews and equipment have travelled to Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Burns Lake, Tumbler Ridge, Cranbrook, Sparwood and Adams Lake providing structure protection assistance while gaining invaluable experience in large scale fire fighting. All costs related to these deployments are covered either directly or embedded in funding formulas by the Province of British Columbia, with some categories providing significant net returns to the District. Our volunteer firefighters deploy on two-week cycles, getting leave from their local employers and getting paid by the Province. Travel, accommodation and meals are all covered by BC. Any losses of personal equipment are covered. Our crews do well financially, and gain experience that wouldn’t happen any other way. The payroll for our volunteer firefighters, paid entirely by the Province will be in the range of \$200,000 and they were able to get invaluable training and practice at the same time.

The big gain for the District is how use of equipment is reimbursed, through a provincial Interagency Agreement. This year, to date, the District will net about \$300,000 for helping out.

At the Council meeting, the Chief was questioned about whether Metchosin was adequately protected while crews and equipment were off helping other parts of British Columbia. She gave reassurance that we were, with our equipment and crews as well as mutual aid from other local departments and the BC Fire Service there to deal with any outbreaks. There were, in fact, several fires here that were dealt with expeditiously.

“The safety of the people and structures of Metchosin are the highest priority when

we are asked to assist other jurisdictions” says Dunlop. “Even in situations when Metchosin is asked for local mutual aid, we ensure a duty crew stays in Metchosin to respond with appropriate equipment and personnel to any emergency that might occur here”.

Typically, the Province requests assistance from the Island because there is virtually no risk of a catastrophic wildfire like we’ve seen on the mainland.

Our POD/Neighbourhood Emergency Program, our District Emergency Program, regional emergency response systems, provincial programs, national support or global strategies, all recognize we are not and cannot be in this alone. Climate change is real with drought, extreme heat,

extreme weather, flooding and violent wind a fact of life. It is not going to get better for a long time, if ever, and if people are going to endure, a concerted and coordinated effort is essential. In Metchosin, it is reassuring to know we have a good competent Emergency Program with strong leadership. It’s also reassuring that if we need assistance from other jurisdictions, they will be there for us. The Blinkhorn and Sooke Road fires are good examples of neighbours helping neighbours.

If individual residents take on their responsibilities to FireSmart their properties and be vigilant about fire, we will be safe, and can continue to help our neighbours and expect the same from them.



Metchosin crews and equipment helped fight the deadly fires where their help was needed.

New Pedestrian Crossing at Hans Helgesen

Allen Jones

On one of those many sunny days that we had this summer a large group of mainly Metchosinites gathered at the entrance of Hans Helgesen Elementary School. The assembled gathering represented the people that inspired, harassed, considered, consulted, financed, and constructed the new pedestrian crossing that has been installed across Rocky Point Road to provide a safer environment for the adults and children that attend the school.

These things take time and Morgan Bley, one of the parents of children who attended the school, recalls being involved in the movement to consider the crossing a full seven years ago. The question: “When are we having our crossing?” was repeatedly put to school boards. So, after much ado, on August 18, the ceremonial ribbon was cut by Councillor Sharie Epp, whose hard work and perseverance were applauded by all. Also cutting the ribbon was

Chief Russ Chipps who was there as a parent, representative of the Beecher Bay First Nation, and as a school trustee.

The other speakers at the event were Metchosin Mayor Marie-Térèse Little, Hon. Mitzi Dean (Minister of Children and Family Development), and recently elected MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca, Ravi Parmar, who was previously a school trustee. The ceremony was watched by past and present teaching staff: Kelly Holtan and new principal, Karen Sjerven. Also represented were the RCMP and Fire Departments and notably the members of the Municipal Works Department who undertook the actual hard work.

Hans Helgesen Elementary School (named after the Norwegian pioneer, local farmer, and Member of Parliament for Esquimalt, who arrived in Victoria in 1858) has grown steadily since opening in September 1969 as an annex to

the old elementary school on Happy Valley Road that closed in 2003. Hans Helgesen became a full primary school in 1991, when it was rebuilt, and it has continued to expand, adding a further

‘stream’ of students in this new academic year.

Presumably new land for much-needed schools is hard to find, leading to schools being located next to busy roads. But we

can hope that this improvement to safety avoids the near misses that have been reported previously and that drivers slow down and stop as they are required to do.



A who's who of local dignitaries gathered to celebrate the installation of the Hans Helgesen School Crosswalk. Allen Jones photo

Metchosin Muse

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ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local
non-profit, arts, interests and
activities publication, pro-
duced by the *Metchosin Muse*
Society. 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.

CURRENT CIRCULATION

2800

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.

Preschool Needs Community Help

Our beloved Metchosin Preschool building has reached the end of its lifespan, and the building needs to be torn down. Parents and teachers worked hard throughout the summer months to come up with a temporary solution for the co-op program, and luckily, Westmont Montessori kindly agreed to lease one of their class-rooms for a two-year term. Now a HUGE fundraising initiative must begin to rebuild the preschool.

The preschool cooperative is calling on our community for help! We are going to need a lot of donations to fund the demolition and rebuild of this major pillar in Metchosin. Don't worry, there will be ample opportunities over the next two years to pull out your wallet, as well as donating your time or materials – so get ready! Our first big fundraiser is the ever-popular Halloween Dance at the Metchosin Community Hall. Save the date for October 28 and stay tuned for more details. Tickets will be available from preschool families as well as the corner store.

Erin Van de Water

Re: “Dogs Off Leash In Metchosin (Part One)”

I appreciate the effort Pattie Whitehouse has displayed in the September, 2023 *Muse*, making the public more aware of the Dogs in Metchosin Working Group's

role in making Metchosin more dog friendly.

I have been a resident of Metchosin for 39 years and live adjacent to Witty's Lagoon Park. I have spent many years walk- ing through the park and have noticed a large increase in dogs, especially “off leash”. I have had a five-year old granddaughter pushed into the water by an aggressive dog off leash on the beach.

While the ideal may be to have a dog under control off leash, most people cannot afford to take classes in dog obedience, don't have the time or don't care enough and the CRD animal control are not capable of policing this park at all times of the day.

Witty's Lagoon appears to be becoming the off leash destination for the whole of Victoria. That does not seem very family friendly and I would be very disappointed if dogs took priority over children enjoying the beach in the summer months. Considering the thou- sands of people that visit there every summer and the birds that frequent the area, I am surprised that a minority Dog Friendly group would have first priority in enjoying the beach rather than families with children.

Having dogs on leash at all times, or not on the beach from June 10 to September 10 may be a compromise. Maybe Royal Bay should incorporate a “Dog Friendly” park in their expanding subdivision to take the pressure off Witty's Lagoon.

With the ever-increasing popu- lation in the western communi- ties I hope that the CRD and the municipality consider appropriate

options before making a final de- cision with amendments regard- ing making Metchosin the “Dog Friendly” destination.

Bev Somers

Re: “Thoughts on Mary Hill”

I write in my capacity as a steer- ing committee member for the Mary Hill Project in response to *Muse* Co-Editor Allen Jones' like-captioned article in the September, 2023 *Muse*. My thanks to Allen for composing his infor- mative article which included the Project's website address (www.maryhillipa.ca) and concluded with a heartfelt aspiration shared by many Metchosin residents, including myself.

Brief mention was made in Allen's article of the 1850s Douglas Treaty process. Much has been written about the short and controversial documents that emerged from this process. The corresponding Wikipedia entry offers a good primer. Suffice it to say that these documents did not create a foundation for clarity, certainty or constructive relations.

Fast forward a little more than 170 years and the Mary Hill land is now under discussion as part of the modern Te'mexw treaty process. A further information source for Muse readers interested in the future of Mary Hill is the online Mary Hill information kit, located by scrolling toward the bottom of the page at: <https://temexw.org/resources/>

Morgan Yates

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 past years are there, along with contact infor- mation 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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Council News

OCTOBER 2023



Driveway Culvert Maintenance

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

Residential Yard Burning

Open Yard Debris Burning is prohibited and that will remain in effect until October 31, 2023 or until otherwise advised. Please check www.metchosinfire.ca for updated burning information or call the Fire Department at 250-478-1307.

Metchosin Fire Department – the Bonfire is Back!

The Metchosin Firefighters will be hosting Halloween Night, October 31. We are bringing back the bon- fire, hot dogs & cocoa and our infamous Costume Contest! Our firefighters might also have a few other scary tricks up their sleeves! **Please note:** There will be no fireworks display.

Council Meetings

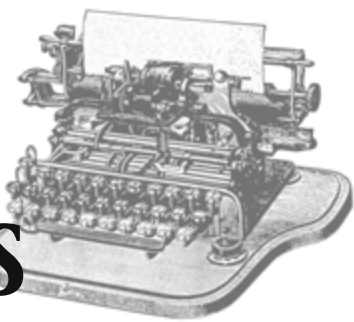
Council and Standing Committee meeting dates and times for the upcoming month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00pm unless otherwise stated. Meetings are subject to change. For updated information please call the Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or refer to the website at www.metchosin.ca.

Buffer Land Working Group Community Input Meeting	October 4
Finance Committee, Community Planning Committee, Environment & Natural Areas Committee, Public Works & Protective Services Committee.	October 16
Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee	October 17
Council Meeting	October 23
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.	4:30 pm, October 24
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee.	October 24

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Editor's Musings



Johnny Carline

This seems like a time when the village should be celebrating its achievements. The volunteer appreciation concert, sponsored by our Council, was a lovely and creative gesture and was appreciated by all who attended. Credit to Mayor Little, whose brainchild this was. The same can be said for the new version of Metchosin Day, now appropriately renamed Metchosin Community Day. Risks were taken in scaling down the event, which had grown into

something people enjoyed less and less. Kudos to Vio Mitchell and her team for putting on a day which felt much more like a local event and was very well enjoyed by those who came and to Pearson College students who provided great help, energy and entertainment.

Our firefighters have been providing needed help across the Province, while our Fire Chief all the while ensures this community remains safe. ArtPod is putting on another thought-provoking

project. The Hans Helgesen Crosswalk was finally opened with much fanfare (credit here to hard-working Councillor Epp). William Head Prison is about to mount another play which the community can enjoy. And the *Muse* Team was delighted to receive the Citizen of the Year Award, and join the several other worthy volunteers and organizations receiving other awards on Metchosin Community Day.

It would not be Metchosin if we did not have a spirited discussion about dogs in this issue and even the Beckingham Road procedural shenanigans didn't finish up too far from where things may well have finished up in the long run anyway. Not all mistakes are tragedies.

There is a lot more to enjoy and give thanks for in this edition of the *Muse*. I hope you enjoy reading it.

2023 Farm Forum

Robin Tunnicliffe

Where: Bilston Creek Farm
4185 Metchosin Rd.
When: Friday October 20,
1:00 to 4:00pm
Why: Just a fun event to strengthen the farming community

Calling all farmers and aspiring agrarians: The Metchosin Agriculture Select Committee requests your presence for an informal end-of-season social.

There will be refreshments and snacks, and lots of time to network with your fellow farmers. We hope to have some updates on the progress of our agriculture planning process. We want to hear your stories, successes and failures from this season, and plans for the coming year.

RSVP to robintunnicliffe@hotmail.com.

**Be Bear and Cougar smart!
Pick up fallen fruit and ensure
attractants are out of reach.**



Volunteer Appreciation Concert a Resounding Hit



Marie-Térèse Little, District of Metchosin Mayor

A fabulous *Blues Summer Evening* concert was held in Metchosin on August 24, 2023 to recognise all the volunteers in Metchosin. We experienced wonderful weather (and no smoke or wind!) and approximately 200 volunteers brought their picnics, blankets and their good will.

Left: Helen Davies sure can sing.

Below: The musicians perform (at left), the crowd enjoys (centre) while the Fire Department serves hot dogs (at right).

Marie-Térèse Little photos

Gratitude is extended to Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop, Deputy Fire Chief Scott Henning, Firefighter Gloria Lejour and all the Fire Fighters from Metchosin Fire Department who helped provide hotdogs and refreshments for the evening. Metchosin's own, Helen Davies and the High-Definition Chicks (HDC) +2 gave an absolutely stellar performance and the crowd was ready for some excellent music and good cheer. "That girl can sure sing!" is what we heard in the crowd.

The band included the core HDC trio of: vocalist, Helen Davies (CURL, Helen Davies Band), keyboardist, Dee Cooper (Loose Change, CURL), and

Drummer, Christa Brennan (CURL, HDC). The trio is the alumna of all woman blues band, CURL (now defunct). HDC was joined by guitarist, Bill Johnson (Bill Johnson Blues Band), and bassist, Wayne Dupuis (Stretch, Paradise Street). This group of professional musicians provided the community with an incredible evening. Given this successful evening, Council has endorsed two concerts for the summer of 2024 to recognize and thank all the volunteers in the Metchosin community.



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A Blast from the Metchosin Muse’s Past

Johnny Carline

The *Metchosin Muse* has now completed 30 years of publishing this community’s own newspaper. Highlights of the first two decades of publication were captured in *The Best of The Muse*, volumes 1 and 2 (contact the *Muse* if you are still looking for a very modestly priced copy).

This year, to celebrate our anniversary, we decided to publish one article per month from the past decade, 2013 to 2023. Over the next eleven issues, we will publish one article from each year in succession, each chosen by a different member of the *Muse* team. This month’s article is from December, 2013 and was penned by the much-admired late Councillor, Moralea Milne and titled “Zombie Ants”.



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(Baha’i Writings)

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CLOSE TO NATURE

WITH MORALEA MILNE

ZOMBIE ANTS

MORALEA MILNE

There are people who claim that mushrooms can save the world, and others who say they farm the world, and you can truly start to believe that fungi are the superior species when you hear about Zombie Ants. These poor hardworking ants, just trying to do their best for the colony, are the unfortunate recipients of the spores of a

that have not been recorded previously in Metchosin, and there are some that are still being examined which might be interesting new additions to the fungi of BC.

2013 is being hailed as the best year for fungi in the last fifteen; the diversity of species and the abundance has had the mushroom world swooning with pleasure, with many larders full to bursting with an excellent harvest of chanterelles and hedgehogs.



Photo by Brian Domney

Micro BioBlitz – Yes, Metchosin had mushrooms!

certain fungus. The fungus settles into the ant host body, slowly killing the ant. But just before the final ant gasp, the fungus directs the ant to climb to the top of the nearest rock, leaf or branch. There it sends out its fruiting body, the mushroom, from the skull of the ant. Now it has an elevated platform from which to release its spores and send them out into the world. Ghoulish as that sounds, it might explain Toronto Mayor Rob Ford’s erratic behaviour.

It was Metchosin’s great good fortune to have the entertaining Britt Bunyard, a world-renowned mycologist (mushroom expert) and editor of *Fungi Magazine*, give a fascinating presentation on the Weird, Weird, Weird World of Mushrooms at the November Talk and Walk. If you want a topic that appeals to a wide range of Metchosin residents, mushrooms were it! This was the eighth annual mushroom presentation and it rivals the infamous Sasquatch Talk (no Walk) for the number of interested people who attended (around ninety in both cases). It’s a testament to the allure of fungi to see that two-thirds of the attendees were under the age of thirty.

This year we started our first MycoBlitz, a continuation of the spring BioBlitz that has seen us record approximately 1,200 species within Metchosin’s borders. A MycoBlitz is an inventory of all the fungi species that can be found during a twenty-four hour period. About eighty keen mushroomers met with a number of experts to explore the Van der Meer property, Camp Thunderbird and Pearson College. The sorting and recording of the mushrooms was held at the Pearson College cafeteria (thanks Pearson College!) and many students were able to join in the excitement of the event. Although the final count is yet to be determined (mushrooms can be hard to identify), the estimate is an additional 200 species that can be added to the bioinventory. Certainly, a number of species were found



These mushrooms are a stunning pink - oh for colour printing! Photo by Moralea Milne

Thanks to the District of Metchosin, Pearson College, Metchosin Foundation, Camp Thunderbird, Camosun College, Andy MacKinnon, Kem Luther, Adolf and Oluna Ceska and Britt Bunyard for making the MycoBlitz a huge success. When completed, a list of the fungi species recorded from the MycoBlitz will be found at metchosinbiodiversity.com

Merry Christmas to all our natural history aficionados! And may Santa lead you to find the rare Christmas *Naucoria* mushroom (only found on ancient and somewhat rotten arbutus trees).

Metchosin Muse Celebrates Thirty Years of Community Service



Shelby Quissy, Liz Conway, and Jane Hammond with early issues of the *Muse*, including, on the right, the very first one. Allen Jones photo

Allen Jones

Volunteers of Metchosin have produced the *Muse* for 30 years with the first issue coming out in August 1993. Most of the early *Muse* pioneers are still around and with the help of Jane Hammond, who originally proposed a monthly community publication, I was able to look at some of the early issues of the *Muse*. Volume One, Issue One was dedicated to the memory of a Metchosin activist: Valerie MacDermont. Before passing Valerie energetically lobbied for Witty's Lagoon to be purchased for use as a public park rather than the trailer park that was under consideration at the time. Sadly, Mary Hill seems to be a lot more complicated to deal with in the same manner.

Volume One had a lot of the articles that we expect to find in the current edition: letters to the editor; obituaries; environmental articles; poems; recipes; historical items; gardening; happenings of interest groups in Metchosin including arts, cricket, Metchosin Day, and Farmers' Market; local advertising. This 'Collector's Edition' as it was optimistically titled laid the path for the next 30 years and we must thank our readers and advertisers for their support. I noted that 'Chosin Pottery, Metchosin Country Store, Metchosin Golf and Country Club, and Richard's Landscaping are still advertising with us after all those years.

The *Muse* started with editors Brian Graham and Barry Mathias but Jane Hammond remembered that production was a team effort and Jane was charged with the

important task of 'advertising'. Without the revenue of advertising a non-profit publication could not be produced. I was lucky to meet Shelby Quissy who was advertising manager for a number of years as well as Liz Conway who carried out another important task: 'Design and Layout'.

We can thank Liz for naming the publication the *Metchosin Muse*. She thought an alliterative name would give an identity that could be easily remembered. We can also thank her for charging only \$5 per hour for her skilled work with Pixels and paste-up. This meant that the first year of publication produced a profit of nearly \$400. That was an achievement that we find difficult to match with the increased costs that are currently imposed upon us. Despite having given birth to a new baby and needing time to build a new home in Metchosin, Liz created an advertisement sizing and pricing structure. She created the spreadsheets of advertisers and designed the adverts as well as the paper!

From the beginning the *Muse* aimed to concentrate on subjects of local interest, community events and the arts. It was intended to avoid political issues, worrying it might divide the community. More recently, the *Muse* has been able to overcome that fear. Meanwhile, other community members, like the late David Wolsk, were also busy initiating the Metchosin Community Association, helping lay the foundations of the community that Metchosin enjoys today.

Moving on to 1994 finds Monika Smith as editor and an

editorial team of Susan Day, Andrea Jacobs, and Pam Leacock. There were also 18 contributors who warned readers about the coming megathrust earthquake, along with articles about pet safety and the 'Magical Metchosin Festival'. Such is the variety of contributions that have been published from month to month.

By August 1996, the *Muse* had had more than two hundred contributors. The published articles and letters to the editor covered many subjects related to Metchosin as well as several regular columns such as Isabel Tipton's gardening advice. Looking at the group photograph that was included in the August 1996 edition, it is apparent that they were a lot younger than the current *Muse* Team!

Although the *Muse* had been well-received by Metchosinites, it was found to be vulnerable

financially and Jo Mitchell, who was editor in February 1998, made the first appeal for financial help from the community which was met with a warm response. The idea of a distribution only to subscribers was mooted but was not adopted. A survey was also commissioned to find out what readers wanted. It found satisfaction with the format but wanted more local announcements, better editing of opinion pieces (less boring), and more coverage of council meetings, local politics, and community and local sporting events. We hope that we have listened and responded satisfactorily ever since.

To be continued next month ...

Editor's note: We would be delighted if readers would share with us their Muse memories over the last 30 years.



The *Muse* Team in the early days. Bev Hall photo

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Thank you, Nik!



Nik Wells, four-year employee with the District of Metchosin's Public Works Department and six-year veteran with the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department, has been hired by DND Esquimalt as a full-time fire fighter. We will miss seeing you on our grounds and trails, Nik. Thank you for your work in the community.
Barb Sawatsky photo

Nadene Carline 761 Foundation ready to receive donations



The foundation honouring the life and career of Nadene Carline as an outstanding educator has been established with the Vancouver Foundation. Her foundation will provide two annual awards: the first will assist a child encountering barriers to their progressing with their education; the second will assist a young student-teacher aspiring to follow in Nadene's footsteps. If you would like to support her legacy, you can donate to her foundation by accessing her donation page at <https://give.vancouverfoundation.ca/s/nadene-carline-761-foundation> or by sending a cheque to Vancouver Foundation, Suite 200, 475 W. Georgia St., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4M9 and adding Nadene Carline 761 Foundation to the memo line (otherwise it doesn't get to her foundation.)

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Emergency Calls – Metchosin Passes the Acid Test!

Chris Moehr, President, APRM

As you may recall, back in 2018 our municipality fell victim to a newly introduced highly centralized, province-wide dispatch model for 911 calls and related protective services. The immediate fallout of this scenario was a major reduction in 911 calls relayed to our local Fire Department and First Responders with the attendant increased risks for all Metchosin residents. Additionally, the lack of notification of 911 calls within our Metchosin/Beecher Bay catchment area negatively impacted morale within the ranks of our Protective Services who were left in a quandary of repeatedly observing ambulances rushing by our firehall, sirens blazing, without any knowledge of what was going on or where.

Recognizing the negative implications of imposing a ‘one size fits all’ model on our community, and with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of our long-standing Fire Department and First Responders, Metchosin residents soon rallied to ‘Bring Back our Calls’. At the initiative of the APRM and with the support of numerous community-based organizations, some 526 residents signed a door-to-door petition during the fall and winter of 2020, requesting the return of all of our call-outs and clearly stating the valid reasons why. This initiative provided the basis for numerous submissions to, and meetings with, the BC Ministry of Health, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and BC Ambulance policy-makers during the subsequent two plus years. It is worthy of note that during the ensuing time frame we were repeatedly informed by local knowledgeable persons that we would “never win this bureaucratic battle”.



Standing from left to right: Chris Moehr, Carol Carman, Kathy Saluke, and Rachel French de Mejia (all from the Save Our Calls Committee) and from the fire department are Jake Gordan, Cpt. Jason Bode, Lt. Jacob Lamb, Gloria Lejour, Lt. Nik Wells, Gabe Doering, Kianna Thistlethwaite. Kneeling from left to right: Isaiah Van Wiltenberg, Brent Henning, Michael Campbell. Some key contributors were not present for the photograph, including Committee members Bev Bacon, Jennifer Burgis, Deirdre Chettleburgh, Brian Grant and Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop, Gordon Gravel and other firefighters. We owe them all a debt of gratitude. Barb Sawatsky photo

The last part of this saga is that in February 2022, Metchosin was exempted from the new centralized dispatch model, i.e., we would subsequently be back in receipt of all our calls originating from Metchosin and Beecher Bay on a trial ‘pilot project’ basis. This announcement took place during a meeting with policy makers from the BCEHS and our local ‘Bring back our Calls’ team at the Metchosin Fire Hall. When pressed as to how long Metchosin would be subject to the pilot project status, we were informed “six months”. It is now one year and six months and it is apparent to all that our returned full scale, call-out status is now permanent. This raises a question: How has our Fire Department/First

Response team been able to step up to the demands of significantly increased call-outs? Apparently very well – on June 27 of this year, they responded in their typically able and timely fashion to no less than eleven call-outs in a single day ... it doesn't get better than that. In summary, there are not enough words to thank the many residents, in particular the ten-member ‘Bring back our Calls’ team for their participation and support in making this outcome a reality. Do not let anyone tell you that with acquired knowledge, non-stop commitment and persistence you cannot make a significant difference.

Emergency Preparedness – Starting with Your Neighbourhood

Erin Ronsse, Patti Williams and Kathleen Sutherland

Metchosin Emergency Program Information Session
Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00pm, Metchosin Fire Hall

Following a catastrophic event such as a major earthquake and the declaration of a state of emergency, the provincial emergency system will likely be overwhelmed. Hospital, ambulance and police services will likely be delayed in their ability to support Metchosin, so we could be ‘on our own’ for quite a number of days. Luckily, Metchosin has a strong emergency program. In this situation the Metchosin Emergency Program (MEP) will activate. The MEP follows the international structure of the Incident Command System for conducting emergency responses. British Columbia was the first province to embrace this system across all jurisdictions. (gov.BC.ca ICS). We are fortunate here to have some wonderful local volunteers who are willing to support the leadership roles within the ICS structure including our Firefighter group, a Radio Communications group, Emergency Support Services group (temporary shelter and care), a Medical Triage group, Search and Rescue group, and our Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) also known as PODS. During an emergency, MEP also has an arrangement for evacuation and other supports with registrations held at St. Mary's Church (across from Metchosin Golf & Country Club). Metchosinites pride themselves on being self reliant and we are well practiced in dealing with power outages. Being able to look after ourselves will assist

MEP in being able to triage and deal with the most critical situations first, before moving on to support the community as a whole and begin any rebuilding. Metchosin's well established Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP/PODS) is the first line of support. NEPP/PODs are groups of neighbours who have signed up and agreed to communicate safety concerns & information updates within their neighbourhoods. In the event of an emergency PODs will act as a liaison between the neighbourhood & the Emergency Program Coordinator (under the direction of Fire Chief Dunlop). **What can you do now?** Add your name to the Emergency Notification List and learn more about the Metchosin Emergency Program at <https://metchosinemergencyprogram.ca> (site being updated). Find your POD leader or volunteer to help with your POD by emailing neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a POD leader we can provide you with education, resources & support to get you started! Attend the next Metchosin Emergency Program Information session (returning after the COVID disruption). For more information or to suggest neighbourhood emergency training ideas, contact Kathleen Sutherland, Metchosin's NEPP/POD Director by email (neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com) or phone 250-474-3966.

Autumn Musings from the Metchosin Foundation

Valerie Jaeger

As the Autumn equinox passes and days begin to shorten and get cooler, a reflective mood seems more likely to arise in quiet moments. Within the Metchosin Foundation, the past nine months have provided much to reflect upon.

At the Metchosin Community Day event on September 10, Foundation colleagues welcomed visitors to a display booth located across from tables and tents staffed by other local agencies whose volunteers also undertake work supporting environmental stewardship and community well-being. Adjacent was a separate booth for the Mary Hill Project. This September marked the fifth anniversary of a catalytic conversation held between three of the Foundation's directors and the late and much-missed Ken Farquharson, in which the seeds for this ambitious conservation and reconciliation project were planted.

It is also timely to reflect upon a more recent but similarly ambitious initiative: the multi-year Bilston Conservation Corridor Project had its public debut at the Foundation's well-attended June AGM. The Foundation is grateful for the interest expressed by members of District Council and Administration in our goals for securing a seven kilometre long, interconnected corridor of natural areas that will support biodiversity and climate resiliency. A video, conveying much more than these words, can be

viewed on our website (<https://metchosinfoundation.ca>). We are fortunate to reside in a community that still has healthy and diverse ecosystems and we are inspired by Metchosinites' passion to preserve our natural assets for future generations.

Our early work has focused on outreach to local landowners who may be interested in having a portion of their lands become part of a conservation legacy that will ultimately connect hilltop headwaters areas to the protected estuary at Witty's Lagoon. It was very gratifying for the Foundation to receive a recent email from one such landowner stating, "I have nothing but wonderful things to say about everything you have done in facilitating this potential conservation corridor. I really love this property and I can't imagine a better legacy for my family than having its future protected".

Autumn is the time when the hard-working local citizen scientist volunteers, who support the Foundation's long-range, flying insect biomass study collaboration with UVic, bring in the last of the season's sample bottles and clean and repair equipment in readiness for the next year's field season. It is a time of reflection, too, on the ongoing work of dedicated volunteers who are restoring and enhancing the municipal grounds Garry oak meadow honouring the memory of Moralea Milne. This year, the meadow really came into its own during the spring bloom period for species like camas, sea bluish

Right: Autumn Reflections
Bev Hall photo

and fawn lilies. Now, as the leaves fall, it is time to continue efforts to suppress the growth of invasive grass species.

The Foundation looks back with satisfaction on two Sc'ianew First Nation initiated projects that we were able to support financially and which received generous in-kind support from Spirit Bay residents. A three-day, marine environment stewardship pilot project in early July and the community's hosting of a large event connected to the late July Tribal Journeys program were, by all accounts, excellent opportunities to connect environmental stewardship and community development.

In closing, a final reflection is saved for the generous donors who sustain our work financially and for the other local volunteer organizations whose complementary efforts help to create shared successes. Where respective mandates align, we have enjoyed working with members of the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association, the APRM, artists from ArtPod, and with members of other local organizations. Such collaboration provides solace in challenging times and it becomes easier to imagine a future relationship with our lands and waters that is based on reciprocity, rather than rapacity.



Working for our community

Hon. Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

250-952-5885
#104 - 1497 Admirals Road
Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca
MitziDean.ca





Beckingham Road Developer Throws in the Towel

Johnny Carline

The future development of 4696 Beckingham Road first came to the Planning Committee agenda in May, 2022 as a proposal to use the amenity zoning policies in the Official Community Plan (OCP) to allow the permitted amount of development to be clustered onto smaller lots, and the balance of the site to be designated as an amenity area.

However, Council, presumably concerned with aquifer 606, suggested that the developer consider bringing piped water to the site. In January 2023, the developer returned with a responsive proposal but requested an upzoning to help offset the additional costs of providing piped water. Metchosin Council appeared to be attracted to this proposition and, after a community engagement process, it met on August 14, to decide whether to send it to Public Hearing.

Councillor Gray suggested that more information was needed to make this decision, but the majority of Council voted to send the proposed upzoning, along with the associated necessary amendment to the OCP, to Public Hearing.

One month later, on September 11, Council rescinded its approval for a Public Hearing. In making the motion, Mayor Little suggested that new information had come to light and called for a raft of reports to provide answers to questions on various issues, including information on cutthroat trout, the state of the aquifer and potential impact of wells, the cost of providing the piped water and the impact of that on the market value of lots, the number of lots possible under different scenarios and other similar information, as well as legal advice on the implications of possible "unintended consequences" of a decision to amend the OCP and upzone the property. It seems likely that the question here is what kind of precedent would the OCP amendment set.

In speaking to her motion, Mayor Little stressed the need to make "evidence-based decisions" and without doubt these were some of the right questions to ask. The problem is one of timing. These are the questions that might have been asked back in May,

2022 when Council first suggested piped water, or at least in January 2023, when the developer brought back his scheme in response to that suggestion. New information may have prompted Mayor Little's motion, but it clearly would have helped if there had been more strategic thinking and questions asked at the beginning, when Council had little or no information.

One can hardly blame the developer if, having made some effort to meet Council's request, he now feels he has been led down the garden path and has chosen to return to a simple subdivision, which avoids Council approval altogether.

However, a council still in the learning process need not be defensive when it takes occasional wrong turns. They are only human and people understand that can happen. We have all done it. And it is admittedly difficult, sometimes, to find that perfect middle course between doing enough questioning and strategic thinking on the one hand and paralysis by analysis on the other. This is where relying on the expertise and experience of staff comes in.

One resident commented that the flow of information between staff and Council needed improvement. If the present seating arrangement at Council meetings is anything to go by, that resident may have a point. In the previous Council, the very experienced Mayor still relied heavily on his CAO who sat at the council table where she could informally give guidance when necessary. In the current situation, the CAO, who also doubles as the CFO, is constantly reminded of her "interim" status, is placed well away from the council table and has to go to the public podium to respond to Council's questions. There is even talk of posting the CAO position, the need for which is unclear and could be costly.

It is not Council's function to assume the role of senior staff; but building trust and respect, and seeking and relying on the expert advice of the staff it does have, is something Council might consider trying to improve upon if we are to avoid further unnecessary expense, turmoil and missteps over the next several months.



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Metchosin Community

Violaine Mitchell and Jill Peterson

A big thank you to everyone who made Metchosin Community Day such a success this year! Our goal was to host a family-friendly, safe, and fun day where residents and friends could gather and meet informally and where we could showcase the best of Metchosin. The contests (Pet, Baking, Produce and Photography) were nail-biters, as always, and had a great turnout. We thank our very capable and impartial produce judges, Derek Wulff and Robin Tunnicliffe, who are real connoisseurs of fruits and vegetables. After a few years hiatus, we were

thrilled to have 25 entries for this year's photography contest and we look forward to many more entries for 2024. Our amazing photography judges this year were Tony Austin, a local Metchosin photographer, and Christy Grinton, a well-known Vancouver Island Wildlife photographer. Beautiful dogs, rare chickens, a rabbit, and a sheep who comes when she's called, were among the contestants at the Metchosin Community Day pet show. Many thanks to the judges and to Willow Wind Feed and Tack for providing prizes and treats. Thanks also to our baking

contest judges, Joel Roper, Jesse Roper and Shannon Madill! The winning cake was a Pear and Cappuccino creation that tasted amazing! The hayride, digger, and Junior Firefighters proved, once again, to be enormous hits with everyone of all ages! The Metchosin Producers put on a fantastic display of local food and crafts at the Market. The vaulters, drill team, and games at the Riding Ring were crowd-pleasers. There was a great turnout of Metchosin not-for-profits and associations which was super to see. The Cobbler Café was hopping at the

Metchosin Community House, with our local Girl Guides doing an excellent job serving the food and drinks. Entries in the Photography contest decorated the walls of the House. The entertainment stage was stupendous this year with amazing performances from Rewind (Sharie/John/Tim), Paradise Street, Edelweiss Dancers, Pearson College Performers, Lost Highway Trio, Bryce Alan, and HDC Trio.

Thanks to Sc'ianew Nation for the burgers and hot dogs – with funds raised going towards the Big House Improvement Project. The Lamb and Salmon BBQ was as popular as ever – and tickets sold out by 2:00pm. Thanks to the Girl Guides for shucking a lot of corn and to the Lamb & Salmon BBQ crew for their hard work and fantastic dinner!

Parking was a concern coming into Metchosin Community Day and thanks to our Public Works Crew we configured the old school grounds and lower municipal field for about 300 vehicles. LA Limo organized a shuttle from St. Mary's Church that was well-used all day. We received many comments that people enjoyed seeing friends and neighbours they hadn't seen

in a while too – and appreciation that the event seemed less crowded and commercial than in prior years. Some people said that this is like the Metchosin Day of old! Our favourite quote of the day was from a young Metchosin eight year old, Maeve A, "This is the best day ever!" We also heard that a few people missed the Beer Garden though we did refer them to the Mile Zero Brewing. We also appreciate that some people missed having vendors – our hope is that there are other opportunities for vendors in Metchosin.

There are many individuals and groups to thank and sadly not the space to do this justice here, but please know all your contributions are highly valued and appreciated.

As we head into the fall, the Metchosin Community Day Committee is evaluating what worked, what could be better. In that spirit, the committee welcomes all feedback and suggestions – and we absolutely welcome new volunteers (we are an ageing bunch ...). Please email: Jill.Peterson@afslimited.ca or violainemitchell@gmail.com and please copy metchosinday@outlook.com as well.



Roasting the lamb took all day. Barb Sawatsky photo



Pearson College students were treated to a guest dancer who just joined in. Barb Sawatsky photo



The hay ride. Barb Sawatsky photo



Worthy award-winning garden baskets. Max van Manen photo

Day 2023



Best Costume, Hobo the farmhand with the farm family.
Lauren Kief Photography



Best in Show – Lexi with owner Freya McArthur.
Kaitlyn Viney photo



The entertainment was very classy this year.
Barb Sawatsky photo



District Council was in attendance. Barb Sawatsky photo



Firefighters and children always have fun with hoses.
Barb Sawatsky photo



Dancing up a storm. Barb Sawatsky photo



The produce tables were very impressive.
Max van Manen photo

Home Is Where the Art Is

Diana Smith

Recently I heard a quote by a Buddhist teacher who, when asked where his home was, said “... on the eastern edge of the Milky Way”. What does home mean to you? Home is the theme of the current show at ArtPod.

It is a simple little word with an infinite number of interpretations. Does it conjure up images of places, whether intimate, geographic or cosmic? Do you think of people, either alive or dead? Does the word evoke tender or fraught feelings or a mix? Are your memories situated in nature

or a more urban setting? What are the smells and tastes and sounds associated with the memories? Responding to this theme was the challenge given to ArtPod’s 14 members and the results are on display during the show, running October 6 to November 12.

To hear the artists talk about the inspiration for their work, as well as see it, you are invited to the gala opening on Saturday, October 7 at 2pm. There is also a rumour that there will be an activity for children during the duration of the show.

The theme of home was suggested by late ArtPod founding member David Westelmajer, who died unexpectedly on June 20, just as thoughts of this topic were beginning to percolate. We will be honoring David and his work at a retrospective on November 11.

With several ceramic artists in the Collective, ArtPod will again be a stop on the Shore-to-Shore Studio Tour, this year on Saturday October 21. On that date, clay-based work will dominate the gallery space. This year, the annual pottery studio tour features 15



ArtPod’s Diana Smith stands ready to rescue the art should the Metchosin wind strike ArtPod’s display at the Metchosin Community Day (and it did). Khione Gardner photo

ceramic artists at several locations throughout the Westshore area. It is from 10:00am to 4:00pm and details are at shoretoshorestudio.tour.ca.

ArtPod is also actively seeking submissions for the last show of the year: Small Artworks Winter Show and Sale. November and December are busy gift-buying months. With this in mind artists are invited to make art that is no

bigger than 12 x 12 inches (with a similar footprint size for three-dimensional work). We want to celebrate art that is accessible and delightful and where a more diminutive size is celebrated. Prices will also be small-scale.

Details for all of the above, as well as ongoing portrait and life drawing opportunities, are on our website metchosinartpod.ca.



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The Metchosin Community Association (MCA) is seeking a part-time Office Coordinator with proven experience and knowledge of office equipment, procedures and polices. This is an in-office position, providing clerical support to the MCA Board.

- 4 weekdays a week (no statutory holidays)
- 16 hours a week
- 3 weeks of paid vacation
- Pay scale, starting between \$23–\$26/hr
- Minimum two references required

Applications accepted by email only to: mcahouse@telus.net
Application deadline: Friday, October 6 at 4:00pm

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



Jeni Luther

It’s October in Metchosin. With that comes the smell of wet leaves and woodsmoke, shorter days, a chill warded off by a sweater and PRISON THEATRE!

That’s right, William Head on Stage (WHoS) is back! After a long pandemic hiatus, live audiences are once again invited to come and watch our fall production. This year we are excited to present: **Eavesdrop Café; Look W.H.O.S. Talking ...** Come in for a coffee and listen to some of the stories playing out inside this special café that draws all kinds of people.

William Head on Stage is Canada’s only prisoner-run theatre company that has a rich, 42-year history of producing live, public performances within the confines of William Head Institution.

During the pandemic, we didn’t let the restrictions dampen our creativity. We ventured into podcasting with *Dark Traveler* (2020), embarked on art and writing prompts with a project called *The Great Creative Exchange*, and even created short films compilations like *Common Threads* in 2021 and *Beneath The Mask* in 2022. Additionally, WHoS celebrated its 40th anniversary with *The Prison Theatre Time Machine* which was brought to a wider audience in downtown Victoria.

Now, in 2023, we have returned with a live performance, *Eavesdrop Café; Look W.H.O.S. Talking ...* an original show, collaboratively created and written by incarcerated men at William Head, with outside artists, and directed by Kate Rubin. It’s impressive to see how this unique theater company has persevered and continued to thrive, showcasing the talent and creativity of the men involved. It’s a testament to the power of the arts in restorative justice and personal growth.

2023 PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

at William Head Institution, 6000 William Head Road

Dates and Times:

Evening performances: October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, November 3, 4.
Gates open at 6:15pm, close at 7:15pm; Show begins at 7:30pm.
Matinee performances: Saturday October 21 and 28.
Gates open at 11:45am, close at 12:45pm; Show begins at 1:00pm.
Absolutely no late-comers.

Tickets \$25

Available at www.whonstage.weebly.com and in person at Red Barn’s Latoria and James Bay locations.

Audience Reminder: WHoS is located inside a Federal Institution.

You are entering a correctional facility. You must be 19 or older, have valid government-issued photo ID, and your pre-paid PRINTED ticket. You cannot bring in any personal items, including wallets, purses, cell phones, smart watches, money, smoking products, medicines (exceptions may be made for potentially life-saving medicines).

You must buy tickets in advance and have a PRINTED TICKET for entry at the prison gate. No tickets available at the door.

EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod



6 OCT- 12 NOV
HOME: the ArtPod Collective
Annual Member Show


- **7 Oct. Gala Opening**
- **21 Oct. Shore to Shore Pottery Tour - showcasing 5 members' works in day**

17 NOV- 24 DEC
SMALL ARTWORKS
WINTER SHOW AND SALE

- **3 Nov. Call for entries closes**



See metchosinartpod.ca for details



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Hours: 11-4pm Fri-Sun

This is Not Another Protest

Bev Bacon

On September 28 there will be events across BC to mark the three-year anniversary of the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

None of the recommendations have been fully implemented. What more can we say? What more can we do?

To me the occasion is like a remembrance day. I’ll remember the fallen – the fallen trees, and the fallen people who cared about the trees.

We didn’t win, or we haven’t won yet. The event is happening in Metchosin, at the Metchosin School on Happy Valley Road, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm on September 28, with live performances beginning outside the school at about 5:30pm. It will be reflecting on Old Growth Forests through the medium of art. There will be visual art, dance and song. No speeches. Videographer Ben Farris will record the goings-on. Contact jlarkin@jddc.com if you have questions.

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

The Metchosin Community House looks fabulous with fresh paint on the walls and is fully open! We look forward to seeing you soon in our shiny, clean premises! In September the office will be staffed two mornings a week by temporary office co-ordinator Linda Spiller. Please feel free to drop in 9:30am to 12:30pm, September 5, 7, 11, 13, 18, 21, 26 and/or 28.

Otherwise, please send an email to mcahouse@telus.net or leave a voice mail 250-478-5155 and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you for joining us on Metchosin Day and supporting the MCA Cobbler Café and Corn Booth; both sold-out events! It was a wonderful day and so great to see our community together again. Many thanks to Dorothy King for the gift of the apples (and the amazing cobbler recipe) and to Tamara Ballard for access to her fabulous blackberry patch. Many thanks to MCA event organizers Heather Showers and Bob Burgis.

If you haven't had the chance to renew your MCA membership for 2023-2024, please consider continuing your support of the Community House. Membership enables you to stay active within this wonderful community facility and show appreciation for our many MCA programs and events. Memberships are still only \$10 for an individual, or \$20 for a family or organization. Memberships can be easily renewed by:

- **E-transfer:** send your e-transfer (auto-deposit, no security question required) to mcahouse@telus.net (with your full name in the comment field + membership renewal), OR
- **Drop off:** cheque or cash in an envelope (stating your first and last names) at the office or in the locked drop box at the door of the Metchosin Community House, OR
- **Mail:** send your cheque to 4430 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, BC, V9C 3Z3

Please include your name(s) and any changes to your contact information with your payment.

Renewing members are no longer required to fill out the MCA Membership Form.

Not a member yet? Send us an email and we'll set you right up!

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Mondays

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

Knitting Café. The evening group will meet 7:00–9:00pm on the first and third Mondays monthly. For more info on the evening group, call Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Tuesdays

Drop-In Art Group. This friendly and supportive group of artists and hobbyists meets Tuesday mornings 9:30am–12:30pm at the MCHouse. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join the group, contact Arlene at 250-391-7905.

Knitting Café. The afternoon group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly 1:00–3:00pm. For more information on the afternoon group, call Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00am. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Weights and Measures. 8:30–10:00am weekly. This is a weight loss and healthy lifestyle support group for anyone in the community. For more information contact Nan at 250-478-7688.

Creative Rug Hooking. The first and third Thursdays monthly, 10:30am–1:30pm, led by Sheila Stewart, certified Instructor of Traditional Rug Hooking. Free instruction for beginners; kit available for \$25. Contact Sheila (250-595-6406, email blueheronstudio@telus.net) to discuss supplies needed. Experienced rug hookers are invited to bring their own projects.

Fridays

Parent and Tot Program. *There will be no Parent and Tot session Friday, October 20 due to a Pro-D Day.* 9:30–11:30am. The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community program. Children will have access to toys, books and craft opportunities. You will enjoy our relaxed, supportive environment and connecting with other parents and children.

Friday Socials. The last Friday of each month from 1:00-3:00pm. Drop in for coffee and conversation. Hosted by Baha'is of Metchosin and the Seniors' Resource Centre. SRC offers rides to anyone who needs one; call 250-478-5150 or email SRC. All ages, everyone is welcome! Details <https://metchosinse-niors.ca/friday-socials/>

Ukulele Gathering. Returning Oct. 20, 5:00–6:30pm, third Friday of each month. Open to community members of all ages and levels of talent. Bring a ukulele, capo, tuner, music stand, and a few songs you are willing to share/lead/teach with appropriate song sheets for others. For information contact Margaretha; memetopia@shaw.ca

SPECIAL EVENTS

Apple-Bee Festival. Sunday, October 1, 11:00am–3:00pm: This fun event returns to the Community House. A fun-filled, favourite Metchosin event for all the family, and tasty, too!

Film Night. Friday, October 27, 7:00–9:00pm; film to be announced.

Interested in Renting MCA House? Please see our website rentals page for more information.

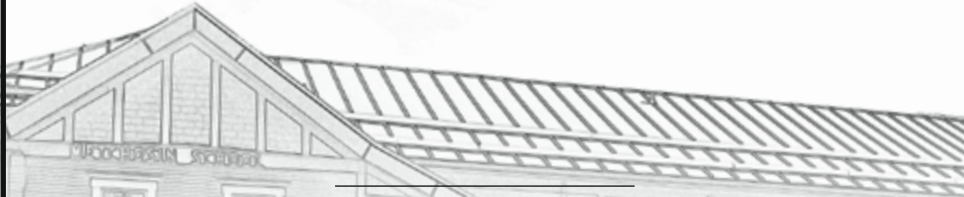
For inquiries, please call 250-478-5155 or email mcahouse@telus.net.

Rough Voice Returns

Metchosin Rough Voice Singers are starting up again this fall. We meet on the third Sunday of the month, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at St. Mary's Incarnation (new church). All are welcome. For information, please email Dale Morrison at bdalemorrison@outlook.com.

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

"Sustaining arts and contemporary culture where most of us experience it."



Hallway Gallery Exhibitions

September 30 – October 29

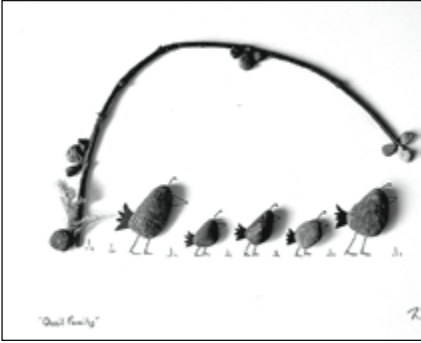
MACCA's Hallway Galleries are packed with enticing exhibitions of original art for the Fall. Upstairs and on the main level of the Metchosin Art Centre both new and returning artists are showing off their creations.

Everyone is welcome to view these fine arts displays free of charge:

"FISH IN CERAMICS" by Ellen Desjardins of Spirit Bay Pottery is hosted in the Main Hall Gallery.

"FARM TO FOREST" whimsical pebble art by Renne Petersen is showing in the Adjoining Hall Gallery.

"MESSENGER FROM THE TIME OF PLAGUE", part of the collection of intricate ink drawings by Tony Aish, is being exhibited in the Upstairs Gallery.



Please feel free to contact Point Of View Coordinator, Janet Parker, pov@metchosinartcentre.ca to arrange to have an exhibition adjudicated for display. Plans are well underway for 2024.

Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE
4495 Happy Valley Road – info@metchosinartcentre.ca
metchosinartcentre.ca



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Made-In-Metchosin Mince Pies

Enjoy a locally created Christmas dessert. Fill your kitchen with the delicious smell of baked mince pies to **impress your Dinner Guests** or to give as a **Holiday Hostess Gift**.

The pastry is created by the generous folks at the Royal Bay Bakery in Colwood.

The light and spicy mince is enhanced using tart, local Metchosin apples.

Pies are sold frozen and unbaked, 8” pies @ \$15 each.

Only a limited number of pies are made each year.
Place your order with MCH at 250-478-5155.

Pick up pre-orders at the Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road, Saturday, December 2, 10am–2pm, or by arrangement when ordering.

Baking instructions included.
Pop several pies into your freezer – or oven – if you can’t wait !

Please forward this gift-giving idea on to family and friends. Gift locally, it helps our community.

This is a Metchosin Community Association fundraiser.

911

**FOR ALL
EMERGENCY CALLS**



Lots of smiling faces are ready to greet the Hans Helgesen students when they arrive at school!

Back to School at Hans Helgesen

Karen Sjerven, Principal

“Back to School” is a time of change for everyone in schools. For 35 young learners at Hans Helgesen Elementary, this change was their entry to Kindergarten and full days at school this week. New routines, new learning and new friends are all part of the school experience. Fourteen new friends in grades one through five have also joined us, and our school family continues to grow. For all students and staff, each school year offers both change and opportunity. It is an inspiring

time to set goals and embark on new beginnings.

Each year we welcome teachers and staff from other places. At Hans Helgesen, this has been a noticeable change! Our new staff have arrived from several SD62 schools including Wishart, Millstream, Sooke, Happy Valley, Colwood, David Cameron, Ecole John Stubbs and Dunsmuir. We are excited to be collaborating with colleagues and learning alongside each other. As we begin a new year together, we would like

to introduce the newest additions to the Hans Helgesen staff: Ms. Hunt, Ms. Crighton, Ms. Bergman, Ms. Boesche, Ms. Russell, Ms. Wolf, Ms. Leung, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Christine, Ms. Brandi, Ms. Bri and Ms. Kirsty.

Thank you to our school community for your warm welcome and kind support. We look forward to sharing more news throughout the year!

Editor’s note: Ms. Sjerven is also new to Hans Helgesen this year!

Metchosin 4-H Club Prominent at Saanich Fair

Anna Hall, Metchosin 4-H Poultry Leader

Metchosin 4-H Community Club was well represented at the Saanich Fair this year. Metchosin 4-H members volunteered their time and efforts from sunrise to long after sunset each day. Members entered their 4-H Project birds in the 4-H competition and show, but also entered other poultry, jewelry including beaded earrings and a necklace, cookies and dill pickles in open competitions. Collette Steadman received first place for her jewelry, and second and third places for her cookies and pickles!

The poultry birds that were entered for the 4-H show represented eight months of work by the 4-H members who are responsible for selecting their breeds, sourcing the eggs or day-old chicks, and ethically raising their flock with care and compassion. This year Metchosin 4-H members entered four different breeds of chickens and pigeons with Brooke West entering an American Fantail and American Fantail/Briner Pouter cross pigeons, Sandra

Chisholm entering three Silver speckled Hamburg chickens and Axton Hall entering a trio of Crèvecoeur.

Before bringing their birds to the Saanich Fair, these 4-H members also must prepare their birds for the show. In 4-H this is called “fitting”, and essentially requires the members to wash and clean each bird individually. The members then deliver their birds to the RCMP Barn (aka the Poultry Barn) at the Saanich Fairground for the closed judging event.

Metchosin 4-H members were happy to see that their hard work paid off! Awards to Metchosin 4-H Poultry members included multiple first places, Champion, and Reserve Champion!



Metchosin 4-H awards at the 2023 Saanich Fair. Anna Hall photo

Not only do the 4-H members enter their birds for the closed judging competition, but they also must individually present their birds to an American Poultry Association accredited judge who asks breed-specific and husbandry questions to test each member on their knowledge of their birds. With only three poultry members entering their birds this year, Metchosin 4-H did extremely well with more first places and a Champion Showman!

Metchosin 4-H members also attended this year’s Metchosin Day – the following weekend after the Saanich Fair. Members again displayed their birds, sharing their love of poultry and other animals with members of the Metchosin community.

Next up for Metchosin 4-H is the Luxton Fair with poultry, baking and photography competitions. Based on their success at the Saanich Fair, there is no doubt that Metchosin 4-H members will once again represent both their club and their community extremely well.



Brooke West, Axton Hall and Sandra Chisholm with their 2023 4-H birds. Anna Hall photo

New School Year, New Leadership



Pearson College's new President, Jason McBride, addresses his students. Nikola Bates photo

Pearson College UWC News Release

As young people everywhere begin to stream back to school, at Pearson College UWC students from around the world will be looking back on nearly 50 years of history made on the campus along Pedder Bay, and looking forward to the future under the leadership of a Canadian with decades of international school experience.

"This month, I look forward to welcoming a first-year cohort of amazing young people representing dozens of countries," said Jason McBride, who this month assumed the role of President and Head at Canada's only United World College. "During their two-year residency on our campus they will be with us to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary throughout 2024-25 and I'm looking forward to being part of that cohort!"

Previously based in Malaysia as leader of the prestigious IGB International School, McBride brings more than 20 years of global educational leadership

and intercultural understanding, including several years as Head of College at UWC Thailand, a sister school to Pearson, and as Head of School at Stratford Hall in Vancouver.

"It is an amazing and humbling experience to lead international and independent schools across the globe," he added. "I've learned much from colleagues and from the awesome young people who I've had the privilege of teaching. Now, for me, the chance to return to Canada to support and grow Pearson's IB Diploma and its ground-breaking Climate Action Leadership Diploma programs is an outstanding opportunity."

Pearson College UWC, located on the unceded territory of the Sc'ianew First Nation, opened in 1974, inspired by the vision of former prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lester B. Pearson who asked, "How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?" Every year for nearly half a century the college in Metchosin has drawn

high-school-aged students from up to 160 nations, who have gone on to achievement and honours locally and around the world.

"I look forward to getting to know and working with the students, faculty and staff, as well as alumni and the generous supporters who help us offer scholarships for more than three-quarters of Pearson students every year," said McBride. "Building upon well-established relationships with our neighbours in the Sc'ianew community, across Canada and with our alumni and friends around the world is a priority."

McBride was born and raised in Toronto and received undergraduate degrees from McMaster University (B.Kin) and Queen's University (B.Ed), before pursuing a master's degree with Michigan State University and working to complete doctoral coursework at the University of Calgary. He will be accompanied at Pearson by his spouse Samantha and two daughters.

Pearson College International Students Go Wood Chopping


Following tours, get-to-knows and placement tests, Pearson students closed their orientation week with some volunteer activities. Wood chopping was one

of them, to prepare for the winter months. A dozen students took part, some of them having never handled an axe before!



Faculty member Samuel (foreground) took this selfie with some of the students he had trained in the art of wood chopping. Samuel Perez de Leon photo

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Richard Blanshard

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Tell them you saw it in the *Muse*!

Metchosin Flu and COVID Vaccination Clinic



Mohamed Zeid at Metchosin annual vaccination clinic. SRC photo

Deirdre Chettleburgh, President of Metchosin Seniors' Association.

In accordance with public health advice that people receive their annual flu and COVID vaccinations sooner rather than later, this year's clinic will be held October 24 and 25. The clinic will be open from 11:00am to 7:00pm and will be held in the Old Elementary School Gym. No appointment is necessary. Please bring your BC Services card with you.

This year there will be four people administering vaccinations and, because there is greater familiarity with the IMMS BC system, wait time should be minimal.

Metchosin's flu clinic is a collaborative effort undertaken by Chief Stephanie Dunlop, Metchosin Fire Department; Mohamed Zeid, Pure Integrative Pharmacy #36, Royal Bay-West Commons; Jeanette McMillan, Immunize Now; and the Metchosin Seniors' Association.

For more information about the vaccines, please contact your health provider or local pharmacist or West Shore Community Health, 250-519-3490. To arrange a ride to the Clinic please call the Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre, 250-478-5150. Further details are on our website, metchosinseniors.ca.



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Seniors' Resource Centre


M E T C H O S I N

Laurie Sthamann, Office Manager

SPOTLIGHT ON AGEISM

Thurs., Oct. 5, 1:00pm
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

BC Association of Community Resource Networks is pleased to introduce its newest program, Spotlight on Ageism. Ageism is highly prevalent and is the most socially accepted and tolerated form of discrimination in Canada. Like sexism or racism, ageism is discrimination – based on someone's age. Ageism can occur at any point in our lifespan – regardless of how old we are – and may lead to others judging our background, capability, and mental or physical status based only on their impression of our age. Please join us to explore this topic and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of others. It's free but space is limited so please RSVP to 250-478-5150 or email info@metchosinseniors.ca.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thurs., Oct. 19 at 10:00am
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre

This new free monthly support group brings caregivers together based on a mutual experience of caregiving for a family or friend. Join us in a safe environment to help lighten your load and share possible solutions. Give yourself a short break where you will find support and relief with others who understand what you are going through and who are dealing with similar issues. Facilitated by Family Caregivers of BC. Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

ANNUAL METCHOSIN FLU CLINIC

Tues.-Wed., Oct. 24-25
11:00am to 7:00pm
Old Metchosin School Gym
4495 Happy Valley Rd.

Please see all the details on this page or on the SRC website, metchosinseniors.ca.

FRIDAY SOCIAL

Oct. 27 from 1:00 to 3:00pm
Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road.

Drop in for coffee and conversation on the last Friday of the month. Hosted by Baha'is of Metchosin and the SRC at the Metchosin Community House. Please call 250-478-5150 for a ride. Everyone welcome!

The Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre at 4495 Happy Valley Road in the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00-4:00pm. Staff and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, resource information, and services.

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

Dogs Off Leash in Metchosin (Part 2)

Pattie Whitehouse

Recent research found that, in terms of behaviours associated with well-being, dogs walked off leash exhibited them most, then dogs walked on a long line, and dogs walked on a standard leash exhibited them least.

Knowledgeable trainers will tell you that while all dogs benefit from off-leash exercise, many dogs actually need to have the opportunity to run freely and sniff at will for their mental health.

Other than on the Sea Bluff Trail (where sheep may be in the adjoining fields year-round), people may walk their dogs off leash at most Metchosin parks, trails, beaches and other public places provided the dogs are under control.

The Dogs in Metchosin Working Group recommended a number of amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw, the most important being a definition of "under control." Council is expected to consider this and other amendments to the bylaw soon.

Last month I discussed two elements of the proposed definition: to be considered under control, a dog must not approach other users of a public space of any species without explicit permission, and a dog must return to the handler immediately when called or remain in place until released by the handler.

What Else Does "Under Control" Mean?

The proposed definition states that "under control" also means:

(c) the dog is always within the handler's sight.

Complaints addressed: All the things dogs might do when their handler can't see what they're doing – approaching other users, taking off after a deer, eating someone's picnic – or worse.

Comments: On the beach, keeping your dog within sight is easy; on a winding woodland trail, not so much. But you need to know what your dog will encounter around that next bend. It could be a commercial dog walker with a pack of dogs that are not under good control or a cougar defending a kill, or even human faeces loaded with cannabis residue that will make your dog very sick if it eats it.

All these things have happened in Metchosin in recent times. Keeping your dog within sight is about

keeping them safe, as well as keeping others safe from them.

(d) The dog does not chase wildlife or livestock.

Complaints addressed: Obviously chasing sheep, chickens and other livestock; but also chasing deer in the bush and birds on the beach.

Comments: It's not OK if your dog chases the gulls and crows grouped on the beach at low tide or the herons wading in the shallows. It may not do a flock of gulls serious harm if one dog sends them flying once; but your dog may not be the only one to chase that flock that day.

Birds' essential rest periods can be interrupted many times a day when handlers irresponsibly allow their dogs to chase. That's exhausting for the birds and interferes with their ability to muster the energy to forage for food. For migrating birds, being chased can make the difference between them being able to complete their migration and breed – or not.

Allowing a dog to chase deer or other wildlife on public lands is illegal in BC and can net the dog's owner a hefty fine. Under certain circumstances it can result in the dog being put to death.

A dog that is herding sheep, hunting rats or otherwise engaging in animal husbandry or lawful hunting or training activities under the direction of a competent handler is not considered to be chasing wildlife or livestock.

Protect What We Cherish

Hiking with my dog in Metchosin parks and on Metchosin trails and beaches is the biggest contributor to my physical and mental fitness, and to his. I know he and I are not alone. The responsibility I accept in return for this incomparable benefit is to make sure that neither of us causes harm to any other park or trail inhabitant or user. It's a small price to pay.

Next month: The poop problem!

Pattie Whitehouse is chair of the Dogs in Metchosin Working Group, appointed by Council to provide recommendations to reduce dog-related conflict in Metchosin. The group's recommendations included adding this definition of "under control" to the Animal Control Bylaw.

Metchosin Community Day Contest Results

See pages 8, 9 and 16 for more on this great day!

Baking

- Best pie in show** – Stephanie Verheyen
- Best cake in show** – Dagmar Norton
- Spirit of Metchosin prize** – Devin Williams
- People’s choice** – Devin Williams
- Best theme cake** – Hannah Davies (age 10)
- Best dessert cake age 6-11** – Sebastien Powell
- Best dessert cake youth** – Devin Williams
- Best dessert cake adult** – Dagmar Norton
- Best apple pie** – Stephanie Verheyen
- Best pie (other)** – Stephanie Verheyen

Photography

- Best in Show Ribbon** went to Glenrosa Farm by Ryan Broughton and People’s Choice went to the photographer who captured Ivar’s Seattle.
- Scenery (Local/Vancouver Island)**
 - 1st to Ryan Broughton for his ‘Glenrosa Fall Garden’
 - 2nd to Ryan Broughton for his ‘Misty Matheson’

- Animals**
 - 1st to Jim Nan for his ‘Water Buffalo’
 - 2nd for ‘Backyard Beauty’
- People**
 - 1st for ‘You’ve Got a Friend in Me’
 - 2nd to Adam Weir for his ‘Daffodils’
 - 3rd to Adam Weir for ‘Just Waking Up’
- Abstract**
 - 1st to Jim Nan for his ‘Light Fixture’
 - 2nd to Barb Sawatsky for her ‘Totem’
 - 3rd for ‘Spring’
- Travel (beyond Vancouver Island)**
 - 1st for ‘Ivar’s Seattle’
 - 2nd for ‘Driven to Survive’
 - 3rd for ‘Beautiful Dawn’
- Montages**
 - 1st to Jim Nan for ‘Great Bear Rainforest’
- Black & White**
 - 1st to Ryan Broughton for his ‘Glenrosa Farm’
 - 2nd to Barb Sawatsky for her ‘In the Blink of an Eye’

Vegetables

- Beans**
 - 1st Umi Nami Farm
 - 2nd 5050 Farm
- Longest Bean**
 - 1st Bob Shaw & Sylvia Daily

- Beets**
 - 1st Carly Ingalls
 - 2nd Sea Bluff Farm
- Garlic**
 - 1st Adam Weir
 - 2nd Jay Shukin
 - 3rd Adam Ranns
- Onions**
 - 1st Jeanette McMillan
 - 2nd Sea Bluff Farms
 - 3rdAdam Ranns
- Hot Peppers**
 - 1st 5050 Farm
 - 2nd Johnny Ranns
- Potatoes**
 - 1st 5050 Farm
- Largest Potato**
 - 1st Bill Parker
- Pumpkin**
 - 1st Kerry Hill
 - 2nd Kerry Hill
- Squash**
 - 1st Adam Ranns
 - 2nd Adam Ranns
 - 3rd Sea Bluff Farm
- Giant Sunflower**
 - 1st Hannah Davies
 - 2nd Sea Bluff Farm
- Tomatoes**
 - 1st Bill Parker
 - 2nd Adam Weir
 - 3rd Bill Parker
- Cherry Tomatoes**
 - 1st Adam Ranns
 - 2nd Johnny Ranns
 - 3rd Kerry Hill
- Zucchini**

- 1st Travis Rogers
- 2nd Gary Smirfitt
- 3rd Travis Rogers
- Longest Zucchini**
 - 1st Adam Ranns
- Garden Produce Mixed Basket**
 - 1st Judy & Joel Roper
 - 2nd Sea Bluff Farm
 - 3rd Douglas Carlow & Maki Ujiiie (Salish Sea Garden)
- Weirdest Vegetable**
 - 1st Johnny Ranns
 - 2nd Kerry Hill
 - 3rd Olivia Lee

Fruit

- Apples**
 - 1st Adam Ranns
 - 2nd 5050 Farm
 - 3rd Wayne Ingalls
- Blackberries**
 - 1st Bob Shaw & Sylvia Daily
- Berry Mixture**
 - 1st Gary Smirfitt
- Figs** 1st 5050 Farm
- Grapes** 1st John Ranns
- Melons**
 - 1st Adam Ranns
 - 2nd Gary Smirfitt
- Peaches** 1st Gary Smirfitt
- Pears**
 - 1st Kerry Hill
 - 2nd 5050 Farm
 - 3rd 5050 Far
- Plums** 1st Wayne Ingalls
- Preserves**

- 1st Jeanette McMillan
- 2nd Travis Rogers
- 3rd Jeanette McMillan
- Cut Flower Arrangement**
 - 1st Stacy Weir
- Best Cut Flower Arrangement**
 - Stacy Weir
- Best Fruit Entry**
 - Johnny Ranns (Grapes)
- Best Vegetable Entry**
 - Kerry Hill (Pumpkin)
- Best Garden Produce Basket Arrangement**
 - Joel & Judy Roper

Pet Show

- Most Rural** – Lucy the Sheep.
 - Owners:* Georgia, Bentley and Nicholas LeCompte
- Rural Reserve** – Rocky, the silky Bantam. *Owner:* Austin Millard
- Most Unusual and Reserve** – Mullet Man and Fluffles, Crevecoeur chickens. *Owners:* Axton Hall and Daycon Speed
- Best Costume** – Hobo the Lab, with the farm family
- Costume Reserve** – Remi, the Frenchie, dressed as a spider. *Owner:* Laurence Lachance-Daigle
- Best in Show** – Lexi the pony. *Owner:* Freya McArthur

RCMP Call-Outs

AUGUST 5 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

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

- Aug. 5 **Sooke Rd.** – Disturbance at a residence, one person arrested for uttering threats, investigation continuing.
Rocky Point Rd. – Vehicle stopped by Traffic Unit, driver charged with not having valid driver’s licence and speeding.
Sooke Rd. – Vehicle stopped by Traffic Unit, driver charged with being a prohibited driver and vehicle impounded.
- Aug. 6 **Pears Rd.** – Disturbance at a residence, one person spoken to.
- Aug. 7 **Lindholm Rd.** – Erratic driver, patrols failed to locate vehicle.
Kangaroo Rd. – Report of vehicle in the ditch, patrols failed to locate the vehicle.
- Aug. 8 **Sooke Rd.** – Report of possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped by Sooke RCMP and driver found to be sober.
Sooke Rd. – Single vehicle accident, one person transported to hospital by ambulance.
William Head – Assistance provided to Coroner’s office regarding a deceased person found on the beach.
- Aug. 10 **Taylor Beach** – Mischief to a vehicle, a smashed window, investigation continuing.
- Aug. 11 **Lindholm Rd.** – Erratic driver, patrols made but vehicle not located.
Pears Rd. – Erratic driver, vehicle stunting on the Rd., patrols failed to locate, registered owner given a written warning.
- Aug. 12 **Glen Forest Way** – Suspicious vehicle, homeless person found to be all right sleeping in his vehicle.
Sooke Rd. – Possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober, just not paying attention to his driving.
- Aug. 13 **Sooke Rd.** – Vehicle stopped for speeding violation, driver found to be impaired, given driving prohibition and vehicle impounded.
Metchosin Rd. – Single vehicle accident, driver found to be impaired, given driving prohibition and vehicle impounded.
- Aug. 15 **Happy Valley Rd.** – Male suspect observed casing vehicles and trying door handles, left running from scene, patrols failed to locate him.
- Aug. 16 **Sooke Rd.** – Person reports being harassed. Person given warning not to have further contact.
William Head Rd. area – Pick-up truck stolen from private property, not located, file still under investigation.
Happy Valley Rd. – Driver found passed out in his vehicle at the intersection, given driving prohibition and vehicle towed.
- Aug. 17 **Sooke Rd.** – Landlord tenant dispute, civil matter.
Duke Rd. area – Person reports being harassed. One person given warning not to have further contact.
Happy Valley Rd. – Erratic driver, suspect vehicle not located.
- Aug. 18 **Rocky Point Rd.** – Vehicle hit deer causing damage to the vehicle.
Sooke Rd. – Erratic driver, suspect vehicle not located.
- Aug. 19 **Ferncliffe Place** – Assistance provided to the Fire Department.
Rocky Point Rd. – Possible impaired driver, vehicle located and driver found to be sober.
- Aug. 20 **Neff Rd.** – Suspicious person who was not located.

- Aug. 21 **Sooke Rd.** – Report of a possible vehicle fire, unfounded.
- Aug. 22 **Pears Rd.** – Check well-being of a person. Found to be all right.
Sooke Rd. – Suspicious vehicle which was not located.
- Aug. 23 **Duke Rd. area** – Complaint of credit card fraud, still under investigation.
Sooke Rd. – Erratic driver on highway, suspect vehicle not located.
- Aug. 24 **Neild Rd. area** – Assist Work Safe with work-related accident, one person taken to hospital.
William Head Rd. – Reports of shots heard, found to be bear bangers being used to scare a bear away.
Sooke Rd. – Several complaints received of a very erratic driver on highway, vehicle located and driver arrested under the *Mental Health Act* and taken to hospital.
- Aug. 26 **William Head Rd. area** – Check welfare of a person, apprehended under the *Mental Health Act* and taken to hospital.
Metchosin Rd. – Mischief to property, unknown person spray-painted graffiti on the road surface.
Winter Rd. – Check well-being of a person who appeared to be in distress, patrols failed to locate the person.
- Aug. 27 **Pegasus Way** – Complaint of suspicious vehicle which was not located.
William Head Rd. – Loud party on DND property, Military Police dispatched.
- Aug. 28 **Rocky Point Rd. area** – Check welfare of a person, located and transported to hospital.
- Aug. 30 **Pedder Bay** – Complaint of theft of crab traps,

Important Dates & Events

Oct. 1	Apple-Bee Festival , Metchosin Community House. . .	p. 11
	Scouts Apple Day Fundraiser in the village core!	
Oct. 11	Emergency Program Information Session	p. 6
Oct. 20	2023 Farm Forum	p. 3
Oct. 22	St. Mary the Virgin 150th Celebration	p. 16
Oct. 24/25	Flu and COVID Vaccination Clinic	p. 14
Oct. 27	Film Night, film TBA	p. 11
	OTHER EVENTS:	
	Council Meetings	p. 2
	Metchosin Community House Programs	p. 11
	Seniors’ Resource Centre Events	p. 14

- suspects not apprehended or identified.
Glen Forest Way area – Family dispute, persons calmed down.
Sooke Rd. – Traffic Unit conducted enforcement and apprehended three drivers for driving without valid insurance, vehicles towed from scene.
Kangaroo Rd. – Single vehicle accident, no injuries, vehicle towed from scene.
Albert Head – Noise complaint, suspects left prior to police arrival.
- Aug. 31 **Sooke Rd.** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.
Glen Forest Way – Complainant bitten by two dogs, owner of dogs given warning, animal control to investigate further.
Sooke Rd. – Erratic driver, registered owner spoken to and given verbal warning.
- Sept. 1 **Sooke Rd.** – Child custody dispute.
Sooke Rd. – Dispute between neighbours, both spoken to.
- Sept. 2 **Happy Valley Rd.** – Complaint of a bonfire on private property, owner given verbal warning and fire extinguished.
Race Rocks – Complaint of person possibly shooting a firearm at sea lions, boat located and firearm seized, investigation continuing.
Duke Rd. – Report of suspicious vehicle.
- Pedder Bay** – Vehicle stopped and driver found to be under influence of alcohol, given a driving suspension at scene and vehicle towed.
Kangaroo Rd. – Domestic dispute and assault, one person arrested and investigation continuing.
- Sept. 4 **Metchosin Rd.** – Domestic dispute over division of person’s assets, both persons spoken to and issue resolved.
- Sept. 5 **Sooke Rd.** – Erratic driver, vehicle not located.
Sooke Rd. – Complaint of harassment, reported for information.
Rocky Point Rd. area – Assistance provided to Coroner’s Office regarding a sudden death of a person.
- Sept. 6 **Happy Valley Rd. area** – Complaint of harassment, still under investigation.
- Sept. 7 **Rocky Point Rd.** – Theft of equipment from a construction site, still under investigation.
Duke Rd. – Check well-being of a person who was found to be all right.
- Sept. 8 **Happy Valley Rd.** – Check well-being of a person, determined to be in Victoria
Rocky Point Rd. – Vehicle stopped for speeding violation, driver found to have expired driver’s licence, driver charged and vehicle towed.
- Sept. 9 **Albert Head** – Noise complaint, persons located and asked to leave area.

Muse Team Wins Citizen of the Year Award

Johnny Carline

The Metchosin Citizen of the Year Award was first presented in 1972 and since then has been awarded to an individual on all but 11 occasions. On 10 occasions it was awarded to two people, sometimes married couples. But this year was the first time in its history that the award went to an entire organization.

In presenting the award at the Metchosin Community Day celebration, Councillor Sharie Epp announced: “Recognizing the amazing contribution of 30 years’ dedication, the *Muse* team is the collective 2022–23 Citizen of the Year.”

Needless to say, on the 30th anniversary of the paper’s inception, the team of individuals currently responsible for its production each month was delighted and grateful to be so honoured. In accepting the award on behalf of the team, co-editor Johnny Carline paid tribute not only to his fellow team members but also to the people who had sent in articles over the many years of

the *Muse*’s existence. “Without those,” he said, “there would not be a paper.”

Councillor Epp noted that “Volunteers have sold ads, designed layout, written stories, edited, proofed, taken photos, delivered papers, and sometimes struggled to make ends meet to keep the *Muse* arriving in the mailbox for free.” As, for the first time, only the collective name “*Metchosin Muse*” will appear on the trophy, we list here for posterity, in alphabetical order, the names of the members of the team and the principal roles they play. At least half a dozen of these are senior members of the team who have contributed to and inspired us all for very many years.

Joan Bradley (subscription manager), Marian Brown (secretary/proofreader), Jennifer Burgis (ad manager/proofreader), Johnny Carline (editor/writer), Joannie Challenger (writer/proofreader), Brian Domney (editor emeritus), Leslie Eaton (proofreader/design back up), Dorothy Elias (distribution/proofreader), Laura Farquharson



The *Muse* team. Gloria Lejour photo

(writer/proofreader), Barrett Fullerton (distribution/proofreader), Pat Holloway (proofreader), Joan Johnston (lay-out designer/proofreader), Allen Jones (editor/writer), Andy MacKinnon (eagle eyes proofreader),

Jim MacPherson (writer/proofreader), Dauna Neveau (eagle eyes proofreader), Barb Sawatsky (photographer/writer/proofreader), Linda Spiller (treasurer/proofreader) and

Kathleen Sutherland (eagle eyes proofreader).

Editor’s note: See centre page spread for photographic coverage of Metchosin Community Day.



2023 District Volunteer Awards presented at Metchosin Community Day

Citizen of the Year:
Pioneer of the Year:
Volunteer of the Year:
Volunteer Group of the Year:
Friends of the Earth:
Youth of the Year:

Metchosin Muse
Metchosin Museum Society
Metchosin Producers’ Association
Moralea’s Meadow Group
Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative
14th Juan de Fuca Scouts

2020 awards not previously presented due to COVID and the cancellation of Metchosin Day:

Citizen of the Year:	Curtis Becker
Pioneer of the Year:	Ray Creasser
Volunteer of the Year:	Katy Nelson
Volunteer Group of the Year:	Metchosin Biodiversity Project

Left: Jacqui Anderson received the Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of the Metchosin Producers’ Association. Barb Sawatsky photo

St. Mary the Virgin Church Celebrates 150 Years

Wally Eamer

Human history in Metchosin goes back many thousands of years, as demonstrated by the histories, great middens and more of the First Nations. More recently, the Hudson’s Bay Company opened a trading post in 1843, and by the early 1870s there were a few immigrant farm families living in Metchosin. First, they made farms and houses; second, in 1872 they opened a school for their children, and then, in 1873, they built their church and eventually the graveyard. 150 years later, the congregation still gathers each Sunday. We have two church buildings, St. Mary of the Incarnation at 4125 Metchosin Road, and the historic St. Mary the Virgin at 4360 Metchosin Road. A few members have great-great-great grandparents who attended the first services in 1873.

The historic church still hosts a few highlight services, like the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass and Remembrance Sunday. On Sunday, October 22, exactly 150

years after the first service, minus one day, we are inviting everyone to join us in celebration. Not many volunteer organizations continue for 150 years, and we are one! People of all faiths and no faith are invited to join us on this special day.

The celebration service is from 10:00am to roughly 11:15am at the historic church, St. Mary the Virgin. This year, volunteers built a ramp to the front church door to ease access. We honour the conscience of all who attend our Christian service. At 11:30, Andrew Spray will lead a tour of the historic cemetery.

Among many cultures and faiths, eating together is a sign of peace and harmony. Join us for a celebration supper at the ‘new-30-year-old’ church, St. Mary of the Incarnation. Children are welcome.

The doors will be open by 5:00pm, and supper served between 5:30 and 6:30pm. It will help the volunteers who will organize and cook the Sunday supper if you could leave a message at the

church office 250-474-4119 that you hope to attend.

Want to have a little extra fun at these events? Come wearing clothing styles of the 1870s.

For more information, visit our website, stmarysmetchosin.ca, call the office at 250-474-4119, or best of all, talk to a member of the congregation.

Right: Volunteer doing maintenance. Below: St. Mary the Virgin and spring flowers, before access ramp built. Wally Eamer photos



There’s a lot going on in Metchosin!

For information on local events, please see **Important Dates & Events**, p. 15.