



Vol. 32 Issue 9 September 2024

# Metchosin Muse

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## Local Artist Greg Dow Goes International

K.T. Pirquet

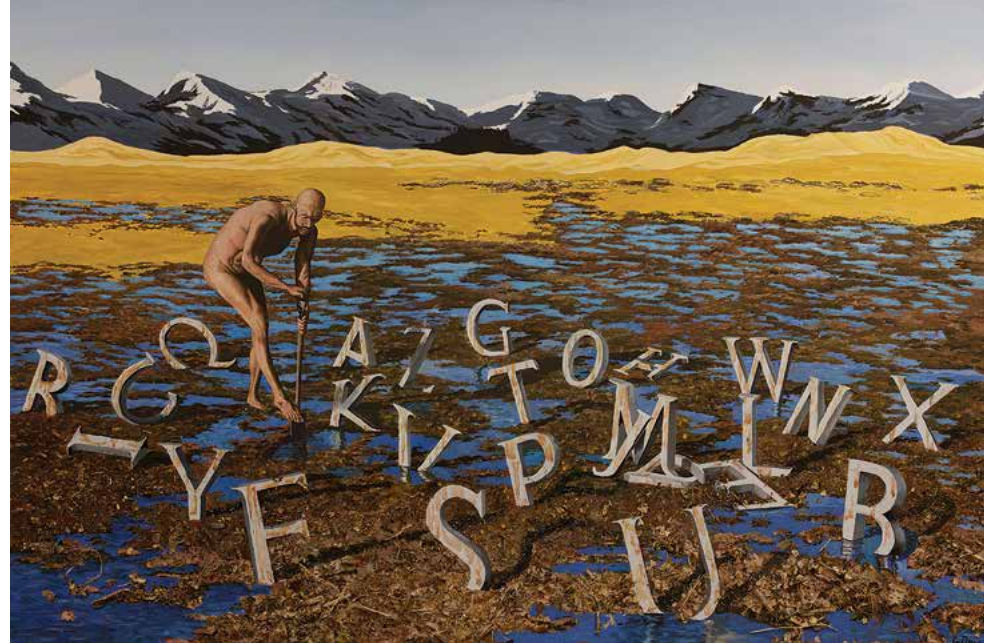
It has been a very busy summer for Metchosin artist Greg Dow, who recently moved from a small studio in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre (MACC) at the Old Metchosin School, to a much bigger space. In addition to settling in and organizing displays of his work, supplies, tables and storage areas, Greg was drawn away at the end of July to the Tuscan region of Italy, where one of his paintings had been selected for the “Biennale Chianciano 2024”, a prestigious, juried, international art competition and show. This celebration of creativity and rendering skills is held every two years in the medieval town of Chianciano, a Mecca for art lovers that boasts some 13 galleries and a renowned art museum.

Greg’s painting, Untitled #26 (“Desert Dream”) was on display from August 3–18. “I usually avoid giving my paintings titles,” he says, although he did append a parenthetical one for the Biennale exhibition. “I spent 72 years working up to make that picture ... I would like to have the viewer do a little bit of the work, too,” he says, adding that “I don’t want to dictate the interpretation.” But all the other selected works had titles, so ... The entire show may be viewed on the Biennale website: [www.biennalechianciano.org/en/](http://www.biennalechianciano.org/en/).

In the tradition of summer biennial exhibitions in many countries, such as the Royal Academy Summer Show in London, England or the Venice Biennale, art works are submitted for adjudication from all over the world. Biennale Chianciano accepts submissions from 21st-century artists of all ages and styles, both established and emerging. Submitted works are evaluated by expert judges, and this year, about 180 were chosen for display in several salons of the main Art Museum. Substantial prizes and further opportunities are awarded for outstanding works, and thousands of visitors have an opportunity to view and purchase their favorites, take in the galleries, wander the art museum and explore the town, the local cuisine and the scenic environs.

With the exhibition as an incentive, a holiday in Italy became irresistible. So, Greg and his partner attended the celebrations in Chianciano, and then spent some time exploring some of the area’s ancient wonders, cities like Florence and Rome, and of course, Venice.

Greg Dow’s busy summer also included the selection of two of his paintings for display at the Sooke Fine Arts Show, Vancouver Island’s largest juried exhibition that highlights artists from BC’s coastal islands, from painters to sculptors, from fibre artists to photographers, and more. This

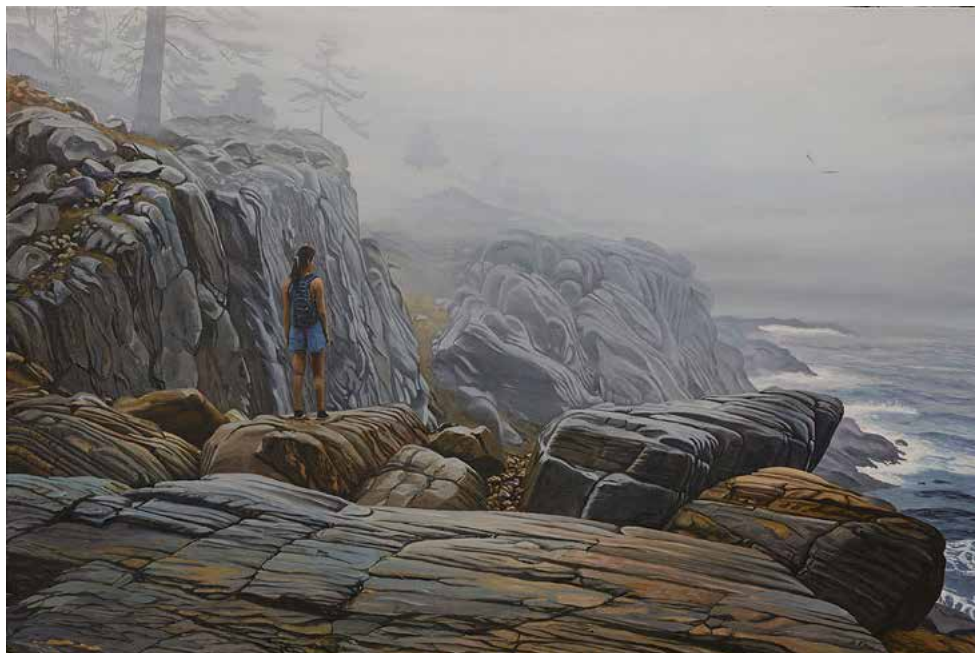


“Alpha Male.” G. Dow photo

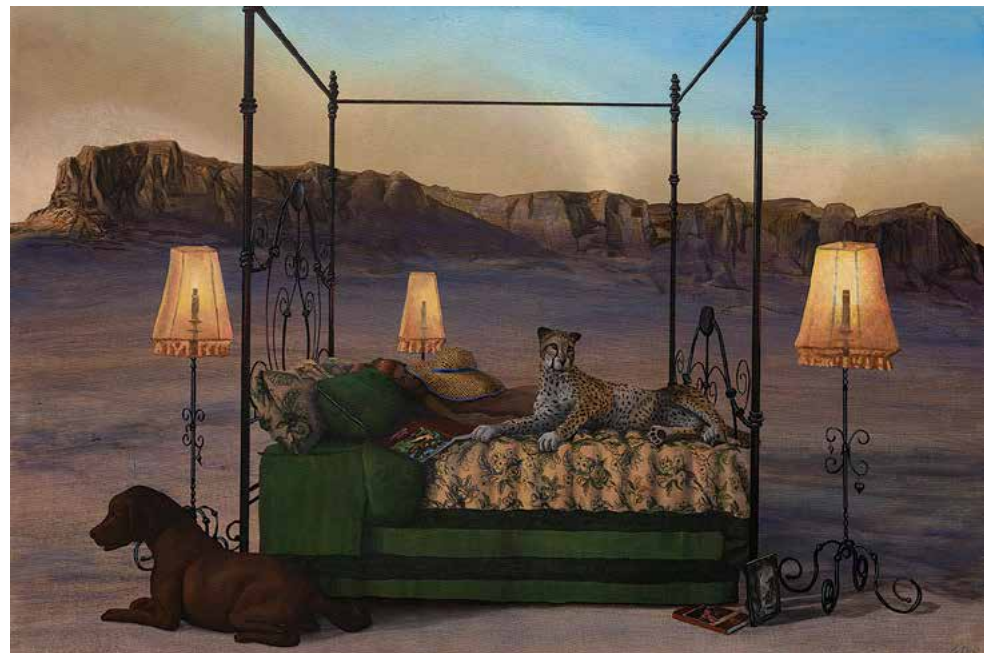
year’s very popular show ran from July 27 to August 5 and featured some 370 works.

Now that the travels and shows have concluded, Greg can get back to fine-tuning his new studio, attending to his plans for a better display of his work, creating his own paintings, and establishing a few work spaces for developing artists or middle school and high school students who might

appreciate some mentoring. He is very committed to helping others, especially youngsters, to explore, enjoy and develop their skills. Greg welcomes the public to drop in to view his work and to peruse his groaning table stacked with art books looking for new homes.



“Rocky Shore of Imagination.” G. Dow photo



“Desert Dream.” G. Dow photo

## Weir Beach Stairs – Fully Restored!



Newly completed Weir Beach access stairs with handrail. J. Shukin photo

Allen Jones

Since October 2022, the stair access to Weir Beach from William Head Road has been closed for safety reasons. After much discussion in Council and committee meetings, the work to repair the damaged steps is now complete. This follows a petition to council from frustrated residents who have used the beach access trail for many years. Council voted unanimously on the budget last year allowing \$15,000 for repairing the stairs and local residents must be pleased that the closure will not carry on for another summer.

Councillor Shukin noted the following: “Work to repair the stairs to Weir Beach was undertaken by Bronson Trailworks, starting in mid-July.” The heavy

lifting work during the hottest days of the summer was carried out by Brendan Gautier and Ethan Wigley (owner, Bronson Trailworks), and Chris Watkins (District of Metchosin Building Inspector) carried out the supervision. District staff, led by CAO Bob Payette, actively worked toward repairing the Weir Beach stairs.

We understand that any encroachment on the neighbour’s property was addressed as part of this work. The overall approach is intended to maintain the stairs and trail in a “natural” state, and it is intended to be used mainly by the local residents as there is very limited car parking near the head of the trail.



Work to repair the stairs to Weir Beach was undertaken by Bronson Trailworks, starting in mid-July. The work was completed in early August. Pictured here are Brendan Gautier (Bronson), Chris Watkins (District of Metchosin Building Inspector), Ethan Wigley (Owner, Bronson Trailworks). J. Shukin photo



# Metchosin Muse

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

## ABOUT THE MUSE

The *Metchosin Muse* is a local non-profit, arts, interests and activities publication, produced 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.

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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 information and information for submissions, advertisers, and deadlines.

## Muse Subscriptions

We welcome subscriptions for the *Metchosin Muse* (11 issues/year), which can be mailed to Canadian addresses for \$35/year. Extra postage will be added to the cost for addresses outside Canada.

Please contact Marie Thompson, phone 250-391-8792, email [mariethompson200@gmail.com](mailto:mariethompson200@gmail.com), and include full address, email and phone number. If this is to be a gift for another person, please give the necessary contact information.

Payment can be made to the *Muse* Treasurer by e-transfer to [amuselinda@gmail.com](mailto:amuselinda@gmail.com), or by cheque made out to the *Metchosin Muse*, c/o Linda Spiller, 4741 Lisandra Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4G1.



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## Letters to the Editor

The *Metchosin Muse* welcomes letters to the editor, of not more than 200 words. Your letter may be edited for style or length. Please email your letter to [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com) (with electronic signature if possible). An address and telephone number are required but will not be published.

## Nadene Carline 761 Foundation "Every Child is Loved" Award

The many readers who contributed to the Nadene Carline 761 Foundation might like to know that the first recipient of her Every Child is Loved award is an eight-year-old boy attending the Errington Learning Centre in Richmond, which provides individual programming and supports for students with complex disabilities. The award will be used to provide supported swimming and art opportunities, which the boy loves, over the summer and outside of school time.

Nadene would surely be smiling her famous smile while her eyes filled with tears, knowing that this little lad will benefit from all the donations her friends and relatives made in her honour. And this is the first of many. The

foundation has been structured so that a similar award will be made every year, as well as a parallel award to a student-teacher aspiring to become another Nadene.

I want to express my deep appreciation to those of you who have donated. This is a wonderful tribute to Nadene and a meaningful contribution to helping those she cared about who need a helping hand.

If you wish to contribute, just send me an email ([johnny.carline@gmail.com](mailto:johnny.carline@gmail.com)) and I will get the information to you.

Johnny Carline

## Metchosin Developments

With significant development being proposed for downtown Metchosin, I would like to suggest that the Mayor and Council should, first of all, develop a master plan and vision statement for the downtown area which

should then be incorporated into the OCP. We have little land left for development and it should be a priority that this land be used wisely. It is also a fact that this land is in the ALR and this issue also needs to be addressed. Residents should be consulted as to their "wish list" of projects before further development is acted upon. I, for one, would like to see another restaurant and a medical centre to include a physician, dentist, and comprehensive support services such as physiotherapy, chiropractic, and massage services among others.

July saw Mayor and Council approve \$20,000 for a topographical study of the proposed Duke Road Trail, \$39,000 for a feasibility study for a new firehall, and \$20,000 to hire an architect to design yet another entrance into the Old School. This continues to be a year of "studies".

Kathleen MacPherson

Letters continue on page 3

# Council News

SEPTEMBER 2024



### Regular Business Licence Renewals

Businesses will be receiving their renewal notices in the mail in October for the 2024/2025 business licence year (Nov to Oct). Every business operating in Metchosin, including home-based businesses, short-term rentals, etc. requires a business licence. Metchosin participates in the regional intermunicipal business licence scheme so that businesses such as contractors and mobile sales based in Metchosin only need one licence to operate in the region.

Please note that if your business licence is two years outstanding, the licence will be terminated, as per Section 14(c) of the Business Licence Bylaw. Reinstatement would then be subject to a new application and inspection, along with an additional fee of \$25.00

### Be Bear Aware – and Manage your Attractants

A reminder to manage your attractants, such as fallen fruit or garbage bins, to avoid conflicts between people and bears. If you see a bear:

- Remain calm, don't panic.
- Keep away from the bear and bring children and pets indoors.
- Never approach a bear and don't run from it.
- Alert others of the bear's presence without yelling.

Once the bear has left, check your yard to ensure there are no attractants such as unpicked or fallen fruit, birdfeed, garbage or anything with food residue on it.

Please be proactive against attracting bears, and place your garbage at the curb on the morning of pick up and not the night before.

For more information on bears please see the link to the Wildlife Resources page on the District website.

### Subscribe to Receive Updates from the District

The District of Metchosin hosts several Council and Committee meetings throughout the year. Be the first in the community to review the agendas at the time they are published by subscribing through E-updates on the District of Metchosin website: [Metchosin.ca](http://Metchosin.ca) > Council > Council Meetings > Agendas & Minutes > SUBSCRIBE

In addition to meeting agendas, you can receive the most recent News & Notices to stay informed on important matters in the community: [Metchosin.ca](http://Metchosin.ca) > Municipal Hall > News & Notices > Subscription Sign Up

### Coffee with the Mayor

Coffee with the Mayor is typically held the second Tuesday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome!

### Council Meetings

The 2024 schedule for regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) > Meetings > Meeting Schedule.

See below meeting dates and times for September. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated. Meetings are subject to change. For updated information please call the Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167 or check the website at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca).

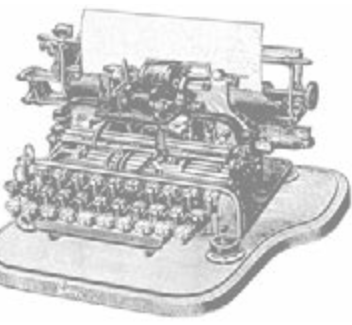
- Council Meeting ..... September 9
- Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee ..... September 17
- Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee ..... 4:30 pm, September 24
- Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee ..... September 24

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# Editor's Musings



K.T. Pirquet

Every year at the end of August, my mother used to take my sister and me shopping to buy some materials for school. It was such a treat to start off with new pens, a pencil case, maybe a ruler and math tools, later on a slide rule (does that make me old?), some notebook paper and a binder, folders, report covers, pencil crayons, markers... and maybe Mom would sew something new for us to wear. Before he left for work on our first day of school, my dad would always present us with a handful of brand new, perfectly sharpened, tantalizingly fragrant, sunny yellow Dixon Ticonderogas – the Cadillac of pencils! The ones with GOOD erasers clamped in metal collars bearing their trademark green stripes! I still have a few of those around here somewhere. They are like old friends, and still make me smile. And I still love that evocative scent, “eau de Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).”

The rituals and the mood symbolized the wondrous possibilities in whatever I might DO with all that stuff, that sweet, clean, September fresh start with Good Tools and Blank Pages, yet

uncontaminated by any accumulation of school-year frustrations, occasional poor marks, false starts, social disappointments, or frequent tedium. Just newness and possibilities – what a great feeling! I felt equipped for anything, at least for a week or two. How can we, as adults, with our busy lives, keep on having that feeling, at least now and then?

Speaking of school ... For the last 11 years, Ted and I have been involved with the Pearson College UWC Host Family Program. I always wanted a big family, and we now have 60 or 70 of “our kids,” many of whom keep in touch or even visit us from time to time. One of them, an Argentinian lad who was our very first Pearson “son,” has just turned up for an extended visit in time to celebrate his 30th birthday!

Sadly, the stringent measures necessary to keep the school functioning during the Coronavirus years interrupted the usual pattern of home-stays, and this has resulted in fewer local households who are still participating as host families. If you would like to get to know some truly exceptional young people from every walk of life and all corners of the planet, please consider this volunteer

connection to an outstanding school and to youngsters who, with the relationships they forge at Pearson, and a clear-eyed focus on creating peace in the world, are going to do great things with their lives. Since the UWC founding of the Atlantic College UWC in Wales in 1962, the now-17 international UWCs, have sent over 200,000 young ambassadors for peace out into the world, with deep, strong international friendships, an extensive network of connections, well prepared for the work ahead, with World Peace as their guiding light.

Host parenting is a very flexible commitment that can include home-stays of four to five days in both October and March, up to three weeks during the Winter Break, occasional short stays in August before school starts, and in May after the school year ends, hosting of occasional dinners, parties and/or weekend “respite.” You will be invited to Sunday brunches at Pearson, several “International Day” student performances, special events and graduation ceremonies. You will almost certainly develop a treasury of friendships, stories and heartwarming memories. Because the students spend two years at Pearson, you will have a chance to know a few students very well, and to forge lifelong connections to some exceptional leaders of tomorrow.

For more information and application forms, visit the Pearson College website: <https://www.pearsoncollege.ca/experience/host-families/>

## Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

### Flying Dutchman Market to feature local products

I am so proud of Metchosin's farm stands, backyard orchards, and abundant garden plots. There is such a variety and each one is unique. We are fortunate to have Agricultural Land Commission rules to protect our producers.

If at any point in the year you have extra product on hand, and want to get it out to customers,

I am opening a new business. It is called the Flying Dutchman Market, centrally located here in Metchosin in a bright new building at 4569 William Head Road. We plan to open our doors by the **first week in September**. Store hours will be **noon to 6:00pm** every day of the week. Please feel free to contact me or drive by and take a look.

Farm markets, backyard gardens and orchards, plus roadside stands, are a vital part of our community's culture. Let's grow together.

Chris Van de Water  
Flying Dutchman Market  
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## Agriculture in Metchosin ... Supporting Farmers and Farmers' Markets

Don Plank

Over the next few months, I hope to share what I have learned about some aspects of food security and local farm product marketing. I am focusing on the markets this month and later want to tackle what I am hearing from farmers about what concerns them the most.

But first I want to tell you what started me thinking about this: On May 9 of this year, in Gallinas, Mexico the official temperature reached 51°C (My two thermometers only go up to 50°C). As a result, there were mass die-offs of birds (including farmed chickens), monkeys and some people. This was about six weeks before the official start of summer. It is my opinion that if this climate change carries on at its present rate, the major and traditional food sources and supply chains (from places like Mexico, Chile, California, or Australia) will no longer be available to us in five to ten years. Thus, if we do not have local food sources, we will starve. (Is there anyone out there willing and qualified to research this subject further?)

There are twelve local markets from Duncan to James Bay (not counting the islands). Ten of them are members of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM). They average about 47 consistent weekly sellers. The percentage of “farmers” (direct food producers/sellers) range from 7 to 70%. The organizations behind the markets average about 73 members. Our Metchosin market has 30 consistent vendors, of which about 30% are farmers, with a total association membership of forty.

The District of Metchosin owns the market property and shelters, for which the Metchosin Producers Association (MPA)\* pays a token rent for the season. I want to acknowledge the MPA for their initiative of building all of those shelters with their own funds and volunteer labour, and then donating them to the District.

Remember back in May it was brought up as to, “... why aren't there more farmers at the market events?” I see the reasons/solutions behind this as a little more complicated to answer. Plus, I suggest you read *The Metchosin Agricultural Area Plan (2024)* on the District's website. Especially, please see page 15, paragraph 2.2 “Develop new forms of routes to market.”

Two simple answers have been suggested to me:

1. Revise the past concept of a “Community Table,” where a co-op group of farmers band together to sell their products in one of the spaces, thus sharing their time, labour and expenses.
2. Start up a “Saturday” market with only Metchosin-farmed and processed products.

In my research, I heard from several businesses that Saturday was actually a busier day than Sunday. So, I took a weekend during market hours (11:00 am to 2:00 pm) to observe the “traffic” passing and turning in. I know that this is a very imprecise way to measure potential business, yet it is a start. The findings:

- **Saturday:** Traffic passing by: 1476; traffic turning in: 69.
- **Sunday:** Traffic passing by: 1212; traffic turning in: 383.

So, Sunday traffic on Happy Valley Road was down 21% from Saturday, yet people and vehicles turning in was up 560% from Saturday.

In the next month or two I want to hear from more farmers, so could those interested please email me at an42jo104gb@earthlink.net or PO Box 28063, Victoria, BC V9B 6K8.

\*Note: The MPA was a member of the BCAF, but dropped out because Metchosin Producers Assn. included a local producer who brought his product in from an out of province location.

## ST MARYS' METCHOSIN

# BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL

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BC greens

Authorized by Molly McKay, Financial Agent, 888-473-3686

# Public-Private Partnership (P3) Not a Good Fit for Metchosin

Councillor Steve Gray

*Editors’ note: This article expresses personal opinions that do not represent official policies or opinions of this publication, or those of the Metchosin District Council. It is meant to convey accurate information and present the writer’s personal take on the issue at hand.*

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 23, Mayor Little convened a Special Council meeting to discuss awarding a \$39,900 contract to study whether the Metchosin fire hall needs replacement or renovation and what options might be pursued in either event.

As *Muse* readers may be aware, the original impetus for reviewing ongoing fire hall needs related to potential seismic upgrades and roof repair or replacement.

Departing from these established concerns, the proposed contract included an evaluation of adding housing units to the fire hall and the exploration of a public-private partnership (P3) to support project financing.

Council has heard from residents both opposing and supporting the idea of building low-cost housing as part of a new fire hall.

P3 financing is not required under existing District procurement policies and Council has not been briefed on the rationale for

including a comprehensive review of potential P3 financing arrangements in the fire hall study.

A P3 is a long-term (e.g. 30-year) arrangement between a government and a private company where the company provides the funds up front to build a government facility.

Often, the private company also contracts to operate a facility once built. The company then draws revenues from taxpayers for profit over the course of the P3 contract.

In my view, P3’s would pose unacceptable risks for our small community, including our ability to contain future tax increases.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)\* says that public-private partnerships fundamentally have been about giving private investors high returns with low risks, at the expense of taxpayers and the public.

In fact, P3’s are notorious for resulting in markedly excessive costs for taxpayers as compared to traditional procurement methods, in part due to high legal and financing costs. Moreover, due to the complexity of P3 contract arrangements, these projects often encounter significant delays.

If a private company fails to live up to the terms of a P3 contract or walks away from its

responsibilities, it is the government who is forced to bail out the P3 and pass additional costs on to the taxpayer.

P3 arrangements also tend to confuse the duties and responsibilities of government staff working in public facilities when these are managed by private corporations. Any deficiencies or failures in a P3 arrangement must be remedied by staff and, in the case of a new P3 fire hall in Metchosin, our volunteers.

In other words, our staff and volunteers do the work and the private corporation gets the pay. This hardly seems prudent or fair.

After some discussion and several votes at the Council table, the proposed \$39,900 contract was approved without any changes. I will now support this decision and look forward to the results.

Given the well-established risks associated with P3 enterprise and given the departure from an original project scope aimed at assessing fire hall seismic adequacy and roof integrity, local taxpayers may want to monitor the study outcomes, for learning opportunities.

*Editor’s note: CCPA is an independent think tank considered to be a progressive voice in Canadian politics*



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# Thoughts on Consultation: Moving Beyond Our Culture of Contest

Nan Hsieh

As the world spins more deeply into conflict, contention and war, one is left wondering how it can ever be possible for leaders to come to agreement and peace. One possible approach to explore is a collaborative process referred to as consultation. Consultation is a non-adversarial decision-making process understood as a collective search for truth with a focus on maintaining unity. For this process to work, everyone involved must listen, take into consideration what each person says, seek to understand, find meaning and identify points of agreement. This focus on unity increases the possibility that those involved can reach a collective decision better than any of their original and individual ideas.

There are several conditions essential to a successful consultative process. First, everyone has not only the right but the responsibility to share their opinion, with the caveat that they do so with respect, courtesy, honesty, and moderation.

Second, each person shares their opinion not as correct or right but as a contribution. When they have shared their opinion, it belongs to the group enabling all to see the bigger picture. With this understanding, when another person respectfully expresses a conflicting view, it is easier not to feel offended because it is the idea that is being critiqued and not the person it came from. The ideas are clashing but not the people. The Baha’i writings tell us that the spark of truth comes as a result of the clash of differing opinions.

A third condition for consultation is the need for each person to carefully consider the views of others and not willfully hold on to their own opinion, recognizing that others’ diverse ways of thinking may expand their own. It is not permissible to belittle the thoughts of another, but rather to search for strength and value in the other’s perspective. One helpful comment from the Baha’i writings is that we are not to turn away from people whose opinion differs from our own because all are seeking the truth and there are many different roads that lead to the truth.

The goal of consultation is to come to a consensus on what action to take. But even when applying all

these conditions, there can be times when a difference of opinion prevails and a decision must be made by taking a vote. Once a decision is reached it belongs to the whole group, not merely those members who happened to be among the majority. This fourth condition of abiding by the majority decision is crucial. When all members support the decision, it becomes clear whether it needs to be amended. When people complain, don’t follow through, or undermine a decision, the resulting chaos that ensues does not provide the clarity needed to determine the full merits of the decision.

A fifth condition is that all members of the group consulting together must maintain confidentiality. What takes place during the meeting stays in the meeting and this avoids complaining and backbiting among individuals in the community, which creates division and disunity. In the end, if the decision is supported and applied by all members, it will be clear if the decision is lacking and at that point the decision can be taken back to the group and reopened for further reflection and revision using the same consultative process.

Consultation is not easy. It is a process that happens at all levels of governance within the Baha’i community, local, national, and international. It is based on a developing understanding of how differences of opinion can work in harmony and how people can work together and feel safe even when sharing diverse perspectives. The rights of all, including the dissident minority, are safeguarded. Consultation challenges and invites growth and detachment from egos and is rewarding for the resulting safety it creates in the community where people trust and feel free to respectfully share their truth.

Leadership is viewed in a new way and innovative ideas are fueled by respectful differences of opinion. Consultation takes time but the unity that results is enriched by a diversity of thoughts, ideas, and experiences. The support created within the community ideally contributes to the community becoming a refuge for all of its members. If you ask “Are the Baha’is experts at consultation?”, the answer is no. However, we continue to strive and practice regularly in order to do better.

**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.**



# The Next Chapter for Historic Lombard Drive

Jay Shukin, Councillor

In February 2024, a large branch of one of the Lombardy poplars on Lombard Drive fell onto a passing car, causing extensive damage to the vehicle.

Given the District of Metchosin's commitment to public safety, an arborist was contracted to examine the health of the trees lining that roadway. The arborist's assessment found that the trees are in poor condition and that they have approached or surpassed their life expectancy in the landscape. The report stated that "each tree was observed to have poor structure and/or was infected with active decay."

With the trees posing a safety hazard, the District is now assessing a plan for removal, which will be considered within the 2025 budget process.

Favoured for their appearance and quick growth, Lombardy poplars were once a favourite tree in North America for lining roadways or for municipal parks. However, the trees come with problems. While they grow quickly, Lombardy poplars have a short life span and are notoriously vulnerable to disease. Some call Lombardys the rock-stars of the tree world: living fast and dying young. Kelowna, Vancouver, Revelstoke, Nelson, Port Townsend and Seattle are nearby municipalities that have faced issues with Lombardy poplars and have removed the trees.

Several long-time Metchosin residents recall that the trees on Lombard Drive were cut down to the stump 50 to 60 years ago. The District's consulting arborist corroborated this recollection, stating in his report that "Our observations indicate that several of the trees appeared to have been removed to a stump several decades ago."

Unfortunately, the growth pattern that followed that cutting is a significant reason why there is now a safety issue. Instead of one stem growing from a



Lombard Drive's historic poplar trees. A. Jones photo

single stump, the trees on Lombard Drive have multiple stems coming out of the remains of the older stump. One of the trees on Lombard Drive has seven stems. The word 'stem' is a dramatic understatement: each of these 'stems' is essentially a large tree, with some almost 20 metres tall.

District administration is assessing the removal of the trees, with the work possibly occurring in spring 2025. Lombard Drive will continue to be closely monitored, particularly with the approach of the late-fall storm season. The District Council has committed to sharing information with residents and nearby neighbours as plans develop or as safety issues arise. During a site visit with Council and staff, Lombard Drive was observed to be in excellent condition and no plans are being considered for any changes or alterations to the roadway itself.

So, what's the next chapter for tree canopy on Lombard Drive?

That's a question that Council has yet to tackle. When Council brought the issue to the community in June 2024, there was a clear understanding of the historic significance of Lombard Drive and deep attachment of many community members to the trees lining that roadway. Originally planted by Metchosin pioneer Hans Helgesen along the driveway to his home, Lombardy poplars have been a feature of that area since the early 1900s.

Whether Lombardy poplars can, or should, return to that roadway will be further discussed. The answer to the future of the trees on Lombard Drive requires consideration of a range of factors including heritage matters, and best tree management practices (i.e. not repeating an approach that leads to multi-stem growth). Climate change resiliency is also bound to be part of the discussion. Stay tuned.

*Note: the arborist's report can be found in full in the June 10 agenda package of the Community Planning Committee.*



Original poplar stump with re-grown, root-sprouted stems. J. Shukin photo

## Metchosin Foundation Scholarships

Joan Rosenberg

The Metchosin Foundation has the honour of awarding scholarships every year to four outstanding Metchosin/Beecher Bay residents seeking further education. Because of the generous donations we receive yearly to support this fund we are able to award students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the environment, their studies and/or their community. As part of this committee for several years, I can attest to the pleasure it is to read the applications of the students who are contributing to create a future we all long for.

The Beecher Bay Community Scholarship was awarded to Katelyn Jarraanstad. She is a dedicated student, a committed community member, a student leader, and role model. We wish her success at Camosun College. The Environmental Stewardship Scholarship is awarded to Naim Zandieh. We hope he continues his environmental work while attending the University of Waterloo. The Academic Achievement and Community Citizen Scholarships were combined as both candidates were excellent academically and had significant involvement in their communities. These Academic Achievement/Community

Citizen Scholarships were awarded to Ben Homer-Dixon and Danielle Eilertsen. Both Ben and Danielle will be attending the University of Victoria this fall. I am certain we will hear more about both of them as they have already shown themselves to be leaders in many areas.

Congratulations from the Metchosin Foundation to the scholarship recipients. Students who are entering Grade 12, please visit our website at [metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca) for information and to apply for 2025 scholarships.



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# The Muse Welcomes Our New Advertising Manager

Allen Jones

Following our recent plea for a Metchosin volunteer to take on the position as our advertising manager, I am delighted to welcome Al Murray to our Metchosin Muse team.

For many years we have enjoyed the work of Jennifer Burgis in that vital job, but she has decided that it is a good time for her to pass on the baton. Luckily another member of our community has come forward, a fellow Scot, Al Murray. You may have noticed that his wife Lori is also active as a director of the Metchosin Community Association and we thank her for suggesting that Al consider the position on the Muse.

Existing and new advertisers should have no difficulty in working with our new advertising manager, as he comes with over 30 years' experience and still runs his own advertising business:



Retiring ad manager Jennifer Burgis hands over to her successor, Al Murray. A. Jones photo

City Marketing Design ([www.bigcity.ca](http://www.bigcity.ca)). He previously sold advertising for Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the

Peninsula Free Press, and moved to Metchosin ten years ago. Look for his contact details on page 2 of this issue.

## Getting a Better Grip on Fraud – Part III

K.T. Pirquet

Over the last few months, we have examined how frauds and scams work, what strategies and tactics criminals use in the fraud “business,” and how to recognize an approach, an offer, or a “scenario” that might not be on the up and up. Now, let us turn our attention to the “what to do” side of fraud prevention. Forewarned is forearmed, so here are some things to remember, and practical, preventative measures to employ, that will help all of us to avoid becoming victims of fraud:

- Banks, government agencies, most online shops and other legitimate businesses will NEVER ask for personal information or money via phone call, text messaging, or email. They know better, and now, so do you!
- NEVER click on a link or phone a number provided in a suspicious message or email. Use Google or another search engine to get your own contact information by going directly through a legitimate, official online website. Use only the phone numbers printed on your bank-provided, known business or credit cards. You can also access an account holders' help line, or inquire in person. If you are suspicious, don't engage without checking further.
- If you do not recognize the phone number from your call ID, you can safely pick up, listen without speaking for a few seconds. If no one speaks, hang up. If it's important and legitimate, they will call back and/or leave a message. If it's a scamming robocall, they probably won't. If someone begins to speak, and you feel uncomfortable, just say, “No thank you,” and hang up immediately. Listen to those feelings; they are there for a reason. If it is an obvious robot voice or canned message, just hang up.
- NEVER give any personal or financial information to

someone you don't know or didn't contact yourself. Do not send money, do not divulge any account numbers.

- Think before you speak to a caller or answer a “weird” email. If you feel confused, pressured, or afraid, hang up and report it to the RCMP and/or the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre. If you don't recognize the voice of a caller who claims to know you and is wanting money, hang up. This is not being rude or silly; it is being smart.
- Do not put personal information on social media sites like Facebook, and be very careful about posting photos, especially of children. Everything on the web is accessible to anyone, forever; true privacy is nearly impossible.
- NEVER send money through unsecured sites; don't use bitcoin or other cryptocurrency; don't pay for purchases by credit card over the phone.
- Report suspicious calls, emails, texts and in-person contacts to the Westshore RCMP (250-474-2264; do NOT call 911!), and/or to the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (<https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>), and/or to Reportascam@amazon.com. Keep a record of the RCMP file number. If you suspect a bank scam, call or visit your bank to report it, and to make sure that your accounts are intact and secure. Place flags on all accounts; change all of your passwords. Check statements every month for unauthorized transactions, and report them.
- When purchasing items on Facebook or Marketplace sites, remember that deposits to hold an item are risky – be willing to lose the deposit, if the seller does not hand over the goods, and don't ever pay the whole cost up front. If you are a seller, get cash. Do not accept e-transfers, which can be

canceled. For expensive items, meet at the seller's bank, insist that they obtain a banker's draft or cash from that bank, in your name, and hand it directly to you. Do not accept cheques or IOUs.

- Most telecommunications providers (Telus, Rogers, etc.) offer a blocking system that makes it harder for robocallers to get through (“Press 8 to get through.”). Some phone companies have other ways to block or filter unwanted calls, as do most cell phones, so contact your provider and ask what they offer.
  - Educate yourself! The Canadian Anti-fraud Centre has tons of information and advice. In addition, for some interesting reading, Constable Justine Webb, RCMP Westshore Community Liaison Officer, highly recommends *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals that Protect Us from Violence*, by Gavin deBecker.
  - If you have been a victim of a scam or fraud, tell your family, friends, and co-workers all about it. Learning about your experience may help to prevent someone else from becoming a victim.
  - Check your credit report now and then by contacting both of the following credit reporting agencies:
    - Equifax Toll free: 1-866-828-5961, website: [www.consumer.equifax.ca/personal](http://www.consumer.equifax.ca/personal)
    - TransUnion Toll free: 1-800-663-9980, website: [www.transunion.ca](http://www.transunion.ca)
- While fraudsters have intruded on the lives of many of us, we do not have to become helpless victims, or feel paralyzed by fear, shame or embarrassment. If we remember to pay careful attention to the tingling of our “spidey-senses,” educate ourselves, and take a few precautions, we can put a big dent in their criminal activities and feel far less vulnerable as we go about our normal, law-abiding lives.



# Metchosin Housing Initiative Collaboration: Looking at the Rules

Anne Richmond

Thirteen people attended the July 2 meeting of the Metchosin Housing Initiative Collaboration (MHIC) for a focused session to identify questions regarding rules and regulations affecting housing in Metchosin. It was a super hot evening in the MACCA DIY room, so it was good to see people there eager to discuss the topic. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a land acknowledgement.

Two rounds of small group discussion identified questions, which were then organized by the whole group into themes. As the next step, the MHIC's will follow up and find answers/information on each point and make it available. A number of ideas for this were discussed, including posting a guide through our MHIC Facebook page (or possibly setting up a web page), and asking the District of Metchosin to make such a guide available to all. The MHIC's will follow up on these ideas.

The questions identified were:

## Agricultural Land Reserve

- How do ALR and farm statuses interact with each other (i.e. can you be one without the other, etc.?)
- What non-farming businesses can you have on ALR land?
- How does ALR status affect farm stands vs. stores?

- Can the village core come out of the ALR to simplify decision-making (and reinforce the intentions of the Official Community Plan [OCP])?

## Zoning and land use

- Does a property's acreage have an impact on the number of homes that can be built? Are there rules about percentage of property covered?
- What are the rules around allowing camping on your property? Do regulations specify type of accommodation, duration, other?
- Are there rules specific to allowing family members to live/build on your property?
- What are the setback rules?
- There seem to be lots of different rules: OCP and provincial ones, how do you figure out what applies?

## Bylaws and building permits

- At what point do municipal bylaws override personal property rights?
- Which regulations overrule which? (i.e. do provincial laws overrule municipal, etc.?)
- Are sightlines/views a bylaw issue or covered by building permits?
- Do Metchosin's current bylaws actually reflect what

Metchosinites want or are they largely "standard clauses"?

- Why are some forms of housing (eg mobiles) considered houses by the municipality but not by banks?
- How does a bylaw get changed?

## Courts

- What does it mean if a court rules on something and "sets a precedent"?
- Can court rulings require a bylaw to be changed, or applied in a different way?

## Enforcement

- How are covenants on properties enforced, and can they be changed if it no longer applies (e.g. a tree is protected but it dies)?
- If a bylaw is not being enforced, should we still have it on the books?

## Water regulation and supply

- What rules apply to different ways of getting potable water: well, shipped in, rainwater, city water?
- Who is responsible for quality assurance on different types of potable water?
- What role does Council have in protecting the aquifer and wells?
- Is there potential to get provincial funding to expand city water in Metchosin if we

do have a plan to allow more housing (within our charter!)?

- Is there a requirement to license/register your well?

## Provincial Housing Mandate

- What is the Council/our district required to do?
- How are Metchosin residents going to be involved/consulted about what Metchosin's response to the mandates will be?

## Wastewater

- Are there alternatives to traditional septic systems, and how is this regulated?
- Are there ways to use grey water for irrigation?

## Village Core

- What is the vision for the village core and what rules apply to it?

## Alternative building types

- What is and isn't allowed in BC and how is this regulated

(e.g. earthships, straw bale, seacon, adobe ... ?)

- What building materials are allowed and how is this regulated (e.g. hempcrete, wool insulation, etc.)?

## Other

- What does it mean that the District is a "corporation"? Are we all members?

The MHICs intend to put together answers to these questions as a resource for all by the end of September 2024. If you have a question you'd like to address, or have a suggested answer, please email it to [metchosinhic@shaw.ca](mailto:metchosinhic@shaw.ca), or add a comment to the MHIC facebook page (Metchosin Housing Initiatives Collaborative).

**The next MHICs information meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, 7:00-8:30 pm** in the MACCA DIY room. The topics will be wastewater and, if possible, water supply.

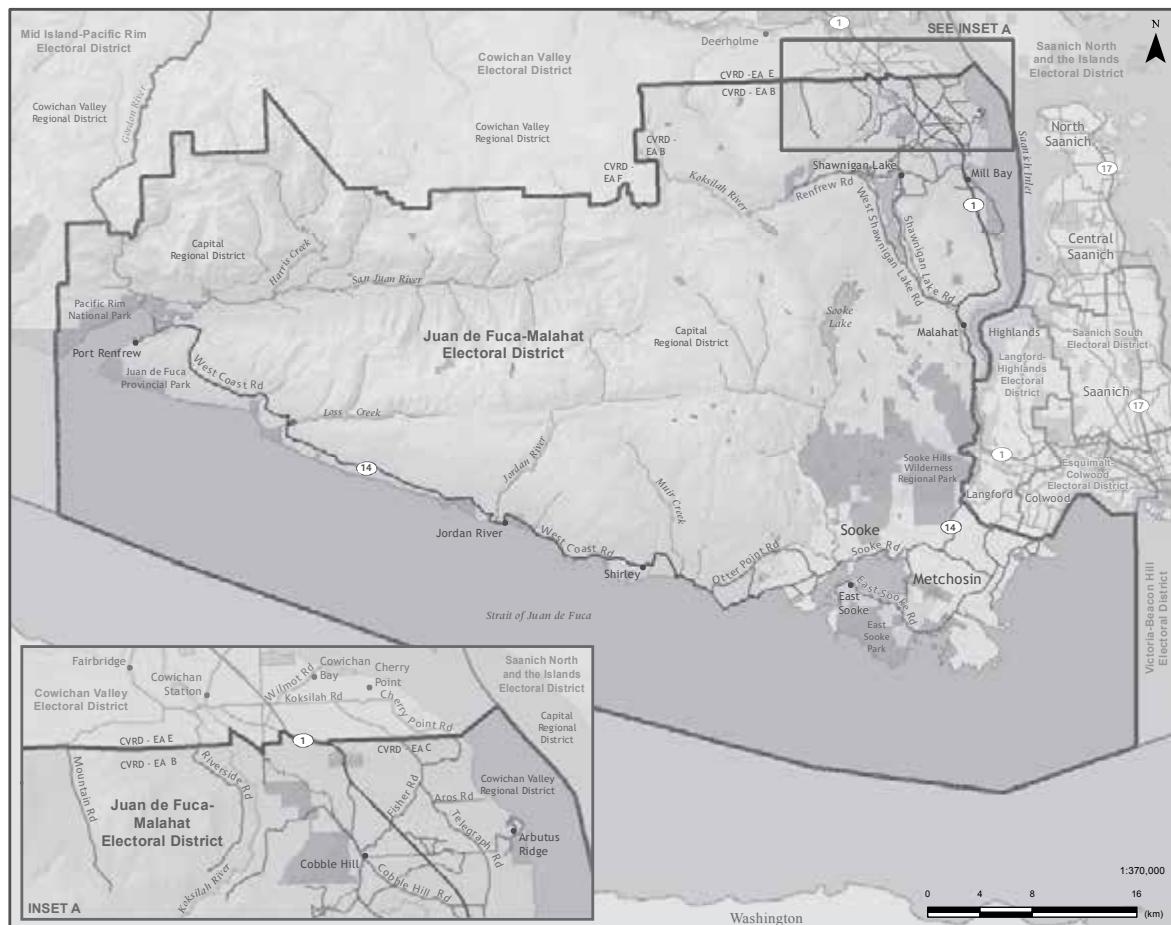
# New Provincial Electoral District of Juan de Fuca – Malahat for Metchosin Voters

K.T. Pirquet and Jennifer Burgis

In just six weeks, Metchosin residents will be voting in their first election as members of the new Juan de Fuca – Malahat B.C. Legislative Assembly election district, which came into effect at the beginning of this year. It has nearly identical boundaries to the 1991–2009 district of Malahat-Juan de Fuca. It comprises roughly the southern tip of Vancouver Island, with its boundaries extending to Port Renfrew, Saanich Inlet, the Trans-Canada Highway and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The new riding was

established in 2023 as part of an official 2021 B.C. electoral boundaries redistribution, but only came into effect at the beginning of this year. It was created from parts of the former Langford-Juan de Fuca, Cowichan Valley and Esquimalt-Metchosin districts. The new constituency will be contested for the first time with the provincial election that is slated for Saturday, October 19.

More information about the election, registration, polling places and early voting dates can be found at <https://elections.bc.ca>



New Provincial riding of Juan de Fuca–Malahat boundary map. Province of BC image

# METCHOSIN

**Let's protect the magic of Metchosin**

*What are your priorities? Conversations welcome!*

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# Bilston/Metchosin Creek Assessment Updates Health Status

Bev Bacon

On July 10 a group of scientists and community creek enthusiasts gathered to collect updated information on the health of Bilston and Metchosin Creeks. Technical assessment was done by Ron Ptolemy, provincial government fish ecologist and instream flow specialist. Snorkeling fish “voyeurs” were biologists Greg Wilson and Sue Pollard. Creekside support crew included biologist Rebecca Nielsen and members of Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association. Of more than 90 coastal cutthroat trout observed or temporarily detained, the largest was ~21 cm.

Further information:  
<https://www.vancouverislandfreedaily.com/community/west-shore-trout-testing-reaffirms-creeks-not-just-a-ditch-but-watersheds-7247937>

Right: Creekside support crew.

Below: Voyeurs Greg Wilson and Sue Pollard keep eyes on the Bilston Creek fish.

Barb Sawatsky photos



*Editor's Note: The following two poems by Bev Bacon seem to capture in verse the delight, wonder and anguish that are such an integral part of being a creek watcher.*

### Creek vs Ditch

Went down to the creek,  
 And what did I see?  
 A cutthroat trout  
 Was lookin' at me.

He was big and bright,  
 Looked like he owned the place.  
 I said, "How's the water?"  
 He said, "It's a disgrace!"

"Some people treat  
 The creek as a ditch.  
 Please thank the people  
 Who know which is which."

### Creek Watch

On a hot day in July  
 We took a cool walk by the creek.  
 The Caves shared their treasure.  
 The biologists had a peek.

We all turned up to watch,  
 Creek enthusiasts every one.  
 We were pleased to see the summer flow,  
 Wondered what more can be done.

With quiet voyeurism  
 On the creek life we did spy.  
 Eagles and owls seem to like this place.  
 It was easy to see why.

Yes! A big trout they did find!  
 A healthy specimen, too  
 Metchosin's doing something right.  
 Thanks to all of you.

# The Apple-Bee Festival Returns!

Derek Wulff

**Sunday September 29**  
 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Metchosin Community House  
 4430 Happy Valley Road

The Metchosin Pomological Society (MPS) is back with the 267th [sic] annual Apple-Bee Festival – a fall fun day on Sunday September 29, celebrating with cool hands-on apple activities and interesting bee demonstrations from our local community. There will be apple cider making

(with tasting of course!), apple sauce making (and tasting!), and caramel apple making (with more tasting of course!). You can even make your own apple pie (with the gracious help of our local Girl Guides!), with pie shells from the Royal Bay Bakery.

There are also those other great pomological activities we do with apples too, such as hurling them with locally made medieval and renaissance siege engines like catapults and ballistas, and learning more about apple tree pruning

from local apple orchard doctor Peter Michaux. Derek Wulff has also offered to give a demonstration on grafting. He's one of those apple Frankentree guys.

The highlight for most of us is the apple tasting tent providing taste testing of a wide variety of local and heritage apples. We invite you to bring your apples for the community to taste! We'll have experts on hand to help identify apples too – thanks Glenda, in case you lost your tag (when the marker says “permanent,” it means one year; don't be fooled). Please feel free to bring pear varieties that you may have, too; we feel sad that there is no Pearological Society, so, in the spirit of inclusion, feel free to bring some along if they are ripe!

On the bee side we will have a demonstration hive – with live, wild, free-range bees, and an extracting demonstration – so you can see how we get honey from the hives (hint, it involves science!), and tasting local honey, of course. Local experts Karen and Werner Grundlingh will be on hand as always to answer any questions you have about bees, and they will have some local honey for sale too, yum!

We are truly celebrating the bounty of our local Metchosin orchards, from the pollinators to the fruit!

Most activities are free, but there is a small fee for the apple pie making, and for the treats in the tea room, if you want to sit and have some apple pie and ice cream and apple-carrot soup.

A classic Metchosin fall event celebrating all things apple, where you can learn about ways to crush, spin, eat, drink, bake and throw them!



It is also a farmer's market day – so you can get a wide range of locally produced food and products. There will be a limited number of grafted apple/pear trees for sale, from our spring grafting session.

The MPS will gratefully accept apple donations for the juice making and other events. We will even come to your house and collect the apples! For more information (or to offer apples), call Dan O'Connell, 250-474 2330.



Young “juice ranchers” squeeze apples during the 2023 Apple-Bee Festival. Derek Wulff photo

## Apple-Bee Fest Apple-Carrot Soup

Jennifer Burgis

In case you just couldn't get enough last year, here is the recipe for an easy, utterly enchanting Apple-Carrot Soup that will be served once again at the Metchosin Apple-Bee Fest on September 29. This recipe feeds a crowd, with some left over to freeze.

- 5 lbs carrots
  - 1 lb onions
  - 5 medium apples
- Peel and roughly chop into a large pot.  
 (Note: This makes almost 5 litres of soup.)
- Add:
- 2 vegetable bouillon cubes
  - 8 cups of water
  - 1 crushed garlic clove
  - 2 tsp ground ginger
  - 1 tsp salt
  - 1 Tbsp curry powder or garam masala  
 (add extra seasoning to taste)

Simmer until cooked.

Use a hand blender in the pot to smooth, or transfer to a processor. Blend until it's a nice soup texture.

This can be served with a swirl of yogurt or sour cream ... Yum!



# Volunteers' Concert and Picnic

K.T. Pirquet

It's no exaggeration to say that Metchosin is "run by volunteers," and Mayor Marie-Thérèse Little is more aware than most of all the work they do. In appreciation of the many, many volunteers who perform all kinds of services for the citizens of Metchosin, Mayor Little organized a special treat. On the evening of July 18, all those who volunteer – and those who would like to do so – were fêted with a picnic and concert by Metchosin's own Helen Davies Band. While our loyal and ever-helpful Metchosin firefighters cooked hot dogs and handed out drinks, Helen's five-musician group played two tight, lively sets of great covers from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Helen delighted the crowd during the break with a bonus, *a capella* rendition of Janice Joplin's "Mercedes-Benz" that truly channeled the late Ms Joplin's power and gravelly style. Few in the crowd failed to join in on several old favorites, and there was dancing, too. Despite a chilly Metchosin wind over the Municipal Hall grounds and a few hats needing to be chased down, it was a great evening, and all were warmed by the appreciation!



Above: Volunteers feted by Council and Firefighters ... A Joyful Noise!

Left: Volunteer firefighters provide hot dogs and drinks for their fellow volunteers.

Below: Metchosin's volunteers enjoy July 18 concert and picnic

Allen Jones photos



## Metchosin Community Day Photo Contest

Sunday, September 8

Janet Gray

### Frame a favourite photo and enter!

All Metchosin residents are invited to participate in Metchosin Community Day's photo contest in either Adult or Youth (under 15) sections. Categories include: People, Wildlife, Travel Outside of Metchosin, Abstract, Montage, Black & White, and new this year: "A Metchosin Scene".

Entries are to be left at Metchosin District office, 4450 Happy Valley Rd. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm beginning Tuesday, September 3 until Friday, September 6 at 12 noon. Unfortunately, **late entries cannot be accepted.**

Photos will be hung at the Metchosin Community House on Friday afternoon and judged on Saturday morning by Metchosin photographers Tony Austin and Christy Grinton, renowned Vancouver Island

wildlife photographer. They will be on display for viewing on Sunday, September 8.

### Entry Rules:

1. *Photos must be taken by Metchosin residents.*
2. *Submissions:* Limit of two entries per person and for the 16+ category, each entry must be for a different category.
3. *Presentation:* Any size but must be framed (with or without glass) with hardware for hanging and (if possible) felt wall protectors on bottom two corners.
4. *Identification:* Labels are available at the District office and must be filled in when photos are dropped off and attached to the back of entries.



The late Moralea Milne in her element, "capturing" a cluster of mushrooms. Barb Sawatsky photo





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Upland seasonal pond. B. Hall photo

# Metchosin Foundation AGM: Building Momentum for Conservation

Valerie Jaeger

Themes of unity, collaboration and momentum ran through the Metchosin Foundation (MF) AGM held June 26 at the Community House. Whether listening to guest speaker presentations centred on the Bilston Creek Watershed, to updates on how the Foundation is positioning itself to function more robustly, or to uplifting news about current projects, the audience of 40 members and supporters was positively engaged throughout.

The Metchosin Foundation pursues its Vision and Mission within the territories of the Coast Salish people, in particular those of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) and T'Sou-ke First Nations. We draw inspiration from the Coast Salish principle of Na'tsa'maht (working together in unity) and recognize its applicability to the MF motto 'Healthy lands and waters – the foundation for a healthy community'.

The four guest speakers spoke in pairs, respectively, about scientific monitoring efforts in the waters of Bilston Creek and recent developments at Witty's Lagoon estuary. Alison Leduc, president of Bilston Creek Watershed Habitat Protection Agency (BWHPA) and Rebecca Nielsen, conservation biologist, talked about the health of the Bilston Creek Watershed whose 3,000 hectares are found within Metchosin, Langford, Colwood and the Juan de Fuca Electoral District. After 34 years of stewardship projects, expert reviews and raw data collection, BWHPA now has identified 5 stewardship priorities and many collaborative opportunities, including with the MF. The results of a recent study (partially funded by the MF) of groundwater/surface water interactions in Hewitt Creek sub-watershed that is important for Aquifer 606 were also presented.

Andy MacKinnon, well-known biologist, local environment advocate and author, along with Jill Robinson, senior conservation biologist from CRD parks, presented on the recent designation of Witty's Beach as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). KBAs are "sites that contribute to the persistence of biodiversity

nationally and globally". Witty's Beach received this special designation based on threatened biodiversity and geographically restricted biodiversity. The dune ecosystems at Witty's Beach are one of only eight localities in Canada where the tiny contorted-pod evening primrose grows. Since the protected area of Witty's Beach is the seashore terminus of the Bilston Conservation Corridor project of the MF, this KBA designation has special significance for the Foundation.

The year in review section of the AGM was a reflection of the micro meeting the macro and the acknowledgement that engagement and effort in both arenas are important. Since the last AGM, the foundations of the Foundation have been broadened and strengthened:

1. MF bylaws were rewritten to respond to changes in the BC Societies Act, to better reflect our scope of practice, and allow for optimal use of the experience of our directors;
2. MF's first privacy policy based on the Canadian Standards Association's best practices was drafted and approved; and
3. The BC Surveyor General gave approval for the MF scope of practice to now include holding conservation covenants and statutory rights of way.

Under the umbrella of Community Connections, it was noted that last year the MF offered four \$1,000 scholarships to students from Metchosin

and Beecher Bay and collaborated with local artists to launch a new deck of very beautiful cards: Nature Cards – The Insect Collection.

The MF currently supports research in biodiversity through the Metchosin Flying Insect Biomass Study which is now in the results analysis stage from which a summary report will emanate. MF support for biodiversity also includes an ongoing commitment to Moralea's Meadow which launched its own website this year (<https://moraleasmeadow.ca>) and whose volunteers were honored to receive the Metchosin Volunteer Group of the Year award.

The Bilston Conservation Corridor is the largest MF project to date. In May, the 32-acre Bilston Headwaters Nature Reserve was announced, marking the first property protected in an envisioned 7km chain of conserved areas stretching from hilltop to seashore, in the heart of the Bilston Creek watershed. This work has just begun. By collaborating with local landowners, partner agencies and donors, the MF aims to preserve additional ecologically significant lands.

The production of this year's AGM benefited from the energy and skills of many people including Morgan Yates, Carol Voyt, Bev Hall, Mike Fischer and Michel Desjardins. Thank you all!

For more information, or to donate to the Metchosin Foundation, please visit <https://metchosinfoundation.ca>.



KBA Celebrity: The contorted-pod primrose. P. Lawn photo

Tell them you saw it in the Muse!



# Pearson College UWC Student Wins Bronze Medal at International Economics Olympiad

Andrew Walker, Media Relations  
Co-ordinator

Pearson College UWC is thrilled to announce that second-year student Chau Anh Ngo, representing her home country of Vietnam, captured a bronze medal at the prestigious International Economics Olympiad (IEO) held in Hong Kong from July 22 to July 31. Competing against participants from 38 countries, Chau Anh demonstrated exceptional skills and knowledge in the Economics category, bringing pride to her school and her country.

Reflecting on her experience, she shared, "It was so fun to learn new things. It was great to receive so many supporting messages and notes from my friends and teachers. For learning about economics, I self-study with online sources, notes, and YouTube, and it's also useful to practice math and read Econ news, too."

Chau Anh emphasized the importance of her support, stating, "I think the mental support from everyone was so valuable to me. It was a great opportunity for me to take part in this competition. I was able to see the subjects from a much more creative perspective and also got the chance to meet up with many people and test out my teamwork ability too."

The IEO, supported by Nobel Prize winner Eric Maskin, features three main categories: Economics, Financial Literacy,



Pearson College UWC student Chau Anh Ngo, International Economics Olympiad bronze medal winner. A. Walker photo

and Business Case. Chau Anh's achievement in the Economics category underscores her dedication and hard work, attributes that her teachers have consistently recognized at Pearson College UWC.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Chau Anh on this remarkable achievement. Her success highlights Pearson's commitment to fostering academic excellence and a love for learning, and we have complete confidence in her abilities as she continues to shine on the international stage.

# "Metchosin's Got Talent" Encore Performance Calls for Talented Local Youth

Judy Roper

Many years ago, Pearson College and the Metchosin Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee, hosted a "Metchosin's Got Talent" show. This event brought out many talented young people within the Metchosin and Beecher Bay Communities. Some of the performances included West Mont Marimba, Pearson Gumboot, a Shakespearian theatrical act, musical duets and much more. A great time was had by all! St. Mary's Church in Metchosin would like to continue this event and will be hosting a "Metchosin's Got Talent" show at their 4125 Metchosin Road

location on **Saturday, November 16** from 7:00–9:00 pm.

We are currently looking for talented youth between the ages of 10 and 18 who have something they would like to share with the local community. Talent comes in all shapes and sizes and we are looking for performance acts that can be accomplished on a 10 ft x 10 ft stage, artwork that will be displayed, or a video montage that showcases your special talent. All videos and performances need to be presented within a three to four minute time slot. How each talent is presented will depend on how many and what types of acts are submitted. **You can apply via email: [metchosinsgottalent@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinsgottalent@gmail.com) by September 20.**

In your email please state:

1. Your age
2. How your talent will be presented (Performance, Display or Video Montage)
3. A brief description of your presentation
4. Please list any other pieces of equipment/instruments you will be bringing and any additional setup requirements. The church venue has a basic sound system and piano.

When planning your presentation and performances, please remember that this is a family event and all acts need to be appropriate for all audience members. Thank you and we look forward to seeing what talents are out there!



*Alas, poor Yorick!  
I knew him,  
Horatio –  
a fellow of infinite  
jest, of most  
excellent fancy.*

A very memorable performance by Lawrence, Francis and Joseph Barss, performing an excerpt from Act V, Scene 1 of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in "Metchosin's Got Talent," January 2013.



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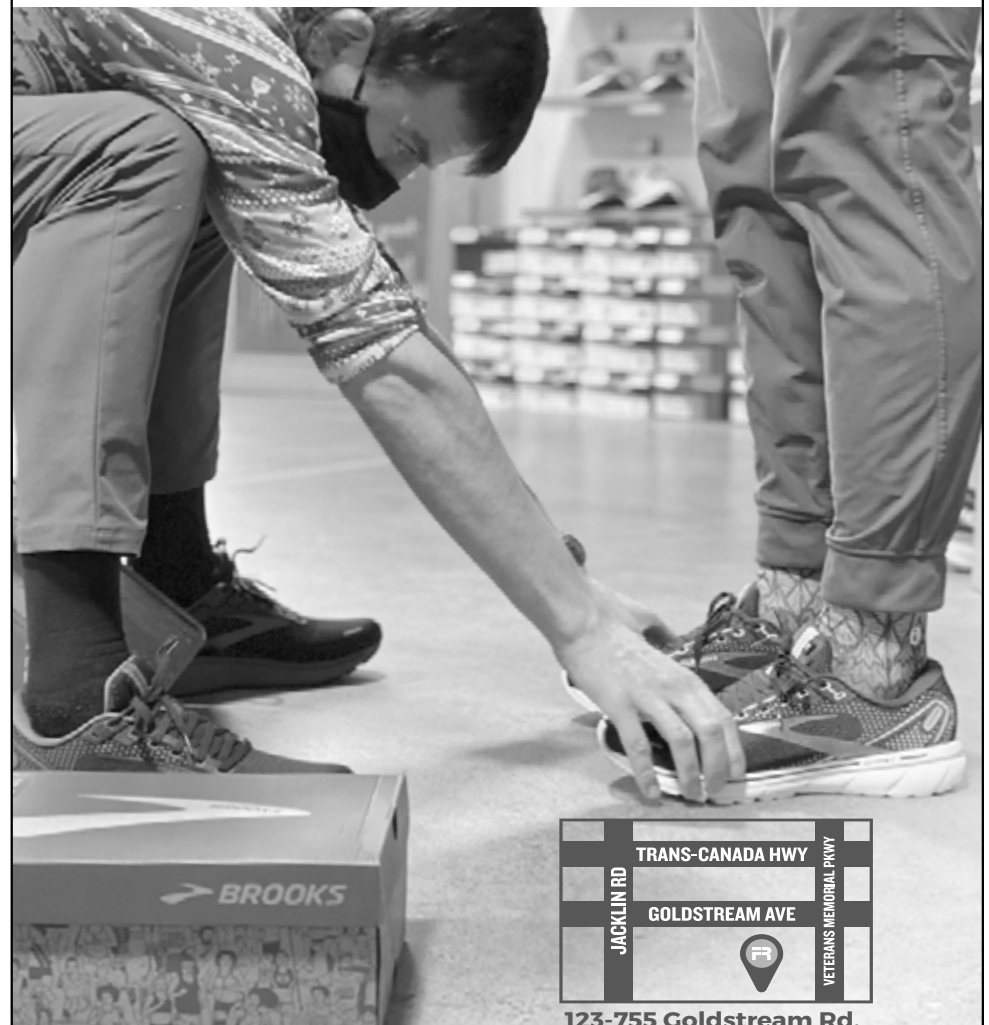
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# Surfaces Hint at Journey Taken in ArtPod's Current Show

Diana Smith

If concepts can be considered juicy, palimpsest certainly qualifies, and it is the theme of the current show at ArtPod, *Palimpsest: The Not-so-Blank Slate*. It turns out the word is new to many people, but it was rich enough in potential to inspire artists and, in turn, inspire visitors to the gallery. A simple definition of this rarely used word is something that has diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface, something that hints at the history of the piece. Originally it referred to a book or scroll that has been written on previously; the script would be scraped off or in the case of wax, smoothed-over for re-use. Parchment (animal skin) and clay tablets were less disposable than the paper we use today. Unlike today's 'delete' function, it was harder to erase all traces of the former writing. Old and dear faces, an old fence painted over many times, or the land itself, all are examples of palimpsests: the surface retains hints of the journey taken.

We were thrilled at the many and diverse ways artists responded. The example of the various interpretations is the large painting of a woman depicting various layers of her feelings of becoming increasingly invisible. Another is a sculpture honouring a friend who died of AIDS. In her statement accompanying the work, the artist, Margo Farr, says: "After my friend Richard died from AIDS, I created two ribcage pieces to honour his ravaged body. For this theme, I reworked the pieces by typing a letter on cotton bedsheets about AIDS, our friendship and life on this planet since he died. Working this cloth into the darker ragged ribcage, some words are legible, others obscured. A beeswax coating softens my words & preserves the friendship. Text on the smaller ribcage attempts to counteract the erasure that accompanies AIDS and death."

Not surprisingly, the theme has elicited particularly intimate and revealing art. The show runs until September 29.

Anyone wanting to create a palimpsest can attend a workshop (*Palimpsest: Working Over, Under and Through*), given by the juror for the show, Regan Rasmussen, on September 21. Participants will be able to "create a richly layered visual narrative' using various techniques and remnants from their past."

Being part of an active art collective, like many volunteer organizations, sometimes feels relentless. It is as though the beast never sleeps. Perhaps this explains the theme for the fall show, *Sleepless: Art From the Midnight Hour*.

Art of any kind, visual, written, or experienced through sound, can rely on metaphor. What are the ways we can express our loves and concerns, whether for a child, a beloved river, or our planet? We are challenging artists to send in artwork that expresses anything that they feel intensely about.

Turns out both kinds of feelings, high as well as low, can interfere with sleep. Intensity, of any variety, can motivate creative expression and this is what we are hoping to see in the artwork that is submitted for the show, opening on October 4. The deadline for submissions is September 20.

Another sleep-disturbing issue for many in Metchosin is



Patrice Snopkowski, one of the Juror's Choice Award winners, talks about her artwork during the opening of ArtPod's current show, "Palimpsest: The Not-so-Blank Slate." Edward Peck photo

the health of our watersheds, rivers, streams and oceans. Love and concern for water in all its iterations motivated ArtPod member Dyan Marie. She recently received funding from the Capital Regional District to mount an ambitious, year-long art project celebrating waterways and the significance they have for sustaining life. *The Ocean Art Project* is designed to engage people in any number of ways. Dyan began the project during the spring show at ArtPod, the *Wonder of Water*, inviting visitors to let one drop

of water fall onto a glassy surface and marvel at the result. Recently, in the middle of the Maker's Market event, at the MACCA building, she spread 52 feet of undulating white felt on the parking lot ground and encouraged visitors to pour, brush, or stamp liquid paint over the surface. The project culminates in an Ocean Art Parade next summer. Details to come!

Details of all these events and more can be found at the ArtPod website, [metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca).

## Let's gather as a community to pray for peace

Come and be part of a community pancake breakfast followed by prayers, inspirational sayings and messages of peace.



Who: Open to everyone. All are welcome.



When/Where: 10am first Sunday of the month at the community house.

Sponsored by the Metchosin Baha'i community.

For info call Mona at (250) 514-1756 / Doug at (250) 858-2053

## There's a lot going on in Metchosin!

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

## EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod

2 AUGUST - 29 SEPTEMBER

### PALIMPSEST: the not-so-blank slate

• Guest juror: Regan Rasmussen  
Question and explore layers of relationship and meaning through the past and into the present.

SAT 21 SEPT: noon-4pm  
**WORKSHOP:** With Regan Rasmussen  
Artists, poets and writers are invited to playfully engage in ideas associated with palimpsest, looking for traces of history in their artwork.

4 OCTOBER - 10 NOVEMBER

### SLEEPLESS: Art from the midnight hour

• Open Call for artists: 16 Aug - 20 Sept  
• Guest artist and juror: Elizabeth Carefoot  
• SAT 5 Oct 2-4pm: Show Opening Celebration

See [metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca) for details

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Hours: Fri-Sun 11am-4pm

## METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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September 2024

Be sure to visit the Arts & Cultural display at Metchosin Community Day. Our open-air gallery will be located on the Village Green near the Juan de Fuca Scouts.

"Metchosin's spirit shining through local arts".  
See you on September 8th.

---

4495 Happy Valley Road

Point of View Gallery spaces will feature three unique artists for the month of September:

Ilka Bauer

Paper, panel, pencil and ink: a retrospective of experiments in drawing.

Anna Mar

"Abstract Fine Art Inspired by Nature": Organic abstract paintings that portray the essence and the beauty of natural form.

Linda Kirstein

Mixed media artist whose abstract and realistic pieces range from acrylics and inks, to paper and fibre arts.

Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

4495 Happy Valley Road – [info@metchosinartcentre.ca](mailto:info@metchosinartcentre.ca)  
[metchosinartcentre.ca](http://metchosinartcentre.ca)



# Friday Film Nights Return!

Samuel Perez / Economics teacher,  
Pearson College UWC

**Film Night: BLACKFISH**  
Friday, September 27, 7:00 pm  
Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Road

It has been quite an enjoyable time to host the Friday film nights at the Metchosin Community House (MCH). But more than just the entertainment, I have enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know many film enthusiasts and doing our best to connect the Metchosin community with Pearson College and beyond.

The survey sent out some months ago provided important insights and information regarding the film nights. About 20 people responded to all questions. Here are a few of the findings:

Overall, 90% of the respondents said that they prefer documentaries (with social and environmental content). The majority answered that the most important reason for them to attend the film night is to learn (87%). Commenting on the film with panelists is also an incentive for many (66%). Discussing the film with attendees and having some time to spend with the community are greatly appreciated (53% and 60% respectively).

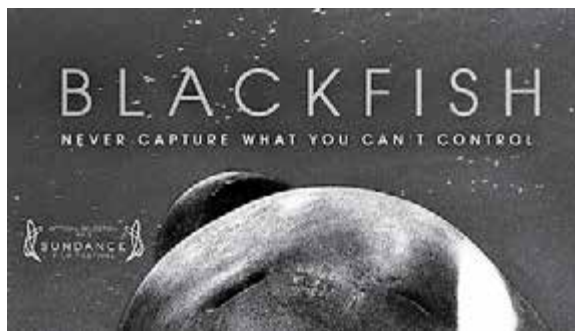
Based on that, last term we offered some films that sparked some great conversations and even debate amongst participants. Having some guests on site and online who commented on the movies helped us to discuss, reflect and digest some of the core topics that affect us all. Some of the topics addressed last term included old growth forests in Victoria and the active and brave involvement of First Nations in their protection (Rematriation). We reflected on systemic racism and the flaws of

Democracy, not exclusively in the U.S. but also Canada, with the film *I am not your Negro*. We talked about freedom of speech and learned about the case of Julian Assange (who was recently released from prison). Finally, the documented injustices of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan stimulated a discussion led by students who shared their experiences back in their hometowns, and their thoughts around Malala Yousafzai's story, "He Named Me Malala."

I am very grateful for the positive response of our cinephile community and the great turnout that we had last term. My sincere thanks to Brian and Mike from the Metchosin Community Association (MCA) and all volunteers who have helped, including my wife and daughter, Berenice and Sarahi.

We hope to see you each last Friday of the month at 7:00 pm in the MCH to share popcorn, good films, and good conversations.

A final note: In the following weeks, we will have a special sale of rare documentaries and films (CD format) that were no longer needed by Pearson College. The proceeds will be used to support the tech classroom of an Indigenous school in Guatemala. More information to follow.



## METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE HOUSE HAPPENINGS

### ONGOING PROGRAMMING

#### Mondays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program.** 10:00am–2:00pm. Contact Mobile program coordinator Ken Hillicke at 250-213-2440.

**Knitting Café.** 7:00–9:00pm on the first and third Mondays monthly. Contact Heather at 250-478-6590. Knitters of all levels are welcome. (No meeting September 2.)

#### Tuesdays

**Drop-In Art Group.** 9:30am–12:30pm weekly. Contact Arlene at 250-391-7905. Everyone is welcome.

**Knitting Café.** 1:00–3:00pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly. Contact Nance at 250-478-7708 after 11:00am. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

#### Wednesdays

**Vancouver Island Health Authority Adult Day Program.** 10:00am–2:00 pm (see Monday for details).

#### Thursdays

**Weights and Measures.** 8:30–10:00am weekly. Weights and Measures is a weight loss and healthy lifestyle support group for anyone in the community. Contact Nancy at 250-478-7487.

**Creative Rug Hooking.** The first and third Thursdays monthly, 10:00am–1:30pm. 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.** 9:30–11:30am. Calling all Metchosin tots! The Parent and Tot Drop-In Program invites moms, dads, caregivers and their young children to join us Friday mornings for our community program.

**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 drives to anyone who needs a ride; call 250-478-5150 or email SRC. All ages, everyone is welcome! Details: <https://metchosinseniors.ca/friday-socials/>

**Ukulele Gathering.** 5:00–6:30pm, third Friday of each month. Contact Margaretha, memetopia@shaw.ca.

#### Sundays

**Rough Voices 2:00–4:00pm.** The ever-popular community singing group featuring 1940s–1960s singable songs accompanied by musicians with lyrics projected on the screen. All ages and everyone welcome to join! Third Sunday of every month. Contact Dale at 250-642-0583

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**METCHOSIN DAY, September 8.** All-day viewing of the **Photography contest** at the Community House; stay for the **Cobbler Café** featuring fresh Metchosin blackberries and apples home baked in delicious cobblers and served with tea! \$5/piece with drink 11:00–3:00pm Special thanks to Heather Showers. The **Corn Booth** is back featuring fresh, sweet peaches and cream corn, only \$3/cob 11:00–4:00pm. Special thanks to Bob Burgis.

**FILM NIGHT.** Friday, September 27, 7:00–10:00pm. Join our new host Samuel Perez de Leon, Faculty Member, Pearson College, for an exciting new showing. *BLACKFISH* – 1h 23min

Please check the MCA website for specific program details and contact information.

## Rough Voice Singers Tuning Up – All Welcome!

Dale Morrison

Metchosin Rough Voice Singers are starting up again for the fall. Our first event is Sunday, September 15, 2:00–4:00 pm. We are moving back to the Metchosin Community House after two wonderful years at St. Mary's. We will continue our third Sunday of the month schedule so you can mark it in your calendars!

We have our usual wonderful musicians joining us. We are always on the hunt for local musicians that would love to spend an afternoon with our very grateful singers! If you are a musician and would be interested in coming and playing for our singers, please email Dale at [bdalemorrison@outlook.com](mailto:bdalemorrison@outlook.com).

Hope to see everyone there.



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**Metchosin Community House**

4430 Happy Valley Road Info: 250-478-5155

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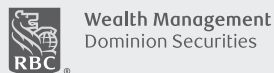
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Visit the Metchosin Muse website!  
[www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca)

# Seniors' Resource Centre

## M E T C H O S I N

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

### FALL IS ON ITS WAY!

Visit our SRC booth at Metchosin Community Day, September 8!

We will have information, gift bags, and more! Get your Gourmet Dinner for Eight tickets for only \$20/ticket!

### PERSONAL AND ESTATE PLANNING – OANA GRANT

**Wednesday, September 11, 1:30–2:30pm  
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre**

Oana advises clients on their personal planning needs, including powers of attorney, representation agreements, advance directives, committee work, and succession plans (wills and trusts).

### METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Thursday, September 19, 10:00–11:30am  
Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre**

This free monthly support group brings caregivers together based on a mutual experience of caregiving for a family member or friend. Facilitated by Family Caregivers of BC. Register by email to [cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca](mailto:cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca) or phone 250-384-0408.

### FRIDAY SOCIAL

**September 27, 1:00–3:00pm  
Metchosin Community House  
4430 Happy Valley Road**

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

**SRC offers a Better at Home Program** which assists older adults to live independently in their homes and remain connected to their communities by providing simple, non-medical support services. Visit the centre or call us to find out more.

**Become a lifetime member for only \$20!** Your support helps keep Metchosin age-friendly and keeps you informed of how we are achieving that. Our members are all ages and abilities. You don't have to be a senior to support us! Sign up on our website to receive regular updates for news and events!

*The Seniors' Resource Centre, in the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre, is open Tuesday through Friday, 11:00–3:00pm. Staff and volunteers are here to assist seniors and their families with support, resource information, and services.*

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)  
1047–4495 Happy Valley Road

250-478-5150 • [info@metchosinseniors.ca](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca) • [www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)

## IN LOVING MEMORY of PATRICK G. HUGHES November 19, 1922–May 10, 2024



With heavy hearts we share the passing of an amazing and talented man, our father and grandfather, Patrick G. Hughes (aka Zoë's Gaga).

Patrick was born in Dublin on November 19, 1922. He passed the evening that the rare aurora borealis shone out over Victoria, May 10, 2024. He flew off with the best show imaginable.

He lived 70 of his 101 years with his beautiful and loving wife Sylvia Hughes. They shared a deep and enduring devotion and celebrated all life's joys and hardships with understanding, care, tolerance and infinite love. And they loved to party!

They raised two daughters, Sue Hughes (Steve Sharpe) and Dusty Hughes, and nurtured their only grand daughter, Zoë (Jeremy Robinson) with the intense love only grandparents can give.

At home in Ireland, Patrick was the youngest of six: Tom, Bill, Vincent, Jenny and Anne. Life and war spread the siblings across the globe – Canada, the UK, and Australia – and

Pat and Sylvia travelled to see their extended family more infrequently than they wanted. Patrick was the last surviving member of his sibling family.

We will really miss the solid connection Pat embodied as the family patriarch for all our far-away families, and Zoë has picked up the family baton and has been meeting some of them, their children and grandchildren. She now sees Patrick's spirit and sauciness as a family trait!

Pat was Uncle to many amazing nephews and nieces: Tony Hughes (Annette), Anne Hughes, Val Hughes, Sybil King (John), James Hughes (Wendy), Margaret Calhoun (John), Tricia Hearne (Dave), Cliff Bailey (Val), Jennifer Gough and Stella Hughes.

Patrick also sponsored family members from Ireland, Barbara and Richard Lanigan. They still live the closest of all our relatives and have always played an important role in Patrick and Sylvia's lives. Pat became Uncle to their now adult sons, and their wonderful wives: Mark Lanigan (Nancy), Declan Lanigan (Tavrie Anne) and Rich Lanigan (Lynsey).

Between all the families Pat then became Grand Uncle to a host of lovely descendants from grown adults to toddlers. He loved it!

His proudest achievements were flying for the RAF during WW2 and then for the RCAF. He was a bush pilot and helicopter pilot in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. He had many great tales of overcoming poor navigators, faulty equipment

and once, a superior officer who left his co-pilot's post to have a smoke beside the extra fuel tank they carried while ferrying enlisted men to the Azores and back.

Later, after Sylvia grounded him for happily surviving a helicopter crash, he unstitched his adventure-steeped sheepskin flight suit, and re-crafted it into a fuzzy and, in places, well-worn, blanket. Susan and Dusty snoozed on it for years as Pat drove their series of second-hand station wagons to the west coast for their annual family holiday.

His parents were artistic; his mother was a dancer and his father was an opera singer. He was raised as a Roman Catholic, so as a child he sang lead soprano in the local church. With his older brothers he learned to play the ukulele and they all sang Hawaiian music! In the forces he joined the unit's entertainment group and sang and acted for his troop. He even played the Albert Hall!

In later years, after moving to Edmonton, he founded and played guitar for a folk song group called the PatMacs. They played Alberta pubs, including the Jasper Lodge. He went on to be the drummer for the Pat Hughes Combo, playing weddings and other celebrations, and then on to a solo career as the Strolling Minstrel playing for diners in a quaint restaurant interestingly called the Catacombs.

Patrick also sang baritone in several Edmonton Choirs, acted in numerous stage and television

productions, played the Smile Show in Victoria and did various commercials, including an hilarious role as Herman Buckstretcher for Ron Hodgson Buick sales.

Zoë remembers his role as the quirky inventor in the Alberta Access' Children's Series "The Magic Ring," and she says she has watched each episode at least 10 times!

Pat and Sylvia moved to Metchosin in 1979 and expanded their Edmonton city-lot garden to a Metchosin-sized market garden. They stocked one of the earlier farm stands and boasted regularly that people came all the way from Victoria to buy their lettuce.

Their new next-door neighbours turned into lifelong friends, and the Griffiths family still plays a big part in all of our lives. The rest of the neighbours up and down the street quickly followed suit and many joyful rollicking parties were held for St. Paddy's Day, birthdays and New Year's Eve!

As cousin Richard said, now, with Patrick's passing, an era has ended. Pat and Sylvia were the glue that kept us all together and connected. We are so grateful for all our laughs, parties, adventures, and especially dinners where Patrick would say his toast in Portuguese (he learned it in the Azores!) to Health, Wealth, and Women with large ...

We are going to miss Patrick and his lovely wife Sylvia (gone in 2022), more than words can describe. They gave us so many beautiful memories. We will do



Patrick Hughes, 1942

our best to live in their honour, keep our family together, and continue to make inappropriate jokes and toasts that would make Gaga laugh out loud.

On August 11, a Wake was held for Pat at his home and in his garden and Pub. It was a glorious affair with many friends and neighbours, lots of Irish coffees and the most superb accompaniment by the very talented and completely rousing local band, The Hounds of Cuchulain. They played lots of the songs Pat played, bringing more than one guest to tears. They helped us all give Pat a send off he would have been proud and happy to receive. We are grateful.



# RCMP Call-Outs

JULY 1–AUGUST 6, 2024

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

July 1 **Kangaroo Road** – Motorcycle accident. Driver lost control on gravel and sustained minor injuries.  
**Pedder Bay Road** – Complaint of a dog being left in a vehicle in hot weather, owner of the dog given verbal warning.  
**Sooke Road** – Assistance provided to Coroner's office regarding a sudden death, investigation continuing.

July 2 **Rocky Point Road area** – Assistance provided to Shawnigan Lake RCMP to serve person with driving prohibition.  
**William Head Road** – Complaint of a sexual assault, one person arrested and investigation continuing.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of harassment, both people interviewed and given verbal warnings.

July 5 **Lomax Road** – Community mail box broken into by prying doors, unknown what was stolen, reported to Canada Post.

July 6 **Wild Cherry Road** – Report of a suspicious vehicle, vehicle located and towed due to not being insured.

July 7 **William Head Road** – Complaint of harassment, one person given verbal warning.

July 8 **Albert Head** – Report of loud music, person located and given verbal warning, his vehicle towed due to being not insured.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.  
**Liberty Drive** – Report of a vehicle in ditch, patrols failed to locate vehicle,  
**Happy Valley Road** – Motorcycle stopped for excessive speed, driver charged and motorcycle impounded.

July 9 **Metchosin Road** – Harassment complaint, reported for information purposes.

July 10 **Matheson Lake** – Patrol members conducted foot patrols at lake enforcing the *Liquor Control Act*.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Road rage incident, both drivers stopped and given verbal warnings.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Enhanced traffic enforcement conducted by Traffic Unit.

July 11 **Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of a disturbance at a residence, one person taken to hospital under the *Mental Health Act*.  
**Delgada Road** – Report of suspicious person, patrols failed to locate the person.

July 12 **William Head Road** – Fraudulent use of a credit card. Complainant lost her credit card which has been used several times, still under investigation.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Motorcycle stopped by patrol unit for driving in a dangerous manner, driver charged under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

July 13 **Kangaroo Road** – Assistance provided to Lake Cowichan RCMP regarding a missing person.  
**Kangaroo Road area** – Disturbance at a residence, one person taken to hospital under the *Mental Health Act*.

July 14 **Sooke Road** – Neighbourhood dispute, both persons spoken to.  
**Metchosin Road** – Theft from a fruit stand, one suspect identified and investigation continuing.

July 15 **Sooke Road** – Report of possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober.

**Duke Road** – Complaint of an on-line fraud, still under investigation.  
**Matheson Lake** – Report of two dogs in a crate in the back of the truck in hot weather, truck had left the lake prior to arrival of patrol unit.

July 17 **Sooke Road** – Report of a possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped and driver found to be sober.

July 18 **Metchosin Road area** – Disturbance at a residence, one person taken voluntarily to hospital.  
**Sooke Road** – Male breaching his court-imposed curfew condition, criminal charges pending.

July 19 **Albert Head** – Minor motor vehicle accident, no injuries.

July 21 **Pedder Bay Drive** – Assist Sidney RCMP for check well-being, person not located.  
**Sooke Road** – Erratic driver possible impaired driver, vehicle stopped in Langford and driver found to be sober, verbal warning given for erratic driving.

July 22 **Sooke Road** – Report of a suspicious looking male dressed in black on the highway. Patrols failed to locate.  
**Rocky Point Road area** – Complaint of someone flying a drone over private property, investigation continuing.  
**Lindholm Road** – Assistance provided to Saanich Police to locate a suspect vehicle. Patrols failed to locate it.

July 23 **Glen Forest Way area** – Report of a possible fraud reported for information purposes.  
**Duke Road area** – Assistance provided to the Coroner's Service regarding a sudden death.

July 24 **Glen Forest Way area** – Domestic dispute, no assault, both persons spoken to.

# Important Dates & Events

Sept. 2 **Labour Day statutory holiday**

Sept. 8 **Metchosin Community Day** . . . . . p. 13

Sept. 17 **Housing Initiative Collaboration Information Meeting** . . . . . p. 7

Sept. 20 **Metchosin's Got Talent (application deadline)** . . . . p. 11

Sept. 27 **Film Night: BLACKFISH** . . . . . p. 13

Sept. 29 **Apple-Bee Festival** . . . . . p. 8

**Other events:**

**Council Meetings** . . . . . p. 2

**Metchosin Community House Happenings** . . . . . p. 13

**Metchosin Farmers' Market**  
 4450 Happy Valley Road. Sundays, 11:00am–2:00pm

**Seniors' Resource Centre Events** . . . . . p. 14

**Happy Valley Road area** – Report of a fraud and possible theft of a vehicle, investigation continuing.

**Rocky Point Road** – Vehicle stopped for speeding violation and found to not have valid insurance. Driver charged and vehicle towed.

July 25 **Rocky Point Road** – Report of a disturbance at a residence, one person transported to hospital under the *Mental Health Act*.

July 26 **William Head Road** – Complaint of loud noise.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Request to check on the well-being of a person. Located and found with no issues.

July 27 **Rocky Point Road** – Check well-being request. Person located with no issues.  
**Metchosin Road** – Assistance provided to Campbell River RCMP in trying to locate a male for assault, male not located.  
**Kangaroo Road** – Report of a drone being flown over private property, matter still under investigation.  
**Metchosin Road** – Complaint of loud music from the Community Hall.

July 28 **Sooke Road** – Complaint of loud music, owner of property given verbal warning.

July 29 **Happy Valley Road** – Male taken into custody following a domestic dispute

in Langford after initially failing to stop for police and hitting two police vehicles.

July 30 **Glen Forest Way** – Two reports of a suspicious vehicle parked by the Goose Trail. Owner spoken to and asked to remove his vehicle.

July 31 **Kangaroo Road** – Report of a suspicious vehicle, located along with the registered owner who indicated the vehicle would be moved.  
**Sooke Road** – Erratic driver on highway, not located.  
**Rocky Point Road** – Mischief to private property, graffiti sprayed, possible suspect identified.

Aug. 1 **Sooke Road** – Erratic driver on highway, vehicle not located.

Aug. 4 **Rocky Point Road** – Family disturbance at private residence.  
**Happy Valley Road** – Assistance provided to the Coroner's Service regarding the sudden death of a person.  
**Taylor Beach** – Report of a disturbance at the beach. Four youths located and two charged with being minors in possession of alcohol.

Aug. 5 **Sooke Road** – Erratic driver, vehicle located and stopped in Colwood. Driver found to be sober and given verbal warning for driving offences.

Aug. 6 **Sooke Road** – Check well-being of a person who has still to be located.

# Metchosin Directory

**Metchosin Fire Department:**  
 250-478-1307

**Police (Non-Emergency):**  
 250-474-2264

**Military Police Non-Emergency**  
 250-363-4032

**District Office (office hours):**  
 250-474-3167

## ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

# 911

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

### ORGANIZATIONS

**AIR CADETS**  
 250-590-3690  
[www.848royalroadsaircadets.com](http://www.848royalroadsaircadets.com)  
 848air@cadets.gc.ca  
 Facebook 848aircadets

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC**  
 250-382-2052  
[www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL METCHOSIN (APRM)**  
 metchosinaprm@gmail.com  
 FB Metchosin APRM  
[www.metchosinaprm.org](http://www.metchosinaprm.org)

**BADMINTON**  
 Women's 250-478-9648

**BILSTON WATERSHED HABITAT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
 250-478-2387  
 bilstonwatershed@gmail.com  
[bilstonwatershed.org](http://bilstonwatershed.org)

**CRD PARKS**  
 250-478-3344  
 crdparks@crd.bc.ca  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

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

**LA LECHE LEAGUE CANADA**  
 250-727-4384

**METCHOSIN 4-H CLUB**  
 metchosin4h@gmail.com  
[www.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club](http://www.4hbc.ca/clubs/view/4-metchosin-4-h-club)

**METCHOSIN ARTPOD**  
 metchosinartpod@gmail.com  
[metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca)

**METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ASSOCIATION (MACCA)**  
 info@metchosinartcentre.ca  
[www.metchosinartcentre.ca](http://www.metchosinartcentre.ca)

**METCHOSIN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**  
[www.metchosinbiodiversity.com](http://www.metchosinbiodiversity.com)

**METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
 250-478-5155  
 mcachouse@telus.net  
[www.metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://www.metchosincommunityhouse.com)

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

**METCHOSIN CRICKET CLUB**  
 250-474-4601  
[www.victoriacricket.com](http://www.victoriacricket.com)  
 FB MetchosinCricketClub

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

**METCHOSIN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY**  
 metchosinequestrian@gmail.com  
[mesmetchosin.com](http://mesmetchosin.com)

**METCHOSIN FOUNDATION**  
 contact@metchosinfoundation.ca  
[metchosinfoundation.ca](http://metchosinfoundation.ca)

**METCHOSIN HALL SOCIETY**  
 250-478-6424  
[metchosinhall.com](http://metchosinhall.com)

**METCHOSIN HIKING CLUB**  
 250-478-4778

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

**METCHOSIN MUSEUM SOCIETY**  
 250-382-1989  
[metchosinmuseum.ca](http://metchosinmuseum.ca)

**METCHOSIN PRESCHOOL**  
 250-478-9241  
 metchosinpreschool@gmail.com  
[www.metchosinpreschool.com](http://www.metchosinpreschool.com)

**METCHOSIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**  
 metchosinfarmersmarket@gmail.com  
 FB Metchosin Farmers' Market

**METCHOSIN SEARCH & RESCUE**  
 metchosin.sar@gmail.com  
[www.metchosinsar.ca](http://www.metchosinsar.ca)

**METCHOSIN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION/ SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTRE**  
 250-478-5150,  
 info@metchosin seniors.ca  
[www.metchosin seniors.ca](http://www.metchosin seniors.ca)

**MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
 250-642-0238

**NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (POD Leaders)**  
 Kathleen Sutherland 250-474-3966  
 neighbourhoodpod@gmail.com

**PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION**  
 345 Wale Road, Colwood  
 250-886-2481  
[www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org](http://www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org)

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION** Branch 91,  
 Station Rd, Langford Ladies Auxiliary  
 250-478-5484

**SCOUTS CANADA**  
 14th Juan de Fuca (Metchosin)  
 Email: 14thjdf@scouts.ca  
 To register: go to [myscouts.ca](http://myscouts.ca) and choose '14th Juan de Fuca'

**SEA CADETS**  
 250-478-7813

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**  
 250-478-7688

**WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL**  
 250-478-2286  
 info@westshorearts.org  
[www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org)

**WESTSHORE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**  
 250-474-3999  
 info@westshoreband.org  
[www.westshoreband.org](http://www.westshoreband.org)

**WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION**  
 250-478-8384  
[wspr.ca](http://wspr.ca)

**WESTSHORE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**  
 U14.U16.manager@gmail.com  
[westshorerfc.com](http://westshorerfc.com)

**FAITHS**

**BAHA'I FAITH**  
 250-514-1757

**GORDON UNITED CHURCH**  
 250-478-6632  
[www.gordonunitedchurch.ca](http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca)

**HOLY TRINITY REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 250-727-3722

**OPEN GATE CHURCH**  
 Anglican Network  
 250-590-6736  
[www.opengatechurch.ca](http://www.opengatechurch.ca)

**ST MARYS' METCHOSIN**  
 Anglican Church of Canada  
 250-474-4119  
[stmarysmetchosin.ca](http://stmarysmetchosin.ca)

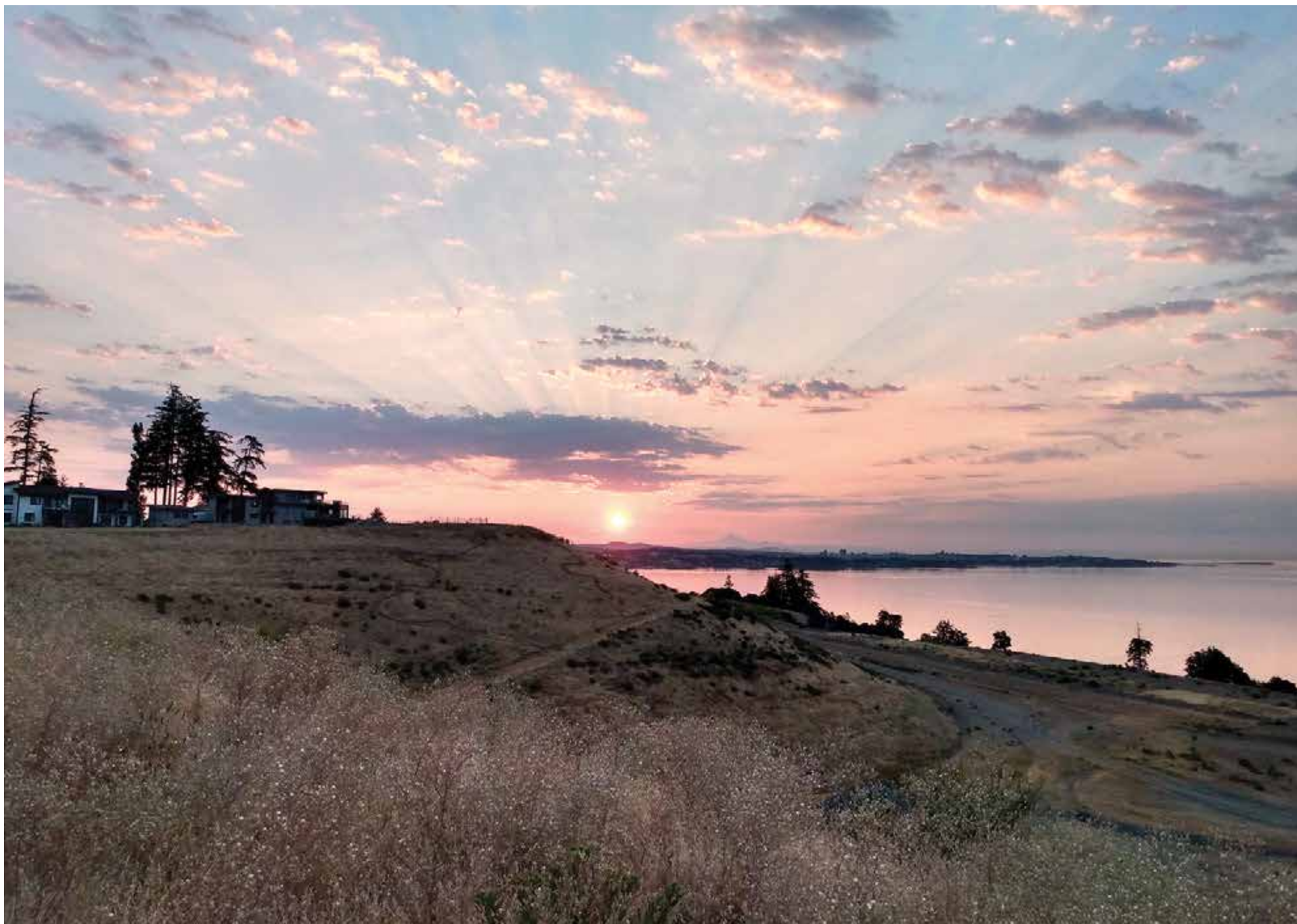
**WESTSIDE BIBLE CHURCH**  
 250-478-8066  
[www.westsidefamily.org](http://www.westsidefamily.org)

**WESTSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY**  
 250-474-5967  
[saconnectionpoint.ca](http://saconnectionpoint.ca)

This listing is a directory of local organizations. Please email changes to the editor at [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com). Individuals, groups and organizations are invited to submit details on upcoming events which may be included in an upcoming issue. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date, unless otherwise noted.



# Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!



A glorious summer sunrise over Royal Bay. Samuel Perez photo

## Micah James, and the Anthropology of “Doll Day”

Judith van Manen

Many Metchosin residents and visitors to the Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum have praised and commented on the unique, beautiful, and artistically displayed Doll Day exhibit at the museum. This special day on June 29 was conceived by Micah James, a remarkable young woman who, in addition to her historical and anthropological interests (and perhaps because of them), designs and sews vintage doll clothes. Her work on dolls and design was the impetus for the first ever Doll Day in Metchosin.

Although Micah lives next door in Langford, she and her mother Deborah James are volunteer docents at the Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum. Micah

also works part time at the Sugar Shack here in Metchosin. She recently received diplomas in Arts and Science Studies and Archaeological Field Assistant Studies, both “with distinction,” from Camosun College. Micah plans to attend the University of Victoria this fall, majoring in Anthropology.

Micah and Deborah suggested that the museum hold a Doll Day after seeing the oldest doll in our schoolhouse, which was donated by the late Isabel Tipton. This 1876 doll has a porcelain head and a sawdust-filled body. It likely belonged to Isabel’s great-aunt Sarah Helgesen, one of ten students who attended the first class in the one-room school in 1872.

After some brainstorming, Micah and Deborah planned 22

doll stations, both in the schoolhouse and outside in the native garden. Micah even created a doll depicting Elizabeth Fisher, the first teacher at the Metchosin Schoolhouse. The doll stood on the antique teacher’s desk, ringing a small school bell.

During the week of collection leading up to the Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale, Doll Day took on a life of its own. I was amazed at the number of dolls residents donated to the Kids’ Tent. As I examined each doll, I kept hearing a tiny voice imploring me: *I want to be in Doll Day and join the old dolls in the schoolhouse!* Even a large British pram rolled in one morning, too rusted to qualify for the Silent Auction, but perfectly suited for Doll Day.

These Metchosin-donated dolls and accessories joined the “Eaton’s Beauty” doll (with real hair), which stood next to a 1901 Eaton’s catalog. Both these items belong to the Museum Society’s collection.

Also gracing the exhibit were a wicker doll carriage, a 1928 “Flying Ace” wagon, and a wooden doll bed, all donated by Gretta and Doug Ruth. These artifacts served to display some of the vintage and antique dolls. A teddy bear, wearing a flying ace’s leather cap and goggles, drove the wagon.

Marie Pawluk, another Schoolhouse Museum docent, wrote a short history of dolls, and local graphic artist Stephanie Verheyen transformed Marie’s work into a colourful and informative illustrated poster.



Micah James, with her handmade dolls, all modeling Victorian and Edwardian outfits. B. Sawatsky photo

After much preparation, the big day arrived. In the garden, many dolls from Metchosin residents sat comfortably in our vintage pram, took tea, or played jacks. A colourful group danced around a miniature maypole. In the schoolhouse, visitors stopped in front of the old Witty piano to view five large dolls dressed in Victorian and Edwardian clothing. Micah designed their outfits and sewed most of them by hand. Visitors also enjoyed seeing Micah’s vintage dollhouse, which she inherited from her great-aunt Clara. Micah restored the floors and furnishings in each room to create a typical nineteenth-century farmhouse.

We encouraged visitors to bring their own dolls to Doll

Day – and bring them they did. From pre-teens to nonagenarians, they showed us their dolls, and shared childhood memories; they then told their doll stories to other visitors. It was heartwarming to witness such an effusion of community spirit.

The Museum Society is grateful to Micah James, a bright and academically curious young woman who quietly and selflessly contributes to the Schoolhouse Museum. We hope there may be other young people in Metchosin who are interested in exploring local history and sharing their fresh ideas. We invite you to contact us at the Schoolhouse Museum to volunteer and help with special events like Doll Day.



Liz Beck and Keira Speight on Doll Day at the Schoolhouse Museum  
Serena Beck photo