

Metchosin Muse

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Of Parks and Partnerships

Morgan Yates

For many Metchosinites, the arrival of autumn invites reflection, expressions of gratitude and time for remembrance. This is certainly the case for Metchosin Foundation directors. We've been reflecting on the highlights and challenges of the past eleven months and expressing gratitude for the tremendous support we've received from our members, donors and ally organizations. We've also been remembering board members who have retired and the indelible imprint of rare leaders like the late Moralea Milne.

For the past two and half years, a growing area of focus for us has arisen through our evolving and valuable collaboration with BC Parks Foundation (BCPF). As a local, volunteer-supported charitable organization, we have been able to combine our knowledge of local landscapes and landowners, our directors' and members' volunteer labour and the generosity of local donors with the capacity and experience of BCPF, to create tangible conservation outcomes. To date, BCPF has invested well over \$3 million in Metchosin, acquiring 32 forested acres (the Bilston Headwaters Nature Reserve) notable for

freshwater habitat and 51 forested acres (Hummingbird Hill) notable for migratory bird habitat. These precious parts of Metchosin are now protected for future generations. An added benefit from this conservation work has been the forging of deeper relationships between our community and the Victoria Foundation, the Victoria Natural History Society and Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO).

Given the lofty price tag for local real estate and the desire by all Metchosin taxpayers for fiscal responsibility and restraint in tax increases, we are very grateful to have developed a partnership with BCPF that provides external funding for the expansion of Metchosin's green spaces. Earlier this year, this partnership with the Metchosin Foundation became formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Please visit metchosinfoundation.ca to learn more.

Divided among Metchosin property taxpayers, the cost per average residential property to provide a corresponding tax exemption to BCPF has been \$5.07 per year. Of this amount, just under two dollars per year has been attributable to the District and just over three dollars per year has been

attributed to other regional taxation authorities. In comparison, the value of external capital invested to date by BCPF in Metchosin has been over \$1500 per average taxpaying household. We are proud of this cost/benefit ratio and hope that BCPF may continue to invest here, in years to come.

Our MoA with BCPF provides for collaboration between our local volunteers and their community science team in the ongoing documentation of Metchosin's biodiversity. We've been especially grateful for the dedicated efforts of volunteer Gary Schroyen, who has installed and maintains camera traps on BCPF properties and who is doing an outstanding job of recording and documenting resident and transient large fauna. We're also very pleased to note that the members and volunteers of RPBO, which leases a portion of Hummingbird Hill, are collecting information about migratory and resident bird life and have engaged our colleagues at Habitat Acquisition Trust to begin the process of invasive plant removal.

Perhaps the best way to share some of our 2025 highlights and musings on parks and partnerships is with a few updated photos from the beautiful

lands that have been conserved through our relationship with BC Parks and other ally organizations. Enjoy!



Black Bear sow and cub.
Gary Schroyen photo.



Rufous hummingbird. Rosa Munzer photo



Female Cougar. Gary Schroyen photo.



Fly Agaric Mushroom. Carol Voyt photo.



Forest seasonal pond. Morgan Yates photo.

Metchosin Muse

Email metchosinmuse@gmail.com Web www.metchosinmuse.ca

CO-EDITORS

Allen Jones, 778-265-6385
 Katie Pirquet, 250-478-8843
metchosinmuse@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Al Murray, 250-383-7243
almurray.design@gmail.com

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Ian Taylor

DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATOR

Barrett Fullerton

SECRETARY

Marian Brown

TREASURER

Linda Spiller
amuselinda@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS

c/o L. Spiller
 4741 Lisandra Road
 Victoria, BC V9C 4G1

EVENTS

metchosinmuse@gmail.com

CURRENT CIRCULATION

2700

AD AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

All articles and advertisements are due by the 15th of the month. Please send copy as an email attachment in Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: metchosinmuse@gmail.com. Do not send PDFs (ads excepted). Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or tif format only. 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

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.

Council News

NOVEMBER 2025



Council News (District News) December 2025

The Backpack Project

The District of Metchosin will be participating again in this annual local initiative, which provides backpacks full of necessities and comfort items on Christmas Day and throughout the year, to those who are experiencing homelessness throughout the Greater Victoria Region. Your support helps bring hope and dignity to vulnerable people in our community. Donations of toiletries, ready to eat foods, new or gently used blankets and sleeping bags, hoodies and sweaters, warm socks, scarves, hats and gloves are appreciated. A donation box is inside the front door of the Municipal Hall up to Friday, December 19th.

Public Works

Winter Roads – Priority Roads Service

Ice control and snowplow service is provided on a priority route basis with Happy Valley, Metchosin, William Head, Rocky Point and Kangaroo Roads being top priority. Next are school bus and BC Transit routes, followed by all other roads.

Be Prepared for Winter Roads

Please ensure your vehicle is properly equipped to handle winter weather and Metchosin's hilly and winding roads. All-Season tires lose their pliability and traction at 7 degrees Celsius. In B.C., appropriate tires are defined as those with either the M+S (mud and snow) or mountain/snowflake symbol, in good condition with a minimum tread depth of 3.5 millimetres.

Outstanding Property Taxes to Accrue Interest beginning in January 2026

If you have unpaid 2025 property taxes, please make payment arrangements to avoid interest charges beginning in January 2026. Metchosin offers a property tax monthly payment program and can work with you to arrange payments for outstanding taxes. Claim your Homeowner Grant prior to the end of the year at: gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

Municipal Hall Holiday Closure

The Municipal Hall will be closed for the Holidays from noon Wednesday, December 24th reopening on Friday, January 2, 2026.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM COUNCIL AND STAFF!!

In B.C., appropriate tires are defined as those with either the M+S (mud and snow) or mountain/snowflake symbol, in good condition with a minimum tread depth of 3.5 millimetres.

Please slow down and keep your distance from snow removal or ice control equipment at all times. Snowplows require plenty of room to operate.

During expected snow events residents are reminded to park their vehicles near the bottom of their driveway, not on the road. Snowplows require adequate room to maneuver, so roads and cul-de-sacs with vehicles parked on them may not be able to be plowed. Vehicles parked on roads or paved shoulders hindering plow service are also at risk of being towed.

Driveway shovelling tip: Clear snow to the left side of your driveway (facing in) where it meets the road to minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway when the plows pass.

District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule – December 2025

The 2025 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: www.metchosin.ca>Meetings>Meeting Schedule

*Please see below meeting dates and times for December 2025. 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.

Council Meeting..... December 1

Special Finance Committee – Budget Meeting..... 4:00 – 6:00 pm December 4

Committee of the Whole..... December 8



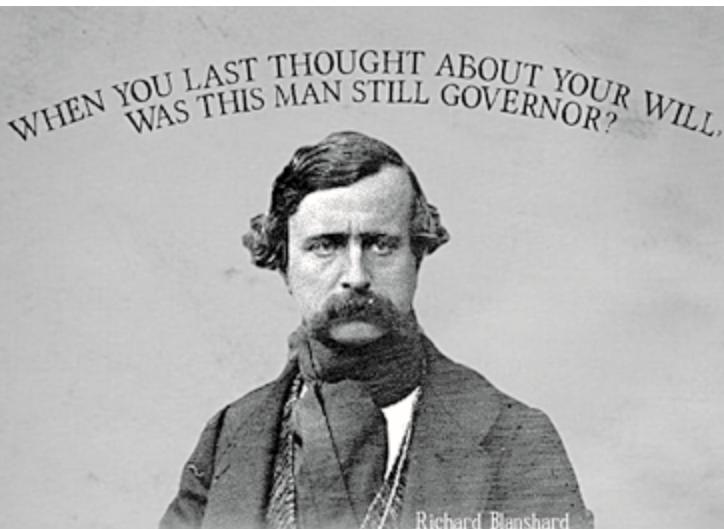
Supporting Environmental Stewardship and Education in our Community

visit us at:
metchosinfoundation.ca

Registered charity

Visit our website!

www.metchosinmuse.ca



Is it time to review your will?

For a free consultation, call

MacIsaac & MacIsaac

250-478-1131

www.macisaaclaw.ca | 2227 Sooke Road, Colwood

Personal Injury / Civil Litigation
 Wills and Estates

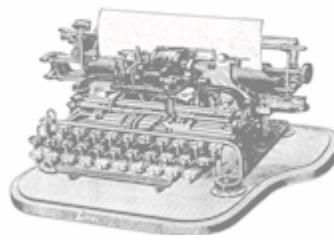
Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Editor's Musings

Katie Pirquet

Ah, the short days of December... I have never been comfortable rising in the dark and having afternoon tea in the dark. I am what botanists call a "long-day plant." I did try a bit of Christmas shopping in October – so much for planning ahead. Thanks to a hardworking garden helper, a few projects were moved forward in recent weeks, but piles of soil, mulch and compost still need attention and the rain has awakened thousands of weed seeds. Legions of huge, glorious, golden maple leaves are mostly on the ground now. The family hound carefully avoids stepping on them for some reason, especially the wet ones. This is the same dog who will hurl herself repeatedly, in all months of the year, straight into any water, fresh or salty, to retrieve sticks and balls. She is a woman of mysteries.



Winter is the season in which I often say to myself, "We can't have a beautiful rainforest, without some rain." Or "At least we can stop worrying about wild-fires for a while." and "Where will I stash all these geraniums where they won't freeze, or die because I forgot to water them?" and "Will I lose the indoors war against scale, ants, mealy bugs, and fungus gnats... again?"

In truth, the holiday season brings relief, with the chance for some good times and rather better-than-usual food. I appreciate the excuse to make many pies, bake family-favorite treats, sip homemade hot chocolate, spoil the grandchildren, sit with friends by the fire and make music that fills the heart with joy.

For the second year in a row, our Galiano Islander son's family will be performing in their local pantomime – "Jack and the Beanstalk"! Last year's "Puss-in-Boots" was everything a rollicking, crazy, occasionally ad-libbed panto should be, and the vigorously

responsive audience-participating crowd was utterly standing room only. (Here in Metchosin, we have a wonderful community hall with a stage...just sayin'.)

Metchosin seems to come even more alive in December, as though our community energy is concentrated somehow by moving indoors with the geraniums. This edition of the *Muse* is full of fundraisers, festivities, a Christmas bird count, opinions, letters, and numerous reasons to gather, create, reflect, get musical, volunteer, and celebrate. At the *Muse*, how we wish for more space to print more local news and assorted features that arrive in our inbox! We are working on that – stay tuned!

The Deadline for January submissions is Dec 13.

Articles and letters for publication should be sent to: metchosinmuse@gmail.com with 'Submission' in the subject line.

Letters to the Editor

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

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of the authors, not of the Muse.

Non-profits surprised by reduced permissive tax exemptions

The November *Muse* contained a front page article, above the fold, entitled, Tax Exemptions for 'Non-Profits' Questioned by Council. In the halcyon years of local journalism, this article might have been balanced by another, located below the fold, entitled, Non-Profits Question Tax Exemptions Reduced by Council.

A more balanced approach to covering this multi-layered subject would have noted that: no actual consultation was undertaken with affected non-profits before the decision

was made by the members of Council to materially reduce permissive tax exemptions; and the District's Sept. 15 Report on this subject included a full analysis of costs to local taxpayers, but no analysis of the corresponding benefits accruing to Metchosin residents. The District's Sept. 15 report attempted to examine the financial capacity of affected agencies, but this analysis was so superficial that it could not support sound decision-making. The bottom line: Volunteer-supported local agencies were left surprised,

disheartened and feeling that their ongoing contributions to our community were assessed as having negligible value.

While the legal deadline for formal tax exemptions for 2026 has passed, Metchosin can and should neutralize the adverse financial impacts of its decision for the nonprofit agencies affected. Unfortunately, restoration of Metchosin's regional reputation for supporting our rural community and environment will take much longer.

Frank Mitchell

Reviewing budgets and promises

While 2022 saw the newly elected councillors take office, the work actually began in 2023. This year saw a long list of upgrades, reviews, new construction, budget increases, vanity projects, and promises. These cost taxpayers a tax rate of over 11% to cover expenditures of \$7,414,375.00 and revenues of \$12,099,900.00 leaving a surplus of over \$4 million. Of these expenditures, \$739,241.01 was allocated to salaries and benefits plus expenses of \$21,796.92 paid to employees making over \$75,000. The Mayor and Council were paid \$101,262.24 for salaries and non-taxable benefits plus expenses of \$27,614.21. The year ended with a *Muse* article written by Mayor Little entitled "A Year of Firsts" in which she reiterated council's commitment

to openness, transparency, and good governance. This followed Mayor Little's commitment in a March *Muse* article promising less of a top down and more collaborative approach to governance. Promises were made for a new fire hall, an agricultural study, a climate action plan, bylaw reviews, monthly meetings with the public and the mayor, controlled in-camera meetings, strategic planning, and the list goes on. Taxpayers should ask themselves what their memories are of 2023 and whether we saw promises kept, money well spent, and good governance.

Kathleen MacPherson

Re: Roadside Stream Identification signs – Bilston Watershed

I'm writing on behalf of the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association (BWHPA) to express our gratitude to the District of Metchosin Council and staff members for their collaboration on roadside stream identification signs in ten locations in Metchosin. The BWHPA provided sign faces and the District supplied

sign poles and bases. A particular thank you to the Metchosin Public Works crew for installing the signs. We've received very positive comments since the signs were installed.

I'd like to add a special acknowledgement of creek champion Kym Hill for initiating the sign program before stepping back from her

position as a BWHPA board member. We are very grateful for the 30+ years of passionate advocacy Kym has devoted to Bilston Watershed and the BWHPA.

Alison LeDuc

Lessons in Small Potatoes (Take 2)

In the April, 2025 edition of the *Metchosin Muse* I submitted a Letter To The Editor titled Small Potatoes, a parable based on how to fit rocks into a jar in order of importance and used Councillor Shukin's remark that the money this council has spent "has been small potatoes." I should have mentioned that the container holding the rocks/potatoes is predetermined and cannot be made larger. Six months and many small potatoes later we find that while some of them were unattended, they were still growing in the jar - one example being the building of the Weir Beach stairs. Originally budgeted at \$15K, the bill came in at \$19K but after only four months the beach end of the stairs fell apart and had to be

rebuilt. The stated bill came in at \$26K (not including District staff or Public Works time) – a whopping 88% over budget. I am still perplexed why taxpayers had to pony up as the original builders seemingly were paid, then waved goodbye. Non-profits that have had their tax exemptions taken away might wonder as well, especially if they read the labels on some of those small potatoes. Fast forward to now and there is one holy-smokes-big hot potato which should perhaps have been put into the jar first considering its size and importance: the Fire Hall rebuild. Wouldn't you think someone would have had the foresight?

Barb Sawatsky

Call-out features (RCMP, Fire Dept.) appreciated

Thank you to all those who are involved in creating the *Metchosin Muse*. I have enjoyed it for many years and hope to continue enjoying it in the future. While many newspapers all over Canada and the US are closing up shop and no longer available in real format (that you can open and read at the breakfast table) the *Muse* has kept going. There are always interesting articles to read in our *Metchosin Muse*. Among those items that catch my attention are the more practical articles, namely the "Fire Department Call-Outs" and the "RCMP Reports of Issues of Concern" informing us locals of issues that may affect our safety. I couldn't help but notice in the latest

Muse - November 2025 that these two items were all but non-existent. There was a tiny little rectangle on page 11 containing a very brief outline of the Fire Department Call-Outs for September! That was it!!! I don't know who provides the information for these two items or who organizes the information into print-ready format but I hope that the reduction of this information isn't due to a lack of person-power. I do hope that the *Muse* isn't phasing these two pieces out. I'm sure there must be other Metchosinites who look forward to seeing these regularly.

Gini Walsh

Editor's note: There is quite a long list of RCMP Calls for October reported in this issue of the Muse. We will continue to publish Fire Dept. and RCMP call-out reports and advisories as and when we have room and our generous, busy contributors can find the time to collate the data for us. The list of September 2025 RCMP call-outs can be found on the Metchosin Muse website: metchosinmuse.ca. Privacy considerations may limit some of the information that can be published.

The Broken Paddle Coffee House

THANK YOU FOR 20 AWESOME YEARS!

4480 Happy Valley Road brokenpaddle.ca

250-474-2999

Tell them you saw it in the Muse!



Your Every Day Farmers' Market!

Fresh Produce, Flowers, Hay, Seeds, Baking & More!

Just down the hill from "Downtown" Metchosin
4569 William Head Road

Open 11-5 on Weekdays • 10-5 on Weekends



CUSTOM HOMES
RENOVATIONS
CARPENTRY
DESIGN
GENERAL CONTRACTING

250-590-2377

TIMBERHAWK@GMAIL.COM



ANGUS STEWART
CHRIS FRANG
METCHOSIN OWNERS

ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED BUILDERS



Local jams and jellies • Glenwood Meat
Galloping Goose sausage • Bakery items
Produce and groceries • Prepared sandwiches
fresh brewed coffee • Toys and gifts • Lottery
Hardware and propane • You need it, we have it!



Monday to Friday - 6:30 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday - 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

VISA, Mastercard, Interac

Local Video: YouTube Channel TonyCanadaLife

Phone: 250-478-2405

Busy JDF Scouts to Host Bottle Drive, Creative Paint Night Fundraisers

Shawna Herlivneaux

I'm reaching out to Muse readers on behalf of the 14th JDF Scouts about two of our upcoming community fundraisers. We will be hosting a bottle drive on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Metchosin Community House. We'd like to encourage residents to consider saving their bottles and cans from the holiday season to support our local Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. Funds raised help make adventures like skill-building activities, camping trips, and special outings (Science World—here

we come!) possible. Our goal is to ensure growth and connection, leaving no Scout behind. We are more than happy to arrange refundable bottle pickups any time between now and January 31. Please email 14thjdf@scouts.ca to schedule a collection.

In other news, a small group of our JDF Scouts will proudly represent our Canadian Scouting community at the 40th Blair Atholl Scottish Jamborette in July 2026. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will allow our youth to connect, learn, and grow alongside

over 1,000 Scouts from around the world. As part of their fundraising efforts, we are hosting an amazing, creative Fundraising Paint Night on Saturday, January 17th, 2026, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Metchosin Community House. Tickets are \$45+tax per person.

Thank you for your continued support of our local youth and for helping us share these opportunities with the community.



Last year's impressive haul of recycled containers.

*Did you know? Past issues to 2013
of the Metchosin Muse are available online.*

CAN DO!

High Quality Colour Printing
Coroplast & Foam Board Signs
Hanging & Stand Up Banners
Wide Format Scan & Email
Building Plans
Laminating
Business Cards
Graphic Design
and SO much more...

Public Fax Service

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:00 am – 5:30 pm

250-478-5533

2811 Jacklin Road
www.westsideinstaprint.ca



HAPPY HOLIDAYS enjoy the gifts of METCHOSIN

The trees,
the trails
and our
beaches!

Councillor Steve Gray

Conversations welcome

Reach me at

SGray@Metchosin.ca

250 478 5066

@metchosinsteve

A Phased Approach to Fire Hall Renewal

Councillor Steve Gray

Metchosin council recently made a major decision to replace our aging 1966 fire hall administration building and the adjoining 1996 apparatus bay in one large \$21-million project with a 2028 completion date.

Few dispute that the 1966 cinderblock administration building has reached the end of its useful life. It is outdated, inefficient, and past the point of practical repair. Replacing it is a necessity. But including the much newer 1996 apparatus bay in a single rebuild, at great expense, deserves a closer look.

From my vantage point, these two structures are not comparable in either their current condition or urgency for replacement. The 1966 building is failing. The 1996 bay is not. While not built to today's seismic standards, it still has an estimated 45 years of useful life. It may not meet the latest design or size guidelines, but that hardly makes it obsolete.

Given these facts, a phased approach to renewing the fire hall would make sense — financially, practically, and environmentally.

Phase One would entail immediately replacing the administration building and enlarging it with a full second storey. The District currently holds enough in reserves to do so — without borrowing a dime.

Relocating some programs from the apparatus bay to a new and twenty percent larger administrative building would address a number of deficiencies of the apparatus bay as would a new, on-site storage garage for the Fire Department's trailers and all terrain vehicle.

Once the new administration building is complete, attention can turn to upgrading the existing 1996 apparatus bay - Phase Two.

This separate, sequential phasing would allow for more in-depth technical analysis and more ample community input, on what overall will be the largest capital project ever undertaken by the District.

Currently available engineering and cost estimates (Class D) require considerable further refinement. Design decisions, community input and planning for temporary facilities can be advanced well before future grant applications.

A phased renewal plan allows us to act responsibly in order address immediate safety and operational needs now while planning and funding further upgrades over time. It avoids debt, reduces risk, and ensures every dollar delivers real value to the community.

The currently approved \$21-million proposal would build an entirely new fire hall twice the size of the current one, relying on a minimum \$7 million

in borrowing and hopes of being awarded a \$7 million federal/provincial grant that was established for large-in-scale, regional in scope or innovative projects.

We are a small rural community. Our population is stable, and no appreciable increase in service demand level is expected. Replacing a relatively sound 1996 building simply because it isn't brand new is not prudent financial management.

The resulting \$7 million debt is expected to increase municipal property taxes by 16 to 38 percent. Cost overruns that could reasonably be expected with a major project that is not yet well defined could increase these figures. This will cause financial stress for many, including young families, and make "aging in place" less feasible for others.

Good governance means spending where the need is real — not where the drawings look impressive. Proceeding with a full, all-at-once rebuild, when a phased-in, lower-risk option exists, is to risk burdening local taxpayers unnecessarily.

The concerns summarized here are not intended to oppose progress; they are intended to help our community "get it right". We owe it to residents and our fire fighters to explore a practical, affordable, and phased approach — one that meets our community's real needs without unnecessary debt or risk.

Permissive Tax Exemptions - 2026

Mayor Marie-Thérèse Little

Questions and concerns regarding permissive tax exemptions for non-profit societies at the District of Metchosin were first raised at the September 11, 2023 Council meeting. Two years later, the discussion of permissive tax exemptions has continued. Discussions for the 2026 tax year began again in June 2025 with a report from the District's Chief Financial Officer. Talk of permissive tax exemptions came up again at another open meeting on July 14 and there were no concerns raised during the discussions. On September 15 the discussion was brought back to Council. Before the item was introduced, two councillors declared conflicts of interests and recused themselves from the entire discussion. Thus, there has been plenty of discussion at the District of Metchosin about permissive tax exemptions for next year, as they relate to seven specific non-profit groups.

The District of Metchosin Council has voted to provide financial support to these groups. We are doing this by providing a grant for the municipal portion of their 2026 property taxes. It's estimated

that this commitment will see the District providing over \$97,000 in tax relief.

Comments have been made that the grant is not yet a commitment, and that it may be considered later, and may or may not be passed. In fact, Council has made the commitment. At its September 15 meeting, Council passed two resolutions:

1) THAT Council will direct staff to provide a grant for the District portion of 2026 property taxes for the properties approved by Council.

2) THAT Council will direct staff to provide tax exemption grants for the following approved applicants: BC Parks Foundation; BC SPCA; Victoria Humane Society; Anglican Church; YMCA, Camp Thunderbird Society; Metchosin Hall Society; and Victoria Motorcycle Club.

This is a change from the previous approach taken with permissive tax exemptions. The District is now covering only the Municipal portion of the tax and is not covering the non-municipal amounts which will appear on everyone's property tax bill in June 2026. The non-municipal portion includes the charges for school taxes, the library, West Shore Parks and Recreation, the CRD, BC Transit, and the regional

hospital levy. For all seven non-profit groups, these charges are estimated to be \$92,500 for 2026.

In 2025, when both amounts (municipal and non-municipal) were covered by the District's permissive tax exemptions, the total amount of tax relief provided was \$176,980. Both portions for 2026 would be greater than \$190,000. It's important to remember that this amount is paid for by the rest of Metchosin's taxpayers.

Comments have been made that this is a relatively small amount when divided up between all taxpayers. Unfortunately, the costs incurred by local governments are cumulative and made up of many small amounts, and some not-so-small amounts.

As an example, a new expenditure in Metchosin for 2026 comes from the provincial government's recent download of the emergency 911 phone service to Metchosin (and other South Island communities) amounting to \$158,000. Note that \$30,000 in new costs represents about a 1% tax increase in Metchosin.

Again, please note that Council has voted to support these non-profit organizations and the District will be covering over \$97,000 for the municipal portion of property taxes for seven non-profit groups.

The Way To Clean

Residential Cleaning Service
Serving Metchosin and the Westshore
Custom service by our friendly professional team
Connect with us and let's get it done!

250-880-2911

info@thewaytoclean.ca
thewaytoclean.ca

(We Are the way to clean!)

Bella Yoga Studio

Yoga in the Neighbourhood - Duke Rd W.

Yoga For All! Hatha Yoga! All Levels

Curvy Yoga* Ayurveda*
Yogalites* Workshops
Beginners Yoga & All Levels Welcome
Beautiful - Fun - Safe - Peaceful - Explore
Wellness - Enjoy - Release - Love

Beginners Yoga! All Levels
Mindful Moments - Come Explore
Hatha Yoga - & Move your body!



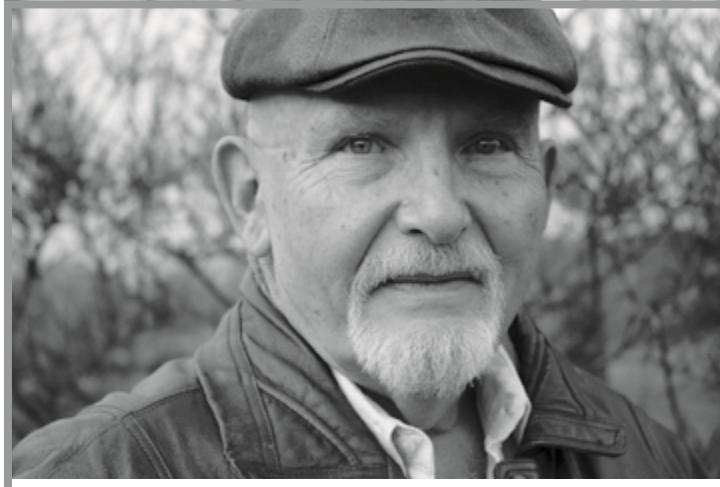
www.Bellayoga.ca
Georgia 250-391-0497 • Email georgia@bellayoga.ca

Be Bear and Cougar smart!
Ensure attractants are out of reach.

Warm wishes for a joyful holiday season and a bright new year rooted in kindness, connection, and the strength of community.



Councillor Shelly Donaldson · sdonaldson@metchosin.ca



Gary (at 66) at his Metchosin home.



Gary (at 66) with Pamela.

A Celebration of Life will take place in spring 2026. In preparation for this event, the family is collecting stories, reflections, and photographs from his friends, colleagues, and past students — please send yours to: memories@thisfleeting.world

To be notified of the Celebration of Life, please email this same address to ask to be placed on our contact list.

In loving memory of

Gary Glenn Miller

Dr Gary Glenn Miller, mathematician and theoretical physicist, passed away of natural causes on October 16th, 2025, at the age of 84. He was at his home in Metchosin, in the presence of his caring wife, Pamela Joy.

Born in 1941 in Kansas City, Missouri, his early life was inspired by all of the sciences, particularly astronomy. In university, he focused on mathematics, but maintained interests across multiple subjects, including visual art (where he was recognized for talent in oil painting). In 1968, he completed a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. That same year, he moved to Canada, where he taught Mathematics at the University of Victoria for 38 years, until his retirement in 2006.

He settled in Metchosin in 1977 and, with his first wife, Betty, raised two children there: Emrys Damon and Cassandra. He often referred to Metchosin as one of the most beautiful places on the planet. In the 1980s, Gary invented and built some unusual satellite television dishes, which became a recognizable part of the Metchosin landscape along Taylor Road. He inspired his children and grandchildren to feel awe at the smallest and largest mysteries of nature, from chasing

single-celled organisms within Devonian Park's pond water through a microscope, to witnessing an eclipse with his solar telescope beside the fields of grazing sheep.

Gary and Pamela were married in 1999 and have shared this home for 26 years — where they watched and discussed the night sky and cared gently for many creatures together.

Combining mathematics, physics, philosophy, world mythologies, and religions, Gary spent his life in pursuit of profound truths. He had a way of explaining complex topics in simple words, with a characteristic sense of wonder. Greatly admired for his brilliant mind, he was also consistently kind and gentle. He was known for having time for everyone, as he shared his love of scientific inquiry with so many students and friends each year.

Gary is survived by Pamela Joy, his brother Ronnie (Kathy), children Emrys (Lesley) and Cassandra, and grandchildren Astrid and Sofia. He will be sorely missed.

The family would like to thank the many people at the Metchosin Fire Department who helped Gary over the last year, as well as the volunteers at the Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre.

The Heart of Metchosin: The Gift of Giving

Councillor Shelly Donaldson

As the holiday season approaches, communities everywhere feel a renewed sense of generosity — neighbours lending a hand, families supporting local causes, and volunteers offering their time to bring comfort and connection. Around the world, this time of year inspires kindness, when compassion and goodwill become especially visible.

In Metchosin, that spirit of service doesn't begin or end with the holidays — it is a year-round way of life. Volunteerism here is woven into the rhythm of our rural community. It lives in the everyday moments when residents quietly share their time, tools, and talents to strengthen the place we call home, ensuring that its beauty, heritage, and wellbeing endure through every season.

Each week, volunteers make contributions both large and small. They support children and youth through fundraisers, sports programs, and hands-on

service projects. They help neighbours, tend shared spaces, and make our outdoor areas safer and more accessible by caring for trails, parks, beaches, and natural pathways.

Many others dedicate themselves to preserving our local heritage and maintaining cherished community spaces — nurturing gardens, stewarding historical sites, safeguarding community stories, and taking on the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep our gathering places welcoming and vibrant.

Across the district, volunteers quietly shoulder the ongoing upkeep of public spaces. From buildings to trails to recreational amenities, their efforts ensure these places remain safe, inviting, and thoughtfully cared for. Much of this work happens without fanfare, but its impact is felt by everyone who lives, visits, or participates in community life.

Seasonal and cultural events also depend on this same dedication. Harvest celebrations, holiday gatherings, agricultural forums, and long-standing local traditions all come to life because volunteers plan,

prepare, bake, plant, lift, set up, and work shoulder-to-shoulder. These shared efforts reflect the rural character and genuine community pride that define Metchosin.

As the holidays draw near, we are reminded that giving — in all its forms — is itself a gift. The warmth of helping others — of seeing joy reflected in another's eyes — brings a deeper fulfilment than anything wrapped or purchased. For many in Metchosin, that feeling isn't seasonal; it is part of who we are. The richness of giving oneself is, in truth, the return of joy to the giver.

In every corner of our community, volunteers quietly power the strength and resilience of Metchosin. To each of you who gives your time, heart, and helping hands — thank you. You are the spirit of this place, reminding us that the greatest gift we can offer is ourselves.

Good Grief & Loss -

An Uphill Struggle Through the Holidays

Marianne Ostropovich

The loneliness of grief and loss can be crippling, and for many, any holiday reminder makes processing the grief and loss journey that much harder. It is really good to be able to share our grief with like-minded people by coming together with others experiencing short- and long-term grief. Sharing with other people who are going through incredibly challenging times makes carrying the load so much easier.

Good Grief is a group that was created by local residents who saw a need for people in their own communities. Participants can access others when they have a need to be heard and supported while being easily understood because of shared experiences. This group has offers tips and information about how to navigate all the paperwork and business that follows when a person dies, or how to dig more deeply into losses that continue to need attention.

For many of us the holidays emphasize our grief and make our losses glaring. Regardless of the anniversaries of our losses, Christmas and other holidays,

there are actions and strategies we can take to help alleviate suffering.

Good Grief wants you to know that whether one is facing difficulty with approaching holidays that or everyday struggles with grief and loss, you are welcome to this peer grief and loss support group.

Contact: Marianne 250-896-5179

Dates: We meet on the first Monday of the month

Time: 10:00 to 11:30 am

Location: 4495 Happy Valley Road - Senior Resource Center in the Arts and Cultural Building

Awards Pile Up at Mile Zero Brewing

K.T. Pirquet

It's been three years of long days, hard work and rewards for Metchosin's "nanobrewery" in the old Metchosin Elementary School. Mike and Michelle Morgan's small-batch and meticulous brewing has attracted three national and two BC provincial awards for several of their English and European-style beers, along with, as Mike says, "a smattering of fun."

As well as Lager, an Extra Special Bitter (ESB), an India Pale Ale (IPA), a Czech Pilsener, and a Porter, they offer a unique Spruce Tip Pale Ale and numerous other varieties. He also brews an Irish Red Ale called "5th Regimental Red." It's the official beer of the local army regiment quartered at Victoria's Bay Street Armory - the 5th BC Field Artillery Regiment. Mile Zero custom brews batches of this unique beer just for them.

Awards pile up

In 2024, Mile Zero Brewing won a Silver for their Spruce Tip Pale Ale, described by Mike as "a pale ale with a healthy dosage of fresh, local, fresh-picked spruce tips." The judges found all of its flavours of malt, resins and hops to be well balanced.

That year they also took home a Bronze for their ESB. The judges felt it came very close to a true, traditional ESB. During the same competition, their Baltic-style Porter was awarded a Bronze for its warm, rich character and nice balance of malt roast, dark chocolate and dark, dried-fruit flavours. At the BC Beer Awards that Porter brought home a Silver

in 2024, and a Bronze in 2025. Not bad for a young nanobrewery in an old school!

Tapping it right

Six of the 13 taps in Mile Zero's bar are Lukr taps, designed and manufactured in Czechia. In order to become certified to use them, Mike and Michelle travelled to the Lukr factory in Pilsen and completed a rigorous 3-day course with a written test and a practical exam that saw them pouring perfect pints for an hour straight in a very busy pub in Pilsen. The couple are now the only certified Lukr tapsters in BC. Apparently, the pour really does affect the flavours, as verified in trials where tasters were asked to evaluate a selection of beers and to choose the best ones. All the samples were the same beer; the pouring does, indeed, matter.

Local, small and slow

Mike is determined to produce his beer with local ingredients, and to brew small 140-litre batches to ensure a fresh product. "Eighty percent of all our beer is made from local grain," he says, "Most of the base malts - wheat and barley - come from the Saanich Peninsula's Field Five Farms." Berries, plums, crabapples and spruce tips all hail from Metchosin, in keeping with Mike's aim to "source ingredients from as close to the brewery as possible."

Keeping it local also involves being a sponsor in the community. Mike and Michelle support local lacrosse players. They encourage families to join the

neighbours at the pub, which has a licence that permits minors to attend. "We get a lot of families," says Michelle. "Our youngest visitor was 6 days old!"

Entertainments and celebrations

Every other Tuesday evening from 6 to 8 pm, local musician Helen Davies leads a sing-along and jam, where they encourage short performances by local music lovers young and old, welcome singers and players to sit in, and encourage requests for favorite tunes from many eras and genres. The Morgans are expanding the music program to include Friday evening performances by local musicians and groups. They hold Craft Nights on the last Thursday of the month, and plan ticketed food events like "Hide and Seek", starting December 10th. On the first Friday of every month, there's also a performance by Sharie and Tim's duo, "Rewind".

Michelle and Mike enjoy hosting wedding receptions, engagements, retirement celebrations, anniversaries, birthdays - any excuse for a gathering of good company. The brewery has attracted lots of regulars; about 95% of the business remains local trade, just the way Michelle and Mike love it. From a notion in 2018 to the opening of Mile Zero Brewing in December of 2022, and on to award-winning brews and a welcoming gathering place in the community, Mike and Michelle have put down some deep, solid roots and made a dream come true.



National and provincial awards for their porter. Michael Morgan photo.



Owners Michelle and Michael Morgan at the Canada Beer Cup awards. Unknown photo.

Got something to say?
Write an article for the
Muse!
Contact us at:
metchosinmuse@gmail.com



Got something to say?
Write an article for the
Muse!

Contact us at:

metchosinmuse@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL CLEANING TEAM YOU CAN TRUST

Reliable home & office cleaning across Metchosin & Westshore

- Recurring & one-time cleans
- Move-outs & deep cleans
- Insured • Family-owned • Trusted by locals

Get 10% OFF your first cleaning!

Scan to get your free quote

(778)402-2022

www.sparkling-sisters-cleaning.com

CELLO LESSONS

SILVINA SAMUEL - TEACHER

Learn from a passionate and dedicated teacher. Offering engaging and personalized cello lessons for all ages and levels.

Studio located in the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Center 4495 Happy Valley Rd.

BELLA CELLO STUDIO

silvina@silvinasamuel.com
silvinasamuel.com

Ayurvedic Head Massage The Gift of Deep Relaxation



- Reset your nervous system
- Restore balance
- Relieve tension

Royal Bay



Book online: getoutofyourhead.ca | 250-667-1323

NUMA FARMS NURSERY

Hedging & Special Orders

OPEN 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Tues to Sat
Closed Sundays, Mondays and most Statutory Holidays
3459 Luxton Road, Langford
250-474-6005 or Email numafarms@shaw.ca

Remembrance Day Cenotaph Speech,

November 11, 2025

Katie Pirquet

Editor's note: This speech was written and delivered during Remembrance Day ceremonies by Pearson College student Giovanni Ponte, who hails from the UK/Scotland/Italy. A true citizen of the world, he has a clear-eyed perspective on the complex interplay of valuable acts of sacrifice and service, and their often high cost in misery and loss. Service in wartime – anytime – does echo through generations. He reminds us that remembrance, gratitude, service and compassion bring healing and the blessings of Peace, and sometimes sacrifice make that possible.

"On this Remembrance Day, let us open ourselves to the value and cost of service to others.

If you can, go inside the historic St. Mary's church – it is open today until 5 p.m.

Look at the WW1 plaques on the back wall. Consider how many from this small community served. Some died, all were wounded, in

some combination of physically, emotionally or spiritually. The ripple of war spread across their families and friends, and wounded them also. WW1, WW2, Korea, peace-keeping, Afghanistan...

But the freedom and the good that sacrifice brought also rippled across the society, and through time to us today, and our children and grandchildren tomorrow.

If events call us, are we ready to come forward? Have we strengthened our resilience? Broadened our compassion? For we are all called to serve in many ways, and to love even those who call us enemies. Blessed are the peacemakers.

Give thanks to those who served in the past, who serve today, and who may be called to serve in the future."



Tom Henry officiates at the Cenotaph service on Nov 11.
B.Sawatsky photo.



Pearson College student Giovanni Ponte delivers Cenotaph speech to a reverent crowd.
RCMP photo



Pipers Mairi MacKinnon, Ruari McLellan and James MacKinnon lead the parade to the Cenotaph.
B.Sawatsky photo.



JDF Scout, Callan Corbett reads 'In Flanders Field' at Metchosin Remembrance Day service. RCMP photo

In Flanders Fields John McCrae, 1915

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Let There Be Light

By Diana Smith

Spring has arrived early at ArtPod. For the last few weeks it has been out with the old and in with the new. That grubby old folding table covered with the cheap black tablecloth masquerading as a sales desk? Gone. The large dark IKEA storage unit that a member didn't need anymore (i.e. was desperately trying to get rid of) that could be sort-of used for a small artwork display? Exiled out-of-sight to the kitchen.

The gallery has had a makeover. We now have a sleek white sales desk and our messy (in retrospect) dark alcove has been transformed into a gallery-within-a-gallery for solo shows or, like now, smaller artworks appropriate to the season. The whole space is lit up by an array of new bulbs that all match in shape and colour and shine the same kind light on the artwork below. Some of us, maybe even you, didn't notice the mismatched lights or even mind the ancient CD player used to add background music to the space. (It was scooped up from the street, for free, years ago. What's wrong with that? Eh?) Others, thankfully, did notice and did mind.

This transformation is aided by a critical mass, three it turns out, of new and existing members who have certifiable OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) and, not incidentally, a Cricut machine (label-maker, to the uninitiated). Ask to see inside our drawers. Please. We will not be embarrassed to show you. Proud even. There is a place for everything (that has survived the purge) and it is labelled and if other members dare put as much as a paperclip out of order – there will be blood!

The changes are partly thanks to a grant from the West Shore Arts Council. And, at the risk of giving ammunition to those who are not supportive, some even vociferous, of tax-payer money going to the arts for the community, it is also thanks to the on-going, subsidized rent we receive from our 'landlord' aka: the District of Metchosin. It is also due to the hours and hours and hours of volunteer time from members and their (mostly) uncomplaining partners that keep this little non-profit not just existing but thriving.

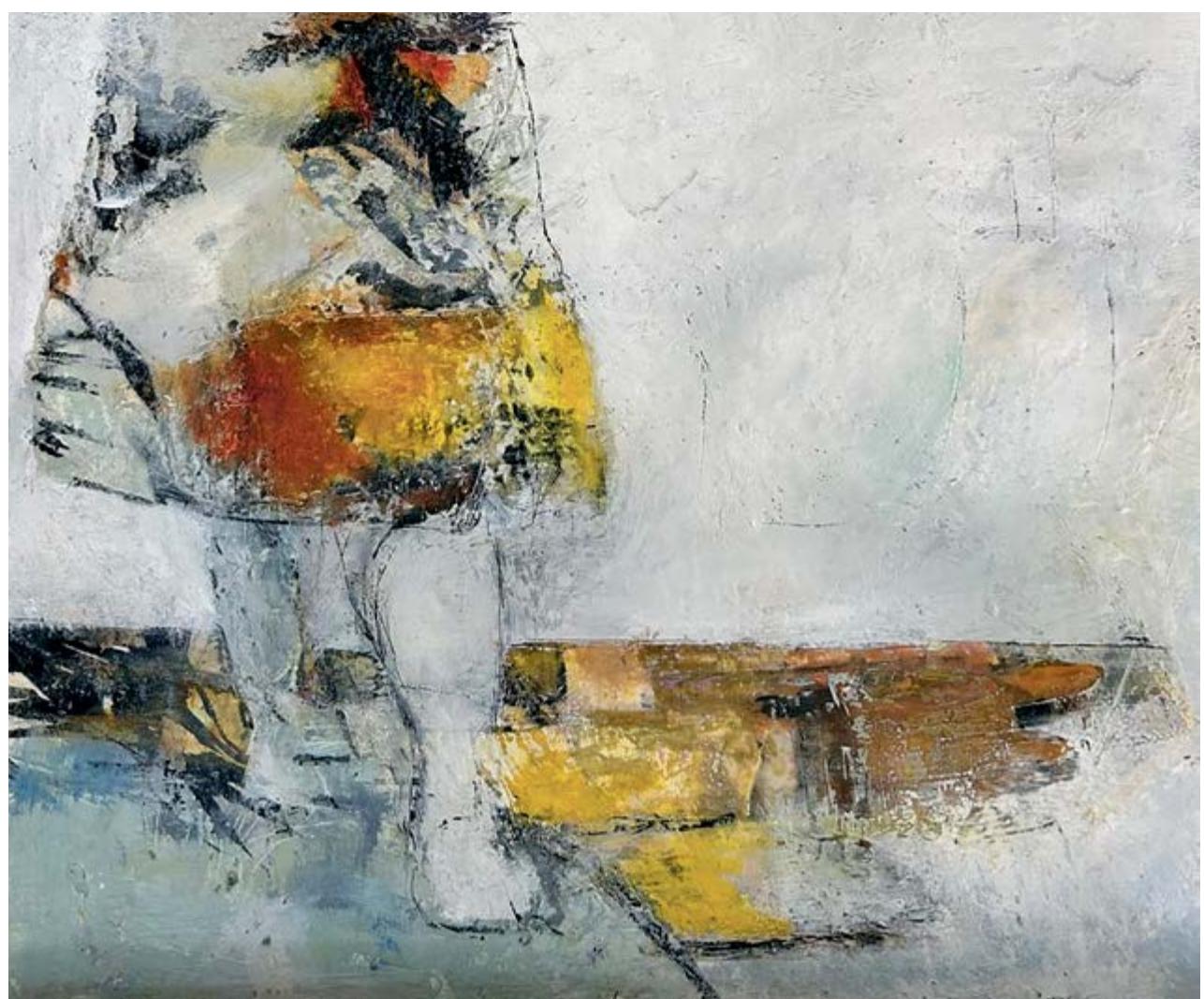
This is all for art. This month continues the WHIElight show interpreted, as usual, both metaphorically and conceptually as well as literally. There is something for a wide range of tastes. One of my favourites was also a favourite of the juror, Kevin Keliher: "Half life" by local artist Mary Wulff, a piece (pictured) inspired by a virtual reality meditation program. Another favourite is WHITE (LIGHT) by East Sooke resident Dyan Marie. Her fabric-based artwork is large, eight by four feet, and her ideas are larger. In it she 'explores white as paradox, a surface that both veils and reveals, a presence complicated by the shadows it gathers...' Some, I fear, will dismiss

this as 'artspeak,' but those who are open to its meaning and, moreover, who take some time to contemplate the artwork, will be rewarded.

Speaking of being open, ArtPod is offering a half-day workshop exploring the potential of digital imagery in art. Kevin Keliher will facilitate "Playing Abstractly: analogue sketch to digital montage" on Saturday, December 6, 12:30 to 4 pm in the Event Room, upstairs from ArtPod. The workshop is an invitation to 'expand your creative self-expression through hands-on exercises and create your own, unique digital images. Learn the basics of two helpful and free image-processing apps. The workshop is designed to build confidence in working with digital media.'

ArtPod has already planned a stimulating range of themes for our 2026 lineup of shows that are on our website for you to view, and better yet, get you creating. The call-for-submissions for our first show of the year is open December 5 to January 16. Called Threads: Weaving Narratives, we are not only looking for artwork that uses all manner of fabric and threads but also artwork that will interpret the theme conceptually and metaphorically, whether made with sheep's wool, oil paint, recycled bottle caps or practically anything.

Details for all events and on-going art opportunities are at metchosinartpod.ca.



"Half life" by Mary Wulff is light distilled, pared down, pressed forward, or allowed to drift before form takes shape. Yet white is not neutral. Beyond its optical brilliance and connotations of presumed purity or sterility, the word also carries layers of history, race, and expectation. Its meanings shift continuously—as does this work—shaped by perspective and experience, refracted like the light we encounter.



Firefighters in formation at the Cenotaph listen and watch the Remembrance Day service.
RCMP photo.



Mayor Marie-Térèse Little with officers in scarlet. RCMP photo.



The Maple Leaf flying high on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11 and every day, Lest We Forget.
RCMP photo.



RCMP guard at the Cenotaph on Nov. 11. RCMP photo.

Trials and Triumph at Vancouver Abu Dhabi Combat Club (ADCC) World Federation Open

Greg Walters

This year, I had the opportunity to compete at the Vancouver ADCC Open, and it was an experience that tested both preparation and perseverance. Five weeks out, I decided to enter the tournament and began ramping up my training carefully. I am well aware that years on the mats can add up, so a gradual increase in intensity was essential.

Things did not start off the way I hoped. A lingering chest infection was making training difficult, and inflammation in my shoulder and elbow added extra challenges. Still, I remained focused and pushed through, doing my best to stay on track while managing the discomfort.

Two weeks before the tournament, a freak accident in training resulted in a broken nose—badly shifted and in urgent need of attention. Despite frequent concerns about the healthcare system, I was fortunate to receive corrective surgery the next day. It was not ideal timing, but at least the repair was successful. My training adjusted instantly: to avoid pressure on my face, we removed wrestling entirely and switched to a leg-lock based approach.

The bracket I entered was one of the largest forty-plus advanced divisions I have come across, with a potential matchup against a former UFC fighter. With a repaired nose in mind, protecting my head was a priority. Fortunately, I weighed in smoothly both the evening before and the morning of competition.

Everything seemed set, though I was acutely aware that any pressure on my face could force a quick tap.

As the division began, luck swung unexpectedly in my favour. My first opponent did not appear, sending me directly into the finals. I had time to observe the remaining competitor's previous match and saw that he preferred to pull guard and attack from entangled leg positions. This was the exact scenario we had trained for in the final two weeks.

When the match began, a short sequence of leg pummelling led to a clean entry from fifty-fifty guard. From there, I secured an inside heel hook and earned the tap. Just like that, I became the advanced champion in the forty-plus seventy-six kilogram division, at my first tournament as a black belt.

Looking back, life offered every excuse to withdraw. Injuries, uncertainty, and doubt from both myself and others were constant companions during the lead-up to the tournament. However, I chose to show up anyway. That, more than anything, was the personal victory.

Competing in events like these is more than chasing medals. It is about demonstrating resilience, embracing growth, and showing younger athletes that adversity does not have to stop us. In Metchosin, I teach both children and adults at South Island BJJ, located at 4495 Happy Valley Road. Our focus is on having fun while learning authentic Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and building skills that carry far beyond the mats.

For anyone interested in learning, training, or simply exploring a new challenge, our community doors are open. Whether you have competition goals or just want to get active, jiu jitsu offers something meaningful for everyone. If the Vancouver ADCC Open taught me anything this year, it is that showing up matters—and the journey is worth it.



ADCC Open winner Greg Walters (centre), victorious - and in one piece.

Another successful Vaccination Clinic!

Deirdre Chettleburgh

Many thanks to Metchosin pharmacist, Shaddi Geris, who efficiently administered a total of 352 vaccinations (flu and COVID-19) to Metchosin residents on Saturday, November 1. Seventy-five percent of the

people who came and rolled up their sleeves were 65 years and older. The Clinic is an annual initiative of the Metchosin Fire Department, supported by the Emergency Operations Centre, the Metchosin Seniors' Association and many volunteers. We all look forward to seeing you again next year!

Editor's note: Our local pharmacist, Shaddi, has continued protecting Metchosin residents with flu and COVID vaccinations during his open hours at the pharmacy. So far, he has administered 4000 doses of flu and COVID vaccines. In BC, COVID and Flu vaccination is free to all individuals who are at least 6 months old.

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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

December 2025

POV Hallway Gallery Featured Artists
Kim McGuckie & Rob Owen

Not your Grandma's doilies

**The Very Merry
MAKERS MARKET**

Unique, local, out-of-hand items for gifting or for KEEPING!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2025 10AM - 4PM

4495 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD

This free market features a curated selection of local makers and artisans, food, and the Hug-a-Tree and Survive program for children 5 and up (shopping with adults is stressful), photo booth for Xmas pics, country tea in china cups

Follow us on Facebook today @MetchosinArts

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

FRONTRUNNERS

**DO YOUR SHOES FIT
PROPERLY?**

TRANS-CANADA HWY
GOLDSTREAM AVE
VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY
123-755 Goldstream Rd.

Stop by for a FREE shoe fitting with a Fit Expert at Frontrunners Langford in Goldstream Village.

www.frontrunners.ca

Metchosin Needs Diverse and Healthy Ecosystems

Robert Prescott-Allen

Diverse and healthy natural and agricultural ecosystems are vital for our economy, health, and wellbeing. As more and more of the region's ecosystems are converted to buildings and infrastructure, Metchosin's ecosystems are assuming an increasingly important role as the lungs of Victoria. The Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) should include explicit commitments to regenerating and maintaining them.

Since Christine and I moved to Metchosin in March 1983, we've witnessed a slow but relentless decline in the health and diversity of the District's ecosystems. Red-flowering currant, gummy gooseberry, fairyslipper orchid, red columbine, Menzies' larkspur, and red paintbrush have disappeared from our neck of the woods. Populations of camas, chocolate lily, spring-bank clover, and other plants that once were First Nations' staples are shrinking. Scotch broom, gorse, daphne, tansy ragwort, European grasses, and other invasive species are

suffocating habitats. Climate disruption is dessicating the land.

At the same time, the unreliability and rising financial and ecological costs of imports have brought home the critical need for the Province and Metchosin to produce more of our food. Our natural and agricultural food-producing ecosystems are more precious than ever.

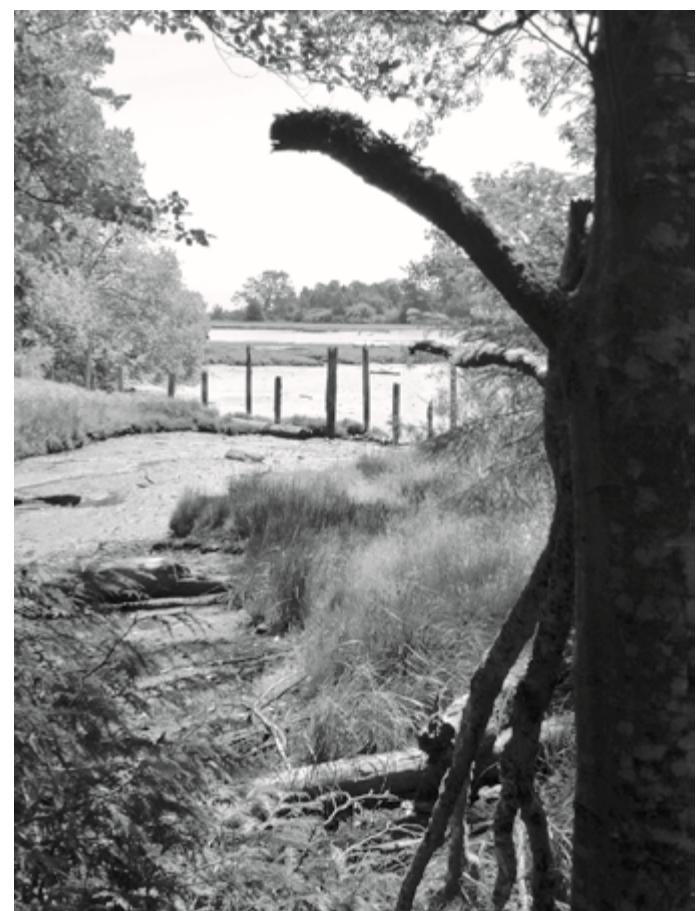
The proposed changes to the OCP and LUB are rife with phrases like "consistent with Metchosin's rural character" and "consistent with maintaining a rural community". These are much too vague and weak to ensure that the new housing provisions won't reduce ecosystem health and diversity even more.

The OCP should have two new objectives. First, new Objective 2.2.1: "To regenerate and maintain diverse and healthy natural ecosystems." This recognizes that our natural ecosystems have lost and are still losing much of their health and diversity. Consequently, we must go far beyond maintaining the status quo. The new objective replaces existing Objective

2.2.1 ("To base land use decisions on the capability of the land to support various types, scales and intensities of use"), which can be interpreted in so many conflicting ways as to be worthless.

Second, new Objective 3.2.1: "To regenerate and maintain diverse and healthy agricultural ecosystems." This is stronger and more specific than existing Objective 3.2.1 ("To recognize and reinforce the agricultural character of Metchosin"), which it replaces.

In addition, I will be formally proposing eight revised, more rigorous Residential Objectives to Metchosin Council as they work on the OCP and LUB. These changes to the OCP would safeguard Metchosin's natural and agricultural ecosystems against potential detrimental impacts of the new housing provisions. They could also point the way to the adoption of targets and incentives for the regeneration and maintenance of diverse and healthy natural and agricultural ecosystems. Let's start restoring Metchosin's original beauty.



Metchosin's Witty's Lagoon demonstrates the richness and beauty of a highly diverse environment, including marine, sand dune, intertidal flats, small islands, brackish lagoon, rainforest, Garry Oak meadow, freshwater streams, a waterfall, and a huge variety of plant and animal species living in a relatively small area. A real treasure. K.Pirquet photo



Please note that the deadline for the January issue is December 13.

Discover Fitness in Metchosin!

West Shore Parks & Recreation

West Shore Parks & Recreation Fitness Programs is bringing fitness classes to the Metchosin community! With a wide variety of classes to choose from, there's something for everyone—whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, or simply stay active. Classes will take place in the Metchosin Community Centre in the Old Metchosin Elementary School.

All programs are led by our certified, professional, and energetic instructors, ensuring a safe, fun, and motivating experience. Please visit www.wspr.ca or call 250-474-8384 for more information and to register.



**WEST
SHORE
PARKS &
RECREATION**

Local voices.
Local hearts.

Your stories
shape our pages.

WESTSHORE JEWELRY

The Largest Selection of
Jewelry on Vancouver Island
Quality Vintage Jewelry

**FREE
APPRaisALS**



730 Goldstream Ave
778-406-0606

Established 2013
www.westshorejewelry.ca

**It's
Happy
Hour!**

2PM - 5PM

&

7PM - 8PM

Monday to Friday

**FOOD
BEER
WINE**

MY - CHOSEN
CAFE

SINCE 1987

ORIGINAL POUTINE	\$8.99
CAULIFLOWER BITES	\$11.99
YAM FRIES	\$7.99
HOUSE SALAD	\$11.99
CAESAR SALAD	\$11.99
BEEF DIP	\$15.99
BLT	\$14.99
MUSHROOM JACK BURGER	\$17.99
CHEESECAKE	\$7.25
ALL HOYNE DRAUGHT 16OZ	\$5.50
HOUSE RED OR HOUSE WHITE 6OZ	\$6.00

4492 Happy Valley Rd, Metchosin • 250-474-2333

Remembering Murray Sinclair, Indigenous Leader & Teacher

Metchosin Learning Group

Murray Sinclair, Indigenous leader and teacher, died a year ago, leaving the work of achieving truth and reconciliation for others to carry on.

The Metchosin Learning Group is inviting the community to remember and honour this remarkable man. On Monday, December 8, at the Metchosin Community House, 7:00-8:30pm, we will screen excerpts

of a film honouring his life and work and share readings of his inspiring words.

Please join us for an evening of reflection on how we as individuals and as a community can participate

in the reconciliation work that Murray Sinclair helped Canada identify.

January Friday Film Night: “TWELVE” (2008)

Samuel Perez

If you could go back and speak to your 12-year-old self, what would you say?

Through this 43 minute documentary, “TWELVE”, Philippine-born filmmaker Lester Alfonso attempts to answer this question by interviewing twelve

diverse immigrant subjects, each of whom, like himself, moved to Canada at age 12.

Sam Perez, Economics teacher at Pearson College, and some Pearson students will engage the audience in a discussion afterward.

This gives viewers a chance to meet and exchange reactions, thoughts, stories and observations – a rewarding community event!

Date: Friday January 30

Time: 7pm

Film length: 43 minutes

Metchosin Community House

Admission free (donations welcomed)

Popcorn included!

Westmont Poetry

Elise Bell

At Westmont Montessori, the Wolf class community has been experiencing, writing, and learning about the art of poetry. An ancient form of art, starting back from as early as 3400 BCE, poetry still has a prominent role in writing today.

For the Wolf class, (Grades 7-8) we focused on learning line breaks, how poetry is structured, and how each poem has meaning and power. Additionally, we studied how writing relates back to the author's life, their perspective of our world, or even just their interests and hobbies. Even if they are just words on a page, every

poem gives a small window into the author's eyes.

I'm writing this to share some of the poems our students have written, and to get their words out to the world. With a variety of different people and personalities, no poem will be the same, each with a different style of writing.

The author of Before It's Gone, Zahra says, "My poem is about how valuable our time is, and we should never waste it, to cherish and value these moments and memories, while we have them." Next time you read a poem, book, or any piece of literature, think about how it relates to the author's perspective

Before its Gone

Zahra Schafer

You don't notice how fast it slips,
Like a clock held tight in trembling grips.
Each time the hands begin the swing,
A piece of now just fades away.
The world once felt like one big game,
Laughs were loud, nothing the same,
Then days got busy, with no time to play,
Everything's moving, slipping away.
One minute you're there, the next it's gone,
Like sand slipping through your hands.
You blink and the days are miles behind,
A race you never signed up to run,
Friends always there wishing we could stay,
But time's the one that pulls us away.
Photos fade but memories glow,
Moments we treasure, though we can't hold.
Family's the ones you'll hold close and near,
But sometimes they're gone before you hear.
So, hold the laughter, hold the tears,
Hold the days that turn into years.
The moments pass, but what they leave,
It is more than time will ever be.

You never know when a moment ends,
Or when you have just said goodbye to a friend.
So, look around while it's still today,
Before it quietly slips away.
Time keeps moving and we all move too,
So, hold onto the ones that hold onto you.

Out of this world

Elise Bell

I pulled away the curtains of my bedroom window,
The sun was gone, nowhere to be seen.
The sky was now filled with stars.
I've always been in awe,
Of the world that appears,
When we all fall asleep.
Today was a clear summer night, yet,
There still wasn't much I could see from outside my window.
But sometimes I wonder
What's truly out there.
Is there life on other planets?
What would it be like to walk on Mars?
What if we lived in space?
Floating and swimming around,
In a void of everything and nothing,
All at once.
Or is something or someone actually controlling us all?
If we're all just an experiment, a small cog in a big machine.
But we do know this.
We are humans, living on a big rock,
Floating and drifting through the darkness.
Not flying through the colorful clouds of a nebula,
Or making friends with aliens in other galaxies.
The night sky brings out so many questions,
And even when my curtains are closed,
My mind still finds itself, floating into space.
I hope someday we will find answers.
And get to explore this world that opens,
While we were underneath the covers.

Breath

Anonymous

Breath.
There are dark times,
Between the light
That seek
To grip your being
The weight of
Hate.
The cost of
Loss.
The blur.
What are you seeing?
No future is clear.
No past of worth
Inside,
Your body seethes
These things will pass,
As all things do.
So, breathe.
And breathe.
And breathe.

The Knight

Maxx Pocket

You put down a knight
You put down a giant.
You took your first tower
You started playing, more and more.
Every card earned
Every mistake I learned.
You joined a clan,
Not for friends,
But for brothers.
Every clan war won.
Every clan war was lost.
Every card is given.
Every card gotten.
Every new arena.
Even your first evo!
Your first legendary,
Your first champion
Even thousands of trophies
And it all started
With a knight.

The Castle's Secrets

Maple Hunter

A monarchy, royalty,
Dressed in lace and frills
Scarlet the hearts,
Swans glide,
Loveliness lies.
Illusions of glamour, grave
Shadow the truth that was once known
There is an imposter,
On the throne.

Above the Earth

Saul Simons

Up high the heavens glow,
Showing us the way to go.
All their beauty, glowing bright.
Up high, those stars of night
Far away yet close to thee
I behold their majesty.
Maybe one day, they'll be closer.
Until then, I feel morose'.



Metchosin Seniors Association FUNDRAISER

Holiday Lights Tour

Thursday, December 18, 6-8pm

Join us for a delightful 2-hour Holiday Lights Tour in Victoria and the Westshore, on a 31-passenger bus complements of L.A. Limousines.

TICKETS: \$25

For more information, or to purchase tickets via e-transfer, email: info@metchosinseniors.ca



Complete Bobcat, Trucking & Mini Excavating Services

4604 Morland Road, Metchosin, B.C. V9C 4E2
Locally owned & operated since 1984

Free Estimates 250-478-2980

Celebrating 40 years as your
locally owned and operated service

Boulder walls and rockeries • Selective land clearing
Rockhound • Concrete/rock breaker • Stump & brush removal
Driveways/R.V. parking • Culverts • Drains
Top soil, bark mulch, sand and gravel

CONTRACT OR HOURLY RATES

Metchosin Muse Ad Rates

Display Ad Sizes	1 - 5 Issues	6 - 11 Issues
Business Card (H) - 4" w x 2.5" h	\$56.00	\$44.00
Business Card (V) - 2" w x 5" h	\$56.00	\$44.00
4" w x 4" h	\$88.00	\$71.00
1/6 page (V) - 4" w x 5" h	\$110.00	\$88.00
1/6 page (H) - 6" w x 3.3" h	\$110.00	\$88.00
1/4 page (V) - 5" w x 7.5" h	\$165.00	\$138.00
1/2 page (V) - 10.3" w x 7.5" h	\$320.00	\$276.00
Banner 10.3" w x 2" h	\$110.00	\$95.00
Full Page Ad (if available)	\$630.00	n/a
Insert - 8.5" x 11"	\$295.00	n/a
Classified (25 Words)	\$20.00	n/a

Ad Booking Deadline: 15th of each month

Advertising is grayscale/B&W format. Camera-ready ads only, in PDF (images minimum 200dpi). For more information contact Al Murray at almurray.design@gmail.com or 250-383-7243

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION “HOUSE HAPPENINGS!”

MCA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 24 - JAN. 6, 2026

Adult Day Program	Monday, Wed., Thurs	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Evening Knitting Café	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Drop-In Art Group	Tuesdays	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Afternoon Knitting Café	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Embers	Tuesdays	6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
Weights and Measures	Tuesday Mornings	8:30 am - 10:00 am
Scouts	Thursdays	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Creative Rug Hooking	1st & 3rd Fridays	12:00 am - 3:00 pm
Parents & Tots Program	Fridays	9:30 am - 11:30 pm
Friday Socials	Last Friday of the Month	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Ukulele Group	3rd Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Friday Night Films	Last Friday of the Month	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Rough Voices	3rd Sunday	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ARTS & CRAFTS SALE



**PEARSON COLLEGE
WINTER CONCERT**



SUNDAY
DEC. 14
3:00
MAXBELL THEATRE
PEARSON COLLEGE
FREE SHUTTLE • MCA PARKING LOT • 2:30
COURTESY: L.A. LIMOUSINES

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

4430 Happy Valley Road • 250-478-5155
mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com

HENSON EXCAVATING

*“Creating dreams
one scoop at
a time”*

Landscape Design
and Construction

Excavators, skid steers,
trailers, on & off road trucks

Complete site preparation,
boulder walls



www.hensonexcavating.com
bruce@hensonexcavating.com

CELL
250.217.9714

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

Seniors' Resource Centre

M E T C H O S I N

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

Happy Holidays! The Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC) will close at noon on December 24, and will reopen January 2 at 11:00 am.

Thanks to a one-time grant from the United Way, we are excited to offer a limited number of free, wheelchair-accessible rides for seniors in our area. Call for more details 250-478-5150

Winning Ticket for Gourmet Dinner to be drawn on Dec. 10!

Only a few days left to purchase a raffle ticket for a delicious, six-course dinner for eight! Tickets available at the SRC.

WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, December 1, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

55+ BUS TRIPS!

Thursday, December 11, 10:00 am - 12:00pm

Join us on a group Bus Trip. Destination TBD.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS BUS TOUR FUNDRAISER

Thursday December 18, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for a delightful two-hour Holiday Lights Tour in Victoria and the Westshore, on a 31-passenger bus - compliments of L.A. Limos. Tickets are only \$25. Call or email for more details.

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, December 18, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Share the experience of caring for family members or friends. Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

FRIDAY COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE BAHÁ'Í GROUP

Friday, December 26, 1:00-3:00 pm

Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd. Enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, and friendly conversation.

Please contact SRC to register for presentations and rides to our events.

Join our Better at Home Program! Volunteers offer friendly visits, rides (medical/groceries) to help seniors live independently. Call for details!

Become a Lifetime Member for a one-time fee of \$20.

Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre (SRC)

1047-4495 Happy Valley Road

250-478-5150 • info@metchosinseniors.ca • www.metchosinseniors.ca

RCMP Call-Outs

Cpl Nancy Saggar, West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

OCTOBER 2025

There were 90 calls for service in Metchosin for the month of October (2025). A summary is reported below; however, due to privacy concerns, limited information is provided, and not all 90 files are reflected below.

10-02 Traffic Patrols on Rocky Point and Happy Valley Road.

10-04 Theft of license plate from a truck on Hi-Mount Drive.

10-05 A collision occurred on Kangaroo Road, a single motorcyclist lost control, sustaining minor injuries.

A vehicle parked near Witty's Lagoon had its window smashed, and purse stolen from inside.

10-08 Break and Enter at a residence overnight in September. No damage or theft occurred.

Traffic patrols in the 3700 block of Sooke Road.

A single vehicle collision occurred near Metchosin and Pears Road due to a medical incident, in which a driver was stuck in the ditch, pinned inside their vehicle for a few hours prior to being noticed. Driver sustained minor injuries and was taken to hospital.

A dog was loose on Sooke Road, and police attended the highway to assist in safely diverting traffic until the dog was safely corralled and off the main roadway.

10-10 An impaired driver was located on Metchosin Road and issued a 90-day IRP.

Traffic patrols on Metchosin William Head, Happy Valley and Rocky Point road.

10-12 Police towed a broken-down vehicle parked on the roadway near Glen Forest Way.

10-13 A report of a theft occurred at the Victoria Golf Centre. Investigation ongoing.

10-15 Overnight, damage occurred to the field of Westmont Montessori School by individuals on dirt bikes. Investigation ongoing.

Members conducting school zone patrols near Hans Helgesen Elementary stopped and ticketed a driver for speeding. Driver also noted to have a cancelled driver's license, which was seized.

School zone patrols caught a driver with inactive insurance. Driver was ticketed for no insurance.

Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road, Pedder Bay Drive and Windover Terrace.

10-17 A two-vehicle collision occurred at Rocky Point Road and East Sooke Road between a vehicle and motorcycle. No injuries sustained.

10-18 A single vehicle collision occurred on Kangaroo Road. No injuries sustained.

10-19 A single vehicle rollover occurred in the 4200 block of Sooke Road due to weather conditions. No injuries sustained.

10-20 Traffic patrols on Windover Terrace and Rocky Point Road.

10-21 A collision occurred on Metchosin Road, in which a parked vehicle was struck, which then rolled into another parked vehicle. Minor injuries sustained by driver and passenger, no tickets issued.

10-22 Traffic patrol on Metchosin Road and Pears Road.

Police located a stray dog running on Olympic View Drive. Owner not located, dog provided to CRD Animal Control.

10-25 A vehicle was located on Sooke Road driving 132 km/hr in an 80 km/hr zone. Driver issued a violation ticket for: Excessive Speeding, No Driver's License, and was warned for No Insurance, Fail to Signal, having burnt out signal and brake lights and a leaky exhaust. The vehicle was impounded for seven days.

10-27 Traffic patrols at Hans Helgesen Elementary School.

10-28 Police conducted a roadblock after midnight in the 4000 block of Sooke Road. One impaired driver was located and issued a 90-day IRP. Another driver fled from the roadblock, was located nearby and was issued violation tickets for Fail to Stop for Police, No Insurance, and Driving Without Consideration.

An hour later, another impaired driver was located on Kangaroo Road and was issued a 90-day IRP.

A Metchosin resident was defrauded of \$350 due to a likely breach of passwords on a shopping account.

10-29 30, 31 Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road, Happy Valley Road and Windover Terrace.

Important Dates & Events

December

Important Dates & Events

Council Meetings.....	P.2
House Happenings.....	P.14
MACCA events.....	p.10
Seniors' Resource Centre events.....	p.11
MACCA Very Merry Makers Market. Dec 6.....	p.10
MCA Arts and Crafts Sale. Dec 7.....	p.14
Remembering Murray Sinclair. Dec 8.....	p.13
Pearson College Community Festival Concert. Dec 14.....	p.14
SRA Holiday Lights Bus Tour. Dec 18.....	p.18
CBC4Kids Christmas Bird Count For Kids. Dec 20.....	p.16
Hans Helgesen Elem. School Bottle Drive. Jan 3.....	p.12
JdF Scouts Fundraiser Paint Nigh. Jan 17.....	p.4
Friday Film Night, "TWELVE". Jan 30.....	p.13
JdF Souts Bottle Drive .Jan 31.....	p.4

Visit the Muse website!

Past issues and more! <http://www.metchosinmuse.ca>

The Purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, in revealing Himself unto men is to lay bare those gems that lie hidden within the mine of their true and inmost selves.

Baha'i Writings



Peace



Prayer



Pancakes

Pancakes followed by prayers & messages of peace. December 14th at the Metchosin Community House The Metchosin Baha'i Community (250) 858-2053

CBC4Kids Victoria Inspires the Next Generation of Birders

Gaylia Lassner

Each winter, families across southern Vancouver Island bundle up, grab their binoculars, and take part in a community tradition that's both fun and meaningful—the Christmas Bird Count for Kids, or CBC4Kids.

Hosted in partnership with the Rocky Point Bird Observatory and local naturalist groups, CBC4Kids invites children, parents, and grandparents to head outdoors and discover the remarkable variety of birds that spend the winter on southern Vancouver Island. This year's event will be held on December 20, with guided birdwalks offered between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Visit the Event Calendar at rpbo.org for locations and more information.

Experienced birders will lead small groups, as young participants learn how to identify species by sight and sound.

Equipped with field guides and a sense of adventure, kids spot everything from flitting Bushtits and dazzling Anna's hummingbirds to majestic Bald Eagles cruising over the treetops.

After the outdoor counts, the results are submitted to Birds Canada. Participants help paint a snapshot of local bird populations—data that feeds into larger conservation efforts tracking bird trends across North America.

But organizers say CBC4Kids is about much more than counting birds. It's an opportunity to inspire curiosity and connection. "Family birding is a wonderful way to get children outside and engaged with nature," says RPBO Education Chair Simone Littledale. "It teaches patience, observation, and teamwork—and it's something families can enjoy together year-round."

Research backs up what many parents see

firsthand: birding helps kids develop focus, critical thinking, and a sense of responsibility toward the environment. By contributing to real-world citizen science, children learn that their observations matter.

At a time when many children spend more hours indoors and on screens, CBC4Kids offers a refreshing alternative—one that encourages mindfulness, discovery, and appreciation for the natural world close to home. Whether it's spotting a chickadee at a feeder or scanning the shoreline for mergansers, each birding moment adds up to something bigger: a sense of belonging to the landscape and a shared commitment to care for it.

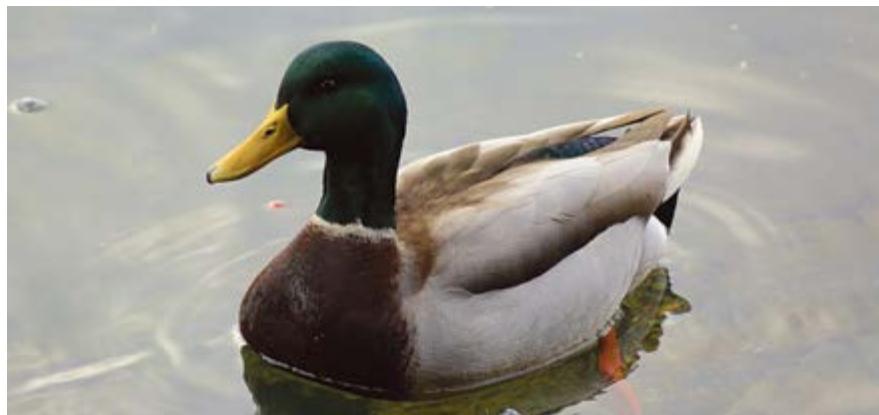
For families across Victoria, CBC4Kids isn't just about birds. It's about connection—between people, place, and the wild lives that share our city year-round.



Pine Grosbeak. RPBO photo.



Oregon Junco. RPBO photo.



Male Mallard Duck. RPBO photo.



The Muse Traveller

Metchosin wanderers Catherine Greenwood and Steve Noyes share a break with Zidran the camel and a copy of the September Muse. The paper travelled with the pair for a month through Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. Here they are, splendid in colourful, local attire, at the last stop on their journey, in Essaouira. Photo by cameleer Chez Ahmad.