



## The Metchosin Muse Needs YOU!!



Katie Pirquet and Allen Jones, Editors

The *Metchosin Muse* is a rare beast in the rapidly transmogrifying world of journalism today. It is an independent, local, volunteer operated, community-supported periodical in its fourth decade of continuous publication – even through the difficult times of the COVID pandemic. On two occasions, in 1998 and again in 2019, the *Muse* board faced challenges of increased expenses outpacing income from advertising, despite changes made to rein in costs and increase revenue. The response to those donation drives was immediate and generous, and it provided backup funds for years.

The *Metchosin Muse* is again in need of our readers' help in order to continue to provide this community with a free, independent publication that keeps us all connected. Over the past two years, we have struggled with significant increases in the costs of layout and printing, Canada Post delivery, production expenses, and insurance (now ~\$4 000 per year!). Our comfortable reserve has dwindled alarmingly. In just over a year, we will be facing a looming crisis of inadequate funding for even one more issue. During the celebrations of this loving-spirited month of February, we are asking YOU, our readers who cherish the *Muse*, for donations.

**Much work on a shoestring**

This state of affairs has triggered several initiatives to attract more advertising and find ways to further trim our expenses.

The *Metchosin Muse* is a tightly financed operation, run by volunteers. Our staff has only one paid, part-time professional – our graphic designer, Ian. We are editors, Board members, the treasurer, the advertising manager, the proofing team, reporters, photographers, and the ones who collect and deliver stacks of papers to various pickup points in Metchosin every month. Our community also provides a wealth of stories, poems, recipes, opinion pieces, notices of upcoming events, news on the activities of our clubs, associations – and more art and photographs. Local experts in and connected to Metchosin have been amazingly generous, providing us with historical, scientific and other kinds of useful and interesting information. ALL FOR FREE! Our community "reporters" are a real treasure, and we are always encouraging people to become our eyes and ears and to send us articles. They enrich our publication. They inform and entertain. They enliven our pages and broaden our coverage of community news and events.

**Savings on postage, printing;**

One major initiative, due to substantial increases in Canada Post charges and several interruptions of service, has been to consider a way to eliminate the non-Metchosin deliveries in the two postal delivery areas that include parts of Colwood and Langford. We are considering the installation of newspaper boxes at each Metchosin Post Office pod, and making deliveries to these 28 boxes a part of our own responsibility. We have been in contact with The

Men's Shed group in Langford, who have suggested a simple design and will be willing to build the boxes for us. Despite the initial outlay, this project will save us a significant amount in printing costs for copies no longer needed, and in postal fees for the deliveries to non-Metchosin residents. This project is in the cost-estimating phase, with many thanks to The Men's Shed in advance!

**Angels are real!**

One of the things that has helped us out significantly has been unsolicited donations from a few of our readers, including one recent, very generous gift of \$1,000. We are so grateful for these "angels" who have kept us going! We have been restricting issues to 12 pages, to extend our resources a little longer, but now we can go to 16 pages when needed.

**A little love goes a long way...**

This brings us back to the point: in this month of Valentine's Day, warm hearts, hugs and flowers, our *Metchosin Muse* needs some love, a few more volunteers and content contributors, and in particular some financial resources. Please consider donating \$10, \$20 or whatever you can, during this month's fundraising event. You will find an addressed envelope tucked into this edition. Donation envelopes may be placed in the drop box at the Metchosin Community House office door or stamped and dropped in the mail. E-transfers can be directed to our treasurer at amuselinda@gmail.com. **For more information, please email us at metchosinmuse@gmail.com.**

## Metchosin Search and Rescue has New Wheels!



Chelsea Marle

Metchosin Search and Rescue (SAR) is pleased to share news of two significant equipment upgrades that will enhance our ability to serve the community.

After years of dedicated service, Metchosin SAR's 1995 response vehicle, affectionately known as Rescue 8, has officially been retired. The beloved vehicle has plenty of history within the community, as it initially belonged to the Metchosin Fire Department and was donated to Metchosin Search and Rescue by the municipality in 2013. Metchosin SAR then updated the vehicle for SAR use. While Rescue 8 served the community well, it began to show signs of aging and the team recognized a need to begin planning to replace the vehicle.

For many years, our team has been carefully planning and setting aside grant funding in anticipation of replacing this essential piece of equipment. Because of current vehicle market conditions and the demanding environments our SAR team operates in, the need for a customized vehicle became evident. Our team requires a specialized mobile system to safely store, transport, and deploy a wide range of equipment that could support the team in complex environments, such as urban, rural, shoreline, and wilderness.

In 2024, our goal became a reality, as Metchosin SAR was successful in its application to the BC Gaming Capital Projects Grant Program and was awarded \$75,000 toward the purchase of a new response vehicle. With this funding, combined with provincial funding distributed through the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association, we were able to move forward with the project. The cab chassis was purchased from Metro Motors Ltd. in Port Coquitlam, and the custom rescue body was built by Intercontinental Truck Body in Surrey, B.C. Metchosin SAR members dedicated countless volunteer hours to planning, measuring, coordinating, and designing a vehicle tailored to meet the operational needs of our team. This new response vehicle will support searches within our own response area and strengthen our ability to assist neighbouring teams during mutual aid calls.

In addition to the new vehicle, Metchosin SAR has also purchased two Opus e-bikes to improve our speed and efficiency when searching trail networks. A dedicated bike team allows our members to quickly and effectively cover trails and pathways in local parks and areas such as the Galloping Goose Trail. The use of e-bikes significantly reduces searcher fatigue and improves overall response times. Metchosin SAR is currently in the process of forming



MSAR1 arrives in Metchosin, after acquiring some stunning signage art work. MSAR photo

the bike team and purchasing the necessary equipment to allow our team to be fully operational.

The new vehicle, MSAR1, recently attended its first official community event at the Island Equipment Owners Association Truck Parade and Food Drive where our members collected donations for the local food bank and proudly displayed our new vehicle to the public. Metchosin SAR would like to extend sincere thanks to the BC Gaming Grant, Goldstream Bicycles, Opus Bike, and M2 Graphix for their generous support through discounted pricing. We also gratefully acknowledge Coastline Endurance Running, in association with the Finlayson Arm 28K, 50K, and 50 Mile events, for their continued and generous donations over the past several years.



MSAR1 and elder partner get acquainted as the new vehicle settles into its new home in Metchosin. Fire Dept. photo



Oh, Happy Day!! MSAR members collect their long-awaited, shiny, new Response Vehicle and two new, all-terrain E-bikes from M2 Graphix. M2 Graphix photo

# Metchosin Muse

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2700

## AD AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

All articles are due by the 13th of the month. Advertisements due by the 15th. Please send copy as an email attachment in Microsoft Word, text or RTF to: [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

# Council News

FEBRUARY 2026



## Grant in Aid

The District of Metchosin will be accepting Grant-in-Aid applications from registered not-for-profit and charitable organizations to support programs, projects, services, and events that benefit the citizens of Metchosin.

Applications are available on the District of Metchosin website at [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca) >Council > Grant in Aid Program, or at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria. The March 15th deadline for submissions falls on a weekend this year, so the due date will be the first business day following on – Monday March 16th, 2026

## District of Metchosin Meeting Schedule –February 2026

The 2026 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: [www.metchosin.ca](http://www.metchosin.ca)>Meetings>Meeting Schedule

\*Please see below meeting dates and times for February 2026. 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). Thank you.

Council Meeting.....	February 2
Committee of the Whole.....	February 9
Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	(4:00 pm), February 17
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	(4:30 pm), February 24
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee.....	February 24
Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee.....	(2:00 pm), February 25
Special Finance Committee – Budget Meeting.....	(4:00 pm), February 26

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## Housing Initiatives Collaborative (HICs) Update

Ellen Frisch

Here is a chance to discuss and explore the recent housing amendments to the Official Community Plan (OCP), such as important information on changes to secondary suites, compliance pathways for existing units and a range of new possibilities! Find out what these changes mean for you, and for our community going forward.

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026,  
 7:00 pm  
 Event Room in the Metchosin  
 Arts and Cultural Centre  
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visit us at:  
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## What's happening?

If you know, we'd love to hear about it.

Write an article for the Muse!

*Contact by email at:*

[metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com)



# Editor's Musings

Katie Pirquet

There is a respite from the rain today, and a tour of what passes for my garden yields tempting evidence of things stirring – perhaps prematurely, but with brazen confidence nevertheless. Daffodils are up to 20 cm high already, appearing in larger clumps than ever, irises are poking up timidly through the cold mud, snowdrops abundant but now sulking ("Wot?! No snow?!"), and the Hellebores are blooming their pants off while their old leaves seem past their prime, just to offset the glory. I even weeded one of my "dirt heaps" a week ago, between downpours. You don't want the "plants out of place" to dig in and get a second wind, do you?

I cruised the deck recently, idly searching for the biggest of the soggy, fallen maple leaves. There were some real monsters composting slowly into slime out there! February will no doubt torture us, a little or a lot, but now begins the end of winter and the slow unfolding of the most beautiful of times on our island in the blue sea. May it awaken gently. And please, maybe save some rain for July and August?

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you haven't heard yet, brace yourselves: At the end of this month, we must bid farewell to our extraordinary Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, who has overseen the development and operation of our

Fire Department for 20 years, earning over and over the gratitude and admiration of this community and beyond. As of February 29, Chief Stephanie has resigned as our Fire Chief. With her clear-headed leadership, unflinching effort and deep concern for the welfare of her colleagues and the community, Stephanie will leave behind many initiatives and legacies – a constant reminder of the true meanings of competence, leadership and care. The *Muse* volunteers have sheltered in her kindness every month as we sip the coffee she makes for us, and we observe her in action on a busy morning. It will be no easy task to fill those well worn boots. We at the *Muse* will miss her so very much, as will so many, many others.

Chief Stephanie, all of us at The *Metchosin Muse* wish you joy, fellowship, accomplishment and every success in your new home and your new adventure as the Deputy Chief of the Central Saanich Fire Department, in charge of Operations and Training.

\*\*\*\*\*

Love dogs? The Victoria Humane Society continues to develop their new rescue centre deep in the forest on Woodruff Road, hard by the Langford border. They are fundraising right now to enable them to complete construction, equipping and stocking of the facilities, so they can get even busier rescuing, sheltering, healing, training, re-homing, and promoting proper care of the strayed, the abused, the lost,

the sick, the abandoned, the feral, and the wounded. According to director Penny Stone, there will be trails and areas where dog owners can come to learn, and to exercise and train their own pets. This will all come to pass more quickly if we who care, and can afford it, waft some St. Valentine's Day love their way in the form of a donation or some volunteer hours as they progress. See details on the Humane Society website: [www.victoriahumane.com](http://www.victoriahumane.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have the yen and a nose for a good story, why not write for the *Muse*? Contact one of the editors (see masthead, page 2) if you have an idea for an article. Or just research it, write it and send it to [metchosinmuse@gmail.com](mailto:metchosinmuse@gmail.com), well before the deadline.

Please note: **Beginning this month, the deadline for submitting articles and letters to the Editor will be the 13th of every month for the issue appearing on the first of the next month.** This allows us to work around weekends and holidays, and avoids having to change the date every now and then. From now on, it's the 13th, every month. Please consult our style guide and submission guidelines on the *Muse* website at [www.metchosinmuse.ca](http://www.metchosinmuse.ca). **The deadline for submitting advertising remains the 15th of every month.** See contact information for Ad Manager Al Murray on the masthead, page 2.

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

## Grant application reveals more facts re: Fire Hall rebuild

Adding further to the confusion regarding the fire hall rebuild is Johanna Buhr's January 2026 letter to the editor where she begins by stating "not knowing much about the proposed firehall renovation" and concluding with "to get ALL the facts on the rebuild, people can easily check everything on the District website." Is this not a contradiction? If she doesn't know much about it, how can she be sure that the information on the website is entirely accurate? How would we

know if the District is supporting a preferred outcome by not reporting "ALL the facts"?

I found reviewing the grant application most enlightening. Perhaps Ms. Buhr should plow through it as well before castigating a councillor for voicing alternative ideas. As a taxpayer, I am happy to hear about other ideas and facts before forging ahead on a multi-million dollar build that will affect my taxes for decades to come.

Barb Sawatsky

## Talk and Walk Told to Take a Hike

A fun evening in Metchosin is learning about the sexual behaviour of slugs, followed by tea and cookies, and home by ten. The Talk and Walk presentations provide social, educational, and intellectual value. The free lectures deepen our understanding of the natural world.

At their January 12, 2026 meeting, our Council decided to deny the use of the council chambers for the talk part of the Talk and Walk series.

For many years, the talks have been offered at the Municipal Hall. Not this year. For me, the decision feels like another assault on our volunteers, loyal and enthusiastic event attendees, and the fabric of our community. Whether

intended or not, I think our unpaid leaders holding free events are being disrespected and discouraged. The programs are not presented by an organization or association, but rather, by unpaid volunteers and specialist presenters, who give their time and expertise to this fee-free educational and experiential initiative. Sending our Talk and Walk program across the road to find another venue, which will entail a large cost, feels like an insult to the organizers, the presenters, and the public.

I don't think hiring a band to show appreciation for our volunteers is going to cut it this year.

Bev Bacon

## Greenspace Protection

In the January 2026 *Muse* issue, readers were advised by Councillor Shukin that Metchosin Council will contemplate conferring park status to a 113-acre land parcel for which title was conveyed to the District as part of the land swap and Reconciliation Agreement involving SCIA/NEW and Langford some nine years ago.

To provide enduring ecological and legal protection for this community asset, I hope that specific recommendations from the Klaver Strategic Planning 2025 Buffer Lands Update Report will be followed. The Klaver report notes that rezoning to park status in conjunction with registration of a conservation covenant will provide the strongest overall level of protection. Having a covenant held by one or more arm's length BC land trust agencies would ensure that any pending park designation cannot simply be reversed by a future

Council, a specific risk which was left unexplored in Councillor Shukin's article.

This recommended approach would provide local taxpayers with a 'belt and suspenders' level of assurance for the property's long-term future. Such assurance feels more necessary, following last year's surprising decision by a slim majority of Council to change long-established practices in the arena of permissive tax exemptions.

Morgan Yates

*Editor's note:* A recent Council resolution enacts exactly what the writers hope for, by directing staff to draft a "Section 219 covenant for long-term protection of the Buffer Land." The text of this resolution is in the official minutes of the January 8, 2026 meeting. The resolution was unanimously passed.

## Transparency or Privacy?

January 8, 2025 saw the employment of Bob Payette as Metchosin's new full time CAO at a salary of \$143,771.28, making him the highest paid employee in the District (SOFI report). February 4, 2025 saw the termination of Sue-Lin Tarnowski's employment as our full time FAO suddenly and without explanation by means of a buy-out. A non-disclosure agreement had apparently been signed.

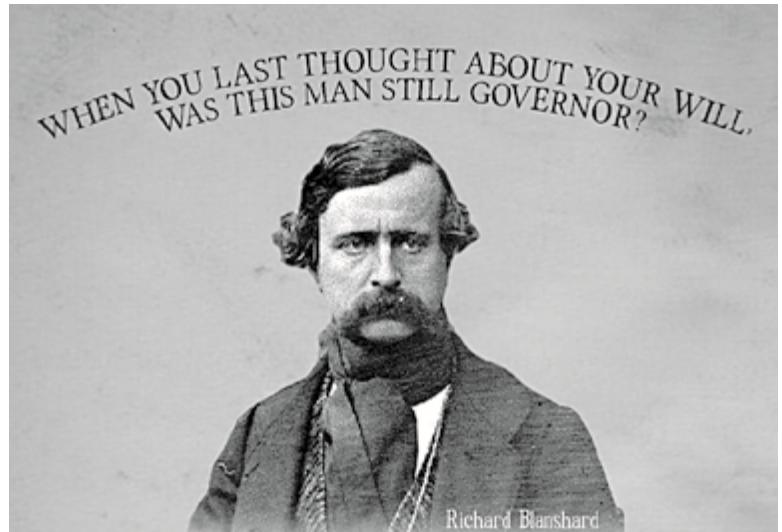
Mayor and Council also passed a resolution prohibiting any release of information by council and staff to the public. However, in the 2024 SOFI report, it was stated that "there was one severance agreement made between the District of Metchosin and

the non-unionized employee during the fiscal year of 2024. This agreement represents 7 months' compensation."

In 2023, the SOFI report stated that Ms. Tarnowski earned \$159,688.90 as Metchosin's combined CAO/FAO. If this figure were used, her buy-out would have been \$93,151.87. This may or may not be accurate and it is unlikely that we, as taxpayers, will ever know the correct dollar value.

There is a question however, in this day and age, if various levels of government should be able to withhold the dollar value of any settlements which rely on taxpayer funds. Where is the transparency?

Kathleen MacPherson



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# February's Friday Film Night in Metchosin

Samuel Perez

Save this date for a great evening out:  
**Friday February 27**  
**7:00 to 9:00 pm**  
**Metchosin Community House**

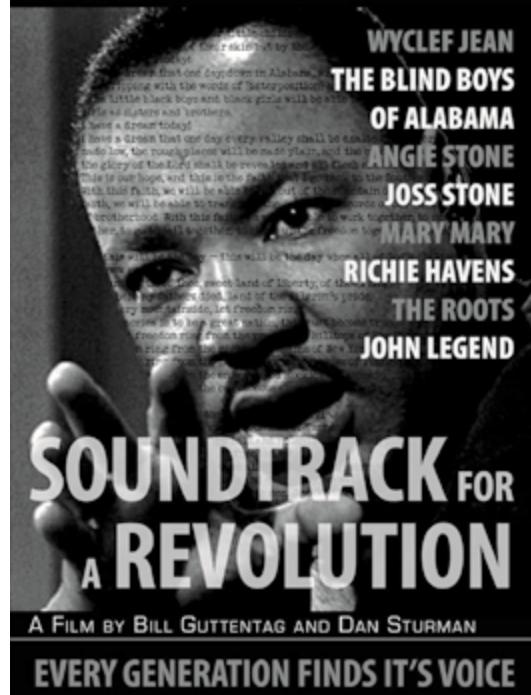
Honoring Black History Month, we will screen a moving musical documentary: **Soundtrack for a Revolution**.

The story of the American civil rights movement is perhaps best told through its powerful music, the freedom songs that protesters sang on picket lines, in mass meetings, in police wagons, and in jail cells as they fought for justice and equality. A unique mix

of historical documentary and contemporary musical performance, the film features new performances by top artists including John Legend, Joss Stone, Wyclef Jean, and The Roots; riveting archival footage; and interviews with civil rights foot soldiers and leaders, including Congressman John Lewis, Harry Belafonte, Julian Bond, Andrew Young and dozens more.

A discussion led by Pearson College students will follow the film, and viewers will have a chance to sing along to some of the well known and timeless songs of the civil rights movement. The popcorn is free!!

ARTEFACT FILMS PRESENTS



# South Vancouver Island Drivers Face New Challenges

Gini Walsh

Have you noticed that driving in and around Victoria seems to be getting more and more challenging? Back in the 1970s and 80s Victoria was a somewhat smaller, sleepier city than it is today. Back then there were no roundabouts, bike lanes, e-bikes, or e-scooters. When I googled 'transportation and road conditions in Victoria BC in 1976 vs 2026' AI came up with this:

"Comparing Victoria's transport in 1976 to the projected 2026 involves a massive shift from car-centric travel with basic infrastructure to a multi-modal, tech-integrated system emphasizing active transport (cycling/walking), better transit (like bus lanes), digital traffic management, and a growing focus on sustainable options

like e-bikes, contrasted with 1976's reliance on personal vehicles, simpler road networks (pre-Galloping Goose, maybe more surface streets), and less real-time data, with road conditions moving from basic maintenance to smart infrastructure and resilience planning."

I consider myself a careful driver. I keep up with the traffic and I refuse to be bullied by tailgaters, or impatient horn honking. I have even been honked at while looking for a parking spot! Now, however, in addition to cyclists, there are any number of personal electric vehicles (PEVs), or micro mobility devices which include e-scooters, e-bikes, electric skateboards, electric unicycles (EUCs), self-balancing scooters (commonly called hoverboards), Segways (a brand name that became a generic

term for a two-wheeled, self-balancing device with handlebars), and Onewheels (a single-wheel electric board that balances itself).

Some of these modes of transport are almost as fast as cars, and far less visible. Sad to say I've seen numerous users of these devices not wearing helmets and not following the rules of the road. As far as I know they are not even required to have a license. With a quick check online, I discovered that in "British Columbia, standard e-bikes and e-scooters do not require a driver's licence, registration, or insurance." However, "In Europe, e-scooters and faster e-bikes (S-pedelecs) often do require a license, insurance, and registration." Maybe the BC Department of Motor Vehicles needs to change this.

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# Film Fundraiser for Gaza Hospitals

Small Step Collective

**When:** February 13, 7:00–9:00pm  
**Where:** Metchosin Community House  
**Admission:** by donation (\$20 suggested)

Despite the Gaza ceasefire of October 2025, Israeli attacks on Palestinians remain ongoing and relentless. Lamentably, they are no longer in the media spotlight. On February 13, the Small Step Collective will screen a film documentary that continues the crucial task of witnessing events on the ground in Gaza, and specifically the harsh realities faced by its most essential workers. "Gaza: Doctors Under Attack," by the award-winning *Basement Films*, investigates allegations that the Israeli military has systematically targeted Gaza's medical facilities and personnel.

The film attests that all of Gaza's 36 hospitals have been military targets and even though attacks on hospitals and healthcare workers are prohibited under international

law, hundreds of doctors and medical workers in Gaza have been killed, detained and disappeared. The documentary shows that, even under threat and bombardment, Gaza's medical professionals continue to treat patients in severely under-resourced and unsafe conditions.

Although the BBC originally commissioned Basement Films to produce the documentary, in 2025 the BBC issued a statement explaining why it decided not to air the film. Instead, it was aired by Channel 4 in the UK and streamed globally on Zetoo. The film has won the British Journalism Award for Foreign Affairs as well as other major journalism awards. Judges for the British Journalism Awards described the documentary as "unforgettable" and a powerful testimony to the courage of the journalists involved.

The documentary may be distressing to view, as it contains scenes of violence, injury, death and descriptions of torture. A reviewer in *The Guardian* writes: "This crucial film is the stuff of nightmares.

But the world needs to see it." All who attend the public screening in Metchosin should be cautioned in advance that the film contains disturbing graphic footage. Yet we agree with *The Guardian* reviewer who states that "we owe it to the subjects to not look away."

While admission is by donation, this public screening is a fundraiser. All donations will go to Doctors Against Genocide, a global coalition of healthcare professionals, in support of the group's fundraising to rebuild Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, as well as provide much-needed aid on the ground. Both modest and generous donations are welcomed. The Small Step Collective originated out of the idea that many small acts can add up to make a world of difference.

*Editor's note: Small Step Collective is an organization based in Metchosin, and focused on advocacy and social action. The group attends Council meetings to present perspectives on social and political issues.*



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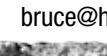
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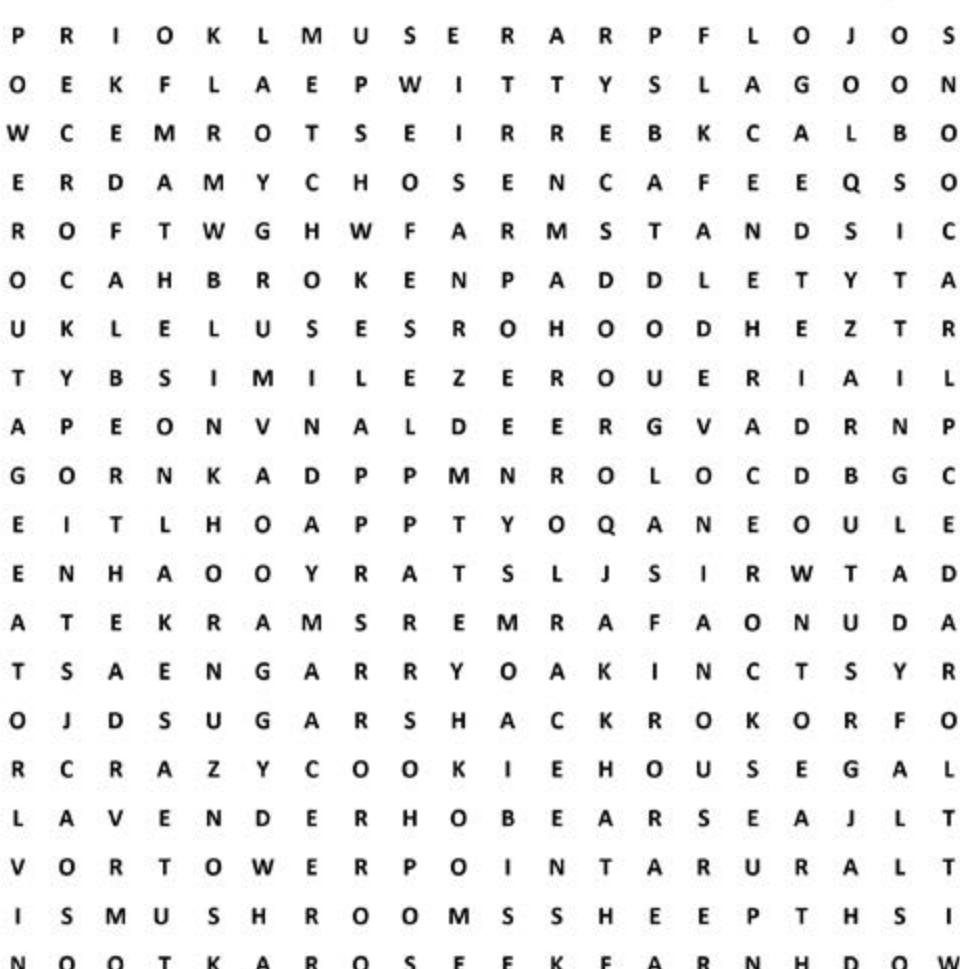
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## Metchosin WORD SEARCH



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 METCHOSIN DAY  
 NOOKA ROSE  
 ROCKY POINT  
 BLACKBERRIES  
 RACE ROCKS  
 BLINKHORN  
 GARRY OAK  
 POWER OUTAGE  
 MUSHROOMS

TOWER POINT  
 LAVENDER  
 BEARS  
 APPLES  
 SUGAR SHACK  
 ARBUTUS  
 BROKEN PADDLE  
 ALBERT HEAD  
 DOUGLAS FIR  
 MUSE  
 SITTING LADY FALLS  
 FARMERS MARKET

RURAL  
 DOWN TO EARTH  
 CEDAR  
 WITTYS LAGOON  
 CRAZY COOKIE HOUSE  
 DEER  
 HORSES  
 DEVONIAN  
 THE GOOSE  
 FARMSTANDS  
 MILE ZERO  
 RACOONS

# A Decade Ago in Metchosin



Mama Ewe grins for the camera.



Three noble ladies on the Witty's Lagoon trail.



Exploring on the beach below Gilbert Drive, with Two-tree Island in the distance.



Tiny mushrooms hide among the Sphagnum moss on a fallen tree trunk.



View from the flats at Witty's Lagoon beach.

Photos by K.T. Pirquet

## Love Poem

Judith van Manen

While doing some research in the archival storage room in Metchosin School, I found a small book of one hundred poems, entitled "Petals from God's Garden" by Marjorie Field. The more poems I read the more I began to wonder: Who was this author, who so eloquently poetized the life and love of early Metchosin?

Annie Marjorie Field was born in Derby, England in 1892. When she was 17 years old, she sailed to Vancouver Island with her family. It was here in Metchosin that she settled and became enchanted with the beauty of the countryside, the wild woods, and the ocean waves bordering the undulating rocky landscapes of nature. And it was here that Marjorie fell in love with the prosperous young farmer, Lee Llewellyn Field who declared his love for her.

I realized that I knew Lee from the museum archives. He had been one of the top students ever to attend Metchosin School in the late 1800's. He must have appreciated Marjorie's intellect, and her sensitivity to language, and he could admire a well-composed poem. Lee was a farmer who cared lovingly for his many horses and often spent hours climbing the hills of Metchosin searching for any lost sheep. He could not help but appreciate the breathtaking views.

In my browsing through century old letters and photos, I had uncovered a love story. Lee was the accomplished student who attended the one-room Metchosin schoolhouse. With my colleagues we selected Lee's deportment and academic certificates as well as his book prizes to display in the museum cabinets. So, it was this highly talented student who fell in love with the sensitive and introverted poet Marjorie, author of the book of one hundred poems.

Walter Winter, Marjorie's father, had been born into an artistic British family. In the mid 1800's he had even taken up photography when it was often still considered a "black art." So, like her father, Marjorie possessed an artistic temperament. Walter was community minded. The records show that he had donated land for the construction of Trinity Church in Happy Valley. He purchased the lumber from Lee Field, and this is how his daughter, Marjorie, met Lee.

Indeed, it was likely love at first sight for Lee Field when he set eyes on Marjorie. But it took him five years of courtship before she even agreed to become engaged. Eventually, in 1917, when Marjorie was 25, they were married.

There were always young people visiting, staying, and working at the Field farm. But Marjorie shied away from socializing. She took refuge in the small cottage which was nestled behind the big farmhouse

in Metchosin. Marjorie was not an extroverted farmer's wife like some of her vociferous neighbours but she was a strong and intellectually gifted quiet woman whose beautiful poetry could speak directly to your heart.

In her cottage, Marjorie gave birth to three daughters: Dorothy, Kathleen, and Muriel. And in this modest home, she gave birth to 100 love poems. She had strong spiritual feelings and loved her family and the life that surrounded the Metchosin cottage and farm.

Sadly, when she was still relatively young, Marjorie became ill. She died when she was just 48. This excerpt written on December 29, 1940, by Marjorie's daughter, Kathleen, is from the last page in Marjorie's diary: "My mother Marjorie Field passed away suddenly around noontime—Dad and I were with her—she asked him to kiss her just before she died."

Lee never remarried. I believe that he remained wed to his love. And Marjorie? As we listen to her voice, we can still hear that she is singing of her love for Metchosin and her dedication to the man who had waited for years to marry her.



Lee and Marjorie Field with their first born daughter, Dorothy. Field Family photo

I love my home: the meadows wide

With undulating slopes;

The tall dark firs where shadows hide

And lichen strung like ropes.

I love the farm: a thousand lives

Have drawn their first breath here;

The furry balls, the buzzing hives

And woolly things so dear.

I love the woods: so shady cool

And sheltered from the wind

By towering cliffs no storm can

fool—

Where wildflowers rare I find.

I love the swamp: the heralds here

Of welcome spring are reared

When first sounds forth their call of cheer;

No more the winter's feared.

I love the hills: upon their breast

So bare the storms do beat;

The feathered mosses give sweet rest

To tiny crawling feet.

I love the hidden blossoms wild

Which claim the bush as home;

The yellow violet meek and mild

And lilies white as foam.

I love the springs, so fresh and lone

Emerging from the rock;

The pheasant's call, the bee's sweet drone,

A blue-jay's saucy mock.

I love the summer-sunshine's heat;

The cool sweet breath of spring;

The autumn's harvest of the wheat

And winter's frosty sting.

I love my little cottage home,

Where I have learned to love;

I love the woods where I can roam,

I love the sky above.

**Marjorie Field**

# The Many Wonders of Wool, Fabric, Threads, and More

Diana Smith

If there is one art material that Metchosinites can relate to it must surely be wool. This will be evident in several pieces in ArtPod's new show, *Threads: Weaving Narratives*, currently at the gallery until March 29. For this show we have a guest artist in addition to the more than 30 artists represented, plus the work of our feature artist and juror, fabric artist Elizabeth Carefoot.

Guest artist Sylvia Kind has been invited to show her work, not just for its creative range, but also because of her connection to Metchosin. As an artist, teacher and researcher, she is particularly fond of wool and uses it in various imaginative ways. But of course she would. She was born in 1978 in Colwood and lived in Metchosin from 1989, at the age of 11, until she left in her twenties to begin her teaching career.

Her career has been long. She remembers Colwood Corners when there was just a gas station, hardware store and the all-important – to a child at least – corner store. Her parents, Rudi and Erna Kind, moved with their five children to Gilbert Drive, off Duke Road, where they lived for many decades. But even before moving to Metchosin the children attended the Montessori School at 3775 Duke Road. Sylvia remembers "Mrs. Thomas, her daughter, Miss Jean, and Miss Bramley." She credits the teachers, particularly Mrs. Thomas, for her own choice to become an educator and artist. Her school memories are vivid with all kinds of art activities and forest and beach outings. She considers Metchosin "her heart home" and Mrs Thomas' school being "a place filled with beauty, art, pottery, weaving, painting, dancing, and rich appreciation for the natural world." It instilled in her artistic ways of living and being in the world and with others. Although she did not become a Montessori teacher, she loved the way the school took "arts, children and the aesthetics of space seriously."

Her career has been varied but not as a traditional teacher. She credits her first practicum at the Metchosin Elementary School, the present home of ArtPod, for curing her of her desire to be a regular teacher. For the past 20 years she has been an instructor and 'atelierista' in the Early Childhood Education Department at Capilano University. An atelierista, in



*Small Exaggerations* - a detail of a collection of over 100 hand-knit and densely felted sweater-bodies, made in response to the artist's experiences raising her son born with multiple disabilities and the rich variances and dynamic differences of life together. Photo and artwork by Sylvia Kind

case you are wondering, is an art educator who works "alongside children in the early childhood studio, a space of collective experimentation where we create together."

In February, there will be two consecutive solo shows in the Cove Gallery, located in ArtPod's main gallery. Memet Burnett's *Landlines*, features watercolours and clay sculpture inspired by some of the landscapes and biomes of Western Canada, and runs until February 22. This will be followed by Angela Menzies's *Once We Were Wolves* opening on February 27. Angela will be at the gallery to talk about her work on Saturday, February 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and would love you to drop by. The artwork in her exhibition reimagines classic fairy tales through a contemporary lens, exploring the enduring relevance of these stories while confronting the darker realities often hidden within them. Each work transforms familiar stories into cautionary allegories about sexual predation, crossed boundaries, and the subtle violence of insult, challenging viewers to reconsider the

lessons we inherit from myth and folklore. Through symbolism, moments of vulnerability and violation are confronted, illuminating both the danger and the human capacity to respond with awareness.

There is still time to register for the workshop *Stitched Scrolls*, led by Elizabeth Carefoot on Saturday February 7. This half-day workshop is for participants to create a unique 12" x 4" scroll using materials and objects personally meaningful. They will create a scroll, complete with a hanging system, to showcase their creativity and memories.

Artists have all of February and until March 6 to submit to our next show entitled *Fire: Destructive, Regenerative, Sacred*. This is year three in a project to feature the four elements, one each year. Water and Air are completed. This year the focus is Fire. It is the element's more metaphoric associations, whether the destructive tendency, the opportunity for regeneration, or its sacred aspects that we are hoping will inspire artists for their work. Details of all these many events are at [metchosinartpod.ca](http://metchosinartpod.ca).

## From Storyteller to Author

Joannie Challenger

Have you ever thought about writing a book, but haven't yet put pen to paper? Well, maybe it's not too late...

Metchosin resident Darrell Walker had never really thought about writing a book, but he loved to tell stories. And now, at the age of 100 years (plus six months) he has a published book to his name: *The Military Stories of Darrell Walker*. How did this come to be?

Darrell wanted to record some of the events he remembered from his post-war military service after World War 2, not about battles or heart-wrenching WWII times, but about everyday events. He joined a writers' group at the Juan de Fuca 55+ Seniors' Activity Center in Langford, in the hopes of finding someone who could turn his stories into print. At their meetings the group wrote stories and then critiqued each others' work. Members of the group enjoyed hearing Darrell's stories, and encouraged him to publish them. Luckily, he also met Rick Mickelson there, who agreed to write down his stories. Over the course of months and many Sunday visits, Rick met with Darrell to talk about his stories and record them. The result is a published book of twenty short stories. They are generally light-hearted and often humorous, capturing the daily experiences from his life in the military.

In addition to the stories told in his book, Darrell has many other adventures to tell about his time growing up in Victoria and Metchosin, which he was happy to share with me when we met recently.

As a young boy growing up in Victoria, he remembers going to Willows School, and nearby Willows Fairgrounds and Racetrack. "My brother and I would clean out the horses' stalls before going to school in the morning," he reminisced. As a young man he worked in the Navy yard and Victoria Dockyards, before being conscripted into the army during WWII. "I wanted to join the navy, but my skills were useful in the army," he noted.

After joining the army Darrell was sent for training in England, but the war ended at that point, and his division, the Regina Rifles, was sent to Germany as part of the Canadian Occupation Force. It is from this period of his life and after the war that the stories from his book were inspired.

After the second World War ended he worked downtown at a wholesale store, then at Victoria Machinery Depot, becoming the president of the Boilermaker's Union at one point. As time went on he acquired a horse, and needed a pasture, which led him to Metchosin. "I rented pasture from the Whitney-Griffiths, before buying twelve acres from the Fishers. I built a house and lived there until 1983." Darrell has many stories to tell about life in Metchosin back then, enough for another book at least! After years away from Metchosin, he and his wife returned in 2014. Why did he come back? "I was brought up here (Victoria area), the climate is good and I have old friends here," was his response.

I wouldn't be surprised if another book appears one day from Darrell Walker – he is a wonderful storyteller! To purchase a copy of his book, contact Filidh Publishing ([filidhbooks.com](http://filidhbooks.com)) or Rick Mickelson ([rick.mickelson@telus.net](mailto:rick.mickelson@telus.net)).



Darrell Walker, well into his 101st year, has created a remarkable book of short stories based on his military experiences during WWII. J.Challenger photo

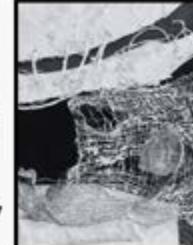
# METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

# EVENTS at METCHOSIN *ArtPod*

FRI 30 JAN- SUN 15 MAR

## THREADS: weaving narratives

- Guest Juror: Elizabeth Carefoot
- Open Call closes: FRI 16 January 2026, midnight
- A fibre-forward exhibition which welcomes submissions in any medium responding to the idea of threads as connectors, storytellers, or agents of disruption, transformation, or renewal



### Workshop at ArtPod. STITCHED SCROLLS.

A hands-on workshop with Elizabeth Carefoot

Create your own memory scroll

Date: SAT 7 Feb  
Time: 12:30- 4:30pm  
Price: \$75  
Where: MACC Event Room, 4495 Happy Valley Rd, Metchosin



### GALLERY CLOSED 22 Dec- 29 Jan

### Solo Show in the Cove Gallery

\*NEW\*

FRI 30 JAN- SUN 15 FEB

## Landlines

Memet Burnett showcases her recent watercolour and clay sculptural works inspired by Canada's landscapes and animal sentinels within them



### ArtPod Weekly Ateliers

\*\*START AGAIN WEEK OF 5 JANUARY 2026\*\*

- Mondays\* 1-3pm Watercolour (\*except holiday Mondays), \$10
- Tuesdays 10-12pm Life and portrait drawing w/ live model, \$15
- Wednesdays - Rural Sketching- see website for details
- all levels welcome • MACC Event Room, top floor • cash SVP

What is an atelier?  
Art ateliers provide space and/or training to artists in the skills and techniques associated with creating various specific forms of art.

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



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METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# HOUSE HAPPENINGS!

VIHA 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 & 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 Social	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 Voice Singers	3rd Sunday	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Visit our website for details  
[metchosincommunityhouse.com](http://metchosincommunityhouse.com)

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# It's Been Nineteen Years

Nan Hsieh

Please plan to join us on Sunday, March 1 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Metchosin Community Hall as we gather for the nineteenth annual Bath Towel Project where we collect essentials for the shower programs at Our Place and Rock Bay Landing. These two facilities provide needed services for the unhoused in Victoria. We welcome donations of new bath towels, new socks, individually packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, shampoo, and underwear.

Did you know that the Bath Towel Project, sponsored by the Baha'is, has been evolving for nineteen years to become what it is today? Our event started out as a party with cake, goodies, and entertainment for our children in celebration of Ayyam-i-Ha which is a time when Baha'is give gifts, share hospitality and provide service to others. As our event evolved and grew, we realized that we wanted to provide our children and all children in the community with the opportunity to experience being of service to others. Being of service is an essential part of this time of year and a virtue that is developed when children learn to actively help others and contribute positively to the world. It was from this thinking and exploring how we could provide this learning opportunity to the children, that the Bath Towel Project idea

was born. Over the years we have partnered with older and younger youth groups, as well as with the 4-H groups in Westshore to expand outreach into the community.

During all these years, you, the Metchosin Community have consistently been a part of this growing and learning process. As we grew and expanded our service component you have wonderfully expanded your support and assistance. In fact, our success has been due in large part to your assistance and your contributions of time and materials such as towels, socks, and toothbrushes. We are delighted and so very grateful.

This year as we plan our next event, we are hoping to reach out to even more children and their families in the community by inviting the schools in Metchosin to participate in collecting towels, socks, and toiletries. In anticipation of more participation, we plan to enhance the creative opportunities for children and their families to make little gift bags and cards to be given to clients at Rock Bay Landing and Our Place.

As usual this activity will be followed by energetic and joyful musical entertainment and refreshments. This is most decidedly a family friendly event – we look forward to sharing hospitality and serving together with you!

## The Metchosin Preschool Open House

February 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We welcome all 3-5 year olds who are looking to enroll for the 2026/2027 pre-school year.

Come meet our teachers and explore our new space! Located at 4495 Happy Valley Road.

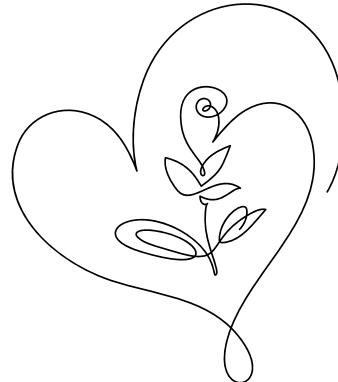


So far as ye are able, ignite a candle of love in every meeting, and with tenderness rejoice and cheer ye every heart.

Baha'i Writings

Pancakes followed by prayers & messages of peace.

First Sunday of the Month at the Metchosin Community House  
The Metchosin Baha'i Community (250) 858-2053



Happy Valentine's Day, Metchosin.



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## Cyril Hemus Obituary



Cyril Hemus, of Metchosin, B.C., passed away peacefully on September 3, 2025, at the young age of 93, surrounded by his family.

Cyril was born on April 30th, 1932, to Humphrey and Jessie Hemus and resided just south of Calgary in Turner Valley. Cyril worked the land on his parents' farm before leaving to attend the University of Calgary, then the University of Alberta, where he graduated with a teaching degree and met his lifelong wife, Linda (Baker) Hemus, soon thereafter. Cyril raised his young family in northern B.C. before settling in Revelstoke, where he retired from teaching in 1993.

Cyril loved to travel, with the obscure parts of Mexico being his favourite destinations, and documented his adventures through written stories and hand-drawn art. Cyril loved to golf and brew craft beer and even tried to create dandelion wine. He was also known for his ability to fix anything and never turned away from a project.

Cyril and Linda moved to Metchosin, B.C., in 2007 to escape the snowdrifts of Revelstoke and help raise grandchildren in Victoria. Cyril returned to his farm roots with a small acreage and a few pet chickens. It was here in Metchosin that Cyril made new friends and memories and earned the community title, "The Metchosin Chicken Whisperer."

Cyril is survived by his loving wife, two sons, and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents; many friends and relatives; and his prized rooster, "Goldie."

A service will be held at Saint Mary's Anglican Church in Metchosin, B.C., on April 30th, 2026.

Contact : Burnhemus@gmail.com for more information.

## Raymond Kenneth Creasser 1932 - 2025



We are sad to announce the passing of **Kenneth Raymond Creasser** on Christmas Day, 2025

## Saying Goodbye To Christina Willing (née Parfitt)

Heather Showers

My "Auntie Chris" as I called her, was born in Toronto, Ontario on February 20, 1926. She and her husband (my Uncle Fred) moved to Happy Valley in the mid-1940's where they immediately became engaged in both community and church. They were founding members of Gordon United Church. Then Chris became President of the Women's Institute and, sharing a love of dance, they taught square dancing at both Metchosin and Colwood Halls from 1958-2002. Chris continued dancing until age 90.

As well as her love of travel, Chris was an exceptional baker and hostess. We all looked forward to her special birthday cakes with her signature boiled icing. She also had a great love of gardening and won prizes at Methosin Day for her beautiful flower arrangements. She was recognized as a tireless volunteer and was nominated for the Victoria Women of Distinction Award in 1999.

Always very social, in her later years Chris became an active member of Metchosin Seniors' Resource Centre, and participated in lunches at the Community House. Hosting Pearson College students was a special joy, especially when she brought out her old photograph albums and square dancing crinolines. The students loved to hear her stories and ask questions about the early days.

Auntie Chris was only two months shy of her 100th birthday when she died peacefully at Victoria General



Christina Willing was a beloved, long-time resident and avid volunteer in Metchosin, who loved dancing, nature, baking, gardening and being a host Mom for her extended "family" of Pearson College students. Willing family photo

Hospital on December 18, 2025. She was predeceased by Uncle Fred in 2004 and is survived by six children, Paul, Glenn, Ricki, Peter, Garth, and Belle, their spouses, 15 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held on Feb 21, 2026 at the Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave.

Ray was born in Victoria, B.C. on October 11, 1932 to Harry and Mary Creasser of Metchosin.

He enjoyed growing up there with his six siblings where they roamed and explored, and with much imagination, built their vast network of logging roads with their toys left in place across the road 'to be continued' each day. Ray attended Rocky Point School and went on to Belmont High School, when it was first opened. He fondly remembered picking up rocks to help make a playing field.

For while he worked with his Dad helping him with logging, but it was during work in another area, that an older worker suggested to him that he 'join the Airforce' and get a trade. Ray took this to heart and was forever grateful to this mentor that shortly after he did join the Airforce, where he stayed for eight years. He worked in various capacities, among them working with radar and sonar. He was in France, Germany and Sardinia during part of this time. When he first came back to Canada he started working at DND, Esquimalt but was soon transferred to work on Sonar near Pat Bay, with some time up island near Nanoose and eventually transferred fully to Rocky Point Ammunition Depot where he worked until retirement.

Soon after Ray returned to Canada, he met his wife Elinor at a mixer dance. They both 'knew' and were engaged and married in less than a year. Ray had a two acre property in Metchosin with a half built house on it... it was now put on fast track to finish and they moved in with lots still to do. They loved living in Metchosin and raised their family who also had lots of space to explore and roam.

Ray was always involved in the Metchosin community. He, Elinor and family attended St. Mary's church. Ray was very involved in volunteering his time after retirement in helping with the building of the new church, St. Mary of the Incarnation. He was always out and about cleaning up and checking locks, clearing drains etc. He especially loved working 'with the guys' on Monday mornings at the Heritage Church with the routine repairs and maintenance, he kept the machinery in good form, having it tuned up ready to go in the Spring and repaired anything when it broke, only stopping after he had a stroke and could no longer participate.

Ray loved being outside and working on his property, especially when it came to collecting for a bonfire. His children let it be known he was not to light the bonfire, until they were 'there'. Ray loved his chainsaws, using them to cut 'one tree a year on the property' for firewood for heating the house. He and his brothers were well known for 'falling a tree', either cutting it into blocks, or running it through the sawmill at his brother's place across the road. He also loved going to the beach to look for cedar.

Ray and Elinor did some traveling after Ray retired, going on several Cruises which they loved. They also enjoyed camping and did a lot of road trips and family visiting while their children were growing up.

After Ray suffered a stroke in 2022, they knew they could not live in Metchosin and care for the property they loved. They lived on Morland Road during their whole marriage and raised their children there. They moved into Trillium Westshore Village in the Lodge. Both knew they made the right move at the right time. Ray loved his time here and could move with ease with his walker on his many walks outside and trips to the Cafe.

Ray was a kind, gentle man, respected by everyone he knew. His family was his world. He leaves his wife Elinor, son Kevin (Sherrie), daughter Brenda, daughter Nora (Cameron), grandson Gavin, granddaughters Zoe, Hailey and Evelyn. He also leaves his brother Clarence (Joyce), sister Marjie, brother Don (Felice) and sister Joan (Mike) and many nieces, nephews, and 'greats'. He is predeceased by his siblings Stuart and Doris.

There will be a service for Ray in the Spring in Metchosin.

# Seniors' Resource Centre

## M E T C H O S I N

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

### WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, February 2, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

### 65+ BUS TRIPS!

Thursday, February 12, Trip to Sooke for Coffee/Brunch  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### 65+ BUS TRIPS!

Thursday, February 26, TBA - Check our website or call SRC  
for more details. 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Join us on a group bus trip.

### NAVIGATING THE REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE FOR SENIORS

Thursday, February 12, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Victoria Realtor Tony Joe will present on today's real estate landscape and what you need to know if you are considering putting your house on the market. Panelists Jill Phipps (Home Again Seniors Transition Services) and Mark Phillips (Home Equity Bank) will answer your questions about downsizing, moving and CHIP Reverse Mortgages.

### METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, February 19, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Share the experience of caring for family members or friends.

Register at [cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca](mailto:cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca) or phone 250-384-0408.

### FRIDAY COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE BAHÁ'Í GROUP

Friday, February 27, 10:00-11:30 am

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](mailto:info@metchosinseniors.ca) • [www.metchosinseniors.ca](http://www.metchosinseniors.ca)

## RCMP CallOuts

West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

There were 84 calls for service in Metchosin for the month of December (2025). A summary of the calls for service is reported below. Due to privacy concerns, limited information is provided, and not all 84 files are reflected below.

12-01 Traffic patrols on Metchosin Road and Duke Road.

Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road and Windover Terrace.

Traffic patrols on Metchosin Road and Wootton Road.

Deer struck by vehicle on Happy Valley Road.

12-04 A single vehicle collision occurred on Sooke Road, in which a vehicle swerved to avoid a truck crossing the centre line and ended up in a residential fence. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

12-05 A single vehicle collision occurred on Sooke Road, in which a driver lost control. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

A vehicle was stopped on Happy Valley Road, and the driver was determined to be prohibited from driving stemming from an impaired driving offence one week earlier. Driver was arrested for Driving While Prohibited and set to appear in court.

Due to high winds, a tree branch fell onto a moving vehicle, damaging the vehicle, near Sooke and Kangaroo Road. A second vehicle collided with the debris from the falling branch. No injuries were sustained by either party.

12-06 A single vehicle collision occurred on Sooke Road, in which the vehicle hit a rock wall and ended up rolling onto its side. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

A single vehicle collision occurred on Metchosin Road, in which wet conditions caused a vehicle to collide with a power pole. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

12-10 A person and vehicle were noted to have entered and trespassed onto a rural property on Swanwick Road overnight. No investigative leads to pursue.

A single vehicle accident occurred in which a vehicle rolled 20 feet down an embankment. Driver was not in the vehicle at the time, minimal damage occurred.

12-11 Traffic patrols on Metchosin Road and Happy Valley Road.

12-12 A collision occurred in the 1500 block of Kangaroo Road, in which two vehicles collided head-on. Both vehicles ended up fully engulfed in flames, which were extinguished by firefighters. All occupants of the vehicles were taken to hospital for assessment, but no major injuries sustained. Impairment not a factor.

12-13 A single vehicle collision occurred in the 3800 block of Metchosin Road. Vehicle hydroplaned and went off the road into a telephone pole. No injuries, impairment not a factor.

21-14 A single vehicle collision occurred on William Head Road and Swanwick Road. Driver sustained minor injuries, impairment not a factor.

12-16 Traffic patrols on Windover Terrace and Rocky Point Road.

12-17 A single vehicle collision occurred in the 4500 Block of Sooke Road. Vehicle collided into a rock face. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

12-18 Police conducted an impaired driving check stop at Sooke Road and Kangaroo Road.

12-19 A single vehicle collision occurred on Shooting Star Place. Heavy rain a factor, no injuries sustained.

A single vehicle collision occurred on Rocky Point Road, in which a vehicle struck a deer. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

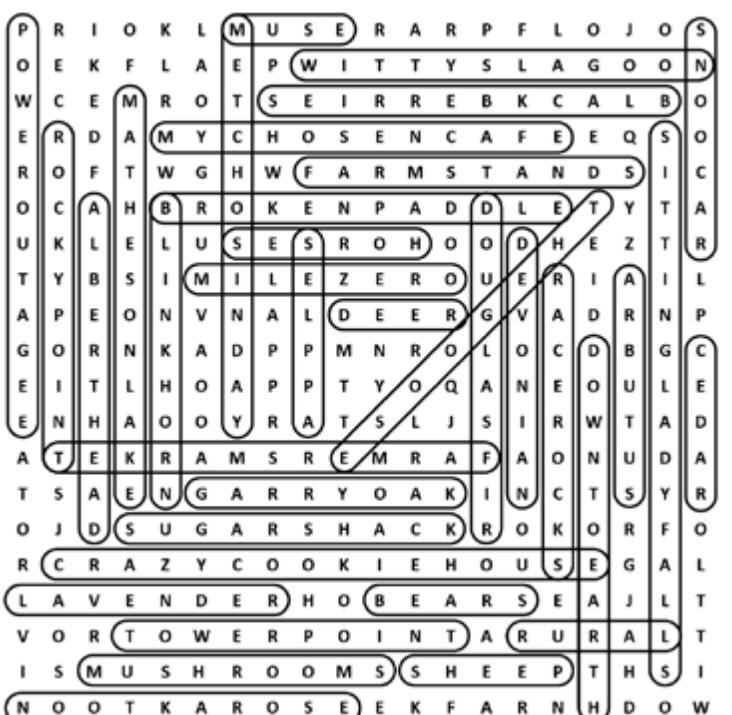
12-23 Traffic patrols in the 3700 block of Metchosin Road.

12-24 A report of possible mischief to a vehicle from a pellet gun on Metchosin Road.

12-26 A single vehicle collision occurred in the 4900 block of Sooke Road, in which a vehicle rolled multiple times into the ditch. No injuries sustained, impairment not a factor.

12-29 Two hikers became lost while hiking Mount Braden in the Sooke Hills Park. Hikers were located by Search and Rescue and Metchosin Fire Safe, with no injuries.

### METCHOSIN WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



## Important Dates & Events

February

### Important Dates & Events

- Feb. 07 Preschool Open House.....p. 9
- Feb. 27 Film Night.....p. 4
- March 01 Bath Towel Project.....p. 9
- Council Meetings.....p. 2
- Gaza film fundraiser.....p. 5
- House Happenings.....p. 8
- MACCA events.....p. 8
- ArtPod.....p. 8
- Seniors' Resource Centre events.....p. 11

## 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!

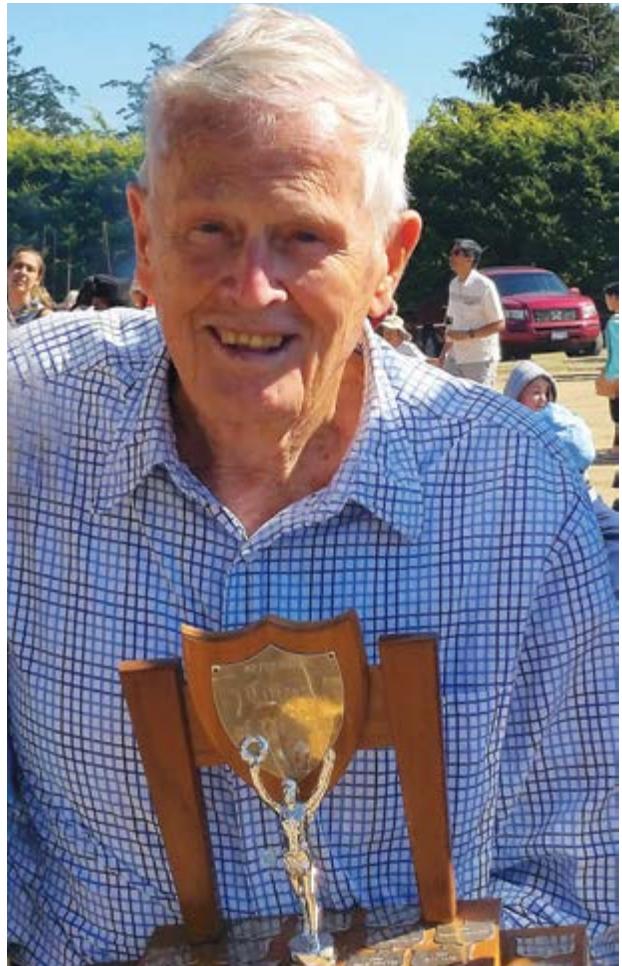
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We Are the  
way to clean!

# Remembering Chris Pratt (May 27, 1924 – January 6, 2026)



A surprised and delighted Chris Pratt accepts the 2001 Metchosin Citizen of the Year Award for his many years of tireless and capable efforts in our community. He continued serving Metchosin in many ways, as well as his close relationship with Pearson College and its students, until shortly before his passing on Jan. 6, 2025, well into his 101st year. A.Jones photo

Bev Hall and Morgan Yates

Christopher Gratrix Pratt was born in High River, Alberta. The family moved to Metchosin in time for Chris to celebrate his first birthday playing on Weir Beach with his beloved older sister, Jean. He had an idyllic childhood, living in Victoria and spending summers in Metchosin, which he referred to as "days of freedom, sunshine and kind people." It was during this time that his love of the ocean and boats

developed. At the age of 15, Chris enrolled in Victoria College and went on to UBC for one year.

The next 36 years of his life were determined by a brochure that arrived on Christmas Day 1941 advertising the new Canadian naval college, HMCS Royal Roads, and a one-year training course. Chris was part of the first intake of naval cadets in 1942. Upon graduation he was awarded the rank of Midshipman and sailed in August for Scotland. This was the beginning of a long and distinguished career in the military. He retired with the rank of Captain in 1978 and took on several administrative roles including rural municipal planning in Nova Scotia and Chair of the Halifax Diocesan Pastoral Council. After an administrative position in the Chemistry Department at UVic he took on a two-year "enjoyable and educational position" as personal assistant for the General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In 1983, he returned to Metchosin and built the home where he lived the rest of his life, enjoying a vista of sea and sky, with his door always open and a cup of tea with shortbread cookies always offered.

Metchosin greatly benefited by his return. In 2001 Chris was nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award from Metchosin Council for his work with the School Museum Society, the Heritage Advisory Select Committee, the District's Economic and Finance Advisory Committee, his active role in Metchosin's new Parks and Trails Committee, and for helping to compile an inventory of flora and fauna in the Mary Hill land area while working with the Victoria Natural History Society. In 2016 he was declared Citizen of the Year which celebrates the achievements, over numerous years, of a Metchosin resident who has contributed significantly to the community.

He will be remembered for his role in establishing the Metchosin Foundation and for serving as a multi-term director, concluding a final board term on his 101st birthday. He was an environmentalist and a visionary and was especially concerned that the beauty, biodiversity and cultural history of Mary Hill be protected for future generations. Upon learning that Chris had passed, former multi-term mayor John Ranns opined that Metchosin had lost one of its greatest and most perceptive supporters. Recent email and phone calls between Chris' friends have contained many tributes. Perhaps the most succinct

came from long-term resident Bev Bacon: "Chris was a Metchosin treasure."

Chris was a strong supporter and a Patron of Pearson College and was especially passionate about the earlier years of the College, when student enrollment was based solely on merit, rather than a combination of merit and means. Many Pearson students benefited from his friendship and guidance and several became his lifelong friends. He was a host family volunteer from the late 1980s until the mid 2000s, retiring from the role only when advanced age meant he could no longer give students the experiences he wanted for them. One student who returned with his family to visit Chris described being hosted by him: "it was an opportunity to meet a friend, a partner, a mentor, a cook, a sailor, an architect, a social worker, a neighbour, a conversationalist, an environmentalist, and a great heart. I feel so grateful and fortunate." In both 2018 and 2019, the College honoured Chris with ceremonies of recognition.

With the benefit of fortunate genetics, a strong and generous spirit and decades of accumulated wisdom, Chris showed us that one can be a vital force for community and environment, well into old age.

Chris is survived by his four children, seven grandchildren, two great granddaughters and innumerable friends. With his passing, Metchosin and the wider world has lost a wonderful human being.

Poem "Chris" written by his late friend and neighbour, Sarah (Lally) Baring-Gould

## Chris

*Voyager, sailor  
and lover of the sea,  
of the earth and the woods,  
of humming-birds  
and all that grows,  
of hot cups of coffee,  
and words,  
books.  
Conservationist  
volunteer extraordinaire,  
conversationalist,  
host,  
friend.*

## A Sonnet

Written during Sundry Tempestuous Evenings in December, 2025

When Night hath cast his dusky mantle o'er  
The firmament's tumult before my view,  
Alas! inside me musings do ensue –  
That this year shall bestow its boons no more!  
Whence fled those hours which I had once lov'd?  
Nor Pleasure, nor Repose can bid them stay,  
For, as a vapour doth, they haste away,  
Ere one-half of their merit hath been prov'd.  
'Tis thee! dread Tempest, with impetuous eyes,  
Thou Emperor above celestial things –  
Who bearest these last days upon thy wings,  
Unto Oblivion, where Memory dies!  
O black-brow'd tyrant! make thy thieving cease!  
Let them adorn their transient time in peace!

Abrawn T. R. Shiskowski



Sparky, the Fire Hall mascot and editorial staff supervisor, lends a paw on proofreading day.... before settling down for a nap. B.Sawatsky photo



## Metchosin Muse

A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

## Rate Card - 2026

The *Metchosin Muse* is the local, non-profit newspaper published 11 times a year (the July/Aug issue is a 2 month issue).

The Muse team 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.

We use Canada Post to deliver the Muse to every residential and business address in Metchosin.

Combined with strategic local drop-off locations targeting local gathering venues, we aim to be in the hands of every person visiting or living in Metchosin.

1 - 5 Issues	6 - 11 Issues
Business Card (H) – 4" w x 2.5" h	\$56.00
Business Card (V) – 2" w x 5" h	\$56.00
4" w x 4" h	\$88.00
1/6 page (V) – 4" w x 5" h	\$110.00
1/6 page (H) – 6" w x 3.3" h	\$110.00
1/4 page (V) – 5" w x 7.5" h	\$165.00
1/2 page (H) – 10.3" w x 7.5" h	\$320.00
Banner 10.3" w x 2" h	\$110.00
Full Page Ad (if available)	\$630.00
Insert - 8.5" x 11"	\$295.00
Classified (25 Words)	\$20.00
Annual Subscription	\$40.00

## Obituaries & Announcements

Obituaries and Announcements have the same specifications as commercial ads and will be billed at the 1X rate.

## Ad Booking Deadline: 15th of each month

Full payment in advance of publication Ad Rates as of January 1, 2025

Advertising is in greyscale/B&W format. Camera-ready ads only, in PDF format (images minimum 200dpi)

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