



Metchosin Muse

Vol. 34 Issue 3

March 2026

metchosinmuse@gmail.com www.metchosinmuse.ca

Farewell to Metchosin's Fire Chief

Johnny Carline

By the time you read this, Metchosin will no longer have Stephanie Dunlop as its long time Fire Chief. She will have moved on to take the position of Deputy Fire Chief in Central Saanich. She told the Muse that this was a career move and observed, wistfully, how much she was going to miss Metchosin and its people. To say the least, those of us who knew Stephanie and the role she played in this community are going to miss her.

When I first moved into this community in 2011, it seemed to me that Stephanie was clearly the "go to" person on the municipal staff. In addition to being the Fire Chief, Council turned to her to take on responsibilities that had little to do with the tasks one normally associates with being the Fire Chief. She enjoyed the confidence of the Mayor and Council and played a role that might be described as an "associate CAO". Her creativity brought in substantial funds to the district. She seemed to have a special talent for securing grants for projects the cost of which would otherwise have had to be added to local property taxes.

As time passed and the municipality evolved, Stephanie's responsibilities narrowed somewhat but she still embraced the broader role of emergency management and Metchosin became a focus for emergency response training in the region. Yet all the while Stephanie remained one of the most effective and publicly accessible Fire Chiefs I have known in my forty-year career in local government. Personally, I will always remember her striding up my driveway just minutes after my wife suffered the aneurism that would eventually take her life. No-one could have acted more swiftly and effectively while still exuding comfort and kindness and I am sure many others in Metchosin could speak of similar experiences.

She has been outstanding in her ability to take a leadership or commanding role when that was required. The willing recognition by many others of her leadership role in the complex political circumstances of local government speaks volumes about the respect others had for her. Former mayor John Ranns told the Muse, "Stephanie was a visionary with the creativity to make her vision happen. It will cost a lot of money to replace



Fire Chief Stephanie giving a community presentation about fire safety; Allen Jones photo.

her. Losing her is a bloody shame." The current mayor, Marie-Therese Little, echoed these sentiments, paying tribute to Stephanie's past commitment to this community and particularly how her commitment to training firefighters had brought benefits to the entire region. Both expressed the hope that this move would allow Stephanie to devote more time to herself and her family.

Typically, she is moving on to another role with little attempt at fuss and fanfare. Hopefully, what she has built up here in Metchosin will carry on effectively after she has left. I surely speak for many when I say: "Good luck, Stephanie. You served this community well and you deserve our gratitude. We are certainly going to miss you."



Working with the Emergency Preparedness Team. Unknown photo.



Bob Burgis presents a photo from the museum. Unknown photo.



Fire hall tribute to the Chief; Allen Jones photo.

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

I seem to feel less safe today.
I'm experiencing a loss.
Help was always close at hand,
when Stephanie was boss.

Somehow she got the lot of us
under her umbrella of care.
When something bad would happen
Stephanie would be there.

I wish we could hold on to her,
but she has her life to live.
Central Saanich will be richer
with all she has to give.

"911. What is your emergency?"
"I need Chief Dunlop!"

Bev Bacon

The 2026 Metchosin Apple Tree Grafting Day

Sunday March 29 at Bilston Farm 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Derek Wulff

The Metchosin Pomological Society is pleased to announce the Apple Grafting Day at Bilston Creek Farm on March 29. Truly a harbinger of spring, this annual event has become the top place for fruit tree aficionados to meet, graft dormant fruit trees of all kinds, and learn more about fruit tree husbandry.

We are not apple snobs either - you are welcome to bring any fruit tree scionwood that you think is worthy, (nectarines, apricots, plums, almonds, avocados, pears) to share with our community of fruit growing enthusiasts. We will have scionwood available from our trees for free. So, if you do not have some, do not worry. If you have some you want to share, cut some scionwood now (last year's tip growth), cover the bottom with wet paper towel and seal

in a bag in the fridge until the event.

The MPS will supply rootstock for the event and welcomes anyone who is interested in trying their hand at grafting to come out for the event, no experience needed. Growing your own fruit is a great way to eat locally and reduce reliance on other places for our food.

If you have not grafted before but want to have a look - come on - it's free! (the rootstock costs \$6, though, if you want to take home a

grafted tree). We will have dedicated experts on hand who will help you graft and we will be grafting other trees too, and showing you how to make Frankentrees - I have 10 varieties of apples on one tree, and each year add a few more, why not? So, if you do not have room for more trees, come along and learn how to add varieties to the trees you already have.

I will bring a few avocado scionwood pieces for those of you who have been growing an avocado tree (baby

finger thick trunk). Cold hardy varieties will produce in this environment, but they need to be grafted to the one you grew from the grocery store. You will need at least an unheated greenhouse to grow them, though.

If you have any questions please call Derek Wulff, past president of the Metchosin Pomological Society 250 478 2677. See you on March 29.

Metchosin Muse

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CURRENT CIRCULATION

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. 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

MARCH 2026

Grant-in-Aid Applications are due Monday March 16, 2026

Applications are available on the District of Metchosin website at www.metchosin.ca > Council > Grant in Aid Program, or at the Municipal Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria BC.

Property Tax Notices

The District of Metchosin receives its mailing addresses for municipal property tax notices from BC Assessment. Do you need to update your mailing address? If you did not recently receive your Property Assessment Notice from BC Assessment, this is an indication your mailing address may not be up to date. See <http://info.bcassessment.ca/services-products/update-your-property-information> for more information or call BC Assessment at 1-866-825-8322. Metchosin mails out Property Tax Notices in May.

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

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

Soil Delivery Restricted Until May

Residents are reminded that soil delivery is restricted from November through April each year to help reduce damage to roadways from heavy truck traffic. Please contact the Municipal Hall before bringing in soil, rock, gravel, or sand to ensure you comply with the community's by-laws and to avoid fines. [Metchosin.ca/Bylaws/Bylaws/Soil Removal & Deposit Bylaw No. 402](http://Metchosin.ca/Bylaws/Bylaws/Soil%20Removal%20&%20Deposit%20Bylaw%20No.%20402) Consolidated March 2025.

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/Meetings/Meeting Schedule](http://www.metchosin.ca/Meetings/Meeting%20Schedule) .

See below meeting dates and times for March 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.

Council Meeting.....	March 02.
Committee of the Whole.....	March 09.
Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee.....(4:00 pm)	March 17.
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee..... (4:30 pm)	March 24.
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee.....	March 24.
Council Meeting.....	March 23.

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Volunteer Opportunity Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee

The District of Metchosin is seeking a community volunteer to serve on the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee is comprised of the City of Colwood, City of Langford, District of Highlands, District of Metchosin, District of Sooke, Town of View Royal and Township of Esquimalt.

The Committee assists the partner municipalities in improving livability, inclusivity and accessibility as outlined in the *Accessible BC Act*. One representative from each community is appointed to the Committee.

The Committee meets a minimum of four (4) times per year on the fourth Wednesday of the following months: February, May, September and November or as established by the Committee in consultation with the host municipality.

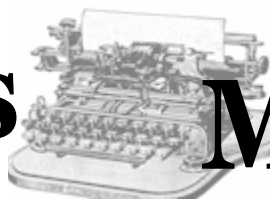
If you are interested in improving accessibility in your community, please submit your expression of interest and resume to accessibility@metchosin.ca by Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. to:

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 4450 Happy Valley Road
 Victoria, BC V9C 3Z3
 phone: 250-474-3167
 Email to: accessibility@metchosin.ca

For more information, please contact the Municipal Hall at 474-3167 or view the District of Metchosin website at www.metchosin.ca.

The Metchosin Muse welcomes
 volunteers.
metchosinmuse@gmail.com

Editor's Musings



Allen Jones

At the time of writing Metchosin has barely seen a sprinkling of snow so far and we hope that you have been enjoying the mild start to winter. Some parts of Canada have not been so lucky. The Winter Olympics in Italy were possible this year despite the IOC concerns of limited possible venues due to climate change. Nonetheless, it is always good to watch our athletes perform at the highest level. Wouldn't it be wonderful if wars were paused during the Games as in ancient times.

In Metchosin the war of the tax-exempt establishments seems to have been resolved by Council not just covering local taxes but including additional taxation as before. Metchosin taxpayers are showing their generosity yet again!

Further to your generosity to local charities our thanks go out to all who have supported the *Muse* with donations during our current call-out for financial help.

Some of your kind comments were:

- Thank you to all the volunteers who keep the paper going.
- We appreciate and enjoy reading the newsy Metchosin Muse, thank you to all the volunteers that put it together.
- Long time resident- Love your paper. Happy to help. Best regards.
- Thank you. I enjoy the reading. Well done!
- It's rewarding to volunteer for the Muse!
- The Muse is important to us, and to our community, and we are proud to support it!
- Donation to help cover publication costs.
- We are 20yr residents of Metchosin & have always loved the Muse.
- Look forward to the Muse every month!

E-transfers can still be made to our treasurer Linda Spiller at amuselinda@gmail.com.

We hope to keep publishing for the foreseeable future. Which might not be all that long if an article published by the *Guardian* is correct: "The world is closer than we thought to a point of no return after which runaway global heating cannot be stopped, scientists have said. Continued global heating could trigger climate tipping points, leading to a cascade of further tipping points and feedback loops. This would lock the world into a new and hellish "hothouse Earth" climate far worse than the 2-3 deg.C. temperature rise the world is on track to reach. The climate would also be very different to the benign conditions of the past 11,000 years." You can hear more from Elizabeth May on March 3 at St. Marys' Church.

Have a happy March and don't forget to 'spring forward' when Daylight Saving begins on Sunday March 8.

P.S. To have letters and articles considered for the April issue, please note our deadline of March 13.

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.*

Hello Friends of the Buffer Land

On a chilly but beautifully sunny Saturday, January 17, a dedicated group of twenty volunteers from Metchosin, Langford, and Colwood came together to clear hundreds of Scotch broom plants from the southern part of the Buffer Land. Volunteers pulled, pruned, and lopped broom while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The morning was productive, social, and genuinely enjoyable for everyone involved.

Thanks to this great turnout, the event was a huge success and most of the broom in the area has now been

removed. Some ongoing maintenance will still be needed to pull young plants as they appear.

Our next broomclearing event is scheduled for Saturday, March 21. If you're able to volunteer, please contact us by email: bufferlandfriends@gmail.com.

We also want to share some encouraging news: at their January 12 meeting, Metchosin Council confirmed their support for the ongoing maintenance and ecological stewardship of the Buffer Land by establishing a dedicated Reserve Fund.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this important community effort.

Richard Simpson, Interim Chair, Friends of the Buffer Land



Broom bashers ready for the battle; Jay Shukin photo

Scout Group Bottle Drive

On January 31, twenty youth and almost as many adults with the Metchosin 14th JDF Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts endured the on and off downpour for our big Fundraising Bottle Drive. Bundled in warm clothes and fueled by great conversations, good friends, warm hotdogs and yummy burgers, these youth worked tirelessly for four hours, sorting and counting approximately 14,000 returnable items and a few generous

cash donations. Thank you Metchosin for the generous offerings totalling just over \$1500. Your support goes a long way as these funds go directly towards the youth and their programming! For those that collect throughout the year, please remember that our 14th JDF Scout group continues to benefit from the bottles brought to the donation bin at the Metchosin Community Hall!



Happy scouts with their bumper donations; Barb Sawatsky photo.

Curtis Becker

Remembering Moralea Milne

Moralea Milne died in the summer of 2018 in Vancouver. I invite readers to visit the *Muse* website > past issues, to read the September 2018 edition report.

Moralea was born on March 15, 1950. "The Ides of March," as she would jokingly tell her friends. A tangible environmental legacy is located behind the Fire Hall. Moralea's Meadow has been a reality for a few years thanks to

dedicated volunteers and contains only local native plants. There are information boards that help explain this precious place.

Some Metchosinites, who loved Moralea, are now promoting the concept of creating "Moralea's Mini Meadows" throughout Metchosin. You could create one on your own property as they are easy to create yet are not a "plant and forget" project, as some

maintenance and protection is required.

For further details for creating your own "Moralea's Mini Meadows" please contact the writer at an42jo104gb@earthlink.net.

We no longer have Moralea, yet we can still follow her lead and ask ourselves, "What would Moralea do with this if she were still here?"

Donald Plank

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Details: metchosincommunityhouse.com



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Agri-Tourism Workshop at Bilston Creek Farm: March 31

Robin Tunnicliffe

The Metchosin Agriculture Advisory Committee is inviting farmers for an afternoon of learning and socialising at Bilston Creek Farm from 2:00-5:00 pm on March 31. The topic for discussion is agri-tourism, and how local farmers can incorporate farm experiences into offerings to the public. Two speakers are coming to join us: Karma Brophy, a tourism development specialist and educator, and Rebecca Papadopoulos from Keating Farm in Cowichan.

Karma will give farmers a summary of the breadth of agri-tourism opportunities that are possible in our region. She has worked closely with CR-Fair on the Flavour Trails marketing of farmers on the Saanich Peninsula. She has

also been working on other tourism packages that could incorporate agri-tourism components for the Westshore region.

Rebecca Papadopoulos is a professional engineer, regenerative farmer, and co-owner of Keating Farm. She is a passionate advocate for agri-tourism, food sovereignty, and rural community development, holding leadership roles in multiple regional organizations. Rebecca has come up against challenges from the regulatory framework, and she can share her experiences with farmers and answer questions you might have about barriers to achieving your goals.

From 2:00-3:00 pm will be social time and refreshments. It is always great to have time to check in with each other about plans for the upcoming

season and challenges that we are experiencing. We will lead an informal discussion about the Area Agriculture Plan and what you think the next priorities are for other workshop-style implementation activities. From 3:00-5:00 pm we will hear from our speakers and have time for Q & A and some brainstorming about what opportunities might be suitable for collective visioning. Interested parties may want to form a working group to keep the momentum going.

Thanks to another generous donation from Bilston Creek Farm, there will be no charge for the event, but refreshments will be available at a cash bar, and pizza will be available for purchase after the event so plan to stay a while!

Reinstating All Tax Exemptions for Non-Profits

Barb Sawatsky

It was with some relief on February 9, 2026 when part of the council meeting ended on a positive note for Metchosin's seven non-profit organizations. As Cllr. Donaldson remarked, "It was the biggest outpouring I have seen in decades."

The cause of the holding of collective breaths was the revisiting of Council's decision last year to retain property tax exemptions for Metchosin non-profits but not to pay for the taxes payable to the District. Following the mayor's recommendations, Council voted unanimously to cover all this year's taxes through grants-in-aid. However, the decision on reinstating tax exemptions for the coming year is now expected in June, 2026.

Leading up to the February 9 vote, representatives of the non-profits and members of the public spoke of the value these organizations give to our community. Special mention must be given to "Dr. Dan" who addressed council with an

eloquent, impassioned appeal about Metchosin's green heart. He spoke of threats and the vulnerability of our community green spaces and stated, "there seems to be a drift in thinking that we're going to be okay," urging Council and all of us to cherish what we have and to preserve as well as to enhance it. The room was silent while he spoke and to her credit, Councillor Donaldson as Chair, did not suppress the applause he received and deserved. Dan's address to Council can be found on the District of Metchosin's website: Council meeting of February 9 at time 50:33-53:45 but, if you can, watch the entire video for a sense of Monday night's meeting.

Prior to the vote, Councillor Gray offered four lessons for Council from the decision to partly cancel property tax exemptions. These points have been paraphrased from the video:

1. Council must do better to get in touch, and stay in

touch, with the values of our community.

2. Council and staff must engage early and communicate with those who will be impacted before making decisions affecting them.

3. Council must observe the principles of procedural fairness, and the CAO must keep Council on track.

4. Council must work as a unit. Information from staff to assist decision making must be provided to all members of council, not only to a select few. Council is the decision-making body, not one or two individuals.

After sitting through many Monday night Council meetings and coming away wanting to bite someone's head off, the first part of the February 9 meeting had a refreshing conclusion. As people mingled and chatted outside afterwards some hope was expressed that maybe, just maybe, they were listened to and heard this time.

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Upcoming MACCA Events

Exhibition Viewing Hours:
Tuesday to Thursday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm and Friday to Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm.

From March 5 to April 26, MACCA (Metchosin Arts Cultural Centre Association) welcomes a retrospective on the use of vessels: bottles, mason jars, and vases in Joanne Thomson's career. She is a full-time visual artist specializing in watercolour for illustration and fine art. Her quiet and contemplative approach to art making is evident in her landscapes, illustrations, and in her completed vessels retrospective.

Thomson describes her three series and their inspiration: "Vessels are such a useful metaphor for embedding meaning beyond the literal. And they are beautiful. Sometimes the literal meaning is more than enough."

The first series is the Bottled Series. It is an exploration of oppression, internalized and externally applied. These colourful, abstract works were dominant in Thomson's creative life for over twenty years.

The second series is the 300 Mason Jar Series. It is a family history comprised of 276 paintings on paper (13 of which will be in this exhibition). The jars contain artifacts that hold memories and secrets. The fragmented history of one family's hope, challenge, failure, and persistence is beautifully depicted in the watercolour images by Thomson. Combining still-life painting with visual storytelling, Thomson presents everyday artifacts, from flowers to fruits, tools to toys, and photographs to farm equipment. She places

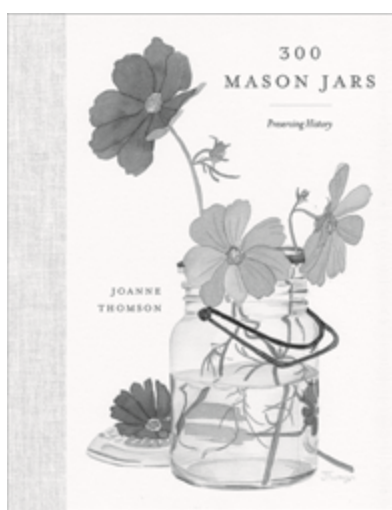
them in, on, beside, or behind a glass jar. The simple objects in this collection represent the depth and complexity of daily life. Arranged thematically, the pieces explore traditional gender roles, the issue of food security in times of scarcity, renewal and hope presented by the bounty of nature, treasures passed down through generations, and the looming presence of family secrets.

The third series of vessels are vases. These works are vacations. Simply an opportunity to spend time with the beauty that they are and that they hold. No hidden meanings. Purely contemplation of the beauty available in our world.

Workshop - March 18 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Vessels: as subject and metaphor. This workshop will be about creating the illusion of round, transparent vessels in watercolour. Thomson will talk and demonstrate for about an hour at the start of the class. Participants will bring their own supplies, vessels, and stories to inform their paintings. Registration at <https://www.joannethomson.com/>

Call out to artists.

The curator of MACCA's Point of View Hallway Gallery is currently building a list of fine art showings for the 2026/27 year. Each artist adjudicated into the gallery space is given a two-month period for their show and a block of time for a reception. There are opportunities for the artist to give workshops. When an exhibition is being hung, the MACCA POV coordinator will be present to give advice and direction. Artists are asked to put up and take down their



own pieces. Works can be displayed as "for sale", however, MACCA does not participate in the transaction. No commission is charged to the artist. Send applications to pov@metchosinartcentre.ca

ART Events at the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre

Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Watercolour Drop-in.

Polymer Clay presented by MISSA.

Sunday March 8, Lilypad Hobby and Arts Society Inaugural Crafternoon.

Saturday March 14, Painting on Fabric Workshop.

Wednesday March 18, Watercolour Workshop by Joanne Thomson.

Wednesdays, Improv Theatre Classes, and Yoga classes.

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Councillor Steve Gray

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Metchosin Council Loses a Pillar of the Community

Shari Rourke, Chair, Healthy Communities Advisory Select Committee

In 1973, Sharie Epp and husband Al began building their life here in Metchosin, raising their children and planting deep roots in the community they continue to call home. Sharie's career path reflected both versatility and a strong work ethic. From working as an educational assistant, to building a respected career as a sports reporter with the Victoria Times Colonist, alongside running a commercial chicken-catching business (a job description that feels uniquely fitting in Metchosin), Sharie remained connected to the people and everyday realities of our community.

That connection carried through her long history of volunteering, which continued throughout her time on Council. She has been a dedicated advocate for seniors, a champion of our volunteer fire department, a staunch supporter of the performing arts throughout the Capital Region, a longtime supporter of animal rescue, and a consistent advocate for the community's equestrian and agricultural activities.

Over the past seven years on Council, Sharie's

accomplishments reflected a practical, community-minded approach. She championed improvements to public and road safety throughout Metchosin, including the installation of lighted crosswalks, radar speed readers, lighted stop signs, roadside trail works, and other active transportation and safety initiatives funded through a variety of grants. These efforts have made tangible improvements to safety and accessibility across our community.

Sharie also supported the renovation of the Metchosin School Museum and helped guide the transition of our former elementary school into the vibrant community centre it is becoming. Today, the centre houses a broad cross-section of the community's arts and cultural groups, the Seniors' Resource Centre, commercial tenants including Mile Zero Brewery, the Metchosin Preschool, and the soon-to-open Metchosin Wellness Collective, with plans for a nurse practitioner-led, multidisciplinary medical clinic. The rental classrooms, gymnasium, and kitchen are seeing increasing use, generating revenue while continuing to serve as a valuable emergency support centre as part of the community's emergency operations plan. The community centre has truly become

a gathering place, benefiting residents of all ages and creating a legacy to be proud of.

Beyond Council chambers, many people know another side of Sharie - as one of our exceptionally talented local musicians. An extraordinary singer and musician who regularly performs in the community, she does not just support arts and culture, she truly lives it. She understands that creative spaces bring people together, and she has helped create many of those special moments herself. Her performances are always a highlight for many.

As Sharie steps away from Council to focus on home and family, I hope she knows how much she has meant to our community. Her steady commitment, practical leadership, and deep love for Metchosin have not gone unnoticed. Her efforts have made our community safer and stronger, and we are all incredibly thankful.

On behalf of the Healthy Communities Advisory Select Committee and the community as a whole, I wish Sharie all the best in this next chapter, and hope she enjoys more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. It has been a pleasure to get to know her over the past few years, and I am thankful for the friendship that has grown through our work together.



Farm visit with Mayor Little; Allen Jones photo.



With daughter, CHEK presenter, Stacy; Barb Sawatsky photo.



Attending meeting about oil spillage: photo credit unknown.



Halloween at the fire hall: Deirdre Chettleburgh photo.



Helping with MCA Auction night; Barb Sawatsky photo.



At council with Mayor Ranns; Barb Sawatsky photo.

March For Liz - Roadside Cleanup: Sunday, March 29

Barb Sawatsky

The French have a saying: "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" (the more things change, the more they stay the same). In Metchosin there have been some recent changes but one thing that does not change is the amount of garbage along our roads and in the ditches. Much of it is blown out of recycling containers and trucks but a considerable amount is thrown from vehicles, and the amount is far more obvious since Liz Jatkowski died in March 2021.

Liz and her hound, Zosia, were seen on every road and trail in Metchosin for many years. Wearing gloves and her high viz vest, carrying a long-handled grabber and with garbage bag in hand, she not only picked up garbage from our roadsides, but she climbed into ditches and pushed her way into blackberry thickets to retrieve anything she spied that should have been disposed of in a dumpster. In all weather, Liz cleaned up Metchosin every day for years and was recognized for her work in 2015 when Councillor Moralea Milne acknowledged her work with the Friends of the Earth Award on Metchosin Day. She was extremely

proud of this recognition, and the plaque was prominently displayed in her living room.

Liz's daily self-imposed volunteer activity endeared her to the crews at the fire hall and at the Public Works yard, so, when word reached them of her passing, the Metchosin Firefighter Society initiated the best way to honour her memory by organizing the March for Liz Roadside Cleanup in March, her birthday month. As Liz would have expected, this event takes place in all weather.

At the Metchosin Fire Hall on Sunday, March 29 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm, volunteer fire fighters will be

loaning safety vests and grabbers and handing out garbage bags to Metchosin residents who are willing to donate a few hours to "Make Metchosin Beautiful Again". Bags can be dropped off at the same location where garbage and recyclables will be sorted then loaded into a truck and taken to Hartland Road.

This is an excellent half day, volunteer opportunity for families to contribute to our community. Please participate, even if it is only to pick up garbage on the roadside in front of your home.



A previous March for Liz gathering at the firehall; Barb Sawatsky photo.

Bold Launch at the Cove Gallery

Phyllis Schwartz

The Metchosin ArtPod Gallery opened its 2026 program with the debut of the Cove Gallery, a new exhibition space within ArtPod dedicated to solo exhibitions and special projects. The Cove was created in response to a need among artists and audiences alike: the need for time, space, and continuity. It offers a space where ideas can be developed, evaluated, refined, and shared over time.

For artists, this means the chance to present work as an ongoing conversation rather than a single statement, to show process alongside outcome, to explore ideas across multiple works, and to take creative risks that benefit from focus and duration. A solo exhibition enables an artist to think in longer arcs: how one work leads to another, how materials and ideas shift, and how meaning deepens through repetition, variation, and return.

For visitors, the Cove sets a different pace of engagement, instead of moving through a curated group exhibition responding to a shared theme, as is typical in ArtPod Gallery. The Cove encourages viewers to spend time with one artist's core project. This focused

encounter promotes looking closely, noticing relationships between works, asking questions, and experiencing the artist's thinking as it unfolds across a larger body of work.

As an artist-run initiative, the Cove reflects ArtPod Gallery's commitment to supporting artistic development while fostering meaningful dialogue within the community. This exhibition space advances that mission by encouraging curiosity, conversation, and connection—supporting artists in exploring more deeply and inviting audiences to look closely over a sustained period.

In March, Angela Menzies will be featured in the Cove Gallery with *Once We Were Wolves*: an exhibition which reimagines classic fairy tales as modern allegories confronting sexual predation, crossed boundaries, and the harm of careless words. The exhibition will run until March 15. Angela will be in attendance and available to answer questions on Saturday, 28 February, from 2:00–4:00 pm.

The call for submissions for *Fire: Destructive, Regenerative, Sacred*, the next exhibition at the Metchosin ArtPod Gallery opens on March 19 and closes on April 6, with an artist reception on Saturday, March 20, starting at 2:00 pm. Juried by Samantha Dickie,

this exhibition honours World Earth Day as the third instalment in the continuing Elements Series. It explores the elemental force of fire across all artistic media, considering how fire represents both renewal and destruction: the sacred and the profane; safety and danger; passion and loss.

Accompanying this exhibition will be a smoke-fire workshop in April led by local potter Esther Drone. This two-part half day workshop will invite participants to make pinch pots one week-end and then gather a couple of weeks later to smoke-fire them. In between, the pots will have been burnished and bisque fired. This is a primitive and exciting technology for participants of all ages and experience levels. Details and registration at metchosinartpod.ca.

There will also be an opportunity to talk about art on Saturday April 11, 2:00–4:00 pm. A panel of three local artists will explore *The Art of Seeing*. What is the difference between looking and seeing, and how do artists transform perception into art? How can we get the most from our experience as viewers of art. Come and take part in the conversation.

There is a buzz in the air about *Threads: Weaving Narratives*, ArtPod Gallery's current show. The guest book

is filled with visitors' reflections on this fibre-forward show, with many calling it the gallery's best exhibition to date. This exhibition is distinguished by its diverse use of fibre as a material, boldly exploring memory, story, and commentary. Cindy McMath's paintings assemble fragments of nostalgic memories of landline telephones, rendered in colours that echo an era defined by telephone conversation culture. *Lost or Just Disoriented*, a hand-dyed, hand-painted, machine-stitched composition by Jean Gerster and a Juror's Choice award recipient, is a work that reflects the difficulty of assessing the psychic state of loved ones experiencing ongoing cognitive decline. Diana Smith repurposes a Second World War era tarpaulin as both canvas and abstract composition, asking what this cotton canvas once protected and what stories its lines might tell. *Threads*, as described by gallery visitors, is a conversation that speaks across art media, with the common connection being the fibres and threads that create a community network. The exhibition continues until 15 March.

Gallery hours are Fridays to Sundays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

What's Happening in Moralea's Meadow?

Merrilee Hoen

January and February were remarkably mild months so, while the activity of plants and volunteers continued at a slower pace, it never stopped. Now that March is here, we are in full swing. As well as weeding, sieving soil, mulching, and planting, we have also improved our record keeping. Our plant inventory and activity log are organized in a central location so we can access the information and use our phones to record observations while in the Meadow.

Later in the spring, we hope to offer tours by donation for small groups where we walk through the Meadow to explain its history and plants. Anyone who might like a tour can contact us at the email address below.

If you are interested in joining our group, you are always welcome to drop by on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to noon to see what we are doing. We also welcome donations of wood chips (from native shrubs and trees), oak leaves, and large pieces of heavy cardboard. We use these materials

for our mulching, and they can be dropped off at the Meadow any time.

Plants in bud or bloom: June Plum, Red Flowering Currant.

Plants sprouting: Shooting Stars, Miner's Lettuce, Yarrow, Satin Flower, Woolly Sunflower, Camas, Sea Blush, Spring Gold, Self-heal, Nodding Onion.

Bird/Insect activity in and around the Meadow: Bald Eagle, Thatching Ants.

Contact information:

Email: info@moraleasmeadow.ca

Website: www.moraleasmeadow.ca



Moralea's Meadow in the spring; Bev Hall photo.

Ten years of the Metchosin Challenge

Sharleen Thompson

The Metchosin Challenge is in its tenth year. During these years St Mary's has tried to be the heart and mind of Metchosin. Christianity is based on love and compassion. We are trying to apply this to the complex and multifaceted world surrounding us. How can we be effective in the world if we do not understand the complexity. The Metchosin Challenge is one way to try to understand the issues. It invites our community to live better by being more aware of issues facing our community and the world. We invite speakers on various themes to discuss the issues that our community faces. It is open to

everyone. The Challenge brings fact-based, respectful conversations with people with specialized knowledge. The challenge meets on Tuesday nights during Lent and started on Feb 24 going until March 31, in St Mary's New Church starting at 7:00 pm. We also have a Zoom link so others can attend. You can be sent a zoom link by sending an email to admin@stmarysmetchosin.ca.

Each year we have a theme. The St Mary's web site lists the themes and speakers that have presented in the previous nine years. The first year we had a theme of major issues facing the world and we are doing that theme again this year. In the nine years since

we first did this topic, the world has changed. People are generally feeling that the world is less safe and that many of their values are threatened. This year we are trying to address these changes. Here is the schedule:

First speaker, on Feb 24, was Rev. Wally Eamer, retired Deacon of St Mary's, and Harvard MBA on Rupture - Individual Rights, Identity and Collective Action.

Second speaker, on March 3, is Elizabeth May the leader of the Green Party of Canada, on Climate change, Reality, Progress, and Challenges.

Third speaker, on March 10, is Andy MacKinnon, a retired provincial government forester, ex-Metchosin

councillor, and writer of many books. He presented in our first year and is again presenting on endangered species and Ecosystems - 2026.

Fourth speaker, on March 17, is Dr. Jamie Lawson, U Vic Political Science Professor, on Threats to Our Values.

Fifth speaker, on March 24, is Penny Bryden from University of Victoria Political Science. She is presenting on the power structure changes in Canada and how this affects Democracy.

Sixth speaker, on March 31, is Michael Polanyi who has been involved with people fighting for their values. His topic is Resistance - is it Effective?

Goldstream Victory Celebration

Wednesday, March 18, at 7:00 pm in the Metchosin Community House.

Jackie Larkin

In mid-February Carl Olsen stood with others along the highway at Goldstream. That day, as cars and trucks honked their support, those gathered were celebrating the decision of the provincial government to pause its \$162 million-dollar Malahat 'expansion' project.

Carl spoke from his heart: "When you care for something as much as I do for Goldstream, for SELE@TE@, it's not only a beautiful place to be, it's where we harvested our winter supplies of salmon, medicine plants, food plants.

I fight for the salmon who don't have a voice, but I do; for the trees that don't have a voice, but I do. They are living things just like I am. If I did nothing, I would feel responsible for the loss."

Every week for the past three and a half years WS@NEC elder Carl Olsen has been standing, with colourful signs, next to the highway where the Goldstream River is visible. Over time he has been joined by a growing number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Come to hear Carl's story. A WS@NEC story. A story of community building. A story of one man's loving persistence.

The Metchosin Learning Group invites you to join Tsartlip Elder

Z@WIZUT Carl Olsen and other Goldstream Protectors to celebrate this partial victory and to be inspired by their fight to save SELE@TE@ from destruction. Join us on March 18, Wednesday, at 7:00 pm in the Metchosin Community House.

SELE@TE@ (Goldstream) is a site of cultural heritage and socio-ecological significance in unceded W@S@NEC territory. The stream is home to populations of chum, coho, and chinook salmon. It supports the lives of a multitude of other aquatic and terrestrial life.

This precious ecosystem has been under a massive threat: the Malahat highway expansion. This project was set to log 700 trees, destroy critical

salmon habitat, infringe on the Douglas Treaties and likely cost much more than \$162 million.

W@S@NEC law indicates a responsibility to ensure the vitality of the territories and their resources for generations to come. To this day, W@S@NEC harvesters continue to assert their rights to fish and gather foods within SELE@TE@ and to hold ceremony. As well, thousands of people visit the park every year to watch the salmon returning up the Goldstream River.

Hear the story, celebrate the success that comes from persistence and good organizing. Learn what you can do to ensure the highway 'expansion' project is permanently shelved.


METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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March 2026 **44 95** HVR

POV Hallway Gallery Featured Artist
Vessels: an exhibition of works by Joanne Thomson
 This exhibition ends April 26, 2026

Artist Statement: Vessels are such a useful metaphor for embedding meaning beyond the literal. And they are beautiful. Sometimes the literal meaning is more than enough. Three series are featured in this exhibition.



Workshop by Joanne Thomson
 March 18th, 2026 from 1 - 4 pm at the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Center.
 Vessels: as subject and metaphor. This workshop will be about creating the illusion of round, transparent vessels in watercolour. Thomson will talk and demonstrate for about an hour at the start of the class. Participants will bring their own supplies, vessels, and stories to inform their paintings. Registration through Joanne's website at <https://www.joannethomson.com/>

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EVENTS at METCHOSIN ArtPod

FRI 30 JAN- SUN 15 MAR
THREADS: weaving narratives
 Feature Artist and Juror: Elizabeth Carefoot
 • Come see this fibre-forward exhibition

FRI 20 MAR- SUN 3 MAY
FIRE: Destructive, Regenerative, Sacred
 Feature Artist and Juror: Samantha Dickie
 Call for Artists: 30 Jan- 6 March
 Opening Gala: Saturday 21 March, 2-4 pm

Upcoming **Solo Shows** in the ***NEW* Cove Gallery**

 **ANGELA MENZIES**
 ONCE WE WERE WOLVES SOLO SHOW
 FEB 27-MARCH 15 2026 • METCHOSIN ARTPOD

 **Dyan Marie**
The Anatomy Lesson
 Opens March 21
 Closes April 5
 Metchosin ArtPod

ArtPod Weekly Ateliers

- 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 for details

Metchosin ArtPod 4495 HAPPY VALLEY RD, METCHOSIN B.C.
 METCHOSINARTPOD.CA
 FB: METCHOSIN_ARTPOD IG: #METCHOSINARTPOD
 ArtPod + Cove Gallery Hours: Fridays- Sundays 11AM- 4PM

WEST SHORE ARTS COUNCIL

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

HOUSE HAPPENINGS!

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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

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE
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mcahouse@telus.net | metchosincommunityhouse.com

Hold your Nuts 'til Spring

Kathy Atherton

It was Groundhog Day in Metchosin this past month. Grayson, the interloper Eastern gray squirrel, craned his head out of his nest, got pelted with rain, and heaved a big sigh of relief that his nut cache would hold out 'til spring!

Like Grayson, **invasives** of the plant variety are also poking their heads out to get an early start on world domination! It seems a daunting task to tackle invasives and help preserve our green spaces in their natural state. The secret is in the old adage: "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!"

That appetite for ecosystem restoration has grown steadily. With persistence and dedication over many years following the initiative by the late Moralea Milne, a small coterie of volunteers with a vision has achieved a transformation in Devonian Park. Thanks to their Herculean efforts, the broom has been largely removed. The camas meadows are now flourishing again under the Garry oaks for all to enjoy.

Meanwhile, the Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative

(MISC), with hands-on support from industrious members and generous funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), has made great headway with removing the scourge of invasive holly in Metchosin's parks. It is now branching out into removing other species from Witty's Lagoon Regional Park. Since September of 2025, after 163 person-hours, we have trimmed ivy from almost 300 trees, removed over 3,000 holly plants, and made a dent in a multitude of other invasive plants like daphne.

There is also a 'new kid on the block,' the recently formed Friends of the Buffer Lands, whose long-term goal is habitat restoration to increase biodiversity. This is just a sampling of efforts underway locally on behalf of our environment.

So weed warriors unite! Banish the ubiquitous yellow broom and gorse which will soon be bursting into bloom. Or maybe you have a different villainous plant like holly that makes you see red? Start small on a corner of your own property; or think big, like a local park. Enjoy the rewards of restoration on your own little piece of heaven, or

experience the joyful camaraderie of working for a common cause. Consider joining work parties put on by one of the worthy local organizations striving to reclaim our natural surroundings so native species can flourish. There are plenty of options to choose from.

After direct habitat loss due to human activities, invasive species are recognized globally as the second greatest threat to biodiversity. Whether working individually or together, we can make a positive difference. To quote Margaret Meade, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." So, get your gloves on, pull together, keep your 'elbows up,' and engage in the rewarding activity of changing at least our corner of the world for the better!

For more information on borrowing tools, joining a group, work party dates and locations, or removal 'best practices' contact MISC at www.metchosininvasives.ca or metchosininvasives@gmail.com.

METCHOSIN HALL
SPRING FLING Arts & Craft Sale

Saturday & Sunday
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 Member of Parliament
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Saturday March 7th - 12 Noon

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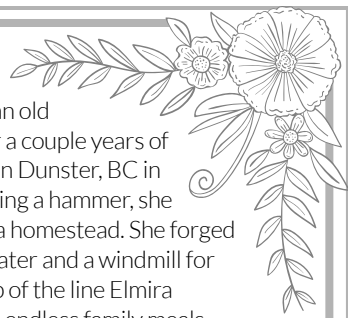
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Wild ARC is actively seeking new volunteers.

With the busy spring and summer season approaching, Wild ARC is actively seeking new volunteers. The annual volunteer recruitment and training program begins February 23, and the centre welcomes community members who want to make a positive impact on local wildlife. More information on the program can be found at

www.wildarc.com/volunteer



Jan Roberta MacFayden

January 23, 1943 - February 7, 2026

Jan was born in Newark, New Jersey, USA. Her dad worked in the airforce based in San Antonio, Texas. The family finally settled in Park Ridge, Illinois. After several more airforce moves, her family settled in Park Ridge, Illinois. She had fond memories of spending time at the airport exploring planes with her dad.

She always commented that she wanted to fly like a bird.

Jan finished high school, started college and then met her first husband and they lived on a farm in the outskirts of Chicago in Braidwood, Illinois. She started her family, including adopting two children.

The lure of finding property in Canada resulted in converting an old school bus to accommodate five children and two adults. After a couple years of adventures and exploration, the bus was permanently parked in Dunster, BC in their chosen land in the beautiful Robson Valley. Not shy to swing a hammer, she helped build a geodesic dome, sculpted the raw land and built a homestead. She forged and grew food on the land, lived off the grid with no running water and a windmill for power. Her one appliance she couldn't live without was her top of the line Elmira woodstove which was vital to home canning, bread baking and endless family meals. Jan's desire to help children resulted in the adoption of several more children and the addition of adopted grandparents who also became part of the family.

Jan worked as a kindergarten teacher at the small two room school in Dunster for several years enjoying the connectedness of the rural community.

While her children attended high school she learned to play the bass guitar so the children could have a stageband.

With some children still in tow, she moved to the Pemberton Valley where she reconnected with the man who became her second husband and soulmate. They settled down with new roots and adventures. Her blended family grew and they enjoyed many reunions in their family house.

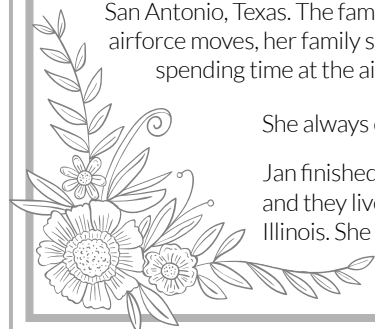
Jan worked as an Education Assistant in Whistler. She loved the role and enjoyed the school community, making connections with the children, organizing lunchtime activities and working as a crossing guard.

Jan was not afraid to try new things which led to her coroner position for the Sea to Sky corridor which she thrived at. She shared many stories of riding in helicopters at the edge of cliffs, investigating with the RCMP in forests, rivers, mountains and the sea. She thrived in that position since her superpower was her ability to console and deeply connect with the families who lost loved ones.

After many years of enjoying family time, Rummy card games with grandkids, reading and mornings with special coffees and some luxuries in life, Jan lost her beloved partner. She moved to Vancouver Island where she loved the ocean, forests and being closer to family. She lived in Metchosin and then Sooke where she lived the rest of her life nestled in the trees in the hills.

Jan passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 7, 2026. She is survived by her brother and sister and their spouses, niece and cousins, children and grandchildren and their spouses and great grandchildren. We remember Jan who loved, cared and presented herself with positive energy to everyone she met. She was always willing to share her knowledge and laughter. She will light the stars above.

Even as one chapter closes, the spirit of adventure continues in the memories we keep. Donations in memory of Jan can be made to Saanich Peninsula Long Term Care.



Kristine Susan Parker

April 5th 1950 - January 1, 2026

Kristine Susan Parker (nee Gullander) was born in Edmonton, Alberta on April 5th 1950. She moved to Montreal with her parents, Oscar and Doreen Gullander and siblings Karla, Karen, and Oscar Jr. in 1961. After completing high school, she then moved to Ottawa to attend Carleton University in 1969.

Kristine graduated in May 1972 with her BA, in English literature. She worked as a news researcher for the Bank of Canada for two years. While at Carleton University she married Bryan Parker on September 2nd 1972 and they returned to Montreal in the summer of 1974.

While Bryan was studying dentistry at McGill, Kristine was employed by the Department of National Defence for four years at CFB St. Jean, teaching English to the French speaking recruits.

In May of 1978 Kristine and Bryan moved to greater Victoria when Bryan was posted to CFB Esquimalt. They lived first in Colwood and then moved to Metchosin in 1982.

She raised two loving sons, Karl and Kristofer, and in the early years as a Metchosinite, volunteered teaching at Hans Helgesen and Metchosin Schools, was president of the Home and School, led a Beaver Cub group,

volunteered for the Little League Baseball, belonged to numerous book clubs and joined the sorority Beta Sigma Phi.

Kristine was a skilled seamstress and dressmaker but in her early 50's found her calling as a quilter. She was a volunteer quilting instructor at the Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre for over twenty years.

She was an accomplished gardener, a marvelous cook, and hosted dozens of neighbourhood parties at both her homes in Metchosin. She was an insatiable reader, English Classics and Best Sellers, making her knowledgeable in many realms. But most of all she loved her husband, children and grand children, whom she had close by all of her life.

Kristine passed away peacefully in hospital on the 1st of January 2026. She was kind and caring and was loved by all that knew her. She will be sorrowfully missed by husband Bryan, son Karl (Melissa), son Kristofer (Jorga), granddaughters Kalina, and Elara and grandsons Bryston, Korbin and Ryland.

A celebration of Kristine's life will be held at the Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre on Saturday May 9th at 1 pm.

If you loved her please attend.

Seniors' Resource Centre METCHOSIN

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

The Annual General Meeting of the Metchosin Seniors' Association will be held on Tuesday, March 17, at the Metchosin Community House, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Former BC Seniors' Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie will be the guest speaker. We look forward to hearing her reflections on her experience in this position.

Thanks to a generous one-time grant from the United Way, we have received funding to offer a limited number of wheelchair-accessible rides for seniors in our area. Call or email the SRC for more details.

We still have three spaces available for our United Way grant-funded, in-person seniors driving lessons, at no cost to you. Call to register.

WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

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

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

MORE 65+ BUS TRIPS!

Thursday, March 12, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Royal Bay Bakery and Goldfinch Art Centre.

Thursday, March 26, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Royal Beach and shopping Centre

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, March 19, 10:00 am -11:30 pm

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

GETTING TO KNOW DEMENTIA

Friday March 20, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Learn how dementia can affect an individual's brain and behaviour. Topics will include different types of dementia, behaviours, stages and progression, common myths, and communication tips.

FRIDAY COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE BAHA'I GROUP

Friday, March 27, 1:00-3:00 apm

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 CallOuts

JANUARY 2025

West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

There were 78 calls for service in Metchosin for the month of January 2026. A summary of the calls for service is reported below. However, due to privacy concerns, limited information is provided and not all 78 files are reflected below.

Jan-01 Noise complaint on Dutnall Road.

Jan-03 Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road, Winfall Road, Metchosin Road, Duke Road and Wootton Road.

Investigation involving allegations of Assault Causing Bodily Harm.

Traffic Patrols on Happy Valley Road and Rocky Point Road.

Jan-09 School Zone patrols at Hans Helgesen Elementary School.

Noise complaint near Kangaroo Road, believed to be from fireworks.

Jan-10 Noise complaint near Albert Head Lagoon.

Traffic Patrols on William Head Road and Parry Road.

Jan-12 A Metchosin resident reported a suspicious circumstance regarding a possible asphalt paving scam. Believed to be part of similar incidents taking place in the CRD.

Jan-17 Traffic Patrols on Rocky Point Road and Winfall Road.

Jan-18 Traffic Patrols on Metchosin Road and Happy Valley Road.

Jan-19 Traffic Patrols on Sooke Road and Kangaroo Road.

Jan-20 Traffic patrols on Metchosin Road and Happy Valley Road.

Jan-21 Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road and Windover Terrace.

Jan-22 RCMP assisted CRD Park Rangers at Devonian Regional Park regarding a trespassing complaint.

A report of a possible impaired driver near William Head Road: smoking marijuana. Extensive patrols conducted, vehicle not located.

Jan-23 Police stopped a driver believed to have been smoking marijuana in the 4400 block of Sooke Road. Driver passed a Standard Field Sobriety Test and no sanctions issued.

Jan-24 A collision occurred at Rocky Point Road and East Sooke Road in which a single vehicle struck a stop sign due to icy conditions. Impairment not a factor.

Jan-25 Traffic patrols on Rocky Point Road and Winfall Road, Sooke Road and Kangaroo Road.

Jan-27 A head-on collision occurred in the 4500 block of Sooke Road, in which the driver of a vehicle sustained life-threatening injuries. The driver and passenger of the other vehicle suffered minor injuries. Investigation ongoing.

A collision occurred in the 1500 block of Kangaroo Road, in which a single vehicle went into a ditch. Impairment not a factor.

Jan-28 Multiple calls were received regarding two loud explosion sounds around Windover Terrace. Noises were confirmed to be military training related.

Jan-29 School zone patrols at Hans Helgesen Elementary School. A break and enter occurred to a property. No suspect was identified.

Metchosin Community Garden Plant Sale

Robyn Penfold

The Metchosin Community Garden is hosting a blueberry plant sale this spring to raise funds for an important new garden fence, and the community is invited to take part.

Gardeners can choose from four popular blueberry varieties: Chandler,

Patriot, Duke, and Bluecrop. All are available in healthy one-gallon pots. Plants are priced at \$20 each, with discounts for larger orders: three plants for \$55, or \$18 per plant when purchasing four or more.

Plant pickup will take place on Sunday, April 12, from 9:00 am. to noon at 4475 Happy Valley Road, just outside

the school museum. The last day to place an order is March 20. Please email metchosingrown@gmail.com to place your order.

In addition to fundraising, the garden is always welcoming new members who want to grow food, learn together, and connect with their community. More details about the

sale and membership can be found at www.metchosingrown.ca. You can also meet garden members in person at Reimagine Westshore's Seedy Saturday event on March 7.

Please support your local growing community garden, grow your own blueberries, and help cultivate a stronger, greener Metchosin!

Important Dates & Events

MARCH

March 3, Elizabeth May at St. Mary's..... p. 7

March 10, Andy MacKinnon at St. Mary's..... p. 7

March 16, Grant-in-Aid applications due p. 2

March 18, Metchosin Learning Group..... p. 7

March 21, Broom clearing p. 3

March 29, March for Liz p. 6

March 29, Apple Tree Grafting Day p. 1

March 31, Agri-tourism workshop p. 4

Council Meetings p. 2

House Happenings p. 8

MACCA events p. 8

Seniors' Resource Centre events..... p. 11

ArtPod events p. 8



Metchosin Pharmacy

- Virtual Doctor On-Site**
- Prescribing Pharmacist** (more than 21 conditions)
- Free Blister Packaging**
- Free Blood Pressure/ Blood Sugar Monitoring**
- Smoking Cessation**
- Travel Vaccinations**
- Strep Testing**
- Compounding** (Done at our main location Langford Pharmacy 2854 Peatt Rd.)
- Free Prescription Delivery**

4480 Happy Valley Rd., Unit B
Victoria, BC V9C 3Z3
Phone: 778-265-0122
Fax: 778-265-0133
Email: metchosinpharmacy@gmail.com

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
SAT/SUN: closed

We Price Match
All Big Chains
Support Local!

Seniors' Day
Every Day

Muse Traveller



Mona Nakhjavani Bossi in Lucknow, India; Prof. Ankit Mehrotra photo.



Muse team member Jane Matheson with friend Carol in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Learning by Doing - Local Scouts Build Skills

Curtis Becker

It has been an active and inspiring start to the year for the 14th JDF Scout troop, as youth across the community have been deeply engaged in outdoor learning that blends adventure, responsibility, and care for one another. Through a carefully paced program that prioritizes safety over speed, Scouts have been building practical skills while gaining confidence and teamwork that extends well beyond the trail.

January began with a camp at the Victoria Fish and Game Club where Scouts were introduced to a wide range of outdoor activities. Youth learned firearm safety fundamentals, participated in controlled target shooting, practiced axe and knife throwing, and enjoyed local trout fishing. Throughout the camp, leaders and members emphasized permits, safe handling, and skill progression, ensuring each activity was approached with respect for both the tools and the environment.

From there, the learning moved outside during a cool, damp, and dark evening exercise along the local Hellman Trail. Divided into patrols, Scouts rotated through realistic outdoor stations designed to test decision making and teamwork. One group focused on shelter-building, carefully assessing the terrain and putting up a tarp suited to the wet winter weather. Another group safely lit a small fire on a metal pan to provide warmth. Nearby,

first-aid scenarios unfolded: one patrol treated a simulated rolled ankle, while another responded to a collapsed Scouter, stabilizing and monitoring them calmly until role-playing first responders arrived. The exercise challenged the youth to stay focused, communicate clearly, and support one another under pressure.

Back at regular weekly meetings, the troop shifted indoors to begin working through permits and foundational skills. The first focus was a detailed knife-safety evening, where Scouts learned proper handling and passing techniques, defining their blood circle, correct body positioning and whittling angles, the parts and purposes of different knives, and how to sharpen blades using stones and other methods.

In February, sessions covered basic first aid, safe handling and use of axes and hatchets, including understanding the parts of each tool and proper maintenance. Scouts will also be introduced to various saws, bowsaws and continue to build familiarity with traditional outdoor equipment. Later in the month, the group learned about the safe use of propane and gas stoves and lanterns, and discussions of modern LED lighting.

Throughout it all, leaders move at a pace that allows skills to be absorbed, practiced, and repeated. If a lesson takes an extra week, that time is welcomed. The goal is not simply to check off activities, but to

ensure youth truly understand what they are doing and why safety matters.

These recent outings offer a glimpse into what Scouting continues to provide in the community: young people learning to slow down, work together, and look after one another while gaining practical knowledge and confidence in the outdoors. It is learning by doing, and it is quietly shaping capable, thoughtful youth who are ready to meet challenges both on the trail and beyond.



Scouts learn how to handle axes. Curtis Becker photo.



Ash catches a trout! Curtis Becker photo.



Safe knife-handling skills are learned; Curtis Becker photo.

Thank You, Stephanie!



Congratulations to Stephanie Dunlop for the exciting new fire service role she's taken with Central Saanich.

Metchosin's Fire Chief for nearly 20 years, Stephanie worked tirelessly to keep us safe and was there when we needed help. She trained and inspired hundreds of firefighters who have served this community and elsewhere. Stephanie kept us informed when the weather turned nasty, and she bolstered our community's resilience through her work on our emergency response program. In addition to responding to emergencies in Metchosin and the Sc'ianew Nation, Stephanie secured millions in grant funding for Metchosin to support diverse programming and initiatives. Few people know this community better than Chief Dunlop.

Best of luck in your new role, Stephanie!

Celebration for Stephanie

Sunday, March 15, 2026 – 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Metchosin Fire Hall

For more information email:
ThankYouChiefDunlop@gmail.com

