



Metchosin Muse

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Bioblitz at Hummingbird Hill Triples Species List!

Morgan Yates

On April 19, just four days before Earth Day, representatives from the Metchosin Biodiversity Project (MBP) and the Metchosin Foundation gathered at Hummingbird Hill for a collaborative Bioblitz hosted by the Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO).

The three organizations were joined by expert scientists from fields as varied as entomology, botany, mycology, and ornithology. Together, they set out to establish a baseline record of the plant, animal, fungus, and protist species living on this recently conserved 51-acre property in Metchosin. Despite a forecast suggesting rain, participants were welcomed by clear blue skies.

The event was hosted by RPBO's Rosa Munzer, Julian Dunster, and Simone Littledale, who opened the observatory's new headquarters at Hummingbird Hill for morning coffee, tea, and Timbits, as well as for a lunch catered by My-Chosen Pizza.

Andy MacKinnon organized the food and beverages, while his MBP colleague Kem Luther set up a Bioblitz project page on iNaturalist.ca, where the observations of the roughly two dozen participants could be logged. Metchosin Foundation director emerita Bev Hall photographed the day for all three organizations while also helping document spring wildflowers.

Before heading into the field, Rosa Munzer and Julian Dunster offered brief opening remarks, noting that the region is recognized as the birding capital of Canada, with 432 recorded bird species, and reminding attendees that the property is closed to the public in order to protect its habitat. A short history of the property and its November 2024 acquisition, which was completed in collaboration with the BC Parks Foundation, was also shared. Julian noted that all of Vancouver Island's large carnivore species have been documented on the site. Andy MacKinnon then outlined

the day's itinerary, framing it around the three goals of the Metchosin Biodiversity Project: to deepen understanding of Metchosin's species and ecosystems, to share that knowledge with the public, and to use it to guide conservation.

RPBO members had already been logging observations to iNaturalist.ca for several months before the event, but the Bioblitz more than tripled that total in a single day, pushing the site's overall species count past 440, many of them first records for Metchosin. By any measure—scientific collaboration, community spirit, or sheer species count—the day was a resounding success. Bev Hall's photographs capture both the energy of the day and the natural beauty that, through sustained and collective effort, continues to be a defining feature of our rural community. Funding support for the event was provided by the Metchosin Foundation.



Andy MacKinnon, Kem Luther & Bill Weir head out. Bev Hall photo



Most of the Bioblitz Team. Bev Hall photo



Joel makes a species observation. Bev Hall photo

Painted Paddles Nourish Friendship, Understanding



Paddles are held upright to awaken the spirit of the trees that were felled to create them. Pearson College photo

Dan McIntosh

Returning salmon inspired the designs as Pearson College students Elize, Sopoar, Murat, Vilborg, and Sienna honed that inspiration into beautifully painted canoe paddles as a gift for the SC'IO'NEW' Nation. On April 14 members of the SC'IO'NEW' Tribal Journey Family graciously accepted the seven paddles and offered a gift of their own.

They performed an Awakening of the Paddle Ceremony on the grounds of the Pearson campus. It is a cultural tradition to honour the lives of the trees that were

felled to create the paddles and the dance and song – in the words of the members – wakes them back up. It was a special cultural sharing moment for the students, staff, and faculty at Pearson, and a wonderful example of how the communities are building their relationship.

Before leaving, the SC'IO'NEW' Tribal Journey Family extended an invitation to the Pearson community to visit the Nation and offered a final lesson – paddles up. When a paddle is pointed to the sky, it becomes a powerful symbol of friendship and peace, a mission that Pearson College and the United World

College movement aim to foster around the world and here at home in "The Place of the Big Fish."

HÍSW@KE!
Thank you!



If you look closely, you may see the roe in the bellies of the returning salmon. Pearson College photo

Election 2026 in Metchosin

The Muse Editorial Team

In May 2019 the *Muse* announced it would take a new editorial direction, replacing its previous goal of "promoting harmony" with a new goal of "promoting respectful dialogue". With this change came an understanding that we would be prepared to address more controversial, even divisive issues, than we had in the past but also that this imposed a responsibility to try to fairly present all sides of an issue, even if in the end we favoured one position over another. From time to time that has required us to edit articles submitted to us, add 'editor's comments', occasionally request authors to redraft articles to give a more balanced presentation, and even occasionally reject an article as being too one-sided or inflammatory. Fortunately, these actions have been required only rarely and the feedback our readers have given us has suggested we have been reasonably successful. We have been somewhat more liberal with letters believing:

(1) they are a vital way readers can raise issues without having to craft entire articles;

(2) it is too much to expect a letter of 200 words to include all the nuances of a complex argument; and

(3) if offence is taken, those offended have the opportunity of rebuttal in a subsequent letter.

We believe most letter writers have stayed well within reasonable boundaries. However, as we enter another municipal election campaign, it has become evident that we need to exercise caution again. Elections tend to be divisive by nature. Critiques on policy or specific actions easily drift into personal attacks. Context, which might place apparently questionable decisions or behaviour in a different light, is often excluded or not known. On some occasions, the "opportunity to reply" may not be available to an aggrieved party without revealing information that would affect an innocent, uninvolved party. Attempting to edit letters of this nature to make them consistent with an objective of "respectful dialogue" would raise the almost certain

prospect of the appearance and allegation of, and possibly even actual, selective censorship. We don't want to go there. Nor do we wish to see the *Muse* become the platform for political contests which descend into unsavoury mudslinging. That is not what this paper is about. So, we have concluded that for the period up until the municipal election:

- We will not publish any letter which addresses the performance, behaviour, or character of any existing incumbent, or declared candidate for a council position.

- We will continue to publish letters which raise genuine issues or address policy matters, but will delete any comments which reflect on any particular member of or declared candidate for council.

- We will not publish any article which promotes or attacks the candidacy of any person for Council.

- We will continue to accept informative articles from members of Council on substantive matters of interest to our readers. We reserve the right to edit or delete any content

which appears to be self-promotional or critical of other council members or declared candidates.

- We will accept and publish paid advertising by candidates for Council, and we will, as in the past, publish one edition of the *Muse* for which every candidate has been invited to state their platform and why they believe they should be elected to Council.

We believe this is necessary to ensure that we live up to our responsibility to foster only respectful dialogue and that it is consistent with the long and honourable tradition of the *Muse* and the expectations our readers have of us. As volunteer publishers of a community newspaper, we ask for our readers' understanding as we navigate these sometimes-unpredictable journalistic waters.

Editors' note: this policy was originally published in the April 2022 edition of the Muse. The editors at the time were Johnny Carline and Allen Jones. Now we as editors, board and staff are reaffirming our commitment to fair reporting prior to this year's district election in October.

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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

JUNE 2026



2026 Property Taxes

A reminder property taxes are due by Thursday, July 2, 2026.

Municipalities no longer accept home owner grant applications.

All Home Owner Grant applications must be applied for online or by phone with the Province and must be claimed before the tax due date to avoid penalty on that portion of taxes. Complete the grant application on line at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or by phone 1-888-355-2700

Please Note: the annual Provincial Home Owner Grant application is different from the Provincial Speculation & Vacancy Tax declaration made in March. If you Defer your taxes, you do still need to claim your Home Owner Grant (if eligible) by the due date to avoid penalty.

Post-dated cheque payments are encouraged to the due date July 2, 2026.

The Municipality does not accept credit cards.

You can also pay through your financial institution online banking, use your Roll Number as your account. Allow 3-4 business days prior to the due date for processing.

There is a drop box for cheques at the Municipal Hall to the right of the front door. A mandated 5% penalty will be applied to any current taxes outstanding after the July 2 due date and an additional 5% penalty will apply after August 5.

Property tax notices were mailed out mid-May. If you have not received your property tax notice by mid-June, please contact the Municipal Hall. 250-474-3167

Deferment of Taxes

Municipalities no longer accept deferment renewals or new applications.

Eligible BC residents apply online, or renew their applications to BC's property tax deferment program.

Find out more at gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment

For questions about property tax deferral, please call 1-888-355-2700

Open Burning - Closed

Due to the increased fire hazard, and in alignment with the Province of British Columbia's current fire prohibition, the District of Metchosin is reminding residents that Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3 open fires are prohibited until rescinded.

This prohibition includes:

- Campfires (Category 1)
- Category 2 and 3, open fires

CSA-approved propane or natural gas cooking appliances, including BBQs, are permitted when used safely for cooking purposes only.

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and take steps to reduce wildfire risk by:

- Properly extinguishing smoking materials
- Avoiding activities that may create sparks
- Keeping grass and combustible materials cleared from around homes and structures
- Maintaining clear access for emergency vehicles

Any unsafe fire use or signs of wildfire should be reported by calling 911 immediately.

Thank you for doing your part to help protect Metchosin and surrounding communities during wildfire season.

Address signs

The Metchosin Fire Department is pleased to continue their reflective address sign program to help improve emergency response times throughout the community. Clearly visible address signs assist firefighters, BC Ambulance, and police in locating properties quickly, especially at night, during severe weather, or on rural roads with long driveways.

Residents can purchase a reflective civic address sign for \$75 plus GST through the District of Metchosin office. Once an order is placed at the District Office, the Fire Department will coordinate the ordering, receive the sign, and complete the installation on your property.

Reflective address signs are highly visible day and night and help emergency responders find your property faster when every second counts. For more information or to place an order, call 250-474-3167.

The 2026 Schedule for Regular Council Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings is posted on the website: www.metchosin.ca-council-meetings

*Please see below meeting dates for June 2026. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise stated.

*Meetings are subject to change. For updated information and times please check the website at www.metchosin.ca or call the Municipal Hall at 250-474-3167. Thank you.

Council Meeting.....	June 1
Committee of the Whole.....	June 8
Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee.....	June 16
Council Meeting.....	June 22
Healthy Community Advisory Select Committee.....	June 23
Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee	June 23

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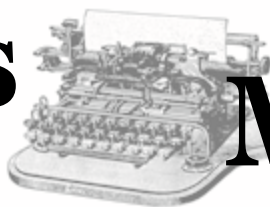
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:00 am – 5:30 pm

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Metchosin Municipal Hall

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Editor's Musings



Katie Pirquet

The polymath Al Bernstein – American sportscaster, writer, stage performer, recording artist, and speaker – had a few choice words for the month of June: “Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

Who could say more than that in so few words? I liked it so much that I had it inscribed beside a rose garland on my late mom’s bronze grave marker. Her name was indeed June, and she was born on this month’s very last day in 1925. Her presence and her life were a rare and true blessing for every one of her 91 years and four days.

And after one of the most flower-strewn, lush springs I can ever remember, what more is there to say, except let us all make the most of it?! My kids certainly did. They acquired, assembled and erected a greenhouse for their ol’ mom, and as of May 14, it now sits patiently, securely, on a platform in our

driveway, next to the “shed”, awaiting the arrival of tomato/potato tubs, pepper starts, seed trays and a few house plants needing some encouragement. And so waits, to tell the truth, the rest of my plant queen-dom for attention. So let June roll on, and the work become play. Such is the gardener’s advantage, right?

It will be a very busy summer here in Metchosin, with the Farmer’s Market in full glory along with Art Brendon’s gorgeous mural as a backdrop to laden stalls, Pearson College’s KULE fundraising ecological trips to Race Rocks, several exciting art exhibitions at MACCA and ArtPod’s gallery, World Ocean Week events, displays at the Schoolhouse Museum, SRC 65+ bus trips here and there, farm stands loaded with goodies, Chris Pratt’s memorial service, MCA’s Speaker Series, a carnivore Talk & Walk at Roche Cove, students graduating and lawns needing mowing, taxes needing to be paid...

Regardless of all the activity, let us also spend some slow time smelling the flowers; listening to the leaves, the wind and the birds; singing, playing and/

or listening to wonderful music; reading for sheer pleasure; wandering the forests, trails and beaches of our home place; inhaling the scents of the ocean and the land; keeping a journal; eating ice cream; watching clouds or bugs, bunnies or a sky full of stars; playing with pets, doodling, writing letters, sketching, painting or 3D-ing just for fun; and enjoying companionable conversations with dear ones or new acquaintances, over cold drinks and/or tasty snacks (ice cream?), of course.

I’m pretty sure my Mom would approve... as long as I sort out the mess in my workroom and get her piano tuned.

Council Members Approve Five-year Plan

At the May 4 council meeting, after a presentation from CFO Geoffrey Kreek, Metchosin Council passed a five-year financial plan that included a property tax increase of 9.92%. It was noted that this was the third lowest increase in the CRD area.

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*.

Community Panto in Metchosin?

I’m interested in the idea of creating a small community pantomime (“panto”) in Metchosin this winter, and would love to connect with others who might be similarly interested!

Panto is a traditional British style of theatre, typically performed in December. It is hilarious, interactive, family-friendly, often musical, and always delightfully over-the-top. It’s typically based on fairytales or folk stories (think Robin Hood, Puss-in-Boots, or

Cinderella), and features audience participation as well as plenty of local jokes, slapstick and flavour.

If this sounds like something you’d enjoy being part of, come for an informal brainstorming gathering at Mile Zero Brewery on Wednesday, June 10 at 6:00 pm, or email shannonaorere@gmail.com to get in touch.

Aspiring actors, musicians, writers, artists, costume-makers, set-builders, backstage

helpers, and curious tire kickers - you are all welcome!

Shannon Carman



Thanks from South Island Care Medical Centre

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing community for the incredible donations and support for the South Island Care Medical Centre fundraiser. Your generosity truly made a difference and helped create a wonderful community effort.

We’re also pleased to share that additional donated items were passed along to Women in Need, Canada Comforts, Compassionate Warehouse,

Royal Bay Home Economics, and Metchosin Pre-School so the kindness could continue reaching others in our community.

Thank you for helping us turn generosity into care, connection, and support for so many.

Gwen Nowlan

Editor’s note: South Island Care Society is the non-profit group that is currently creating, with our community, a new, fully operational Primary Care Medical Clinic in Metchosin. The clinic, housed in the old Metchosin Elementary School building, will provide a range of medical services, a lab, and medical practitioners. In partnership with local communities and the provincial government, SICS now administers and operates 5 clinics in the Westshore area, with plans for more in coming years.

For more information: <https://southislandprimarycaresociety.ca/>

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The utterance of God is a lamp,
whose light is these words:
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and the leaves of one branch.

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Majestic Meanderings: Queen Victoria on the Move

Judith van Manen

Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It was marked around the British Empire world by many different events. In Metchosin, Mr. W. H. Hayward initiated an essay competition for schools in the Esquimalt School District, with the winning school receiving the honour of hanging the royal portrait. The artist Rowland Harris painted the life-size portrait, working from a photograph of the Queen taken in 1882 by Alexander Bassano.

In the second year of the contest, two Metchosin students, Annie Duke, 13, and Sophie Pears, 16, tied for the win in the essay contest. The enormous six-foot-tall portrait was mounted on a wall in their one-room schoolhouse in Metchosin. Ironically, historians have reported that the Queen's petit stature always frustrated her and she was once heard exclaiming, "Everyone grows but me!"

The essay contest was discontinued in 1899, but the portrait remained in the Metchosin schoolhouse for the next fifteen years. In Canadian schools of the late 19th century, the norm would have been a small black and white photograph of Queen Victoria positioned at the front of the classroom. Students typically would stand and sing God Save the Queen at the beginning of the school day. One wonders how the students in the Metchosin Schoolhouse felt



The portrait of Queen Victoria by Rowland Harris (ca1897) has had a wandering life, and now resides in the Metchosin School Museum. School Museum archive photo

having this imposing monarch gazing down at them.

When the new, larger Metchosin Schoolhouse was built in 1914, the portrait was moved there, where it was hung at the back of the schoolroom for many years. But this was not the end of the journey for the Queen Victoria portrait.

One summer when the new schoolhouse was redecorated, the painting was removed from the wall and stored carelessly in a shed attached to the old schoolhouse. When the painting was discovered decades later, it was torn and Mary Ellen Morgan was engaged to repair the painting and paid for the necessary materials. She worked for over 300 hours restoring and repainting it, and she kept it until 1962, when it was displayed in the window of the Hudson's Bay Company store in downtown Victoria. A year later, it was

transferred to the Provincial Archives.

A local historian, James Nesbitt, brought the painting to the attention of Bill and Helen Armson, owners of the Dingle House restaurant, situated in a Victorian-era mansion. They wanted a large painting that would fit with the mansion's décor. Arrangements were made to move Queen Victoria again. The portrait became a popular tourist attraction, and many patrons requested to "sit beneath the Queen".

Mrs. Morgan requested that on her death the painting go to Craigdarroch Castle. When she died, it became a part of their collection for several years. The Sooke School Board wanted the portrait returned; eventually, in 1973, the Board got its wish, and the Queen's portrait was placed in the Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum. Today, the portrait is housed in the Metchosin Museum Archives storage room, and a smaller, and more historically accurate, black and white photo of Queen Victoria is mounted beside the clock on the front wall of the Schoolhouse Museum.

The Queen Victoria portrait is on display at the Schoolhouse Museum on two weekends, June 27, 28 and July 4, 5. We invite you to view Queen Victoria and read more about her portrait's story.

Editor's note: The Metchosin Schoolhouse Museum is open on Saturdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm every week from April until the end of October.

Celebrating "Wilbur's" 70th!

Jochen Moehr

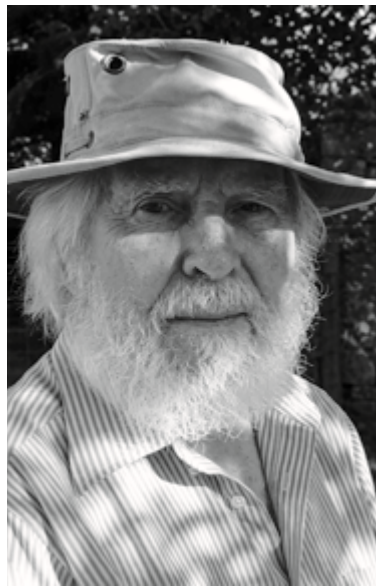
On May 3, 2026, a longstanding community of admirers and adoring friends of Wilbur gathered – not for the first time – to celebrate Wilbur's birthday. As usual, the festive spread included ample supplies of "My Chosen Pizza", never ending supplies of cookies and plenty of schnapps, vermouth, beer, or apple juice to wash it down with. But for this milestone birthday – his 70th – there was even violin entertainment provided by Emery Hartley.

Wilbur's master, 94-year-old Dieter Eisenhauer, beamed with pride and pleasure, given the guest of honor's smiling tolerance of all the attention.

After all, Wilbur had served him all these seventy years in his unflinching, never complaining, stoic and reliable way ever since their paths joined on May 3, 1956 in Edmonton, Alberta.

And given the unseasonable atmospheric temperature exceeding 25 °C, the event even led to the invention of a new use for My Chosen Pizza: Candice converted the pizza boxes to parasols to shield appreciative participants from the stinging sun.

All in all, it was a great and dignified celebration, well deserved by Wilbur, no doubt the oldest and most venerated rusty wheelbarrow in Metchosin!



Dieter Eisenhauer
 Jochen Moehr photo



Wilbur, the honoree.
 Jochen Moehr photo



Emery, the entertainer.
 Jochen Moehr photo

ArtPod Celebrates World's Oceans

Diana Smith

Given our location, it is no surprise that ArtPod members and guest artists have a particular appreciation for oceans and all things connected to the marine environment. This inspires much of the artwork that hangs in the gallery. To celebrate World Ocean Week, ArtPod is hosting an event on Sunday, June 7 at Weir's Beach 1:00-2:30pm. There will be an interpretative walk with a marine biologist, collaborative land art and ocean haiku. All for free!

Co-organizer Memet Burnett describes the event this way: If you are looking for a fun, free and age-inclusive event to celebrate the precious marine environment, come out to ArtPod's first ever World Ocean Week event at beautiful Weir Beach. Low tide is in the early afternoon, so the event kicks off at 1:00pm with a seaside amble led by Pearson College's wonderful and enthusiastic Marine Biologist, Laura Verhegge. Scout about with her to learn about seaweed, crabs, barnacles, anemones, lichens AND MORE! Then, around 1:45 pm, start work with ArtPod artists to create an ephemeral, collaborative, land artwork. Finish up the beach celebration learning to write haiku poems to the ocean. Please carpool and visit the washroom before you arrive! See you on the beach!

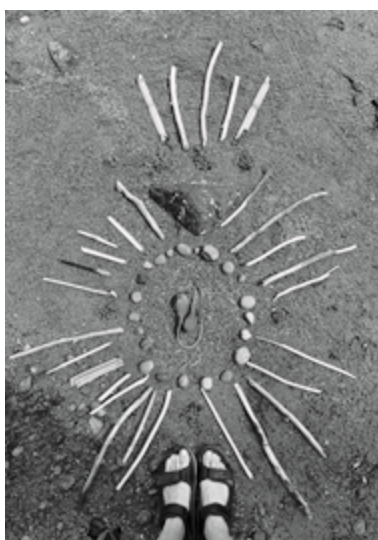
Besides the Ocean Day celebration, there is much happening in the gallery in June. There is the on-going show, *Distracted Realism*, beautifully curated by Angela Menzies and Pierrette Vezina and featuring the work of juror and abstract artist Sheryl Fisher. Are you curious what *distracted realism* is? It is based

on art that is a mix of recognizable imagery but abstracted in various ways. I will be giving a free talk, *Disrupting Realism*, on Saturday, June 27, 1:00-3:00 pm, that explores the many ways art can change, broaden, and challenge the way we see the world. It will be illustrated, presented in plain language and, hopefully, inspiring. Your comments and questions will help make the two-hour event worthwhile.

Collage is an art technique that physically disrupts imagery, with all kinds of juxtapositions and combinations, and is highly appropriate to the theme of the show. ArtPod member Cindy McMath is giving an abstract collage workshop on Saturday afternoon, June 20, 1:00-4:30 pm. Collage is an unthreatening art practice. Participants will create monoprints using a Gelli plate, exploring various layering techniques. Then they will construct collages from the prints. Cindy will emphasize play, exploration, technique and composition and make the workshop suitable for all skill levels.

During June we are hoping artists are busy making art with others to submit artwork to our next exhibition: *Collaboration: The Alchemy of Creating*. The deadline for submissions is June 19. *Collaboration* runs July 3-August 4 with the official Gala Opening on Saturday July 4, 2:00-4:00 pm. Jurors Fern Long and Clare Thomas of DreamCity Collab and selected artists will be present to talk about the work in the exhibition.

Recently one of our members, MaryLou Wakefield, was curious to see where some of the purchased artwork ended up after having a conversation with Kim Boyd, a regular



In situ artwork by Memet Burnett is developed from found, natural materials and then left for observation and whatever changes Nature will impose as time passes. Memet Burnett photo

visitor to ArtPod. Kim is a Metchosin businesswoman who has made it her mission to support artists whose work is on display at our gallery. Perched high above Weir Beach in Metchosin sits The Constellation Suite, a modern, spacious bed and breakfast, built in 2023, with an uninterrupted view across the Straits of Juan de Fuca. "This place is heaven, we're privileged to live here, and we want to share it with others," said Kim. She has many accomplishments to her name. She won the 1995 Women's World Series for Marathon Swimming, has been inducted in the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame, and is a retired registered nurse.

These days Kim is focused on looking after her B&B guests. Her walls are filled with art made by the artists at Metchosin ArtPod. Showing off her art collection, she said, "I believe in supporting our community, and this is one way I can make a difference." From all accounts the paintings looked very happy in their new home. More details at metchosinartpod.ca.

MCA Speaker Series June 3: Introducing Pearson College UWC

Kirsten Quealey

Have you ever wondered what exactly Pearson College is all about? Did you know that Pearson is one of 18 United World Colleges (UWC) attended by students from over 155 different countries?

On Wednesday, June 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm, at the Metchosin Community House, you are invited to attend a "Speaker Series" evening to learn more

about United World Colleges and specifically about Pearson College UWC, which is located on the southern shore of Pedder Bay in Metchosin.

The evening will offer an opportunity to learn more about the college's mission of international education, peace, and sustainability, as well as the many ways local residents can become involved in the Pearson community. Speakers will share information about

student life, community partnerships, and the host family program, along with other activities and opportunities that connect the college with the Metchosin community.

Whether you are already familiar with Pearson College or simply curious to learn more about the students and programs that bring young people from around the world to our community, you are all welcome to attend.



Canoe with paddlers. Pearson College photo



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Chinese Labour Corps

Ching Ming Ceremony Honours Graves at William Head Cemetery

Mary Lindsay

With the support and cooperation of the William Head Institution (WHI), about 40 William Head residents partnered with a similar number of outside community members on May 2 for the second annual Ching Ming (aka QingMing) commemoration of the 26 Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) workers interred in William Head Cemetery.

Ching Ming, an ancient Chinese custom, is usually performed by family descendants as a show of respect for their ancestors and gratitude for the life given. Discriminatory treatment of CLC workers during the course of WWI led to the loss of individual identities, erosion of their collective humanity, and severance of generational ties.

Although CLC workers are sometimes included in Remembrance Day services, ethnicity – the attribute

that brought the CLC to be recruited in the first place and subsequently treated as “coolies” – has been mostly ignored. CLC Ching Ming is an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize this omission and come together as an understanding and just people.

The William Head event is part of the second transnational, annual commemoration. Thirteen other CLC workers are buried in eight sites scattered across Canada. Mary Lindsay, founder of the movement and William Head event lead, reports that with the large number of CLC workers buried in William Head Cemetery, the Ching Ming commemoration is more elaborate than in other Canadian sites. At the same time, it is the most challenging to coordinate due to the location of the cemetery on the secured grounds of William Head Institution.

This year’s celebration included a territory acknowledgement by resident Josh; welcoming comments by Her

Worship Mayor Little, and greetings from the William Head Institution delivered by Warden Mitchell and resident Will.

William Head Institution archivist Kim Rempel described the history of William Head: first as a quarantine station, its reception and treatment of the thousands of CLC workers who entered there, and then their transport across Canada to the perilous Front.

Old Cemeteries Society (OCS) President Ken Sudhues brought together connections of past to present by explaining the OCS mandate to preserve Victoria’s historic cemeteries under which William Head falls despite its limited accessibility.

Mary Lindsay spoke about the founding and development of the event, as well as how her personal experiences shaped the current program. Charlayne Thornton-Joe guided the audience through a Ching Ming ceremony where flowers and fruit were placed

Gratitude to Event Donors & Sponsors
Chinese Labour Corps: Ching Ming in Canada
(William Head site)

May 2, 2026

清明

Bank of Montreal / Breanna & Michael Kroeker / Chinese Canadian Historical Society-BC / Discover the Past / Elements Dental / Ging Wu West Lion Dancers / Golden Happiness / Gilman Deters Harbourfront Wealth Management / Hotel Grand Pacific / Iris Hesketh-Boles / Jack & Sylvia Gin Foundation / Jackie Andrews / Jade Phoenix Club // Mortimer’s Monumental Works / Neighbourhood Small Grants / Old Cemeteries Society / Randall Robertson / Royal Canadian Legion Britannia Branch #7 / Thrifty Foods (Island Hwy) / Victoria Canada-China Friendship Assoc. / Westside Instaprint

Special Thanks to William Head Institution

on the graves. Joss sticks and joss paper were burned as signs of reverence and gratitude.

Ging Wu West Lion Dancers, a new addition to this year’s event, performed a somber, but rousing tribute

to the deceased CLC workers. At the conclusion of the event, hospitality bags containing customary treats reminiscent of the bittersweet nature of death were distributed.



Photos courtesy of the William Head Institution



Darker Skies in Metchosin: a Good Thing

Ted White

A few weeks back, during International Dark Sky Week, mysterious posters appeared around Metchosin. They featured the title “Why Dark Skies Matter in Metchosin” and images of a bear, a cougar, and some sheep. As I have long advocated for Darker Skies, the blame was immediately put on me. “Not I”, I said, still recovering from back surgery – a solid alibi.

The posters caught the attention of Metchosin’s Environment Advisory Select Committee (MEASC) who asked, “What’s happening with the Dark Sky Community Designation proposal?” I had to reply, “Not much.” So I was asked to dust it off and bring it along to their next meeting. After a review and some discussion they decided to take it on. A motion to recommend that Council proceed with applying for the designation from DarkSky International was put forward, seconded, and passed. That is the not-for-profit spearheading the movement to get light pollution under control. At the May 11 meeting of the Metchosin Council Committee of the Whole, Councillors voted on a motion to begin the formal process of application. It passed unanimously. (Thank you, guerrilla poster!)

I am pleased that Metchosin has decided at last to act on this. Increasing amounts of outdoor lighting are affecting wildlife populations and are detrimental to human health. Ironically, studies have shown that security, often touted as the reason for excessive lighting, is not improved by outdoor lighting. There is also indication that excessive light may even reduce security by providing glare and deep shadows that assist unlawful activities. Blue LED lighting, which is cheap and becoming common, reduces the production of melatonin in both humans and wildlife. (see: How Blue is Your Night, *Metchosin Muse* September 2023 issue, p. 6) Since melatonin is a profound regulator of sleep and circadian rhythms,

the biological impact of its loss can be severe. And insects are even more disrupted as their world is turned upside down. (See: Like a Moth to a Candle, *Metchosin Muse* June 2024 issue, p. 10)

Excess outdoor lighting significantly reduces the ability to see the night sky. For millennia the night sky has been a focus of cultural values for all peoples. Humans place their stories and history into the night sky in the form of the constellations. It is a practice that binds us all together since we all share the same night sky. Metchosin still provides a reasonably dark night so that people can still tell their children the stories of the night, but we are losing it fast.

After Council confirms its intention, we will start work with others who see and understand the threat by joining a “community of communities” who have declared their concern. Most people are well-intentioned but often not well-informed. Education rather than regulation is a more effective tool for change. Establishing a goal for the community will provide a rallying point for Metchosin residents and help with maintaining our unique identity. External certification will provide access to educational materials, and provide an objective measure of the community’s efforts to reduce light pollution.

Canada currently has seven Dark Sky Places, two in Alberta and the rest back east. To date, there’s nothing on Vancouver Island or the rest of British Columbia – a very strange fact given that Victoria’s Dominion Astrophysical Observatory is severely impacted by light pollution and, for a time, boasted the largest telescope in Canada. Metchosin will be number eight in Canada and the first in BC.

While the astronomers got the ball rolling it has long been clear this is a much bigger problem than just losing sight of the stars. (see: Celebrate the Dark, *Metchosin Muse* March 2021 issue). It’s biology that is now driving the need to fix things. The impacts on human health, our domestic animals and plants, and the environment, are now appallingly evident. To

me, both a biologist and an amateur astronomer, it is simply scary.

So it is tremendously good news that we are now taking action. The process to full certification is expected to take between one and three years. Metchosin has already met the major requirement of writing a lighting policy and retrofitting all publicly owned lighting. We have a bylaw in place governing this requirement and have been recognized by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for doing so. The Community Hall has recently had its lighting upgraded, and members of the community are already active in outreach.

For more information on the application process, see: <https://darksky.org/app/>



Our spectacular galactic “neighbour”, the Andromeda Galaxy. Ted White photo

What's Up in Moralea's Meadow?

Merrilee Hoen

The third annual Open Day on May 10 was a success as we opened our gates to the many people on their way, to the first day of the Farmer's Market. Volunteers were on hand to guide visitors through the Meadow and to identify the many gorgeous plants in bloom. While all our plants are native species, they are not all well known and were new discoveries for many people. Our identification guides were put to good use.

There were several varieties of potted native plants available for a donation, including Garry Oak seedlings, fawn lilies, yarrow, and sedum. Some people chose to take home some pre-cut camas flowers to add to their Mother's Day

bouquets. The meadow was in full flower and we heard many expressions of appreciation for this amazing site in the heart of Metchosin.

Moralea's Meadow was featured in the May "Talk and Walk". The talk included a tribute to Moralea Milne, after whom the meadow is named, and the story of how the meadow came to be. The characteristics and importance of Garry oak landscapes and how our meadow fits into the bigger picture was discussed. The vital work that volunteers play in this project was emphasized, along with their role in providing education for the public. These topics were accompanied by many interesting photos, but the stars of the show were the dazzling shots of the native plants in full

bloom and the pollinators taking full advantage of the food and shelter they provide.

The next day, participants braved chilly winds and rain to see the plants in their meadow setting. The effect of the masses of Camas in bloom was greatly appreciated by the group.

For more information about volunteering or to arrange a group tour, please use the contact information below.

Facebook:

Moralea's Meadow- Metchosin

Email:

info@moraleasmeadow.ca

Website:

www.moraleasmeadow.ca



Katy Nelson's display table with plant samples and identification aids. Bev Hall photo



Katy Nelson helps visitors to learn about native plants. Bev Hall photo

MACCA in June and a Canada Day Festivus!

Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre Association

Thanks to the continued support from the mayor and council, MACCA has signed a two-year lease with the District for the Art facility at 4495 Happy Valley Road, in the old Metchosin school. And so MACCA will continue the hard work and sometimes hard decisions that arise. MACCA strives to assist our local artists and artisans in showcasing their talents for the public to enjoy. One of the ways MACCA does this is with the Point of View hallway gallery. With over two hundred lineal feet of display space, it is a fantastic way for artists to bring their art to the public. On a revolving timetable, there is always a new show and it's free for everyone to walk through and see these very diverse offerings.

Strategic planning...

Over the past few months, MACCA Directors have been working with a consultant, focusing on strategic planning. His patience has been a great value in the implementation

and strengthening of our local arts and cultural initiatives.

POV Gallery events

From May 28 until July 26 the POV Gallery will feature two artists: Carol Christianson and Jan Vriesen.

Carol Christianson's Otherworlds series of digital paintings traces a shifting internal landscape over three years, functioning as a kind of pictorial diary shaped by subconscious impulses. Each work begins with a stream-of-consciousness sketch, from which forms gradually emerge. In a second stage, an equally intuitive impulse brings order to the initial chaos, resolving light, volume, and structure. The resulting images often suggest ambiguous, life-like organisms and environments—plausible yet unidentifiable—leaving interpretation open and unresolved.

Created entirely from scratch using digital tools, the process relies on sustained engagement rather than predetermined intention. Working primarily in ArtRage on tablet-based systems, she builds compositions through layered marks, subtle blending, and

continual revision. Over time, the focus shifted toward an exploratory approach in which subject matter arises from the act of painting itself.

This evolution led to a broader realization aligned with Marshall McLuhan's insight that "the medium is the message." While discovered through digital practice, this principle extends beyond it: the tools and conditions of making are not neutral, but actively shape the form and meaning of the work. These paintings stand as records of that interaction, where image and process are inseparable, and where the act of making becomes embedded within the final form.

Jan Vriesen is an esteemed Canadian artist and scientific illustrator who is celebrated for his mastery of realistic museum dioramas and immersive abstract paintings. His work captures the experiential sensation of nature, expressing its life, growth, and transformation.

While Jan's realist works are windows into Earth's past, his abstract works are windows into imagined futures. Jan's abstract paintings entrance

viewers within dazzling, curious, biophilic environments that contemplate the "inscape" of nature - an inner essence and rhythm that is constant through the ages in the growth, life, and energy of the natural world - inviting the audience to imagine lifeforms that have yet to be.

Adorned with vivid organic figures, Jan's abstractions guide the observer's gaze along crackling edges, twisting lines, and vibrant colors, hinting at the sensation of flowers and light. Like the fractal forms in corals, coastlines, and shells, Jan's paintings layer self-similar details at different scales, creating kaleidoscopic spaces through which to zoom in and out.

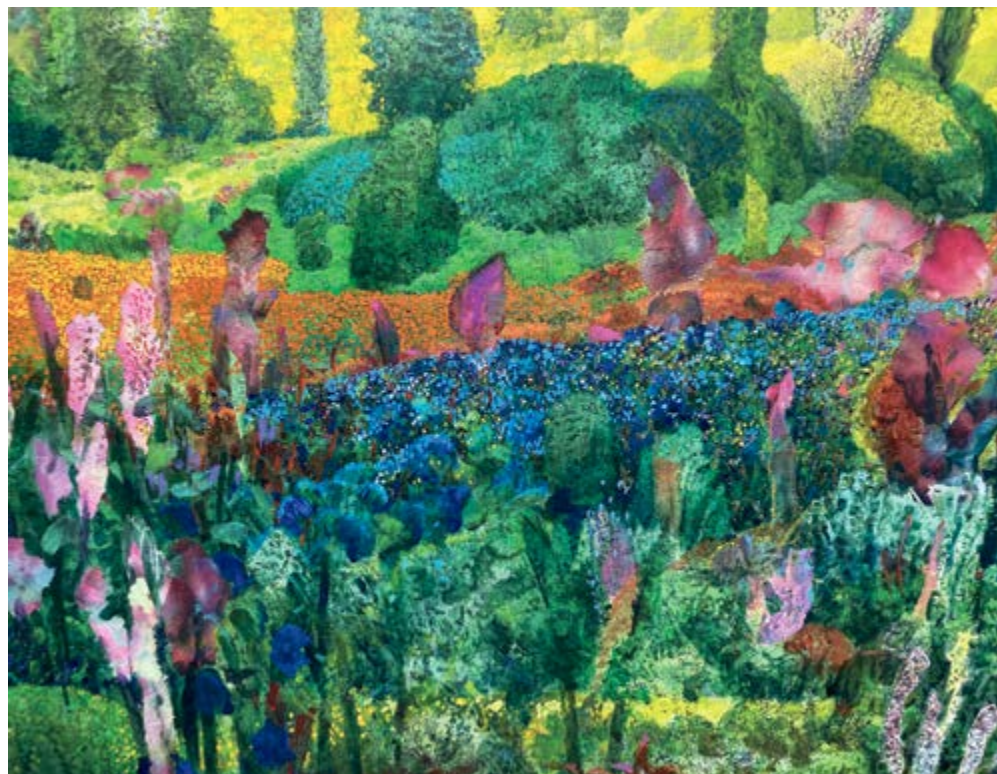
By using any kind of paint or humble material that strikes his fancy, from old newspapers to patterned silk, his abstract creations express playfulness, transformation, and vitality. Many of Jan's paintings also change depending on the time of day, as reflective gold, silver, and copper elements wax and wane with the movement of the sun.

Fabric Sale helps fund Health Clinic Project

There is a movement afoot to renovate a space in order to have a medical clinic for Metchosin, on the commercial side of the Centre. MACCA is spearheading a fundraising campaign to raise the money needed to make this clinic a reality. There was a huge fabric sale a few weeks ago. Charmaine Welch, MACCA's cloth and fabric guru, was buried under all the donations that came in. She organized all of it and the sale raised over \$3000 towards the proposed medical clinic.

Canada Day Festivus!

Finally... Here comes Canada Day! MACCA will once again be hosting this July 1 local grassroots celebration called Festivus. There will be live entertainment on the stage featuring local singers and instrumental groups. Demonstrations await, featuring blacksmithing, horseshoeing, face painting, and more! Free cake too! Come and celebrate with us from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



"Garden" by J. Vriesen.



"Man, Bear, Pig" by C. Christianson.



Help Shape Metchosin's 2027 – 2031 Budget

The District of Metchosin is seeking the community's input on services, infrastructure, and spending. Your feedback will help guide budget decisions.

Starting in July, residents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts through the District's 2027 – 2031 Budget Survey.

Further details will be available on the District of Metchosin website.



The survey is open to residents of the District of Metchosin only.

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

HOUSE HAPPENINGS!

MCA
SPEAKER SERIES

**Pearson College
Information Night**
Students & Staff

SATURDAY
June 3rd • 7:00

METCHOSIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June 11th • 7:00

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 of the Month	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 of the Month	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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EVENTS at ArtPod Gallery

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ABSTRACT COLLAGE WORKSHOP:
with CINDY McMATH
SAT 20 June 2026, 1-4 pm in the MACC Event Room
REGISTRATION INFO <https://metchosinartpod.ca>

FREE ARTIST TALK: with DIANA SMITH
SAT 27 June from 1-3:00 pm at ArtPod
Disrupt/ing Realism – an illustrated art talk

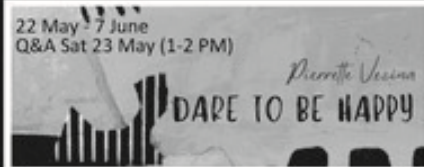
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- Wednesdays - Rural Sketching, location changes, check website, FREE

WHAT IS AN ATELIER?
Art ateliers provide space and/or training to artists of all levels in the skills and techniques associated with creating various specific forms of art.

See metchosinartpod.ca for details



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ArtPod • Cove Gallery Hours: Fridays- Sundays 11AM-4PM



Danger in Paradise

Sybil & Gary Kangas

Metchosin is paradise. Mild Mediterranean climate, grand views of the ocean, great farms with everything you like to eat. It has a serious sense of community. Metchosin is the best place we have ever lived. However, there is also some danger in paradise.

The wildlife encounters of dangerous animals have been multiplying. Our neighbours to the north and south have recorded cougars on their yard cameras. A neighbour to the east has had conflicts with a bear, one in which a rooster and a number of chickens were killed. We have had bear incursions on our property and Gary personally has had two cougar incidents, the closest one at 33 feet. On Sunday April 26 Gary was looking out a south window of our kitchen and a deer ran past at very

high speed, seconds later two wolves raced by, running so fast they disappeared instantly in pursuit of the deer.

On Friday April 24, we (Sybil and Gary) gave a safety talk at the Seniors' Tea about being prepared for a dangerous animal encounter or rogue dogs. Even deer will attack if they feel threatened. There is a recorded event in Oak Bay of a woman being injured by a deer attack. Be prepared: we highly recommend a loud noise, our choice being the klaxon signalling horn. It is very, very loud! We held a draw and gave one away at the Seniors Tea. Jennifer won it - we gave her the large size. These horns come in various sizes. The smallest one can be carried in a back pocket with the canister in the pocket and the horn exposed. Do not sit on it! The horns are available at Canadian Tire.

Be safe while walking, cycling, gardening, tending livestock or just being in your yard. Some suggest carrying bear spray or bells; they do not work! There is an old bear joke about two hunters who are tracking a bear. They come across some bear scat, and one hunter comments, "Yep, it smells like pepper and has bells in it."



Seniors enjoy monthly Friday afternoon tea and a safety talk by Gary and Sybil Kangas. S.&G.Kangas photo.

Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Chris Pratt

Katie Pirquet

The family of Chris Pratt, who passed away on January 6, 2026, would like to invite Metchosin residents to a memorial celebration of his long and remarkable life. All are welcome - those who knew Chris or those who would simply wish to honour his myriad contributions to our community and country. The memorial service will take place on June 27 at 1:30 pm at St. Mary the Virgin Church

and Cemetery, 4354 Metchosin Road, followed by a reception at St. Mary of the Incarnation Church, 4125 Metchosin Road (across from the Metchosin Golf Course). Space will be somewhat limited in the old church, but it is hoped that sunshine will grace the flower-strewn churchyard cemetery, and the new St. Mary's reception hall has plenty of room and ample parking.

For further information, please contact Chris's eldest son, Mark Pratt, at mcjdp@shaw.ca.



Chris Pratt (May 27, 1924-January 6, 2026) was honoured as an Elder Witness at the SCIANEW/ Metchosin Reconciliation Celebration of 2017. Philip McLachlan photo/The Discourse.

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Remembering Nadene

— Johnny Carline —



After five years of active life as a young couple, we started the even more active life as parents with kids. Nadene brought all the skills and knowledge she had accumulated as a teacher to her new role as a mother, augmented by that special love and commitment that a loving mom brings. Whatever I contributed as a dad, the fact that we have two magnificent sons can largely be attributed to the fact that they had a magnificent mother.

She was active in local community life but had no political ambitions whatsoever and hated public speaking. So, she was horrified when she was pressured by politically active friends, as well as the family, to run for a position that had become vacant on the New Westminster School Board.



But she was prevailed upon, easily won election, and served for eight years, including two years as Board Chair. Her honest and natural manner persuaded the Provincial Minister to grant New Westminster unprecedented funding for a new school to replace one deemed a risk in an earthquake.

When I retired, we decided to move to Metchosin and the beauty of the Island. Nadene made new friends among our neighbours and in a local book club, and we travelled more as our grandchildren were born, first in Ottawa and then Texas.

The love between Nadene and her two grand-daughters was something to behold. She also enjoyed occasional

“women talks” with the partners of our two boys, the content of which I was never allowed to know.

Then, in late May of 2023, while she was serving me tea and cookies in our backyard, an aneurism struck her down and a second one, some hours later, sealed her fate. As our older son later said, “The world had gone dark before, but there had always been Mom to brighten it back up.” Now we don’t have Mom’s help in finding the light.

It is said that time heals. On the basis of the last three years, I can say that is not true. It only teaches you pain-avoidance tricks. But sometimes, perhaps, that pain should not be avoided but accepted as a necessary consequence of a great love. And that love, as I used to tell my beautiful Nadene, will last until the twelfth of never.

Footnote: The Nadene Carline 761 Foundation was established shortly after her death and has enabled two \$2000 grants to be made each year; one to a student teacher and one to a needy family of an elementary school age child. If you wish to honour Nadene by donating to this foundation, you can do that online at <https://give.vancouverfoundation.ca/s/nadene-carline-761-foundation> or send a cheque to The Vancouver Foundation, Suite 200, 475 W. Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4M9. Make the cheque out to Vancouver Foundation, but make sure you write ‘Nadene Carline 761 Foundation’ on the memo line otherwise your donation will go elsewhere. The Vancouver Foundation will automatically send out tax receipts.



STEPHANIE MCLEAN

Member of Parliament
ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE



I am proud to be representing the communities in Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke. My team and I are here for you.

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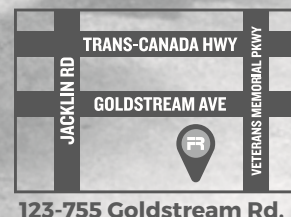
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M E T C H O S I N

Yvonne Cottrell, Office Manager

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WEST SHORE GRIEF & LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

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

Contact: Marianne at 250-896-5179

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY SOCIAL TEAS

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

(Better at Home participants only, call for details)

ISLAND HEALTH - RYAN MILLS - COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, HOME CARE

Thursday, June 11, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

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Basic vehicle controls, Parking, Hazard avoidance, Aggressive drivers, Collision Avoidance, Zipper merging and more!

MORE 65+ BUS TRIPS!!!

Thursday, June 4, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Pedder Bay Marina

Thursday, June 18, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Hatley Castle Tour (\$20 per person)

METCHOSIN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

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

Share the experience of caring for family members or friends.

Register at cgsupport@familycaregiversbc.ca or phone 250-384-0408.

FRIDAY SOCIAL AT METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

Join us for coffee, tea, delicious snacks, and friendly conversation. Hosted by the Baha'i Group, supported by SRC.

Looking for help with your laptop, computer, printer, or cell phone? Our wonderful volunteer Ken Black is here to help by donation to the centre!

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 APRIL 2026

West Shore RCMP | GRC de West Shore

There were 57 calls for service in Metchosin for the month of April (2026). A summary of the calls for service are reported below; however, due to privacy concerns, limited information is provided, and not all 57 files are reflected below.

Apr. 1 Traffic Patrols at Rocky Point Road and Windover Terrace.

Apr. 1 Traffic Patrols at Sooke Road and Kangaroo Road.

Apr. 1 A Metchosin resident located a possible explosive device at William Head Beach. RCMP liaised with the Canadian Armed Forces Explosive Ordinance Disposal team who attended and determined the item was not an explosive device.

Apr. 3 A two-vehicle collision occurred in which a driver veered into the oncoming lane, colliding with a vehicle. Driver fled from the scene, abandoning their vehicle nearby. The driver was located and issued violation tickets for five motor vehicle act offences: Drive without Due Care, Fail to Remain at Scene of Accident, Fail to Render Reasonable Assistance, Fail to Exchange Particulars, and Fail to Stop in an Accident with Property Damage.

Apr. 3 Police received a noise complaint at Albert Head Lagoon regarding loud vehicles and music. Police located a small group on the beach not committing any violations, but they agreed to pack up for the evening.

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Apr. 9 A Metchosin resident was arrested for Breach of Probation. Still under investigation.

Apr.10 Traffic patrols at Happy Valley Road and Rocky Point Road.

Apr.11 Report of fireworks at Taylor Beach. No evidence or source of sound located upon police arrival.

Apr. 13 Police attended a report of an assault at a residence. One person was arrested for assault, uttering threats, and mischief, and released on an undertaking with an upcoming court date.

Apr. 13 Police attended noise complaint on Spellman Place. Source of noise not located upon police arrival.

Apr.14 A hit and run collision occurred involving minor damage to a parked vehicle. Suspect vehicle not located by police.

Apr. 14 Two Metchosin residents had their Canada Revenue Agency accounts accessed by an unknown party and reported the fraud. Police provided protection resources and reported the information to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Apr. 15 A Metchosin resident had their identity stolen as a credit card was opened in their name. Suspect unknown. The victim was advised of resources and to report to the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre.

Apr.16 A rock falling from a large dump truck hit the windshield of a nearby vehicle causing damage to the vehicle and injuries to the driver. Dump truck not located.

Apr. 20 A box trailer was stolen from a property on Sooke Road. Investigation ongoing.

Apr. 20 A driving complaint was received regarding two vehicles driving aggressively, brake-checking and tailgating on Sooke Road. Registered owners of both vehicles were spoken to and given verbal warnings.

Apr. 21 Police received a report of a missing person who did not attend a scheduled engagement. Investigation commenced and the person was located safely later the same day.

Apr.21 Traffic school zone patrols at Westmont Montessori School and Hans Helgesen Elementary.

Apr.22 A Metchosin resident was victim to an identity fraud after a phone bill and taxes were both created under their name.

Apr.23 A noise complaint was received at Albert Head Lagoon. Police were cancelled prior to attendance as the noise had stopped.

Apr. 24 A Metchosin resident was defrauded via an international bank transfer. Still under investigation.

Apr. 24 Police received a report of a possible missing 12-year-old child, who was located by their parents within twenty minutes.

Apr.27 Police received a report of illegal dumping on Metchosin Road. Matter was referred to public works.

Important Dates & Events

JUNE

June Art Exhibits at ArtPod.....p. 8

June 3. MCA Speaker Series: Pearson College UWC, 7:00 pm.....p. 5

June 5(6) and 7(8)....Pearson College KULE fundraiser tours of

Race Rocks.....p. 1

June 7. World Ocean Day Event, MACCA, 1:00 until 3:00pm.....p. 5

June 11. Metchosin Community Assoc. AGM, 7:00 pm.....p. 8

June 19. Talk & Walk.....7:30 pm.....p.7

July 1. MACCA Canada Day FESTIVUS!, 10:00 am-1:00pm.....p. 7

Council Meetings.....p. 2

House Happenings.....p. 8

Fire Department Call-Outs

APRIL2026

Metchosin Fire Rescue responded to 50 incidents throughout April, continuing a demanding start to the spring season with a mix of medical emergencies, fires, motor vehicle incidents, smoke investigations, and public safety responses. Medical calls once again represented the majority of responses, accounting for more than 70% of all

incidents attended by crews during the month.

April 2026 Call Breakdown:

- 36 Medical Incidents
- 5 Burning Complaints
- 2 Smoke Investigations
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Motor Vehicle Incidents
- 1 Alarm Activation
- 1 Electrical Hazard (Wires Down)
- 1 Other Public Safety Response

Metchosin Fire Rescue reminds residents that early reporting of smoke, unsafe burning, or hazardous conditions can significantly reduce the risk of larger emergencies. Residents are encouraged to stay informed regarding fire restrictions, maintain defensible space around properties, and ensure civic address signage is visible for emergency responders.

What's happening? If you know, we'd love to hear about it.

metchosinmuse@gmail.com

June 2026 Talk & Walk: Large Carnivores in Regional Parks



Cougar strolls a path at Roche Cove Regional Park. CRD Trail cam photo



Black bear "just chillin" in a hollow cedar trunk at Roche Cove Regional Park. CRD Trail cam photo

Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Are you interested in the large carnivores that share Metchosin with us? The Metchosin Biodiversity Project's 131st Talk & Walk (Friday June 19 and Saturday June 20) is about large carnivores in East Sooke, Matheson Lake, and Roche Cove regional parks.

Our Talk & Walk (T&W) series features Friday night talks followed by Saturday walks. The T&W's are always free, fun, family-friendly events, featuring tea and cookies.

The Talk will take place Friday June 19 at 7:00 pm in our new venue at the Metchosin ArtCentre, across the street from the My-Chosen Café. Rob Shoemaker, Conservation Technician with CRD Regional Parks, will share an overview of the CRD's Large Carnivores Monitoring Project in East Sooke, Matheson Lake, and Roche Cove regional parks. The project uses trail cameras along with track and sign surveys to document the presence and movements of black bears, cougars, and wolves. The presentation will introduce how

the project works, why these monitoring methods are used, and what they reveal about the carnivores that live in our local landscapes. Rob will also provide an introduction to identifying tracks, scats, and other signs of these three species.

The Walk takes place on Saturday morning June 20, at 10:00 am. We'll meet at Roche Cove Regional Park for a guided walk, where participants will have the opportunity to look for real examples of wildlife tracks and signs and learn about the ecology and behaviour of these animals in the field.

Rare opportunity: Seafaring Tours & Marine Life Encounters at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve



Sea Lions at Race Rocks. A. Meesschaert photo



Nesting gull at Race Rocks. A. Meesschaert photo

Andre Meesschaert

Once again, Pearson College UWC is extending their support of the KULE program by offering interpretive boat tours to Race Rocks. This is your chance to participate, see, and learn about the exceptional variety of marine life found on and around this remarkable ecosystem of islands, ocean, rocks, reefs, plants and animals.

Race Rocks is a BC Parks ecological reserve jointly managed with Pearson College UWC. The lighthouse, the

second oldest on the Canadian West Coast, is managed by the Canadian Coast Guard and is vital to the safe passage of marine traffic through the Juan de Fuca Strait.

KULE is a non-profit foundation which brings together volunteers from around the world to make a difference in rural communities in Kenya and Uganda. (www.KULEfoundation.com)

Pearson College UWC empowers students from around the world through International Baccalaureate education, experiential learning

and a commitment to cultural understanding. Pearson students have participated in KULE missions since its inception 25 years ago (www.pearsoncollege.ca)

The interpretive tours of Race Rocks, featuring local biologists, are offered for a donation of a minimum of \$100 per person (tax receipts available). All funds raised go directly to bursaries for Pearson students to participate in the KULE summer program in Kenya.

This year the tours are scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 5 (with weather

alternate on Sunday June 6) and Monday June 7 (with weather alternate on Tuesday June 8). Both trips will depart at 10:00 am.

Don't miss this once-a-year-only chance to see and experience this vibrant ecological reserve and the wildlife it supports. For more information, or to register your interest in participating in one of the tours, please contact Andre Meesschaert at ameessch@gmail.com or 250-880-6700.

Word of the month.

Mellifluous

Having a smooth rich flow

Chris Pratt
Memorial



JUNE 27TH • 1:30 PM



SERVICE
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
4354 METCHOSIN ROAD - OLD ST. MARY'S

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
ST. MARY OF THE INCARNATION

4125 METCHOSIN ROAD - NEW ST. MARY'S

METCHOSIN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Festivus July 1st. 2026

Kick off CANADA DAY in style
with a
Walking Parade

Calling kids of all ages:

Bring a friend • Wave a flag • Decorate your bike • Dress up for Canada Day!
Carry a placard showing what you love about Metchosin.

Gather by 9:30 on the grassy area by the Municipal Hall and follow our Parade Marshal across to the Art Centre.

Festivus activities:

Enjoy demos from Fiddlers, Ferriers, and Blacksmiths.

Featuring "'Chosin Country Radio" -

A Professional Improv hosting MACCA's on-site local entertainment.

Hot dogs for sale • CAKE for free!

"Get your face painted and your fingers sticky".

July 1st 10:00-2:00

Metchosin Art Centre
4495 Happy Valley Road

Then trot on over to the riding ring to watch Horses and handlers show off.
A mix of Cowboy challenge, Mountain Trail Course and Working Equitation obstacles.

The Muse Traveller



Bob Burgis takes time out for a quick read of the *Muse* while touring tomb of Ramesses II in Abu Simbel, Egypt. Tour guide Albert photo



In celebration of five decades of commitment, Mark and Kathy Atherton marked their Golden Wedding Anniversary in May 2026.

With much love, admiration, and gratitude
- your children and grandchildren.



visit us at:

metchosinfoundation.ca

Supporting
Environmental
Stewardship
and Education
in our
Community

Registered charity