



West Shore Arts Council

Serving Colwood, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, View Royal

West Shore Arts Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

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This newsletter is published by the West Shore Arts Council three times annually and provides West Shore Arts Council members and the community at large with news and information about arts and culture events on the West Shore.

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For business card size ads: \$20
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Submissions for arts-related articles for future newsletters are welcome; please send copy to the email address above.

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Good Times, Hard Times

We have enjoyed over the past four years generous support from the Province of British Columbia, through grants from the BC Gaming Commission and the BC Arts Council, and from the five municipalities of Colwood, Langford, Highlands, Metchosin and View Royal. The arts council was able to present a rich palette of programs: literary readings, art exhibitions, musical performances, courses on mapping, arts and health at Royal Roads University, and community fairs. Our sponsorship of studio tours and public art contributed to making the West Shore into a vibrant centre of the arts.

However, the down turn in the economy has led to a rethinking of its priorities on the part of the arts council and to the taking of some hard decisions. Already the City of Colwood has been forced to withdraw its support of non profit organizations. We have been advised that there may be a 40% cut in funding of the arts by the Provincial Government.

Consequently, the Board of Directors of WSAC has resolved to promote only those programs which attract major public support and attendance and which further our educational goals.

Now, more than ever, we need the support of our members. We need your advice on what measures we can take to counter the loss of funding of the arts and what new directions we should follow in developing policy over the next few years. To show support, please renew your individual membership and attend the Annual General Meeting next February. Drop by our office with your ideas – we are normally open on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Come and talk to the Board of Directors at their monthly meeting held at Teas 'n' Beans Cafe in Langford. Next meetings: Saturday at 9:00 a.m.: July 25, September 26, October 14, November 21 and December 12.

Elaine Linbrick, President

Benefits of Membership

WSAC member groups — list your meeting times and events at no cost. Members — let us know of your upcoming shows and events so we can post them on our website for free; sign up for the online Arts Directory and link your website to ours; receive emailed notice of calls for entry to open events around Vancouver Island. Members who are resident on the Westshore (Colwood, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, View Royal) may apply for a WSAC arts bursary.

Note that the current membership year ends October 31. To remain eligible for WSAC benefits visit our website before then to renew; new members and member groups are welcome to join at any time.

Individual \$20 Business \$30 Group \$30

Keep your eye on the WSAC website: www.westshorearts.org

Paint Out Tuesdays

A group of friends meet every Tuesday all year, almost, rain or shine, almost. We meet at the parking lot of the JDF Senior Centre, far side under the tall pointed tree at 9:30am. From there we carpool to locations decided upon by the group each week. Locations have been lakes, ocean views, flowers, parks etc - limited only by imagination and desire to see a new picture created. All ages and abilities are welcome. We may share our work and comment but there are no requirements, just to have a good time with whatever media you work with, including photography or sketching etc.



Dress appropriately and bring the water you will need, the drink and food for lunch; we may finish up about 2 to 3 p.m. A weekly email is sent out.

To get your name on the email contact me at dorothy@donovan.shaw.ca. For information contact Dorothy Donovan 250 474 8848.

Special Speaker

Gavin Bryars, an internationally famous English composer who summers in Metchosin, will be speaking on "A composer's story" – date and place to be announced.

A Short Holiday

The Black Ball ferry line over to Port Angeles is the first step in a great short holiday. Port Angeles has its sculptors display their beautiful statues on every street corner and one is picked and purchased every year.

The 50 mile drive to Port Townsend takes you through groves of wild rhododendrons. As you enter the city, on the left is the Manresa Castle, built in 1892 as a private home which in 1927 was converted into a Jesuit training college. The chapel is now a breakfast nook, with half of it containing a library.

The Courthouse in Port Townsend is bigger than the largest one in Canada. Port

Townsend was intended as the rail terminus, and many huge buildings were constructed. In the 1960s wealthy hippies set up many art stores and the galleries flourish to this day. A highlight is the Northwest Native Art gallery.

Half way back to Port Angeles the town of Sequim has a huge open game farm with lions, bears, zebra, hippopotamus, etc. The bears sit up and wave their paws when you stop the car beside them. The operator said that the bears' grandparents were circus bears which were taught to do this trick for treats, and the current bears, curiously, do the same!

Ron McIsaac

MACC Grand Opening

Sunday, June 14, saw the "Grand Opening" of the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Centre, housed in the old portion of the Metchosin Elementary School at 4495 Happy Valley Road.

It was a joyful event attended by a large gathering of residents and friends of the MACC. Thanks to the hard work of Mary Gidney, Colleen Brownlee and Jo Mitchell, who first approached the Sooke School District and then Metchosin Council with a proposal to lease the old portion of Metchosin Elementary School, two and a half years later the dream of an arts and cultural centre in the village core became reality. Today a thriving artists' cooperative runs the "School House Studio", which occupies a large sunny space on the second floor, and connects with the West Shore Arts Council office via the "Blue Hall Gallery", where visiting artists may display their works. A downstairs space is also available for individual art shows.

The Metchosin Arts and Cultural Association (Chair: Mary Gidney; Directors: Colleen Brownlee, Pat Cook, Elaine Limbrick, Sue Panton; Council Liaison: Jo Mitchell) arranged a fun-filled day of events. Members of the public tried their hand at painting a colourful mural or listened to the Celtic music performed by the group "Pagan". The official ribbon cutting was carried out by Mayor Ranns. First Nations elder Randy Chipps gave a moving



blessing in which he spoke of the union between art and the land and then performed a ritual dance with his wife, Laura Chipps. Afterwards, all enjoyed refreshments and swayed to the African rhythms of Metchosin's own marimba band, "Chikoro".

In the afternoon, just up the road at the Metchosin Community House, the West Shore Arts Council also sponsored a Japanese art, music and poetry festival which attracted a large crowd. "Setsuna", In The Moment works on paper by Chiarina Loggia and Lesley Pechter featured a performance by Japanese musicians Satomi Saeki Edwards on koto and Alcvin Takegawa Ryuzen Ramos on shakuhachi. This beautiful concert was followed by a

Cont'd on page 4



Photos by Laura Carberry and Susan Panton



*MACC Grand
Opening cont'd*

reading of Japanese poetry (haikus) given by Pat Martin Bates, Patricia Young and Terence Young. Pat Martin Bates displayed her art work inspired by the poetry of a

Japanese woman poet. The audience thoroughly appreciated this unique celebration of all the arts of Japan.

Westshore Community Concert Band – Café Suite



A full house of approximately 80 people of all ages enjoyed a well-paced concert of mainly light music performed by the West Shore's growing community band, interspersed with bon mots from emcee Greg Hatton. Sponsors had generously provided many desirable items that were handed out as door prizes throughout the evening, while the audience helped themselves to a groaning smorgasbord of

sandwiches, fruits, veggies, desserts and other delectables washed down with various beverages. A good time was had by all, including the band!

Contact conductor Mike Dominy at 250-474-3999, or see www.angelfire.com/bc3/westshoreband if you want more information about the band or are interested in joining.



WCCB photos by **Aaron Licht** [www.aaronlicht.com]

The AVALON SINGERS

are looking for singers in all female voice ranges: soprano, mezzo and alto.

conductor: Laurie Walker accompanist: Allison Marshall

for information: <http://members.shaw.ca/avalonsingers/>

Christmas Concert of choral works plus harp/piano solo Friday, December 4, 2009 at the Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View, Colwood. Tickets \$12 at the door.

Green Mapping

Highlands Community Green Map

On Sunday, June 21, the West Shore Arts Council sponsored the celebration of the Highlands Community Green Map, held in the picturesque surroundings of the Caleb Pike Heritage Park.

The Green Mapping Group set up exhibitions in the Pike House and the School

House, chronicling the progress of the map, along with historical documents and art work that were incorporated into the map. A photographic display of the wonderful wilderness scenery in the Highlands that inspired so much of the art and writing on the map was much appreciated by the large crowd of over one



More Green Mapping

One of the most successful programs run by the arts council has been the

“cultural mapping”/ “green mapping” project on the West Shore.

The Highlands Community Green Map has had a huge ripple effect, generating interest not only on Vancouver Island and mainland B.C., but also internationally in the U.S., South America and Asia through its promotion by the Green Map System which is coordinated by Green Map (www.greenmap.org). International conferences and workshops held at the University of Victoria have shown the importance of the arts in building community through identifying cultural assets and incorporating the work of artists into the mapping experience. The beautiful

hundred residents and visitors.

Councillor Allen Dobb, a country singer and guitarist, entertained guests in the Pike House before the formal blessing of the Highlands and its map by First Nations representatives, Randy Chipps and his wife, Laura. Their presence emphasized the collaboration between First Nations artist, John Elliott, and the Green Mapping Group and their desire to show respect for this heritage. Mayor Jane Mendum cut the cake, which bore a design of the arbutus tree, symbol of the Highlands, and then people wandered out on to the grass to listen to the Brazilian music of Perros Libres under the rays of the afternoon sun.

At the July 13 meeting of the District of Highlands Council, the West Shore Arts Council will officially give a six foot banner with a reproduction of the map to the people of the Highlands.

series of maps in “Islands in the Salish Sea” inspired much of the work on the Highlands Community Green Map and this map now serves as a model for similar maps being developed in the Cowichan Valley, Ucluelet, Salt Spring Island and Oak Bay.

Thanks to the wonderful professional help provided by the University of Victoria team of cartographers and green mappers—Charles Burnett, Ken Josephson and Maeve Lydon—and the workshops led by Briony Penn at Royal Roads University each Fall during the last three years, mappers on the West Shore have been able to go ahead with the mapping of “cherished places of the heart”. Since Spring 2009 a group of residents in Metchosin has been meeting on the second Wednesday of the month to review many ideas on a possible green map for

Continued on page 6

More mapping, cont'd

Metchosin. Residents of Beecher Bay and East Sooke were invited to attend the last meeting of the group on June 10th at which a presentation was given by cartographers from the Department of Geography, University of Victoria.

A proposal has been submitted by WSAC to Langford City Council for consideration under their "Green City" grants program.

This submission is a collaboration between WSAC and community organizations such as the Metchosin Farmers' Institute, local elementary schools and the Quilters Guild. Please watch for details of mapping workshops to be held at the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University in September to November of this year.

Murals

Under the auspices of the Metchosin Arts and Cultural Association, a mural is now being painted on one of the exterior walls of the Metchosin Technical Centre which faces the old Elementary School. Katarina Russell is coordinating the project with help from Sheila Lintaman and Jennifer Kivari of the School House Studio. Drop by and view this interesting project.

Another mural project on the theme of the environment is planned for Lakewood

Elementary School during the school year 2009-2010 and will involve the whole of the school. Again, talented mural artist Katarina Russell, who has led many mural projects involving schools in Australia, the United Kingdom and, now, Canada, will oversee and design the mural.

The Metchosin Farmers' Institute is also considering the painting of murals on its buildings in the Luxton Fair Grounds in an effort to involve youth in its activities.

Calendar of Events

- July-August — School House Studio and Blue Hall Gallery, in the Old Metchosin Elementary School, open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.
- July-August — *Art on the Fence* every Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Metchosin Elementary School on Happy Valley Road
- July 25 to August 3 — *Stinking Fish Studio Tour* 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 250-474-2676 for information, or visit www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com
- July 25 to August 3 — *Sooke Fine Arts Show* 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke. See www.sookefinearts.com for more information
- July-August — Coast Collective Gallery, Heatherbell Road, Colwood: Summer classes and workshops. For information and registration: tel : 250-391-5522 e-mail: classes@coastcollective.ca.
- September 13 — *Metchosin Day*. Arts and crafts, community mapping info. booth
- September 19 — "*Blackberry Festival*" at East Sooke Community Hall and Coppermine playground. Community mapping info. booth
- September 18, 19, 20 — *Luxton Fall Fair: First Nations Exhibition*. Community mapping info. booth
- October 3 and 10 — "*How to manage your art career*", contact Pat Cook at 250-391- 0731
- October 24 — *Community mapping workshop* [free] at Royal Roads University, Colwood. For registration tel: 250-391-2600, ext. 4801, online www.royalroads.ca
- November 27-29 — *Stinking Fish Studio Tour*