



Metchosin Muse

A N O N - P R O F I T C O M M U N I T Y P U B L I C A T I O N

Garry Oak Meadow to be restored in honour of Moralea Milne



Katy Nelson

It is a joy to report that on December 10, 2018 Metchosin Mayor and Council unanimously passed a proposal in principle to restore the small Garry Oak Meadow sited between the Municipal Hall and the Metchosin Farmers'

market in honour of the late Councillor Moralea Milne.

Restoration will be done primarily by volunteers with some help from the Public Works department and under the supervision of Dr. Val Schaefer, head of the University of Victoria's Restoration of Natural Systems Program.

The Metchosin Foundation has generously given a grant of \$5,000 to cover costs of supplies, and a \$500 per year fund for ongoing maintenance costs over the next 10 years. These funds will help pay for interpretative signage, restoration of the fence, gate

and path going through the meadow.

It is a real tribute to Moralea that so many people have volunteered to help with this program. If you are interested in joining us there will be many opportunities for different types of volunteer work. Anyone interested can contact

Katy Nelson at 250-474-2029 or katyn@telus.net.

Your call or email will remain private, but all updates on what is happening in the meadow and how restoration is going will be shared with everyone.

Another Step Along the Road to the Treaty for Beecher Bay First Nation

Ken Farquharson

The Department of National Defence has determined that most of its land at Mary Hill is surplus to its requirements and is available for acquisition by the Beecher Bay First Nation as part of their treaty settlement. The Band Council has advised that it intends to acquire these lands as Treaty Settlement Lands, however they recognize that the District of Metchosin and Pearson College have a strong interest in how these lands would be used and managed.

To achieve a solution that gets acceptance from all three parties, a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) has been negotiated among the three parties which will guide their discussions on the future use and management of Mary Hill. It will be posted on the municipal website.

The MOU was signed on Monday, December 10, 2018 by Chief Russ Chipps, Mayor John Ranns, and Desiree McGraw, President and Head of Pearson College, at a ceremony at Beecher Bay. Due to the short notice for the ceremony, witnesses were limited to several Band Councillors, three Metchosin Councillors along with the CAO, two staff members from Pearson, and three residents of Metchosin.



L-R Chief Russell Chipps, Beecher Bay First Nation's lawyer, Mayor John Ranns, and Pearson College Director Desiree McGraw after signing the MOU. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

31st Annual Polar Bear Swim, Taylor Beach, January 1, 2019 @ 2:00 pm

Please join us for Metchosin's 31st annual Polar Bear Swim, at Taylor Beach near the end of Taylor Road, January 1, 2019. The swim is at 2:00 p.m., usually until approximately 2:01 p.m. For those so inclined, the swim is preceded by a gentle run of about 6 km, or a walk of about 3 km. Both end at Taylor Beach just before 2:00 p.m.

Following the swim, please join us at Mairi and Andy MacKinnon's house, 504 Witty Beach Road. We have showers and places to change.

We'll have simple food and hot apple juice, and we encourage everyone to bring food and drink to share. (This is often food and drink left over from Christmas and New Year's Eve, that doesn't fit with New Year's resolutions!) For details about the run and walk, or any other questions, please e-mail or call Mairi or Andy MacKinnon (metchosinmacs@gmail.com; 250-478-8232). Happy Hogmanay!