



Metchosin Muse

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Inspired By Earth Day?



(Left to right) Bev Hall, Katy Nelson and Bill Cave hard at work at restoring Moralea's Meadow. Photo by Barb Sawatsky

Here's a Way to Carry It On!

Merrilee Hoen

This is a special spring in Moralea's Meadow. It is almost three years since the untimely passing of Moralea Milne. She has been sorely missed; she embodied the best of Metchosin. As a co-founder of the Metchosin Foundation, a focused and effective municipal council member for many years, and a regular contributor to the *Metchosin Muse*, she lived her life through the "lens of the environment". Reading her blog at camashill.blogspot is still fascinating and timely reading. One of Moralea's unfinished projects was to restore the fragment of Garry oak meadow beside the Municipal Hall. Volunteers have been working to make her vision a reality.

Now our restoration efforts are starting to show results. Flowering currants have been revitalized by pruning. Fawn lilies are thriving where there were only invasive

weeds. Camas, the signature flower of the Garry oak meadow, is coming back strongly. Last fall, Kristen and James Miskelly of Saanich Native Plants Nursery & Consulting led a team of volunteers who weeded out several large patches of meadow and planted selected areas with a mixture of native seeds. It has been a joy to watch the rejuvenation of these areas.

Volunteers have also done a lot of work on the path designed and built by Harold Perepalkin so that the public can have a safe, accessible visit to the meadow. We are fortunate to have been awarded a grant through Habitat Acquisition Trust from the Conservation Economic Stimulus Initiative (part of the BC government Economic Recovery Plan) specifically for the purchase of plants and seeds. The Metchosin municipality continues to help with in-kind support. Thanks

to the Metchosin Foundation's generous and ongoing financial contribution, signage designed by Bonnie Farris will be installed soon.

"This is a place for people to share their knowledge and learn..."

Whether you've had years of experience or are just beginning to understand the natural beauty in which we live, we invite new volunteers to join in hands-on learning about best restoration practices here.

This is a place for people to share their knowledge and learn from experts/experienced peers about how to create a Garry oak habitat incorporating many

species we find here. It is fascinating to see how factors such as elevation, soil type and sunlight can affect the growth of native plants. The meadow will be part of the Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Way project and we'll be doing all we can to encourage stopovers and residence by pollinators of all kinds.

We have a small core group of people working on the restoration of Moralea's Meadow and we need a few additional volunteers to really move the project along. Restoration events (three-hour, small-group, outdoor work-parties) will be ongoing this summer.

We also need a few people to carry out individual stewardship activities, such as:

- Monitoring progress in the lives of our plants, fungi, birds

and insects (our ant hill is said to be well over 20 years old);

- Patrolling outer fence and gates area to ensure that animals such as rabbits and deer are not gaining access and that the restoration work is not being disturbed;
- Taking photographs and videos documenting the changes in the meadow during the project;
- Tool sharpening (can you do a training session for the rest of us?);
- Using power tools such as a string trimmer. Precision is needed to avoid cutting native species.

If you can help, email Katy Nelson at katynelson472@gmail.com. For further information about Moralea's Meadow, go to <https://continuing-studies.uvic.ca/science-and-ecological-restoration/news/moraleas-meadow>.

Pearson to Offer Summer Outdoor Leadership Day Camps

Angela Gatari, Community Events & Partnerships Manager

With the continued uncertainty due to the pandemic, a number of major on-campus events that require long-term planning, such as the symposium and MISSA, were forced to either cancel or move to online-only activities.

This opened up opportunities for the first-ever "Pearson

Experiences" Summer Outdoor Leadership Day Camps for 6 to 14-year-olds.

This summer, from July 5 to August 20, Pearson College will offer week-long day camps on campus, including participation in activities such as hiking, kayaking, sports, arts and crafts, drama, dance, leadership and team building, and unique cultural celebrations.

Options also include before- and after-camp care, hot lunches and snacks (both upon request) and three pick-up and drop-off points around the area.

Many of the camp leaders and counsellors will be drawn from current students on campus, including international students, who will provide cross-cultural learning opportunities.

Many day camp leaders and counsellors have also acquired kayak and watercraft safety certification, first-aid training and emergency response experience as part of the regular outdoors-oriented curriculum.

All COVID-safety measures and protocols will be in place during the day camps, and will be adjusted as determined by public health guidance. All campers

should be screened for symptoms by parents/guardians in the morning before coming to camp. All participants will be monitored for any symptoms during the day.

Families can find out more and register at

pearsoncollege.ca/leadership-day-camps/.