

# The Metchosin Foundation Remembers Moralea

Chris Pratt

When Moralea and her husband John chose to make their home in Metchosin, attracted by the quiet lifestyle of the people and the rich endowment of forests and fields and streams, bordered by the sea, they saw that measures were needed to preserve that balance here, living, as we are, on the verges of a growing city. Moralea and John literally spent the rest of both their tragically shortened lives in pursuing that purpose.

Moralea was seized with the suggestion that some agency was needed to voice the value of preserving our way of living, and our green spaces in particular; and so the idea of a Foundation, (suggested by Jo Mitchell), was born. They recruited Dan MacIsaac to draw up a legal constitution for The Metchosin Foundation, which he patiently guided through the labyrinth of legal verbiage to have it approved as a not-for-profit organization. That process took more than a couple of years; meanwhile a board was chosen and planning continued.

The Foundation is steadily growing in strength to raise awareness of our Metchosin values as its financial endowment improves. Since it is "not for profit" it must remain non-political. As a politician, Moralea was not a Board Member, but nevertheless continued her keen interest and encouragement to those who were. She attributed her many activities – the monthly "Talk and Walk" series, (now up to 100!) and the "BioBlitzes" that have made Metchosin a leading area for its inventory of natural history gems, and her articles in the *Muse* – to the Foundation. Moralea equally enjoyed a lively party, and the Halloween dances put on by the Foundation were largely due to her initiative!

As the Foundation grows in its ability to raise awareness of the values she treasured most, her name will remain at the masthead. Moralea had an indomitable spirit and an indefatigable commitment to making this community the best it could be. May her spirit Rest in Peace while her followers take up the torch.

# Moralea Milne, the Councillor

John Ranns

Moralea often said that everything she did would be through the lens of the environment, but when she did I would kind of laugh because she was much more than that. To be sure, she was the most influential environmental advocate we have ever had on Council, but she was also a champion for fiscal responsibility, business, and sound economics, both for Metchosin and the regional committees she served on. Moralea was our finance chair and, whether buying a truck or setting policy, we all knew we had to pass the "Moralea Test". Sometimes we did and sometimes we didn't, but the decisions were always the better for it.

But above all was her deep commitment to the long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability of our beautiful rural community. Her love of Metchosin was expressed in everything she did. As a Councillor she was a complete professional.

She was kind and compassionate, thoughtful, a good heart and a good spirit. But she was also hard-nosed and practical with an incredible work ethic.

Moralea could be brutally forthright yet was very politically astute. She understood the necessity for strong-willed people with diverse perspec-

achieve her goals and maintain harmony on Council. If she lost a vote on something important to her, she would tear a strip off us, fume for a couple of minutes, and then set about with good humour to get what she wanted in another way – and she usually did.

For both staff and Council, her presence truly changed the way we view things and will continue to do so.

Her achievements as a councillor over the past ten years are too many to list and her mark on our community indelible, but for me her greatest achievement was bringing Beecher Bay and Metchosin together, not as neighbouring jurisdictions, but as trusted friends and partners. I will forever be grateful to her for that.

With that, as with so many things, she was the driving force. But she did not do it out of civic duty but rather from her unflinching sense of humanity and a relentless force of will to make good things happen.

That was Councillor Milne.

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John Ranns

tives working together in the tough field of civic politics to do so with respect and friendship. And she personified that.

She was uncompromising in her beliefs but quick to compromise in order to



For Moralea there was getting dressed up and just dressing up. Here she enjoys dressing up with Barb Sawatsky.



An important message she shared at a rally.



One of Moralea's greatest legacies is her work to bring reconciliation with the First Nation people of Beecher Bay.

What Moralea stood for – in her own words. Her last election campaign platform.



**MORALEA MILNE**  
Metchosin Councillor

**ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me for the past six years. You elected me knowing my passion for preserving the environment and that I unashamedly label myself as an environmentalist. With increasing climate chaos, Metchosin needs to consider all our decisions with an eye to delivering an environmentally sustainable future for our children's children. The environment has been, and always will be, the lens through which I make decisions.

**FINANCE**

Just as in our personal lives, municipalities must operate with fiscal care so that our future is not compromised. We do not want to be forced to look for tax dollars in areas that might jeopardise our rural and green nature as expressed in our Official Community Plan. To that end, as your Chair of Finance, I have built on the fine work of previous councils' by developing a Financial Sustainability Plan that will ensure Metchosin's financial health and stability into the future. This continues the sound practices that have resulted in no debt, low tax increases and a well maintained infrastructure.

**AMALGAMATION**

I do NOT support amalgamation of Metchosin with the CRD municipalities. Our voice, our rural and green vision, and our sustainable financing would soon be lost to urban pressures.

*Thank You, Moralea*