



Boys & Girls Club  
of Greater Victoria

February 1, 2021

Mayor and Council  
District of Metchosin  
4450 Happy Valley Road  
Victoria, B.C. V9C 3Z3

Dear Mayor Ranns and District of Metchosin Councillors,

As long-time Metchosin constituents and community builders, I wanted to address the comments made during your recent council meeting, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation. Although we have not yet received the letter you were discussing, I wanted to address your concerns related to our ownership of a property at 3900 Metchosin Road that has recently been in the news.

As members of this community for more than 35 years, our non-profit organization has provided life-changing programming to thousands of children and youth at this location. Over the years, we have also hosted community events, school groups and First Responder training exercises on portions of our 98-acre property. Throughout, we have always strived to be good neighbours and good stewards of the land.

But changing needs in our region are placing new demands on our resources. While youth justice needs were once significant, and our property was needed for wilderness programs and nature programming, government changes to young offender laws effectively eliminated those programs. The evolution in youth needs in Greater Victoria has reshaped our program needs for this property.

Our Foundation has made the considered decision to divide the property and seek a buyer for a 40-acre portion. As you are aware, we began that process with the District early last year and it was brought to the attention of mayor and councillors in the Fall of 2020.

Although this process is a long distance from being realized, our decision has recently become a source of controversy and misinformation. I'm writing to you to provide more clarity on the issue and perspective on our mandate and goals.

Our Foundation purchased the property from the provincial government in 2004, at market value, and there were no covenants, agreements or commitments placed on the Boys and Girls Club regarding keeping the property intact in perpetuity. That remains the case.



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We are thankful for Metchosin granting our non-profit organization annual permissive tax exemptions that, as you know, were based on our annual commitment to child and youth programming which have always been delivered in full. We have also fulfilled our commitment to the community by welcoming individuals, schools, service organizations and biodiversity groups to experience the property. Apart from your recent letter, there has never been any suggestion linking municipal tax measures with any “understanding” regarding the long-term use of the property.

Although the property has served our community and our agency very well, annual maintenance costs of this land, insurance, safety enhancements and services such as that of arborists, diverts resources from our central goal of providing critical supports to children and youth.

Today’s community needs are considerably more complex than they once were. Although quality out-of-school programming, summer camps and youth outreach remain essential for the Boys and Girls Club, the organization is increasingly stepping in to offer new programs and supports to address some of the greatest challenges facing children, youth and families including homelessness prevention, mental health support and substance use services. Proceeds from the market-priced sale of this 40-acre parcel will contribute to the funding of all of these important services.

Over the years, we have referred to this land, its trees and water as unique, magical and environmentally special. That remains unchanged. While a protective covenant was discussed as a possibility 14 years ago, that never occurred. Recently, we have heard indirect interest in a land conservation agency, community group or municipal/regional government potentially purchasing the property for preservation, but we have no direct knowledge of this. Our transparent process means any one of these grassroot efforts to preserve this property has fair and equal purchasing opportunity.

At this time, it should be noted that the property has not yet been divided, has not yet been listed for sale and we are not subdividing it into smaller lots. We are not currently entertaining any offers from prospective purchasers.

Community service organizations must always adapt to the evolving needs of their region and the changing priorities of their funders, such as government. All across southern Vancouver Island, we are witnessing increasing, critical service demands for vulnerable children and youth, with many programs experiencing substantial waitlists. We truly believe the sale of this property is the responsible way to fund more services for more young people.

As a responsible non-profit organization, our intention is to closely monitor our usage and costs this spring and summer while continuing to offer programming in Metchosin on our remaining land. We hope you and others will look at our long track record of serving the community and see that we are, as always, putting the needs of the region’s young people first.



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If you wish to speak by phone or meet virtually to further your understanding of this decision, we will do our utmost to accommodate your request. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Dalyce Dixon, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria at 250.384.9133 ext. 216 or [ddixon@bgcvic.org](mailto:ddixon@bgcvic.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLG'.

Rebecca Lang  
President  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation

cc.

[mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@metchosin.ca)

[jranns@metchosin.ca](mailto:jranns@metchosin.ca)

[andy@metchosin.ca](mailto:andy@metchosin.ca)

[kyara@metchosin.ca](mailto:kyara@metchosin.ca)

[sepp@metchosin.ca](mailto:sepp@metchosin.ca)

[mtlittle@metchosin.ca](mailto:mtlittle@metchosin.ca)

[lurlacher@metchosin.ca](mailto:lurlacher@metchosin.ca)

[info@metchosin.ca](mailto:info@metchosin.ca)