



Metchosin Muse

A NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

Photos by Tony Austin unless otherwise noted

Community Spirit Alive and Well in Metchosin's Youth

BY DAN O'CONNELL

On June 4 the Metchosin Dirt Jump Park sprung alive with the coursing of bikes launching into the air. A project that was more than four years in the making finally brought zero gravity to the environs of the municipal flatlands. After our highly supportive municipal council gave their blessing to fourteen year old Will O'Connell early in January, Jo Mitchell, whose consistent dedication to the project really was wonderful, consulted with various user groups on municipal land and arrived at the location it now has - a strip of land ten meters wide and fifty meters long beside the fire hall.

Will trundled off with his scale model and soft-spoken ways to the Parks and Trails advisory committee, the Parks and Trails Committee, the Municipal Users Group, and then back to Council for final approval. He set a date with a professional dirt jump park designer Jay Hoots from North Vancouver for early June only to find out we were missing a final permit from the Agricultural Land Commission to bring soil onto ALR land. It was a nail biter as after three weeks of phoning, emailing, faxing, bowing, scraping, and mindfully worrying (praying) it arrived on Wednesday afternoon May 31, mere hours before the dirt was arranged to arrive - any later would have necessitated canceling. Fortunately, John Ranns had prepared the site earlier taking off the topsoil and grass.

On Thursday, June 1, forty truck loads of certified clean river till (a fancy term for stony dirt) arrived from Island View Contracting coordinated by local wag Larry Selzer. Another ten trucks of free sand and gravel from Construction Aggregates was added and all this burden was coarsely laid out and piled by Jim Paton (Mr. Indispensable!) and Terry Leerholm using a backhoe. The fine tuning happened over Saturday and Sunday

thanks to the volunteer presence of amazing Geoff Tisdall of Cat's Eye Contracting on a bobcat mini-excavator. Talk about an artist! He shaped the hillocks within hours! A task we thought would take two days. He actually has the hands of a drummer.

Rock is a key element of this fill providing ample opportunity for the dozens of volunteers to rake and shape, lift and sift under the guidance of the aforementioned Jay Hoots. This dread locked genius captivated us with his sincere demeanor and used his kid friendly ardor to power up this project. All were thrilled by donations of Broken Paddle cookies, My-Chosen Pizza and Laughing Fire cinnamon buns. Joan Rosenberg set up a lunch wagon (even stocked with inorganic donuts!) Talk about well fed!

A unique feature of this terrain park is a wall ride whereby the bikers ride up an eight foot high wall and bounce off (another idiot recipe for bruising oneself). If you now chance to furtively glance across the open grounds, your reverie will be greeted by the squall of helmeted diminutives on too tall bikes gathered on a small man-made knoll chatting and blustering before a sudden charge down and then way up.

All funds were raised privately resulting in no cost to the taxpayer. The Metchosin Cricket Association made a very generous donation at a timely juncture ensuring that the gathering momentum moved into reality. Brad Doney spearheaded a collection of another substantial amount from private donors that allowed the wall ride to become a possibility. When the kids are flying the whole park has a paranormal quality with its symmetry of flowing berms (bank turns), youthful exuberance and treed footprint, complete with rock cribbing.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this park a reality. It will be enjoyed by our youth for many years to come.



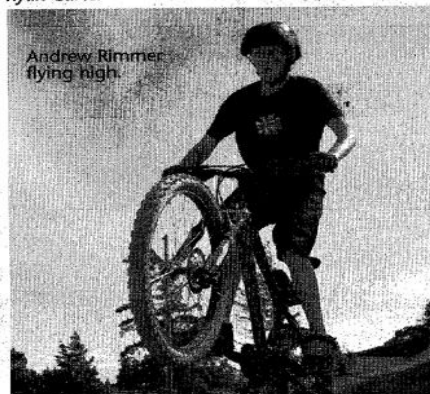
Many of the volunteers who came out to help. Jay Hoots, Vanessa Hammond, Zachery Hammond, Rehan Higgins, Ryan Carter, Sam Prosnick, Nick Graham, Tyler Weir, Shiraz Higgins, Will O'Connell, Joan Rosenberg, Derek Atherton, Jericho O'Connell, Rene Prosnick, Dan O'Connell, Kathy Atherton, David Lawson. We did not catch the name of one woman and three of the young people who came out to help.



Will O'Connell inaugurating the back board jump Photo by the Muse Roving Reporter



Work crew From Left to Right: Sax player David Lawson, Zachery Hammond, Sidney Taylor and Ryan Carter



Andrew Rimmer flying high



Ahhh, nothing like a My-Chosen pizza at the end of a hard day's work!



How to get the August Muse.
See you at the details on July/August
Evening including the Sheep Dog
Trials and Metchosin Day.