

**OECC JULY 2020 DRIVE**

**A SCAVENGER  
HUNT**

**BY OECC SOUTH ISLAND  
MEMBERS**

# PROLOGUE

This book is dedicated to the OECC South Island members who have practiced good social distancing and living in quasi-isolation for too damn long.

This trip into the countryside is an opportunity to view the scenery through refreshed eyes. Although a scavenger hunt, there is no need to leave the vehicle unless you would like to.

Rather than pick things up, you will take pictures or make drawings of pieces that make up the hunt.

In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that you did well, there will be a special award for the best individual picture and - for those willing to enter - the best hand drawing of the sights that you saw.

Please send your key point pictures by email to:

[beresford@pacificcoast.net](mailto:beresford@pacificcoast.net) and  
[chrisberesford2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisberesford2@gmail.com)

Please send your entry into the best individual picture to:

[beresford@pacificcoast.net](mailto:beresford@pacificcoast.net) and  
[chrisberesford2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisberesford2@gmail.com)

And if you wish to enter the best hand drawing (of the countryside, not of your hand), please take a picture or a scan of your picture and send it to:

[beresford@pacificcoast.net](mailto:beresford@pacificcoast.net) and  
[chrisberesford2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisberesford2@gmail.com)

You are welcome to take the drive on Sunday, July 19th, or anytime between then and July 30th. Please send in all you material on or before July 31, 2020.

# CHAPTER ONE

---

## **“WE OFTEN COME UPON THINGS SOONER THAN WE EXPECT.”**

We will start the run in the parking lot at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, in front of the Public Library.

In Chapter One you will proceed around the back of the recreation complex, existing on to Ocean Blvd and preparing to turn left on to the Old Island Highway. You will continue on this route to the lights at the Old Island Highway and Metchosin Road, turning left at those lights on to Metchosin Road. Between departure and the next Chapter, identify the location of the first electric car charging station.

Key Picture One: The Library

Key Picture Two: The first electric car charging station on the route.

# CHAPTER TWO

---

## **“WHERE ARE ALL THE FAMILIES COMING FROM?”**

In Chapter Two we will see the oldest and some of the newest residences in the area.

At the lights at Metchosin Road and Wishart Road, turn right. Proceed on Wishart Road until you can go no further. You will then turn left on to Latoria. Proceed to the end of Latoria Road, bearing right to re-join Metchosin Road.

In this chapter you will pass the Heart of Local Government in Colwood, then the oldest and newest homes in the area. While on Wishart Road you will pass by a stone house. Then you will see some of the newest houses in a development that has taken over the former gravel pit. The contrast is amazing as families seek the size that is right for the times (and the stuff that goes inside our homes).

Key Picture Three: The Seat of Government in Colwood

Key Picture Four: The Stone House on Wishart

# CHAPTER THREE

---

## “FRANKLY, I COULD GIVE DAMN”

In Chapter Three we will pass by an impressive home that could substitute in *Gone with the Wind*, and visit a drive that could be in Europe.

After rejoining Metchosin Road, proceed to the left hand turn at Duke Road (heading toward Albert Head). Stay on Duke Road all the way as it passes what some have called the Plantation House. Look for sheep in the pasture. Proceed on the remainder of Duke Road as it rejoins Metchosin Road. Turn Left on to Metchosin Road (when the way is clear) and proceed through Metchosin. When you reach Lombard Drive, turn right and stop to the side of the drive to take in view. When you are ready, proceed on Lombard Drive until you can go no further, turning left on to Rocky Point Road.

Key Picture Five: The Plantation House

Key Picture Six: The start of Lombard Drive

# CHAPTER FOUR

---

## “WHAT PRETTY TREES”

In Chapter Four we will go under the tress on Lombard Drive, then head on Rocky Point Road toward Becher Bay before heading through the heart of Metchosin country. At the end of Lombard Drive, turn left on to Rocky Point Road. In 2 km you will be turning right on to Liberty Drive.

On your left you will see Hans Helgesen Elementary School, named after the “Hardy Norseman” who purchased a parcel of land in Metchosin 1862. He planted the Lombardy poplar trees that lined the drive and farmed about 150 acres in the area.

Turn right on to Liberty Drive. Residents in the area have waged a war on the invasive tansy ragwort, a plant that can be poisonous if eaten by cattle, horses or goats. Sheep, however, enjoy the plant and can be used to control its spread. July 28th is Tackle Tansy Ragwort Day and volunteers are welcome to join the battle.

Bear right on to LaBonne Road when Liberty ends.

Key Picture Seven: Turning on to LaBonne Road

# CHAPTER FIVE

---

## “THAT’S HOW IT GOT THE NAME?”

In Chapter Five we wind our way back toward the start, turning right on to Kangaroo Road, then left on Rocky Point Road and left again on to Happy Valley Road.

When settlers came to Metchosin, Crown land could be staked by an individual and if they “improved” and lived there for a certain length of time, they received title. There were many “remittance men” who took advantage of this offer, but would often leave before the allotted time was up. If the property was unoccupied for over six months it could be claimed by another. One Lands Office official remarked, “what’s the matter with the folks out there? They are always ‘jumping’ one another’s claims and jumping around from place to place ... like a lot of kangaroos.” First known as the ‘kangaroo’ area, the name was attached to the road.

Your time back on Rocky Point Road is short - turn left at the stop to join Happy Valley Road.

Key Picture Eight: Anywhere on Kangaroo Road

# CHAPTER SIX

---

## “WHY SO HAPPY?”

In Chapter Six we drive back through Happy Valley, Glen Lake, pass Belmont Park and end our drive at the 6 Mile pub. Turn right on to Sooke Road when Happy Valley ends, and stay all the way to lights at Six Mile Road at the pub.

Happy Valley has been an agricultural community, but is changing with new residential developments. The name has a wonderful history. Around 1860 some Black families settled here after emigrating from the United States. According to some accounts, their singing gave the place its name. However, the postmaster at Happy Valley in 1905 reported that one man, Isaac Mull, gave Happy Valley its name, possibly with reference to joy at becoming a free man under the British flag. Isaac lived to over 100 years of age.

It's back to traffic, shopping centres and a hive of activity as you take Sooke Road back to Colwood. On your right will be Belmont Park, now the home of Royal Roads University. You will pass by the start location at the Juan de Fuca complex as you prepare for a left hand turn to Six Mile Road. You may have to travel up the road before making a u-turn to get to the parking lot.

Key Picture Nine: The Six Mile Pub

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

---

It's the driver, navigator and any other passengers that made this trip worthwhile. Take a bow. And share one fact about your childhood that the others may not know.

Co-authors Charley and Chris Beresford have been OECC members for some time, and have previously worked together on club runs. They remain together, even after this joint exercise.