

Association for the Protection of Rural Metchoshin ([www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca))  
Summer 2006 NEWSLETTER and

*INVITATION* to the

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**APRM POTLUCK PICNIC  
& Tribute to SANDRA MARTIN**  
(who is leaving Metchoshin for her second retirement)

Noon – 3 pm  
Sunday August 13  
530 Witty Beach Road (Mitchell's)

**Please Bring** – Kids, Guests, A plate, mug, cutlery, a dish to share, BYOB  
Any instruments and singing voice (in case song breaks out)

**APRM will provide** Cold drinks, Ice, Coffee, Condiments, Galloping Goose products, hot dogs, lamb burgers (w/ Metchoshin homemade mint chutney) veggie dogs & burgers for Barbequeing

Hay Rides and lots of FUN, Children's Activities!  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Parking at the House is available—no need to walk up the drive!!  
Call Gaert Linnaea for more info. 381-5752

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**Association News**

**Executive:** The AGM on June 21 elected an executive comprising:

Derek Wulff (President)  
Gaert Linnaea (VP)  
Betty Ann Snyder (Secretary) & Colleen Brownlee (Backup Secretary)  
Moralea Milne (Treasurer)  
Ken Farquarson (Director at Large)  
Frank Mitchell (Chair, Resource Group).

The President thanked retiring members Brad Doney, Rachel Dziver and Werner Faust, and also John Hollemans for continuing to look after the APRM website ([www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca)) and to John Houseman for reviewing our annual accounts.

**Meeting Schedule:** Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm the third Wednesday of the month . (except July, August, September, December), at the Metchoshin Community House. Meetings start with a speaker on an issue of the day, followed by refreshments (both open to the public). Brief members' business meetings follow. Meetings are also announced in the Muse and on our website ([www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca)). Hope to see you at the APRM table at **Metchoshin Day** on Sunday Sept 10 as well as **the Picnic**.

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**CURRENT (and not so current) ISSUES**

**Municipal Staffing:** The sudden resignations of the Chief Administrative Officer, Treasurer and Planner have impaired Council's ability to carry out substantive work on non-urgent issues, and placed an extra burden on volunteers (e.g. Advisory Committee members)

and residents to research and recommend courses of action. Until new full-time staff are appointed, part-time contract staff are handling urgent issues.

**OCP Review:** Has been deferred.

**Green/blue spaces strategy:** Team Leader Andy MacKinnon told the AGM that the Green/Blue Spaces team hopes to hold a public consultation in the early fall. In the meantime, residents should make their views known to Andy on what they would like to be included (in terms of criteria, types of sites, specific sites. etc.). APRM supports the initiative, but has not (yet) made detailed proposals.

**Parks and Trails Plan:** The Parks and Trails Committee has prepared a list of all the parks and trails in Metchosin, together with a list of options which might be followed for each (including, in some cases, the possibility of sale with a view to using the proceeds for acquisition of more desirable properties). This report will soon appear on the municipal website to facilitate public review and input.

**Village Centre:** Council committee has recommended including in the Village Centre the house beside the Community Hall (and opposite MyChosen Café). The aim would be to enable the house to serve its historic use as a farm tea house. This *may* involve removal of the house site from ALR. APRM did not oppose the tea house idea. It remains to develop proposals to ensure the changes do not lead to (now-unintended) uses on this site – and do not set a precedent for the Village Centre to sprawl further outside its current boundaries.

**Secondary Housing:** This issue is in (temporary?) abeyance.

**Model CRD Pesticide Bylaw:** CRD has issued a draft Pesticide Bylaw for consideration by regional Municipalities. The Bylaw would prohibit non-essential use of chemical pesticides on private land and on land owned by the municipality, but would allow appropriate use of pesticides in agriculture, forestry, controlling pests that transmit human diseases and to address pests that threaten the integrity of sensitive ecosystems. It is unclear whether pesticides would continue to be allowed for other uses, such as golf courses. Council has asked MEASC to review this bylaw.

**Amalgamation of East Sooke and Related Issues:** The Ministry of Communities and CRD are currently reviewing options for the unincorporated lands in CRD. No immediate actions foreseen.

**3963 Metchosin Road:** The proposal to rezone an existing FOUR acre AG/RU split zoned lot to AG (10 acre minimum) into TWO 2-acre lots, was, following strong public opposition, including a major brief by APRM (on our website), finally rejected by the last Council just before the November election.. The applicant has come forward again. Council is exploring means to accommodate the applicant's desire to legalise the existing buildings (two houses, each with a secondary suite) and secure insurance coverage.

**Soil Disposal and Removal:** Residents have often complained (sometimes for years) about noise, nuisance, traffic and environmental damage associated with some soil removal/disposal cases. The current development boom has exacerbated the problems. Among other things, APRM recommended (in March, 2004, and repeated on several occasions since) that criteria be established to ensure amounts of soil/fill and time periods are reasonable in terms of landowners' plans and the level of nuisance and environmental impact (currently, only the Water Management guidelines apply). APRM has not yet proposed detailed criteria. Council intends to address this issue in the fall.

**Sections 25 (Metchosin Park), 28 and 95:** There has been no word on provincial plans for these properties. They will be covered in the Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.

**DND Properties:** APRM has actively followed proposals on divestiture of part of these lands (thanks especially to Chris Pratt and Moralea Milne for their extensive efforts). Following a recent Council presentation led by Metchosinite Maj. Steve Sawyer (Naden Base Operations officer), it appears earlier proposals for divesting some DND properties have been indefinitely deferred. (relief!!)

**Centre Mountain:** Many thanks to all members who wrote to or spoke to Council on this matter. Council is returning the zoning to CR2 and CR3, and withdrawing the notorious Bylaw 444. The story is not finished. Centre Mountain Group's (CMG's) consultants indicated to a special meeting of the APRM Executive and Resource Group that CMG will seek substantially higher residential density in the interest of "financial viability" than the density now allowed (33-37 units, depending on whether they go for a "Metchosin amenity" zone). The consultants intend to hold an open house to hear community views on what might be desirable for Centre Mountain from 2-4 pm and 7-9pm, Wednesday, 26 July, at Metchosin Community Hall. A later open house will hear community views on development proposals. CMG hope to present final proposals this fall.

**Commercial Logging:** Many Metchosinites were shocked to learn that YWCA were carrying out extensive logging operations on their Glintz Lake property to provide funds for upgrading Camp Thunderbird facilities. Metchosin's current bylaws did not (necessarily) preclude such logging. The OCP opposes "commercial logging" –this is permitted only in the Forest Reserve. Council's initial approach is to come up with a definition of commercial logging, presumably to be followed by determining in which zones, if any, it would be permitted. Council has asked MEASC to review this issue – and to receive the views of APRM and the West Metchosin Ratepayers Association. MEASC has requested input from APRM before the end of August. The Resource Group will review this Issue at its July meeting (see below). If you can't make the meeting, please give Frank your views (see box below)

**RESOURCE GROUP—Opportunity Knocks!**

Metchosinites can't expect our Council to "do the right thing" on all issues (such as those listed above) without extensive input from residents.

Some issues are complicated, involving tradeoffs among what is possible and different ideas of what might be desirable. Arriving at **sound and effective** recommendations depends upon (a) collecting reliable information on the situation and what can be done about it physically and legally, and (b) discussion among members to arrive at sound and balanced proposals.

If you would like to help out on one or more community issues, **please consider joining the APRM Resource Group**. The Resource Group meets occasionally. Often, subgroups (or individuals) take responsibility for researching specific issues and reporting back to the whole. Some members only come when "their" issues are under discussion. To save time and facilitate contributions, the Group makes extensive use of email, but mail is not required to belong.

Our next meeting is **3pm-5pm, Thursday, 27 July**, at 530 Witty Beach Road (Mitchell's). For further details, please call Frank Mitchell, Resource Group Chair, at **478-1671** or email [fhm@shaw.ca](mailto:fhm@shaw.ca).

*Resident participation is the only (pretty sure) guarantor of Metchosin's survival as a rural community.*

### **APRMers and Community Works**

Many thanks to all those APRMers, who, in addition to their “regular” volunteer activities, responded to the appeal to assist with cleaning up the orphan (mostly native plant?) garden at the corner of Metchosin and Happy Valley Roads (on Sunday July 9) and clearing the Blaney Trail on Saturday, 15 July. Keeping Metchosin rural sometimes involves more than “political” activities.

### **The Importance of Making YOUR Voice Heard**

Most people hope that their elected Councillors will “do the right thing” between elections, enabling the rest of us to get on with other parts of our lives. Life is not so simple. For a start, determining the “right thing” is often difficult – especially when there is strong pressure from one or two individuals. Comments and suggestions from organisations such as APRM are useful to Council in helping to frame approaches to issues. But when the time comes for decision, organisational presentations are no substitute for individual presentations to Council, whether by phone, email or letters. Such messages do not have to be long or elaborate – but they are needed to assure Councillors that many residents (and not just specific applicants for variances or whatever) care about the community and to inform Councillors on what directions the community wants to take. *Please take the time and effort to have your very valuable voice heard on issues which you hold important.*

**General Information:** Please contact Vice President **Gaert Linnaea** at 381-5752 or [linnaea1@telus.net](mailto:linnaea1@telus.net)

**IF there is a membership form attached to this newsletter, it means we have no record of your having renewed to June 30, 2007. Please consider renewing -- at the Picnic and at Metchosin Day – or through the mail/corner store drop box.**

**If there is NO membership form attached, many thanks for having renewed already!!**