

**Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin**  
**(www.aprm.ca)**  
**NEWSLETTER Spring 2007**

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**Association News**

**Meeting Schedule:** Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm the third Wednesday of the month . (except July, August, September, December), at the Metchosin Community House.

**Next meeting AGM; Wednesday 20 June:**

**Speaker: Sharon Rempel on Seeds and Such.** A new Metchosinite, Sharon brings a wealth of knowledge about seed gene bank development (community seed banks, heritage seed conservation) and organic gardening techniques.

**Refreshments (public welcome to the speaker and refreshments!)**

**AGM and Election of Officers for 2007/08 (members only).**

***If you want to nominate someone for the executive, or volunteer yourself, please contact the returning officer, Robert 381-5752***

**CURRENT ISSUES**

**Council Changes:**

Since our last newsletter, John Webb (ex-APRM member and President) sadly passed away. His memorial at the Metchosin Community Hall was notable for the wide variety of people who came forward to remember the many things he accomplished. A man of many parts, John will be missed.

Only one candidate submitted her nomination for the empty council seat, and Colleen Brownlee was sworn in on May 14. Like John, she was an APRM member (no longer, since our Constitution excludes elected officials from membership.) We wish her luck in dealing with the many issues and stresses involved in being on Council.

**MEMBERS' Responses on APRM PRIORITIES:** 10 questionnaires were submitted (excluding executive who did not submit). The highest priority issues are OCP Review,

	Importance of the issue: avg score 1=low,5=high	Should be priority for aprm	Should not be priority for aprm
OCP Review	4.2	7	
Tree Cutting	3.70	5	1
Soil Deposit	3.80	6	
Secondary Housing	3.60	6	
Regional Transport	3.50	5	1
Protection of ALR	4.30	7	
Business Parks	3.10	6	1
Open Burning	1.80	1	6
Greenspace Protection	4.10	6	1

APRM protection, and Greenspace protection. Open burning was not seen as a major issue, and respondents felt the APRM as such should not spend time on it. This response

was small, and members are invited to fill in the questionnaire with their renewals!!! (forms attached)

**OCP Review:** Council has decided to ignore APRM's written and spoken advice to complete the OCP review. Instead, Council is embarking on a piecemeal review, starting with the Town Centre (Coun. Brownlee in Charge) and Secondary Housing (Coun. Gramigna in charge).

**Green/Blue Spaces Strategy (G/BSS):** The Greenspaces/Blue Spaces strategy team submitted a report to Council's Planning and Environment Committee on May 14 on the public input received. Most submissions suggested (among other things) more regulatory teeth in environmental regulations (e.g., for protection of environmentally sensitive areas). The G/BSS Team requested a go-ahead to prepare a Green-Blue Strategy. The usual opponents of regulation raised their usual objections, noting that there were fewer than 30 submissions, and suggesting these were probably prepared by an even smaller number of environmental extremists. Perhaps as a result of these submissions, Council didn't discuss issues of substance, and referred the matter to the Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC) for advice. Such advice is desirable and required. It is nevertheless disappointing that a few critical words spoken by a few G/BSS opponents seem to have received a better hearing than the carefully considered and drafted remarks by almost 30 Metchosinites.

**Brookside Business Park:** We understand that Metchosin Properties have so far failed to present a proposal which meets minimal criteria to merit Council review. Given the manifold disadvantages of such a project (as detailed in the winter newsletter), we must hope that Metchosin Properties does not submit. Stay posted.

**Open Burning:** As noted above, members don't feel this is an issue which merits attention by APRM, as such. As a result of submissions received, however, Council did decide to advise residents to burn only on days when the Weather Canada Ventilation Index is "good."

**Disposal of Municipal Ditch Material:** Council continues to struggle with this issue. They have decided to apply for a grant to do research on the development of a composting program for our organic waste. A good first step.

**Tree Cutting:** Council has amended the bylaw to protect Garry Oak Manzanita, some Arbutus, Pacific Dogwood, Pacific Yew and Cascara. This is a step forward, but generous provisions still remain for tree cutting outside steep areas.

**Amalgamation of East Sooke and Related Issues:** The Province has made money available for a restructure study for E. Sooke and Malahat, but details not yet available.

**Soil Disposal and Removal:** APRM has addressed Council (starting in April 2005) with suggestions (and legislative precedents) on sound regulation of soil deposit and renewal. Council still refuses to carry out a comprehensive review. It has, however, amended the bylaw to require information on the quality of fill being deposited in Metchosin, raising the fines for infractions, and raising to 80M2 from 60M2 quantities not requiring a permit. No action has been taken to establish criteria for deposit (e.g., to relate deposits to specific permitted uses such as construction of a road or house, for which a permit would be sought). Council therefore still has no means for regulating "industrial" deposits, which cause many of the problems for roads and neighbours. Discussions continue on allowed hours of operation in the light of noise (currently, soil removal/deposit operations are not constrained by the general noise bylaw). The saga continues.

**Centre Mountain:** No news. Let us hope no news is good news..

**Malahat Transport Options and Regional Transport Issues:** This issue is now with the Province.

**Budget & Taxes:** Zero tax increase for municipal costs: there may be increases for regional activities and policing.

**ByLaw Enforcement:** it is pointless to have good bylaws if they are not enforced. We are happy to report that enforcement seems to be improving, for which we can thank Mayor and Council, and the new staff.

**Other Events and Activities:**

**Mapping Metchosin's Special Places:** This program is ongoing and we are continuing to work on our Orchards of Metchosin map presently. There has been interest in having a "Day in the Life of Metchosin" photography day in the fall where we all get out and take pictures on one day as part of the mapping of the way we enjoy our beautiful municipality. Check the MUSE for news about the next meeting, or call Derek (478 2677).

***RESOURCE GROUP—Opportunity Still Knocks!*** *If you would like to help APRM tackle issues, join the Resource Group. Our next meeting will be in April – time to be determined. For details, please call Frank, at 478-1671 or email [fhm@shaw.ca](mailto:fhm@shaw.ca).*

**APRMers and Community Works:** The APRM work team, initially mobilised by Moralea, and now including many enthusiastic and cheerful volunteers, continues to tend the plantings by Metchosin Corner store and under the Municipal sign on the municipal grounds. (If you would like to join them, please call Moralea at 478-3838)

**Membership renewals:** APRM membership remains important!! Your membership provides moral support for those who research issues and make presentations, and financial support for mailouts and activities (such as public meetings). If you haven't renewed this year, please consider it (form overleaf). ***And please also fill in and return the questionnaire on priorities.***

All Best,

Derek Wulff, President (478-2677)

**General Information:** Please contact Vice President **Gaert Linnaea** at 381-5752 or [linnaea1@telus.net](mailto:linnaea1@telus.net). Also, see [www.aprm.ca](http://www.aprm.ca) for copies of letters, announcements, etc.

*PS. Please quote the number 19391 when buying gas or groceries at the Co-op or Save-on Gas and you will contribute to the APRM while shopping!*

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON APRM PRIORITIES**

As guidance for the Executive, Please indicate your views on the importance of the following issues, and on whether you feel APRM should take major initiatives on them. This form can be delivered like (even better, with!) the Membership Renewal Form.

Please indicate your views on issues on a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (very important) and your view on whether APRM should make them a major focus by circling YES or NO.

Issue	Importance	Should Be An APRM Focus
OCP Review	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Tree Cutting & Protection	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Soil Deposit/Removal	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Secondary Housing	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Regional Transport	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Protection of ALR	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Business Parks	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Open Burning	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Better Greenspace Protection	1-2-3-4-5	YES – NO
Other (please specify):.....		
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**APRM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

(All memberships are annual and run to June 30)

Name (Names, if Family Membership): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ PCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: (√):  Individual-\$5.00  Family-\$8.00  Sustaining-\$20.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Remitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please place this form and your cash, cheque or money order payable to APRM in an envelope and return it to:* Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin, #1 – 4401 William Head Road, RR#1, Victoria, B.C. V9C 3Y6 **OR** leave your envelope at Metchosin Corner Store (APRM box).