

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

Association News

Executive:

Metchosin Day was a great success, and we were happy to welcome many old -- and new members, bringing our membership to over 200 families for the first time (although many of you have not yet renewed – hint, hint!).

Two hundred eighteen visitors to the booth placed a star on their favourite place in Metchosin, with the following results:

Witty Beach Park	30	Mary Hill	6
Devonian Park	24	Ocean (various points)	6
Pearson College Lands	17	Taylor Beach	5
Pedder Bay	15	Roche Cove	5
Galloping Goose	12	Witty Beach Nature House	5
Matheson Lake Park	11	Camosun Lands	4
Blinkhorn Lake Park	11	Mt. Helmcken	3
Metchosin (100 acre) Park	10	Mt. Ash	3
Old St-Mary's	9	Camp Thunderbird	3
Albert Head (Tower Point)	9	Sooke Hills Wilderness Park	3
Becher Bay	7	Other (various)	20

Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm the third Wednesday of the month (except July, August, September, December), at the Metchosin Community House. Given the active program of the Walk and Talk series by MEASC, which often covers the sorts of topics sought for APRM presentations, the executive has decided to invite speakers only when there is an issue not well covered by MEASC.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 21 November. **No speaker is scheduled. The meeting will include the normal raffle, eats and vigorous discussi of issues.**

ISSUES:

Regional Chages: The main issues with development implications for us as regional residents in recent months have been in other jurisdictions. **The “Bear Mountain” RGS Amendment** would add more than one square mile to the Regional Urban Containment and Service Policy Area (RUCSPA) in Highlands, including 170 acres not in the Bear Mountain property. The main effect of the amendment would be to allow higher densities in Highlands in the near term. The amendment narrowly passed the CRD Board (Metchosin abstained) and has now been referred to all CRD municipalities for approval. APRM recommended Metchosin oppose, as the amendment had not been made in the context of a full review of the availability of land for development within the region (scheduled for 2008). As such, it was like a “spot zoning” which completely contradicted the hard-won regional vision. Council opposed the amendment, although at the behest of Couns. Gramigna and Kahakauwila, it did not want water supply to be included. Lacking unanimity among regional municipalities, the issue will go to mediation/arbitration in coming months.

Development of ex-TFL lands has also become an issue. Mostly designated as ___ in the RGS, ___ acres of these lands are in process of being sold to a major Vancouver developer. Development of these lands to their full residential real estate potential has an obvious financial appeal. Equally obvious are the contradictions with the regional vision enshrined in the RGS, including: loss of primary sector jobs, high demands for more infrastructure (water supplies, more road capacity), threats to many environmentally sensitive areas and reduced recreational access to natural areas. APRM has recommended to CRD that these lands all be rezoned to the 120HA minimum lot size of Bylaw 189 which covers most of the

resource lands West of Sooke, to provide a sound basis for defining the future of these properties.

East Sooke Amalgamation with Metchosin:

Temporary Use Permit for Industry on Section 28. This issue, and the larger business park proposed for Section 28 seem to have gone under the radar.

Soil Deposit

Secondary Suites

Village Centre: this issue will be reviewed by Council in the New Year.

Tree Cutting

Coastline Protection

RESOURCE GROUP—Opportunity still Knocks!

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. Sometimes subgroups (or individuals) take responsibility for researching specific issues and reporting back . Some members only come when “their” issues are under discussion. To save time and facilitate contributions, the Group makes extensive use of email, but email is not required to belong. Our next meeting will be sometime in August. For further details, please call Frank Mitchell, Resource Group Chair, at **478-1671** or email fhm@shaw.ca).

APRMers and Community Works

Many thanks to all those APRMers, who, in addition to their “regular” volunteer activities, cheerfully responded to the appeal to assist with cleaning up the orphan gardens, one of which is at the corner of Metchosin and Happy Valley Roads and another at the Metchosin sign by the firehall, as well as helping with some weeding near the Community House. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Moralea (**4748-3838**) if you would like to help.

See you at the Picnic!

Derek Wulff, President

PS. IF there is a membership form attached to this newsletter, it means we have no record of your having renewed to June 30, 2008. Please consider renewing.

PPS. If NO membership form is attached, many thanks for being up to date!

PPPS. 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!

Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin

The Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM) is a registered non-profit society established in 1993 dedicated to preserving the quality of rural life and peaceful co-existence of homes, farmlands, diverse livelihoods, forests, natural habitats and trails in our community. Our membership is open to both resident and non-resident friends of rural Metchosin.

Our Mission Statement (from the APRM Constitution)

The Association shall:

- recognise Metchosin as a fragile environment that must be nurtured, protected and preserved for future generations.
- recognise that support of the public and elected representatives is essential for the protection of rural Metchosin.
- foster open communication with elected representatives, other rural groups and the public.
- encourage awareness of the consequences of growth and work to maintain low population densities in our rural community.
- recognise the uniqueness of Metchosin as a residential community and recreational greenspace and work to ensure only limited development occurs on non-agricultural rural and uplands lands.
- recognise the Agricultural Land Reserve as the core of our rural community, and support and initiate policies that preserve ALR land.

APRM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

(All memberships are annual and run to June 30)

Name (Names, if Family
Membership): _____

Address: _____ Postal

Code: _____

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 or cheque 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).