

# Swamp lovers will use honey

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Is it unlawful to knowingly destroy a trillium? What happens if deer are fenced in an area with a guard dog? What does it mean if an area is marked as an environmental conservation area in the settlement plan?

Answers to these and other questions raised at the first Save our Swamp meeting will be investigated by leader of the group Lois Gardner.

Residents of the Wishart and Dressler area have formed an ad hoc committee in a campaign to have Murray's Pond and the surrounding area made into a natural park. The area is owned by Construction Aggregates Ltd, a subsidiary of Genstar, who recently fenced off the area with the intention of mining it for gravel within the next ten years.

The property has been privately owned for years but has been used as a recreation area by generations of area residents.

"Approach with honey, not the iron fist for now," suggested Ben Swindell.

Colwood Capital Regional District director David Krauel agreed and said he would meet with Construction Aggregates plant superintendent Terry Johnson to discuss possibilities. "If they know of the concern they might modify the plan," he said.

Krauel pointed out to the meeting that until the property was subdivided there was no need for the company to donate even five per cent as a park.

According to Gardner the company was sensitive to public opinion and were already concerned that people were upset. "We want to stuff the CRD and the company into a box and put the lid on and don't let them out until we have our park. But they are both wiggly and slippery and hard to put in boxes," said Gardner.

The area is marked as an environmental protection area on the settlement plan but it was pointed out the corner of Sooke Road and Jacklin Road where Sunridge Valley Estates now stands was marked in the same way.

Trilliums and lady slippers grow in profusion in the swamp area and a member of the audience said trilliums were a protected species which could not be knowingly destroyed.

The SPCA have already contacted the company about

guard dogs being employed in an area where there are deer, said Gardner.

Petitions are now circulating in Colwood asking that the area be obtained as a park by the CRD and preserved in its natural state "For our use and future generations."

*Lois Gardner  
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