

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE APRIL 2008

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a registered non-profit society with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about **380**. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships cost \$5.00 per person and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information and on-line registration.

The purpose of our society is to:

- Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
- Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
- Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
- Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
- Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to over **200** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca or 642-3113 to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Thursday
April 3

Juan de Fuca Parks Committee

5:00 p.m.

JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Saturday
April 5

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society

Hike up Broom Hill

9:30 a.m.

Start at Blanchard Road

This is a 3 to 4 hour hike to an elevation of 283 metres. Enjoy the panoramic view of Sooke and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the summit. Bring a lunch

www.freewebs.com/communitytrails

Saturday
April 5 and
Saturday
April 19

Otter Point and Shirley Developing a Strategic Vision Project: Writing the Final Report, A Community Workshop

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Otter Point Fire Hall

Note: Check story in this newsletter for details.

Registration is necessary as participation is limited to 50.

Tuesday
April 8

JDF Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting

7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road

You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning Services office,
2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD website at:

www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm

Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Sunday
April 13

**Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society
General Meeting**

2:00 pm
Shirley Community Hall

Note: There will be a vote about becoming a CRD Commission.

Monday
April 14

OPSRRA Directors Meeting
Members welcome!

7:30 p.m.
Sevice Building
Sooke Region Museum
2070 Philips Road Sooke BC

Thursday
April 17

**Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
Meeting**

7:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
April 19



Save our Salmon Festival—SOS Fest '08
A festival inspired and in celebration of Muir Creek

Proceeds to the Muir Creek Protection Society

2:00 p.m.
Bands play until midnight
Refreshments available
Shirley Community Hall

Advance tickets available from Jake Grant Jewellery Design
Otter Point Road at Sooke Road,
or call Amanda 818-4633

Headliners include:

Holly Arntzen (passionately inspired eco-folk singer/songwriter);

Big Bass Theory from Salt Spring Island (heavy, rootsy dub-reggae);

Waves on Monday;

Sea Monkeys;

Prince Pauper and West African Drumming

Everyone welcome

Tuesday
April 29

**Muir Creek Protection Society
Annual General Meeting**

7:00 p.m.
2745 Anderson Road
(15 km west of Sooke: turn right from West Coast Road and
proceed to the top of the hill)

For information contact:
Alanda Carver
642-3001
muircreek@hotmail.com

Thursday
May 1

Juan de Fuca Parks Committee

5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Second &
Fourth
Thursday
of every month

Shirley Quilters and Crafters

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT—COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECT

The Otter Point & Shirley Developing a Strategic Vision project completed phase one on February 19 with the public forum on governance: the fourth and final presentation in the series that presented us with ideas and information on rural land use, economic development, water and the environment.

Phase two of the project will begin with the two community participation workshops to be held on Saturday mornings April 5 and 19 at the Otter Point Fire Hall. **This phase is a critical part of the project and needs broad community participation.** Both workshops will run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Participants are expected to be able to attend both workshops and registration will be limited to 50. **A limited number of seats will be available for individuals who will only be able to attend one of the two workshops.**

For further information about the workshops and to register, contact:

Wayne Fritz
Phone: 642-0440
e-mail: wlfritz@shaw.ca

Once the participants at the community workshops have completed their draft of their vision for Otter Point and Shirley, the Steering Committee will then begin the task of assembling the final report. The intent is to circulate a first draft through the community, for comment, in May and a second draft in June. The final report will then be finalized over the summer, printed and then made available as a public document by September.

3. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ELECTS DIRECTORS

The Shirley Community Association elected the following directors at their March Annual General Meeting:

President	Chuck Minten
Vice President	Max Kuo
Treasurer	Karen Van Veen
Secretary	Colleen Minten
Directors	James Powell, Margaret Johnson and Fiona McDannold

4. SHIRLEY APPOINTMENT TO THE JUAN DE FUCA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Brenda Mark has been appointed as the Shirley representative to the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission. She fills a vacancy left by the departure of Mary Brown.

5. OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OPSRRA held its Annual General Meeting on March 18th. There were 40 members in attendance and an election was necessary as 6 members were nominated for the 5 director positions. The following were elected for a one year term:

President	Arnie Campbell
Vice President	Wayne Fritz
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Phillips
Directors	John Charles, Sandra Barta, Ken Pungente, Erik James , Sarah Tidwell.

The following reports were received:

FINANCE REPORT

	Bank Balance:	\$383.30
	Float:	\$ 11.11
	Total worth:	\$394.41
Revenue in past year:	Membership	\$170.00
	Donations	\$ 85.24
	Visioni Project to offset balance	\$ 30.00
	Total revenue	\$285.24
Expenses in past year:	Advertising	\$ 66.96
	Bank Charges	\$ 15.18
	Web site	\$ 41.34
	Hall Rental	\$ 25.00
	Societies Registration fee	\$ 25.00
	Total expenses	\$173.50

OPSRRA is also the banker for the Otter Point & Shirley Developing a Strategic Vision project. Of the \$8,000 which was raised to finance this project about \$5,300 remains.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership at the time of the March 2007 AGM was 357 members with 42 from Shirley and 315 from Otter Point.

OPSRRA continues to keep its membership up-to-date. During the past year we removed 21 members (moved, lost contact, deceased, requested removal).

During the past year we also added 34 new members, with 7 residing in Shirley and 27 residing in Otter Point.

Membership now stands at 370 with 49 being from Shirley and 321 from Otter Point. We also have 10 Associate members who do not reside in the Otter Point & Shirley area, and do not have any voting privileges but support the association and wish to receive the monthly newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SUMMARY OF OPSRRA ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FEBRUARY 2006 AGM

1. Board of Directors continued to meet monthly (4 times since the November 2007 membership meeting).
2. Published monthly newsletters on the OPSRRA web site and sent to about 200 members on e-mail.
3. Continued to add local businesses to the web site's Business Services listings. Now have 25 listings.
4. Continued to up-date the OPSRRA web page (www.opsrra.ca).
5. Maintained 17 Community Notice Boards. Some notice boards were moved to coincide with the new rural mail box locations.
6. Attended JDF Parks, SEAPARC, and JDF Land Use Committee meetings.
7. Wrote the Minister of Forests re the motion at the November 2007 membership meeting requesting review of the removal of WFP's private forest lands from TFL 25.
8. Met with staff from the Office of the Auditor General investigating the Province's decision to remove private forest lands from TFL 25.
9. Spoke at public meeting re Arden Mine application re water, noise and safety issues raised by neighbours. Raised issue of covenant.
10. Requested that CRD Planning Services provide more complete and understandable information on the proposed zoning and OCP changes.
11. Presented at 6 public hearings on behalf of the OPSRRA directors in support of the proposed OCP and rural zone changes.
12. Continued work on developing a strategic vision for Otter Point and Shirley.
13. Met with senior WFP management re the conditional sale of private forest land in Shirley and Otter Point.
14. Requested assurance from the Regional Director that the zoning review would be on-going, that work of the Zoning Advisory Committees would be utilized and that the community would have an opportunity to comment on

future proposed bylaw changes before they went to the Land Use Committee.

15. Continued to up-date members about funding for the Sooke Region Museum.
16. Organized an information meeting, at the request of the new Otter Point Business Park, with representatives from JDF Community Trails Society, Otter Point Fire Department, Kemp Lake Waterworks District and OPSRRA.
17. Spoke at LUC in support of the community consultation undertaken by 3L Development and the Otter Point Business Park.
18. Met with representatives of WFP re logging plans in local area watersheds.
19. Toured parts of the De Mamiel Creek area to view the area to be logged and to see the results of the area's increased use as an off-roading venue.
20. Wrote local agencies and organizations about developing concerns with mixed recreations uses in the area at the end of Tugwell Road.

6. FIRE SEASON IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

Fire season in Shirley and Otter Point is from April 1st to October 31st. Visit the volunteer fire department web site for your community for details on fire permits, restricted hours of burning, setbacks from flammable material, etc. Now is the time to finish clearing fire breaks around your house and out-buildings and reduce the amount of flammable material on your property.

Otter Point Fire Department

Non-emergency Phone: 250-642-6211 (leave a message)

Web site: www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/

Shirley Fire Department

Non-emergency Phone: 250-646-2107

Web site: www.shirleyfire.cjb.net/

FIRE EMERGENCY IN SHIRLEY OR OTTER POINT: CALL 9-1-1

7. WILLIAM SIMMONS (POIRIER LAKE) PARK: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission has recently written OPSRRA requesting our assistance in hosting a Parks Development Plan meeting in the near future. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the long-term and short-term priorities for the park, including immediate remediation measures, with the community. The William Simmons Park consists of 15 acres on the shores of Poirier Lake. Land for the park came about, in part, from a generous donation from the estate of long-time Otter Point resident and OPSRRA member Erik Sellars-St.Clare and land purchased by the Parks Commission from BC Hydro and TimberWest.

8. OTTER POINT BUSINESS PARK OFFERS ACCESS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPSRRA has received the following offer from the owners of the Business Park that is being developed on the old Otter Point log sort:

“We thought that we would offer to the community, through you (OPSRRA), the use of the log sort for community events that may come up.”

“We currently have some extra space and until the project is complete, we could allow the property to be used for a weekend market, or similar community activity.”

This offer will be an agenda item at the April OPSRRA directors’ meeting. Contact any of the OPSRRA directors if you have an event that you may wish to have considered by the owners of the Business Park.

9. LETTER RE: CONCERNS ABOUT 'MIXED' RECREATIONAL USES AT THE END OF TUGWELL ROAD

OPSRRA sent the following letter to 11 local agencies and organization:

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

During the past year the area at the end of Tugwell Road., in Otter Point, has increasingly become a recreational destination for off-road vehicles such as ATVs, dirt bikes and 4x4 trucks. The off-roaders are attracted to this location because it provides easy access to the B.C. Hydro right-of-way, forest trails and logging roads. The most heavily used area is adjacent to a residential neighbourhood. Additional residential development is planned on the south side of the B.C. Hydro right-of-way and Western Forest Products has recently begun active logging to the north of the right-of-way. Our association recognizes the need for a place in the community for this type of activity, but the present location is causing concerns for the local community and others who use the area.

These are some of the concerns that have been brought to OPSRRA’s attention:

- The area has become a destination for off-roaders; many coming with trucks and trailers which they park along this section of Tugwell and nearby roads.
- Roads and trails are being cut wherever, without thought for the damage to steams, wetlands or ground cover.
- Noise from the 4x4 trucks, ATVs and dirt bikes has become a major nuisance to the immediate neighbours (as well to others using the area for other recreation purposes such as hiking and horseback riding) and can be heard as much as a mile away.
- During the dry season there is a risk of fires being set by hot bikes going off the trails and into the dried grass.
- Evidence of garbage is everywhere in the vicinity of the staging area at the end of Tugwell Road. and there has been an increase in littered cans and bottles lining the roads leading to the end of Tugwell.
- There is a mixture of licensed and unlicensed (under-aged), riders using the same space; personal safety equipment is sometimes lacking.
- Some unlicensed ATVs and dirt bikes, operated by under-aged drivers, are using the public roads to reach the off-roading area.
- The Hydro right-of-way is being used as a convenient route for those who are going target shooting and hunting - activities which may be legal but are not compatible with other uses in this area such as logging, salal gathering and recreation. Shooting incidents have been reported.

- The likelihood of an emergency will increase with this mixture of potentially dangerous uses and users; local police, fire and emergency rescue crews will have to be prepared to attend call-outs in this area.

Having identified these concerns, our association suggests that there should be a community response. Our initial request is that your organization or agency looks into the concerns that we have raised and determine for yourself the extent of the problems that we have described. Our second request is that you inform OPSRRA of your findings. Third, that you suggest what changes could be made to address the concerns. Finally, indicate to us whether your agency or organization would agree to be part of a combined community effort to address the broader issues associated with off-roading both in this location and elsewhere in Shirley and Otter Point, in order to arrive at a solution suitable to all.

Note: This item was discussed at the OPSRRA AGM.

10. CRD PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PARK ACQUISITIONS WEST OF THE SOOKE RIVER

Representatives of the CRD Parks Committee and senior Parks staff hosted a public consultation March 19 at the Shirley Community Hall. The event was attended by about 70 people—split about 50/50 between local area residents and others from elsewhere in the Capital Regional District.

The public consultation was an opportunity for the Parks Committee and Parks staff to present their suggestions for future parkland acquisitions west of Sooke River. The CRD Parks mandate is to identify and hopefully acquire land that is naturally significant (e.g., major lakes, eco-systems, coastline) or of recreational value to the Capital Region. The CRD Master Parks plan already identifies the San Juan River, the beach at Port San Juan, the Muir Creek watershed, Weeks' Lake and a regional trail connecting the Galloping Goose Trail to the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail as desirable acquisitions. Two new areas were being presented for community consideration at this meeting: the San Juan Ridge (including the Kludhk Trail) and the coastline between French Beach and Jordan River. The latter would eventually be used to link the Galloping Goose Trail to the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail.

At present the CRD does not have any parks or trails west of the Sooke River. The CRD's Parks Acquisition Fund (established in 2000) has been used to acquire extensive parkland east of the Sooke River; however this fund is almost depleted and will cease to exist after 2009 unless the CRD Board agrees to extend its existence.

There were two issues that dominated the public consultation:

- Supporters of the Kludhk Trail, which cuts through the identified parks acquisition area on the San Juan Ridge, do not want the area to become a park. Their points were that the area is already being well cared for (by them), the sensitive nature of the eco-system requires limited public access and promoting it as a park will only attract more attention and vandalism.

- Supporters of off-roading organizations wanted the CRD to find them an area west of Sooke where they could provide safe, organized events for their members and hopefully reduce the “renegades” who sometimes travel into dangerous, private or eco-sensitive areas trying to find a place to enjoy their recreational pastime. The off-roaders expressed frustration with continually being forced off of land that is being bought by the CRD for parks and the CRD policy that prohibits mechanized activities such as ATVs, 4x4 trucks and dirt bikes on CRD Park’s land.

11. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA RURAL RESOURCE LANDS DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The CRD Planning Services staff recently hosted an Open House to provide information about the proposed Comprehensive Land Use & Development Plan being proposed for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Rural Resource Lands north of Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew. Comment was invited. **OPSRRA’s submission is attached to this newsletter.** In a covering letter we have also suggested that the significance of this development plan may not have been fully realized and that the CRD should consider hosting a public information or public consultation event to seek additional public comment before sending the proposed development plan to public hearing.

Note: OPSRRA members are invited to comment on the submission made by the OPSRRA directors on behalf of the association. OPSRRA will be making further submission to CRD Planning Services as the draft development plan is hopefully reviewed and revised before being brought forward to a public hearing. If you have questions about OPSRRA’s comments or want to suggest further changes contact an OPSRRA director.

12. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

The “Polemaker's Shack” now on display at the Sooke Region Museum was once used at Point No Point in Shirley? The shack is a combination bunkhouse, cook house, stable and workshop that was hauled on log skids from place to place by loggers who specialized in locating and falling trees to be used for poles (thus the term 'polemakers'). In this case, it was used by Eric Barnard in 1938 while he logged cedar and fir trees from the Point No Point area.

Some of the timber that went into building the original Sooke River Bridge in 1872 probably came from the west side of Muir Creek? By the late 1860s the Muir’s sawmill in Sooke had used-up most of the available timber around Sooke inlet. Looking for new sources of timber they set up a camp at Muir Creek to harvest trees for their growing enterprise. Shirley resident Jean Stuart Clark mentions in a 1956 article that was later reprinted in the Grapevine (the predecessor to the Sooke News Mirror) that remains of the log barn used to house the oxen that pulled the logs to Muir Creek could still be seen near the mouth of the creek.

Information for this month’s **Did You Know That?** is from *4,000 Years—a History of the Rainforest*, all written and published by the Sooke Region Museum.

Do you have local historical information that you would like to share or questions that you would like answered? If so, let us know and we’ll try to help.

13. FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA is offering a free business listing service for members, on its web site: www.opsrra.ca. We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. We anticipate having listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture-making, fishing charters, eco-tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing, spas and more. More information, businesses already listed, and an on-line registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site (www.opsrra.ca) under **Business Listings**.

OPSRRA awelcomes **DanCyn Kioti Excavation (Compact Service)** to the Business Service listings. Rough-in driveways, trails, ditiching, small log hauling, and some roughed-in landscaping. Brand new KIOTI 45 hp, 4x4 compact tractor with cab. Attachments: front-end loader with 6-foot wide, 4-in-1 bucket and 9-foot backhoe with 24-inch bucket. Contact Dan Tkachuk, dancyn@shaw.ca or phone 642-6430

The OPSRRA web site has more information about the following business listings:

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	Accent in Grooming
ALM Organic Farm	A Point of View B&B
Beaches West B&B	Bear Home Remodeling
Birds Edge Press	Blue Waters B&B
DanCyn Kioti Excavation	Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite
Fancy That Esthetics & Body Care	Full Circle Seeds
Heron's Rest B&B	Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store	Knotty Beds by Nature
Le Sooke Spa	Otter Point Beach House
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop	Road's End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd	Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery	Wood Visions

14. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site.

This monthly newsletter is prepared by the directors of OPSRRA. It is available to members by e-mail and to others on our web site: www.opsrra.ca. To have an item you would like to have considered for placement in the newsletter, or make a comment about the newsletter, contact an OPSRRA director. OPSRRA tries to verify the correctness of the information in this newsletter; if we got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
