

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE **APRIL 2010**

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 **385**. 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. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley or Otter Point, but who wish to support the Association.

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 now e-mails this newsletter to over **250** 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 **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Saturday
April 3

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Easter on the Galloping Goose

9:30 a.m.

Meet at the water treatment plant, 2900 block Sooke River Road.

It's Easter. Check out the spring flowers on the Galloping Goose between Charters Trestle and Todd Trestle. This stretch of the Goose is notable for its variety and succession of spring flowers.

This is a 1 ½ to two hour walk. Easy footing.

Bring a snack.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
April 7

Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
April 11

Beach Clean up at Whiffin Spit

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Organized by the Vancouver Island Surfriders, Vancouver Island Chapter.

Information:

www.surfrider.org/vancouverisland

Sunday
April 11

Shirley Fire Protection Society
General Meeting

2:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Monday
April 12 **OPSRRA Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Agenda available on request.
Contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Thursday
April 15 **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission
Monthly Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room (upstairs)
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Thursday
April 15 **Deadline**
for comments to Local Elections Reform Task Force

See item 8 for details

<http://www.localelectionstaskforce.gov.bc.ca/topics.html>

Friday
April 15 &
Saturday
April 16 **Muir Creek Protection Society
S.O.S. Festival and Fundraiser**

See item 6 for details

Tuesday
April 20 **JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)
Monthly Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC

You can obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting on
the CRD website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Saturday
April 24 **Clean up Priest's Cabin Park**
Shirley

Note: 9:00 a.m. Meet at the end of Juan de Fuca Road in Shirley for
Date an all day work party to clean up this Juan de Fuca Electoral
subject to Area park
change.
Look for the Confirm your attendance with:
notice in Donna White d.white@crd.bc.ca
the Sooke
Mirror the
week of
April 19

Tuesday
April 27 **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation
Commission**
Monthly Meeting
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Tuesday
April 27 **Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission
Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Note:
Tentative Otter Point Fire Hall
date. Look 3727 Otter Point Road
for the This is the start of the Otter Point OCP review process.
notice in See item 9 for details.
the Sooke
Mirror the
week of
April 19

Saturday
May 1 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Hike up Babbington Hill**
9:30 a.m.

Meet at the Aylard Farm parking lot (at the end of Becher Bay
Road).

This is a 3 to 4 hour hike to Babbington Hill (230 metres).

Bring a snack and dress for the weather.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
May 2 **Quilt Show and Sale**
Sponsored by the Shirley Quilters and Crafters
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tickets \$2.00, children under 12 free

Light refreshments.

Raffle tickets for the Shirley Kitchen Fundraising Quilt
available.

See item 7 for details.

Wednesday
May 5 **Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Mondays **Karate for all ages**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

Tuesdays **Yoga**
6:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Thursdays **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Everyone welcome
Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

2. **OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

OPPSRA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Members elected to the OPSRRA Board of Directors for a one-year term:

President: Arnie Campbell
Vice-President: Wayne Fritz
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Phillips
Directors: John Charles, Brenda Mark, Sandra Barta, Fiona McDannold & Erik James.

Treasurer's Report

This report covers OPSRRA's expenditures and credits since the November 25, 2009 membership meeting.

Main Account:

Debits		Credits	
Hall Rental	\$35.00	Donations &	
Advertising	\$21.00	Memberships	\$59.00
Bank Fees	\$4.84		
Total	\$60.84		\$59.00
<hr/>			
Main Account Balance	\$326.03		
Petty Cash Float	\$18.54		
Total	\$344.57		

Vision Account:

No changes since the November 25, 2009 membership meeting.

Balance \$1,201.75

Membership Report

Membership as at 2009 AGM:

Shirley	49
Otter Point	325
Total	374

OPSRRA continues to keep its membership up to date.

During the past year:

We removed (moved, lost contact, deceased, requested removal, listed twice):

Members	14
Associate members	2
Total	16

President's Report

SUMMARY OF OPSRRA ACTIVITIES SINCE NOVEMBER 2009 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. OPSRRA directors held 3 monthly meetings.
2. Four monthly newsletters have been prepared and sent to about 250 members on e-mail, an increase of about 25 in the past year.
3. Continued to add local businesses to the web site's Business Services listings. Now have 33 listings, an increase of 6 in the past year.
4. Continued to up-date the OPSRRA web page (www.opsrra.ca) and have added a new feature which includes background papers related to the forthcoming OCP reviews for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River.
5. Maintained 24 Community Notice Boards in Otter Point. One new board was installed and several have been reconditioned.
6. Spoke at the Rural Resource Lands public hearings in support of the proposed zoning and land use bylaws.
7. Attended the community information session re the proposed Metchosin/East Sooke boundary restructure.
8. Spoke at the JDREA Land Use Committee in support of the terms of reference and work plan for the Otter Point OCP review.
9. Met with a representative from Western Forest Products concerning community issues related to their properties.
10. Spoke at a rally supporting the participation of the provincial government in helping to acquire the WFP forest lands for parks and as a research forest for UBC.
11. Arranged to meet with Cabinet Ministers re local concerns arising from the release of WFP private forest lands from TFL 25 and the subsequent conditional purchase of some of these lands for CRD parks.
12. Attended a meeting with the regional director and senior staff from the Ministry of Rural & Community Development re governance options.
13. Attended JDF Parks, JDF Land Use Committee and Advisory Planning Commission meetings.

3. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Shirley Community Association AGM was held on Wednesday, March 10. Elected to the association's board of directors for the coming year were:

President:	Fiona McDannold
Vice President:	Margaret Johnson
Treasurer:	James Powell
Secretary:	Vacant
Directors at Large:	Chuck Minten, Max Kuo, Linda Kreiss, Linda Teneycke

The Shirley Community Association provides the following services to their community:

- A hall facility for public use and private events.
- Organizes events throughout the year to celebrate community spirit.
- Maintains Pioneer Park for public enjoyment.
- Provides a home base for Shirley Volunteer Fire Department.
- Provides a facility for JDF Emergency Response, Shirley Chapter.
- Provides emergency shelter in case of disaster.
- Serves as a conduit for communication between various government agencies and local residents.
- Provides a forum for local residents to raise their concerns/comments.

4. FIRE SEASON IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

Yes it is still cool and wet, but the fire season in Shirley and Otter Point is April 1 to October 31. Contact the volunteer fire department for your community for details on fire permits, restricted hours of burning, setbacks from flammable material, etc.

We live in a forested community and summer will soon be here. Now is the time to finish clearing fire breaks around your house and outbuildings, and reducing the amount of flammable material on your property. Here is the link to the Otter Point Fire Department's list of suggested precautions to take:

http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/public_info/wild_fire_protection.shtml

For more information:

Otter Point residents can visit the Otter Point Fire Department web site: www.otterpointfire.bc.ca or phone 642-6211 for non-emergencies and leave a message.

Shirley residents can contact the Shirley Fire Hall: phone 250-646- 2107 for non-emergencies.

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

5. OTTER POINT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR POSITION FILLED

Mark Evan will be replacing Richard Muller and Shelley Mitchell as Otter Point's Emergency Preparedness Community Coordinator in mid April (Richard and Shelley will be moving into Victoria). Mark is a skilled and dedicated Paramedic with 26 years of experience in emergency pre-hospital care and has been working with the B.C. Ambulance Service for the past 13 years.

Mark has lived in Otter Point for 3 years; as a matter of fact the day he took possession of his home a tree fell onto it in the major wind storm of 2006! This introduction to Otter Point well qualified him for the position of emergency preparedness coordinator from the day he moved into our community!

Contact the Otter Point Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at:
OPemerg.prep@shaw.ca

Note: Dominique Bernardet continues as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Shirley. He can be contacted at 250-646-2528

OPSRRA wishes to thank Shelly and Richard for volunteering as Otter Point's Emergency Preparedness Coordinators and for all the time the work they have put in over the past three years preparing material for this program.

6. **MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SAVE OUR SALMON FUNDRAISER**

The Muir Creek Protection Society submitted the following:

S.O.S. Fest (Save our Salmon) is a festival inspired by and in celebration of Muir Creek. An eclectic fusion of live music, Yoga, dance, workshops and an eco-village of info booths weaves a feeling of celebration and unity among our community. Gratitude and love for Muir Creek bubbles throughout the festivities. All proceeds go to The Muir Creek Protection Society (www.muircreek.org)

All tickets are available on a sliding scale based upon ability to pay. Suggested prices:

Friday evening:	\$10 -\$15
Saturday day and evening:	\$15 - \$25
Both days inclusive:	\$25 - \$40

Please purchase tickets in advance at the **Stick in the Mud Coffee Shop**. (Located on Eustace Road in the back corner of the building at the corner of Otter Point Road and Sooke Road.)

'Muir Creek rumbled and decided of its own accord that the community should get together in the Spirit of peace, love and unity and celebrate, with conscious, local music as a vehicle for positive evolution.'

If you want to volunteer at the event or donate food please contact:

Alanda Carver:	muircreek@hotmail.com
Amanda Swinnimer:	dakinitidalwilds@yahoo.com

FRIDAY APRIL 16	Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.
6:30-7:00 p.m.	Alanda Carver Opening ceremony... healing meditation for Muir Creek
7:00-7:45 p.m.	Waves on Monday Tasty & original wave-inspired music to soothe the soul"
8:15-9:15 p.m.	Clint Nottingham 'an eclectic mix of originals & covers'

9:45-10:45 p.m. Head High
Original roots reggae & dub

11:15 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Sea Monkeys
Surf, reggae, funk, ska & punk

SATURDAY APRIL 17 Doors Open: 2:00 p.m.

2:30-3:15 p.m. Sarah Richer
Yoga for kids!!!

3:30-4:30 p.m. Marika Nagasaka from ALM organic Farm
'Learn to grow your own food on the west coast & preserve your own seeds'

4:30-5:30 p.m. Clay Fischer of Otter Point Electric
'Green energy alternatives for our homes & community'

6:00-6:30 p.m. Tanya Devine & Wilson Mendes
Didgeridoo sound healing

7:00-7:30 p.m. Alseny Mihel Diallo & Ilana Moon
Traditional West African Drums & Dance

8:00-9:00 p.m. Kikeyambay
Traditional West African Electric Orchestra

9:30-10:30 p.m. Arise
Catch a Fire with deep-grooving roots reggae!

11:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Mindil Beach Markets
'original & uniquely blended rock, reggae & hip hop'

Both days Aloha vibes...with D.J. Hayden
Visuals by Dubland Studios

Workshops are FREE with ticket price, but you must pre-register.
Call Amanda: 250-818-4633.

Stay tuned for additional dancers, to view all our local, sustainable business sponsors and to see who will be participating in the eco-village on Saturday.

Also, go hang out at Muir Creek...

7. SHIRLEY KITCHEN FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

The Shirley Quilters and Crafters are sponsoring a fundraising raffle to raise money for the Shirley Hall kitchen upgrade.

First prize is a beautiful handmade Jean Raggy Quilt

Second prize is a covered stoneware casserole dish, and

Third prize is a homemade cheesecake.

Tickets are \$2.00 each with sales starting on April 22, 2010.

BC Gaming License # 23518

Draw takes place at the Shirley Hall on Shirley Day, August 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets please call:

Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687 or
Fiona McDannold: 250-646-2730..

8. LOCAL ELECTIONS REFORM TASK FORCE

Submitted by Heather Phillips, resident of Otter Point.

Since October, a six-member provincial task force has been reviewing issues related to local government elections. The province will consider changes to provincial legislation that guides how municipal or civic level election campaigns – including school boards and electoral areas, are financed as well as who can vote and who can run for office at the local government level. The task force includes the Minister of Community Affairs and Rural Development and two MLAs and the President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and two other UBCM executives.

The task force is asking for ideas from the general public--that means you--and would like to hear from you before 15 April 2010.

For more information on how local elections work now, on issues and changes being discussed and on how you can get your pet peeves and bright ideas to the task force, go to:

<http://www.localelectionstaskforce.gov.bc.ca/topics.html>

9. OTTER POINT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

The Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) review is scheduled to begin this month with a meeting of the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 27. In May, an information newsletter outlining the review process and an introduction to the workshops will be mailed to all resident addresses in Otter Point that accept bulk mail. An introductory workshop on the review process and the existing OCP will also be held in May.

The full details of the draft terms of reference and work plan for the Otter Point review are available on the CRD web site: [Terms of Reference](#). Further information about the OCP review and to volunteer for the workshops, contact June Klassen, Manager Local Area Planning: jklassen@crd.ba.ca or phone 250-642-1500 Local 206.

OPSRRA directors will be setting-up a committee to participate in the review process and report to the membership at key points along the way. It would be helpful if two or three OPSRRA members wanted to assist us over the coming year. Interested members should be from Otter Point and not be a member of either the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission or the JDF Land Use Committee. For further information or to volunteer contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca or phone 250-642-3113.

10. NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURE: PREPARING FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEWS

Last month, we began a new feature on the OPSRRA web site to coincide with the beginning of the Official Community Plan (OCP) reviews for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. Because of the length of some of these articles we won't include them in the newsletter, but will provide a link to the articles on our OPSRRA web site.

Last month's feature, [False Economies](#) looked at the experiences of other communities in the Greater Victoria area and suggests what our communities could be doing to identify and acquire local green space amenities as part of the community planning process. This month's feature, [Living in a Forested Community](#), considers the best uses for our local forest land; the economic benefits we gain by retaining our forests; threats to our forests and what we need to do to keep our forest and our community healthy.

Note: Click on the **False Economies** or **Living in a Forested Community** heading to read the full article or visit the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca and click on New: Background Articles .

11. MEETING WITH WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS

On March 3, the day before the CRD announced that they had conditionally purchased some of Western Forest Product's private forest lands for parks, a delegation of OPSRRA directors met with the Manager of Business Services for WFP. This was OPSRRA's fourth meeting with senior management from WFP over the past few years. These meetings have helped us to remain informed about WFP's plans for the sale of their private forest lands and to raise community concerns with them. This most recent meeting covered the following topics:

[Request that WFP participate in the Otter Point & Shirley OCP reviews](#)

WFP is one of the three largest private landowners in Otter Point and owns as much as 60% of the land in Shirley and Jordan River. Until WFP sells its lands in Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point it remains a major land owner in these communities and should consider participating in the up-coming OCP reviews. WFP indicated that they would be interested in participating. A copy of the Strategic Vision project report was provided to WFP and it was pointed-out that it will likely be used as a background document during the OCP reviews.

[Anderson Road property](#)

This small parcel of land at the end of Anderson Road in Otter Point was formerly used as a work yard by WFP. It was released from TFL 25 but is not on the real estate market at this time. What will be its future? The size of the area is uncertain (about 3.5 acres?) and it will need to be cleaned up and assessed for any possible contamination before being placed for sale.

[What responsibility does WFP have to clean-up their properties before selling them?](#)

The Ministry of the Environment requires that the all of the properties listed for sale be cleaned up and will issue a Certificate of Compliance once that is satisfactorily done. WFP is motivated to do this as they would be liable for up to 10 years, even if someone purchased the lands "as is" and tried to undertake their own remediation. There are two known types of contamination on the properties: wood waste and petroleum products. The locations of some of the possibly contaminated sites are unknown. (**Note:** One of the conditions attached to the lands purchased by the CRD was that WFP undertake the clean-up).

[What Shirley properties are up for sale?](#)

The Colliers web site shows different Shirley properties being for sale then were listed two year's ago. WFP provided OPSRRA with a comprehensive map which corrected our information. The changes included one property on the east side of

Shirley near Kirby Creek being deleted and two added; one in the North West part of Shirley and other to the South East.

Was the Shirley property adjacent to the Priest's Cabin Park considered in the discussions with the CRD?

This property is not being discussed in the present round of negotiations with the CRD and The Land Conservancy. OPSRRA pointed-out its importance from the view of consolidating land for the JDFEA Priest's Cabin Park and as an access point to the Matterhorn. (**Note:** OPSRRA has subsequently found-out that this parcel is being requested by the CRD Parks Department as a "goodwill" donation to the CRD. In the meantime WFP has agreed to allow public access across the property and may register a covenant on the title to that effect).

What logging is planned on the properties that are for sale?

No further logging will take place on the properties that are listed for sale. There was some clean up work done on one of the Shirley properties but that has now been completed. However, logging will continue on other WFP properties which are not presently listed for sale.

What is the logging plan for other WFP properties in the area?

The next scheduled logging will happen on the Rural Resource Lands in the Tugwell Creek to Muir Creek area (above Gordon's Beach) in Otter Point. (**Note:** WFP has sent us more information about this, including maps.)

What planting will take place on the logged lands?

Extensive logging has taken place in the past year on lands north of DeMamiel Creek in Otter Point. Will these and other WFP lands be replanted? WFP said that they are required by the province to replant private managed forest lands but there is some flexibility on how quickly that needs to be done. It is expected that replanting will begin this spring. If an area has not been replanted before being sold the purchaser may want to negotiate a reduction in the asking price. (**Note:** Lands that are purchased and removed from Private Managed Forests are not required to be replanted)

Who can be contacted if there is a concern about WFP logging activity?

Previously, OPSRRA had an arrangement with WFP that we could contact the Engineering staff at the Jordan River office to ask questions and discuss concerns regarding logging in the area. With the closure of that office last year, the closest WFP forestry office is now located in Port Alberni. All of WFP's local logging has been contracted-out to private companies. WFP said that contacting the logging contractor is not the way to go and they would identify someone at WFP as a contact person. (**Note:** This has since been done.)

What about existing water licenses?

There are registered water licenses on some of the Shirley area creeks. Does WFP know where they are and what actions does WFP make to protect the quality and quantity of water in those watersheds? WFP is provided the locations of the water licenses by the province. OPSRRA pointed-out a discrepancy between the number which WFP knew about and the number that are actually there. OPSRRA offered to send WFP a list of the ones which we aware of. (**Note:** This has since been done and 19 licenses were identified on 7 creeks in the Shirley area.)

Sharing of WFP mapping with the CRD

OPSRRA had previously arranged with WFP for them to share their local area mapping with the CRD. It was uncertain whether the CRD ever followed-up on this. In a recent meeting between the JDF Regional Director and WFP the request to share mapping was raised again. (**Note:** WFP has since confirmed that the sharing of mapping information has now happened.)

12. MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL CABINET MINISTERS

Following the March 4 announcement that the CRD had placed an offer to purchase some of Western Forest Products properties for park land, OPSRRA contacted local area Cabinet Ministers Ida Chong and Murray Coell requesting an opportunity to meet with them. The request was in response to events that began with the release of WFP private forest lands from TFL 25 in 2007 and culminating with the recent conditional purchase of some of these lands for parks by the CRD. During this period of time the communities of Shirley and Otter Point have asked for consultation and compensation from the province. The purpose of the meeting was to review the situation with the ministers, provide them with background information on the local area and ensure that the provincial government was clear on the communities concerns.

Note: OPSRRA has had two previous meetings with cabinet ministers: the Minister for Agriculture and Lands on November 3, 2008 and the Minister for Community & Rural Development on November 4, 2008. These meetings were helpful but did not result in any outcomes that addressed the communities' concerns.

Ministers Chong and Coell agreed to the request for a meeting and Minister Bennett from the Ministry of Community and Rural Development asked to join us. The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 24 with Ministers Chong and Bennett and some of their senior staff in attendance. Minister Coell was unable to attend due to a conflict in his schedule. OPSRRA was given an opportunity to make a presentation which covered the following points.

Concerns:

- The CRD has committed to purchase 2350 hectares of land from WFP with a closing date of August 16. The cost will be 9.8 million for Jordan River waterfront, 5.5 million for Sooke Potholes-Sea to Sea Greenbelt and 3.5 million for the Water Board property. There is a pressing need for the province to contribute 3 to 5 million dollars towards the park land purchase and to understand that the purchase is conditional and will fail if the 18.8 million dollars can't be secured by the August deadline.
- The CRD's decision to purchase the WFP properties means that the CRD's plan to purchase some Muir Creek properties from TimberWest for a park has been delayed by 3 to 5 years. Meanwhile, TimberWest through their real estate company Couverdun has already informed the Muir Creek Protection Society and the JDF Regional Director that they would consider donating their property near Muir Creek in exchange for a rezoning of the remainder of their property in that area. Their plan would then be to sell the properties for residential development. If this was to proceed it would likely result in a repetition of the public opposition to the WFP lands being subdivided and sold for residential development.
- The watershed on Goudie Creek provides drinking water to about 120 families in Shirley. This watershed is entirely within one of the parcels of land that WFP now has on the real estate market. The water users can not afford to purchase the land for the asking price. Legal council has been retained by

the Sheringham Estates Water Users to represent them in their negotiations with WFP to protect their water supply. Other watersheds throughout the area are also unprotected, incompletely mapped and under threat from logging and residential development.

In a letter to OPSRRA dated June 24, 2009, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Environment indicated that their Parks and Protected Area Division staff was currently conducting preliminary assessments of the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Upper Muir Creek water shed.

- OCP reviews for Otter Point and Shirley Jordan River begin this year and will likely not be concluded until 2012. Western Forest Products, TimberWest and the Crown are major property owners in the area. The present OCPs were prepared prior to the release of WFP's forest lands from TFL 25 and with the thought that these lands would remain in forest production. Crown lands may be used for First Nations treaty settlements. Because of the size of these forest and Crown land holdings and the uncertainty about possible land use changes, developing OCPs is difficult.

13. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

OPSRRA prepared the following information about our community.

Creeks, Steams & Lakes:

There are at least 20 major creeks and streams in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River and as many more seasonal ones. There are 3 lakes in Otter Point.

Water Licenses:

There are 19 registered water licenses on 7 creeks in the Shirley area. These water licenses provide the only source of potable water to homes and businesses such as Point No Point Resort. There are numerous other unregistered users.

In Otter Point there are 4 registered water licenses on Tugwell Creek, 1 on Muir Creek, 20 on DeMamiel Stream, 6 on King Creek, 4 on Kemp Lake, 3 on Young Lake and 1 on Poirier Lake.

Kemp Lake Water Works:

The KLWD holds 2 water licenses on Kemp Lake in Otter Point. It supplies domestic water to about 800 residents in 450 residences and businesses in Otter Point. This represents about 40% of the population of Otter Point.

Quote from the KLWD web site:

“Our water is drawn from Kemp Lake. The (930 acre) water shed of Kemp Lake is all private land and the district has virtually no control over what happens in this water shed. In fact the majority of the water shed is completely outside of the Kemp Lake Waterworks District. As a result, there is a greater risk of contamination than with under ground wells. The district undertakes a number of monitoring and public awareness activities related to water quality.”

Sheringham Estates Water Users:

This water system draws its water from the Goudie Creek water shed and provides domestic water to about 120 families in Shirley. This represents about 80% of the community's population. The Goudie Creek watershed is located entirely on land owned by WFP and is for sale. The SEWU can't afford to purchase this land and have retained legal council to negotiate with WFP.

Camp Barnard (Scouts Canada):

This organization is an important community recreational and economic resource. Located on 251 acres of land adjacent to Young Lake in Otter Point, it hosted more than 10,000 campers in 2009, providing outdoor recreational opportunities for its own scouting groups as well as for over 20 Greater Victoria and Lower Mainland organizations.

Camp Hummingbird (Girl Guides):

This camping facility is located on Kirby Creek in Shirley. The remote location allows girls, young women and their guide leaders from the Greater Victoria area to experience outdoor living in a very rural setting.

Provincial Parks:

French Beach in Shirley

China Beach in Jordan River

Juan de Fuca Marine Trail has its trail head at the China Beach provincial park.

Muir Creek:

The creek and watershed have been identified by the community, the Muir Creek Protection Society and CRD Parks as a priority for protection as parkland. All of the land being considered is owned by TimberWest. Most of it is within the Rural Resource Lands with a lesser portion within the Shirley/Jordan River OCP area. The mouth of Muir Creek is the only easily accessible waterfront between Gordon's Beach and Jordan River and is already heavily used by the community. TimberWest has indicated a desire to sell their private forest lands in this area. The company has offered to donate parkland in exchange for rezoning to allow for higher density residential development.

Crown Land:

Otter Point has 1566 acres of Crown land. This represents about 21% of the community's land base. The amount of Crown land in Shirley has not been accurately identified but probably represents 10-15% of the land area within the Settlement Area. Crown land is used for recreation but such use may be affected by treaty settlements for our local First Nations.

Private Forest Land:

According to statistics provided by the Capital Regional District there are 85 parcels of Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL), comprising approximately 3161 hectares, within the boundaries of the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (OCP) areas. 64 of these parcels (2330 hectares) are located in Shirley and Jordan River and 21 (831 hectares) are located in Otter Point. PMFLs currently represent about 24.5% of the Otter Point OCP area and 61% of the Shirley/Jordan River OCP area. There is also some forested Crown land within the OCP areas.

Most of the private forest land in Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point is owned by Western Forest Products and is the property which they have listed for sale.

TimberWest has sold over 700 acres of private forest land in Otter Point in the past ten years. A business park and about 225 homes are either built, being built or proposed for these properties. This will eventually increase the number of dwellings in Otter Point by 30%. Areas of private forest land are used for recreation. Changes in land use and ownership will affect such use.

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

The free small business listing on the OPSRRA web site welcomes the following local business:

Three Sisters Farm

Nancy Bennett, proprietor

email: nvbennett@shaw.ca

phone: 250-642-0401

website: www.three-sisters-farm.com

We raise and sell produce and eggs using organic and traditional methods such as companion planting. Our crops are pesticide free, farm fresh and tasty. Our Three Sisters farm offers a variety of seasonal produce, specializing in heirloom varieties, especially tomatoes and squash. As well we grow and offer as plants or blooms heirloom flower varieties, such as sweet peas.

We also offer bantam, silkie and quail eggs.

E-mail or phone for more information, or check out our website.

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**.

Note: OPSRRA does not accept responsibility for the services provided. Always check references and ask for confirmation of Work Safe B.C. Registration if applicable.

The free small business listing on the OPSRRA web site welcomes the following local business:

Rock Beach Grill and Groceries (formally the Kemp Lake Store & Café).

7871 West Coast Road. at Kemp Lake Road.

Phone: 250-642-1366

rockbeachgrill.ca

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

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair

Accent in Grooming

A Point of View B & B

ALM Organic Farm

Beaches West B & B

Bear Home Remodelling

Birds Edge Press

Bridge over Troubled Water Autism
Intervention & Respite Service

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

Kirsten Sykes, Realtor

Knotty Beds by Nature

Le Sooke Spa

Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage

Ocean Wilderness Inn

Otter Point Beach House

Otter Point Electrical

Reflexology by Marlene Barry

Rock Beach Grill and Groceries
(formerly Kemp Lake Store & Cafe)

Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Smiling Goat Farm Sitting Service

Stick in the Mud Coffee House

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Three Sisters Farm

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

15. 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.
