

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2003

Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to interested members.

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this service.

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OTTER POINT ROAD LOG SORT

The Otter Point Road Log Sort is owned by TimberWest and has been operated for the past 5 years by a sub-contractor. The site is presently inactive. OPSRRA was asked by some residents living in the vicinity of the log sort to contact TimberWest. OPSRRA's letter to TimberWest follows:

OPSRRA
8442 West Coast Rd.
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

July 14, 2003

Ms. Virginia Aulin
Vice President, Public Affairs & Government Relations
TimberWest Forest Corp.
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Ms. Aulin:

I am writing to you at the request of some of the residents of Otter Point who live within the vicinity of your Otter Point log sort, west of Sooke. Although the site is presently inactive, there are rumours about a return to a fulltime operation by this fall—under a new contractor. Four years ago the high noise level from the sometimes 24 hour-a-day, 6 days and 7 nights a week operation of the log sort caused unbearable hardship for many sleep-deprived residents—some living as much as a mile away from the site! This situation was eventually resolved through the initiative of the local regional director, our ratepayers association and TimberWest. As a result there was a "gentleman's agreement" that the log sort would attempt to limit its hours of operation to 12 hours a day (7 am to 7 pm) and not operate from 7 pm Saturday until 7 am Monday. This arrangement has worked reasonably well and Otter Point residents living near the log sort would like some

reassurance that the new contractor will abide by these hours of operation and also try to minimize the high noise coming from the site. OPSRRA (the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association) would be available to host a meeting with concerned neighbours, if this was necessary. It would also be available to meet with you and your contractor in the event that you need more information about past and present concerns resulting from a log sorting operation being located in the midst of a growing rural/residential neighbourhood.

Regards.

Ken Pungente
President OPSRRA

Copy: Mr. Paul McElligot, President, TimberWest Forest Corp.

OPSRRA received a reply from TimberWest confirming that the site is temporarily inactive and that there is no immediate plan "...for any significant operations at that site, except for some necessary clean-up". The reply goes on to say that there is no plan to run the log sort 24 hours a day, six days a week, but they can not predict the future. The letter closes by inviting OPSRRA to contact the Manager of Community Relations if there are further questions.

FOREST LUMBER COMPANY SAWMILL AND PLANNER MILL

The Forest Lumber Company has successfully completed their application to rezone (from rural/residential to industrial) and subdivide their property at the end of Ramsden Rd., off of Otter Point Rd., in the vicinity of the Otter Point Road Log Sort. They intend to operate a sawmill and planner mill at this location; site preparation on this property has now begun.

OPSRRA contacted the CRD Noise Bylaw Enforcement Services seeking clarification of the CRD's Bylaw 1527 that exempts forestry equipment from the usual noise restrictions of the bylaw. The Senior Bylaw Enforcement Officer has informed both OPSRRA and the Forest Lumber Company that despite the industrial zoning, the new mill will need to comply with the Objectionable Noise Bylaw. The Forest Lumber Company has replied to the CRD with a statement of their intent to comply with the Objectionable Noise Bylaw and their willingness to resolve any problems arising from their operation. Their probable hours of operation will be 8 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The combined Official Community Plan (OCP) for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River is not to be. The regional director has decided to proceed with separate OCPs for Shirley and Otter Point. Nothing has been decided about an OCP for Jordan River.

SOOKE BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 18th at the Sooke municipal hall. These meetings are open to the public.

The agenda will likely include a final report from the consulting firm, that has been preparing background information on the impact of amalgamation on both the District of Sooke and the rural communities of East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River. A representative from the provincial ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services is expected to report back on:

1. Outstanding information concerning the impact of amalgamation on the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.
2. Whether the province will allow the rural areas to vote first.
3. If there should be an amalgamation referendum.

A timetable for this fall's public information sessions, to be held in each rural community, is expected to be decided at this meeting. Following these public meetings, the province will decide:

1. If there will be a referendum on amalgamation.
2. What the referendum question will be.

If there is going to be a referendum, there will be then be a second round of public information meetings in each rural community prior to a vote. The province still has to decide if they would allow a separate count of referendum votes for each community or if all the votes will be counted as one. OPSRRA supports a separate vote count for East Sooke and West Sooke (Shirley and Otter Point).

Both the province and the CRD have stated that no amalgamation will happen without a referendum. OPSRRA has lobbied for and supports this position.

OPSRRA

OPSRRA is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of the residents of the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point to local government. It was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 350. Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.com) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. 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.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
5. Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Ken Pungente	President	Arnie Campbell	Vice President
Wendy Miller	Secretary/Treasurer		
Byron Tweedy	Director	Mitch Moneo	Director
Virginia Boyd	Director	Wendy Morton	Director
Frances Stocks	Director		

This newsletter is published monthly on the www.opsrra.com web page by OPSRRA—the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association. Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca