

# OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE - AUGUST 2005

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members, residing in the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point, to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 325.

**Lifetime memberships are \$5.00** and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site ([www.opsrra.com](http://www.opsrra.com)) for further information.

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 90 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto: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 [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Tuesday August 2	<b>Otter Point Official Community Plan Public Hearing</b> 7:00 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall
Sunday August 7	<b>Sheringham Lighthouse Preservation Society Annual General Meeting</b> 2:00 p.m. Village Foods Meeting Room, Sooke
Tuesday August 16	<b>Juan de Fuca Area Land Use Committee Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road
Sunday August 21	<b>Shirley Day Pirate Festival—Family Fun</b> 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Tuesday August 23	<b>OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome!</b> 7:30 p.m. SEAPARC Board Room 2168 Philips Rd. Sooke

Wednesday  
September 7

**Shirley Advisory Planning Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

This meeting is tentative.  
Contact JDF Planning Services, 642-1620 for  
confirmation

Wednesday  
September 21

**OPSRRA Membership Meeting**  
7:30 p.m.  
Otter Point Fire Hall

Second and Fourth  
Thursday  
of every month

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

## **2. OPSRRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

OPSRRA will be holding its fall membership meeting on Wednesday, September 21 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Otter Point fire hall.

Some of the items on the agenda will be:

- The proposed annexation by the District of Sooke of Otter Point properties along the Sooke/Otter Point border.
- OPSRRA support for the Advisory Planning Commission.
- Updates on the Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws.
- Planning for the November 19th elections (APC, LUC, School Trustees & regional director).
- Open forum—members' ideas and concerns.

A more detailed agenda will be available in September. Contact an OPSRRA director if there is something that you would like to have considered as an agenda item.

## **3. UPDATE ON DISTRICT OF SOOKE'S PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF OTTER POINT PROPERTIES**

The District of Sooke has submitted a formal request to the province to annex properties along the District's border with Otter Point and East Sooke (see July's newsletter for maps and details). OPSRRA has met with John Horgan, our MLA, to discuss the situation and we have requested his assistance in arranging a meeting with the provincial Ministry of Community Services. We sent letters to the minister of Community Services in March and again in June asking for such a meeting, We have not received a reply. OPSRRA has also met with other community groups in Sooke, East Sooke and Shirley who feel that their communities will be affected by the proposed annexation.

#### 4. MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MLA

A delegation of OPSRRA directors met with our provincial MLA John Horgan on July 11 to discuss five OPSRRA concerns:

- The on-going matter of the District of Sooke's pursuit, in cooperation with the province, of the annexation of properties along the Otter Point/Sooke border.
- The refusal of the minister of Community Services to fund a governance study for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.
- The acquisition of crown land in Otter Point for a Pioneer Park on the site of the old Otter Point School.
- Realignment of the boundary or a change of the polling station location for Malahat-Juan de Fuca Poll 068A.
- The application, by Chew Excavating, to have their Shirley soil removal permit application renewed by the CRD.

Your MLA can be contacted by the following means:

#### John Horgan

Mail \*: 800 Goldstream Avenue  
Victoria, BC V9B 2X7  
Phone: (250) 953-4793  
Email: [john.horgan@leg.bc.ca](mailto:john.horgan@leg.bc.ca)  
Web site: [www.briankerrmla.bc.ca](http://www.briankerrmla.bc.ca)

\* Note: John accepts mail at this location, but his office here is presently being renovated so is not yet open to the public.

There will eventually be a constituency office set up in Sooke.

John's constituency assistant is Ms. Terry Harrison.

#### 5. UPDATE ON RENEWAL OF CHEW EXCAVATING SOIL REMOVAL APPLICATION

Brenda Mark prepared the following report. Brenda is an OPSRRA member and one of the property owners in Shirley who organized the community effort to have the Chew Excavating soil permit removal extension application reviewed by the CRD.

Chew Excavating had Soil Removal and Deposit Permits issued July 25, 2005 to complete the work authorized under their original permits. These extensions expire October 31, 2005 and it's stated that the amount of material to be removed, and deposited, is more limited than was originally intended. There is an Irrevocable Letter of Credit of \$50,000 as well as the usual amount required by the CRD bylaws - (\$4000 and \$1500) as Security Deposits. The permits are also subject to the agreement reached by the CRD, a volunteer committee representing Shirley residents, and Chew Excavating.

The compromise agreement was reached after a number of meetings. On July 4, six residents and a representative from both SEAS and OPSRRA met

with CRD staff. On July 11, there was a public meeting at the Shirley Hall with residents, CRD staff, the regional director and Chew Excavating (the local MLA also attended). On July 18 the Shirley committee met with CRD staff and Chew Excavating to reach a tentative agreement. On July 19 the committee met on-site with CRD staff and Chew Excavating to do a walk-around and identify problem areas and discuss courses of action.

The agreement states:

- There will be no further blasting or crushing.
- Safe and considerate driving practices of trucks, hauling material to and from the site is required, including minimal use of 'Jake brakes'.
- There is a 30-day provision for remediation only after October 31, 2005.
- A \$50,000 Irrevocable Letter of Credit to be provided to the CRD, to be held for 1 year to ensure all agreed upon remedial work is completed and any problems corrected.
- Silt control problems addressed and the access road for Lots 3 to 11 repaired by September 15.
- All slopes brought into compliance with CRD bylaws by October 31, with priority for closure and capping assigned to areas where slippage may damage off-site properties.
- Chew will make every effort to have hydro-seeding completed by September 30.
- Natural drainage patterns will be restored to creeks, converting from point flows to sheet flows in the areas identified in the walk-about, with this work being carried out under the supervision of qualified engineers.
- All replanting will be natural in character and the replanting of trees and other vegetation, including the creek beds, will be defined by an environmental consultant engaged by Chew. The consultant's report will be made available to the community representatives.
- Notice is to be given to the Province, under Section 9 of the Water Act, by Chew Excavating, if any of the work undertaken requires that.

## **6. UPDATE ON THE OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER OCP & ZONING BYLAWS**

### **Shirley/Jordan River:**

The Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (OCP) has been approved by the JDF Land Use Committee and now will go before the CRD Board and the province for their approval before becoming a bylaw.

### **Otter Point:**

The Otter Point OCP is going for a third public hearing on Tuesday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall. This third public hearing was made necessary because outdated maps of the proposed Settlement Areas were still being circulated by the CRD prior to the second public hearing.

Both Zoning committees have finished the first phase of their public meeting. The chairs of the 4 zoning committees (Malahat, East Sooke, Shirley/Jordan River, and Otter Point) will be meeting with the CRD Planning Staff and the regional director to review the outcomes of the public meetings and to decide whether further public meetings are needed. While the Shirley/Jordan River Zoning committee appears to have finished their draft, the chair of the Otter Point committee has indicated that further meetings will certainly be needed in Otter Point.

## 7. FIRE BURNING SEASON

**Residents of Otter Point & Shirley should be aware of the local open burning restrictions in our area.**

Despite the wet spring and late start to summer weather, we are in Fire Season and the present rating is **HIGH**. The province has introduced Category 2 open fire restrictions as of July 30. This means absolutely no open burning with the exception of small campfires.

### Otter Point Burning Regulations

The following is summary of the 1958—Fire Regulation Bylaw No. 1, 1991 [http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/fireprotection\\_/index.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/fireprotection_/index.htm)

**No open burning shall take place during the months of July, August and September.**

**No open burning between sunset of one day and sunrise of the next day.**

**Fire season is April 15 to June 30 and October 1 to October 15.**

The season may be extended at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

All open burning requires a permit from the fire department: call 642-6211.

As this is a volunteer department, please leave a message and the person issuing permits will call you back.

### Prohibited Materials

The following shall NOT be burnt:

Tires	plastic
drywall	paint and paint products
treated lumber	asphalt, asphalt products
rubber	fuel and lubricant containers
tar paper	railway ties
manure.	

No person shall ignite or maintain a fire on the foreshore:

- within 46 meters of any building;
- within 3 meters of any driftwood, dry vegetation, grass or any other combustible materials;
- or without obtaining a Class "B" burning permit.

Class B limits on hand pile burning shall be maximum diameter 2 metres or 6 feet.

No green debris or leaves shall be burnt except by specific exemptions which may be at the discretion of the Fire Chief

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Otter Point Fire Department:

Phone: (250) 642-6211

Fax: (250) 642-2673  
e-mail Fire Chief: [chief@otterpointfire.bc.ca](mailto:chief@otterpointfire.bc.ca)

## SHIRLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Burning permits:

Class "A" (machine piled burns) require a permit at all times.  
No Class A fires permitted 15 April to 15 October.

Class "B" (hand-built burn piles) require a permit from 15 April to 15 October.  
No Class "B" permits will be issued from 15 May to 15 October due to dry soil conditions.

Class "C" fires (incinerators with 1/4" mesh screen) require no permit.

Class "C" fires, at present, have no restriction on burning.



Remember to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly (both battery and hard-wired).

Emergency phone number: 9-1-1  
Non-emergency phone number: 250-646-2107  
Fax: 250-646-2205  
Mailing address: 401B Sheringham Point Road, Shirley  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0  
e-mail address: [info@shirleyfire.cjb.net](mailto:info@shirleyfire.cjb.net)  
Fire Chief: Carl Nelson  
e-mail: [FireChief@sookeadventures.com](mailto:FireChief@sookeadventures.com)  
Deputy Fire Chief: Robert VanVeen  
Web site: <http://shirleyfire.cjb.net>

### 8. Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Enumeration (Voter Registration)

The Capital Regional District intends to update the List of Electors for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area for the 2005 local government elections. **The census will take place between June 29, 2005 and August 5, 2005.**

You will be contacted, either in person or by telephone, to ascertain whether or not you are eligible to be registered as an elector.

In order to qualify as a Resident Elector you must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years or older, must have resided in British Columbia for the past six months and within the boundaries of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area for the past 30 days prior to registration.

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area consists of: East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew, Malahat, Willis Point and the Songhees and Esquimalt Indian Reserve lands.

For further information on the enumeration process, please contact one of the following:

Capital Regional District  
Administration & Executive Offices  
P.O. Box 1000  
524 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Carmen Thiel	360-3129
Tom Moore	472-0059
Kerry Fedosenko	642-3853

## 9. B.C. TRANSIT QUESTIONNAIRE

The Victoria Regional Transit System held a public information session in Otter Point on July 6 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall (3727 Otter Point Road at Kemp Lake Road). This information session was intended for residents of the Otter Point area who were interested in receiving information and giving suggestions to Transit about a proposed new transit service for the Otter Point area. Information about what is being planned and a map of the proposed route is available on their website.

B.C. Transit's website is at: [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com) , click **Victoria** and then click **Customer Alert** on the right hand side of the page and you will bring up the Otter Point route information.

You can also complete the B.C. Transit questionnaire on-line.

## 10. OPSRRA WEB SITE UNITES LONG LOST RELATIVES!

We all know that web sites can be accessed from around the world—all you need is a computer and access to the internet. How often do you give a thought that anyone beyond Otter Point and Shirley would be looking at the OPSRRA web site? Certainly we didn't. Occasionally we get enquires from someone in Victoria, usually because they have a recreation property out this way and are interested in joining OPSRRA or they just have a local question that they need help answering. Well, we are not just a local web site anymore! Three weeks ago there was an enquiry from someone in Great Britain trying to find a long-lost relative who they thought might be living in Otter point. The relative they were looking for turned out to be an OPSRRA member. OPSRRA passed the information along; the local Otter Point resident verified that it was a genuine enquiry and the two distant relatives are now in contact by e-mail. OPSRRA received a nice thank-you from the Great Britain part of the family for making this reunion possible.

## 11. COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS

More notice boards have been completed and are ready to be installed this month. However, we need more cedar posts. If you have some 4-inch cedar posts (7 to 8 feet long) that you can donate, please contact:

Ken Pungente	642 -5177 or
Jim Dexter	<a href="mailto:dexmar@shaw.ca">dexmar@shaw.ca</a>

## 12. AGENDA FOR OPSRRA DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

OPSRRA's monthly directors' meetings are open to members. The following is an **example** of the business that takes place at these directors' meetings. If you want



the current month's agenda e-mailed to you (usually 5 days ahead of the scheduled monthly meeting), contact Arnie Campbell at [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca)

## Agenda July 2005 OPSRRA Directors' Meeting

Date: Monday, July 18

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Boardroom, SEAPARC Arena- Pool Complex

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2005
3. Old Business
  - a) Elections B.C. Letter – Ken
  - b) Membership Update – Ken & Jim
  - c) Border Lands Update – Ken & Arnie
  - d) Community Notice Boards – Ken & Jim
  - e) OPSRRA Business Cards – Arnie
  - f) OPSRRA Logo – Sandy
  - g) Kemp Lake Boundary Update - Arnie
  - h) French Beach R.V. Park Update – Ken & Jim
  - i) Sheringham Lighthouse Society Letter – Ken
  - j) OPSRRA Support for APC? - Arnie
4. New Business
  - a) Publicity Update – Ken & David
  - b) Rural Observer Article - David
  - c) Public Transit Meeting – Ken & Mitch
  - d) LUC A Committee Update – Ken & Wayne
  - e) OCP & Zoning Update – Wayne & Jim
  - f) Meeting With MLA – Ken, Wayne, Jim & Arnie
  - g) Report on Chew Soil Removal Permit Meeting – Jim, Ken & Arnie
  - h) Motion to Approve Renewal of [www.opsrra.com](http://www.opsrra.com) – Arnie
  - i) Date For Fall Membership Meeting – Ken
5. Other Business
6. Next Directors' Meeting
7. Adjournment

### 13. PLANNED CHANGES TO OPSRRA WEB SITE

The OPSRRA web site is now 2 years old and some updating is required. The following changes will be made over the next few months:

- New logo.
- New (more detailed) map of Otter Point & Shirley.
- Changes to the *About Us* page as a result of the new Official Community Plans
- On-line registration for new members.
- On-line registration for the *Business Services* applications.
- Addition of the minutes of directors' meeting to the minute's library.

Is there something that you would like to see included or changed? Contact an OPSRRA director with you comments.

## **14. UP-DATE ON THE CIRCLE ROUTE FROM PORT RENFREW TO LAKE COWICHAN**

The province has been working on portions of this old logging road from Port Renfrew to Lake Cowichan, in an effort to make it an all season's circle route. As of July 27 the following changes are noticeable:

- Storm water drains have been installed under the roadway at critical locations.
- The road has been widened in some areas past Lizard Lake.
- Gravel has been put-down on the Lizard Lake - Lake Cowichan portion.
- Grading and widening is still in progress.

Note: This is still a rough road and although an enjoyable trip, it is still a "bone shaker"! If you go, be sure to stop in Port Renfrew for a look-around and a snack—they have some great places to eat.

## **15. FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES 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.com](http://www.opsrra.com). 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, fishing charters, eco tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing and more. More information, businesses already listed and a registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site ([www.opsrra.com](http://www.opsrra.com)) under Business Listings.

## **16. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER**

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site. Go to the Index page and click-on Back Issues.

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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.com](http://www.opsrra.com). 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 have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.

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