

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE AUGUST 2007

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 **370**. 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 **165** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Arnie Campbell President
Phone: 642-3113
Email: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Wayne Fritz Director
Phone: 642-0440
Email: wlfritz@shaw.ca

Emma Taylor Secretary/Treasurer
Phone: 642-1094

Sandy Barta Director
Email: sbarta@shaw.ca

John Charles Director
Phone: 642-0382

Maureen Nelson Director
Phone:
Email: logcabinbb@telus.net

Bob Philips Director
Phone: 642-3297
Email: bphill1046@aol.com

Ken Pungente Director
Phone: 642-5177

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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.

Saturday
August 4

**Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
To Mystic Beach**

9:30 a.m.

Meet at the Day Use parking lot at China Beach Provincial Park.
The hike will take 2 to 3 hours.

Call for information (642-2767) or check our web site:
www.freewebs.com/communitytrails

Sunday
August 12

Shirley Days: Old Country Fair

9:00 a.m. walk/run to Sheringham Point Lighthouse

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday
August 14

**Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee
Monthly Meeting**

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Sooke Region Museum

Service Building Meeting Room

Tuesday
August 14

JDF Land Use Committee 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.

Thursday August 23	JDF Economic Development Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m. Village Foods Meeting Room (upstairs) Village Food Market 103-6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC Note: Call 642-1500 to confirm this meeting.
Saturday September 1	Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Check the web site for hike details: www.freewebs.com/communitytrails
Thursday September 6	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. UPDATE: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT

Planning is now underway for two more community forums. The first will focus on Economic Development & Community Change and is tentatively scheduled for early October. A forum on the Environment will be held in late November. Forums and workshops on governance, taxation, community development and other topics related to developing a long-range community plan for our area are being considered for the New Year.

The **Developing a Strategic Vision** project has received a \$5,000 grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. We have now raised \$8,000 towards our \$10,500 budget. Funding applications have also been submitted to the Van City Credit Union Foundation and the provincial Healthy Communities fund. Individuals, businesses or organizations that would like to support the work of the Vision project can contribute money or in kind by contacting Wayne Fritz. Chair of the Developing a Strategic Vision project: wfritz@shaw.ca (phone 642-0440). The project will acknowledge your contribution upon request.

The project now has a web site. It is located at www.jdffuture.org. This web site is a "work in progress" and will presently have information on the project including: notice of events; minutes; outcomes or forums and workshops and possibly an on-line ability to enter comments, ask questions and exchange ideas. The **Developing a Strategic Vision** project also produces an email Information Bulletin now going to about 100 residents of Otter Point and Shirley. Anyone who wishes to receive the Information Bulletin can contact Arnie Campbell (d.acampbell@shaw.ca) to have their name added to the e-mailing list.

3. RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

OPSRRA frequently writes letters to regional and provincial representatives and provincial ministries. The following is a summary of recent letters sent and replies received—or not.

- Ministry of the Environment re: moving the No Hunting/No Shooting boundary in Otter Point. OPSRRA sent a letter in March 2007, and received an e-mail reply in July. The Ministry is considering a decision to shift the boundary 800 metres north of the BC Hydro power line between Tugwell Creek and DeMamiel Creek subject to consultation with the T'Sou-ke Nation.
- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director re: draft Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Advisory Committees. OPSRRA sent a letter in May 2007 asking when public meetings on the draft Zoning Bylaws for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point will resume, and whether the Zoning Advisory Committees will conduct further public consultation meetings. OPSARRA has not received a reply.
- Resource Lands draft Official Community Plan (OCP). OPSRRA sent a letter to the CRD General Manager of Planning and Protection Services in June 2007 requesting that there be more than one public information session for the draft Resource Lands OCP in the JDF Electoral Area. OPSARRA has not received a reply.
- Ministry of Energy & Mines. OPSRRA sent a letter to the Chief Inspector of Mines in May 2007 requesting a public meeting before he makes any decision concerning an application to expand the Arden Log Hauling Ltd. mining operation. OPSRRA received a reply in July informing us that the applicant had been directed to hold a public meeting before the Ministry considers their application.

4. MEETING WITH MLA

Recently, our MLA John Horgan invited the OPSRRA directors to meet with him. We covered the following topics: protection of our watersheds and groundwater; efforts to acquire our own Subdivision Approving Officer for the JDF Electoral Area; road widths required by Ministry of Transportation; the Developing a Strategic Vision project; and the current status of local governance studies.

5. PROPOSED JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA COMMUNITY PARKS PLAN

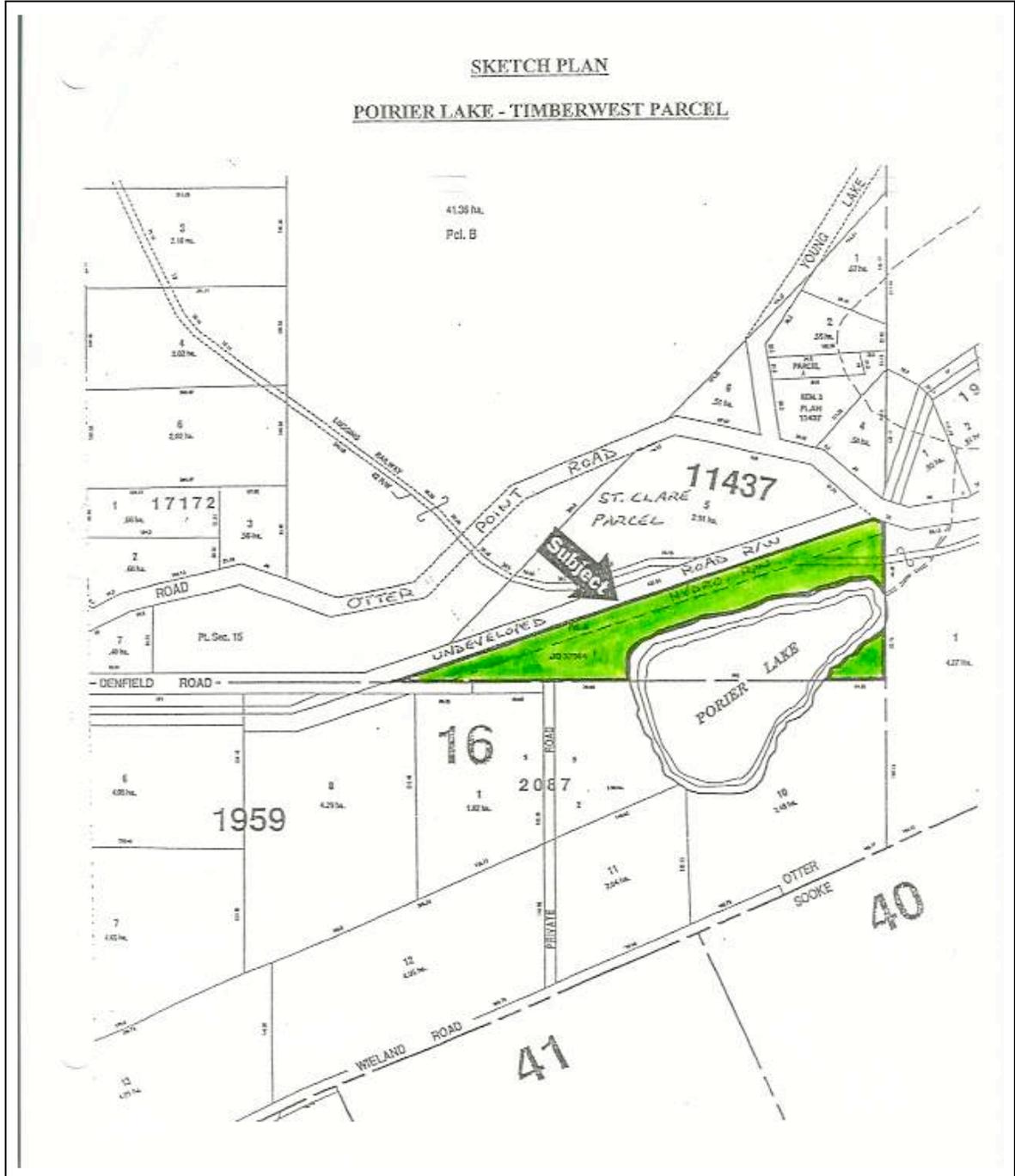
The JDF Parks & Recreation Commission has completed the draft long-range parks plan for the JDF Electoral Area and is asking for public comment. The Parks Plan purpose is: "to make provisions for a sustainable land base that will accommodate all recreational options required by future generations of all ages."

Copies of the draft parks plan are available at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex. Submit written comments on the Draft Long Range Parks Plan, before September 30, to the Administrative Secretary, JDF Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission, c/o SEAPARC, PO Box 421, Sooke BC V0S 1N0

6. UPDATE: POIRIER LAKE

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission acquired about 15 acres of parkland—mostly on the north side of Poirier Lake—consisting of a portion from Timber West (5.09 acres); the closed road from the Province (3 acres); and about

7.2 acres donated by Mr. Sellars-St. Claire. All three lots are now registered with the CRD. The following map shows the land purchased from Timber West last year. The Sellars-St. Claire property is adjacent and immediately north of the area highlighted in green.



The JDF Electoral Area Parks Commission considered the donation of the Sellars-St. Claire park land at its June 7, 2007 meeting. Here are the minutes from that meeting pertaining to the acquisition and future use of the park:

RISE AND REPORT

WHEREAS, In the matter of acquisition of Lot 5, Section 15, Otter District Plan 11437, donation of 2.91 ha (7.2 acres) by Mr. Erik Sellars St. Claire:

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission and the Capital Regional District Board authorized staff to negotiate an agreement with Mr. Sellars St. Claire to accept a donation of land and to take necessary steps to complete the transfer and granting of a life estate to Mr. Sellars St. Claire. The Commission had authorized a maximum expenditure of \$60,000 in order to negotiate terms of the proposed donation. These funds were set aside for the purpose of establishing a "Residential Parcel" and "Life Lease" for one tenant and financial consideration for three remaining tenancies at the conclusion of the Life Estate.

- The Commission and community parks system has received a wonderful asset through the donation of land. For less than \$70,000, an asset worth in excess of \$500,000 has been acquired.
- It cost \$60,000 to reach agreement with all parties involved. It is estimated that an additional \$3500 - \$4000 was absorbed in staff and legal fees to complete the agreement.
- Expenditures are charged to the Parks Reserve Fund. Currently the Commission has an "under-funded liability" of about \$40,000 if the Life Estate were to terminate unexpectedly.
- The Commission has entered into a "life lease" agreement with one of Mr. Sellars St. Claire's tenants, to come into effect at the conclusion of the "Life Estate".
- The Commission has agreed to grant a "licence to occupy" a portion of CRD land as shown on Schedule B, attached. The sketch plan also depicts the "Leased Premises" once the Life Estate concludes.
- The Commission has agreed to maintain a potable water source to the Leased Premises.
- The Commission has agreed to erect and maintain proper signage designating the Leased Premises as private property.
- Currently, the parkland is encroached upon and public access and ownership is poorly defined.
- A dilapidated "private" dock is on park property. It presents a liability and requires removal.
- Opening the parkland to public access puts the onus on the Commission to ensure safe, unencumbered public access to a reasonably safe environment.

The Commission RESOLVED to:

1. Cover the financial liability of \$40,000 as soon as possible either by (a) supplementing the Parks Reserve Fund, or (b) assigning \$40,000 from the 2008 Operating Budget.
2. Complete a survey of the leased premises and clearly define park boundaries at the eastern entry point.

3. Provide preliminary improvements to the 2.91 ha of Lot 5, Section 15, Otter District Plan 11437 dedicated as parkland and slowly begin encouraging public access by completing the following works:
 - a. Remove the dock and maintain the water line
 - b. Enhance the dedicated MOT road access “trail” and connect the trail into the park (under the current SEAPARC permit to construct and maintain this access)
 - c. Clear the parkland adjacent to the leased premises of debris and remove other signs of encroachment
 - d. Install appropriate signage
 - e. Prior to any work or enhancement, have Commission representatives meet with the tenant of the leased premises and reach consensus on the improvements to take place.
 4. Seek community partnerships to assist with the development of the park, beginning with provision of a new dock.
-

A spokesperson for the JDF Parks Commission does not see any funding coming available to develop Poirier Lake Park within the next couple of years (beyond what was outlined at the June 7 JDF Parks Commission meeting), unless development of the park was to become “community driven” priority.

OPSRRA would like to express our thanks to Mr. Sellars-St.Claire for his generous donation. Mr. Sellars-St. Claire donated his land in the anticipation it would be used for a people friendly park. It goes without saying, that at some point in the not too distant future, the Otter Point area will have a gem of a park for local residents to visit and enjoy. The JDF Parks & Recreation Commission and their staff should be commended for the work that was required to finalize this gift to the community.

7. UPDATE: JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Ken Douch, Chair of the JDF Economic Development Commission, submitted the following update and request for community assistance to the OPSRRA newsletter.

Your Economic Development Commission has successfully applied to the Community Tourism Program, operated by the Union of BC Municipalities for the Province, for a \$25,000 grant. The commission has voted to fund the Sooke Chamber of Commerce \$7062.02 for preparation of brochures as their proposal, and to invite the Museum to tender for a number of additional heritage signs and a pamphlet providing a summary and guide to the location of heritage signs. The Parks Commission has agreed to place signs on parks property if a suitable purpose and design can be agreed upon within this program.

This represents about half of the funds available and we are still looking for help to carry out the remaining initiatives of our grant proposal

The initiatives are:

Coordinating marketing/business development activities within the region by:

- Convening an early meeting of representatives from the various communities/ associations to develop a plan (to include Tourism Victoria, SRTA and others as identified by commissioners).
- Forming a Steering Committee to oversee the initiatives set out below.

Building awareness of attractions/experience opportunities by:

- Developing brochures re artisans/points of interest wilderness experience options including winter storm watching and cross country skiing.
- Working with BC Ferries/Victoria Hotels/Tourism Victoria et al. to distribute info
- Developing a video for the tourism channel that plays in Victoria area hotels
- Working with the Sooke Region Museum staff to develop and distribute information for guided tours of the area that highlight points of historic interest. This would include signage to provide visitors with information.
- Adding material re all this to our web site (at our expense).

Simplifying way finding by:

- Building on the Wine Route promotion to add Artisan Routes/Adventure Routes.

Other ideas:

- Run a contest among local artisans to develop a logo/signage;
- Improving signage within the EA so that individuals unfamiliar with the West Coast Road and other parts of the EA can find points of interest
- Developing maps and detailed instructions tied to the various routes
- Descriptions of trails/beaches/access points indicating the degree of difficulty

In order to carry out the initiatives, we will need your help. Since the EDC is comprised solely of volunteers (with limited staff support from the CRD), we have no other resources than people in the community who are willing to give us some of their time. So, if you have an interest, please contact our Chair, Ken Douch either by email (kalsooke@shaw.ca) or by phone 250-642-2114.

8. UPDATE: SOOKE REGION MUSEUM FUNDING

The JDF Regional Director disagreed with the proposed funding formula that would have been used to increase taxpayer support for the Sooke Region Museum. The first negotiating session between the District of Sooke and the JDF Electoral Area, to renegotiate the formula, was held on Monday, July 30. More meetings are scheduled.

The JDF Electoral Area is represented at the negotiations by the Regional Director and East Sooke residents Jane Hutchins and John Corsiglia. The District of Sooke is represented by Councilors Rick Kasper, Brenda Parkinson and Shiela Beech. In addition, Diana Lokken General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services represents the CRD administration and the Board of the Sooke Region Museum is represented by Lorna Barry.

9. DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Poirier Lake in Otter Point is named after the Poirier family? Joseph Poirier Sr. came to this area after having followed the fur trade west from Quebec. He originally worked for Captain Grant at his Veitch Creek saw mill and later as a faller supplying logs to the Muir family saw mill. His son Joseph Jr., born in Sooke in

1868, later pre-empted land in the Kemp Lake area and in 1902 floated a house from Sooke Village to its present location in the 2200 block of Kemp Lake Road.

The house across from the Shirley Community Hall was originally built by the Clark family in 1912? Percy Clark purchased the lumber from his future father-in-law William Anderson who designed and built Malahat Farm and operated a small saw mill there. The house was completed in 1914 in time for his wedding to Margaret Anderson.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from *101 Historical Buildings of the Sooke Region, The Sooke Story—The History and the Heartbeat and 4,000 Years a History of the Rainforest*, 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.

10. 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**.

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	Birds Edge Press
Blue Waters B&B	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	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions	

11. 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 have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
