

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

NOTE: A final reminder to send in your comments about the second draft of the Developing a Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River. We will begin assembling the final report on August 5. See the OPSRRA web site (www.opsrra.ca) for a copy of the draft report and instructions for submitting your comments.

Saturday
August 2

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike to Grassy Lake

9:00 a.m.

Full day hike.

Meet at the gravel pit just across the Charters Creek bridge, 2900 block of Sooke River Road.

We will spend some time at the lake to swim or explore, and return to the cars late in the afternoon.

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

Please note our new web address:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Monday
August 4
BC Day

BC 150 Legacy Monument & Exhibit and Port Renfrew Road 50th Anniversary

2:00 p.m.

District of Sooke Municipal Grounds
2215 Otter Point Road

Sponsored by the Sooke Region Historical Society and the Spirit of Sooke Community Committee.

Light refreshments after the ceremony.

Tuesday
August 5

**Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee
Work on the final draft**
Public welcome!
9:30 a.m. to noon
Service Building Meeting Room
Sooke Region Museum
Sooke BC

Tuesday
August 5

**Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Special meeting
in lieu of
August 21

Sunday
August 10

**Shirley Community Association
Shirley Day**
The fun starts at 8:30 a.m. With registration for a walk/run from the Shirley Hall to Sheringham Point. Crafts, games, concession, historical display BC 150 birthday cake and entertainment.
3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Salmon BBQ

Tuesday
August 12

JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road

Meeting
cancelled due
to lack of
quorum.

Next meeting
September 9

You can obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting 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.

Monday
August 25

**OPSRRA Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Sooke Region Museum
Service Building meeting room

Tuesday
August 26

**Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society
Annual General Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Upstairs meeting room
Village Food Market, Sooke BC

Thursday
August 28

**JDF Economic Development Commission
Monthly Meeting**
6:00 pm
CRD Planning Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Note location change for this meeting only

Thursday
September 4 **Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Saturday
September 6 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike up Mt. Manuel Quimper
9:30 a.m.
Meet at the parking lot at the end of Harbour View Road.
3 ½ hour hike
Hike to the summit and back. Bring water and your lunch. Dress for
the weather.
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Second &
Fourth
Thursday
of every month **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. NEWS FROM CAMP BARNARD

Last month's newsletter story about the fierce winter wind storms of December 2006 and how the material for the BC Spirit Tree came from one of the downed trees brought this reply from Grace Seabrook, Chair of the Camp Barnard (Scouts Canada) Camp Committee. Camp Barnard is located in Otter Point at the end of Young's' Lake Road and is an important part of our community.

Until recently the wind storms of December 2006 were hardly considered serendipitous, but when it came time to repair rotted logs in Totem Lodge at Camp Barnard in fall 2007 perspectives changed. We had searched many years to find the right craftsman to deal with deterioration of this building. At last retired master log-house builder Peter Griffiths happened our way in September 2007 and he accepted the challenge of saving Totem Lodge. At the same time Ray & Gail Hogarth had acquired a portable sawmill and were looking for a place to set it up where they could have easy access to logs—no problem for us!! Peter inspected all the fallen trees on our property, recognized that several were just reaching the right stage of dryness for his requirements and set to work with Gail & Ray and camp Ranger Willy Burrows to cut timbers to order for the lodge repair. Some 300 work-hours later, by December 2007, we had a beautiful 'new' Totem Lodge. We feel good knowing that the work was carried out with Camp Barnard trees.

We have another year (at least) of work to do on this building and its accompanying McPherson Lodge but this log repair was central to the project and we feel very fortunate that things came together for us at last. One of these days we will invite the neighbours over! Meanwhile the camp is busy this summer with a variety of groups using our great space. We have 2 students from Quebec working with Willy (Camp Warden) for the next 6 weeks, improving their language skills as they help out around camp. ~Camp Barnard Committee

Grace also sent along the following information about Camp Barnard:

The Camp Barnard Committee of Cascadia Council is proud to provide a safe, nurturing environment where many community groups can carry out their youth programs.

Camp Funding

At present approximately half our annual income comes from camp fees. Greater Victoria Area Groups and Guilds raise another \$25,000 through Apple Day, Polar Bear Swim, Silent Auction and Christmas tree sales, etc. In May 2007 the first Annual Barnard Breakfast raised an additional \$15,000 for camp projects—a great kickoff to a \$120,000 renovation now underway at Totem & McPherson Lodges. A Vancouver Foundation grant of \$10,000 assisted with re-roofing both structures. \$15,000 from the Victoria Foundation in 2007 enabled us to repair serious log deterioration in Totem Lodge. Work continues on these fine buildings!

A CB Development Fund is currently invested by Scouts Canada-BC-Yukon.

Scouting volunteers participate in monthly work parties. Everyone welcome!!

Check the website for Work Party dates: www.victoria.cascadia.scouts.ca (Camp Barnard).

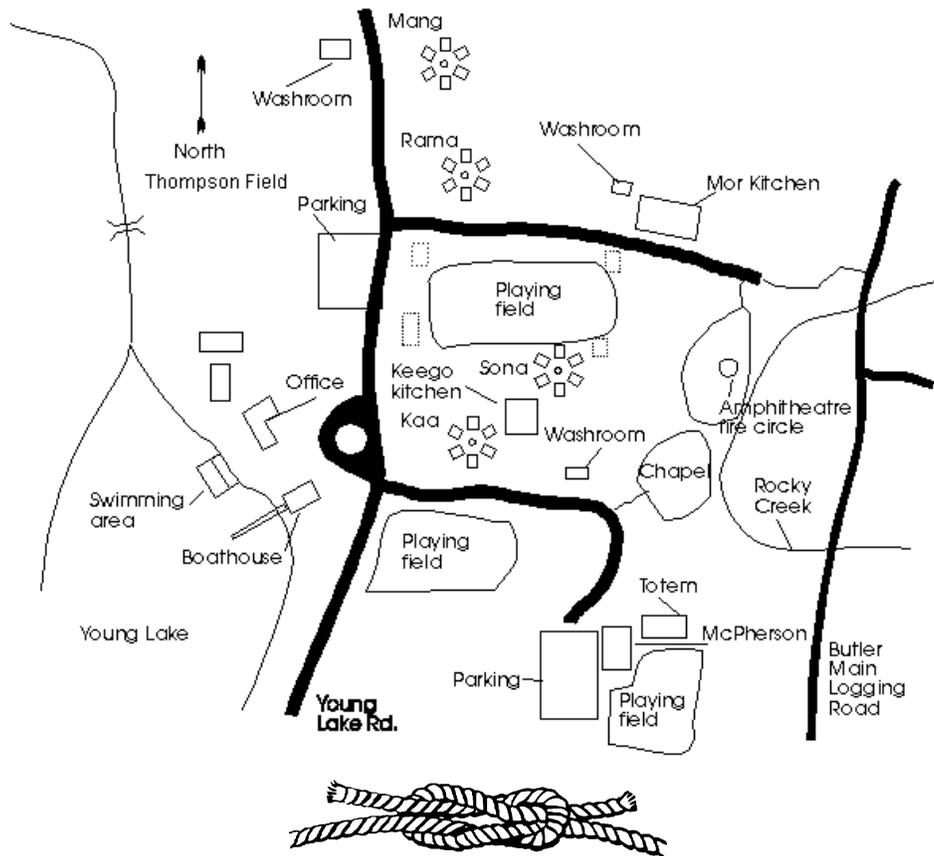
If you wish to contribute funds, time or materials to Camp Barnard please contact the Camp Committee Chair. Tax-deductible receipts are available.

Who Uses Camp Barnard?

Camp Barnard hosts approximately 10,000 camper nights per year. Approximately 50% of those coming to camp are in Scouting—from Victoria, the Island and the Mainland. Non-Scouting groups that use our facilities include:

Girl Guides	Cadets
Canada World Youth	Extreme Outreach-Super Kids
Global Lifestyles Canada	Hawkeye Men's Group
Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue	Power To Be Adventure Therapy
Latter Day Saints Women's Group	Nanaimo Parks & Recreation
Oak Bay High School Track Club*	Oaklands Chapel
Pearson College	Power of Hope Youth
Saanich Parks-Outback Recreation	Society for Creative Anachronism
SEAPARC- Sooke	Sons of Norway Youth Camp
LifeSport -Sooke Intl. Half Ironman	UVic School of Music
Victoria Youth Custody Services	Al-Madina Youth Group
Several school and church groups	Otter Point Firefighters Association

Central Areas of Camp Barnard



Key Contacts

Registrar

email: c_barnard@shaw.ca OR
 Fax : 250 642-1312

Caretaker

email: campbarnard@scouts.ca
 phone: 250 642-5924
 cell: 250 415-1619

Camp Committee Chair

Grace Seabrook
 email: rwseabrook@shaw.ca
 phone: 250 592 5747

Project Coordinators

George Clark
 email: actran@islandnet.com
 phone: 250 598-9756

Penny Hill
 email: prhill@smarttnet.com
 phone: 250 704-0309

Des Bazett
 email: dbazett@shaw.ca
 phone: 250 721-3747

Camp Barnard
 3202 Young Lake Road
 Sooke, BC V9Z 0J6

Website: www.victoria.cascadia.scouts.ca

Canoes, swimming area, chapel, amphitheatre, playing field, archery range use must be booked through Registrar or Caretaker

3. JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY TRAILS SOCIETY NEWS

The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society submitted the following to the OPSRRA newsletter.

Moving ahead on King Creek & Broom Hill Crown Lands

As reported earlier, the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society has received permission from the Ministry of Tourism, Sport [now Culture] and the Arts to maintain and build selected trails in the Broom Hill and King Creek Crown lands. While permission is granted without prejudice to future land use decisions, we can now get serious about enhancing these community trail systems in Sooke District and Otter Point for equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists. The overall goal of the Community Trails Society is to have a network of user friendly trails across Sooke and the JdF Electoral Area for the enjoyment of residents and guests to our area.

As outlined in the Society's constitution, we work with existing authorities such as the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission, the Ministry of Transport and property owners towards common goals. As evidence of success, we have the support of grants provided by the CRD and the JDFA Economic Development Commission so that members of the Society will now be able to install signs, improve existing trails and build connector trails identified with the Ministry. The developers for the 3L property and Sooke Business Park have also offered their support. Thank you all and we look forward to successful completion of these projects.

New members to the JdF Community Trails Society are welcomed. Visit our web site at www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca and contact us at sid2767@shaw.ca

4. LETTER: CRD re DELAYS IN LOCAL AREA PLANNING PROJECTS

OPSRRA recently sent the following letter to the Chair of the CRD Board of Directors.

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Ms. Denise Blackwell
Chair, CRD Board of Directors

Dear Ms. Blackwell:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association concerning two items of great importance to our community.

First of all we would like to express our thanks to the CRD for supporting the community's call for a public hearing before the provincial Subdivision Approving Officer makes a decision regarding the Western Forest Lands that have been removed from TFL 25.

Secondly, we request that the CRD Board review the staffing situation for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Planning Services office. Major developments such as the one being proposed by Western Forest Products continue to place a tremendous workload on a small staff. This, combined with the consequences of the recent

zoning changes has resulted in numerous other important planning projects being delayed or abandoned. In the past year the following local planning activities have been adversely affected:

1. A public consultation and review of the rural residential, industrial and commercial zoning that was begun over a year ago remains unfinished.
2. A promised review of the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans has not been done.
3. A promised review of the new Rural B zoning to address community concerns has not happened.
4. The completion of the JDFEA Parks Plan for our area is not proceeding as planned.
5. The Rural Resource Lands Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan which was supposed to have been concluded by now remains incomplete.

When our association spoke at the November 2007 CRD Board meeting we pointed-out that:

Planning resources for our area have been less than adequate in recent years. There has been a constant turn-over in Planners in the past 8 years. During that time we have had at least 5 Planners occupy the sole position allocated to the whole Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; and on two occasions the Planners were on contract and were only working part-time. We have had at least 3 Planning Technicians come and go during the past 5 years. The lone position was vacant for almost a year, recently filled and is now vacant again. It was during these times of understaffing and staff turn-over that the two "Accidental Subdivisions" just west of Jordan River were approved and have now added as many as 200 rural residential lots into an area that was intended by CRD Bylaw 189 to have remained Resource Land with a minimum of one dwelling on 300 acres.

Since the time of this presentation to the CRD Board the technician position has been filled but now the planner has resigned effective the end of July and no replacement has been identified.

Our recommendation to the CRD Board is that they consider the land use implications for this area as being both a cost and a benefit to the greater CRD community and that planning services be allocated out of a general planning budget to hire a planner to work exclusively on getting the delayed planning projects underway before we see further unnecessary delays resulting in more "accidental subdivisions", court challenges of the land use decision process, unfair treatment of some property owners and generally an unproductive and unsupported approach to the important task of planning for the future of the communities west of Sooke.

A reply is requested.

Arnie Campbell
President, OPSRRA

5. KEEPING YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE

Although the majority of households in Shirley and Otter Point are on community water systems that have equipment which monitors water quality and provides appropriate levels of disinfection, many others in the community depend on private systems such as wells, springs and water licenses on lakes and streams that are entirely the home owner's responsibility. Recent water tests at Poirier Lake showed that the total coliform count was 2400 per 100 ml and the E. Coli count was 4. The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) issued a boil water advisory to at least one water user on the lake. Public health guidelines state that the acceptable level is 0 fecal coliforms and not more than 10 total coliform organisms per 100 ml. Should this be of concern to water users on Poirier Lake? Well it depends: if they are not treating their water in any way, then probably yes. Although the local public health authority (VIHA) considers a count of 2400 to be within an acceptable range for an open body of water such as a lake or stream they advise boiling the water unless it is otherwise being treated.

According to information provided by the Province in their guide to water safety, naturally occurring contamination from wildlife, decomposing vegetation and run-off can account for higher coliform counts. Contamination from a faulty septic system, livestock or agricultural are also possibilities. The provincial government has produced a very informative and easy to understand guide called Safe Water Supply—Vital to Your Health. It is available on line at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/pdf/PHI052.pdf. (click on this link to see the manual)

6. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Last month's Did You Know That? described the early days of the Shirley Women's Institute. This month we learn about the history of the Otter Point branch.

Otter Point residents originally belonged to the Sooke Women's Institute?

The Sooke Women's Institute was among the first five formed in B.C. in 1909. The day after the Sooke branch was organized, the women of Otter Point met at the Otter Point School House with Laura Rose—one of the organizers of Women's Institutes (WI) in B.C. and decided to join the Sooke branch. The branch was known as the Sooke and Otter WI until 1921 when it became known as just the Sooke branch. In April of 1927 the Otter Point members established a separate branch but this was disbanded in December of that year and the Otter Point WI members rejoined the Sooke branch. Over the years the members of the combined branch worked to provide a well-baby clinic, equipped a school lunchroom and raised money for a school piano, scholarships and playground equipment. The branch was disbanded in 1975.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from *Modern Pioneers 1909-1959 British Columbia's Women's Institute* and *100 Years of B.C. Women's Institutes 1909-2009*.

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.

7. 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**.

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.

Welcome to Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage

Address: 2675 Anderson Road, Sooke BC V9Z 1G2
Phone: (250) 642-6868
Fax: (250) 642-6808
email: info@malahatfarm.com
Web: www.malahatfarm.com

Our cozy but spacious 1918 farm cottage is tucked into the forest close by local beaches and trails. It has 3 bedrooms, one ensuite on the main floor and two upstairs sharing a bathroom with a shower and claw-footed bathtub on the main floor. It is self-contained with a fully equipped kitchen, pantry with microwave, dishwasher and a back room with a small play area for children and a washer/dryer. The cottage sleeps up to 8 people depending on sleeping arrangements. Ideal location for families, book clubs, retreats and more.

Rates are \$250 per night for a couple plus \$20 per extra person (\$10 per child up to age 12) minimum two nights May 1 to October 31. Rates are \$175 in the low season, no minimum stay.

English and Portuguese spoken. Spanish attempted.

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	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
Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage	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

8. 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.
