

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE AUGUST 2009

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 **375**. 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 **235** 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: 250-642-3113
Email: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Wayne Fritz Vice-President
Phone: 250-642-0440
Email: wlfritz@shaw.ca

Bob Philips Treasurer
Phone: 250-642-3297
Email: bother@telus.net

Sandy Barta Director
Email: sbarta@shaw.ca

John Charles Director
Phone: 250-642-0382

Erik James Director
Phone: 250-642-6368
Email: mekjames@telus.net

Brenda Mark Director
Phone: 250-646-2598
Email dexmar@horizon.bc.ca

Fiona McDannold Director
Phone: 250-646-2730
Email: fmcdannold@xplornet.com

IN THIS ISSUE

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS.....	3
2. ANNUAL SHIRLEY DAY HAPPENS AUGUST 9.....	5
3. ARTS WEEKEND AT MALAHAT FARM.....	5
4. SHIRLEY EDUCATION AND ACTION SOCIETY (SEAS) ELECTS DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	6
5. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY ELECTS DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEETS WITH TIMBERWEST.....	6
6. OPSRRA MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BRANCH RE REQUEST FOR GOVERNANCE STUDY FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY.....	7
7. WILLIAM SIMMONS MEMORIAL PARK AT POIRIER LAKE.....	8
8. DID YOU KNOW THAT	9
9. FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE.....	9
10. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER.....	11

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 1

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike to Sooke Hills Grassy Lake

9:30 a.m.

Hike to one of the lakes in the Sooke Hills.

Return time: 4:30 p.m.

Round trip is 10 km and the wooded trail is uphill to 421 metres.

We will leave some cars outside 2926 Sooke River Road (across from the new water treatment plant at Charters Creek). We will car pool to the trailhead at the park entrance gate.

Grassy Lake is an excellent swimming spot. We will have a long stop at the lake to swim and explore.

Pack a set of secateurs as the trail may need clipping in a couple of spots.

Bring a lunch and plenty of water.

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

Please note our new web address:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Saturday
August 1
through
Monday
August 3

Art at Malahat Farm

Three day event

Malahat Farm

Anderson Road, Otter Point

Painting, sculpture, jewellery, photography and more.

See item 3 for details.

Contact: info@malahatfarm.com or 250-642-6868

**August
meeting
cancelled**

Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
August 9

Shirley Day

10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall and Pioneer Park

See item 2 for details.

Wednesday
August 12

Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission

Continuing review of Rural Resource Lands OCP and Land Use Bylaws. The APC will also look at a proposed amendment to Bylaw 2040 (Zoning) regarding properties within the Shirley/Jordan River OCP area that are not subject to Bylaw 2040.

Agenda available August 5

**August
meeting
cancelled**

JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road

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.

Monday
August 24

OPSRRA Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting

Members welcome!

7:30 p.m.

Sooke Region Museum
Service Building Dining Room

Tuesday
August 25

**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

Thursday
August 27

JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission

Monthly Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Thursday
September 3

**Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
September 5 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Somewhere on Juan de Fuca Marine Trail
Details to come.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Please note our web address:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Mondays **Karate for all ages**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Contact Alida Long: 642-4631

Tuesdays **Yoga**
Shirley Community Hall

Classes resume Tuesday, August 11

2. ANNUAL SHIRLEY DAY HAPPENS AUGUST 9

Shirley Day started in the early 1980s, soon after Chuck and Colleen Minten moved to Cross Point Farm in Shirley in 1979 and Chuck became the President of the Shirley Community Association. It was called "Shirley Day: a celebration of life".

This year the annual event will happen Sunday, August 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Shirley Community Hall and Pioneer Park, West Coast Road at Sheringham Point Road, Shirley.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!

The day begins with a [pancake breakfast](#) at 8:30 a.m. followed by a [fun run/walk to Sheringham Point Lighthouse](#) at 9:00 a.m. During the remainder of the day there will be a [concession](#) and [crafters, artisans and kids' activities](#). Other events include a [CD/DVD/book exchanges](#), [silent auction](#), [musical entertainment](#) and a [salmon BBQ](#).

Contact Chuck Minten for information: 250-646-2077

3. ARTS WEEKEND AT MALAHAT FARM

Roy and Veronica Diment, owners of Malahat Farm (www.malahatfarm.com) submitted the following to the OPSRRA newsletter. Their farm is located at 2675 Anderson Road (just east of Muir Creek) in Otter Point.

We had been thinking for some time of setting up a small gallery to display Roy's photography. Impressed by the number and variety of artists living nearby, they decided to make the gallery a co-operative effort by inviting other local artists to join in. Veronica says, "I liked the idea of the farm gallery becoming a neighbourhood effort—a way to build community—local artists showing locally." The founding artists all live within half a kilometre of the farm.

Pomona Shea is an artistic adventurer. Painting in the tradition of post-impressionism, her bold and colourful canvases cover a range of subjects. "I see

paintings as maps,” Shea says, “charting the interaction of the sensibilities of the artist with the dictates of creative inspiration.”

Pierre de Wispelaere’s prints, from pastel and coloured pencil originals, are exquisitely detailed. Maritime and aviation art is his specialty; ships in full sail, battles at sea, or in the air; all painstakingly researched for accuracy. Along with the ships and planes you may also find more light-hearted looks inside a tavern, or gentle scenes of lighthouses.

Rusty Sage’s fine furniture uses local woods and local themes. Sage focuses on handwork and will be bringing his shaving horse for people to try out.

Roy Diment’s photographic art displays a fine sense of form and composition, whether the subject is a simple blue door in an adobe wall, or the details of a flower petal. His work is displayed in Giglee archival prints.

Katherine Woods is known for her wildlife sculpture in soapstone, but she will also have her new pottery creations on display, as well as her whimsical cards designs. Kate will be demonstrating her stone carving from time to time over the course of the weekend.

Many of these artists have had work accepted in Sooke Fine Arts. Other artists have been asked to join this core group for the August long weekend when the Muir Creek Gallery will be open to the public, 10 to 5 each day, with displays and demonstrations around the farm as well. Everyone is invited to come see the art, meet the alpacas and Max, the llama, bringing a picnic if they wish, or to bring their own artwork display to set up. Bring your horn to toot, guitar to strum, drum to bong. Bring friends. You get the idea, right? Let’s make this a big party.

4. SHIRLEY EDUCATION AND ACTION SOCIETY (SEAS) ELECTS DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Shirley Education and Action Society (SEAS) held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, July 29. The following were elected to the society’s Board of Directors for the coming year.

President	John Walls
Vice President	Michael Galizio
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Tidwell
Directors	Eric Ellis and Mark Vratnik

5. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY ELECTS DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEETS WITH TIMBERWEST

The Muir Creek Protection Society (MCPS) held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, July 10. The following were elected as the society’s directors for the coming year:

President	Alanda Carver
Vice-President	Amanda Swinimer
Secretary	Kim Reid
Treasurer	Jennifer Graham
Director at Large	Brent Burley.

On July 14 a representative from the MCPS Board of Directors, CRD Parks and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director met with representatives from TimberWest, owners of the land in the Muir Creek area, to discuss how the borders of Muir Creek north of Highway 14 and perhaps the Muir Creek watershed could be protected. It was proposed that TimberWest sign a covenant with the CRD to protect a portion of Muir Creek. The details are still unknown; however the land

being considered apparently does not include the estuary area south of the Muir Creek Bridge. Thoughts of this being bought as parkland are a CRD Parks priority but they don't have the money to do anything about it at the moment, according to Jeff Ward, CRD Manager of Planning, Resource Management and Development. Mr. Ward was the guest speaker at the MCPS AGM. In the meantime, TimberWest has been asked to stop their logging operations in the Muir Creek area pending further talks between the parties. Hopefully they can soon come to an agreement on how the area can be protected.

OPSRRA recently wrote the Chair of the CRD Parks Committee and the Provincial Minister of the Environment in support of the continuing efforts to have Muir Creek protected. We received replies to both letters. In the letter from the Ministry they mention that their Parks and Protected Areas Division staff is presently conducting a preliminary assessment of the natural, cultural and recreational values of a portion of the upper Muir Creek watershed. The Chair of CRD Parks Committee replied that the amended 2007 CRD Parks Master Plan now includes the Muir Creek watershed as an area of interest for a future regional park and that this designation recognizes the regional significance of the area and that it will be considered as one of the priorities for future land acquisition.

6. OPSRRA MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BRANCH RE REQUEST FOR GOVERNANCE STUDY FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY

On July 2nd OPSRRA sent the following letter to the newly appointed Minister for Community and Rural Development, requesting a meeting.

Dear Minister Bennett:

Members of the Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision project Steering Committee had a very informative session with your predecessor in November, 2008. The Strategic Vision project is now concluded and our ratepayers' association has assumed responsibility for follow-up.

The purpose of our November, 2008 meeting with Minister Lekstrom was to review the outcomes of the Strategic Vision; a document that was completed last year after two years of community consultations, forums and workshops with residents of the communities of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River. Whereas some may consider the area west of Sooke as a blank canvas upon which to haphazardly splash paint and then wait to see what it may look like, our association believes that change should happen in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents. Progress has been made towards achieving some of the goals of the Strategic Vision, but effecting any changes to local governance and rural land use remain beyond the community's reach as they fall within the mandate of the Provincial Government and the Capital Regional District. Since our meeting with Minister Lekstrom, there has been mention of funding being available from the province for a governance study and that terms-of-reference are being considered by the province and CRD. Our association has been lobbying for a governance study for our area for the past five years and would like an opportunity to have direct contact with you on this important matter.

OPSRRA followed-up on this letter and two members of our Board of Directors were invited to a meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Governance and the Executive Director of the Governance Structure Branch. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- There will be no Provincial money available for an Otter Point/Shirley governance study in 2009/ 2010, and probably 2010/2011 as well, because of budget cutbacks.
- The Metchosin/East Sooke governance study will proceed.
- The Governance Structure Branch would prefer that Otter Point & Shirley seek alternatives within the present system instead of looking to a governance study to resolve our governance concerns.
- The Governance Structure Branch feels that the District of Sooke currently has no interest in expanding its boundaries and that the issue of annexation of property in the JDFEA by the District of Sooke could be addressed by coming to an understanding with the District of Sooke. They suggest that the Regional Director approach the District with the idea of setting up a formal process to review common concerns and interests. Perhaps a quarterly meeting with representatives from the JDFEA and the District of Sooke could be established?
- The election, instead of the appointment, of the Alternate Regional Director, was discussed. This is already being looked into by the Governance Structure Branch. The ability for Electoral Areas to be able to elect more than one regional director is being considered.
- The Branch has been working through the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM), with a number of elected officials from around the Province, on proposed changes to the way in which Electoral Areas are governed. The committee's recommendations will be presented at the September 28 UBCM meeting.
- The recommendations of the committee will become public at that time and OPSRRA was invited to meet with the Governance Structure Branch again in October.
- The matter of urban First Nations (i.e. Songhees and Esquimalt Bands) being part of the JDFEA was considered. There appears to be no immediate solution to this, but ideas were discussed such as First Nations in the CRD becoming a separate Electoral Area and having their own elected regional director on the CRD Board. Attaching First Nations communities to a municipality rather than to an Electoral Area is possible; but would require the agreement of both the Reserve and the municipality and is not likely to happen.
- The Governance Structure Branch is not trying to move Otter Point and Shirley into annexation with the District of Sooke, but would rather work with us to find a way of improving our governance without incorporation.

7. WILLIAM SIMMONS MEMORIAL PARK AT POIRIER LAKE

OPSRRA has now put together a short history of the William Simmons Memorial Park and a selection of pictures taken prior to and during the June clean-up of the park area. Visit the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca later in August and click-on William Simmons Memorial Park.

One of Erik Sellars St. Clare's original paintings was found the day of the park clean-up and one of the volunteers took it upon herself to have the picture suitably reframed. Once that is done the picture will be donated to the Juan de Fuca

Electoral Area in Erik's memory. The cost of the reframing is going to be \$260. One hundred and sixty-five dollars has already been raised through donations from the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society, the Shirley Education & Action Society, a private individual and the person who has undertaken the reframing project. If you would like to contribute something towards the outstanding \$95 needed to cover her costs you can contact any OPSRRA director with your donation. Any money raised in excess of the cost of doing the framing will be put towards a commemorative plaque to be attached to the frame.

8. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

At one time Otter Point had a post office, store and two traveling stores? One of the Otter Point post office locations (between 1911 and 1917) was in a building located across the road from Scarf House, which is located in the 3600 block of Otter Point Road. The post office building is long gone but in its day was operated by Oscar Scarf who had bought the 1887 Scarf House in 1911. He operated Scarf House as a stage stop and boarding house between 1911 and 1920.

Oscar Scarf also had a store in the same building as the post office. There were also two travelling stores in the area operated by the Olsen and the Ness families. These were covered wagon affairs with a canvas top and supplied dry goods and "trinkets" to the local homesteads.

Edwin Clark opened the first store in Shirley in 1892? The store carried general stock and supplied local fishermen, ranchers and Natives. Edwin was also rowing the four miles to the Otter Point post office to collect the mail for himself and his neighbours. In 1983 a petition was sent by Shirley residents to the federal Postmaster-General asking for a post office at Sheringham Point (which is what Shirley was called at that time). The Postmaster-General agreed to the post office but objected to the Sheringham Point name because it was too long to fit onto the date stamp used to cancel postage. Mrs. Giles Clark (Edwin's mother) was asked to suggest another name and she chose Shirley, a place near Southampton, England where her and her husband had come from. Edwin was appointed Postmaster and Mail Carrier; and the Shirley post office was duly shown on maps from then on.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** came from *4,000 Years—A History of the Rainforest*, *The Sooke Story: The History and the Heartbeat*, and *101 Historical Buildings* all written and published by the Sooke Region Museum, *This Really Happened* by Jean Stuart Clark, and *The Pot & Spiller* written by Jean Robinson.

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. Contact us at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

9. 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.

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

Kemp Lake Store

Kirsten Sykes, Realtor

Knotty Beds by Nature

Le Sooke Spa

Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage

Ocean Wilderness Inn

Otter Point Beach House

Reflexology by Marlene Barry

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

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

10. 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.
