

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY  
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)  
INFORMATION UPDATE - DECEMBER 2005**

**WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**

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 325. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

**Lifetime memberships are \$5.00** and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site ([www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)) 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 100 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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## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Upcoming Meetings and Events
2. Outcomes of the November 19 Elections
3. Commentary & Comparison of Election Results
4. Update on OPSRRA's Request for a Governance Study
5. Update on District of Sooke's Proposed Annexation of Otter Point Properties
6. TimberWest to Log Muir/Tugwell Creek Area North of Anderson Road
7. TimberWest 557 Acre Property in Otter Point Sold
8. Update on Crown Lands in Shirley & Otter Point
9. Upcoming Changes at JDF Planning Services & Building Inspection Office
10. CRD Yard & Garden Materials Landfill Ban
11. New Web Site Address For OPSRRA
12. Free Advertising for Businesses in Shirley & Otter Point
13. Back Issues of the OPSRRA Newsletter

### 1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

Tuesday  
December 6

#### **JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**

7:00 p.m.  
District of Sooke Council Chambers  
Council Chambers  
2225 Otter Point Road

You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning Services office, 2225 Otter Point Road or on the CRD website at: [www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm) . Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Sunday  
December 11

#### **Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society Annual General Meeting**

2:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

Saturday  
December 7

#### **Otter Point Fire Department Candy Cane Run**

Check the December 14 issue of the Sooke News Mirror for the route and approximate times of Santa's travels around Otter Point.



Tuesday  
December 20

#### **OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome!**

7:30 p.m.  
Board Room  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Rd. Sooke

Second and Fourth  
Thursday  
of every month

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

## 2. OUTCOMES OF THE NOVEMBER 19 ELECTIONS

### School Trustees:

There were eight candidates for the three vacancies in the Milnes Landing Zone of the Sooke School District. Margot Swinburnson and Rob Gordy were re-elected. Bob Phillips was elected to the remaining vacancy. Both Bob and Margot are Otter Point residents and members of OPSRRA. All eight School Trustee candidates made excellent presentations at OPSRRA's November 2 All Candidates meeting. Congratulations to the successful candidates.

### Regional Director:

At OPSRRA's request, the CRD and Tom Moore, Chief Elections Officer, provided us with poll-by-poll results for the JDF Electoral Area Regional Director election.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Henson</b>	<b>Lund</b>
Advance Voting at Sooke Community Hall:	15	39
Advance Voting at Sooke School District #62 offices:	2	8
Port Renfrew:	31	29
Jordan River:	0	4
Shirley:	48	79
East Sooke:	223	271
Willis Point:	45	98
Malahat:	5	16
Otter Point:	203	188
View Royal Indian Reserves:	59	4
<b>TOTAL (631 + 736 = 1367 votes cast):</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>736</b>

### 3. COMMENTARY & COMPARISON OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

The recently updated Juan de Fuca Electoral Area voters' list identified a total of 4,618 eligible voters:

Area	Electors
View Royal Indian Reserves:	1,047
East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew and the Malahat combined:	3,365
Willis Point:	206

Using these figures, there was an estimated 29% turn out.

#### Comparison of total regional director votes cast:

Year	Eligible Voters	Votes Cast
1999	unknown	1,635
2002	4,000 (estimated)	1,182
2005	4,618 (confirmed)	1,367

Because residents living on the View Royal Indian Reserves are allowed to vote for the JDF Regional Director, there are two ways that you can calculate the percentage of voter turn out. If you include the approximately 1,000 View Royal voters, the turn out for both the 2002 and 2005 election is about 29%. If you remove them from the number of eligible voters, the turn out for both 2002 and 2005 was about 38%.

#### For comparison, here are the turn out figures for 2002 and 2005:

Area	2002	2005
Advance Voting:	52	64
Port Renfrew:	50	60
Jordan River:	11	4
Shirley:	111	127
East Sooke:	452	494
Willis Point:	138	143
Malahat:	29	21
Otter Point:	300	391
View Royal Indian Reserves:	39	63
TOTAL:	1182	1367

#### Inclusion of the View Royal Indian Reserves:

The inclusion of the View Royal Indian Reserves within the JDF Electoral Area should be questioned. Although these voters have not voted in any great number (about 4% in 2002 and 6% in 2005) they constitute about 31% of the eligible voters and could seriously skew the results of an election if they voted in proportion to the rest of the Electoral Area. The only reason that they are included in our voting area is that the Esquimalt and Songhees Native Bands have entered into a contract with

the CRD to purchase about 20 miscellaneous services such as Stormwater Control, Emergency Response, Regional Parks, Regional Planning, Family Court, etc. and are therefore entitled to have representation at the CRD Board. They are “orphans” within the CRD and have to be attached to a CRD director—somewhere—which just happens to be the JDF Electoral Area. However, they do not receive any land use or planning services from the JDF Electoral Area as their governance is the responsibility of their Native Band Councils.

#### 4. OUTCOME OF THE KEMP LAKE ANNEXATION REFRENDUM

On November 19, voters in Sooke were asked to indicate their support for or against the District of Sooke’s plan to proceed with the annexation of properties in East Sooke and Otter Point. The outcomes of the Sooke Boundary Extension referendum were:

Area	Yes	No
East Sooke	2,002	1,137
Otter Point	2,037	1,092

At OPSRRA’s February 2005 Annual General Meeting, a motion was passed by the membership opposing annexation of any part of Otter Point by the District of Sooke. Since then, OPSRRA directors have worked hard to try and convince Sooke voters not to support the annexation of 263 acres around Kemp Lake (See our September newsletter for a summary of activities undertaken by OPSRRA). Given the high level of support for annexation shown by Sooke voters it is quite likely that the newly elected Sooke Council will continue their boundary extension negotiations with the province. OPSRRA will continue to ask the province to respect Otter Point’s concerns in these negotiations.

OPSRRA usually has few expenses and, at \$5.00 for a lifetime membership, we can’t afford many! However, our efforts to lobby the province and the voters of Sooke have taken a lot of time and some money. For example, the cost of the mailer to Sooke voters, that was included in the November 16 issue of the Sooke News Mirror, was about \$250. We have received some donations towards this expense, but we need more financial support.

**Contributions from members would be appreciated. Contact any OPSRRA director if you are able to help-out. Maybe you could buy an OPSRRA membership for that “special someone” in your life?**

#### 5. GOVERNANCE STUDY FOR JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA

The OPSRRA membership passed a motion at the February AGM calling for a governance study for our area. OPSRRA has been pursuing this with the province, with the assistance of John Horgan, our MLA. The Minister of Community Services has recently agreed to a representative of her ministry meeting with community groups in Otter Point and Shirley to discuss the possibility of a governance study. More details should be known shortly.

#### 6. TIMBERWEST TO LOG MUIR CREEK/TUGWELL CREEK (NORTH OF ANDERSON ROAD)

TimberWest has begun preparations to log their private forest lands in the Muir Creek and Tugwell Creek areas. This was brought to OPSRRA’s attention in October by some of our members who live at Elder Camp located at the northern end of Anderson Road. They had the following concerns and asked for OPSRRA to become involved on their behalf:

- Damage that falling, yarding, etc. could do to the 6,000 foot waterline that runs across TimberWest's land from Tugwell Creek to Elder Camp.
- Logging too close to Muir Creek.
- Windfalls that could block Anderson Road if they leave too thin of a trim.
- Windfalls that could fall onto buildings at Elder Camp if TimberWest logs to their property line along the north side of Elder Camp

OPSRRA contacted TimberWest on several occasions and was informed that:

- Logging would not be taking place in the vicinity of Elder Camp or Anderson Road.
- Some changes to creek set-backs were made at the request of the Department of Fisheries.
- A letter had been sent to the owner of Elder Camp concerning the waterline and TimberWest's logging plans for the area.

OPSRRA has asked TimberWest to arrange a meeting with the residents of Elder Camp prior to the planned commencement of logging in early 2006. TimberWest has indicated that they want to see the reply to the letter that they sent to the owner of Elder Camp before agreeing to a meeting. Meanwhile some of the residents of Elder Camp are carrying-on their efforts to lobby for the protection of Muir Creek and Tugwell Creek from being damaged by further logging. To that end, the Muir Creek Protection Society has been formed. The goal of the society is to create parkland in the Muir Creek watershed and to protect as much of the Muir Creek and Tugwell Creek watershed areas as possible.

Membership in the Muir Creek Protection Society is \$2.00. Memberships and further information about the society can be obtained from Alanda Carver, President Muir Creek Protection Society, #1-2745 Anderson Road, Sooke, B.C. V0S 1N0. Phone: 642-3001.

## **7. CROWN LANDS UPDATE**

The Ministry of Agriculture is now responsible for provincial Crown Lands and has informed OPSRRA that two large pieces of Crown Land in Shirley and Otter Point have been identified in the Te'mexw Treaty Association land selection process. This means that Section 52 (Otter Point Road) and Block A of District Lot 102 (French Beach) will likely be returned to local Native Bands as part of the provincial Land Claims settlement process.

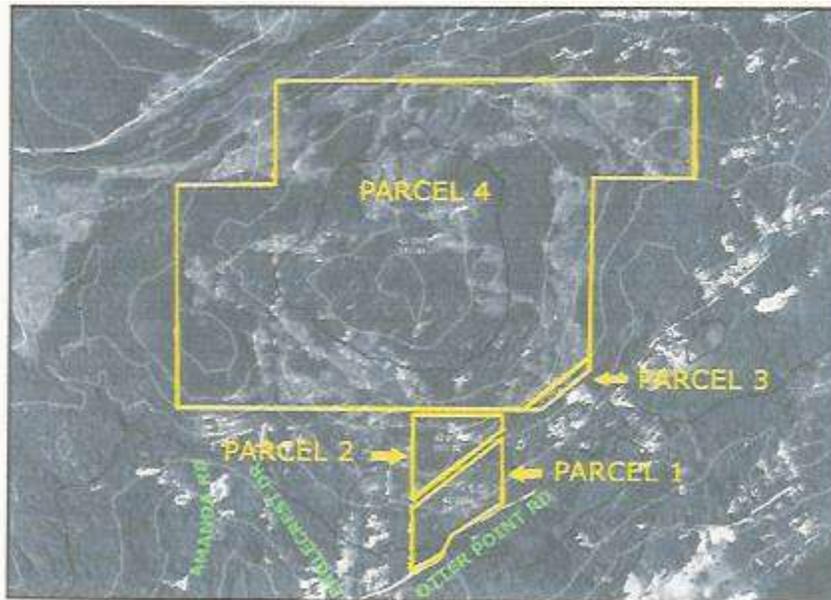
OPSRRA will continue to lobby for the donation of a piece of Section 52 - where the Old Otter Point School used to reside, for a community park.

## 8. TIMBERWEST OTTER POINT ACERAGE SOLD

The TimberWest property, originally identified in an October 2005 OPSRRA newsletter story, has been conditionally sold. The deal is expected to be concluded by the end of December. This is a significant event for Otter Point as the property's 557 acres represents about 6% of the 9439 acres land use inventory included in Otter Point's new Official Community Plan, and 7.15% of the 7781 acres identified for settlement. The following is the story that ran in our October newsletter.

OPSRRA contacted Timber West in October regarding its plans for a 557 acre parcel of managed forest land in Otter Point, between Farmer Road (West) and Tugwell Road (East). Timber West informed OPSRRA that it has already placed the property for sale as potential residential development acreages. The property is presently zoned Rural A. World-wide real estate services company jjBarnicke is handling the sale and they have listed the property at \$4.4 million dollars. Parcel 1 is 19.75 acres, Parcel 2 is 20.3 acres, Parcel 3 (directly behind the Otter Point Fire Hall) is 2.91 acres and Parcel 4 is 513.72 acres—see map below.

Timber West has been actively logging the remainder of the timber off this property for the past few months. The loud “whirring & buzzing” noise that some local residents have been hearing as early as 4:45 a.m. is a mechanical harvester. So, if you were blaming a mower, chipper, industrial planner or sawmill for having your morning sleep-in interrupted this past summer and fall, you were wrong!



## 9. CHANGES AT THE JDF ELECTORAL AREA OFFICES

The following changes are happening at the Planning Services office located at 2205 Otter Point Road.

- Ken Cossey completed his contract as Senior Planner/Administrator but will remain as the planner for the Official Community Plan/Zoning Bylaw Committees until their work is completed. Ken was recently elected the regional director for the South Cowichan Regional District.
- Graham Stallard, who replaced Ken Cossey for several months as Senior Planner/Administrator, has retired (again).

- Gerard LeBlanc has been hired, on contract, to be the new Senior Planner/Administrator for our area. His e-mail address is: [gleblanc@crd.bc.ca](mailto:gleblanc@crd.bc.ca)
- The JDF Electoral Area offices are moving early in the New Year. A new location has been tentatively rented in Sooke and will be confirmed once the CRD Board approves the office lease at their December 7 meeting.
- The CRD Building Inspection Service will also relocate to the new premises.

## 10. CRD YARD & GARDEN MATERIALS LANDFILL BAN

The CRD's Solid Waste Management Division has informed OPSRRA that organic yard and garden materials such as grass, flowers, leaves and shrubs will be banned from the Hartland landfill effective 03 April 2006. The CRD is inviting public input on the ban to identify any potential problems associated with this ban. Additional information is available from:

The CRD Hotline: 360-3030  
 The CRD web site: [www.crd.bc.ca/es](http://www.crd.bc.ca/es)

Written comments on the ban will be accepted until December 10th 2005. The mailing address is: PO Box 1000 Victoria, BC, V8W 2S6

## 11. OPSRRA'S NEW WEB SITE

OPSRRA's new web site is located at [www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca). A new look has already made its appearance and other changes will be added shortly.

## 12. 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.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

Malahat Farms B&B	Beaches West B&B	Birds Edge Press
ALM Organic Farm	Full Circle Seeds	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery	Kemp Lake Store	Sandy's Drywall Ltd
1001 Welding & Equipment Repair		Otter Point Beach House

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

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site.

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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.ca](http://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.

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