

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2005**

**REFERENDUM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE WHETHER THE RESIDENTS OF OTTER POINT AND
SHIRLEY WISH TO JOIN THE DISTRICT OF SOOKE**

Wednesday
February 3

ADVANCE POLL
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sooke Community Hall

Saturday
February 5

REFERENDUM
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
and
Shirley Community Hall

**IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED IN A RECENT REGIONAL DIRECTOR/SCHOOL
TRUSTEE ELECTION, YOU MAY NOT BE ON THE VOTERS LIST.**

IF YOU THINK THAT YOU AREN'T ON THE VOTERS LIST:

**BRING 2 PIECES OF I.D. TO THE POLL:
ONE SHOULD BE A PICTURE I.D. AND THE OTHER SHOULD SHOW
YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS (E.G. UTILITY BILL OR PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT).**

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER,
TOM MOORE AT (250) 472-0059**

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. It was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 350.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (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 60 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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 Email:
pungentetheplumber@shaw.ca

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact OPSRRA

to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar

Wednesday
February 3

ADVANCE POLL
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sooke Community Hall

Saturday
February 5

REFERENDUM
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
and
Shirley Community Hall

Monday
February 7

Hearing:
Otter Point Official Community Plan (Bylaw 3239)
7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

Monday
February 14

Hearing:
Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (Bylaw 3229)
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday
February 15

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

Wednesday
February 23

Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) Annual General Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

Second and Fourth
Thursday
of every month

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

2. REPORT ON AMALGAMATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING: JANUARY 10, 2005

OPSRRA Vice-President and Boundary Restructure committee member, Arnie Campbell, gave an update of the Boundary Restructuring committee's progress.

Following the report, comments were invited from the executive and members as to their concerns on the proposed amalgamation. Comments were:

- Sooke is "maxed out" to \$10 million on their borrowing and need more population or density for more borrowing power
- Fire Department trustees will only stay for three years after incorporation; Council will then make decisions. There is concern that fire equipment will be moved to Sooke at that time

- It was noted that the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is looking to appoint its own Approving Officer in regard to land use
- There are only three issues: services, taxes & land use. We don't need the same services that Sooke has. Taxes will go up if we join Sooke. Land use is not an issue since introducing the newly elected Land Use committee
- With Sooke's financial debt, there is no benefit
- On many pages of the draft of the Boundary Restructure report, many addition errors were noted
- Tom Reid (consultant to the Boundary restructure committee and author of the committee's report) stated that these errors do not affect the outcome of study

A motion was passed by membership attending this meeting that OPSRRA oppose amalgamation with Sooke.

A straw vote of members (approximately 50 in attendance) indicated that the vast majority was not in favour of not joining Sooke.

A motion was passed to form a committee to get people out to vote. In the last CRD election, only 30% of electors voted.

There was a letter read by a member from another member but it was lengthy and was not given to the recording secretary. I talked with the member and was told it wasn't meant to be read out.

The opinion of the majority of the people who spoke was that they were very reluctant and wary of joining Sooke.

The executive and directors of OPSRRA urge everyone to get out and exercise their democratic right to vote. See you at the next meeting with will be OPSRRA's AGM on Wednesday, February 23rd.

[Ken Pungente](#)

Note: Starting in March, the OPSRRA directors will be holding their monthly meeting at the Otter Point Fire Hall. These meetings will be open to OPSRRA members. Dates and time will be announced at the February 23 AGM.

3. OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER OCP PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Otter Point OCP (Bylaw No. 3239) will be going to Public Hearing:

Date	Monday, February 7
Time	7:00 p.m.
Place	Otter Point Fire Hall

The Shirley/Jordan River OCP (Bylaw 3229) will be going to Public Hearing:

Date	Monday, February 14
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Time 7:00 p.m.
Place Shirley Community Hall

The purpose of these two Public Hearing is to address the following issues:

- Develop an Official Community Plan for Otter Point;
- Revise Development Permit areas;
- Revise Land Use development policies;
- Designate a Development Approval information area

Copies of Bylaws 3229 and 3239 may be viewed at:
the CRD Electoral Area Planning Services office at 2205 Otter Point Road or
on the web at www.crd.bc.ca/jdf

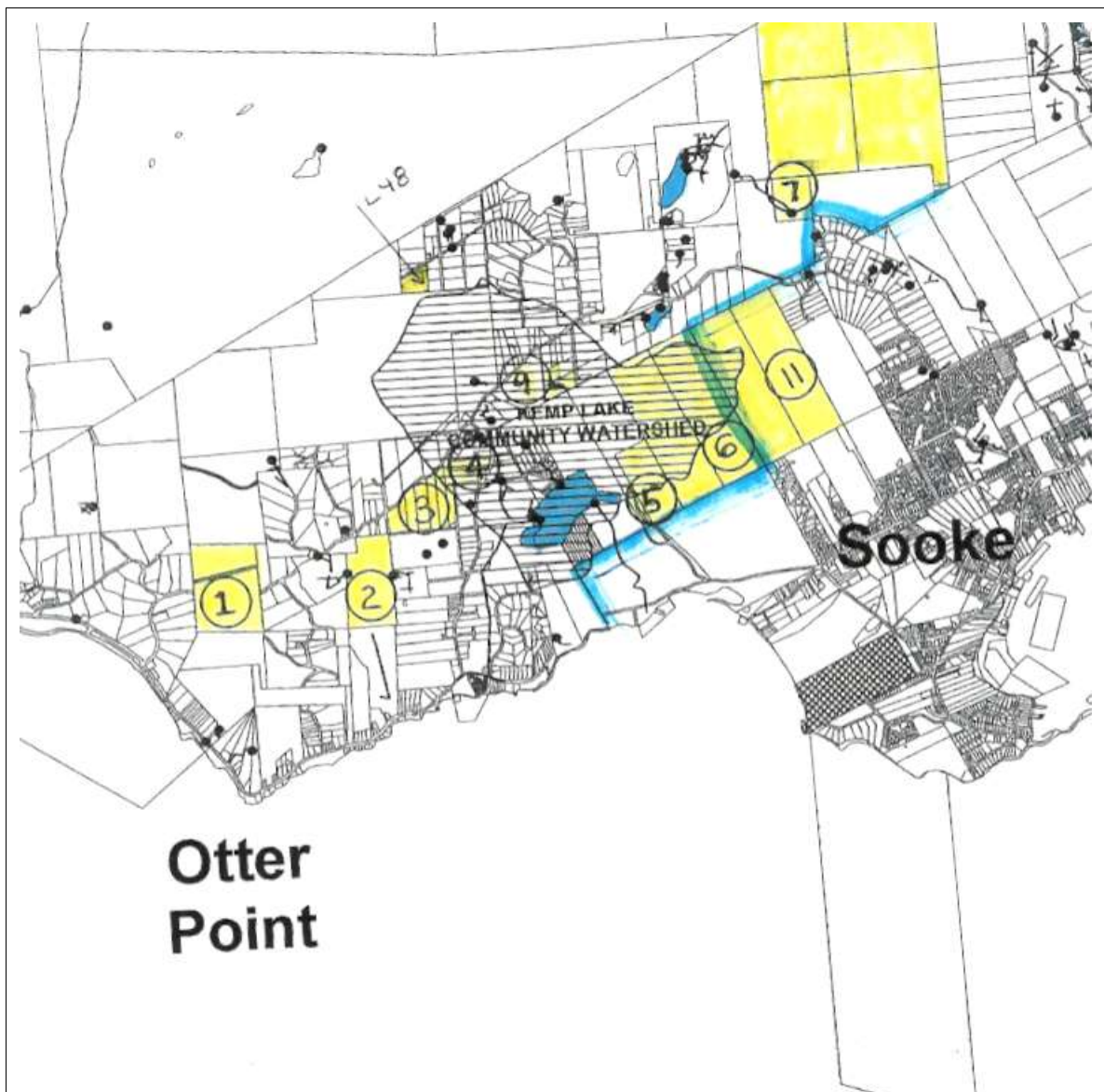
4. CROWN LAND IN OTTER POINT

The B.C. Crown Lands Sales Division of the provincial department of Land, Water and Air provided the map below. The areas highlighted in yellow are crown lands. The province is presently reviewing what pieces of crown land need to be held as part of the First Nations treaty negotiations and which pieces can be put on the open real estate market. A spokesman for the Land Sales division has confirmed with OPSRRA that they will likely not sell any crown lands in our area in the coming year.

OPSRRA's interest in knowing more about local crown land was threefold:

- Help the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point anticipate what changes might come about as crown land is put on the market for private Development. These crown lands represent a significant portion of our community's land base and any sudden change in their use could have a noticeable impact on our community.
- Coordinate this information with the on-going development of Official Community Plans.
- Help the ratepayers association and other local interest groups such as the recreation commission and the Trails association to consider where crown land could be traded, purchased or consolidated (as development occurred) so that we could plan for proposals for future community services such as parks, trails, etc.

Note: The blue line on the map indicates the boundary between the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and the District of Sooke.



5. CRD NATURAL ATLAS

The CRD has produced an aerial map of the Capital Regional District. View the map on their web site at www.crd.bc.ca. Look for the Natural Atlas on their web page and follow the instructions. With a bit of practice you will be able to view aerial photographs of your neighbourhood with details such as roads, property lines and streams. It's good fun and very informative!

6. THANK-YOU TO THE SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION & OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Both the Shirley Community Association and the Otter Point Fire Department deserve a thank-you from all of us living in the Otter Point/Shirley area. This has been an extremely busy five months with Official Community Plan meetings, Boundary Restructure meetings, Christmas parties, various association meetings and other events happening at the halls. Throughout this time the Shirley Community Association and the Otter Point Fire department have ensured that their halls were available to the community. While these are community facilities that are intended to be used by the community, it should be remembered that it also takes a commitment from volunteers who are prepared to open-up, set-up

chair and tables, remain there during the event, put things away afterwards, clean-up and then lock the building—sometimes as often as four times a week!

7. RECENTLY ELECTED SHIRLEY FIRE TRUSTEES

The following were elected at the December 12 Annual general Meeting of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society:

Fire Trustees:

President:	Dom Bernardet
Vice-President:	James Powell
Secretary:	Sarah Tidwell
Treasurer:	Dick Kirby
Directors:	Roseanne Day Teresa Mulhall Sherri Ross

The new Shirley Fire Chief is Carl Nelson and the Deputy Fire Chief is Robert VanVeen.

8. CHANGES TO THE OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY ADDRESSING SYSTEM

OPSRRA requested this up-date from the CRD Civic Addressing Project:

In 2003, the CRD Civic Addressing Project was initiated in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area which includes Willis Point, the Malahat, East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew. The two year project focuses on improving the continuity of house numbers in the area, primarily for Emergency 911 location purposes.

A Civic Addressing Advisory Committee was formed as part of the project. Members include the local fire departments and dispatch, RCMP/911, BC Ambulance, Canada Post, BC Hydro, BC Assessment Authority, Building Inspection and TELUS. The committee has identified the need to develop a sequential, continuous addressing system within the electoral area and with adjoining municipalities. This approach to addressing benefits emergency services groups and dispatch as well as service providers such as TELUS and BC Hydro who rely heavily on the address to locate a property. It reduces the chance of duplication of addresses within the CRD and retains an overall numbering scheme that can ease location efforts for those not familiar with an area.

The most common question regarding the project is whether or not an address is going to change. Recommendations for address changes were put forward only if it was felt that the existing address might lead to confusion in locating the property, was out of sequence with the surrounding numbers or did not fit well into the model established to ensure on-going addressing continuity in the region.

As a result, approximately 10% of property owners in the Otter Point region and all of the property owners in the Shirley region are being asked to change their address. In February 2005, letters will be sent to property

owners advising them of their final civic address. To ensure that the transition to a new address goes smoothly, residents are asked to post a sign with the final address within three months of receipt of the letter. Property owners can view maps with addresses for their specific area at the Web site given below.

Because of the importance of correct house numbers in the Emergency 911 system and for local services, the addresses will be distributed to the agencies on the Advisory Committee so they can update their records. The development of an on-going addressing system will ensure that communication with these agencies is maintained into the future.

If you are interested in the project or in the address(es) assigned to your property, you can visit the CRD Web site at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/addressing.htm> You may also contact Kelly Edwards, project coordinator, at kedwards@crd.bc.ca or 360-3042.

9. FISHERIES & OCEANS CANADA DRAFT POLICY ON WILD SALMON

Fisheries and Oceans Canada sent the following letter to OPSRRA with a request that it be circulated in the community.

To: Stakeholders, Interested Individuals, Organizations and Local Governments DRAFT WILD SALMON POLICY

I am writing to request your feedback and input on the draft Wild Salmon Policy, which was released today, and to outline Fisheries and Oceans Canada's process for consultation.

The policy proposes a framework to guide future decisions about conserving wild salmon populations in British Columbia and the Yukon. The policy recommends processes for decision-making that are open and transparent, involve a full range of public interests and balance the needs of wild salmon with those of a broad range of interest.

In June 2000, the Department held extensive consultations with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to introduce the principles of the *Wild Salmon Policy*; clarify the intent of the policy; and explore implications for fisheries and stock management.

A copy of this draft report and a consultation guide, which was designed to assist in compiling feedback and advice, can be obtained using the contact information provided below. Both are available through a website, by e-mail, fax or mail.

Today, the Department is launching a consultation process with First Nations, stakeholders and the public. In particular, the Department would like feedback and input on Strategies 1- 5 in the draft policy.

All interested parties are invited to provide written submissions through a website, by e-mail, fax or mail. The deadline for submissions is February 18, 2005.

For further information contact:

Mark Saunders (604) 666-6786

Website: http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/ws/default_e.htm

Email: wsp@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Fax: (604) 666-3295

Mail Address: Wild Salmon Policy Consultations Policy and
Economic Analysis Branch Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
200-401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4.

10. JUAN DE FUCA LAND USE COMMITTEE AGENDA

The next meeting of the JDF Land Use Committee is:

Date: Tuesday, February 15

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road

The agenda should be available from the CRD Electoral Area Planning Services Office (2205 Otter Point Rd.) on Friday, February 11.

Contact the Planning Services Office (642-1620) for further information.

11. 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. 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) under Business Listings.

OPSRRA welcomes the following new listings to its business services web site:

[Otter Point Beach House](#), 7947 West Coast Road, operated by Hugh & Graciela Waller.

Phone: 642-6401

Fax: 642-1064

Email: info@otterpointbeachhouse.com

Web site: www.otterpointbeachhouse.com

[Sandy's Drywall Ltd.](#) operated by Sandy Sinclair.

Phone: 642-2614

Cell: 812-2933

Email: sandysinclair@shaw.ca

Other local businesses listed on the OPSRRA web site are:

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	1001 Welding & Equipment Repair

12. YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES & HOW TO CONTACT THEM

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director: Erik Lund

Office: 2205 Otter Point Road
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
Phone: 642-1620
Fax: 642-5274
email: jfdirector@crd.bc.ca
Web Site: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm

Note: The regional director's web site now features a newsletter with updates and a personal perspective on local issues in the JDF Electoral Area.

Sooke School District (SD # 62) Trustees: Rob Gordy, Don Brown and Margot Swinburnson

Office: SD # 62 General Offices
3143 Jacklin Rd., Langford
Phone: 474-9800

Malahat-Juan de Fuca Provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly: Brian Kerr

Office: Parliament Buildings, Victoria
BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-8105
Fax: 387-9091
Constituency Office *: 102A-814 Goldstream Avenue
Victoria, BC V9B 2X7
Phone: 391-2831
Fax: 391-2844
email: brian.kerr.mla@leg.bc.ca
Web site: www.briankerrmla.bc.ca
* Langford

Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Federal Member of Parliament: Dr. Keith Martin

Office *: 2820B Jacklin Road
Victoria BC V9B 3X9
Phone: 474-6505
Fax: 474-5322
email: victoria@keithmartin.org
Web site: www.keithmartin.org

* Langford

13. 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.

This newsletter is published monthly on the www.opsrra.com web page by OPSRRA—the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association. Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to: Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca
