

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FEBRUARY 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 360. 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) 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 135 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.

Thursday February 1	Juan de Fuca Parks Committee 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
Saturday February 3	Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society 9:30 a.m. Meet at Manatu Road (Kemp Lake Road to Milligan to Manatu). We will check the trails up Broom Hill after the storms. We know part of the way is clear. Dress for the weather. We'll be out about 2 hours.
Saturday February 3	E-Cycling Event 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Break Down Recycling 852 Devonshire Road (in Esquimalt) Bring your old and discarded electronics equipment for recycling; TVs, computers, monitors, electronic household appliances, microwaves, bread makers, cell and telephones, game consoles, speakers—anything electronic goes. Drop-off by donation to the Canadian Earth Institute. Breakdown recycling fee for each computer and television monitor is \$10 (\$5 goes to CEI). Proceeds support the Canadian Earth Institute

- Sunday
February 4
Shirley Education and Action Society (SEAS)
Note: This meeting has been rescheduled
Contact Maureen at 646-2820 for more information
- Monday
February 5
OPSRRA Directors Meeting
Members welcome!
7:00 p.m.
Sooke Region Museum
Service Building meeting room
Note: this is a one-time change of location from the SEAPARC board room
- Tuesday
February 13
JDF Land Use Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC
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
February 15
Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
7:00 p.m.
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road, Sooke BC
- Thursday
February 22
Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission
6:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
- Thursday
March 1
Juan de Fuca Parks Committee
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
- Thursday
March 1
Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
7:00 p.m.
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road, Sooke BC
- Saturday
March 3
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Location to be announced.
Let us know if you know of a walkable trail; call 642-2767

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| <p>Monday
March 5</p> | <p>OPSRRA Annual General Meeting
 Members welcome!
 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 Otter Point Fire Hall
 3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)</p> <p>New members welcome</p> |
| <p>Wednesday
March 14</p> | <p>Shirley Community Association
 Annual General Meeting
 7:30 p.m.
 Shirley Community Hall</p> |
| <p>Second &
Fourth
Thursday
of every month</p> | <p>Shirley Quilters and Crafters
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Shirley Community Hall</p> |

2. NOTICE OF OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Annual General Meeting will be held Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall.

An agenda will be sent to all members who are on the newsletter e-mail list a week before the meeting. Other interested persons can request a copy of the agenda from any OPSRRA director.

Elections for all executive and director positions are held annually at the AGM. Seven of the eight present directors will be standing for office. Nominations for any position can be sent to the Nominations committee c/o Arnie Campbell, President OPSRRA. Nominations can also be made at the time of the AGM.

3. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have had a small surge in membership this past six weeks with the addition of 11 new members. This kind of support, evenly split between new residents and "old-timers", is welcome and pushes our total membership to over 360. Overall, this has been an excellent year for adding new members and a full report will be made at the March 5, 2007 Annual General Meeting.

4. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION: NO EXIT SIGNS

The Ministry of Transportation has responded to OPSRRA's October request that 'No Exit' signs be installed on dead-end roads in Shirley and Otter Point. It is hoped that these signs will reduce the amount of vehicle traffic on these roads by discouraging drivers trying to find a through road to somewhere, an almost impossible thing to do in Shirley and Otter Point! Signs have now been installed at: Robinson Road at Otter Point Road; Amanda Road at Otter Point Road; Otter Point Place at Otter Point Road; Anderson Road at West Coast Road and Woodhaven Road at West Coast Road We sent a letter of thanks to the Ministry and included a list of other dead-end roads that remain without 'No Exit' signs.

Other road safety and maintenance concerns expressed in our October letter to the Ministry, such as mowing, grading and widening of shoulders for non-vehicular travel, have been referred by the Ministry to Mainroad South Island Contracting.

5. OTTER POINT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE COORDINATOR

The Juan de Fuca Emergency Service committee has approached OPSRRA with a request that we assist in finding a Community Emergency Service Coordinator for Otter Point. This is a volunteer position and includes the following duties and responsibilities:

Overall Responsibility

The Community Emergency Coordinator is the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program's liaison between Juan de Fuca community neighbourhoods and local emergency agencies, local government, and the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Committee(s).

Specific Responsibilities:

Pre-Emergency Response/Recovery/Evacuation

1. Represents the community on the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Committee(s);
2. Undertakes ICS 100, Introduction to Emergency Management, and EOC level 1 training;
3. Assists in preparing neighbourhood/community disaster risk assessment if required;
4. Develops and maintains a working relationship with the local fire department/government official in charge of disaster response;
5. Assists in the recruitment of neighbourhood volunteers and the facilitation of their training and participation in emergency exercises;
6. Ensures all volunteer training and exercises are in accordance with established ICS and BCERMS procedures and practices;
7. Works with local government, local emergency agencies, and the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Committee(s) to increase public awareness of the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program and Program initiatives at the community level;
8. Provides local emergency agencies and/or the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program Committee(s) with information concerning local human and physical resources available to assist in emergency response and recovery.

During Emergency Response/Recovery/Evacuation

1. Oversees/manages all neighbourhood volunteer activities, ensuring they are consistent with established ICS and BCERMS procedures and practices;
2. Provides or assists local agencies in the provision of neighbourhood / community disaster damage assessment if required;
3. Relays information gathered from neighbourhood volunteers to the local fire department and/or appropriate agencies as soon as possible;
4. Debriefs neighbourhood volunteers at the end of each day or operations period, if this is not already being done by the fire department/local government.

Post-Emergency Response/Recovery/Evacuation

1. Debriefs neighbourhood volunteers
2. Provides debriefing report to the Juan de Fuca Emergency Committee(s).

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, contact the Regional Director's office: 2-6868, West Coast Road (Phone: 642-1500) or contact OPSRRA.

6. SOOKE REGION MUSEUM FUNDING REFERENDUM

The directors of the Sooke Region Museum have requested an increase in their tax-supported funding. At the request of the JDF Regional Director, the CRD Board of Directors has approved a **Counter Petition** to determine taxpayer support for this initiative. As stated in the legal notice,

“The proposal is to adopt Bylaw No. 3401 for the purpose of converting the Sooke Region Historical Society Specified Area to a Service, and amending the maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the service from \$76,000 to \$162,360 to provide annual financial assistance to the Society to operate, maintain and develop the Sooke Region Museum. The taxation impact per average residential assessment at the \$162,360 requisition is approximately \$17.95 per annum. The District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area are participating areas for this service.”

If approved, the difference in taxpayer support for the museum would be an increase of \$86,360 (\$162,360 to \$76,000) per year, to be shared by the District of Sooke and the JDF Electoral Area.

If approved, the referendum would also permit changing the Sooke Region Historical Society from a Specified Area to a Service Area. This would allow for future increases to be approved by the regional director without proceeding to referendum. An annual increase of 2% to account for the cost of living has already been suggested. The District of Sooke has already approved their portion of the increase, subject to the JDF Electoral Area approving their share.

Further information and elector response forms, if you oppose this initiative, can be obtained from the JDF Planning Services Office, 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke.

7. UPDATE ON THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR SHIRLEY / JORDAN RIVER AND OTTER POINT

Public hearings were held on January 16 (Shirley) and January 17 (Otter Point) for their respective Official Community Plans (OCPs). OPSRRA made a submission concerning further errors and incomplete information in the Otter Point OCP. The full text of the presentation can be read on the OPSRRA web site. One interesting statistic that appeared in the revised Otter Point OCP had to do with population figures. As a result of changes made to the 2001 population figure (it changed from 1,470 to 1,415) and revised population projections for 2006 (it changed from 1,492 to 1,760), Otter Point's rate of growth was increased from **1.5% to 24%** for this five year period. If this is correct, then Otter Point's annual rate of growth from 2001 to 2006 was about **4%** per year (allowing for some compounding). In comparison, the B.C. Ministry of Labour statistics for growth in the Capital region for 2005 to 2006 indicate an average growth rate of **0.65%**, with the District of Sooke having the fastest rate of growth at **3.16%**.

Similar changes to the population figures in the Shirley/Jordan River OCP have altered their five-year rate of growth. It is now estimated to have been **21%** from 2001 to 2006. This would put Shirley/Jordan River's estimated annual rate of growth from 2001 to 2006 to be about **3.5%** per year (allowing for some compounding).

Note: OPSRRA has questioned the accuracy of the population figures used in the OCPs. However, if they are accurate, then Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River have the fastest rate of growth in the CRD.

Up-to-date building permit information that OPSRRA requested be included in the Otter Point OCP shows a total of 135 permits for the same 2001 to 2006 period, with the greatest increase being in 2006 when 41 permits were issued. This compares to a total of 100 permits in the previous five-year period (2000 to 2005). In other words, the number of building permits issued in Otter Point in 2006 was double the average for the previous five years: an informative statistic to now have included in the OCP. The Shirley/Jordan River building permits were only slightly up at nine in 2006 from a five-year average (2001 to 2005) of seven.

8. DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY

OPSRRA directors have decided to proceed with this project. The purpose is to bring together a group of interested individuals and organizations to work on developing a long-term vision for Shirley and Otter Point. Areas of interest that have already been identified are recreation, economic development, governance, transportation, communications, public services (water, fire, sewage) and sustainable food supply. Thus far, representatives from a dozen interested organizations who expressed an interest in participating and have been sent an invitation to attend an initial get-together in February.

9. UPDATE ON THE GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

During the past year, the membership of the Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Governance Study group, originated by OPSRRA, has expanded to include representation from East Sooke, Port Renfrew and the Malahat. What began as a local initiative grew to include most of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area: change was necessary. On January 3, 2007, the responsibility for pursuing a governance study for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River was officially passed from OPSRRA to a newly formed Juan de Fuca Governance committee. Ken Pungente, who chaired the OPSRRA committee for the past two years, has stepped aside and the Regional Director has assumed the role of interim chair until the restructured committee decides how to proceed. The proposal is to have Port Renfrew, Shirley/Jordan River, Otter Point, East Sooke the Malahat and maybe Willis Point each appoint three representatives to the new committee. Funding for the committee will be supplied by the Regional Director. The committee will meet later in February to determine which governance option(s) each community would like to pursue.

10. UPDATE ON THE RESOURCE LANDS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The draft of the Resource Lands Official Community Plan (OCP) has been completed and will likely be submitted to CRD Planning Services by the end of February. Once the draft is approved, it will be available to the public for comment and a public hearing will be scheduled. For more information on the Resource Lands OCP see OPSRRA's December 2006 newsletter.

11. SUGGESTED NAMES FOR NEW STREETS AND ROADS IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

Last fall, OPSRRA approached the Sooke Region Museum with a request that they compile a list of possible names that could be considered for new streets and roads in our area. OPSRRA thought it would be nice to see local pioneers, First Nation, geographic landmarks and other historical features reflected in the naming of some of our new streets and roads. The Sooke Region museum has agreed with this suggestion and is willing to supply names upon request. OPSRRA has

informed the JDF Electoral Area Planning Services Office of this offer and will undertake to inform land developers too. If you know of a road or street being put into your neighbourhood and want to see a local name used, contact the Sooke Region museum or OPSRRA for some suggestions.

12. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

There used to be an army camp in Otter Point? Originally set-up as a “Relief Camp” during the Depression, the site at the junction of West Coast Road and Kemp Lake Road became an army training camp in 1942. The property is now the site of the Olympic View mobile home park and the Otter Point Resort. Some of the original buildings have been incorporated into those developments and one is occupied by the Kemp Lake store and café.

Shakie’s Drive-In, in Jordan River, was named after the owner who previously operated a local shake mill at the top of the hill on the Shirley side of Jordan River? Les Wade opened the popular drive-in on the site of the former Shell gas station, in response to the increased tourism coming to the area. It remains a popular spot to eat for surfers, campers, local residents and travellers on the road to Port Renfrew.

Information for this month’s **Did You Know That?** is from two books of early local history, *The Sooke Story—The History And The Heartbeat* written and published by the Sooke Region Museum and from information provided by Otter Point resident Mrs. Velma Jessiman and by Mr. Don Hubbard whose family owned and operated the Breakers Restaurant and Cabins in Jordan River in the late 1950s and early 1960s..

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.

13. 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 on-line registration form are available on OPSRRA’s web site (www.opsrra.ca) under **Business Listings**.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

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	Body Wellness Spa
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

Otter Point Beach House

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

14. 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.
