

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE **JANUARY 2010****



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 **385**. 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 **250** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca or **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Friday
January 1

Polar Bear Swim
Sponsored by the Otter
Point Firefighters
Association



Register by 11:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m. start
Whiffin Spit Park, Sooke BC

Saturday
January 2

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Sooke Potholes Campground to the Leech River

9:30 a.m.

Meet at the upper parking lot No. 2 and convoy to the campground.

The Galloping Goose has reopened to the Kapoor Park Reserve at Leechtown.

The Land Conservancy has kindly given us permission to park in their campground beyond the Sooke Regional Potholes Park.

We request that you make a donation to The Land Conservancy as a thank you and to help make future park acquisitions.

Parking at the campground makes this a gentle eight kilometre round trip on level ground with a unique opportunity to see the wild nature of the Sooke River in winter.

Bring a friend, dress for the weather and bring a lunch.

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

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
January 6

Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
January 10 **Beach Clean up at China Beach**
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Organized by the Vancouver Island Surfriders,
Vancouver Island Chapter.

Information:
www.surfrider.org/vancouverisland

Thursday
January 14 **Inaugural Meeting**
Establishing a Volunteer Bureau and Charitable
Foundation for the Sooke Region
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
CASA, Townsend Road, Sooke

Light supper provided: please RSVP if you plan to attend.

The Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) is a
partnership of community members, and health and health
and social service providers working towards, advocating for,
and creating healthier communities from Beecher Bay to Port
Renfrew.

CHI is seeking input from as many community groups in the
region as possible to plan and develop both a **Charitable**
Community Foundation and a **Volunteer Bureau** for the
Sooke Region.

For more information, contact Marlene Barry:
Phone: 250-642-3390
email: barryfambarry@netscape.net

See newsletter item 12 for more information.

Tuesday
January 19 **JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC

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.

Wednesday
January 20 **OPSRRA Board of Directors**
Monthly Meeting
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Agenda available on request.
Contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Thursday
January 21 **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission
Monthly Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Sunday
January 24 **Sooke Region Museum
Annual General Meeting**
2:00 p.m.
Service Building Meeting Room
2070 Phillips Road, Sooke BC

Tuesday
January 26 **Rural Resource Lands OCP and Land Use Bylaws
Public Hearing**
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC

See newsletter item 4 for more information

Tuesday
January 26 **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

Note:
This meeting
may be
rescheduled.
Contact the
Electoral Area
Services
Office for
confirmation

Monday
February 1 **2009 Property Assessment Appeal Deadline**

See newsletter item 5 for more information

Saturday
February 6 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Hike William Simmons Memorial Park and beyond**
9:30 a.m.

Meet at the park on Otter Point Rad (about opposite Young's
Lake Road)

This is a 2 to 3 hour walk. More details to come.

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

Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Mondays **Karate for all ages**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

Tuesdays **Yoga**
6:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome
Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

2. THESE THREE LADIES FROM OTTER POINT ARE ...

The talent which resides in smaller communities such as Shirley and Otter Point is sometimes overshadowed because of our proximity to the Greater Victoria area. We may live rural but we still tend to think urban and because of that can overlook the talent in our own community. Potters, furniture makers, quilters, sculptors, musicians, singers, photographers and painters abound. Some are striving to earn a living with their art, some are well established and others are happy to pursue a new-found hobby, career change or retirement project. If we were in a remote area of the province we would likely recognize them and know them by name. Here are three such talented folk who live in Otter Point and have established themselves as successful writers.

Shannon Moneo was a former reporter with the Sooke News Mirror, with a special interest in local politics, who went on to become a freelance writer. Her articles regularly appear in a variety of local, provincial and national publications. She is a contributor to the Globe and Mail newspaper and writes for the Western Canada Journal of Commerce as well as more local publications such as the Douglas and Boulevard magazines. Using her investigative skills, she takes the time to add extra detail to local stories on business, community, construction and real estate. Over the years she has handled topics such as sewage treatment for Greater Victoria, collecting seaweed on the shores of Otter Point, making mead from honey at the Otter Point Honey Farm, the removal of Western Forest Product's private forest lands from local tree farm license areas, the construction of the Prestige Hotel in Sooke, and proposed development projects at Bear Mountain and Port Renfrew.

Wendy Morton is a poet of the people. She excels at doing impromptu poetry for folks. She will take a story, an event or something personal which someone may share with her and turns it into instant poetry. Whether travelling by car as automaker Daimler-Chrysler's "Poet of the Road", flying at 30,000 feet aboard a WestJet airplane as their "Poet in the Air" or at sea level at the Port Alberni Museum, she works her craft to make real life and real people into poetry. Wendy is the author of five books of poetry and originator of the Random Acts of Poetry, an event which has seen her and other poets across Canada participate in unannounced appearances in public places to entertain and perhaps astonish others with their poetry.

Kate Woods is perhaps better known as a wood and soapstone sculptor than as a writer. Her carved soapstone animal figures of bears, seals, birds, ferrets and other animals have been award winners and have been exhibited at many locations and events including the Sooke Fine Arts Show, the Sooke Rotary Auction and Sooke Harbour House. She also regularly exhibits and sells her work at local craft fairs. Kate has run carving workshops, locally, through Malahat Farms and has demonstrated her carving technique at the Sooke Fine Art Show. More recently she has had a book published about her pet ferrets Nemo and Dorrie. Written as an account of living with two critters who share a different point of view on life than most humans, *Ferrets Underfoot* is a new and enjoyable animal adventure for Kate.

3. DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE OPSRRA DIRECTOR'S MEETING AGENDA?

Your OPSRRA directors meet 10 times a year to carry on the business of the Association. These meetings are always advertised in the OPSRRA newsletter, are held in a public location, open to members of the Association and the minutes are posted to the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca. We can send you the Directors' meeting agenda if you wish to receive it. We will send you the agenda by email the Friday before the scheduled meeting. Contact Arnie Campbell, President of OPSRRA at d.acampbell@shaw.ca, or phone 250-642-3113, to have your name added to an agenda email list.

4. RURAL RESOURCE LANDS PUBLIC HEARING

On December 9, 2009, the CRD Board approved the Rural Resource Lands Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws going to public hearing. The public hearings for the two bylaws will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the District of Sooke Council Chambers, 2225 Otter Point Road.

The CRD Board has recommended that the CRD Parks Committee seek partners for the preparation of an environmental inventory of the lands within the JDFEA Rural Resource Lands that are not already included in the CRD's Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory. The Board has also suggested that the Rural Resource Lands be established as a carbon-offset for the region.

The proposed Rural Resource Lands Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw have been the subject of extensive consultations with the community over the past two years and have been repeatedly changed in response to public comment. Information about the proposed bylaws is available on the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area web site: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm. Detailed maps and other information are also available on this site. The bylaws can also be obtained from the JDFEA Planning Services Office located at 2-6868 West Coast Road in Sooke.

The public hearings are an opportunity for those regional directors who will be voting on the bylaws to hear final comment. Anyone who considers themselves affected by the proposed bylaws has to be given a reasonable chance to present their comments at the public hearings. However the public hearings are not intended to further debate or otherwise engage in discussion of the bylaws.

OPSRRA has requested that all of the regional directors who will be voting on the two bylaws be in attendance at the public hearings. Regional Director Hicks has agreed to this request and will extend the invitation.

Note: OPSRRA intends to make a presentation at the public hearing in support of the two proposed bylaws. Members who received the OPSRRA January newsletter will have also received a draft of that

presentation as an attachment to their newsletter. Members are invited to provide comment on the draft presentation to their OPSRRA directors prior to our January 20 directors' meeting.

5. DEADLINE TO APPEAL 2009 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Your property assessment for 2010 taxes will be arriving in your mail the first week of January. If you do not receive your property assessment by January 15, call toll-free 1-866-499-9980 or email ckt@bcassessment.ca to ask for your assessment notice.

The B.C. Assessment Authority is responsible for evaluating the value of all properties in British Columbia. This valuation is based upon their best guess of your property's value as of July 1, 2009 based upon recent, comparable property sales and assessments in your neighbourhood. Their valuation will be used by the local taxing authority to determine your 2010 property tax. If you feel that their valuation is incorrect or you want more information on how they arrived at your property assessment, contact the local B.C. Assessment Authority office.

Contact information for the Greater Victoria Office:

Toll Free: 1-800-990-1159

Fax: (250) 479-1849

Email: capital@bcassessment.ca

Mail: 102-3350 Douglas Street
Victoria BC V8Z 7X9

Web site: www.bcassessment.bc.ca
(access to the assessed value of every property in B.C.)

The Capital office Management Team:

Assessor:	Brian Hawkins
Deputy Assessor:	Gerry Marolla
Deputy Assessor:	Rick McMahon

Property owners wishing to appeal their property assessment must do so in writing. An on-line version of the complaint form as well as a step-by-step handbook is available on their web site: www.bcassessment.bc.ca

Note: The deadline to appeal your 2009 property assessment is midnight on Monday, February 1, 2010.

6. SHIRLEY FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED

The Shirley Volunteer Fire Department went through a transition in 2009 that saw it move from being the direct responsibility of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society to become the responsibility of the newly established Shirley Fire Commission, which operates under the authority of the CRD. This the current Otter Point Fire Department set up.

Here is how the change came about:

- On December 10, 2008 the CRD Board passed a bylaw creating the new Shirley Fire Commission.
- On December 14, 2008 the Shirley Fire Protection Society held its Annual General Meeting and passed new bylaws reducing the size of the Board of Directors for the society from seven to five. They elected the following

trustees: Jurgen Kirste, George Miller Sharon Cormier, Andrea Powell, Conrald LeClerc, Bobbie Metzger and Reg Allan.

- Once the new bylaws of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society were registered, George Miller and Jurgen Kirste resigned and the remaining five officers elected new officers according to the new bylaws.
- On February 11, 2009 the CRD Board made the following appointments to the Shirley Fire Commission: Jurgen Kirste, Ian Blaney and Andy Barber for a one year term expiring on December 31, 2009 and Conrald LeClerc and Eric Ellis for a two year term ending December 31, 2010.

At their December 2009 Annual General Meeting the Shirley Fire Protection Society elected the following directors for the coming year:

President:	Conrald LeClerc
Vice President:	Reg Allan
Secretary:	Sharon Cormier
Treasurer:	Thomas Tidwell
Director:	Jeff Leaman

Note: Three new two-year appointments will need to be made by the CRD Board for the Shirley Fire Commission trustee positions which expired on December 31, 2009.

7. OTTER POINT FIRE TRUSTEES ELECTED AND FIRST CONTRACTED EMPLOYEE HIRED

The Otter Point Fire Department elected the following trustees at their December 8, 2009 Annual General Meeting:

Re-elected for another two year term:

Secretary:	Marie-Ann Davidson
Trustee:	Lloyd Heinemann
Trustee:	Harold Melville

Trustees with another year left in their term:

Chair:	Kenny Jones
Treasurer:	Bud Gibbons
Trustee:	Joanne Hemphill
Firefighters Association Representative:	Scott Hemphill

The Otter Point Fire Department recently advertised for its first contract position. They were looking for a part time person to provide assistance to the fire service. This included helping with equipment inventory, equipment repair, routine maintenance checks as well as clerical support to the department. The deadline for applications was December 3, and John McCrea, former Otter Point Fire Chief, was the successful bidder on the contract and will commence work in mid-January.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission provides recommendations to the JDFEA Land Use Committee (LUC) or the regional director on matters referred to them that may relate to agricultural issues in the electoral area. These matters could include: amendments to, or the development of, an Official Community Plan; zoning amendments or the

development of a zoning bylaw; issuance of a temporary industrial or commercial permit; issuance of a variance; or any other land use matter referred to them by LUC.

The advisory commission consists of up to nine members appointed by the CRD Board upon the recommendation of the JDFEA regional director. Appointments are for a two year term and are staggered so that some board members are either replaced or have their appointment renewed each year.

At its December 2009 meeting, the CRD Board appointed the following commissioners for a two year term: Teresa Willman, Josie Hill, and Mary Alice Johnson.

9. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA COMMUNITY GRANT MONEY

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area has been receiving money from a gas tax rebate program for the past three years. None of this money has been spent and there is presently about \$450,000 in the CRD account. The money can be spent on community projects that qualify under a broad range of categories such as Public Transit, Community Energy Systems, Water and Wastewater Management, Solid Waste Management and Capacity Building.

The JDFEA Regional Director intends to begin spending this money, on a per capita basis, in each community in the electoral area and asked OPSRRA to come-up with some suggestions as to how some of the money could be spent in Shirley and Otter Point in 2010. We took this request to our November membership meeting and OPSRRA sent the following ideas raised by members to the regional director:

- Establish a walking/hiking trail linked up with Sooke and the Galloping Goose Trail;
- Purchase land corridors to make trail development possible;
- Support a project to put gravel on community trails;
- Establish walking paths along major roads;
- Fund a project to improve cell phone coverage;
- Fund a public forum to promote public understanding of how the OCPs and other tools can be used to better protect local water supplies;
- Underwrite the cost of learning more about water protection in the local area;
- Underwrite the cost of an environmental study as part of the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River OCP reviews;
- Support the clean-up of parks and beach accesses;
- Support a “bricks and mortar” project—such as building a community hall in Otter Point—that would leave something behind;
- Help the Shirley Community Association improve lighting for Pioneer Park;
- Support funding a project for the entire JDFEA rather than allocating the funding for projects by districts; and
- OPSRRA could create a registry through which a broader range of people could make suggestions.

The regional director has since informed us that many of the suggestions did not fit the Community Grants funding criteria; of those that did, the one that will likely be pursued is using about \$100,000 to underwrite the cost of an environmental study as part of the upcoming Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (OCP) reviews. This proposal is presently being reviewed with the CRD Planning and Financial Services staff. A decision is expected early in the New Year. The Otter Point OCP review is scheduled to take place in 2010 and the Shirley/Jordan River OCP review in 2011.

10. JDFEA TO HELP SHARE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD COST

Funding to ensure that school crossing guards remain on the job in Sooke has been helped along by a \$6,000 grant from the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. The regional director informed OPSRRA that he is using money that was saved from his personal operating budget to offset one-third of the cost of paying for school crossing guards in 2010. School District 62 records estimate that about one-third of the children attending schools in Sooke come from the JDFEA communities of East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew. The District of Sooke is being asked to pick-up the remainder of the cost.

11. NEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST BYLAW REQUIRES CHANGES ON THE JDFEA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

OPSRRA was informed December 7, 2009 that the CRD had passed a bylaw on November 18, 2009 that prohibited someone sitting on the JDFEA Land Use Committee (LUC) while also be sitting on the JDFEA Parks & Recreation Commission and vice versa. As a result of this bylaw amendment the representatives to LUC from Port Renfrew and Willis Point had to decide whether to remain on LUC or the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Port Renfrew Parks & Recreation commissioner had already declared that he would not seek reappointment at the end of his term, December 31, 2009. The Willis Point commissioner chose to resign from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Identifying and acting upon possible conflict of information situations is an important aspect of governance; however the OPSRRA directors felt that the manner in which this bylaw amendment was handled was questionable and wrote the regional director to offer comment. Our letter and a summary of the regional director's reply follows:

Dear Director Hicks:

The directors of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association were recently made aware of Bylaw 3608 which amended CRD Land Use Committee Bylaw 3166. The amendment changed the eligibility criteria for members of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee and the Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission. Having read the amendment, we wish to comment on the process which brought about this change for eligibility. We also have some questions, the answers to which would perhaps help us further understand the reason for this particular change.

Aside from whether it was the correct decision or not, the manner in which this amendment was brought-about is questionable in our opinion.

1. It is presented as an “after the fact” housekeeping matter in both the staff report and the letter of November 14 to the Chair of the JDFEA Parks & Recreation Commission. In our opinion the proposed change should have been brought to the attention of the Land Use Committee before it went to the Electoral Services Committee and the CRD Board for approval. This would have provided an opportunity for the elected members of LUC - and anyone else who felt that they have an interest in the change, to comment.
2. Forcing a commissioner to choose, part-way through their elected term on LUC, which position they wanted to step-down from seems unfair.
3. There is a very limited pool of people, in some of the sub areas, who are interested in serving on the many committees and commissions in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. This is an unfortunate reality which we feel needs to be taken into consideration when bringing forth amendments which further narrow eligibility.

Given that the decision has already been made, we pose some questions:

1. Where in the terms of reference for the JDFEA Parks & Recreation Commission are they given authority to negotiate with developers?
2. Will this amendment now allow them to actually negotiate before recommending whether property proposed for rezoning or development should be accepted as park land or cash in lieu?
3. The manner in which the term “conflict of interest” is used is a puzzler. The usual reason for having conflict of interest built into legislation and guidelines for public bodies is to prevent personal gain: we certainly don’t want anyone using their position as a commissioner to influence a decision that they would personally benefit from. However, the rationale used in advancing this particular amendment is not based on the possibility of personal gain; rather, the amendment is based upon a concern that a recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Commission could be in conflict with a recommendation of the Land Use Committee. How is that a conflict of interest?
4. Why wasn’t the amendment inclusive of all commissioners? Could members of the JDFEA Agricultural Advisory Commission and the Port Renfrew Local Community Services Commission have the potential of encountering the same conflict of interest as an APC or the Parks & Recreation Commission?
5. Now that the JDFEA fire departments are coming under the aegis of the CRD are their commissioners also going to be in a conflict of interest?
6. If either of the two present LUC members, who resigned their positions on the Parks & Recreation Commission, had instead chosen to resign from LUC would there have been an opportunity for another election or would the position have been filled by appointment by the regional director?
7. Has the CRD reviewed whether there is a similar concept of conflict in other electoral areas in the province? If not, then the 1996 UBCM discussion paper on *Rethinking Conflict of Interest* may be a starting point.

We look forward to continuing this important discussion re governance as we try to move forward with improving upon the many positive changes that have been introduced in recent years.

In his reply, Director Hicks said that:

When I first started (as regional director) last January, I attended my first JDF Parks meeting. I enjoyed the banter and discussion between

the Park's members and a developer who was negotiating how much land and/or cash to give to the JDF as a requirement for developing his land. A few months later our LUC, of which I am a member, passed a recommendation endorsing the development. I felt there was a huge potential conflict of interest in that members of the Parks Committee would make recommendations concerning parkland dedications and the same members could accept or reject those recommendations as a member of the Land Use Committee when considering a developer's application. I noticed that APC members could not sit on the Land Use Committee and questioned why Parks Commission members could.

One concern (raised by Heather Philips the Otter Point member of LUC) involved public consultation and "Why was the Land Use Committee not consulted?". I felt that because the possible conflict affected the LUC and Parks members, I would look for consultation outside of those two groups. I approached a few people inside and outside my constituency including Larry Resnick (APC Chairman Willis Point), Bob Lapham (General Manager CRD Planning & Protective Services), June Klassen (JDFFA Planner) and Carmen Thiel (CRD Corporate Officer). After some time and a great deal of thought, I requested that Bob Lapham ask our CRD lawyers for their opinion.

Our lawyers told Mr. Lapham that there "could" be conflict and recommended that we make an amendment to the by-law. The amendment, similar to the APC, would not allow one individual to be a member of both Parks and LUC. This action would alleviate any possibility of conflict.

Knowing that I had two members affected by any change, I asked Bob Lapham to work towards amending the by-law to start in January 2010. The timing would give us the opportunity to recruit two new members and be less disruptive than in mid-year. As it turned out, Ted Mehler our Port Renfrew Parks and LUC representative stepped away from Parks before this amendment was official. I phoned our Willis Point Parks and LUC representative Pat Sloan immediately after adopting the by-law and although she expressed her regrets about not serving on both she has chosen to stay with LUC. I have received applications from two extremely qualified Port Renfrew residents to fill Ted's Parks position and am awaiting the name of the Willis Point applicant which will be coming from the Community Association.

After the by-law amendment was written, it was introduced and discussed thoroughly by the Electoral Services Committee which consists of myself, Regional Director for Salt Spring Island Garth Hendren, and Regional Director for the Gulf Islands Ken Hancock. When we were confident that this was the right thing to do for the JDF Electoral Area, we recommended approval to the Board. The Board approved.

12. INAUGURAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTEER BUREAU AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FOR THE SOOKE REGION

The Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) submitted the following information to the OPSRRA newsletter:

Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) is a partnership of community members and health and social service providers working towards, advocating for, and creating healthier communities from Beecher Bay to Port Renfrew. We are seeking input from as many community groups in the region as possible to plan and develop both a Charitable Community Foundation and a Volunteer Bureau for the Sooke Region. We have done some groundwork and have been offered advice and support by the Victoria Foundation, the Queen Alexandra Foundation, and Volunteer Victoria to help our community plan and implement the next steps in this process.

The direction for these two key projects stemmed from the thirty community members, representing diverse backgrounds, who gave up a beautiful sunny Saturday in May 2009 to attend an 'Open Spaces' meeting. The many issues and challenges faced by non-profit organizations and volunteers in our communities were discussed. The need to establish a Volunteer Bureau to support and coordinate volunteer activities in the region was identified as a high priority. Establishing a community charitable foundation to which people could donate or bequeath funds ranked a close second.

Although CHI has done some preliminary consultation with a number of community members and organizations to gauge their interest, no decisions have been made and no models have been chosen. Some community needs have been identified by organizations that support the arts, sports, health, recreation, and social services but those people who come together to form a steering committee will make the major decisions.

Key reasons to develop a local funding foundation:

- A mechanism that enables people to donate or bequeath funds locally has been identified as a top priority.
- Sustainable funding for local organizations is becoming more challenging, making it timely to research this option.
- A well managed foundation can provide effective management of donated dollars and ensure they get to their intended recipients.
- A foundation would support our many local volunteer and non-profit organizations and would enable organizations to apply for larger grants
- A local foundation would increase the expertise and money available to groups seeking grants.
- Joy Spencer-Barry, founder of the Queen Alexander Foundation is ready and willing to help us learn from their experience.
- Staff from the Victoria Foundation are ready to provide support.
- Developing an endowment fund (for the investment of larger amounts) provides the opportunity for area residents to bequeath towards the future health of our communities.
- Developing a Flow-Through-Fund (for smaller amounts directed to a specific group or organization) offers local funds for local projects.

Key reasons to develop a local volunteer bureau:

- The Sooke region is home to more than 140 community groups and non-profits, which support everyone—children, youth, families, and seniors.
- Many non-profit organizations in the region are eager for more volunteer support.
- A volunteer bureau would provide support and coordinate volunteer activities in the region
- A volunteer bureau would help newcomers connect to their community as well as support our many local initiatives.
- Staff at Volunteer Victoria are ready and willing to assist us in this regard.
- Whatever your interest—sports and recreational organizations, arts and cultural groups, educational, health and social service organizations—CHI is looking for community members interested transforming these two ideas into entities that support the Sooke region. You do not have to be a board member or even volunteering currently to participate. We would not move forward with either of these projects without broad-based community agreement and support.

Anyone interested in being an active member of a steering committee for, or simply sharing their views on developing a funding foundation and/or a volunteer bureau for our region is welcome to attend on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at CASA, Townsend Road, Sooke from 6:00 to 8:00. For more information contact Marlene Barry at 250-642-3390 or barryfambarry@netscape.net. A light supper will be provided, so please RSVP if you are planning to attend.

13. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

The present day location of ALM Organic Farm and Full Circle Seeds at 3680 Otter Point Road is a historic two-storey farmhouse built in 1914 for the family of Ed Harris? The farm is located at the corner of Kemp Lake Road and Otter Point Road and was once part of the Scarf House property which is located just to the east at 3642 Otter Point Road. The property was sold to Ed Harris in 1910 by Oscar Scarf and remained in the Harris family for two generations. Ed Harris and his wife had come to Otter Point from Ontario around 1910 with their seven children. Over the years the Harris family farmed the land and took in loggers and teachers from the local school as boarders. One daughter married Oscar Scarf. Son Frank remained in the house the longest. The house has had some changes made to it and these are listed in the Sooke Region Museum publication, *101 Historical Buildings*. Mary Alice Johnson, who has owned the farm since 1986, remarked that they have had a number of folks stop by the farm over the years to talk about living, working or partying at the farm. More recently its gardens were in the Secret Gardens tour which was organized as a fundraiser by Women in Tune.

Trying to Connect the Dots:

One of the interesting but sometimes frustrating aspects of writing about local history is trying to make a connection between two different pieces of historical information that may or may not be related. This month's story on the Harris family is an example. There is a reference in *4,000 Years—A History of the Rainforest*, of a Bob Harris who was the plank road maintenance man in the 1920s for the five miles of wooden road which Milligan's Logging built in the Kemp Lake area to accommodate their logging trucks. Is he one of the Harris sons? This would make

sense given the date and location of his employment but that connection can't be verified. Similarly, Mabel Cook (nee Poirier), in a reminiscence of growing-up in Otter Point, refers to her mother being assisted in child birth, "... by our good friend and neighbour, Mrs. Emma Harris." The birth took place in a farm house in 1909 on Kemp Lake Road. Could Emma Harris be the wife of Ed Harris? We know that the Harris's came to Otter Point around 1910. Could it have been earlier? We also know that they lived at the corner of Otter Point and Kemp Lake Road, which would have made them neighbours to the Poirier's.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** was prepared with the help of information in *The Sooke Story: The History and the Heartbeat, 4,000 Years—A History of the Rainforest and 101 Historical Homes* written and published by the Sooke Region Museum.

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

14. 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
Otter Point Electrical
Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop
Road's End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd
Smiling Goat Farm Sitting Service
Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions

15. 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.
