

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

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. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 325.

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 90 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 d.acampbell@shaw.ca to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Monday July 4	Otter Point Zoning Bylaw Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall
Tuesday July 5	Juan de Fuca Area Land Use Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road
Wednesday July 6	B.C. Public Transit Public Information Meeting 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall
Monday July 11	Public Meeting Concerning Chew Excavating Soil Removal Permit Application 7:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Wednesday July 13	Shirley Community Association General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Monday July 18	OPSRRA Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m. SEAPARC Board Room, 2168 Philips Rd. Sooke
Monday July 18	Shirley/Jordan River Zoning Bylaw Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday
July 19

Juan de Fuca Area Land Use Committee Meeting

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

This is a tentative meeting. Check with CRD Planning Services (642-1620) to confirm

Monday
July 25

Otter Point Zoning Bylaw Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall

Sunday
August 7

**Sheringham Lighthouse Preservation Society
Annual General Meeting**

2:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room, 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. OPSRRA LOGO

Wanted: ideas for a logo for OPSRRA.

We would like to have a logo to identify OPSRRA on our letterhead, business cards, website and advertising. We invite members to submit computer artwork for a friendly (i.e. no money, just public recognition) competition. Contact Sandy Barta (sbarta@shaw.ca) for more information.

3. UPDATE ON OTTER POINT/SOOKE BORDER LANDS

Sooke Council approved two motions at its June 27 council meeting, directing staff to formally advise the Ministry of Community Services that the District of Sooke intends to initiate the boundary extension process for the West Coast/Kemp Lake area in Otter Point (see map below) and the Gillespie Road (Sooke Road to Roche Cove) area in East Sooke.

OPSRRA attended the council meeting and spoke against the District of Sooke proceeding with this annexation initiative. Our statements of opposition were based upon:

- The outcome of the recent referendum, which showed an overwhelming desire, on the part of Otter Point residents, not to join the District of Sooke.
- The 10 reasons stated in the April 22 letter (see May newsletter) from the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department and OPSRRA to the province.

The following is an extract from the staff report to Sooke Council. This is a public document; the full report is available from the District of Sooke. OPSRRA will continue to pursue this issue with the province and our MLA.

RA-3



File No. 3710-03

REPORT TO COUNCIL

From: Peter Jmaeff, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: June 23rd, 2005

Re: **Boundary Extension - Gillespie Road and West Coast Road/Kemp Lake**

Recommendation:

THAT COUNCIL direct staff to formally advise the Minister of Community Services that the District of Sooke intends to initiate the boundary extension process for the West Coast Road/Kemp Lake area as per staff report;

AND THAT COUNCIL direct staff to formally advise the Minister of Community Services that the District of Sooke intends to initiate the boundary extension process for the Gillespie Road area as per staff report.

Background:

On February 14th, 2005 Council passed a motion that staff proceed with an active boundary extension application process. Advertisements were placed in the paper to advise of the property annexation opportunity. Letters to some property owners previously interested in annexation were sent to confirm that they were still interested. As well, some property owners were contacted directly to advise of the annexation opportunity.

WEST BOUNDARY

Two property owners, Erinan Investments Ltd. and Mr. & Mrs. Stefan Gowin, have requested in writing inclusion in the District boundaries (see TABLE 1 and MAP 1). As well, staff has approached Mrs. Ethel Wilson and her family as to the possibility of her property being included in the District boundaries. Section 40 and 41 are Crown Land and staff is investigating the possibility that those lands may be annexed into the District of Sooke.

The 4 properties considered on the west boundary are the properties as shown shaded on Map 1. The proposed municipal boundary extension follows the Sooke Land District boundary. The Sooke Land District boundary also includes the properties north and south of Kemp Lake, however that area is not being considered at this time.

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Concerns have been raised over the potential development of the privately owned parcels located within the Kemp Lake Watershed. These are currently zoned Rural (A) and any future development will be limited to what is permitted under this zone. More intensive development will require a rezoning. The property owners have not made a formal application to develop the lands and there are no outstanding building permits. Any future development will require examination of impact on the watershed. An Official Community Plan amendment will be required.

Roadways

There would be little initial impact on the District by inclusion of these properties. The lands are largely undeveloped, with no public roadways. Likewise, the future maintenance costs cannot be estimated.

Water Services

The area is currently outside the service limits for the CRD Water - Sooke distribution system. Without significant upgrading, the current distribution system may not be able to adequately service this area. Portions of the land in question are included in the Kemp Lake Water District, making the question of servicing more complicated.

Fire Services

See attached report from Sooke Fire Department.

Zoning

The four properties are zoned Rural (A).

EAST BOUNDARY

Many property owners (see TABLE 2 and MAP 2) have requested inclusion in the District boundaries. The extension of the municipal boundary to the north boundary of Roche Cove Park is a logical planning boundary. The property owners have not made a formal application to develop the lands and there are no outstanding building permits.

Connie Road

The Section 123 property is the only parcel considered on Connie Road.

Gillespie Road

A number of property owners came forward in the Gillespie Road area. Those property owners in the area north of Roche Cove Park that did not respond to the advertisement were advised that their properties were being considered in a proposed boundary extension and some have since responded in writing of their wish to annex into the District of Sooke.

In total there are 32 parcels being considered in the Gillespie Road area. Of those 32 property owners, 20 have provided written support for the extension and 2 are opposed. These

Otter Point:

The Otter Point OCP went to second public hearing on June 28 and will now be sent back to the JDF Land Use committee for review and approval before going to the CRD Board.

5. ZONING BYLAWS UPDATE

Shirley/Jordan River:

The next public meeting of the Shirley/Jordan River Zoning Bylaw committee will take place on Monday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Shirley Community Hall.

Otter Point:

The next public meetings of the Otter Point Zoning Bylaw committee will take place on Monday, July 4 and Monday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall.

6. COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS

Thanks to the continuing offers of material, labour and cash from OPSRRA members, we have assembled the first of the community bulleting boards. These notice boards are now being installed. Look for the first one at the Kemp Lake store—other ones to be in place by the end of the summer. We still need some more materials if we are going to be able to locate a bulletin board near every rural mail box in Otter Point and Shirley. You can help us with this community project by donating:

- 4 inch x 4 inch x 7 foot posts – cedar preferred;
- 5/8 inch (or better) 2 foot x 3 foot pieces of plywood;
- 5 or 6 inch carriage bolts, nuts and washers;
- Exterior, oil-base paint.

Cash donations would be helpful to cover the costs of some items such as nails and screws that may need to be purchased. Contact Ken Pungente (642-5177) or Jim Dexter (dexmar@shaw.ca) if you can help with this Shirley and Otter Point community project.

7. LAND AND WATER B.C. INC.

Land & Water B.C. was created by the provincial government 3 years ago to “improve” access to Crown land and water resources. A recent review of LWBC identified 3 reasons for dismantling the corporation and sending its responsibilities back to various existing ministries.

- There we too many government interests in Crown land- often with competing points of view and at odds with LWBC.
- The corporation’s sale of land and water rights to raise money for the province was controversial.
- First nations opposed the sale of Crown land (and the resources which went with the sale) before land claims had been settled.

So why is this important to our local rural communities? First of all, the province is a large land-owner within the designated Official Community Plan areas of Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. An estimated 634 hectares (1566 acres) of Otter Point's OCP 3,821 hectares (9439 acres) land area is identified as Crown land. This amounts to 16.6 percent—likely the single largest land owner in the community. Shirley/Jordan River OCP has similarly large areas of Crown Land including French Beach Provincial Park and large blocks along its North West boundary towards Jordan River.

8. SHIRLEY SOIL REMOVAL UPDATE

Last month's newsletter contained letters concerning an on-going "soil removal" operation in Shirley that OPSRRA was asked to become involved with. Replies to our letter have been received from the province and CRD Planning Services. Two meetings have now been arranged by CRD Planning Services: the first is with the concerned property owners, the JDF Regional Director, the Shirley Education & Action Society and OPSRRA; the second is a public meeting on Monday, July 11 at the Shirley Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. with concerned property owners and Chew Excavating in attendance.

9. JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY TRAILS SOCIETY

The Juan De Fuca Community Trails Society held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 22 2005. At the AGM they re-elected the following directors and executive:

Executive:

President:	Sid Jorna
Vice President:	Lorien Arnold
Secretary:	Heather Phillips
Treasurer:	Margaret Rodman

Directors:

Director Hiking:	Rosemary Jorna
Director Equestrian	Laurie Fontaine
Director Mountain Biking	Lorien Arnold
Director at Large:	Virginia Seabrook

10. REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSIT INFORMATION

The Victoria Regional Transit System will hold a public information session in Otter Point on July 6 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall (3727 Otter Point Road at Kemp Lake Road). This information session is intended for residents of the Otter Point area who are interested in receiving information and giving suggestions to Transit about a proposed new transit service for the Otter Point area. Information about what is being planned and a map of the proposed route is available on their website

Visit their website at: www.bctransit.com. Once you are there, click 'Victoria' and then click 'Customer Alert' on the right hand side of the page—it will bring-up the Otter Point route information.

11. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA VOTER ENUMERATION

The JDF Regional Director has announced that there will be an enumeration of voters between June 29 and August 5. OPSRRA has repeatedly asked the Regional Director and the CRD to update the List of Electors before the upcoming November 2005 elections for School Trustee, Advisory Planning Commission, Land Use Committee and Regional Director. Our concern was that the List of Electors used in the 2002 election was 30-50% (poll by poll) incorrect because residents were deceased, had moved, were duplicated, were not registered, etc.

Information mailer about the enumeration has been sent to all household in the JDF Electoral Area and information advertisements are appearing in the Sooke New Mirror. Visit the regional director's web site (www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm) for more information.

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. 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.

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 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.com. 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.
