

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE – JULY 2006

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 340. 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 115 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|--|
| Arnie Campbell | President | James Dexter | Vice-President |
| Phone: | 642-3113 | Phone: | 642-6841 |
| Email: | d.acampbell@shaw.ca | Email: | dexmar@shaw.ca |
| Emma Taylor | Secretary/Treasurer | | |
| Phone: | 642-1094 | | |
| Sandy Barta | Director | Wayne Fritz | Director |
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| | | Email: | wlfritz@shaw.ca |
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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday July 6 | Juan de Fuca Parks Committee 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke |
| Wednesday July 12 | Shirley Community Association Meeting 7:30 p.m. Shirley Community Hall |
| Saturday July 15 | Muir Creek Protection Society Parks Day Picnic Muir Creek Contact Alanda (642-3001) for more information |
| Tuesday July 18 | 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,
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 July 20 | Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) 7:00 p.m. Multi Purpose Room "A" SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Phillips Road Sooke |
|---------------------|---|

Wednesday
August 2 **OPSRRA Directors Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke
Note: New start time!

Thursday
August 3 **Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke

2. NEW LOCAL BUSINESSES ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

OPSRRA welcomes the following local business to the OPSRRA web site:

John Grigor's Jambo Pet Sitting Service

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, 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.ca) under Business Listings.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1001 Welding & Equipment Repair | ALM Organic Farm |
| Beaches West B&B | Birds Edge Press |
| Body Wellness Spa | Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite |
| Full Circle Seeds | Jambo Pet Sitting Service |
| Kemp Lake Store | Malahat Farms B&B |
| Otter Point Beach House | Roads End Construction |
| Sandy's Drywall Ltd | Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast |
| Tugwell Creek Honey Farm | Tugwell Creek Meadery |

3. OPSRRA DIRECTOR VACANCY

Due to continuing family commitments, Mitch Moneo has not been able to attend most of the monthly directors' meetings. He has therefore decided to submit his resignation as an OPSRRA director. Mitch has been an OPSRRA director for six years and at various times has been Acting Vice-President and Acting President. We wish Mitch & Shannon well with their commitment to daughter Savannah's competitive swimming venture. She will be representing our area at the Provincial Championships in July. Will she be representing us at the Canadian Nationals next?

Although a director's vacancy can be left unfilled until the next AGM, the OPSRRA directors would prefer to appoint someone to complete the balance of Mitch's term. Interested persons are invited to submit their name for consideration for an interim appointment. The commitment would be for about 6 months and would require being available for a monthly directors' meeting and a willingness to participate in various committee meetings and related activities. Contact Arnie Campbell, OPSRRA President, or Jim Dexter, OPSRRA V.P., for more information.

4. UPDATE ON A REQUEST FOR A GOVERNANCE STUDY

Representatives from the provincial government (Ministry of Community Services) and the Capital Regional District have requested a July meeting with representatives from the seven Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point community organizations who have been lobbying for a governance study for our area. The purpose of this initial meeting will *likely* be to:

- ◆ Provide the community representatives with an update on the governance options that the province and the CRD are prepared to allow us to study.
- ◆ Provide us with an opportunity to comment on the draft terms-of-reference.
- ◆ Review the governance study process.

5. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

In 1910-1911 a company was formed in Victoria to drill for oil at Muir Creek?

They went down about 1,200 feet (considered a great depth in those days). The venture was unsuccessful, however some remains of the "oil well" can still be seen on the east side of the creek and a picture of the site is kept at the Shirley Community Hall.

Scraf House at 3642 Otter Point Road, just east of the junction of Otter Point Road and Kemp Lake Road, is believed to have been constructed in 1887?

Originally built as a log cabin, it was bought by sealing captain Oscar Scarf in the 1890s, expanded and used as a boarding house for local travelers and school teachers. The house has recently been sold and is presently undergoing extensive renovations (including a new foundation).

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** Is from a book of early local history written by Jean Stuart Clark in 1981, called *This Really Happened* and from *101 Historical Buildings of the Sooke Region* 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 the answer to? If so, let us know and we'll try to help.

6. COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

to have arrived in your mail the third week of June. However, it was delayed by 10 days because of a problem with mailing labels. The survey should now have been delivered to your mail box. This is a really important survey for our community and OPSRRA encourages its members to complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible as the information needs to be tabulated and analyzed prior to a community planning forum scheduled for September 23.

7. OTTER POINT LOG SORT IS FOR SALE

Last month's newsletter reported the sale of 559 acres of TimberWest land (between Amanda Place and Tugwell Road) to Canadian Horizon Land Corporation (www.canadianhorizons.ca), a real estate development company that intends to apply to have the property rezoned from Rural "A" to increase the density and then sell the property for residential development.

In June, TimberWest put another large Otter Point property on the real estate market. Their 47.7 acre property at 3220 Otter Point Road was originally used as a mill site and, until several years ago, as a "dry-land log sort". There has been no industrial activity on the property in recent years. The property is a mixture of Rural "A" and General Industrial M-2 zoning. The asking price is \$3,000,000.

Most of this property is located within the Kemp Lake watershed. The Otter Point Zoning Advisory Committee has recommended that the zoning on this property be changed to Light Industrial to protect the watershed and to minimize the impact of industrial activity on the surrounding neighbourhood; which has seen increased residential development in the past few years since the log sort became inactive. More information about this property can be obtained by visiting the web site of the listing realtor jj Barnicke: <http://www.jjb.com/>

8. DALE ARDEN LOG HAULING LTD. GRAVEL PIT APPLICATION

Dale Arden Log Hauling Ltd. has applied to the Ministry of Energy and Mines for a permit to extract sand and gravel from their property on West Coast Road, east of Muir Creek in the vicinity of Anderson Road. Details of their application filed with the Juan de Fuca Planning Services Office include:

- ◆ A request for a 3-year permit to operate a sand and gravel pit until July 2009.
- ◆ Removal of 150,000 cubic metres of sand and gravel per year (the equivalent of about 40 truck loads a day).
- ◆ On-site mechanical separation of the sand and gravel.
- ◆ Operating above the water table.
- ◆ Operating in accordance with the local noise by-law.

The gravel and sand pit would be operated by Trio Concrete Ltd.

"Any person affected by or interested in this program, has 30 days (from June 21st 2006) to make written submission regarding potential health, safety or environmental impacts of the proposed mine, to the Chief Inspector of Mines c/o Regional Director, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Mining and Minerals Division, PO Box 9320 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9N3"

9. I REMEMBER READING THAT BEFORE!

If a story in the Sooke Mirror, or elsewhere seems familiar, it could be because you had already read it in the OPSRRA newsletter. We send a copy of the newsletter to a variety of interested agencies, organizations and individuals who are not OPSRRA members but have expressed an interest in being kept up-to-date on what is happening in Shirley and Otter Point; they sometimes re-use items from the OPSRRA newsletter.

10. COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

Thank-you to the many members who contributed the materials (fir, cedar, corkboard and posts) that will be used to assemble 8 more community notice boards. And a special thanks to Pat and Murray Tompkins for offering to put the signs together for us. We still need to buy some exterior oil-based paint and miscellaneous items such as carriage bolts and caulking. If you can donate to the cause, let Jim Dexter know. He is at: 642-6841 or dexmar@shaw.ca

- ◆ Community notice boards are presently located at:
- ◆ Otter Point Road at Youngs' Lake Road
- ◆ Tugwell Road at Michelson Road
- ◆ Otter Point Road at Otter Point Fire Hall
- ◆ King Road at Corby Ridge
- ◆ Kemp Lake Store
- ◆ Kemp Lake Road north of Davidson
- ◆ Carpenter Road at Delrae Place
- ◆ West Coast Road at Tugwell Creek Bridge

Note: The community of Shirley has undertaken to erect their own community notice boards. A new one has recently been installed at the Shirley Community Hall. Other Shirley notice boards are located on Woodhaven at Alderdale and the junction of Woodhaven and Seaside Drive.

11. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY UPDATE

The recent slug-fest, art show and strawberry tea was a successful fund-raising and awareness-raising event for the Muir Creek Protection Society. Up-coming events include a family picnic on July 15 (Parks Day) at Muir Creek and a musical benefit tentatively set for Friday, August 11. Contact the Muir Creek Protection Society at: muircreek@hotmail.com or phone 642-0948 for more information. Through an arrangement with The Land Conservancy you can now receive a charitable tax receipt for a donation toward saving Muir Creek as a park. Donations to the TLC should be marked Muir Creek.

12. UPDATE ON THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS FOR SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER & OTTER POINT

The Official Community Plans (OCPs) for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point were given first reading by the CRD Board on June 14 and have now been sent to various agencies for their comments. These comments need to be returned by July 14. They will then be reviewed by the CRD Planning Services staff. Depending on whether these agency comments require any further changes to the draft OCPs, or not, will determine when the OCPs will go to public hearing. This will be a decision of the JDF Land Use Committee at one of its August meetings. The likelihood is that the public hearings will be in mid to late September. OPSRRA intends to hold a membership meeting before the public hearings to familiarize members with the OCPs and to collect their comments for OPSRRA's presentation at the public hearings.

13. 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.
