

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE JULY 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 **370**. 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.

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 **165** 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 642-3113 to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Thursday July 5	Juan de Fuca Parks Committee 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
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Note: Call 642-1500 to confirm this meeting.

Saturday July 7	Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike to Grassy Lake 9:30 a.m. Meet at the gravel pit just across the Charter's Creek bridge (2900 block, Sooke River Road). This is a day's hike up into the hills to the water lilies. Grassy Lake's elevation is 421 metres. We will spend a couple of hours at the lake for lunch and exploration. Confident swimmers may want to swim. We will return about 4:00 pm. Bring food and water, and dress for the weather.
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Call Rosemary for information (642-2767) or email:
sid2767@shaw.ca

Tuesday July 10	<p>JDF Land Use Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road</p> <p>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.</p>
Wednesday July 11	<p>Shirley Community Association General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Shirley Community Hall</p>
Thursday July 19	<p>Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) 7:00 p.m. Multi Purpose Room “A” SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke BC</p>
Monday July 23	<p>OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome! 7:30 p.m. Board Room “A” SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC</p>
Tuesday July 24	<p>Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee Monthly Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC</p>
Tuesday July 24	<p>JDF Governance Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC</p>
Thursday July 26	<p>JDF Economic Development Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m. Village Foods Meeting Room (upstairs) Village Food Market 103-6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC</p> <p>Note: Call 642-1500 to confirm this meeting.</p>
Thursday August 2	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks Committee 6:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC</p>
Sunday August 12	<p>Shirley Days 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall</p>

Second & Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
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2. DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY

The first public event organized by the **Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee** was a well attended public forum on rural land use held June 19.

Approximately 80 local area residents were at the Otter Point Fire Hall to hear speakers from the B.C. Landowners Association, Smart Growth B.C. and the Mayor of Metchosin speak about differing perspectives on rural values, essential elements of healthy rural communities, the planning tools needed to guide zoning and rural land use options for Shirley and Otter Point.

More information about this forum will be included in the project's July Information Bulletin. Contact Arnie Campbell (d.acampbell@shaw.ca) if you want to have your name added to the project's e-mail distribution list.

OPSRRA has been approved for a \$5,000 grant from the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. to be used to offset some of the costs of the year-long **Developing a Strategic Vision** project.

The project's steering committee continues to meet monthly and is now looking at its next public event which will likely focus on economic development.

3. SHIRLEY B.C. MEET SHIRLEY ENGLAND

For the second time in the past year the OPSRRA web site has helped distant relations make contact with one another. Earlier this year an OPSRRA member was put in contact with his second cousin from England. She had seen the OPSRRA web site and asked our help locating her cousin in Otter Point, British Columbia. Last month OPSRRA was contacted by a quilters group in Shirley, England. They had seen the Shirley, B.C. quilters notice in the OPSRRA newsletter and wanted our help connecting them with their "quilting cousins" in Canada.

4. JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY TRAILS SOCIETY AGM

The Society submitted the following report of the June 26 Annual General Meeting of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails society to the OPSRRA newsletter:

The JDF Community Trails AGM was well attended. The president, Sid Jorna presented the state of play in the advocacy of trails in the Otter Point Community. He showed how existing trails in the Crown lands plus parks acquired by the JDF Parks and recreation Commission and the proposed trails in the subdivisions of Canadian Horizon, 3L Developments and Island View Construction can be linked to form a community trail system. Although there are complex issues around these trails, we are receiving excellent support from the developers, the forestry Ministry and the JDFFA Parks and Recreation Commission. We are moving towards delivering a dedicated recreational trail system for this community.

Our new slate of officers are elected as follows:

President: Sid Jorna

Vice President: Erik James
Secretary: Heather Phillips
Treasurer: Judi Conwright
Director Hiking: Rosemary Jorna
Director Biking: Lorien Arnold
Director Equestrian: Laurie Fontaine
Director at Large (Equestrian): Virginia Seabrook

5. RENOVATIONS AT SCOUTS CANADA CAMP BARNARD

Scouts Canada has just launched a project to renovate two of their meeting/dining hall lodges. They recently held a very successful corporate breakfast in Victoria which raised \$15,000 and have several other requests for funding underway. They estimate that they will need at least \$100,000 if they are able to raise the funds to do everything that they want to do up-date and repair the lodges. The roofers have already been selected and will be starting work in July; the next steps will be log repairs to Totem lodge and then mostly interior work and improving access to the buildings. Scouts Canada expects that it will take 2-3 years to get the whole project done. They have some skilled volunteers and will do as much of the renovations as they can, themselves, but some jobs will require paid help. Any skilled volunteers or community group looking to do a good turn can call Willy Burrows at Camp Barnard (642-5924) and make an offer of time or materials.

6. 2007 PROPERTY TAXES IN JDF ELECTORAL AREA

Once again most property owners in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area have seen their taxes held to a minor increase or perhaps even go down! Unfortunately not everyone in the Electoral Area has benefited; but if your property assessment remained near the average and didn't sky-rocket, as some waterfront properties did, you probably felt pleased with your 2007 tax bill in comparison to some other communities in the local area. Although minor savings were seen "here and there" with a reduced mil rate needed to meet the operating expenses of fire departments, the Sooke Region Museum and SEAPARC Leisure Centre, the largest savings was seen in our share of taxpayer support for School District #62. Growth in the tax base in other communities (Colwood, Langford and Sooke) that share the cost of SD #62 likely helped to reduce our tax load. School taxes remain the single largest residential tax item at about 35% of our tax bill, before the Provincial Home Owner Grant reduction. It remains the responsibility of our elected School Trustees to set the budget and keep spending within the limits set by the Province. Ironically, voter interest in school trustee elections is usually less than the 35% of our tax bill that they are responsible for.

7. CRD BYLAW 3419: TO AUTHORIZE BORROWING \$26,000,000 FOR WATERWORKS FACILITY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking taxpayer approval to borrow \$26,000,000 to acquire land, plan, study, design and construct buildings, plant, water mains, dams and other water works facilities and equipment to upgrade and expand the CRD Regional water supply. This will include a new water supply system to Sooke. Although residents of Otter Point and Shirley are not on the CRD water supply, we are entitled to vote on this money bylaw.

The CRD is intending to proceed with this bylaw by using the Counter Petition process. With this process, the bylaw will be accepted unless 10% (25,309) of the estimated electors in the CRD sign a petition opposing this process in which case it will have to go to referendum.

More information is available from:

CRD Water Services Department
479 Island Highway, Victoria (View Royal)
JDF Electoral Area Planning Services Department
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke

8. SOOKE INTERNATIONAL HALF IRON TRIATHLON

PRESS RELEASE

LifeSport Coaching announced today that Sooke, BC, will host the second stop on the new long distance triathlon series. The **Sooke International Half-Iron and Sprint Triathlon** will take place on July 22, 2007. The event will be staged in the magnificent setting of the rural community of Otter Point and the urban sides of Sooke, a beautiful ocean-side community located in the western communities of Greater Victoria. The event promises to be a real “rural meets urban” feeling of one of BC’s fastest growing regions utilizing Young’s Lake, local roads, and the Sooke downtown corridor. This event will feature local and international elite athletes as well as amateur participants from across North America. Lucy Smith, Ironman Competitor stated, “It is great to see the Sooke community get involved and behind this event”. Registration will open on March 24, 2007 at www.LifeSport.ca

Note: The event begins and ends at Camp Barnard. Young’s Lake will be used for the swim portion of the race and post-race awards ceremony will also be at the camp.

CHILDREN’S EVENT

A big part of the **Subaru Sooke International Half-Iron & Sprint Triathlon** is their **Kids Run** for children aged 4 to 13. The **FREE & FUN Kids Run** for their event will happen on Saturday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Camp Barnard.

No fee or registration is required but they would like to know the estimated number of kids attending, so please RSVP to:

Carlee Howell
Event Coordinator
LifeSport Coaching
Ph: (250) 220-2259
www.lifesport.ca

TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN

**Subaru Sooke International Half Iron Triathlon
Sunday, July 22, 2007**

Parking Lot, Camp Barnard at Young Lake, 3202 Young’s Lake Road, Sooke

- Marshalls will direct vehicles including spectators and cyclists into the parking lot until 7:15 am. After 7:15 am, this parking lot will be closed until 12:30pm.

The Cycling Route: 86K

Exit from Camp Barnard (one done once)

- **Young’s Lake Road** will be closed to vehicles from 7:25am to 8:35am
- Cyclist will start their ride by heading south on **Young’s Lake Road**, then turning left onto **Otter Point Road** (only done once at start of ride). This intersection will be controlled by professional traffic control.

Main Loop (4 Laps), 7:25am to 12:15pm
(Otter Point Road, Grant Road and West Coast Road)

- Cyclists will be traveling eastbound on [Otter Point Road](#), then turning right onto [Grant Road](#)
- Cyclists will continue on [Grant Road](#) until it connects with [West Coast Road](#)
- At the intersection of [Grant Road](#) and [West Coast Road](#), cyclist will turn right and go westbound on [West Coast Road](#)
- At the intersection of [West Coast Road](#) and the western end of [Otter Point Road](#), cyclist will turn right and go eastbound onto [Otter Point Road](#)
- Cyclist will continue eastbound on [Otter Point Road](#) to finish a full loop
- Cyclist will not go back into [Young's Lake Road](#), but continue eastbound on [Otter Point Road](#)
- Professional Traffic Controllers and/or Police will be positioned at all intersections on this route to direct all vehicles to enter into the race course roads only when it is deemed safe.
- Volunteer Marshalls will be positioned at all intersections on this route to direct all participants onto the correct roads.

Exit from Bike to Run (one done once)

After the cyclist have finished their 4 main loops they will dismount their bikes at the John Phillips Park Field, directly south of the offices of the District of Sooke and the corner of [Otter Point Road](#) and [Beaton Road](#), on the Eastern side of [Otter Point Road](#).

- The cyclist will turn left onto the parking lot of the District of Sooke and dismount their bikes in preparation to store their bikes onto the bike racks that will be set up on the John Phillips Park Field. Professional Traffic Controllers and/or Police will be positioned at this location to direct all vehicles.

The Running Route (2 out-and-back laps): 21.1K

9:20am – 3:15pm

- Starting from John Phillips Park Field, the runners will either run southbound on [Otter Point Road](#) or on the John Phillips Park field until [Ayre Road](#). Professional traffic controllers will be positioned to direct the traffic and volunteer marshals to direct the runners.
- Runners will continue southbound on the [Otter Point Road](#) east shoulder to the [West Coast Road](#) intersection.
- At the [West Coast Road](#) intersection, the runners will cross [West Coast Road](#) and run westbound on the south shoulder of [West Coast Road](#). Professional traffic controllers will be positioned to direct the traffic and volunteer marshals to direct the runners.
- The runners will continue to run westbound all the way to the intersection of [West Coast Road](#) and [Whiffen Spit Road](#), turning left onto [Whiffen Spit Road](#). Professional traffic controllers will be positioned to direct the traffic and volunteer marshals to direct the runners.
- Runners will continue southbound on [Whiffen Spit Road](#) to the end of the [Whiffen Spit trail](#).
- At the end of the [Whiffen Spit trail](#), runners will turnaround and return back the same route.
- On the return route the runners will be on the opposite side of [West coast Road](#). Runners will turn left on to [Shield Road](#), right on to [Eustace Road](#) and then left on to [Otter Point Road](#). Professional traffic controllers will be

positioned to direct the traffic and volunteer marshals to direct the runners at these locations. Runners will always be directed to run facing the traffic.

- After 2 out-and-back laps of this route, the runners will finish in the John Phillips Park Field south of the District of Sooke office building.

Note: There are NO road closures on the race course with the exception of Young Lake Road. Young Lake Road will be closed from 7:25am-8:35am on Sunday, July 22 only!

9. RESOURCE LANDS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

On June 12, the JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee voted to have the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) for the Resource Lands go to a public meeting for community comment. The Resource Lands OCP covers the vast area north of Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew to the boundary of the Cowichan Regional District. It stretches from the Greater Victoria watershed in the east to the west side of Port San Juan including portions of the West Coast Trail.

This is a massive area that is entirely within the JDF Electoral Area. Most of the land is owned by either private forest companies or the Province and is used primarily for forestry and some mining. It is an important recreational area and has the largest remaining natural habitat for wildlife and native plants on the southern portion of Vancouver Island. Deciding its future is crucial to both the JDF Electoral Area and the Greater Victoria Area.

Private forestry operations in this area presently generate about \$1,000,000 in property taxes for the JDF Electoral Area and the Capital Regional District.

Because of the importance of ensuring that this first OCP for the Resource Lands is widely publicized and that residents have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan, OPSRRA has written the Capital Regional District requesting that there be more than the one public information meeting currently planned for the draft OCP before it proceeds to public hearing.

The draft OCP can be viewed at the JDF Electoral Services Office located at 2-6868 West Coast Road in Sooke.

10. DALE ARDEN MINING APPLICATION

The application by Dale Arden Log Hauling Ltd. and Trio Concrete Ltd. to expand the present gravel pit operation on West Coast Road at Anderson Road. (see OPSRRA June 2007 newsletter) will not be considered by the Province until a public meeting is held. In a reply to OPSRRA dated June 15, 2007 the Provincial Inspector of Mines states that, "Aggregate operation applications undergo a established, comprehensive, technical review and consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Mines Act and Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in B.C., to ensure that the permit decision is based upon a full understanding of health, safety, environmental and community concerns. Applications are also referred to other agencies, including local or regional government."

Notice of the required public meeting will be published in the Sooke and Victoria newspapers at least two weeks prior to the meeting being held.

11. DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Muir Creek Flats has been the site of many activities for residents of both Shirley and Otter Point over the past century? Located between the two communities, on one of the few pieces of flat land with ocean access, Muir Creek Flats became a natural meeting place for social activities. As early as 1909,

residents of Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point would gather there for picnics and games—often dressed quite formally by our “modern“ standards. Over time the Muir Creek area has been used as a log dump, logged for masts for the Royal Navy, was the source for the world’s tallest totem pole which now resides in Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, was explored for oil and had its beaches harvested for seaweed.

At one time, a sign was located to the east of the mouth of the creek identifying the grave site of several First Nations people buried there prior to 1890. It was placed by the medical health officer from Victoria and the inscription, from Shakespeare, read:

“Good friend, for Jesus sake forebear
To dig the dust enclosed here
Blessed be the man that spares these stones
And cursed be he that moves my bones.”

The origin of the name “Orveas Bay” given to the shallow bay off the shores of Gordon’s Beach and Muir Creek? None of the usual sources such as the Sooke Region Museum or local reference books give a definite answer as to how the bay got its name. If you know, let me know. Contact Arnie at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Information for this month’s **Did You Know That?** was provided, in part, 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.

12. 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**.

The OPSRRA web site has more information about the following business listings:

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	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	Knotty Beds by Nature
Le Sooke Spa	Otter Point Beach House

Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

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.
