

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY  
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)  
INFORMATION UPDATE JULY 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 **400**. 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](http://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 **265** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto: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](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) or **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

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Saturday  
July 3

**Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society  
Peden Lake to Grassy Lake**

9:00 a.m.

Meet at the water treatment plant on Sooke River Road (2900 block at Charters Creek).

We will leave some cars at the treatment plant and going to the upper parking lot at the Sooke Potholes Regional Park.

This is an all-day hike.

Bring a lunch, a snack and a bathing suit.  
Note the earlier start time.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca) for details.

Web site:

[www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca](http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca)

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Wednesday  
July 7

**Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission  
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Board Room  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

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Wednesday  
July 14

**Shirley Community Association  
General Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

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Tuesday  
July 20

**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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm)  
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

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Thursday  
July 22      **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission  
Monthly Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Village Foods Meeting Room (upstairs)  
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

**Note:**  
Contact the  
CRD  
Planning  
Office to  
confirm.

**Meeting at the call of the Chair.**

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Wednesday  
July 27      **Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission  
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
JDF Electoral Area Services Office  
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

**Note:**  
Contact the  
CRD  
Planning  
Office to  
confirm.

**Meeting at the call of the Chair.**

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Wednesday  
August 4      **Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission  
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Board Room  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

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Saturday  
August 7      **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society  
Hike Kludahk Trail**  
9:00 a.m.

This is an up-and-down, all-day hike to one of the subalpine lakes. We will spend time exploring the area. Bring lunch, snacks and swimming gear.

**You must register for this hike;** the number of people able to participate depends on the number of four-wheel drive vehicles volunteered.

Let us know if you wish to drive and how many passengers you can take.

**Register by email only:** [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca)

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca) for details.

**Web site:**  
[www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca](http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca)

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Sunday  
August 8      **Community Health Initiative (Food-CHI)  
Local Farm Tours**

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Sunday **Shirley Day**  
August 22 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall



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

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

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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

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## 2. **UPDATE: OTTER POINT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW**

The long awaited start of the Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) review has been delayed. CRD Planning Services have decided to wait until September to advertize for volunteers from Otter Point to sit on the OCP review committee. This will allow time for CRD Planning Services to let a single contract, over the summer, to a company to provide a project planner for the review and to do the environmental assessment.

Here are the highlights from the Request For Proposal (RFP) which has been let by the CRD. The closing date for interested companies wishing to bid on this this contact is July 12, 2010. The full RFP can be viewed on the CRD web site: [http://www.crd.bc.ca/business/opportunities/Document.aspx?project\\_id=RFP](http://www.crd.bc.ca/business/opportunities/Document.aspx?project_id=RFP)

### **Community OCP Update Liaison**

1. Work with the Otter Point community to review the OCP by working with the Citizens' Committee and the broader community through public events and materials in accordance with the Consultation Plan.
2. Review the existing OCP with the community to identify data gaps, confirm community vision, goals and values for the OCP, and identify new community issues to be addressed.
3. Prepare materials for and minutes of the Citizens Committee meetings, prepare all materials for public information sessions and provide summaries of results, and prepare a report on recommendations for amendments to the OCP.

## Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory

1. Meet with the Citizens Committee as required to confirm sensitive ecosystem inventory data gaps and needs, and community priorities and values applicable to the sensitive ecosystem inventory.
2. Meet with the Technical Committee to confirm the sensitive ecosystem inventory project scope and deliverables, and to exchange existing information, data and mapping.
3. Prepare a brief progress report in electronic form. Summarizing:
  - Existing ecological data gaps and needs; and
  - Community priorities and values applicable to the sensitive ecosystem inventory.
  - Criteria and methods for ecosystem inventory and assessment, including a survey of existing data, and a program for air photo interpretation and selective field inventory and “ground-truthing” data.
4. Prepare a set of area maps in electronic (GIS) form at a scale of 1:5,000 to the standards set by the Technical Committee, including:
  - Watersheds, watercourses, wetlands and riparian areas;
  - Known groundwater aquifer and recharge areas;
  - Known and potential sensitive ecosystems, wildlife locations and habitats, including rare and endangered flora and fauna and species at risk.
5. Meet with Technical Committee to review the sensitive ecosystem inventory maps and supporting data, and to review draft report.
6. Prepare a report which translates the community priorities and values into the justification and delineation of land use designations and development permit areas.
7. Prepare sensitive ecosystem inventory materials and attend and a public information meeting on the sensitive ecosystem inventory findings.

### **3. UPDATE: SHIRLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Shirley Fire Department is awaiting the arrival of a new pumper truck as a replacement for their present one which has been experiencing problems getting up some of the steeper hills.

The Shirley fire chief requests that Shirley residents and landowners who have locked gates provide the Fire Department with keys to allow access to their property in case of emergency.

Please contact Chief Donovan Ray at 250-646-2107.

### **4. OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

The Otter Point Fire Department (OPFD) celebrated its 30th anniversary on June 19 with a well attended Open House with live demonstrations of vehicle extractions and car, storage tank and dumpster fire suppression.

Members of the department respond to structure fires, wild fires and vehicles fires. They also provide First Responder medical services in conjunction with the B.C. Ambulance Service and attend motor vehicle collisions that sometimes require specialized extraction skills for injured or trapped occupants. The department

recently recruited some new members but is still looking for up to four more volunteer fire fighters. The fire department offers training to all members to the B.C. Fire Fighter Training Standard, Fire Fighting Level II. Other training such as first aid and driver training is also available. The department accepts both male and female candidates. All applicants must be:

- 16 years of age (if under 19 parental or guardian permission is required).
- In good health and physical condition.
- Able to pass a criminal record check.
- Able to attend either a Monday or Thursday evening weekly practice.

All members of the Otter Point Fire Department belong to the Otter Point Firefighters Association. The association supports the community through a variety of activities, including:

- Fund raising for Muscular Dystrophy.
- Annual Halloween bonfire and fireworks in Otter Point.
- New Year's Day Polar Bear swim at Wiffen Spit in Sooke.
- Canada Day water ball games at the Sooke Flats.

For further information about the OPFD visit their web site: [www.otterpointfire.bc.ca](http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca)

To apply as a volunteer fire fighter:

Download the application on their web site or  
Phone: 250-642-6211 or  
Email the fire chief at [chief@otterpointfire.bc.ca](mailto:chief@otterpointfire.bc.ca)

## **5. ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSIONS ELECT NEW CHAIRS**

Both the Shirley/Jordan River and the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commissions (APC) have elected their chair and vice-chair for 2010.

### **Elected for Shirley/Jordan River:**

Chair: Fiona McDannold  
Vice-chair: Sonja DeWitt  
Other members:  
Dominique Bernardet, Barbara Ferrett and Jane Munro.

### **Elected for Otter Point:**

Chair: Sandy Sinclair  
Vice-chair: Sid Jorna  
Other members:  
Gerry Niedermeiser, David Evans and Wayne Fritz.

The APCs were created in 2002 under CRD Bylaw 2945. They are locally elected commissions from each community in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and have the powers to make recommendations to the Land Use Committee on land use planning matters referred to them under Part 26 of the Local Government Act: Bylaw No. 3151 relating to the following:

- The development of or any amendment to any Official Community Plan
- The development of or any amendment to any Zoning Bylaw
- The issuance of a temporary commercial or industrial use permit
- The issuance of a development permit or development variance permit

- Any other land use planning matter referred to the Commission by either the Land Use Committee or the Board

## **6. UPDATE: JORDAN RIVER JOINING OPSRRA**

The directors of OPSRRA continue to examine whether the association should be expanding the boundary defining its area of interest to include the community of Jordan River. Any recommendation of the directors will be taken to the full membership for discussion and formal decision. Some of the residents of Jordan River have been meeting to look at their options, including a formal request to join OPSRRA. Meanwhile, 15 residents of Jordan River have joined OPSRRA as associate members.

## **7. JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

The following report was made to the CRD Electoral Area Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 regarding developing a plan to protect our communities in the event of a wild fire.

The CRD seeks approval to apply to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for funding to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFA) and to do so jointly with the District of Sooke.

### **Background**

The CWPP uses a base layer of information gathered by a consultant to look at how communities can reduce risk from interface fires. As communities continue to develop in rural areas, and continue to move more and more into forested areas, the risk of interface fires continues to grow. Recently, plans were developed in the Capital Regional District (CRD) Watershed Lands, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island. To date, no plan has been developed for the JDFA.

Staff has met with Chief Sorenson, District of Sooke Fire, to discuss the development of a CWPP. Both Chief Sorenson and CRD staff agree it would be more efficient to work together on the planning process, to ensure compatibility of plans. The result will be independent plans for each community, based on common methodology and with consistent recommendations. This is similar to the recent process involving Pender Islands and Saturna Island.

The process of developing a CWPP begins with a scientific assessment of the area under consideration to look at risk and potential impact. Risk is based on numerous factors, including weather patterns, forest and ground cover type, topology, emergency response capacity and property development. Once the initial data is compiled, the process will need to engage representation of stakeholders including, but not limited to:

- Local land use planners
- Building Inspection
- Emergency Management
- Local fire departments
- Ministry of Forests
- Regional Parks
- Provincial Parks
- National Parks

## **8. THAT PORT RENFREW SEPTAGE CHARGE ON YOUR 2010 PROPERTY TAXES!**

Have you looked at the line items on your 2010 property tax bill and wondered why you were paying 0.0011 or or close to one tenth of a cent per \$1,000 of assessed property value for something called Port Renfrew Septage? For most of us the cost is less then \$1.00 in taxes, but the line item was puzzling so OPSRRA began looking into this and with the help of the regional director found-out three things:

- The assessment was mislabelled and has nothing to do with Port Renfrew.
- The portion which the JDFEA is paying towards whatever this septage is \$1,534 and the total cost for the whole CRD is \$47,522.
- Information received by the regional director from the CRD's Senior Manager, Financial Services Division explains that the septage service is for the following:
  - Administer the contract with SPL (a private company) for owning and operating the regional septage disposal facility located in Langford.
  - Administer the trucked liquid waste program to ensure that trucked liquid waste is disposed of in an appropriate manner to protect public health and the environment.
  - The budget covers the cost for education and liaison with stakeholders, collection and promotion of pollution prevention materials, identify gaps in recycling and disposal infrastructure and a review of regulations.
  - Produce educational materials and provide workshops, such as Septic Savvy, to improve the knowledge of septic users on proper maintenance of their systems, and administration of the On-Site septic system management program.
  - Participation in the service includes all member municipalities except Salt Spring Island and the Outer Gulf Islands. Properties located in municipalities/service areas and capable of being drained into a municipal sanitary sewer are exempt from any levy. The service is funded through an administration fee paid by SPL to CRD, and requisition, on the basis of the origin of the septage volume delivered to the SPL facility.

## 9. NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURE: PREPARING FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEWS

We have begun a new feature on the OPSRRA web site to coincide with the beginning of the Official Community Plan (OCP) reviews for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. Because of the length of some of these articles we won't include them in the newsletter, but will provide a link to the articles on our OPSRRA web site.

The March feature, [False Economies](#) looked at the experiences of other communities in the Greater Victoria area and suggests what our communities could be doing to identify and acquire local green space amenities as part of the community planning process.

The April feature, [Living in a Forested Community](#), considered the best uses for our local forest land; the economic benefits we gain by retaining our forests; threats to our forests and what we need to do to keep our forest and our community healthy.

The May feature [Towards Collaborative Change: Engaging the Community in Land Use Planning](#) looks at some of the history behind land use, how official community plans and zoning regulate land use, and ways in which the community can participate in land use planning.

Wayne Fritz prepared this month's article, [Residential Taxes in Shirley and Otter Point](#).

**Note:** To read the articles, click on the appropriate link in [Background Articles](#) on the OPSRRA web site.

## 10. CRD REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Under provincial legislation outlined in Part 25 of the Local Government Act, regional districts in the province may develop a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). "The purpose of a regional growth strategy is to promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources." In August of 2003, the Capital Regional District became one of the first to adopt a Regional Growth Strategy. Comox is on the way to being the seventh regional district to adopt a Regional Growth Strategy.

The CRD RGS identifies key long range planning areas that all the member municipalities and electoral areas have agreed upon. After five years, the CRD Board decided a review the RGS for possible amendments and the review is now underway. As well, direction from the provincial government requires amendment of the RGS. A significant change has been to shift the emphasis from growth to sustainability. As a result, the new long range plan has been renamed the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS).

Heather Phillips, Otter Point's representative on the Land Use Committee and vice-chair of the committee, has submitted the following information on the RSS:

The first round of consultation for the CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy will soon end and a report to the CRD Board will be prepared. The surveys it is based on need wide public participation so that they reflect everyone's choices. This survey and the first report to the CRD Board are an early stage of the Regional Sustainability Strategy review.

To participate in this phase, go to the CRD MetroQuest site, [www.crd.metroquest.com](http://www.crd.metroquest.com) This interactive site allows you to view how several configurations of regional growth and transportation options

are predicted to affect living in the Capital Regional District. You are asked to register your preferred choices.

For development, the choices are to direct growth:

- To new areas.
- Everywhere.
- To existing areas.

For travel, the choices are to focus on:

- Roads and drivers.
- All modes of transportation.
- Public transit and alternative modes.

Only combinations of these choices can be registered. The information about how the choice affects selected priorities is to help people make their choices. There are fifteen "priorities" such as "lower fees and taxes", "clean air" and "walk-able neighbourhoods".

You need to register your choices for development and travel focus when you understand how they will affect your priorities. It is easy to be diverted by curiosity to explore how the combinations of choices are predicted to affect the many, many combinations of priorities possible but it is important that you register your preferred choices soon.

- View the priorities, make your selection.
- View the choices, make your selection.
- Register your choice by clicking on the "five star" bar in the top right hand corner.
- Then explore the results for other combinations when you have time.

## 11. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

### **Pioneer Logging of Shirley once supplied spars to the British Royal Navy?**

The company began logging in the Point No Point area in 1931, and in 1934 they took-out half a dozen 110 foot Douglas-fir spars and transported them to an offshore vessel that was waiting to take them to England.

The Pioneer Logging Company was owned by brothers Joe and Louis Pedneault. Using two Packard trucks, the company hauled over 17 loads of logs a day on a plank road built over the abandoned CPS logging railway lines to a log dump located west of Point No Point.

The company employed many local residents including Ivan French whose father James French had settled the area now known as French Beach in 1889. The French family transferred ownership of a portion of that property to the province of B.C. in 1981 to establish French Beach Provincial Park.

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 and 4,000 Years—A History of the Rainforest* both 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 Arnie Campbell by phone (250-642-3113) or by email: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca)

## 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](http://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](http://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.

**Support local businesses. 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

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  
Rock Beach Grill and Groceries  
(formerly Kemp Lake Store & Cafe)  
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  
Three Sisters Farm  
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.

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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](http://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.

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