

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE July 2012**



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 over **400**. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point who are age 18 or over are 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 emails this newsletter to over **300** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: opsrra@gmail.com you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Arnie Campbell	President	Fiona McDannold	Vice-President
Phone:	250-642-3113	Phone:	250-646-2730
		Bob Philips	Treasurer
		Phone:	250-642-3297
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Caroline Larsen	Director	Brenda Mark	Director
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Marika Nagasaka	Director		
Phone:	250-642-2133		

Note: Contact any OPSRRA director at the following email address:
opsrra@gmail.com

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: opsrra@gmail.com or **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Tuesday
July 3 **Juan de Fuca Emergency Services**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

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

Saturday
July 7 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike up Mt. Braden
9:00 a.m.

Meet at the Saseenos Park & Ride to car pool to parking near the 4 lane on Sooke Road. If you come from East of Sooke, parking is at the mailboxes on the Sooke side of the 4 lane (meet at 9:30 a.m.)

A six hour hike, plus travel time.

An 11 kilometre loop to Mt. Braden's summit at 479 metres. This hike is not for the faint of heart (nor is it dangerous); expect to do some climbing.

Bring a lunch, a snack, and plenty of water. Dress for the weather.

Our thanks to Ev Petrie, hike leader. Ev's contact information:
Phone: 250-642-3786 or
email: ottercovecottage@shaw.ca

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767
or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
July 8 **Shirley Farmers Market**
9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

Pioneer Park (next to Shirley Community Hall)

Contact Christopher Lucas for table information:
Phone: 250-900-8817

Tuesday July 17	<p>JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting 7:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Planning Services Meeting Room 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC</p> <p>Obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting on the CRD website at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/agendas/juandefucalandusecom_/index.htm Select the year and month of the agenda you wish to read.</p>
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Wednesday July 18	<p>Community Meeting Proposed residential development on the former Western Forest Products Lands in Otter Point 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall</p> <p>The property owners organized this event.</p> <p>Details posted on the OPSRRA Community Notice Boards and in the Sooke News.</p>
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Sunday July 22	<p>Shirley Farmers Market 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pioneer Park (next to Shirley Community Hall)</p> <p>Contact Christopher Lucas for table information: Phone: 250-900-8817</p>
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Saturday August 4	<p>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike a section of the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>A day-long hike</p> <p>Details to be announced</p> <p>Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details. Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
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Every second and fourth Sunday May 13 to October 21	<p>Shirley Farmers Market 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pioneer Park (next to Shirley Community Hall)</p> <p>Contact Christopher Lucas for table information: Phone: 250-900-8817</p>
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Mondays	<p>Karate for all ages 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Shirley Community Hall</p> <p>Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631</p>
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Tuesdays **Yoga**
6:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
With Alanda Carver

Thursdays **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
No sessions in July and August; resumes September
Everyone welcome
Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

Thursdays &
Sundays **Nia Dance / Movement Class**
Thursdays: 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
Contact Melody Kimmell:
250-646-2995
movingmelody@gmail.com

2. TRIATHLON RACE ROUTE

This is advance notice about the annual Subaru Sooke Triathlon in Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Sooke on Sunday, August 12. Last year the course was changed to extend the bicycle race past Jordan River. This necessitated the closure of Highway 14 between Gordon's Beach and a point approximately 15 kilometres west of Jordan River resulting in considerable inconvenience for local businesses, campers, residents and others. Changes have been made to the timing of the highway closure for the 2012 event which will hopefully minimize delays.

Here is most of the information supplied to the OPSRRA newsletter by the race organizers:

Dear Resident or Stakeholder:

This is an additional reminder that there will be a road closure on August 12 that could affect your residents or guests. The roads are closed in order to accommodate the safety of the participants in the Subaru Sooke International Triathlon and filming of the event for a television production that will air nationally on TSN. We are asking for your cooperation with planning your travel that day and informing your guests to plan and abide by the road closures listed below. Despite the closures, we have been working with CRD Regional Director Mike Hicks to find some periods of time during the closures where some travel will be allowed. We are also working to see if we can reduce the time of the closure on the eastbound lane from 12 noon to 11:30 am (keep in mind the westbound lane is fully open at 10:30 am). We will be back to you shortly with these plans. Please be informed that there could be long delays with cyclists and film crews on the roads. There may be places along the route where traffic is stopped or delayed for long periods of time so please try to avoid travel in these periods and ask your guests to give themselves extra time to travel.

We appreciated your patience, cooperation and support. We know that this can be inconvenience to you. The 60 minute national television program will be seen by millions and will be focused on the beauty of the area and activities available. It should provide a very large benefit to the tourism industry in the area for years to come. Many local residents are also taking part and we know they appreciate your support as well.

August 12, 2012 road closures:

- 1 7:00 am to 3:00 pm **Otter Point Road** from Grant Road to Rhodonite Drive
- 2 7:00 am to 10:30 am **Otter Point Road** (westbound lane) from Young Lake Road to West Coast Road (westerly intersection) and **Young Lake Road**
*Local residents use Kemp Lake Road for access
- 3 7:00 am to 10:30 am **West Coast Road** (westbound lane) from Otter Point Road (westerly intersection) to approximately 15km west of Jordan River

- 4 7:00 am to 12:00 pm **West Coast Road** (eastbound lane) from approximately 15km west of Jordan River to Otter Point Road (westerly intersection)
- 5 7:00 am to 12:00pm **Otter Point Road** (eastbound lane) from West Coast Road (westerly intersection) to Rhodonite Drive
*Local residents use Kemp Lake Road for access
 - All side streets within the closure areas will be closed. Expect delays and plan ahead.
 - Please obey all signage and follow directions from traffic control personnel.
 - Provisions have been made for access of all emergency vehicles

For the very latest please see www.triserries.ca

For further information about the closure, contact the race office at 250-220-2259 or by email at events@triserries.ca

3. **UPDATE: OTTER POINT OCP REVIEW**

The OCP Review Committee concluded its recommendations on the 1st draft of the Otter Point OCP on June 27. The next step is for the draft to be reviewed by the Planning & Protective Services Committee of the CRD Board. This is a necessary step before preparing a second draft as there is a need to determine whether the recommended land use changes are consistent with the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy. The second draft is expected in September and it will be circulated for further community comment.

The OCP Review Committee passed four motions at its June meeting. The committee's more difficult and perhaps most contentious recommendation had to do with minimum parcel size and density in what is being called Settlement Area 2. There have now been 3 different votes on this matter and in every case the voters have had to balance competing personal and community interests such as discouraging 4 on 10 strata development, acquiring community amenities in exchange for more density and keeping Otter Point rural by having some larger lot sizes in Settlement Area 2. Here are the votes:

- Motion at the September, 2012 OCP Review Committee meeting:
To recommend that Rural A lands outside of the existing Settlement Containment Areas have a 2 ha density and a 1 ha minimum lot size.
This was passed by a vote of 6 to 5.
- Motion at the June 18 meeting of the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission:
Settlement Area 2 have a 1 hectare density with a 0.8 hectare minimum parcel size.
This vote was passed unanimously.
- Motion at the June 27 OCP Review Committee meeting:
Parcels over 25 hectares in Settlement Area 2 have a 2 hectare density with a 1 hectare minimum lot size. For parcels under 25 hectares: 1 hectare density with a 0.8 hectare minimum parcel size.
This vote was passed by a 6 to 4 vote.

The following motions were originally passed at the June 18 Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission meeting and unanimously supported by the OCP Review Committee:

- Moved: That the Otter Point Land Use Committee recommends that the Protection of Farming Development Permit Area be removed from the Otter Point OCP and that section 3.1.1, item 5 be amended to replace “must” with “should”.
- Moved: That the Otter Point OCP Review Committee recommends that if not already serviced by a public water system, Settlement Areas 1 and 2 as designated on Map 3 of this bylaw may be serviced by a public water system in the future. Consideration should be given to producing access to community water to lands designated as farms to support local food production.
- Moved: That the Otter Point OCP Review Committee accepts the proposed amendments to the draft OCP as discussed at the meetings of the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission.

Note: The wording of the above motions may not be exact and can't be assured until the minutes of the June 27 meeting are released.

Otter Point APC discussion details:

http://www.crd.bc.ca/minutes/otterpointadvisorypl_/2012_/ppsddf201205opapcmin-1/ppsddf201205opapcmin.pdf

Otter Point OCP Review Committee proceedings:

http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/landuse/otterpoint_ocp.htm

4. REVIVAL OF THE SHIRLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Stephanie Croft submitted the following story to the OPSRRA newsletter:

Over eighty-five years ago, eight local women got together to hold the very first Shirley Women's Institute meeting. Though the branch had few members, it was the first organization in Shirley and it filled a void in the community.

As the years went on, the Shirley Women's Institute (WI) took on many local issues. Perhaps the most notable accomplishment of the Shirley WI was its prevention of the combining of Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day in 1926. Starting with a simple resolution, this movement gained national momentum, inducing the federal government to make November 11 its own public holiday.

Despite all of its accomplishments, the Shirley WI was growing older, along with its membership, and very nearly met its extinction last year. A few of us caught wind of this and took steps towards reviving this pillar organization in our community. We started this year with only eight members, as in 1924, but are already growing. We are proud to have members ranging in age from their twenties to their eighties.

Perhaps what is most appealing about the concept of the Shirley Women's Institute is its purpose to serve rural women in their desire to be more self-sufficient through healthy food production and preservation. We feel that, in the last couple of generations, there has been a real disconnect between the transfer of knowledge of the age-old ways of healthy living and today's modern society. Many of us did not learn from our parents how to grow, make and preserve food or

how to make household cleaning products from safe ingredients or how to produce handicrafts. Many of us feel that the impact of our “disposable” society is taking its toll on our health, our environment and our values. And so, we feel there is a movement among younger generations wishing to learn the more eco-friendly, health conscious, sustainable ways of living of past generations. And this is what the revived Shirley Women’s Institute strives to do: share knowledge on healthy living practices and support community.

With this purpose in mind, we intend to hold regular information workshops and support charities and causes relevant to our community. We’ve started doing some fundraising, including hosting a table of homemade items for sale at the Shirley Market once a month. And while doing these things, we hope to provide a source for women in our community where they can connect with each other, create friendships and provide support for each other. And as it was in the early years, many members in our group come to the meetings and events with their babies and children in tow.

We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 in the Shirley Hall. We welcome new members or those just dropping in for interest.

For more information, please come to one of our meetings, drop by our market table or contact Stephanie Croft at stephaniecroft@hotmail.com or 250-646-9997. We hope to see you soon!

5. WHERE TO FIND HELP IN THE SOOKE REGION

The Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) with funding from the Vancouver Island Health Authority’s (VIHA) Sooke Integrated Health Network has updated their guide [Where to Find Help in the Sooke Region](#). This pamphlet identifies where to find affordable food, clothing, medical equipment, rides to medical appointments and employment services and is available from local community service providers and doctors’ offices.

Information about help in the Sooke Region is also available at www.sookeregionresources.com

6. SURVEY: UPDATING OPSRRA’S CONSTITUTION

We are trying something new. We now have the ability to conduct membership surveys that produce anonymous results. We’re starting with a simple one about possible changes to our association’s constitution. Results will be posted in the August newsletter and on the new Survey page on the OPSRRA web site.

Click on the following link to go to a short questionnaire related to our constitution. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dEQwcHRBeE5IOVFmRmRNal9vQjBUM3c6MQ>

You can also complete the form by following a link posted on the new "Survey" page on our website, www.opsrra.ca. Your responses are anonymous. Take a few minutes and give us your thoughts. Any additional comments about proposed changes to the constitution can be sent to the OPSRRA directors at opsrra@gmail.com

Note: We will disable this survey at the end of July.

Background:

OPSRRA was created in 1982. Our bylaws are very basic and have served us well. However the association has expanded its activities over the past 20 years and some of those changes may not be reflected in our bylaws. For example:

- We hold public education events like forums, town hall meetings and all candidates meetings.
- We now publish a monthly newsletter and have a web site.
- The voting age in BC is 18. Should the minimum age for membership remain at 19 or be changed?
- We have many associate members from Jordan River who can't become full members as our constitution says that you have to reside within the Otter Point or Shirley Fire Protection Districts. If the Shirley Fire Protection boundary is expanded to include Jordan River (which is under consideration) should Jordan River residents automatically become OPSRRA members?
- Some parts of Otter Point are not within the Otter Point Fire protection District. Should membership be changed from Fire Protection District to Official Community Plan boundary?

7. ALR LAND SWAP DENIED

Last fall an owner of 16.56 hectares of land in Sooke, that was within the Provincial Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), proposed withdrawing his property from the ALR in exchange for allowing 11.7 hectares of land in the 2000 block of Kemp Lake Road in Otter Point into the ALR. The Otter Point property is currently not in the ALR and is zoned Rural Residential 3. The District of Sooke supported the swap of ALR status as the Sooke Official Community Plan (OCP) identified the Sooke property as a potential location for a future technical park. The Otter Point property was professionally assessed and determined to be suitable for agricultural use. In February 2012, the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee recommended the inclusion of the Otter Point property in the ALR with the proviso that the Protection of Farming Development Permit area not be implemented on the adjacent properties. The Development Permit (DP) area is a 15 metre buffer on any property adjacent to existing ALR properties. These DP buffer strips are a provision of the present Otter Point OCP adopted in 2007.

The Agricultural Land Commission has recently informed the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area of its decision to deny the exclusion of the Sooke property from the ALR. The inclusion of the Kemp Lake Road property was also denied because it was applied for in association with the land swap. The current owners of the Kemp Lake Road property may proceed with an application to include their property in the ALR as an independent application. This would likely be supported by the CRD.

As a result of the proposed land swap, the issue of buffers to protect non-ALR land from ALR farmland activities and vice versa became a major issue at the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission's review of the draft 2012 Otter Point OCP.

Since the Protection of Farming Development Permit areas were established, there has never been an incident where a property owner has needed to apply for such a Development Permit. However, a successful application for a land swap in East Sooke created a new area of ALR land in 2007. Owners of property next to the new ALR land successfully argued against having the DP area established on their properties.

After considering the history and purposes of the Development Permit area and the views of community members, the Otter Point APC recommended that the Protection of Farming Development Permit Area be removed from the draft of the 2012 Otter Point OCP. It also recommended that any development on non-ALR land that is adjacent to ALR land should instead follow recommendations in the Landscape Buffer Specifications publication produced by the Agricultural Land Commission.

8. MEMORIAL BENCHES

Memorial benches and picnic tables, with bronze plaques affixed displaying the name and message desired can be purchased through JDF Electoral Area Community Parks and Recreation. A memorial can be placed in specified areas of our local Community Parks as a splendid and lasting way to remember a loved one in their community. It also serves as an appreciated benefit for our residents' use.

Information can be obtained from Ron Hamilton, Manager, Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation at: 250 642-1500 Ext.211 or email: rhamilton@crd.bc.ca

The Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation website has information and pictures of the memorial items that can be purchased: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/parks/index.htm>

9. UPDATE: EMERGENCY SERVICES IN OTTER POINT

Al Wickheim, Community Coordinator, Otter Point Juan de Fuca Emergency Management Program, submitted the following update on emergency services in Otter Point to the OPSRRA newsletter:

Hi Again Otter Point Neighbours!

Your **Pod Community Disaster Response** initiative is taking off nicely. I believe we are approaching 50% of our 35 or so Pods "captained" so far... by you and your neighbours. You may have had some visitors knock on your door offering some emergency management/self-rescue info and brochures. Please look through the information. It is simple and basic but not something most of us think about regularly enough to be fluent in.

We recently had an exercise at the fire hall working through an evacuation of the low coastal areas in anticipation of a large scale tsunami generated in the near offshore. Many of the Pod Captains affiliated with those Pods, plus experts from the Juan de Fuca Emergency Management Program were there and between local knowledge input and established functional guidelines much was accomplished in terms of practical plans and limitations to be managed.

Welcome your Pod representatives and participate if you can. It is interesting, worthwhile and can change our cultural response to disaster. You have skills, how can they be used here? Just as smoke tells you there is a fire, a significant earthquake is telling you there may be a tsunami less than an hour away. That's lots of time if you act immediately, but you are lost if you go down to the beach to see the water come back in. You would much rather be the folks taking the videos that end up on Youtube than the poor folks in those videos.

Be aware, know the plan for your Pod and act decisively if the time should arise. Like most communities on the Ring of Fire we may all be on this "island of Otter Point" together for a while if Mother Nature

so chooses. Those individuals, neighbourhoods and communities best prepared best survive and best cope and re-build.

Please contact myself or your Pod Captain if you have questions or would like more information on this most worthwhile effort. And No!, you can not out-run nor out-swim a tsunami (two questions asked).

Al Wickheim
Community Coordinator, Otter Point
Juan de Fuca Emergency Management Program

Home phone: 250-642-5124

cell: 250-661-7123

E-Mail: info@wilderquestadventures.com

10. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

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.

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

Coastal Crunch Granola

Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.

Full Circle Seeds

Glen's Gardening Company

Heron's Rest B & B
"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services
Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store Cafe
Kirsten Sykes, Realtor
Knotty Beds by Nature
Le Sooke Spa
Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage
Ocean Wilderness Inn
Otter Point Beach House
Otter Point Electrical Service
Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop
Road's End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd
Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Three Sisters Farm
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery
Welcome Wagon
Wood Visions

11. 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 or email opsrra@gmail.com.

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.
