

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY  
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION  
INFORMATION UPDATE FOR JUNE 2003**

OPSRRA is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of the residents of the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point to local government. It was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 350. Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site ([www.opsrra.com](http://www.opsrra.com)) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. 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.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
5. Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

**OPSRRA’s EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS**

We want to include information about our local resources, businesses and artisans on our OPSRRA web site.

We invite you to fill in the following form:

Ken Pungente	President	Arnie Campbell	Vice President
Wendy Miller	Secretary/Treasurer		
Byron Tweedy	Director	Mitch Moneo	Director
Virginia Boyd	Director	Wendy Morton	Director
Frances Stocks	Director		

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Regional Director has advised OPSRRA that public information meetings will take place after the following scheduled Land Use Committee meetings:

Shirley Community Hall	Wednesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall	Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- Amalgamation update.

- Change of LUC composition resolution.
- Search and Rescue bylaw.
- Electoral Area website.
- Civic Addressing/House Numbering bylaw update.
- Official Community Plan update.

## **OTTER POINT / SHIRLEY / JORDAN RIVER COMMUNITY PLAN**

The long awaited review of our Official Community Plan (OCP) is to begin. The Planning Services Department of the CRD has received applications from members of the community who have expressed an interest in serving on the OCP and will be confirming appointments by the end of June.

The current OCP for Shirley and Otter Point was completed in 1995 and adopted by the CRD in July of 1996. Completion of a new Official Community Plan is long overdue and is extremely important for at least four reasons:

1. The Official Community Plan becomes a vision for how the communities should develop over at least the next five years.
2. It allows public participation in deciding how we want our community to grow, and where we want that growth to be.
3. The Official Community Plan identifies zoning and suitable land use (e.g. recreation, industrial, green space, watershed) for our area.
4. The Official Community Plan will be used by the CRD Regional Growth Strategy to ensure that our area remains rural in character by limiting development and subdivisions to capacities identified in the OCP.

Be aware that developing an updated OCP could take up to a year; it involves public meetings to seek community input as well as working with the CRD Planning staff, the Regional Director and the recently elected Area Planning Commission.

## **ILLEGAL DUMPING AROUND OUR COMMUNITY**

The illegal dumping of household, garden, industrial waste as well as animal carcasses was highlighted in our March and April newsletters. One positive response was the Earth Day clean-up of the Butler Main/Boneyard areas by the Island Rock Crawlers Club. They had seen the story and pictures of illegal dumping on the OPSRRA website and through the initiative of OPSRRA's Secretary/Treasurer, Wendy Miller and her husband Chris, volunteered to do a clean-up on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. OPSRRA wishes to express its thanks to the club for taking on this Earth Day project in our community. Pictures of the massive amounts of garbage they collected can be seen on the Island Rock Crawler's website.

## **SOOKE BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

The Boundary Restructure Committee has been adjourned until September. The original plan was for the committee to have hosted community information sessions and public meetings in Otter Point, Shirley and East Sooke in early April. This plan was delayed by the discovery of some incomplete information concerning the managed forest lands north of Otter Point and Shirley. This incomplete information could have changed the calculation of estimated property taxes in rural areas after amalgamation. However, it was the untimely death of Sooke's Mayor in April and the need for a by-election in that community that resulted in a request, by the District of Sooke, to the Province for a delay in the resumption of the work of the committee until September.

**Both the province and the CRD have stated that no amalgamation will happen without a referendum.** OPSRRA has lobbied for and supports this position.

This newsletter is published monthly on the [opsrra.com](http://opsrra.com) web page by OPSRRA (The Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association). Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone (250) 642-3113 or e-mail [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca)