

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE - JUNE 2005

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members, residing in the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point, to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 325.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.com) 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 90 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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IN THIS ISSUE

1. Upcoming Meetings and Events
2. OPSRRA Logo
3. Rural Observer
4. Community Notice Boards
5. The Pacific Marine Circle Route
6. Letter re Soil Removal and Soil Deposit Permits in Shirley
7. Update on Otter Point/Sooke Border Lands
8. Offer of Free Advertising for Businesses in Shirley & Otter Point
9. Back Issues of the OPSRRA Newsletter

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact OPSRRA to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Sunday June 5	Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS) Meeting 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Tuesday June 7	Juan de Fuca Area Land Use Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road
Monday June 20	OPSRRA Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m. SEAPARC Board Room, 2168 Philips Rd. Sooke
Tuesday June 28	Otter Point Official Community Plan Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall This public hearing is tentative. Confirm date, time & place with CRD Planning Services (642-1620) after June 10.
Early July	Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall Public Hearing on Tieulie Road R.V. Park (next to French Beach Mini Mart) development proposal. This public hearing is tentative. Contact CRD Planning Services (642-1620) for further information.
Second and Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall

2. OPSRRA LOGO

Wanted: ideas for a logo for OPSRRA.

We would like to have a logo to identify OPSRRA on our letterhead, business cards, website and advertising. We invite members to submit computer artwork for a friendly (i.e. no money, just public recognition) competition. Contact Sandy Barta (sbarta@shaw.ca) for more information.

3. RURAL OBSERVER

The *Rural Observer* is always looking for submissions. The OPSRRA directors would like to encourage members to send articles, photographs, etc. to *the Rural Observer*. The forthcoming edition of the *Rural Observer* will feature an article on the “Old Otter Point School”. This is a follow-up to OPSRRA’s request to the province to donate the site near the Otter Point fire hall to the Otter Point community as a Pioneer Park. See the May 2005 issue of the OPSRRA newsletter for details.

4. COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS

Thanks to the offer of material, labour and cash from OPSRRA members, we are well on our way to assembling the first of the community bulleting boards. Look for the first ones to be in place later on in the month. We still need some more materials:

- 4 inch x 4 inch x 7 foot posts – cedar preferred;
- 5/8 inch (or better) 2 foot x 3 foot pieces of plywood;
- 5 or 6 inch carriage bolts, nuts and washers;
- Exterior, oil-base paint.

Cash donations would be helpful to cover the costs of some items such as nails and screws that may need to be purchased. Contact Ken Pungente (642-5177) or Jim Dexter (dexmar@shaw.ca) if you can help with this Shirley and Otter Point community project.

5. THE PACIFIC MARINE HIGHWAY CIRCLE ROUTE

The Capital regional District is working on a descriptive tour of the newly recognized Pacific Marine Highway Circle Route. The following is a draft of the descriptive tour. Corrections and comments can be sent to the CRD Office at 2205 Otter Point Rd: attention Ken Douch.

This 95 kilometre (59 mile) route starts west of downtown Sooke at the logging basin Wet Sort (kilometre zero of the route), traverses Otter Point, Shirley and Port Renfrew, to end just north of Port Renfrew. It then circles through to Cowichan Lake, along the Malahat and back to Sooke.

The CRD is preparing a guide to describe the great things to see and do in the Juan de Fuca area, together with facilities for food, accommodation and shopping. Look for the guide on the CRD website in the near future.

Here is an excerpt from the Otter Point/Shirley portion of the draft guide:

0.9 km (.55 m) Otter Point Sign

Entering Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

2.0 km (1.2 m) NOTE FIRE DANGER SIGN ON HIGHWAY AND BE CAUTIOUS

2.3 km (1.3 m) Kemp Lake Store

Restaurant and groceries.

2.4 km (1.35 m)

Kemp Lake Road connects to Otter Point Road. Along this road there is a trail starting at Manatu road (turn right at Milligan Road and go to the end) which leads to the top of Broomhill – wonderful views of the Strait and Sooke Harbour. Allow at least three hours. Trail difficulty standard 2.

4.7 km (2.8 m) Otter Point Park

Great views of the Strait, Olympic National Park Mountains, Sheringham Point Lighthouse and, in the distance (60 km), the Pacific Ocean. Whale watching, petroglyphs. Trail difficulty standard 2.

6.2 km (3.7 m) Gordon's Beach (East End)

Good pebble beach (sand at low tide), extensive sea views, good prospect for rock hounds (flowerstone, porphyry, dallasite and agate). Junction with Otter Point Road, which leads back to Kemp Lake Road and Sooke. Previously site of fishtraps (see Sooke Historical Society sign).

6.8 km (4.1 m) Honey Farm and Meadery

7.5 km (4.5 m) Gordon's Beach (West End)

Beach access – favourite place for windsurfers. Watch out for the giant squid (architeathis.sp)

7.7 km (4.6 m) Tugwell Creek

Salmon stream.

9.0 km (5.6 m) Muir Creek

Salmon stream; parking on left to west of creek and beach access along to Fossil Beach.

14 km (8.7 m) Shirley Pioneer Park

Millennium garden with picnic tables. Sheringham Point Road leads to the Sheringham Lighthouse.

14.1 km (8.75 m) Country Cupboard Café

16.5 km (10.0 m) Mini Mart and Deli (opening soon)

16.7 km (10.2 m)

Woodhaven Road

Leads to left turn onto Seaside Drive to Flea Beach (beach access).

17.0 km (10.5 m) French Beach Provincial Park

Pay parking. Toilet and picnic facilities, good sand beach, views and wildlife watching.

19.0 km (12.2 m) Merrill Ring B Park

Take Juan de Fuca Road, turn left onto Sherburne, to end. Trail to park, ocean views, priest's cabin. Trail standard 2.

19.8 km (12.3 m) Fishboat Bay

Road to the left; park at end and short climb down to delightful sandy beach park. Trail standard 2.

20.2 km (12.5 m) Point No Point

Good restaurant and accommodation. Reservations recommended.

23.1 km (13.3 m) Sandcut Creek

23.7 km (14.7 m) Sandcut Beach

From here, the guide continues on through Jordan River, Port Renfrew and on to Lake Cowichan. The OPSRRA newsletter will publish the full, guided tour once it is completed.

6. LETTER REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT GRAVEL OPERATION IN SHIRLEY

OPSRRA received a detailed letter (also sent to the CRD Planning Office and SEAS) from some Shirley residents who have concerns about the extent of industrial activity being carried out on a property in Shirley. A Soil Removal Permit (SR-01004, July 13, 2004) permitting removal of 53,700 cubic metres of "soil" was issued to the property owner to "create a future building site and improve the existing view" on a large residential parcel zoned for one dwelling. The letter writers go on to say:

Thus far, a whole hilltop has been blasted away, a small mountain of gravel has been crushed, truckload after truckload of gravel hauled out of the area, and loads of fill dumped elsewhere on the property. This, in our opinion, is on a far greater scale of blasting, hauling and dumping than would be necessary to prepare the site for one dwelling. The Soil Deposit Permit (SC-05-04, commencing June 2004, for a 2-year period) allows the deposit of 50,000 cubic metres of fill. The application states the purpose is to "create a level area for future uses, dispose of excavated material from on and off-site construction works". We are worried about the nature of the excavated material being dumped because our wells and streams from which we take water under provincial water licenses are downhill from Lot 26.

OPSRRA sent the following letter to Eric Lund, CRD Director, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area in response to the concerns expressed in the above letter:

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

May 12, 2005

Eric Lund, Director, CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

Dear Eric:

OPSRRA has received a letter from concerned neighbours of Lot 26, Sections 77 & 78 Renfrew District, Plan VIP 58128, describing an industrial-scale gravel operation being carried out on the property with Soil Removal and Deposit Permits.

OPSRRA believes that crushing and trucking 53,700 cubic metres of gravel and depositing 50,000 cubic metres of fill on the property zoned for one dwelling in a residential neighbourhood is of public interest, and should be subject to public hearing before any further action is taken or permits granted.

We would appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

Yours truly,

Ken Pungente, OPSRRA President
(250) 542-5177

Copied to:

Deputy Minister, Transportation
Deputy Minister, Energy and Mines
Deputy Minister, Water, Land and Air Protection
Keith Anderson, Assistant Regional Water Manager, Land and Water B.C. Inc.
Don Amos, Chair, CRD
Mark Hornell, Director, CRD Regional Planning Services

7. UPDATE ON THE OTTER POINT/SOOKE BORDER LANDS

On May 17, the District of Sooke met with interested property owners in Otter Point and East Sooke who border on the District and who were interested in having their property become part of the District of Sooke. The District wanted to deal with all the applications at one time and gave the property owners an application deadline of May 27. Numerous property owners applied, but Sooke Council has not met to review the applications and so the locations of the properties are not public information. The next steps in the process will be for the District of Sooke to indicate to the province which properties they are interested in annexing. The province will then decide by Order-In-Council whether to agree to transfer any or all of the properties to the District. The District will then have to receive the agreement of voters in the District of Sooke to the annexation. This is the same process that saw the Silver Spray lands become part of the District of Sooke last winter.

OPSRRA, the Otter Point Fire Trustees and the Kemp Lake Waterworks are opposed to properties currently in Otter Point becoming part of the District of Sooke. See the May 2005 OPSRRA newsletter for full details.

8. FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES 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.com. 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.com) under Business Listings.

9. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site. Go to the Index page and click-on Back Issues.

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.com. 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.
