

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FOR MARCH 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 60 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 OPSRRA

to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar

Monday March 7	Zoning Meeting: Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Committee 6:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Wednesday March 9	Annual General Meeting: Shirley Community Association 7:30 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Sunday March 13	Shirley Spring Crafts Fair 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Tuesday March 15	OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome 7:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall 3727 Otter Point Road
Sunday March 20	Membership Meeting: Sheringham Lighthouse Preservation Society 2:00 p.m. Village Foods Meeting Room (above Village Foods in Sooke)
Monday March 21	Zoning Meeting: Otter Point Official Community Plan Committee 6:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall 3727 Otter Point Road
Second and Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall

Note: There is no Land Use Committee meeting scheduled for March.

2. OUTCOME OF THE BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE REFERENDUM

A referendum was held on February 5th to decide if the residents of Otter Point, Shirley and East Sooke were interested in joining the District of Sooke. The voting produced the following results:

The Question: Are you in favour of being included in the District of Sooke?

Advance Poll for Otter Point & Shirley:

Yes	8 (12%)
No	59 (88%)
New Voter Registrations:	21

Otter Point Poll:

Yes	135 (20%)
No	546 (80%)
New Voter Registrations:	277

Shirley Poll:

Yes	37 (18%)
No	167 (82%)
New Voter Registrations:	97

Totals:

Yes	180 (19%)
No	772 (81%)
New Voter Registrations:	395

Otter Point population of voting age estimated to be 1160, of which 681 voted, for a 59% turnout.

Shirley population of voting age estimated to be 420, of which 204 voted, for a 49% turnout.

There were three significant outcomes:

- It was an excellent turnout (in comparison the 2002 regional director/school trustee elections had about a 33% turnout).
- The results were overwhelming (showing a clear preference for not amalgamating).
- The large number of new voter registrations (395 for Otter Point and Shirley).

Notes:

1. There was no way to break down the Advance poll to differentiate between Shirley and Otter Point voters.
2. We haven't reported the East Sooke results.
3. The turnout percentage figure is based upon the total estimated population of voting age. Because some residents would not be eligible to vote (e.g. non-Canadians), the turnout, using percentage of eligible voters would likely be higher—however we don't know how many eligible voters there really are because the voters' list is so out of date!

3. REPORT ON THE OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following reports were given:

1. Treasurer's Report:

Income: \$200.35

Expenditures: \$72.94 (\$58.85 advertising & \$14.11 supplies)

Outstanding: \$35.31 (advertising)

Account Balance: \$375.83

2. Membership Report

Current membership is 325; with 23 new members added this past year and about 25 removed (left area, deceased, etc.). The membership is made-up of 35 members from Shirley and 290 from Otter Point.

3. Nominating Committee Report:

The following members were nominated for 2005 – 2006.

President: Ken Pungente

Vice President: Arnie Campbell

Director: Mitch Moneo, Sandra Barta, David Evans, Wayne Fritz and James Dexter. All positions were filed by acclamation.

4. There were two motions made at the AGM:

Moved by Byron Tweedy, seconded by Ken Pungente:

In view of Shirley's 82 per cent and Otter Point's 80 per cent "No" vote to amalgamation, I move that OPSRRA write letters to our regional director and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the rural areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area be funded to carry out a study of our governance options.

Carried.

Moved by Mitch Moneo, seconded by Ken Pungente

In view of Shirley's 82 per cent and Otter Point's 80 per cent "No" vote to amalgamation, I move that OPSRRA write letters to and lobby our regional director and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the province not consider boundary extension requests from the District of Sooke at this time.

Carried.

P.S. Does anyone recall who spoke with some understanding about conservation covenants at the November membership meeting? If you know who it was, please contact Arnie Campbell at 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca

4. MONTHLY OPSRRA DIRECTORS MEETINGS

OPSRRA Directors will now be meeting monthly at the Otter Point Fire Hall. These meetings are open to the OPSRRA membership.

The first meeting will be held: Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.

5. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS

Both the Shirley/Jordan River and the Otter Point Official Community Plans went to public hearing in February.

The results of the public hearing presentations will be reviewed by CRD Planning Services and the Land Use Committee before a decision is made about any amendments to the OCP and whether a second public hearing will be held.

The next phase will be to start a review of the local area zoning by the same committees that did the OCPs and will be starting March 7 for Shirley/Jordan River and March 21 for Otter Point. Check the Sooke News for ads announcing the date (s), time and location of these meetings.

6. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA RECREATION COMMISSION

The regional director has received approval from the CRD Board to create a new Parks Commission that reflects and encompasses the entire Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Before this, a combined District of Sooke and JDF Electoral Area commission made the decisions. Now, people who live in the JDF Electoral Area will make these decisions. The new commission is made-up of the regional director and eight area representatives from The Malahat, Willis Point, East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew. Ken Douch, Gerhard Wild and Ken Pungente represent the Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River areas.

7. UPDATE ON CROWN LANDS IN OTTER POINT

According to the Otter Point Official Community Plan, Crown lands consist of approximately 634 hectares (1,566 acres) or almost 17% of the land contained within the boundary of the Otter Point OCP (see the map of crown lands in Otter Point in last month's OPSRRA newsletter). OPSRRA remains in contact with the Project Manager of Crown Land Sales, Ministry Land and Water B.C. about the status of Crown land in Otter Point. According to the Project Manager, all Crown lands need to first be considered as part of the First Nations treaty negotiations. Because of this, OPSRRA has been told that no local crown land sales are anticipated in the near future as the status of the treaties is "unsettled".

8. UPDATE ON CIVIC ADDRESSING PROJECT

Since reporting on the Civic Addressing project (see OPSRRA February newsletter) last month, we have received an up-date from Kelly Edwards, the project coordinator.

Otter Point:

I am working on distributing letters to all property owners this week. For 90% of the people, the letter will simply confirm their existing number and no action is required except to post an address sign if they have not done so already. The other 10% (approximately 70 properties) of residents will be asked to change their address.

Canada Post change of address forms will be included in the letter for those people. Residents must take the completed form into the Sooke post office to initiate the forwarding of mail process which is being provided free of charge for six months. This will give residents time to contact all of their correspondents to advise them of the change of address.

Shirley:

I attended the Shirley Fire Protection Society meeting on Feb 8. One of the members is reviewing the addresses for me. I am hoping the review process will be finished in the next week or so, so that I can get the letters out to property owners.

Both areas:

All addresses will be distributed to the following agencies so they can verify and update their records if required:

- TELUS (service or location address)
- BC Hydro (service or location address)
- Fire departments
- Police/911
- BC Ambulance
- Canada Post
- BC Assessment
- CRD Building Inspection
- CRD Information Technology (for updates to 911 listing)

Residents/property owners:

If the mailing or billing address is changing, then residents will have to contact all organizations regarding the change to the mailing/billing address. This includes contacting TELUS and BC Hydro to make changes to the mailing (billing) address if required.

I want to stress that [Canada Post will provide forwarding of mail to the new address, but the resident/property owner must complete the change of address form and take it in to the Sooke post office to get it processed.](#) The change of address will still take place regardless if the form is completed or not. The change of address form ensures that Canada Post forwards any mail to the new address.

Maps:

You may view maps at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/addressing.htm

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9. 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.

10. 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 newsletter is published monthly on the www.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
