

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE – MARCH 2006**

Governance Petition Study Results

Shirley / Jordan River	163
Otter Point	<u>290</u>
Total	453

Our thanks to everyone who supported this community initiative. See item number 5 below for more details.

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 325. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) 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 100 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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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Saturday
March 4

Juan de Fuca Trails Society, Broom Hill Hike

Meet 10:00 a.m. —see details in story below

Saturday
March 4

Muir Creek Hike

Sponsored by the Muir Creek Protection Society

Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Muir Creek parking lot.

- Wednesday
March 8
- Shirley Community Association
Annual General Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Saturday
March 11
- Juan de Fuca Trails Society, East Sooke Llama Walk**

See details in story below
- Wednesday
March 15
- OPSRRA Directors Meeting
Members welcome!**
7:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke
- Thursday
March 16
- Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC)**
7:00 p.m.
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road Sooke
- Monday
March 20
- Juan de Fuca Trails Society Meeting**
7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
- Topic: Vancouver Island Recreational Corridor
- Tuesday
March 21
- JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Check with the CRD Planning Services Office for the location (**it may be at the Shirley Community Hall**)
- You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning Services office, 2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.
- Sunday
April 2
- Shirley Craft Fair**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Thursday
April 6
- Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**
5:00 p.m.
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road Sooke
- Sunday
April 9
- Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society**
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Second and Fourth
Thursday
of every month
- Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. NEW LOCAL BUSINESSES ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

OPSRRA welcomes the following local business to the OPSRRA web site:

[Eagle Cove Beach Front Guest Suite](#)

[Body Wellness Techniques Ltd. \(spa services\)](#)

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, 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.ca) under Business Listings.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

Malahat Farms B&B	Beaches West B&B	Birds Edge Press
ALM Organic Farm	Full Circle Seeds	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery	Kemp Lake Store	Sandy's Drywall Ltd
1001 Welding & Equipment Repair		Otter Point Beach House

3. JUAN DE FUCA TRAILS SOCIETY

The Juan de Fuca Trails Society has submitted the following information about upcoming trail events:

Saturday
March 4

[Juan de Fuca Trails Society, Broom Hill Hike](#)

Hike to the summit of Broom Hill (274 metres elevation),
Meet at Manatu Road, 10:00 a.m.
Back around 1:00 p.m.
Bring a snack. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday
March 11

[Juan de Fuca Trails Society, East Sooke Llama Walk](#)

Come and meet a llama.
Llama walk in East Sooke with Spittin' Image Llamas.
You bring your lunch and the llamas will carry it.
This is a 3 hour walk.
Because we want everyone to have a chance to interact with the llamas **you will need to pre register** at 642 7225 or by email at sydnam@telus.net

Monday
March 20

Juan de Fuca Trails Society Meeting

7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

Learn about the Vancouver Island Recreational Corridor
from Jerry Reed

Contact Sid Jorna (Phone: 642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca) for more information
about the JDF Community Trails Society.

4. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY

The Muir Creek Protection Society is making a presentation to the CRD Parks Committee on Wednesday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m. (Call 642-0948 if you can come to the meeting.) They are trying to convince CRD Parks to create a park at Muir Creek. They need a really good, supportive turnout so that the CRD Parks Committee can see that there is community support for this area to be protected. At the moment, CRD Parks is saying that they will study the matter in 2007. The Muir Creek Protection Society doesn't believe that the trees will be there in 2007! Also, contact the CRD if you are willing to contribute toward the cost of purchasing park land at Muir Creek: it may help them to be positive about the idea.

The address for the CRD Parks Committee is:

PO Box 1000
524 Yates St.
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

The CRD phone number is: 360-3000

The Muir Creek Protection Society needs children to come out as a group on Saturday March 4, at noon, to have their picture taken with the big trees down by the creek. They are blowing the picture up poster size to take to the CRD meeting on March 15. Call 642-0948 if you have a child/grandchild that would like to be in the picture.

- ◆ Walks scheduled for March 4, 12 and 25 at 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Muir Creek Bridge.
- ◆ Watch for Warty the Jumping Slug, the New Muir Creek Mascot, coming to a school near you. Kate Woods and Anne Boquist are presenting Muir Creek to local students via one of our rare species—the warty jumping slug. Kate is the one with antennae!

For more information about the Muir Creek Protection Society, contact::

Alanda, Presiden
Muir Creek Protection Society
muircreek@hotmail.com

5. SUMMARY OF THE OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The OPSRRA AGM was held on Tuesday, February 21st. Approximately 60 members were in attendance: invited guest were the Alternate Regional Director; the President of the Shirley Education & Action Society and the MLA for Malahat – Juan de Fuca.

The following reports were given:

Treasurer's Report

Income: \$366.00 (\$65 from new memberships, balance donations)

Expenditures: \$595.00 (advertising, web site registration, materials for notice boards)

Account Balance: \$323.49

Membership Report

Current membership remains at 325. Thirteen new members were added this past year and a similar number were removed (deceased, moved, etc.). The membership is made-up of 36 from Shirley and 289 from Otter Point.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The following members were nominated and acclaimed for 2006/2007:

President: Arnie Campbell

Vice-President: Jim Dexter

Directors: Mitch Moneo; Ken Pungente; Wayne Fritz; Sandy Barta and Bob Phillips.

New Business

Reports were presented on the:

- ◆ OPSRRA activities since the last AGM (see details in this newsletter).
- ◆ OPSRRA web site, newsletter and business listings.
- ◆ Request to the province for the donation of crown land in Otter Point for a "Pioneer Park" on the site of the Old Emerson School.
- ◆ Proposed CRD Soil Removal bylaw.
- ◆ Request for a governance study for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River (see details in this newsletter).
- ◆ Reply from Elections B.C. on Polling Area 068A (see details in this newsletter).

6. SUMMARY OF OPSRRA ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FEBRUARY 2005 AGM

1. OPSRRA Directors have met 13 times.
2. Published 12 monthly newsletters on the OPSRRA web site: (www.opsrra.ca), sent to approximately 100 members on-line.
3. Continued to up-date web site (new home page, on-line registration).
4. Attended JDF Land Use Committee, Advisory Planning Commission and JDF Parks Commission meetings.
5. Attended Official Community Plan & Zoning Committee meetings.
6. Attended and presented at Otter Point OCP public hearings.
7. Wrote Ministry of CAWS asking for Otter Point & Shirley governance study.
8. Wrote Ministry of CAWS concerning the Otter Point/Sooke border lands.

9. Met with Otter Point Fire Trustees about proposed annexation.
10. Wrote to JDF Regional Director re proposed renaming of West Coast Road.
11. Wrote JDF Parks, provincial Crown Lands & Forestry about donation of Old Emerson School property as a "Pioneer Park" for Otter Point.
12. Met with provincial election candidates for Malahat/Juan de Fuca.
13. Wrote letters to Surveyor General, private land surveyor & Province asking for a clarification of Kemp Lake shoreline.
14. Wrote Elections B.C. re location of voting place and boundary for Polling District 068A.
15. Participated in meetings re soil removal permit renewal in Shirley.
16. Met with MLA re local issues (annexation, governance study, park land, soil removal and Polling Station 068A location).
17. Organized meeting for Otter Point fire department, Kemp Lake Waterworks and OPSRRA with Acting/ADM CAWS re Sooke's proposed annexation of Otter Point border lands.
18. Met with mayor of Sooke re proposed annexation of border lands.
19. Presented concerns re proposed annexation at Sooke Council.
20. Met with other local area ratepayer associations re proposed annexations.
21. Wrote Ministry of Transportation re lack of roadside mowing.
22. Wrote Regional Director regarding role of Advisory Planning Commission.
23. Wrote Ministries of Health & Environment about Kemp Lake watershed.
24. Completed nine community notice boards and began installation.
25. Presentation to the Otter Point Fire Department celebrating their 25th year.
26. Organized and hosted an All Candidates meeting for School Trustee and Regional Director candidates.
27. Organized and chaired a meeting with representatives from seven Otter Point and Shirley community organizations who were opposed to the annexation of Otter Point properties and requesting a Governance study.
28. Chaired a follow-up meeting of these community organizations with the MLA, Regional Director and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Services.
29. Organized an Otter Point governance study petition.
30. Wrote supporting letters to JDF Parks & TimberWest for the Muir Creek Protection Society.

7. UP-DATE ON THE REQUEST FOR A GOVERNANCE STUDY

Following the January 10th meeting of representatives from seven Shirley and Otter Point community organizations, with our MLA, Regional Director and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Services, there was a decision to organize a petition asking the province for a Governance study for Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point. The background to OPSRRA's support for a Governance study can be found in our January and February newsletters.

The organization and collection of names on the petitions was done separately in Otter Point and Shirley /Jordan River. The Shirley/Jordan River petition collected 163 signatures and the Otter Point one collected 290. This, in our opinion, represents a significant show of support for a Governance study. The Shirley/ Jordan River petition was presented to both the JDF Electoral Area Regional Director and John Horgan, MLA. The Otter Point petition was presented to our

MLA at OPSRRA's AGM on February 21. The MLA presented both petitions to the Minister of Community Services, in the Legislature, on Monday, February 26.

Note: In a surprise move, the Ministry agreed on Wednesday, February 22 to a Governance study for our area. The terms of reference for the study have not been announced. However, the Minister of Community Services has directed the Capital Regional District to **consider** the following governance options:

- ◆ A review and update of the analysis done by Sussex Consultants on the restructuring of Greater Sooke. This update would focus on the Otter Point area with the objective of determining what changed in the past two years and assessing the implications for restructure.
- ◆ A review of rural governance options for the communities of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, in particular areas like East Sooke, Otter Point/Shirley, Willis Point, Port Renfrew, and the Malahat. This could focus on options such as service commissions or local community commissions.
- ◆ A collaborative review by the District of Sooke and the Capital Regional district of urban growth areas, servicing, and boundary adjustment.
- ◆ A process to consider the possible inclusion of East Sooke into the District of Metchosin provided that there is local interest.

The Minister has offered up to \$10,000 towards the cost of the above work and has directed Dale Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Local Government Department of the Ministry of Community Services to work with the CRD to prepare the terms of reference for the work.

8. UPDATE ON THE ANNEXATION OF OTTER POINT PROPERTIES BY THE DISTRICT OF SOOKE

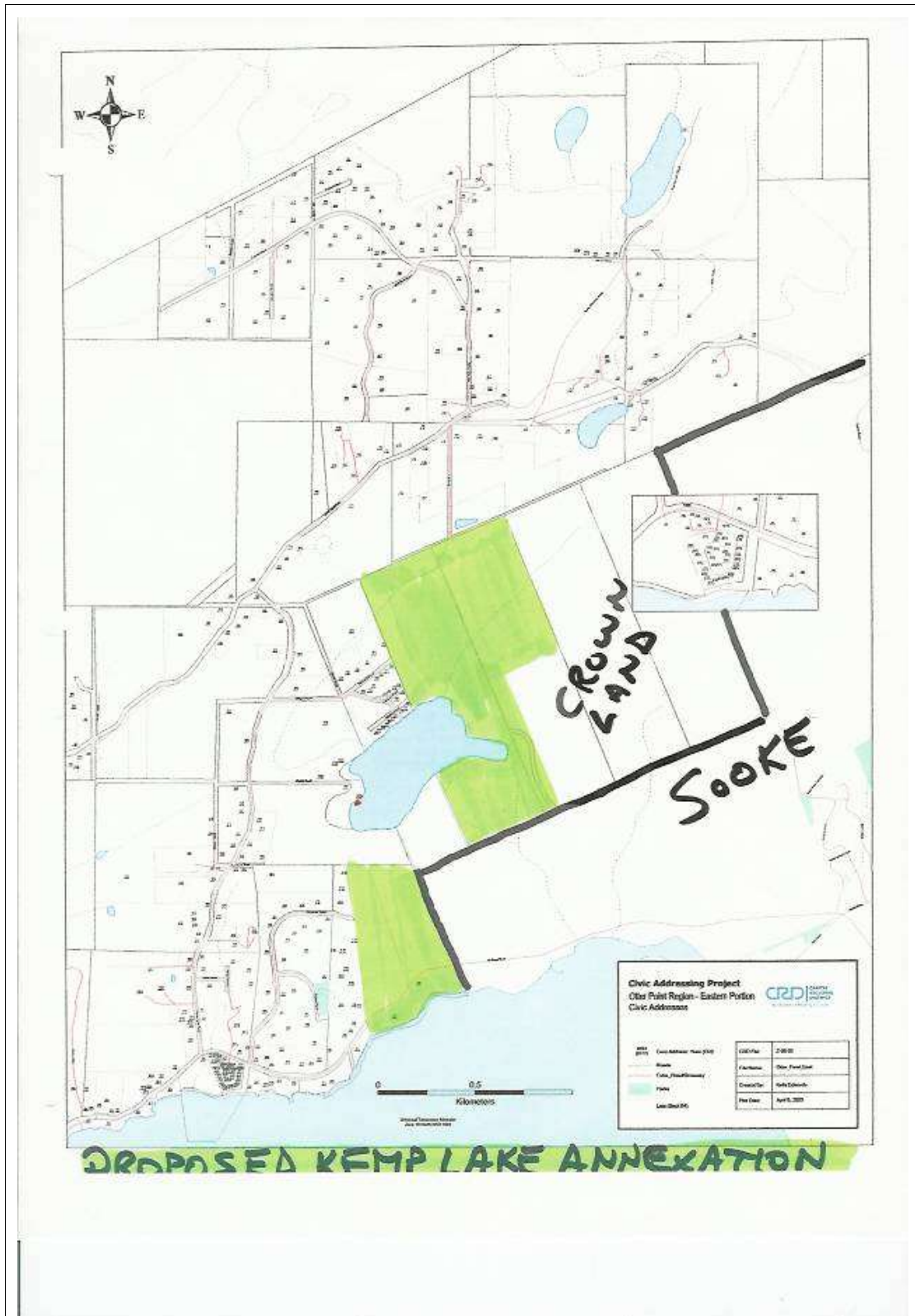
On Wednesday, February 22, the Province passed an Order-in-Council authorizing the annexation of numerous properties in East Sooke and Otter Point into the District of Sooke. So what does this mean? 263 acres of land that formed part of Otter Point's tax base is now transferred to the District of Sooke. There was no apparent offer of tax compensation to the JDF Electoral Area for this! Here are the other changes resulting from the Order-in-Council:

- ◆ A significant portion of the Kemp Lake watershed is now located in the District of Sooke (see following map).
- ◆ The Kemp Lake watershed is given some protection as the Kemp Lake Waterworks District (KLWD) now has status, under the proposed Supplementary Letters Patent, to review and make recommendations to the District of Sooke on any proposed change in land use that may affect the quality and quantity of the Kemp Lake water supply. The KLWD may request the provincial Inspector of Municipalities to review any proposed bylaw relating to these land use changes.
- ◆ The properties previously in Otter Point shall continue to retain the rural designation they held under the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy, until amended or repealed by the CRD Board of Directors.

Note: The province has already directed the CRD and the district of Sooke to establish a collaborative review of urban growth, servicing (i.e. water and sewer) and "boundary adjustments" with respect to the annexed properties. **The JDF Electoral Area has not been included in this review.**

The following map shows the Otter Point area that the province has now approved for annexation by the District of Sooke.

9. MAP SHOWING THE OTTER POINT PROPERTIES (SHOWN IN GREEN) NOW TRANSFERRED TO THE DISTRICT OF SOOKE



10. CORRECTION TO ITEM IN FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER REGARDING THE VIEW ROYAL BAND LANDS

A spokesperson for the Capital Regional District has pointed-out an error in the February newsletter that referred to the View Royal Indian Band Lands. What the original story item incorrectly said, in part, was that:

Although these voters have not voted in any great number (about 4% in 2002 and 6% in 2005) they constitute about 31% of the eligible voters and could seriously skew the results of an election if they voted in proportion to the rest of the Electoral Area. The only reason that they are included in our voting area is that the Esquimalt and Songhees Native Bands have entered into a contract with the CRD to purchase about 20 miscellaneous services such as Storm water Control, Emergency Response, Regional Parks, Regional Planning, Family Court, etc. and are therefore entitled to have representation at the CRD Board. They are "orphans" within the CRD and have to be attached to a CRD director somewhere - which just happens to be the JDF Electoral Area. However, they do not receive any land use or planning services from the JDF Electoral Area as their governance is the responsibility of their Native Band Councils.

The following correction was provided by the CRD:

The CRD had nothing to do with the inclusion of the Indian Reserves currently within the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

The Songhees reserve in particular was part of the View Royal Electoral Area for many years. When View Royal incorporated, the provincial policy was to exclude Indian reserves from incorporated areas (municipalities) and thus, the entire View Royal Electoral Area, except the Songhees and Esquimalt Indian Reserves, was incorporated. These reserves were moved, by the province, to the Langford Electoral Area and then when Sooke incorporated, the then remaining Langford Electoral Area and remaining Sooke Electoral Area were merged (by the province) into one electoral area - renamed the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. The fact that the CRD has a contract with the Songhees for some services played no part in the province's decision, in fact, the main contract was entered into after the Songhees were part of the Langford Electoral Area.

11. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION CORRESPONDENCE

Elections B.C. has recently replied to a letter sent to them last August following the May provincial election. OPSRRA's concern was that Otter Point residents living in the Youngs' Lake Road, Robinson Road, Tugwell Road and Michelson Road area (known as Polling Area 068A), were directed to vote at Saseenos Elementary School rather than the Otter Point Fire Hall. Aside from the inconvenience of having to travel that far to vote, and the confusion encountered by some who showed-up at the Otter Point Fire Hall anyway—because that was where they had always voted—there was the illogical explanation from the province that the Polling Area 068A boundary was changed for this election to get a polling area large enough to accommodate a small number of voters at the extreme northern ends of Glitz Lake Road and Sooke River Road.

The Director of Planning and Event services for Elections B.C. has now replied to the August letter; thanking OPSRRA for bring this problem to their attention and stating that Elections B.C. will ensure that this concern is taken into account when making future voting place assignments.

12. UPDATE ON PROPOSED SOIL REMOVAL BYLAW

The CRD is presently writing a new Soil Removal by-law for the JDF Electoral Area. The draft has been reviewed by some Shirley and Otter Point residents. The matter went before the JDF Electoral Area Services Committee on Wednesday, March 1. A public meeting on this proposed by-law may be held. More information will be available for the April newsletter.

13. UPDATE ON THE OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER ZONING

The Regional Director has met with chairs of the Malahat, East Sooke, Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point Zoning Advisory committees and has proposed that each advisory committee hold one more public meeting to finalize their recommendations on zoning changes. This will be followed by an Open House for each community and finally Public Hearings. Notice of these meetings will be advertised in the Sooke News Mirror.

14. 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. 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.
