

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2004

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. 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) 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.

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. OPSRRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 3

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Place: Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
(Otter Point Road at Kemp Lake Road)

Agenda:

1. Update on OPSRRA activities since AGM
2. Correspondence Received on: Kemp Lake, Poirier Lake, Disposition of Crown Land, Trails in Otter Point, Otter Point/Shirley OCP Boundary
3. Outcome of the Shirley Survey: OPSRRA vs. OPRRA
4. Update on Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans
5. Conservation vs. Restrictive Covenants
6. CRD Waterline Extension Into Otter Point
7. Update on Boundary Restructure
8. Update on OPSRRA Web Site & OPSRRA Newsletter
9. Open Session

2. UPCOMING OCTOBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday
October 31 **Halloween Party**
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Sunday
October 31 **Otter Point Fire Department Halloween Bonfire**
6:30 p.m.
Camp Barnard (Scouts camp)
Young's Lake Road

Wednesday
November 3 **OPSRRA Membership Meeting**
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

- Monday
November 8 **Otter Point Official Community Plan Meeting**
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
- Tuesday
November 9 **JDF Electoral Area/District of Sooke Boundary
Restructure (Amalgamation) Committee Meeting**
5:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Municipal Hall
Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road
- Tuesday
November 9 **Otter Point Fire Department AGM**
7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
- Thursday
November 11 **Remembrance Day Ceremony**
11:00 a.m.
Pioneer Park
Shirley Community Hall
- Sunday
November 14 **Shirley Craft Fair**
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Monday
November 15 **Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan
Meeting**
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Tuesday
November 16 **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Land Use Committee
Meeting**
7:15 p.m.
District of Sooke Municipal Hall
Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road
- Note 1: The meeting agenda will advertised in the
November 10 issue of the Sooke News
Mirror and available from the CRD Office
as of November 12.
- Note 2: The start time is 7:15 and not 7:00
because of a conflict with another
meeting in the Council Chamber.
- Sunday
November 121 **Sheringham Preservation Lighthouse Society
General Meeting**
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Monday
November 22 **Otter Point Official Community Plan Open House**
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

Tuesday
November 23

Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Meeting

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 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

Contact OPSRRA to have your community event listed in the monthly newsletter.

3. CIVIC ADDRESSING PROJECT

Have you wondered why the newer Canada Post “super boxes” come as far as Metchosin and then leap-frog East Sooke, Sooke, Otter Point and Shirley, before resuming in Jordan River? Well, it is because Canada Post will not extend the newer mailboxes to our area until some local house addressing problems are fixed. This first came to the attention of the JDF Electoral Area four or five years ago, but doing something about it kept getting lost in someone’s “to-do” file. Last year the project was revived, as part of a larger initiative to ensure that all addresses in the JDF Electoral Area can be quickly and predictably found by police, fire, ambulance, utility companies and Canada Post.

Public information meetings were held in Otter Point and Shirley last spring and OPSRRA recently asked Kelly Edwards, the Civic Addressing Project coordinator, to provide an update. Here is what she had to say:

Can your address be seen? Can emergency personnel find you when you need them the most? Over the next year, the CRD will be completing a civic addressing project that is focusing on those questions and ensuring that the answer is “YES” to both of them.

The two year project, which will be completed by December, 2005 is reviewing house numbers for the entire Juan de Fuca Electoral Area including the regions of Willis Point, the Malahat, East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew.

The project is focusing on improving the continuity of the addressing system throughout the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. This is being accomplished through the following process:

1. Documenting and taking an inventory of current addresses
2. Recommending new addresses or modifying existing addresses where required to retain addressing consistency within the electoral area and with our neighbouring municipalities
3. Developing a civic addressing procedure to ensure that future addresses are assigned appropriately, documented, and distributed to key organizations
4. Promoting signs as the best way to make houses and properties more visible. the CRD Board adopted a civic addressing bylaw on September 29, 2004 for this purpose.

The bylaw can be viewed at:

http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/juandefucaelect/_index.htm

One of the main benefactors of this project will be emergency services groups such as 911, ambulance and fire. Once all of the addresses are documented and approved, a complete list will be distributed to these agencies as well as a handful of others. Property owners will receive notification in the mail as part of the process.

If you would like more information regarding the Civic Addressing Project, visit our website at www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/addressing.htm or contact Kelly Edwards at 360-3042 in Victoria.”

Note: If your rural mailbox is in need of levelling or alignment, contact the Sooke Post Office. They will have someone come-out and do the job.

4. UPDATE ON JDF ELECTORAL AREA/DISTRICT OF SOOKE BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE (AMALGAMATION)

The committee reviewed the final draft of the consultant’s report on amalgamation at their October 21st meeting and will be meeting again on November 9 (5:00 p.m. at District of Sooke Council Chambers) to accept the final draft prior to its public release.

The committee has requested that the province set Saturday, January 29 as the rural referendum date for a vote on amalgamation with the District of Sooke. Prior to the rural referendum there will be a series of Open Houses and Public Information sessions in each of the three rural communities of East Sooke, Otter Point and Shirley. Amalgamation will only proceed if a majority of rural voters in East Sooke or Otter Point and Shirley (combined) vote in favour of amalgamation. For example, if East Sooke was to vote in favour of amalgamation and Otter Point and Shirley did not, then only East Sooke would go forward with the plan to amalgamate. If either or both of the rural areas should vote in favour of amalgamation then the voters of Sooke will be going to a similar referendum — probably in March or April of 2005.

Amalgamation Open House & Public Information Location & Dates

East Sooke	Saturday, January 9	Open House
	Sunday, January 10	Public Information Session
Otter Point	Saturday, January 15	Open House
	Tuesday, January 18	Public Information Session
Shirley	Sunday, January 16	Open House
	Wednesday, January 19	Public Information Session

Once the final report is printed, copies will be available through members of the Boundary Restructure committee, local fire trustees and board members of the water improvement districts. It will also be on the District of Sooke’s web site. In addition, information displays will be set-up, in December, at the fire halls in Shirley, Otter Point and East Sooke as well as the JDF Planning Services office and the Regional Library.

5. SUMMARY OF EVENTS REGARDING THE DEDICATION OF PARK LAND AT SHERINGHAM ESTATES IN SHIRLEY

Last month's issue of the OPSRRA newsletter mentioned that a difference of opinion had arisen between the developer of Sheringham Estates and the SEAPARC (the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission) Parks Committee concerning who is legally allowed (as part of the development permit process), to decide whether land, or money in lieu, can be used to satisfy the 5% community amenity provision required under provincial legislation. SEAPARC sought a legal opinion on this matter. The following is a statement that OPSRRA received from SEAPARC that supports the opinion of the Parks Committee that it has the right to decide whether land or money in lieu can be used to satisfy the 5% community amenity provision.

At its meeting of October 14, the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission resolved to rise and report that:

The legal opinion forwarded by Staples McDannold Stewart states that the CRD has sufficiently provided policies and designations as contemplated by section 941 (2) of the Local Government Act for the CRD to exercise authority to determine whether the owner of the land must provide parkland or cash in lieu of parkland.

6. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATES

1. The chairs of the Shirley/Jordan River and the Otter Point OCP committees will be doing a presentation at OPSRRA's membership meeting on Wednesday, November 3.
2. The Otter Point OCP committee will be hosting an Open House on Monday, November 22 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall
3. The JDF Regional Director has decided that the OCP boundary between Otter Point and Shirley will be Muir Creek. This will make the Land Use and OCP boundaries the same. The regional director had originally decided to also move the Shirley Fire Protection boundary west to Muir Creek, but then later decided to leave the Fire Protection boundaries unchanged.

Updated versions of the OCPs and the accompanying zoning bylaws (once they become available) can be seen on the JDF regional director's web site, which is: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf.

7. TIMBERWEST PESTICIDE SPRAYING

TimberWest contacted OPSRRA on October 28 to announce that they are not going ahead with their fall pest control (i.e. removal of broom, salmonberry, salal, etc.) plan. TimberWest had originally notified property owners in the vicinity of Farmer Drive and Young's Lake Road in Otter Point, that they planned to control broom, in two of their tree plantation areas, by using hand sprayers to apply Vision and Round-Up. The spokesman for TimberWest has informed OPSRRA that nothing further would be done on any of their properties in Shirley and Otter Point until at least next spring.

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.

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
