

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2009

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

Lifetime memberships cost \$5.00 per person and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information and on-line registration. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley or Otter Point, but who wish to support the Association.

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 now e-mails this newsletter to over **240** 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 Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca or 642-3113 to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Wednesday
November 4

**Note:
Change of
usual start
time and
location for
this meeting
only**

**Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**
5:45 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road
Sooke BC

Saturday
November 7

**Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Camp Barnard**

9:30 a.m.
Meet in the Camp Barnard parking lot at the end of Young's
Lake Road (Otter Point).

This is a 2 hour long hike. Footing varies.

Dress for the weather and bring a snack.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.

Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
November 8

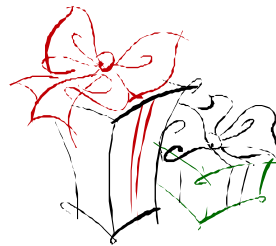
Beach Clean up at Sombrio Beach
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Organized by the Vancouver Island Surfriders, Victoria
Chapter.

Information:
www.surfrider.org/vancouverisland

Sunday
November 16

Shirley Fall Craft Fair
10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall



Tuesday
November 17 **JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Sooke Community Hall

Note:
location
change

On the agenda: the staff report on the proposed Rural Resource Lands Official Community Plan & Land Use Bylaws as well as the proposed Detached Secondary Suite bylaw.

You can obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting on the CRD website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Tuesday
November 24 **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation**
Commission
Monthly Meeting
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Note: This meeting may be cancelled; check with the CRD office

Wednesday **OPSRRA Membership Meeting**
November 25 see newsletter item 2 for details
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall

01/11/26 **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission**
Monthly Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Wednesday
December 2 **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission**
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
December 5 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike Silver Spray to Iron Mine Bay in East Sooke
9:30 a.m.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
December 6 **Beach Clean up at Jordan River**
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Organized by the Vancouver Island Surfriders, Victoria Chapter.

Information:
www.surfrider.org/vancouverisland

Mondays **Karate for all ages**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

Tuesdays **Yoga**
Shirley Community Hall

Thursdays **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

[Everyone welcome](#)

Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

2. OPSRRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The OPSRRA fall membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall.

Agenda items include an update on the Rural Resource Lands and Land Use bylaws, information on the proposed East Sooke/Metchosin amalgamation, possible uses for JDFEA Community Grants money for community projects, discussion of the results of the **Are You Getting Your \$5.00 Worth?** questionnaire, suggested changes to JDFEA governance and an opportunity for members' questions and comments on local issues. OPSRRA will send an agenda to members on email the week before.

3. ARE YOU GETTING YOUR \$5.00 WORTH?

September's newsletter contained an article, **Past, Present & Future**, a look at changes in the community since OPSRRA was formed in 1992.

At the end of that story we concluded with the comment that although our association began in response to Shirley and Otter Point's opposition to incorporating with Sooke, both the community and OPSRRA have grown in many different ways since then. Over those 17 years, as a non-profit community association, we have tried to serve the needs of our members and others in the community. But where do we go from here?

Last month's newsletter asked members if they were getting their \$5.00 worth from the association and listed the services which OPSRRA currently provides. OPSRRA attached a questionnaire to the newsletter.

We need more responses before bringing any recommendations to the November membership meeting. The questionnaire is attached to this newsletter. Even sending a note saying that no changes are necessary would be very helpful.

**Please send the completed questionnaire to Arnie Campbell, President
OPSRRA:**

Mail: OPSRRA c/o 2950 Michelson Road
Otter Point BC V9Z 0J7

E-Mail: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Phone: 250-642-3113

or:

Attend the November membership meeting (date and time to be announced in October)

or

Contact any OPSRRA director. Your directors are: Wayne Fritz, Brenda Mark, John Charles, Sandra Barta, Fiona McDannold, Erik James and Bob Phillips

4. TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

On October 14, residents west of Sooke were invited to attend a Town Hall meeting with their elected representatives: Dr. Keith Martin MP, John Horgan MLA and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director Mike Hicks. The meeting's purpose was to provide an opportunity to talk about issues facing their communities. This event was organized as a community service by the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA).

This was a well attended event with about 65 residents from Port Renfrew, Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point meeting at the Shirley Community Hall. During the two-hour session, there were a wide range of concerns raised and suggestions given regarding the future of the local area which also includes the Rural Resource Lands which stretch across the top of the Electoral Area from Sooke to Port Renfrew. Some of the most frequent questions to the elected representatives had to do with:

- The condition of Highway 14 from Sooke to Port Renfrew, including poor road base, narrow width, inadequate culverts, lack of bike lanes and the inability to handle increasing traffic.
- Developing a trail system to link the Galloping Goose, Juan de Fuca Marine and West Coast Trails.
- The need to map watersheds, water courses, wildlife corridors and other important environmental features prior to development.
- The inability of some residents to have their existing rights to develop their property recognized and protected under changing zoning and land use bylaws and the need for stability in land use and zoning bylaws so residents can plan for the future use of their property.
- Ensuring that adequate potable water is available for present and future residents.
- The need to review the local Official Community Plans and zoning bylaws

- The inclusion of widely accepted standards such as *Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design* (LEEDs) for new construction and *Proper Functioning Condition* for assessing and protecting wildlife, wetlands and riparian areas and dominant sensitive ecosystems within the OCP areas.
- Ensuring that communities get some economic return from the logging and mining activity in their area.
- Application of the Provincial Municipal Enabling and Validation Act (MEVA) to sort-out the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area bylaws passed between April 2006 and December 2008 using the CRD voting system found invalid by the B.C. Courts.
- Major decisions, that affects local residents, not being made by locally elected and accountable representatives.
- The withdrawal of Provincial financial support for a governance options review and the need to review the present governance model in light of recommendations of a provincial task force report on regional districts.
- Efforts to acquire high speed internet and cell phone service.

The elected representatives spoke to their areas of responsibility and were forthcoming in their comments. Where possible, They proposed solutions and offered follow up.

5. **ADVICE ON BEAR ENCOUNTERS**

The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society submitted the following for the OPSRRA newsletter:

Peter Pauwels, one of our local Conservation Officers, gave a presentation on encounters with bears to members and guests of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society on October 28.

Pauwels' first advice was that the bear usually doesn't want to meet you and will move away if it knows you are there. If it can't smell you it needs to hear you. If you see a bear standing and sniffing, make some noise so it can identify you. It will most likely leave.

Bears typically show their intentions in an encounter. If it is snorting, woofing, stomping its feet, it is asking you to leave. Back away and leave so the bear knows you got the message. Avoid challenging the bear or threatening it. The bear may charge towards you to enforce its message. If it doesn't stop, it may intend to rough you up to show who is the boss. An attack by a bear defending food, young or territory can be as fatal for the human as a predatory attack.

A bear that seems mildly interested, is sneaky, follows you and maybe won't make eye contact may be hunting. It won't want to scare you if it plans to get close and grab you. You don't want it close. Even a big 85 kg bear can move at 50 kph. The best way to deal with this is to treat the bear like an aggressive dog. Show it how big, tough and fearless you are. Stand your ground. Gather everyone in the group together. Get ready to fight back. Predatory attacks are unusual but follow a pattern. Although a first on Vancouver Island, the attack in Port Renfrew was typical. The predator was a male black bear and wild. It was not habituated to people or conditioned to getting food near humans.

Bears are intelligent and use their excellent sense of smell to forage. Black bears adapt well to living near people. If they become used to encounters with people they won't leave. They will keep coming back if they find food in your

neighbourhood and may decide people should give way to bears. To avoid conflicts, pick fruit or ask the Sooke Food Chi to help you pick. Keep garbage secure until the day it will be collected. Don't leave bird seed or pet food outside. Use lime to mask odours in your compost and don't put food scraps to compost. Raids on garbage and livestock make the bear a nuisance even if people never see it.

For sudden encounters in the wild, bear spray is an excellent defence, better than a firearm. Learn how to use it properly and carry it where you can get it quickly. For safety in your own neighbourhood, make sure no one invites the bears. That is the best defence for you and the bears. For more information contact the Langford office of the Conservation Service at 250 474 5544.

6. NOTES FROM THE JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY TRAILS SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society submitted the following for the OPSRRA newsletter:

Members of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society held a short general meeting on October 28. The main business was to report on the success of the Society as an advocacy group. The other business was to let members know how they can help with advocacy and in the more active roles of organizing events for members and also trail building and maintenance.

The Society has established sound relationships with the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission and the Capital Regional District Parks department. Because of the sudden change in land use brought about by the release of land from the tree farm licenses and private managed forest, the Society was one of several groups that wrote to the Auditor General asking for a review of the process. Since that time, Director Rosemary Jorna has attended meetings of the Jordan River Steering Committee to share information.

Officially, President Sid Jorna, who is also a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Commissioner, has been issued a CRD GPS to collect data for the CRD. Members of the JdF Community Trails Society are asked to help identify trail routes and potential park or conservation areas to be considered by the parks departments. Members will also be invited to help when the society consults with the JDFEA parks commission, CRD regional parks representatives and MP Keith Martin on their future planning.

The JdF Community Trails Society adds its support and voice to other societies working for improved mountain biking, highway cycling, trail riding for cyclists and equestrians, and trail routes as alternate transportation routes for non-vehicle traffic. Some of these societies are the South Island Mountain Biking Society, the Garden City Horsemen, and the Juan de Fuca Cycling Coalition. Advocating for particular park and trail acquisitions or the development of parks already acquired, JdF Community Trails supports the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, the Muir Creek Protection Society and newly formed societies such as the Friends of Eaglecrest Park.

The Society bought trail building equipment in 2008 using a grant in aid from the JdF Regional Director. Members are invited to get their hands on these tools when trail maintenance parties are scheduled. There may be future trail building and park maintenance supervised by the JDFEA Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Executive of the Society asks members to come forward as directors or steering committee members to help with equestrian and cycling interests.

Members are also needed to form standing committees for publicity, event planning and mapping and exploring.

7. UPDATE: METCHOSIN / EAST SOOKE AMALGAMATION

On October 21, there was a public meeting at the District of Metchosin Council Chambers to review progress towards a possible boundary restructure between East Sooke and Metchosin.

Phase One of the study looked at any possible obstacles to the two communities coming together as a larger District of Metchosin, what their governance structure would look like and how services such as fire protection would be provided. The study was completed in January 2008.

Questions were asked at the public meeting about the possible impact of East Sooke's departure upon the remainders of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Of particular concern was whether East Sooke taxpayers would continue to contribute towards regional services such as the Sooke Region Museum, the Vancouver Island Regional Library and the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC). Although responsibility for many services such as building inspection, economic development, search and rescue and local parks would be transferred to Metchosin, regional services such as the museum, SEAPARC and the library would continue to receive financial support from East Sooke taxpayers.

Phase Two of the study will begin once Metchosin Council agrees to proceed and the Province has undertaken a consultation with local area First Nations and has prepared a financial package for the District of Metchosin. The financial package would include money for municipal restructuring, roads maintenance, policing and a transition grant. This work will likely happen before spring 2010. Phase Two will undertake to provide the residents of Metchosin and East Sooke with detailed information about all of the costs associated with a boundary restructure and will include a public consultation which is scheduled for the fall of 2010. East Sooke voters would then go to referendum to vote on joining with Metchosin in early 2011 and, depending on the outcome of that vote, the voters of Metchosin would vote in a referendum in the spring of 2011. If either community rejects the boundary restructure then the process stops. If both parties agree then they would go to the polls in the November 2011 municipal elections to elect their new mayor and council.

According to figures provided by the CRD, East Sooke has an estimated population of 1,580 which represents 35% of the population of the JDFEA. Its current property assessments of \$43,440,653 are 26% of the electoral area total of \$165,647,345. Assurances were given by the Provincial representatives at the public meeting that the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area would not suffer financially if East Sooke were to join with Metchosin. The JDFEA regional director is our representative on the Restructuring Committee.

8. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION ASKING FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Request for Proposals for Recreation Programs Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation is looking for qualified instructors in the areas of Yoga, Karate and Tai Chi. Instructors will be working under contract and are required to offer programs for residents in Shirley/Jordan River, Otter Point and East Sooke. Applicants will be assessed on: their level of

training and certification; experience in providing these recreational programs in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area communities; and related program costs.

The contract Terms of Reference is available upon request from:

dwhite@crd.bc.ca

Expressions of interest can be submitted electronically to the above, or mailed to:

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
Parks and Recreation
2-6868 West Coast Road
P.O. Box 283
Sooke BC V9Z 0S9
Attn: Donna White, Administrative Assistant

9. NEW APPOINTMENTS TO JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Regional Director Hicks has announced the following appointments:

Michelle Bohn from Otter Point has been appointed to sit on the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC). The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area has two seats on the commission. Director Hicks or his alternate is the other voting member from the electoral area.

Otter Point resident Elisabeth Petersen has been appointed to the JDFEA Economic Development Commission. She replaces Otter Point resident Betty Tully who has assumed the presidency of the Rotary Club of Sooke. Elisabeth has also been designated the Regional Director's alternate on the board of the Sooke Region Tourist Association (SRTA).

10. OPSRRA ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES REGIONAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE REPORT

The Provincial Government and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) have been involved in a joint venture since September 2008 which has been looking at problems facing Regional Districts and ways to identify possible solutions and strategies to solve these problems. Three specific interest areas have been identified: electoral area governance; municipal-rural interests in areas at the fringe of municipalities; and relationships between provincial and regional jurisdictions. Regional Director Hicks requested that OPSRRA review the Regional District Task Force progress report to the UBCM and provide comment.

OPSRRA directors agreed to undertake that request and submitted a report to the Regional Director on October 27. This report has since been forwarded to the Provincial Governance Structure Branch.

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) is experiencing many of the governance problems identified in the report. Some of the suggested solutions would help to address our many problems; others need further consideration.

There is a long history of trying to resolve the governance issues in the JDFEA. This is summarized in Appendix A (Note: Appendix A has not been included in the newsletter because of its length. It is a chronology of important events in the JDFEA between 1965 and 2008. It is available upon request). A number of communities within the JDFEA have consistently identified the following problems related to the present governance model:

1. The JDFEA is too geographically scattered to be adequately represented by one elected representative. It needs different elected representation.
2. The Alternate Director performs the duties of the Regional Director but is not elected.
3. Key decisions on Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and land use are made, primarily, by CRD directors from municipalities outside of the electoral area.
4. Planning and services issues in the electoral area are becoming more complex; critical decisions are made with limited planning resources and very little topographical, environmental and watershed data.
5. Subdivisions and road specifications must be approved by the Province through the Ministry of Transportation and do not have to conform to a community's OCP.
6. Properties bordering other municipalities can be annexed without consultation or consent by either the JDFEA or the CRD.
7. Residents on the First Nation lands in View Royal and Esquimalt are 30% of the eligible voters in the JDFEA but do not live in the electoral area and are not governed through the CRD.
8. The provincial government is not required to consult with the CRD about major changes in its land use policies (i.e. termination of Tree Farm Licenses, disposition of Crown Lands, etc.) although such changes have major impacts for regional land use planning by the CRD and local planning within the JDFEA.

The Regional District Task Force progress report seeks to provide solutions to some of these problems. The following comments are submitted for your consideration:

Need to strengthen the Single Director electoral area

When the District of Sooke incorporated in 1999, the JDFEA was established. It is the only electoral area using Part 26* planning services in the CRD and may be the only electoral area in the province where Local Government Act Section 791 (11)◇ applies. With the urban reserve populations counted, it is likely that the JDFEA is one of the 22 electoral areas mentioned in the topic paper as having populations of more than 5,000 people. Electing two regional directors would solve the problem of having only one director eligible to vote on Part 26.

The large size and distribution of the JDFEA has hampered any single regional director's ability to represent the JDFEA's diverse communities and the electorate. Having a single regional director has also limited land use decisions from being made by locally elected representatives. The current situation could be generally improved if:

- A forum (e.g. elected council, Electoral Area Body or Community Commission) for constructive criticism, consultation, discussion and problem-solving with the Regional Director was created;
- The Regional Director's responsibilities could be shared with or delegated in some manner to a locally elected body; and
- More decisions, including land use decisions, were made by locally elected representatives.

* Part 26 refers to the part of the P'rovincial Local Government Act which regulates planning and land use management such as zoning, official

community plans and other development issues. Under the legislation, regional districts provide Part 26 services for electoral areas and the electoral area directors vote on each others' Part 26 matters. Municipalities typically have their own planning departments and opt out of the regional district services. The elected council of the municipality is then responsible for its Part 26 matters.

- ◇ Section 791 (11) is the section of the Local Government Act which requires that, where there is only one director eligible to vote on regional district Part 26 matters, then all regional directors are required to vote. Since the obligation to vote did not work for the CRD Directors, a Provincial Order in Council was obtained to vary the Local Government Act requirement. At the moment, Part 26 decisions in the western portion of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, which includes Shirley and Otter Point, are made by the JDFEA regional director and the directors from Metchosin, Sooke, Colwood and Langford.

Considering rural governance options

The report identifies a spectrum of rural governance options including: a single Electoral Regional Director, a local Community Commission, an Electoral Area Body, a Multi-Director Model, and Municipal Incorporation. Table 2 in the report identifies characteristics associated with different governance models. The JDFEA shares similarities with the Single Director model with respect to population, density, settlement patterns, candidate for incorporation and services provided. However it also shares characteristics with the Electoral Area Body governance model when looking at level of service, services provided by whom, pressure for development and planning decisions.

Keeping the Single Director governance model and adding an elected Local Community Commission would be similar in appearance to the JDFEA's presently elected Land Use Committee (LUC)—but with added duties and expectations. This model would ensure that each sub-area is represented and that members were elected and not appointed. While this would help to spread the workload and addresses geographical representation, it would still leave most of the other identified governance issues unresolved.

The Electoral Area Body (EA) model of 3 or 5 elected representatives, who would in turn elect the regional director and alternate from their ranks, goes further to addressing the community's identified governance issues. Using this model:

- Up to five representatives could be locally elected for three year terms.
- Elections could be done through either a ward type system to ensure reasonable geographic representation or through a member-at-large election process.
- Some Part 26 decisions (but which ones?) can be delegated.
- Complex planning and services issues can be dealt with by one elected body which represents the community.

However, this model does not address two JDFEA governance problems: some land use decisions would still be made by municipal representatives from outside the JDFEA and neighbouring municipalities could continue to unilaterally annex land from the JDFEA without the consent of the electoral area or the CRD. Municipal incorporation appears to be the only governance model which would also address these two governance issues confronting the JDFEA. To date, the provincial government has been unwilling to support a wide-ranging local

governance study for the JDFEA area that would include incorporation as one of the options. Funding to discuss alternate approaches to resolve these problems is needed.

Choosing the Regional Director and Alternate Regional Director

A further shortcoming with the EA model may be the mechanism for choosing the regional and assistant regional director. If only 3 positions were allowed then two become executive and one would not—perhaps a poor beginning to a collaborative working relationship. Allowing candidates to run with a declaration that if elected they would let their name stand (or not) for RD or Alternate RD may help both the electors and the elected EA more clearly identify who the players should be at the CRD Board table. As noted in the report, this model is already being used by some municipalities to identify who their RD Board appointments will be.

If no other governance model was introduced into the JDFEA before the next election, then having the regional director and the alternate run together on a slate would be the most acceptable replacement to the present system.

Electoral Area planning in urban fringe area

This section of the report is as close as it seems to get to address the problem of unincorporated areas losing parts of their community to adjoining municipalities through annexation. Until Provincial legislation is changed to limit or prevent this from happening, the ability to undertake comprehensive, long range planning in the EA is greatly limited. Boundary extensions are initiated by the municipality and approved by the Province; the process makes no provision for the Electoral Area or Regional District to be consulted or to have consideration given to the impact on their planning, service costs or service areas. Identifying Management Fringe Areas and establishing protocols for these areas would help in the absence of any changes to provincial legislation. Coordinating growth management through the use of planning protocols, joint OCP planning and similar mechanisms would be helpful. An annexation moratorium by the provincial government, especially in situations where annexations are in conflict with regional district growth strategies, would be helpful.

Regional Growth Strategy

One purpose of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association is to ensure that development in the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point happens in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents. Our association has pursued this goal, in part, through its support for and participation in planning activities such as official community plans, zoning reviews, parks plans and the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

The progress report doesn't specifically address the relationship between an electoral area and its' regional district's Regional Growth Strategy.

- The CRD's Regional Growth Strategy is an over-riding bylaw which influences official community plans and zoning bylaws in the JDFEA. It has 8 strategic initiatives which are: to keep urban settlement compact; protect the integrity of rural communities; protect regional green and blue space; manage natural resources and the environment sustainability; build complete communities; improve housing affordability; increase transportation choice and strengthen the regional economy. One outcome of these strategies has been to limit development and thus population growth within the electoral area. Some residents of the area want a governance model that will change this and allow greater growth. This has been the principle reason for some property owners

in the “fringe area” asking to have their property annexed by the District of Sooke.

- Present provincial government policy opposes any further municipal
- incorporations within the CRD. If the JDFEA's growth was limited to its present size by the RGS then incorporation would not be a considered option. However, by agreeing to release resource lands in the electoral area for residential development the province has set the stage for potential population growth beyond that anticipated by the CRD.
- The RGS has a disproportionate impact on land use decisions in an electoral area compared to incorporated areas. Voting on the RGS takes place at the CRD Board and all directors are entitled to vote. The JDFEA has one vote - which may or may not be supported by the other directors.

First Nations representation at the CRD

Nothing in the progress report addresses the problem that the JDFEA has with having about 1/3 of its voters not even living in the Electoral Area. Both native and non-native residents living on the Songhees and Esquimalt Band Lands in View Royal and Esquimalt are represented at the CRD Board by the JDFEA Regional Director. Couldn't these urban dwellers be better represented by the municipalities of Esquimalt and View Royal? Or perhaps the province and the Regional Districts need to consider a First Nations Regional Director position to represent all First Nation Lands in a regional district.

11. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Popular pioneer writer Jean Stuart Clark of Shirley was born Christine Jane Campbell? Her parents were Hugh and Jane Campbell who emigrated from Scotland in 1887. Hugh and two of his sons worked on the irrigation system for Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria, and then in 1890 the family moved to the Muir Creek area. Christine married Edwin Clark of Sheringham Point in 1902 and served on the Shirley School Board as well as the Shirley Women's Institute. As a writer she entertained local readers with her stories of rural life west of Victoria. Her stories ran in the Colonist Newspaper in the 1950s under the heading of the Pioneer's Corner. One of her many Pioneer's Corner stories was about how volunteer members of the Victoria fire department found their way to a fire. One day while walking along Fort Sreet. she heard the tolling of a bell and then saw workmen scramble down from a nearby roof, drop their tools, take-off their hats and look inside them and then run-off towards the fire. She asked a storekeeper why they looked inside their hats. “To find out where the fire is. Two dings and one dong means street corner 21, and everyone carries a little card inside his hat to say where that corner is.”

Of the Province's estimated 15,000 firefighters about 11,000 are volunteers?

Both the Shirley and Otter Point fire departments depend entirely upon their volunteer firefighters. The present Otter Point Fire Department will celebrate its 30th anniversary this coming year. It dates back to 1980 when the fire district was created in response to a request from local residents and was approved in a referendum. This allowed the fire district to collect taxes towards the purchase of fire equipment and the building of a fire hall.

The Otter Point volunteer firefighters formed the Otter Point Fire Fighters Association. It is an active community service organization which sponsors three major activities during the year: the New Years Day Polar Bear Swim at Whiffin Spit; the Halloween evening bonfire and fireworks at Camp Barnard; and the Santa

Claus Candy Cane Run in Otter Point. They also participate in the Canada Day events at Sooke Flats and help raise money for muscular dystrophy.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** was prepared with the help of information in *Lyrics from Shirley* by Jean Stuart Clark and *The Sooke Story: The History and the Heartbeat* written and published by the Sooke Region Museum.

Do you have local historical information that you would like to share, or questions that you would like answered? If so, let us know and we'll try to help. Contact us at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

12. FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

We welcome the following free local business listing on the OPSRRA web site:

Otter Point Electric

Otter Point Electric offers residential and commercial electrical installations including renewable energy systems.

Contact: Clay Fischer, Electrical Contractor

Phone: 250-588-4324

Email: otterpointelectrical@gmail.com.

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-making, fishing charters, eco-tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing, spas and more. More information, businesses already listed, and an on-line registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site (www.opsrra.ca) under **Business Listings**.

Note: OPSRRA does not accept responsibility for the services provided. Always check references and ask for confirmation of Work Safe B.C. Registration if applicable.

The OPSRRA web site has more information about the following business listings

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair

Accent in Grooming

A Point of View B & B

ALM Organic Farm

Beaches West B & B

Bear Home Remodelling

Birds Edge Press

Bridge over Troubled Water Autism Intervention & Respite Service

DanCyn Kioti Excavation
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite
Fancy That Esthetics & Body Care
Full Circle Seeds
Heron's Rest B & B
Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store
Kirsten Sykes, Realtor
Knotty Beds by Nature
Le Sooke Spa
Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage
Ocean Wilderness Inn
Otter Point Beach House
Otter Point Electrical
Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop
Road's End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd
Smiling Goat Farm Sitting Service
Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions

13. 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 got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
