OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

(OPSRRA) INFORMATION NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2003

Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to interested members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this complimentary service.

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OPSRRA OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OPSRRA's fall membership meeting will be held:

Date: Tuesday, October 21st

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Place: Otter Point Fire Hall – 3727 Otter Point Rd.

Tentative Agenda: Boundary Restructure; Land Use Committee "A"; Lot Averaging; Public Transit; Official Community Plan; Urban Containment Boundary; Proposed Logging in Kemp Lake Watershed; Proposed Sooke Sewer Outfall; Proposed Pesticide Spraying By Timberwest.

Time will be left for members to raise concerns/questions from the floor.

Further information contact Ken Pungente – President OPSRRA (Ph: 642-5177)

SHIRLEY CHILDRENS' HALLOWEEN PARTY

Date: Friday, October 31st

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Shirley Community Hall

Shirley youngsters and their parents are invited to show up in their costumes at the Shirley Hall for a spaghetti dinner (Worms & Blood!). After diner those parents and kids who want to, can go "trick or treating" door-to-door in the Sherringham Estates area (Woodhaven, Alderbrook, Derewood and Seaside Drive). Residents on those streets who wish to have the youngsters stop and collect treats should place a pumpkin at their entrance – kids won't ring the doorbell unless they see a pumpkin!! Shirley residents not living on these streets, who may still wish to give treats, are invited to bring them to the Hall by 5:30 on October 31st (stay for dinner if you like); these treats will be shared with the children who do not go door-to-door. In the past, the parents seem to have as much fun as the kids at this event; so everyone is looking forward to it.

BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Boundary Restructure committee will be hosting a series of public information sessions on the proposed amalgamation with the District of Sooke.

Otter Point:

Date: Wednesday, November 5th

Location: Otter Point Fire Hall

Shirley:

Date: Wednesday, November 12th

Location: Shirley Community Hall

East Sooke:

Date: Tuesday, November 18th

Location: East Sooke Community Hall

All 3 sessions will follow a similar format and you can attend any of the meetings that you want. From 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. there will be an opportunity to look at displays explaining the implications of amalgamation. Mr. Tom Reid, from Sussex Consulting, who has prepared most of the background information for the Boundary Restructure committee, will be present to explain the background information and answer questions. A public forum will follow at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. Reid and members of the committee in attendance. There are 4 reasons for holding these public sessions:

1. To promote awareness of the possible amalgamation of Otter Point, Shirley and East Sooke with the District of Sooke.
2. To inform rural residents about the pros and cons of amalgamation with Sooke.
3. To find-out what information the committee and the consultant may have missed.
4. To assess the support in favour of or against amalgamation.

Following these 3 rural sessions, the committee will meet again in late November to make a recommendation to the province about proceeding with amalgamation.

1.If the committee recommends not proceeding, and the province concurs, then the process stops. Amalgamation will not happen.

2. If the committee recommends going to referendum and the province agrees, then there will be a second round of public information sessions in the rural areas (likely in February), just prior to a referendum.

3.If the rural referendum fails then the process stops.

4. If the rural referendum passes and Sooke Council agrees to proceed with amalgamation, then they will follow the same process of public information sessions and a referendum in their municipality.

An information newsletter on boundary restructure will be delivered to all rural households during the last week of October.

Lot Averaging & Our Official Community Plan

This issue has come-up as a result of an application to use lot averaging on a 160 acre parcel of land near Sherringham Lighthouse. If approved by the province, the applicant would be legally permitted to build on 15 smaller (1 acre), waterfront properties. Lot averaging is supposedly not allowed under the present Otter Point & Shirley Local Area Plan; provincial legislation allowing bare land strata development supercedes our LAP.

OPSRRA will be seeking direction from the membership, at the October 21st meeting, regarding what action (if any) OPSRRA should be taking

Official Community Plan

The regional director decided, in August, that there should be separate official community plans for Otter Point and Shirley. Unfortunately this decision excluded Jordan River. However a recent decision has been made to include Jordan River in the Shirley OCP. Work on these OCP's has not begun yet, as community representatives have not been appointed. Residents who responded to a request in April, for interested committee members, will be contacted and asked if they still wish to participate. Further advertising may be needed to staff these two separate OCP's

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Urban Containment Boundary

Last month's newsletter reviewed OPSRRA's point–of-view about the importance of Urban Containment Boundaries (UCB) for rural communities. The CRD, under Bylaw No 2952: A Bylaw To Adopt A Regional Growth Strategy has given our area until August of 2005 to identify our UCB. This is supposed to done in conjunction with updating our Official Community Plan. The proposed amalgamation with the District of Sooke may result in a change in Sooke's UCB; this be will a topic for discussion at the upcoming public forums on amalgamation. This will also be an agenda item at OPSRRA's October 21st membership meeting.

Shirley Christmas Craft Fair

Date: Sunday, November 9th

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

` Location: Shirley Community Hall

Shirley Community Association - Shirley Christmas Decoration Days

The children of Shirley will have an opportunity to show off their handiwork at the Shirley Christmas Craft Fair; and if they decide to, their crafted items may even be for sale! Shirley youngsters will be invited to spend a couple of Sunday afternoons at the Hall making Christmas decorations that will be used to decorate the Hall for the Christmas Craft Fair. The "crafting sessions" will take place on Sunday, October 12th and 19th from 12 noons to 4:00 p.m. and are free. All necessary art supplies will be provided, but the children are encouraged to bring along small "Christmas-y" items like ribbon, glitter, buttons, etc. that they might like to use on their decorations. Parents are welcome to come along and participate with their kids, but are cautioned to please not bring along children under the age of five who might find scissors and small "swallowable" items dangerous!

Sue Smee will be notifying parents in the next few days – if you are interested and have not been contacted, please call Sue at 646-2298.

Pesticide Spraying Application (PMP103-595) by Timberwest

OPSRRA has been in contact with Timberwest and the Ministry of Land, Sea and Air concerning a notice in last month's Sooke New Mirror about Timberwest's intention to apply for a pesticide permit on TFL 46. TFL is crown land presently leased to Timberwest and comprises an area of 83,500 hectares located in an area bounded by Lake Gowichan, Sooke, Port Renfrew and Shawnigan Lake. Since this notice appeared, Hayes Logging and the Cowichan Band (Khowutzun Forest Services Ltd) have formed a joint venture to bid for this TFL. In light of this, Timberwest has withdrawn its pest management application. However, the ministry has advised OPSRRA that Timberwest has received approval for two other pest management applications in our area. A representative of OPSRRA has met with Timberwest and they have indicated that one area will likely not be sprayed and that they will review their plan for a second area – as it is within a reasonable distance of human settlement. They have offered to provide OPSRRA with further information about their spraying plans for 2004 and if available in time, will be shared with the membership at the forthcoming membership meeting on October 21st.

OPSRRA

OPSRRA is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of the residents of 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 website (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.

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OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Ken Pungente – President Arnie Campbell – Vice President

Wendy Miller – Secretary/Treasurer

Byron Tweedy – Director Mitch Moneo – Director

Virginia Boyd – Director Wendy Morton – Director

Frances Stocks - Director

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. Ph: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca