

## OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE—OCTOBER 2006

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 350. 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](http://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 125 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto: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](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Sunday  
October 1

**Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS)**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
2:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday  
October 3

**JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Otter Point Fire Hall  
3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)

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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm)

Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Thursday  
October 5

**Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**  
5:00 p.m.  
JDF Electoral Area Services Office  
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke

- Saturday  
October 14
- Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**  
**Hike**  
9:30 a.m.  
Meet at the Pike Road parking lot (East Sooke, Iron Mine Bay) for a walk to Iron Mine Bay and back along an interior trail. The footing is good and the timing approximately 2 hours.
- Wednesday  
October 18
- Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**  
**Learn about Geo-caching**  
7:30 p.m.  
Otter Point Fire Hall  
3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)  
An update on activities and a presentation on geo-caching by Erik and Michelle James.
- Thursday  
October 19
- Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Community Room  
Upstairs, Village Foods Market, Sooke  
**Note: The EDC does not meet every month. Contact the CRD office (642-1500) to confirm.**
- Thursday  
October 19
- Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**  
7:00 p.m.  
Multi Purpose Room "A"  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Phillips Road, Sooke
- Monday  
October 23
- OPSRRA Directors Meeting**  
**Members welcome!**  
7:00 p.m.  
Board Room "A"  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Road Sooke
- Sunday  
October 28
- Muir Creek Protection Society**  
**Muir Creek Estuary Walk**  
11:00 a.m.  
See the returning salmon and the eagles that feed on them, then do a one-hour hike up the ridge trail (if weather permits). Some steep sections.
- Thursday  
November 2
- Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**  
5:00 p.m.  
JDF Electoral Area Services Office  
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke
- Wednesday  
November 8
- Shirley Community Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
7:30 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

Wednesday  
November 8      **Shirley Craft Fair**  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

Second &  
Fourth  
Thursday  
of every month      **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

## **2. ELECTION OF NEW OPSRRA DIRECTOR**

OPSSRA is pleased to announce that a new director was elected at the membership meeting held on September 23 to replace Mitch Moneo who resigned for family reasons. John Charles was elected to fulfill the remainder of Mitch's term.

John joined OPSRRA last year and has been a regular attendee at the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Advisory Committee meetings. He owns and operates a private woodlot in Otter Point and was instrumental in having Private Forest Lands recognized in the draft Otter Point OCP.

## **3. REPORT ON OPSRRA'S SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The following reports were presented at the membership meeting:

### **SUMMARY OF OPSRRA ACTIVITIES SINCE FEBRUARY 2006 AGM**

1. OPSRRA Board of Directors has met six times plus numerous committee meetings.
2. Published seven monthly newsletters on the OPSRRA web site and sent to over 125 members on e-mail.
3. Continued to add local businesses to the web site's Business Services listings.
4. Continued to update the OPSRRA web page ([www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)).
5. Attended JDF Parks, SEAPARC, APC and LUC meetings.
6. Attended Official Community Plan & Zoning Advisory Committee meetings.
7. Organized and chaired numerous governance study meetings with local community organizations, the Province and the CRD.
8. Wrote Canada Post requesting update on installation of new Rural Boxes.
9. Completed eight more Community Notice Boards for Otter Point.
10. Wrote the Province and CRD about clarification of the western boundary of Kemp Lake.
11. Met with residents living near the proposed West Coast Road gravel pit. Wrote letter to Province offering to help organize and/or host a public forum to address community's concerns.
12. Began work on developing a strategic vision for Otter Point and Shirley.
13. Reviewed and updated membership list.
14. Offered support to a proposal to purchase and develop the Otter Point log sort as a public facility.
15. Offered support to the JDF Community Trails Society to develop King Creek trails network.

16. Continued to pursue donation of "Old Emerson School" crown land as a Pioneer Park.
17. Began review of the Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point OCPs prior to public hearings.
18. Met with MLA regarding governance study and other local issues.
19. Developed information package for new members.
20. Completed Archives for all OPSRRA documents.
21. Updated membership list.
22. Filed a complaint with the provincial Ombudsman concerning the province's annexation process and the delay in receiving a reply to OPSRRA's request for a governance study.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Balance at February, 2006</b>		<b>\$323.49</b>
<b>Money received since February, 2006</b>		<b>\$180.00</b>
membership fees	\$130.00	
donations	\$50.00	
<b>Expenses since February, 2006</b>		<b>\$334.93</b>
Minister of Finance, Society Act Fees	\$25.00	
Black Press Group Ltd. (Sooke News Mirror), Advertising	\$185.86	
Minister of Finance, Society address change fee	\$15.00	
OPSRRA float	\$25.00	
Hardware for community notice boards	\$35.60	
DNS Technologies, website domain	\$41.34	
Cumulative bank fees	\$7.13	
<b>Current Balance since August 18, 2006</b>		<b>\$195.76</b>
	\$168.56	
float	\$27.20	

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since February 2006:

New members in Otter Point	23
<b>Total members in Otter Point</b>	<b>310</b>
New members in Shirley	3
<b>Total members in Shirley</b>	<b>42</b>
Associate Members	6
<b>Total OPSRRA members</b>	<b>352</b>

## GOVERNANCE STUDY UPDATE

Directors reported on the on-going request for a governance study for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. An August 18 letter sent by Ken Pungente, Chair of the Governance Study group, to the Minister of Community services asking for a meeting has remained unanswered.

## OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

A committee of directors presented examples of problems with the draft Otter Point Official Community plan. Concerns included incorrect information, outdated information and areas that need further work such as environmentally sensitive

areas, settlement containment area designation, protection for the ALR and identification of future community trail networks.

**Note:** The minutes of the September 23 meeting, with full details of the presentations and discussion, will be available on the OPSRRA web site at the end of October. OPSRRA is making a presentation of some of its concerns with the draft OCP at the October 3 Land Use Committee meeting.

#### 4. **SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE**

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association welcomes the following local business to the OPSRRA web site:

**Accent in Grooming**

Aqua Massage Bath, Nails, Ears, Undercoat Removal and Professional Pet Trim.

Contact: Kate Schroeder  
Phone: 642-6342  
Email: [accentdog@hotmail.com](mailto:accentdog@hotmail.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](http://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](http://www.opsrra.ca)) under Business Listings.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	ALM Organic Farm
Beaches West B&B	Birds Edge Press
Blue Waters B&B	Body Wellness Spa
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite	Full Circle Seeds
Heron's Rest B&B	Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store	Malahat Farms B&B
Otter Point Beach House	Roads End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions	

## 5. SOOKE REGION MUSEUM UPDATE & CORRECTION

OPSRRA's September newsletter carried a story about the pending financial crisis at the Sooke Region Museum and Tourist Information Centre. The museum is asking the District of Sooke to increase their annual taxpayer supported allocation by \$13,000 and the JDF Electoral Area to increase theirs by \$11,000. The information in the newsletter about the current mil rate that we pay to support the museum was incorrect. We are currently paying less than \$0.04 (4 cents) per thousand dollars of assessed property value, not the \$0.40 figure that was given.

The CRD has clarified that, unlike the District of Sooke which can alter the amount of financial support to the museum by a vote of Mayor and Council, the Electoral Area can only change the amount of the annual allocation if approved in a referendum. However, the Regional Director could choose to proceed by Counter Petition to avoid the cost of a referendum.

One indirect Museum and Tourist Information cost that the taxpayers of the Electoral Area do not have to cover is the Exemption of Taxes. Because the museum is located in the District of Sooke, they are the property taxing authority and can exempt the museum from paying some or all of their property tax. Sooke Council is presently considering a bylaw to exempt \$88,885 in taxes for churches, parks and the museum

## 6. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

**Cross Point Farm, east of the Sheringham Point Lighthouse, was built by Charles Smith in 1903?** According to notes kept by former Shirley resident Jean Stuart Clark, Smith had been employed with the company that made the "bicycle built for two" and left the area after a few years to rejoin the company.

**Poirier House on Kemp Lake Road was originally located in Sooke?** It was floated in sections from Sooke to Otter Point in 1902. The Poirier's are one of this area's pioneer families and are remembered in the naming of Poirier Lake and Ecole Poirier.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from a book of early local history, *101 Historical Buildings of the Sooke Region* 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.

## 7. WHERE SHOULD THE PROVINCIAL HUNTING & SHOOTING BOUNDARY BE IN OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY?

The provincial Ministry of the Environment provides hunters and shooters with an annual guide as to where hunting and the discharge of firearms is permitted. The boundary between the permitted use area and the **No Hunting & No Shooting** area in Shirley and Otter Point is the BC Hydro power line that runs from Jordan River to Victoria. Hunting and shooting is permitted north of the power line.

In Otter Point: this boundary leaves a portion of Robinson Road, most of Tugwell Road and all of Slingsby, East Glen, Goudie, Skylark in the permitted area. The Otter Point Fire Department web site identifies more than 50 homes located in this area.

OPSRRA is proposing that the **No Hunting & No Shooting** boundary be shifted further north to coincide with the Settlement Containment boundary as proposed in both the Otter Point and the Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans. We

would like to hear from others before taking action on this matter of community safety.

## 8. COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE FORUM

The following article on the Community Health Initiative (CHI) forum was submitted by OPSRRA director and CHI steering committee member Emma Taylor.

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The Community Health Initiative held a forum on September 23 at EMCS to disseminate data on the health of our communities, including East Sooke, Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew.

CHI has completed an inventory of health and social determinants that affect the well-being of the area population. The information will soon be incorporated into an Internet-based Community Health Atlas hosted by the CRD. The intent is to increase awareness about local services and facilities.

The CHI project developed and distributed a comprehensive health survey, mailed out to over 5,000 local residents in July. 30% of the surveys were returned and the information is now stored in a databank to be used by our communities. The response rates from Otter Point and Shirley surveys were 16%. Thank you to all who participated!

### Some highlights from the data include:

60% of respondents from Otter Point and 73% of respondents from Shirley to Port Renfrew felt a [strong sense of community belonging](#). This is compared to only 46% from East Sooke and 55% from Sooke. Otter Point had the greatest number of respondents who considered their neighbourhood as a [good or very good place to bring up children](#).

72% of respondents from Otter Point felt that their [neighbourhood lacked safe parks, playgrounds and play spaces for children](#) while only 45% of respondents from other communities felt they had inadequate parks. Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew respondents felt that there was [not sufficient room to bike and walk safely](#) in their neighbourhoods. 27% in Otter Point and 24% in Shirley agreed or strongly agreed that there was room to walk safely and only 13% agreed or strongly agreed there was room to bike safely in these areas.

While our rural areas retain a strong sense of community belonging, we face many challenges, of which only a few are highlighted above. Changing demographics, access to services, development and environmental pressures all pose challenges to our future livelihoods. The Community Health Forum was intended to bring together community members and service providers to identify priorities for improving the health of our region. Key priority areas identified were: food security; children and youth; health and economic determinants; social networks; primary health care; physical activity and the built environment. A final report, to be produced in November, will document the process, highlight the data and make recommendations in light of the identified priorities. The information belongs to us and our communities are encouraged to incorporate it into their future planning and visioning processes.

This project was made possible through a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities, support in-kind from the Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Island Health Authority, School District #62 and the District of Sooke. For more information, contact Lori Messer: [lmesser@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:lmesser@sd62.bc.ca)

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### **OPSRRA Comment:**

One of the reasons why the majority of respondents from Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and Port Renfrew might have felt that there was [insufficient room to walk and bike safely in their neighbourhoods](#), could be that it isn't safe to use our roads. Our communities do not have sidewalks; we have to use the roadways for walking and biking. In many areas the road shoulders are not wide enough to use—and even if they are, they are often so overgrown with weeds and bramble that they are often unusable during most of the spring, summer and fall, until the roadside mower finally shows up.

72% of the Otter Point respondents felt that their [neighbourhood lacked safe parks and playgrounds for children](#). Otter Point only has one playground. Shirley fares about the same. This means that most children don't have access to a neighbourhood playground.

One question overlooked in the Healthy Communities survey was access to reliable sources of safe drinking water. This is an area that should cause us great concern as our rural communities grow.

The Community Health Initiative has given us a valuable “snapshot” of our communities. It is now our responsibility to find ways to use this information as we plan growth, review park plans and otherwise consider how to develop and promote a healthy community for ourselves and our children.

## **9. NEW FACES AT THE CRD OFFICE**

There have been two recent additions to the staff at the local CRD office serving the JDF Electoral Area.

Wendy Miller has transferred from SEAPARC and is working in the Front Office and Kris Nichols is replacing Gerard Leblanc as the Planner.

Kris Nichols was previously the head of the planning for the Greater Vancouver Regional District's only Electoral Area. Gerard will remain on a part time basis to complete work on the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River OCPs and Zoning bylaws. He will also be working, on contract, on a Resource Lands OCP for the areas north of the Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River.

## **10. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY LOOKING FOR DIRECTORS**

The Muir Creek Protection Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the next couple of months and is looking for persons who would be interested in serving as a society director.

Contact Kate Woods at [kwoods@pacificcoast.net](mailto:kwoods@pacificcoast.net) or call her at 642-0393.

## **11. OPSRRA MEMBERS WIN AWARDS AT THE SOOKE FALL FAIR**

Congratulations are extended to the following OPSRRA members who received awards at this year's Sooke Fall Fair:

Don Collis	best collection of vegetables & best plate of tomatoes
Emma Taylor	best plate of fruit
Fern Dunn	best jam / jelly

## 12. SHERINGHAM POINT LIGHTHOUSE LAND SWAP

Negotiations continue between Guiding Owl Investment Company, the owner of the property surrounding the federal government lands in Shirley, site of the Sheringham Point Lighthouse, and the Federal Government. In order to develop their proposed subdivision, they need to realign access to the lighthouse property from Sheringham Point Road and open a second access to their development from Seaside Drive. The following [Notice of Proposal to Exchange Lands](#) helps to explain what is being proposed.

**Notice of Proposal to Exchange Lands**

**Re: Sheringham Point Lighthouse**

This notice is to inform all interested parties that Guiding Owl Investment Company has submitted and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is considering, a proposal to exchange lands and provide legal access to the Sheringham Point Lighthouse site.

Area of land to be divested by DFO: approximately 0.16 hectares  
Area of land to be acquired by DFO: approximately 0.18 hectares

Questions and/or comments regarding this proposal must be received in writing by both parties listed below, on or before October 11th, 2006.

Noel Taylor, Manager Real Property (Facilities)  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
[taylorl@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:taylorl@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
200-401 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 2E1  
Fax: 604-666-7014

Ender Ilkay, President\*  
Guiding Owl Investment Company  
[Ender@IlkayDevelopments.com](mailto:Ender@IlkayDevelopments.com)  
6060 Blink Bonnie Rd, West Vancouver, BC V7W 1V8  
Fax: 604-921-4682

### **13. NEW FEATURE ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE**

The OPSRRA web site [www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca) (look under About OPSRRA) is now hosting foreshore access maps, pictures and written descriptions for all the public foreshore access points in Otter Point, Shirley and East Sooke. This information was collected by the Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission and is an informative and valuable resource for both local residents and visitors who want to know where they can walk to the ocean without trespassing on private property.

**Note:** This is a very large file to download; so be patient. It may take a few minutes, depending on the capacity of your computer.

### **14. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER**

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site.

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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](http://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.

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