

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE OCTOBER 2008

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 **380**. 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.

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 **200** 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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IN THIS ISSUE

1.UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS.....	2
2.PREPARING FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.....	5
3.NOVEMBER 19, 2005 ELECTION OUTCOMES.....	6
AREA.....	6
HENSON.....	6
LUND.....	6
AREA.....	7
ELECTORS.....	7
YEAR.....	7
ELIGIBLE VOTERS.....	7
VOTES CAST.....	7
AREA.....	7
2002.....	7
2005.....	7
4.FOOD, FARMS & FUN FESTIVAL AND FOOD FORUM.....	8
5.UPDATE: WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS FOR JORDAN RIVER, SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT.....	8
6.UPDATE: OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT.....	9
7.ARE BC'S FORESTS IMPORTANT TO YOU?.....	9
8.UPDATE: REVIEW OF JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA'S ZONING AND PARKS, RURAL RESOURCE AREA AND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS.....	10
9.MINISTRY OF MINES REPLIES TO OPSRRA'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MONITORING THE ARDEN GRAVEL PIT.....	11
10.DID YOU KNOW THAT	12
11.FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE.....	12
12.BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER.....	13

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.

Thursday October 2	Juan de Fuca Parks Committee 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
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Saturday
October 6

**Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Hike to the Priest's Cabin in Shirley**

9:30 a.m.

Meet on Juan de Fuca Road, off Highway 14. (Juan de Fuca Road is about 2.4 kilometres, on the right, beyond Eagle Light Store at French Beach.) You have gone too far if you reach Point No Point. This is an easy walk up to the splendid view point at the Priest's Cabin located in one of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area's parks. If anyone is interested in exploring further, we can go on to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Park at Fish Boat Bay.

Contact Rosemary Jorna (250-642-2767; sid2767@shaw.ca) for more information.

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
October 8

**Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society
Extraordinary Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

- Notice for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Establishment of a Commission update

Since a CRD Commission will now run the Fire Department, the Society will become a fundraiser and supporter for the Department, and the Bylaws must reflect that. The membership can vote on the amendments at the December AGM.

Tuesday
October 14

**Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River
Developing a Strategic Vision Project
Public welcome**

9:30 a.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Phillips Road, Sooke

Meeting of the project Steering Committee to finalize the project's supporting material.

Thursday
October 16

**Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room "A"

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Monday
October 20

**OPSRRA Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting
Members welcome!**

7:30 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room "A"

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Tuesday
October 21
Note: This meeting date changed to avoid a conflict with the federal election.

JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road

You can obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting 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.

Thursday
October 23

JDF Economic Development Commission Monthly Meeting
6:00 pm
Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Saturday
October 25

Farm Forum and Food, Farms & Fun Festival
10:00 a.m. To 4:30 pm

Free event—registration necessary for forum only

Harvest Feast
5:00 p.m.
Tickets sold in advance
See item number 4 for details

Saturday
November 1

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Walk the trail at Sheringham Point
9:00 a.m.
An hour and half walk on a good trail.
Meet at the end of Sheringham Point Road.
We will spend some time at the lake to swim or explore, and return to the cars late in the afternoon.
Phone 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Please note our new web address:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Monday
November 3

Otter Point All Candidates Meeting
7:00-9:30 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Otter Point Fire Hall

A public meeting hosted by OPSRRA
Presentations from the School Trustee and Regional Director candidates. Introduction of the candidates for the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission.
Question and answer period.

Thursday
November 6

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

Sunday
November 9 **Shirley Craft Fair**
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Monday
November 10 **Shirley/Jordan River All Candidates Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Shirley Community Hall

A public meeting hosted by the Shirley Education & Action Society (S.E.A.S.)
Presentations from the School Trustee and Regional Director candidates. Introduction of the candidates for the Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission.

Tuesday
November 11 **Remembrance Day Ceremony**
10:30 a.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. PREPARING FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

- Registration for candidates occurs between 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 30 and 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 10. Candidates can file their nomination papers in person with the CRD Administration Department, 5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or by contacting the Chief Elections Officer (Thomas Moore) at 250-472-0059 to make special arrangements.
- At OPSRRA's request, the names of registered candidates for Advisory Planning Commission (APC) and Land Use Committee (LUC) will be released instead of being held in confidence until registration closes on October 10. OPSRRA will post the names of all local area candidates on our web site (www.opsrra.ca) as soon as possible.
- If you have any concerns about the "legality" of any issue related to a candidate's eligibility or the operation of the election, contact Thomas Moore, Chief Elections Officer, phone 250- 472-0059.
- OPSRRA will run candidate information in its November newsletter. All Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point candidates for Advisory Planning Commission (APC), Land Use Committee (LUC), School Trustee (Milne's Landing zone) and Regional Director are invited to submit their election information (about 500 words) for consideration by Monday, October 27 to any OPSRRA director or to Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca. OPSRRA reserves the right to limit the length of a submission and to refuse any material that we consider offensive or slanderous.

OPSRRA WILL HOST A PUBLIC ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTION

Date: Monday, November 3
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Place: Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
(at Kemp Lake Road)

This All Candidates meeting will be for candidates running for election for the following:

- Sooke School District #63 School Trustees (Milne's Landing Zone) (3 positions)
- Juan de Fuca Regional Director (1 position)

The following candidates will be introduced and invited to leave their campaign material:

- Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commissions (5 positions each)
- Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River representatives to the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee (LUC)(1 position for each Official Community Plan area)

3. NOVEMBER 19, 2005 ELECTION OUTCOMES

From our archives (December 2005 issue)

School Trustees

There were eight candidates for the three vacancies in the Milnes Landing Zone of the Sooke School District. Margot Swinburnson and Rob Gordy were re-elected. Bob Phillips was elected to the remaining vacancy. Both Bob and Margot are Otter Point residents and members of OPSRRA. All eight School Trustee candidates made excellent presentations at OPSRRA's November 2nd All Candidates meeting. Congratulations to the successful candidates.

Regional Director

At OPSRRA's request, the CRD and Tom Moore, Chief Elections Officer, provided us with poll-by-poll results for the JDF Electoral Area Regional Director election.

Area	Henson	Lund
Advance Voting at Sooke Community Hall:	15	39
Advance Voting at Sooke School District #62 offices:	2	8
Port Renfrew:	31	29
Jordan River:	0	4
Shirley:	48	79
East Sooke:	223	271
Willis Point:	45	98
Malahat:	5	16

Otter Point:	203	188
View Royal Indian Reserves:	59	4
<hr/>		
TOTAL (631 + 736 = 1367 votes cast):	631	736

Commentary and comparison of Regional Director election results

The recently updated Juan de Fuca Electoral Area voters' list identified a total of 4,618 eligible voters with an estimated 29% turn out:

Area	Electors
View Royal Indian Reserves:	1,047
East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew and the Malahat combined:	3,365
Willis Point:	206

Comparison of total regional director votes cast:

Year	Eligible Voters	Votes Cast
1999	unknown	1,635
2002	4,000 (estimated)	1,182
2005	4,618 (confirmed)	1,367

Because residents living on the View Royal Indian Reserves are allowed to vote for the JDF Regional Director, there are two ways that you can calculate the percentage of voter turn out. If you include the approximately 1,000 View Royal voters, the turn out for both the 2002 and 2005 election is about 29%. If you remove them from the number of eligible voters, the turn out from the remainder of the Electoral Area for both 2002 and 2005 was about 38%.

For comparison, here are the turn out figures for 2002 and 2005:

Area	2002	2005
Advance Voting:	52	64
Port Renfrew:	50	60
Jordan River:	11	4
Shirley:	111	127
East Sooke:	452	494
Willis Point:	138	143
Malahat:	29	21
Otter Point:	300	391
View Royal Indian Reserves:	39	63

Inclusion of the View Royal Indian Reserves:

The inclusion of the View Royal Indian Reserves within the JDF Electoral Area should be questioned. 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 Stormwater 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.

4. FOOD, FARMS & FUN FESTIVAL AND FOOD FORUM

Submitted by the organizers of the Farm Forum and Food, Farms & Fun Festival.

On **Saturday, October 25**, Sooke Food CHI (supported by the District of Sooke) and the Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission are hosting a **Farm Forum**, in conjunction with a **"Food, Farms and Fun" Community Festival** at Edward Milne Community School in Sooke. The day-long event will conclude with a **Harvest Feast** celebrating local foods and the region's culinary excellence.

The purpose of the **Farm Forum** is to lay the foundation for development of an agricultural plan for the Sooke region as a first-step in securing a sustainable, food-secure future. Farmers, community gardeners, farmers' markets, planners, local politicians, First Nations, and other people and organizations supporting local food production, are invited to take part in this important discussion. The forum starts at 10 a.m. (registration 9 a.m.) and runs until 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided for forum participants. While there is no charge for taking part in the forum, people planning to take part should register in advance. More information will be made available as the program develops.

A **"Food, Farms and Fun" Community Festival** will run at the same time as the farm forum. This is a consumer- and family-oriented event, including interactive displays, talks and presentations on food issues, and just-for-fun things for kids of all ages to do, like zucchini racing and pumpkin art.

Tickets for the **Harvest Feast** (starts at 5:00 p.m.) will be sold in advance: Adults, \$20; seniors and students, \$15; family of four (2 adults, 2 kids aged 12 and under), \$40.

For more information, check the event website at www.sookeharvest.ca (after September 24) or telephone David Mallett at 250-642-6423.

5. UPDATE: WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS FOR JORDAN RIVER, SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

A representative of OPSRRA attended a meeting with the provincial Subdivision Approving Officer on September 30. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage the Subdivision Approving Officer to hold a public hearing before making a decision on the pending subdivision applications being submitted by Western Forest

Products (WFP). OPSRRA's position is that planning for the area west of Sooke should be completed before major development occurs and that it would be in the public's interest to hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for WFP, the CRD, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and the community to express their point of view on this development proposal.

According to the Subdivision Approving Officer, no decision can be made about holding a public hearing until he receives WFP's development applications. As of September 30, only one application had been submitted for a portion of the Jordan River properties. Until the Subdivision Approving Officer has reviewed WFP's application(s) and determined whether all of the necessary supporting documentation from the applicant has been submitted he feels that can not decide whether a public hearing is necessary.

6. UPDATE: OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT

The membership approved a motion at the September 30 meeting to direct OPSRRA to act upon those parts of the Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision document that are appropriate to the purpose of the organization. OPSRRA's directors will now undertake a review of the final report to identify what strategies and suggested activities are relevant to OPSRRA's mandate and will bring these forward for comment by the membership.

7. ARE BC'S FORESTS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The governing council of the Association of BC Forest Professionals is looking for a lay councillor who would be appointed to the Council by the provincial government.

Association of BC Forest Professionals Seeks Lay Councillor

The Challenge

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in filling one volunteer lay councillor (non-member) position on its governing council. Appointed by the provincial government, lay councillors help council consider the public interest in all deliberations and decisions.

This is an exceptional opportunity to help shape the future of the forestry profession in BC and help uphold the principles of good forest stewardship.

The Term

Lay councillors are usually appointed for an initial one-year term. If all parties are in agreement, the term may be extended for an additional two years at the prerogative of the provincial government.

The successful candidate for this volunteer position is expected to attend six council meetings a year (each meeting spans an afternoon and the following morning) and an annual, three-day conference in February. All expenses will be paid by the ABCFP.

About the ABCFP

The ABCFP, established in 1947, is the largest professional forestry association in Canada with approximately 5,300 members. The association registers and regulates professional foresters and forest technologists under authority of the provincial *Foresters Act*.

How to Apply

If you are interested in this stimulating and challenging volunteer position, send your current resume along with a covering letter to:

Sharon L. Glover, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Association of BC Forest Professionals
1030 1188 West Georgia St
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A2
Fax: 604.687.3264
E-mail: sglover@abcfp.ca

If you are interested in more information about the BC Forest Professionals check-out their website: www.abcfp.ca

8. UPDATE: REVIEW OF JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA'S ZONING AND PARKS, RURAL RESOURCE AREA AND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS

Representatives from OPSRRA have met with the Regional Director and the Manager, Local Area Planning for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area to pursue OPSRRA's outstanding requests for:

- Resumption of the zoning bylaw review.
- Resumption of work on the draft Juan de Fuca Parks Plan.
- Resumption of work on the Rural Resource Lands Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan.
- Commencement of a review of the Official Community Plans (OCPs) for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point.

The Manager, Local Area Planning is working on a plan to recommence these outstanding planning activities. These are the suggested dates for recommencing work:

- Parks Plan October 2008.
- Rural Resource Plan December 2008.
- Zoning Review April 2009 at the earliest.
- OCP Review April 2009 at the earliest.

9. MINISTRY OF MINES REPLIES TO OPSRRA'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MONITORING THE ARDEN GRAVEL PIT

OPSRRA has finally received a reply to an outstanding request to the Chief Inspector of Mines. This is the letter OPSRRA sent April 18, 2008:

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Attention: Chief Inspector of Mines

Re: Dale Arden Log Hauling Ltd. Permit G-8-118

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association to comment upon your ministry's recent approval of a sand and gravel permit to Dale Arden Log Hauling in the community of Otter Point.

Having reviewed the conditions that have been included in the permit we are pleased to see that many of the concerns raised by residents of the community have been accommodated. Our outstanding question is how the conditions are going to be monitored and enforced by the Ministry? This was raised in the letter of June 27, 2007 from CRD Planning Services to your Ministry and to our knowledge remains unanswered.

Unresolved issues between Arden Log Hauling Ltd and the CRD leave an impression in the community that compliance with the conditions in the provincial permit will also be difficult to achieve. Mr. Arden has provided us with an assurance that he will be able to meet the conditions in the permit. Knowing how your Ministry carries-out it's monitoring and enforcement role will help our association interpret your responsibilities to the community.

A reply is requested.

This is reply received from the Chief Inspector of Mines on September 30:

This gravel pit operation received an amendment to its existing permit on March 11, 2008, following a comprehensive technical review and public consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Mines Act and the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia.

This permit includes a number of new conditions specific to concerns raised during the public consultation process.

With respect to monitoring, Mines Inspectors will periodically conduct routine inspections of mining sites, and if required, issue stop work orders, closures, or other orders to ensure compliance with permit conditions and the regulations. There have been several inspections conducted to this site in recent months.

We cannot comment on matters between the Capital Regional District and this operator, however, all owners/operators of gravel pits and quarries are made

aware of their obligations to obtain other approvals as necessary from provincial, federal or local government.

10. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Elected representation for Shirley and Otter Point dates back to 1871? That was the year that British Columbia entered Confederation and our area was part of the Esquimalt riding and was represented in the B.C. Legislature by two MLAs (Henry Cogan and Alexander Rocke Robertson).

The provincial riding was reorganized in 1975 when it became known as Esquimalt-Port Renfrew, and again in 1991 when it was renamed Malahat -Juan de Fuca. The riding is now called "Juan de Fuca" with new boundaries drawn in 2008.

In 1965 the province formed regional districts and our area became part of the Capital Regional District. Our first Regional Director was John Ede Martin and we elected 10 other regional directors over the past 43 years. During that time the boundaries of the Electoral Area have changed. The most significant change happened in 2000 when the District of Sooke incorporated and left the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area as a collection of 7 rural unincorporated areas scattered across the Capital Regional District and one urban First Nations Reserve scattered through-out the Capital Regional District.

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.

11. FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING 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.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
ALM Organic Farm	A Point of View B&B
Beaches West B&B	Bear Home Remodeling
Birds Edge Press	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

Knotty Beds by Nature

Le Sooke Spa

Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage

Otter Point Beach House

Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Stick in the Mud Coffee House

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

12. 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.
