

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE OCTOBER 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 **235** 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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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.

Saturday
October 3

**Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Roche Cove**
9:30 a.m.
Meet in the Roche Cove (East Sooke) parking lot off Gillespie Road.
We will take the trail parallel to the Goose from Roche Cove to Rocky Point Road and back along the Goose.
This is a 2 ½ to 3 hour long walk on a good trail
Bring a snack.
Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Please note our new web address:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
October 7

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

**Note:
Change of
date**

**Wednesday
October 14**

Town Hall Meeting
With elected representatives Dr. Keith Martin M.P., John Horgan MLA and Mike Hicks Regional Director
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
See newsletter item number 2 for details.

Tuesday
October 20

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

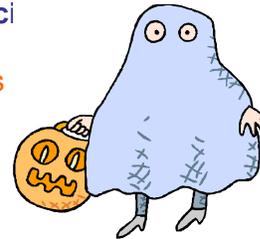
Thursday
October 22

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

Monday
October 26 **OPSRRA Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Tuesday
October 27 **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

Saturday
October 31 **Otter Point Volunteer Fire Fighters Associ
Annual Hallowe'en Party**
6:00 p.m. hot chocolate, hot dogs, sparklers
candy bags for the kids
Fireworks 7:30 p.m.
Scouts Canada Camp Barnard
(Young's Lake Road)



Saturday
November 7 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Monthly Hike**
Details to be announced
Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Please note our new web address:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
November 16 **Shirley Fall Craft Fair**
10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall



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. ARE YOU GETTING YOUR \$5.00 WORTH?

Last month's newsletter article **Past, Present & Future** looked at changes in the community since OPSRRA was formed in 1992. The story 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 and, as a non-profit community association, we have tried to serve the needs of our members and others in the community. But after 17 years where do we go from here? Undoubtedly, land use planning, local governance and community services will remain important issues in the community. But what else should our future hold? As an OPSRRA member we are asking if you "**Are you getting your \$5.00 worth?**" Please read on and let us know. We have attached a questionnaire to this newsletter.

Dear OPSRRA Member:

Your OPSRRA directors want to know if you feel you are getting your \$5.00 worth from your lifetime membership fee. Please take the time to complete and return the accompanying questionnaire.

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association has 385 members; we email our monthly newsletter to about 260 members. We are sending you this questionnaire because you do not receive our electronic newsletter.

Life membership in OPSRRA is \$5.00 per person. This membership fee (and the occasional donation) supports the following services:

- Maintaining our web site www.opsrra.ca;
- Providing free business listings on the web site and in the OPSRRA newsletter for members with small businesses in the local area;
- Providing community bulletin boards in Otter Point;
- Monthly email newsletter;
- Organizing All Candidates meetings for School Trustee and Regional Director candidates;
- Reporting to members on activities at Juan de Fuca Electoral Area committees and commissions such as the Land Use Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Advisory Planning Commissions Agriculture Advisory Commission and the Economic Development Commission;
- Undertaking the organization of major community planning activities such as the Governance Options committee and the Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision project;
- Undertaking to bring together developers with various community interest groups to review their plans and consider concerns and suggested changes;
- Lobbying regional, provincial and federal governments on issues such as land use planning, governance, telecommunications services, road safety, no-shooting boundaries in residential areas and acquisition of parkland.

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

3. TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

OPSRRA is pleased to announce that it has arranged a **TOWN HALL MEETING** with your local elected representatives:

Dr. Keith Martin, MP

John Horgan, MLA

Mike Hicks, Regional Director

Date: Wednesday, October 14

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Place: Shirley Community Hall

- This is a public meeting intended for all residents and property owners of Port Renfrew, Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point.
- 7:00 to 7:30 P.M.: An informal opportunity to meet with your elected representatives.
- 7:30 to 8:00 P.M.: A brief presentation from each of the elected representatives with a focus on the future of the area west of Sooke.
- 8:00 to 9:00 P.M.: Question and answer session.

4. POWER TO THE PARK

The Shirley Community Association submitted the following for the OPSRRA newsletter:

The Shirley Community Association is currently fundraising for the **Power to the Park** project. This project involves installing a security sensor light on the archway into Pioneer Park adjacent to the Shirley Community Hall to illuminate the parking lot. The second aspect of this project is to bring power (lighting and electrical outlets) to the Jim Snow pavilion in the park, which will make the pavilion more useful for community events. The third aspect of the project is a Christmas tree lighting project of the Golden Beola tree. We aim to have the project complete this fall.

At this time we are seeking donations towards this project. The Shirley Community Association is able to offer you a tax receipt in exchange for your donation. If you have a business that is able to donate services of use to the project, we are able to offer tax receipts for your donation as well. Please contact us for further information.

We are able to accept cash or cheque (made payable to the Shirley Community Association), but please do not mail cash.

Please mail donations to:

Power to the Park project
Shirley Community Association
2795 Sheringham Point Road
Shirley BC V9Z 1G4

If you require a tax receipt, please include your name, address, email and phone number with the donation.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact:

Committee Chairperson, Nicole Gardner
Phone: 250-646-2490

Sincerest thanks for your support.

5. SEASONAL FIRE BURNING REGULATIONS

The following information is from the Otter Point Fire Department web site, www.otterpointfire.bc.ca. Similar regulations apply to the Shirley Fire Protection District. Contact your local fire department for further details.

Fire season is April 1 to October 1

The season may be extended at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

Class 'A' and class 'B' fires require a permit from the fire department. See below for definitions of Class 'A' and 'B' fires.

Phone: 250-642-6211 This is a volunteer department.
Please leave a message and the person issuing permits will return your call.

Prohibited Materials

The following shall NOT be burnt:

- Tires
- plastic
- drywall
- paint and paint products
- treated lumber
- asphalt
- asphalt products
- rubber
- fuel
- solvents
- metals & lubricant containers
- tar paper
- railway ties
- demolition waste
- garbage
- biomedical waste
- manure
- as well as other material that may be listed under the BC Ministry of [Environment Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#).

Class A Fires

Between October 1 and June 30 burn allowed: permits required

Between July 1 and September 30 **NO burning at all**

Burning of any piles larger than 2 metres in diameter and 1 metre in height requires a permit from the fire department.

No person shall burn land clearing waste:

- within 50 meters of buildings on the same property
- within 50 meters of the works or facilities of any utility
- within 100 meters of a neighbouring residence or business
- between a building and a highway
- for more than 3 consecutive days

No person shall add additional materials to a fire within 2 hours of sunset of each day of the fire.

Class B Fires

Between April 1 and June 30 burn allowed: permits required

Between July 1 and September 30 **NO burning at all**

Between October 1 and October 31 burn allowed: permits required

Between November 1 and April 1 burn allowed: permits required

Class B limits on hand pile burning shall be maximum diameter 2 metres (6 feet) and a maximum height of 1 metre (3 feet).

No green debris or leaves shall be burnt except by specific exemptions which may be at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

No person shall add additional materials to a fire within 2 hours of sunset of each day of the fire.

Beach and Camp Fires

Beach and camp fires are allowed all year round **except during Extreme Fire Hazard periods.**

Beach and camp fires shall not exceed 1 metre in diameter and 1 metre in height.

All beach and camp fires must be contained by a suitable receptacle made of fire proof materials (such as rocks or metal) that completely surround the fire.

Fires are to be continuously controlled and supervised by a competent person until fire is completely extinguished.

Incinerators

Incinerators with a proper screen do not require a permit.

Incinerators can be used all year round **except during Extreme Fire Hazard periods.**

The owner of any incinerator shall:

- maintain the incinerator in a condition that provides for the proper combustion of any material burned;
- ensure that any burning is supervised and that any equipment necessary for fire control is available;
- ensure that the domestic incinerator is located at least:
 - 1.5 metres from any grass, shrubbery or wooden fence; and
 - 7.6 metres from any building;
- ensure that the commercial or industrial incinerator is located at least:
 - 3 metres from any grass, shrubbery or wooden fence; and
 - 10 metres from any building

6. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The OPSRRA newsletter was asked to circulate the following request from the District of Sooke.

The District of Sooke recognizes that volunteerism has played a major role throughout the history of Sooke in the betterment of the community in a great variety of ways. For example, the Sooke Community Association was formed in 1934 to help raise money for a new community hall and has been called "one of the most effective volunteer civic groups in Canada". With over 120 known volunteer organizations in the area, Sooke has claimed the name "Volunteer Capital of Canada" and now proudly displays the title on the new "Welcome to Sooke" sign.

The District of Sooke chose 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer, to initiate a program recognizing long-time volunteers who have made significant contributions of benefit to Sooke and/or the surrounding region. This program is now ongoing on a bi-annual basis with the next Volunteer Recognition Ceremony to be held in January, 2010.

The District of Sooke invites everyone to recognize Sooke Region's outstanding volunteers by nominating a citizen for a Sooke Volunteer Award. Nomination forms are available at the District of Sooke Municipal Hall, on our website, and the Sooke Region Museum. Nominations will be accepted until October 31, 2009 at the Municipal Hall.

For more information, contact:

Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer, District of Sooke

Phone: (250) 642-1634

Fax: (250) 642-0541

7. SEAPARC RECEIVES FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR UPGRADES

The Sooke and Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) has received \$800,000 in shared provincial and federal funding to undertake renovations and maintenance upgrading at the SEAPARC Leisure Centre on Phillips Road in Sooke. This infrastructure grant money will be matched by \$400,000 put aside by SEAPARC for work on the complex. SEAPARC has submitted the following information to the OPSRRA newsletter detailing the activities of SEAPARC and the work that will be covered by the grant.

Project Description

Sooke and District Arena is part of the SEAPARC Leisure Complex. The complex includes an ice surface, aquatic centre, program and meeting spaces and a slo-pitch ball field. The arena was completed in 1976; the aquatic centre and other spaces were completed in 2000. The primary objective is to refurbish and replace the aging mechanical and refrigeration systems, add two new dressing rooms and refurbish the four rooms in existence.

Project Benefits

The ice arena and aquatic centre presents a unique opportunity for Integrated Resource Management. The heat wasted from the ice plant refrigeration and snow

melt operations could be recovered and used to pre-heat the pools at the aquatic centre and space heating. The project will also focus on reducing the carbon footprint of this facility. Technologies such as water recycling, solar hot water and thermal energy will be investigated. New spaces will follow LEED standards. Current dressing room spaces will be upgraded to current health and accessibility standard. A significant benefit will be the increased capacity of our facility to accommodate 60 skaters for practice ice, versus 30 skaters due to lack of change room space; as well, female hockey players will have access to space that is currently very limiting when mixing the sexes for hockey practices and games. The new and/or refurbished equipment will be safer than current equipment. The arena lifespan will be extended another 20 years.

Note: SEAPARC is supported by the taxpayers of both the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Director Hicks and one appointed resident from the Electoral Area sit on the SEAPARC Board of Directors.

8. CRD PLANNING SERVICES OPEN HOUSE: RURAL RESOURCE LANDS LAND USE BYLAW AND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

On September 21, the CRD Planning Services staff held an Open House followed by a staff presentation and Question and Answer session on the proposed Rural Land Use and Official Community Plan bylaws for the Rural Resource Lands. See the September newsletter for a detailed explanation of the bylaws and the area they cover.

The main points covered at the Open House were:

- That the intention of the proposed bylaws is to keep the Rural Resource Lands rural and not as an area for residential development.
- The CRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is the umbrella legislation and the proposed bylaws have to conform to that legislation.
- That limited opportunities for tourism should be accommodated.
- That a small amount of rural residential development should be accommodated in areas next to established development.
- No publicly supported infrastructure would be allowed to accommodate further development.
- That the present 120 hectare parcel size for subdivision (Bylaw 189) does not specify how many dwellings could go on the parcel.
- The new land use bylaw, if approved, would limit the number of dwellings on 120 hectares to one dwelling.
- Strata-titling to increase density would not be permissible under the proposed land use bylaw.
- CRD Planning staff are recommending that property owners be allowed to apply for rezoning to less than 120 hectares under certain criteria to accommodate lot averaging, small rural residential development, tourism and resource activities such as agriculture, Silva culture, forestry and resource processing on smaller than 120 hectare parcels.

The next steps are to have a final staff report go to the JDFEA Land Use Committee (LUC) on October 20. If accepted, the proposed bylaws would then go to the CRD Board for discussion by the full Board of Directors; but only Committee A (consisting of the JDFEA Regional Director and the representatives to the CRD Board from the District of Sooke, City of Colwood, City of Langford and District of Metchosin) would be allowed to vote on sending the proposed bylaws to public hearing. If any municipality or district in the Capital Regional District feels that the proposed bylaws do not conform to the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

they are entitled to register their opposition and this could result in the process being delayed or the proposed bylaws rejected as written.

Note: OPSRRA directors will be drafting a presentation to be given at the Public Hearing. Members will have an opportunity to review these draft comments at our November membership meeting.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT NOW THAT THE VOTING SYSTEM FOR CRD BYLAWS IN THE JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA WAS FOUND INVALID?

A letter to our Regional Director, in last month's newsletter, detailed a request from OPSRRA for an update on what would happen now that the B.C. Court of Appeal has upheld an earlier Court decision regarding the validity of the voting system used between April 2006 and December 2008 to pass Juan de Fuca Electoral Area bylaws.

Director Hicks has sent OPSRRA the following reply to our letter.

In response to your letter outlining your concerns with the court decision, the following has happened:

- 1) The CRD Board voted to "Not" appeal the decision
- 2) Community and Rural Development Minister Bill Bennett announced that he will "Not" use the Municipal Enabling and Validation Act (MEVA) to re-instate the disputed bylaws affecting the Rural A landowners and WFP lands.

Mr. Bob Lapham, our Manger of CRD Planning will now work with Mr. Bennett's senior staff. They will be looking at the possibility of using MEVA to avoid legal challenges to our OCP and base bylaws. I totally support all these actions. Our Rural A landowners are at peace, we are rapidly moving towards formulating a plan for the WFP Resource Lands removed from the TFL, and I believe working together towards solving a major problem.

Some will be critical of saving the OCPs but in my view, we have neither the funds, staff nor time to start from scratch. After we finish working on the mammoth task of the Resource Lands OCP (this year), we will have an intensive review of the Otter Point, Shirley and East Sooke OCPs and make any necessary changes.

I hope this answers your questions.

10. OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER STRATEGIC VISION "REUNION"

The **Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision Project** concluded in February 2009 with a final meeting of the project's Advisory Committee. However, there was a "reunion" of the Strategic Vision Project Advisory Committee on September 30. This was in response to a request from some committee members who felt that it would be useful to continue to meet to review

what activities different groups were undertaking in support of the Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Strategic Vision. Seventeen individuals (representing about twenty community organizations, land development companies and local area commissions) attended the September meeting. The round table exchange of information provided many examples of how the project's final report is being used to help with planning decisions in the community. The group has suggested meeting again in six months to repeat the process. OPSRRA will undertake to organize these on-going reunions.

11. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Captain Juan de Fuca, after whom the Strait of Juan de Fuca and our Electoral Area is named, was not a Spaniard but from Greece? Apostolos Valerianos, also known as Juan de Fuca, was born on the Island of Cephalonia in the Ionian Sea. He journeyed to Spain and spent 40 years as a mariner and pilot in the service of that country. In the late sixteenth century he was based out of Mexico, which at that time was part of the Spanish Dominion. It is believed that he sailed into our local waters in 1592 and is thought to have been the first European to have sighted Cape Flattery, located at the western tip of the Olympic Peninsula in present day Washington State. He is mentioned in the journals of Captain Cook who explored this part of the West Coast on his Voyages of Discovery in the 1770s. There are two different accounts as to who named the Strait after him. One says that it was John Mears in 1788 and another says that it was Captain Barclay of the British ship the Imperial Eagle in 1787.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** came from *The Sooke Story: The History and the Heartbeat* written and published by the Sooke Region Museum and the Greek Consulate of Vancouver's website.

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:

Smiling Goat Farm Sitting Service

Do you need a vacation or just want to get away for a few days with the peace of mind that the family farm is being well cared for while you're gone? I understand the challenge of getting away from the farm because we all know you can't exactly call up a local pet sitting service to milk the cow or goat and do all the other regular chores that go along with rural life.

Well I'm an experienced farmer and pretty much have seen or done it all...from delivering lambs in rain storms, nursing calves through scours to doing regular chores for years, including milking. I also own a horse so I know my way around them too.

Since I've got a farm of my own there's no overnight service but I can definitely stop by, do the chores regularly and make sure the critters are fine. So, give me a call today and start planning that well earned vacation you've always dreamed of.

Contact: Kat Mattice.
Phone: 250-664-6417
Email: katymattice@hotmail.com

Ocean Wilderness information update

- We have completed the remodel of our lower level conference/ meeting/ workshop space.
- There is space for 10 in a workshop setting such as watercolor painting where participants need room to work.
- There is space for up to 20 for a meeting/ conference/retreat.
- Coffee/Tea, kitchenette and washroom are at hand.
- Rental is \$100 a day plus a \$35 cleaning fee.
Rental is waived if at least two participants book overnight lodging.

Contact: Lori LeCount, Ocean Wilderness Inn

Address: 9171 West Coast Road
Shirley BC V9Z 1G3

Phone: 250 646 2116 or
800 323 2116

Website: info@oceanwildernessinn.com or
www.oceanwildernessinn.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
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.
