

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE **October 2010**

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 **410**. 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 **285** 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 **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Saturday
October 2

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society

Hike Broom Hill

9:00 a.m.

Meet at the end of Blanchard Road.

This is a two to three hour hike of the loop on a forest trail.
Bring a snack and dress for the weather.

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

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
October 6

Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
October 17

Shirley Soup and Sandwich Lunch

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

All you can eat soup and sandwiches

\$10 Adults

\$ 5 Children

Sunday
October 17

People Protecting Poirier Society Annual General Meeting

10:00 a.m.

3120 Otter Point Road

Monday
October 18

OPSRRA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Members welcome!

7:30 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Agenda available on request.

Contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Tuesday
October 19

**JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)
Monthly Meeting**

7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC

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 21

**CRD Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan
Open House**

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sooke Community Hall
Shields Road, Sooke BC

Watch the Sooke Mirror News for details.

Monday
October 25

**Otter Point Official Community Plan Review
Meeting**

7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

See OPSRRA newsletter article for details.

Tuesday
October 26

**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

Thursday
October 28

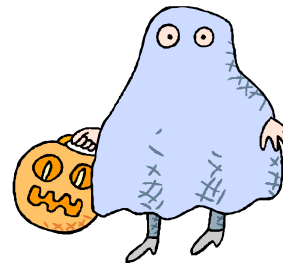
**JDF Electoral Area Economic Development
Commission
Monthly Meeting**

6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room (upstairs)
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Sunday
October 31

**Otter Point Volunteer Fire Fighters
Association
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 6 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Galloping Goose and Pearson College
9:30 a.m.

A 1.5 to 2 hour walk.
Meet at the Galloping Goose parking lot on Rocky Point Road.

We will walk along the Galloping Goose and through the Pearson College grounds. Dress for the weather.

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

Sunday
November 7 **Town Hall Meeting**
With Elected Representatives:
Dr. Keith Marting M.P.
John Horgan, MLA &
Mike Hicks, Regional Director2
2:00 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**
6:30 p.m.
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. JOHN ALEXANDER CHARLES 1918-2010

Long time Otter Point resident and OPSRRA director John Charles passed away on September 25 at the age of 92. John had resided in Otter Point since 1969 and remained active in community affairs, including attending the monthly OPSRRA Directors' meeting on September 20. In addition to being an OPSRRA director for the past four years, he was also a member of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society, the Private Forest Landowners Association, sat on the steering committee for the Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision project and regularly attended meetings of the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission and the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee.

Memorial service to celebrate John's life:

Date: Thursday, October 7

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Royal Roads University, Old Quarterdeck, 2nd Floor Grant Block

Arnie Campbell wrote the following story about John Charles published in a past issue of the *Rural Observer*:

“THE ADMIRAL” RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY

John Charles, forty-year Otter Point resident and former Commandant of Royal Roads Military College was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree by Royal Roads University at their June 20, 2008 convocation.

Many know John as the “Admiral” because of his 37 year career with both the British and Canadian navies. He is also a community volunteer, private forest owner and long-time supporter of Royal Roads, both during its time as a military college and now as a university. John’s military career began with the Royal Canadian Navy in 1937 and he served aboard sea-going warships during both World War II and the Korean Conflict. Highlights of his distinguished military career included being the Commanding Officer of HMCS Haida, Commander Canadian Destroyers Far East during the Korean Conflict, Director of Naval Operations, Commander 2nd Escort Squadron, Commandant of Royal Roads Military College, Admiral-in- Charge of Maritime Forces Pacific and Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

John retired from the military as a Rear Admiral in 1974 but continued his involvement with Royal Roads. He founded the Friends of Hatley Park Society, a group of volunteers who have worked to maintain and care for the gardens and grounds at Royal Roads University. It was during his time as president of the society that a successful effort was made to have Hatley Park declared a federal historic site. The Rear Admiral John Charles Room at the Hatley Park Museum was named in his honour as founder of the Friends of Hatley Park Society.

Nowadays John continues working in his woodlot, volunteering his time with a couple of local organizations and managing to attend more meetings than most: including one memorable one this past February at the Otter Point Fire Hall. On his way to that one, he and others came upon a fallen tree that had blocked Kemp Lake Road. John, with his trusty chainsaw which he always carried in the back of his car, freed the way and successfully guided his “convoy” of cars to the meeting on time.

Bravo Zulu John.

3. UPDATE: OTTER POINT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

The Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) Review is underway. The Juan de Fuca office of the CRD Planning Services submitted the following information to the OPSRRA newsletter. CRD Planning Services will also be sending an information newsletter about the OCP review to all households in Otter Point who receive bulk mail.

Otter Point Citizens’ Committee to be Appointed—This is Your Chance to Get Involved!

An eleven member Citizens' Committee is to be established to represent community interests in the OCP review process. The Citizens' Committee will be comprised of those members of the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission

(APC) interested in participating and other residents or land owners in Otter Point who represent a broad cross section of community interests and values.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Citizens' Committee, please submit an expression of interest letter outlining: where you live or own property in Otter Point, your contact information, why you are interested in participating, and any particular interest or expertise you may have that would be an asset to the process.

We anticipate the OCP review could take approximately one year to complete. Please consider your availability to attend regular meetings, open houses and workshop sessions during this time.

Expression of interest letters should be submitted to the Juan de Fuca Planning office, PO Box 283, 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC, V9Z 0S9, by email at jdfinfo@crd.bc.ca, or by fax at 250.642.5274 **no later than 4pm on October 18, 2010.**

The ***Terms of Reference for the OCP Citizens' Committee*** and details on the OCP Review Process is available at the Juan de Fuca Planning office or on the website at www.crd.bc.ca/jdf

The first Citizens' Committee meeting is to be held at: Otter Point Fire Hall

Where: 3227 Otter Point Road

Date: October 25, 2010

Time: 7 pm

Public are welcome to attend.

4. MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

Representatives from OPSRRA were invited to attend a meeting with John Horgan, MLA and the local area Operations Manager for the Ministry of Transportation. The meeting purpose was to review a list of concerns that OPSRRA members have repeatedly raised about road conditions in Shirley and Otter Point. The session was informative and will hopefully lead to some noticeable changes in our community. Here are the highlights:

- Roadside mowing and brushing should take place at least once and ideally twice a year to ensure that shoulders are kept clear, ditches are accessible and sight lines at intersections and driveways are safe. One mowing in May followed by another in early September was suggested.
- Potholes 6 inches in diameter are supposed to be filled within 3-5 days.
- Ditching is to be done regularly to ensure that water flows in them and not onto the road.
- Note: MOT was informed that none of these standards are being maintained. We were assured that this would be looked into.
- There is a paving and road widening plan for Highway 14 that will see the section from Whiffin Spit Road in Sooke to Gordon's Beach in Otter Point being worked-on in 2013-14. The stretch from Gordon's Beach through Shirley does not have a date set.
- The realignment of Highway 14 on either side of Muir Creek was discussed. MOT has a design for this section but has not undertaken any purchase of right-of-ways or a date when this section might be worked on.
- Repairs to the highway on either side of Kirby Creek in Shirley are on-going. The hillsides are considered safe so there is no intention to rebuild the road, although some sections may need to be replaced as the sources of underground water, which are moving some of the roadbed, are discovered.

- Repairs to sections of Otter Point Road are being discussed.
- Outstanding repairs to secondary roads that were damaged in the heavy flooding of December 2008 will be looked into.
- Outstanding issues related to the reimbursement of costs to the Sheringham Estates Water Users by MainRoad Contracting and the completion of work on a storm water culvert under the Otter Point Resort were also discussed.

OPSRRA has been requested to keep our MLA and MOT aware of our road maintenance concerns.

5. TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

OPSRRA is pleased to announce that it has arranged a Town Hall meeting with your local area elected representatives:

DR. KEITH MARTIN, MP

JOHN HORGAN, MLA

MIKE HICKS, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

A public meeting intended for residents and property owners of Port Renfrew, Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point.

DATE: Sunday, November 7
 TIME: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 PLACE: Shirley Community Hall

2:00 to 2:30 p.m.	Brief presentations from each of the representatives. Focus on current issues and the future of the area west of Sooke.
2:30 to 3:45 p.m.	Question and answer session
3:45 to 4:00 p.m.	Concluding comments
4:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Elected representatives remain for an informal session for anyone wishing to speak with them.

6. UPDATE: POSSIBILITY OF OPSRRA EXPANDING TO INCLUDE JORDAN RIVER

OPSRRA has been having informal discussions, over the past six months, with some residents of Jordan River who are interested in having their community included in the association. There are presently about 40 permanent residents in Jordan River as well as a small but unknown number of seasonal and absentee property owners. Nineteen residents and property owners have taken-out associate memberships in OPSRRA. In the opinion of your OPSRRA directors, at least two conditions would have to be met before proceeding with full membership for Jordan River residents and property owners: first there would have to be a formal request from a number of the residents of the community and OPSRRA's membership would need to vote on a change to our constitution.

Meanwhile, a small group of Jordan River residents have been meeting to discuss their options and recently decided to form a local association with five directors. This group will spend the coming year deciding whether there is community

support for a separate Jordan River Residents and Ratepayers Association: if there is, then they'll likely form a society; if not, they or others may decide to apply to become part of OPSRRA. In the meantime Jordan River associate members are welcomed as OPSRRA associate members but can not vote on motions or hold office.

7. FIRE SEASON IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

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 31.

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.

Call 642-6211

This is a volunteer department, please leave a message and the person issuing permits will call you back.

Note: The Shirley Fire Department phone number is 250-646-2108

Prohibited Materials:

The following shall NOT be burnt:

tires	plastic	drywall	paint & paint products
treated lumber	asphalt	asphalt products	rubber
fuel	solvents	tar paper	railway ties
demolition waste	garbage	biomedical waste	manure
metals and lubricant containers			

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 ok: permits required

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 ok: permits required
July 1 and September 30:	NO BURNING at all
October 1 and June 30:	burn ok: permits required
November 1 and April 1	no permits required

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

8. GETTING YOUR DRINKING WATER TESTED

The majority of Shirley and Otter Point residents are on closed water systems that are regularly monitored for safety by the Sheringham Estates Water Users or the Kemp Lake Waterworks District. However there are many others who rely on an assortment of other ways to get their potable water. These other sources of water include lakes, streams, surface wells, deep wells, water delivery and rainwater collection systems. Some wells and collection systems are engineered, some are homemade; some are professionally installed while others are not: none are likely tested unless a health issue arises.

There are concerns about the quality and quantity of the water in some parts of the community. And, as land is cleared and new development moves into the area, taking measures to protect domestic water supplies will likely become increasingly important. Simple and common sense steps can be taken to help protect our drinking water such as ensuring that we don't contaminate our neighbour's or our own supply. Keeping livestock and household septic run-off away from water sources is one important consideration.

The Vancouver Island Healthy Authority (VIHA) has the responsibility to determine if public health is being compromised by unsafe sources of potable water. VIHA also offers a domestic water testing service through its Environmental Health program. It is available upon request to our local Environmental Health Officer and there is a \$25.00 fee. This service will test for bacteria in your water. For further information or to make an appointment to have your water tested, contact Michael Riefman at 250-519-3401. Extension 34532.

9. LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON DECISIONS MADE BY THE JDFA LAND USE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONS?

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area has numerous committees and commissions which undertake the work of governing our area. Because we are an unincorporated area we are actually governed by the Board of the Capital Regional District (CRD) which delegates some of the decision-making to committees of the Board or to individuals appointed to commissions.

Agendas of meetings, minutes and reports to the following committees and commissions are available on the CRD website. Information on the Land Use committee, Advisory Planning Commissions, Parks & Recreation Commission and the Economic Development Commission are available by visiting: www.crd.bc.ca Click on the Documents Library section on the right hand side of the Home Page.

10. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

The drag saw was considered an advancement over the cross cut saw and was the fore runner of the chain saw? While there is still some evidence of spring board chops on the stumps of trees felled by cross cut saws a hundred years ago and many of us own a chain saw, there are probably few who know about or have even seen a drag saw. These large portable saws were steam and later gasoline powered and had a blade which moved back and forth. Most were designed to be propped against a fallen tree but some were adapted to be used to actually fall trees.

One local account of the drag saw comes from Lillian Elsie (Clark) Davies born March 22, 1900 in Otter Point. Lillian and her husband George lived back and forth between Shirley and Otter Point and in 1940 they bought a drag saw to cut firewood to sell to the Army Camp located behind the present day Kemp Lake Cafe. According to Lillian, "The blades of the drag were six feet long and the weight of the saw including the frame was more than four hundred pounds. It had to be carried into the woods to the logs that were to be cut. We received three dollars a cord, but had to pay seventy-five cents a cord to have it hauled to the camp."

An example of a drag saw built by the Dominion Drag Saw Company Ltd. of Vancouver can be seen on the grounds of 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 Arnie Campbell by phone (250-642-3113) or by email: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

11. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

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.

Support local businesses. 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

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary
Public.

Full Circle Seeds

Heron's Rest B & B

Jambo Pet Sitting Service

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
Rock Beach Grill and Groceries
(formerly Kemp Lake Store & Cafe)
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
Three Sisters Farm
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.
