

## OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 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 375. 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

Arnie Campbell	President	James Dexter	Vice-President
Phone:	642-3113	Phone:	642-6841
Email:	<a href="mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca">d.acampbell@shaw.ca</a>	Email:	<a href="mailto:dexmar@shaw.ca">dexmar@shaw.ca</a>
Emma Taylor	Secretary/Treasurer		
Phone:	642-1094		
Sandy Barta	Director	Wayne Fritz	Director
Email:	<a href="mailto:sbarta@shaw.ca">sbarta@shaw.ca</a>	Phone:	642-0440
		Email:	<a href="mailto:wlfritz@shaw.ca">wlfritz@shaw.ca</a>
Bob Philips	Director	Ken Pungente	Director
Phone:	642-3297	Phone:	642-5177
Email:	<a href="mailto:bphil1046@aol.com">bphil1046@aol.com</a>		

## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Upcoming Meetings and Events
2. September Membership Meeting
3. Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Economic Development Commission
4. Sooke Region Museum & Tourist Information Centre Survey Information
5. Did You Know That?
6. Community Notice Boards
7. Coming to an (Otter Point) Bus Stop Near You
8. Otter Point Log Sort Sold?
9. Local Business Service Listings
10. Back Issues of the OPSRRA Newsletter

### 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.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Wednesday<br>September 6  | <b>OPSRRA Directors Meeting</b><br><b>Members welcome!</b><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Board Room<br>SEAPARC Leisure Complex<br>2168 Philips Road Sooke            |
| Thursday<br>September 7   | <b>Juan de Fuca Parks Committee</b><br>5:00 p.m.<br>JDF Electoral Area Services Office<br>2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke                                |
| Saturday<br>September 9   | <b>Sheringham Point Lighthouse Society</b><br><b>Annual General Meeting</b><br>12:30 p.m.<br>Community Room<br>Upstairs, Village Foods Market<br>Sooke |
| Sunday<br>September 10    | <b>Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society Meeting</b><br>2:00 p.m.<br>Shirley Community Hall  |
| Wednesday<br>September 13 | <b>Shirley Community Association Meeting</b><br>7:30 p.m.<br>Shirley Community Hall<br><br>Guest speaker: Peter Pauwels, Conservation Officer          |

- Tuesday  
September 19      **JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
District of Sooke Council Chambers  
Council Chambers  
2225 Otter Point 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.
- Wednesday  
September 20      **OPSRRA Membership Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Otter Point Fire Hall  
3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)
- Thursday  
September 21      **Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Community Room  
Upstairs, Village Foods Market  
Sooke
- Note: Contact the CRD office, 642-1500 to confirm**
- Thursday  
September 21      **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**  
7:00 p.m.  
Multi Purpose Room "A"  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Phillips Road, Sooke
- Saturday  
September 23      **Community Health Initiatives Forum**
- Sunday  
October 1      **Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS) Annual General Meeting**  
2:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall
- Thursday  
October 5      **Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**  
5:00 p.m.  
JDF Electoral Area Services Office  
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke
- Second &  
Fourth  
Thursday  
of every month      **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

## 2. OPSRRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 20  
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm  
Place: Otter Point Fire Hall

### Some Agenda Items:

OPSRRA made the presentation on behalf of the community of Otter Point and identified six reasons supporting the need for a governance study. Here is a brief summary of what was said.

- Review of OPSRRA activities since the February AGM
- Update on OPSRRA's request for a Governance Study
- Review of Official Community Plans prior to Public Hearings
- Proposal for developing a Strategic Vision for Shirley & Otter Point
- Open session: members Q & A

**Note:** Members who are on OPSRRA email will receive an agenda and notice of meeting the week before the membership meeting.

## 3. JUAN de FUCA ELECTORAL AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The following information on the JDF Economic Development Commission was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by Ken Douch, one of the two Otter Point representatives on the Commission.

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Bylaw No. 3064 in May 2003. Its objectives are to:

- Develop and assist in carrying out an overall economic development strategy plan for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JdFEA);
- Develop, maintain and update a community resource list for Port Renfrew, Jordan River, Shirley, Otter Point, East Sooke, the Malahat and Willis Point;
- Work with the Esquimalt, Pacheedaht, Beecher Bay and T'Souke First Nations, as directed by the CRD Board or the JdFEA director;
- Assist in preserving and strengthening existing business, attracting new business and coordinating local economic development initiatives.

Current commissioners are:

John Stewardson (Chairman)	Malahat
Caroline Griese	Port Renfrew
Layton Engwer	East Sooke
Betty Tully	Otter Point
Nelson Hill	East Sooke
Kenneth Douch	Otter Point
Director Erik Lund	Alternate Ute Schnarr.

Meetings are usually on the third Thursday of the month and are currently held in the Village Foods meeting room. They are public and input is welcomed, however presentations, requests and funding applications are limited to 15 minutes and notice must be given to the CRD office on West Coast Road, (642-1500, local 208), to be included in a meeting agenda. Detailed information is available on the web site at [www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/edc](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/edc) or from the CRD Office.

Funding is provided by the CRD requisition (property taxes).

Current activity includes:

- A review of economic development opportunities by a team of MBA students from the University of Victoria Faculty of Business;
- Compilation of a directory of businesses for each area;
- Participation in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities communal tourist program;
- Support of Sooke Regional Museum historical signing program;
- Support of Park Watch;
- Development of a Pacific Marine Circle website.

Recent funding applications:

- Rugged Marine Industries: rejected as did not meet CRD criteria;
- East Sooke Rural Residents and Ratepayers Association: currently under review.

### JUAN DE FUCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MONETARY MOTIONS 2006

MOTION	FUNDS AVAILABLE	SPENT	ALLOCATIONS
<b>East Sooke Rural Residents &amp; Ratepayers Association</b> that the grant application from the East Sooke Rural Residents & Ratepayers Association be approved subject to receipt of a detailed budget. (Jul/06)	\$2000		Project
<b>Park Watch Brochure</b> that the Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission grant the JDF Regional Park Watch Society \$3,500 to assist in funding the costs of printing the 2006 brochure. (April/06)	\$3,500	\$3,500	Project
<b>EDC website</b> that the EDC request the Sooke Museum to write a sample submission on the Muir Creek area for inclusion on the website and that up to \$500 be allocated for this project. (Jan./06)	\$500		Project
<b>B/F 2005—UVic MBA Program</b>	B/F	\$500	Project

W:\ADMIN\ADMIN\EDC\Expenditures\_2006\_table.doc

If you wish to know more about the commission, contact your commissioner or me, Ken Douch 642-2114 ([kalsooke@shaw.ca](mailto:kalsooke@shaw.ca)).

#### Some additional information:

- Working funds for the JDF EDC for this year are \$52,000.
- Last year's actual expenditure was \$17,716.94 against a voted dispersion of \$31,810 for the following:
  - EDC business directory project.
  - Rural Observer
  - University of Victoria MBA program
  - Business directory
  - Shirley Community Association
  - Rural Observer
  - Circle Route Website
  - Coastal Communities Network
  - Shirley Community Association
  - JDF Rural Publications Society
  - JDF Regional Park Watch Society
  - Entrepreneurial Challenge (High school project)

Note: Information on this subject can be obtained from the EDC minutes on the Minutes section of the CRD website: [www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/edc](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/edc)

#### 4. SOOKE REGION MUSEUM & TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE SURVEY

In June the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area regional director sent a survey to the residents of East Sooke, Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River.

Surveys Sent	Place	Returned	% Returned
412	East Sooke	125	30%
355	Otter Point	128	36%
264	Shirley/Jordan River	45	17%

One of the questions had to do with increasing taxpayer support for the Sooke Region Museum & Tourist Information Centre. The JDF survey asked the question:

I would support increasing the annual Museum requisition to \$100,000. This would mean that the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area portion would increase to approximately \$47,000 from \$36,000.

Place	Agreed	Disagreed
East Sooke	31%	52%
Otter Point	34%	40%
Shirley/Jordan River	46%	38%

The combined residential and business taxpayers of Sooke and the JDF Electoral Area annually contribute \$76,000 towards the cost of operating the Sooke Region Museum. This amount was approved in a 1986 referendum and has not changed in 20 years. It was originally fixed at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of your assessed property value. However, because more residential and business taxpayers are now sharing that cost it presently represents about \$.40 per \$1,000 of assessed residential property value. If the rate had remained at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the museum would now be receiving taxpayer support in excess of \$200,000 per year.

The museum is now asking for an increase in their tax allocation from \$76,000 to \$100,000. If approved by the JDF Regional Director and Sooke Council, the \$24,000 increase would be split about 54% - 46%, between Sooke (\$13,000) and the Electoral Area (\$11,000). The \$76,000 allocation, from which the CRD deducts over a \$1,000 as an administration fee, is the only firm income that the museum has. All of its other operating income comes from grants (that it has to annually apply and compete for), gift shop revenue, donations, fundraisers, etc.

If you happened to have read the two Letters to the Editor, about this topic, in the August 16 issue of the Sooke News Mirror, you would be aware that there is more to the story than agreeing or disagreeing to an additional \$11,000 a year in JDF Electoral Area taxpayer support for the Museum & Tourist Information Centre. The museum is facing a pending financial crisis that could result in it having to either reduce its hours of operation or permanently close. The letters were written by the two JDF Electoral Area representatives to the Museum's Board of Directors; they support the \$11,000 tax increase. What they go on to explain, is that in addition to collecting, conserving and displaying our local history, the Museum also subsidizes the operation of a full time tourist information centre. If the museum was to reduce its hours of operation to save costs, or close-down entirely, because of insufficient funding, there would be implications for the tourist information services and the local tourism businesses that depend upon this community service.

Should the museum divest itself of the Tourist Information Centre? The museum has provided the OPSRRA newsletter with the following statistical information:

- Between November 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005 (which is considered to be the slow part of the tourist season), there were 10,063 visits to the Tourist Information Centre.
- More recently, they had 3,173 visitors in July and another 3,077 between the 1st and 25th of August 2006.
- While most visitors (884 in July and 853 in August) are coming to the area for one day, hundreds are staying for longer—231 requested accommodation information in July and 202 so far in August.
- Other requests for tourist information were: parks (about 800 per month), food and beverage (about 300 per month) and local attractions (about 550 per month).
- There are 145 facilities providing accommodation in the area served by the Tourist Information Centre. The TIC has just completed a geographic breakdown on their location. 75 are in the Electoral Area (East Sooke 25, Otter Point 22, Port Renfrew 12 and Shirley 16) and 70 are in Sooke.

The OPSRRA newsletter contacted Erik Lund, JDF Regional Director, for an update on whether he had made a decision to support (or not) the museum's request for an increase in the tax allocation. He said that no decision had been made. His concern is that, unlike the District of Sooke, the Electoral Area has no legal mechanism to provide funds to the Tourist Information Centre and that it should be supported elsewhere and not by the museum. However, he expressed a desire to hear from taxpayers about this issue before making a decision and said that it may need to go to Counter Petition instead of being exclusively a regional director's decision.

Do you have an opinion on this issue? Should the JDF Electoral Area be increasing its financial support to the Sooke Region Museum & Tourist Information centre? You can contact the regional director in the following ways:

Mail: JDF Regional Director  
P.O. Box 283  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0  
E-mail: [directorjdf@crd.bc.ca](mailto:directorjdf@crd.bc.ca)  
Phone: 642-1500 Local 207  
FAX: 642-5274

## 5. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

**The first school in Otter Point was built in 1899 on the west side of Tugwell Creek?** The school was shared by children from Shirley and Otter Point, but was closed about 5 years later when there were not enough children in the area to keep it open. However, it remained in use as a community centre and was used for church and social gatherings for many years afterwards.

**The first school in Shirley opened in 1919?** It was located on Sheringham Point Road and had as many as 20 children attending in the early 1940s.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from a book of early local history written by Jean Stuart Clark in 1981, *This Really Happened* and from *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.

## 6. COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

Eight more community notice boards have now been completed and will begin to appear around Otter Point during September. OPSRRA wishes to thank Murray and Pat Tomkins for assembling the notice boards, as well as the many members who donated materials and helped with the painting.

Proposed new locations for the community notice boards are:

Robinson Road at Otter Point Road  
 Otter Point Road at Otter Point Place  
 West Coast Road at Gordon's Beach  
 West Coast Road at Otter Ridge Drive  
 Kemp Lake Road north of Chubb Road  
 Sarah Road (de Mamiel Estates)  
 Eagle Crest Drive at Otter Point Road

If have a location that you would like to suggest as a community notice board location, contact Jim Dexter: 646-2598.

## 7. COMING TO AN (OTTER POINT) BUS STOP NEAR YOU

Beginning Tuesday, September 5, B.C. Transit will begin bus service through parts of Otter Point. The route originates in Sooke and travels west along Otter Point Road to Kemp Lake Road, then down Kemp Lake Road to West Coast Road and back to Sooke. This is a smaller "community service bus" that will do 2 morning and 2 afternoon loops (Monday to Friday) through Otter Point and East Sooke and back to Sooke.

### Monday through Friday - Morning

Trip Notes (see below)	Bus Type	Church Rd at Sooke Rd	Kemp Lake Rd at Otter Point Rd	West Coast Rd at Grant Rd	Whiffen Spit Rd at Dufour Rd	Sooke Rd at Townsend Rd
@	Access	8:25	8:40	8:49	8:54	9:00
@	Access	10:42	10:57	11:06	11:11	11:17

### Monday through Friday - Afternoon

Trip Notes (see below)	Bus Type	Church Rd at Sooke Rd	Kemp Lake Rd at Otter Point Rd	West Coast Rd at Grant Rd	Whiffen Spit Rd at Dufour Rd	Sooke Rd at Townsend Rd
@	Access	2:18	2:33	2:42	2:47	2:53
@	Access	4:33	4:48	4:57	-	5:00

### Trip Notes

@ **Community Bus:** Bike rack use limited to daylight hours only.





## 8. 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](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

## **9. 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](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.

---