

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2007

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 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.

- a. 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 **165** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

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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 September 1	Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike on Mount Matheson 9:30 a.m. Join the Mount Matheson Conservation Society on their new trail. Meet at 5065 Mt. Matheson Road (off Gillespie Road, past Roche Cove). The hike will take about 2 1/2 hours.
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www.freewebs.com/communitytrails

Thursday September 6	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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Sunday September 9	Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall Regarding the annual budget to be submitted to the CRD.
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Monday
September 10 **OPSRRA Directors Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Board Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Tuesday
September 11 **Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee**
Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Board Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Tuesday
September 11 **JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke 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
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.

Wednesday
September 12 **Shirley Community Association**
General Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Wednesday
September 19 **Shirley Governance Committee Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Thursday
September 20 **Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**
Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Friday &
Saturday
September
21 & 22 **Western Forest Products (WFP) Stewardship Plan**
Friday: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

WFP will host an open house to review their proposed Forest
Stewardship Plan for the areas in the general vicinity of:
 Sombrio River to Jacob Creek
 Point no Point and the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail
 Highway 14 inland to the San Juan Ridge (Kludahk Trail) area

Contact Warren Littlejohn, WFP Jordan River (646-2031, ext 224)
for more information.

Tuesday September 25	Juan de Fuca Governance Committee 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC
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Thursday October 4	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 To Mystic Beach Check the web site for hike details: www.freewebs.com/communitytrails
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Sunday October 7	Shirley Education and Action Society Annual General Meeting 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
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Second & Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
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2. UPDATE: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT FOR OTTER POINT AND SHIRLEY

The Steering Committee has begun planning for two forums for this fall. The first will be on Economic Development & Community Change and is tentatively scheduled for early October. The second will be on the Environment and will be held in late November. Forums and workshops on taxation, governance, community services and other topics will be scheduled for the New Year.

The **Developing a Strategic Vision** project has a web site. The name www.jdffuture.org has been registered and we are presently designing the web page. (Visit the web site by clicking on the web site address.) The web site provides information about the project and upcoming events, and retains a record of meetings, forums and workshops. Other features, such as an interactive component that will allow ideas, questions, and comments to be exchanged, are being considered. Send your suggestions for information that could be included on the web site to Wayne Fritz, Chair of the Steering Committee: wfritz@shaw.ca

The **Developing a Strategic Vision** project has now released three Information Bulletins that monitor the project's progress. Contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you wish to have the Information Bulletins sent to your email address.

3. PROPOSED YOUNG'S LAKE SUBDIVISION

3L Developments, the owners of the 93-acre property south of Young's Lake in Otter Point are proceeding with an application to have their property rezoned for residential development and included in an Otter Point Settlement Containment Area. The property is presently zoned Rural A which would allow up to 4 homes on each 10 acres using the provincial strata-titling legislation. Instead, the developer is

applying for rezoning to allow for up to 31 individually owned two-acre residential properties. An earlier proposal excluded the strip of land on the south side of Otter Point road adjacent to the Industrial area. However, the planned sale of this piece of land to Island View Construction (owners of the new Industrial/Commercial Park being developed on the old log sort property) did not proceed; 3L Developments has now included this strip into their residential development. This is the proposed layout for the subdivision:



Once CRD Planning Services staff has concluded their review of the development application it will be brought before the JDF Land Use Committee.

4. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA LONG-RANGE PARKS PLAN

OPSRRA directors have begun their review of the preliminary draft of the JDF Electoral Area long range parks plan. OPSRRA encourages residents of Shirley and Otter Point to read the draft and make comment.

Download the draft plan from: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/parks or obtain a copy from Wendy Miller, JDF Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission Administrative Secretary. Her office is located in the SEAPARC Leisure Centre, 2168 Phillips Road in Sooke or phone 642-8000.

The deadline to submit comments is Sunday, September 30.

OPSRRA members are welcome to contact OPSRRA directors Ken Pungente, John Charles or Arnie Campbell if they have questions or concerns about the draft parks plan.

5. MORE ON THE POIRIER LAKE PARK LAND

This is a follow-up to last month's issue of the OPSRRA newsletter which detailed the recent donation of 7.2 acres of private property that will eventually be added to existing park land on the edge of Poirier Lake.

The donation was made to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area by Otter Point resident Eric Sellars St. Claire who has resided on the property since 1948. The Sooke News Mirror also followed-up on the OPSRRA newsletter story with a front page article about Mr. Sellars St. Claire's life and his wish for seeing the property remain as public parkland. In a follow-up conversation with the OPSRRA newsletter, Mr. Sellars St. Claire wanted to clarify that the park, which would eventually be located there, should not be named Poirier Lake Park. He said that he had met with Regional Director Lund several months ago and asked that the park be named after his long-time friend and local area resident William Simmons who died in 1970 at the age of 55 years. Mr. Sellars St. Claire has already begun the construction of a memorial cairn on his property that will eventually have a plaque attached commemorating William Simmons and his contribution to the community.

6. FORMER JDF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBER HONOURED

Ken Pungente, a former member of the Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission, was honoured for his long-time volunteer commitment at a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ held July 28 in Shirley. Ken continues as Chair of the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC). Ken is a former President of OPSRRA and continues as an association director.

7. UPDATE: TRANSPORTATION & HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Transportation & Health Initiative would like to thank everyone who has participated in the community mapping workshops and provided input into transportation and recreation improvements for the area. You can pick up a draft report summarizing the results of these workshops at the JDFEA office and SEAPARC or online at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/transportation/index.htm>.

Everyone is encouraged to read the document and attend the **Lets Get Moving! Forum** at Edward Milne Community School on **Saturday, October 20** where further comments will be received and priorities made for improvements.

Contact Emma Taylor at chipcom@shaw.ca or 642-1094 for more information on the initiative or to register

8. RIDERSHIP FIGURES FOR THE OTTER POINT BUS

September 5 marks the first anniversary of the BC Transit community bus service through Otter Point. The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association newsletter contacted BC Transit to find out how well it was being used and if there would be any changes to the service.

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. It makes two morning and two afternoon loops (Monday to Friday) through Otter Point and East Sooke and back to Sooke.

According to BC Transit, the community bus has averaged 4 passengers per trip during the past year. The service will be continued for the next year with no changes to the schedule or frequency of service. However, the service will be evaluated this coming year with three possible outcomes in mind: leave the service as is; discontinue; or expand. One of the frequently mentioned problems with the present service is that it doesn't operate early enough in the morning or late enough in the afternoon to accommodate regular transit users who commute to Victoria. BC Transit is aware of this shortcoming and will consider adding another

bus, at these peak commuter times if they feel that there will be enough riders to justify the added expense.

BC Transit wants to hear from you about their service as they begin planning changes for 2008. Contact them and leave a message on their web site: www.bctransit.com. Follow the links to 'Victoria' and then to 'What's New'.

This is the BC Transit schedule for the Otter Point Community bus.

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.

9. REMINDER FROM WORKSAFE BC

Being Your Own Contractor:

"Many people do not realize that, under law, they may have to register and pay for workers' compensation coverage when they hire someone, as an employee, to work at their home for a certain period of time. The reason is simple: if someone you hire gets injured on the job, the costs can be extremely expensive – sometimes more expensive than the job itself."

“Many contractors are already registered with WorkSafe BC. If this is the case with your contractor you may not need to be registered as well. However, you should check the contractor or firm’s record with WorkSafe BC to protect yourself against liability for unpaid premiums or workers’ compensation costs related to your home improvement project” To do so, follow these simple steps:

- b. Ask the firm for its WorkSafe BC account number.
- c. Get a letter of clearance from WorkSafe BC in less than a minute at www.worksafebc.com. Select “Obtain clearance letter” from the home page.
- d. Follow the prompts on the screen to obtain the clearance letter, which measures the status of your contractor’s account – telling you whether the contractor is in fact registered and paying premiums.”

What to do if your Contractor is not Registered?

Contact the WorkSafe BC Employer Service Centre at 1-888-922-2768 or 604-244-6181. For further information visit the WorkSafe BC web site: www.worksafebc.com.

10. INVITATION FROM SOOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: BC’s 150 YEAR CELEBRATION

The Sooke Region Historical Society is pleased to draw the attention of Otter Point and Shirley residents to BC 150, the provincially-sponsored celebration to take place during 2008.

It was in 1858 that the Crown Colony of BC was established, formally becoming one of the provinces of the Dominion of Canada in 1871. While 1999 was the year that people of our region joined in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the first immigrant settler to take up land here, this 1858-2008 anniversary is province-wide, and continues our celebration of the co-existence of the First Nations and immigrant communities. In our area we have a marvelous record of shared history and community pride.

Leadership in the local organizing group includes Ray Vowles, T’Sou-ke Chief Rose Dumont, Liz Johnson and Elida Peers, with many other regional representatives, all brimming with ideas.

The Historical Society is anxious to invite all groups in the region to participate in the planning process now taking place, and bring your ideas to help make 2008 an exciting year of community pride for us all. Please call the museum, 642-6351 for details.

11. OTTER POINT RESIDENT APPOINTED JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE TO SOOKE REGION MUSEUM BOARD

The JDF Regional Director has appointed a new representative from the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area to sit on the board of the Sooke Region Museum. Lesley Douch, from Otter Point, will be the Regional Director’s new representative on the board. She has said that she will welcome any suggestions and constructive criticism from OPSRRA members and will try to keep the OPSRRA newsletter informed of anything that might be interesting to Otter Point and Shirley residents. Lesley can be reached at kalsooke@shaw.ca.

12. UPDATE: DRAFT REZONING BYLAW FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY JORDAN RIVER

The outstanding review of the draft Zoning Bylaws for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point has been held-up for a variety of reasons:

- The delay of final approval of the Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (OCP) because of the need for further public hearings on the Terraces and Shores developments;
- Staff shortages at the CRD Planning Services Office;
- Uncertainty how to proceed with changes to the Rural “A” zoning and a need to decide if each OCP area should have its own zoning bylaw vs. one for the entire JDF Electoral Area.

The Shirley/Jordan River OCP has now been passed as a bylaw and the recent hiring of a full-time planning technician to fill an outstanding vacancy is intended to give the CRD planner more time to work on the draft zoning bylaw(s). The JDF Regional Director has informed the OPSRRA newsletter that completion of the zoning bylaw(s) is a priority. However, the pressing demands from an increasing number of development proposals in the JDF Electoral Area can just as easily push the zoning bylaw(s) to the “back burner”. OPSRRA intends to continue pressing for a resumption of community consultation on the draft bylaw(s).

13. UPDATE: RESOURCE LANDS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

OPSRRA has still not had a formal reply from the CRD General Manager of Planning & Protection Services to its request for more than one public meeting in the JDF Electoral Area to review the draft Resource Lands OCP. However, from informal conversation and emails with the JDF Regional Director and the CRD Manager, it would seem that more than one public meeting is being considered.

To quote the JDF Regional Director: “The Resource lands OCP while important does not have the priority of the Zoning bylaws therefore it may be a bit delayed. As for more meetings, that will be decided as the OCP moves forward. We will have to gauge the public interest at every step.”

14. DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Otter Point had a post office in the late 1800s? Ted and Kitty Gordon operated a telegraph and post office in 1895 from their home near Gordon’s Beach. When Ted brought Kitty from London to Victoria in 1889, as his bride, she remarked: “But where is the town, dear?” His reply: “This is the town.” After a brief stopover in Victoria, the couple journeyed to Otter Point. Their journey by horse and buggy took two days. When Kitty gave birth to her first son in 1890, she returned to Gordon’s Beach by Indian canoe. When she asked her guide how she would ever get ashore with the newborn, her guide said, “When I say jump, you jump!”

Ted & Kitty Gordon’s daughter Kathleen “Joey” married Austin Kirby. The Kirby family was from Shirley and lived near Kirby Creek from which the creek and bridge took its name. Joey and Austin moved to Jordan River and Austin operated the Victoria to Sooke to Jordan River bus stage for a time in the 1920s.

Information for this month’s **Did You Know That?** is from *The Sooke Story—The History and the Heartbeat and 4,000 Years a History of the Rainforest*, 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.

15. 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**.

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	Birds Edge Press
Blue Waters B&B	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	Otter Point Beach House
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop	Road's End Construction
Sandy's Drywall Ltd	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions	

16. 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 have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
