

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

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a registered non-profit society with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about **380**. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships cost \$5.00 per person and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information and on-line registration.

The purpose of our society is to:

- Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
- Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
- Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
- Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
- Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to over **200** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| Arnie Campbell | President | Wayne Fritz | Director |
| Phone: | 250-642-3113 | Phone: | 250-642-0440 |
| Email: | d.acampbell@shaw.ca | Email: | wlfritz@shaw.ca |
| Vacant | Secretary/Treasurer | | |
| Sandy Barta | Director | John Charles | Director |
| Email: | sbarta@shaw.ca | Phone: | 250-642-0382 |
| Erik James | Director | Ken Pungente | Director |
| Phone: | 250-642-6368 | Phone: | 250-642-5177 |
| Email: | mekjames@telus.net | | |
| Bob Philips | Director | Sarah Tidwell | Director |
| Phone: | 250642-3297 | Phone: | 250-642-2733 |
| Email: | bother@telus.net | Email: | sarah0406@yahoo.com |

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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.

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| Tuesday September 2 | JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road |
| Note: This is a change from the September 9 meeting | You can obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting at the CRD Planning Services office, 2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page. |

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| Thursday September 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 September 6 | Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike up Mt. Manuel Quimper 9:30 a.m. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Harbour View Road. 3 ½ hour hike Hike to the summit and back. Bring water and your lunch. Dress for the weather. Call 250-642-2767 for more information. www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca |
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| Saturday & Sunday September 6 & 7 | <p>Sooke Fall Fair Celebrating 150 years of agriculture in B.C. Sooke Community Hall 2:00 p.m., Saturday—official opening Lt. Governor Stephen Point in attendance.</p> |
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| Saturday August 2 | <p>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike to Grassy Lake 9:00 a.m. Full day hike. Meet at the gravel pit just across the Charters Creek bridge, 2900 block of Sooke River Road. We will spend some time at the lake to swim or explore, and return to the cars late in the afternoon. Phone 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details. Please note our new web address: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p> |
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| Monday September 8 | <p>Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision Project Final report release See item number 9 for details.</p> |
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| Tuesday September 9 | <p>Western Forest Products Open House 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall See item number 4 for details.</p> |
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| Sunday September 14 | <p>Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society General Meeting 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall</p> |
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| Thursday September 18 | <p>Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Meeting 7:00 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room “A” SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC</p> |
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| Thursday September 25 | <p>JDF Economic Development Commission Monthly Meeting 6:00 pm Village Foods Meeting Room 6661 West Coast Road, Sooke BC</p> |
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Tuesday
September 30 **OPSRRA
Membership Meeting**
7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road

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

Saturday
October 6 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike to the Priest's Cabin in Shirley
9:30 a.m.
This is an easy walk up to the splendid view point at the Priest's Cabin located in one of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area's parks. If anyone is interested in exploring further, we can go on to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Park at Fish Boat Bay. Contact Rosemary Jorna (250-642-2767; sid2767@shaw.ca) for the meeting place.
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Second &
Fourth
Thursday
of every month **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. PREPARING FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

September is the beginning of the election campaign for many of the candidates that will be vying for the following locally elected positions:

- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director (1 position).
- Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee (1 position from each community: Port Renfrew; Shirley/Jordan River; Otter Point; East Sooke; Malahat and Willis Point).
- Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission (5 positions).
- Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission (5 positions).
- School District #62 School Board (3 trustees elected to the Milne's Landing zone which includes the geographic area from Port Renfrew to East Sooke).

There are also unelected representatives that are appointed by the regional director to a variety of other commissions and boards following the elections. These currently include:

- The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Parks & Recreation Commission.
- The Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission.
- The Juan de Fuca Agricultural Planning Commission.
- The Sooke Region Historical Society Board of Directors (operators of the Sooke Region Museum and Visitor Information Centre).

- The Sooke and Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC).

Note: The Regional Director also selects the Alternate Regional Director.

One of OPSRRA's objectives is to encourage local residents to stand for elected office. As an organization, we do not endorse any candidate. OPSRRA will be providing the following opportunities to all candidates for elected office between now and the November 15 elections:

- An opportunity to submit brief political statements about themselves and why they feel that they should be elected. These statements will be published, as received, in the October and November issues of the OPSRRA newsletters.
- An All Candidates meeting will be held in late October for candidates for Regional Director, Shirley/Jordan and Otter Point positions on the JDFEA Land Use Committee and the Milne's Landing Zone School Trustee positions.

OPSRRA is also working with the CRD to see if we can provide the community with a weekly update on the list of registered candidates. At the moment we are aware of the following candidates for the following elected position:

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director (one position to be elected)

- Michael Hicks
- Ute Schnarr

3. WHAT'S ON THE OPSRRA WEB SITE

The OPSRRA web site began six years ago. It was created by two Edward Milne Community School students who needed a community project as a graduation requirement. The site was originally managed by one of the students and then taken over by OPSRRA director Sandy Barta 5 years ago. Over this time the site has become a valuable resource as Sandy has continued to add information to the site. Here is what you will find if you visit www.opsrra.ca.

- Information about OPSRRA, its directors and how to become a member..
- A library of membership and directors meeting minutes.
- Information on the community, including links to various local organizations, services and even the local weather.
- Local area business listings.
- Current and past issues of the OPSRRA newsletter.
- Information on the Developing a Strategic Vision project.
- Notice of OPSRRA meetings.
- Links to the CRD including the Natural Atlas.
- A map of the local area and civic addressing information.
- A list of candidates that have registered for the local elections being held on November 15.

**4. WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS OPEN HOUSE:
SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS FOR JORDAN RIVER, SHIRLEY & OTTER
POINT**

WFP has announced that they will host an Open House on Tuesday, September 9 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Shirley Community Hall. They are inviting the community and others to "review the progress to date and to provide information about specific resources or features so that this information can be incorporated into the planning process".

Some Background

The provincial Subdivision Approving Officer informed WFP in late July that he had received over 200 letters and e-mails concerning WFP's development proposal for their private forest lands and that most opposed the proposed development and requested an opportunity for public input. Western Forest Products (WFP) has also been informed by the provincial Subdivision Approving Officer that they need to submit further information before their application to develop 319 residential acreages in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point will be considered. The Subdivision Approving Officer suggested that WFP hold a public information meeting to determine the public's concerns. In addition, WFP has been asked to provide suggestions as to how the issues raised by the public can be addressed and to advise the Subdivision Approving Officer whether First Nations have been consulted about their concerns. Until this and other requested information is provided, the Subdivision Approving Officer has said that he can not proceed with the subdivision application.

In related news, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities wrote the Premier on July 17 requesting that the provincial government review its decision to remove some private forest lands on Vancouver Island from tree farm licenses. The letter refers to statements made in the Auditor General's report, expresses "profound concern" about the lack of adequate consultation with local government or the communities affected and mentions the actions that some local governments have taken to stop development that is seen by them as being contrary to local government Official Community Plans (OCPs) and other community plans.

5. UPDATE: FROM THE JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING SERVICES OFFICE

New link to Land Use Committee Agendas and Planning Staff Reports

The Capital Regional District (CRD) continues to up-date its web site. One of the new features is a link to the meeting agenda, minutes and staff reports for the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee. Try:

www.crd.bc.ca/agendas/juandefucalandusecom_/2008_/index.htm

New Manager of Planning Services

Effective September 1, June Klassen has replaced Kris Nichols as the CRD Manager of Planning Services for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Her office is located in the CRD Offices located at 2- 6868 West Coast Road in Sooke.

6. MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS REPLIES TO REQUEST TO PAVE ROAD SHOULDERS

At our March AGM our membership passed a motion requesting that OPSSRA write the Minister of Transportation requesting that the shoulders of Highway 14 and other major routes in Shirley and Otter Point be paved. A similar request was sent to the province 10 years ago. During that time there has been no noticeable improvement of a safe shoulder for walkers, joggers, cyclists and others who used these roadways.

The Minister of Transportation has recently replied to our letter. The reply says, in part, that Mainroad Contracting Ltd. has begun grading the shoulders in our area in order to improve safety; however more urgent priorities elsewhere in the province mean that paving of the shoulders will not be considered.

7. RIDERSHIP NUMBERS ON THE BC TRANSIT OTTER POINT LOOP

September 5 will mark the second 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 Rd. to Kemp Lake Rd. then down Kemp Lake Rd. to West Coast Rd. and back to Sooke. It does 2 morning and 2 afternoon loops (Monday – Friday) through Otter Point and East Sooke and back to Sooke.

According to BC Transit, the community bus (based upon 2007/08 count data) has carried 20 to 24 passengers a day, averaging 5 to 6 passengers per trip and a monthly ridership of approximately 500 passengers. This figure is up slightly from 4 passengers per trip during the previous year. 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.

The Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing Strategic Vision project identified numerous other changes that residents would like to see made to local transit service, including: adding a route to Gordon's Beach and eventually to Shirley; having two direction service in Otter Point; and extending handy Dart service to Shirley.

BC Transit wants to hear from you about their service as they begin planning changes for 2009. You can contact them and leave a message on their web site by going to: www.bctransit.com. Follow the links to Victoria and then to What's New.

This is the BC Transit fall schedule for the Otter Point Community bus, Route 63—Otter Point Loop:

| Monday through Friday - Morning | | | | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Trip Notes (see below) | Bus Type | Sooke at Townsend | Kemp Lake at Otter Point | West Coast at Grant | Dufour at Whiffin Spit | Sooke at Townsend |
| * | 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 | Sooke at Townsend | Kemp Lake at Otter Point | West Coast at Grant | Dufour at Whiffin Spit | Sooke at Townsend |
| * | 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. SEPTEMBER HALF IRON & SPRINT TRATHLON

The following information was submitted by the organizing committee for the race event. This event begins with a swim in Young's Lake at Camp Barnard (Scouts Canada) located at the end of Young's Lake Road. in Otter Point. This will also be the starting point for the cycling race. Expect some delays and road closures on Otter Point Road and West Coast Road. during the day. See the RACE COURSE MAP that follows for course details.

The second annual Subaru Sooke International Half Iron & Sprint Triathlon will be held on Sunday, September 14. We are looking forward to bringing back this popular event to the very welcoming community of Sooke. This is more than just a triathlon; it is a community weekend-long festival that will kick start with a free Kids Fun Run on Saturday. For a more information please check our webpage at <http://www.lifesport.ca/SookeHalfIron2008.htm>

An event like this is only possible with all the help of the 150 volunteers that are needed, if you or anyone you know can help volunteer for this event, please register at <http://www.lifesport.ca/SookeHalfIron2008.htm> .

We are also looking for teams, clubs and groups to get involved and organize one of the many water stations for the event. Please email me, or call me at 250-220-2259 on how to get your group involved.

Regards,

John Botelho, Events Manager
LifeSport Coaching
770 Sayward Road
Victoria, BC, Canada, V8Y 1R2
john@lifesport.ca www.LifeSport.ca

9. UPDATE: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION—OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER

The work of the project's steering committee is almost done. A final document will be released the week of September 8 and will take two forms: a brochure summarizing the final report will be mailed to all residents in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point who accept Canada Post mailers (about 1200 residences). Another more detailed version of the final document is being mailed to about 100 local area community associations, businesses groups, commissions, elected officials and government agencies. The detailed version will also be available on the Vision project web site: www.jdffuture.org and the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca.

Discussion of the Vision project will be one of the topics on the agenda at OPSRRA's September 30 membership meeting.

10. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

An earlier account of the history of Camp Barnard is up-dated by this information sent to the OPSRRA newsletter by Grace Seabrook who is an OPSRRA member and Chair of the Camp Barnard Committee.

A Little History

In February 1945, Senator Barnard gifted 2 parcels of land -his 'hunting lodge' - to the Victoria Council of Scouts Canada. This amounted to some 200 acres of

second growth forest and included 17-acre Young Lake. Currently Camp Barnard comprises 251 acres and is used year-round. Provincial Jamborees have been held at Camp Barnard in 1974, 1982 and 1987.

Senator Barnard (1868-1954), a lawyer, was elected Mayor of Victoria in 1904. He served two terms, during which time the Causeway was built to replace the James Bay Bridge. He also promoted the building of the Empress Hotel. In 1908 he was elected to the House of Commons (Liberal-Conservative Party) where he promoted Victoria as a seaport resulting in the building of the Ogden Point Wharves. In 1917 he was appointed to the Canadian Senate, where he served until 1945 when he retired to Victoria. Senator and Mrs. Barnard's Victoria home, the Duvals, still stands at 1642 Rockland and an easy search of Ross Bay Cemetery will find you the Barnard family plot.

Camp development began in earnest in the 1960s with the building of McPherson Lodge, followed ten years later by Totem Lodge—a Katimavik project. Mor Kitchen was a jamboree addition and has just undergone renovation. The current bunkhouses were completed in 1992 and Keego Kitchen in 1998.

11. FREE SMALL BUSINESS LISTING ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA is offering a free business listing service for members, on its web site: www.opsrra.ca. We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. We anticipate having listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture-making, fishing charters, eco-tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing, spas and more. More information, businesses already listed, and an on-line registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site (www.opsrra.ca) under **Business Listings**.

Note: OPSRRA does not accept responsibility for the services provided. Always check references and ask for confirmation of Work Safe B.C. Registration if applicable.

The OPSRRA web site has more information about the following business listings

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1001 Welding & Equipment Repair | Accent in Grooming |
| ALM Organic Farm | A Point of View B&B |
| Beaches West B&B | Bear Home Remodeling |
| Birds Edge Press | DanCyn Kioti Excavation |
| Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite | Fancy That Esthetics & Body Care |
| Full Circle Seeds | Heron's Rest B&B |
| Jambo Pet Sitting Service | Kemp Lake Store |
| Knotty Beds by Nature | Le Sooke Spa |
| Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage | Otter Point Beach House |

Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Stick in the Mud Coffee House

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

12. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site.

This monthly newsletter is prepared by the directors of OPSRRA. It is available to members by e-mail and to others on our web site: www.opsrra.ca. To have an item you would like to have considered for placement in the newsletter, or make a comment about the newsletter, contact an OPSRRA director. OPSRRA tries to verify the correctness of the information in this newsletter; if we got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
