

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

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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.

Thursday
September 3 **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Labour Day
weekend
September 5
to
September 7 **Art at Malahat Farm**
Three day event
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Malahat Farm
2675 Anderson Road, Otter Point

Estate sale, flea market, quality used fishing gear, painting, sculpture, jewelry, photography and more.

More information at: www.malahatfarm.com

Saturday
September 5 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike China Beach Provincial Park**
No dogs, please
9:30 a.m.
Meet at the Trail Head Parking Lot at China Beach Provincial Park (west of Jordan River) to car pool to the start of the hike. This hike starts out easy, but becomes a difficult hike on a spine.
The hike from China Beach to return to the China Beach Parking lot is over four hours long.
You might just see sea lions—bring binoculars and camera.
Dress for the weather.
Bring a lunch and 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
September 9 **Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission**
7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
Topic: detached suites
See newsletter item 6

September meeting cancelled **JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday District of Sooke Council Chambers
September 15 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.

Wednesday **OPSRRA Board of Directors**
September 16 **Monthly Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Sooke Region Museum
Service Building Dining Room

Sunday **Camp Barnard—Scouts Canada**
September 20 **Open House**
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

See newsletter item 3 for details

Monday **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area**
September 21 **Proposed Rural Resource Lands**
Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws
Open House
4:00 p.m. To 9:00 p.m.
Sooke Community Hall
Shields Road, Sooke

CRD Planning Services in attendance to present information and answer questions.
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

See newsletter item 5 for details.

Tuesday **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation**
September 22 **Commission**
Monthly Meeting
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Wednesday **Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission**
September 23 7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Topic: detached suites.

See newsletter item 6

Thursday
September 24 **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission**
Monthly Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Thursday
October 1 **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission**
(SEAPARC) Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

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](tel:250-642-2767)
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
[Please note our new web address:](#)
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

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

2. OPSRRA—PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) was incorporated as a non-profit society June 3, 1992. It has a broad mandate to promote change that is in the best interest of the community, lobby government on behalf of the community, encourage public participation and promote community social activities. We are celebrating our 17th anniversary this year. This is a good time to reflect on OPSRRA's past, present and future.

According to legend, OPSRRA was initially established in response to the community's need for local representation in public discussions leading to a vote on municipal incorporation for a portion of the Sooke Electoral Area. At that time Sooke, Shirley, Otter Point, Jordan River, East Sooke and Port Renfrew were all part of the Sooke Electoral Area. Studies were underway to help decide if Otter Point, Shirley, East Sooke and Sooke should be incorporated as a municipality.

There was a split between the residents in the Sooke area and the outlying communities over whether to incorporate or not. After two separate incorporation referenda failed to pass in the 1990s, the Sooke Incorporation Committee chose to establish separate boundaries for the third referendum, which passed and resulted in the incorporation of the District of Sooke in 1999. Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, East Sooke and Port Renfrew were then joined with Malahat and Willis Point to form the new Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. First Nation lands in View Royal, Esquimalt and Sooke were also added to the new electoral area. Over time, interests, concerns and decision making processes for residents and property owners in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area became increasingly different from those of Sooke.

Although amalgamation with the District of Sooke was explored again over the years, and OPSRRA continued to represent the views of its membership in every subsequent governance and boundary review and annexation referendum, questioning political union with Sooke and lobbying for greater local decision making have never been the association's primary purpose. Since its beginning, our association realized that social, economic and population changes in Shirley and Otter Point were inevitable; and that managing growth and guiding change through thoughtful community planning would determine how successful the community would be in influencing its future.

Over the past seventeen years, OPSRRA has lobbied all levels of government, (and particularly the Capital Regional District and the Provincial government), to improve local services, to strengthen local planning capabilities, to enact local planning bylaws which reflect long term community priorities and to deal with specific community complaints. It has emphasized community consultation, education and communication as the key ways to meet its goals. To that end the association developed a web site in 2003 with the help of students from the Communications Program at Edward Milne Community School. We began a monthly electronic newsletter that same year (which now goes to 260 members as well as local media, elected leaders and others). Among the newsletter's many monthly features are a community events section and another on local history. (The Sooke Region Museum and the Victoria Branch of the B.C. Archaeology Society archives the newsletter.) In 2005, we began building and installing community bulletin boards in Otter Point. The Shirley Fire Department and the Shirley Community Association conjointly undertook a similar venture in Shirley. There are now 23 notice boards in Otter Point and 9 in Shirley. The association regularly sponsors All Candidates political meetings, offers free advertising on its web site for local businesses that are owned by OPSRRA members and organizes meetings with local developers and community organizations in order to promote discussion and planning. In 2006, we encouraged the community to develop a strategic vision for its future and successfully applied to private and public funders for \$8,000 to underwrite related costs for community forums, workshops, household mailers, a web site and information bulletins. Information from all these sources was used to write the ***Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River: Developing a Strategic Vision*** which was distributed to the community, local government and others in September 2008.

However, OPSRRA is not the only local organization which has developed over the past 17 years to represent the interests and concerns of Otter Point and Shirley residents. The following is a list of other local non-profit organizations, community service organizations and planning commissions which have come into existence since 1992. They provide us with some indication of how the community has responded to the need to manage and guide change.

- Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS)

- B.C. Landowners Association
- Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society
- Muir Creek Protection Society
- Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
- Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society (Rural Observer)
- Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision Project
- Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Advisory Committee
- Otter Point Official Community Plan Advisory Committee
- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Zoning Advisory Committees
- Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee
- Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission
- Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission
- Juan de Fuca Agricultural Advisory Commission
- Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission
- Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission
- Otter Point & Shirley Governance Options Study Committee

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. As a non-profit community association we have tried to serve the needs of our members and others in the community. But where do we go from here? Undoubtedly, land use planning, local governance and community services will remain as important issues in the community. What else should our future hold? Later in September we'll be asking members for their suggestions. The question for you, as a member, will be, "[Are you getting your \\$5.00 worth?](#)" Think about it and we'll be asking you to let us know.

3. OPEN HOUSE AT CAMP BARNARD

Scouts Canada-Greater Victoria invites the community to their 65th anniversary Open House at Camp Barnard located at the end of Young's Lake Road in Otter Point. The Open House will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20. Events will include the official opening of the bridge across McKenzie Creek as well as tours of the Camp and information about their adventure programs. Scouts Canada makes their facility available throughout the year to organized groups such as the Otter Point Fire Fighters Association for their annual Halloween event, and hosts adventure camps through SEAPARC.

Did you know that Camp Barnard is named after Senator Henry Barnard?

Senator Barnard (1868-1954) was a lawyer who 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 idea of building 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. In February of 1945 Senator Barnard gifted two parcels of land—his 'hunting lodge'—to the Victoria Council of Scouts Canada; this amounted to some 200 acres of second growth forest. Bits and pieces have been added and deleted since.

Camp Barnard hosted Provincial Jamborees in 1974, 1982 and 1987.

4. BC TRANSIT STATISTICS FOR ROUTE 63, OTTER POINT LOOP

September 5 will mark the third 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. The community bus does two morning and two afternoon loops (Monday to Friday) through Otter Point. There is a second route travelled by the same bus from Sooke to East Sooke.

According to BC Transit, the community bus (based upon fall 2008 and winter 2009 count data) has carried between 27 and 29 passengers a day on the Otter Point loop, for a monthly total of between 594 and 638 passengers. The 27 to 29 passengers a day works out to approximately seven passengers per trip. This figure is up slightly from five to six passengers per day in 2007/2008 and four passengers per trip during the routes initial year of operation.

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.
- Two direction service in Otter Point.
- Extending Handy Dart service to Shirley.

BC Transit wants to hear from you about their service as they begin planning changes for 2010. 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 fall 2009 BC Transit schedule for the Otter Point community bus.

Route 63—OTTER POINT LOOP

(Effective **Tue Sep 8, 2009** through **Sun Dec 27, 2009** inclusive)

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	08:25	08:40	08:49	08:54	09:00
@	Access	10:04	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	02:18	02:33	02:42	02:47	02:53
@	Access	04:33	04:48	04:57	-	05:00

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

5. CRD PLANNING SERVICES TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON RURAL RESOURCE LANDS LAND USE BYLAW AND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

CRD Planning Services staff will be hosting an Open House and public presentation regarding the proposed Rural Resource Lands Land Use Bylaw and Official Community Plan. The Open House will be held on Monday, September 21 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. upstairs at the Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Road, Sooke. There will be a staff presentation at 7:00 p.m.

These two proposed bylaws have been the subject of extensive consultations with the community for over the past two years and have been repeatedly changed in response to public comment. This is the information on the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area web site: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm. Detailed maps and other information are also available on this site.

An open house is being held to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws for the lands as shown on the map. The Land Use Committee is considering the proposed bylaws and would appreciate receiving comments from the public.



The intent of the Official Community Plan is to guide land use and development decisions, to provide detailed planning direction with respect to community development, and to establish regulatory functions for the Rural Resource Lands area.

The Land Use Bylaw will regulate the development and use of land, the location and use of buildings/structures through general zoning regulations, and the designation of specific zoning districts.

The proposed [Rural Resource Land Use Bylaw and Official Community Plan](#) are available for review (May 19, 2009 Land Use Committee item 7a—two separate items). This version incorporates comments received from agencies and the Advisory Planning Commissions.

6. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA CONSIDERS ALLOWING DETACHED ACCESSORY SUITES

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is considering a bylaw that would allow for detached accessory suites under certain circumstances. The JDFEA Land Use Committee has referred the proposal to local Advisory Committees (Otter Point on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall and in Shirley/Jordan River on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Shirley Community Hall) to hear public comment and make recommendations. The following information is from the JDFEA web site: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm

Do you have a garage, barn or new accessory building that you'd like to convert into a secondary suite? Currently, within the Juan de Fuca (JDF) Electoral Area, if you'd like to have a secondary suite it must be located within the principle residence on a property. There have been, however, many requests by residents for permission to build a secondary suite in a location other than within a property's main dwelling.

The JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee is considering an amendment to the Sooke Land Use Bylaw 2040, which would allow a suite to be located in an accessory building, if a certain set of conditions were adhered to. The proposed amendment would apply to the East Sooke, Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River community areas and the Land Use Committee would like to hear from you to determine if there is community support for this proposed amendment.

The proposal includes some basic guidelines. For example, if you reside on the property being considered and it is one acre or larger, you could potentially be approved to place one suite (90m² or smaller) in an accessory building. Accessory buildings include structures such as barns or other detached outbuildings, manufactured or modular homes; recreational vehicles or travel trailers would not be permissible under the proposed amendment as suites. Facilities, such as potable water and sewage disposal, and access ways may require approval by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transportation.

A [staff report](#) was considered at the May 19, 2009 Land Use Committee meeting.

CRD staff would like to invite you to provide your comments on the proposal by September 30, 2009. Please forward your comments by email or mail to the Juan de Fuca Area Planning Office.

7. PROPOSED NEW LANDFILL BANS AT CRD HARTLAND DUMP

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has asked OPSRRA's assistance to circulate information about a proposed ban at its Hartland Road dump for wood waste and all materials covered under the B.C. Recycling Regulation. The proposed wood waste ban would include clean and treated wood from construction and demolition activities, including dimensional lumber, plywood, pallets, fencing, wood shingles, pressure treated lumber and painted wood. The proposed recyclables ban would cover beverage containers, paint, solvents, flammable liquids, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, tires, lead acid batteries, used oils, filters and electronic components such as T.V. and computers.

If approved by the CRD Board, this ban would be effective March 1, 2010. The CRD is inviting residents and businesses in the CRD to comment on the proposed ban by filing-out a comments sheet on their web site at www.crd.bc.ca or by contacting the CRD Hotline at hotline@crd.bc.ca or phoning 250-360-3030.

Note: The deadline for submissions is September 18, 2009.

8. UPDATE: REQUEST FOR GOVERNANCE STUDY

Last month's newsletter reported on a meeting that representatives from OPSRRA had with senior staff of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development. OPSRRA was informed at the July meeting that money for an Otter Point & Shirley Governance Options study, tentatively offered in February 2009 at a meeting between the Minister of Community Development and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director, was not going to be available for at least the next two years because of Provincial budget cutbacks. A follow-up letter from the new Minister of Community & Rural Development confirmed this fact and suggested that OPSRRA work with our Electoral Area Director to consider the findings of the Provincial Government's **Regional District Task Force** report that will be presented to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) at their September convention. OPSRRA had already been made aware of this report when we met with senior staff from the Ministry in July and have been invited to meet with Ministry staff again in October, after the UBCM convention.

In the meantime, OPSRRA has sent an information package to all 23 directors of the CRD Board. The package included the following letter, a letter sent by the JDFEA Regional Director to the Minister of Community development in February 2009 (see the April, 2009 OPSRRA newsletter for the full text of that letter) and a copy of the final report of the **Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision**.

Dear CRD Director:

I am writing to you in your capacity as a director of the CRD Board of Directors. Our association is working to promote awareness of three important issues that relate to both our community and the CRD Board of Directors.

- Our association has been leading a community effort to have the Province and the CRD undertake a governance options study for the communities immediately west of Sooke. Attached is a letter sent to the Minister of Community Development by Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director Mike Hicks in support of a governance options study for our area. In July our association followed up with a meeting with senior representatives of the Province's Governance Structure Branch. We were informed that due to budget cutbacks no money would be available for governance studies for the next two years. We were encouraged to work for changes within the present structures governing Electoral Areas.
- Suggestions for possible changes to the governance of all Electoral Areas will be coming forward at the September meeting of the Union of B.C. Municipalities. A provincial committee, with local representation from Mayor Leonard of Saanich, will be making recommendations at the UBCM that could alter the governance of all Electoral Areas.
- The B.C. Supreme Court of Appeal has given its ruling about the legality of the CRD's voting system with regard to land use decisions in the Juan de

Fuca Electoral Area. The April 2008 CRD bylaws that determined minimum subdivision sizes for rural and forestry properties in the JDFEA were the focus of the Court's ruling and are now invalid because of the voting system used to pass them. Under the present system, governance for the JDFEA remains a responsibility of the CRD Board. Given the Court's decision it is entirely likely that the full CRD Board will again find itself involved in determining the future of land use west of Sooke.

Also attached is a copy of Developing a Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River. This report outlines community goals and strategies developed over a two year period through public forums, community workshops and surveys. A change in governance was identified as a key goal of the community at that time.

By keeping the CRD Board of Directors aware of the current situation, and the pending events that will soon come before you for consideration, we hope to be able to gain your support for a governance options study for our area.

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

On August 13, the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled that the voting system used to pass the six controversial CRD bylaws that limited the minimum size of subdivisions on forestry and rural lands in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area was invalid. To quote the CRD from their web site:

“The Capital Regional District has been unsuccessful in an appeal of the BC Supreme Court's December 2008 decision regarding Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) local area planning bylaws and the voting arrangement in the area.

The appeal's decision renders a number of interim bylaws invalid, which were passed in response to the release of 28,000 hectares of land, owned by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19 and 25 on Vancouver Island by the Minister of Forests.”

This means that the voting system established by Order in Council in December 2001 but discontinued in April 2004 is the only one presently considered legal and that the six bylaws passed in April 2008 are no longer in effect. A full account of the Court's judgment can be located on the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area web site (www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm). The question that no seems to want to answer is, “What happens now?” Although the Court was only asked to consider the voting system that passed the six bylaws passed in April 2008, the same voting system was used to pass many more JDFEA Bylaws between April 2006 and December 2008.

OPSRRA has written the JDFEA Regional Director, with a copy to the Chair of the CRD Board of Directors, pointing this out and asking for an answer to what happens next.

Dear Director Hicks:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association to request a clarification of the impact of the Court's decision which has now invalidated the voting system used by the CRD Board between April 2006 and December 2008 to pass Juan de Fuca Electoral Area bylaws. Although the six CRD bylaws passed in April 2008 were the focus of the Court action and were clearly found to be invalid, what happens with the other bylaws and land use decisions made through the same CRD voting system in place since April 2006?

Our understanding is that any of these bylaws can now be successfully challenged using the recent Court decisions as precedent. If this is correct, then the existing Otter Point, Shirley/Jordan River and East Sooke Official Community Plans, as well as all other bylaw, subdivision, rezoning and related land use decisions voted during that time period by the three CRD directors deemed entitled could also be successfully challenged and found to be invalid. Such uncertainty for affected residents and ratepayers is unacceptable. Such uncertainty is also a threat to the thoughtful community planning and management of change which our association supports.

What action will the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and the CRD be taking unilaterally, or in collaboration with the province, to help remedy the situation that has been created? Our understanding is that the province agreed to the voting system now found to be invalid and was a partner to it being used elsewhere in the province. The province also signed-off on some of the CRD bylaws that were passed using this voting system. In our opinion, leadership from the Electoral Area and the CRD is called for: leaving things to "sort themselves" will likely mean further legal actions as challenges arise from this uncertainty.

A reply is requested.

10. REQUEST TO MEET WITH WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS

At its fall 2008 General Meeting the OPSRRA membership supported the association keeping a dialogue going with land developers in the local area. In light of the recent decision of the B.C. Court of Appeal that invalidated the voting system used to pass the bylaws which attempted to limit subdivision sizes on Western Forest Products lands in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River, OPSRRA wrote the new President and Chief Operating Officer of WFP. Our letter asks for a resumption of meetings that were discontinued by WFP about a year ago as they awaited the outcome of their Court challenge of the April 2008 CRD Bylaws.

Mr. Stephen Frasher
President & CEO
Western Forest Products Ltd.
435 Trunk Road
Duncan BC V9L 2P9

Dear Mr. Frasher:

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association is primarily concerned with ensuring that development in our community happens in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents.

Directors of our ratepayers' association have met with representatives from Western Forest Products numerous times over the past three years. The initial meetings were to encourage WFP to participate in the Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Developing a Strategic Vision Project, while the later ones were concerned with the company's decision to either sell or undertake residential development on its private forest lands which were released from TFL 25. We would like an opportunity to resume these meetings.

Understandably, our association has been concerned with the impact that the release of WFP's private forest lands, for residential development, would have upon Shirley and Otter Point. The anticipation of large parcels of forest lands being converted to residential development became the genesis for our association approaching our communities in 2005 with the suggestion of undertaking the Vision project. Since then the community's concerns about major development occurring without adequate community consultation has become an issue. Our association has lobbied local, regional and provincial governments asking them to address this issue. Trying to accomplish consultation without confrontation is sometimes difficult; thus having an opportunity to meet at this time would be helpful as a way to restart the community consultation process.

I have attached a copy of the Strategic Vision project report for your information and request a reply to our request to meet.

11. WFP JORDAN RIVER LOG SORT NOW OPERATED BY A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR

As part of a major reorganization of their operations, Western Forest Products closed their Jordan River office on Friday, August 28. Due to changes within the WFP organization since the appointment of Stephen Frasher as President and Chief Operating officer in June, all of the forestry and engineering administration will now be managed out of their Port Alberni office. It is believed that the Jordan River location will become an Island Pacific Logging office and that the operation will be going to a "stump to dump" contract effective Sept. 1. However, the ownership and management of TFL 25 remains with WFP for the time being.

12. PRIEST'S CABIN PARK CLEANUP IN SHIRLEY

The Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission is planning to do a cleanup of the Priest's Cabin in the Merrill Ring Park in Shirley. This may be happening later in September and a notice will be placed in the Sooke News Mirror and other locations asking for volunteers to help with the work. The following information about the cabin's history was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter.

Priests' Cabin Park is a Juan de Fuca Electoral Area community park located above the Chew property at 10400 block of West Coast Road. Formerly known as a Merrill Ring park, it was established as a result of the park dedication requirement for subdivision when the Merrill Ring Forestry Company created Cedar Coast Subdivision in 1993.

It is called Priests' Cabin Park to commemorate Father Sherburne. He and fellow priests built a log cabin in this remote and beautiful location in the early 1970s. This magnificent viewpoint was an ideal place for retreat and quiet meditation. It would have been heavily forested at that time; a true wilderness experience and commune with nature.

Father Sherburne did emerge, however, and returned to civilization just down the road at Point No Point. There was a diverse intellectual community in that area, and Miss Packham, who owned the "Point", would have gatherings there. These would be evenings of conversation, philosophical discussion, music and fine food.

The park can only be accessed through private property at this time. It is at approximately 200 metres of elevation, and is a rigorous uphill climb followed by a trek through the forest. The remains of the log cabin are there and has a spectacular view of French Beach, Juan de Fuca Strait, Fishboat Bay and Sheringham Point.

Unfortunately vandals have discovered this spot, and caused damage to the park and cabin. While Father Sherburne might have encouraged visitors who appreciate the pristine beauty, the same can't be said for those who light fires, strew garbage, cut down trees and slash crude trails in. JDFEA Parks and Recreation Commission are organizing a volunteer cleanup when weather permits, in September or October. This will be advertised. There will be signs posted, barriers erected, and a plaque placed on the remains of the log cabin.

Note: Since this story was written a Shirley resident has been able to make contact with Father Sherburne. He returned to the United States and is presently teaching at the Marriott School of Law.

Meanwhile on two related items:

Pictures and some background information on the William Simmons Memorial Park on Poirier Lake are now posted on the OPSRRA web site (www.opsrra.ca).

Fundraising is underway to have an original painting done by Erik Sellars St.Claire framed for presentation to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Another \$50.00 would help pay for the remainder of the framing cost and to have a commemorative plaque attached. Please contact any OPSRRA director if you would care to donate a small sum towards helping to recognize the marvelous donation of park land that Mr. Sellars St.Clair has made to our community.

13. 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

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

Stick in the Mud Coffee House

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Wood Visions

14. 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.
