

# OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FEBRUARY 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 **385**. 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](http://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](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) if you want to receive this membership service.

## OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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### 1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) or 642-3113 to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

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Saturday February 2	<b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society King Creek Clean Up</b> 10:00 a.m. Meet at Otter Point Road at Farmer Road. See item number 10 in this newsletter <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/communitytrails">www.freewebs.com/communitytrails</a>
Sunday February 3	<b>Shirley Education &amp; Action Society (SEAS) General Meeting</b> 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Monday February 4	<b>OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome!</b> 7:30 p.m. Board Room "A" SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

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<p>Thursday February 7</p>	<p><b>Juan de Fuca Parks Committee</b> 5:00 p.m. JDF Electoral Area Services Office 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC</p>
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<p>Tuesday February 12</p>	<p><b>Developing a Strategic Vision Steering Committee Monthly Meeting</b> <b>Public welcome</b> 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Board Room "A" SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC</p>
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<p>Tuesday February 12</p>	<p><b>JDF Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road</p> <p>You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning Services office, 2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD website at: <a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm">www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm</a> Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.</p>
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<p>Tuesday February 19</p>	<p><b>Developing a Strategic Vision Project Forum</b> 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall 3727 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC</p>
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<p>Thursday February 21</p>	<p><b>Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room "A" SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Philips Road Sooke BC</p>
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<p>Sunday February 24</p>	<p><b>Surf Riders Association Muir Creek Clean Up</b> 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot on the Shirley (west) side of Muir Creek</p>
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<p>Saturday March 1</p>	<p><b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike around Kemp Lake</b> 9:30 a.m. Meet at 2452 Kemp Lake Road This is an easy hike about 90 minutes long. Conditions may be muddy, so bring good boots <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/communitytrails">www.freewebs.com/communitytrails</a></p>
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<p>Wednesday March 19</p>	<p><b>CRD Parks Committee Presentation on proposed parks in the JDF Electoral Area west of Sooke River</b> 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall</p>
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Second & Shirley Quilters and Crafters  
Fourth 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday Shirley Community Hall  
of every month

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## 2. OTTER POINT FIRE TRUSTEES ELECTED

The following trustees were elected at the November, 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department:

Chair: Kenny Jones  
Joanne Hemphill Bud Gibbons  
Lloyd Heinemann Harold Melville  
Marie Ann Davidson

- Scott Hemphill sits on the Board of Trustees as the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department Association Representative.
- Kevan Brehart is the OPVFD Fire Chief.

## 3. VICE-CHAIR OF SOOKE/ELECTORAL AREA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (SEAPARC) ELECTED

Otter Point resident Ken Pungente has been elected as Vice-Chair of the Sooke/Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC). Ken was previously Chair of the commission for many years, but declined that nomination this year. SEAPARC is responsible for the development, provision and operation of recreational facilities, programs and activities in Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

## 4. OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

OPSRRA will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March 2008.

Elections for all executive and director positions are held annually at the AGM. Nominations for any position can be sent to the Nominations Committee c/o Arnie Campbell, President, OPSRRA. A nominee must be a resident or property owner in either Shirley or Otter Point and a member of the association at the time of the election.

## 5. PUBLIC FORUM ON GOVERNANCE OPTIONS FOR OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY

This is the fourth and final public forum organized as part of the [Developing a Strategic Vision Project](#)

**Topic:** Governance Options for Otter Point and Shirley

**Date:** Tuesday, February 19

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Place:** Otter Point Fire Hall

**Speakers** The Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Metchosin  
A town planner, the former mayor of the District of Central Saanich who presently lectures at the University of Victoria, School of Public Administration and consultants on municipal affairs

A community planner who is the co-owner of a Victoria consulting company that works across the province providing economic and management consulting services, including governance studies

**Format** 15 minute presentation by each speaker followed by a moderated question and answer session and concluded by brief “wrap-up” comments from each speaker.

Complete details about the forum will be sent, in about two weeks, to OPSRRA members who receive the newsletter.

Beginning in March, the Strategic Vision project will be hosting a series of workshops that will start the process of drafting the project’s report. There will be an opportunity for the community to comment on the draft report in May and June before the final document is completed by September, 2008.

Anyone interested in being kept informed of the project’s progress can ask to be sent the project’s information bulletin. Contact Arnie Campbell at: [d.acampbell@shaw.ca](mailto:d.acampbell@shaw.ca) to have your name added to the e-mailing list. You can also access information about the project by visiting [www.jdffuture.org](http://www.jdffuture.org)

## **6. CONTACT, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CUPBOARD**

“CONTACT”, the medical equipment loan cupboard operated by the Contact Community Assistance Society, urgently needs the return of equipment not in use.

CONTACT is a non-profit society and, since 1970, has provided residents of our area with access to medical equipment for home care needs., The society does o this for a very economical rental rate and receives no funding from any level of government for their service. Please call their pager at 389-4607 to arrange the pick-up of any of their unused equipment so that they can keep it in circulation and continue to help others to benefit from this community service.

## **7. OPSRRA PRESENTATION TO THE JUAN DE FUCA LAND USE COMMITTEE**

OPSRRA made the following presentation at the January 8th meeting of the JDF Land Use Committee.

### **PRESENTATION TO JDF LAND USE COMMITTEE—SUPPLEMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS RE: PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES**

This presentation is made on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association.

There are several items related to the impending proposed zoning changes that OPSRRA wishes to bring to the attention of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee. We therefore pose some questions and make some suggestions – something which is not permitted at a public hearing and thus the reason why we are addressing LUC this evening.

OPSRRA's questions to the Land Use Committee and to the CRD Planning staff are as follows:

- a. As the local government for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, how will the Land Use Committee and the CRD support both the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River OCPs and the objectives of the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy in the event of further annexation requests?
- b. The method used to proceed with the proposed Forestry and Rural rezonings differs from the "advisory committee" method used by the community to suggest changes to all of the other zones needing review and updating. OPSRRA has three questions to the Land Use Committee and the CRD Planning Staff:
  1. Once the proposed Forestry and Rural zoning changes are completed, will there be a similar effort to complete a comprehensive review and updating of the remainder of the 1992 zoning bylaw applying to Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River?
  2. Will the existing work of the Zoning Advisory committees be utilized?
  3. Will the community have an opportunity to comment on the proposed bylaw changes prior to the complete package coming before the Land Use Committee for 1st and 2nd reading?
- c. The usual format for a public hearing is for the Regional Director, or designate, to attend the hearing and receive public comment. OPSRRA suggests two additions to this format for the up-coming series of public hearings:
  1. That all three representatives from the CRD Board, who sit on LUC, be at the public hearing so that they will be able to speak to the public hearing when the motion for 3rd reading comes before the CRD Board.
  2. Although none of the OCP or zoning bylaw amendments being considered at the public hearings will be brought back before LUC, OPSRRA feels that it is important that our elected community representatives are present at the public hearings and therefore request their attendance, so that they are aware of community comment on the proposed changes to the OCPs and the zoning bylaw.

OPSRRA requested a written reply to the questions posed under items a) and b) above.

**The JDF Regional Director responded to OPSRRA on January 11.**

- a. The question of amalgamation and how the CRD will support the local community is a complex one dealing with many issues some known and unknown. It would be the intention of the CRD to support the community through its established OCP policies and though the Regional Growth Strategy and its objectives. Along with community input, these would help guide the evaluation of annexation requests. The CRD would not want to see communities pared up so as to destroy their identity and jeopardize their future.
- b.
  1. It is the intention of [CRD Planning Services] staff, once the current bylaws are addressed, to begin working on the development of a revised comprehensive zoning bylaw for the entire Electoral Area.
  2. Staff does not want to re-invent the wheel so will be relying on work already completed by the zoning advisory committees as they draft the bylaw.

- 3 It is the intention of staff to obtain public input into the draft zoning bylaw in advance of introducing the bylaw for first and second reading at the Land Use Committee.

## **8. UP DATE: DRAFT ZONING BYLAWS, FOREST LANDS AND RURAL ZONES**

The five public hearings to hear public comment on the proposed rezoning of Rural and Forest Lands have happened. CRD Planning Services staff will now prepare a summary of the public comments (both written and oral submissions) and make recommendations to the CRD Board of Directors. CRD Planning Services intend to have their report on the public hearings completed in time for third reading at the February 13 meeting of the CRD Board of Directors.

OPSRRA directors have made a presentation at each public hearing in support of the proposed amendments. The following is an example of the directors' comments:

### **PRESENTATION TO THE SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN PUBLIC HEARING RE CRD BYLAW No. 3499 – A BYLAW TO AMEND THE SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) supports the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy which endeavours to protect the rural nature of our community. As an association we also support the need for an Official Community Plan that reflects the values of the community and that establishes Settlement Containment Areas and land use goals which ensure that development in our community happens in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents. The directors of OPSRRA therefore support the proposed amendment to the Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan.

## **9. CRD REGIONAL PARKS' INTERESTS IN THE JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA WEST OF SOOKE RIVER**

In November 2007 the CRD Regional Parks Staff submitted a report to the CRD Parks Committee requesting guidance from the Parks Committee as whether or not the CRD Master Parks Plan should be amended to include regional park interests in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area west of Sooke River. The staff recommendations were:

1. That the proposed vision and goals for regional parks and trails and the areas identified with regional park and trail potential in the area west of Sooke River be referred to the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission and First Nations for comments and that a public meeting be held;
2. That comments from the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission and public meeting and a final draft vision, goals and map showing areas having regional park and trail potential in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area west of Sooke River be presented to the Parks Committee and Board; and
3. That Regional Parks initiate discussions with the Province to explore potential partnership opportunities to protect land for park purposes in the area west of Sooke River.

**Note:** CRD Regional Parks has advised that a public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at the Shirley Community Hall, 7:00 TO 9:00 p.m. to present and discuss the recommendations.

## **10. JUAN DE FUCA COMMUNITY TRAILS SOCIETY: KING CREEK FORESTRY ROAD DEACTIVATION AND CLEAN UP**

The following information was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by the JdF Community Trails Society.

### **King Creek Forestry Road Deactivation 22 January**

The King Creek Forestry Road was deactivated on 22 January. All of the culverts were pulled from the stream crossings and the water brakes have been dug out again. For a description of the deactivation program, see the forest ministry regulations on line.

People using the road must be extremely cautious around the streams and ditches until they are familiar with the new configuration. Where the soil is disturbed and especially where it is damp or wet, the surfaces may be very soft. The exposed clay soil may be slippery or semi-liquid where there is water.

At this time, the ford where the main culvert used to be is not safe for horses. Everyone should use care at this ford, since the newly exposed soil surface is rough and unstable. This situation needs to be addressed.

### **King Creek Forestry Road Clean-Up 2 February**

The King Creek forestry road deactivation was well in advance of the early February date given to Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society. The Society had requested some action to prevent people driving down the road to dump garbage. JdF CTS will still have a work party in the area on 2 February, as advertised in the January OPSRRA newsletter. There is a change in start time.

The work party will begin at 10 am and go into the afternoon. We will begin by meeting at the access point opposite Farmer Road on Otter Point Road. People can join or leave the party at any time, but please find one of the Society members in charge to find out what needs doing and to let them know when you leave. Most of the work is picking things up, so bring work gloves. We have some gloves and garbage bags from CRD Environmental Services.

A lot of the garbage was taken out on 22 January. Ken Winter of Sooke Disposal Ltd. put a rubbish bin in place for JdF CTS and the BC Timber Sales crew—Bob, Kevin and Yann—took out most of the garbage using their equipment and a little elbow grease. Thanks to the BCTS crew for that work, to Sooke Disposal for donating the cost of disposal at Hartland landfill and to CRD Environmental Services for covering other costs. Thanks also to Murray Tomkins who happened by with his truck and trailer on 22 February. He loaded scrap metal and drywall into his trailer and disposed of it the next day. The JdF CTS work party on 2 February is to remove as much of the remaining garbage as possible. We will also be removing brush from the road.

The Society still has an application before the Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts for the trail system to be recognized as a recreation facility and for its further development. Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society is not at present responsible for maintaining the roads or trails.

## **11. SURF RIDERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL AREA BEACH CLEAN UP LIST**

The Victoria Surf Riders Association undertakes, as a public service, to do beach clean-ups in the Greater Victoria Area. Anyone is welcome to join them and lend a hand to keep our beaches safe and clean.

**All work parties start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.**

This is their schedule for the remainder of 2008:

February 24	Muir Creek (Otter Point/Shirley)
March 30	Jordan River
April 27	Sombrio (West of Jordan River)
May 25	Clover Point (Victoria)
June 29	Sooke Potholes
July 27	Port Renfrew
August 31	Mystic Beach (Saanich)
September 21	Cattle Point (Oak Bay)
October 26	Sombrio (West of Jordan River)
November 23	China Beach (West of Jordan River)
December 14	Sandcut (East of Jordan River)

## **12. UPDATE: SOOKE REGION MUSEUM FUNDING**

The OPSRRA newsletter has reported at various times over the past year the on-going dilemma of how to agree on increased funding for the Sooke Region Museum. The original proposal by the Board of Directors of the Sooke Historical Society, responsible for the operation of the museum, was to ask the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area to agree to an increase in the yearly taxpayers' support for the museum from \$76,000 to \$162,300 per year. This increase was agreed to by the District of Sooke. However, the JDF Electoral Area was required, by law, to take the requested increase to referendum. The JDF Regional Director did not support the referendum, as presented, as he felt that it would fail. The CRD Board agreed to his request that the Board's approval for a referendum be reversed and that a joint committee be set up to work on an alternative to the requested increase in funding. This joint committee, with representatives from the District of Sooke, the CRD and the JDF Electoral Area has met twice in the past six months and proposals and counter proposals have been made.

- The original proposal from the JDF Electoral Area was that:
- The existing bylaw for \$76,000 per year remain in place.
- The amount of taxpayer support from the JDF Electoral Area and the District of Sooke be proportionally increased (Sooke 55.6 % and JDFEA 44.4%) by \$25,000 per year to be spent on museum operating costs.
- Another \$25,000 per year be considered for an Endowment Fund provided that the museum could privately raise a matching amount.
- This proposal be for a five year term (sunset clause).
- The Tourist Information Centre be administratively separated from the museum.
- The museum funding bylaw be joint with the District of Sooke.

- Public assent of the Electoral Area be sought through a referendum.

The current counter proposal from the District of Sooke (in a letter to the Regional Director dated 29 October, 2007) was that:

- The existing bylaw for \$76,000 per year remain in place.
- The District of Sooke and JDF Electoral Area jointly conduct a counter petition or referendum on a bylaw that would:
  - Proportionally increase their annual funding to the museum by another \$50,000 and fix annual increases to that amount to the Consumer Price Index to account for inflation.
  - Provide an annual \$25,000 contribution to an Endowment Fund; provided that the museum could provide matching funds.
  - Require that a service review would be conducted in 5 years.

The JDF Regional Director replied to this proposal (in a letter dated 07 January, 2008), stating that the October counter proposal from the District of Sooke was unacceptable because it did not address:

- The administrative separation of the Information Centre from the museum.
- The 5 year limit (not a service review) to the increase in funding.

There was also concern expressed by the regional director that the amount of the increase for operating costs was doubled from \$25,000 to \$50,000 in the District of Sooke counter proposal.

If you have questions or comments about the negotiations contact:

Regional Director  
2-6868 West Coast Road  
Phone: 642-1500  
e-mail: [directorjdf@crd.bc.ca](mailto:directorjdf@crd.bc.ca)

Lesley Douch  
JDF Electoral Area representative on the museum's Board of Directors  
email: [kalsooke@shaw.ca](mailto:kalsooke@shaw.ca)

### 13. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

**There was a Memorial Hall built in Otter Point in the early 1920s?** Harry Vogel, who operated a saw mill near the junction of present day Clark Road and Otter Point Place, was the person who provided the leadership for building this tribute to those who served in World War I. His mill also supplied some of the lumber used to build the hall located in the vicinity of present day Otter Point Road and King Road.

**Cross Point Farm in Shirley has a connection to Harry Vogel as well?** Built in 1903, in the area east of Sheringham Lighthouse, it was knocked off its foundation in 1921 by a falling tree. Thomas Cross, the owner at the time, worked for Harry Vogel and it was Vogel's team of 6 horses that pulled the house further from the water to its present location where it was repaired and has continued in use by descendants of the Cross family

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from *The Sooke Story—The History and the Heartbeat*, *101 Historical Buildings* and *4,000 Years—a History of the Rainforest*, all 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.

## 14. 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](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-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](http://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	Bear Home Remodeling
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
Stick in the Mud Coffee House	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Wood Visions	

## 15. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

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

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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.

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