

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
(OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE JANUARY 2004**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR MEMBERS AND
TO OUR WEB SITE VISITORS**

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 50 of our members.

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this service.

OPSRRA is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of the residents of the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point to local government. It was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 350. **Lifetime memberships are \$5.00** and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.com) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. 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.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
5. Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Ken Pungente	President	Arnie Campbell	Vice President
Wendy Miller	Secretary/Treasurer		
Byron Tweedy	Director	Mitch Moneo	Director
Virginia Boyd	Director	Wendy Morton	Director
Frances Stocks	Director		

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1. OPSRRA 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 17th 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Otter Point Fire Hall – 3727 Otter Point Road

Agenda

1. President's Report: Review of 2003 Activities
2. Secretary/Treasurer Report
3. Election of Executive & Directors
4. New Business

2. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- The next regular monthly meeting of the SCA will take place at the Shirley Community Hall, Wednesday, January 14th. Guest speaker will be Mary Dunn, CRD Public Health, who will be speaking about the upcoming Asset Building seminar. Contact Mary Dunn at 642-2554 for further information.
- The Annual General Meeting of the SCA will take place at the Shirley Community Hall, Wednesday, March 17th. Contact Chuck Minten at 646-2077 for further information.

3. WHO ARE YOUR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES?

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director: Erik Lund

Office: 2205 Otter Point Road
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

Phone: 642-1620

Fax: 642-5274

e-mail: jfdirector@crd.bc.ca

Web Site: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm

Note: The regional director's web site now features a newsletter with updates and a personal perspective on local issues in the JDF Electoral Area.

**Sooke School District (SD # 62) Trustees:
Rob Gordy, Don Brown and Margot Swinburnson**

Office: SD # 62 General Offices
3143 Jacklin Rd., Langford
Phone: 474-9800

**Malahat-Juan de Fuca Provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly:
Brian Kerr**

Office: Parliament Buildings, Victoria
BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-8105
Fax: 387-9091
e-mail brian.kerr.mla@leg.bc.ca
Constituency 102A-814 Goldstream Avenue
Office *: Victoria, BC V9B 2X7
Phone: 391-2831
Fax: 391-2844
* Langford

**Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Federal Member of Parliament:
Dr. Keith Martin**

Office *: 2820B Jacklin Road
Victoria BC V9B 3X9
Phone: 474-6505
Fax: 474-5322
e-mail victoria@keithmartin.org
* Langford

4. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) UPDATES

- Otter Point: Tentative start date February 2004. Residents of Otter Point interested in serving on this committee should watch for an advertisement in the Sooke News Mirror requesting applications from qualified applicants.
- Shirley/Jordan River: This OCP committee did not hold their first meeting December 11 as planned. Once they have had their first meeting they will be publishing a schedule of regular meeting times and these sessions will be open to the public.

5. LAND USE COMMITTEE (LUC) "A" MEETING

- This committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the District of Sooke Council Chambers, 2205 Otter Point Road.
- The next scheduled meeting of LUC "A" is Wednesday, January 21st. The return of Chew Excavating's application for the removal of Covenants on their property in

Shirley may be on the agenda. Check with the CRD Planning Services office: 2205 Otter Point Road to confirm this or any other items scheduled for this month's meeting.

6. THE "SCORE BOX"

Some folks have asked what the "score box" or counter is on OPSRRA's Home Page. That was installed this past summer to give us a count of how many times the web page is opened. Each time you log onto OPSRRA's site it rolls over a number. We have no idea who is logging-on, but the attendance numbers give us a sense of how popular the site is. So far, we have recorded over 500 visits since installing it—an average 100 per month!

7. FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES 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.com. We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

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

8. JDF ELECTORAL AREA/SOOKE BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The chair of the committee cancelled the December 4th, 2003 meeting. The intended purpose of the meeting was to have begun the review of the information collected at the recent public forums, however the District of Sooke decided to cancel the meeting because it was not ready to proceed. The District has been waiting since September, for a reply to its request to the province for an improved offer of financial assistance with policing and bridge maintenance costs associated with amalgamation. No other meeting date has been set.

In the meantime here is some information on what rural residents, who attended the public forums in East Sooke, Shirley and Otter Point, were saying.

RECURRING QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & STATEMENTS

- Who decides if there will be a vote?
- Who initiated the study?
- Forestry taxation—amalgamated area will benefit and the remainder of the JDF will be penalized.
- Want a separate vote for each rural area.
- Even in a ward system, rural voters will be out-numbered by Sooke after amalgamation.
- What is Sooke's vision for the rural areas?
- Sooke's taxes will fall if the West is added, would Sooke still be interested in amalgamation if the forest lands were not included?
- Forest companies will likely change their land use if their taxes increase after amalgamation.
- What happens with Specified Areas and Local Improvement Districts?

- What is more important: increased taxes, governance, or no development?
- Sooke is a new municipality and will likely have unanticipated costs that the rural areas will end-up helping to pay for.
- Would the rural OCP's be kept? Will they help to protect land use in the rural areas?
- Would there be another study for the rural areas if amalgamation failed?
- Rural taxes by 2012 are being overestimated at 4% increase per year.
- Example of rural tax on a \$150,000 home is not representative of what a typical rural property is valued at. Try twice that.
- Preserving the rural quality of life is more important than an improvement in governance.
- Sooke is too pro-development.
- Need to know the outcome of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and local Official Community Plans (OCP's) before voting.
- Local areas want more local control.
- Getting access to dollars from the forestlands is driving Sooke's motive for amalgamation.

9. KEMP LAKE WATERSHED CORRESPONDENCE

OPSRRA, and others, have been lobbying the province and the JDF Electoral Area for several years to try and prevent the logging of approximately 30 hectares of crown land in the Kemp Lake watershed. Our combined efforts have delayed the logging on at least two occasions. The following are the two most recent letters that have been sent to OPSRRA on this issue.

**JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
2205 OTTER POINT ROAD, SOOKE, BC VOS 1N0
Tel: (250) 642-1612, Fax (250) 642-5274**

November 24, 2003

Ken Pungente, President
Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association
8448 West Coast Road
Sooke, BC VOS 1N0

Dear Mr. Pungente:

Thank you for your letter dated November 4, 2003. I too share your concerns. After Investigating the matter at some length I have concluded that there are no quick answers to the problems.

The OCP makes reference to the protection of the watershed and outlines several rules, however the Provincial tree cutting/logging permit supercedes our bylaws. Recently the Islands Trust tried to prevent logging by not issuing a development permit. They lost the case.

According to Section 923 (I) of the Local Government Act, the Regional District can create a bylaw to regulate the cutting of trees on lands it considers may be subject to flooding, erosion, land slippage or avalanche as tree cutting permit areas. However as Provincial regulations supercede our bylaws there seems little point.

It seems to me that we are in the awkward position of having to appeal to the Provincial Government for them to put off the logging while they conduct an environmental review. With

that in mind, I have sent a letter to the Minister of Forests and the Minister of Sustainable Resources Management, Land & Air in the hopes they will take action to immediately stop any logging which may be or about to take place.

I know this is not good news and if you have any further thoughts on the matter I would be pleased to hear from you.

Erik Lund
Regional Director Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

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2205 OTTER POINT ROAD, SOOKE, BC VOS 1N0
Tel: (250) 642-1612, fax (250) 642-5274**

December 3, 2003

Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
PO Box 9054 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Minister:

It has recently come to my attention through the Otter Point Shirley Residents' Ratepayers Association that a logging proposal is being contemplated for the Kemp Lake Watershed area of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

As you are aware, the Capital Regional District does not have jurisdiction or the ability to control logging through a development permit process. The issue here is the potential impact that this logging activity may have on the water quality for the approximately 300 homes that use Kemp Lake as their water source.

Could you please advise me as to what steps your Ministry has taken to ensure that there will be no impact on the current water quality of Kemp Lake?

Yours truly,

Erik Lund, Director
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

Cc: Hon. Mike de Jong, Minister of Forests
Brian Kerr, MLA
Ken Pungente, President. OPSRRA

This newsletter is published monthly on the www.opsrra.com web page by OPSRRA—the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association. Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to: Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca
