

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

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

It has been an extremely busy and productive year for the association and I would like to thank my fellow Directors and the membership for their work and support. May you have good health and be surrounded by family and friends in the coming year.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year.
Arnie Campbell, President OPSRRA

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 350. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information.

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 125 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.

Monday
January 1

Otter Point Fire Department Polar Bear Swim
Registration starts 11:15 a.m.
Wiffen Spit
Starting cannon 12 noon



Monday
January 1

**Muir Creek Protection Society
Work off those Christmas treats hike**
1:00 p.m.
Meet at the parking lot East (inland) side of Muir Creek (12 km West of Sooke on West Coast Road)
The hike is approximately one hour long. Expect mud, some steep sections and a few new windfalls

Thursday
January 4

**Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission
(SEAPARC)**
7:00 p.m.
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road, Sooke BC

Thursday
January 4

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

Note: Because of the holiday, check with the JDF Electoral Area office to confirm (642-1500)

- Saturday
January 6
- Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike the Galloping Goose Trail
from Stone Pipe Landing to Vetch Creek
9:30 a.m.
Meet at the Stone Pipe Landing parking area. Everyone welcome.
Call 642-2767 for more information.
- Monday
January 8
- OPSRRA Directors Meeting**
Members welcome!
7:00 p.m.
Board Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC
- Tuesday
January 9
- JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
District of Sooke Council Chambers
2225 Otter Point Road, Sooke BC
- You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning Services office,
2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD website at:
www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.
- Wednesday
January 10
- Shirley Community Association**
Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Thursday
January 11
- Muir Creek Protection Society Annual General Meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room
(up the stairs to your right as you enter the store)
Refreshments provided
- Anyone able to help out on the executive or on a committee,
please call 642-0948 or email muircreek@hotmail.com, or
volunteer at the meeting
- Tuesday
January 18
- Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Public Hearing**
7:15 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Wednesday
January 17
- Otter Point Official Community Plan Public Hearing**
7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)
- Thursday
January 25
- Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission**
6:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Sunday January 28	Sooke Historical Society Annual General Meeting 2:00 p.m. Community Services Room Sooke Region Museum
Thursday February 1	Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) 7:00 p.m. Multi Purpose Room "A" SEAPARC Leisure Complex 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke BC
Second & Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall

2. STORM DAMAGE THANK-YOU

OPSRRA would like to extend a thank-you to the many individuals who helped our community cope with the severe damage from the two recent winter storms.

In addition to the hydro and telephone line crews who worked for days to restore services in difficult weather and dangerous conditions, our local volunteer fire departments, and others were out there first to ensure that main roads were open for emergency vehicles and that downed power lines were marked and not energized. We often take for granted the many services, both paid and volunteer, provided to us. Hopefully the events of this past few weeks will cause us to appreciate what we have and the effort that it takes to ensure that we can live comfortably and safely in a rural area that is often at the "end of the line" when Mother Nature decides to show us who is in charge. When something like this happens, it makes a difference when people care about one another and their community.

It also reinforces the need to be prepared. Although this is the 21st Century, it is folly to live in this area without a source of back-up heat, emergency lighting and access to at least a 24 hour supply of safe drinking water. We can't protect ourselves from everything in life, but it defies common sense if, after these two recent experiences, we aren't prepared to take care of ourselves, for a short while, in the event of an emergency.

3. UPDATE ON THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS FOR SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER AND OTTER POINT

The Official Community Plans (OCPs) for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point will be revised and returned for another round of public hearings. At a December 5, 2006 meeting of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee, a decision was made to accept a staff report recommending, in part, that the OCPs be forwarded, as amended, to the CRD Board for second reading and that further public hearings be held early in the New Year.

Here is how the process was described in the report to the Land Use Committee:

"There was considerable public comment on the OCP bylaw at the Public Hearings. Not all the changes suggested have been incorporated. The proposed changes are primarily to correct

background content and to clarify references and various terms included in the Plan and to not change any designations that would result in a change to density or use. The concerns raised regarding mapping and such issues as crown land tenure, improved environmental attributes (wetlands, streams, creeks, etc.), and settlement containment areas have not been included at this time. These changes will take significant amount of staff time and resources to correctly research the changes requested. It is therefore anticipated that these will come before the Committee as amendments to the bylaw in 2007 once the bylaws are adopted.”

OPSRRA’s presentation at the October 2006 public hearing identified errors, omissions and out-dated information in the Otter Point OCP. Some of these have been corrected in the amended Plan. However, most of the concerns raised by OPSSRA and others at the last public hearing have been left to be considered as later amendments. OPSRRA directors will review the amended Plan and decide whether it may be necessary to do a further presentation at the next public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Tuesday **Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Public Hearing**
January 18 7:15 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Wednesday **Otter Point Official Community Plan Public Hearing**
January 17 7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road (at Kemp Lake Road)

PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

- Anyone who believes that their interest in property is affected by the proposed OCP bylaw, for their respective community, must be given a reasonable opportunity to speak at the public hearing.
- If you have a question about an OCP, contact the JDF Electoral Services Planning Services office before the public hearing. **Staff cannot answer questions at the public hearing.**
- This public hearing is only concerned with the OCPs. Zoning issues will be dealt with at a later date under another public process that will resume after the OCPs have been approved.
- Verbal presentations are time-limited by the chair (usually 3 to 5 minutes).
- Written submissions can be made anytime up to the close of the public hearing. **Nothing will be accepted after that time.**
- Presentations are expected to be relevant to the draft OCP being proposed and can not be in the form of a question.
- **The Regional Director and CRD Planning Staff are present but, legally, can not answer questions or make comment at the public hearing.**

4. 2007 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL PROCESS

Your property assessment for 2007 taxes will be arriving in your mail the first week of January. The B.C. Assessment Authority is responsible for evaluating the value of all properties in British Columbia. This valuation is based upon their best guess of your property’s value as of July 1st based upon recent, comparable property sales and assessments in your neighbourhood. Their valuation will be used to determine your 2007 property tax. If you feel that their valuation is incorrect or you

want more information on how they arrived at your property assessment, contact the B.C. Assessment Authority:

1537 Hillside Avenue, Victoria
Phone: 595-6211
Web: www.bcassessment.bc.ca

After mid- January the web site provides access to the assessed value of every property in B.C.

The deadline to appeal your 2007 property assessment is January 31st 2007.

5. WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS' LOGGING PLAN FOR OTTER POINT PROPERTY

Western Forest Products has announced their intention to log a significant portion of their private forest lands immediately north of DeMamiel Creek, adjacent to residential properties in the Tugwell Road area of Otter Point. Plans for road access will be made in 2007, roads will be built in 2008, and logging will begin in 2009. The exact boundaries of the proposed area to be logged are still unknown, but the general area is between Camp Barnard Boy Scout Camp to the East, the Tugwell power line or DeMamiel Creek Reservoir to the West, DeMamiel Creek to the South and Trap Mountain to the North. Access to the property will likely be from Clark Road.

Anyone with an interest in this area may wish to contact WFP for more details. Please direct correspondence to:

Doug Copp, Operations Manager
Western Forest Products
11793 West Coast Road, Jordan River, B.C. V0S 1L0
Phone: 120-646-2031

6. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Otter Point, like many local landmarks, derived its name from a Royal Navy survey? It was originally named Otter Head in 1846 by Captain Kellett of H.M.S. Herald after Commander Henry Charles Otter, R.N., a surveying officer. Otter Point Road, Otter Land District, and the community of Otter Point can all trace the origin of their name to this one person who eventually went on to do survey work in the Baltic, served as a ship's captain in the Russian War of 1855 and retired as a Rear Admiral in 1870.

The Shirley Community Hall is located on land originally logged in 1890?

Jean Stewart Clark, long time Shirley resident and writer, recalled it being logged by a Mr. McPherson from Duncan. The Shirley Community Hall was built in 1937 and has served as a community centre for meetings, socials and other events such as craft fairs. It celebrates its 70th birthday this year. The fire hall was added in 1989.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** is from two books of early local history, *The Sooke Story—The History And The Heartbeat* written and published by the Sooke Region Museum and from *British Columbia Coast Names* written by John T. Walbran.

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.

7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPING A LONG-TERM VISION FOR OTTER POINT AND SHIRLEY

Work on this OPSRRA initiative continues. We have received nine positive replies and another eight that have indicated some interest but either want to take the idea to their membership meeting in January or want to wait and see what may develop before committing themselves. In addition to the already suggested topics of recreation, economic development, governance and the environment, other topics such as communications, water, transportation and how to recruit and retain volunteers for community services have been suggested. The OPSRRA directors will be making a decision about whether to proceed or not at their January 8 directors' meeting.

8. REPLY TO OUR COMMENTS ON THE CRD'S DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN

OPSRRA received a lengthy and comprehensive reply to its letter of December 4 (see the December 2006 newsletter) to the CRD critiquing its draft long term plan for improving organizational performance, environmental protection, emergency and disaster response, liquid waste/sewage and regional transportation services through-out the Capital Regional District. Some of our suggestions were accepted, others were not. Included in the letter was an offer to meet with the CRD's Chief Administrative Officer to continue a discussion of our concerns. OPSRRA has replied, requesting such a meeting.

9. UPDATE ON THE GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Governance Study committee that OPSRRA originated following our 2004 AGM is now in transition. After almost two years, the committee is moving from being an OPSRRA committee to becoming a JDF Electoral Area committee. There are several reasons for this, based on the main principle that it was never OPSRRA's intention to retain "ownership" of the committee. We took the initiative and it has now become larger and beyond our association's mandate. East Sooke and the Malahat joined the committee as observers in the summer and Port Renfrew joined in December. Ken Pungente who has chaired the committee since its inception, originally as OPSRRA president and then as an OPSRRA director, has stepped aside. A sub-committee has been looking at how to restructure the committee and it will be bringing its recommendations to the larger committee in early January. We hope full details about the new Governance committee will be available for the February newsletter.

10. REPLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE NO HUNTING, NO SHOOTING BOUNDARY

OPSRRA has had a verbal reply to its letter to the Ministry of the Environment (see the November 2006 newsletter) concerning a review of the No Hunting/No Shooting boundary in Otter Point and Shirley. The Ministry is interested in doing this review and will contact us with their proposed changes.

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

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association welcomes the following local business to the OPSRRA web site:

**A Point of View Oceanside B&B - Otter Point
Operated by Elisabeth Petersen**

7954 West Coast Road, Sooke BC V0S 1N0

Phone: 250-642-5666

Fax: 250-642-5530

email: apointofview@shaw.ca

Web: www.apointofview.ca

We offer spa-like accommodations while enjoying breathtaking views of the Juan de Fuca Strait and the Olympic Mountains. Besides the stunning view, each of our guest rooms has wood burning fireplace, private bathroom with Jacuzzi tub, TV-DVD, bathrobes etc. We offer Dutch style breakfast in the intimacy of the guest bedroom or a traditional gourmet hot breakfast in the dining room. French and Dutch spoken. Rates: \$90 - \$140 (based on double occupancy).

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, 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 (www.opsrra.ca) under Business Listings.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	Accent in Grooming
ALM Organic Farm	A Point of View B&B
Beaches West B&B	Birds Edge Press
Blue Waters B&B	Body Wellness Spa
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite	Full Circle Seeds
Heron's Rest B&B	Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store	Otter Point Beach House
Road's End Construction	Sandy's Drywall Ltd
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 have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
