

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE JUNE 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 **230** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Arnie Campbell President
Phone: 250-642-3113
Email: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Wayne Fritz Vice-President
Phone: 250-642-0440
Email: wlfritz@shaw.ca

Bob Philips Treasurer
Phone: 250-642-3297
Email: bother@telus.net

Sandy Barta Director
Email: sbarta@shaw.ca
Erik James Director
Phone: 250-642-6368
Email: mekjames@telus.net

John Charles Director
Phone: 250-642-0382
Brenda Mark Director
Phone: 250-646-2598
Email dexmar@horizon.bc.ca

Fiona McDannold Director
Phone: 250-646-2730
Email: fmcdannold@xplornet.com

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

Thursday
June 4 **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
June 6 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike Priest's Cabin to the Matterhorn
9:30 a.m.
This is a 10 kilometre hike through beautiful second growth forest to the summit of the Matterhorn. The trail footing is good, the elevation change is 400 m.
We will take our time and be back about 4:30 p.m.
Bring lunch, snacks, and dress for the weather

Meet at Tieulie Place (French Beach Store). We will car pool form there to the trail-head because we end our hike at Tieulie Place.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Please note our new web address:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
June 7 **Shirley Fire Protection Society**
Extraordinary General Meeting
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Topics: Financial and Board of Directors

Tuesday
June 16 **JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Note
location
change **Sooke Community Hall**
Use Dining Room entrance off Eustace Road (across from the Legion)

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
June 17 **Public Hearing**
Re: Request to rezone property on Anderson Road from Forestry to Rural A
7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

Contact:
CRD Planning Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Thursday
June 18 **OPSRRRA Board of Directors**
Monthly Meeting
Members welcome!
7:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
June 20 **William Simmons Community Park (Poirier Lake)**
clean up
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Otter Point Road at Young's Lake Road

Volunteers needed: see newsletter item for details.

Week of
June 22 **We expect the CRD Planning Services will announce several Advisory Planning Commission meetings for this week to review the proposed Rural Resource Lands Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws.**

Check the Sooke News Mirror for advertised dates

Tuesday
June 23 **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission**
Monthly Meeting
5:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Wednesday
June 24 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
AGM
7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Agenda posted on website:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Thursday
June 25 **JDF Electoral Area Economic Development Commission**
Monthly Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Village Foods Meeting Room
6661 Sooke Road, Sooke BC

Sunday
June 28 **Sooke Region Museum**
Open House
10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hourly showing of vintage (1927) film footage of Jordan River
flume, Belvedere Hotel, fish traps, Butchart Gardens and Crystal
Gardens
Salmon BBQ, Blue Grass Festival music, exhibits and more:
noon to 4:00 pm.

Thursday
July 2 **Sooke & Electoral Area Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
July 4 **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**
Hike to Grass Lake
9:30 a.m.
Meet at the yellow gate at the entrance to Sooke Potholes
Provincial Park. This is another day-long hike. You can swim in
the lake if you want. Bring a picnic lunch (enough food and fluids
to keep you happy).
Plan to be back at the yellow gate by 4:30 p.m.
Bring lunch, snacks, and dress for the weather

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
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: 642-4631

Tuesdays **Yoga**
6:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. SOME OF US GOT TO VOTE CLOSER TO HOME

Many residents of the eastern end of Otter Point were able to vote at the Otter Fire Hall in the May 12 provincial election. This was a change from the 2005 election when they were sent to vote at Sassenos Elementary School on the east side of Sooke. OPSRRA brought this matter to the attention of our MLA and Elections B.C. following the 2005 election and were successful in lobbying for a return to the local fire hall as the logical voting place for those residents. The reason that the shift was made to Sassenos Elementary in 2005 was to “balance” the population in a Poll that included residents at the north end of Glintz Lake Road and Sooke River

Road in Sassenos. Hopefully they were accommodated elsewhere in the May 12 election and didn't have to travel to Otter Point to vote!

3. JUAN DE FUCA PARKS & RECREATION ASKING FOR HELP WITH WILLIAM SIMMONS (POIRIER LAKE) PARK CLEAN UP

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission is initiating a cleanup of William Simmons Community Park, and is looking for your support to help remove and recycle materials from the site.

Where: William Simmons Community Park
Otter Point Road (Poirier Lake)

When Saturday, June 20, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please Bring:
Gloves and protective footwear.
Gloves provided if you do not have your own.

Lunch: Refreshments and lunch provided

Who to Contact:
If you are available to volunteer or have questions, please contact any member of the Commission, or
Melissa Kirk (CRD) at 250-642-1500 Local 202 or
mkirk@crd.bc.ca

4. OPSRRA SUPPORTS PROTECTION OF MUIR CREEK

OPSRRA sent the following letter to the Minister of the Environment and the Chair of the CRD Parks Committee with copies to our Regional Director and MLA. OPSRRA directors encourage others to write in support of the Muir Creek Protection Society's efforts to protect Muir Creek and its watershed as park land.

I am writing on behalf of our association to request that the province continue to work with all parties concerned to see that the Muir Creek watershed be protected. Muir Creek runs between the two rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point and has been the location for recreation, social events and commerce over this area's long history. Preservation of the creek and its watershed would mean different things to different groups; but to our community it would mean the protection of one of the most significant natural areas west of Sooke and one of the few places along this section of the coast where you can easily access the ocean.

Water and wildlife conservation were identified as important environmental strategies by the community in a recent project to help identify a strategic vision for our area. One of the suggested ways to do this was to acquire conservation areas, parks, waterfront parks, beach access and trails. Muir Creek was specifically mentioned in the report because it has the natural geography to capture all of these conditions. I have attached a copy of the project's final report: Developing a Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River and refer you to page 8, item 3.

Our association wishes to see development in our area happen in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents. Protection of important watersheds and creeks such as Muir Creek from development is a start.

Listed below are some addresses for your convenience:

Hon. Barry Penner

Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
PO Box 9047, Stn. Prov. Gov.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Chris Causton, Chair

CRD Parks Committee
625 Fisgard Street
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Mike Hicks

Director Juan de Fuca Electoral Area|
P.O. Box 283
Sooke BC V9Z 0E4
directorjdf@crd.bc.ca

John Horgan, MLA

800 Goldstream Avenue
Victoria BC V9B 2X7
John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca

5. SOOKE REGION MUSEUM PREMIERES HISTORICAL FILM FOOTAGE AT JUNE OPEN HOUSE

The Sooke Region Museum recently received a donation of historical film footage from 1927. Included in the material are wonderful scenes from the local area including the flume at Jordan River, the Fish Traps and the Belvedere Hotel that was situated on a headland at the mouth of the Sooke River on Sooke Basin; behind where the present Sooke River Hotel (Castle) pub and restaurant are now located. Other historic footage includes views of the Crystal Gardens, located behind the Empress Hotel in Victoria and Butchart Gardens in Brentwood Bay.

The museum has made special arrangements for the public to see the historical film footage at its annual Open House on Sunday, June 28. Viewings will start at 10:30 a.m. in a special tent on the museum grounds and will continue through-out the day until 4:00 p.m.

Starting at noon the Open House will feature a traditional salmon BBQ (slow smoked salmon over an open alder wood fire), music from the Blue Grass Festival, exhibits and other activities for all ages.

6. THE KEMP LAKE WATERWORKS DISTRICT

The Kemp Lake Waterworks District held its Annual General Meeting on May 20. The Kemp Lake Waterworks District is an organization that is essential to the daily life of many Otter Point residents. However, perhaps because it quietly goes about its business and does it well, it doesn't get very much public attention.

Here are a few facts about the Kemp Lake Waterworks District:

- It was established in 1953 through the Water Act of British Columbia.
- It provides community water over a water district area of 1.44 square miles in Otter Point to approximately 444 residences.

- It draws water from Kemp Lake and distributes it to water district residents through a system of two reservoirs, two pumping stations and approximately 10 kilometres of piping.
- It uses a chlorine treatment to kill bacteria in the water, which is tested monthly from several locations by Vancouver Island Health Authority inspectors.
- It funds its services through an annual tax to water district residents and additional service charges every two months based on the volume of water used.
- It has assets of approximately \$1,422,710 in waterworks equipment and an annual operating budget of approximately \$118,000.
- It is governed by a board of three elected trustees who must be landowners in the district (Kevan Brehart, Joanne Hemphill, Richie Birch).
- It maintains a website (www.kemplakewaterworks.bc.ca) where information is available about a range of issues, including various planning studies commissioned by the trustees.

7. SOOKE REGION FOOD & FARM GUIDE—SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD PROVIDERS

The Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) Society has recently produced a Food & Farm Guide highlighting local sources of food and farm products. The guide is available from the society and will eventually be available on their web site: www.sookefoodchi.ca. In the meantime here are some of the farms in the Shirley and Otter Point area that sell food and farm products.

If you know of others who are providing a similar service in the community, let us know and we'll put them into a future newsletter. OPSRRA members who operate a local area business can have their business listed in the OPSRRA newsletter and a link to their business placed on our web site. This is a free service for members. See our web page (www.opsrra.ca) for details.

SHIRLEY

From the Garden

Christine Hopkins
 French Beach,
 250-646-2177
info@fromthegarden.net

Oils, creams, herbal & crafted seaweed products.
 Shop On-Line or Phone.

Cross Point Farm

Chuck Minten
 2598 Sunnybrae Road
 250-646-2077

Heritage farm. Beef, eggs and plants. Phone Orders.

OTTER POINT

Nancy Bennett Farm

Nancy & Richard Bennett
3119 Otter Point Road
250-642-0401
nvbennett@shaw.ca

Heirloom vegetables. Sells at Sooke Country Market.

Ladybird Farm

Karen Barr
3145 Robinson Road
250-642-4575

Seasonal vegetables year round. Farm Gate Sales. Call ahead for hours open.

Bennett Farms

Bill Bennett
3081 Goudie Road
250-642-2611

Beef sales. Phone Orders.

ALM Organic Farm

Mary Alice Johnson
3680 Otter Point Road
250-642-2131 or 250-642-3671
www.almfarms.org and www.fullcircleseeds.com

Heritage farm. Organic vegetables, herbs, flowers, eggs, pork. Sooke Country Market & Weekly Box Program.

Hawthorne Hill Farm

Bonnie Cooke
3475 Otter Point Road
cbcooke@shaw.ca

Bedding plants, herbs, flower arrangements, jams. Phone Orders.

Cackleberry Hill Farm

Shirley & Dave Sell
2620 Kemp Lake Road
250-642-3434

Organic eggs, poultry, lamb, rabbit, sheep, fruit, home-baking. Sooke Country Market & Phone Orders.

Barefoot Farm

Amy Rubidge
2263 Kemp Lake Road
250-642-1527
good2gro@telus.net
Free range eggs. Farm Gate Sales.

Forest Green Llamas & Alpacas

Barrie Hanslip
4188 Otter Point Road
250-642-2549
bhanslip@shaw.ca and www.fgllamas-alpacas.ca
Llama and alpaca sales, boarding, breeding. Fibre, yarn and finished products at Duncan store.

Orveas Creek Organics

Glyse & Paul Clarkston
Clark Road
250-642-2232
glyse@telus.net
Goat, turkey, chicken and eggs. Raspberries, strawberries and blueberries in season. Phone Orders & Sooke Country Market.

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm & Meadery

Dana LeComte & Bob Liptrot
8750 West Coast Road
250-642-1956
info@tugwellcreekfarm.com or www.tugwellcreekfarm.com
Mead, honey, candles, mohair jelly, honeycomb, herbs & fruit in season. Wine tasting room. Call for Hours.

Silver Cloud Farm

Teresa Willman
2707 Anderson Road
250-642-4516
silvercloudfarm@gmail.com
Organic fruits and vegetables. Box Program & Sooke Country Market.

8. SEAPARC RECREATION COMPLEX EXPANSION SURVEY

The Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) recently sent-out a householders survey requesting comment on a proposed expansion to the Leisure Complex on Phillips Road in Sooke. Taxpayers in both the Electoral Area and the District of Sooke pay a proportional amount towards the operation of this community recreation facility. The proposed expansion is to add a weight room/fitness area; an aerobics and fitness class area; additional dressing rooms for

the arena and program space for staff. The estimated cost would be \$2.7 million dollars based upon 2008 estimates. Perhaps 1/3 of this cost (about \$1 million dollars) would come from taxpayers; possibly in the form of a tax increase. This increase is estimated to be \$11.00 per year on an average-cost home in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

The concept drawings and other information can be viewed at SEAPARC's web site: www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/.

Their survey is also available at this web site. Completed surveys are requested by Friday, June 19 and can be dropped-off in designated boxes at SEAPARC, the Kemp Lake Store (Otter Point), Bill's Feed Store (East Sooke) or mailed to PO Box 421, Phillips Road, Sooke, B.C., V9Z 1H4.

9. RESOURCE LANDS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN & LAND USE BYLAWS GO TO ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION (AGAIN)

There were so many recommended changes to the first draft of the Rural Resource Lands Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaws that the Planning Department suggested to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC) that the original draft bylaws be rescinded and that new draft bylaws be given first reading and sent-out for another round of comments. LUC agreed to this at their May 19 meeting. The next round of APC meetings to review the revised proposed drafts is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 22. Dates and locations will be advertised in the Sooke News Mirror.

A representative from OPSRRA spoke at the May 19 LUC meeting in support of the bylaws being sent to the community for a second round of comment and expressed appreciation to the Planning Department for the manner in which the information from the first round of community comments had been organized and included in the revised bylaws. Both the summary comments and the revised proposed bylaws can be viewed on the CRD web site. Click here to go to:

www.crd.bc.ca/reports/juandefucalandusecom_/2009_/05may_/index.htm

Note: This is the agenda of the May 19 LUC meeting. Agenda items 7a deal with the proposed bylaws and the summary of comments. Click on the item you wish to view and you will get to the full text.

The matter of whether residents of Shirley and Otter Point—and OPSRRA—should even care about what happens in the Rural Resource Lands has been raised. Here are some reasons to be interested in what may happen with the future of these lands, as could be determined by the proposed OCP and Land Use bylaws.

- The Rural Resource Lands borders onto our communities and in some cases are right against existing residential areas.
- There are two important development proposals already pending for this area. One is referred to as the Brown's Mountain development which is adjacent to Port Renfrew and the other is the Ilkay/Marine Trails Holdings development west of China Beach and bordering the provincial Juan de Fuca Marine Trail.

Note: See OPSRRA's May 2009 newsletter for details.

- The present minimum size for subdivision in the Rural Resource Lands is 120 hectares. Advocates for the release of resource land for residential development are lobbying for changes to the proposed Rural Resource Lands OCP and Land Use Bylaws to allow for smaller lot sizes. These smaller lot sizes, if approved, may impact the Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River OCPs which are scheduled to come-up for review this fall.

- The major portion of the Western Forest Product's private forest lands that the provincial government removed from Tree Farm License (TFL) 25 two years ago are in the Rural Resource Lands. A smaller portion is in the Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point OCP areas.
- Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River and the Rural Resource Lands all use Highway 14 as their major transportation route.
- Highway 14, west of Muir Creek, passes through the Rural Resource Lands in the vicinity of Blueberry Flats.
- Two Run-of the River power project applications are pending: one at Rosemond Creek, just west of China Beach Provincial Park and the other at Uglow Creek, just above China Beach Provincial Park.
- In the past, the private forest lands in the Rural Resource Lands area have been a source of significant taxation revenue for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, which has helped to offset our residential taxes.
- Significant residential and recreational development in the Rural Resource Lands will lead to increased requirements for fire fighting, emergency, policing, transportation and other CRD and provincial services. Such increased service costs are likely to be paid for by all Juan de Fuca taxpayers through increased property taxes.

10. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Railways were a common means of transportation throughout the area from Sooke to Port Renfrew about 100 years ago? They were used to move logs, equipment, supplies and logging crews for several decades from the early 1900s to the 1930s.

The first Sooke logging railway started as early as 1907. By 1912 the Canadian & Panama Timber & Logging Company was building a line along DeMamiel stream towards the present day Otter Point. In July, 1917 the Sylvania Logging Company began operating a railway from Sooke to Otter Point to service its three logging camps (Helgesen Road at Otter Point Road, Poirier Lake at Young's Lake Road and Tugwell Road at Goudie Road). Much of present day Tugwell Road is built over their old railway line.

A proposed railway from Point-No-Point, in Shirley, west to Jordan River was planned in the 1920s but never went ahead—likely because this was a time when larger trucks were coming into use which could be used to haul larger loads thus replacing the more expensive railways. In 1922, Milligan's Logging introduced the first Leyland trucks on Vancouver Island to their Shirley operation. They built five miles of plank road using 40-foot lengths of six-inch by 10-inch thick planks cut at their Shirley mill. The road ran from their logging operation to a log dump site east of Sheringham Point Lighthouse. The trucks had eight-foot long beds or bunks and sometimes could carry only one log because of the size of the trees that they were logging. Rotting remnants of the plank road can still be found in the bush.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** came from *4,000 Years—A History of the Rainforest*, 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. Contact us at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

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

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

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

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

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

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	Accent in Grooming
ALM Organic Farm	A Point of View B&B
Beaches West B&B	Bear Home 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	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	

12. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

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

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