

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 2 – MAY 2007

**Economic Development – Recreation – Land Use – Community Services
Taxation – Community Development – Governance – The Environment**

Welcome to the second **Information Bulletin** for the Developing a Strategic Vision project. These regular bulletins will keep you informed of the activities taking place in our community as we work towards the development of a strategic vision for the communities of Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River.

What is a Strategic Community Vision?

- A strategic community vision is a document that outlines the major goals that a community sets for itself for a 5 -15-year period and identifies key strategies for achieving those goals.
- The community goals normally reflect the community's priorities and can focus on diverse issues including: governance, recreation (parks, trails, etc.), community services (water, fire protection, communications, transportation, etc.), taxation, economic development, community development and environmental preservation.
- The strategies to achieve such goals are generally broad and inclusive, link to a wide range of groups and organizations both within and outside the community, and may include timeframes for initiating certain activities.
- In some respects, the process of developing a strategic community vision can be more important than the document developed, if it brings community residents, groups and elected leaders together in a process to clarify what they want for their community and how to pursue those goals.

Activities since the April Newsletter

- A) Steering Committee: From the group attending the initial February meeting, a steering committee of 8 - representing various areas of the community - was created. The steering committee meets monthly and has divided itself into 3 working groups that focus on:

- Collecting background information such as relevant local area planning studies, maps, statistics and government reports.
- Submitting funding applications to various public and private sources.
- Communicating with the public through activities such as creating this Information Bulletin and a project web site.

Steering committee members & their affiliation:

- Wayne Fritz (steering committee chair) – OPSRRA*
- Arnie Campbell – OPSRRA
- Emma Taylor – OPSRRA & Community Health Initiative
- Heather Phillips – Otter Point Resident
- Rosemary Jorna – Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
- Alanda Carver – Muir Creek Protection Society
- Liz Petersen – Sooke B&B Association
- John Charles – OPSRRA & Private Forest Landowner

*Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association

- B) Interest in the project has been increasing, with more residents and businesses from both Shirley and Otter Point asking to have their name added to the mailing list for the Information Bulletin and to be sent notice of up-coming community events.
- C) The Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission has recommended support for our request for \$2,000 to assist with the Economic Development component of the project.
- D) Letters requesting a donation towards the cost of the project have been sent to five local land development businesses and two forestry companies.
- E) An application requesting a \$5,000 contribution toward the Land Use component of the project has been submitted to the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. Other applications are in progress asking for funding assistance with the recreation, governance, community services and community development components of the project.
- F) An information exchange - jointly sponsored with the directors of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA), was held on May 9th with the CRD's Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of Planning & Protection Services. Local representatives to the JDF Parks Commission; JDF Land Use Committee; Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commissions, Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan & Zoning Advisory

Committees; Shirley fire trustees; Otter Point fire trustees; Sheringham Estates Water Users and the Kemp Lake Waterworks District were invited to attend.

One of the positive out-comes of the meeting was the CRD's agreement to provide the Developing a Strategic Vision project with access to certain CRD data such as census material.

- G) A web site is now being set-up. This will allow us to post information on the project and to maintain a contact point for anyone wanting to ask for or contribute information on the project.
- H) The first public information forum organized by the Developing a Strategic Vision project will be held on June 19th. The topic will be Rural Land Use and will feature speakers from Smart Growth B.C., the B.C. Landowners Association and the District of Metchosin.

Date: Tuesday, June 19th

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Place: Otter Point Fire Hall

Speakers: Deb Curren – Smart Growth B.C.
Mayor John Ranns - Municipality of Metchosin
Bruce Lemire- Elmore – B.C. Landowners Association

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.

The guest speakers have been asked to consider four areas in their presentation:

- What is the definition of rural and what are rural values?
- What are essential elements of healthy rural communities?
- What planning tools are necessary to guide zoning in rural areas?
- What rural land use options should we have in Otter Point and Shirley?

The forum's focus on rural land use in our communities is very timely:

- According to the CRD, the rate of growth during the past 5 years in Otter Point has been about 4% - slightly less in Shirley/Jordan River. This is about the fastest rate of growth within the CRD.

- New developments in Jordan River could add as many as 300 dwellings – eventually doubling the present population of that area.
- The draft zoning bylaws for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point should be coming forward for public comment by this fall.
- The JDF Land Use Committee recently directed JDF Planning Services to consider several broad options concerning the Rural A zone of the draft zoning bylaw.
- The draft Resource Lands Official Community Plan should be going to public hearing by the end of the summer.
- The province's recent decision to grant Western Forest Product's permission to remove their private forest lands from TFL 25 means that more forest land along the northern border of the Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point settlement areas could be sold for development.
- Two large properties in Jordan River have recently been allowed to exceed the minimum sub-division lot sizes allowed under the CRD land use bylaw for that area.
- Timber West has sold over 700 acres of private forest land in Otter Point in the past few year and about 225 homes are either built, being built or proposed for these properties. This will eventually increase the number of dwellings in Otter Point by 30%.
- As the forest companies sell their lands near our settled areas for residential development we will experience a decrease in assessable green space and access to crown land beyond may be interrupted.

Questions about the project and information about how interested individuals can volunteer to help with fundraising, community workshops and publicity should be directed to Wayne Fritz, at 642-0440 or wlfritz@shaw.ca.