



Representing the Residents and Ratepayers of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River  
[www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)

## **OPSRRA'S OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2016 CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF PUBLICATION!**

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**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 over 400. Residents or property owners within the Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point Official Community Plan boundaries who are age 18 or over are eligible for membership.

**Lifetime memberships cost \$10.00 per person** and are available from OPSRRA directors - see our web site ([www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)) for further information. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley, Jordan River or Otter Point but wish to support the association.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. Ensure that the development of the communities of Shirley, Jordan River 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.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA's monthly newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? We began publishing this newsletter in June 2003. It is e-mailed to over **300** of our members as well as local elected representatives, media and archival organizations. Contact Marika Nagasaka at: [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com) if you want to receive this membership service.

### **OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS**

Marika Nagasaka	President	Debb Read	Vice-President
Phone: 642-2133		Phone: 646- 9998	
Brenda Mark	Treasurer	Fiona McDannold	Director
Phone: 646-2598		Phone: 646-2730	
Sandy Barta	Director	Bill Dushenko	Director
LauRa Barker	Director		
Phone: 642-5124			

**Note:** All OPSRRA directors can now be reached at a common e-mail address: [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com)

## **1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Contact Marika Nagasaka at: [opsrranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:opsrranewsletter@gmail.com) to have your community event listed in our monthly **Community Events** calendar.

**Visit the OPSRRA web site: [www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca) to view a Calendar of Events.**

<p><b>Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Mt Braden area.</b> This is an 11 km daylong hike on forest trails. Meet at 9:00 am at the mailboxes on Highway 14 at the four lanes (on the Sooke side). Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Rosemary Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email <a href="mailto:jdf.cts@gmail.com">jdf.cts@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Monday April 4<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Information Session for Otter Point: Regarding SEAPARC Proposed Land Purchase of 6518 Throup Road, Sooke</b></p> <p>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more info see Newsletter Item #6</p>
<p><b>Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JdF Search &amp; Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
<p><b>Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Information Session for Otter Point: Regarding SEAPARC Proposed Land Purchase of 6518 Throup Road, Sooke</b></p> <p>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Shirley Community Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2795 Sheringham Point Road, Shirley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more info see Newsletter Item #6</p>
<p><b>Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juan de Fuca Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Sooke Potholes Park to Flower Ridge.</b> This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike of difficulty level 3+. The hike winds through the Sooke Hills and carpets of gorgeous spring wildflower blooms. Dress for the weather and bring good</p>

	<p>footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Sid Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email <a href="mailto:jdf.cts@gmail.com">jdf.cts@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p>
Sunday April 10 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Shards Glass Studio: Bowl, Plate and More</b></p> <p>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Shards Glass Studio in Otter Point</p> <p>To register: <a href="mailto:susan@shardsglass.com">susan@shardsglass.com</a>, 250.642.4942</p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.shardsglass.com">www.shardsglass.com</a></p>
Tuesday April 12 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Sooke &amp; Electoral Area Parks &amp; Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</b></p> <p>Monthly meeting 1:00 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings of the Commission usually take place at SEAPARC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and are open to the public.</li> <li>• Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair.</li> <li>• Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: <a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm">http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm</a></li> </ul>
Wednesday April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Shirley Women's Institute Meeting</b></p> <p>Monthly meeting second Wednesday of the month</p> <p>10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
Wednesday April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Awareness Film Night: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm and Film Gala</b></p> <p>Doors open at 6:45 pm. Film runs 7:45 pm – 9:00 pm EMCS Theatre (6218 Sooke Rd, Sooke)</p> <p>For more info see Newsletter Item # 6</p> <p><a href="http://www.awarenessfilmnight.ca">www.awarenessfilmnight.ca</a></p>

<p><b>Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust General Meeting</b></p> <p align="center">7:00 pm at EMCS 6218 Sooke Rd, Sooke <a href="http://www.jdflandtrust.ca">www.jdflandtrust.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Shards Glass Studio: Bowl, Plate and More</b></p> <p align="center">6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Shards Glass Studio in Otter Point To register: <a href="mailto:susan@shardsglass.com">susan@shardsglass.com</a>, 250.642.4942  Web site: <a href="http://www.shardsglass.com">www.shardsglass.com</a></p>
<p><b>Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Shards Glass Studio: Fused Glass Intermediate Intensive “How Did You Do That?”</b></p> <p align="center">Create up to a 15-inch professional quality 2-3 layer plate, bowl or art piece. Learn enough to start fusing on your own, or to work more independently in my studio.</p> <p align="center">Bowl, Plate and More (April 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>) pre-requisite for this workshop.</p> <p align="center">Shards Glass Studio in Otter Point To register: <a href="mailto:susan@shardsglass.com">susan@shardsglass.com</a>, 250.642.4942  Web site: <a href="http://www.shardsglass.com">www.shardsglass.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>OPSRRA Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p align="center">2:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building  3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p>
<p><b>Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee</b></p> <p align="center">7:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building  3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point  <a href="https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/juandefucalandusecommittee">https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/juandefucalandusecommittee</a></p>

<p><b>Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">SEAPARC Land Acquisition Referendum Advance Voting</a></b></p> <p>8:00 am – 8:00 pm</p> <p>8:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Sooke Community Hall 2037 Shields Road (also East Sooke Community Hall (old Fire Hall) 1397 Coppermine Rd)</p> <p><b><a href="#">Voter Information</a></b> (CRD website)</p>
<p><b>Monday April 25<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">Shirley Fire Commission Meeting</a></b></p> <p>Monthly meeting fourth Monday of the month</p> <p>7:00 pm at the Shirley Fire Hall</p>
<p><b>Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission</a></b></p> <p>3:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building</p> <p>3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p> <p>Public Welcome. For enquiries call 250.642.1500</p> <p><b><a href="https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/juandefucaeaparksrecreationadvisorycommission">https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/juandefucaeaparksrecreationadvisorycommission</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">SEAPARC Land Acquisition Referendum Advance Voting</a></b></p> <p>8:00 am – 8:00 pm</p> <p>8:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Sooke Community Hall 2037 Shields Road (also East Sooke Community Hall (old Fire Hall) 1397 Coppermine Rd)</p> <p><b><a href="#">Voter Information</a></b> (CRD website)</p>

<p><b>Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SEAPARC Land Acquisition Referendum General Voting Day</b></p> <p>8:00 am – 8:00 pm</p> <p>For more information about voting eligibility and locations: <a href="#">Voter Information</a> (CRD website)</p>
<p><b>Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>ALM Farm Plant Sale</b></p> <p>10:00 am – 2:00 pm (No Early/Late Birds Please!)</p> <p>3680 Otter Point Road</p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</b></p> <p>Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>JdF Search &amp; Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
<p><b>Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission</b></p> <p>7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>2795 Sheringham Point Road, Shirley</p> <p><a href="https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/shirleyjordanriveradvisoryplanningcommission">https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/documents/committeedocuments/shirleyjordanriveradvisoryplanningcommission</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>East Sooke Park Coast Trail.</b> This is a difficulty level 4 day long hike involving rough terrain over a distance of 10 km. Meet at Aylard Farms parking lot at 9:00 am. There will be a car positioned at Iron Mine Bay to shuttle hikers back. We need a volunteer to meet at Iron Mine Bay at 8:30 am to set up the shuttle, please contact Rosemary if interested (see contact info below). Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Rosemary Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email</p>

	<p><a href="mailto:jdf.cts@gmail.com">jdf.cts@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Shards Glass Studio: Bowl, Plate and More</b></p> <p>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Shards Glass Studio in Otter Point To register: <a href="mailto:susan@shardsglass.com">susan@shardsglass.com</a>, 250.642.4942</p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.shardsglass.com">www.shardsglass.com</a></p>
<p><b>Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Shirley Community Association Meeting</b></p> <p>7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
<p><b>Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Juan de Fuca Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Charters Creek to Sooke Mountain Park.</b> This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike of difficulty level 2.5 featuring beautiful forest trails. Meet at William Simmons Park (west parking lot by Sooke Business Park) to car pool to the trailhead or meet at Charters River Bridge at 9:30 am if more convenient. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Sid Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email <a href="mailto:jdf.cts@gmail.com">jdf.cts@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Sooke &amp; Electoral Area Parks &amp; Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</b></p> <p>Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and are open to the public.</li> <li>• Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair.</li> <li>• Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at:</li> </ul>



	<p align="center"><a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm">http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm</a></p>
<b>Mondays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">Easy Yoga for Women</a></b></p> <p align="center">10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Shirley Hall</p> <p align="center">Yoga with Elizabeth Tse Contact: <a href="mailto:bloomingyoga4kids@gmail.com">bloomingyoga4kids@gmail.com</a></p>
<b>Mondays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">Karate at the Shirley Hall</a></b></p> <p align="center">6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p align="center">Mixed ages welcome, class will be structured on skill levels Instructors: Sen Sei Armin Sielopp and Sen Sei Tessa Peers Contact: <a href="mailto:asielopp@telus.net">asielopp@telus.net</a></p>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">KIDS Club!</a></b></p> <p align="center">4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p align="center">After-school drop in for ages 5+ <a href="mailto:kellywilliams@yahoo.ca">kellywilliams@yahoo.ca</a> for more info</p>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">Shirley Quilters and Crafters</a></b></p> <p align="center">10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">Pilates at the Shirley Hall</a></b></p> <p align="center">9:30 am</p> <p align="center">Level 1 class, suitable for beginners Contact: Sandra Smith Website: <a href="http://www.svakayoga.com">www.svakayoga.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@sandrasmithyoga.com">info@sandrasmithyoga.com</a></p>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<p align="center"><b><a href="#">Ecstatic Dance Yoga</a></b></p> <p align="center">7:30 am – 8:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p align="center">Yoga with Elizabeth Tse Contact: <a href="mailto:bloomingyoga4kids@gmail.com">bloomingyoga4kids@gmail.com</a></p>

Sundays	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kemp Lake Store Music Café Music Jam</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1:00 pm – 5:00 pm @ 7875 West Coast Rd</b>  <b>For more info phone 250.642.7875</b></p>
Tuesdays & Fridays	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yoga at the Shirley Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm</b>  <b>Fridays at 10:00 am – 11:15 am</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Class for all levels</b>  <a href="mailto:megan.einarson@hotmail.com"><u>megan.einarson@hotmail.com</u></a></p>
Thursdays & Sundays	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nia Dance/Movement Class at the Shirley Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</b>  <b>Sundays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm</b>  <b>Contact: Melody Kimmell, 250-646-2995 email</b>  <a href="mailto:movingmelody@gmail.com"><u>movingmelody@gmail.com</u></a></p>

## 2. FIRE SEASON BEGINS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Spring is here, the weather is warming and fire season in Shirley and Otter Point is upon us: **April 1st to October 31st**. Contact the volunteer fire department in your community for details on fire permits, restricted hours of burning, setbacks from flammable material, the size of fires you can have, etc.

For more information:

Otter Point residents can visit the Otter Point Fire Department web site: [www.otterpointfire.bc.ca](http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca) or phone 642-6211 for **non-emergencies** and leave a message.

Shirley residents can contact someone for information through the Shirley Fire Hall: phone 250-646- 2107 for **non-emergencies**.

Please also make sure your house address is easily visible from the road, in case an emergency vehicle should ever need to find your home.

### **3. UPDATE ON ROYAL ROADS WATER RESOURCES PROJECT**

The project agreement between OPSRRA and student-formed group from Royal Roads University Environmental Sciences program has been approved and finalized. The group consists of four students and is named *Pacific Priority Solutions*. The agreement also included the budget and time frame.

Two OPSRRA Directors, Marika Nagasaka (President), Brenda Mark (Treasurer) and OPSRRA member Gerard LeBlanc met with Regional Director Mike Hicks and Planning Supervisor Iain Lawrence to present the project and request consideration of a CRD Grant-In-Aid to assist with the expenses. Application has been made for a grant, and OPSRRA will provide \$200.00 towards the expenses as well (motion made at the January 2016 OPSRRA Directors Meeting).

Two members of the OPSRRA subcommittee (formed for the project), Brenda Mark and Sandy Barta attended the March 18<sup>th</sup> presentation of the project by the student group at Royal Roads University. That Power Point presentation by the group can be viewed on the OPSRRA website under Community Issues, as can the Project Agreement which outlines all the details.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the students will be doing a site visit of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River to familiarize themselves with the area and meet Planner Iain Lawrence, who will be their contact person for the CRD regarding questions about GIS and other planning-related matters.

During the tour they will stop at various sites to see different water supply sources and methods of delivery. A number of OPSRRA members have volunteered to take part and provide on-site information to the student group about their particular water source. Stay posted for updates on the tour and progress of the Water Resources Sustainability Project in our May newsletter.

### **4. OPSRRA AGM SET FOR APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**

The OPSRRA Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the JDF Local Area Services Building. Regional Director Mike Hicks sends his regrets as he will be out of town that weekend and unable to attend. An agenda will be sent to members by e-mail.

Our association membership annually elects three members to be their executive and four to be their directors. The following slate of candidates is being put forward by the Nominations Committee for the coming elections (all incumbents): Marika Nagasaka, Sandy Barta, Brenda Mark, Fiona McDannold, Debb Read and Bill Dushenko and we are still working on finalizing the 7<sup>th</sup> name of a member willing to stand for election.

Residents and property owners of Shirley Jordan River and Otter Point who are members of the association can be nominated up to and including the date of the AGM.

Nominations can be sent to OPSRRA at [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com).

## 5. INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR 2016 PROPERTY TAXES

Property owners in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) received their 2015 property assessment from the B.C. Assessment Authority in January, 2016. These valuations are used by the various taxing authorities to determine individual property taxes that will be due July 1st, 2016. Because the JDFEA is unincorporated the province collects property taxes from us on behalf of the province, the Electoral Area, the Capital Regional District (CRD) and Sooke School District #62. The province and the CRD determine their portions of the property tax using a separate process which is beyond the direct control of the JDFEA Regional Director. The budget for SD #62 is prepared by our elected School Trustees and the District's staff but is ultimately determined by the province.

The JDFEA regional director has the responsibility to work with CRD Financial Services to oversee the budget for taxable items directly attributed to the JDFEA. This portion of the budget is then reviewed by the Electoral Area Services Committee of the CRD Board of Directors before being approved by the full CRD Board. The 2016 JDFEA budget was approved by the CRD Board of Directors on March 30th.

Director Hicks shared the draft budget report with OPSRRA so we could prepare this story in time for the April newsletter.

In 2011, OPSRRA encouraged Director Hicks to post budget information to the JDFEA web site. OPSRRA helped to draft the detailed explanation of the JDFEA budget process which is available at: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/about-the-region/juan-de-fuca/property-tax-budget-information-for-the-juan-de-fuca-electoral-area>

Director Hicks now prepares an annual tax report for the JDFEA showing what services you are taxed for and at what rate per \$100,000 of assessed property value. This information is available at: [www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/jdf-pdf/2014-tax-report---jdf.pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/jdf-pdf/2014-tax-report---jdf.pdf?sfvrsn=2). There are 68 different budget categories in the JDFEA budget. The following is an excerpt from the draft 2016 Tax Report showing some of the more expensive items on your tax bill.

Cost Shared by all JDFEA Communities	2015	2016	Cost Per Average Residential Home 2016	Cost Per \$100,000 Assessed value	Increase/ Decrease
JDFEA Admin.	\$45,800	\$39,100	\$9.51	\$2.41	-14%
Grants-in-Aid	\$27,710	\$19,700 (See Note 1)	\$4.77	\$1.21	-23%
Planning Services	\$658,520	\$583,800 (See Note 2)	\$141.26	\$35.79	-11%
Emergency Services	\$70,100	\$72,310	\$17.40	\$4.43	3%
Search & Rescue	\$62,000	\$82,000 (See Note 3)	\$19.84	\$5.03	32%
Community Parks	\$154,110	\$169,520	\$41.02	\$10.39	10%

Community Recreation	\$61,690	\$61,690	\$17.58	\$4.45	0%
Sooke Region Museum	\$63,620	\$64,910	\$17.46	\$4.42	2%
Van. Island Reg. Library	\$252,470	\$261,920	\$74.64	\$18.91	4%
SEAPARC – Facilities & Recreation	\$325,420	\$331,920	\$89.26	\$22.62	2%
SEAPARC – Pool	\$306,790	\$312,970	\$84.16	\$21.33	2%
Otter Point Fire Dept.	\$296,110	\$398,670 (See Note 4)	\$366.77	\$92.94	35%
Shirley Fire Dept.	\$142,840	\$148,630	\$458.13	\$116.09	4%

**Note 1.** See OPSRRA’s February 2016 newsletter for an explanation of Grants-in-Aid and what grants were made in 2015.

**Note 2.** One Planning Services position is being temporarily shared with Salt Spring Island, which is covering 2/3 of the salary.

**Note 3.** \$20,000 has been included in the budget to build a structure for a new vehicle. This need is uncertain and the money may not be used.

**Note 4.** See OPSRRA’s March newsletter for a detailed account of why the Otter Point Fire Department budget needed to be increased by 35%.

## 6. SEAPARC LAND PURCHASE PUBLIC INFO SESSIONS

The following was submitted to OPSRRA by the Planning Office of JDFA

SEAPARC (Sooke & Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission) and the CRD invite you to attend a Public Information Session regarding the April 30th referendum to purchase 23 acres of land located at 6518 Throup Road in Sooke.

Meet Director Mike Hicks, SEAPARC Chair and Steve Knoke, SEAPARC Manager, learn more about the proposed purchase and provide feedback.

Please go to the CRD website for more information:

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/about-us/about-the-recreation-commission/land-acquisition-referendum>

## **7. AWARENESS VIDEO ANNUAL FARM AND FILM GALA APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**

The following was submitted to OPSRRA by Awareness Film Night

*Come out and celebrate Spring* at the 9th annual Farm and Film Gala, co-presented by Awareness Film Night and Sooke Food CHI.

This year's Gala will be on April 13th. Doors open at 6:45 pm and the films will go from 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm.

There will be more than a dozen vendors in the theatre foyer, featuring farm produce and products, seeds, plants and locally made foods as well as information tables from local farm and food-related non-profits. Tea and goodies made by the EMCS culinary arts students will be available by donation.

There will be plenty of time to browse, visit and stock up on early carrots and greens, foodstuffs and last minute seeds before the film screenings (*cash will be the legal tender of the evening*).

Two short but inspiring films will start at 7:45. "Nourish: Food and Community" and "Cultivating Healthy Food and Gardens for a Sustainable Future". The films are focused on our relationship to food, both from a global perspective and from community initiatives that make food production, from field to plate, a local endeavor. "Nourish" features Michael Pollan ("King Corn", "The Omnivore's Dilemma"), Anna Lappe, chef Jamie Oliver, a pediatrician and a bevy of enthusiastic young food entrepreneurs and organic farmers.

The evening will be capped by a draw for several gift baskets filled with items donated by the vendors.

The Gala will be held, as always, in the theatre at Edward Milne Community School, 6218 Sooke Rd. in Sooke. Admission is by donation.

For more information about awareness film night: [www.awarenessfilmnight.ca](http://www.awarenessfilmnight.ca)

## **8. SPRING INTO BEAR AWARENESS**

Spring is here and so are the bears! We have already been seeing bear conflicts. Bears going after chickens and bears in garbage.

It is time to start preparing for black bears seeking food sources in our neighbourhoods. Be proactive, minimize human-bear conflict and prevent bears from lingering in our residential neighbourhoods. You can help keep bears away from your home by removing any bear-attracting food sources.

If you live in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River, odds are you have bears living nearby. We live in bear country and should learn to expect to deal with bears. Preventing and/or reducing conflict with bears requires us to modify our behaviours

Is your residence area free of food odours that may attract a hungry bear?

It's time for spring clean up.

Bears season, typically begins in March-April and at this time they are lean and hungry. Bears eat the early shoots of skunk cabbage, grasses, horsetail, clover, and dandelions. They do not gain much weight on this diet and can continue to lose weight well into June and even into July. Bears will stay low in the valley bottoms during this time and will eventually go up to the hills in search of spring green-up and summer berries. Let's keep them moving to the hills by not attracting them into our neighbourhoods with unnatural food sources.

Bears are attracted into our neighbourhoods by available unnatural food sources. We can reduce the potential for human-bear conflict by simply managing attractants. This means we ensure that wildlife can move through our community without being attracted. We don't want to invite wildlife to stop and stay.

Bears are opportunistic omnivores and will return time and time again to a readily available food source; if the attractant is secured or removed, the bear will move on.

- Always store garbage indoors during bear season.
- Put your garbage tote on the curbside between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. only on collection day and never the night before.
- Reduce odours by freezing the smelly stuff and dispose of the bag on collection day.
- Rinse out all recycling material to reduce odours.
- Set up an electric fencing system to protect chickens and livestock.
- Don't use birdfeeders during bear season.
- Ensure you have odourless compost by liming, turning frequently, cutting food into small pieces, layering greens (nitrogen) with browns (carbon) and never add meat, fish, fats, or oils.
- Consider digging a hole in the ground to bury your compost.
- Feed pets indoors and keep all bowls indoors.
- Keep barbecues clean and grease free by burning off an extra 5 minutes after removing food and remove or clean barbecue tools.
- Move fridges and freezers indoors or lock them.
- Talk to your neighbours about managing their attractants.

Wild Wise Sooke can provide you with educational intervention about reducing conflict with bears. They also will help you recognize the attractants and help you make changes that respect, enhance and conserve wildlife.

Wild Wise Sooke can assist you with electric fencing options.

For assistance contact:

[wildwisesooke@gmail.com](mailto:wildwisesooke@gmail.com)

[www.wildwisesooke.com](http://www.wildwisesooke.com)

There is a great deal of misinformation out there concerning bear biology and behaviour. Wild Wise provides accurate information about bears and bear behaviour. This keeps our community and the wildlife safe. BE BEAR WISE

Debbie Read  
Wild Wise Sooke

## 9. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM REPORT

The Shirley Community Association held its annual general meeting on March 9, 2016.

The following were elected as directors for the coming year:

President: Fiona McDannold  
Vice-President: Ron Ramsay  
Treasurer: James Powell  
Secretary: Stephanie Croft  
Directors: Sean Rafferty, Jean Conway, Melody Kimmel

The Shirley Community Association provides the following services to their community:

- Owns and maintains a hall for public use and private events
- Organizes events throughout the year to celebrate community spirit
- Maintains Pioneer Park for public enjoyment
- Provides a home base for the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department
- Provides a facility for JDF Emergency Response, Shirley Chapter

For hall bookings please contact Shannon Rae, 778-528-2294 or shansjams@gmail.com  
SCA memberships are \$10 per person per year.

## 10. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

**Do you operate a small business?** Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA offers 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 invite 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 a registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site ([www.opsrra.ca](http://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.



**Support local businesses. The OPSRRA web site [www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca) has more information about the following local business listings:**

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage
Accent in Grooming	Migration Design
ALM Organic Farm	Ocean Wilderness Inn
Beaches West B & B	Otter Point Beach House
Bear Home Remodelling	Otter Point Electrical Service
Birds Edge Press	Perfect Grade Plumbing
Coastal Crunch Granola	Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Eco Craft Lights	Road's End Construction
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites	Saltwest Naturals
Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.	Sooke Water Inc.
Full Circle Seeds	Shards Glass Studio and Workshops
Glen's Gardening Company	Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Heron's Rest B & B	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services	Three Sisters Farm
Jambo Pet Sitting Service	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Kemp Lake Store Café	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Knotty Beds by Nature and Cedar Surfboards	Welcome Wagon
Le Sooke Spa	Wildewood Custom Homes
	Wood Visions

## **11. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER**

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site:  
[www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)

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. 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 or email [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com)

**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.**