



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: DECEMBER 2014**

**CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF PUBLICATION!**

**WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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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**

|                 |           |                  |                |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Fiona McDannold | President | Marika Nagasaka  | Vice-President |
| Phone: 646-2730 |           | Phone: 642- 2133 |                |
| Brenda Mark     | Treasurer | Deb Read         | Director       |
| Phone: 646-2598 |           | Phone: 646- 9998 |                |
| Sandy Barta     | Director  |                  |                |

**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: [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@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 which will be updated between issues of the OPSRRA newsletter.

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| <b>Monday</b><br><b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b>    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPSRRA - Bi-Monthly Directors' Meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Boardroom –SEAPARC Leisure Centre, 2168 Phillips Rd., Sooke</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm – Members welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda available upon request.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: <a href="mailto:opsrra@gmail.com">opsrra@gmail.com</a></p>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>Dec 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shirley Women's Institute</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly meeting first Tuesday of the month<br/>10:00 am at the Shirley Hall</p>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>Dec 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <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.<br/>2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>   |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sooke &amp; Electoral Area Parks &amp; Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex,<br/>2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 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:<br/><a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm">http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>Dec 6<sup>th</sup></b>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Charters River: Upper Owl Trail to the interior of the Sooke Hills Park Reserve.</b> This is an 8-10 km hike on forest trails. The route will</p>   |

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|   | <p>depend on the weather. Meet at the parking lot off Sooke River Rd at Charters Creek at 9:00 am. 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>Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p> |
| <p><b>Saturday<br/>Dec 6<sup>th</sup></b></p>   | <p><b>Information Town Meeting: Proposed Composting Facility</b><br/>2:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Proposed rezoning of property Lot 72 to allow a compost facility. Come see what is being proposed and gather information.</p> <p>Please share your concerns and comments.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:dlsbins@shaw.ca">dlsbins@shaw.ca</a></p> <p>See story # 3 for more information.</p>                          |
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b></p>     | <p><b>Moss Cottage Christmas</b><br/>1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Sooke Region Museum<br/>Snowman Building, Roasted Nuts, Hot Drinks.</p> <p>For more info contact Sooke Region Museum 250-642-6351</p>   |
| <p><b>Wednesday<br/>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b></p> | <p><b>Shirley &amp; Jordan River Citizens' Committee<br/>Official Community Plan Review</b></p> <p>7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Follow this link to read documents:<br/><a href="https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/about-the-region/juan-de-fuca">https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/about-the-region/juan-de-fuca</a></p> <p>See story # 9 for more information.</p>   |
| <p><b>Friday<br/>Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b></p>    | <p><b>Deadline for Comments on William Simmons (Poirier Lake)<br/>Community Park Plan</b></p> <p>Park plan and questionnaire can be viewed on the Juan de Fuca Community Parks &amp; Recreation web site: <a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdfparks">www.crd.bc.ca/jdfparks</a></p>   |

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|   | <p>Return comments to Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building<br/> 3-7450 Butler Rd, Otter Point V9Z 1N1 in person or by mail or by email to <a href="mailto:jdfinfo@crd.bc.ca">jdfinfo@crd.bc.ca</a></p>  |
| <p>Saturday<br/> Dec 13<sup>th</sup></p>  | <p><b>Juan de Fuca Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Pike Point to Iron Mine Bay in East Sooke Park.</b> This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike. The hike is a difficulty level 2 (relatively easy) approximately 6 km through mature forest and along the rugged coast by Secretary Island. Meet at William Simmons Memorial Park, parking lot at 3220 Otter Point Rd at 9:00 am to car pool to the trail head. If it is more convenient you can meet at the Pike Rd parking lot about 9:45 am. 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>Saturday<br/> Dec 13<sup>th</sup></p>  | <p><b>Otter Point Fire Department - Candy Cane Run</b></p> <p>Route details are provided under newsletter item #4.</p>   |
| <p>Wednesday<br/> Dec 17<sup>th</sup></p> | <p><b>Shirley Fire Commission Meeting</b></p> <p>3:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>   |

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| <p><b>Thursday</b><br/><b>Jan 1<sup>st</sup></b></p>  | <p><b>DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL OTTER POINT POLAR BEAR SWIM!</b></p> <p><b>Registration at 11:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Cannon start at 12:00 pm Whiffin Spit Park, Sooke.</b></p> <p><b>Sponsored by the Otter Point<br/>Volunteer Fire Department</b></p>    |
| <p><b>Saturday</b><br/><b>Jan 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p>  | <p><b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Walk the King Creek Trail in Otter Point.</b> As parking is limited at the trailhead, meet at 2452 Kemp Lake Rd at 9:00 am for a 2 hour walk on forest trails. 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>Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p> |
| <p><b>Tuesday</b><br/><b>Jan 6<sup>th</sup></b></p>   | <p><b>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>JdF Search &amp; Rescue Campus Training Bldg.<br/>2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/><b>Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b></p> | <p><b>Sooke &amp; Electoral Area Parks &amp; Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</b></p> <p><b>Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex,<br/>2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and are open to the public.</li> <li>• Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair.</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at:<br/> <a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm">http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm</a></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Saturday<br/>Jan 10<sup>th</sup></b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juan de Fuca Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Commission and the<br/>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</b></p> <p><b>Coppermine Loop in East Sooke Park.</b> This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike of moderate difficulty approximately 8 km. The hike starts and ends at the Pike Rd trail head and proceeds through beautiful forest and rugged coastline. Meet at William Simmons Park parking lot at 9:00 am or if you prefer at the Pike Rd trail head at around 9:45 am. 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 style="text-align: center;">Web site: <a href="http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca">www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</a></p> |
| <p><b>Tuesday<br/>Jan 13<sup>th</sup></b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shirley Hall Foot Care Clinics</b></p> <p>Starting in January, a Foot Care Nurse, Marlene Beaulieu, LPN, will be holding clinics at the Shirley Community Hall. The clinics will run on the second Tuesday of each month.</p> <p>Diabetics and others with foot care issues are encouraged to attend the clinics.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For appointments please call Marlene at 250-664-6810.</p> <p>Marlene is also available for home visits if you are unable to attend the regular clinic.</p>   |
| <p><b>Mondays</b></p>                          | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Karate for all ages in Shirley on Mondays</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 – 8:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Alida Long, 250-642-4631</p>  |

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| <p><b>Tuesdays</b></p>                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Malahat Art Group</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meets 2:00 – 4:00 pm.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inspiration, fun or just company in what is often a solitary occupation. Come on down, share your skills, pick up new ones or just grab a cup of tea and check us out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location varies.</p> <p>For info: Email <a href="mailto:kwoods@pacificcoast.net">kwoods@pacificcoast.net</a> or <a href="mailto:vero@malahatfarm.com">vero@malahatfarm.com</a><br/> Call: 642-0393 or 642-6868</p> |
| <p><b>Thursdays</b></p>               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shirley Quilters and Crafters</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Info: Christien Shipton 250-646-2687.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mondays &amp; Saturdays</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pilates at the Shirley Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mondays at 10:00 am<br/> Saturdays at 9:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 1 class, suitable for beginners<br/> Contact: Sandra Smith<br/> Website: <a href="http://www.svakayoga.com">www.svakayoga.com</a><br/> Email: <a href="mailto:info@sandrasmithyoga.com">info@sandrasmithyoga.com</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Tuesdays &amp; Fridays</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yoga at the Shirley Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm<br/> Fridays at 10 am – 11 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gentle Flow Class for all levels<br/> Contact: Nicole Spackman<br/> <a href="mailto:shirleyhallyoga@gmail.com">shirleyhallyoga@gmail.com</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Thursdays &amp; Sundays</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nia Dance/Movement Class at the Shirley Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm<br/> Sundays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm<br/> Contact: Melody Kimmell, 250-646-2995 email<br/> <a href="mailto:movingmelody@gmail.com">movingmelody@gmail.com</a></p>  |



## 2. ELECTION RESULTS

OPSRRA takes this opportunity to thank all of the candidates that ran in the recent elections. The following election results reflect the final outcomes for School Trustees, Regional Director, Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point Land Use Committee representatives and the Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission. Full election results for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area can be viewed on the JDFEA web site: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting/juan-de-fuca-land-use-committee-and-advisory-planning-commission-nominees>

### **School Trustees:**

There were six candidates for the three vacancies in the Milnes Landing Zone of the Sooke School District. Margot Swinburnson, Neil Poirier and Robert (Bob) Phillips were elected. The final vote tally was:

**Margot Swinburnson - 2271**

**Robert (Bob) Phillips - 1813**

**Neil Poirier - 1748**

Benula Larsen - 1068

Doris Gulmans - 976

Arthur (Russ) Chips - 766

### **Regional Director:**

**Mike Hicks - re-elected by acclamation** for a 3 year term

### **Land Use Committee:**

Shirley/Jordan River Candidates - one to be elected:

**Ron Ramsay – by acclamation**

Otter Point Candidates - one to be elected:

**Sandy Sinclair - 175**

Heather Phillips - 143

### **Advisory Planning Commission (APC):**

Shirley/Jordan River APC - 4 candidates elected by acclamation

**Dominique Bernardet**

**Sonja de Wit**

**Pascale Knoglinger**

**Fiona McDannold**

Otter Point APC - 5 candidates elected by acclamation

**Al Wickheim**

**Bud Gibbons**

**Sid Jorna**

**Anne Miller**

**Steven Hirst Smith**

### **3. JORDAN RIVER FOREST LAND TO BECOME REGION'S COMPOSTING SITE?**

As of January 2015 the Capital Regional District (CRD) will not accept kitchen scraps at their regional Hartland Road garbage dump located in Saanich. This action will divert an estimated 30,000 tons of garbage, annually, from the landfill and will extend the sites lifetime. The District of Saanich has a 5-year contract with a Vancouver Island composting company to handle their kitchen scraps. Other Greater Victoria municipalities who collect their own garbage, as well as private garbage collectors like Alpine, Sooke Disposal and Emterra need somewhere to dump and recycle their scraps too. To meet this need the CRD has an interim arrangement with a Mainland dump and is trucking kitchen scraps there for \$140 a ton - a \$33 per ton premium over dumping at Hartland.



**Aerial view of the 160 acres being considered for a regional composting facility by DL Bins. Highway 14 crosses the property at the bottom left. CRD Regional Park (Sandcut Beach and Jordan River Forest) is the**

**neighbouring property to the left. Crown TFL land is to the north and east. The area being considered for rezoning is outlined in red and was clear cut by WFP since this satellite image was taken. The access road can be seen on the left as it leaves and re-enters the property and McManus Creek can be seen at the bottom right where it flows into and out of the property.**

DL Bins, owners of Fisher Road Recycling of Cobble Hill, the company processing Saanich's kitchen scraps, is looking for a new location to expand their business. They have found a possible composting location between Shirley and Jordan River on land presently owned by Western Forest Products (WFP). David Laing, owner of DL Bins, has arranged a public information session to inform the community of his proposal, answer questions and determine community support:

- Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2:00 pm
- Shirley Community Hall

The proposal is to purchase a 160 acre forested parcel from Western Forest Products and operate a composting facility on 20 acres at the back of the site, leaving the remainder forested. The property is located on the north side of Highway 14 between Sandcut Creek to the east and Desolation Creek to the west. Legal Description: Lot 72 Renfrew District Plan 3388RW (PID 008-694-915). A small portion of the property crosses Highway 14 and abuts Sandcut Beach. The property is zoned AF which allows for forestry and agriculture. The intent is to apply for an Industrial rezoning of 20 acres to accommodate the composting operation. A rezoning application has been submitted to JDF Planning Services.

Access would be from an existing forestry road that passes through CRD land to the west. It is estimated that two tandem trucks a day would bring yard and garden waste, food waste, stumps and land clearing debris to the site. The same trucks would be cleaned and then used to haul away the composted material

#### **4. OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT “**CANDY CANE**” RUN**

On Saturday, December 13th the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Firefighters Association will sponsor the annual **Candy Cane Run** through Otter Point with Santa Claus atop a decorated fire truck. Walk out to the end of your driveway for 10 or 15 minutes and enjoy this festive event! The following route information was provided by the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Fighters. **Route Times are Approximate**

**The OPFD Fire Department will be accepting donations for the Sooke Community Food Bank**

**Route & Times**

**1700 HRS. (5:00 pm) START**

- Thelmita Place, Sarah Drive, Helen Place, Patricia Marie Place
- 2900 block Otter Point Road to Young Lake Road
- Up Young Lake Road to Poirier Road and back to Otter Point Road
- Up Butler Road to far end of Lemare Cres. and back down Lemare Cres. to Butler and Otter Point Road
- Otter Point Road to Robinson Road (entire length) then to Tugwell Road

**1800 HRS. (6:00 pm) approx.**

- Tugwell Road to Michelson Road (entire length)
- Tugwell Road to Goudie Road (entire length)
- Return to Otter Point Road

**815 HRS. (6:15 pm) approx.**

1. Otter Point Road to Amanda Road (entire length) and back to Otter Point Road
2. Otter Point Road to King Road (entire length) to Corby Ridge (entire length) and back to Otter Point Road
3. Otter Point Road to end of Otter Point Place (entire length), Clark Road and back to Otter Point Road and down to West Coast Road

**1915 HRS. (7:15 pm) approx.**

- West Coast Road towards Sooke to Olympic Place (entire length) and back to West Coast Road
- Up Otter Ridge Drive (entire length) to Taylor Place (entire length) and back to West Coast Road
- West Coast Road to Olympic View mobile home park
- West Coast Road to Carpenter Road
- Carpenter Road (entire length) to Dalrae Place (entire length)
- Back to West Coast Road and turn east to end of our district
- Turn around and come back to Kemp Lake Road

**2015 HRS. (8:15 pm) approx.**

- Kemp Lake Road to Milligan Road (entire length) and back to Kemp Lake Road

- Kemp Lake Road to Otter Point Road and back to the Fire Hall

## 5. OTTER POINT FIRE COMMISSION AGM REPORT

The **Otter Point Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission** held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 18th. Re-elected for another two-year term were commissioners Kenny Jones (Chair), Bud Gibbons (Treasurer) and Joanne Hemphill. Commissioners Marie-Ann Davidson (Secretary), Lloyd Heinemann and Harold Melville have another year remaining in their two-year term. Scott Hemphill remains as the firefighters' representative. The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFA) Regional Director sits as an ex officio member of the commission but does not attend meetings unless there is a specific agenda item requiring his participation.

The commission was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 1980 and is the successor to the Otter Fire District Society. The commissioners are responsible to the CRD and the taxpayers of Otter Point for the general operation of the Otter Point Fire Department (OPFD) and appoint the Fire Chief who manages the day-to-day operations of the department. The fire department responds to a range of fire and other emergencies in the community including:

- Motor vehicles accidents, where fire or trapped occupant(s) is a concern
- Hazardous material
- Alarm bells
- Rescue
- Medical assistance
- Open burning complaints
- Mutual aid to other local area fire departments.

**Note:** This year the department was called out to assist the Sooke Fire Department on numerous occasions. The house fire on West Coast Road in Saseenos was the largest because it spread into a forested area. A similar situation in Otter Point involved 5 fire departments and the provincial forestry service and proved how well mutual aid training has benefited our community.

The OPFD also operates the Fire Training Centre located behind the Otter Point Fire Hall. In addition to providing live fire training for the OPFD, the facility provides regional training sessions in conjunction with the BC Justice Institute and is rented to other volunteer fire departments. This is a source of income for the Otter Point Fire Commission.

The OPFD is supported by taxpayers who own property within the Otter Point Fire Protection District boundary. Some property owners in Otter Point choose not to pay for fire protection and are therefore not covered by the OPFD. The

commissioners prepare an annual operating budget, which is approved by the JDFEA Regional Director and the Finance Department of the CRD. The budget for the department's operation in 2013 was \$272,695. The budget for 2014 is \$283,753. This is a 4% increase over 2013. The cost per average household is \$243.43. The cost to individual property owners in Otter Point for fire protection and emergency response services appears as a line item on your provincial tax assessment and for 2014 is \$62.65 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The 2014 Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department annual report notes a slight increase in the volume of call-outs from 2013 with a year-to-year increase from 126 to 130. Again, the most notable statistic was the number of First Response incidents, which have gone from 40 in 2010 to 64 this year. They now account for over half of the fire department's total requests for service. First Response incidents are generated by 911 calls to the BC Ambulance Service who then request that the fire department also attend. The firefighter man-hours for all incidents this past year totaled 855.

**Incident Response Statistics for the period November 2013 to October 2014**

| Incident Category | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Alarm Bells       | 0    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 3    |
| Assist Public     | 5    | 12   | 19   | 10   | 11   |
| Fire              | 10   | 6    | 11   | 33   | 28   |
| First Response    | 40   | 60   | 63   | 64   | 68   |
| HazMat            | 0    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 2    |
| Hydro Lines       | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | 7    |
| Misc. Complaints  | 7    | 15   | 16   | 1    | 2    |
| Mutual Aid        | 2    | 7    | 5    | 3    | N/A  |
| MVI               | 11   | 9    | 13   | 11   | 9    |
| Rescue            | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total             | 75   | 119  | 133  | 126  | 130  |

**Note:** Some calls were categorized differently in 2014. Mutual Aid calls were not counted separately. Hydro calls are when a line is down and the OPFD responds to provide public safety until the Hydro crew arrives.

The Otter Point Volunteer Firefighters Association provides the following community services in conjunction with the OPFD:

- Otter Point “Candy Cane Run” with Santa
- New Year’s Day Polar Bear Swim at Whiffin Spit
- Children’s Halloween Party and fireworks at Camp Barnard

More information about the OPFD and the Otter Point Fire Fighters Association can be found on their web site: <http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/>

## **6. OTTER POINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The following was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by Al Wickheim - Otter Point Community Coordinator, Juan de Fuca Emergency Management Program

Hello neighbours:

Here is a brief update on some of the items of concern and action around Otter Point relating to Community based Emergency Management and Response. One area in which significant progress is being made is Communications. We had great support from Emergency Measures BC (EMBC) for enhanced communications to the 'outside' in the event of a large-scale isolating disaster and we are developing a very workable 'internal' radio network between Pods (neighbourhoods) as well as to our good neighbours to the West in Shirley.

The potential for an isolating event affecting Vancouver Island is real. Our ability to act in response in a way that enhances survival and recovery as individuals and communities is equal to the task. There is no guessing what may happen - the permutations are too numerous but a response and recovery plan geared towards full reinstatement of services, housing and the economy has a defined end-point to work towards. In the initial stages of any major event warnings, response and action will be the key factors. When the Event passes after minutes to weeks - this is where connections and recovery efforts must begin. Communication throughout this period will be critical. Except for a few, most of us will be here. Our carpenters, teachers, nurses and mechanics, cooks and hospitality agents will all be needed. None will be coming from elsewhere. Communications around the district will aid greatly in getting the mechanic to the broken generator and the carpenter to the leaking roof or unstable walls and animals to shelter and safety. We have been very active in developing and mapping the effective communication routes around Otter Point and establishing relays along the entire coast line and on to Shirley. We have much of the Kemp Lake Valley and West Slopes above Gordon's Beach covered as well. However, there are gaps to be filled and Pods still needing Captains and volunteers of all sorts.

On another front we have been working with 'Highways' and made progress in addressing several road-related concerns. The 'ditch that would not drain' immediately to the east of Tugwell Creek is to be remedied and the sloughing embankment scaled back. It has over the years slumped into the ditch, routing the water away from Tugwell and pooling along West Coast Rd. As well, the Evacuation Route up the western end of Otter Point Place, which we rebuilt last year and was then closed (?) by a series of concrete barriers, has been re-opened by way of brush removal allowing pedestrian and cycle traffic through. It is to no one's advantage to either have this, or other, vital routes unusable, nor for them to

be misused by unlicensed ATV's and renegade motorcyclists or those inclined to deposit their garbage and burnables for free. Easily identified and passable Evacuation Routes are as critical to the community as a smoke alarm is to your home. Better signage and more established routes for pedestrian evacuations have been identified and are being prepared as time allows.

An "All Hazards" map for Otter Point is being developed and will be posted online in the not-too-distant future. Speaking of that; is there someone out there - I know there is, who has the computer savvy to develop and manage a modest website which could serve the seven communities of Port Renfrew, Shirley, Jordan River, Otter Point, East Sooke, Malahat and Willis Point? (You would get double my pay!). Nothing too fancy, just a usable resource of contact information, maps, plans and point of input and dissemination of information to support all of us.

And on recruiting, we now have 17 Pod Captains, up from just a few a couple of years ago. Anyone out there who had been involved, or tried, in years past I warmly invite you to contact me. Our Otter Point program is leading the way in innovation, engagement of the community and the development of a very workable system that if not used by us can be carried on through the future. One thing is for sure, someday; something big and bad is going to happen here. Events such as these happen all over the world. Awareness and preparation are a couple of things you probably will be glad you had attended to before a disaster, rather than wishing you had after the fact.

Please contact me, Al Wickheim at [info@wilderquestadventures.com](mailto:info@wilderquestadventures.com) to learn more, offer ideas or comments or jump in and become a Pod Captain yourself. This involves meeting your neighbours, a few exercises per year, some learning opportunities, 10 minutes once a week for a Communications Check and a couple of 'Podluck' Dinners of the finest kind. Thanks all.

Al Wickheim - Otter Point Community Coordinator, Juan de Fuca Emergency Management Program. Home 250-642-5124 or Cell 250-661-7123.

## **7. JDF COMMUNITY LAND TRUST CONTINUES TO FUNDRAISE**

The following was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by Arnie Campbell – Treasurer for the JDF Community Land Trust Society

Recall the expression "A dollar short and a day late"? It usually refers to someone being unprepared, missing an opportunity or an action being poorly timed. When the Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust Society recently missed the opportunity to make an offer on the 70 acre Admiral's Forest, in Otter Point, we were certainly a day late but not a dollar short. Immediately after the property was listed for sale a community-minded "silent partner" offered to help us make an offer that met the asking price and would have kept the forest as a community park. We were too late, though, as the trustees for the estate had already accepted an offer from a member



of the Admiral's family. Access to the forest is now prohibited, logging is underway and an opportunity to preserve the property for community recreation and wildlife habitat has been lost.

The JDF Community Land Trust learned a lot from this experience; most importantly that we need immediate access to cash if we intend to buy property. We have some, but not enough to begin serious discussions about a couple of other suitable properties in our area. So why even bother? Well, it takes at least 50 years to make a forest and no one seems to be very interested in waiting that long for a return on their investment when other more profitable uses are at hand. Without exaggeration, over 1,000 acres of forest in Shirley and Otter Point has been replaced with housing or other use in the past decade. Only ½ of one percent of Otter Point is identified as public park land and none of it true forest.

The JDF Community Land Trust Society wants to ensure that something remains for the next generation. As we enter the season of giving consider a tax-deductible gift to help us preserve forest park land in our community for future generations. If you share our vision, here are ways you can help:

- Friend us on Facebook and link to our website [www.jdflandtrust.ca](http://www.jdflandtrust.ca)
- Become a member at \$20 for two years. Join via PayPal at [www.jdflandtrust.ca/join](http://www.jdflandtrust.ca/join)
- Make a tax receipted charitable donation via PayPal at [www.jdflandtrust.ca/donate](http://www.jdflandtrust.ca/donate)
- Make a tax deductible charitable donation to the **JDF Community Land Acquisition Fund** at the Victoria Foundation: [www.victoriafoundation.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.ca)
- Buy our Admiral's Blend coffee. It comes in 1lb. or 1/2lb. bags and makes a great gift or stocking stuffer. Custom roasted by **The Stick in the Mud**, the coffee can be purchased through our website.

## 8. CHANGES COMING FOR SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT IN JDFA?

Rising sea levels and risk from a tsunami are a concern. A recently released Capital Regional District (CRD) report estimates that across the CRD there are approximately 3,700 Hectares of land comprising 18,000 properties and 19,000 dwelling that could fall below the province's proposed Year 2100 Flood Construction Level (FCL). Within the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area there are an estimated 1,300 Hectares consisting of 1,100 properties and 860 dwellings (with an estimated BC Assessment value of \$100,000,000) that could be affected by a change in the FCL.

Last month's newsletter looked at proposed provincial Flood Plan Hazard guidelines and the CRD's response to projected sea level rises of about half a metre over the next 35 years and a full metre by Year 2100. The province wants municipalities and regional districts across the province to:

- Increase shoreline development setbacks.

- Determine new design requirements for buildings, subdivisions and zoning in identified flood hazard areas along our coast in response to rising sea levels.
- Minimize property damage from a tsunami.

Gradual sea rise and tsunamis are two very different actions of nature. If sea rise happens it will be slow, uneven and will have different consequences for different developed areas along the coast. Factors such as elevation above sea level, dykes, proximity to tidal rivers, storm surge and areas of known beach erosion will likely determine where the water goes (or not).

A tsunami is different; it's a sudden, massive movement of water caused by an earthquake. Depending on the strength of the earthquake, its distance away and the contours of the shoreline and ocean floor, the tsunami's arrival can be immediate (or not) and damage can range from little to total shoreline destruction and loss of life. If there is enough warning an area in danger of a tsunami can be evacuated. If a tsunami is mild, the damage may be moderate and probably repairable. Preparing for the "Big One" is the problem and that is what the province is directing local governments to undertake. However, the solutions proposed by the provincial government could be an even bigger problem for someone who lives along our coastline.

One proposal is to increase the setback for waterfront properties in higher tsunami risk areas, such as the Strait of Juan de Fuca using the following provincial guidelines:

- A subdivision application in tsunami prone areas must include a report by a suitably qualified professional who must formulate safe building conditions for each proposed lot based upon a review of recent Tsunami literature plus the historical report, "**Evaluation of Tsunami Levels Along the B.C. Coast**", by Seaconsult Marine Research Ltd., dated March 1988.
- At a minimum, building conditions should protect improvements from damage from a tsunami of equal magnitude to the March 28, 1964 tsunami that resulted from the Prince William Sound, Alaska earthquake.
- Setback requirements should establish on a site-specific basis and take into account tsunami hazards.
- The setback must be sufficient to protect buildings and must be at least 30 metres from the Year 2100 estimated natural boundary.

Both the CRD and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area regional director have serious concerns about the financial, legal and social impact of the guidelines on coastal communities such as Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point.

The CRD wrote: "***There is time to consider the risks of flood events, or other events such as tsunamis, on top of a rising sea level for coastal communities.***" And, "***The CRD requests that the Province consider a more comprehensive approach to sea level issue planning over the next few years***

***in order to consider all potential implications and develop the most appropriate response.”***

Director Hicks asked the minister to, “... ***stop the process, re-evaluate the basis for the recommendations and reach out for practical solutions to counter rising sea levels and the threat of a Tsunami.***”

Other identified problems are: incomplete or missing definitions; determining where the foreshore natural boundary will be as sea levels rise; using floodplain level data to determine setbacks and identifying who will compensate property owners who have to move or whose property loses value. Unless handled correctly the final determiner in this will likely be the property insurance companies, mortgage lenders and the real estate market.

Background information related to this story can be found on the OPSRRA web site: [http://www.opsrra.ca/Community\\_issues.htm](http://www.opsrra.ca/Community_issues.htm)

- The provincial guidelines that are being reviewed.
- Information on properties that could be affected by sea level rise.
- Floodplain mapping.
- Correspondence from the CRD and the JDFEA regional director to the Minister of the Environment.

For more information about rising sea levels and tsunamis see the provincial reports at this site: [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public\\_safety/flood/fhm-2012/draw\\_report.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public_safety/flood/fhm-2012/draw_report.html)

**Note:** See the related story #5 in this newsletter about emergency preparedness in Otter Point.

## **9. UPDATE ON THE SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER OCP REVIEW**

The Shirley/Jordan River OCP Review Citizens' Committee met for Meeting # 13 on November 19 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall. Present were planners Emma Taylor, Tracy Olsen and 8 Committee members. There were no members of the public present.

Discussed were agenda items:

- The results of the query by the Committee of the correct SEI classification for the Jordan River Estuary.
- Report on the Open House in Jordan River on November 1, which was very successful with 30 people attending.
- Continued review of the OCP Rough Draft #2:

Specifically discussed were the land use designation for Camp Jubilee, RV Parks, Land Use Designations for settlement areas and Rural Zones. As a result of input from the Committee, an alternative Land Use Designation plan for the former

Settlement Area was presented for consideration. Potential for subdivision of Rural A lands in the Rural Zone was discussed, without consensus reached by the Committee. The suggestions will all be presented to the public at the upcoming Open House/Workshop.

The Community Workshop will be on November 29, 1:00-4:00 pm at the Shirley Hall. Participants are required to register for the workshop, but the community is welcome to attend and view the displays.

The next OCP Review Committee Meeting is December 10 at 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall.

## 10. SHIRLEY FIRE COMMISSION AGM MINUTES



### SHIRLEY FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, November 23 2014, 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall**

- 1) Approval of Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of November 20, 2013
- 3) Correspondence: There was no correspondence received
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Budget is up-to-date and within the limits established. Any surplus that exists in the 2014 budget will be used for turnout gear.
- 5) Fire Chief's Report: 14 firefighters; will no longer do dispatch from here; will be done centrally; thank you letter to Fiona McDannold for serving as Dispatcher.

Call-outs in the last month - 4 first response, 1 MVI out of area, 1 Hydro call.

Water tank installation – Kirby Creek Estates; site prep to occur next year.

In-house training occurring through the Otter Point Fire Department, several members including chief are attending.

Lighting & strobe fixtures to be repaired on Battalion Truck.

Peter Ensor, Fire Department Coordinator wants to have preventative maintenance done 2X per year on all vehicles, can be completed by Fleet Maintenance.

Peggy Dayton at CRD (finance) wants a motion re: budget contribution for new fire hall for next year.

Potential emergency access – down Sunnybrae Rd. through private property across a bridge to access on opposite side (east) of Kirby Creek.

- 6) Chair's Report as composed and written
- 7) New Business
  - a) Nominations and Elections

There are 3, 2-year terms to be filled: Cliff, James & Gerard Nominated – Brian Einarson & James Powell; one seat left open; remaining seat to be appointed by Mike Hicks as there were no nominations from the floor.

- 8) Audience Comments & Questions  
Morrison's thanked for SROW over their land.
- 9) Next Meeting: December 17, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.
- 10) Adjournment

## 11. OPSRRA SEEKING NEW DIRECTORS

The OPSRRA Board of Directors is currently actively seeking new Board members. We have been a lean group these last couple years and 2 Board members are planning to step down when our AGM comes around in the spring of 2015. We really need some new energy to continue our role in the communities of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River. Anyone interested please email us at [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com).

## 12. WILDLIFE SURVEY RESULTS

So far, we have received 30 responses. The survey runs for a few more days after this report was submitted—we will publish the complete survey results on our website after the survey closes. Respondents also had quite a few comments. We will publish these on our website as well.

This is a very brief summary to date.

Have you had an interaction with wildlife on your property in the last two years?

|     | Number of responses | Percent |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| Yes | 27                  | 90%     |
| No  | 3                   | 10%     |

Which wildlife do you experience most frequently?

|         | Number of responses | Percent |
|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Bear    | 5                   | 17%     |
| Cougar  | 0                   | 0%      |
| Deer    | 23                  | 77%     |
| Raccoon | 2                   | 7%      |

Is the wildlife in my living space:

|                                | Number of responses | Percent |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| A feature I enjoy              | 29                  | 97%     |
| A bother to me and my property | 6                   | 20%     |

|   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| Causing property damage                     | 5 | 17% |
| A potential to create a dangerous situation | 6 | 20% |
| A direct danger to myself                   | 2 | 7%  |

Do you have the information to coexist with, or do you understand how to coexist with wildlife on your property?

|     | Number of responses | Percent |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| Yes | 29                  | 97%     |
| No  | 1                   | 3%      |

Do you practice these attraction management solutions?

|   | Number of responses |
|---|---------------------|
| Manage garbage: I store garbage inside a building                           | 27                  |
| Fruit trees: I pick fruit before it ripens and falls on the ground          | 17                  |
| Feed pets/birds: I feed my pets indoors and have no bird feeders,           | 17                  |
| Livestock and chicken: I use electric fence systems to protect my livestock | 3                   |
| Compost: I compost properly and don't add dairy or meat products            | 24                  |

What do you think a solution to the wildlife in your neighbourhood should be?

|   | Number of responses | Percent |
|---|---------------------|---------|
| Leave the wildlife alone they are not a concern                         | 7                   | 23%     |
| Destroy wildlife as it enters the neighbourhood                         | 0                   | 0%      |
| Report the wildlife to provincial Conservation                          | 0                   | 0%      |
| Co-exist with wildlife by educating communities on managing attractions | 23                  | 77%     |

Are you aware, that relocation of wildlife is not a successful solution and has proven to an ineffective method of managing wildlife in settled areas?

|     | Number of responses | Percent |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| Yes | 27                  | 90%     |
| No  | 3                   | 10%     |

### 13. 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              | Le Sooke Spa                     |
| Accent in Grooming                           | Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage    |
| A Point of View B & B                        | 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.  | Sandy's Drywall Ltd              |
| Full Circle Seeds                            | Stick in the Mud Coffee House    |
| Glen's Gardening Company                     | Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast |
| Heron's Rest B & B                           | Three Sisters Farm               |
| "In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services | Tugwell Creek Honey Farm         |
| Jambo Pet Sitting Service                    | Tugwell Creek Meadery            |
| Kemp Lake Store Café                         | Welcome Wagon                    |
| Knotty Beds by Nature and Cedar Surfboards   | Wildewood Custom Homes           |
|  | Wood Visions                     |

## **8. 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.**