



Representing the Residents and Ratepayers of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River
www.opsrra.ca

OPSRRRA'S OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2016 CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION!

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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OPSRRRA 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. OPSRRRA 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) 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 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

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

Visit the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca to view a Calendar of Events.

<p>Friday Jan 1st</p>	<p>ANNUAL OTTER POINT POLAR BEAR SWIM!</p> <p>Registration at 11:30 am</p> <p>Cannon start at 12:00 pm Whiffin Spit Park, Sooke.</p> <p>Sponsored by the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department</p> 
<p>Saturday Jan 2nd</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Sooke River Walk. Start the new year with an easy 9 km loop on a good trail. There are many spots on the trail to turn around and head back to the parking lot so the hike can be as long or short as you like. Meet at 9:00 am at the upper parking lot of the Sooke Potholes Park (Barnes Station). 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 jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Tuesday Jan 5th</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</p> <p>Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>

<p>Saturday Jan 9th</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>East Sooke Park: Coppermine Loop. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike of difficulty level 3. Meet at William Simmons Memorial Park parking lot at 3220 Otter Point Rd at 9:00 am to car pool to the trailhead. If more convenient meet at the Pike Rd parking lot in East Sooke Park at 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 jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Tuesday Jan 12th</p>	<p>Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</p> <p>Monthly meeting 1:00 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of the Commission usually take place at SEAPARC on the 1st Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. • Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair. • Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm
<p>Tuesday Jan 12th</p>	<p>Shirley Fire Protection Society AGM</p> <p>7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
<p>Wednesday Jan 13th</p>	<p>Shirley Women's Institute Meeting</p> <p>Monthly meeting second Wednesday of the month</p> <p>10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
<p>Wednesday Jan 13th</p>	<p>Shirley Community Association Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Guest speaker: RCMP Staff Sergeant Jeff McArthur to speak about recent break-ins in local area and give tips about how to keep your</p>

	<p>property and home more secure. See item #4 for more info.</p>
<p>Tuesday Jan 19th</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee 7:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p>
<p>Wednesday Jan 20th</p>	<p>Shirley Fire Commission Meeting Monthly meeting third Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm at the Shirley Fire Hall</p>
<p>Tuesday Jan 26th</p>	<p>JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission 3:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point Public Welcome. For enquiries call 250 642 1500</p>
<p>Tuesday Feb 2nd</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
<p>Wednesday Feb 3rd</p>	<p>Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 1st Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. • Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair. • Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm

<p>Saturday Feb 6th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Exploration of parks in the District of Sooke. Details to be confirmed at a later date. Meet at John Muir School at 9:00 am for a walk & ride around Sooke District. 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 jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Saturday Feb 13th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Sooke Potholes River Walk. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike of difficulty level 2. Meet at William Simmons Memorial Park parking lot at 3220 Otter Point Rd at 9:00 am to car pool to the trailhead. If more convenient meet at the upper parking lot of the Sooke Potholes (Barnes Station) 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 Sid Jorna at 250 642 2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Thursdays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
<p>Saturdays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pilates at the Shirley Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am Level 1 class, suitable for beginners Contact: Sandra Smith Website: www.svakayoga.com Email: info@sandrasmithyoga.com</p>
<p>Tuesdays & Fridays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yoga at the Shirley Hall Tuesday Jan 5th start date</p>

	<p>Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm Fridays at 10:00 am – 11:15 am</p> <p>Class for all levels megan.einarson@hotmail.com</p>
Thursdays & Sundays	<p>Nia Dance/Movement Class at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sundays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Contact: Melody Kimmell, 250-646-2995 email movingmelody@gmail.com</p>

2. JORDAN RIVER: PROPOSED CHANGES TO NO SHOOTING ZONE

OSPRRA has submitted a proposal to change the “No Shooting Boundaries” around the area of Jordan River.

The area has been experiencing various types of recreational shooting close to and around residential areas. This shooting has been a safety concern for the residents and visitors to the area.

A map was sent to the province, showing the proposed changes and many residents and businesses submitted their letters of support to this proposal.

This was sent to the office of:

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations | West Coast Region, 2080-A Labieux Road | Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9

Sean Pendergast RPBio Senior Wildlife Biologist | Fish & Wildlife Section

After much debate and conversation, the office of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource made changes to the proposed map.

The community would like to see the boundary proposal off North Main moved further away from Trailhead Drive. This is where the shooting originated and the current map proposed by the province does not address this concern.

The regulation change was submitted and is now posted on the Public Engagement Website. You can log in and see the proposal as well as make comments

at: <http://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/pub/ahte/hunting/no-shooting-area-expansion-around-jordan-river>

Please review the provincial proposal, map, and post your comments in support of further moving boundaries away from the community and recreational areas.

Thank You
Debbie Read- OPSRRA - VP

3. REPORT PROBLEM SHOOTING TO RAPP LINE

OPSRRA has been working hard to get the shooting area moved further away from residences in Jordan River in response to serious safety concerns raised by residents and many other users of the area, as referenced in the previous article.

If residents or users of the area continue to experience problem shooting in that or any other area, they should call the provincial RAPP line in order to have the complaints logged for future reference. We see it as a major safety issue but have realized that in order to be taken seriously, complaints and incidences need to be on record with the Conservation Officer Service.

Dial Toll Free 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or Report Violators [Online](#). For more info about the RAPP program: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/rapp.html>.

4. RCMP GUEST SPEAKER AT SCA MEETING WILL GIVE TIPS ABOUT HOW TO DISCOURAGE THIEVES

The November issue of the OPSRRA newsletter featured a quick article about thieves that had been busy at work in the Otter Point area, and also made their way out to Shirley, Jordan River and beyond, stealing many items from many residences. In response to these recent break ins and the on going need for residents and ratepayers to improve security by adding motion lights, locks to out buildings, etc Staff Sergeant Jeff McArthur of the Sooke RCMP detachment will be speaking at the Shirley Community Associations' January 13th meeting which begins at 7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall. OPSRRA members are welcome to attend.

5. YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT & APPEAL DEADLINE

According to the BC Assessment Authority the assessed value of a single-family home in the Capital Regional District (CRD) increase by 5% – 10% last year. Their 2015 assessment of the value of your property will be used by the CRD and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area to determine your 2016 property taxes. Your property value assessment

was mailed on December 31st. If you don't receive it by January 15th, 2016 call **866-825-8322** or Toll Free: **1-866-825-8322** to request a copy. It will also be available for viewing on the BC Assessment web site: <http://evaluatebc.bcassessment.ca/> beginning Monday, January 4th.

Some statistics:

- The B.C. Assessment Authority is responsible for evaluating all properties in British Columbia. Last year 2,167,451 properties were assessed, province-wide – an increase of almost 3% from the previous year.
- In 2015 the Assessment Authority assessed about 148,000 properties in the Capital Regional District (CRD) – an increase of 1,200 over 2014.
- Last year, the property valuations used to determine your 2015 assessment ranged from -2% to +3% for residential property assessments and 2% to 6% for commercial assessments.
- This year the property valuations are expected to increase assessments by 5% – 10% for single-family homes.
- Overall, the value of all assessed properties in the CRD increased slightly from \$88.8 billion to \$90.5 billion in 2015. Almost \$1.099 billion of the \$90.5 billion was attributable to subdivisions, rezoning and new construction. The remainder came from an increase in the assessed market value of existing real estate.
- There are approximately 148,000 assessed properties in the CRD - comprising the 13 incorporated municipalities and three electoral areas (including the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area). It's anticipated they will be valued at over \$92 billion. Updated figures for the CRD's Assessment Roll will be released in early January, 2016.
- Approximately 3/4 of the total value of the CRD's assessments are for residential properties (including single-family dwellings, manufactured homes, apartment buildings, etc.) with an estimated average residential property value of \$492,000. This compares to an estimated average residential property value of \$300,000 in the JDFEA.

The B.C. Assessment Authority's **2016** assessment of your property doesn't reflect its current real estate market worth. Their valuation is a "best guess" of your property's value as of **01 July, 2015** based upon recent and comparable property sales, and other assessments in your neighbourhood. Additional factors may be considered such as your home's age, location, quality of construction, current condition and recent improvements. Their July 1st 2015 valuation will be used by the local taxing authorities to determine your **2016 property tax**. If you feel that their valuation is incorrect or you want more information on how they arrived at your property assessment, contact the local B.C. Assessment Authority office. Their contact information is given below.

The Assessment Authority has been concentrating on updating its inventory of rural properties in the CRD and anticipates this inventory update will result in increased assessments for some rural properties. Letters were recently sent to 1,855 property owners across the CRD advising them that their assessment was going to increase by more than the average. This was up from 719 letters in 2014 - a 158% increase.

The BC Assessment Authority has also begun collecting aerial and street front images of properties. This information will be used to assist with the 2016 property reviews and in calculating 2017 property assessments.

As of early January, 2016 the Assessment Authority's website will provide a listing of property assessments and sales to help property owners understand their property's assessed market value in comparison to other properties in their area. Go to www.bcassessment.ca and click on the **e-valueBC** link. Copies of neighbourhood assessments are also available at local area offices and most municipal halls and government agent's offices across the province.

Appealing Your Property Assessment:

Property owners wishing to appeal their property assessment must do so in writing. An on-line version of the complaint form as well as a step-by-step handbook is available on their assessment appeal web site:

<http://www.bcassessment.ca/public/Pages/AppealingyourAssessment.aspx>

Note: The deadline to appeal your 2015 property assessment is midnight on Friday, 29 January, 2016.

Contact information for the Greater Victoria Office is:

Phone: 866-825-8322 or Toll Free: **1-866-825-8322.**

Email: capital@bcassessment.ca

Office Address: 102-3350 Douglas St., Victoria. V8Z 7X9

Web site: www.bcassessment.ca

Beginning January 4th this web site will provide a wide range of information related to this year's assessments.

The Capital Office Management Team is: Assessor: Reuben Danakody; Deputy Assessors: Gerry Marolla, Greg Wood, Bill Dawson and Christopher Whyte.

6. PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL OPTION

Did you know that under certain circumstances you can defer paying your property taxes? Across British Columbia 35,722 seniors and disabled property owners and 1,389 families

qualified for the provincial program in 2014. In Greater Victoria about 5,000 homeowners deferred over 700 million in 2014 property taxes. Under the program the province pays the outstanding property tax and currently charges seniors and the disabled .85% annual interest. Families, who qualify, pay 2.85% interest on the deferral. Outstanding taxes are registered as a lien on the property and can be repaid at any time until the sale of the property, at which time the province collects its debt. Eligibility is based upon the following criteria:

- Age 55 or older.
- Provincial eligibility as a disabled person.
- Supporting a child under 18 living at home.
- Paying support for child under 18.
- Supporting your child (or step child) at college or university.
- Supporting a child designated as having a disability.

More details about the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=C328CC97B41F441BBB63E2D54299C04F>

Phone: 250-356-8121 (Victoria) or 1-800-663-7867 (Toll-free)
If you call toll-free, ask to be transferred to 250-356-8121.

Email: TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca

7. TIMBERWEST ALERT REGARDING MATTERHORN TRAIL

The following was sent to the JDFCTS by TimberWest

An Alert from TimberWest, the map is posted on our website www.jdftrails.ca

Dear Sir,

This is to notify you that TimberWest Forest Company will be harvesting the area shown shaded orange on the attached 1:5,000 scale map.

As you can see, portions of the Matterhorn trail will be affected.

The harvesting will be carried out between December 15th, 2015 and June 1st, 2016 and work may be ongoing seven days per week.

Because of the potential dangers associated with active harvesting, we ask that you notify the JdF Community Trails Society that this area is strictly off limits until all harvesting work is complete.

The Prime Contractor responsible for the worksite safety will be blocking access routes through the site to prevent unauthorized entry.

Your co-operation is much appreciated.

8. CRD SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON DRAFT REGIONAL PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The DRAFT CRD Regional Trails Management Plan is ready for public feedback. The deadline for feedback is Jan 31st. To review the DRAFT follow this link:

www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-trails-management-plan

9. SOOKE SEEDY SATURDAY 2016 VENDOR REGISTRATION REMINDER

[Sooke Seedy Saturday 2016](#) is around the corner; mark your calendars for Saturday February 27 2016 from 10 am - 3 pm at the [Sooke Community Hall](#).

We welcome local, ecologically grown, GMO-free seed and plants and from local seed producers and growers, grown out by the vendor or at least clearly indicated if not.

Priority will be given to vendors who

- Grow/produce seeds and plants
- Promote sustainability related education and resources
- Specialize in original or innovative gardening practices and products

Registration is now open for vendors. Register and pay online through our website [here](#). Table fees are \$40 with no percentage of sales. There is a \$10.00 discount if you register before January 1, 2016.

If you have any questions please email seedysaturday@gmail.com

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. 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) 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 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.	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
	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

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

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.