

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE **April 2011**

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a registered non-profit society with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about **400**. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point who are age 18 or over are eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships cost \$5.00 per person and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information and on-line registration. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley or Otter Point, but who wish to support the Association.

The purpose of our society is to:

- Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
- Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
- Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
- Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
- Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA now emails this newsletter to over **285** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca or **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Saturday
April 2

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
William Simmons Memorial Park
9:30 a.m.

Meet at the William Simmons Memorial Park parking lot at to check out the developing trail system.
Route to be determined.

A 3+ hour hike.
Bring a lunch.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.
Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Tuesday
April 5

Juan de Fuca Emergency Services
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

See newsletter item below for more information about JDF Emergency Services.

Wednesday
April 6

Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)
Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
April 9

Otter Point Official Community Plan Review Workshop
Finalizing Recommendations
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
John Muir Elementary

See newsletter item below for details

Sunday
April 10

Shirley Craft Fair
10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Sunday
April 10

Shirley Fire Protection Society Meeting
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Fire Hall

Monday
April 18

**OPSRRA Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting**
Members welcome!

7:30 p.m.

Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Agenda available on request.

Contact Arnie Campbell at d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Tuesday
April 19

**JDF Electoral Area Land Use Committee (LUC)
Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Edward Milne Community School

Note:

This meeting will consider whether the Marine Trail Holdings rezoning proposal should be referred for public hearing.

Obtain the agenda the Friday before the meeting on the CRD website at:

http://www.crd.bc.ca/agendas/juandefucalandusecom_/index.htm

Select the year and month of the agenda you wish to read.

Saturday
April 23

**Muir Creek Protection Society
Save our Salmon Festival**

1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Shirley Community Hall

See newsletter item below for details.

Tuesday
April 26

**Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation
Commission
Monthly Meeting**

5:00 p.m.

JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Tuesday
April 26

Dam Safety / Water Licensing Presentation
Water Branch, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Board Room, Village Foods, Sooke

Donation of \$3.00 to cover tea and a muffin

This is your chance to learn about your rights and obligations if you are interested in a water license or dam on your property.

RSVP:

Mary Alice Johnson
Box 807 Sooke, BC V9Z 1H8
250-642-3671

Thursday
April 28 **Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Economic Development Commission**
Monthly Meeting
6:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Services Office
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Monday
May 2 **Federal Election**
Polls open:
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Check your Voter Registration Information for your correct polling location

Tuesday
May 3 **Juan de Fuca Emergency Services**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

Wednesday
May 4 **Otter Point Official Community Plan Review**
Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

Review of community comments from the April Policy Review Workshop.

See newsletter item below for details.

Wednesday
May 4 **Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)**
Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Mondays **Karate for all ages**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

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

Thursdays **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Everyone welcome

Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

Thursdays **Nia Dance / Movement Class**
6:45 to 8:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Contact Melody Kimmell:
250-646-2995
movingmelody@gmail.com

2. **ELECTION: OPSRRA 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OPSRRA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sunday, March 27, 2011 at the Otter Point Fire Hall.

The following were elected by acclamation for a one year term:

President: Arnie Campbell
Vice President: Fiona McDannold
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Phillips
Directors Brenda Mark, Sandra Barta, Wayne Fritz, Erik James and Marika Nagasaka.

OPSRRA Membership Report for the 2011 Annual General Meeting

Membership at the time of the 2010 AGM was 377 members, with 52 from Shirley and 325 from Otter Point.

OPSRRA continues to keep its membership up-to-date. During the past year we have removed 19 members and 5 associate members (moved, lost contact, deceased, requested removal, was listed twice).

During the past year we have added 18 new members, with 7 residing in Shirley and 11 residing in Otter Point, and 5 associate members.

Membership now stands at 376 with 58 being from Shirley and 318 from Otter Point. We also have 20 Associate members who do not reside in the Otter Point & Shirley area, do not have any voting privileges but support the association and wish to receive the monthly newsletter.

Prepared by Erik James.

OPSRRA Financial Report for the 2011 Annual General Meeting

March 22, 2010 to March 27, 2011

OPSRRA MAIN ACCOUNT

Debits		Credits	
Hall rentals	\$105.00	Memberships/donations	\$420.50
Bank fees	\$31.12		
Advertising	\$68.54		
Society act fee	\$25.00		

Website fee	\$74.48	
Postage/printing	\$ 38.40	
Totals:	\$342.54	\$420.50
Account Balance:	\$358.20	
<hr/>		
OPPSRA Vision Account	\$1,201.75	(no transactions this reporting period)
<hr/>		
Petty Cash Float	\$14.36	

Bob Phillips Treasurer

3. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ELECTS EXECUTIVE

The Shirley Community Association held their Annual General Meeting on March 9, 2011 and elected the following members to their association's Board of Directors:

President:	Fiona McDannold
Vice-President:	Margaret Johnson
Treasurer:	James Powell
Secretary:	Linda Teneycke
Directors:	Chuck Minten, Max Kuo, Nick Wilde.

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

- ⤴ A hall facility 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.
- ⤴ Provides emergency shelter in case of disaster.
- ⤴ Serves as a conduit for communication between various government agencies and local residents.
- ⤴ Provides a forum for local residents to raise their concerns/comments.

SCA membership: \$10 per person per year

Web address: www.shirleycommunity.org

email sca@shirleycommunity.org

4. OPSRRA SUPPORT FOR CRD PURCHASE OF MARINE TRAIL HOLDINGS PROPERTY FOR PARK LAND

One of the topics discussed at the OPSRRA AGM was whether OPSRRA should take a position in favour or against the proposed rezoning of the Marine Trail Holdings properties which border the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail west of China Beach. Here is a summary of the arguments that OPSRRA has heard for and against the proposed rezoning which is necessary for the development to proceed.

Highlights: Arguments in favour of the proposed rezoning:

Jobs

- ⤴ Estimated 45 annual construction jobs for five years peak construction period.
- ⤴ Estimated 80+ full time equivalent annual jobs in operating the fully built out resort.

Property Taxes

- ⤴ Estimated \$204,900 per year by year four, \$576,000 by year nine and \$853,900 in year 14.

Proposed Local Amenities

- ⤴ Donation of approximately 98 hectares to BC Parks, including land for the JDF Marine Trail.
- ⤴ Build a helipad for emergency services use.
- ⤴ Build three water reservoirs for fire protection services.
- ⤴ Build two public access points to the JDF Marine Trail and public parking for trail users.
- ⤴ Access for Pacheedat First Nation to culturally important areas in resort area.

Planning for a "Green" and Environmentally Sensitive Resort

- ⤴ Commit to maintain 105 hectares as protected green space
- ⤴ Buildings will not be visible from the highway.
- ⤴ All buildings will be set back at least 150 meters from JDF Marine Trail and at least 1.5 tree lengths from the Park boundary.
- ⤴ Plan to use captured rain water for the cabins rather than drilling wells.
- ⤴ Plan to use a common sewage system.
- ⤴ Area won't be clear cut if taken out of existing Resource zone.

Highlights: Arguments against the rezoning application:

Absence of Resort Fire and Emergency Services

- ⤴ Resort will increase risk for summer fire and vehicle accidents in the area.
- ⤴ No local fire or emergency services are planned or readily available.

Questionable Local Economic Benefits of the Resort

- ⤴ Few construction, material, furnishing or marketing jobs likely available for JDFEA residents, most resort jobs are customarily low paying and part time.
- ⤴ Only a small portion of any new property taxes go to the JDFEA for local services - JDFEA residents will subsidize increased fire emergency, police and other service costs.
- ⤴ Increased demands for neighboring volunteer fire and emergency services.

Negative Impact on the JDF Marine Trail

- ⤴ Increased use of the trail immediately around the resort by 500+ resort residents people will threaten the ecological integrity of that trail coastal area.
- ⤴ An adjacent resort with 500+ people will threaten the wilderness experience for people who use the JDF Marine Trail.

Negative Impact on the Natural Environment

- ⤴ Development of the resort between the Highway and the JDF Marine Trail will have a destructive impact on the natural environment, plants and wildlife both in the resort area and the areas adjacent to it.
- ⤴ The proposed resort is too big and in the wrong place between the highway and the JDF Marine Trail.
- ⤴ Approval of the rezoning for the proposed resort will set a planning precedent for further rezonings for increased resort and residential development and related loss of remaining natural environment in the Rural Resource Lands.

Requested Rezoning Contrary to the Regional Growth Strategy

- ⤴ The CRD Regional Growth Strategy is designed to keep urban growth compact while maintaining the integrity of rural areas, not the establishment of a tourist resort village in the Rural Resource Lands.

Alternatives in Jordan River and Port Renfrew

- ^ Proposed that such tourist resort developments be located in Port Renfrew or Jordan River where existing land is available and environmental costs would be lower.

Outcome of the membership's discussion:

To neither support or oppose the proposed rezoning. Instead, the membership recommended that the OPSRRA Board of Directors act on a suggestion from the Regional Director that the CRD Board be asked to purchase the properties as a regional park land and use these park lands to buffer the provincial marine park from any possible future encroachment. The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society also supports this position and the two organizations have now agreed to jointly submit the following letter to the members of the CRD Board of Directors.

We are writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society to ask the Board to act decisively to save the integrity of the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail.

As has been extensively discussed, the removal four years ago of forest lands in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area from Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 25 by the provincial government and the subsequent sale of these lands into the real estate market has precipitated a situation which could adversely impact the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail Provincial Park. Both of our organizations are very concerned that if the rezoning applications currently being made by Marine Trail Holdings Ltd. to the Capital Regional Board are successful, this will threaten the wilderness experience of the adjacent Juan de Fuca Marine Trail and contravene the intent of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Even if the requested zoning changes are denied, the lands, without the protection of the TFL, are open to unrestricted resource extraction which will also diminish the park's attractiveness as a world renowned hiking experience.

It seems clear from the public response that the entire Capital Region District has a stake in this outcome and wants both the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail and the Regional Growth Strategy protected. We therefore urge you to purchase the 236 hectare property in the Rural Resource lands from Marine Trail Holdings Ltd. for incorporation within a CRD-Provincial-Federal park plan for southern Vancouver Island.

5. ALM ORGANIC FARM TLC's NEWEST CONSERVATION PARTNER

The Land Conservancy (TLC) recently recognized ALM Organic Farm in Otter Point for its land stewardship including its contribution to agriculture, sustainable farming and conservation. The TLC uses their Conservation Partner Program to encourage the preservation of farmland for its environmental, economic and social benefits to a community.

The 15 acre ALM farm property is owned by Mary Alice and Jan Johnson, and Marika Nagasaka is an operating partner. The property has been in almost continuous use as farm land since 1914 and the present farm has operated as an

organic farm since 1981. The farm has been a pioneer in the training of new farmers, promoting locally grown organic produce, hosting workshops and encouraging the community to support local farmers. ALM farm is also home to Full Circle Seeds and the historic Harris family farm house. Their web site is: www.almfarms.org.

6. SAVE OUR SALMON FESTIVAL

The following story was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by the organizers of the Save Our Salmon Festival. To volunteer with this event contact Amanda:

Phone: 250 818-4633
email: dakinitidalwilds@yahoo.com

Muir Creek rumbled and decided of its own accord that the community should get together in the Spirit of peace, love and unity and celebrate, with conscious, local music as a vehicle for positive evolution.

The 5th Annual S.O.S. Fest (Save Our Salmon)...a festival inspired by and in celebration of Muir Creek; is booked!! It is happening at the Shirley Hall Saturday, April 23 from 1pm to 1am. There will be live music, workshops, dance and an eco-village of vendors with conscious, sustainable products and info. All proceeds will go into a specific project to help protect and preserve Muir Creek, a most special place.

Muir Creek is a very special place located 12 km west of Sooke. It has been used as a recreational area since the 70s and before that was an important ceremonial/celebrational area for the coastal T'souke First Nations peoples. There is an active surf break at Muir Creek, 3 species of spawning salmon (Coho, Chum & Spring), culturally modified trees, the second largest yew tree in B.C.'s 'Big Tree Registry' and several old growth cedars 6ft+ in diameter. The area is privately owned land by Timberwest.

Date: Saturday, April 23
Time: 1:00 pm -1:00 am
Place: The Shirley Hall

S.O.S. Fest 2011 Line-Up

BANDS

- Session Funk 5-piece jazz-funk fusion band from Vancouver
- Arise Deep groovin' roots reggae & dub
- Soulgoalies Original reggae, funk & groove
- Waves On Monday Tasty, local flavour with weaving harmonies to sooth the soul.
- Ruby Playing original earthy kids tunes...from the Kootenays!

DANCE

- [Taiya](#) Chakra bellydancer to inspire the passionate fire within

WORKSHOPS

- Growing food & Preserving Seeds on the West Coast Marika Nagasaka from [ALM Organic Farm](#) & [Full Circle Seeds](#)
- The Magic of Mushrooms Kristine Pearson & Connell Gatzke
- Yoga teacher & style to be announced

SOUND PROVIDED BY

- [D.J. Hayde](#) Inspiring irie aloha spirit with conscious tunes

The S.O.S. Fest is a festival 'inspired by and in celebration of Muir Creek. An eclectic fusion of live music, Yoga, dance, workshops and an eco-village of info booths weaves a feeling of celebration and unity among our community. Gratitude and love for Muir Creek bubbles throughout the festivities. It is a benefit festival, where everyone involved in putting it together, including professional musicians, dancers, sound people, volunteers who make yummy food, coffee, serve drinks, work the door, security; local sustainable businesses who offer info & display, provide workshops, donate door prizes and gifts for the musicians, etc., donate their efforts to the cause...Muir Creek.

To view previous S.O.S. Fests, visit <http://www.dakinitidalwilds.com/> and go to the SOS page or go to <http://www.sos-fest.blogspot.com/>

7. CRD TO USE OUR LOCAL FORESTS FOR CARBON OFFSETS?

On August 12, 2010 The Land Conservancy (TLC), the Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks Committee and the CRD Water Commission completed the purchase of 5,800 acres of new park and watershed lands from Western Forest Products for a total cost of 18.8 million dollars. These purchases added land to the CRD's Sooke Potholes Regional Park, created a new regional park at Sandcut Beach near Jordan River, the first regional park west of Sooke, and expanded the Greater Victoria Watershed in the Week's Lake area. All of the parcels placed in regional parks are protected by conservation covenants held by TLC, while the watershed lands are protected by the Water Commission.

The CRD recently announced that it is now going to spend \$20,000 on a study to determine whether there is a business case for trying to sell an estimated 2 - 4 million dollars worth of carbon credit offsets, over the next 20 years, from these and other forest lands owned by the CRD. The buying and selling of carbon offset credits was made possible by the provincial government when it introduced its B.C. Emissions Offset Regulations and Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Framework. By calculating how many tonnes of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions were avoided by keeping this area in forest, replanting and undertaking restoration practices it is possible to set a value on the carbon trading market which can then be sold to someone who is exceeding their allowable GHG emissions.

8. UPDATE: OTTER POINT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

The review process

The Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) review process is moving along. The consulting firm is HB LANARC which is working with an 11 member OCP advisory Citizen's Committee. The committee's membership, terms of reference, scheduled meeting dates, mapping and reports to date are available online at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/landuse/otterpoint_ocp.htm. Only three additional meetings are planned before the advisory Citizens' Committee completes its work.

1. Community Workshop to Identify OCP Policies: Saturday, April 9, 1:00-4:00 pm, John Muir School, 7179 West Coast Road, Sooke
2. Citizens' Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 7:00-9:00 pm, Otter Point Fire Hall
3. Community Workshop to Review the Committee's OCP Recommendations: Saturday, June 4, 1:00- 4:00 pm, John Muir School, 7179 West Coast Road, Sooke

OPSRRA encourages its membership to visit the OCP review website listed above; to attend the advisory Citizens' Committee meetings; and especially to participate in the last two community workshops to develop policies for the OCP and to review the Committee's preliminary recommendations for a new OCP.

OPSRRA submission

OPSRRA made an initial submission to the OCP Review Committee on January 26, 2011. It outlined a number of interrelated and sometimes conflicting pressures for changes in the Otter Point OCP. It drew attention to the 2008 Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River, which was developed with OPSRRA support and endorsement. It described different OCP planning approaches used by the neighbouring rural communities of Metchosin and Highlands. It also recommended that the advisory Citizens' Committee give consideration to using planning tools applied in other areas in the development/revision of their OCPs, specifically *The Green Bylaws Toolkit* and the *Water Balance Model*. The full submission is on the OPSRRA website at <http://opsrra.ca/ocp.htm>

As part of the OCP review process, OPSRRA, along with other community organizations and individuals, may still make a submission to the Citizens' Committee. The cut-off date set by the Committee for receiving submissions is April 9, 2011. The OPSRRA Board is seeking feedback and direction from its members as to whether to make a second submission and, if so, what that submission should include.

Questions

1. Do you support:
 - The broad goals from the 2008 *Strategic Vision for Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River*?
 - The community-identified priorities as reported in the *NowHowWow* Report of February 2011?

Note: View these at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/landuse/otterpoint_ocp.htm.

2. Do you support OPSRRA advocating for the following provisions in a revised Official Community Plan?
 - Keeping Otter Point a rural community with larger lots, "residential elbow room," and a rural lifestyle;

- Strengthening environmental protection for natural/sensitive ecosystems, riparian areas, steep slope areas, and foreshore areas;
 - A community-wide planning process to assess long-term community water supply options, opportunities and costs including: existing Kemp Lake water services, potential use of CRD water, potable well water and/or residential cistern storage systems;
 - A mandatory public assessment for all new rezoning and subdivision applications when significant impacts on the existing water supply/balance, parks and trails development, fire protection services, transportation services, sensitive ecosystems (*SEI standards*), local property taxes, and local economic development are reasonably anticipated;
 - A planning processes for the local economy built around a mixture of rural residential living , home-based business, forestry, agriculture and small-scale recreational tourism.
3. Do you want OPSRRA to organize a special meeting to focus on the Official Community Plan Review?

9. PROFILE: JUAN DE FUCA EMERGENCY SERVICES

Last month's newsletter looked at a range of emergency services such as Search & Rescue, Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Social Services that are supported by our property taxes and delivered throughout the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) by a combination of paid and volunteer staff. We continue this look at emergency services.

Fire Protection:

There are five volunteer fire departments in the JDFEA, while the Malahat contracts with the Cowichan Valley Regional District for its fire protection services. In our area the Shirley and Otter Point Fire Departments provide fire protection services, each within a defined geographic area identified as its Fire Protection District. Property owners outside of their community's Fire Protection District do not pay for fire protection and may not receive a service. The Rural Resource Lands and some communities such as Jordan River do not have a Fire Protection District or a volunteer fire department which means that they don't pay for or have fire protection services. This situation generally leads to substantial increases in fire insurance costs and may complicate negotiations for mortgages.

Volunteer fire departments provide fire protection services for homes, businesses and motor vehicle accidents. They are first responders for some medical emergencies and can be called upon to assist with other emergencies such as Search and Rescue, forest fire fighting, earthquake, downed power lines and tsunamis.

The 2010 budgets for the Shirley and Otter Point fire departments were:

Shirley	\$109,098 (\$78.63 per \$100,000 property assessment)
Otter Point	\$251,302 (\$59.89 per \$100,000 property assessment)

The estimated budgets for 2011 are:

Shirley	\$109,541 (\$78.95 per \$100,000 property assessment)
Otter Point	\$253,904 (\$57.58 per \$100,000 property assessment)

Both the Shirley and Otter Point fire departments operate under the auspices of the CRD but have an elected Board of Trustees who are responsible for managing the

annual budget and overseeing the operation of their respective fire departments. Using a minimum number of paid staff to operate the fire departments is a huge financial savings to taxpayers but means that volunteers must be continually recruited and trained so that minimum provincial standards are being met to ensure certification.

Taxpayers in the JDFEA also contribute towards the cost of some other emergency services in our community such as RCMP dispatch, fire dispatch, CREST and CRD emergency services. The 2011 estimated cost of these services per \$100,000 assessed property value is:

- RCMP Dispatch: \$1.13 (\$18,597 to JDFEA)
- CREST (Coordinated Emergency Radio System): \$5.63 (\$92,500 to JDFEA)
- CRD Emergency Services: \$.10 (\$1,621 for JDFEA)
- Fire Dispatch: \$1.18 (\$19,444 for JDFEA)

10. FIRE SEASON IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

Yes it is still cool and wet, but the fire season in Shirley and Otter Point is from April 1 to October 31. Contact the volunteer fire department for your community for details on fire permits, restricted hours of burning, setbacks from flammable material, etc.

We live in a forested community and summer will soon be here. Now is the time to finish clearing fire breaks around your house and outbuildings and reducing the amount of flammable material on your property. Here is the link to the Otter Point Fire Department's list of suggested precautions:

http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/public_info/wild_fire_protection.shtml

Otter Point information:

Website: www.otterpointfire.bc.ca
Phone: 250-642-6211 (**non-emergencies**) leave a message

Shirley information:

Phone: 250-646-2107 (**non-emergencies**)

FIRE EMERGENCY IN SHIRLEY OR OTTER POINT, CALL 9-1-1

11. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

There was a road between Sooke and Jordan River as early as 1910 and that a commercial bus service operated between Victoria and Jordan River in the 1920s? It was operated by Austin Kirby, one of the three sons of "Ma" and "Pa" Kirby who had settled next to Kirby Creek about 1910. Austin ran the service twice weekly from 1920 until 1929 when it was bought-out by Victoria Island Coach Lines.

Early travel by bus stage or motor car along the section of road from Sooke to Jordan River would certainly have been different from travel nowadays! Prior to 1929 the West Coast Road between Sooke and Otter Point didn't exist. Imagine leaving Sooke 100 years ago and journeying along Otter Point Road to Gordon's Beach and then to Shirley and Jordan River. One early reference is about a group of visiting British manufacturers being taken to Jordan River by motor car in 1912

to inspect the falling, transferring and booming of logs at the Canadian Puget Sound (CPS) operations.

Travellers of this era would have passed Scarf House, the Emerson School and the Henry Clark and Gordon farms as they traveled along Otter Point Road. Once into Shirley they would have crossed the recently completed bridge (1910) over Kirby Creek and then traveled up the steep hill past the future site of the Shirley Hall. Other bridges would have helped them cross the many unnamed creeks we now know as Frenchome, Begg, Eagle, Swallow Creek, Jacob and Sandcut. By 1911 there would have been evidence of the first British Columbia Electric Company power transmission line carrying electricity to Victoria from the recently completed Diversion Dam and power station in Jordan River. As they traveled to Jordan River during the 1910s and 20s people have seen numerous logging operations along the way such as Harry Vogel's horse-logging above Gordon's Beach, Milligan's Logging working between Sheringham Point Road and French Beach and the CPS railway logging operation near Point No Point.

Information in this month's Did You Know That? came from *4,000 Years A History of the Rainforest* and *The Sooke Story—The History and the Heartbeat*, both books published by the Sooke Region Museum.

Do you have local historical information that you would like to share, or questions that you would like answered? If so, let us know and we'll try to help. Contact Arnie Campbell by phone (250-642-3113) or by email: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

12. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

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

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

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

Support local businesses. The OPSRRA web site has more information about the following business listings

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair

Accent in Grooming

A Point of View B & B

ALM Organic Farm

Beaches West B & B

Bear Home Remodelling

Birds Edge Press

Bridge over Troubled Water Autism Intervention & Respite Service

DanCyn Kioti Excavation

Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suite

Fancy That Esthetics & Body Care

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.

Full Circle Seeds

Heron's Rest B & B

Jambo Pet Sitting Service

Kirsten Sykes, Realtor

Knotty Beds by Nature

Le Sooke Spa

Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage

Ocean Wilderness Inn

Otter Point Beach House

Otter Point Electrical Service

Reflexology by Marlene Barry

Rock Beach Grill and Groceries
(formerly Kemp Lake Store & Cafe)

Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop

Road's End Construction

Sandy's Drywall Ltd

Smiling Goat Farm Sitting Service

Stick in the Mud Coffee House

Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast

Three Sisters Farm

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Welcome Wagon

Wood Visions

13. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

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

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