

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE December 2011
WISHING EVERYONE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON



The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (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 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 OPSRRRA 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 OPSRRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRRA now emails this newsletter to over **300** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: opsrra@gmail.com you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Arnie Campbell	President	Fiona McDannold	Vice-President
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		Bob Philips	Treasurer
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Note: Contact any OPSRRRA director at the following email address:
opsrra@gmail.com

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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: opsrra@gmail.com or **250-642-3113** to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Saturday
December 3

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Walk in Sooke Potholes Regional Park
9:00 a.m.

Meet in the upper parking lot #2, Barnes Station.

A two hour walk along the river The footing is not difficult.

Pack a snack and dress for the weather.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email
sid2767@shaw.ca for details.

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
December 4

OPSRRA Membership Meeting
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

See newsletter item below for details.

Monday
December 5

Otter Point Board of Variance
6:30 p.m.

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

Board of Variance 01-11–Lot A, Section 7, Otter District,
VIP75055–8649 West Coast Road.

Contact JDF Planning Services (250-642-1500) for further
information.

Tuesday
December 6

Juan de Fuca Emergency Services
Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.
JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

Wednesday
December 7

Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation
Commission (SEAPARC)

Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
December 11 **Shirley Fire Protection Society**
AGM
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Sunday
December 1 **Sooke Region Museum**
Moss Cottage
Christmas

Free family event
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Snowman building, hot
beverages, roasted nuts,
entertainment and more!



Call the Museum for more information: 250.642.6351

Sunday
December 11 **People Protecting Poirier Society (PPP)**
AGM
10:00 a.m.
3120 Otter Point Road

Tuesday
December 13 **Otter Point Fire Trustees**
AGM
7:00 p.m.

Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

Wednesday
December 14 **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

Saturday
December 17 **Shirley Community Association**
Lunch and party
12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall
Adults and children welcome
By donation.



Saturday
December 17 **Otter Point Fire Department**
Candy Cane Run

See route details below. The run will be
advertised in the Sooke News Mirror
and on Sooke Food Bank collection bags.



2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday
January 1

Polar Bear Swim
Sponsored by the Otter Point Firefighters Association

Register by 11:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m. start
Whiffin Spit Park, Sooke BC

Warm up with hot chocolate after the swim!



Wednesday
January 4

Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)

Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Board Room
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Saturday
January 7

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Hike East Sooke Park, Iron Mine Bay area

9:00 a.m.

Meet at the Pike Road parking lot in East Sooke Park

A 1 to 2 hour, easy to moderate walk in the Iron Mine Bay area.

Pack a snack and dress for the weather.

Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767 or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.

Web site:
www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Mondays

Karate for all ages

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

Tuesdays

Kundalini Yoga

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Cost: \$5

With Alanda Carver

Wednesdays

Fire Practices in Shirley

7:00 p.m.

Volunteers always needed

Contact Fire Chief Donovan Ray: 250-646-2107

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. **OPSRRA FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Due to the November elections our fall membership meeting was delayed by a month. Here is the meeting information:

Date: Sunday, December 4
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Place: Otter Point Fire Hall

This meeting will have a different format as the OPSRRA directors want to review some community issues and ideas with the membership to help determine what OPSRRA's priorities should be for the coming year. Here are some of the items we would like to have the membership consider; members may raise other items at the meeting:

- Do we support a community forest?
- Do we know enough about where our water comes from and how to protect it?
- Does our present governance system meet the needs of the community?
- Are we satisfied with proposed changes to the Otter Point Official Community Plan?
- What should be our role in the Shirley/Jordan River OCP review?
- Should we participate in the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy review?

3. **OTTER POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CANDY CANE RUN**

The Otter Point Volunteer Fire Firefighters Association sponsors an annual trip through Otter Point with Santa Claus atop their decorated fire truck. Donations for the Sooke Food Bank welcomed. Walk to the end of your driveway and enjoy for 10 to 15 minutes!

[The Fire Department accepts donations for the Sooke Community Food Bank](#)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Route and Times

TIME	ROUTE
START 5:00 p.m.	 Thelmita Place, Sarah Drive, Helen Place, Patricia Marie Place
	 2900 block Otter Point Road to Young's Lake Road
	  Up Young's Lake Road to Poirier Road and back to Otter Point Road
	 Otter Point Road to Robinson Road (entire length), to Tugwell Road
	 Tugwell Road to Michelson Road (entire length)
	 Tugwell Road to Goudie Road (entire length)
6:15 p.m. approximately	 Otter Point Road to Amanda Road (entire length) and back to Otter Point Road
	 Otter Point Road to end of King Road (entire length) to Corby Ridge (entire length) and back to Otter Point Road
	 Otter Point Road to end of Otter Point Place (entire length)
	 Clark Road
	 Back to Otter Point Road and down to West Coast Road
7:00 p.m. approximately	 West Coast Road towards Sooke to Olympic Place (entire length)
	 Through Well O'Veary mobile home park (entire park) at 8177 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 (entire park)
	 West Coast Road to Carpenter Road (entire length) to Delrae (entire length)
	 Back to West Coast Road to Kemp Lake Road
8:00 p.m. approximately	 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

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL OTTER POINT POLAR BEAR SWIM



January 1, 2011
 Registration at 11:30 a.m.
 Cannon Start at 12:00 p.m. Whiffen Spit, Sooke

Sponsored by Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department
 Association

4. ELECTION RESULTS

OPSRRA takes this opportunity to thank all of the candidates who 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 Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission. View full election results for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area on the JDFEA web site: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/committees/advisory.htm#resultluc>

School Trustees

There were six candidates for the three vacancies in the Milnes Landing Zone of the Sooke School District.

Elected	Name	Votes
✓	Margot Swinburnson	2,320
✓	Neil Poirier	1,983
✓	Bob Phillips	1,688
	Allison Watson	1,501
	Terrance Martin	1,463
	Janet Evans	1,302

Regional Director

Mike Hicks was re-elected, for a three-year term as the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director. He informed the OPSRRA newsletter that he intends to appoint Wally Vowles, from Otter Point, as his Alternate Director.

Area	Hicks	Carver
Advance Voting at Sooke Community Hall:	56	34
Advance Voting at Sooke School District #62 offices:	6	14
Port Renfrew:	33	24
Shirley/Jordan River:	70	58
East Sooke:	178	172
Willis Point:	91	19
Malahat:	7	6
Otter Point:	211	145
View Royal & Esquimalt Indian Reserves:	14	4
TOTAL (votes cast):	666	476

Land Use Committee:

Area	Name	Votes	Elected
Shirley/Jordan River (one position)	Harold Shipton	86	✓
	George Miller	47	
Otter Point (one position)	Heather Phillips	209	✓
	John Brohman	141	

Advisory Planning Committee:

For the first time since the Advisory Planning Commissions were created, there was an election for the five representatives to the Otter Point APC (six candidates with five elected). Shirley/Jordan River APC returned by acclamation.

Area	Name	Votes	Elected
Otter Point (five positions)	Al Wickheim	229	✓
	Bud Gibbons	227	✓
	Sandy Sinclair	190	✓
	Sid Jorna	189	✓
	Anne Miller	180	✓
	Gerry Niedermeiser	153	
Shirley/Jordan River (by acclamation)	Dominique Bernardet		
	Sonja de Wit		
	Pascale Knoglinger		
	Brenda Mark		
	Fiona McDannold		

Commentary and comparison of Regional Director Election Results

According to figures provided by the Capital Regional District (CRD) there were 5,124 eligible voters in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area for the 2011 election. 1,142 votes were cast.

Using these figures, there was an estimated 22.2% turn-out for the Regional Director election.

Comparison of total Regional Director votes cast:

Year	Eligible Voters	Votes Cast
1999	unknown	1,635
2002	4,000 (estimated)	1,182
2005	4,618 (confirmed by CRD)	1,367
2008	4,765 (confirmed by CRD)	1,600
2011	5,124 (confirmed by CRD)	1,142

The 5,124 eligible voters identified by the CRD would not account for voters who register on the day of the election.

Note: See the following new story regarding the suggested inaccuracy of the CRD and School District Voter List for the JDFEA

The CRD further breaks down the total number of eligible voters by School District (SD) area:

SD	Area	Eligible Voters
61	Songhees & Esquimalt Indian Reserve Lands	1,117
62	East Sooke, Jordan River, Malahat, Otter Point, Port Renfrew & Shirley	3,743
63	Willis Point	264

Although not part of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area for land use planning, the residents living on the Songhees (View Royal) and Esquimalt First Nation lands are entitled to vote for the JDF Regional Director. Therefore, there are two ways that you can calculate the percentage of voter turn out. If you include the eligible voters living on the Esquimalt and View Royal First Nations lands the turn out for the 2008 election and 2011 elections was about 34% in 2008 and 22% in 2011. If you remove them from the number of eligible voters, the turn out for the remainder of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area was about 42% in 2008 and 28.5% in 2011.

For comparison, here are the turn-out figures for 2005, 2008 and 2011:

Area	2005	2008	2011
Advance Voting:	64	123	110
Port Renfrew:	60	83	57
Jordan River:	4	Poll combined with Shirley	
Shirley/Jordan River:	127	132	128
East Sooke:	494	551	350
Willis Point:	143	129	110
Malahat:	21	24	13
Otter Point:	391	515	356
View Royal Indian Reserves:	63	43	18
TOTAL	1367	1600	1142

Inclusion of the View Royal Indian Reserves:

The inclusion of the Songhees (View Royal) and Esquimalt Indian Reserve lands within the JDF Electoral Area should be reviewed as part of any governance study undertaken in the JDFEA. Although these voters have not voted in any great number (about 4% in 2002, 6% in 2005, 4% in 2008 and 1.6 % in 2011) they constitute about 22% of the eligible voters in our Electoral Area.

The only reason that they are included in our voting area is because the Esquimalt and Songhees Bands have entered into a contract with the CRD to purchase about 20 miscellaneous CRD services such as Storm Water Control, Emergency Response, Regional Parks, Regional Planning and Family Court. They became "orphans" within the CRD after the incorporation of View Royal and had to be attached to a CRD director somewhere, which by default came to be the JDF Electoral Area as ours was the only remaining one in their geographic area. However, they do not receive any land use or planning services from the JDF Electoral Area as their governance is the responsibility of their Native Band Councils. While they are entitled to have representation at the CRD Board, it would probably be more suitable if they were represented by an adjoining urban municipality Regional Director or a First Nations Regional Director rather than the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director.

5. ACCURACY OF THE JDFEA VOTERS' LIST QUESTIONED

Heather Phillips, Otter Point resident and recently re-elected representative to the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee submitted the following story:

No one can figure the percentage turnout of voters for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. The number of voters on the list is hugely inflated. There are 5124 entries for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. That includes the First Nations territories. The estimated population for all of the JDFEA in 2011, including the First Nations territories is 7296 people. There are way too many people on the JDFEA voters lists.

How come? Apparently, voters themselves are supposed to be helping manage the list. Who knew?

To some degree, voters do help with the list. When people go to the polls, they can update their addresses to show the postal code or street number assigned to their properties. They can bring along their sons and daughters who turned 18 between election dates to register as new voters. They may be new residents registering themselves for the first time as electors in the area. People may also remember to mention that a loved one has passed away and ask for the person's name to be taken off the list.

But some people don't show up on Election Day. Their addresses remain unchanged. A new voter may even register for the same property where the previous owner didn't get around to having the list updated. Since the voters list is alphabetical, CRD and School District staff working with the voters lists may not realize something just went wrong when the new property owners are added and the former owners aren't deleted.

At the time when a loved one dies, I really don't think any of us is going to remember to have the deceased person's name taken off the voters list. People mourn their loss and try to get on with their lives. I

had assumed the office keeping birth and death records helped keep the voters lists up to date but I was wrong.

There is a window of opportunity to examine the voters list a few weeks before the civic election. I never remember to go and look at the list. If I did, I don't know if, as a neighbour, I am the one to make it official that the woman whose name is on a memorial bench on Whiffen Spit really doesn't need her name on the voters list.

I keep trying to tell the CRD, through the clerk at the polling place, that the people we bought our house from in 1986 don't live here anymore. Maybe if I managed to get to the Correct Office at the Correct Time, staff would delete the names of the former owners from the voters list. It hasn't happened yet.

The present system for keeping an accurate voters list doesn't work. We need to find another system. Meanwhile, about the percentage turnout for voters in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area: whatever comes out in the press, our turnout was higher than that.

6. SHIRLEY FIRE COMMISSION ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

Harold Shipton, Secretary of the Shirley Fire Commission submitted the following story:

On Sunday the 20 of November the Shirley Fire Commission held its Annual General Meeting. This was attended by about 20 residents. Three of the six commissioners are retiring Jurgen Kriste, Ian Blaney and Anthony Barber. Elections were held and we were fortunate to have a slate of five candidates, Rod Huszar, Ron Ramsay, and Tracy Snow were elected to the commission. Now all that remains is for their election to be confirmed by the CRD Board. Remaining for another year of their two year appointments are Harold Shipton, Gerard LeBlanc and Lloyd Reddington.

7. REQUEST FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD (POD) CAPTAINS

Al Wickheim, Otter Point's Community Coordinator for the Juan de Fuca Emergency Management program submitted the following story:

Fellow Otter Point Residents:

I would like to extend congratulations to all those who ran in the latest local municipal elections—to those successful in their bids, as well as those not—your participation is what makes a democracy work. Well done!

I am, as well as recently elected to the APC, the Juan de Fuca Emergency Management representative as your Otter Point Community Coordinator. As such it is my responsibility to establish a loosely organized network of capable and resourceful community members, perhaps one or two per neighbourhood, who can either render or organize assistance to those less able and/or in need of assistance in the event of a disaster. We are familiar with events such as the wind storm of 2006, the heavier rain or snow storms that isolate people and extended power outages that leave folks cold and hungry. We all know that sooner or later a catastrophic earthquake and associated tsunami will hit our area hard. Maybe not in our lifetimes, but maybe tonight.

Common factors in these situations may include:

- community isolation
- residential isolation
- personal and or livestock injury
- residential destruction
- existing medical condition management and death

The neighbourhood "POD Captains" (I don't know what POD stands for, if anything) are likely going to be the same people, or types of people, who step up under adverse conditions. They make sure that old Mr. Jones down the road has wood in for his wood stove when the power is out, ensures that the neighbour two houses down who has diabetes is looked after. They do a bit of shovel work to re-route or clear an overflowing ditch to prevent a mudslide that could knock out a trailer or helps set a tarp over a holed and leaking roof. If a major event occurs and houses are destroyed, the POD Captain may have or know of someone in the area with accommodation and shelter.

These people do not wear capes nor do they perform death defying acts. This network just does on a somewhat more conscious manner what one would do, if able and circumstances dictated supportive intervention. Knowing the medical personnel, first-responder, electrician, plumber, carpenter or other people with specialized and applicable skills and interest in your neighbourhood is important. There are lots of skilled individuals out there, sometimes it just takes a bit of innovative thinking to incorporate their specialties into a community support team in a time of significant crisis. Cooks, machine operators (especially with equipment on hand), those handy with a chainsaw and those just willing and able are key to this process.

Rest assured there will be no Wednesday night drills, no uniforms, no pagers or bi-weekly updates on the latest and great tools and techniques. This is low-key stuff.

I have access to and authority over a container somewhat stocked with some foods, blankets, flashlights and such for disbursement as needed. This can be a bit of a reminder to all as well to have a bit of a "safety-stash", not necessarily in your basement but somewhere that is safe and not likely to be buried and inaccessible.

I already have a few names on a list of those willing to participate. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact me. I'm mapping the various populated areas around our district and trying to fill in the blanks. At some point perhaps we can BBQ up a couple of Springs and meet one another, swap ideas and concerns then carry on with life. Again, this is a loosely organised network to establish some degree of communication and support for the time we need it. We could be on our own for several or more days when we least expect it.

Thanks for your time and interest.

Al Wickheim
Otter Point Community Coordinator, Juan de Fuca Emergency
Management

Phone 250-642-5124
Cell 250-661-7123
Email info@wilderquestadventures.com
Website: www.JDFEM.com

8. COMMUNITY FOREST

Shirley and Otter Point are regarded as being forest communities, however the sale of large tracts of private managed forest lands by TimberWest in the 1990s and then by Western Forest Products in the 2000s leave many wondering whether we'll still be considered forest communities a decade or two from now. This is not a unique concern and other rural communities have created community forests to protect and preserved some forested areas. The idea of Otter Point and Shirley having a community forest was raised three years ago with the **Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River Strategic Vision Project**. It was more recently identified as a community goal in the **Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) Review**. Here is some information about existing community forests elsewhere on Vancouver Island. There are over two dozen elsewhere in the province.

OVERVIEW OF EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY FORESTS

Summary of Selected Community Forest Origins, Purpose & Operations

The following are examples of how community forests on Vancouver Island came into existence, how they operate and their purpose. They show the diversity in how the forest land can be acquired, managed and for what purpose.

The City of Port Alberni uses a 25 year community forest agreement with the province to harvest on crown land. This corporate model uses forestry practices based upon community values and forest stewardship to provide local employment, generate revenue and protect water, wildlife and viewscapes.

The Cowichan Lake Community Cooperative has a provincial crown land lease. The cooperative is a locally owned and managed business that creates and maintains jobs through its commitment to the principles of forest sustainability and community economic development.

The Cumberland Community Forest Society came into being in 2000 because of the imminent clear-cutting of forests on the edge of the Town of Cumberland. The Forest Society's objective was to purchase and preserve forest lands and raise public awareness about the importance of these lands as part of the watershed, as part of Cumberland's history, and as part of Cumberland's beauty. Forest lands were purchased with grants. Some of the land was donated to the Town of Cumberland as a community forest. Other parcels have had trails built through them and are used for recreation.

The Municipality of North Cowichan began its community forests in 1946 with the acquisition of land from non-payment of taxes. They now have 5,000 hectares, which along with 5,000 hectares of ALR land, means that 50% of the municipality is intentionally off-limits for development. The community forest is managed by 3 elected representatives, 3 municipal staff and 3 appointed volunteers. The municipal program generates, on average, 12 person years of work annually. In 2005, its annual operating budget was \$846,000. The program not only covers its costs of managing all aspects of the reserve, but has contributed \$1.3 million to general revenues of the Municipality since 1992; contributed \$270,000 for a Forest Legacy Fund for special projects, as approved by Council; and in 1998 established an annual \$1,200 scholarship and two \$600 bursaries. Their program has also built up a \$131,000 fund for emergency forest fire fighting costs and a rainy day fund of

\$584,000 for major changes in logging revenues. This fund would support ongoing maintenance programs during major economic downturns without having to liquidate substantial amounts of forested areas.

The Forestry program has funded the purchase of 35 acres of new lands in 1995, and 26 acres in 1999 near Chemainus Lake.

General Definition of a Community Forest:

Community forestry is an evolving branch of [forestry](#) whereby the local community plays a significant role in [forest management](#) and [land use](#) decision making. It involves the participation and collaboration of various [stakeholders](#) including community, government and [non-government organisations](#) (NGOs). The level of involvement of each of these groups is dependent on the specific community forest project, the management system in use and the region. This type of forest ownership gained prominence in the mid-1970s and examples of community forestry can now be seen in many countries including Nepal, Indonesia, Korea, Brazil, India and in North America.

Provincial Government Description:

In British Columbia, a community forest can be described as any forestry operation managed by a local government, community group, or First Nation for the benefit of the entire community.

Through the [Forestry Revitalization Plan](#) and timber reallocation, the government is committed to diversifying the forest economy and creating new opportunities.

Under the plan, about 1.2 million cubic metres of timber will be available for small tenures such as community forests and woodlots.

Community forests are an important and growing opportunity for communities, supporting new options in recreation, wildlife and watershed management.

Harvesting operations can also provide a source of revenue, supporting local priorities, while harvest rates and exact locations within the tenure can be set to meet locally determined objectives and interests.

Note: Support for a community forest will be one of the agenda items for discussion at the December 4, 201 OPSRRA membership meeting.

9. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

In 1899 the newly constructed Tugwell School was the location for perhaps the first childrens' Christmas party in Shirley and Otter Point? The school was built near Tugwell Creek with the support of parents who built the school house and provided upkeep while the province paid the teacher's salary. Three temporary trustees were appointed: W.H. Anderson, Henry Clark and H.J. Kirby.

Here is an account of the 1899 Christmas event as written by Shirley resident Jean Stuart Clark in 1961:

A tent had been put up a short distance from the schoolhouse; and in front of it, a place was made for a fire, with a bar across the two uprights to hold the "boilers" to heat water for coffee and tea. These "boilers" were simply four-gallon cans the kerosene came in, well washed and scalded to get rid of the smell. The water had to be carried from Sookum Gulch, about 200 yards away. The tent held the boxes of refreshments and the wraps and rugs. The schoolhouse had been decorated with greenery and paper streamers. The Christmas tree took up one corner, the twelve desks were piled up in the porch,

and rough lumber 1 by 12 planks were arranged along the sides and across the middle, to sit on. Luckily it was a fine night.

The teacher and I got there early with the wrapped presents and hung them on the tree, with plenty of little candles, which were left unlit until Santa came. These candles needed careful watching and were soon extinguished. For lighting, half a dozen kerosene lanterns were hung from the ceiling.

This Christmas event was carried on in similar fashion every year until the school closed in 1903 as not enough children were left when one family with eight children moved away to Sooke.

Editor's note:

Could the time-old comment that coffee sometimes tasted like "kerosene" be traced to it sometimes being made in old kerosene cans?

This month's **Did You Know That?** is based on *The Christmas Party At The Turn Of The Century* from the writings of Jean Stuart Clark in her collection of local stories called *This Really Happened*.

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 opsrra@gmail.com

10. 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

Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.

Full Circle Seeds

Heron's Rest B & B

"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services

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

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

11. 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.
