

# OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE **April 2013**

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 over **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](http://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.

Our society's purpose 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 email address? OPSRRA now emails this newsletter to over **300** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com) you want to receive this membership service.

## OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

<b>Arnie Campbell</b>	President	<b>Fiona McDannold</b>	Vice-President
Phone:	250-642-3113	Phone:	250-646-2730
		<b>Bob Philips</b>	Treasurer
		Phone:	250-642-3297
<b>Sandy Barta</b>	Director	<b>Erik James</b>	Director
		Phone:	250-642-6368
<b>Caroline Larsen</b>	Director	<b>Brenda Mark</b>	Director
Phone:	250-642-1772	Phone:	250-646-2598
<b>Marika Nagasaka</b>	Director		
Phone:	250-642-2133		

**Note:** Contact any OPSRRA director at the following email address:  
[opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com)

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## 1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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Tuesday  
April 2      **Juan de Fuca Emergency Services**  
Monthly Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building  
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

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Wednesday  
April 3      **Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation**  
**Commission (SEAPARC)**  
Monthly Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
Board Room  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

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Saturday  
April 6      **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**  
**Explore the Wonder Trail: Glintz Lake and beyond**  
9:00 a.m.  
  
Meet at the CRD Parks parking lot on Harbour View Road  
A 5 to 6 hour hike on a forested path to explore the routes  
through the park reserve at Glintz Lake.  
  
Bring a lunch. Dress for the weather.  
  
Phone Sid Jorna, 250-642-2767 or  
email [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca) for details.  
**Web site:**  
[www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca](http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca)

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Sunday  
April 7      **OPSRRRA**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
2:00 p.m.  
  
Otter Point Fire Hall  
3727 Otter Point Road  

- Vote on changes to the constitution
- Association's activities updates
- Election of directors

  
See newsletter items below for details

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Tuesday  
April 9      **Shirley Fire Protection Society**  
Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

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Wednesday  
April 10

**Dr. Alexandra Morton: Salmon Confidential**

Documentary film

7:00 p.m.

Edward Milne Theatre

Admission by donation

Follow biologist Alexandra Morton as she unravels the mysteries of B.C.'s declining salmon stocks using some of the world's top fish labs. What she uncovers should shock anyone who cares about the future of salmon and all that depends on them.

This 70 minute film documents Morton's long and dedicated journey as she attempts to overcome roadblocks thrown up by government agencies and bring critical information to the public in time to save B.C.'s wild salmon.

Learn how fish farms are changing our coastal ecology, grassroots science-based activism and the shocking inner workings of government agencies tasked with overseeing our fish and the safety of our food supply.

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Saturday  
April 13

**Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission &  
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society  
Hike Sooke Potholes Park, Flower Ridge**

9:00 a.m.

This is the first of the new Recreational Hiking program sponsored by the JdFEA Parks and Recreation Commission.

Meet at the William Simmons Memorial Park parking lot to car pool to the trail head. (Turn into the Sooke Business Park at 3220 Otter Point Road; the parking lot is behind the berm immediately to the left.)

A moderately difficult 8 km hike on flagged wilderness trails with a 240 m elevation gain over rocky bluffs and through areas of wild flowers.

Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Wear good boots.

Questions? [JdF.CTS@gmail.com](mailto:JdF.CTS@gmail.com)

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Saturday  
April 13

**Introduction to Perennial Food Crops**  
**ALM Farm**

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come and learn the basics of starting and maintaining hardy perennial plants like fruit, berries and rhubarb that will keep on producing food for you year after year.

Learn about choosing and preparing your site, selecting varieties, planting, fertilizing, pruning, propagation, and disease/pest management.

We'll have time to see and talk about our large selection of perennial crops

Fee: \$40

Instructor: Jordan Field

For more information or to register, contact ALM Organic Farm:  
web site: [www.almfarms.org](http://www.almfarms.org)  
email: [info@almfarms.org](mailto:info@almfarms.org)  
phone 250-642-3671

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Tuesday  
April 16

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

7:00 p.m.

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

The April meeting of the Land Use Committee will include a presentation on the work plan for the CRD's Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) which is currently under review.

View information about the CRD's RSS, including background reports prepared for the forthcoming review, at: <http://sustainability.crd.bc.ca/>

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

[http://www.crd.bc.ca/agendas/juandefucalandusecom\\_/index.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/agendas/juandefucalandusecom_/index.htm)

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

The staff reports that accompany each meeting are available:

[http://www.crd.bc.ca/reports/juandefucalandusecom\\_/2013\\_index.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/reports/juandefucalandusecom_/2013_index.htm)

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Wednesday  
April 17

**Shirley Fire Protection & Emergency Response Commission**  
Monthly meeting

7:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

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Saturday  
April 20

**Plant Propagation**  
**ALM Farm**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Am I drowning my seedlings, or am I keeping them too dry?
- When should I direct seed and when should I start my seedlings in a pot?
- Which plants need dark to germinate?

Come learn how to get vegetables, herbs and flowers started from seed, cuttings and divisions—even the hard ones.

Participants will go home with cuttings and newly seeded plants.

Fee: \$55

Instructors: Mary Alice Johnson and Marika Nagasaka

Bring your own lunch or enjoy an organic farm lunch for \$14

For more information or to register,  
contact ALM Organic Farm:  
web site: [www.almfarms.org](http://www.almfarms.org)  
email: [info@almfarms.org](mailto:info@almfarms.org)  
phone 250-642-3671

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Tuesday  
April 23

**Shirley/Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission**

7:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Agenda: Bylaw No. 3759 – properties subject to subdivision  
Bylaw No. 189

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Saturday  
April 27

**Third Annual Plant and Seed Sale**  
**ALM Farm**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

3680 Otter Point Road, Otter Point BC

Come see the farm and buy directly from the farmers! We'll have beautiful heirloom vegetable, herb, flower starts; tomatoes, peppers, squash and more.  
Seed potatoes as well as our full seed collection.

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Saturday  
April 27

**The Sooke Region Volunteer Centre Committee**  
**Second Annual Volunteer Fair**

12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sooke Community Hall  
2037 Shields Road, Sooke BC

See newsletter item below

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Tuesday  
April 30      **Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Commission**  
Monthly Meeting  
3:00 p.m.  
JDF Electoral Area Services Meeting Room  
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

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Saturday  
May 4      **Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society**  
**Big Trees Tour**  
9:00 a.m.  
  
Meet at John Muir School  
**Make sure your gas tank is full!**  
  
Possible car-pooling.  
  
We will be driving to Port Renfrew and beyond with stops at several locations to hike into big trees.  
  
A full day event. Pack a lunch, snacks, and prepare to stop for dinner.  
  
Please register by email after April 10.  
  
Phone Rosemary Jorna, 250-642-2767  
or email [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca) for details.  
**Web site:**  
[www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca](http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca)

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Monday  
May 6      **OPSRRA Board of Directors**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Members welcome!**  
**Note location change**  
7:30 p.m.  
Board Room  
SEAPARC Leisure Complex  
2168 Philips Road Sooke BC  
  
Agenda available on request.  
Contact Arnie Campbell at [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com)

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

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Wednesday  
May 8      **Shirley Community Association**  
Monthly Meeting  
7:30 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall

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Mondays      **Karate for all ages**  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall  
Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

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**Mondays**      **Pilates**  
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Shirley Community Hall  
Level 1 class (suitable for beginners)  
Contact Sandra Smith:  
website: [www.svakayoga.com](http://www.svakayoga.com)  
email: [svakayoga@gmail.com](mailto:svakayoga@gmail.com)

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**Thursdays**      **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall  
  
Everyone welcome  
Contact Christien Shipton: 250-646-2687

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**Saturdays**      **Pilates**  
9:30 am  
Shirley Community Hall  
Level 1 class (suitable for beginners)  
Contact: Sandra Smith  
website: [www.svakayoga.com](http://www.svakayoga.com)  
email: [svakayoga@gmail.com](mailto:svakayoga@gmail.com)

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**Thursdays &  
Sundays**      **Nia Dance / Movement Class**  
**Thursdays:** 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Sundays:** 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall  
Contact Melody Kimmell:  
250-646-2995  
[movingmelody@gmail.com](mailto:movingmelody@gmail.com)

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## 2. OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES

OPSRRA will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, April 7, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Otter Point Fire Hall.

Elections for three executive and five director positions will take place. The Nominations Committee will present a full slate of nominees; however this does not prevent further nominations being sent to the Nominations Committee c/o Arnie Campbell, President, OPSRRA at [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com) or phone 250-642-3113.

The OPSRRA Nominations Committee puts forward the following members for election at the 2013 AGM:

President: Fiona McDannold

Vice-President: Bob Phillips

Treasurer: Brenda Mark

Directors: Sandy Barta, Marika Nagasaka, Arnie Campbell,  
Brooke Fader and Chris Knoglinger

### Special Resolution to amend the OPSRRA constitution and bylaws

Proposed changes (summary):

- Extend full membership to residents of Jordan River.
- Identify OPSRRA's expanded role as an organizer of community events such as forums, and Town Hall and All Candidates meetings.
- Add a definition for Associate member.
- Update our bylaws.

Details: [www.opsrra.ca](http://www.opsrra.ca)

**Note:** A pending change to the OPSRRA constitution, which will be voted on at the AGM, could change the association's boundary to include Jordan River. If approved, this change will permit residents of Jordan River, who belong to the association, to become full voting members and become eligible for nomination to the OPSRRA Board of Directors.

## 3. JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA 2013 BUDGET

Property owners in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) received their 2012 property assessment from the B.C. Assessment Authority in January. Various taxing authorities use these valuations to determine individual property taxes that will be due July 1, 2013.

Because the JDFEA is unincorporated, the Province collects property taxes from us on behalf of the Province, the Electoral Area, the Capital Regional District (CRD) and Sooke School District #62.

Regional Director Hicks has the responsibility to work with CRD Financial Services to oversee the budget for taxable items directly attributed to the JDFEA. The Electoral Area Services Committee of the CRD Board of Directors reviews this portion of the budget before the full CRD Board approves the budget.

In 2011, OPSRRA encouraged Director Hicks to post budget information to the JDFEA web site. OPSRRA helped draft the detailed explanation of the JDFEA budget process (available at: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/budget.htm> )

Director Hicks prepares an annual tax report for the JDFEA showing what services you are taxed for and at what rate per \$100,000 of assessed property value. This information is available at: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/documents/tax-report.pdf>. This document was recently updated to show the proposed 2013 budget and will be updated again in April once the 2013 JDFEA budget is approved by the CRD Board of Directors.

**Note:** The Province and the CRD determine their portions of the property tax using a separate process beyond the direct control of the JDFEA Regional Director. The budget for SD#62 is also determined by the Province.

#### **4. PROVINCIAL COURT DECISION PREVENTS REGIONAL DIRECTOR FROM VOTING ON JDFEA BUDGET**

An added twist for budget year 2013 is that the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Regional Director can't vote on the JDFEA budget when it comes before the CRD Board. This is a provincial decision following a January 2013 ruling by the BC Court of Appeal. In its decision, the Court determined there is a conflict of interest when a Regional Director is also a director of a non-profit society receiving funding from a regional district.

Director Hicks is required, by virtue of his elected status, to sit on the Board of Directors for the West Shore Recreation Society and C.R.E.S.T. (the CRD's emergency communications organization). Both are non-profit organizations funded (in part) by taxpayers of the JDFEA, and a portion of their budget is "bundled" with 63 other JDFEA budget categories such as our fire departments, recreation services and land use planning. According to the Court's ruling, this presents a conflict of interest, making Director Hicks ineligible to vote at the CRD Board on anything pertaining to the JDFEA budget.

Other legislation apparently prevents the budgets of the two non-profits being voted on separately from the remainder of the JDFEA budget items and also prevents the Alternate Regional Director from voting in place of the Regional Director.

#### **5. UPDATE: JDF SERVICES BUILDING**

OPSRRA spoke recently in support of the rezoning for the proposed Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Services Building at the public hearing. Our support for the rezoning of the properties located in the Business Park at 3220 Otter Point Road was based on the following:

- It makes sense to have Juan de Fuca Electoral Area services such as Planning, Protection, Building Inspection and Parks & Recreation physically located within the JDFEA.
- The proposal, as presented, is financially neutral to local taxpayers and in the end the building will be an asset that could provide future savings to taxpayers.
- The purchase of the three properties where the building will be located will contribute to the growth and financial stability of a local business.
- The addition of a community meeting space will be a welcomed amenity – especially by the community of Otter Point as the Otter Point Fire Hall's priority use is for emergency services training and therefore is sometimes unavailable for community events. The Fire Hall also has limited parking.

Regional Director Mike Hicks provided the following update to the OPSRRA newsletter.

The proposed JDF Services Building rezoning application went to public hearing on March 4 and was approved by the CRD Board of Directors at their March meeting. Randy Clarkston, of West Coast Design is working with CRD staff to finalize the drawings of the approximately 4500 square foot office building and meeting room. The hope is to have the subjects removed on the three lots and the design/build tender completed by mid-May. Construction should be started in early June with completion by December.

The business plan forecasted \$400,000 for the land, \$900,000 for the building and \$200,000 contingency. I remain optimistic that the construction will remain on time and on budget. If the tendering process results in higher building costs than anticipated, I will consider only partial completion of the meeting room interior. The finished meeting facilities can wait until the debt is paid down or additional funds become available.

## **6. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ELECTS DIRECTORS**

The Shirley Community Association held its Annual General Meeting on March 13, 2013. The following were elected as directors for the coming year:

President: Fiona McDannold

Vice-President: Christopher Lucas

Treasurer: Nick Wilde

Directors: Melody Kimmel, Ron Ramsay, Ava Gilbertson, James Powell

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

- Owns and maintains a hall for public use and private events.
- Organizes events throughout the year to celebrate community spirit.
- Maintains Pioneer Park for public enjoyment.
- Provides a home base for the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department.
- Provides a facility for JDF Emergency Response, Shirley Chapter.
- Serves as a reception centre 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 memberships are \$10 per person per year.

Web address: [www.shirleycommunity.org](http://www.shirleycommunity.org)

email [sca@shirleycommunity.org](mailto:sca@shirleycommunity.org)

## **7. QUESTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES**

Before the provincial election in 2005 and 2009, a delegation of OPSRRA directors met with candidates to talk about local issues of importance to the community and our association. We intend to do this again during the forthcoming 2013 campaign.

The questions posed in 2009 need updating. Let us know your suggestions. Contact any OPSRRA director or email [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com) by the end of April.

We covered the following topics last time:

- Highway 14 improvement
- Community Strategic Vision
- Annexations by the Municipality of Sooke
- Local Governance Study
- Regional Land Use Planning
- Funding for Improved Environmental Mapping
- Development of a Community Centre
- Farm Land Assessment/Taxation

## **8. UPDATE: OTTER POINT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Otter Point Official Community Plan Citizen's Review Committee completed the review of the second draft of the Otter Point OCP on March 25, 2013. This draft will now be sent to various agencies including the T'Sou-ke Nation, departments of the CRD and provincial ministries for comment. Depending on the agency comments received, the draft may need to come back to the community for further comment before being going to the JDFEA Land Use Committee. Juan de Fuca Planning Services would like to see the OCP go to public hearing by the end of June and have the CRD Board of Directors pass a new Otter Point OCP bylaw by September 2013.

## **9. APRIL IN THE GARDEN**

Marika Nagasaka, principal gardener at the ALM Organic Farm in Otter Point submitted the following:

There are lots of greens to eat right now, especially after such a mild winter. The greenhouses are going nuts right now, the easiest season for salad production.

As the kales and other brassicas start to go to seed we will be able to enjoy the florets, which are similar to broccoli, in use and somewhat in flavour. Kale is my hero in the garden, so healthy, easy to grow and gives us food for such a long time. Let your kale go feral! If you have room, let a few kale plants flower and go to seed (Red Russian doesn't cross with the other kales, so is a good choice). We rely on the "volunteer" kale as much as the plants we actually plant out ourselves. You can either let them drop the seeds on their own or cut the plants down once the seeds are dry and black (probably August-September) and smash them against the ground on empty beds for early kale for the next year in the field and for the winter/early spring in the greenhouses when there is space.

Bed prep is an important task in April. Keep a close watch for dry windows of opportunity to be out working the soil. We always mulch some beds in the fall with leaves/seaweed or even plastic so that we can get early crops in without having to wait until we can safely till without damaging the soil.

We have seeded broad beans, peas, potatoes and some salad brassicas so far outside, which we will continue through April. The next crops we will direct seed outside will be carrots, radishes, beets, runner beans: we hope to have those seeded by mid-April.

We are also full with trays and transplants. We are transplanting out our first greens that we started in February: chard, kales, spinach, broccoli, Asian greens, lettuces (including seed lettuces), green onions, beets, and many other salad and braising greens. We will be seeding more broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower into trays as well.

We are also seeding our first trays of basil to sell and to transplant out into cold frames. We start the basil on the heat tables.

Next week we will also be starting to transplant tomatoes into the cold frames, a task that will continue through to May. We are also caring for peppers & eggplant, which need the most heat (they spend a lot of time occupying our heat tables).

April is the month to start the first set of cucurbits. We will start our first cukes, summer squash and winter squash on heat. We aim to have our first (of 3) successions of summer squash ready to transplant out the first week of May, to have the earliest summer squash. They will need to be protected and kept warm, we will plant into black plastic and they will get covered right away with floating row cover.

## **10. MORE INFORMATION FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SURVEY**

In its February 2013 survey, OPSRRA listed 26 amenities and community services that most residents of our area can access. We asked respondents to identify the ones most important to them and whether they would support paying more taxes or additional service fees to gain access, maintain or improve any of those services. There were 24 responses to the survey (17 from Otter Point and 7 from Shirley). The results provide some predictable outcomes and perhaps some surprises.

Most frequently used services:

- CRD Recycling.
- Sooke Region Museum.
- Sooke Branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library.
- JDF Parks and Recreation Services.
- Local Area JDF and CRD Trails.

Frequency of use, however, doesn't necessarily correspond to how important a service or amenity is considered. The higher ranking given to emergency services such as fire, police, ambulance and emergency preparedness was predictable. However CRD recycling, the Sooke Region Museum, public transit and local trails were also strongly supported. In comparison, the services regarded as least important were: SEAPARC, economic development and garbage collection.

Presumably few, if any, would have supported paying more to access, maintain or improve a local service. However, in this survey, many respondents did indicate they would agree to pay an additional fee or tax.

Strongest support for this idea:

- Fire Protection at 67%
- Ambulance at 54%
- Road Maintenance at 50%.

Weakest support for this idea:

- Garbage Collection at 8%.
- Economic Development at 8%.
- Animal Control at 8%.
- The Tourist Information Centre at 4%.

**Rating of community services/amenities from most to least important:**

<b>Service/Amenity</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Moderately Important</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ambulance	23	1	24	100%
Fire Protection	21	3	24	100%
Recycle	18	6	24	100%
Police	19	4	23	96%
Emergency Preparedness Services	12	8	20	83%
Region Museum	7	11	18	75%
Public Transit	10	8	18	75%
JDF Trails	8	10	18	75%
Bldg. Inspection	8	9	17	71%
Sooke Hospice	12	5	17	71%
Land Use Planning	10	7	17	71%
Parks & Recreation	9	8	17	71%
Community Water	12	3	15	63%
Library	8	7	15	63%
Search & Rescue	8	8	16	66%
Transition House	7	7	14	58%
Road Maintenance	7	6	13	54%
School Crossing Guards	7	6	13	54%
Community Theatre	3	10	13	54%
CASA	7	5	12	50%
Crisis Centre	4	8	12	50%
Animal Control	4	8	12	50%
Tourist Information	3	9	12	50%
Economic Development	3	8	11	46%
SEAPARC	5	5	10	42%
Garbage Collection	6	2	8	33%

**Rating of community services/amenities in order of willingness to pay an additional fee to gain access, improve or retain:**

<b>Service/Amenity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Fire	16	67%	2	8%	25%
Ambulance	13	54%	5	21%	25%
Road Maintenance	12	50%	5	21%	29%
Recycle	11	46%	7	29%	25%
Police	11	46%	6	25%	29%
Trails	11	46%	9	38%	16%
Hospice	10	42%	5	21%	37%
JDF Parks & Recreation	10	42%	9	38%	20%
Emergency Services	9	38%	7	29%	33%
Public Transit	9	38%	9	38%	24%
Transition House	9	38%	11	46%	16%
Library	8	33%	11	46%	21%
Museum	7	29%	12	50%	21%
Search & Rescue	6	25%	9	38%	37%
Land Use Planning	6	25%	11	46%	29%
Crisis Centre	5	21%	9	38%	41%
Community Water	5	21%	10	42%	37%
CASA	5	21%	11	46%	33%
Building Inspection	4	17%	15	63%	20%
School Guards	4	17%	14	58%	25%
SEAPARC	4	17%	17	71%	12%
Community Theatre	3	13%	14	58%	29%
Animal Control	2	8%	14	58%	34%
Economic Development	2	8%	17	71%	21%
Garbage Collection	2	8%	19	79%	13%
Tourist Information Centre	1	4%	17	71%	25%

**Note:** Read the complete results of the survey, with comments, on the OPSRRA web site. Go to Surveys and follow the link to Community Services Survey and Comments.

## 11. FIRE SEASON IN SHIRLEY AND OTTER POINT

Yes it was a cool and wet winter but the weather is warming and fire season in Shirley and Otter Point is from April 1 to October 31.

Contact the volunteer fire department in your community for details on fire permits, restricted hours of burning, setbacks from flammable material, the size of fires you can have, etc.

For more information:

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

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

## 12. SOOKE REGION VOLUNTEER CENTRE: SECOND ANNUAL VOLUNTEER FAIR

The Sooke Region Volunteer Centre submitted the following:

The Sooke Region Volunteer Centre Committee is pleased to announce that we are holding our Second Annual Volunteer Fair on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Road (Opposite the Royal Canadian Legion on Eustace Road).

A half-table will be provided at no charge for each group that is registered.

We are looking for groups to provide fun activities, food, and entertainment for this event. Groups providing activities are able to ask for donations for their organization.

We are also planning to connect youth and seniors with a Focus Group from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This group will allow youth and seniors to discuss the current needs in the Sooke Region, facilitate community collaboration, and the exchange of knowledge and experience between generations.

If your group would like to participate, please email the number of participants to [volunteersooke@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersooke@gmail.com).

For further information contact Johanne Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteersooke@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersooke@gmail.com) or (250) 514-8865.

We are looking forward to networking, volunteer connections, and community spirit that this event brings to the Sooke Region, and we hope to see you there.

## 13. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

**A portion of the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber & Timber Company (CPS) logging railway was surveyed through Otter Point in the 1920s?** The route ran between the present day Rural Resource Lands, north of Otter Point and Harrison



Point, just north of Whiffen Spit, in Sooke Harbour. It is uncertain whether this line was intended to be part of the logging railway line that CPS wanted to build from Port Renfrew to Sooke or whether it was meant to provide access to forest lands in the Malahat Land District, north of Otter Point.

A 1930, Joseph Davenport's map shows the general route from Harrison Point to the Otter Point Land District boundary. The Sooke portion paralleled Whiffen Spit Road and then meandered a bit before eventually following what was later known as Butler Main, entering the Otter Land District on the north side of Kemp Lake. A more detailed 1924 CPS survey map shows the route through Otter Point. This route followed present day Hemlock Road and then continued in a westerly direction, crossing present day Milligan and Kemp Lake Roads, before heading southwest through Section 30 and 33 where it took a sharp turn north and crossed Otter Point Road. From there it followed a portion of present day Eagle Crest Drive before swinging west above the top of present day Amanda Place. Proceeding in a northwesterly direction, the surveyed route went through the former Western Forest Products lands, now owned by the Brotherstons and eventually into the Rural Resource Lands (Malahat Land District) at Section 39.

Remnants of the surveyed right-of-way are still shown on current maps. Although some clearing of the right-of-way was apparently undertaken in the 1920s, the Otter Point portion was never built.

The Canadian Puget Sound Logging Railway Company had more success with another local logging railway operation. Again, it was the early 1920s and CPS was operating a logging railway in the Jordan River area. In 1927, it expanded its Jordan River railway logging operation by building a dock and breakwater near the present day Point-No-Point Resort in Shirley. Eventually, about 12 miles of track was laid toward Jordan River over very difficult terrain including up the side of Campbell Mountain and into the Jacob Creek watershed.

This month's **Did You Know That?** is based on information from *4,000 Years: A History of the Rainforest*, written and published by the Sooke Region Museum, a 1924 survey map of the Canadian Puget Sound Logging Railway Company right of way through Otter Point and a 1930 Joseph Davenport map.

Do you have local historical information about Shirley or Otter Point 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 OPSRRA by email [opsrra@gmail.com](mailto:opsrra@gmail.com)

## 14. 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](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 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](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.

**OPSRRA welcomes the following local business to its Business Listings:**

**Perfect Grade Plumbing**

Perfect Grade Plumbing is an Otter Point based business offering fully insured and licensed Red Seal plumbing services through-out the local area. All plumbing services are available including renovations and new construction.

Contact Mike Peebles at 250-532-8678 or [perfectgradeplumbing@shaw.ca](mailto:perfectgradeplumbing@shaw.ca)

**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

Coastal Crunch Granola

Eco Craft Lights

Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.

Full Circle Seeds

Glen's Gardening Company

Heron's Rest B & B

"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services

Jambo Pet Sitting Service

Kemp Lake Store Cafe

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  
Perfect Grade Plumbing  
Reflexology by Marlene Barry  
Rhythm's Edge Percussion Shop  
Road's End Construction  
Sandy's Drywall Ltd  
Stick in the Mud Coffee House  
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast  
Three Sisters Farm  
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm  
Tugwell Creek Meadery  
Welcome Wagon  
Wood Visions

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

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

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

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.

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