

**OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA)
INFORMATION UPDATE December 2012
WISHING EVERYONE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**



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) 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 **300** of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: opsrra@gmail.com you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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Note: Contact any OPSRRA director at the following email address:
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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 1

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Explore the trail extension and access to the Sooke
Potholes Regional Park

9:00 a.m.

Meet at the last parking lot #2 Barnes Station..

A 2 to 3 hour walk on easy trails. We have the opportunity to be out for a longer or shorter time.

Bring a snack. Dress for the weather.

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

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Sunday
December 2

Sooke Region Museum
Moss Cottage Christmas

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Phillips Road, Sooke

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



Tuesday
December 4

Juan de Fuca Emergency Services
Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

JDF Search & Rescue Campus Training Building
2028C Idlemore Road Sooke BC

Wednesday
December 5

Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation
Commission (SEAPARC)

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

SEAPARC Leisure Complex

2168 Philips Road Sooke BC

Sunday
December 9

Shirley Fire Protection Society
Meeting

2:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday
December 11 **Shirley Fire Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Saturday
December 15 **Shirley Christmas Party and Soup Lunch**
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

Lunch by donation



Saturday
December 15 **Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department Candy Cane Run**

See route details and times below.



Monday
December 17 **Christmas Through the Ages**
7:00 p.m.
Edward Milne Community School

A fundraiser hosted by Scrooge and featuring:

- Journey and EMCS Concert Bands
- Members of the Sooke Philharmonic
- Poirier Elementary Ensembles
- Sooke Community Choir
- 848 Squadron Air Cadet Band



Our Christmas wish this year is for all band students to attend a regional competition next spring!

Our wish is that this fundraiser will help us do just that!

Tickets at the door: Adults \$10 Children \$5

Raffle★Bake Sale★Refreshments★50/50 draw!

Wednesday
December 19 **JDF Electoral Area Board of Variance**
6:00 p.m.
JDF Electoral Area Planning Services Meeting Room
2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Regarding 8895 West Coast Road.

The staff report on this variance request will be available on the following website before the meeting:

http://www.crd.bc.ca/reports/juandefucaeboardsof_/index.htm

2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday
January 1

Annual Otter Point Polar Bear Swim
Sponsored by the Otter Point Firefighters Association

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



Saturday
January 5

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Hike Around Matheson Lake

9:00 a.m.

Meet at the Roche Cove parking lot on Gillespie Road.

Walk on a forest trail for over two hours.

Bring a snack and dress for the weather.

Phone Sid Jorna, 250-642-2767

or email sid2767@shaw.ca for details.

Web site:

www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca

Wednesday
January 9

Shirley Community Association
Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Tuesday
January 15

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Economic Development
Commission

Meeting

2:00 p.m.

JDF Electoral Area Building Meeting Room

2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke BC

Mondays

Karate for all ages

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Contact Alida Long: 250-642-4631

Mondays

Yogilates

10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

Shirley Community Hall

Contact Sandra Smith:

website: www.svakayoga.com

email: svakayoga@gmail.com

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

Saturdays **Pilates**
9:30 am
Shirley Community Hall

Level 1 class (suitable for beginners)

Contact: Sandra Smith
website: www.svakayoga.com
email: svakayoga@gmail.com

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

2. OTTER POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CANDY CANE RUN

The Otter Point Volunteer Fire Firefighters Association sponsors the annual Candy Cane Run through Otter Point with Santa Claus atop their decorated fire truck. Walk to the end of your driveway and enjoy for 10 to 15 minutes!

The Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department welcomes donations for the Sooke Community Food Bank

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 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
	 Up Butler Road to the far end of Lemare Crescent and back down Lemare Crescent to Butler and Otter Point Roads
	 Otter Point Road to Robinson Road (entire length), then to Tugwell Road
6:00 p.m. approximately	 Tugwell Road to Michelson Road (entire length)
	 Tugwell Road to Goudie Road (entire length)
	 Return to Otter Point Road
6:15 p.m. approximately	 Otter Point Road to Amanda Road (entire length) and back to Otter Point Road
	 Otter Point Road to 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

7:15 p.m. approximately	❄️	West Coast Road towards Sooke to Olympic Place (entire length) and back to West Coast Road
	❄️	Up Otter Ridge Drive (entire length) to Taylor Place (entire length) and back to West Coast Road
	❄️	West Coast Road to Olympic View Mobile Home Park
	❄️	West Coast Road to Carpenter Road
	❄️	Carpenter Road (entire length) to Delrae Place (entire length)
	❄️	Back to West Coast Road and turn East to end of our district
	❄️	Turn around and come back to Kemp Lake Road
8:15 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, 2013
 Registration at 11:30 a.m.
 Cannon Start at 12:00 p.m. Whiffen Spit, Sooke
 Sponsored by the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department

3. MARINE SMOKE MARKER AND PARAFIARE WARNING

A reminder that smoke marker canisters and paraflares, left over from military activity on the strait, occasionally wash-up on our local beaches.

If you find one do not pick it up as it may still be active and could cause you harm. The recommended thing to do is to mark the location with something bright or take a GPS grid reference and then notify either the local RCMP Detachment or the Joint Operations Centre at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt (250-363-2425). They will arrange for safe disposal.

4. REPORT: OPSRRA'S NOVEMBER TOWN HALL PUBLIC MEETING

Our November 4, 2012 Town Hall meeting was a success. This was the third time that OPSRRA has sponsored this community event and we had a good turnout with 40 folks attending. As usual there was an assortment of cookies and other treats available, with black and herbal teas served along with our OPSRRA blend of coffee (roasted and donated by the Stick-in-the Mud Coffee House).

In attendance, as guest speakers were Regional Director Mike Hicks, MLA John Horgan and Mayor Wendal Milne of Sooke. MP Randall Garrison was invited but unable to attend as Parliament was in session in Ottawa. Inviting the Mayor of Sooke was a different twist to our Town Hall meeting as previously only elected officials of Otter Point and Shirley have been invited. The OPSRRA board felt that since we share services, some common concerns and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sooke that it would make sense to have Mayor Milne attend to help foster dialogue between the neighbouring communities.

Director Hicks touted the economic boost that has come from the Pacific Marine Circle route for the communities from Sooke to Port Renfrew and talked a bit about the possibility of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Services Building being located in the Sooke Business Park in Otter Point.

John Horgan spoke about the importance of leadership, but that participation is the key to getting things done in small communities. He listed governance, highways, water, land use, the HST and First Nations treaty negotiations as being the issues, challenges and areas of opportunity in the near future.

Wendal Milne came to Sooke in 1969 with the RCMP so he has a good idea of Sooke and the surrounding communities. He brought up the MOU with the CRD and he is committed to using it when the District of Sooke is looking at issues which could affect neighbouring lands in East Sooke and Otter Point. He also spoke about wanting to work together towards better Emergency Preparedness within the region.

The meeting then went to the floor to allow questions from the attending public. The main theme was water with questions showing an interest in protecting existing wells and watersheds, the possibility of gaining access to water from the CRD, rainwater collection, the challenges community water systems face and improving the process for proving water for proposed subdivisions. Questions and concerns about road maintenance, governance and managing parkland (especially beach fires and out of control beach parties) were also raised.

An encouraging note was the “collegiality” between the 3 speakers; it felt like they are able to (and do) work together to address the problems and challenges that we face to give a greater voice for residents of Otter Point and Shirley. Once the meeting was over many stayed around and were able to talk individually to the guest speakers.

Stay tuned for a date for our January membership meeting (there will again be wonderful treats and good tea and coffee!).

5. SHIRLEY FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter:

The Shirley Fire Commission Annual General Meeting was November 25, 2012.

Marty Gilbertson was officially appointed as Fire Chief of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department. Marty had been Interim Fire Chief since former Chief Donovan Ray's resignation in September, 2012. The Commission welcomed Chief Gilbertson and thanked former Chief Donovan Ray for his contribution to the department over the past several years.

The Treasurer's, Fire Chief's and Chair's reports were received and approved.

The Chair's report is summarized as follows:

The Shirley Fire Rescue and Emergency Response Commission is responsible for the administration of the funds which go toward the operation of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD). The SVFD is funded through property assessment within a set assessment boundary. Money from that assessment goes to fund operational and administrative cost incurred by the SVFD. Funds are also received from the Shirley Fire Society and from Gaming Grants received and administered by the Fire Society. Funds originating through bequests to the Shirley Fire Society have enabled the SVFD to complete capital improvements to the fire hall, acquire a new Emergency Response Vehicle, and install a bulk storage tank for emergency purposes. Funds received through the Provincial Gaming Grant Program have enabled a new radio communications tower to be erected to provide improved radio coverage within the area served by the SVFD.

2012 marked the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of a fire department in Shirley. The SVFD and the Shirley Community Association joined with the Commission in celebrating this anniversary on Shirley Day in August. Certificates recognizing long-service achievements were presented to Jean Conway, Chuck and Colleen Minton, Maureen and Joen Nelson and posthumously to Ron Harrison.

Activities initiated by the Commission this year included work on the preparation of a job description for the Fire Chief and the development of operational guidelines for the SVFD. Also undertaken by the Commission was an assessment of the Commission's role in terms of the SVFD operations, work with the CRD staff to improve telecommunication, radio and pagers, and coordinating many of the different budget items that fund the SVFD.

The Fire Chief and the Chair both identified in their reports the problem of a lack of volunteer Fire Fighters. The Chief is preparing a brochure and it will be hand delivered to every household in Shirley to encourage possible recruits to volunteer. Other means of attracting volunteers are being discussed by the Commission with the Chief. The Chief reported that every other volunteer fire department has the same problem with low numbers of volunteers. Shirley Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with Otter Point, East Sooke and the District of Sooke.

Three Commissioners were elected to a 2-year term. There were 5 nominations. Elected to the Fire Commission were: Christopher Lucas, Nicole Gardner, and Gerard LeBlanc (elected for a second term). The three Commissioners with 1 year remaining in their terms are Tracy Snow, Rod Huszar, and Ron Ramsey.

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Commission is December 11, 2012 at 7 pm.

6. OTTER POINT FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Otter Point Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. Re-elected for another two year term were commissioners Kenny Jones (Chair), Bud Gibbons (Treasurer) and Joanne Hemphill. Directors with another year remaining in their two year term are Marie-Ann Davidson (Secretary), Lloyd Heinemann and Harold Melville. Scott Hemphill remains as the firefighters' representative. The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Regional Director also sits as a member of the commission.

At this year's AGM the commission announced the procurement of a new fire truck for delivery in the spring of 2013. This will be an approximately \$410,000 capital expense which is budgeted for from the Equipment Replacement fund. The OPFD primary fire truck has a specified life and needs to be replaced about every 15 years; it then becomes the department's secondary truck.

The commission was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 1980 and is the successor to the Otter Fire District Society. The commissioners are responsible to the CRD and the taxpayers of Otter Point for the general operation of the Otter Point Fire Department (OPFD) and appoint the Fire Chief who manages the day-to-day operations of the department. The fire department responds to a range of fire and other emergencies in the community including: motor vehicles accidents, where fire or trapped occupant(s) is a concern; hazardous material; alarm bells; rescue; medical assistance; open burning complaints and mutual aid to other local area fire departments.

The OPFD is supported by taxpayers who own property within the Otter Point Fire Protection District boundary. Some properties in Otter Point are not covered by the OPFD. The commissioners prepare an annual operating budget which is approved by the JDFFA Regional Director and the Finance Department of the CRD. The budget for the department's operation in 2012 was \$260,011—including a \$51,760 contribution to the Equipment Reserve fund. The cost to individual property owners for fire protection and emergency response services appears as a line item on your provincial tax assessment and was estimated to be \$239.00 per average Otter Point residential dwelling in 2011.

The 2012 Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department annual report noted another increase in the volume of call-outs from 2011 with a year-to-year increase from 119 to 133. Again, the most notable was the increase in First Response incidents which went from 40 in 2010 to 60 last year and 63 this year and account for almost half of the fire department's total requests for service. First Response incidents are generated by 911 calls to the BC Ambulance Service who then request that the fire department also attend. More information about the OPFD and the Otter Point Fire Fighters Association can be found on their web site: <http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/>

Incident Response Statistics November 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012

Incident Category	2011	2012	2012
Administration	0	5	0
Alarm Bells	0	3	3
Assist Public	5	12	19
Fire	10	6	11
First Response	40	60	63
HazMat	0	1	3
Misc. Complaints	7	15	16
Mutual Aid	2	7	5
MVI	11	9	13
Rescue	0	1	0
Total	75	119	133

7. UPDATE: JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA SERVICE BUILDING

On November 14, 2012 the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board of Directors agreed to use \$1.5 million from the CRD's Building Fund to acquire property at the Business Park in Otter Point and construct a Services Building for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA). The need to consider a new location for JDF Planning & Protective Services, Building Inspection, Emergency Services and a public meeting space for various JDFEA committees, commissions and others came about when the building used by the CRD at 6868 West Coast Road in Sooke was sold in June of this year. The building had been listed on the real estate market since July, 2011 with an asking price of \$2,095,000. The CRD's lease for their portion of the building expires December 31st 2013 and the new owner was not offering an extension. Various other locations were considered for rent but none were deemed suitable.

In August, 2012 Regional Director Hicks suggested the alternative of the JDFEA owning its own building. An option was then placed on two lots at the Business Park in Otter Point and the process began, and then came to a dead stop when it was found-out that the JDFEA (unlike a municipality) can't own property! The alternative was for the CRD to own the land and building and lease it back to the JDFEA. This was the arrangement, with the addition of a third lot, agreed upon by the CRD Board on November 14, 2012.

The next step is to rezone the three properties from General Industrial to a new Public Institutional zone. Meanwhile the design plan will be put forward to builders for a cost estimate. A June, 2013 start on construction is anticipated.

The proposed building will span two ¼ acre strata lots located at the entrance to the Business Park and adjacent to the parking lot for the William Simmons Park at Poirier Lake. A third, adjoining, lot will be bought for additional parking, storage of Search & Rescue and Emergency Preparedness equipment and possible future expansion. Draft designs for the proposed building have been included with this newsletter as a separate attachment and are posted to the OPSRRA web site at www.opsrra.ca

The breakdown of the cost for the new 4,000 square foot office building and an 80 person meeting room is \$900,000 for the design, site preparation and construction of the building; \$400,000 for the purchase of the three ¼ acre strata properties and \$200,000 for contingencies. As there is no source or drinking water in the Business Park the building will be using rainwater capture and storage to meet its needs.

According to preliminary estimates the \$1.5 million could be repaid over 15 to 20 years with payments equivalent to the \$117,000 per year cost of leasing the present building. Under the original proposal (of the JDFEA owning the land and building) this would have required going to referendum to borrow the money necessary to buy the land and construct a building. However, the present arrangement, whereby the JDFEA will lease the building from the CRD, makes this unnecessary.

At its November 20, 2012 meeting, the JDFEA Land Use Committee recommended to the CRD Board that the proposed rezoning bylaw be referred to various agencies including the Otter Point Advisory Planning Commission, since the property to be rezoned is in Otter Point. After the rezoning bylaw is referred out by the CRD Board in December it will go to various agencies in January, for comment. Any revisions to the proposed zone will be made and the resulting bylaw will continue to first and second reading at the CRD Board level and then to a public hearing, which will likely happen in March, 2013. Director Hicks has said he will hold public information meetings about the proposed building in the other Juan de Fuca communities.

Note: The decision to buy the land and build the new office building is not a land use decision. The request for rezoning to permit the proposed use of the site in the business park is a land use issue.

The directors of OPSRRA support this proposal and intend to speak in agreement at the Otter Point APC meeting and the public hearing. Any member of the Association who has a concern about OPSRRA's support for this JDF Services Building project should contact an OPSRRA director or email their comment to opsrra@gmail.com

This past August, OPSRRA conducted a survey with our membership regarding the proposed building.

The questions and results:

Question	Yes	No
Should the cost of borrowing the estimated 1.3 million dollars to build a JDFA Services Building go to public referendum?	20	18
Would you support the idea of owning a building if the cost was about the same as renting?	35	3
Is locating the building in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area an important consideration?	33	5
Do you support the idea of adding an 80 seat meeting room to accommodate community meetings?*	33	4

* One respondent said it would depend on any additional cost

8. SHIRLEY HILL BOOGIES SURVEY

Nick Wilde, who is working on the idea of resurrecting the Shirley Hill Boogies, submitted the following:

The Shirley Hill Boogies were rock/folk music dances at the Shirley Community Hall in the '70s and '80s, but haven't been active in something close to 30 years.

As advertised in the November OPSRRA newsletter and various other email/social media avenues, Nick Wilde, a member of the Shirley Community Association, is investigating restarting the Shirley Hill Boogies and had a survey up for the last 40 days. The survey received a total of 37 responses and the results are as follows.

Location	Responses	%
Shirley	24	65%
Otter Point	5	14%
Jordan River	1	3%
Sooke	5	14%
Greater Victoria Region	2	5%

For what was possibly the most important question (“Would you go to a Shirley Hill Boogie?”): the results were quite positive:

Would you go to a Shirley Hill Boogie?	Responses	%
Yes	27	73%
No	3	8%
Maybe	7	19%

In terms of what day of the week would best for most people Saturday was a clear winner (with Friday being a distant second):

Best day of the week	Responses	%
Tuesday	4	11%
Wednesday	5	14%
Friday	16	46%
Saturday	30	86%
Sunday	5	14%

For frequency, the preference is markedly in the a few times a year category—although if the votes from the monthly and bi-monthly categories were combined as bimonthly (which is fairly reasonable to do since if people would like something monthly they would probably prefer it bimonthly over a few times a year) then bimonthly would be a slight winner (3% over a few times a year):

Frequency	Responses	%
A few times a year	16	43%
Bi-monthly	6	16%
Monthly	11	30%
Twice a month	2	5%
I want my local music every week!	0	0%
Bi-monthly & monthly responses combined	17	46%

The survey also generated quite a few band suggestions and expressions of support/also a couple questions.

To answer the (paraphrased) questions/thoughts:

Q: “What about combining it with the soup lunches as soup dinners?”

A: To me I think it is better to have it separate – both so as not to have dinner getting in the way of dancing and so as to increase the social events in the area.

Q: “Would it be a minor friendly event?”

A: I think that would be best – with free entry under 12 or so.

Q: “Would alcohol be served?”

A: At this point I have no plans to do so but I might reassess that if there was a significant degree of preference –totally not saying yes I would get a liquor licence if there was high interest just saying that I would more closely look into it.

The current status is now in detailed planning and organizing and it is roughly planned/hoped to have the first one early in the new year. As plans get finalized emails will be sent out to those who left their email addresses on the survey with updates (to add your name/email just email Nick at nick.wilde.90@gmail.com or if preferred message him on FaceBook (just search with that email address)) and through social media, Terri Alcock’s Shirley Email list and when fully finalized hopefully an article in the papers.

9. ANOTHER NEW FACE IN SHIRLEY

A Shirley Facebook Bulletin Board has been created. It is similar to the one that was created for Otter Point in July and featured in the October newsletter.

Visit the Shirley Bulletin Board at:

<http://www.facebook.com/ShirleyBCBulletinBoard>

Visit the Otter Point Bulletin Board at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OtterPointBC>

If you have a Facebook account you can leave messages, photos and other information you want to share with the community. If you visit the site and “like” the page you will automatically get information sent to your Facebook account. Alternatively, you can check out the page periodically to see what is happening in the community. A great idea and worth a visit.

10. OPSSRA'S MONTHLY SURVEY

The next surveys

We are taking a break from our OPSRRA surveys for the month of December but have two new ones ready to go for January and February.

Our **January** survey will follow up on the October survey on water. There were so many additional concerns and suggestions raised in the comments portion of that survey that we’ve decided to do a supplementary water questionnaire. The January survey will attempt to further our understanding of water needs and how water is used in our community by asking additional questions about replacing or supplementing your water needs; how much water you estimate you require to meet your household needs and how much you are actually getting.

The full results of the **October Water Survey**, including the comments received, can be seen on the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca

The **February** survey will be about local area amenities and community services such as ambulance, animal control, building inspection, library, trails and many others. Which ones do you use? How important are they to you? Can you suggest ways to acquire, retain and/or improve them?

11. DO AFTERNOON JDF COMMISSIONS' MEETINGS LIMIT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

The Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission changed from evening to afternoon meetings some years ago and now the JDF Parks & Recreation Commission has done the same, starting with its October meeting. Your OPSRRA directors disagree with this and have written the chairs of both commissions expressing our concerns that afternoon meetings limit public attendance and also limit the availability of candidates that may wish to be a commissioner and can't because of daytime employment commitments.

12. UPDATE: COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD LOCATIONS

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association builds installs and maintains community notice boards through-out the community of Otter Point. This is done as a community service and all are welcome to use the boards to post notices.

We have recently added two more locations: Butler Main at Lemare Crescent in the new Woods at Otter Point development and at the top of Otter Ridge.

The goal is to have a notice board located next to every Canada Post mailbox site. If you wish to have a notice board located in your neighbourhood, contact an OPSRRA director or email us at opsrra@gmail.com

Otter Point Road Area

- Sarah Road (DeMamiel Estates)
- Otter Point Road at Young's Lake Road
- Young's Road at Otter Point Road
- Butler Main at Lemare Cres. The Woods at Otter Point)
- Robinson Road at Otter Point Road
- Tugwell Road at Michelson Road
- Tugwell at Slingsby Place
- Otter Point Road at Kemp Lake Road (ALM Farm)
- Eagle Crest Drive at Otter Point Road
- Amanda Road at Otter Point Road
- King Road at Otter Point Road
- Otter Point Place at Otter Point Road
- Otter Point Road at Otter Point Place
- Otter Point Place at Randy's Place (private bulletin board)

Kemp Lake Road Area

- Kemp Lake Road just north of West Coast Road
- Kemp Lake Road just north of Chubb Road
- Kemp Lake Road just south of Davidson Road

West Coast Road Area

- Carpenter Road at Delrae Place

West Coast Road at Carpenter Road
 West Coast Road at Kemp Lake Store
 West Coast Road at Otter Ridge Drive
 Otter Ridge Drive at West Coast Road
 Beau Ridge Road at Otter Ridge Drive
 Top of Otter Ridge
 Wells O'Weary, one location only
 West Coast Road at Gordon's Beach
 Anderson Road at West Coast Road
 Blackfish Road at West Coast Road

Note: The Shirley Community Association and the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department installed notice boards in Shirley at the following locations adjacent to Canada Post mailboxes:

Shirley Community Hall
 Woodhaven at Alderbrooke Place
 Woodhaven at Seaside Drive
 West Coast Road east of Juan de Fuca Road
 Fishboat Boat Bay Road at West Coast Road
 Tieulie Pace. at West Coast Road
 Invermuir Road at West Coast Road

13. FINAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS 'GIFT BASKETS'

In August we began a newsletter feature in support of small businesses in our area. We were asking you to help us promote small businesses in Shirley, Otter Point and Jordan River by suggesting products and services that could fill examples of Holiday Season gift baskets. This feature concludes with this issue of the newsletter. Here is the full list of gift giving ideas.

August's Gift Basket:

Contents	Approximate Cost
Selection of seeds from ALM Organic Farm/Full Circle Seeds http://www.fullcircleseeds.com/	\$8.00
Bag of Coastal Crunch Granola from Sheila's Coastal Crunch smwallace@shaw.ca	\$8.00
Jar of wildflower honey from the Tugwell Creek Honey Farm http://tugwellcreekfarm.com/	\$9.00

September's Gift Basket:

Contents	Approximate Cost
Bag of Kemp Lake Café coffee beans from the Kemp Lake Store 7875 West Coast Road, Otter Point	\$10.00
Coco – Artisanal Body Butter from the Jordan River Soap Works http://www.jordanriversoapworks.com/	\$12.00
Lavender Earl Grey tea from From the Garden at French Beach http://www.fromthegarden.net/	\$8.00

October's Gift Basket:

Contents	Approximate Cost
Gift certificate from La Sooke Spa towards a facial or pedicure http://www.lesookespa.com/	\$50.00
One year membership in the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society http://www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca	\$10.00
Custom made corkscrew from the Foggy Mountain Forge http://www.foggymountainforge.com/contact.html	\$15.00

November's Gift Basket:

Contents	Approximate Cost
Selection of jams from Three Sisters Farm in Otter Point http://www.three-sisters-farm.com/	\$8.00/\$9.00 for 50 ml
A jar of Kelp Flakes or Herbal Medicinal Salve from Dakin Tidal Wilds in Shirley http://www.dakinitidalwilds.com/contact.html	\$10.00 & \$16.00
A copy of Ferrets Underfoot by Kate Woods from Otter Point http://www.hedgerowpress.com/books/ferrets-underfoot/	\$20.00

December's Gift Basket:

Contents	Approximate Cost
A pound of goji berries from Raw Food Sooke in Shirley http://rawfoodsooke.blogspot.ca/p/contact-us.html	\$18.50
One year membership in the Shirley Lighthouse Preservation Society http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org/splps/	\$10.00
A ½ hour foot or hand reflexology session at Reflexology by Marlene Barry http://www.sooke.org/marlene/index.htm	\$40.00
Four-pack of pesto infused sea salts for seasoning from Salish Sea Salts in Otter Point http://www.salishseasalts.ca/product-p/prestopesto.htm	\$18.00
Three bars of homemade soap from Harvest Hill Farm in Shirley with a variety of choices including Goat's Milk, Honey & Oatmeal, and Lazy Lavender dmsouthwood@yahoo.com	\$12.00

14. DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

There used to be a wooden plank road which ran north from Sheringham Point into the forest above? It was 1918 and Milligan's Logging had moved to the Shirley area from Otter Point and was logging in the Goudie and Frencholme Creek watersheds between Sheringham Point and French Beach. Their camp was located in the vicinity of the present-day Kulitz Park, as you travel west down the hill on Highway 14 towards Woodhaven Drive and French Beach. Their first log dump was at Flea Bay, which provided limited shelter for their log booms. Four years later they moved the dump site to a location just east of the Sheringham Lighthouse after the company bought two Leyland trucks to haul their logs. Five miles of plank road had to be installed to allow the trucks to travel through the forest to saltwater. This required setting-up a sawmill at Milligan's Camp to cut the millions of board feet of 40 foot long 6 x 10 inch and 6 x 14 inch planks which were used to build the road. A rotting section of the old road was found in the bush in the 1980s and showed the road consisted of a double layer of the sawn planks laid at right angle to one another atop two 150 foot long, 3 foot in diameter Douglas fir logs which were resting on stumps in the forest.

This month's **Did You Know That?** is based upon information from *4,000 Years – A History of the Rainforest*, written by volunteers and published by the Sooke Region Museum.

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

15. 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
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
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

16. 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 or email 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.
