

**COMMENTS RECEIVED WITH THE OPSRRA
COMMUNITY SERVICES SURVEY FEBRUARY 2013
(By Section and Community)**

What other local area amenities and community services has your household used in the past two years?

Otter Point

1. It is interesting that you included CASA here as opposed to the main service organizations in the CASA building; Sooke Family Resource Society, Pacific Centre Family Service Agencies; Public Health Nurses, etc. I am not sure how many people know what is meant by CASA or Community Association of Serving Agencies. Many people think of only as the building.

Many of these are regional services though located within the District of Sooke. This is quite a good list. Others to consider are the OAP group (new name?), Seniors Drop-in Centre, Contact Loan Cupboard, Ayre Manor, Seniors Bus, WestCoast Family Medical Clinic, LifeLabs, Home & Community Care, Shirley Community Association, Arts Council, Food CHI, etc.

2. Contact Community Assistance Society, Provides transportation to medical appointments. and medical equipment loan cupboard
3. Classes at Edward Milne Community School
4. Groups such as our own association (OPSRRA) which provide so many community services like the community notice boards, newsletter and public information meetings. Then there is the Shirley Community Assoc. with all its community events like Shirley Day and the activities it offers at the hall. How about the JDF Community Trails Society and the Otter Point Fire Fighters Assoc which does the Christmas Candy Cane Run and Food Drive, hosts Halloween at Camp Barnard for the neighbourhood kids and the New Years Day Polar Bear Swim at Whiffen Spit?

Shirley

1. Local Businesses

Worklink

Our community water system in Sheringham Estates.

Additional comments: How important to you are certain community amenities and services?

Otter Point

1. They are all important. It would be a great loss for our communities if any of these disappeared!
2. Note: road maintenance rarely done and, if done at all, is done to a very low standard.
3. Although you may not use any one of these services in a year, knowing that they are there and available to all who may need them is important. We could not and should not have to rely on providing community services on an as required basis. You need the structure, financial support and service providers in place at all times so that the response can be provided. This can sometimes seem to be an unnecessarily expensive overhead for periodically used services such as Emergency Preparedness or Search & Rescue but still as necessary as ones that get called upon daily.
4. I think the police being available for some of the day and off in the early morning hours is a joke. So do many outside police departments.

I think as well that allowing even more building in flood zone and with septic fields close to our drinking water supplies is probably and equally bad joke. Building inspectors are ridiculous.

Shirley

1. There is a need to address the growing need for low-cost housing locally, especially for those who are seriously disadvantaged. Various models exist elsewhere but I don't see this social issue being addressed energetically locally at a public service level.
2. none

Additional comment regarding community services

Otter Point

1. We can't answer this one. It would totally depend on what the additional money was going to be used for.
2. Otter Point needs land use policies that will lead to a more liveable community. We need more parks and trails, public meeting space, More public transit. Better roads that accommodate safe cycling. Alternative transportation.

Otter Point is the only community without a significant park. Most of our available land is locked up privately or under FN negotiation
3. We pay big city property taxes for rural services (if we receive the services at all)
4. Offering to pay more for a service or towards a service you may not even use, can perhaps seem odd to some. However, much of this additional support can come through volunteer assistance and not necessarily more tax dollars. Unfortunately large segments of our community hold little or now value for anything that doesn't return something to them. To them I say "Time Wounds All Heels". Meanwhile, the development and support of community services is a necessary part of our society as we try to share our resources to support others and improve community health. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
5. I think that many folks have been duped into thinking that "CRD" water means an unlimited supply for Otter Point. Even one of the water board members firmly believes that Sooke's water comes from Sooke Lake to Goldstream reservoir back to Sooke supposedly giving lots of supply to enhance Otter Point's water supply.

Sooke's water comes from Charters Creek a small tributary of Sooke River. It can barely supply Sooke, For Otter Point to cave in to joining Sooke for water will be Otter Point's downfall. When the crunch comes does anyone really believe that Sooke will say - hey, lets make sure Otter point gets water first??

Shirley

1. We need much better household garbage disposal options than we have right now.

There's an almost urgent need to improve the condition of roads in the JDFEA, especially improvement of the highway west of Sooke.

See also comment above about low-cost housing
2. Already paying for SeaParc through our taxes, and the library gets a few dollars and so does the museum