



OPSRRRA'S OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2015

CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF PUBLICATION!

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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 over 400. Residents or property owners within the

Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point Official Community Plan boundaries who are age 18 or over are eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships cost \$10.00 per person and are available from OPSRRA directors - see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley, Jordan River or Otter Point but wish to support the association.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. Ensure that the development of the communities of Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
5. 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's monthly newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? We began publishing this newsletter in June 2003. It is e-mailed to over **300** of our members as well as local elected representatives, media and archival organizations. Contact Marika Nagasaka at: opsrra@gmail.com if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Fiona McDannold	President	Marika Nagasaka	Vice-President
Phone: 646-2730		Phone: 642- 2133	
Brenda Mark	Treasurer	Deb Read	Director
Phone: 646-2598		Phone: 646- 9998	
Sandy Barta	Director		

Note: All OPSRRA directors can now be reached at a common e-mail address: opsrra@gmail.com

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Marika Nagasaka at: opsrra@gmail.com to have your community event listed in our monthly **Community Events** calendar.

Visit the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca to view a Calendar of Events which will be updated between issues of the OPSRRA newsletter.

Sunday Feb 1st	Sooke Region Historical Society AGM 2:00 pm at the Museum Services Building 2070 Phillips Rd, Sooke
Monday Feb 2nd	OPSRRA - Bi-Monthly Directors' Meeting Boardroom –SEAPARC Leisure Centre, 2168 Phillips Rd., Sooke 7:30 pm – Members welcome Agenda available upon request. Contact: opsrra@gmail.com
Tuesday Feb 3rd	Shirley Women's Institute Monthly meeting first Tuesday of the month 10:00 am at the Shirley Hall
Tuesday Feb 3rd	Juan de Fuca Emergency Services Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke
Wednesday Feb 4th	Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke • Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 1 st Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. • Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair. • Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm
Saturday Feb 7th	Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike Exploring Goldstream Park. Meet at the Goldstream Park parking lot across from Ma Millers Pub on Sooke Lake Road at 9:00 am to explore the first growth forest, streams and waterfalls on a well-maintained

	<p>forest trail system. Maximum length of hike will be 11 km; route will depend on the weather. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Rosemary Jorna at 250 642 2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
Tuesday Feb 10th	<p>Shirley Hall Foot Care Clinics</p> <p>Starting in January, a Foot Care Nurse, Marlene Beaulieu, LPN, will be holding clinics at the Shirley Community Hall. The clinics will run on the second Tuesday of each month.</p> <p>Diabetics and others with foot care issues are encouraged to attend the clinics.</p> <p>For appointments please call Marlene at 250-664-6810.</p> <p>Marlene is also available for home visits if you are unable to attend the regular clinic.</p>
Saturday Feb 14th	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Sooke Potholes Park River walk. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike along the Sooke River trails. Depending on visibility, we hope to view the Sooke River in full spate. Meet at the William Simmons Park parking lot at 9:00 am to car pool to the trail head or if more convenient meet at the Pothole Upper parking lot at approx 9:35 am. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Sid Jorna at 250 642 2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
Saturday Feb 14th	<p>Shirley Fire and Rescue Open House</p> <p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Open House to collect input from the community for a proposal to add-on a post disaster bay to the existing hall, as well as upgrades to</p>

	<p>the existing fire hall. Sketches of the design and layout and an estimate on the associated costs will be available. Fire Chief Marty Gilbertson will be in attendance to answer any questions.</p>
Tuesday Feb 17th	<p>Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee 7:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3 – 7450 Butler Rd</p>
Wednesday Feb 18th	<p>Shirley Fire Commission Meeting Monthly meeting third Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
Tuesday Feb 24th	<p>Books for Breakfast 10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Shirley Hall Books for Breakfast will be held the last Tuesday of each month, from October to May (excluding December). Please email Stephanie at sookeliteracy@gmail.com for more information or to register.</p>
Tuesday Feb 24th	<p>JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission 3:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3-7450 Butler Rd, Otter Point Public Welcome. For enquiries call 250.642.1500</p>
Saturday Feb 28th	<p>Sooke Seedy Saturday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Sooke Community Hall Admission by donation (\$5 suggested) See story #3 for details.</p>
Tuesday Mar 3rd	<p>Shirley Women's Institute Monthly meeting first Tuesday of the month 10:00 am at the Shirley Hall</p>

Tuesday Mar 3rd	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
Wednesday Mar 4th	<p style="text-align: center;">Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of the Commission take place at SEAPARC on the 1st Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. • Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair. • Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm
Wednesday Mar 11th	<p style="text-align: center;">Shirley Community Association AGM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
Mondays	<p style="text-align: center;">Karate for all ages in Shirley on Mondays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 – 8:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Alida Long, 250-642-4631</p>
Tuesdays	<p style="text-align: center;">Malahat Art Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meets 2:00 – 4:00 pm.</p> <p>Inspiration, fun or just company in what is often a solitary occupation</p> <p>Come on down, share your skills, pick up new ones or just grab a cup of tea and check us out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location varies.</p> <p>For info: Email kwoods@pacificcoast.net or vero@malahatfarm.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call: 642-0393 or 642-6868</p>

Thursdays	<p style="text-align: center;">Shirley Quilters and Crafters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Shirley Hall Info: Christien Shipton 250-646-2687.</p>
Saturdays	<p style="text-align: center;">Pilates at the Shirley Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am Level 1 class, suitable for beginners Contact: Sandra Smith Website: www.svakayoga.com Email: info@sandrasmithyoga.com</p>
Tuesdays & Fridays	<p style="text-align: center;">Yoga at the Shirley Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Fridays at 10 am – 11 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gentle Flow Class for all levels Contact: Nicole Spackman shirleyhallyoga@gmail.com</p>
Thursdays & Sundays	<p style="text-align: center;">Nia Dance/Movement Class at the Shirley Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sundays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Contact: Melody Kimmell, 250-646-2995 email movingmelody@gmail.com</p>

2. CRD SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON DRAFT REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (RSS)

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking public input on a Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS), a vision for the region that will guide decisions affecting our communities to 2038. The RSS is being developed collaboratively with affected local governments and other stakeholders to further the health and prosperity of the region and its residents. How we address population growth, climate change, housing, transportation, parks, food supply, natural resources, community and economic vitality are among the topics being considered.

“The Sustainability Strategy is a road map to the future. It will help local governments make decisions that support and enhance the quality of life we currently enjoy while taking care of the planet and our resources,” said CRD Board, Chair Nils Jensen.

The vision articulated in the draft strategy describes the region in 2038 and targets how much action to take and how quickly it needs to be taken.

In October 2014, the CRD Committee of the Whole directed staff to seek public input on the Draft Strategy. "We want to hear from the public if we're heading in the right direction," said Jensen. "Are the proposed targets too ambitious or not going far enough?"

To ensure that the Sustainability Strategy is grounded in community needs, an online feedback form, focusing on the vision and targets outlined in the Draft Strategy, is available until February 15, 2015. Paper forms are available through the CRD. Participants can answer all or some of the questions and provide comments on any part of the Draft Strategy.

All local residents, community groups, businesses, First Nations, major institutions, municipalities and other interested parties are encouraged to provide comment on the Draft Strategy. Feedback will be summarized and presented to the CRD Board for their consideration in directing finalization of the Strategy. To ensure transparency, a summary of survey results will be posted on the CRD website.

Visit www.crd.bc.ca/sustainability to connect to the survey and to learn about other opportunities to provide ongoing input. Comment period closes February 15, 2015.

3. SOOKE SEEDY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

Sooke Region Food CHI invites you to the Sooke Community Hall on February 28, from 10am -3pm, for the Sooke region's premier seed and local food growing event!

This family-friendly day will feature a seed exchange and trading table, a diverse range of seed and plant vendors, local wild harvesters and food artisans as well as information from local non-profits working to enhance food security.

Workshops will be offered on topics such as Germination and Calendaring tips, Beginning Gardening and Pruning. These workshops are free with admission to the event and a great place for gardeners of all levels to get primed for spring and the 2015 growing season.

Sooke Fall Fair will be hosting a healthy lunch downstairs as well as their monthly Market, which includes a bake table, crafts, plants, canning and much more. Sooke Fall Fair is happy to be a part of Sooke Seedy Saturday to help promote and support family farms in the region.

Admission is by donation (\$5 suggested), and door prizes and raffles add to the fun of this event.

Registration is still open to vendors, and volunteers are needed. Please visit sookefoodchi.ca for more information.

4. KEMP LAKE WATERWORKS UPDATE

The quest for Kemp Lake Waterworks to hook up with the CRD system is progressing. At the October 2014 meeting of the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission, members voted to support Kemp Lake's request for service. The Trustees, Regional Director and JdF Water Distribution Commission are now working out the details of financing. At the January 2015 meeting, a Small Communities Fund grant to cover 2/3 of the cost of the new pipe to join the two systems was discussed. For more information, go to the Kemp Lake Waterworks Improvement District website: www.kemplakewaterworks.bc.ca

5. KEMP LAKE WATERWORKS BACKGROUND

The following was submitted by Heather Phillips of Otter Point.

Kemp Lake water is “potable”: safe to drink. Unfortunately, that word in the Sooke News Mirror of January 29 may have caused unnecessary confusion and worry to the water users served by the Kemp Lake Water Improvement District. What the Improvement District doesn't have is water treatment that meets the treatment standard set for a community water system serving over 500 people. If the water quality falls below the standard for potable water, there will be a “boil water” advisory. The most recent “boil water” advisory for the Kemp Lake system was in 2004.

The City of Winnipeg went under a “boil water” advisory on the evening of Tuesday, January 26, after tests suggested a low level of E. coli in six samples of the city's water supply. Although inconvenient to 700,000 residents, “an abundance of caution” protects their health. Also on January 26, a boil water order for the Comox Valley was lifted six weeks after surface run-off clouded the water so that ultraviolet treatment was not effective. A fix to prevent future problems might cost Comox water users over \$30 million. These advisories are precautions before anyone takes sick. If your Kemp Lake water is not safe to drink, you will hear about it through the Kemp Lake system administrators.

Beginning in May of 2000, a particularly nasty strain of E. coli that entered the water system through surface run-off led to widespread illness in Walkerton, Ontario. For a population of around 5000, there were about 2500-reported illness and 7 deaths. Instead of immediately taking action, Walkerton suppliers had refused to consider the water supply as the source of illness.

As a result, the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, developed jointly by the federal and provincial governments, was updated in December 2001. In British Columbia, the new *Drinking Water Protection Act* came into effect in 2003. The accompanying regulation basically puts forward the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality for the treatment standards and requires the regional health authorities to oversee them.

In 2009, Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority, as it was then) notified Kemp Lake Water Improvement District that they were to upgrade the treatment to the required standard by the end of four years. The trigger for moving to a higher treatment level is the number of people served, not the quality of the water delivered. No community system knowingly delivers contaminated water.

Island Health officers agree that buying from the CRD system is the best option for the Kemp Lake Improvement District to deliver water treated to the standard required. Meanwhile, present treatment has not failed: the water tests to be potable. There is no actual health problem today, but also, there is no guarantee for tomorrow. Lets face it: the lake and watershed are vulnerable.

6. WILLIAM SIMMONS COMMUNITY PARK CONSULTATION RESULTS

The following was submitted by JDFEA Parks & Recreation.

Based on the results of the Consultation Process (November 27 – December 12, 2014), the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has approved the final plan for the proposed improvements for William Simmons Memorial Community Park. The response to the Open House on November 27, Consultation Questionnaire and other comments received was exceptional, totalling 163 respondents.

On the question of current activities most often carried out by park visitors, 77% primarily use the park for walking, cycling or picnicking. The remaining 23% currently use the park for horse riding, nature walking, swimming and fishing. There were 20 various plan priorities that respondents identified (where more than one response was received); of these, a significant number of respondent comments (51%) saw development of access to Poirier Lake and the opportunity to fish as the top two priorities for the plan. From those that responded on the Questionnaire (123) and the petition (38), 96.8% of the respondents supported the provision of having dock(s) access to Poirier Lake. Of this number, 73.2% were in favour of the Site Management Plan's proposal to provide both a 10' x 20' dock for boat launching and a second 10' x 20' dock for fishing.

The detailed Consultation Summary Report and final Site Management Plan are available on the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdparks
Plan implementation will commence this year with an initial focus on parking and access (docks and trails) to Poirier Lake and the day-use area.

7. JDFEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S 2014 GRANTS-IN-AID

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) has a budget for discretionary grants that allows the JDFEA Regional Director to respond to requests from organizations and agencies which provide a service to residents of the JDFEA. These grants used to be reviewed and recommended by the JDFEA's Economic Development Commission; they are now received, reviewed and recommended by the Regional Director and approved by the

Electoral Area Services Committee of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board of Directors. The budget and grants for the past four years are shown in this table.

Year	Budget	Actual \$ Granted
2010	\$40,710	\$22,500
2011	\$38,500	\$13,300
2012	\$40,000	\$21,500
2013	\$40,000	\$18,890
2014	\$19,980 (See Note)	\$23,425 (See Note)

The 2015 budget will not be known until after it is approved by the CRD in April 2015. The Grants-in-Aid budget item is usually underspent and Director Hicks has indicated that he intends to continue this practice.

Note: The requisition for 2014 was \$19,980 but a surplus of \$21,110 was carried over from 2013, so the compounded 2014 budget was actually \$41,090. \$25,425 was paid out in Grants-in-Aid and \$1,090 was paid to CRD Finance to administer the grants. A surplus of \$14,575 is being carried into 2015. The budget for 2015 will be \$40,000 + \$1,090 for administration.

The Director Hicks tries to disburse these discretionary funds in proportion to the population of each of the sub-areas in the JDFEA. The CRD and the JDFEA operate on a financial year that runs from April 1st to March 31st. The following Grants-in-Aid were approved for the period April to December, 2014. With less than two months remaining in this fiscal year, no further grants are anticipated.

Camp Barnard	\$ 500
Sooke, Saseenos, John Muir Parent Advisory Councils (divided by 3)*	\$7,000
Willis Point Community Association	\$1,780
Sooke Lions Club 2014 Canada Day Project	\$1,000
Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust	\$1,500
East Sooke Neighbourhoods Association	\$1,145
Sooke Navy League	\$ 500
Sooke Fine Arts	\$2,000
Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society	\$2,000
Rotary Club of Sooke/Sooke Food Bank	\$1,500
Friends of Coppermine Park Society	\$2,000
East Sooke Bridge (East Sooke community web site)	\$1,500
Seagirt Ponds Preservation Society	\$2,000
Sooke Lions Club/Canada Day Project (2015 Canada Day)	<u>\$1,000</u>
	\$25,425

*Grants to the three schools Parent Advisory Councils (PAC) are towards the cost of hiring school crossing guards and are in proportion to the percentage of children from the JDFEA

attending these elementary schools in Sooke. The District of Sooke contributes the remainder.

More information about the JDFEA budget can be found on the JDF web site:
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/about-the-region/juan-de-fuca/property-tax-budget-information-for-the-juan-de-fuca-electoral-area>

8. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GAS TAX FUNDS JDFEA PROJECTS

In 2005 the federal government introduced a national Gas Tax Fund, which collects about \$5 billion per year from a consumer tax on various fuels. For the past 10 years 40% of the federal tax has been directed to the provinces and allocated on a per capita basis to municipalities to help pay for infrastructure projects. A new 10-year agreement was negotiated in 2014 and the project categories eligible for funding were expanded to include sports, recreation, culture and community. Follow this link to see the full agreement:
http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/Renewed~Gas~Tax~Agreement/Main~Page/administrative-agreement-on-the-federal-gas-tax-fund_signed.pdf

In British Columbia the agreement with the federal government is negotiated by the Union of B.C. Municipalities. The allocation to the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) is approved and administered by the Capital Regional District (CRD) upon a recommendation from the JDFEA Regional Director. Thus far the JDFEA has requisitioned \$1,076,500 from the fund to underwrite the cost of the following projects. A balance of \$1,216,217 is available to meet future requests through to 2024.

East Sooke:

• Trail from Mt. Matheson to Matheson Lake	\$ 20,000
• Fire Hall water connection	\$150,000
• Official Community Plan	\$ 75,000

Otter Point:

• Official Community Plan	\$100,000
• Kemp Lake Waterworks Study	\$ 11,500

Shirley/Jordan River:

• Shirley Fire Dept. - hydrant with pump	\$ 15,000
• Sheringham Estates Water Works – pipe repair	\$ 20,000
• Official Community Plan	\$100,000

Willis Point:

• Fire Hall - water tank	\$ 40,000
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Juan de Fuca Electoral Area:

• JDF Services Bldg.	\$250,000
• Fire Suppression inventory – Hydrants & water sources	\$ 20,000
• Artificial turf (See note)	\$300,000

Note: The \$300,000 allocated towards the installation of artificial turf at Edward Milne Park, in Sooke, is conditional. See the “**Time to Turf the Turf?**” story #10 in this month’s newsletter for details.

9. SHIRLEY FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY AGM REPORT

The Shirley Fire Protection Society held its Annual General Meeting January 18, 2015 at 2 p.m. in the Shirley Community Hall.

Old business included an update on closing the Gaming Grant bank account now that the Fire Department is no longer eligible to receive gaming funds. The remaining balance in the account is required to be returned to the government.

A motion was passed to amend the Society's bylaws, that in the event of a Director resigning their position, the Board can continue to function with 3 of the 5 elected Directors until the next AGM and a new election.

New business was the election of 2 Board positions, each for a 2-year term. Alayne MacIsaac and Jennifer Taylor were elected by acclamation. They join President: Malcolm Taylor, Treasurer: Grant Richardson, and Secretary: Monte Sather.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 7:30 pm in the Shirley Community Hall. All are welcome!

10. TIME TO TURF THE TURF?

Edward Milne Park, located at the corner of Sooke Road and Sooke River Road in Sooke, is owned by the Sooke Community Association and is the premier location for organized field sports in our area. Both the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) and the District of Sooke, through the Sooke/Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC), have an interest in the use and condition of the field. In the fall of 2014, Director Hicks, the JDFEA Regional Director, proposed using \$300,000 from the federal Gas Tax Fund (see the Gas Tax Fund story #6 in this newsletter for background details about this fund) towards the cost of installing artificial turf at the park. Director Hicks received approval for this project from the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board of Directors, subject to the District of Sooke contributing \$700,000 towards the estimated \$1 million cost. Nothing further has happened and Director Hicks now needs to decide whether to turf the idea or not.

Replacing the grass at the Milne Park field with all season artificial turf is considered by some as a way to extend the use of the field during the wet season, improve the quality of the play area and discourage geese who feed and foul there. There was also an exploratory discussion with the Sooke Community Association and some trustees from School District 62 (Sooke) about being able to share the cost of making changes to the field. The informal discussion with the school district trustees included the possibility of an agreement whereby school fields could be available for public use in exchange for SD#62 being given access to the Fred Milne Park field. No decision has been made on this proposal.

Thus far nothing has been agreed upon concerning replacing the playing field grass at Milne Park with artificial turf and no money has been spent. Although the original plan provided for a four-year period to come to a decision, Director Hicks now intends to approach the newly elected Sooke Council to ask for a commitment. If the District is unable or unwilling to commit to their \$700,000 share of the cost then the JDFEA's \$300,000 contribution will be withdrawn and the money returned to the Gas Tax fund and used elsewhere in the JDFEA.

Director Hicks says that he hasn't heard any comment on the artificial turf idea. Should he turf the turf, or not? You can contact him at: directorjdf@crd.bc.ca

11. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Did you know that they tried drilling for oil at the mouth of Muir Creek?

In April, 1910 the Victoria Daily Colonist newspaper reported that the Western Canada Oil Prospecting Co. was undertaking to form a company to acquire the rights to prospect for coal and oil on about 11,159 acres west of Sooke – an area they claimed had oil richness to rival that of California. Their prospecting hopes were based on observations of coal outcropping and the discovery of oil seepage in the Muir Creek area. .

Mr. J.W. Frank was the expert hired by the company to determine the worth of the oil field. The likelihood of oil being found in the area was based on his geological assessment of sand, clay and shale formations, which he considered an indication of a "...true and undisturbed oil-bearing area." Based upon this favourable assessment, the Western Canada Oil Prospecting Co. hired the Murray Drilling Co. of Santa Cruz, California to drill a well at Muir Creek at a cost of \$10.00 per foot to a depth of 2,000 feet.



The oil well operation at Muir Creek estuary c1910. This picture is located at both the Sooke Region Museum and the Shirley Community Hall. SRHS #5090

On July 14, 1910 the company ran a newspaper ad announcing they had capital of \$375,000, their Muir Creek well was now drilled to a depth of 200 feet and the well had, "...promising indications similar to Pennsylvania oil fields." Thirty thousand shares in the company were offered for sale at \$1.00 each.

The company directors were "local gentlemen" and identified by the Daily Colonist newspaper as Francis J. Marshall, formerly an assistant manager of the National Bank of India; Charles B. Daniel, solicitor of the Supreme Court of England; Henry Morton of Mitchell, Morton & Co.; Reginald C. Talbot; and E.A. Hall, physician.

Drilling went down about 1,200 feet (considered a great depth in those days), however the venture was unsuccessful. Some concrete remains of what may be part of the base of the oil well structure can still be seen on the east (Otter Point) side of the Muir Creek estuary. This flat location, on the Strait of Juan de Fuca side of Highway 14 was later used by the Elder Timber Co. Ltd. as a log storage and booming area. The property is now owned by TimberWest.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** comes from the April 7, July 24 and August 7, 1910 issues of the Victoria Daily Colonist newspaper and the archives of the Sooke Region Museum. **Did You Know That?** is researched and written for the OPSRRA newsletter by Arnie Campbell. He can be contacted at d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you have a question or information about the history of Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point.

12. OPSRRA SEEKING NEW DIRECTORS

The OPSRRA Board of Directors is currently seeking new Board members. We have been a lean group these last couple years and at least 2 of the required 5 Board members are planning to step down when our AGM comes around in the spring of 2015. We really need some new energy to continue our role in the communities of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River. If OPSRRA is important to you please consider joining our board of directors. Currently our board meets bi-monthly (every 2 months) as well as organizing our AGM, Membership meetings and All Candidates meetings (in election years). Anyone interested please email us at opsrra@gmail.com or contact a director (personal contact info can be found above in the newsletter introduction). We would be happy to provide you with more information and answer any questions you may have about the roles and responsibilities of directors. We encourage anyone interested to attend a directors board meeting. Our next directors' meeting is Feb 2nd at 7:30 pm in the SEAPARC boardroom.

13. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA offers 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 invite 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 a 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 www.opsrra.ca has more information about the following local business listings:

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair	Le Sooke Spa
Accent in Grooming	Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage
A Point of View B & B	Migration Design
ALM Organic Farm	Ocean Wilderness Inn
Beaches West B & B	Otter Point Beach House
Bear Home Remodelling	Otter Point Electrical Service
Birds Edge Press	Perfect Grade Plumbing
Coastal Crunch Granola	Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Eco Craft Lights	Road's End Construction
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites	Saltwest Naturals

Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.	Sandy's Drywall Ltd
Full Circle Seeds	Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Glen's Gardening Company	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Heron's Rest B & B	Three Sisters Farm
"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Jambo Pet Sitting Service	Tugwell Creek Meadery
Kemp Lake Store Café	Welcome Wagon
Knotty Beds by Nature and Cedar Surfboards	Wildewood Custom Homes
	Wood Visions

14. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site:
www.opsrra.ca

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. 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 have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.