



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

CELEBRATING 12 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 OPSRRRA 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

Marika Nagasaka	President	Debb Read	Vice-President
Phone: 642-2133		Phone: 646- 9998	
Brenda Mark	Treasurer	Fiona McDannold	Director
Phone: 646-2598		Phone: 646-2730	
Sandy Barta	Director	Bill Dushenko	Director
LauRa Barker	Director		
Phone: 642-5124			

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: opsrrnewsletter@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.

Saturday May 2nd	<p>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Grassy Lake via the Harrison Trail. This is a 12 km hike on forest paths. Meet at 9:00 am at the Galloping Goose parking lot on Sooke River Rd (across from the trailer park) to car pool to the trailhead. 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 sid2767@shaw.ca</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
Saturday May 2nd	<p>Sooke Community Choir Performance</p> <p>8:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Tickets \$10 (16 and under free) available at the door.</p>
Tuesday May 5th	<p>Shirley Women's Institute</p> <p>Monthly meeting first Tuesday of the month 10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
Tuesday May 5th	<p>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</p> <p>Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
Wednesday May 6th	<p>Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</p> <p>Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm
Saturday May 9th	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Charters River to Sooke Mountain Park. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike. This 10 km is a difficulty level 3 hike. Meet at William Simmons Park in Otter Point (Sooke Business Park 3220 Otter Point Rd) at 9:00 am to car pool or if more convenient, at the trailhead on Sooke River Rd at Charters River around 9:30 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 May 9th	<p>Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan Review Open House</p> <p>11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
Monday May 11th	<p>Public Information Meeting – Soil Bylaw</p> <p>7:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building</p> <p>3 – 7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p>
Tuesday May 12th	<p>Shirley Hall Foot Care Clinics</p> <p>Foot Care Nurse, Marlene Beaulieu, LPN, holds clinics at the Shirley Community Hall, 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>
Wednesday May 13th	<p>Shirley Community Association Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>

Tuesday May 20th	<p>Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee</p> <p>7:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3 – 7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p> <p>(Please note this is a change in the regular meeting schedule – moved from a Tuesday to a Wednesday)</p>
Wednesday May 20th	<p>Shirley Fire Commission Meeting</p> <p>Monthly meeting third Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
Tuesday May 26th	<p>Books for Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>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 May 26th	<p>JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission</p> <p>3:00 pm at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building 3-7450 Butler Road, Otter Point</p> <p>Public Welcome. For enquiries call 250 642 1500</p>
Tuesday June 2nd	<p>Shirley Women's Institute</p> <p>Monthly meeting first Tuesday of the month 10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>

Wednesday June 3rd	<p>Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</p> <p>Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 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
Tuesday June 5th	<p>Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</p> <p>Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
Saturday June 6th	<p>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Cowichan River Trail. Full day hike, details to follow (see June newsletter or JDFCTS website). Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
Saturday June 13th	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Thetis Lake to Francis King. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike. A 10 km, difficulty level 3 hike on well-developed forest trails. Meet at William Simmons Park in Otter Point (Sooke Business Park 3220 Otter Point Rd) at 9:00 am to car pool or if more convenient at the Thetis Lake parking lot trail-head around 9:40 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 June 13th	<p>Shards Glass Studio Introductory Workshop</p> <p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>To register contact Susan Isaac 250 642 4942</p> <p>Or email susan@shardsglass.com</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ShardsGlassStudio</p>
Saturday June 20th	<p>Shards Glass Studio Bowl/Plate/Pendant Workshop</p> <p>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</p> <p>To register contact Susan Isaac 250 642 4942</p> <p>Or email susan@shardsglass.com</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ShardsGlassStudio</p>
Sunday June 21st	<p>Shards Glass Studio Introductory Workshop</p> <p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>To register contact Susan Isaac 250 642 4942</p> <p>Or email susan@shardsglass.com</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ShardsGlassStudio</p>
Mondays	<p>Karate for all ages in Shirley on Mondays</p> <p>6:30 – 8:00 pm</p> <p>Contact: Alida Long, 250-642-4631</p>
Thursdays	<p>Shirley Quilters and Crafters</p> <p>10:30 am – 3:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
Saturdays	<p>Pilates at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>9:30 am</p> <p>Level 1 class, suitable for beginners</p> <p>Contact: Sandra Smith</p> <p>Website: www.svakayoga.com</p> <p>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. JORDAN RIVER NO SHOOTING BOUNDARY

OPSRRA directors have been working on a proposal to change the No Shooting Area Boundary in the Jordan River area.

Currently the boundaries do not take into account the increased residential development and recreational use in the area and residents and other users of the land experience frequent discharge of firearms very close to their homes and popular recreation areas.

The RCMP are unable to respond to complaints or concerns about safety and noise from the community as the current No Shooting boundary allows for the discharge of firearms in the Jordan River area.

OPSRRA has contacted John Horgan, our MLA, and his office has agreed to take this proposal to the Ministry of the Environment and request a change to the No Shooting Boundary.

In order to accomplish changing the boundary, residents and other users of the land need to support this proposal.

To date OPSRRA has had support letters from many of the businesses and industries who work on the land around Jordan River. However, it is still very important that the residents of the area also indicate their support for changing the boundary.

The OPSRRA directors ask that Jordan River residents who are concerned about the shooting close to their homes write letters supporting the No Shooting boundary change. Please send the letters to opsrra@gmail.com as soon as possible in order for us to move forward with this very important proposal.



What gets left behind at a well-used shooting site in Jordan River.



Target practice site in Jordan River.

3. EMCS STUDENTS' EFFORTS TO STOP LOCAL DUMPING

The following report was submitted to the OPSRRA newsletter by students' at EMCS. The project has been supported by OPSRRA, with Grant in Aid funding from JDREA Regional Director Mike Hicks.

We are 25 EMCS Environmental Studies students' who would like to see an end to the illegal dumping of wastes in and around our beloved Juan de Fuca region. Our exploration of Sooke's supernatural backyard has revealed some horrific dumping grounds. We've seen everything from appliances and mattresses to run of the mill household garbage. All of these sites have been near rivers and creeks and we worry about toxins leaching into local water systems, harming salmon spawning grounds and transporting plastics into the ocean. We are also concerned for local wildlife that might consume bits of plastic or be poisoned by leeching toxins.

Our class decided to clean-up Otter Point's worst dumpsite located at the gate to Butler Main Road. Sooke Disposal kindly donated a massive bin for us to use. At first glance, we thought the clean-up would entail hauling out the mattresses, plastics and drywall on the side of the road. However, when we moved into the bush, we were mortified by the amount and type of refuse there. We pulled out more than 20 tires, gallons of paint cans and used motor oil, furniture, bags of household garbage including kitchen and toilet waste, hundreds of Keurig coffee cups and aerosol cans. We removed layers of garbage unearthing older layers beneath. "How could somebody do this?" we asked ourselves.

Our class feels good about our clean-up efforts but we also know that we must stop future dumping. Presently, there is a maximum \$2000 fine from the CRD for dumping if a culprit is caught. Capturing individuals can be difficult as the dumping occurs late at night and CRD resources are limited. It is our hope that bringing public awareness to this problem may help hinder illegal dumping. JDF residents can recycle electronics at the Salvation Army for no charge. Also for free, Sooke Disposal will take appliances, automotive batteries, paint and aerosol cans. EMCS is also collecting scrap metal in our parking lot for the next month! We are asking our community to help bring better awareness to this issue so that we might preserve JDF natural beauty for all!

EMCS Environmental Studies Class 2015

4. COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING & OWNING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING IN THE JDFEA – PART 3 IN A SERIES

Depending on where you live in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) your property taxes contribute towards the operation of over 50 provincial, regional and local area services. While most services are essential and costs would be considered reasonable, some provincial and regional services have little if anything to do with property ownership. Including them in your property taxes raises the question: is a house a home or another tax collection point?

This is the third and final installment in a series looking at costs associated with homeownership in the JDFEA. Part 1 looked at various regulatory requirements such as permits, warranties, land title searches and fees which account for about 20% of the cost of building a home. Part 2 considered some of the taxes and regulations in more detail and considered why they're deemed necessary by various government authorities. Read more about these costs in OPSRRA's March and April newsletters:

<http://www.opsrra.ca/index.htm>

Part Three in a Series:

JDFEA property taxes support on-going costs associated with home ownership as well as many other services which are only remotely associated with owning a home yet are paid for, in part, through your property tax bill. Have a look at your tax notice and you'll see what you are being taxed for. Some taxes are provincial such as school, roads and policing; others are for regional services such as hospital, library, museum, transit and recreation; while other assessments are for local area services including fire protection, land use planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement, animal control, search & rescue and grants-in-aid. How much does this cost? It varies slightly from community-to-community in the JDFEA because of differing fire protection costs and whether you have access to transit services and some other specified area services; however, 0.6% of your property's assessed value is likely. If you qualify for one of the provincial school tax grants you can expect to save between \$570 and \$845 - which reduces your percentage accordingly.

The process for determining what local area services we are taxed for and the amounts differs in the unincorporated JDFEA from surrounding incorporated communities such as Sooke, Metchosin and Langford. In an incorporated community the draft budget is usually prepared by a committee of council and staff and sometimes includes taxpayers. The draft is then brought to the full council for review, debate and approval. For unincorporated areas the provincial Local Government Act requires this process be the responsibility of a regional district. In the case of the JDFEA the Capital Regional District (CRD) staff prepares a draft budget in consultation with the JDFEA regional director, the draft is then presented to the CRD's Electoral Area Services Committee for review and recommendation to the full CRD Board of Directors. The board can make further changes before voting on acceptance. A detailed explanation of the process can be seen on the JDFEA 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>

The CRD's complete 2015 Financial Plan Summary, including the JDFEA, can be seen by following this link: [Individual Municipalities and Electoral Area Schedules](#)

Because we're unincorporated, property taxes notices are issued to residents of the JDFEA by the province, which collects taxes for itself, the CRD and others. Although looking at your property tax notice will provide some helpful information as to what you're being taxed for and how much, the cost of operating local area services in the JDFEA is not apparent. Local area services such as building inspection, bylaw enforcement and land use planning are captured under a single line item called Area H Capital, which amounts to about \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This means that a house and property valued at \$500,000 would pay about \$600 towards the cost of operating local area services - exclusive of fire protection and any other specified area services.

In order to provide clarity about the JDFEA budget process and what gets included in your tax notice, OPSRRA requested JDFEA Regional Director Hicks to prepare an explanation of the budget process and post an annual spreadsheet to the JDFEA web site. Director Hicks began doing this in 2009. The spreadsheet details what's contained in the JDFEA budget, including Area H Capital. In this year's budget the largest expense is Land Use Planning

(\$628,520) followed by Community Parks & Recreation (\$154,110) and Emergency Services (\$70,100). All local area services are provided by the CRD using their staff or contractors. The regional director's 2015 budget as well as comparison budgets from 2008 – 2014 can be seen on the JDFEA web site: [2015 Juan de Fuca Tax Report](#)

Parts 1 & 2 in this series identified some building start-up taxes and fees, such as the provincial Property Transfer Tax and the School Site Acquisition Charge, which have little or anything to do with home ownership. The same can be said about some of the services homeowners are taxed for. They might be important services to the community and/or the individual but why does the property instead of the person get taxed to provide the revenue? Examples of services that may fit in this category are:

Schools: This is the single largest tax levy, although partially offset for most homeowners by a provincial grant. School districts used to have taxing authority, which meant that property owners could vote for trustees who then became accountable for how local tax money was spent. This function was removed by the province some decades ago, leaving property owners to carry the cost without any explanation why this service shouldn't be spread across all residents of the province and paid for entirely from general taxation revenue.

Highways and Roads: Unlike incorporated communities the upkeep, construction and safety of our highways and roads are a provincial responsibility for which we pay a very small fee. Most consider this a great financial savings for a service which would be unaffordable for a small rural tax base. Others feel that Highway 14 and main connector roads need massive safety upgrades with shoulders for walking, cycling and horses. Should it be the house, or the vehicle which needs a road to get to your house that pays the tax?

Policing: The province pays for four of the 14 police officers stationed at the Sooke Detachment. They are not specifically assigned to the JDFEA, but the province considers this to be the number necessary to ensure police services are available to East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew and the Rural Resource Lands. Unincorporated areas and communities with populations less than 10,000 get a generous provincial subsidy towards policing costs. Much of the Sooke Detachment's policing time is spent on traffic patrol of Highway 14, which could be considered something the province should be paying for. However, the province does subsidize the cost. Homeowners pay 13.44 cents per \$1,000 of property assessment, making this a good deal. Perhaps the bigger issue is whether the province is contracting with the RCMP for enough officers at the Sooke Detachment.

Hospitals: There is a formula used to calculate who shares in the cost of building hospitals, and the CRD apportions part of their cost amongst homeowners in the region. Our share is 31.04 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. This is a small amount, but does it belong on your property tax bill?

BC Transit: This is another provincial service that is shared with regional governments who annually struggle with how to find enough money to keep the expanding system operating.

At 26.29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value it's another small charge but, again, what does public transit have to do with home ownership?

All levels of government are seeking ways to meet needs while not appearing to overspend. How they tax or charge for the true cost of a service is what we expect our elected representatives to consider. Unfortunately, transferring or downloading the expense elsewhere also happens. Often the group with the weakest voice becomes the one to carry the heavier tax load. Unless you know your tax load, what it supports and speak out about whether you support it or not, then, by default, the taxman wins! Hope that the information provided in this series helped.

5. SALTWEST BUSINESS PROFILE

OPSRRA will try to run business profile on a monthly basis, to help showcase our local business owners. If you are a OPSRRA member and have a business listing and you would be interested in submitting a profile of your business to run in a future OPSRRA newsletter, please contact the editor at opsrranewsletter@gmail.com for more information.

Find out how Canadian sea salt is made in the Pacific Northwest at Saltwest Naturals harvestry. Owners Jeff and Jess Abel produce hand-harvested artisan sea salt and natural mineral sea soaks from the pristine coastal waters of Sooke. Crafted in micro-batches using ancient evaporating techniques as well as efficient modern technology.

Discover Saltwests custom created solar greenhouse and pods that utilize the sun and wind to produce Western Canada's 1st natural solar sea salt. With a sustainable touch, using reverse osmosis, the salinity of the seawater increases and fresh potable water is produced as a by-product. Kettles boil water to make pure Rain Coast Flor de Sal flakes, delicious organic infused flavours, and our gourmet smoked sea salt.

Tucked away in the trees of Otter Point, Jeff and Jess look forward to showing you how it's made and invite you to explore our little West Coast Salt Gift Shop. We're open to the public, so come and discover how we make our delicious products.

Open: Wednesday-Saturday 11-5pm & Sunday 11-4pm. 7585 Lemare Crescent off Butler Rd.

Thank you,
Jessica Abel
Saltwest Naturals
www.saltwest.com
Office # 778.977.3994
Cell # 778.352.1129

North Pacific Solar Canadian Sea Salt
Hand-Harvested on Vancouver Island



6. SHORE-UP OF JORDAN RIVER POINT

The following response was given to OPSRRA from Regional Director Mike Hicks when asked to share the details of how the Shore-Up project came to be.

In the last week of January I received a phone call from Loren Perraton, manager of Queesto logging in Jordon River alerting me to the problem with the surfer's beach in Jordon River. After driving out and conferring with Loren we came up with a plan to stabilize the point.



Director Hicks at the Jordan River Surfers' Beach before the shoreline stabilization project.

Queesto organized a machine and operator, Queesto donated the rock, Jordon River Gravel hauled the rock and the CRD paid a total of \$ 6,000 for everyone's time and effort.

I presented the plan to Larisa Hutchison, General Manager CRD Parks and she wisely made an instant decision making the plan possible.

You can see by the pictures the extent of the undermining and exposed roots of the trees before the project started (above) as well as the end result (below).



7. MAY ON THE FARM AND IN THE GARDEN

May is a busy month at the farm. It is a month of transplanting and direct seeding.

May marks the season, it is the month of the major planting out the heat lovers! Tomatoes, cukes, summer squash (zucchini, patty pan, etc), winter squash will all get transplanted out by the end of May. Tomatoes all go into our greenhouses to avoid blight and to maximize production (we started transplanting out in early April). We will be transplanting basil alongside tomatoes into the greenhouses. Winter and summer squash gets planted out into the field, into rich beds covered with black plastic (with holes to transplant the squash into, 3 feet apart). This helps reduce weeds, retain moisture and add heat for the squash. We cover the well-watered transplants with floating row cover to protect the fragile transplants from the elements and create a warm environment. They will stay covered until they grow too big for the cover! Peppers will also be planted out in May, into the warmest and most protected areas in the greenhouses.

May is also a major month for direct seeding. Plant your corn and beans out as soon as the soil has warmed. We aim for early May with these crops, to get the earliest beans, and to get a good crop of corn. A good trick is to get the bed prepped and cover with clear plastic to warm up before planting (for about 1 week), then plant and again cover with clear plastic while seeds are germinating. Make sure not to fry the young seedlings under the plastic! Plant bush beans successively every 2-3 weeks to mid June for continuous the harvest. Pole beans are great in the garden; they use vertical space and have a long harvest period. We will also direct seed carrots, radish, beets, fall/winter parsnips, fennel, kale, gobo, daikon, asian greens and herbs (dill, cilantro, summer savory). We continue planting potatoes into July.

Lots of transplanting into the field is happening. Onions, leeks (both summer & winter), celery, celeriac, cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, etc), chard, lettuce and other salad items, green onions.

We will continue to seed lettuce, chard, basil and other greens into trays.

8. SOOKE MARKET SEEKS VENDORS AND MUSICIANS

Sooke Country Market is seeking new vendors for the 2015 season. If you “make it, bake it or grow it” consider vending at this friendly community-based market. The market runs weekly on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, May 9th to October 10th at Otter Point Road across from Eustace Road. There are lots of options to sell weekly or on certain market days throughout the season. Shared tables (max. of two people) are also an option. We are also enlivening our market this year with an increased presence of musicians and performing artists and we want you to be part of it! If you’d like a space to showcase your music and talent this is the opportunity to gain exposure in a dynamic environment in the heart of our community. Ten 2-hour time slots are available throughout the season and a small honorarium is available for performers. Only acoustic performances can be accommodated at this time. Please note: new vendors and performers need approval

before they are able to attend/perform at market so apply now to secure a spot! For more information check our website www.sookecountrymarket.com or contact the Market Manager at info@sookecountrymarket.com.

9. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Did you know that the forests around Jordan River were privately owned or leased from the province by a series of American companies which bought, sold and merged their assets in that area for almost 100 years?

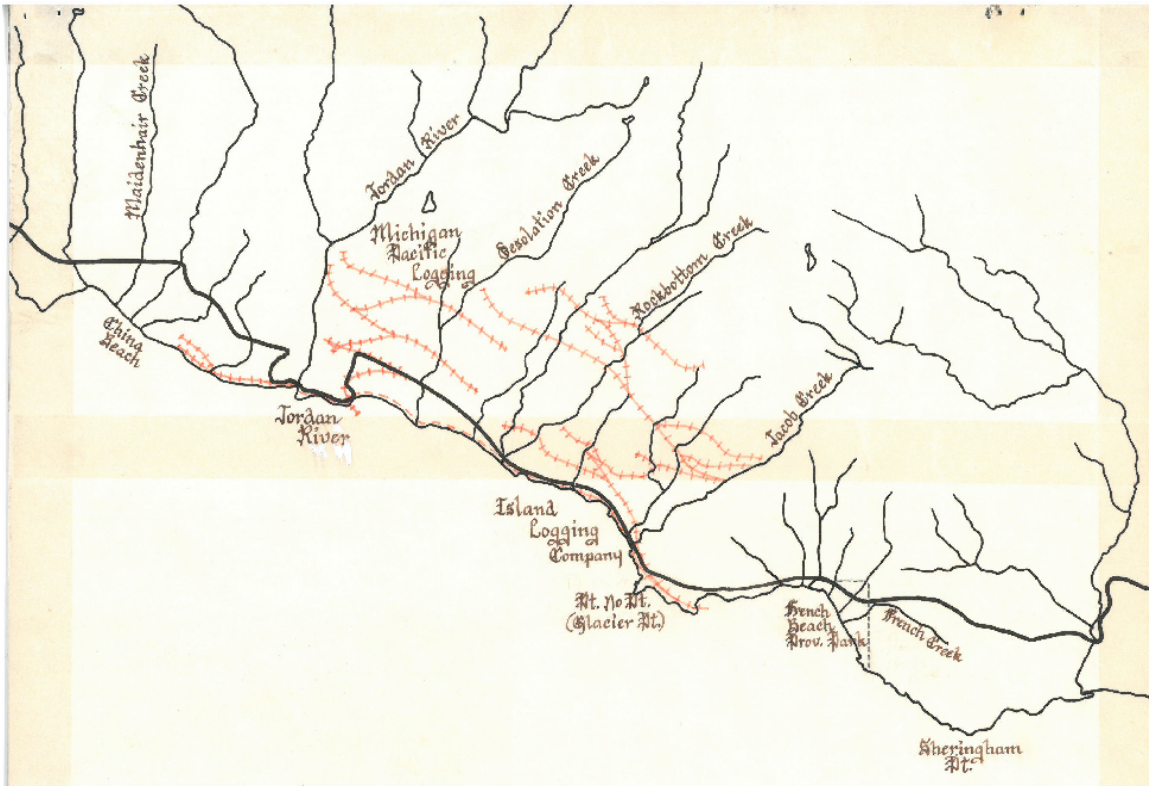
The earliest known interest in logging Jordan River's vast and dense cedar and fir forests was in 1886 by William P. Sayward. Originally from Maine, he owned a saw mill in Victoria and bought thousands of acres of forest including Section 3 (Jordan River), Section 7 (Black Creek, now known as Desolation Creek) and Section 8 (McManus Creek). The challenge of getting the timber out of the forest as well as financial difficulties precluded any significant logging and the venture was abandoned.

In 1906 a trio of Nebraskans formed the Jordan River Lumber Company. They assembled a 30,000 acre forest by combining crown grants and the land previously owned by Wm. Sayward. They began logging the following year and had the first known logging railway operation on the west side of Vancouver Island. In June of 1911 the Jordan River Lumber Company merged with two other American companies, Michigan Puget Sound – which operated the former Sayward mill in Victoria and the Michigan Pacific Lumber Company. The new company became known as the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Company (CPS). The June 11, 1911 issue of the Victoria Daily Times gave an account of CPS: it had assets of \$5 million, owned 55,000 acres of forest on Vancouver Island and the Strait of Georgia with an estimated 4 billion feet of standing timber and the capacity to mill 130,000 board feet of lumber a day and 7 million board feet a month!

The October 2, 1911 issue of the Victoria Daily Times describes a successful and expanding company. They were building a \$40,000, three storey office building at the corner of Store and Discovery streets in Victoria (next to their mill), a new wood waste burner (\$25,000), a drying kiln (\$10,000) and a three storey door manufacturing factory (\$12,000). A year later they spent \$30,000 to install a fire suppression system at the mill using 11 high pressure hydrants and a sprinkler system. All this was in addition to an estimated \$100,000 being spent for a new logging railway locomotive, donkey engines and other improvements at their Jordan River operation. The newspaper account concludes with mention that the company was loading a ship in Victoria's Inner Harbour with 2 million board feet of lumber for export to Australia.

A mere two years later the expansive times in the lumber business had begun to change. In November of 1914 the Victoria Daily Times reported that the 5-masted windjammer Inca was being loaded in Victoria's Inner Harbour with a final order of lumber. Falling prices had brought an end to less than a decade of rapid growth and the company began liquidating some of its assets in the fall of 1914. By the spring of 1915, with World War I well underway, the company cited the unavailability of ships to carry its products to foreign markets as the

reason for its financial difficulties and offered its shareholders 50 cents on the dollar to settle its debts as it prepared to reorganize. In August of 1919 CPS was purchased by an American syndicate from Wisconsin and renamed the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber and Timber Company. Over the next two decades the reorganized company continued logging in the Jordan River, Shirley and Port Renfrew area. An extensive network of switchback logging railway lines was built on the steep slopes above Jordan River; another line went as far east as Point No Point in Shirley. The company even contemplated constructing a logging railway line from Jordan River to Sooke Harbour at Whiffin Spit. Some right-of-way was acquired but nothing built.



Map showing the location of the Michigan Pacific and later Canadian Puget Sound Lumber and Timber Company logging railways in the Jordan River and Shirley areas c. 1910 -1930. Sooke Region Museum archives.

After World War II the company became part of a series of sales, mergers and reorganizations and it was variously a subsidiary of the Alaska Pine Company (1946), which was merged with B.C. Pulp and Paper (1951) to become the Alaska Pine and Cellulose Company. In 1956 the company was sold to Rayonier Incorporated of New York and sold again in 1980 to Canadian interests made-up of BC Forest Products, Doman Industries and Western Forest products. To follow the trail of ownership since then would likely take two more pages and better left for another time.

Information for this month's **Did You Know That?** came from 4,000 Years: A History of the Rainforest written and published by the Sooke Region Historical Society, archived issues of the Victoria Daily Times and A Brief History of Sooke by J. C. Lawrence. If you have

information about the history of the local area or want to ask a question, contact Arnie Campbell: d.acampbell@shaw.ca

10. KEMP LAKE WATERWORKS AGM REPORT

No surprises but lots of news at the Kemp Lake Waterworks AGM on Wednesday, April 29. Trustees Richard Birch, Joanne Hemphill and Kevan Brehart were all present along with Chief Administrative Officer Debbie Anderson and Chief Operator Roy Anderson. This is one hard working team. As Trustees reported on the past year's activities, water users asked questions and came to appreciate the work done on their behalf.

Trustee Brehart was elected by acclamation for another three year term and a small increase in the Trustees honorarium was approved. Repairs and replacements to the pipes and water meters are ongoing. Three houses added to the system last year brings the number of residences served to 463. The system pumped 27 million gallons from the Kemp Lake in 2014, an increase of 8% over 2013.

An ongoing project is to meet the Island Health drinking water treatment standards. Research and development is coming to action. As directed by water users, the Trustees are negotiating to purchase water for the Kemp Lake system from the CRD system. The fact that the Kemp Lake Improvement District is in excellent shape as far as infrastructure and administration made the negotiations much easier.

The thing is, Kemp Lake water users will be responsible for the full cost of the hook up. There may be some relief: as reported in February, JdF Director Mike Hicks recognized that the CRD could apply for a grant to cover up to 2/3 of the cost of laying 2 km of new pipe to connect the CRD water system with the Kemp Lake system.

When we are buying CRD water, we will also be following CRD water restrictions. As well as paying the cost of new infrastructure and cost of the water, we will also be paying for the upkeep of our own system. As expensive as it seems, water users supported hooking up to the CRD system over buying land, building our own treatment plant and maintaining and operating the plant to treat Kemp Lake water over the years.

While waiting to hear if the grant comes through (fingers crossed), Trustees are organizing the paperwork needed for the next steps of getting permission from the provincial government and to finance the project. When the time comes, Trustees will have information meetings for the water users with updated information in preparation for requesting voter approval for the financing needed. A lot of the background information is already available at the Kemp Lake Water Works new website: <http://www.kemplakewaterworks.bc.ca>

As part of the excellent administration and maintenance of infrastructure, the Trustees are investing in a state of the art leak detector. It is a kind of listening device that can identify and locate leaks. Trustees originally thought of renting equipment. There was nothing suitable on Vancouver Island so they decided to buy the device. Not only will it

help conserve water in the Kemp Lake system, Trustees may be able to rent the device to other water system owners. Saves money, makes money, great plan.

A big “Thank You” the Team and to Mike Hicks for the imagination, diligence and energy they put out on behalf of the Kemp Lake Waterworks water users.

11. 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	Shards Glass Studio and Workshops
Glen's Gardening Company	Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Heron's Rest B & B	Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services	Three Sisters Farm

Jambo Pet Sitting Service

Kemp Lake Store Café

Knotty Beds by Nature and Cedar Surfboards

Tugwell Creek Honey Farm

Tugwell Creek Meadery

Welcome Wagon

Wildewood Custom Homes

Wood Visions

12. 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.