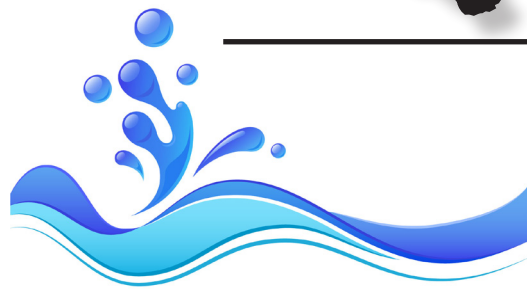


Shawnigan Focus

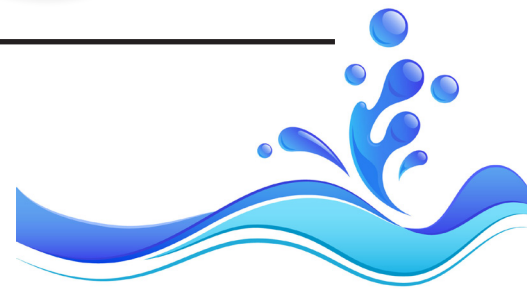
Volume Four- Issue One

JANUARY 2014



A Non-Profit Community Publication

SPLASH!



Lori Treloar Editor, Shawnigan Focus

The Shawnigan Focus team is delighted with the community participation, and enthusiasm, the first annual Shawnigan Shiver, sponsored by Shawnigan Focus and Friends. 121 registered swimmers, ranging in age from 3 1/2 to 80 took the plunge into the frigid 3-degree water.

Patty Oldfield first floated the idea of a Shawnigan Lake polar bear swim and an informal group, Patty Oldfield, John Oldfield, Heather Plumb and Lori Treloar, met to explore the possibility of organizing the 'swim'. After some discussion the group decided – why not? The organizer of the Van-

couver Parks swim provided some great planning advice (he ought to know – their swim has approx. 2300 swimmers; over 20000 spectators and has been held every year since 1920). We weren't expecting a turn out like theirs. In fact, we weren't sure that anyone would show up so we were slightly overwhelmed (in a good way) with the response... but we might need a bigger beach eventually!

Thank you to the following volunteers who made the event possible:

- ★ Patty Oldfield, John Oldfield, Heather Plumb and Lori Treloar who met regularly to organize the event and then did what was necessary on the day to make it happen
- ★ Françoise Moulin for designing the beautiful 'Shiver' scene for our posters, buttons etc.
- ★ Keith Shields for hauling gear, helping with set-up, the campfire, and clean up
- ★ The whole Davies clan - Bill and Marian Davies for helping with set-up, clean up and manning the food tables; Roy Davies for providing his PA system and great music; and to the rest of the family, who took the plunge
- ★ Kim Krejnik who kindly offered to take photos but assisted at the busy food/drinks table
- ★ Betsy Burr and Sarah Malerby for managing the chaotic registration table and Diane Melville and Sally Davies for lending assistance
- ★ Monica Foster for helping to distribute the draw prizes
- ★ Grant Treloar for acting as MC
- ★ Eric Keating for showing up in his dry suit...just in case
- ★ Rae Marie Nekleva for a generous cash donation toward the event
- ★ Planet Clean for donating a wonderful first aid kit for a draw prize
- ★ Leif Lake and Ken Napier for providing Medi-Van
- ★ Ambulance Service
- ★ Mason's Store for providing hot Chocolate
- ★ Esthetics by Lois for a great draw prize
- ★ Shawnigan House for a great draw prize
- ★ The Village Chipperry for gift certificates for the first 21 registrants.
- ★ The YSAGS clowns what a duo - great warm-up!!
- ★ Thriftys for providing tents
- ★ The Shawnigan Focus editors for agreeing to take on the event – and our own Dave Hutchinson who represented us well when he took the plunge!

More photos on Pages 3 & 10



SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

JANUARY 2014

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FEBRUARY 2014 Issue: February 7th

Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, RTF or Appleworks to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca
Please do not send a PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles in the Focus box at the The Chipperry:
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The 8th of every month for mid-month publication. Ads should be sent in correct sizing, B&W, high resolution, and as a JPEG or PDF.
Kim is also available to help create or reformat your ad. Contact Kim at ads@shawniganfocus.ca

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for a fee. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Views expressed in articles are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS

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CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY 2014 SPONSORED BY SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM "Passport to Shawnigan Lake"

Who:

- ★ All families are welcome

What:

- ★ Participate in a Shawnigan family adventure to discover some of the treasures in our community and win Shawnigan prizes from participating local businesses
- ★ With your passport, you will visit eight designated locations that have been chosen this year to celebrate Shawnigan buildings – past, present and future! Take a current snapshot of your family at each destination, answer the skill-testing question on your passport and then bring your photos (printed; on your camera; or, on your phone) to the Shawnigan Lake Museum, the Village Chipperry, or the Style Centre Barbershop where your passport will be stamped for each location visited. The more locations you visit, the better your chances are to win prizes!
- ★ Then, on Monday February 10, join us in the Village from 11-2 for great family activities. This year each family will paint, or build, a Shawnigan building choosing inspiration from the past, the present or our potential future.

When:

- ★ Registration begins February 1st. You have up to, and including, February 10th to complete your passport.

How:

- ★ Register your family to participate in this truly Shawnigan experience!
- ★ Passport will be available at the following locations: Shawnigan Lake Museum, the Village Chipperry or The Style Centre Barbershop. Registration is \$3 per family member, which includes a pizza slice, hot chocolate and the Family Day activities.

Where:

- ★ It's all happening at Shawnigan! Grab your passport and go on a family adventure in and around Shawnigan.



WHERE'S DECLAN?

PHOTO CREDIT: ED WIEBE

Shawnigan Wharf Park

In 1929, a public lake access on Thrush Road, which crossed the E&N right-of-way, was authorized. The 'Government Wharf' was constructed in 1975 (to ocean standards) for public boat access. In 1989, the CVRD obtained a lease from the Ministry of Crown Lands for the purpose of providing a public wharf, a community park and moorage for a fire boat. A year later, the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Firefighters built their boat house and wharf. In 1999, the lot adjacent to the wharf/beach was purchased and, in 2007, a volleyball court was installed. This is a popular park for swimmers and fisherman, and for launching small and large boats.



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WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

Send letters to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Letters to the Editor:

Extreme embarrassment over community actions...

Upon returning home this afternoon from doing some business in Mill Bay, my husband told me there was some sort of protest in Mill Bay. He couldn't make out what it was about because he said the signs people were holding were not clear, and people just making a lot of noise, not to mention holding up traffic.

We found out what the protest was about when we watched our local news at the dinner hour. I watched with mixed feelings because what these people were protesting are issues that I, myself, have spoken up about. But the emotion I felt after thinking about it for a few minutes was extreme embarrassment. Embarrassed for the people there and their actions, by the comments people were making and embarrassed that we, as the wonderful communities that I think we are, could not greet the Prime Minister of our country with civil respect.

Yes, we have major issues here that we are dealing with, as there are all over the country, but dealing with the issues with civil disobedience is not the right way. I wonder if Mr. Harper will want to come back here now, let alone give us a second thought.

You don't get a child's attention by yelling at him.

Beverly McCooley

Kerry Park arena is the largest single tax spender in the area...

Dear Sir:

In spite of the CVRD having one of the worst performing transit systems in BC and taking millions from local taxpayers to keep it going they continue to give away "Free

Bus Rides" on a regular basis. More than 95% of residents never use the buses. It is dishonest for governments to trumpet a heavily subsidized, mostly empty transit system as providing free services to anyone. Who gave these guys the right to squander our money?

These so called freebies simply force taxpayers to unwillingly put more tax money into the system while a very few enjoy not paying for their transit ride. The same goes for free skating /swimming at the huge money losing recreational facilities. The CVRD gives a 75%+ subsidy to those who use their cultural and recreational facilities. In South Cowichan, the Kerry Park arena is the largest single tax spender in the area.

It's now budget time and a good time to take a fresh look at the CVRD who force taxpayers to pay for wasteful practices and services and mostly empty buses. Users should be paying the full cost if they demand these extra services. That's what the CVRD requires for sewer and water and many other services they provide. But for some reason they love giving away tax money for transit, culture and recreation and the hundreds of thousands of grant dollars they dole out each year without much thought or accountability from their \$60 million + of tax spending.

Our taxes would be much lower if they were consistent in policy. Let's have full disclosure when some new service is planned as to its exact taxpayer cost and who really benefits from politicians giving away our money. A bit of honesty would help as well when advertising something as being "free"!

Yours truly,

W.E.(Bill) Dumont



Does this make you shiver?



MoE Refers SIA to Conservation Officer Service for Enforcement Action.

The Shawnigan Basin Society gets funded for a progressive project!

Georgia Collins
*Executive Director,
Shawnigan Basin Society*

We have a fantastic reason to celebrate this year. The Shawnigan Basin Society just received news from the Real Estate Foundation of BC approving a grant of \$40,000 for an Ecosystem-based Conservation Plan for the Shawnigan Watershed. The Real Estate Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations working on progressive projects in British Columbia. Our project fits within the REFBC freshwater sustainability mandate and will be carried out by renowned forester, ecologist and educator, Herb Hammond, of the Silva Forest Foundation.

"The Silva Forest Foundation's work with communities across Canada (including Shawnigan's very own Elkington Forest) and elsewhere in the world is unique, as it empowers people with ecosystem-based tools for change. The work frequently starts by helping communities to appreciate their diversity and develop an expansive, yet practical vision for the future.

Herb Hammond has pioneered an ecosystem-based conservation planning approach that protects biological diversity and ecological processes, while assisting communities and individuals to implement ecologically responsible human uses and

develop conservation-based economies.

"You don't build an economy from the top down," Herb explains. "You build it from the bottom up, incorporating diversity like an ecosystem itself. Healthy local economies breed large national and international economic success."

The Ecosystem-based Conservation Plan is a system that may be effectively applied in unmodified to highly modified landscapes; and may be used for a wide range of purposes from conservation area design to resource development, settlement design, and urban planning."

The primary objectives for the Shawnigan Lake Ecosystem-based Conservation Plan

will be broken down into 7 steps, each to be carried out as funding is secured. The CVRD generously provided \$10,000 for the first step, and with this \$40,000 announcement from the Real Estate Foundation, as well as the incredible support of our Ecological Design Panel, we are well on our way to truly knowing the intimate vulnerabilities and strengths of our Watershed; this essential piece is what creates the solid foundation for participatory ecological governance.

As Executive Director of the Shawnigan Basin Society, and on behalf of my board, I would like to thank the Real Estate Foundation of BC for creating this opportunity and I extend this appreciation to those who

supported us in this application: CVRD Area B Director Bruce Fraser, CVRD South Cowichan Water Study, Living Forest Communities - Elkington Forest, Shawnigan Residents Association, Dwight School Canada, EcoTrust Canada, Trust for Sustainable Forestry, and all the residents of Shawnigan Lake who recognize the importance of contributing to watershed work, this was made possible by you!

For all of us interested in local control of our Shawnigan Community Watershed, it certainly is a Happy New Year!

Please visit the following sites for more information:

<http://shawniganwater.org/>

<http://www.silvafor.org/>

SIA Permit Status Jan 2014

Brent Beach
Shawnigan Focus

Most of the action over the last month has dealt with the appeal before the Environmental Appeal Board, with almost no activity on the CVRD suit before the BC Supreme Court (discussed briefly at the end).

It has been a month of legal wrangling as the SIA lawyers try to limit the scope of the appeal while the SRA and CVRD lawyers try to keep it

as wide as possible.

The Documents

20 Dec 2013 - The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which is responsible for all documents used in the Environmental Appeal Board hearing, produced a first list of documents. There are 7600 documents in total. The new date for a complete set of documents from the MoJ is Jan 6, 2014. It is not clear that this milestone was met.

20 Dec, 2013 - SIA reports it

has met all of the conditions in the original Permit (Appendix E, pp 90-100, dated 22 Oct 2013). The Ministry of Environment agrees (Appendix F, pp 101-03, dated 12 Dec 2013), but indicates two conditions which have not yet been met. MoE says this means that no contaminated material can be received at the site. There is no indication in the documents that I have seen that the final two conditions have yet been met. Finally, this large docu-

ment includes four Appendices which list contaminated material SIA wishes to receive at the site (before the Appeal of the Permit is heard or decided), with the names of the originating sites and the companies involved blacked out.

The removal of company names and contaminated site locations from the public record would appear to be contrary to the EAB statement affirming that the proceedings are public.

24 Dec 2013 - SIA reports it has met all the conditions of the permit and asks that it be allowed to accept contaminated waste. This amounts to asking the EAB to 'Vary the Stay'. Note that MoE says SIA has not yet met all the conditions of the permit.

This is an interesting request from SIA in that they have already been ordered by the EAB to not accept contaminated material until the appeal has been heard. SIA appears to be saying that the EAB no longer has any jurisdiction in this issue.

31 Dec 2012 - SRA objects to non-disclosure of contract details.

02 Jan 2014 - CVRD objects to non-disclosure of contract details.

09 Jan 2014 - SIA explains that it blacked out contract details because it found a few messages on social media which indicated an intention to boycott the companies from whom the contaminated soil was to be accepted. The same SIA ignores the objections of 7,000 residents claims to be terrified

by the online comments of a couple of activists.

CVRD Supreme Court Suit

Pretrial discussions between the court and the lawyers for SIA and the CVRD continue, with no date for a trial.

Summary

SIA continues to push hard against the EAB, demanding it lift the stay and allow shipments of contaminated soil to begin. This would appear to violate the Permit, since they have yet to comply with all the Permit conditions.

What you can do

If the appeal is disallowed and shipments of contaminated soil begin, you can expect that the value of your home will drop immediately and continue to drop over the years.

The SRA needs another \$130,000 to fight this permit. The assessed value of residential property in Area B is over \$1.5 billion. The loss in property value could well reach 10% or \$150 million dollars. The money needed by the SRA represents less than 0.1% of that loss in value. If property owners contributed just 0.1% of the assessed value of their property, the legal battle would be fully funded.

The Future

Continued legal wrangling up until the beginning of the hearing on Mar 3, somewhere in Victoria. The hearing continues until early April.

Links

Links to all documents mentioned can be found at Brentat-theFocus.blogspot.com.

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Director's Report January 2014

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

Shawnigan Shiver: young families (and a few demented old timers)

Like the very successful Christmas Light-Up of a few weeks ago, the Shawnigan Shiver brought out the young families of our community. The Focus is to be congratulated in sponsoring the first ever New Years Day event and giving us yet another glimpse into the vital next generation. Of course, there were a few wrinkles on display, but we can chalk these up to encouragement for others, not loss of marbles!

Shawnigan Basin Authority:

The AAP process passed with 151 dissenting citizens, much less that the 570 votes required to reject the tax support for the Shawnigan Basin

Authority. This is just the beginning of a long process to assert the interests of our community in effective watershed management in both Shawnigan and the Koksilah. The real work now begins – recruitment of Authority membership; creation of satisfactory terms of reference; extensive public consultation; outlining the needed content of a watershed master plan; and much collaborative work with businesses, industry and many other private land owners; and the government agencies that have pockets of jurisdiction. This will not be an easy overnight task. We need to keep our long-term vision developing at the same time that we deal with major short-term issues like the threat of the SIA contaminated soil facility. We need to think 40 years ahead, when the recently logged forests of the basin become eligible for the next round of industrial

clear-cutting. Long before then, we need to have transformed the management of our watershed into one that resembles a carefully tended community forest. The institutions that we take care to build in the next few years must not only be up to that task, but to form one of the pillars of an incorporated municipality.

The Shawnigan Basin Society, as a registered non-profit, will manage the funds and will be transparently accountable both directly to the Area B public and to the CVRD financial management staff and the Board.

Real Estate Foundation Grant

Congratulations to Georgia Collins, Executive Director of the Shawnigan Basin Society, for negotiating a \$40,000 grant from the BC Real Estate Foundation to support ongoing ecological planning in the

Shawnigan Watershed. The work will be an extension of the award-winning ecological forest design that is active in the Living Forest (Elkington) project in the best-protected headwaters area of our watershed.

Old Community Hall

The CVRD has completed the purchase of the old Shawnigan Community Hall and will be working in January to assess the next steps in dealing with the building. The main purpose of acquiring the hall was to assemble the land to the overall Elsie Miles site for future development by the community as a gathering centre, a plank in the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

“ReS’Eau” Network

Shawnigan Lake is now the focus of a national science research program. The CVRD has partnered with the RES’EAU Water Net research

network, coordinated by the University of British Columbia, to conduct research related to water quality, governance and innovative water treatment technologies on Shawnigan Lake. Funding for this work includes a major grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), along with contributions from other partners from industry, non-government organizations and local government. Funding for the CVRD’s contribution to this project comes from the South Cowichan Water Study, a service bylaw established in 2010 to fund watershed protection activities. For more information about the partnership and research underway, contact Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi at 250-746-2641 or via email at edy@cvrld.bc.ca. Activities will begin in January 2014 and details will be posted on the Shawnigan watershed and Director’s websites.

A great getting up morning

Garth Harvey
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

An old slave was thinking about how all his troubles would be over when he woke up in the hereafter. He was singing, “It’ll be a great getting up morning bye and bye.” I do not know about the hereafter, but I do know that 1 June 2014 will be a great getting up morning for the 10th birthday of the Adventure, formerly known as the Shawnigan Lake walk. Our real birthday is June 24 so we will be a little more mature ten-year-old.

In the past, I have written about our unique service for adult caregivers. Now, I will tell you a bit about our youth program, which started in 2010. In our work with the adult caregivers, we realized that there was a void when it came to helping youth caregivers. According to StatsCanada, 15% of all caregivers are youths between the ages of 12 and 24 years old. Our youth program is guided by a Resource Team of 10 or 12 youths, from five different cultures, and three adults. To the best of our knowledge, we are the only organization that supports youth caregivers. Our program is tailored to the youth, by the youth.

Our youth group has:

- ★ created a documentary film, Ending the Silence, which has been presented at over 70 schools, social service and government agencies. The documentary addresses the issue that no one knows about the youth caregiver.
- ★ established support groups and counselling support for young carers
- ★ developed support for First Nations

youth carers

- ★ produced a curriculum guide for schools (distributed across Canada)
- ★ developed and implemented youth leadership training workshops and conferences
- ★ established respite for young carers through the Vancouver Island Health Authority
- ★ been recognized as the best practice model in Canada by Grant Charles, UBC Professor of Sociology whose focus is youth
- ★ been invited to present at two international conferences
- ★ strongly influenced Action Canada Report on young carers careers 2012
- ★ inspired the Comox Youth as Caregivers Project (after viewing the documentary)
- ★ been cited in the Vanier Institute report by Dr. Grant Charles

Most of the funds for this work has come from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Vancouver Foundation. At times, we have had funds from CVRD, Shaw and private donations. It could not be done without this help. For the young carer, knowing that people in their own community are helping boosts the morale, gives them the courage to carry on, and to seek help.

Over the years there have been changes, like the name of our event, but three things will not change; the fun of joining in, our modus operandi to nourish strengths and open hearts, and the address P.O. Box 13, Shawnigan Lake.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2014.

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Happy New Year from the SRA

Jason Walker
Director, Shawnigan Residents Association

The SRA would like to extend our best wishes to you and your families for a healthy and happy 2014!

We have been incredibly busy over the holiday season. In November, the SRA elected its new board of directors which is the most diverse and well-represented board in the history of the SRA. We also welcome, for the first time, two youth representatives, students from Shawnigan Lake School to the board table who have full voting privileges and authority in their role as Directors.

This is an exciting time for the SRA as we continue to

fulfill our mandate to represent the best interests of the people of Shawnigan Lake. Our board will be meeting in January to set the agenda for 2014 which will continue to focus on our battle to protect Shawnigan water from the SIA contaminated soil dump and will also have an increased scope on issues such as taxes, incorporation and economic development.

In December, South Island Aggregates filed a number of motions in their attempts to derail the Environmental Appeal Board process and silence our community. Their first motion was to have information sealed and not made available to the public during the EAB proceedings. The EAB ruled in favor of the SRA, noting

that the hearings will be public and that information will be shared.

On Christmas Eve, at 3pm, SIA filed a motion to have the EAB set aside their ruling for a Stay that prevents SIA from accepting any contaminated soil on their property. They have argued that 40,000 tons of contaminated soil from Victoria and Prince Rupert be dumped on the property in order to fulfill a contract. Of equal concern, SIA redacted the majority of sites where the contaminated soil is coming from, despite an earlier EAB ruling that this information was to be made public. SRA, and our legal counsel at Farris LLP, worked hard through the holidays to file a preliminary

objection to SIA's motion which is on our website.

It is worth noting that two years ago SIA accepted contaminated soil on their adjacent property. Despite MOE warnings to have the soil removed, SIA has not acted. In December the MOE Conservation Officer enforcement branch became involved to enforce the order but to date, SIA has failed to act. Considering the MOE's permit for SIA is based on self regulation SIA's track record to date does not instill much confidence in this approach.

SIA continued to attempt to have the CVRD and 3 private land owners who are appealing the MOE deci-

sion removed from the EAB proceedings. The SRA filed motions to the Board supporting the CVRD and others arguing that each have solid legal grounds and the right to present evidence to the Board. We are awaiting the EAB decision on this.

The SRA has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for our legal battle from our members, local business and other in our community. We are currently working hard to raise \$200,000 for this legal fight and have almost reached half our goal. No contribution is too small, we need your support please visit our website at thesra.ca, become a member, contribute, join us on Facebook and twitter.



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I met a person, not a position!

Marian Davies

This week I had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper.

From the moment he stepped out of a yellow bus from Victoria along with the rest of the passengers (members of Scouts Canada and Girl Guides of Canada) Mr. Harper was relaxed, friendly and positive. He greeted the waiting Guiding and Scouting members cheerfully, and quickly suggested they gather where parents and leaders could take photos. He moved among them smiling and shaking their hands.

As we walked together along the Trans Canada Trail towards the Kinsol Trestle he walked among the youth talking to them and listening to their stories. They laughed together, one Spark held his hand, others spoke of their group adventures along the Trail and on the Trestle while others related to their badges and program work. He was interested in all they said. He was learning from their unedited and unrehearsed speeches and they were excited to be able to speak to him and that he was listening.

The day was dreary, overcast with light rain but the spirits were high. Parents and leaders were thrilled their children were having

the opportunity to meet him. We walked shoulder to shoulder with members of the Trans Canada Trail Committee, Federal Government employees, local government representatives and lots of security but at no time did anyone feel they were not just among friends! Conversations were about the Trail, the beauty in the natural surroundings and the history of the Trestle.


The trestle deck was slippery, still holding some ice in patches, so the first youth to arrive took advantage and tried their skating skills while the media kept their distance at the far side waiting to capture an announcement from the Prime Minister. Visitors arriving at the trestle for the first time were in awe, including Mrs. Harper as she remarked about the breathtaking structure, a hidden treasure! She walked across the trestle holding hands with her husband.

The announcement was brief but exciting - there is support, and a plan, to have the TC Trail completed, which will include a missing link at the south end of Shawnigan Lake. In the middle of the Trestle, with the official portion completed, everyone mingled and chatted with the PM as he stood for photos and even took a moment to stand with his wife to watch an eagle!



Seen in Shawnigan Lake... Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Harper, admiring an eagle from the Kinsol Trestle! Photo by Marian Davies

As we started back along the trail, most youth rushed ahead like returning pigeons, parents and leaders keeping up to keep an eye on them. The Prime Minister walked and talked with his staff. Today was like most of my walks along the Trail where I meet friendly folk visiting our beautiful backyard. Today those folks just happened to be the Prime Minister and his wife! Ordinary people appreciating the natural beauty of our great country!




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Sir, we have a problem...

Georgia Collins

“That is a provincial matter,” he was quick to reply. It was evident that he was very aware of what I was talking about. I acknowledged, and said “yes, and I still think that you could help us.” We bantered briefly about this, with equally redundant responses to one another, and then turned and smiled for the camera.

Help is a funny thing to ask for, when you know the “yes” won’t come easy, if at all. Swallowing pride, setting differences aside, and meeting people where they are, does not always come naturally; it can be extremely uncomfortable. Quite often we want to run from what we perceive to be a “No”, either pretend it didn’t happen, wallow in self-pity or most often, blame and judge the one who rejected the request.

Blaming and judging occurred in the Prime Minister’s speech on Tuesday, January 7th, just as it occurs in our local newspaper editorials, in email threads between various Shawnigan community groups, in individual conversations, and in my thoughts when he said “we have no jurisdiction there.” But what good are those thoughts, those emails or those conversations to our collective purpose?

We have a big ask here in Shawnigan Lake. We want our water to be safe. We want a thriving community. We want ecological integrity. We want people to notice, to care, to give their time and resources. And, we really need all the help we can get to make this happen. Being in this needy position makes us so incredibly vulnerable to those hurt feelings, blame and judgment. And what I am witnessing is people



using those judgments as an excuse to avoid truly working together. Let’s give that up. It’s clean and safe water off a ducks back!

Stephen Harper wasn’t ready to say yes...yet. Oh

well. So who is ready? How do we frame our ask in such a way that people want to say, “Yes!” And when do we need to change our approach in order to get that yes from people who were never going

to give it?

Let’s do more than just smile for the camera. I ask you the community members of Shawnigan Lake, what can we gain from truly working together?



The Last Spike

Elijah Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

It may have been 60 years since a sitting Prime Minister visited the Cowichan Valley, but it has been more than twice that since one visited Shawnigan Lake. That, of course, was Sir John A. MacDonald when he came to Shawnigan Lake and pounded a gold spike with a silver hammer to complete the E&N rail line in 1886. The clocks can now be reset, as Prime Minister Steven Harper visited Shawnigan on Tuesday the 8th of January to announce another “last spike.”

There was a quiet hum of rumours in the weeks leading up. Scouts and Guides had been asked to

join in a photo op at Camp Pringle, where a Federal Cabinet Minister was to make an announcement concerning the Trans Canada Trail. The announcement of Harper’s scheduled visit to Brentwood College only perpetuated the rumors. When the Cub Scouts arrived at Camp Pringle at 9:00 AM the morning of, they were informed the event had been cancelled on account of the fog. Presumably, one option had been for the Prime Minister to land on the lake.

In the end, the heightened security and last minute itinerary prevented the 1st Shawnigan Cub Scouts from meeting Prime Minister Harper. He was met at the Victoria Airport by the 5th Tsartlip Troop and

other guides and scouts. He did make it to Shawnigan, after all, and, from the historic Kinsol Trestle, announced the Federal Government’s contribution to the completion of the Trans Canada Trail by 2017. The Feds will match \$1 for every \$2 raised by the Trans Canada Trail Foundation.

Shawnigan Lake wasn’t done with Mr. Harper yet. Shawnigan Residents Association supporters, waving Save Shawnigan Water signs, joined other protesters from Dwight International School, Idle No More, anti-pipeline, and climate change activists at the gates of Brentwood College, as local Conservative Party members filed through to join the Prime Minister for a luncheon address.

People of This Place: Georgia Collins

Graham Ross-Smith
Shawnigan Focus

Among the readers of this paper and all who pay attention to the social and political life of the Shawnigan community, there would not be many who do not know the name Georgia Collins. Over the past several years Georgia has written articles for the Focus, been mentioned in articles by other writers, has appeared on radio and television, presented her concerns and values eloquently to the CVRD board and participated in rallies and gatherings in this community. All of this she has done for the greater good of the Shawnigan community that she so obviously loves.

Georgia was born 32 years ago on Salt Spring Island in a house built by her parents. She has a brother and a sister. Like many of the people who settled on our Gulf Islands during the 60s and 70s, her parents were members of the counter-culture generation. Part of being “hippy-ish” involved the desire to

adopt somewhat unorthodox lifestyles and “to do your own thing.” As a result, during her early childhood years, the family moved a lot and lived in some unusual structures including a school bus, a teepee and a boat. Georgia’s public school education began on Salt Spring, then in Grade 3 it shifted to Port Hardy and finished with Grades 11 and 12 being completed in Sussex, New Brunswick. Being born with a strong sense of curiosity and a desire to help others, Georgia was a good student and was president of the Students’ Council during her final year in high school.

Georgia then enrolled at McGill University, in Montreal, to study international business. Between 1st and 2nd year, she lived in southern Italy for four months working as a nanny. From her earliest years, Georgia had enjoyed drawing and painting. Sensing that her interest in fine arts was stronger than her interest in international business, Georgia did not



complete her second year at McGill, but spent some time working and travelling instead. Eventually, with earnings from employment and funds from student loans, Georgia was later able to enroll at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design where she completed the four year program at age 23 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.


In 2007, Georgia moved to Shawnigan Lake to start a family. Within a couple of years, daughter Summer (6) and son Seth (4) were born and Georgia was fully engaged in the time-consuming and challenging role of a mother of two. She quickly came to love this community and harboured a strong desire to get involved in important community concerns such as the state of the lake’s watershed and the quality of our lake water now and in the

future. About three years ago, this resulted in her agreeing to become chairperson of the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable, a forum established by Area Director Bruce Fraser for the purpose of bringing together people with an interest in the watershed and the challenges to be dealt with to ensure good lake water quality. The Roundtable is now co-chaired by Georgia and Melissa Nottingham. The founding of the Watershed Roundtable was followed by the creation in the Fall of 2012 of a registered non-profit society called the Shawnigan Basin Society which recruited Georgia to be its Executive Director.

The last couple of years have been very busy ones for Georgia Collins. There has been much activity on watershed matters, with the most prominent being the

proposal by mining company South Island Aggregates to import into the watershed and store huge amounts of contaminated soil. With the demands of motherhood, the sometimes frenzied activities related to watershed health and her wish to pursue her painting (she is a formidable artist), Georgia is a very busy young woman these days. Nevertheless, she seems to carry out her work as co-chair of the Roundtable and Executive Director of the SBS with efficiency, grace and good cheer. Not too far into the future, Georgia hopes to further her formal education as a masters degree student at the Seattle campus of Antioch University where the Centre for Creative Change is located. I am sure that she will excel in this masters program. Shawnigan and the world need more people like Georgia Collins.

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Inspire!

Rebecca Barnard
Inspire!

We’re starting our new year at Inspire! Shawnigan with lots of ideas - renewed and fresh. We have been plotting and planning and we have a ton of activities coming up. We encourage you to invite everyone you know to these workshops, shows and events. Share the fun, involve more people, connect and grow with your community. Enjoy the art, culture and heritage of our home, Shawnigan Lake.

The wonderful owner of our own Village Chippery has asked Inspire! to paint the 22 chairs in her restaurant, so we

will be putting on a few painting workshops in the next couple of months. The workshops will be held January 18-19 and February 15-16 at Inspire! If you’d like to help paint a chair, or two, we’d love to have you participate. Patty has asked for a red, black, grey, white and silver theme, but as far as artistic license you can create anything for her. Each chair can be completely different, or some of them can be similar. You can have your name on the chair(s) you paint as a way to help promote you and your work. We will supply the paint and other materials, the chairs and the location. All you have to do is come and paint and enjoy some inspiration and

companionship. There is no charge for this workshop, but if you’d like to make a donation to Inspire! or to bring a donation for the food bank, we will be collecting.

Please contact Rebecca Barnard @ 250-743-1726; e-mail: rrbarnard@gmail.com for more information.

Also, we would like to sincerely thank all the businesses in Shawnigan Village who donated items or discounts for our 2014 Annual Membership drive being held this January.

Please visit our website for updates and more information: www.inspireshawnigan.com

Let’s get creative!

***“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language
And next year’s words await another voice.” —And to
make an end is to make a beginning. - T.S. Eliot***

Young Seniors Action Group Society

Gwen Gudgeon
Y.S.A.G.S.

The YSAGS Crafts group meets every Friday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Here in Gwen's words, the group leader, is a summary of the number of items produced and how they are distributed to many good local causes and elsewhere. Here is a list of some of the local beneficiaries: Acacia Lodge, Broadmead Transition House, Cairnsmore Lodge, Cancer Clinic, Czerwewdyn, House of Friendship, Sun Ridge Place, Cowichan Hospital and Victims of Crime. We also work with Canada Comforts of the Juan de Fuca Senior Centre and the Compassionate Warehouse in Esquimalt. We have responded to requests from the Vancouver Children's Hospital and local requests for premature size toques. Other items that are sent overseas include lap blan-

kets, mitts, scarves, cotton washcloths, leggings, slippers and very special Teddy Bears for blind or lost limbs land-mine victims. These teddy bears go into bags that can be opened by the children. The teddy bears have prominent eyes which can be felt by the blind children. This is one very practical way to help these very unfortunate children. The Crafts group puts on a December Bake Sale and Raffle and also a Spring Tea and Raffle in Maya.

Y.S.A.G.S. New Computer Users Group

Now that the Holidays are over, we are in need of your old, replaced, working, or not, Laptop Computers. Tablets, Wireless Mice and Internet Cameras also appreciated. Our Group has grown to capacity and so has our equipment require-

ment. Thank you for any Donation. Call Mike, 250-743-8892 for pickup.

Here is some more information: We are a non-profit registered seniors group. Our membership comes from the Cobble Hill, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake area. We meet monthly from September to June with presentations from our members or guest speakers. We have special activities such as dinners, bus trips, barbeques and picnics. In addition, we have sub-groups which meet on a weekly basis and are led by group leaders. Examples are walking, woodcarving, line dancing, photography, computers, quilting, crafts, chess, canasta and others. Check out our blog at <http://blog.ysag.ca/>. Contact us at ysagssl@gmail.com or phone 250-743-8344.



PHOTO CREDIT: ED WIERE

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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Many have lived on this Island for some time without ever taking the curvaceous jaunt out to Ucluelet. I was one of those people for many years – ever so curious, but the notorious drive intimidated me. In the fall, I took to the highway to visit a friend in Ucluelet and found it wasn't so bad after all (but I'm sure that this time of year is probably much more challenging).

Ucluelet is not only a cute and charming little town but also home to the Wild Pacific Trail that caresses the Pacific's coastline with beautiful scenery, old growth rainforest and informative signage. The neat thing about this trail is that it can be done as one big 8 kilometer hike or broken down into sections that can be explored individually.

The Lighthouse Loop begins after passing through town along Peninsula Road. It is a delightful 2.6 km loop that takes you along Barkley Sound and to its namesake the Amphitrite Point Lighthouse which was erected in 1915. The rocks around the lighthouse are fun to clamber upon to look out over the ocean or to see all the amazing sea life trapped in the little tide pools. After the lighthouse, the trail loops to a fork, allowing you to continue to Terrace Beach Interpretive Trail, return to the start, or hook up to

Big Beach.

By following the informative signs, posted on the Terrace Beach Interpretive Trail, you can learn about the local flora and First Nations history. Big Beach Trail can be a continuation of the Lighthouse Loop, or done on its own as it has its own parking area. Big Beach is located in central Ucluelet and is a great stop to take in an old growth forest, a sandy, public beach and a picnic area.

Next on the map is Brown's Beach which can be reached by going up the stairs at Big Beach and over the bridge. Or, you can drive to its parking area and see the sights of this section on its own. Big Beach has a segment called the Artist Loop which refers to the decks and platforms (painter's perches) that overhang spectacular views.

And last, but not least, is a new section called Ancient Cedars and Rocky Bluffs. As the name indicates, there you will find giant ancient-growth trees and rocky bluffs by the surge channel.

If you find yourself in Ucluelet, checking out the Wild Pacific Trail is a must! The town is most certainly adorable, but its location is truly nothing short of dazzling!

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's viewpoints with The Iron Butts (www.theomtree.com)



PHOTO CREDIT: ROBIN MASSEY

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Clay for
donating his
time to take
Santa Photos
(featured
in the Focus
December
issue) for
the SLBA
Christmas
Lightup!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at Inspire Gathering Place
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm at the Village Chipperry.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**
Meeting times TBA. Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable**
See website for details: www.shawniganwater.org
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
Gathering Space hours: M/W/F 11-4: www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. **Closed Dec 22, 2013 - Jan 31, 2014**
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
Family Day - Monday, February 10th. Join the fun - details on page 2.
- ★ **Shawnigan Scouts**
Cubs (8-10 Years): Each Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm SLCC
Scouts (11-14 Years): Each Wednesday, 7:00-9:00pm Discovery School
Venturers (14-17 Years): Mondays after school
Register: William Thow: thow@pacificcoast.net
- ★ **www.exploringshawniganlake.com**
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>

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Department Members Attended 9 Calls in December
Department Officers attended 1 burning complaints.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ★ Sunday, December 1 – Assistance on Oland Rd | ★ Saturday, December 21 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates |
| ★ Thursday, December 5 – Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd | ★ Monday, December 23 – 1st Responder in the Village |
| ★ Wednesday, December 18 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd | ★ Friday, December 27 – Smell of Gas on Highland Ridge Rd |
| ★ Saturday, December 21 – Vehicle Fire on Glen Eagles Rd | ★ Saturday, December 28 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| ★ Saturday, December 21 – Hydro Line Fire on Worthington Rd | |

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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is IT?

We Stumped You In December!

This was a surprise because the bell shown in the photo has been heard by many. It has called thousands to meals and other activities at Camp Pringle over the years.



First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House!



Edie Wragg, R.D.

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Dry, very dry

Brent Beach
Shawnigan Focus

Yes, Shawnigan Lake just had the driest Oct through Dec ever! A total of 159mm of rain, with the next driest 4th quarter in 1976 with 203mm.

The rainy season, Oct through Apr, usually has about 85% of the total yearly rainfall. It is during these 7 months that the rain falls that flushes the old water out of the lake, leaving us with fresh new almost unpolluted water.

While we are often compared unfavourably to the Sooke Lake system, we are in fact in a much better situation. Sooke Lake does not flush each year. In some years, no water flows over the dam at all. The lake fills and then is emptied as water is moved to the CRD water users. The unused water, usually over 75% of the water in the lake, just sits there. Any pollution that enters Sooke Lake only exits through the pipe to the CRD water facility.

In Shawnigan, only 10% of the water that falls in the lake is used here. The rest goes down the outflow creek to the ocean. There is a complete renewal of the lake every year in which at least 1100mm of rain falls in the watershed. There is no pollution build up in Shawnigan Lake.

In 2013, only 855mm fell in the watershed. We have had less rainfall only 10 times since 1912.

In spite of the heavy rain on Jan 9, 10 and 11, 2014 is off an average start.

I just returned from Belize and several day trips to Mayan ruins. The Mayan civilization declined after the year 900 as a result of declining rainfall (current theory). Lack of rain led to a general agricultural failure and lack of water to feed the large Mayan cities of that time.

Will climate change bring declining rainfall to the Shawnigan Lake watershed?

Shawnigan Weather December & Yearly Review

stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Treloar

	December Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	5.6	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.5	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9
Average Low	0.4	-0.4	1.8	-1.3	0.9	-0.5	1.5	-0.6	1.4
Extreme High	16.0	11.6	9.2	10.5	8.7	10.9	9.6	10.5	9.0
Extreme Low	-15.0	-8.8	-0.4	-11.3	-1.5	-9.7	-1.3	-9.0	-1.0
Precipitation	208.7	38.6	307.1	33.1	252.1	27.7	265.0	31.2	238.4
Days w precip	20	13	29	13	27	13	28	13	28
Lake Temperature: Dec 1 st : 7° Dec 8 th : 4° Dec 15 th : 4° Dec 22 nd : 3° Dec 29 th : 3°									
Since 1914: 28 th Coldest, driest ever December									

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average Temperature	9.6	10.4	9.9	9.8	9.3	10.6	10.0	10.1	9.7
Extreme High	37.2	33.7	34.2	33.1	32.6	35.0	34.3	32.0	32.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-8.8	-5.4	-11.3	-6.7	-9.7	-5.9	-9.0	-6.0
Precipitation	1247.6	1078.1	1547.5	825.0	1234.4	832.3	1247.9	856.8	1344.0
Since 1914: 17 th warmest , 11 th driest year									

Wash out on Renfrew Road!

Due to the heavy rains overnight on January 10th, two small lakes, which were held in place by beaver dams, broke loose. The sudden surge of water washed out pavement, and the shoulder of the road, just past the junction of the East and West Shawnigan Lake Road. The road was

closed for several hours and local traffic was diverted along the Trans Canada Trail. The trail itself was flooded in many spots, making that difficult to drive on. Also, residents at the end of the West Arm reported that silt, etc., from all the rain, turned the lake brown.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK WOLOSZCZAK



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK WOLOSZCZAK

CALLING FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

The Shawnigan Basin Society is Seeking Inaugural Board Members for the SHAWNIGAN BASIN AUTHORITY.

Our purpose is to establish a model of participatory ecological governance of the Shawnigan Community Watershed

The Authority and its purposes will be thoroughly discussed with the community over the next few months as the work begins. Members will engage in planning, project implementation consultation, agency liaison and discussions with government about the need for delegation.

The overall mandate of the Authority will be created by the individuals who step forward - those who are willing to contribute their time and energy to gaining local control of our Watershed.

This is a long-term project that will need much dialogue and cooperation within the Shawnigan Community (residents, First Nations and the many government agencies).

We are currently dealing with the consequences of not having an established local device for watershed management. We are witness to contaminated soil dumping, failing septic systems, extensive logging, and development pressures. Until now, there has been no single agency tasked with addressing the cumulative impacts within the Watershed.

Applications are being accepted from residents who are interested in serving as a volunteer member of the SHAWNIGAN BASIN AUTHORITY.

Please submit your statement of interest by mail, email or in person.

P.O. Box 189 1760 SHAWNIGAN MILL-BAY ROAD
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