

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Four - Issue Five

May 2014

A Non-Profit Community Publication

DESIGNING OUR COMMUNITY – TOGETHER!

Kelly Musselwhite
Alternate Area Director

Over the past two years, a diverse group of citizens have been discussing ideas with the goal of developing a Master Plan for the property surrounding Shawnigan Lake's Community Centre. Christine Lintott, an achieved architect recommended by MacDonald and Lawrence Timber Framing, further supported these ideas by designing professional renditions. Add to this, the success of the CVRD's Parks and Recreation and Community Centre Commissions in acquiring both the Elsie Miles property and the former Community Centre, and Shawnigan Lake has not only achieved land consolidation of the area, but now has the ability to "place-make" the very heart of our community.

The importance of having full ownership of this property

cannot be overstated: it is the pulse of Shawnigan Lake, bringing life and energy in the forms of gathering, sharing, and celebrating. Connectivity is our theme underlying the development projects being considered - to the lake, the community, our heritage, each other, and the many attributes grounded in the essence of Shawnigan.

On February 20, and over the course of the Shawnigan Gathering, held April 29 and 30, village development suggestions were collected from the public. In doing so, a long wish list was created. However, the following six ideas proved of consistent interest and are being considered as the anchor projects in which to move forward:

- ★ Build a beach access trail across the railroad to the end of Shawnigan Lake/ Mill Bay Rd. and construct



a dock for public and non-motorized boats (just north of the current railway station)

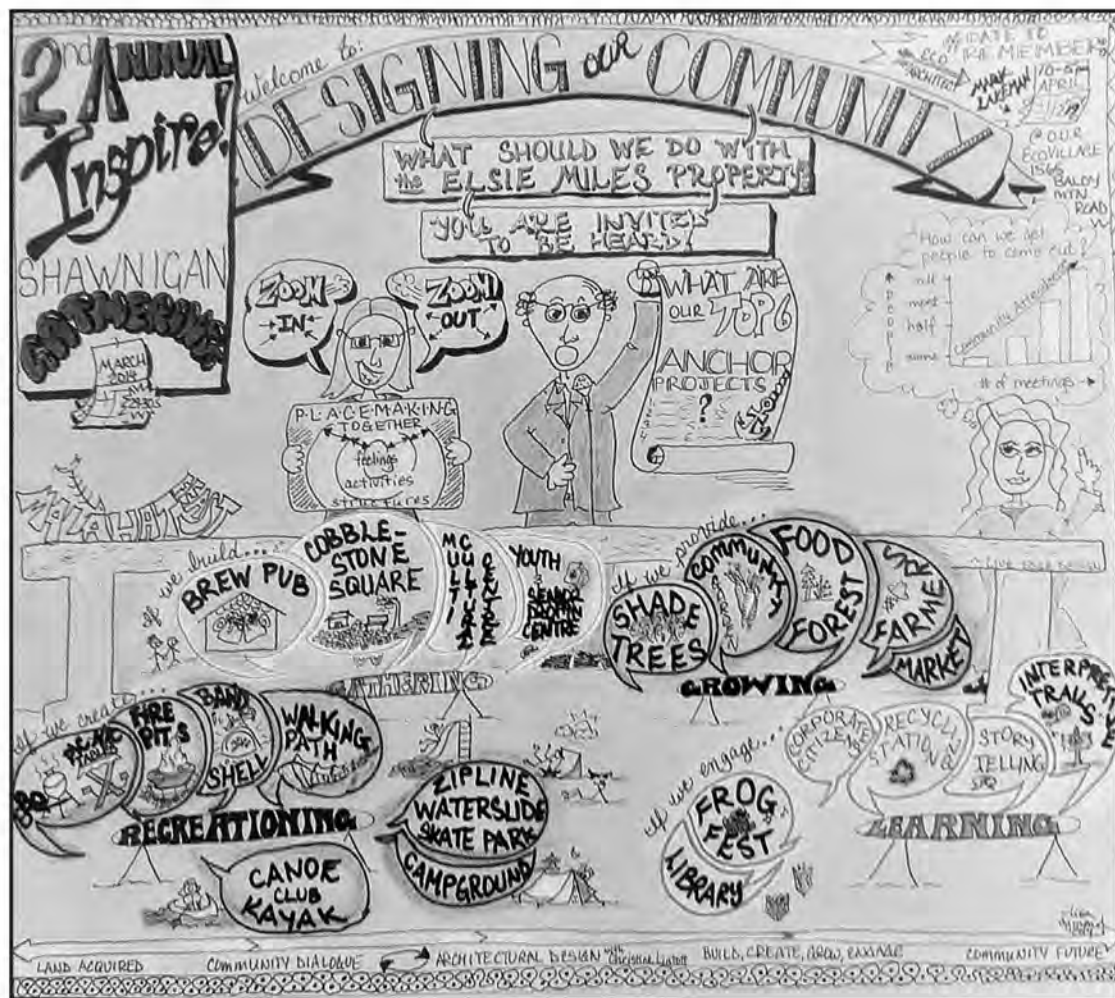
- ★ Expand the Community Centre to incorporate space for Seniors and Youth
- ★ Build a band shell-

styled Amphitheatre for outdoor events

- ★ Construct a playground using natural elements and structures
- ★ Expand the Museum
- ★ Facilitate Community Gardens - trees, flowers,

and organic food

The draft concept below was presented at the Shawnigan Gathering for community feedback. This draft concept plan can be found on the Focus website at www.shawniganfocus.ca/GatheringConcept2014.pdf



An original drawing

Lisa Dymond
Shawnigan Resident

I live in Shawnigan and had the awesome opportunity to participate in the second annual Shawnigan Gathering last month.

One particular conversation involved what to do with the Elsie Miles property. Several Villagers came out with their ideas. It was an exciting evening in which to participate, with the architect, Christine Lintott, Bruce and Kelly facilitating and summarizing. I loved it and feel excited for this community.

Here is a graphic recording of my notes from that conversation/event. I'm sending this visual to you, thinking it might be appropriate for the Focus. Visual literacy has a way of getting people's attention and stimulating retention of information. Perhaps if more people in the community SEE this information, more will come out to participate in the conversations to come. That would be great to see.

Thank you for being a grand community resource. Keep up the fantastic work.

Take a Hike!



Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Langford Lake and the Ed Nixon trail are not exactly in our neighborhood but they're not that far of a drive to experience something a little different either.

My friends, a little shih tzu and I set out on a sunny Friday afternoon to check it out as I've always wanted to

see it. We met and parked at Langford's City Centre Park, right by the bowling alley and the FIFA stadium an easy place to jump on the sidewalk leading toward the lake trail. The sidewalk trail has a lot of fun outdoor exercise circuits as part of a nine station series, an initiative of the city to promote healthy communities. It features bars for pushups/pul-lups, stepper, back press, leg

lift, etc. All stations are hydraulic and weather resistant and suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. Pretty cool!

After our minimal circuit training we headed across Langford Parkway to the beach where we witnessed children swimming in the lake – in April! Eeks! Obviously through the giggles and laughter they didn't notice how cold the water actually was... good for them I say!

Next to the beach is the entrance to the Ed Nixon trail that follows the Southwest side of the lake. I absolutely treasure this trail! I love the boardwalks over the water, the huge trees, the geese, the scenic lake views, the floating platform and the wonderful smiley people. The terrain is an easy grade making it suitable for pretty much everyone. It really is a sweet adventure. And if you plan ahead there are so many great little spots to have a little picnic as well.

The Ed Nixon trail is a fairly short walk. However, being our creative selves we stretched it out to a ninety minute hike by checking every little trail shooting off into the bush toward the water. We do this often because you never know what little secret haven you may find when exploring! Sadly though in this particular excursion nothing really fantastical revealed itself to us.

So that was the Southwest side of Langford Lake which I highly recommend! And one day I'll get over to the other side to explore the Leigh Road trail and let you know what that presents!

Happy mommy's day to all those mommies out there. May your day be sunny and bright and that you get out for some nature nourishment!

Robin hangs out with a few crazy nuts in the wilderness on a weekly basis – find them at www.theomtreec.com/!



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Department Members Attended 16 Calls in April

- ★ Wednesday, April 2 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Friday, April 4 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, April 6 – 1st Responder in Arbutus Mountain Estates
- ★ Sunday, April 6 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Monday, April 7 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, April 14 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, April 14 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, April 15 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, April 18 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, April 18 – Possible Bush Fire on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, April 19 – 1st Responder on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, April 19 – Burning Complaint on Mable Rd
- ★ Saturday, April 19 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Monday, April 21 – Structure Fire in the Village
- ★ Wednesday, April 23 – MVI on Stowood Rd
- ★ Wednesday, April 23 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
1st Monday of each month - 7 pm at SL Community Centre www.fraserforshawnigan.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
- ★ **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**
Black & White Gala fundraiser May 16 - www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
Annual **Village Triathlon Festival**: Saturday May 24, 2014, 12-4pm
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**
Meeting times TBA. Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
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. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Scouts**
To register/questions: William Thow: thow@pacificcoast.net
- ★ www.exploringshawniganlake.com
- ★ **Ecostravaganza** at Ecole Mill Bay June 7th from 10:00 - 3:00

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



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

We Stumped You In April!

The photo shows the Picnic Table at Shawnigan's newest Park which has not yet been officially named. Some locals call it Eagle Tree Park. We received several guesses of Picnic Tables at various locations but no one got the right place.



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SIA Contaminated Waste Permit Status

Brent Beach
Shawnigan Focus

The Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) Hearing

Remaining sittings May 22, 23, 24, June 4, 5, 6

Live streaming - SRA paid for streaming of the original 20 days. Three days were added and John Hayes paid for live streaming of one of those. Six more days have been added. Will they be live streamed?

Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) fund raising has reached \$200,000 with another large donation from Shawnigan Lake School. More may be needed. There are 9 more hearing days than originally scheduled, with each day costing the SRA several thousand dollars. There may well be an appeal of the EAB verdict, no matter who wins.

A small organization, with a few thousand in the bank, the SRA accepted the challenge of appealing the Permit even though that meant raising over \$200,000. That took courage. But for their stand, and the decision by the CVRD to join the Appeal, contaminated waste would be flooding into the South Island Aggregates (SIA) site. Given SIA's unblemished record of failures of both science and engineering to date, our lake could well be contaminated by now.

Giving Evidence

Ministry of Environment (MoE) staff continue on the stand, Marty Block of SIA after them, then final arguments.

NOT Giving Evidence

Active Earth (AE), the SIA engineers. The SIA lawyers have written to the EAB that they will not call AE personnel. Given the peculiar logic of hearings, it makes no sense for the SRA/CVRD lawyers

to call the AE engineers.

What does this mean? It affects the weight the EAB will give to AE documents. The appellants have made the point that AE should not be regarded as experts in the normal sense, since they were hired by SIA to advocate for the project. This refusal to put AE on the stand and let them be cross examined further diminishes the value of their reports. The EAB chair has stated that documents not proven through cross examination will be given lesser weight.

CVRD Zoning Suit

Recall that the CVRD has filed a suit in the BC Supreme Court to quash the Permit based on the zoning of the land. SIA lawyers asked that part of the CVRD submission be stricken. The judge decided that nothing would be stricken. No date is set for this suit.

Documents & Witnesses

When does it end? There has been an ongoing conversation at the hearing about when the last new document will be accepted. The hearing was supposed to be over April 4. Yet, new documents arrive daily. For example, MoE distributed a new document on May 2 (see SIA Quarterly Report (QR) below). The EAB decided that documents would be accepted until the MoE staff left the stand. MoE staff will be on the stand for at least one more day. The MoE lawyers released the QR on that basis.

Only already scheduled witnesses can be cross examined about these documents. It appears that no unscheduled witnesses can be called even though new documents have been submitted into evidence. This means that only the MoE staff and Marty Block can be cross examined about the QR.

SIA Incursions into

CVRD Land

The land to the west of the SIA contaminated waste site is CVRD land. The land was given to the CVRD as a condition of the rezoning of the other parts of this large parcel into smaller lots than would normally be allowed in F1 zoning (this was the beginning of all of our problems). The CVRD intended to make it a park, but it is still zoned F1 Forestry.

The SIA mining permit requires that SIA respect its property boundaries. Further, SIA must not work within 5 metres of the boundary. SIA has placed part of its water treatment system in the 5 metre zone and put the outflow 20 metres into the CVRD land. The CVRD has asked both MoE and Ministry of Mines to require SIA to remove these incursions.

SIA Quarterly Report

What is the QR? As a condition of the Permit, SIA is required to file quarterly reports on the operation of the contaminated waste site. Since SIA has accepted contaminated waste, these quarterly reports are now required.

In the report SIA reasserts claims about the hydrogeology of the site that have been refuted. It asserts that the design is suitable based on these false claims. A design that works for a specified ground water flow cannot possibly work when the ground water flow is 1,000 times greater. That is the difference between the AE claims and the claims of other experts.

Further, AE claims that all incursions into CVRD land and violations of the 5 metre exclusion zone have been removed. I walked the site on May 8 and this was not the case. AE appears to have trouble with both science and reality.

Links to all documents at BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com



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MAY 2014

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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

Shawnigan Focus - Box 331, Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Shawnigan Area Director, Bruce Fraser, has scheduled a Public Meeting to discuss:
The Renfrew Road Corridor Land Use Zoning Applications and Issues



May 26th at the Shawnigan Community Centre - 7pm



Shawnigan Moments ~ Burnt Bridge c1940

Shawnigan Lake Cub Scouts clean up our community

On Wednesday April 30th, the 1st Shawnigan Lake Cub Scouts spent the evening doing a good turn and picking up garbage along the streets down to the government wharf, and the railway tracks and beach points back towards Mason's. They counted and tallied every item collected, and sorted it all

into sharps, returnables, garbage etc., and enjoyed their chance to hang out together on a nice evening as they contributed to keeping our pretty lakeside community just that way. If your child would like to join us, check out our Wednesday evening meetings at the SLCC! Thanks, Cubs!



Editorial - Letters to the Editor

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS... EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

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.

Who is the bully?

I read with amusement Mr. Restell's defence of Mary Ann Watson, and her assertion that removing banners in our village warning Bruce Fraser "don't bend over" as interfering with free speech. He further states that anonymously posting these banners under the cover of darkness is justified in what he suggests is a repressive climate.

"This is the first time that so much energy has gone into calling down the messenger" he states. I don't know how well Mr. Restell knows Mary Ann Watson. Public, vicious, personal attacks on people who can defend themselves, and more importantly those who cannot, and the chaos created in our public schools would have more than a few people answering his query of "who is the bully?"

Sally Davies

Most CVRD pay raises have no performance basis to them!

The recently approved \$90 million+ CVRD budget shows it's clearly business as usual for overburdened taxpayers in the Cowichan Valley.

Spending has again increased in most departmental budgets with a few minor reductions.

More than 220 employees got a pay raise except for a few already high paid managers. Most CVRD pay raises have no performance basis to them. Directors again gave themselves a pay increase.

Wasteful spending continues including the 3/4 million dollar+ Economic Development department.

The CVRD transit system continues with a 65% subsidy and its mostly empty buses and high paid managers.

The 60 employees and directors who have Scotiabank CVRD paid credit cards will spend more than \$1000 per day on expense claims

The obscene \$300,000 severance gift to the recently departed CVRD Chief will increase our taxes as will all the other staff terminations happening now.

CVRD directors and senior staff will continue attending conferences of questionable value at a cost of more than \$60,000.

Once again there has been no professional review of CVRD programs, their benefits to

taxpayers or whether there are other, cheaper and more efficient ways to deliver services. Most spending simply adds to last year's budgets without any measureable performance indicators.

Users of the CVRD culture and recreational facilities will continue to get a 70% subsidy from taxpayers for no apparent reason. This spending is some of the biggest in the CVRD.

More than \$750,000 will be given away as grants to organisations that see the CVRD as an easy mark and do minimal fundraising on their own.

The pension plan for CVRD employees and other municipal workers continues to have more than a \$1.3 billion funding deficit.

Most taxpayers have had no raise in their incomes for many years but the CVRD continues to increase its pay rates, spending and taxing with little regard for the people they are supposed to serve.

Yours truly,

W.E. (Bill) Dumont

Is it Political Mud Slinging?

Dear Editor,

Interesting thoughts in the April "Letters to the Editor" section regarding bullying.

I suppose it depends on which politician is being targeted as to who writes letters condemning the practice.

According to Mr. Restell, if a constituent posts negative and possibly slanderous signage directed at Director Fraser/CVRD, it is "the right of this person or group to express their displeasure with the actions of their elected officials, and politicians should expect criticism on divisive issues". (Focus April 2014) However, if a person or group expresses their displeasure with a different politician, the Director for Area C for example, Mr. Restell writes their attacks are "completely off base" and describes it as "political mudslinging". (Political Mud Slinging - My Personal Opinion" Shawnigan Times Issue #89 Feb, 2012)

I'm afraid this doesn't work both ways. Rising to the defence of Mary Ann Watson and the anonymous sign poster(s) now, while in the past condemning those that would stand up and criticize the actions of elected officials I believe, speaks more to whom your political allegiances lie than whether or

not there are bullies in our midst.

Being politically engaged and standing up for what you believe in should be applauded.

However, in my opinion, doing so in a manner that is destructive, defamatory and without any regard for the facts, should not.

Sincerely,

Barane McCartney

Thank you Nino Morano, Bylaw Enforcement Officer!

Thanks to Bill Dumont for his numerous articles pointing out the blunders and faults of some of the CVRD spending practices but some of your hard earned tax dollars are being spent wisely.

Cheers to Nino Morano, Bylaw Enforcement Officer. Recently, Mr. Morano has been working hard directing your tax dollars toward important and serious matters.

I've known Mr. Morano since 2003, when the CVRD hired him to replace the retiring Fred Simpson, to enforce bylaws in our area. I have had many conversations with him regarding lake issues over the years.

In 2008, a large boathouse was being constructed at the southeast portion of the lake. During that construction the CVRD recognized that the structure was too high and informed the owner that the height restriction was 4.5 metres. The owner completed and corrected the matter by changing the roofline.

Shortly after that mix up, the CVRD sent letter to all the lakefront owners, stating that in a W2 zone, boathouses were not allowed and, as of August 2008, no more structures would be permitted.

Since that time a number of new structures have been built. All in contravention of bylaw 985. Some with walls, some without, some with plumbing, some with accommodations, some with storage and some with all of the above.

Mr. Morano has received many complaints regarding this construction and I'm sure has managed to investigate all of them. Some of the new construction has even been approved by the CVRD and Board of Directors. Two of them, for example, are located on the 1800 block and 1600 block of East Shawnigan Lake Road. They were complete



Photo Credit: Jennie Stevens

From Left: Marcy Green, Moira Nash, Lori Treloar and Janet Neilsen show off last month's Shawnigan Focus

rebuilt of old structures that were in contravention of the zoning bylaw.

On the May long weekend of 2012 another new structure appeared in the 1400 block of East Shawnigan Lake Road, adjacent to the large green boathouse that caused the kerfuffle in 2008, which led to some 200 people signing a petition requesting that the CVRD enforce the bylaws of the lake.

Last year, a large structure was assembled in the 2200 block of Renfrew Road. This new structure is located on the north side as you enter the West Arm. This is a beautiful building and the CVRD even waived the height restriction so the owner could add a second storey with accommodations, storage, and a covered deck. Another job well done by a local construction company who apparently acquired all the proper permits.

This year the CVRD and Bylaw Enforcement Officer are tackling another project and wisely spending your tax dollars. They are pursuing legal action to force the removal of a small boat shelter at the end of Orme Road and one dock. The other dock at the road-end is owned by the neighbor to the south who also has installed a large deck on M.O.T.I property. Last month that owner removed a number of large

trees on M.O.T.I property in order to allow more sunlight on his dock. They have been spared the wrath of GVRD enforcement.

I would like to thank Mr. Nino Morano, CVRD Bylaw Enforcement Officer. Twelve years into his CVRD career, and after allowing hundreds of infractions and receiving hundreds of complaints, he is finally enforcing Bylaw 985 regarding W2 zoning. Also, I would like to thank all those people who are concerned about lake issues and especially the four complaints who have brought the boathouse issue back to the forefront. I trust that you as well are complying with bylaws regarding yhour property.

As an elected member to the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission and one who has expressed his concerns regarding lake and watershed issues, I applaud you all.

I do have one question for Mr. Morano: "Is this responsible spending of tax dollars or is there a harassment and discrimination lawsuit just around the corner due to your failure to enforce in the past and the CVRD endorsement of previous W2 zoning infractions?"

Bill Savage

CVRD monkey business with the Cowichan Sportsplex

Op/Ed by Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The Cowichan Sportsplex, located in Duncan, has a voracious appetite for tax dollars. The \$11M facility, operated by the non-profit Chesterfield Sports Society, currently requires about \$396K per year to operate. Over the last seven years it has received more than \$750K from CVRD taxpayers in the form of Regional Grants-in-Aid; increasing from \$80K in 2008, to over \$145K for 2014.

Regional Grant-in-Aids are meant to be used only for a year or two to help get a worthy initiative off the ground.

The perpetually increasing grants to the Sportsplex have become a controversial embarrassment to the CVRD and officials have been forced to explore the justification and allocation of regular funding.

CVRD staff have designed a survey in order to consult with the public on this issue. They have used an on-line service called SurveyMonkey to produce a predisposed presentation of the issue followed by two cost sharing options.

Option 1: "Equal Cost Sharing" means every household in the Region pays the same rate regardless of where you live. Based on this approach,

each home in the CVRD would pay about \$0.94 per \$100,000 in assessed value. This is based on a \$146,500 requirement (projected to increase to \$175K by 2023).

Option 2: "Usage Based Cost Sharing" is based on the actual amount of use by residents. The Regional District would tax each area based on how much each area's residents use the Sportsplex. The CVRD claims that a "professional" survey of over 500 responses indicates that Shawnigan residents account for 11.3% of usage. This translates into \$0.95 per \$100,000 in assessed value (one cent more than equal cost sharing).

Not including a third option for a zero contribution is a serious flaw. It is like being forced to choose between beer and wine when you don't want a drink in the first place. This is an important metric that is deliberately being omitted.

It is difficult to accept that Shawnigan residents use the Sportsplex more than folks from Duncan (9%). We have our own controversial facilities at Shawnigan Hills and Kerry Park so why would



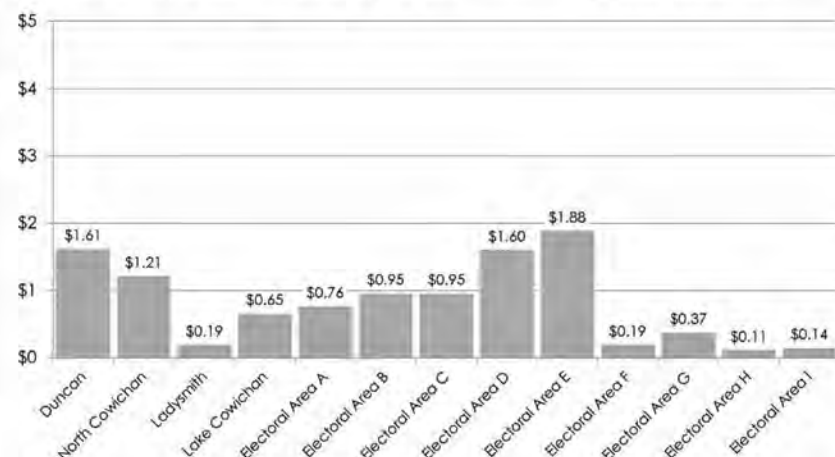
Cowichan Sportsplex on Chesterfield Ave.

we choose the commute? There are many in this area who would select the third option.

There is another serious problem with the survey in that it is open to "ballot stuffing". It is an anonymous survey with nothing to uniquely distinguish responses. SurveyMonkey.com places cookies on the user's computer which indicate whether the survey has been taken, however, deleting the cookies enables multiple responses. It would be a trivial undertaking for any individual or group to take advantage of this.

Survey Link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sportsplex-Survey

Public consultation on the Cowichan Sportsplex issue is long overdue. The process currently underway is alarming with its blatant spin, lack of choice, and ability to be manipulated. The current, flawed survey should be cancelled. Why are CVRD staff working on projects to fund facilities operated by non-profit societies in the first place? Should it not be the Chesterfield Sports Society issuing the survey after providing a balanced report of the issue, including detailed financial statements?



Usage Based Cost Sharing (per \$100,000 assessed value)

Shawnigan Weather April 2014

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Trelvar

	April Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Average High	13.2	14.2	13.5	14.1	12.9	14.7	13.6	14.3	13.4
Average Low	3.5	4.2	4.3	3.7	3.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.0
Extreme High	30.0	25.7	21.7	25.2	20.2	27.5	21.3	24.0	20.5
Extreme Low	-5.6	0.8	0.6	0.2	-0.7	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.5
Precipitation	65.2	69.1	120.9	53.9	90.2	51.1	91.4	54.8	89.8
Days w precip	15	17	17	16	16	16	18	16	18
Precip since Oct 1 (mm)	906.2	850.9	1280.5	776.8	1045.0	689.7	1043.5	762.2	1013.4
Since 1914: 15 th warmest 46 th driest									
Lake Temperature: April 6 th : 8° April 13 th : 10° April 20 th : 11° April 27 th : 10°									



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May 2014 Directors Report

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

Regional Water Management Initiative Launched

The CVRD is moving to take advantage of the opportunity to enhance local management of water enabled by the new Water Sustainability Act. The Act is the culmination of several years work intended to modernize water management in the province by updating 100 year old legislation. Because so many communities throughout the province desire to be much more engaged in watershed stewardship, government has indicated that

they will be open to proposals to share water management responsibility. It is likely that any delegation of responsibility will fall to local government and it will be up to them how they organize support and coordination of the many citizen lead groups that have emerged everywhere.

The most notable group within our region is the Cowichan Watershed Board jointly sponsored by the CVRD and the Cowichan Tribes. The CWB has a long-standing technical advisory team and strong links to the watershed community through organizations like One Cowichan. Locally, we

are emulating the Cowichan model within the Shawnigan Lake basin through the work of the Shawnigan Basin Society and the planned development of a broadly collaborative Shawnigan Basin Authority. Shawnigan too, has a technical advisory team, is collaborating with the Malahat First Nation and has links with community watershed interests through work with the Shawnigan Residents Association.

The Regional effort begins on Friday, May 9th at a first consultation meeting with a regionally representative task force of over 50 people, including all First Nations

within the region and several participants from the Shawnigan Basin Society and the Shawnigan Residents Association. The Task Force will establish a preferred approach for regional water governance, examine water governance models from far and wide and develop a locally appropriate proposal for submission by the CVRD to government by the early fall of 2014. The Task Force reports to the CVRD through a committee of the Board and the work is being facilitated by Urban Systems, a BC community planning firm with extensive experience with watershed and water management issues. Further support to the Task Force

will come from the POLIS water management unit at the University of Victoria and from UBC water governance researchers provided by a national consortium of Canadian Universities based on a federal research grant.

As the water governance work proceeds there will be regular updates on the Shawnigan based web sites, the CVRD web site and through articles in the Shawnigan Focus. I would be happy to discuss any aspect of the regional initiative and can be contacted directly at fraser@islandnet.com or by phone at 250-733-0771 or cell 250-888-0160

Would you move to the Cowichan Valley for \$100,000 a year?

Op-Ed by Blaise Salmon

Here's the deal: a salary of \$100,000 a year, a secure government job with full benefits, and a gold-plated pension plan. One imagines there would be no shortage of good applicants for such a plum job. Unfortunately, the elected board of the Cowichan Valley Regional District apparently thinks \$100,000 is not nearly enough.

Ten years ago, the head of the CVRD, Frank Raimondo, was paid \$110,000 at the top of his scale. By 2013, the top man, Warren Jones, was being paid over \$200,000.

The rapid rise in pay at the CVRD isn't limited to the top position. The general manager of Planning and Development went from \$86,000 to \$148,000 over the past ten years. The head of Engineering Services increased from \$86,000 to \$147,000. The chief of Parks and Recreation went from \$83,000 to \$149,000. The general manager of corporate services went from \$88,000 to \$156,000. Average increases for the top 5 positions was 76% for the ten years, while inflation was under 20%. Increases for lower levels of management were similar or higher, according to the publicly available financial statements on the CVRD website.

Predictably, total CVRD taxes paid by residents of Shawnigan Lake (Area B) jumped from \$1.9 million to \$4.6 million over the

same period.

At the April 22 meeting of the CVRD Compensation Committee, directors heard a presentation from a human resources consultant, focusing particularly on what other regional districts pay. The elected directors, who have responsibility for setting CVRD salaries, played right into the consultant's hands. They worried aloud about which regional district was the most valid "comparable". Not one director asked whether inflation should be a factor in wage increases. Not one asked how to factor in the incomes of taxpayers in the region. If they had, they might have learned that local taxpayers, who must foot the bill for the big salaries, showed average income increases even lower than inflation over the past ten years.

Local citizens should demand that our elected directors revise their approach to hiring senior staff. The current approach has led to the rapid escalation of top salaries in local government all across the country. Locally, this approach led to the hiring of CVRD head Warren Jones from a municipality on the mainland in 2008. That didn't work out so well. After a few years of rapidly increasing pay, Mr. Jones was let go earlier this year, apparently for under-performing in some way, though the CVRD won't give details. What we do know is that he was given a lavish

\$335,000 publicly-funded severance package.

Now, the CVRD board will again hire a new head for the organization. Inexplicably, the directors appear to be again focused on the conventional approach, with its inevitable salary escalation as regions leapfrog each other to stay with the pack. Meanwhile, human resources consultants, who are typically paid a percentage of the salaries of executives they find, laugh all the

way to the bank.

Wages and benefits are the single biggest cost in the CVRD budget. Every annual increase is built into the budget, becoming an ever-escalating baseline for further increases the next year. Top salaries are the most important, as they drive salary levels of staff down the line. From a taxpayer perspective, nothing matters more.

If you have an opinion on this, now is the time to let

your local director know. Directors are reviewing compensation policy now. Local elections are coming up in November. There is a chance directors might be bold enough to try a new approach, such as linking salary increases to local incomes or inflation.

In which case they might even have a case that their own modest salaries -- typically \$16,000 to \$24,000 -- should legitimately be increased.



SUBARU WESTERN TRIATHLON SERIES

SHAWNIGAN LAKE

MAY 24th & 25th

Join Us!

Come out for a great weekend in Shawnigan Lake and join athletes from all over the world who will be coming to compete on this beautiful course! Now in its second year, the Western High School Championships are back, and is going to be another exciting and inspirational event. Saturday will be the Triathlon Village Festival and Sport and Lifestyle Expo, with lots of fun activities for the whole family. Sunday is race day; experience the excitement of a triathlon as athletes swim, bike and run their way in and around Shawnigan Lake! We hope to see you there!

More information is available at www.triseries.ca/shawnigan_lake.

Traffic Advisory

In order to run this event safely, we ask you to please limit your use of the inside lane around the circumference of the lake, as this lane will be used by the cyclists. The following is our bike route for both events:

The cyclist will start from West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park and ride north on the inside lane of West Shawnigan Lake Road, then turn right (eastbound) onto Renfrew Road, then turn right (southbound) onto East Shawnigan Lake Road, and finish the lap by turning right (northbound) onto West Shawnigan Lake Road. Between 7:00am and 7:30am there will be high school students on both sides of the road on West Shawnigan Lake Road. We respectfully request that you limit travel in this area during this period.

Marshalls, Police and Professional Traffic Controllers will direct all cyclists to ride in a clockwise direction around the lake for 2 laps. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation for this event by organizing your day travel to be a counter-clockwise (oneway) direction around the lake, or travel outside the hours of 7:00AM and 11:30AM.

EXPECT CONGESTION ON ROADS BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 11:30AM ON SUNDAY

Maps | Info | Register | Volunteer | www.TRISERIES.ca



CVRD Grants in Aid

Lois Morrow
SRA Director

The allocation of regional grants-in-aid by the CVRD board receives a great deal of taxpayer and media attention every year, as well it should. This category of grant has escalated from \$5,100.00 in 2003 to \$381,500 in 2013 to \$666,076 (budgeted) for 2014. To be fair, the figure for 2014 is inflated by a previous commitment of \$488,000 to the Island Corridor Foundation, which has been split over several budget years. Depending on whether the Foundation is successful in getting a commuter train running on the Island, this grant may or may not actually be paid out in this budget year. Ratepayers

may wish to note that these regional grants are discretionary; of the 24 regional districts in British Columbia, only 14 make this type of grant.

However, regional grants are only one of three categories of grants-in-aid. The second type of grant is established either through referendum, or through the Alternate Approval Process, and appear in the overall budget as separate functions. So for instance, residents in Area B had an opportunity this past December and January to express their opinion through an AAP regarding funding for a new function: the Shawnigan Basin Authority. Approval was received, thus Function 488 (\$50,000 allocation) appears in

the 2014 budget and ratepayers will be taxed accordingly. Although they do not receive as much attention, in 2012 this category of grant-in-aid overall totalled \$560,907, which was more than the total regional grants for that year.

Finally, there is a third category: Each electoral area director, with the exception of Director Marcotte of North Oyster/Diamond who refuses the allocation, is budgeted an amount to be distributed within his or her area. Although the grants are ratified by the board, in practice the area director has full discretion in choosing the recipients. For Area B, the 2014 budget for this category is \$30,000, as it was in the previous year. The

2013 recipients were as follows:

- ★ 01-2-1950-0103 Frances Kelsey Secondary \$1,000
- ★ 01-2-1950-0115 Mahat Lions Club \$500
- ★ 01-2-1950-0205 Cowichan Secondary School \$1,000
- ★ 01-2-1950-0224 Cow Valley Family Caregivers \$1,500
- ★ 01-2-1950-0325 Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Inst \$250
- ★ 01-2-1950-0368 Shawnigan Lake Community Association \$500
- ★ 01-2-1950-0385 Ecole Mill Bay Pac \$250
- ★ 01-2-1950-0392 Inspire \$10,000

- ★ 01-2-1950-0397 Shawnigan Basin Society \$14,000

There is no doubt that the majority of the organizations receiving any type of these grants are worthy, and that they contribute a great deal to the quality of life in our Valley. However, it is my opinion that the escalating costs of regional grants, the fact that function grants continue in perpetuity and with minimal formal evaluation, and that the electoral grants are allocated at all requires a full review of CVRD grant-in-aid policy, including public input.

Readers are welcome to contact the author at: lois@srmail.ca to discuss this issue.

Advisory Planning Commission (APC)

The purpose of the Advisory Planning Commission is "...to advise the Board or a Director of the Board...on all matters referred to it by the Board, or by that Director, respecting land use, the preparation and adoption of an official community plan or

a proposed bylaw that may be enacted or issued under this Part." (Section 898 of the Local Government Act)

Typically, most referrals are applications which have been received to amend bylaws, to issue permits (e.g. development permits), agricultural

land reserve referrals, temporary use permits and general land use initiatives, which are not in response to an application.

The APC makes no final decisions and its role is only in an advisory capacity. It is composed of up to 15 members, appointed by the local Director for a term of up to three years in length.

Current members of the Shawnigan APC are: Ian Caesar (Secretary), Dave Hutchison (Vice-Chair), Kristina Lau, Steve McLeod, Bruce Stevens, Grant Treloar (Chair) and Max Whiffin.

The Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission meets on matters that fall within the Shawnigan Village Containment Boundary. Items that fall outside this boundary are considered by the South Cowichan Advisory Planning Commission. For Shawnigan Electoral area matters outside the Village Containment, the meetings are chaired by the Shawnigan APC and are composed of 5 Shawnigan members and 2 each from Mill Bay and Cobble Hill areas.

Shawnigan APC and/or South Cowichan APC meetings regarding Shawnigan are scheduled for the 1st Thursday of each month at the Shawnigan Watershed Planning Office: Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

In case of rescheduling or cancellation of meetings, information is posted on the Shawnigan Focus Facebook page.

Links to details about the South Cowichan Advisory Planning Commission and the minutes from either the Shawnigan or South Cowichan APC may be found on the right sidebar on Director Bruce Fraser's website at <http://www.fraserforshawnigan.ca/>.

Information from the most recent APC meetings will be posted each month in the Shawnigan Focus.

March 2014 South Cowichan APC

- ★ Application 2-B-11-RS (REVISED) (Craig Partridge and Ron Sharpe) Renfrew Road
- ★ To rezone three properties to permit a residential subdivision of 28 fee simple lots that are 1.0 ha (2.5 ac.) in size. Existing zoning is F1 (Primary Forestry).
- ★ Motion: Decline to recommend application for acceptance. **Motion Carried.**

April 2014 Shawnigan APC

- ★ Application 1B-14DP, 2-B-14DP (Creelman and Beckett) Nora Place
- ★ Development Permit application associated with a four lot strata subdivision

of a 2.2 ha parcel and a two lot conventional subdivision of a 1 ha parcel.

- ★ Motion: Recommend approval of the application with a further recommendation that the CVRD ensure implementation of recommended storm water management practices. **Motion Carried.**

May 2014 South Cowichan APC

- ★ Application 1-B-14RS (McLeod) To rezone the subject property to permit a 6 lot subdivision (from F-1 to RR3). Motion: Move to recommend approving the application to the Board. **Motion Carried.**

May 2014 Shawnigan APC

- ★ Application 1-B-14ALR (William and Joanne Bakker) To subdivide the subject property under the provisions of Section 946 of the Local Government Act (Subdivision to Provide a Residence for a Relative). Motion: Move to recommend approval of the application to the Board. **Motion Carried.**

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"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give" - Khalil Gibran

Shaws donate \$19-million to Shawnigan!

Ryan Panton
Shawnigan Lake School

Already counted among the School's most enthusiastic supporters, 1977 alumnus Jim Shaw and his wife Kathryn have forever altered the future of Shawnigan Lake School with the largest single gift in the history of Canadian independent schools.

The \$19-million committed by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw comes as part of Shawnigan's \$40-million Building on Strength Campaign. Coinciding with the School's Centennial year in 2016, this ambitious plan is intended to secure Shawnigan's future as it enters its second century. The campaign includes a \$25-million capital goal that will revision its iconic Main Building as a Learning Commons, and \$15-million designated to enhance the School's endowment. To date, more than \$32-million in cash and pledges has been raised.

"This is a truly monumental day in the history of Shawnigan Lake School," said the School's Headmaster, David Robertson. "We have been fortunate to enjoy a wonderful relationship with the Shaw family for many years, but this commitment by Jim and Kathryn secures Shawnigan's place as one of the top inde-

pendent schools, not only in Canada, but anywhere in the world."

\$11-million of the Shaws' gift has been allocated toward capital projects, including the construction of a Centennial Library. When completed, the library will be the centerpiece of the Learning Commons, equipped with the latest in educational and technological advancements, including an immersive simulation room and multi-functional, adaptive study areas. At the same time, it will be designed in a manner that maximizes its idyllic surroundings.

The remaining \$8-million comes in the form of a donor-managed fund that will see \$500,000 in annual support provided for the Shaw Family Scholarships. The scholarships are a vital component of Shawnigan's overall financial assistance program that offers much-needed funding for the 25% of the School's students who receive support each year. Mr. Shaw created the Shaw Family Scholarships in 2004 with the plan of helping five students on a yearly basis. With this new commitment, the Shaws will be able to assist up to twenty students annually. Among the innovative elements of the scholarship is a pledge, signed



Jim Shaw, and his wife, Kathryn (photo courtesy of Shawnigan Lake School)

by each recipient, committing to giving back at some point in the future, helping another young person benefit from the "Shawnigan Experience."

"Shawnigan is one of the top schools in North America, and we are delighted to be able to offer our support with this gift," said Mr. Shaw. "I know my time at the School had a profound impact on the man I am today. Kathryn and I believe in the School, its vision and, most importantly, in the possibilities it offers young people. It is an honour to help Shawnigan continue in its mission."

After graduating from Shawnigan, Mr. Shaw enjoyed an extremely successful career as CEO of Shaw Communications Inc., one of Canada's largest telecommunications companies. Having retired from the position in 2010, Mr.

and Mrs. Shaw now reside in Calgary, Alberta. In addition, they maintain residences in Kelowna, BC and Chester, Nova Scotia. The family has always maintained a connection to Shawnigan, with Kathryn sitting on the School's Board of Governors and Jim, a former Board Member himself, enjoying regular contact with each year's Shaw Scholars.

This momentous occasion comes at a poetic moment for Shawnigan, just nine days after the School's 98th birthday. With efforts to reach the \$40-million goal in time for 2016 now fully underway,

the momentum provided by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw cannot be overstated, nor can the gratitude offered them for their transformational gesture.

"This campaign was envisaged with the dual goal of creating a location that inspires students to strive for excellence, and ensuring our ability to offer our unique brand of education to those young people, regardless of financial circumstance," Mr. Robertson reflected. "Jim and Kathryn Shaw's extraordinary generosity will help guarantee our success, not only in the short term, but for the next one hundred years and beyond."

The countdown is on:

by **Tom Downey**
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

10th Annual Shawnigan Lake Adventure is almost here

The tenth annual Shawnigan Lake Adventure takes place on June 1 this year, but don't make the mistake of assuming it's a one-day event. Organizers, community groups, sponsors, and scores of volunteers have been hard at work for weeks — in some cases months — preparing for the big day, which features the options of biking, kayaking, walking, or geocaching around Shawnigan Lake for a good cause.

"It takes a lot of people coming together to put on this fun, meaningful community event," said Ranjana Basu, Coordinator of the non-profit Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society, which derives

a significant chunk of its annual funding from the event. "The countdown is on!"

Basu said that as of the end of April, organizers had already enlisted more than 60 people as volunteers, including those working as kitchen help, rest stop attendants, registration brochure distributors, and event coordinators. She also reported that more than 80 local businesses, schools, and community organizations had signed on as sponsors or supporters. That list includes Peninsula Co-op, Island Savings Credit Union, Inspire Shawnigan, Shawnigan Lake School, Dwight International School, and the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society, among others. (See the full list of sponsors at www.shawniganlakeadventure.com.)

With last year's Adventure having raised \$22,000, organizers hope to generate \$23,000 this year. All money

raised will help the Society provide much-needed resources and assistance to local unpaid caregivers who look after loved ones with long-term health or mobility issues.

By some estimates, as many as 28% of Canadians aged 15 years and older provide care to a friend or family member with long-term needs. Mindful of the unique challenges facing caregivers who are still children, the Society has recently launched a groundbreaking new initiative called Cowichan Young Carers Program, which Basu hopes will continue growing throughout 2014 and beyond. The results of this year's Adventure will be a key factor in helping accomplish those dreams.

If you'd like to be part of the Shawnigan Lake Adventure community on June 1, visit the web site listed above. You'll be glad you did.

Ben Kotler, MA
REGISTERED
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR



www.feelchange.ca

SHAWNIGAN LAKE 2721 Shawnigan Lake Road 250-634-1634 info@feelchange.ca

TRANSIT future

Open Houses

We want your help!

In partnership, BC Transit and the Cowichan Valley Regional District are proposing to implement route and schedule changes to the Cowichan Valley Regional Transit System.

Tuesday, June 3	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	South Cowichan Library Branch
Saturday, June 7	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Cowichan Lake Days Saywell Park
	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Cowichan Commons Walmart Lotto Centre

Tell us what you think online in the survey until June 7 at www.bctransit.com/transitfuture or attend one of the Open Houses.



IRONMAN acquires the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon

Sarah Malerby, Race Director
Shawnigan Lake Triathlon

The May 25, 2014 Shawnigan Lake Triathlon is in its 8th Year and has grown to be a popular and successful Canadian triathlon.

The Shawnigan Lake Triathlon is the first in a row of five races in the Subaru Western Triathlon Series – the other triathlons taking place in Victoria, Vancouver, Banff and Saskatoon.

In a very exciting recent development on May 6, IRONMAN purchased the Western Triathlon Series races and will now own and operate the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon.

If you didn't know, the iconic IRONMAN series of events is the largest participation sports platform in the world – host to triathlons and incredibly challenging endurance races on many continents around the world. IRONMAN is recognized for excellence through its distinguished events, quality products and its ability to attract world-class athletes.

Exciting news? You bet!! This development is an incredible opportunity for Shawnigan Lake. It is

well known that triathlons provide a significant economic stimulus for communities that host these events, as well as a huge opportunity for sport tourism.

Triathlon is also a sport that shares values we residents of Shawnigan Lake hold dear, such as: quality of life, health and fitness, outdoor recreation, protection of environment and enjoyment of our parks and trails. Having an event of this caliber in our own back-yard is something to be extremely proud of.

You are invited to come on out and get involved! There is lots of opportunity to show your support and enthusiasm on May 24 & 25 race weekend – here are some ideas:

Saturday

- ★ 12 to 4 pm - Shawnigan Village Triathlon Festival
- ★ 1:30 pm - Kids Fun Run and Duathlon (SL Community Centre)
- ★ 12 to 6 pm - Athletes in Village and at the Park – getting packages, dropping bikes
- ★ 5:00 pm - Camp Pringle Pre-Race Dinner Party

Sunday

- ★ 7 am to 1:30 pm - Triathlon Race Events at West Shawnigan Provincial Park
- ★ 5:30 am to 2:00 pm - Free Shuttle Bus running from SLCCC to Park along Renfrew Road – pick ups at all bus stops on Renfrew Road.
- ★ 7 am to 1:00 pm - Rotary Breakfast /Brunch at the Park / Great Spectating & Excitement
- ★ 7 am to 11:30 am -Bikes on the Roads. Please show your support by avoiding driving on the inside lane around the lake to help us keep the athletes safe.

More information on all of the above activities and events can be found on the Triathlon Website at: http://www.triseries.ca/shawnigan_lake/index.php

Pre-registration is recommended for the Camp Pringle Dinner and the Kids Fun Run & Duathlon, so get on-line and check it out.

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. That is the well-known mantra of Ironman. Let's embrace it Shawnigan!

I hope to see you all on Race Weekend – May 24 & 25.



Digging Up The Past

Mark Woloszczak
Shawnigan Focus

Chinese labour, in the mid to late 1800's, was a huge factor in the economic growth of western North America. The Chinese came by the thousands after hearing that gold had been found in California and later in British Columbia. The Chinese were allowed to mine for gold but racism only let them work old claims that were finished.

Railroad building was probably the largest employment opportunity for Chinese immigrants but conditions were poor, as they would only be hired for the dangerous jobs (such as tunnel blasting and moving large rocks). It is estimated that four lives were lost for every mile of track laid! Just before the turn of the century, the E&N Railroad and CPR hired many Chinese, as did the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company.

Many Chinese immigrants stayed in Canada as they could not afford the ticket home. Some did farming; some became small merchants and supplied goods and services. They were willing to do just about anything, and were known for their willingness to work hard at whatever it was.

In the Shawnigan Lake area you can find remnants of their culture just about

everywhere you dig. I like to dig Chinese sites the most, as the artifacts are so interesting. One dump kept yielding stones that were very smooth on one or two sides with a sharpened end. I started to throw them in an old bucket and later found out they had been used to sharpen tools and things. Also, there were lots of small blobs of coloured glass so, of course, into the bucket they went. The blobs were used in a gambling game called Fan-Tan. Sometimes you don't know what you have until it's all cleaned up.

The most plentiful items found are small bottles, in different shapes and sizes and with lots of air bubbles. These were for Chinese medicines and are usually confused with opium bottles. Pottery jars are common: ginger jars usually with a nice green glaze and Chinese writing; bean pots; vegetable jars and soy sauce jars. Some other finds that make it fun are Chinese coins, dominoes, chop sticks and other cultural items.

I have learned a lot about the activities of the Chinese immigrants and what an ethnic stronghold they possessed. I, for one, appreciate their hard work and dedication, which helped build our nation as it is today.



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NEW SUMMER HOURS	Tuesday thru Friday	10 - 6
	Saturday	9 - 7
	Sunday	9 - 3
	Monday	CLOSED

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Photo by Ed Wiebe

Young Seniors Action Group Society

Ed Wiebe
Y.S.A.G.S.

YSAGS Photography Group

The Photography group meets every other Tuesday morning at 10:30 am. Now that it is warm and mostly sunny, we plan field trips once a month. Our latest trip was to St. Peters Qualicum church on Tzouhalem Road to shoot (with our cameras) all the wild flowers in bloom right now around the church and in the adjacent cemetery. We saw Easter Lillies, Chocolate Lillies, Shooting Stars, Trilliums and others that we could not identify. The theme for this trip was Macro (close up photography) and practicing manual settings. Shooting on automatic is good but if one knows how to use all, or even some, of the settings on a modern digital camera to the best advantage, one can move

from good to great photography.

Oh yes, we also go to one of the many coffee shops after the shoot to relax and of course talk about photography.

We recently have covered the three camera settings that are interrelated and are very important to understand. They are ISO (sensor sensitivity to light), Aperture (the size of the diaphragm) and Time (usually fractions of a second). If one of these settings is changed the other two will be affected and the image you end up with will be affected.

We have a wide range of cameras in use, from relatively inexpensive point-and-shoot, to full DSLR (Digital Single-Lens Reflex). Any of these newer cameras are capable of giving good images. We do stress however that you read the camera's manual that nowadays you often

need to download from the internet.

We also cover what you can do after the picture is taken and you have downloaded to your computer so for editing. There are now many free editing programs that will give a good start to basic picture editing.

For information about our Photography Group phone Ed: 250 743 8344.

YSAGS is organizing a Huge Garage Sale at the Legion on June 7. All proceeds will go to the Legion.

If anyone has items that need a new home, consider donating to this worthy cause. For details call Denis: 250 743 3107 or Ed: 250 743 8344.

If you are a senior, 55 years or older and want to find out more about us and how to become a member check out our Blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> or phone Ed: 250 743 8344.

OUR Ecovillage

Vancouver Island has only two to three days of food on the island at any given time. OUR Ecovillage improves local food security by teaching the community to farm and cook sustainably.

Every year, OUR Ecovillage interfaces with 10,000 people just like you, teaching and inspiring them on topics ranging from food production to permaculture, natural building to animal husbandry, and much more. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of thousands of individuals, corporations, government agencies, community groups, and supporters such as yourself, OUR Ecovillage has become one of the most established sites of its kind in North America and is a shining example of a sustainable community working for change.

Please help support the #protectOUR Campaign by taking part in any of OUR upcoming workshops and educational program. As a member of the Shawnigan Lake community, OUR Ecovillage extends special discounts (Shawnigan Lake folks can take OUR courses at no cost) and welcomes work exchange ideas to provide funding for other courses. Come for a tour, organic lunch or to take part in the weekly food box starting this spring/summer season.

Did you know OUR Ecovillage has a tent for rent for all your summer events?

Upcoming Courses and Events:

Permaculture Design certificate & Earth Activist Training

★ May 16-June 1, 2014

Introduction to Timber Framing

★ June 5-8

Earthbuilding 101 (Cob+Plaster)

★ June 11-13, 16-18th, 24-27th

★ June 30-July 2 (Living Roof application)

OUR Ecovillage Tours

★ May 17, June 7, June 21,

For up to date information on fundraising events, tours, workshops and more: www.ourecoovillage.org 250-743-3067

Inspire! SHAWNIGAN ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE SOCIETY

We have so much planned for the Summer that we'd have to spend all our time updating ads and we want to be teaching, playing, and inspiring. So, bookmark our website and check frequently for newly posted workshops, classes, and events. We can't wait to inspire you and to be inspired by you. Inspire(!), your local connection to Shawnigan Lake's art, culture and heritage community. Come play!

Summer workshop:

Join David Goatley, SFCA or Deborah Tilby, SFCA at the tranquil and truly beautiful Shawnigan Lake School, for a 5 day workshop July 14-18. David will be teaching a portrait workshop while Deborah teaches landscapes. For more information and to register please go to <http://shawniganartretreat.blogspot.ca>

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