

Shawnigan Focus

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February 2014

A Non-Profit Community Publication

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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

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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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Family Day
Passport to Shawnigan

Lori Treloar
Family Day Coordinator

The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre was a busy place on Family Day. The theme for this year was Shawnigan buildings – past, present and future. Each family who participated received a Passport to Shawnigan. This led families on the trail of eight significant buildings in the area. At each location, there was a sign with historical information about the building. Families were asked to take a

‘selfie’ photo in front of each building and answer a skill-testing question.

Back at the community centre, there were five activities to keep families busy – painting a building with the Inspire! Shawnigan crew; creating a paper bag building to represent what is needed in the Village; playing hockey in the SLBA rink; playing Giant Jenga; creating wood buildings... and then there was food. For each location and activity, participants collected chances to win draw prizes.

es to win draw prizes.

This success of this event was due to the collaborative efforts of many local groups – The Shawnigan Lake Museum; Inspire! Shawnigan; The Village Chippery; The SLBA and the Shawnigan Scouts. Thanks to Kim Liddle; Bonterra for making it possible to eat pizza; to Signology for above and beyond service; and to all the volunteers from each group who helped make it happen, especially the enthusiastic Shawnigan Museum board members.

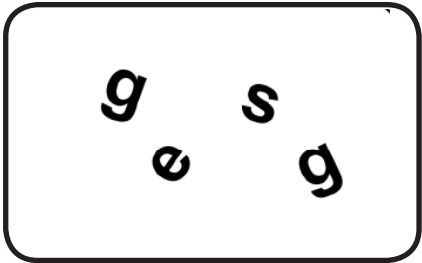
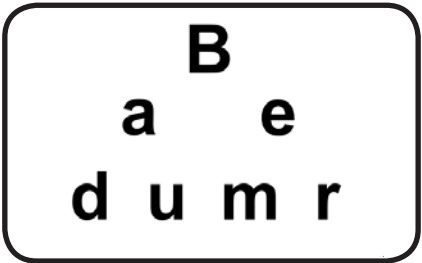


Thanks to the following individuals for providing the Family Day photos on pages one and two:
Chris Clay, Ocean, Rebecca Barnard and Elijah Fraser



“Visit Inspire! to see our new art exhibit co-created by families during the 2nd annual Family Day, themed “Shawnigan Buildings, past, present and future”. The beautiful creations will be mounted in a variety of ways to create a multidimensional display in the Inspire! space ‘til the end of March. Don’t miss it!”

Puzzle Mania



answers on page 8

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.

Shawnigan Basin Society

July 22/2013 - CVRD. Resolution of above

July 30/2013 - Board meeting recommending SBS staff to lay out a method to acquire \$50,000 (per annum) from Electoral area B

Sept. 11/2013 - Board has passed above with 1st reading, 2nd reading and 3rd reading. The basic subject, perhaps being what is now BYLAW 3737

My first awareness of the above was in the December issue of the FOCUS. This informed me that Electoral Response forms must be in by Jan 6/2014, (this having, by CVRD, a launch date of Nov. 27/2013).

During those dates, I question how many voters in Area B were aware of, let alone even here during this time slot.

Jan 8/2014 - Board meeting with response forms result. To force a referendum, opposition from 10% of the eligible voters (570 nays) was required. There were 164 submissions, of which 12 were invalidated. It was claimed that four did not have original signatures. Ironically, I had delivered, by hand, four at 11 a.m. December 23. The shop was closed so I had to use a mail slot. I do not know what constitutes an invalid original signature.

The SBS, as such, appears to be nothing more than a back-door tax grab. I doubt it could accomplish anything more than what the CVRD should do.

Neil Henigman

Rachelle Ray, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

Dear Rachelle,

On November 22, 2013 Ms. Tricia Bergland attempted to cross the road at the 4-way junction in Shawnigan Village. She had two grandchildren with her and a dog on a leash. As she worked her way across the now completely unmarked crosswalk, an SUV blew through the stop sign and narrowly missed colliding with her, her dog and her grandchildren. This was very nearly the fatal accident that is inevitably

waiting to happen in Shawnigan Village. The driver looked disinterestedly at the near miss and carried on without a pause. The incident was filed with the Shawnigan detachment of the RCMP the same day, along with the license number of the vehicle retrieved by a witness who had to chase the SUV to get the number. Lots of risks were involved in this incident.

I have been corresponding with your office for several months to expedite the re-marking of the crosswalks at this congested and increasingly dangerous intersection. That the single most important village intersection for a community of 8000 people can be left in such a state of neglect is simply unacceptable. What is needed is now more than a bit of remedial painting. The intersection is badly congested, the 4-way stop signs are not easily seen by approaching traffic and the lack of clear signage is leading to drivers drifting through the intersection rather than coming to a full stop. There is no speed limit calming for approaching traffic that includes many hundreds of cars, regular school buses and a good number of highway scale hauling trucks per day.

Shawnigan Village is the choke point in the local transportation routes. It is where school children are disembarked, where the transit system stop is located, where fuel is dispensed and where village commerce leads to pedestrian traffic that must cross the busy roads for the post office, for restaurants and for stores. The Village footprint is small, there are no sidewalks on three of the entry roads and parking limits visibility for pedestrians and drivers alike.

That this is "an accident waiting to happen" is not just a figure of speech. If there is not a very early initiative to deal with this matter the next report will likely be accompanied by a funeral notice. I would like a direct and constructive response from the Ministry to the problems of the Shawnigan Village intersection and Village core. The excuse that the Ministry cannot seem to engage a competent painter in the last six months is no longer credible. I

understand completely that you may have difficulty within the Ministry to get action started, but I am so frustrated now at the risks visited on my constituents that my next correspondence will be public and to the Minister.

Best regards, Bruce Fraser,
Area Director for Shawnigan Lake

Civil disobedience does not imply disrespectful or rude behavior.

Regarding the protest on January 7th at the gates of Brentwood College in Mill Bay when Stephen Harper held an invitation-only fundraiser there, where in a letter to the Focus editor, Beverley McCooey felt, "extreme embarrassment" ... "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." she stated.

That particular morning was the last morning I would have with my daughter, home from McGill for the winter break. Even though it was her birthday, we decided we had to devote it to protesting Harper's harmful policies. Civil disobedience does not imply disrespectful or rude behavior. Sometimes civil disobedience is necessary when governments are refusing to listen or engage with the voters. I would like to remind Ms McCooey that if it weren't for civil disobedience we would still be run by the Family Compact, would still have slavery and indentured labour instead of trade unions and labour codes, and women wouldn't have the vote.

Like Ms McCooey, I also feel embarrassed, though not at citizens taking time out of their busy lives to protest, but at Canada's current dismal reputation internationally. Here is a government overturning environmental laws, for example, protection of our lakes, to enable mining corporations to use them as tailing ponds. (Our

own Shawnigan Lake no longer has federal protection.) Here is a government that has reneged on the Kyoto protocol and earned us, five years running, the Lifetime Unachievement Fossil award at the 2013 Warsaw climate talks for putting Canada at the bottom of the industrialized world in terms of emissions per capita, development of renewable energy and blocking and stalling progress at the UN climate talks. This is all for Harper's pet project, the tar sands, the world's largest and dirtiest energy project, which will destroy if unabated, an area the size of Florida and the world's third largest watershed. People around the world shake their heads in disbelief. Here is a government muzzling scientists and closing scientific libraries en masse. Here is a government that changed Canada's international role from peacekeeper to aggressive military intervener in Libya and Afghanistan. Under Harper, we have had the largest increase in military spending since WWII. Harper's current spate of upcoming actions includes approving a pipeline through our province to ship bitumen to Asia, and enacting laws facilitating arrest without warrant. As George Monbiot who writes for the UK Guardian, states, "At the moment, this highly cultured, sophisticated, wonderful nation, (Canada), seems to be descending into a thuggish petro-state which appears to be governed by the tar patch, and its politics seem to suffer from the oil curse, as so many countries suffer from when they have found big reserves of fossil fuels."

Chloe Beam, Shawnigan Lake

The CVRD has always had problems understanding democracy when it comes to raising taxes for their pet projects.

Dear Sirs:

I find it laughable the CVRD suggests their planned consultation this spring will provide genuine public input on the Duncan Sportsplex funding, an issue for which they have broken their own rules in giving away public money through annual grants to this high cost facility for the past 6 years. A small group of people use this facility overall and they want the majority of us to pay for their fun and games through more tax increases.

Last year the CVRD held a similar "consultation" effort for the Island Savings Centre (ISC) in Duncan, the biggest tax spender in the region. I went to two of the three

public sessions they organized to determine public support for spending lots of new money on that facility as well as taxing in advance for future capital spending. There was no option presented for a vote that addressed cutting the Centre's high operating costs or requiring the minority who actually use the facility to pay more. Right now the CVRD only collects less than one third of the costs from users. Taxpayers are forced to pay the rest.

The two ISC sessions I attended were overwhelmingly against this new taxing and spending plan. CVRD staff themselves were caught voting for spending more money in spite of that clear conflict of interest. At the one meeting that was in favour of the spending the meeting was stacked with vested interests that would directly benefit from this new spending. Because they didn't get all the support they wanted in the public sessions the CVRD then held private meetings with ISC user groups to cook up supposed public support for their new taxing plans. All in all, this was a phony exercise for a predetermined tax increase and that's exactly what the CVRD board did by significantly raising taxes last year for the ISC.

The CVRD has always had problems understanding democracy when it comes to raising taxes for their pet projects. They have used the illegitimate Alternate Approval Process (AAP), the negative billing option that is illegal for everyone to use, except the CVRD and local governments, more than 50 times in the past decade to increase taxes and borrow money.

There is only one legitimate way to determine public opinion on new spending and that is at the ballot box in a properly worded referendum during elections held every three years. Why is the CVRD so chicken to use this appropriate process to determine the public will on more tax increases?

W.E. (Bill) Dumont



"It always seems impossible until it's done." ~Nelson Mandela

SIA contaminated waste permit status

Brent Beach Shawnigan Focus

The big events in the last month included two non-events, one late event, and one very positive event.

MoE Documents arrive one month late

The late event was the delivery of documents from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB). All of these documents were supposed to be delivered to the EAB and the appellants by Dec 25. Only 30% of the

documents made it by then; another 15% by January 11; and the final 55% only arrived on January 24, 2014. The SRA and CVRD asked for an additional 10 days to process these documents. The EAB granted the request - no explanation for the delay was provided by MoE.

The good news is that the documents are now numbered (this task was dealt with by the Ministry of Justice) - something MoE never bothered to do. There can now be some certainty that people are referring to the same document.

It is interesting that MoE was able to grant this permit without having any systematic method of naming and handling the documents on which it based its permit decision. It is also interesting that it took MoE several months to deliver the set of documents.

Stay not Varied

The first non-event: the EAB has not responded to the SIA request to vary the stay so that the SIA could immediately start accepting contaminated waste. The EAB appears to not be satisfied with the SIA assurances that they are ready

and able to accept contaminated waste.

Site Visit Denied

The second non-event: SIA denied permission to the SRA hydrologist to visit the site and conduct tests on one of the drill holes. The EAB, in granting the Appeal of the Permit, wrote that it would not only be reviewing evidence presented to MoE before the Permit was granted, but would also accept new evidence. The refusal of SIA to permit an independent study of water flow in its drill holes appears to be denying the EAB

information that it has asked to see.

Shawnigan Lake School \$30,000

The very positive event was the recent donation, by Shawnigan Lake School, of \$30,000 to the SRA legal action fund.

Future Events

The appellants, the SRA and CVRD and others, will provide their arguments to the EAB by Feb 11. SIA and MoE will provide their replies by Feb 21. The hearing itself is still scheduled to start on Mar 3, 2014.

Property Taxes in Shawnigan Lake

Blaise Salmon

Recent years have seen significant increases in property taxes in Shawnigan Lake, Area B in the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Total property taxes in Area B rose from \$1.9 million in 2003 to over \$4.6 million in 2012.

The biggest single item in the ballooning CVRD budget is staff salaries and benefits, which have been rapidly increasing. Over the past ten years, dozens of CVRD management staff received increases averaging almost 6% a year, while inflation averaged 1.9% over the same period. The Chief Administrative Officer was paid \$198,000 in 2012, not including expenses and generous pension contributions. At least 43 other CVRD staff were paid between \$100,000 and \$156,000 (see link below).

In 2013, this issue was covered several times in the local media. The CVRD board, after years of ignoring the issue, eventually responded in December 2013 by freezing the pay of top managers for one year, and forming a board committee to look into the matter. The board will now need to take strong action to reign in future salary costs, including linking increases to incomes of local taxpayers and to inflation.

Based on past experience, the CVRD board will need continued pressure from local citizens and the media to make real progress on escalating salary costs. Final decisions on the 2014 budget will be made by March 31.

Further reading:

CVRD Director email addresses:

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?NID=228>

List of CVRD employee remuneration and expenses over \$75,000:

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/Home/View/9887>

"Top heavy CVRD wages out of control" March 11, 2013
<http://www.cowichannewsleader.com/opinion/195770241.html>

"Which directors are actually paying attention?" July 17/13
<http://www.cowichannewsleader.com/opinion/215722521.html>

"Problem with CVRD salaries? Now is the time to speak up" Nov 13/13
<http://www.cowichannewsleader.com/opinion/230129951.html>



Photo - Chris Clay

Community Assets & Strengths Project

Christine Westland Resident & UVIC Student

Christine Westland is a community member as well as a student at UVIC working on a Masters in Community Development. Her project involves investigating how members of community organizations and groups view the strengths and assets of Shawnigan Lake.

There will be focus groups created from individuals who belong to a community organization to answer 5 questions about the community's strengths and assets, as well as 5 questions to gather details about the individual (how long they have lived in community), that will be included in the data.

The research will be gathered at these meetings and confidentiality is ensured by the use of a number, not a name. After the research is gathered, analyzed, written up and presented at her dissertation, Christine will give it back to the community. Each participating group will receive a copy. If your group is inter-

ested in helping to determine the direction that Shawnigan Lake takes in future development, please contact her. The contact information is in the recruitment letter. Christine is already booked to visit some groups and public meetings and is happy to address any questions in those venues.

Recruitment Letter:

Shawnigan Lake Regional Area: Community Assets and Strengths as seen Through the Eyes of Community Members

Dear Potential Participant,

You are invited to participate in a study entitled "Community Assets and Strength as seen through the Eyes of Community Members" that is being conducted by Christine Westland, a Graduate Student in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria.

This research project is in response to a request from Bruce Fraser, Shawnigan Lake Regional Director, who would like to know what

community organizations perceive to be the assets and strengths of their community. Your feedback may help future planning of both residential and business sectors of Shawnigan Lake.

You are being asked to participate in this study because you belong to a Shawnigan Lake community organization. If you volunteer to participate in a focus group, you will discuss ten questions during a meeting lasting from 1 to 3 hours. Would you have time to attend a focus group and talk about your views of the strengths and assets in Shawnigan Lake? The focus group you attend will be limited to only members of the organization you belong to. The purpose of the focus group is to gather information about the strengths and assets of Shawnigan Lake Community as perceived by individuals belonging to your organization.

If so please contact me at 250 743 9338 or b) email at cwestland@uvic.ca

Do you have feedback for the Focus? Send us your thoughts and ideas to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Director's Report February 2014

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

CVRD 2014 Budget

The first draft of the CVRD 2014 Budget is now up on the CVRD web site. It is the first time that we have provided the earliest draft that shows the tax implications of the drafting instructions given to staff by the Board. Instructions this year were to produce departmental and function budgets that require no increase in tax requisition. Shawnigan's taxation levels reflect the 36 functions in which we participate, from the 911 service, through parks and trails to the Shawnigan and Kerry Park Recreation centres. While this first draft shows the effect of a net zero lift, there is still much work to do to reflect the many pressures faced by the Regional District Board in coming to final numbers. There are still issues of salary levels for excluded staff that are being worked on by a compensa-

tion committee and policy on regional grants in aid also being developed for this fiscal year. A more realistic budget projection will be available by early March and will be posted and up for discussion at the March 3rd Director's meeting and the regular CVRD Board meetings.

SIA Legal Challenge

Both the SRA and CVRD legal teams are working hard on the challenge to the contaminated soil facility proposed by SIA as their law firm continues to place obstacles and arguments to justify the project, displace parties and alter the stay. The effort by SIA to displace participants and their grounds for appeal has failed. The latest wrinkle is that the MOE has just filed hundreds of internal documents from the permit decision process causing the legal teams to scramble with a massive investigation load. This will delay some of the proceedings on the applica-

tion to vary the stay, but has not yet affected the March dates for the EAB hearing. Stay tuned.

Long Term Watershed Management

The Shawnigan Basin Society is making progress on raising research and project funds and engaging partners based on the leverage from the basic tax levy recently achieved. The Shawnigan Basin process was shared with a number of similar initiatives from the Okanagan, the northeast, the Kootenays and Vancouver Island at the recent Watershed Conference held in late January at the Cowichan Cultural Centre in Duncan. There is a provincial groundswell of communities that want to be materially engaged in watershed planning, now all waiting for the Water Sustainability Act to reach the Spring legislature to seize any opportunity to gain provincially granted responsibilities. The Shawnigan progress statement

is now up on my web site: fraserforshawnigan.ca In the meantime the CVRD has established a Regional Water Management Committee of the Board that will begin meeting on February 18th to work on how water issues for the entire regional district should be integrated to greatest effect. The agendas and minutes of this public committee will be posted on the CVRD web site regularly.

The Shawnigan Intersection

I have been asking the MOTI to renovate the Shawnigan Village intersection since the summer of 2013. Here is the text of my latest attempt to get action.

Mr. Minister, Today a man was run down attempting to cross from the Barber Shop to the Garage in Shawnigan Village. He has been seriously injured but at this time does not appear to have been mortally wounded. If it had been a small child a fatality would

have occurred. This incident has been predicted for some time as a result of the inexplicable neglect of the Shawnigan Village intersection that I have been bringing to MOTI attention since the summer of 2013. The incident today was entirely preventable and should reasonably bring the Ministry into a position of liability for willful neglect of its responsibilities to public safety.

Attached is an email sent to the Ministry in November of 2013 that describes a nearly similar event with the potential of much greater consequences. I do not fault Ministry staff in particular, but I do fault the Ministry as a whole with ignoring a well-documented concern. It appears that the Ministry is prepared to neglect its most basic public safety responsibilities until a serious accident with consequences for vulnerable people force their attention. This is a wholly unacceptable situation, that you, Minister need to correct before worse happens.



The Shawnigan Cobble Hill Famers Institute and Agricultural Society honours Marian Davies

Marian Davies has been an active member of 4-H BC since 1955 and has embraced the core beliefs and values of the organization throughout her life. Growing up on a small hobby farm in Langford BC where she raised rabbits and sheep sparked her interest in animals and agriculture. Her parents, who were 4-H leaders themselves, encouraged her, to become involved in the organization and Marian's legacy as a leader in the 4-H community has proven second to none.

Moving to Shawnigan Lake in 1969 with her husband Bill, both of her children Roy and Kathryn, became involved in 4-H from an early age. This year, Marian's grandchildren have entered the fold carrying on the family 4-H tradition which now spans four generations.

Believing that "by building tomorrows leaders and providing opportunities for youth is paramount to a successful community," Marian is a 4-H District Key Leader where she mentors and coaches others by providing opportunities for children to excel.

Marian Davies, a 4-H member, parent and grandparent - providing future leaders with opportunities for success - her stewardship provides us all with a starting place for helping others.

Land use suggestions?

Kelly Musselwhite
Alternate Area Director

The Village Development Council is seeking your ideas in how to best use the land in the heart of our community. Over the past two years, between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission, the community has been able to acquire the Elsie Miles property, formerly owned by the School Board; and more recently, the Old Community Centre, privately owned for many years. Now that the land has been consolidated, we are able to move forward and create a master plan. We are

seeking your thoughtful contributions as a meaningful and necessary part of this project.

- ★ What would you consider a priority for the best use of this space?
- ★ Is it important to recreate the stories of our historical past?
- ★ How do you envision 'place making' for Shawnigan?
- ★ What would be a significant first project?

Let's take this remarkable opportunity to collaboratively determine our next steps and create a community-driven initiative! We know that our community members have unique

expertise, remarkable creativity, and a multitude of talents!

All suggestions welcome!!! These will be brought forward for full discussion at the 2nd Annual Shawnigan Gathering, to be held on March 29 and 30 at the Community Centre.

Please email your land use ideas/questions to Kelly Musselwhite (luvlife@shaw.ca)

Or, bring them in person Mon., Wed., or Fri. between 11 and 1 at the Inspire! Community Gathering Space (#3 - 1760 Shawnigan Lake/Mill Bay Rd.).

Or, attend a meeting on Feb 20 at 6:30 at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

EDGE

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Inspire! SHAWNIGAN

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE SOCIETY

NOTICE: Inspire! Shawnigan Art, Culture and Heritage Society AGM

Come out and support the arts, culture and heritage in our community by attending the Annual General Meeting for non-profit Inspire! Shawnigan Thursday, February 27, 7 pm at the Inspire! gathering space:

#3-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd (in the village)

Chairs for the Chippery...

Many thanks to the artists who came out, on Saturday January 18th, to paint an original work on one of several chairs for the Village Chippery.

We had expected to paint 11 chairs in January and 11 in February, but ended up with other people taking a chair home to paint. It was a great success and lots of fun! We are fully booked for the final 7 chairs to be painted on February 15th, with a 4-person wait list!

We delivered the first 5 finished chairs to Patty & John on Sunday, January 26th, and delivered a further 5 the following week. They were thrilled! Check them out in person at the Village Chippery or on the Inspire! Shawnigan website: www.inspireshawnigan.com

We wish we had more chairs to paint - maybe someone new will come forward with a request!

The next paint-in is February 15




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Accounting Taxation Guidance



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Shawnigan Residents Association

Jason Walker
Director of Communications

The SRA is in full swing with our new board of directors! This past month we have engaged in a number of amazing opportunities focused in great part on the Environment Appeal Board (EAB) hearing, which is quickly approaching!

Thanks to the generous support of a local business, a billboard was designed and placed facing Southbound on the Pat Bay Highway after the airport to get the message out that Shawnigan is not BC's toxic soil dump. With over 26,000 vehicles passing this message every day we have been flooded with donations and letters of support from residents of Victoria and people abroad.


We have surpassed 60% of our fundraising goal to pay for this legal battle, thanks in part to Shawnigan Lake School who provided us

with the largest single donation of \$30,000 and the commitment for ongoing support from the School. As well, residents have continued to contribute, raising over \$10,000 in the past week!

Another focus of the board is to engage the CVRD regarding our steadily increasing taxes here in South Cowichan. Over the past ten years our taxes have increased approximately 234% with little to no service increases. The SRA now has a special committee working hard to provide input into the CVRD budget process and make our voices heard when it comes to reducing the tax burden on our community.

The SRA has a lot more planned for this month including a segment on Shaw TV and other media engagements so stay tuned.

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Fun Volunteer Opportunities

Marian Davies
SLCA

'Volunteers are the glue that holds a community together!!' These words were spoken by former Premier of BC, Dave Barrett, in the late '70's. Another great community leader, Mel Cooper, then owner of CFAX radio in Victoria, also inspired me when he said, 'A community without volunteers is a community not to enjoy!'

At that time, I was a young mother with children, working full time in my own business in Langford and, with my

husband, developing our small farm in Shawnigan Lake. Their words inspired me but, more, they made me think, "who were they talking about? Who were these volunteers that organized the community events Barrett and Cooper were promoting?"

Shawnigan Lake held a Kiddies Karnival each year where I took my kids for a day of fun, but who organized it? I started to ask around and soon found myself joining the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Association, a small

group who met monthly in the old Community Hall. At the time they were the owner/managers of the old hall but, as time has passed, now twenty years ago, they sold that facility to help build the present Community Centre. They dropped the 'Centre' from their name and, today, they are still a small active group who organizes special events in our community such as Easter, Canada Day and Halloween Hoedown.

Volunteering in your community is rewarding for both

the volunteer and for the community! Choose how you can volunteer. At first, take small steps by helping at a one-time event, then at a monthly activity before stepping into a group that meets weekly and your calendar quickly fills up!

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association needs you, and wants to share their fun in organizing events with you! They have twenty to thirty years of experience to share!! However, the day will come when they will stop and, how sad, there will not be younger

volunteers to carry on. Nor will there be those special events. Your ideas are just as valuable as all that we have done in the past. You ARE the glue that will hold our community together!!

Our next meeting will be on February 24, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Village Chipperry in Shawnigan Village. This will be our AGM. We want to meet you and welcome you to the Shawnigan Lake Community Association! If you have questions please email shawniganmom@gmail.com



Robert (Bob) Wallace

Bob with Attorney General Suzanne ANTON, QC - Attorney General and Minister of Justice receiving his award at the Ministry of Justice Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards 2013, for Outstanding Contributions Toward Crime Prevention and Community Safety in British Columbia

Wallace, director of the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society, has been volunteering with the South Cowichan Area Speed Watch Program for over 14 years, contributing more than 2,400 hours of volunteer service. He has been instrumental in traffic-safety initiatives in elementary school zones as well as initiating a "Be Safe - Be Seen" program.

Shawnigan Gathering March 29th & 30th

Kelly Musselwhite
Alternate Area Director

It is that time of year again, as we rally the community to prepare for the second annual Shawnigan Gathering, to be held March 29th & 30th. The focus of this years Gathering will be Economic Development in Shawnigan Lake. Much like last year, there will be lively discussion groups, great food, a Sunday trade show, and music and entertainment throughout, with special guests and entertainers. Child care will be provided on site during the entire weekend, and there will be a little bit of something for everyone.

We are currently seeking two very important volunteer positions, which are integral for a smooth event. We need a volunteer coordinator to organize and assemble the lot of us, and a raffle coordinator to help raffle off three beautiful cedar picnic tables (an 8" table, a 6" table, and a child's table like the one on display outside of the Inspire Gathering Space). Please join us at the Shawnigan Gathering 2014 and make this year's theme come alive for Shawnigan Lake. To sign up for an exhibitors table, register as a food vendor, join our organizer team, or simply to check out what this event is all about, please visit www.shawniganagathering.ca

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J & L Brown

Confessions of a Yoga Teacher

Nicola Cusi
*Kali Yoga,
Shawnigan Lake*

I teach Yoga in a small community. One of the charms of Shawnigan Lake is that we have a tight community where people know each other and take care of each other. But that can potentially also bring challenges. We all have preconceptions of what we expect from a Yoga teacher: very healthy life style, probably vegan, soft spoken, offering the other cheek with a blissful smile when slapped.

The problem is, I am not that kind of teacher. Yes, of course I take the teachings of Yoga to heart, try to live a life of cleanliness, non-violence, and speaking the truth. But there are those times, when I enjoy a burger and a beer, yes, even the occasional cigarette, sometimes I don't have my emotions perfectly in control, other times thoughts of envy or revenge poke through my awareness like sharp karma darts. Yes, it happens!

Yoga is a path to our authentic self, living to our best potential. We learn in each Yoga practice that we start

wherever we are, truly accepting where we are at. We find awareness and presence of mind to identify what needs changing and we get to work. That path is not an easy one...it has lots of rocks thrown on it, mountains to climb, and rivers to cross. But one thing is for sure - we can not get through those obstacles if we pretend they are not here, and walk in the other direction.

I believe a good Yoga teacher is one that walks that path and therefore has full understanding and compassion for the challenges that can arise. We don't "play being a Yoga teacher" - we are a teacher. We have to experience how to struggle through challenging poses because of injuries; feel pain; boredom; laziness and accept those feeling as being part of the path. Good Yoga is not about the perfect headstand, but rather, the challenges we meet, and face, on the way to it.

I can't judge if I am a good Yoga teacher or not, but I do try to be an authentic one - one who does not need to change into the role of the teacher, but one who is okay with sharing my own path.



Shawnigan residents enjoy Passport to Shawnigan festivities - photos at local landmarks



The Answers

Bermuda Triangle

scrambled eggs

Young Seniors Action Group Society Folk Art

Dianne Casavant & Jacquie Laidlaw
Y.S.A.G.S.

"Folk Art" is the newest activity offered at Y.S.A.G.S. every Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Cost is 50 cents per class.

What is Folk Art? In contrast to fine art, folk art is primarily utilitarian and decorative rather than purely aesthetic. It is characterized by a naïve style in which traditional rules of proportion and perspective are not used. Naïve, tribal, outsider, traditional, tramp, self-taught, working class/blue collar art are often used interchangeably with the term "Folk Art". It embraces a range of utilitarian and decorative media, including cloth, wood, paper, clay, metal, glass and more.

The acrylic paint used is fast drying, containing pigment suspension in an acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water, but become water resistant when dry. Depending on how much the paint is diluted or modified with acrylic gels, media, or pastes, the finished acrylic paintings can resemble a water color or oil painting or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with other media.

Our room presently accommodates eight painters and, yes, we already have a wait list.

There are two instructors, one experienced in painting wood carvings and with a wealth of knowledge; and the other being self taught, loving

to paint big, bold and beautiful and someone who thinks outside the box. Between the two instructors, many techniques will be taught.

In our first nine classes, techniques learned are common strokes, shading, highlighting, dry brushing and double loading. Simple unsophisticated styles of expression are now showcased on rocks, canvas, wood and paper.

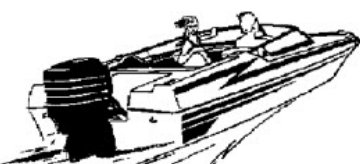

Our motto is: "No surface will be ignored and Q Tips are our best tool".

Young Seniors Action Group Society (YSAGS) Information and contacts:

Our Blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca>

Email address: ysagssl@gmail.com Phone: 250 743 8344. Folk Art contact: 250 743 3001

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Up the Creek!

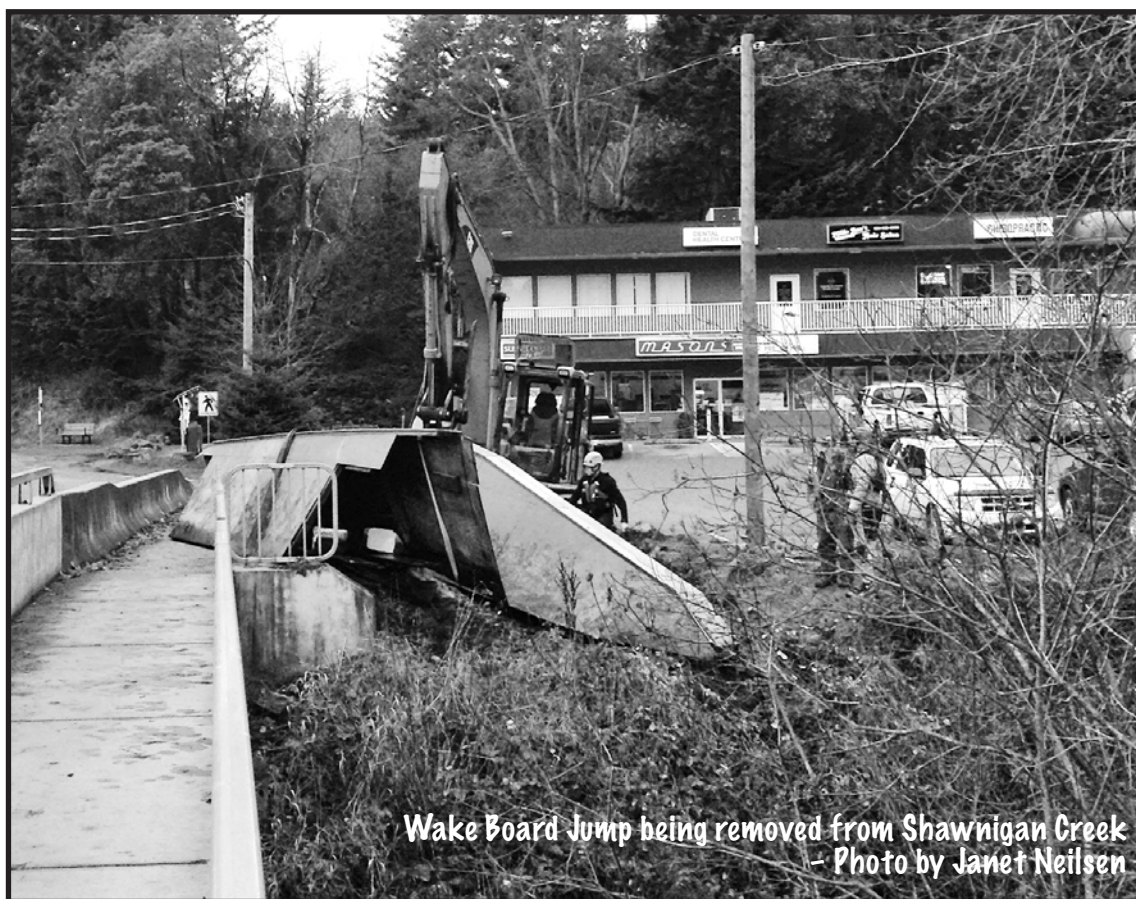
Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The heavy rains last month provided ample justification for calls to restore the log-boom which used to protect the outflow creek near Mason's Beach Park.

Flood waters carried a large wake-board jump all the way from the south-end to the creek entrance, where it became jammed after passing under the road bridge. Fortunately it did not pivot sideways to block the flow of water. Had it done so without breaking up, then there was the potential for significant flooding.

The removal of the log boom was done a few years ago in response to a Municipal Insurance Association assessment which advised the CVRD that such log booms in public swimming areas posed a liability associated with risk to swimmers and park users.

Yes, harm might come to swimmers who cavort on the logs. No different, perhaps, than the Government Wharf - should it be removed also? Common sense, once again, seems to have been forsaken. A barrier of some sort is needed. Logs are probably the best material. Appropriate warning signs should mitigate liability.



Wake Board Jump being removed from Shawnigan Creek
- Photo by Janet Neilsen

Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Adventure ensued for the Iron Butts once again at the end of January when we went up the Malahat a tiny bit to have some fun at Rat Lake.

It's not our first time there; in fact we've been going there for years now. And it appears that Rat Lake is one of those obscure places - if you didn't know it was there you could walk right by and never knew it existed! I stumbled upon it one day quite some

time ago by sheer accident.

Rat Lake has a very mild terrain that can be attempted at any time of the year. The summer brings us a plethora of frog songs and lily pads; spring has its squishy earth and baby birds; and fall provides leafy-carpeted paths...on a chilly January morning its beauty is in the crispy crunchy ground and nature's ice art on the lake.

For the unacquainted, and to find Rat Lake our way, head southbound on

the Trans Canada Highway (TCH); turn right onto Frayne and then an immediate left onto Benko. Follow to the split and go right onto the gravel until you cannot go by car any more. Once on the trail and passing the gate, stay left up the hill for about ten minutes watching for a sign post on the right (yes, just the post as it appears there are no signs anymore?) indicating the trail. This will then lead you over a bridge and on your merry way to loop the lake.

From the parking gate, it will take you about 45 minutes to achieve the loop around the lake. However, you may want

to give yourself a little extra time to enjoy a sit upon one of the adorable park benches, or a snack at the picnic table by the lake, and take in some of nature's quite solitude.

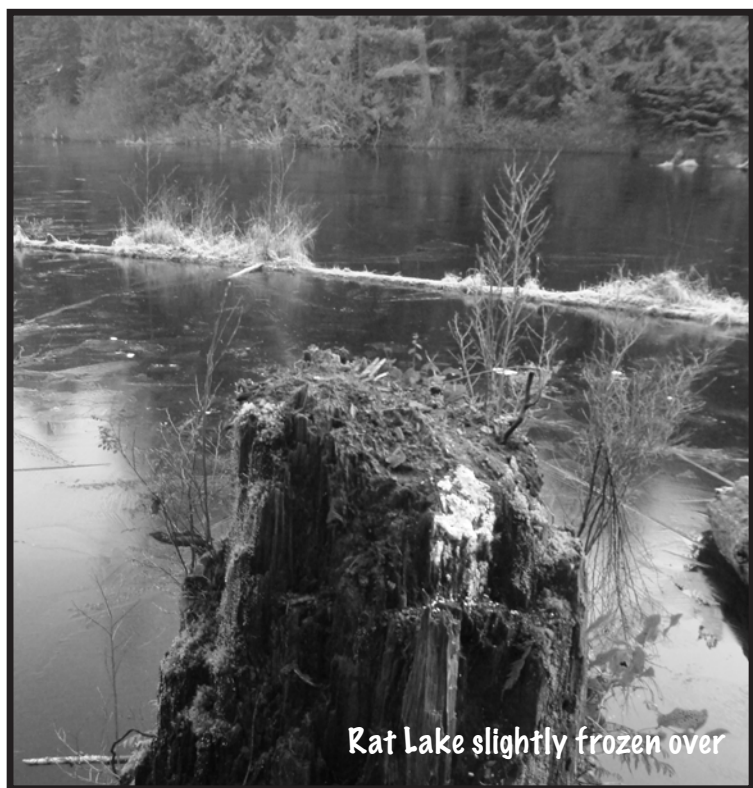
The route I mention is only one way to reach the lake. Other ways that I am aware of include the entry point at the end of Gatewheel Road, off Frayne, or even from the end of Frayne - following left from either, and passing the water tower to link up to the same trail I mentioned above.

Another more ambitious route that I've explored is using part of the old 'haul road' entrance from the Bamber-ton turnoff on the right side

of the TCH at the yellow gate. When I use the word ambitious I don't mean more intense in this case, just longer. This particular route can be a little tricky as there are no indicators to let you know that there is, in fact, a little lake hidden in the clump of trees.

Regardless of how you get there, this jaunt is pleasant and gentle indeed. It can be especially enjoyable for those who are not really into spending a long period of time hiking but have the desire to connect with nature.

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



Rat Lake slightly frozen over

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Musicians – Past, present and future

Brian Jackson

After many years of living and dance banding in the Victoria area, I relocated to beautiful Shawnigan Lake a few years ago, and have decided that some of my musical instruments need a new home, where they can be better used and appreciated. It's all part

of the inevitable downsizing we must accept at some point in our life. Firstly, I am offering FREE to an appreciative home, my Lowrey Electronic Organ, Model TLOKA-A in a walnut cabinet with bench. It has two 44 note keyboards and one 13 note pedalboard, auto rhythms, auto accompaniment voices, auto string

bass, built in cassette, and auto organ computer. It has two 35 watt amplifiers and 4 speakers, a 12" bass, 10" bass (Leslie), a 8" high range and 8" Leslie, plus too many other features to mention here. I am looking for an appreciative individual, family, club, charity or organization.

Also, being relatively new to

the area, I am looking for an instrument technician to tune up my clarinet and trumpet so they are in prime condition for sale. Can anyone recommend a local tech. or one in Duncan? And while I have your attention, does anyone have a Hammond Chord Organ from the '50s. I still have my service manuals for

that classic organ that may be of interest to someone still owning one. And lastly would anyone have an original recording of the song "Gloomy Sunday" sung by Billie Holiday?

If you are interested or can assist me, please call Brian at 250-733-2950 and leave a message.



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Email:shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 13 Calls in January

- | | |
|---|---|
| ★ Tuesday, January 2 – 1 st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd | ★ Sunday, January 12 – 1 st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd |
| ★ Wednesday, January 8 – 1 st Responder in Burnum Park | ★ Tuesday, January 14 – 1 st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| ★ Thursday, January 9 – CO Detector Alarm on Campbell Rd | ★ Thursday, January 16 – MVI at Renfrew & Shawnigan Lake Rds |
| ★ Thursday, January 9 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire in Mill Bay | ★ Friday, January 17 – 1 st Responder off Elford Rd |
| ★ Friday, January 10 – Alarms Activated in the Beach Estates | ★ Friday, January 24 – 1 st Responder in Burnum Park |
| ★ Saturday, January 11 – 1 st Responder in the Beach Estates | ★ Monday, January 27 – MVI in the Village |
| | ★ Friday, January 31 – 1 st Responder in the Beach Estates |

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HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF...

Victoria Times Colonist, Feb. 1968

Letter to the editor:
"Small" Increase

It was reported not long ago that the household rate for electricity would go up a small amount. I have just received my bill for January - \$21.13, which compares with that for January, 1967, of \$15.27 under similar conditions, an increase of nearly 40 per cent on last year. -

C.B. Atkins, 2342 Esplanade.

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
AGM Feb 27 - 7 pm at Inspire!
- ★ **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
email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca AGM March 4 - 6:30 at the museum
- ★ **Shawnigan Scouts**
To register/questions: William Thow: thow@pacificcoast.net
- ★ **Shawnigan Gathering** March 29 & 30. www.shawniganathering.ca
- ★ **www.exploringshawniganlake.com**
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Koksilah Farmers Institute is offering a one day workshop:

- ★ Linda Gilkeson presents "Backyard Bounty: Organic Harvest All Year Round".
- ★ Saturday March 22, 2014 from 9:30am-4:00pm at The Hub in Cowichan Station on Koksilah Rd.
- ★ \$25/person. Bring your own lunch.
- ★ To pre-register contact: Angela Auchincloss
a.auchincloss@shaw.ca ~ (250)743-8874

Fencing tournament

- ★ March 2 from 10 am to 6 pm.
- ★ Open to the public and all local teens are welcome to participate.
- ★ It is a free event. Registration for participants begins at 9:30
- ★ It will be held at: Dwight School Canada, 2371 Shawnigan Lake Road East Shawnigan Lake, BC (in the gym)

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Web: www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca
Phone: 250-743-0511




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

We Stumped You In January!

That's two in a row (Dec & Jan) where the photo was taken at Camp Pringle. The January photo showed part of the nice wooden arbour near the caretaker's residence. We thought the propeller would give it away!



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



Edie Wragg, R.D.
Denturist
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Winter weather



Mireta, Brennan and Peter skating on Spectacle Lake Saturday. Dozens of people were out on the lake, both Saturday and Sunday (Feb 8-9), plus strollers, dogs and a few people fishing for trout through holes in the ice. At one point, on Sunday, there were three separate hockey games going, and groups of people watching with lawn chairs, refreshments and a heater out on the ice. The ice looked to be 6 - 8 inches thick, with not a cracking sound to be heard...





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Shawnigan Weather January 2014
Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant T'reloar

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Average High	5.6	6.9	4.8	7.7	5.2	8.1	5.6	7.6	5.2
Average Low	-0.3	1.4	-0.3	0.9	-1.2	1.3	-0.4	1.0	-0.6
Extreme High	14.5	11.8	10.9	14.0	11.7	16.0	11.5	14.0	12.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-3.1	-4.7	-4.4	-6.1	-3.5	-5.2	-3.5	-5.5
Precipitation (mm)	198.3	158.2	118.5	152.1	84.8	128.4	91.0	153.0	97.4
Days w precip	19	13	18	13	16	13	15	13	14
Precip since Oct 1 (mm)	587.5	366.3	895.7	309.7	767.8	270.2	741.8	311.8	741.0
January 2014: 12 th warmest 34 th driest since 1914									
Lake Temperature: Jan 5 th : 3° Jan 12 th : 3° Jan 19 th : 3° Jan 26 th : 3°									



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