

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue SIX

JUNE 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The sun shines on the 2015 SHAWNIGAN LAKE TRIATHLON!

Sarah Malerby
*Race Director,
Shawnigan Lake Triathlon*

The Shawnigan Lake Triathlon had another successful year and it was the warmest one yet!

The water temperature was the highest ever recorded at 21 C, which is pretty toasty in triathlon terms. Water temperatures can affect the swim because if too cold (below 14 C) wetsuits are mandatory and the swim distance is shortened to reduce the time in the water. Between 14 and 21 degrees is pretty normal for outdoor triathlons and wetsuits are optional and usually preferred by the majority of participants. However, when it gets as warm as 22 C, wetsuit use is forbidden – so there were a few nervous swimmers looking forward to their wetsuits who were not as appreciative of the warm weather.

Once again, 500+ athletes travelled distances to come to race in Shawnigan; in addition to lots of participants from Vancouver Island, there were many from all over BC, Washington State and Alberta and a sprinkling from other areas of Canada, US and Europe.

Top Finishers for the overall race were as follows:

Standard

(1500 M Swim, 44 K Bike, 10 K Run)

- ★ Shawn Wilyman, Victoria – 2:05
- ★ Malindi Elmore, Kelowna – 2:16

Sprint

(750 M Swim, 22 K Bike, 5 K Run)

- ★ Brandon Kirk, Vancouver – 1:14
- ★ Jill Ramstead, Cowichan Bay – 1:16

High School Sprint (750 M Swim, 22 K Bike, 5 K Run)

- ★ Brennen Smith, Victoria – 1:01
- ★ Annelise LaPointe, Vancouver – 1:21

The Western Canadian High School Championships were very exciting to watch and there were many first timers at Shawnigan this year who had a great experience, including relay teams in all events, who looked to be having so much fun.

There was a very special Shawnigan Lake participant this year: Paul Regensburg, former owner of the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon (2007 – 2014), who had the following post-race comments:

“It was a special day for me to be able to participate in the event, made even better by all of the Race Committee members cheering for me along the way! Shawnigan was the first ever race on our Subaru Series 8 years ago so it holds a special place for me. To be able to participate in it felt like a very rewarding full circle. Thanks again, the community of Shawnigan Lake is lucky to have you and your Committee members contributing to the quality of life of the community.”

The May 23 free IRONKIDS Fun Run and Duathlon had 100 kids participating. Hard earned Finisher medals were proudly worn and lots of smiling faces seen. Thanks to Cowichan Cycles, KidSport Cowichan and Camp Pringle for sponsoring and volunteering.

A HUGE THANKS to the 265 volunteers that made the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon weekend and events possible. Once again, we “WOW’ed” the athletes and Ironman Corporation with the quality of our volunteers and the warm welcome from our community. Thank you Shawnigan Lakers!!

A Very Special thanks to the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Race Committee members who work hard to make the race a big success:



From Left: Della Lawrence, Isaiah Landsdowne, Torrie Venoit, Jim Scott, Shawn Clarke, Del Morgan, Caroline Kirman, Sarah Sinclair, Rod MacIntosh, Betsy Burr, Blaine Castle, Lisa Large, Mandy Parker, Sarah Malerby, Lulu McCallum, John Finlayson, Wade Smith, Addie Clarke, Grant Mottershead

Invisible but Invaluable: Kevin Searle, Marian Davies, Jim Kingstone, Roy Davies, Frank Statham, Kim Liddle, Trina Burns, Sonia Furstenau

A big thanks to Shawnigan Lake School, the Official Host School of the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon, who provide sponsorship, volunteers and had many athletes competing. Thanks also to Dwight School, for providing support, volunteers and hosting the bike course aid station and to Brentwood College for participation and volunteers.

Thank you to the Lions Club of Mill Bay for providing coffee for volunteers, Camp Pringle for providing athlete accommodation and meals and to the Rotary Club of South Cowichan (Mill Bay) for its tremendous volunteer support, once again, this year.

I am already looking forward to the 10th Anniversary of the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon next year on May 29, 2016 and we’ll be planning some special events to celebrate.

Mark your calendars, and see you next year!

Ironman Canada



Editorial - Letters to the Editor

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS JUNE 2015

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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 involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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IN SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE AT THE 4-WAY STOP

Now is the time to prepare for final exams!

The end of the school year is just around the corner. Most of you will be elated when you finish your final exams and start the long summer vacation. However, many of you will be anxious about your final exams. Based on ten years of tutoring and teaching experience, here are steps that you can take to reduce your anxiety and prepare for your final exam in calculus, pre-calculus, chemistry, physics or statistics:

Start right now. The earlier you start, the more in-control you will feel. This can improve your concentration and reduce anxiety.

Prepare your exam review package. This should include all of your tests from the school year and review questions from your teacher.

Get help with confusing topics. Were you absent from school? Did you do poorly on a test? Go see your teacher or book a tutor to help you. Getting help early is a good way to relieve stress and make you feel more confident.

Schedule time weekly to study for your exam. Schedule two to six hours of study time per week and stick to it. Studying consistently over time is the best way to learn.

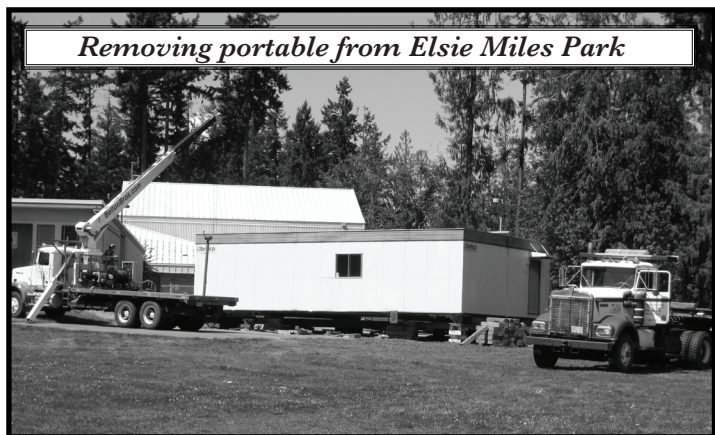
Do questions like the ones that will be on your final. The best way to study for an exam in math or science is by doing questions.

Have fun! An exam is really just an opportunity to show off what you know. Think of each question as a fun challenge that you can solve and score points in the process.

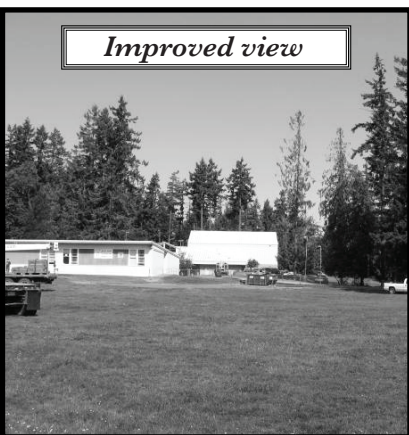
I studied Biochemistry at Queen's University and am a full-time, professional tutor. If you would like to book extra help to get ready for your exams please contact:

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Removing portable from Elsie Miles Park



Improved view



What's Coming Up?



**Shawnigan Lake
Volunteer
Fire Department**
Invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, July 4th
10am - 2pm**

- Fire Safety House
- Information Table
- Activities for Kids
- Free Hot Dogs, refreshments & cake
- Fire Attack Team
- Auto Extrication
- Aerial Ladder
- Rope Rescue
- Extinguisher Demos
- Gear try on

65th Anniversary!

#1 Fire Hall
1645 Shawnigan - Mill Bay Road



TO DO
July 1st
Go to the
Canada Day
parade

Advertise in the
Shawnigan Focus for as
little as one penny per
household

Get involved!
Volunteer in the
community

Summer Series at the Museum

To Educate, Engage & Entertain

June 10th - 1 pm A brief history of Shawnigan Lake by Lori Treloar

June 24th - 1pm Glaciers in my Backyard by Neil Bonner

RSVP - shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca



Portable movers

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.

Believe me – the chair has to be cleaned.

Gotta share this and hope for a readership answer. Fri. May 22nd - 8 am up to the sunroom to read the 'morning' paper and a Sparrow, persistently, fixated, hopping from the shoulder of a patio chair and 'pecking' the sliding glass door window...repeatedly... ALL day long. 'He' or 'she' would move to the sliding door at the rear of house and with no spot to rest on, simply flail away – then to the front of the house and the living room window to do the same thing – but without too much delay, back to the sunroom door repeating this over and over again through to the last recorded time...9 pm.

Believe me – the chair has to be cleaned.

My feet hit the floor again this morning (Sat. the 23rd). Back to the sunroom with the morning paper and "there he/she was" – anyone know what kind of behaviour this is?...it has never come to my attention before. We'll see how it progresses throughout today and, really curious...what was that eerie movie about Birds way back?

~Reg Blackmore

Editor's note: It is mating season. They often see the reflection of 'other' birds, perhaps potential mates, in car mirrors or windows.

To Honourable Mary Polak

Dear Minister,

Recently I heard you being interviewed by Gregor Craigie on CBC radio, when you were discussing the permit to dump contaminated soils and waste in the Shawnigan watershed. Several times you referred to the "science" supporting this permit granted to South Island Aggregates. At first I was asking "What science?" because the review, provided by SIA, was denigrated by a number of independent scientists. I am neither a geologist nor hydrologist, but having spent 28 years as a federal (Canadian Forest Service) Research Scientist I am very well aware of the need for, and critical value of, peer review of all scientific documents. To accomplish this, I had previously earned three scientific degrees - B.Sc. (Forestry), Masters Degree (Forestry), and Ph.D. (Forestry).

It appears that you have completely ignored this vital step in the process of establishing a scientific basis for claiming anything. Especially concerning this particular issue. Is this

because your personal scientific background is minimal? Nevertheless, you and members of the Environmental Appeal Board should have paid more attention to the independent peer reviewers in this case, and not merely accepted the views of the non-independent, in-house (SIA) staff reports.

You may be aware that Justice Rennie, commenting on a federal fish farming issue, stated that the Minister of Fisheries cannot make unsupported statements of science. Does not the same requirement apply to a Provincial Minister of the Environment? As I implied above, science without supporting evidence is junk.

You will have received numerous other letters concerning this matter so I will not repeat any of the details. My sole objective in writing to you is to ask you, as the Honourable Minister, to do the honorable thing and see that this permit is cancelled, forthwith, as soon as possible.

~D.G.W. Edwards

Highway rally at Mill Bay

To everyone who came out and stood up (literally) to protect our watershed at the May 24th Rally on the Road, I would like to extend a very heartfelt "thank you".

It was incredible to see so many happy, smiling and waving people lining both sides of the highway with their signs.

And, to all of you reading this who drove past and honked, waved, or gave us a "thumbs up", a big "thank you" to you as well. Your support was very much appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the "Road Crew" - Steve and Jen, Dennis and Tracey, and my partner Randy. You did a great job setting everything up, keeping everyone safe, and waving for the whole three hours.

Watch for the date of the next Rally on www.thesra.ca. To those of you who haven't attended a peaceful protest before, please come out and join us. Even a half hour of your time will make a difference.

I have no intention of giving up, and I know a great many of you feel the same. See you on the road!

~Barane McCartney

WHY!!

I have never been inclined to write a newspaper editor before until now! The political bullying that is alive

and thriving in the Cowichan Valley is truly unbelievable. A lot of campers can relate to the outrage I felt when the rezoning application for Sunny Daze Campground was denied!!! WHY!! There is absolutely no friendlier, well managed campground on the South Island. I have seen the documents and know the effort the owners made to resolve the concerns of the CVRD. The owners met or exceeded expectations and requirements demanded by the CVRD. I attended the "kangaroo court" and actually witnessed the CVRD staff's pathetic attempt to justify refusing the rezoning application. Plain and simple, it was a case of the CVRD "punishing" a citizen despite the repercussions to the area's tourism, businesses and more importantly, the clients from all over the world and locally who enjoyed this piece of paradise.

Everyone knows a campground is desperately needed in Shawnigan Lake and the South Cowichan Region. There isn't a community that I know of who would treat a 35 year resident of their community so shabbily. Shame on the CVRD for not working with Fran and Heinrich to achieve a resolution to the rezoning issue. My sympathy goes out to anyone trying to build a business in Shawnigan.

For anyone interested in the truth, I encourage you to go to Sunny Daze, meet Fran and Heinrich and talk to them. I am sure they would be more than willing to show you the documentation, explain their attempts to resolve the fears of the CVRD, and give a tour of the campground. See for yourself what a wonderful campground the CVRD turned down.

~An extremely disappointed 38 year resident and community member of Shawnigan Lake, LEH

Editor's Note: We have removed parts of this letter in accordance with our policy of "attack the issue, not the individual".

Dear Editor,

Washington State Governor Inslee has declared a state-wide drought emergency. Drought has spread quickly affecting the state's economy; their agriculture; their fish stocks; their tourism and their recreation. Conditions are expected to worsen over time increasing the demands for water.

In B.C., the average snow-pack is also the lowest level seen in the 31 years since records have been kept, and Southern

regions of the province are much drier than usual. It is becoming obvious that water is a valuable and limited resource.

But, in Victoria, the Ministry of the Environment is vehemently defending its very unpopular and scientifically questionable, ill planned decision to hand a license to two individuals with big \$ signs in their eyes.

The decision allows them to self-monitor the dumping of hundreds of thousands of tons of pollutants and contaminants into the source of our drinking water for the next 50 years, without any regard whatsoever as to how that will affect our economy; our agriculture; our fish stocks; our tourism; our recreation; our health and, indeed, our very lives.

~Ronaale Hahn

Let's get this straight.

2006: Mike Kelly, South Island Aggregates (SIA) and Marty Block, Cobble Hill Holdings (CHH), bought land south of Shawnigan Lake. The Ministry of Mines and Energy grants them a mining permit for blasting and quarry work in our watershed, with its underlying aquifers. They prove to be very bad neighbors, breaching permit conditions by mining on CVRD parkland, stockpiled fill spilling over onto neighboring lands, not respecting the 5 meter setbacks from property lines, blasting below the water table, leachate spilling over onto CVRD parkland and into the nearby creek, etc.

Oct. 2010: 1,250 tons of PERC contaminated soils are dumped there. Instead of being disciplined, a Statutory Decision Maker, Hubert Bunce, of the Ministry of Environment (MOE), authorizes a 'waste discharge' permit, granting SIA/CHH access to the very lucrative market of toxic soil collection. MOE grants permission, to receive 100,000 tons of toxic soil, per year, over the next 50 years. Contaminated waste—soils containing chemicals, carcinogens and the most poisonous contaminants known to humans, are authorized to be dumped in our watershed; in a site that does not even qualify for a household garbage landfill, according to BC guidelines.

The decision is based on a 'professional reliance model' and the recommendation of Active Earth Engineering (AE), a firm hired by SIA. During Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) hearings, we listen as qualified hydro-geologists (hired by the Shawnigan Residents

and the CVRD), repeatedly call AE's model of the quarry bedrock geology into question. It's established that the bedrock is actually fractured, that water moves easily within the fissures and AE's technical assessment was rudimentary at best and highly optimistic. The general consensus of these professionals: that this was a very inappropriate site for a toxic soil dump, with very serious concerns for negative environmental impacts and a threat to Shawnigan residents' drinking water and health.

Questioned earlier, at a public hearing as to "what happens if the Shawnigan watershed is contaminated from this site and we can't drink the water?", Hubert Bunce responded, "You'll have to get your water somewhere else".

Despite a million dollars in legal costs, the EAB upholds the permit, with conditions attached for plastic liners (with a limited lifespan) and rigid site monitoring to be done by SIA/CHH, since the impermeable bedrock model used to support the permit was discredited. The fact that, blasting will continue while storing these contaminants, certainly not as much of a concern for the MOE, as it is for Shawnigan residents.

So, when MOE Minister Mary Polak comments that these decisions were well supported and that "it is about the science", don't you believe it!

For the residents of Shawnigan Lake, the CVRD, the Cowichan Tribes, and all opposed to this permit, this Toxic Soil Dump, approved by the Ministry's decision-maker and endorsed by this BC government's MOE, despite all of the evidence of site unsuitability—has been about anything BUT the science!

~Sylvia Gray

Mary Polak says...



Yes, those pesky dioxins and furans can be a nuisance; but don't worry, the permit conditions require SIA to monitor things and let everyone know when there is a problem.

Is South Island Aggregates operating without required permits?

Calvin Cook
SRA President
(250) 208-2749

David Hutchinson
Co-editor, Shawnigan Focus
(250) 882-1843

Shawnigan Residents Association and the Shawnigan Focus Newspaper request Provincial clarification.

Astonishment is the reaction to assertions made on May 13th by Michael Kelly (president of SIA's parent company, Cobble Hill Holdings) that their contaminated waste facility is in full compliance with various permits issued by the Province.¹

The Shawnigan Residents Association and the Shawnigan Focus Newspaper, jointly provide the following comments:

It is understood that before the facility, located on Cobble Hill Holdings Lot 23, can legally operate, amendments are required to two Provincial permits.

It is understood that the existing **Mine Permit**, issued by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), has not yet been altered to allow the import of contaminated soil.²

It is understood that the **Waste Discharge Permit**, issued by the Ministry of Environment (MOE), also requires amending to reflect several conditions stipulated by the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB), and that this has not happened, nor have the associated requirements been fully implemented by SIA.³

The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, states *"The permit does not provide the company with carte blanche. The permit essentially sets out the requirements that they must meet before they are allowed to operate."*⁴

Why then is the Province allowing the company to receive contaminated material, ostensibly in contravention of both permits?

SIA, in presenting itself as

*"operating and open for business"*⁵, appears to be gambling that the tradition of lax enforcement for non-compliance will continue. Encroachments onto parkland owned by the Cowichan Valley Regional District remain outstanding.⁶ On April 21st waste water was being discharged from the site⁷, seemingly in contravention of an MOE order requiring a Commissioning Report for the Water Treatment System.⁸

There are serious concerns about the long-standing storage of *"potentially hazardous waste"* at the SIA site. This soil, illegally transported in 2010, has been sitting on SIA's Lot 23 with no treatment and minimal protection⁹. It contains elements known to be very harmful to the environment and human health, including tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene. Despite orders from the Ministry of Environment¹⁰ and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)¹¹, SIA has done nothing about this

highly contaminated material.

Mr. Kelly states *"this is no longer a debate about science"*¹². This overconfident declaration is incorrect. A recent Federal Court decision had strong words about decision makers sheltering behind the questionable practice of professional reliance. *"What the Minister cannot do is make unsupported statements of science"*¹³, writes Justice Donald Rennie in a case where the Federal Minister of Fisheries pleaded that she was guided by expert advisors. In a similar manner, both MOE and the EAB relied heavily on the Technical Assessment Report (TAR) produced by Active Earth, the engineering firm advocating for SIA. Active Earth declined to testify at the hearing but there was agreement among opposing specialists that the TAR was incomplete and that crucial components were in error.¹⁴ On May 20th this was sufficient for the Capital Regional District Regional Water Supply Commission to vote unanimously

in favour of a motion to direct staff to further investigate the potential impact of the SIA facility on the Sooke Lake water supply.¹⁵

The Shawnigan Residents Association has recently filed for a Judicial Review of the EAB decision and questionable science will be a key issue. The Cowichan Valley Regional District has also announced a legal challenge based on zoning bylaws and land use jurisdiction. It is clear that the argument is far from over.¹⁶

Given outstanding issues of non-compliance on both Lot 21 and Lot 23, and marked disregard for the current conditions of both MEM and MOE permits, it is incumbent on both the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, to clearly state the position of the Province and explain why SIA appears to be above the law.

Full document with references available at: <http://tinyurl.com/n4o9cbr>

Area B Parks and Recreation

Margaret Symon,
Area B Parks

Gibson's Park is a favourite little park with local families. Located in the village off Wilmot Road, the park was acquired by the CVRD as part of subdivision in 1988.

Park amenities were developed between 1992 and 1994. The cairn and kiosk at the lower part of the park, on Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Road, were developed by the Rotary Club and sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Business Association. The park is named after the

Gibson family. George Gibson, who arrived here in 1910, was a well known architectural carver who did work for many of the fine buildings in Victoria; Alice (Brownie) Gibson, his daughter-in-law, came here in 1928 and as a teacher. She was known as the community historian

and wrote Green Branches and Fallen Leaves, the story of Shawnigan Lake.

Members of the Gibson family still live in the area.

The playground area at Gibson's Park is getting a makeover. The CVRD Parks Department

is currently in the process of removing old, unsafe playground equipment. New equipment will be installed within the next few weeks. The makeover also includes strategic tree thinning to raise the forest canopy in order to improve sightline & add more light to the playground area.



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Directors Report, Area B

Sonia Fursteneau
Area B Director

I recently had the privilege to attend the Dwight School graduation dinner. It was a chance to say a final goodbye to some remarkable young people as they head off into their next adventures, and a chance to give a few thoughts to the graduates and their parents.

I focused on hope. What we need, I said, above all else, is hope.

I can't help but think that for high school graduates, it must seem like a scary and challenging world to be inheriting. There is injustice, inequality, extremism, and social and environmental degradation.

There are governments who are not listening to the people, who are not acting in the best interests of future generations, who are more focused on power and control than on being in service to their communities and their countries.

Here in Shawnigan we are facing a situation that, for everyone I speak to, seems insane. How is it possible that a government has allowed our community to be put in to this position, where we have to fight with everything we've got to protect our water?

It is hope that fuels the fight in Shawnigan Lake – the hope that when we are united and strong and standing up for

the truth, that we can make a difference, and right a wrong. It's hope that brought in 15000 signatures, that brought 1200 people to the Legislature last month, hope that has generated hundreds of letters the government, and dozens in the papers. For if we did not have hope that we could be successful in this, how would we be able to set our lives aside and fight so hard?

I feel truly hopeful about the future of Shawnigan – I see this community as capable of shaping that future in a way that is healthy, sustainable, and vibrant.

The newly formed Shawnigan Trails Team always gives me hope. After three meetings, the team is working on bringing its first trail to fruition – one that will allow safe walking and cycling from the village up to Old Mill Park or Mt. Baldy without having to be on Shawnigan Lake Road. The commitment, knowledge, vision, and enthusiasm of the Trails Team volunteers certainly has me feeling optimistic about Shawnigan's future.

The newly re-named Shawnigan Village Committee (previously the Village Development Council) continues to make headway with a long-term vision for Shawnigan Village and Elsie Miles Park, based on extensive consultation with the community. This group of dedicated volunteers bring a sense of joy

and excitement to the task, and it is a delight to see the progress they are making.

I was also impressed by the level of engagement in the community for the Parks Commission AGM. Over 80 people came out to participate in the AGM, and a commission made up of new and returning members emerged. Congratulations to Margaret Symon, Gaileen Flamen, Catherine Whittome, Al Brunet, Sarah Malerby, Mark Neufeld, Matthuw Ronald-Jones, and Bruce Stevens.

The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre also recently held its AGM. Sarah Malerby, Del Morgan, Fransje Carr, Lori Treloar, and Marian Davies were all nominated and appointed to the Commission. These women have a long record of commitment to the community, and we are lucky to have them willing to continue to lead us forward.

Indeed it is the people in this community – and there are so very many of you – who are willing to put Shawnigan first and do whatever you can to contribute, who give me hope.

This was exemplified for me last Sunday morning. Over in West Shawnigan Lake Park, where triathletes seemed to be nearly matched in numbers by volunteers. It was chilly, and far earlier than most of us would choose to be up on a Sunday. And yet every volunteer showed the true character



of this community: cheerful, friendly, helpful, hard-working, and kind.

Thank you, Shawnigan residents, for all that you do. If you want to be part of the action feel free to attend one, or all, of these meetings.

★ Director's Meeting:
June 1st - 7 p.m. at the

Community Centre

- ★ Trails Meeting: June 9th - 7:30 p.m. at
- ★ Shawnigan Village Committee: June 13th – 10 a.m. at the Watershed office
- ★ Parks Commission meeting: June 18th – 7 p.m. at the Community

New trail proposal to link Old Mill Park with Village Core

The Shawnigan Trails Team, a new group promoted by Area Director Sonia Fursteneau, has received and is considering a proposal for a new trail. Supported in principle by CVRD Parks, the Ministry of Transportation, and Mainroad Contracting, the proposal is stated as follows:

Given that Shawnigan Lake Road is somewhat dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians because it carries considerable traffic of all sizes and types of motor vehicles at all hours of the

day and all days of the week (especially dangerous due to narrowing of the road at the rail bridge at Recreation Road), and given that the Official Community Plan calls for trails, public green spaces and improved access to the lake waterfront, please give serious consideration to mounting a trails making project through the undeveloped part of Heald Road between Elford Road and Radway Road and though several short undeveloped parts of Thrush Road, Baden-Powel Road, Norbury Road and Munsie Road.



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Shawnigan Residents Association



Photo by Janet Neilsen



Photo by Sally Davies

Al Brunet
SRA

It's a marathon, not a sprint!

It's been a couple of years since I got a late evening call from an anonymous person outlining the errors in the SIA/Active Earth toxic soil dump presentation at Kerry Park.

I called the then-President of the Shawnigan Residents' Association, Gary Horwood, to discuss what was said, and it was decided that the Board needed to be informed.

The next SRA Board meeting was spent trying to figure out how to pay a few thousand dollars for an expert opinion and how we could possibly raise the necessary money. Since then, the community has backed the Association every step of the

way with ever increasing legal costs, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to make sure we do all we can to protect this community and our watershed.

As if the money were not enough, community participation with letter writing, attendance at protest and rallies, volunteering, and the gathering of signatures for the petition, not to mention the encouragement every step of the way, has all been very meaningful for a very tired volunteer Board of Directors.

What happens next is clear to the Board. We keep fighting.

The Judicial Review launched by the SRA and the challenge in Supreme Court by the CVRD will continue to drive the message home that the toxic soil dump is a

non-starter for this community. The dumping will have to stop and the mess will need to be cleaned up. There are no other options.

The SRA Board and the CVRD can only keep going, however, if the equally tired general public doesn't give up. The extra letter you write to the politicians or newspapers is important. The extra donation you make so that we can pay our legal bills is crucial. Your renewed membership, your encouragement, your ideas, your loud attendance at every rally and whatever new ideas and actions you can think of are all vital.

If you don't give up, your Board of Directors will keep fighting.

The alternative is unthinkable and unacceptable.



Photo by Janet Neilsen

New recycling depot in South Cowichan

Island Return It to Open NEW Location in Cobble Hill

Cobble Hill, BC, May 25th, 2015– Duncan based Island Return It is set to open a new location in Cobble Hill this June, serving the South Cowichan area. With five locations currently operating, the new facility will become the sixth depot for the company overall and the second in the Cowichan region.

Until now, residents of the area had limited options for returning bottles and cans and

for other recycling as well.

"This is about making recycling easier for an underserved part of the Cowichan region. We are committed to help people do their part." – Sophy Roberge, Island Return It PR & Marketing Manager

The timing of this announcement coincides nicely with the 20th anniversary of the business. What started as a bottle depot in Duncan has grown into an innovative company that recycles diverse list of materials. The South Cowichan location will pay full refunds on all

ready-to-drink beverage containers excluding milk, and will also accept Electronics, batteries, lights bulbs, grocery bags, small appliances and more- all for FREE.

The new location is located at 1350 Fisher Road in Cobble Hill, and will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9-5. Expected opening day is June 16th.

Island Return It is more than a bottle depot.

We have locations in Esquimalt, Sidney, Duncan, South Cowichan, Campbell River and Salt Spring Island*

(Beverage containers only).

Recycle with Us Because Today Matters!

If you would like more infor-

mation about this topic; Please contact Sophy Roberge at 250-748-2637 or email at: sophy@islandreturnit.com.



REFUND CENTRE
1350 Fisher rd
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Have fun and learn how to live green

Ecostravaganza!

Join us at the fourth annual Ecostravaganza, a fun event celebrating **World Environment Day, on Saturday June 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ecole Cobble Hill.** Hosted by the Ecole Cobble Hill (ECH) Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Ecostravaganza promotes green living to Island residents, and includes a marketplace featuring local eco-vendors, a plant sale, a food court, live stage, used book sale, silent auction and a children's "Green Generation" activity area.

Ecostravaganza 2014 attracted many families, local vendors and performance groups. This year's theme is "Water – Yours to Protect!" so

come discover what you can do to protect and conserve our local watersheds.

Bike to the event or walk to Ecole Cobble Hill through the trail through Fairfield Park from Cobble Hill Village. Browse our green marketplace for products and services from local vendors. Try some great local food for a picnic lunch while you watch Cowichan Valley performers strut their stuff on Ecostravaganza's main stage. Children will love challenging our "Green Gauntlet" obstacle course and trying out recycled games. Pick up a good used book or two for a great price, or fill up your trunk with gently used items that need a new home. Come and find simple easy

ways you can change the way you live, consume and commute.

Ecostravaganza proceeds will help equip Ecole Cobble Hill's classrooms and library, and make improvements to the music program. Partial proceeds will go to the Shawnigan Residents Association to help protect the Shawnigan Lake watershed. For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/Ecostravaganza. Together, we can take action on climate change and bring about positive change in the Cowichan Valley. Come join the fun on June 6th at Ecole Cobble Hill, 3642 Learning Way, in Cobble Hill. Admission is free!

"Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all Mankind." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

Bike Rodeo teaches kids skills and rules of the road



Sierra Acton

Local resident Berle Zwaan, a Saanich Police Officer, ran two Bike Rodeos this month. A full day event was held at Ecole Cobble Hill and at Discovery Elementary. There were two courses - a mock road with an intersection and stop sign, and an off road trail with ramps and diverse terrain.

Kids learned the basics of

road safety, signalling, stopping and walking their bikes in appropriate areas. The skills and thrill levels were amped in the school field with ramps made of shipping skids, steep hills and tricky manoeuvres.

A local Shawnigan Lake mom who has boys in both schools said "My boys feel confident on their bikes now and it has renewed their interest in biking. The best part

is they want to be outside on their bikes instead of being inside watching TV." Cst. Zwaan said "Anything that gets the kids active and outside is a success to me. Especially if they know how to be safe while doing it."

Cst. Zwaan reminds Shawnigan Residents to be more cautious driving as there are more cyclists on the roads this time of year.

Please help locate the missing swim buoy!!!

On Friday night, May 22, 2015 the Ironman inflatable swim buoy was unclipped from its anchor on the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon swim course and has disappeared in some very "Un-Shawnigan-Like" Mischief/Theft.

This brand new Swim Buoy has great value to IRONMAN, and its return would be most appreciated.

The buoy is made of a bright red, rubberized-canvas type material and is triangle in shape with a diameter of approximately 8 feet X 8 feet when inflated. There is a clear pocket on the front with a sign inserted that says: T1 IRONMAN. See photo attached for reference.

This theft reflects badly on our community; you can help restore our community repu-



tation by assisting with the return of the buoy. Boaters can help by spreading the word in your community circles.

Anonymous tips can go to the Shawnigan Lake RCMP or can be emailed to sarah.malerby@ironman.com. If found, please return to the Shawnigan Lake RCMP detachment.

Thank you very much for your help. There is a free Shawnigan Lake Triathlon 2016 race entry available to anyone who helps return the buoy!

Ironman Inflatable Swim Buoy pictured above Missing buoy is T1.

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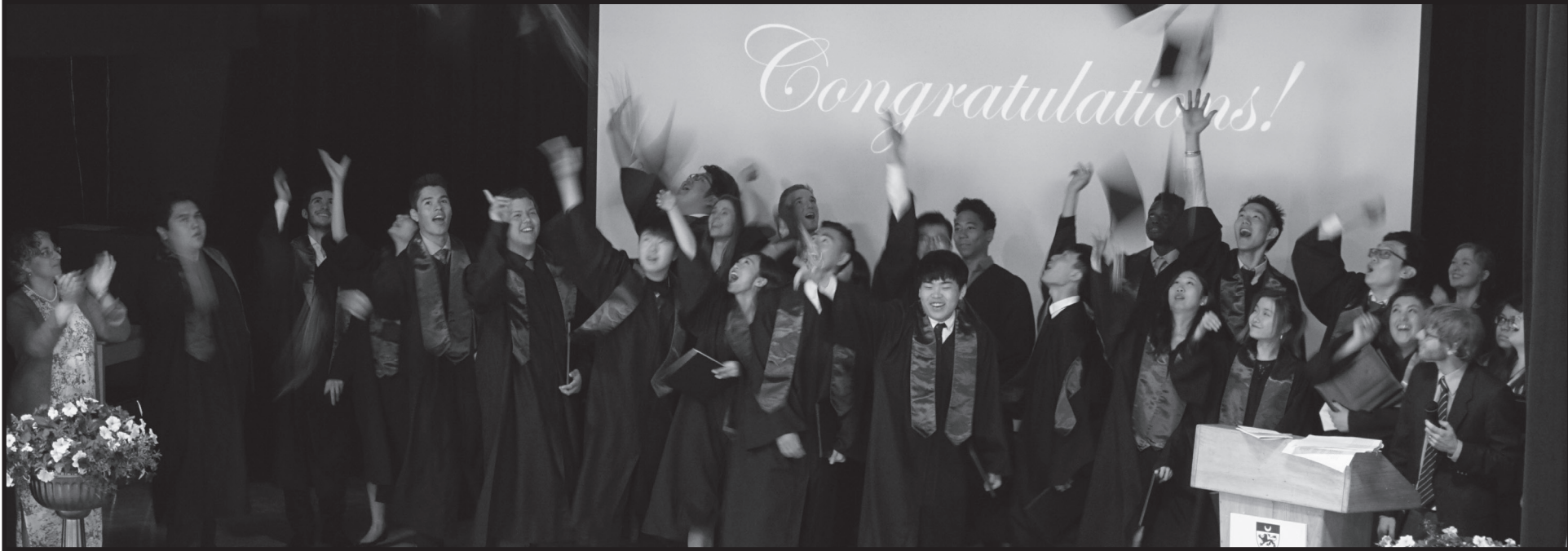
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Class of 2015 - Dwight School Canada



Head of School Jerry Salvador introduces the Dwight School Canada’s Grad class of 2015 while Principal Andrea Spinner applauds, and Mr. B looks on.

Beautiful weather welcomed families and guests to Dwight School Canada’s sixth graduation ceremonies on May 22. The father of graduating student Logan Seymour offered the respects of the Cowichan people followed by 12 different welcomes by graduates in as many languages.

27 students graduated this year, comprised of 17 BC Grads and 12 IB Diploma Grads - two students ac-

complished both graduation programs. Valedictorians for the morning’s ceremonies, Alicia Garza (Mexico) and Yuri Nishihara (Japan), recognized four students of the original ten students from the founding Grade 7 class of 2009, having become their friends and their guides to Canadian culture.

Kristy McLeod, senior English teacher, provided a metaphor for the graduating class, after a reminder by grad Chloe

of this annual rite. McLeod chose a picture of two colourful large roots with a vibrant small tree growing in the centre, to demonstrate the fragility, strength, and cooperation that students reflected, from being day or dorm students, from studying different grad programs, and coming from various cultures.

McLeod and Jacob Baumgartner (Mr. B), tissues in hand, shared each of the grads

gratitude and future plans as they moved across the stage to be hugged by Principal Spinner and receive their diploma from Head of School Jerry Salvador. Adrien Haddock returned to hug Mr. B as Adrien’s words moved him to tears, which were not the only ones moved by the morning festivities.

Parents and grandparents were so appreciative of the changes that Dwight School has helped foster in their child. Mr.

Salvador noted that he heard, repeatedly, that whether their child was a student at Dwight for 6 months or 6 years, “you have transformed my child.”

Evening ceremonies were held at the Bear Mountain Inn including dinner, awards and speeches, including two from the evening’s valedictorians, Madeline Corwin (Canada) and Johannes Bodendorfer (Austria). Many memories were made.

Grad poems from Dwight

Abiodun Oladoyin
(Canada/Nigeria)

The time has come for me to GO,
because everything has its own FLOW.
I came here in two thousand and TWELVE,
and now I’m taking the books down from my SHELVES.
From class to dorm I’ve made many FRIENDS,
a lot of which eat at Shawnigan JENS.

Now I don’t want to bore you with this RHYME,
because I feel that it is finally TIME.
So I say thank you to staff and STUDENTS,
for being such kind and joyful HUMANS.
I also want to thank my FAMILY,
for keeping me sane and supporting ME.
So what is next in store for ME,
I guess I’ll have to live life and SEE.

Kathryn Leslie *(Canada)*

What to say, she wasn’t sure,
it’s hard to be unique
She did her best, but fan fictions are easier she thinks
She’d like to thank her family for the support they always show
And Nancy, Moira, Megan, Sue for helping her to grow
She wants to thank her teachers, for all they’ve taught this year

Although uncertain of the future, you’ve helped it be more clear
Even more than subjects you’ve taught her about herself
Her weaknesses, talents, strengths, thanks for all your help

She thanks her boyfriend, Pablo, six months yesterday
You mean much more to her than she could ever say
Thanks to her friends, those from home and she’s met here
She’s so lucky to have known you, thanks for the amazing year

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Shawnigan's wooden heart

Owen Cook
Shawnigan Lake Museum

Here at the museum we are currently undergoing a project to commemorate the hall that served as the nexus of Shawnigan's community and the hub of activity from its reconstruction in 1931 to its eventual replacement by the modern community centre in 1994. As the building is due to be torn down by the end of the calendar year, we felt that time was of the essence to eulogize this vital piece of Shawnigan history.

The original hall, constructed in 1910, was a gorgeous building with an elegant ballroom and a sweeping verandah overlooking the lake. In 1930, a great fire burned down the original hall along with most of the village waterfront of the day. Although the fault for the fire fell on the railway, the insurance money collected failed to pay for the grand plans the



organizers had for a new structure so the current hall was built in its stead.

Originally the property of the Shawnigan Lake Athletic

Association, the hall played host to every event from annual regattas to flower shows. This building's prominence in our history only increased with the inception of the

Shawnigan Lake Recreation Commission in 1957 that took on the task of planning events and projects for the betterment of our community. The Commission was restyled as

the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre in 1963 in an effort to be more involved with the community. This board of directors featured a rotating cast of community minded individuals who devoted significant time and effort to helping Shawnigan remain a happy growing region.

Although times and facilities have changed since the 30s, the soon to be deconstructed hall will hopefully be the site of a park in the not too distant future so that it may continue to serve the people of Shawnigan Lake as it has been since the very beginning.

If you are interested in learning more about this building and the vibrant historical tapestry of which it plays a part, come to the museum later this summer where we will soon be presenting a tribute to "The Hall".

Owen is a summer student at the Shawnigan Lake Museum

Come celebrate Canada Day Shawnigan Style!

On July 1st our Village will rock! Let's celebrate together and wish Canada a 148th Happy Birthday!

The day begins with a pancake breakfast at the Malahat Legion hosted by the Legion and Mill Bay Lion's Club. The breakfast supports the wonderful projects these groups give back to the community. Breakfast will be served from 9am to 11am.

We will honour our history in Canada, joining Confederation in 1867, by raising our flag and singing O Canada at the flagpole at

Cairn Park at 11am (across the road from the Legion hall).

Assembly for the parade begins just before 11am in Cairn Park. The parade will lead off at 11:30am down Shawnigan Mill Bay Road to the Elsie Miles grounds. Find a good spot along the route to wave at local organizations; children on decorated bicycles; floats and more! To participate in the parade email: bburr@shaw.ca.

A Family Fun Carnival on the Elsie Miles grounds will include stage entertainment

by Pony Club, Moon Rider and belly dancers. Kids Can Build projects made from wood and facilitated by the YSAGS; Jousting and an inflatable Obstacle Course run by Shawnigan Scouting; Rotary Concession; Games by 4-H; Fish Pond by Kerry Park Skating Club; Shawnigan Fire House; and so much more to help support local organizations! Of course, there will be a giant birthday cake for all to enjoy, thanks to South Cowichan Recreation! The grounds will be open from noon to 3pm so come and enjoy!

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association has been 'connecting' within the community by distributing cards, at recent events, to children. These cards should be brought to Canada Day and entered into a draw for great prizes.

The hard working volunteers who hosted the Shawnigan Subaru Triathlon will be bringing a mini Triathlon to Canada Day where you are sure to get wet without going into the lake!

The Shawnigan Business Association will have their

portable ball hockey game set up...always a draw for young hockey enthusiasts.

Next to the grounds, the Shawnigan Historical Society will open the Museum. Drop into the museum to experience the history of our community.

A lot of family fun has been jammed into three hours so bring the whole family to the largest birthday party in our Village! If you wish to volunteer or participate please email shawniganmom@gmail.com or drop by the Community Centre office.



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Wildside: Catfish



Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Catfish were common in the lake back in the 1960s when I used to fish for trout – from a rowboat with a gang-troll. Half the time you would get an unwanted catfish. Virtually no one ate them and they were difficult to get off the hook. Years later, at a posh seafood restaurant in Portland, catfish was a

select item on the menu!

I have a faint memory of nets being placed in a couple of places on the lake which were designed to catch only catfish. I vaguely recall one being across the West Arm. I have been unable to find any reference to this though and am starting to think it may be a figment of my imagination. Whatever the cause, I was under the impres-

sion that catfish had virtually disappeared and haven’t been seen for decades - until recently.

I found a good sized specimen (dead) near our dock about three months ago. Taryn Treloar caught a sizable one just a short while ago. (photo left)

In the meantime Scott Noble, of Shawnigan Lake School, kindly provided a summary of fish stock surveys covering the last 18 years. Their E-Clubs and Environmental Science classes conduct this work for the Ministry of Environment. Surprisingly to me, this data indicates that there is a variable but permanent population of catfish. It also includes much else of interest - for instance, the population of yellow-perch seems to have increased alarmingly since first being observed in 2001 – another story ...

A Few Details:

- ★ Catfish aka Brown Bullhead (Ameiurus nebulosus); average length 20-36 cm; can weigh up to half a kilo (1 pound); heavy, rounded body with a large, wide head; four pairs of whisker-like black barbels; top and side of fish are yellow-brown, olive, grey to almost blue-black; underside of fish is pale

yellow to white.

- ★ It has few natural predators and is not popular with fishermen, so it has thrived. For native fish species, this predatory fish is a disaster. Catfish are found in a variety of habitats, from lakes or murky ponds to drainage ditches. They are scarce during the day but come out at night to feed, searching the bottom of a lake or river for food.
- ★ Bullhead catfish are opportunistic feeders and will eat just about anything: frogs, snakes, birds, crustaceans, snails, worms, leeches, fish, plants and seeds. They eat the food of native fish species and will even eat the native fish themselves.
- ★ They arrived on Vancouver Island around 1906 when they were imported from Portland, Oregon for a restaurant aquarium. A few of these live fish from the aquarium were released into Beaver Lake (reputedly from a passing train) and Langford Lake around Victoria, and then spread to other lakes across the island.

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Department Members Attended 18 Calls in May



- ★ Sunday, May 3 – First Responder in Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, May 4 – First Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 5 – First Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Tuesday, May 5 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 6 – Chimney Fire on Heald Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 10 – First Responder in Beach Estates
- ★ Wednesday, May 13 – First Responder in Beach Estates
- ★ Wednesday, May 13 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 13 – First Responder in Beach Estates
- ★ Friday, May 15 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd @ Northgate Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 16 – Lake Rescue
- ★ Tuesday, May 19 – Structure Fire in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Wednesday, May 20 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 21 – First Responder in the Village
- ★ Friday, May 22 – Structure Fire on Heald Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 23 – MVI on Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 24 – First Responder in Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, May 25 – Shed Fire in the Rock Quarry

Shawnigan Weather May2015

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	May Stats	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Normal High	16.9	21.5	19.2	20.7	18.8	21.6	19.8	20.5	18.9
Normal Low	6.8	9.3	8.5	8.4	8.4	9.3	9.4	9.2	8.8
Highest Temp	33.9	27.6	27.6	27.2	27.1	27.6	28.8	26.5	26.5
Lowest Temp	-3.9	3.2	4.4	1.9	3.8	3.6	5.6	3.0	5.5
Precipitation	48.7	10.5	68.2	7.0	46.1	6.9	48.3	6.6	51.2
Days w precip	10	3	12	4	13	2	10	2	10
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	604.7	525.4	711.0	503.5	665.3	444.3	596.2	488.0	654.6
Since 1914: warmest 2 nd driest									
Lake Temperature:	May 3 rd : 13°	May 10 th : 16°	May 17 th : 16°	May 24 th : 19°	May 31 st : 21°				
Lake Level Change:	May 3 rd : -1cm	May 10 th : -2.5cm	May 17 th : -1cm	May 24 th : -4cm	May 31 st : -1cm				



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
1st Monday of each month at 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday Watershed office - Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of each month 7:00 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
June 22nd 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday each month 7pm www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of each month 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thurs, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
*looking for a retired bookkeeper or accountant (volunteer) to help with financials
- ★ **Village Development Committee**
June 13th 10-11:30. Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **The Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary**, for the Cowichan District Hospital, will be at the Garden Club's Annual Flower and Garden Show from 9-2 on June 13th at the Cobble Hill Hall. selling refreshments. Proceeds go to the care and comfort of residents and patients of Cowichan District Hospital and Cairnsmore Place. Call Ev Roberts for more info: 250-743-9397
- ★ **1st Annual Native Bee Taxonomy Course**
July 24-26 at Shawnigan Lake School. Three days in a science lab, learning how to identify native bees of BC to a genus level. First course of its kind open to the general public, in BC. Any proceeds after expenses will go to aid ongoing native bee habitat restoration projects in the Cowichan Valley. For more info and registration, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/hutchingsbeeservice/2015-native-bee-taxonomy-course>

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Classifieds

GENERAL INTEREST

FAMILY MUSIC CAMP

Registration is now open for the **Cortes Island Summer Family Music Camp** to be held August 23-27, 2015. Workshops include Celtic Fiddle, Old Time Fiddle, Acoustic Guitar, Irish Bodhran Drum and Djembe Drum. Ages 9-99. Children must attend with an adult. Supervision is not provided. All levels, beginner to advanced.

Cortes Island offers tenting, RVing and cabins. Music Camp runs approx 9-4 daily but begins on Sunday evening with an exhilarating instructors' concert. To Register contact **Mary Lavelle**, Hall Manager, at Manson's Hall at 250-935-0015

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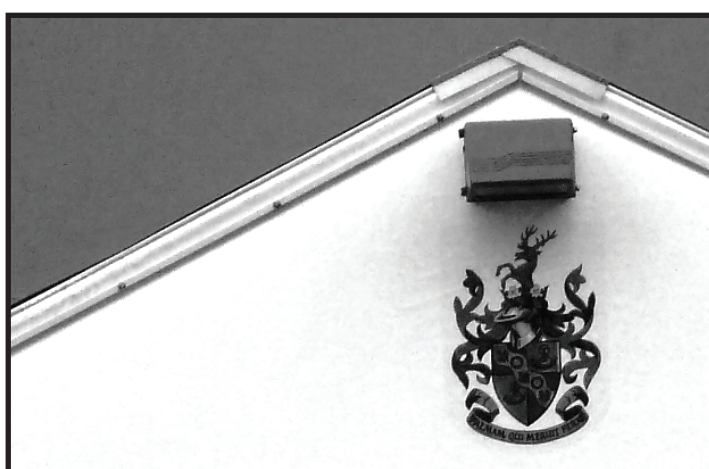
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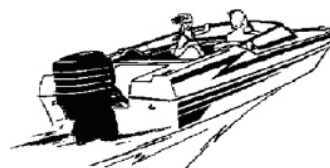


One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for May was Linda Nelson who correctly identified the crafted beams and timbers supporting the roof over the outdoor patio area at Shawnigan House Coffee. This structure, recently built by Bruce Stevens, provides a pleasant and sheltered place to enjoy the essence of Shawnigan Village.

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Take a Hike!



Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

This article isn't so much about hiking this month but it is related.

About a month back our group took to the Shawnigan Lake portion of Trans Canada Trail from Renfrew Road to the endearing McGee Creek Trestle. And, although I have written about this hike before, it was different this time as it was the last hike that my loyal hiking partner of 14.5 years joined us for one more of our much anticipated monthly hiking fieldtrips.

As the leader of the Iron Butts, my sidekick Max, my wonderful white shepherd, my consistent co-pilot was a part of every Iron Butt adventure. He was a significant part of our group, even as he slowed down due to cancer, he continued to lead the group on and forward!

Those who have dogs in their lives, directly or indirectly, know deeply about how those little K9ers become such an amazing part of our lives.

This article is not to bring sadness but to cel-

brate being part of a pet's journey! And I must say if it wasn't for Max, I may have never been inspired to explore all the beauty of our island and more specifically the Cowichan Valley.

Dogs are wonderful hiking companions of course, we know this for they keep us safe, keep us company, and get us moving! However, that being said, not all dogs enjoy hiking as much as we do! And you'll know it if yours does or doesn't pretty quickly, whether it small in size, tires quickly or is just not very social; ultimately we have to respect their personalities and limits - just like people!

If your puppy friend doesn't like to hike as much as you do, and without that sense of security he or she would provide, you might feel vulnerable to nature and its risks and avoid seeing our marvellous backcountry. If that is the case then you should find a group that shares your passion! There was some time for me after Max had passed on that I certainly felt a little lost and found it challenging to get back out there on my own to explore new hikes to add to the group's repertoire. What helped me tremendously was to reach out to my fabulous Iron Butt friends to join me on my quests! For this I love them and appreciate the group's atmosphere more than ever. We are more than just friends - we are an ever evolving family, always expanding and opening up to new members to join us.

Max, aka 'Bell Boy', and all the other dogs that have come and passed through our group over the last 8 years, have all been dearly loved. We hold fond, fond memories of them all.

This article is an ode to my Max - may he be enjoying many, many more hikes on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.

*** Are you thinking of getting out there in the woods but not sure where to start or who to contact? Hiking doesn't have to be a solo sport! Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc. ***

Ben Kotler, MA
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- watch or follow along from Cairn Park to Elsie Miles Field
(Participants please assemble at Cairn Park @ 11)

Carnival - from Noon to 3

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