

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Six - Issue Six

June 2016

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Shawnigan...oh what a weekend we had!



It was an amazing weekend for Shawnigan Lake. So much to do, so much to see...hope you didn't miss it. Friday was the kick-off day for the 10th Anniversary Shawnigan Subaru Triathlon with an army of volunteers on hand to build the site in preparation for a jam-packed weekend of events. The fun started on Saturday at West Shawnigan Park, with three Ironkids races. The Opening Ceremonies and LOTS of cake followed. Shawnigan Lake School was awarded a plaque in recognition of their valuable contribution to this event. After the ceremony,

hundreds of registrants flooded the site in anticipation of the big race. The day ended with a fundraiser dinner for Camp Pringle.

Meanwhile, another large crew of volunteers were setting up for the Culinary War at the Lakeshore fundraiser for the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) legal bills in the fight for Shawnigan water.

This sold out event was held at Shawnigan Lake School. Approximately 500 people filled Marion Hall to support the efforts of the SRA. Food was

provided by six amazing Chefs...and there was great music too - all enjoyed by a great community turn-out. What a night!

At 7:00 a.m., on Sunday, the cannon blast started the 10th Triathlon race in Shawnigan Lake. Thank you to residents of Shawnigan Lake for their patience and cooperation to make this event happen.

A very special thank you to the incredible volunteers who made both of these spectacular events happen! Shawnigan rocks!



SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
JUNE 2016

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The Shawnigan Focus is
an independent, local,
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inform; promote involve-
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Shawnigan Moment



Canada Day Boat Parade 2015

Shawnigan Weather April 2016

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	May Stats	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Normal High	16.9	21.0	21.5	20.3	20.7	20.6	21.6	20.2	20.5
Normal Low	6.8	8.8	9.3	8.5	8.4	9.1	9.3	8.7	9.2
Highest Temp	33.9	28.6	27.6	27.2	27.2	28.6	27.6	27.5	26.5
Lowest Temp	-3.9	5.2	3.2	3.9	1.9	4.9	3.6	5.0	3.0
Precipitation	48.7	10.3	10.5	8.6	7.0	8.0	6.9	10.4	6.6
Days w precip	10	6	3	8	4	6	2	8	2
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	604.7	664.4	525.4	707.6	503.5	589.8	444.3	688.0	488.0
Precip since Oct 1 (mm)	1084.1	1157.8	1045.7	1310.1	1043.5	1119.2	916.5	1248.0	1007.4
(data to May 28) Since 1914: 2 nd warmest 6 th driest									
Lake Temperature: May 1 st : 15° May 8 th : 17° May 15 th : 18° May 22 nd : 17° May 29 th : 16°									
Lake Level Change: May 1 st : 0cm May 8 th : -1cm May 15 th : -1cm May 22 nd : -2.5cm May 29 th : -2.5cm									

Notice Board

Summer Series 2016

Join us for talks at the Museum

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. By Donation

June 22nd

- ★ Jim Ward will present some of his fascinating research on the Pioneer Maps of the area.

July 6th

- ★ Chris Ruttan will talk about his unique collection of Jurassic fossils found on Vancouver Island

July 20th

- ★ Owen Cook will talk about four famous residents of Shawnigan Lake - Bruce Hutchison, Alice Ravenhill, E.J. Hughes and Frances Kelsey.

Seating Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch #134 is limited. Please RSVP to:
shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

Light refreshments will be served

LOOK FOR US!
The Shawnigan
Focus will have
a parade entry
on Canada Day
to celebrate our
6 years of
publication.

July 1st - Boat Parade

Watch for the great Canada
Day boat parade on the lake.
More than a dozen boats,
decked out for Canada Day,
with skiers in tow make their
way from the south end of the
lake to the north. Oh Canada!

**SRA Bottle Drive
Fundraiser**
Drop off your
bottles at:

'Island Return-It'
with locations at
1350 Fisher Rd and
6476 Norcross Rd.
Donate proceeds to:

SRA Legal
Action Fund

It's Bear season!
Don't feed the bears
Keep our garbage
secured.

Father's Day
JUNE 19th
Call Dad!



Shawnigan Lake Watch Group

Shawnigan Lake Watch Group

Let's continue the community dialogue about respectful use of the lake -- for all participants, both powered and non-powered users. The discussion began last fall with a request for input/opinion from users of the lake. The overwhelming majority of respondents (+100) were very much in favour of suggestions put forward. Education is the beginning step to enforcement.

The key item for discussion we'd like to focus on is **RE-SPECTFUL** activity by all users who use the lake for recreation. This brings to mind a list of Federal/CVRD regulations and common sense wisdom:

- ★ **Non-powered boats have the right-of-way at all times** -- yield and give plenty of space to sailboats, kayaks, rowboats, paddlers and canoes
- ★ **Boat drivers are responsible for any damage to shore property and wharves (subject to \$400 fine)**

-- see below for suggested zone use guidelines to reduce damage.

- ★ **Loud stereos are a violation of local noise bylaws** -- enjoy your music, but the rest of the community does not want to hear it. Keep your volume reasonable. Noise travels easily over a flat surface and can be heard from a long distance away.
- ★ **Maximum speed limit 30 metres or less from shore is 8 km/hr**

Large wave activity. (Water-skiing is not affected by this boundary).

With the support of the community, we encourage large wave activity (e.g. large ocean-sized vessels, overloaded cruising boats, wake-boarding, surfing and any other activity that creates large waves) to the safe zone area (light coloured) on the attached map of Shawnigan Lake. Large wave activity causes considerable damage to both private property and to the lake foreshore, where natural vegetation is

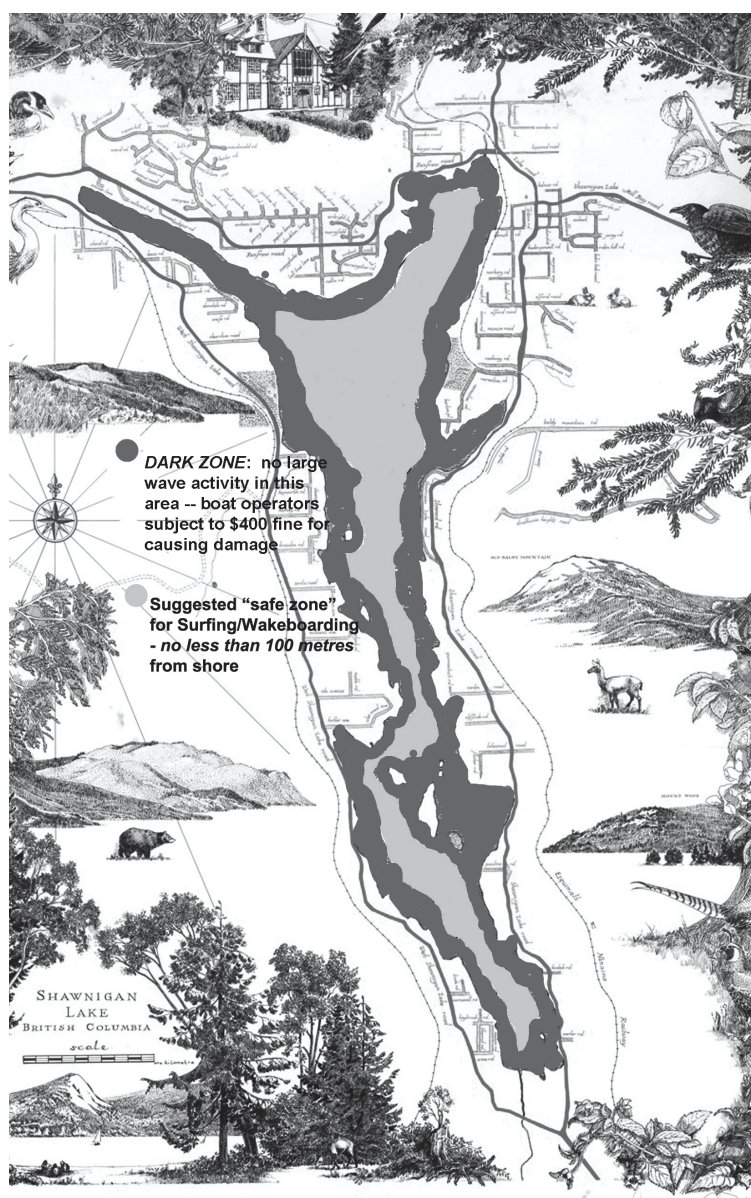
being eroded.

The safe zone area for large wave activities is at least 100 metres from both shores. Note that most of the wide portions of the lake are not affected -- just those narrow sections where waves do not have time to diminish in height. Under federal law, boat operators who cause damage to property are subject to a \$400 fine.

Enforcement

The RCMP does its best to patrol the lake as often as possible. However, successful enforcement works when a community stands together. There was overwhelming support from the community when the suggested guidelines were shared in the fall. Enforcement of these guidelines presents a challenge, but it begins with education. Share this with your friends who use the lake -- both Shawnigan and non-Shawnigan residents. Share this information with your neighbours and friends.

Your comments for support or otherwise are welcome to the following address: shawniganlakewatch-group@gmail.com



Speeding concerns in South Cowichan

Shirley Walker South Cowichan Community Policing

In the past few months the SC Community Policing Office has been inundated with visitors, emails and phone calls concerning speeding vehicles in our area. These reports took me back to 2009. At that time, I was so stressed trying to walk my neighbour's dogs amidst the huge number of speeding cars on the streets in Mill Bay that I would come home crying. As a result, my husband, Mike, paid for 150 Drive Slowly signs for use in our area.

Speed Watch volunteers put up the signs in the area and gathered them after two weeks as recommended by ICBC. The first time the signs were put up -- all 150 were gathered. The second time at least 15 were missing. Interestingly enough, these signs showed up in different areas -- obviously residents thought they were needed. To this day, many of these signs can be seen about the South Cowichan area where residents are concerned about speeding vehicles.

Mike and I donated the signs to the SCPO for lending to local residents. Re-

cently SCPO had another set of the signs made due to the high demand for their use. You can borrow a set of Slow Down signs by coming to the SCPO office.

After such a number of recent complaints, I decided to do more research regarding the problem of speeding across Canada. I have to admit -- I didn't expect to see that speeding is considered a major problem across North America.

Transport Canada states that excessive speed is a common cause of crashes on Canadian roads. Every year, at least 800 Canadians die and another 3000 are injured in collisions where speed was the major contributing factor. In Canada, speed is a contributing factor in up to 18% of crashes resulting in serious injury or death.

In one of the reports it was stated that, "oftentimes it's the people who are actually living on the street or in the neighbourhood that are the ones driving the fastest."

Another website on speeding stated: "People love to use brute force (police tickets, speed bumps) to solve problems like speeding when

it's better to ask, "Why are people doing what they're doing, and how can we encourage them to do what we desire instead?"

Personally, I would have thought that the fines associated with speeding would be enough to slow drivers -- but that does not seem to be the case. In a school, playground or construction zone, if you are caught speeding up to 20 km/h over the speed limit, the fine is \$196, and if you're caught doing more than 60 km/h you will pay \$483.00.

ICBC states that speed not only affects crash risk (an increase in speed of 1% increases the risk of being involved in a crash by 4%), it is also directly related to crash severity. Driving at a higher rate of speed increases the total amount of kinetic energy, which in turn increases the risk of severe injury in the event of a collision.

I would like to encourage you to go online and check out the speeding topic. There are some amazing websites with incredible information on the problem.


Please use our Speed Watch volunteers whom you can book by calling the SCPO and definitely call the RCMP when there is a recurring problem in

your area. The RCMP can't solve problems if they don't know about the issues.

If you are interested in being a volunteer with Speed Watch --


please call Sarah at the SCPO office 250-929-7222.

Due to the high demand for Speed Watch in the area, we can use many more volunteers.




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Lakeside best practice reminders for summer 2016

Kelly Musselwhite
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is committed to protecting, conserving, and restoring the ecological health of our community's watershed. As part of our efforts to secure clean and abundant drinking water, we would like to take this opportunity to remind foreshore residents and visitors of the ecological value of lakeside properties. Best practices, particularly over the summer months with increased recreation, and fire hazards due to drought conditions, are vitally important.

As part of our work, the SBS is conducting foreshore ecological restoration projects, specifically to secure the con-

dition and function of riparian areas. Riparian zones (or riparian areas) are the critical interface between land and natural bodies of water. The ecological services provided in these areas cannot be overstated. They are inexpensive, highly effective, and can:

- ★ Enhance plant and aquatic habitat;
- ★ Increase environmental biodiversity;
- ★ Reduce sediment runoff (helping keep lake water clean);
- ★ Mitigate the problem of erosion;
- ★ Absorb and dissipate wave energy;
- ★ Increase the aesthetic conditions of your

- property;
- ★ Enhance opportunities for privacy;
- ★ Protect overall ecological integrity;
- ★ Restore ecological services at the micro scale; and
- ★ Be completed by a group of volunteers led by an expert.
- ★ The Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) was first enacted under the Fish Protection Act in 2004. It calls on local governments to ensure protective measures are upheld to preserve riparian features including:
- ★ Sources of large organic

- debris, such as fallen trees and tree roots;
 - ★ Areas for stream channel migration;
 - ★ Vegetative cover to help moderate water temperature;
 - ★ Provision of food, nutrients and organic matter to the stream;
 - ★ Stream bank stabilization; and
 - ★ Buffers for streams from excessive silt and surface run-off pollution.
- Having already completed one project in which a cement retaining wall was replaced with an environmentally friendly wattle wall, the SBS currently seeks permission

from the province to undertake a second restoration project along the shoreline of the West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park.

A workshop to complete that project has been scheduled for Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25, 2016 and will be led by ecological restoration expert David Polster.

If you are interested in having your lakeshore property assessed for possible restoration work, or if you would like your name added to those interested in participating in the September workshop, please contact Kelly Musselwhite, Executive Director of the Shawnigan Basin Society at luvlife@shaw.ca for more information.

Attention all Tennis Players & want to be Tennis Players!

The Mill Bay Tennis Club is welcoming new players to our club. It is open to all levels and lessons can be arranged if you want to learn the game. We are very excited about the resurfacing of our courts behind Kerry Park Recreation Centre, which is going to happen from May 30th to June 6th. The reopening will be just in time for our first Strawberry Tea and Tennis Tournament on June 12th. Come out to watch if you want to get a feel for the club!

We provide a variety of activities over the Summer months including mixed doubles, women's and men's doubles and, of course, you can always just go out and play with other members, when organized activities are not using the courts. The cost to join is \$75.00 annually with a \$10.00 key deposit. Visit our website at <http://millbaytennis.com> for more information. You can also call: Cathy Waet at 778-679-7053 or 250-743-4027 if you have any questions or want to join us.

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make" ~ Jane Goodall

New Shawnigan Focus Facebook Page

Please tell your friends and share our new Facebook page link (our old page was removed due to ID issues)

- ★ There are 2 ways to find our new page:
 - ★ Go to our website (www.shawniganfocus.ca) and click on the Facebook icon
- Type in our new Facebook address (<https://www.facebook.com/ShawniganFocus/>) in your browser.**

JUNE is POUTINE MONTH

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Congratulations, Ecole Cobble Hill

The grade 3 and 4 teachers and students are being honoured by the Lieutenant Governor of BC for their submission to "Sing Me A Song." Community Choirs, schools and musical groups were invited to write and sing an original song in the lead up to Canada's 150th birthday next year.

Ecole Cobble Hill came out on top in the under 11 category. All students in the grade 3 and 4 classes helped to compose the song, which was sung in both English and French.

The Lieutenant Governor will be visiting the school to present the trophy and a \$1000 toward their music program (or another cause in the community).

Check out this great song on youtube - "Sing Me A Song" Winner - Under 11 - École Cobble Hill - «My Canada»

Caricature of the countryman

Owen Cook
Shawnigan Lake Museum

Many will know the name Bruce Hutchison as a Canadian author who spent a large portion of his life in his summer home on Shawnigan Lake, but many more will not. This is one of the great tragedies of Shawnigan as he certainly knew this town despite only being a summer resident. He first visited in 1908, and his passion for this area would inspire his writ-

ing for the next eighty years. Hutchison wrote fifteen books, and thousands of articles, and within them beats the living heart of Shawnigan. He created various characters from his lifetime of experience who served as the voice for the author's love and concern for his country and the people who lived in it.

In his unique style that I have come to think of as Romantic Cynicism, there is an ever present passion for a

life that he condemns. This is clear in the characters he creates to voice these opinions. It is apparent he does not care for their actions, but despite himself, admires them. Of the many characters, three in particular demonstrate the particular trichotomy of the 20th century that captivated Hutchison so completely.

The first, and perhaps the most ethereal character is Archie, the last true woodsman, and the scope through

which Hutchison laments the passing of an age that has gone, and perhaps never existed, at least not as he imagines it. He is withered of body in his advanced age, but full of the vigour of the earliest woodsman to venture forth into the wilderness that was Shawnigan Lake. Though only a drunkard and a shadow of his former self his wisdom, wrought from years of experience, is invaluable to those who would hear it. In this way he is the



perfect character to highlight the values of the beginning of the 20th century.

Take A Hike!

Robyn Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Once again we found ourselves in Nanaimo and my restless feet wanting to explore something new! With the assistance of Google, I pinpointed Nanaimo's secret and obscure hike to Ammonite Falls located in Benson Creek Falls Regional Park. Ammonites are the fossils of little spiral sea creatures from the dinosaur era. These cute fellas are embedded into the rocky base of the falls in either broken chunks and pieces or whole clusters.

These falls are one of three located in the Regional Park in the northwest foothills of Mount Benson. Two major trailheads are available to initiate your journey, either from Jameson Road or Duomont Road. On this particular visit, due to reported simplicity, we chose the Jameson Road entrance.

It was easy enough to find the parking area from Nanaimo's bypass highway onto Jingle Pot Road, Kilpatrick, right on Jameson and just before its end turn right into a subdivision, park at the Creekside Place community park.

Now, if you are unlocal it can be a bit confusing - but you climb back up the way you came onto Jameson Rd, go right onto what seems like a long driveway and, at the end, you'll find the gate. Apparently, at one point in time, the neighborhood residents were none too happy about people parking and blocking their driveways along this road, hence the community park lot - totally get it.

Once you enter through the gate you are immersed immediately in nature with towering Douglas fir, fern patches, mossy things, deep ravines, water sounds in the distance, and the peaceful quiet that only nature can provide. A few hundred meters from the gate is a fork opening up to a maze of trails that you could choose from. The clear and definitive trail leading directly to the falls is aptly marked for those newbie and focused visitors - very much appreciated!

Making your way on the noted trail, winding down for approximately 40 minutes, you'll begin to hear the falls before you see them. And since it is a temperate rainforest after all, some areas are quite damp and slippery

(please wear stable footwear!). Luckily there are knotted ropes to help guide you down safely. From the top you see the amazing falls in all their glory. If so desired, you can then make your way down even further to the base of the falls using another set of ropes. Depending on the time of year this can be done relatively safely. In the height of spring, after some incredible precipitation, that was not a feasible option for us.

For that reason, we look forward to heading back during the drier months of summer to see the ammonites up close and personal!

Want to add this to your summer to-do-list? A great source of further information can be found at www.nanaimoinformation.com/ammonite-falls.php.

JOIN US! Find photos of our adventures on Facebook at The Om Tree.



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Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch #134

1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road, Shawnigan Lake
by Comrade Win Teague - PR Coordinator

June 4th - 8:00 am -2:00 pm - Garage Sale

Saturday, June 18th

31st Annual Walter Hall Memorial Fishing Derby.
Tickets are available at the bar.

Friday, June 24th

Special event night. Shuttle service available . No ticket sales but a sign up sheet for dinner - \$11. Band is provided by Legion week grant.

Canada Day

8:30-11:00 Pancake and Sausage Breakfast \$7. Sponsored by Malahat Legion and Malahat Lions Club
1:00 - 5:00The Loose Change Band...an afternoon of fun and dancing with Vicki Searle and the boys.

The chill in Shawnigan Lake

Judith Lavoie

Originally published in the May/June 2016 edition of Focus Magazine (Victoria).

Reprinted here with kind permission. Also online at <http://focusonline.ca/node/1081>

People who have publicly expressed concern about a contaminated soil dump are being threatened with defamation suits.

IN SHAWNIGAN LAKE there's a macabre twist to old knock-knock jokes as residents face a flurry of visits from process servers who hand over envelopes containing legal letters demanding apologies, retractions and compensation for statements made about South Island Resource Management Ltd (SIRM)—the company that operates a contaminated soil landfill above Shawnigan Lake.

While some letters have gone to media outlets that reported on the battle between residents and the company—and the provincial government that issued the permit—others have gone to bloggers and those posting on social media.

Hill Holdings and South Island Aggregates, sits five kilometres uphill from Shawnigan Lake, the drinking water source for 7500 area residents who fear contaminated soil, which is being dumped in a quarry, could put their drinking water at risk.

Residents and supporters have ferociously fought the proposal in the courts, through demonstrations and with letters since it was first proposed in 2012, but the provincial government issued a permit last year for 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil a year to be dumped at the site for 50 years. The permit allows contaminants such as furans, dioxins, glycol and xylene, all of which can damage human health, to be contained in the soil which is encapsulated in plastic liners.

While SIRM says the soil is safely contained and there is no chance of leaching or a spill, there has been an unprecedented outcry not only from citizens, but also from Cowichan Valley Regional District politicians, provincial New Democrats and the BC Green Party, all of whom are demanding that government pull the permit. Unsurprisingly, the battle has raised ques-

tions about how much control a community has over what goes on within its boundaries.

And now citizens in the community are feeling threatened in a different way. According to Sonia Furstenau, Shawnigan area representative for Cowichan Valley Regional District, at least one dozen lawyer's letters have been handed to community members and the number may be higher as some people are so intimidated they will not talk about it. Furstenau, among others, is describing the letters as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP suits) aimed at keeping people quiet.

The threats of legal action have had a detrimental effect on the community and people are beginning to assume that, if there is a stranger at the door, it is likely to be a process server, Furstenau said. "It's an intrusion into our lives that goes beyond intimidation. We all have this presence in our lives. It's insidious," said Furstenau who, in common with civil rights groups around the province, would like BC to enact legislation to control SLAPP suits. "These are ordinary people who have never had any brush with the law and it just effectively intimidated people," Furstenau said.

However, the lawyer for



SIRM's lawyer Christopher Siver

SIRM, Christopher Siver of Mulroney & Company, who signed the letters, does not agree they have SLAPP hallmarks and is hoping recipients will apologize, retract inaccurate information and compensate the company. Several have already made retractions, he said.

"I don't think a SLAPP suit is a fair characterization. This is not a strategic case in that it is being done in good faith. Our good name is being dragged through the mud and we know we are harmed. We are being told we are the poisoners of Shawnigan Lake," he said. "SIRM absolutely believes in people's right to protest and their right to disagree...but, we need people to understand that the right to protest and the right to object ends with false information," Siver said.

A major point of contention concerns water flowing off the site during a November rainstorm and a subsequent Island Health do-not-use-water advisory. That rainwater had no contact with contaminated soil, but people said in blogs and news stories that contaminated water flowed from the site, according to Siver. "There was no contaminated water," he said.

However, Furstenau points to two engineering reports commissioned by Cowichan Valley Regional District, one of which raised concerns about the sediment pond at the SIRM site, while the other found elevated levels of aluminum, copper and selenium in water leaving the site.

The second trigger for the legal letters is descriptions of soil at the site as "toxic" instead of "contaminated." "These are not interchangeable terms," Siver wrote in an email to Focus, adding, "Contamination is a defined term in the Environment Management Act (EMA). Toxic is a word that describes some sort [of] harm which could result from exposure or ingestion of some particular thing. Toxicity relates to dose. Everything is toxic at some point... The general point is that the fact of contamination does not make something dangerous, dose does. SIRM's mine and reclamation site accepts contaminated soils which are defined by a schedule to the regulations of the EMA. These are specifically not 'hazardous' waste soils as that term is defined in the Hazardous Waste Act and I am advised that at no time are the levels of contamination in the accepted soil high enough to be considered toxic."

In another email, Siver said: "You have to stop using the word 'toxic.' It has no valid meaning here. It is so vague and implies certain danger and high risk. Its use is detrimental to any proper understanding of what is going on. From a legal perspective, we would view the use of the word toxic as fraught with danger and possibly defamatory so we do caution you against using such a word."

Residents agree with Siver that toxicity depends on exposure and dosage, but fear that, over time, liners and other soil containment measures will fail and that contaminants will enter the lake, leading to an accumulation of toxins in the water and, subsequently, bioaccumulation in the bodies of those who drink the water.

"We are concerned because

the scientific consensus is that all liners will fail. What's particularly distressing is that, in the case of this landfill, the combination of contaminants sitting on those liners could result in even more rapid deterioration of the liners," Furstenau said.

Bernhard Juurlink, a member of the Shawnigan Residents Association research team, who has a PhD in cell biology, said in a letter to Island Health that all liners, including clay, break down within decades. "Organic molecules diffuse through the polyethylene geotextile used. Hence this liner is no barrier to many of the nasty hydrocarbons present within the soils being encapsulated," he wrote.

But Siver said comparisons with wet municipal garbage dumps are inaccurate as the stored soil is dry and the site is safe "for a couple of billion years until the sun explodes." Even in the unlikely event of all the systems failing, describing contaminants as toxic would not be accurate as they would take about 150 years to reach the lake, he added. "Even if it leaked over ground and into the river and then into the lake, when it reaches the lake it would be dispersed at a level of about 40-billion to one, so it goes back to the level of the dose," he said.

Most soil at the site could be compared to soil under a driveway that has been contaminated with oil and is dirty, but not toxic, Siver said. "Residents have a concern, but it is not a reasonable concern. They have a 100 percent right to have those concerns, but they just can't lie," he reiterated.

SO FAR, SHAWNIGAN LAKE RESIDENT John Keirstead is the only person known to have been served with a Supreme Court of BC notice of civil claim after ignoring the first letter he received. Keirstead, owner of Mission LED Lighting Company Ltd, writes a regular blog. One of his posts describes how Cowichan Valley citizens are being ignored by the provincial government as they fight to protect their water supply and says that "toxic, contaminated soil is being dumped into the headwaters of the drinking water source."

The notice of civil suit claims that Keirstead "makes many statements of facts which are false and contain imputations, connotations, innuendoes and stings which

THE CLAY HUB COLLECTIVE

Summer Classes now posted on our website.

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for the summer.

www.theclayhubcollective.weebly.com



The site, owned by Cobble



CVRD

Kerry Park Recreation Centre

Help Shape Recreation in Your Community

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, June 9 - 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Kerry Park - Social Lounge
1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

Saturday, June 11 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Kerry Park - Sports Complex Picnic Shelter
1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

This interactive event will allow you to stop in and share your ideas at any time throughout the session. This is your opportunity to:

- Provide comments on existing and future recreation needs.
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Shawnigan Focus

would tend to lower SIRM's reputation in the eyes of a reasonable person."

But Keirstead has no intention of backing down and he plans to countersue. "I don't like being bullied and that's what these guys are doing," he said. "I want to countersue because this is bullshit. It truly fits a SLAPP designation. They are trying to shut people up," said Keirstead.

Sarah Miller, a Nanaimo resident who blogs for the Huffington Post, was shocked when she received a letter from Siver about a post that made only one brief mention of Shawnigan Lake and did not name the company ("9 More Scandals of Christy Clark, BC Liberal Party"). The letter demands an apology, retraction and financial compensation for saying "there have already been a few close calls of contaminated water breaching past the dump site during heavy rainfall." Siver wrote, "That statement is false. The sting of that statement is contaminated water left South Island Resource Management Ltd.'s mine and reclamation site. No water that contacted contaminated soil has been discharged..."

In her response to Siver, Miller wrote, "In no way did I say that it did breach; rather I referred to the incident as a 'close call'... By definition a 'close call' is something that ultimately did not happen. With that being said the government's own reports show that water did breach onto the [adjacent] CVRD property; the fact that it contained little to no contaminants is more along the lines of what I would consider a 'close call.' I also did not imply any negligence on your client's part, but rather on the provincial government for granting the permit in the first place, as I believe the provincial government and the Ministry of Environment to be ultimately responsible for such matters."

Siver, however, says that Miller's statement was still inaccurate. "There was no close call. Nothing almost happened," he said, meaning the legal threats are justified.

Miller's posting developed a life of its own with one of her friends, Louise Gilfoy, receiving her own legal letter after retweeting the blog with the words "shady practices." That was followed by another friend, Laura Colpitts, receiving a letter for retweeting Gilfoy.

"We are complaining of your retweeting of a defamatory paragraph from another author's posting," says the letter to Gilfoy.

"We also write to complain of one of your originally written tweets. As we are certain you are aware, you are a prolific

social media user. Therefore, while we are at this time only complaining of two of your social media posts, we reserve the right to complain of others."

Colpitts withdrew her tweet, which criticized SIRM's "response-attack" but said when she went to the SIRM Twitter account, ready to apologize, she was blocked.

Since her February correspondence, Miller has—carefully—written a blog entirely about Shawnigan Lake. "I think this is more just to try and silence the public and media outlets," she said. (Shaw TV and rabble.ca have already issued apologies and retractions.)

Luke Cross of Duncan became involved in the community issue because he was shocked the provincial government granted a permit for the landfill. "The reason I came to BC is it is the most beautiful place on the planet, so I started taking videos and telling people what's going on and making them available on Facebook and YouTube and then I got a 23-page letter objecting to the videos," he said. "They wanted me to remove all the videos from the internet, which I did, and they wanted me to make a public apology, which I refuse to do, and they accused me of trespassing when I haven't," Cross said.

The letter worried his family and silenced him for a while, he admitted. "It has been a bit stressful. In fact it has been very stressful. Now I am being very careful about what I say. I don't want to receive any more letters. It's a big waste of my time and it worries the family," he said. "I think it's disgusting a company should be allowed to do this sort of thing to a community that is just wanting to speak out. What about free speech?"

But Siver says he and the company are working in good faith and have no difficulty with people protesting outside the site or complaining about the operation—provided they stick to the facts.

"We absolutely believe we have been wronged. We don't enjoy being told we are greedy poisoners of children's water," he said.

Furstenau, one of Shawnigan's most prolific bloggers, has not been taken to task about her statements being defamatory. In February, however, she received a letter from Siver accusing her of breach of privacy, breach of confidence, abuse of power and misfeasance of public office for posting the company's Environmental Procedures Manual on her site.

The letter warns that a Notice of Civil Claim will follow if she does not immediately apologize and compensate SIRM for

breaching its privacy. The take-no-prisoners tone of the letter and accusations that Furstenau obtained the manual illicitly illustrate a vast rift between the company and community representatives.

"As a result of your multiple, wrongful acts, we believe a court will compensate South Island Resource Management Ltd for the damages it has suffered to its privacy interests, its reputation and to its business interests. We also believe as a result of the multiple breaches, including the breaches of your public office duties, that punitive damages will be awarded against you," the letter says.

Furstenau left the response to CVRD lawyers who pointed out that the manual was attached to an affidavit filed in court by the company. Their letter also noted: "We understand the Environmental Procedures Manual is a requirement of the Ministry of Environment permit and is considered to be a publicly available document by the Ministry," says the reply.

BC GREEN PARTY LEADER Andrew Weaver said that whether or not the letters from SIRM's lawyer meet the criteria for SLAPP suits, they do amount to heavy-handed intimidation. He added that it is a tactic that is unlikely to win the company many friends. "I hope calmer minds prevail and they stop frivolously slapping people around right, left and centre," he said.

While legal experts emphasize that they cannot say whether Shawnigan definitively meets the criteria of SLAPP suits, the situation has renewed calls for the BC government to reinstate anti-SLAPP legislation.

In 2001, during the dying days of the NDP government, BC enacted groundbreaking anti-SLAPP legislation, but it was repealed five months later by the newly-elected Liberal government who argued that it would lead to a "protest culture."

The short-lived legislation gave judges the power to quickly dismiss lawsuits aimed at stifling free speech, with hearings taking place within 60 days of a complaint. The bill set tough standards for proving a SLAPP, but gave citizens qualified privilege to speak on matters of public interest as long as there was an absence of malice.

"It is something we would definitely be interested in seeing back in," said Cowichan Valley MLA Bill Routley. "This kind of behaviour of trying to scare folks from exercising free speech is unfortunate to say the least."

Chris Tollefson, executive director of the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre, said the situation

illustrates the need for legislation that explicitly affirms the value of public participation in matters of public interest and provides protection for those exercising their democratic rights. "From what I hear, this is something many, many people and organizations are calling for," he said. "In my view it is a basic building block of a robust democracy."

Quebec and Ontario now both have similar laws to ensure the courts have the appropriate tools to protect the rights of citizens, Tollefson said.

The BC Civil Liberties Association has been vocal in calling for anti-SLAPP legislation and executive director Josh Paterson said the group is seeing an increase in the number of apparent SLAPP suits. It is difficult to estimate numbers, he noted, as many people are afraid to speak out after receiving a lawyer's letter demanding retractions, apologies and threatening legal action if they are not provided. "The pervasiveness of SLAPPs is difficult to measure because most will achieve their goals of silencing criticism long before they ever get to a judge," he said. "These suits fly beneath the radar of public consciousness, but have a profound censoring effect."

MEANWHILE, OTHER LAWSUITS related to the Shawnigan soil dump are wending their way through the courts.

Opponents received a boost last month from a BC Supreme Court decision that the landfill contravenes Cowichan Valley Regional District zoning bylaws—a ruling that is being appealed. However the victory was short-lived as the company also asked the BC Court of Appeal for a stay of the injunction preventing further

dumping at the site until the appeal is heard and, on April 15, the court agreed to lift the injunction, allowing the company to complete existing contracts. The company, which argued that it could lose up to \$8.2-million, leaving it open to potential bankruptcy or foreclosure, plans to continue operations until the hearing of their appeal, expected in mid August.

CVRD has responded by submitting a notice of cross-appeal requesting an order to remove the "soil management facility, the soil treatment facility and all landfill cells and any waste material, including contaminated soil and ash stored, treated or landfilled on the Stebbings Road property."

Shawnigan Residents Association is also waiting for a decision from a judicial review of the Environmental Appeal Board's decision to uphold the permit. The case wrapped up on February 29 and it is not known when the ruling will be made.

But, for now, individual residents are most concerned about potential fallout from speaking out in what they believed was the community's interest. "I am absolutely disgusted that companies can use these kinds of practices to silence the public and media and I will gladly help in any way that I can to stop this from happening to others and to defend other critics of the Shawnigan Lake dump site," said Sarah Miller, the Huffington Post blogger.

Judith Lavoie is an award-winning journalist specializing in the environment, First Nations, and social issues.



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WildSide: Black Bears Abounding

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Given the number of bear sightings this year we are reprinting an article from four years ago:

Black bears were a common sight around Shawnigan just a few decades ago. They were a highlight of most trips to the dump and no one got too excited seeing them scamper across the road or foraging in a berry patch. A shotgun loaded with rock-salt was often the solution for those who got caught raiding a vegetable garden or orchard.

With increasing urbanization their numbers have diminished and they appear to have become more reclusive. Sightings are rare and often result in media attention and calls to conservation officers. The rural tolerance of the past has been displaced by suburban apprehension. This is understandable as most of us don't have a shotgun at the ready, or a rifle in the truck any more – probably a good thing!

So what's up with the bruins this year? There have been an unusual number of sightings and disturbed garbage cans throughout the region over the last few months. Has this spring just been an anomaly or are we going to become like North Vancouver where hundreds of the displaced creatures are sighted each year? We want to hear from readers on this topic. Send us your bear stories: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

A Few Bear Facts From Various Sources:

- ★ The BC Wildlife Branch estimates that there are between 120,000 and 160,000 black bears in the province.
- ★ Adult black bears are usually 5 to 6 ft long with a shoulder height of 2.5 to 3 ft. Standing up, a Black Bear can reach up to 7 ft tall.
- ★ A typical adult black bear weighs between 200 and 400 pounds, with some reaching 500 pounds; females are a third smaller than males.
- ★ Black bears have a lifespan of about 20 years; they can run up to 35 mph, climb up a tree easily and are good swimmers.
- ★ Black bears are omnivores with a diet of plants,




American Black Bear - Google Images

- meat, and insects. Only 12% of their food is animal matter.
- ★ The area that a specific bear uses throughout the year for food, water, breeding, and shelter is called its home range. Home ranges of adult males, typically 25 to 150 square km, are larger than those of females, which vary from 5 to 25 square km.
- ★ Bears mark their territories by rubbing their bodies against trees and clawing at the bark.
- ★ Sounds expressing aggression include growls, woofs, snorts, bellows and roars; sounds expressing contentment include mumbles, squeaks and pants.
- ★ In coastal British Columbia, almost all black bear dens are in or under large-diameter trees, snags, logs or stumps, and may be up to 25m above the ground.
- ★ Black bears enter their dens in October and November. Prior to that time, they can put on up to 30 pounds of body fat. Hibernation in black bears typically lasts 3–5 months. During this time, their heart rate drops from 40–50 beats per minute to 8 beats per minute. Their body temperature does not drop significantly (staying around 35 degrees Celsius) and they remain somewhat alert and active. If the winter is mild enough, they may wake up and forage for food.
- ★ Breeding usually occurs in June and July. Litters are usually born in late January to early February. Litters usually consist of two cubs. The cubs will stay with their mother for about two years.
- ★ Despite being quadrupeds, bears can stand and sit

similarly to humans.

- ★ Black bear fat was once valued as a cosmetic article which promoted hair growth and gloss.
- ★ Ten thousand-year-old skeletons in caves on Vancouver Island indicate that black bears arrived soon after glaciation.
- ★ Across North America there is increasing interest in the black bear as a game animal. In recent years hunters in Canada and the United States have taken about 40,000 black bears per year.
- ★ Trash and bird feeders are the most common attractants responsible for luring bears to human dwellings. Pet food, charcoal grills, fruit trees and gardens may also attract bears. Once a bear finds food around your home it will likely return.
- ★ Conservation officers have to kill up to 1000 black bears every year because of serious conflicts with people. Improperly handled garbage is the greatest cause of human-bear conflict in British Columbia, and responsible waste management is the best approach to preventing conflict.
- ★ Black bears rarely attack when confronted by humans, and usually limit themselves to making mock charges, emitting blowing noises and swatting the ground with their forepaws.
- ★ Bears are physically powerful and are capable of fatally attacking a person. However, for the most part, they are shy, easily frightened and will avoid humans. Injuries caused by bears are rare, but widely reported. The danger that bears pose is often exaggerated, in part by the human imagination.



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YSAGS Spring Tea

Oriana Parker
YSAGS

May 25, 2016

The Young Seniors Action Group Society held its Spring Tea on Tuesday, May 24th at the Malahat Legion. YSAGS undertakes two raffle fundraisers a year, a spring raffle and a Christmas raffle. Traditionally, the winners of the spring raffle are announced at the spring tea. The winners this year are Rose St. Pierre (Mill Bay), Lenore Pilon and John Hardwick (both from Shawnigan Lake).

They will be contacted regarding their prizes.

The tea was a delightful event and well attended with approximately 70 tickets sold. It's a great opportunity for guests to meet YSAGS members and to enjoy the delicious sandwiches and pastries. Gentlemen members poured the tea. The Legion

was tastefully decorated. The tables were laid out with crisp and colourful tablecloths, fine china teacups and saucers, delicate teaspoons and enhanced by a creative and inspiring floral centrepieces. The centrepieces consisted of colourful gift bags containing a stunning arrangement of local flowers in a mason jug. Adorning the bags were hand-made mini bird house plant stakes which were built and painted by the folk art group – a total of 54.

Organizers Dianne Casavante and Wendy Palmer did a brilliant job in facilitating the event. The room was filled with laughter and everyone was having a great time. A mystery bag appeared and people were invited to guess its contents, which consisted of nine items. Gifts were given out for the best guess.

As well, participants were encouraged to create and

wear their best spring hat. A prize was given to Ray Bootland, for the best male hat. His creation consisted of a nest with birds all around and a squeaky Rooster on top. Sonya Pedun won the best female hat creation. Hers was a hat made up of knitting yarn and needles – very original. I've provided a picture of Sonya, which is priceless. Her expression on winning says it all. Honourable mentions also received a gift.

It goes without saying that such an event could not be undertaken without volunteers. A big thank you to all our hard working volunteers who came in early to make sandwiches and arrange the food platters, and to those who helped set up, take down and clean up. If you are interested in learning more about YSAGS you can go directly to the website or you can contact the President, Ed Wiebe by email at weibeis@shaw.ca



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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake
by Anna Quindlen
Published by Random House
Copyright 2012 by Anna Quindlen

My Life on the Road
by Gloria Steinem
Published by Random House
Copyright 2015 by Gloria Steinem

I read Anna Quindlen’s book, “Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake” first. She has proven to be a favourite writer for women of my generation, the early Baby Boomers. Many of us were proud to be feminists, different from our mothers and, perhaps we hoped, not that far removed from our daughters. Certainly we thought we had invented childbirth and child-raising, and the author writes with honesty and some humour about how deeply patronizing we must have been to the women older than ourselves.

Her essays on aging, an empty

nest, loss and spirituality all resonate. Her long-term marriage and children are at the centre of her life, even though she is renowned as a Pulitzer Prize journalist. It has not been easy, but she has combined family and a career by working from home and these two passions are beautifully combined in her work as she mines her everyday life for subject material. She writes in such personal terms and yet her vignettes speak for many. She has her finger on the pulse and I found myself nodding in recognition throughout her book.

Anna Quindlen is a woman one feels would be easy to sit down with over coffee, sharing stories and laughing at life’s absurdities. Her brilliance is in making the small, everyday details illustrate a larger truth, and she aptly describes a generational shift.

I had looked forward to reading Gloria Steinem’s memoir and it didn’t disappoint. As a

revered feminist leader, much valued speaker and organizer for the Women’s Movement, she has spent most of her life travelling to campuses, small towns, cities and, as she calls it, Indian Country. She has gone where she is needed and has learned to listen to the people she meets in her travels. In fact, helping individuals in a group setting engage in dialogue and really listen to each other is what she most enjoys doing. It seems like a calling for her. She sees herself more as a catalyst for change than a lecturer, although she does both extremely well.

This book is a fascinating recounting of her travels and experiences and is liberally laced with reminiscences of working with political people like Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisolm, Patsy Mink, Eugene McCarthy, Ted Sorensen and other public figures. Her recounting of the founding of Ms. Magazine and the conferences and struggles that shaped women and public policy in America gives a fascinating behind the scenes look at what generated many

headlines in the 70’s, and 80’s. Steinem tells her personal story within the larger historical picture. Her role has been pivotal and she has always attracted much media attention due to a combination of intellect, looks and quotable responses. “This is what 50 looks like”, she said dryly, in response to being told she didn’t look her age. Oh, how we all cheered at that!

Like Quindlen’s, this book is a memoir. Although Steinem shares the details of her unorthodox childhood, her father’s wanderlust and her mother’s constrained life, there is still a part of the author that feels very reserved and private. Perhaps it’s because she was unencumbered by family obligations and so she travelled alone and travelled light, finally making a home for herself in midlife, after years of living a vagabond existence.

Gloria Steinem is an icon, the brilliant heroine of feminists everywhere and one would be honoured to meet her. She has lived life in the stratosphere, always on the leading edge. Talking to her would likely

leave one starstruck and yet she never takes on the mantle of celebrity, but rather presents her story as a narrative of a certain time in history.

Anna Quindlen’s writing is warm and intimate, sometimes raw in its vulnerability. Gloria Steinem’s is more cerebral and factual, although her description of nursing her closest friend in her final illness is very touching. They have different styles, but both are equally gripping. Reading them back to back was fascinating, because while their lives took different directions, they shared a strong belief in standing up for women and encouraging them to forge new paths. Both books do a fine job of depicting what it was like to be a young woman in the early decades of change and one can see how both authors have grown gracefully into maturity.

Story tellers are valuable in every culture and generation, and these are two of our finest.

Rating: 5/5 (Quindlen)

Rating: 4.5/5 (Steinem)

The end of Apartheid

Bruce Fraser
Alice the Nubian ended apartheid on Riverpool Farm. While she has been an outspoken advocate of many causes, her deepest goatarian principles were, until now, hidden from human view. The occasion was release of the chickens from incarceration behind wire. Alice has been watching the plight of refugees on the nightly news and decided to strike a blow for freedom by doing her part at home where she could.

The situation she faced was a carefully crafted plan by the authorities to keep the chickens out of the goat pasture lest they invade the barn, roost in the hayloft, poop all over the floor and lay eggs in unreachable places. A wire funnel had been built to convey the chickens from their coopyard to the lower pasture where they could graze to their heart’s content. The flock ran helter skelter through the funnel leading to the promised land only to find themselves in a bigger wire enclosure. The funnel, however, presented Alice with a challenge. She contemplated the separation barrier for a day or two and then began to protest. At first she just hoofed a couple of holes in the wire, enough for one or two of the bolder of the flock to escape into the goat pen where they wandered with one eye on the rest of the flock who could not bring themselves to try

for access to the richness of the upper pasture. The other eye was looking out for the authorities.

Things progressed. Each day the wire holes were repaired and each day Alice created another breach. The bolder chicken escapees had to be chased down and forcibly removed to their proper pen. Pieces of scrap lumber were pressed into service until the funnel resembled the dispiriting debris of a refugee camp. These new barrier conditions did not deter Alice for a moment. She grew more determined than ever to right what was clearly a violation of avian rights.

On the day Alice finally prevailed I had returned to Riverpool with a load of building material, determined to build a separation wall that would withstand her most enterprising civil disobedience. As I drove down the driveway I saw Amber the Dwarf Nigerian standing in the chicken pen. This was unexpectedly incongruous but I finally managed a brief laugh with accompanying expletives before inspecting the damage. Amber had scrunched through a door built for chicken dimensions that was at the top end of the wire funnel. She was clearly disturbed by the scorched ground conditions of the pen where she now found herself. I knew at that moment that Alice had taken things into her own

hooves with a vengeance.

Sure enough, there was now a goat-sized hole in the wire and the whole flock was luxuriating in the manure pile

outside the barn. They were so happy with the arrangement I just decided to capitulate. Alice and her principles had won the day. The funnel was dismantled, the goats

and chickens are mingling in both pastures and eggs are still being laid in the appropriate nest boxes, except for those ones being laid in the hay bales.

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Social media’s influence on journalism

Kathryn Harrison
Kelsey Student

Journalism and the New world of Communication

Previously, the world saw only through the eyes of journalists, news editors, and governments, creating a narrow-minded view on the world’s events. With the ever-expanding types of news-capturing devices and instant sharing capability, the whole world has become a camera-man. However, this new type of reporting means biased and influenced news stories can creep their way into the hands of the public. On one hand, people may argue that with this 21st century technology people can now see all sides of the story. Still, some dispute that society is exposed to too much. Major security concerns can be at risk and privacy is a constant issue. Was the world better off with only the ‘professionals’ reporting or has this shift in journalism opened up possibili-

ties that outweigh the negatives?

Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Blogs - there are countless places on the Internet that have written a new chapter in the world of journalism. One of the major concerns with today’s sharing capability is the truth, respectability, and well-rounded nature of stories. It is argued that this “crude delivery”(Guardian) is perhaps not the way it needs to be said. Just as an article in The Guardian describes, “Anyone can make bread, but it’s lousy bread.” Referring to the general publics sharing nature on social media, this article states that even though this type of news has its place, traditional journalism is still the best form. Well written, well analyzed pieces show the relevance of a news story rather than just pouring out information with no thought to its impact.

Another point concerning the origin of news stories is how the content will affect

certain parties. That is to say, countless ‘scandals’ regarding politicians and celebrities have been spread across social media. Before this era of constant interaction, many of these stories would have never reached the public. Perhaps this is appropriate for these types of situations. People who are in constant view of the public have great influence over the masses. Yet the question of privacy also emerges. Anyone with a camera and access to the Internet can now share a story in an instant, with no filter or control. There are no longer “gatekeepers”(Guardian) in the world of journalism.

People tend to take sides when it comes to the evil or brilliance of social media. The truth is now that a shift has occurred. One cannot ignore this new technology, especially as a journalist. Otherwise, what you have to say has most likely already been said. The Internet allows for stories to spread quickly and can get to the public much faster than print or television. When the world saw the horrific events in Thailand in 2004, personal videos made this natural disaster one of the first to be recorded on film. Such a large quantity of the tourists had phones and recording devices and were able to share their experiences and footage of the tsunami. Although there are many issues with so many people being able to share information, it allowed the world to see more than ever before, in a positive way. Humans are creatures of interest and are constantly in want of information. This new media gives them the opportunity to know more than they could ever have imagined.

weapon however, this power can be misused. Regulations would help to filter out the truth in these shared stories but it is near impossible when over 40 percent of the world’s population has the ability to access and share information on the Internet.

Newspapers, TV stations, and journalists themselves are one on the most affected groups from this major shift in the delivery and consumption of news. Many say there has been a change in standards. When people have the ability to share, they may feel it is their right or responsibility to do so. What is this doing to the profession of journalism? Will this art slowly decline further? People are too curious and too connected to not need news. Globalization has only increased with new technology and advanced ways of communication. Although people see snippets from various media sources they sometimes do not feel the need to delve deeper. Well written, informed, and analyzed pieces will find their way into the public’s eye. Deeper than the scattered, incomplete stories showered over Facebook, there is still a place for traditional journalism. Perhaps now there can be more accurate information on important stories and the world can be well informed, faster.

It is difficult to determine if this revolution has an overall positive impact on the world, as it is with any new technology. The world can have a more complex view with so many new outlets. Compared to the past when the masses had one TV news channel and perhaps two major newspapers, today’s public can create an original opinion for they are better informed. There will always be skeptical views on how the world can abuse such power but the world has to accept and adapt to the ever-changing world of media.

Social media and the Internet have become, by far, the number one place for people to find information and get access news stories. “ If knowledge is power, the web is the greatest tool in the history if the world” states Aleks Krotoski from The Guardian. Just as any type of

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Department Members Attended 23 Incidents in MAY

- ★ Sunday, May 1 Alarms Activated on Lisa Close
- ★ Tuesday, May 3 First Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 7 First Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 10 First Responder off Furlonge Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 10 Hydro Lines on Heald Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 12 Burning Complaint on Ashley Rose Close
- ★ Sunday, May 15 First Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 17 Structure Fire on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 17 First Responder off Carlton Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 17 Burning Complaint on Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 19 Burning Complaint on Kingsley Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 19 Burn Pile on Owl Rd
- ★ Friday, May 20 First Responder off McKernan Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 21 First Responder off Malta Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 21 First Responder off Fitzgerald Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 21 Bush Fire on Linden Ln
- ★ Saturday, May 21 MVI on Kapoor Main
- ★ Sunday, May 22 Alarms Activated on Baron Rd
- ★ Monday, May 23 First Responder off Calrton Dr
- ★ Wednesday, May 25 Lift Assist off Silvermine Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 25 Hydro Lines on Peerless Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 26 Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, May 27 First Responder off Wilmot Ave

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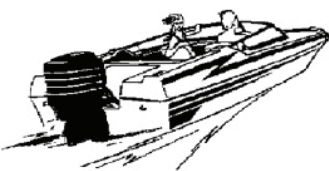
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10 | SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenau@cverd.bc.ca *Director's meetings* 1st Monday of month at SL Community Centre For updates: check www.soniafurstenau.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
June 2nd. Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
June 16th at 7:00 - Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
June 16th at 7:00 - Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
Contact: info@slba.ca for information
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
June 7th at 7 pm. Meetings held in Watershed office: Unit 4-17760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thurs-Sun 11-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing** 250-929-7222

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HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

A Free Drop-In at the
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre



Healthy Beginnings is a friendly, relaxed group for moms and dads with babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age. There is no registration required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack. We will be discussing a wide range of topics. Gathering every Thursday morning except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

Toddler Group starts at 9:30 AM | Infant Group starts at 11:00 AM

INFORMATION : Rhoda - 250 709 3050
EMAIL : rhoda.taylor@viha.ca
FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan

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



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for May was submitted by Heather Wilke who said:

"My kids call this the wibbly wobbly shake shake bridge. It is in the trails behind Shawnigan Beach Estates and Shawnigan Lake Schools property. We presume it is for mountain bikers. We just like running along it."

60
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