

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Nine - Issue Six

June 2018

A Non-Profit Community Publication

FRANCES KELSEY SCHOOL GARDEN



Gabby Pask and Lucas Morton

Grade 10 students at Frances Kelsey

The Frances Kelsey Secondary School's Community Garden is not what you would have expected to be there if you would have attended the school just a mere 5 years ago. Once filled with portables and swampland, the now irrigated garden is home to a variety of plant life. The overall feel of the garden immerses you in community, as the garden is purely student based. Mr. Pimenta's woodworking class has made the garden boxes and the beautiful gate that protects the vegetables and fruits from any pests or threats. The class has also completely redesigned the space, changing it from portables and swamp to gate and garden.

Over the last 10 months, the garden at Frances Kelsey has seen dramatic improvements. 10 garden boxes were made by the woodworking class as well as three sheds, rock sculpting, a 10-foot gate, and a drainage system. They have also recognized the traditional lands of the Malahat First Nations by making a traditional fire pit and a soon to come Thunderbird shelter.

Inside the Community Garden, plants have been donated from the O.U.R Ecovillage, Dinter's Nursery, South Island Saskatoon Berry Farm, and other garden profession-

als. The compost system at Frances Kelsey is also a big accomplishment as the Environmental Science Club has gotten the bins for the compost in the school, while Mr. Rea's gardening class mans the compost outside. Mr. Rea and his gardening class run an organic, sustainable garden that finds pride by working together as a community. The produce the class harvests will go straight to the Kelsey Kafe,

the school's cafeteria.

Mrs. Thompson, a foods teacher at Kelsey, is especially excited about the new system, as she believes it will bring healthier habits to students and fresher, more reliable food.

The Garden at Kelsey is still expanding. Plans for a greenhouse are underway, with Mr. Pimenta and his woodworking students working diligently

on it. The gardening class has planted the fruit trees they have been donated and are expecting fruit to start bearing in 3 or 4 years. A greenhouse program will arise from the gardening class as the greenhouse will be finished for this Fall. Cultural and community influences are still a big part of the garden and those who wish in the community can still donate items. As the summer approaches, students

will inevitably leave the garden. Frances Kelsey is looking for volunteers to help maintain the garden in the summer through watering, landscaping, and weeding. If you are interested in helping please contact Mr. Rea at mrea@sd79.bc.ca or call the school at 250-743-6916, because a Community Garden starts with community working together. You can also visit the franceskelseygarden.weebly.com for more information.



Shawnigan Weather May 2018

- Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	May Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Average High	17.2	22.5	18.5	21.8	18.5	21.6	18.5	20.9	18.1
Average Low	7.0	9.3	6.8	10.0	6.8	10.4	7.9	9.3	7.6
Extreme High	33.9	31.1	30.9	31.1	28.6	30.3	28.1	29.5	27.0
Extreme Low	-3.9	5.8	3.1	5.9	2.4	7.3	3.6	6.0	3.0
Precipitation	50.6	17.2	46.9	17.5	40.0	11.4	36.8	14.2	42.2
Days w precip	14	5	12	4	12	4	12	3	12
Year Precip	591.7	567.1	674.6	550.3	625.3	506.6	545.4	589.6	612.1

Rank since 1914: warmest ever, 11th driest

Lake Temperature: May 6th: 15° May 13th: 17° May 20th: 20° May 27th: 19°
Lake Level Change: May 6th: -5cm May 13th: -1cm May 20th: -6cm May 27th: -9 cm
Surface Elevation: 116.51m 116.50m 116.44m 116.35m

Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Invites you to an
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On Saturday, June 16th
At #1 Fire Station
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* www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations

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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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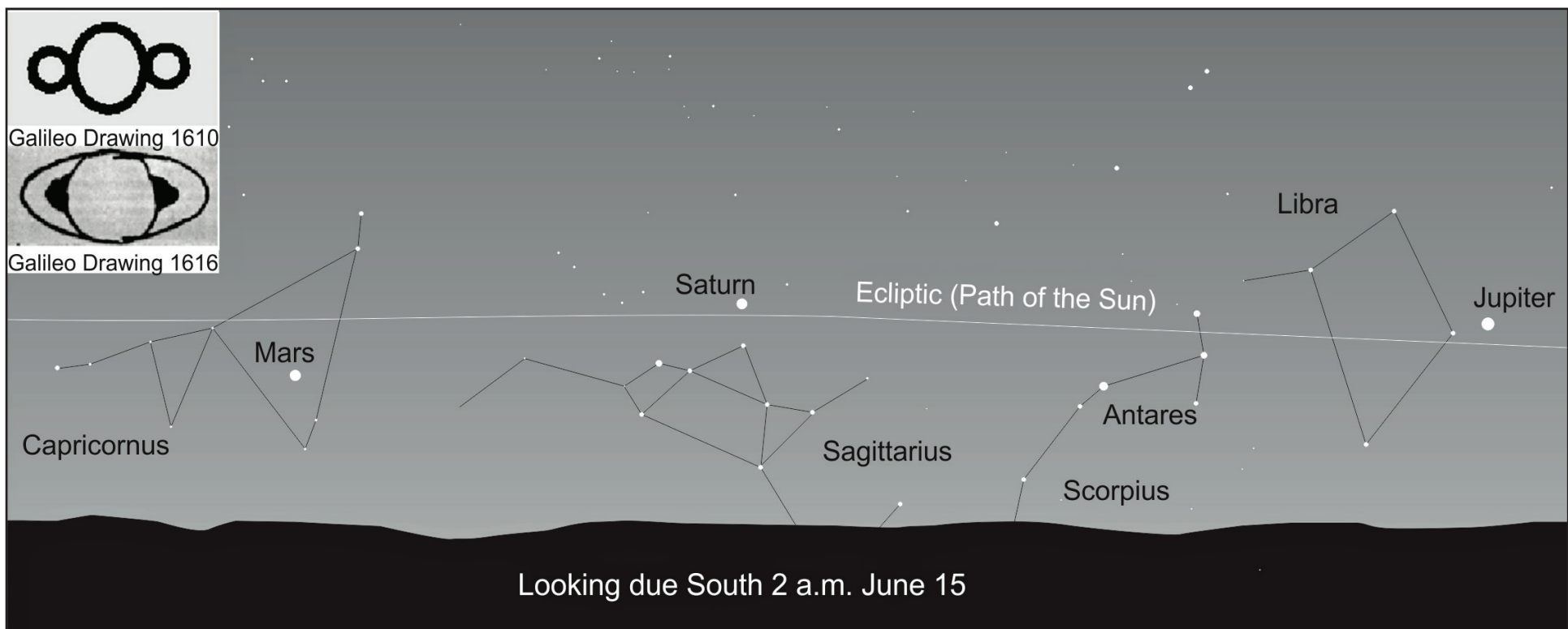
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Shawnigan Stargazer



Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

June: Saturn “Lord of the Rings”

Okay, it is time to wipe the dust off that backyard telescope, and actually use it. Up until this point I have tried to give you targets for the naked eye, binoculars and telescope.

This month you will actually need an entry level telescope. No object in the night sky will amaze you more than viewing Saturn and its beautiful rings! Regardless of age, viewing Saturn through a telescope elicits the same response of pure astonishment.

History of Observing Saturn: When Galileo invented the telescope in 1610 he turned it to the planets. When he viewed the “star of Saturn” he observed what he thought were three planetary bodies - a large central body with 2 moons. As his telescopes improved over the years he changed his interpretation from three bodies to an object with ‘handles’. Attached to the star chart this month are his sketches from 1610 and 1616. Another phenomenon that further perplexed Galileo was that every 14-15 years, the “moons” (or the handles) disappeared completely, only to reappear in the years following. Of course what

he was witnessing was that when the rings of Saturn are viewed edge on, they all but vanish. It is only when Saturn is tilted with respect to Earth that we can clearly see the rings. Galileo died in 1642. It would be another 13 years until 1655 when Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens had a telescope powerful enough to identify the mysterious object around Saturn as a group of rings. What is truly remarkable to me is that the rings are only, on average, 10m thick, and consist mainly of tiny particles of water ice.

Planets and Moon: Saturn will be at opposition at 9am on June 27th. That is also

the full moon so telescope viewing the night of 27th into the morning of the 28th will be diminished by the brightness of the moon, right beside Saturn. Not to worry though: viewing will be ideal for the entire month as Saturn will rise in the evening sky (due south around 2am), and set in the western sky at dawn. Compare the relative motions of Jupiter and Mars from the April and June Stargazer charts. Jupiter now lies to the west of Libra, and Mars is much further east in Capricornus (remember it passed right by Saturn in April). Jupiter is the brightest object in the Eastern sky at dusk. Mars will rise about 2 hours after

Saturn, and is distinctly red.

Keep a close eye on Mars throughout the month; you should be able to see it brighten (topic for July Stargazer).

Venus still dominates the western sky at dusk and cannot be missed. If you have an unimpeded view to the western horizon, Mercury lies north of Venus toward the horizon and the setting sun in the last week of June.

Meteor Showers:

There are no major showers for the month of June.

Galileo drawings from:
<https://attic.gsfc.nasa.gov/huygensgcms/Shistory.htm>

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yourself;
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else is
already
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Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Last month my lovely mother treated me to a fabulous girly weekend in Courtenay. And for those that know me, I simply cannot go anywhere without a little nature adventure.

Our carefully chosen accommodations were situated right on the estuary. And on that estuary is a network of trails including the Courtenay Riverway Heritage Walk which takes you to what the locals call the “air loop”. At first we were perplexed at what that meant, however after passing the beautiful rhododendron garden and small marina it became evident as to how it received its name.

Its formal name is the Courtenay Airpark which is an aerodrome boasting an 1800 by 60

foot runway and is one of the last existing airparks. Here you can get a good and close view of small airplanes and waterplanes either resting or you may even witness a landing or takeoff. The airpark has a hangar for recreational fliers, offers aerial tours of the Comox Valley and has daily flights with West Coast Air. I personally found the planes and airfield fascinating and suspect it would be to a young aspiring aviator also.

The pathway circling outside the chain link of the airpark is a beautifully constructed walkway with paved paths featuring history boards with enlightening facts about the area. The terrain is mostly flat and intended for all levels to enjoy taking an average between 15 – 30 minutes, depending on your doddling personality.



You may even be so lucky to see harbour seals, a wide variety of fish and fowl along with a fabulous view of Comox Spit, Tree Island and the Puntledge (Courtenay) River.

There are plenty of benches and viewing platforms along the way to rest and soak in the serenity concealed within the bustle of the city nearby. Perhaps you may even be inspired to take a little tour boat along the

riverway or rent a kayak for a different perspective.

Let’s talk flowers. In the rhododendron garden, near the mini marina, there are over 130 varieties and one bed in particular is known as the “BOVI - Born on Vancouver Island” containing only rhododendrons that are born and raised in our island homeland.

If you have the kiddies with you, be sure to check out the Rotary Skypark which is one of

the most popular parks in the area with an aviation theme for them to burn up some of that extra energy.

Perhaps you have a lot of time on your hands? You are not limited to looping the loop. The trail leads to other trails that lead to others and so on allowing you to spend your entire day walking if so desired!

See the photos from this hike and more on our Facebook page The Om Tree.

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Every Note Played
by Lisa Genova

Published by Simon and Schuster
Copyright 2018 by Lisa Genova

I have read all of Lisa Genova’s books. Her ability to tell a human interest story while at the same time applying her scientific background to explore neurological diseases is what makes her so popular.

“Still Alice” (Alzheimer’s) and “Inside the O’Briens” (Huntington’s Disease) remain my favourites, but this examination of the debilitating effects of ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is riveting.

I have had two friends with ALS and watched in sadness at the rapid progress of this disease. There is no cure and it takes everything away, from

body movement, to voice, and, finally, to most communication except an eye blink. Most die within a space of a few years.

This story is told from two viewpoints. The first is from Richard, a famous concert pianist who has neglected his wife and child for fame on the international stage. He is brilliant, self-absorbed, and a difficult character to like. He begins to lose movement in his right hand and, thinking it’s tendonitis, gets it checked out, only to be referred to a battery of tests. The diagnosis is shattering. He has ALS.

Thus begins his journey as he cancels his concert schedule and tries to deal with his devastation and attempts to live alone, with care-givers coming in several times a day. Eventually it becomes clear that he needs 24/7 care and,

even with the money he has invested in his apartment, he is unable to afford the institutional nursing care available. He is also estranged from his father, distant from his brothers and there is no one else he can call on.

Enter the second major character, his ex-wife, Karina, a piano teacher unfulfilled by teaching children, and who never followed her dream to go to New York to play with the jazz greats. She blames her husband for this and all the other things wrong with her life and has influenced their college-aged daughter to feel the same. She reluctantly takes him back into their family home and learns to tend to his physical needs, while still keeping an emotional distance.

Neither of them have ever had to ability to communicate with each other without blame and anger and often have resorted to a simmering silence.

As Richard loses more and more of his abilities, documented here in explicit detail, they each begin an internal dialogue with themselves about their part in the marital breakdown. Karina looks at how badly her husband wanted more children and how she secretly used birth control to deny him his wish. He looks at his neglect of his family and of his affairs and how he rarely considered anyone’s needs but his own. The tension and silence build between them, softened only by the presence of Bill, the upbeat caregiver, who is sensitive to both of their needs and who lightens the mood with his infectious humour and his belting out of show tunes.

The daughter wanders in and out of the story, puzzled, angry and unable to deal with her feelings any better than her parents. She has been kept out of the loop so is ill-equipped to deal with the

frail, incapacitated shell her father has become.

There are no sudden rapprochements and no quick resolutions to this tragic story. However, there are internal movements as the two main characters begin to have regrets about their own actions. At the end there are apologies and kindnesses given, but very small and perhaps too little, too late. At Richard’s death, the individual family members seem at peace, helped enormously by the compassion of the wonderful medical team.

I found this book hard to read at times and yet appreciated the accurate description of the progress of ALS. Genova provides resource information and encourages charitable donations in her appendix. I look forward to her next book, but hope the characters are more appealing.

Rating: 3.5 stars

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Director’s Report

The sun is out and so are we!

Sierra Acton
Director Area B

Shawnigan is even more amazing when the sun shines; so many people are out walking, riding bikes, enjoying the lake or our many parks. In June the population starts climbing as snowbirds return and summer vacationers are welcomed back. Sometimes change and reintroduction can be a challenge. We all love this place and we all feel more connected to place and each other when we share it and help each other out. An easy challenge for this loving community.

LOVE IT!

The Milfoil plan, sponsored by Shawnigan Lake School to help us deal with the invasive Milfoil weed, is now on the CVRD’s Website (https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/Document-Center/View/89788/Shawnigan-Milfoil-Report_Final). THANK YOU Shawnigan Lake School for your partnership. The Cowichan Valley Regional District has added the Shawnigan Milfoil issue to their Invasive Species Plan for 2019. This year the SLS plan points out simple suggestions and best practices. It is believed that this

weed has been here for nearly 5 decades, unmanaged, so this year the plan suggests that we monitor the lakefront and see how the milfoil behaves.

SHARE IT!

The BC Summer Games are coming to the Valley from July 19th to the 22nd. Be sure to catch one of the sports being hosted in Area B and support youth sport in BC. Watersports will be hosted at the Victoria Aqua Ski Club (VASC), Rugby will be hosted at Shawnigan Lake School and Lacrosse will be hosted at Kerry Park Arena. There will be many other sports throughout the area though. Check out the schedule of events at: <https://www.bcgames.org/Games/BCSummerGames/AbouttheGames.aspx>

PROTECT IT!

The CVRD is currently working on a petition process for a number of properties who have no fire protection. The area not covered is around Goldstream and Stebbings Rd. Unfortunately, if you live in that area, you are likely not protected (even if you applied for coverage.) To be certain, contact Jason de

Jong at (250) 746-2564 or Jde-Jong@cvrd.bc.ca. The petition will require more than 50% of the properties to register for service or that area will still not be covered. If anyone would like to get more information, please contact Jason or look up your address at GISPORTAL. Properties in the possible protection area can expect a letter in the mail by the fall.

A fond farewell to Sarah and Angus Mackay who have been working hard for our community since they got here in Shawnigan Lake only two years ago. Their contributions will forever be remembered in our Timber framed Pavilion. Thank you Sarah and Angus for all you’ve done and good luck on your next adventure.

I wish the returning and full time community members a fun, safe and healthy summer. As always, I look forward to connecting! If there is something you would like to discuss, please call/text 250-715-6763 or email Sacton@cvrd.bc.ca

FB- Sierra Acton Area B
Iloveshawnigan.com

In praise of our parks

Glenn White,
Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission

All of the electoral areas in the CVRD have parks commissions to support and guide the development of parks in the area. Our commission volunteers have developed a long term plan for Shawnigan Lake and it is thanks to the previous commissions that we have so many wonderful parks in our community. The commission is instrumental in identifying opportunities, building a Parks Master Plan and then supporting those plans for the community. The plans are all reviewed and shared with the community and under the commission our parks system has thrived.

A long term focus is the key for the ongoing success of providing these spaces for our community and visitors alike. Sometimes it is a long term vision, such as the case with Old Baldy Mountain, which we will not be able to develop for some time since our focus until 2020 is paying down the debt. This kind of foresight is how we got to where we are today. Our ongoing success at acquiring and setting aside areas for the future is by acting on opportu-

nities as they arise. Establishing parks like Old Mill Park and recently the link between Old Mill Park and Mason’s Beach Park are examples of how the plan all fits together to provide an integrated and accessible park system.

Some of our projects take time to evolve and priorities have to be set to ensure we are providing the best possible decisions for our community as a whole. Our community plan provides future direction for us and we bring those on line as we have funds and the need is there. Our gem, Elsie Miles Park, in the middle of our village is providing a focal point for community gatherings and jump off points for activities such as the recent cleanup effort sponsored by Rotary. And, most recently, we are focusing on developing the walking trail from Elsie Miles Park to Government Wharf Park which ties in with the plans of a trail connecting Mason’s Beach to Old Mill Park. This will further enhance the connectedness in our community allowing people to safely walk to Elsie Miles and Mason’s beach.

Other parks in our area include Shawnigan Hills which

not only has walking trails but a playground, baseball diamond and lacrosse area. This provides the community with the opportunity to enjoy many activities in one location where kids can safely play, run the track and enjoy the outdoors.

Being a part of the CVRD provides us with access to technical skills and a budget to execute our plans. The whole area of Cowichan benefits as North Cowichan is also developing parks and facilities, thus further enhancing the area as a destination for tourists and a great place for families.

We are not alone in our area. The network of parks that have been established within the CVRD and North Cowichan provides a tremendous range of options of the community and visitors to enjoy. The Kinsol Trestle is the jewel in the crown drawing many visitors to our area who often visit more than just the trestle.

Interested in joining our commission? We would love to meet you...please contact our Area Director Sierra Acton or join us for our next meeting to meet the group on June 21st at 7pm at the SLCC.

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Shawnigan Focus

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THEFTS FROM CARS IN SOUTH COWICHAN AREA *SHAWNIGAN LAKE RCMP FILE: 18-1445 (and several others)*

Recently the Shawnigan Lake RCMP have seen an increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles. Several areas of the South Cowichan area have been targeted including Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay, and the Malahat. The offenders have been targeting unlocked vehicles parked both on roadways and private property, and occasionally outbuildings such as sheds on private property.

Often small portable items are taken including: change, cell phones, wallets and purses, or other valuables left inside the vehicle or structure. These thefts are generally occurring overnight and are being reported the next morning to police. A common concern or reason for leaving vehicles unlocked is that people don't want to pay the deductible for a smashed window. These are crimes of opportunity, it is uncommon for someone to have their window smashed. Generally that only occurs when items of high value are left in plain

sight inside a locked vehicle. If you don't leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle, you are at a much lower risk of being victimized in that way. By contrast if your vehicle is left unlocked, you make it much easier for the criminal and by extension encourage recidivism in your area. So by making a criminals "job" easier, you encourage criminal behavior in your community. Accordingly Shawnigan Lake RCMP are asking members of the community to take some actions to aid police in resolving this matter. Firstly, ensure that vehicles

and outbuildings are locked and secured to prevent thefts. Secondly, report any suspicious vehicles you may observe in your area; try to make note of make, model, age of vehicle, licence plates, unique features, and any decals or identifying marks. If your neighborhood doesn't already have a Block Watch, engage with your neighbours and contact the South Cowichan Community Policing office at (250) 929-7222 to find more information about establishing a Block Watch. An engaged community is natively more crime preventative.

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- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission(APC)**
Meetings TBA at Shawnigan Lake Community
Contact: Bruce at jenniebruce1@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
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 Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:30-4 For info, contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:-5:00pm. General meeting 3rd Sunday, 1:00 pm
Contact: Gloria gsolley@shaw.ca

Classified

GENERAL INTEREST

LEARN TO WATER-SKI EVENINGS FOR KIDS

Hosted by the
Victoria Aqua Ski Club
Dates : June 28, July 5 & July 12
Times : 6-8 PM (only 4 kids per evening on a first reply basis)
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Leave your name and phone number & a member will call back with details.

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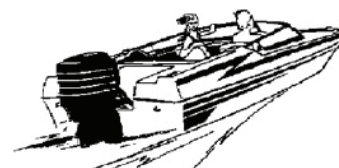


*One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca*

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for May was submitted by Maureen Turenne who wrote: "The picture is of the hand of an Ent, which is a tree creature from the Lord of The Ring movies. Its location is on Gregory Road in the Beach Estates. The why part is a bit of a mystery but if it was to have the most unique garden ornament in Shawnigan lake the builder has succeeded!"

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Drones: Demons in the sky or possibly very useful tools?

Matthew Ashdown

The jury is still out about what the future holds, but our small team, Ecodrone Solutions, are determined to have them put to the best possible use if they are going to be used at all. It's not a burden though. We carry out our duties with childlike enthusiasm and a willingness to nerd out on the research all day long. We are also committed to the mindful application of this tool, taking a responsible attitude to flying safely within the Vancouver Island airspace. We hope that the few bozos invading privacy don't affect how the public views this useful technology.

Wherever possible we have been educating receptive ears about the many unknown offerings of drones and, while out on our journey, stumbled upon some open minded folks within the CVRD Safety Department. Rather than being a cause for safety concern, drones can actually support greater safety in the workplace and aid in emergency communication. These folks were open enough to hear us out and invited us to

join them for a recent excursion. A helicopter lifted us to Bald Mountain in Cowichan Lake where we provided a unique perspective on one of the many antennas that transmit emergency communications around the Cowichan Valley.

For two hours we soaked up the sunshine on the side of the mountain, flying our drone to map the land, generate a 3D antenna model, and capture video imagery and photos that could be of use to the CVRD. Some of the operations were autonomous, meaning the built in software ensured the drone followed a preplanned route and required us only to keep an eye on the sensors and ensure that everything was operating appropriately. Other operations, such as the tower inspections, required us to pay a lot more attention and assume full control of the aircraft from take off until landing. At the end of the day we had hundreds of images and video to turn into something useful that they could make sense of.

As they were stuck up on a



mountain with us, the guys had to listen as we explained about other uses of drones such as for flood prevention, earthquake response, and fire-fighting drones equipped with thermal cameras. It now makes sense why they sent us back on the helicopter first; it meant they could actually get their job done. At the very least we have planted a seed and got them thinking about whether they want to use drones or not. Secretly we think they were interested.

Many companies get excited about the possibilities and buy drones, only to have them sit in a closet gathering dust. At this time not every company is going to go through the necessary steps to get the current permit from Transport Canada due to the cost and training involved with such an initiative. It is in those times that folks are turning to operators like us. Our hope is that there are organisations like the CVRD who

would be willing to use independent drone pilots where it might speed up processes, cut costs, and complement the talents of the contractors they already work with.

For now, we will continue to work with realtors, landscape architects, permaculturists, and anyone else who might have need for our services in Shawnigan Lake and throughout the Valley.

www.EcoDroneSolutions.ca

Celebrate Canada Day in Shawnigan Lake!



11:15 am

Parade leaves Cairn Park and travels through the Village arriving at Elsie Miles Park

12:00 pm

Raising of the flag and singing of "Oh Canada!"

12:15 pm–3:00 pm

Endless activities for all ages! Live Music, Concessions, Games, Inflatables and cake!

We are again encouraging non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for donation to our local food bank.



Your invitation from the SLCA!

Come down to Elsie Miles Park and join the Shawnigan Lake community in celebrating Canada Day, Sunday July 1st.

11:15am:

- ★ Parade leaves Cairn Park and travels through the village down to Elsie Miles Park.

12:00pm:

- ★ SL Fire Department flag raising and singing of "Oh Canada!".

12:15pm – 3:00pm:

- ★ Endless activities and fun for all ages! Live music,
- ★ Concessions, games, inflatables, cake and more!

This year we would like to encourage non-perishable food items for donation to our local food bank. It's easy to forget that hard times are felt year 'round and not just during the holiday season. We will have a donation bin set up for accepting donations at each of our events. We thank you in advance for your participation!

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association would also like to thank the generous support of John and Patty Oldfield and the Village Chipperry, the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department, the Mill Bay Lions, the Shawnigan Focus, the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, YSAGS, Cowichan/Cobble Hill 4-H, Royal Bank of Duncan and our wonderful volunteers!

If you would like to become a volunteer or get involved in any of our events, please contact Marian Davies at Shawniganlakecommassoc@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook! F@SLCAssociation.