



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Ten - Issue Three

March 2019

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## A PREDICTABLE MESS

**Tom Lupton,**  
*Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)*

At the start of each New Year we have a fun tradition in my family where we offer up our predictions for the coming year. It's fun to throw out the most outrageous ones: What will happen with Trump? What's the future of Brexit? Will they manage to clone a boy who can swim faster than a shark? You know, all the most important questions of the day.

One of my more mundane and basic predictions had to do with the weather. I boldly predicted that we would not see any snow this year, and I was very confident. To be

fair, the temperatures were warm, the grass was green, and the sun was shining.

So, as I get prepared to miss the third week in a row of my son's soccer games because of field conditions, the less that is said about the snow the better. But I can't let this go ... I can't let it go because of how awesome my neighbours are. While I was outside cursing my sore back as I entered my 50th hour of shovelling, I looked across to the road. There, one neighbour was helping the other with his snowblower. Another was helping to push a car out of a ditch and, most impressive of all, the 94 year old across the road was digging a path so his little dogs could navigate the

'snowmageddon'. Then, out of nowhere, presumably wearing a cape, came by with his ATV and spent an hour plowing our road and our driveways. Shawnigan residents are awesome because, without them, so many of us would have been in big trouble.

Two days after the snow stopped falling, the only plowing on my road was done by residents. Other than the main arteries, the roads were terrible. Driveways buried in snow, cars covered, treacherous conditions everywhere. It's all fine for me, but what about my 94 year old neighbour? What about people with disabilities? How are they supposed to cope? How

many of you have tried to navigate a wheelchair through two feet of snow?

The Provincial Government has a plan for snow removal for the roads in the Province, and they classify them as A,B,C,D, or E in terms of priority. Highways are A, main roads are B and so on. To put this in context, a C level road, which would be the equivalent of Renfrew Road, is allowed to be uncleared for up to 7 days. If that's a C road, then the roads that we generally live on can be kept unplowed for up to 21 days, or even more. Mainroad has been doing a fantastic job, but their priorities are set by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; not by a

local government.

Thankfully, the snow tends not to stick around for that long. However, one of the bi-products of climate change is increased storm severity and frequency which means that we can expect more extreme rainfall, snowfall, and windstorms in the future. This stormy season will more and more become the norm, and if we want to make sure we have the services our growing community needs, we need to seriously explore the feasibility of incorporation to take control of our community.

I would like to predict we won't have need of greater services in the future, but clearly I am no Nostradamus.

## Shawnigan Moment



Neighbours helping neighbours  
Photo by Francoise Moulin

## Weather Report

**Grant Treloar**

February 2019 will be remembered for its long cold and snow. It was the 3rd coldest February since 1914 with an average of 0.2° (normal is 3.9°). Only February 1936 (-1.1°) and February 1989 (-0.7°) were colder. What was different about this year, though was the length of the cold. There were 25 consecutive days after February 2nd when the temperature was freezing or lower! Even during January 1950, the coldest month ever in Shawnigan (-5.3°), the longest spell of consecutive freezing temperatures was 13 days.

February 2019 was the 5th snowiest month since 1914 with 85.6 cm with the most in this month since 1935. February 1916 had a whopping 170.2 cm!

Looking back over recent history, the last time we had this much snow was December 2008 when 136.6 cm dumped on Shawnigan.

## Shawnigan Weather February 2019

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2017	2019	2017	2019	2017
Average High	7.8	2.8	6.5	3.9	7.6	4.0	7.6	3.4	6.8
Average Low	0.4	-3.0	0.2	-2.7	0.4	-2.8	0.6	-3.0	0.0
Extreme High	18.3	7.8	11.9	8.7	13.1	9.1	13.2	8.5	13.0
Extreme Low	-16.7	-8.8	-5.7	-8.4	-5.8	-7.5	-5.5	-8.0	-5
Precipitation	134.7	108.0	64.1	104.6	53.3	103.8	46.6	101.8	56.8
Days w precip	16	12	15	12	15	12	15	12	15
Year Precip	350.0	322.6	365.0	301.1	348.0	286.5	326.8	328.4	389.8
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	919.1	947.7	842.2	909.4	866.1	837.6	905.5	942.8
Rank since 1914: 3 <sup>rd</sup> coldest, 42 <sup>nd</sup> driest									
Lake Temperature:	Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 4°	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> : 1°		Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> : 1°		Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> : 1°			
Lake Level Change:	Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup> : -23 cm	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> : -15cm		Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> : -9 cm		Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> : -5cm			
Surface Elevation:		116.54m		116.38m		116.30m		116.25m	



## Shawnigan Pavilion

### Area B Parks

The Shawnigan Pavilion, in Elsie Miles Park, is available for events, as are other parks within the CVRD.


In order book, you will need to complete the form found on the attached link and forward to the CVRD. Please note you can also book in person at the office at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Normally there are no fees associated with booking this facility for small events like birthday parties etc.

This is one of the additional ways in which residents can enjoy and share in the Parks, as well as other park amenities, within our CVRD Park System.

Please note that the Shawnigan Pavilion has no power source. If you require power you must supply your own power source.

[https://www.cvrdbc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/89342/CVRD-PARKS-Special-Event-Application\\_2018\\_FORM?bidId=](https://www.cvrdbc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/89342/CVRD-PARKS-Special-Event-Application_2018_FORM?bidId=)

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Tuesday at 9 AM  
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Friday at 6 AM  
Friday at 9 AM

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[www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca](http://www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca)

## Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)

We are entering the last stage of our fight over the toxic soil dump. We are winning, but we have not won yet. We have one last great hurdle to overcome before we can declare victory in our battle against the toxic soil dump: the contaminated soil must be removed to a more suitable location. The good news is that we are not alone - our superstar lawyer Sean Hern, partner in the Farris' ligation group, is going to bat for us once again, but we need to help him out in as much as we are able. Please contribute as we fight for the safety and future of our homes. All funds will go directly towards supporting our lawyer's fight to remove the soil.

Please email [shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com) or, for details, visit us on Facebook @shawniganresidents or Instagram at ShawniganResidentsAssociation

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

## Upcoming Events:

### Shawnigan Lake Museum

Coming up...

**April 6th at 6 pm:** Vintage Sign workshop/fundraiser. Join us for a night of fun and creativity at the Malahat Legion. Create your own barn-board sign in a workshop facilitated by Lisa Smith from Shawnigan Vintage Barn. \$75 includes all of the materials and a bowl of chili. No-Host-bar. Don't miss out - reserve your spot now. Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

**April 18th at 7pm:** Speaker Series - Jim Ward will speak about his extensive research into pioneer landowners in the Shawnigan area. Jim's presentation is fascinating and he is always willing to look into specific properties! Space is limited. \$5 to reserve your seat in advance, \$7.50 at the door if space is available. Light refreshments will follow.

Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

## 2nd Annual Shawnigan Lake Clean Up Day

**Sunday April 28th 10-2 pm**

Register at the SLCC Elsie Miles Park & Pavilion - stay tuned for more info!

[kim.barnard@gmail.com](mailto:kim.barnard@gmail.com) or <http://www.southcowichanrotary.org/>

## South Cowichan Library

**Tablet Workshop** on Wednesday, March 6, 6-7pm. Learn how to use the tools you already have in your tablet to access digital resources from the library. Free, just bring your tablet on the first Wednesday of each month.

**French Conversation Group** is on alternating Thursdays, March 7 & 21, 5:30-7pm. Come by and practice *parler en francais* with a native French speaker.

**Family Storytime** is Saturday, March 9, 11am to noon. Join us for stories, rhymes, songs, and crafts on the second Saturday of every month. For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults. Free.

**LEGO® Club** meets on Wednesday, March 13, 3:30-5:30pm. This is a free, drop-in event best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO® is welcome. On the second Wednesday of every month.

**Find Your Unique Voice** on Wednesday, March 13, 5:30-7:30pm. Learn from a professional voice coach how to develop your best speaking voice. For authors, musicians,

teachers, and anyone interested. This free workshop is hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild.

**For International Women's Day: a showing of Union Maids** on Thursday, March 14, 6:30-7:30pm. Three women union activists tell their fascinating stories of organizing in 1930s Chicago, recounting their conflicts with bosses and police, as well as their struggles against racism and sexism. This 1976 documentary was nominated for an Academy Award. Free.

**Chess Club:** This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, March 29, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

The Library now has a Facebook page to help you keep up with events: **VI Regional Library South Cowichan**

**Chess Club:** This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, Feb 22, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

# Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad  
Shawnigan Focus

## March: Andromeda Volume 2

Hopefully you were able to view the Andromeda Galaxy in February. If not, revisit last month's Stargazer and use Cassiopeia as your sign post to find the cloud-like nebula. I would like to use this month's column to discuss the observational history of the Andromeda Galaxy. It is hugely important with respect to how we understand our own Milky Way Galaxy and, more importantly, beyond.

Since the Andromeda Galaxy is observable with the naked eye under dark conditions it has been documented since antiquity. The earliest noted observation was in 964 B.C. by Persian astronomer Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi. European astronomers started to catalogue the Andromeda Nebula some 2500 years later in the

1500's. In 1864, William Huggins made observations that the light emitted by the Andromeda Nebula behaved more like starlight, not like the light of other nebula; this lead to the notion that not all nebula are the same.

In the early 1920's there was a "Great Debate" in the scientific community: are spiral nebula (objects that look like pinwheels) within our own Milky Way Galaxy, or are they in fact entire galaxies of their own, much further away. As I have mentioned in previous Stargazers, it is actually quite difficult to measure the distance of celestial bodies. This was even more true 100 years ago. The real issue is that to properly know how far away an object is, first you need to know precisely how bright it is (called luminosity).

In 1925, astronomer Edwin Hubble found a star within the Andromeda Nebula called a

Cepheid Variable. A variable star is one which brightens and dims in a regular pattern. That pattern can be directly related to the star's luminosity.

Once Hubble discovered this variable star, he calculated that the Andromeda Nebula was 2.5 million light years away. Since the Milky Way was known to be only 150-200 thousand light years wide, this proved beyond a doubt that not only Andromeda Nebula, but all other spiral nebula were distant galaxies outside our Milky Way. This discovery fundamentally changed how we viewed the night sky, and our Universe. Not only was the Milky Way not alone, there were thousands upon thousands of other galaxies out there. Each one of those galaxies containing 100-400 billion stars, like our own Milky Way. In that scientific discovery our Universe became infinitely larger than we could have imagined. With



The Hubble Telescope (clearly named after Edwin Hubble), we can now see billions of galaxies, the furthest being 13.3 billion light years away, formed at the infancy of our Universe.

Planets and Moon: Mars is still in the SW sky in the evening, while Jupiter, Saturn and Venus make a line towards the rising sun in the SE sky at dawn. New Moon is March 6, Full Moon is March 21.

# Shawnigan Basin says goodbye!

Kelly Musslewhite  
Shawnigan Basin

The Shawnigan Basin Society says Good-Bye to Dr. Bruce Fraser, their conceptual founder and President since January 2015.

Bruce's skillset and contribution to both Shawnigan Lake and much of the world is challenging to describe in a mere few sentences. As a PhD. Ecologist, he was most recently asked to chair BC's Environmental Advisory Assessment Committee by George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, which he agreed to on the condition that Lydia Hwitsum co-chair. Bruce, also the former chair of the BC Forest Practices Board (for six years), was a long-term educator and administrator for both Selkirk College, in the West Kootenays, and Malaspina College, now Vancouver Island University. He was a domestic and international consultant, contributing anywhere from Southeast Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East in matters of economic development balanced with environmental security; was Shawnigan Lake's Area

Director between January 2011 and December 2014; and has been a resident of Shawnigan Lake for seventy-seven years often telling the story of being thrown into the lake at the age of one, "but luckily was retrieved from the bottom just in time" ...

Bruce has a lifetime of local and global experience deserving of profound respect.

The good fortune of the SBS in having him our President for the past four years cannot be overstated: because of him, our team has consistently been made up of strong leadership as well as an intelligent, passionate, and diverse cross-section of the community. Yet, all good things must come to an end. Bruce will be moving on to his next adventure, likely in part, under the latest credential shown on his business card - "Goat Herd". Thank you, Bruce. For everything.

Rod Garbutt, elected Vice President on May 1, 2018, will now be the Acting President until the SBS AGM in April. That date will be announced in next month's Focus.

The Shawnigan Basin So-

ciety is excited to transition into a new model in 2019! We are now independent of the CVRD and the tax allocation once received from Area B residents. If you wish to support our ongoing environmental initiatives, please see details in a subsequent advertisement in this month's Focus.

Please note, our final milfoil information workshop will take place on Wednesday, March 20 where we will share the reasons why this invasive must be addressed, the shortcomings of traditional methods of control, and our effort to lead a science-based field trial of a new technology to manage this prolific and problematic aquatic plant in April. The SBS would like to thank the Shawnigan Research Group and members of the Ecological Design Panel for their collaborative contributions in making this field trial a success!

Finally, the SBS would also like to thank our landlord, Doug Ledding, for his contribution in supporting our local cause as well as the SBS Village Office, which we gratefully and proudly inhabit.

## Saving Water: Stewardship of the Shawnigan Lake Community Watershed

By Dr. Bruce Fraser, Kelly Musschwhite,  
Brock Musschwhite, and Chase Musschwhite

### 2020-2030 The "Turning Point Decade"

Climate scientists are telling us that the time to turn our environmental trajectory away from unstoppable global heating is perilously short. We are done with the cautions and conservation estimates as the prospects of exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius, the optimistic hopes of the Paris Accord and the UN's International Panel on Climate Change, are close to escaping our grasp.

While the science is compelling, the response of global leaders is not. What remains to lurch into high gear is the political will to direct policies and resources to the level of effort required to make a turn-around possible. The consequences of inaction, already evident, are truly terrible.

The global situation is mirrored in every local community, Shawnigan included. While there is little we can do to alter the global conditions, even though it is incumbent upon us to do our small part, it is to adaptation where our efforts can be usefully directed. We can build resilience to climate change into the Shawnigan watershed. We can lighten our footprint on the forests, wetlands, streams, soils, and lake waters to let them thrive as we strive to make a difference. We can and we must.

All hands on deck! There is no time to waste. Young people are leading the way. Listen to them. Act.

Dr. Bruce Fraser, February 2019

This publication is currently being printed.  
Books will be sold, by donation, in the  
Shawnigan Basin Society's office  
#4-1760 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
10:30 am to 2:30 pm

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Check out The Om Tree Facebook Page for more likes and photos.

## Book Review

**Rating: 5/5 stars**

\* We will pay the base life insurance fee (not including acquisition fee), approval/processing charges and the loan processing fee and fee at another financial institution (up to \$1,000 maximum). Other certain mortgage payment charges that you may be pay. Mortgage advance \$10,000. Loans made by \$10,000 amount (max) will not without being a year 30 years (covering a 1% financial interest rate) as a 10% annual interest rate. The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime rate and will subject to change at any time without notice. Rate is effective as of September 30, 2012. Personal lending products and commercial mortgages are provided by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to a completed meeting call.

***"The way to change the world is through individual responsibility and taking local action in your community." - Jeff Bridges***



Right to left: Amy Melmock, Netta Bos, Sierra Acton, Lori Treloar, Sara Blair, Ross Blackwell - Missing: Heidi Goddard, Keith Bridge

## It's all about community

**Sierra Acton**  
Area B Director

### Love It!

This Spring marks a renewal of community building and community input. Together with the CVRD, Economic Development Cowichan, Shawnigan Lake School, the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA), the Shawnigan Lake Museum and Area B Alternate, Heidi Goddard, we are building and bridging community with a focus on enhancing the vitality of our village centre. Last month I spoke of a Design Charrette planned for the spring. To kick things off, we have Doug Griffiths, author of "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" coming to 'entertain and inspire us into the future we want to create. Mark your calendar for Thurs. Apr 4th at 7 pm at the Shawnigan Lake School Chapel.

### Share it!

The 2019 Budget has been

completed. You can see it at [www.cvr.bc.ca/2016/2019-Draft-Budget](http://www.cvr.bc.ca/2016/2019-Draft-Budget) and if you have any comments please connect. It is a large jump from last year. The increase is largely made up of two new Services (the Watershed Service and Affordable Housing Service). Other increases include: implementing and employing a Soil Bylaw Officer, a change in rates for solid waste dumping fees in the US, and required upgrades to the chiller at Kerry Park (new ammonia regulations.) As a Board, we did our best to cut where we could.

### Protect it!

The CVRD just received word that our Soil Bylaw is satisfactory to the Province and the implementation and permitting phase for the new bylaw will ramp up this spring. This has been a long awaited bylaw and its success is crucial to our region.

I continue to work with our MLA, Sonia Furstenau, on

the removal of the contaminated soil dump. A closure plan was submitted by SIA/SIRM to the MoE at the end of January. Our research team continues to argue the validity of the location and now the revised plan presented by Sperling Hansen for capping the site (available on the Spill Prevention Order Site.)

The Team remains steadfast that this type of material is not permitted anywhere in BC and should be removed and encapsulated in a proper facility. The SRA is also supporting our legal efforts and will inform the community of progress. (Be sure to make sure your membership is up to date.)

See you there -Thurs. Apr 4th at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake School Chapel.

**Sierra Acton-Director Area B**  
Cell/text (250)-715-6763  
[Sacton@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:Sacton@cvrd.bc.ca)  
[iloveshawnigan.com](http://iloveshawnigan.com)  
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## Safer roads start with me

**Cst. Ian Wetzel-Eden,**  
Shawnigan Lake RCMP Detachment

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP, South Cowichan Community Policing, and School Administrators receive many complaints about driving in the high-risk area of school zones. The chief complaints are speeding and parking. The stated perception is that it's people outside of that school's community that are the source of the problem. The unfortunate reality is that many of our area schools were developed and built at a time when fewer vehicles were attending the schools at peak hours. As such, the traffic flow around these areas hasn't developed to accommodate the reality of today's vehicle dependent society. As Shawnigan Lake RCMP

Members conduct patrols of these areas it's noted that many of the transgressors are parents or care-givers dropping students off at schools. The activities of concern that were observed were:

- ★ speeding in a school zone (30 km/h limit);
- ★ parking in marked no parking zones;
- ★ parking within 6m of a crosswalk;
- ★ stopping in traffic to allow a child to exit a vehicle;
- ★ pedestrians failing to use marked crosswalks;
- ★ crossing a double-solid line to pass.

Often when confronted by Police about having committed an offence, Police are challenged

and met with excuses or dismissive comments such as, "I'm just dropping off," or "I didn't park." The BC Motor Vehicle ACT defines parking as "stopping, standing, or parking" your vehicle - in essence, anything but travelling with the lawful flow of traffic. Cst. Wes Richens also noted that in issuing some recent speeding fines, school staff and parents stated, "[they] were late and just needed to get to the school." Often, it's suggested that this is an exception and it's not a chronic behaviour on their part. Cst. Ian Wetzel-Eden noted that there seems to be an attitude of, "it's not me" that's the problem. However, to be good stewards in society and positive role models for our children, we ought to model lawful and safe behaviours first.

If we ourselves are not leading by example, how can we reasonably expect anyone else to?

Always remember that school zones were established for the safety of everyone using them, especially our children. Even if Police aren't

watching, your children are.

South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS) is always looking for volunteers to help in these areas. Volunteer with our Speed Watch Program by contacting us at 250-929-7222 or stop in our office in the Mill Bay Centre to find out more.

## Malahat Legion

G. J. Solley  
Malahat Legion

### ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

Veteran Affairs Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch # 134 are hosting a Town Hall Meeting regarding PENSIONS FOR LIFE.

Do you have any questions or concerns about "Pensions for Life"? If so, please

mark your calendar - Thursday, March 14th, 2019, at 1730 - 1900 at the Malahat Legion (next to the fire-hall), 1625 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd., Shawnigan Lake, B.C. (250) 743-4621

We would like to thank everyone who supports our meat draws every Saturday (from 3:00 to 5:00 pm). All proceeds from the meat draw goes into a separate account to assist local charities.

Donations were made to the SPCA

Duncan to help with their animals in need of medical care and to the A.L.S. Society (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) this month. Remember you don't have to be a member - just sign in at the bar.

Did you know that you can rent the Legion Hall and you can also arrange food for your event with our Kitchen Staff.

For more information, please call the Office at 250-743-4146 or email us at [rc1134@shaw.ca](mailto:rc1134@shaw.ca)

## The Shawnigan Basin Society is Launching a Direct Community Fundraising Campaign, March 1st, 2019 (The Society is no longer funded by your annual tax contribution)



Our goal is to protect and secure the long-term health and safety of the Shawnigan Lake Community watershed and the drinking water it provides.

Our work & dedication provide a valuable service to the community!

### Ongoing Basin Society initiatives include:

- Leading the community in mitigations and adaptations against climate change
- Inviting local stewardship and participation for grassroots decision-making
- Guiding Shawnigan residents to assume localized action (a bottom up model versus a top down model) to promote social, ecological, and economic resiliency
- Developing a holistic approach to watershed and land-use management
- Implementing invasive species controls i.e. for Eurasian Milfoil
- Developing and implementing a Water Sustainability Plan supported by the Ministry of Environment (under the Water Sustainability Act of Feb. 2016)
- Restoring the hydrological integrity of the upland forests and their ecosystems
- Preventing or limiting silt and nutrient loading into Shawnigan Lake
- Collaborating with our partners and building strength in our community
- Restoring foreshore function using bioremediation techniques and practices

Please show your support by contributing through an annual membership, a personal or business sponsorship, a tax-deductible donation, or by signing on as a volunteer.

\*Visit our website home page for details\*

For more information:

Email: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org) Website: [www.shawniganbasinsociety.org](http://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org)

## SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake,  
BC V0R 2W0  
Phone: (250) 743-2096  
Fax: (250) 743-2096  
Non-emergency  
Phone: (250) 812-8030  
[shawniganfire@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganfire@shaw.ca)

Department members attended  
19 incidents in February

- ★ Saturday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 8 - Mutual Aid MVI w/ Malahat Fire on the TCH
- ★ Friday, Feb 8 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan - Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 13 - Mutual Aid 1st Responder w/ Malahat Fire off the TCH
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 13 - Structure Fire on West Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 13 - 1st Responder off Linden Ln
- ★ Thursday, Feb 14 - Hydro Lineson Sherburn & Northgate Rds
- ★ Friday, Feb 15 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Feb 18 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 20 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 20 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 22 - Assistance off Malta Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 22 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Saturday, Feb 23 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Feb 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Feb 25 - 1st Responder off Sherburn Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 26 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd.

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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Office hours by appointment. Email [sacton@cvtld.bc.ca](mailto:sacton@cvtld.bc.ca). For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA  
Contact: Bruce at [jenniebruce1@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
Meetings TBA. Held at the 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](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Office hours: Tues & Thurs 11-1 Wed 6-8. Contact: [lulife@shaw.ca](mailto:lulife@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [blogysag.ca](mailto:blogysag.ca) - email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Friday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca) [www.shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**  
Contact: 250-929-7222 - [www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**  
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: [Gloria\\_gsolley@shaw.ca](mailto:Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca)
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm, at Mill Bay Community League Hall. [southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com](mailto:southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com)

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



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### CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for February is Rhonda Callow  
who identified the damaged railway tracks  
adjacent to Phase 3 of the Shawnigan  
Station subdivision in South Shawnigan. It  
appears that excoavation work has seriously  
destabilized the rail corridor and embankment  
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# New community park to be created

**Jeffrey Patterson**  
*Area 'B' Parks Commission*

The Shawnigan Lake community and the Area B Parks Commission accomplished a major part of the 2010 Parks and Trails Master Plan with the acquisition and creation in 2013 of Old Baldy Mountain Community Park, the iconic 480 m hill – mountain – dominating Shawnigan Lake's east side. As important an accomplishment as this was, many residents might not have realized that the 100 ha (250 acre) acquisition did not include the entirety of Old Mount Baldy and certainly not the entirety of the project that had long been contemplated. Excluded was the former summit (prior to the leveling of the top by previous private owners as part of making way for a heliport to service a proposed resort), as well as the myriad of trails on the west and south sides of the mountain and in the swale between Mts. Old Baldy and Wood (the 600 m mountain to the south of Old Baldy). This area is what's often referred to as Block 228, a 140 ha (350 acre) Crown-owned parcel east of the E & N Railway and stretching from the Easter Seal Camp (southern boundary of Old Baldy Mountain Community Park) in the north southward to an east-west line running through Memory Island in Shawnigan Lake.

At its October 2018 meeting the Area 'B' Parks Commission carried a motion "to have the CVRD [Board] support and explore avenues with the Province to designate Block 228 as park per the Official Community Plan of 1979." The area also amounts to about 17 percent of the target area for park acquisition to be financed by a special levy supported some years ago by Cowichan Valley voters. As Block 228 is a Crown parcel, no public funds need be expended to acquire it. The existing park acquired in 2013 and Block 228 together comprise a contiguous area of 245 ha (600 acres). In comparison the grounds of Royal Roads University, Colwood, comprise 565 acres, and Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, is a little over 200 acres.

Having this parcel become a provincial park has been a very long process, but it's now closer than ever to being achieved. As described in an article by Margaret Symon, then chair of the Area 'B' Parks Commission, in these pages in 2015, Block 228 was originally recommended to become a park in Shawnigan Lake's first Official Community Plan (OCP) in 1979. It had been zoned 'P1' per Shawnigan Lake's Zoning Bylaw in 1974. By the mid-1990s, three

areas of south Cowichan had been included in a BC government document outlining future initiatives in the southern Cowichan Valley: lands along the Koksilah River; Cobble Hill Mountain and Block 228. The first two are now parks. Block 228 was never designated a park, although several trails within it were eventually confirmed as 'provincial trails' by a 2005 Order-in-Council, meaning they and the lands in a 20m wide corridor must be preserved.

It also came to light in recent years that Block 228 had been designated by the BC Ministry of Natural Resources as a wood lot for harvesting by the Malahat First Nation (Malahat FN). This occurrence perhaps goes some way in explaining why it was never designated as a park. Nonetheless, it was confirmed in July 2018 that the Malahat FN had agreed to swap Block 228 for another parcel in the area. The way to adding it to the Old Baldy Mountain Community Park is now hopefully cleared. The almost 100 homeowners in the strip along Shawnigan Lake Road to the west of Block 228 can also rest easier that potential flooding from winter rains stemming from harvesting of the slopes above their homes will never occur.

We'd be remiss though for ignoring the contribution of so many Shawnigan Lake volunteers to efforts that may finally result in implementation of a core recommendation in Shawnigan Lake's 1979 OCP.

Noteworthy amongst them is George A. Norris, chair for many years of the Shawnigan Lake Trails Committee that advocated so hard and long for the preservation of Block 228 and the recreational opportunities it offered. Some folks think that it might be appropriate to name the new park for him – "George A. Norris Memorial Community Park." George and his family lived for 15 years (1993-2008)

on Furlonge Road near Shawnigan Village. George was also a renowned sculptor and carver with significant public art contributions in the 1960s and 70s in both Vancouver and Victoria: The Crab at the MacMillan Space Centre and the Swimmer at the Aquatic Centre in Vancouver; the Dynamic Mobile Steel Sculpture at the Victoria Public Library and the concrete relief panels

at University of Victoria's McPherson Library in Victoria, as well as the carved lintel over the main entry to the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. The Norris' returned to Victoria in 2008 following a major head injury by George on one of his hikes near Shawnigan Lake, perhaps even on Block 228. He died in 2013 at 84 years old.

## Change is coming to Shawnigan Lake – why should you care?

Using Shawnigan Lake as a key example, Doug Griffiths, author and presenter, shows how **your voice must be heard.**

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