



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eleven - Issue Two

February 2020

A Non-Profit Community Publication

MLA REPORT: WHY I AM RUNNING FOR LEADER OF THE BC GREENS

Sonia Furstenau
Past Area B Director

Last month, I was excited to announce my candidacy for leader of the BC Greens. The past two and a half years in office have given me a glimpse of what is possible to accomplish in B.C. politics. We need to take action for the future that requires new ideas and political courage to implement them.

I have seen time and time again how sensible solutions to our most pressing issues get stalled due to partisan divisiveness and political calculations. We can change that. We can move beyond the tired ideological battles of the 20th century, focus on the outcomes we want to achieve, and work collaboratively to find the best policies to make them happen.

I got into politics because I saw a disconnect between decisions made at higher levels of government and how they affect peoples' day to day lives. This was never more clear than in our community's fight to save the Shawnigan Lake drinking water supply, and today that fight continues.

When people ask me why I ran for MLA, I give them a very brief summary of what happened in Shawnigan. Professional reliance was at the root of much of what



had resulted in a permit for a contaminated landfill being granted inside a community's drinking watershed. Once I was elected, I put a great deal of focus on the work to reform professional reliance.

I am pleased that the Superintendent of Professional Governance is now active in his role. You can learn more about the office and the work

here: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca>

While there have been systemic changes, there remains much work to be done. The soil remains in place and the government appears to not be taking its responsibility seriously.

It comes down to a matter of priorities. If protection of Shawnigan's drinking water

were a priority, this Minister would have ordered the soil removed. If protection of drinking watersheds across BC were a priority, the people of Peachland would not have to be looking at paying \$24 million for a water treatment plant because of impacts from logging in their watershed. The people of Ymir would not have to be fighting so hard to prevent BC

Timber Sales from moving forward with logging in their drinking watershed. The citizens of Campbell River would not be having to worry about a contaminated landfill in their drinking watershed.

The Mt Polley disaster and its aftermath is another example of what happens when protecting water is not a priority – five years after the tailings pond breached at Mt Polley effluent from the mine is still being pumped into what used to be a pristine boy of water.

The list goes on, in every part of BC, communities are experiencing negative impacts to their drinking water due to prioritizing mining, logging, and other industrial activities over safe drinking water. With increasing droughts and other impacts from climate change, drinking water protection and water security must be a top priority of all governments.

Protection of drinking water in this province and in our community remains a priority for me as I look ahead to the future of this province. Every community in BC should expect no less.

For updates, or to volunteer or donate to support my campaign: www.SoniaFurstenau.ca




Celebrating the closure of the contaminated soil pit

Photo by Laura Colpitts

Shawnigan Weather January 2020

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Average High	6.3	5.7	6.9	5.9	8.4	6.6	8.9	6.4	7.8
Average Low	0.5	1.0	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.5	2.3	0.9	1.4
Extreme High	15.0	12.7	10.7	13.0	14.1	13.7	13.7	13.0	11.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-5.7	-1.6	5.9	-1.1	-5.9	-1.1	-6.5	-2.0
Precipitation	215.3	436.9	214.6	414.3	196.5	362.6	182.7	465.8	226.6
Days w precip	20	29	15	29	15	29	15	29	15
Year Precip	215.3	436.9	214.6	414.3	196.5	362.6	182.7	465.8	226.6
Precip since Oct 1	534.7	791.8	811.1	736.6	737.6	638.3	658.5	790.8	803.7
Rank since 1914: 29 th warmest, 3 rd wettest									
Lake Temperature: Jan 5 th : 5° Jan 12 th : 4° Jan 19 th : 3° Jan 26 th : 3°									
Lake Level Change: Jan 5 th : +28 cm Jan 12 th : +27 cm Jan 19 th : -27 cm Jan 26 th : +64 cm									
Surface Elevation: 116.84m 117.11m 116.84m 117.48m									

So you thought January was wetter than usual? There were 29 days with precipitation (7 with snow (70 cm in total) and 22 with rain). It was the 3rd wettest January since 1914 with a deluge of rain and wind on the 31st, resulting in flooding, high lake levels and many power outages. The 31st was also the warmest day of the month.



South Cowichan Library

Tablet Workshop is 6 – 7:30pm, Wednesday, Feb 5. Find out all that your tablet can do! Bring your tablet and your questions on the first Wednesday of each month.

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program meets Fridays through March 6, 10:30-11:30am. Parents and children 0-4 gather to experience the magic of favourite rhymes, songs, and stories. Offered in association with Island Health.

Cowichan South Arts Guild Workshop: 6 - 8pm on Thursday, Feb 20. Call or stop by to find out what is going on this month.

Book a Librarian: Get help with downloading eBooks or digital audiobooks

and magazines, researching family history, or finding your next favourite book. Make an appointment for Tuesdays 2-3pm or another time in the week as arranged.

French Conversation Group meets on Thursday, Feb 13 & 27, 6 - 7pm. Come by and practice *parler en francais* with a native French speaker.

Paws 4 Stories happens 3:15 – 4:15pm on most Wednesdays. Young readers can sign up for a 15-minute reading session with Kit Kat, a trained therapy dog.

Youth Board & Card Games is 3-5pm on Monday, Feb 24. Come with friends or on your own. Play our games or one of yours.

Just grab a table and start gaming!

LEGO® Club meets every Wednesday, 2-5pm. This free, drop-in event is best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO® is welcome. DUPLO available as well.

Newcomers: Art with Your Neighbours: New to the valley? Join Francoise from CIS to talk with other new community members while creating art, 2-4pm on most Wednesdays.

Chess Club: This drop-in group for chess players happens on Friday, Feb 28, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome.

Shawnigan Lake in January

By Paige Henry

My Christmas this year wasn't white,
The lawn was bare instead.
But then snow came without restraint
Just like the forecast said.
While shoveling our drives and walks,
We grumbled futilely
About our loss of driving roads
And electricity.
Just when we thought it might be nice
To see blue sky again,
The clouds considered our request
Then doused the world in rain.
And yet, among our sodden plants
The hummingbirds still play,
Like Christmas decorations
That were never put away.
I wonder why the neighbour's cat
Prefers our garden fence,
It would be sleeping in its house-
If it had any sense.
We all breathe a collective sigh
When winter finally goes,
But don't worry - come summertime,
We'll wish again for snow.

Shawnigan Focus Team:
Editors – Dave Hutchinson & Lori Treloar
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Shawnigan Stargazer

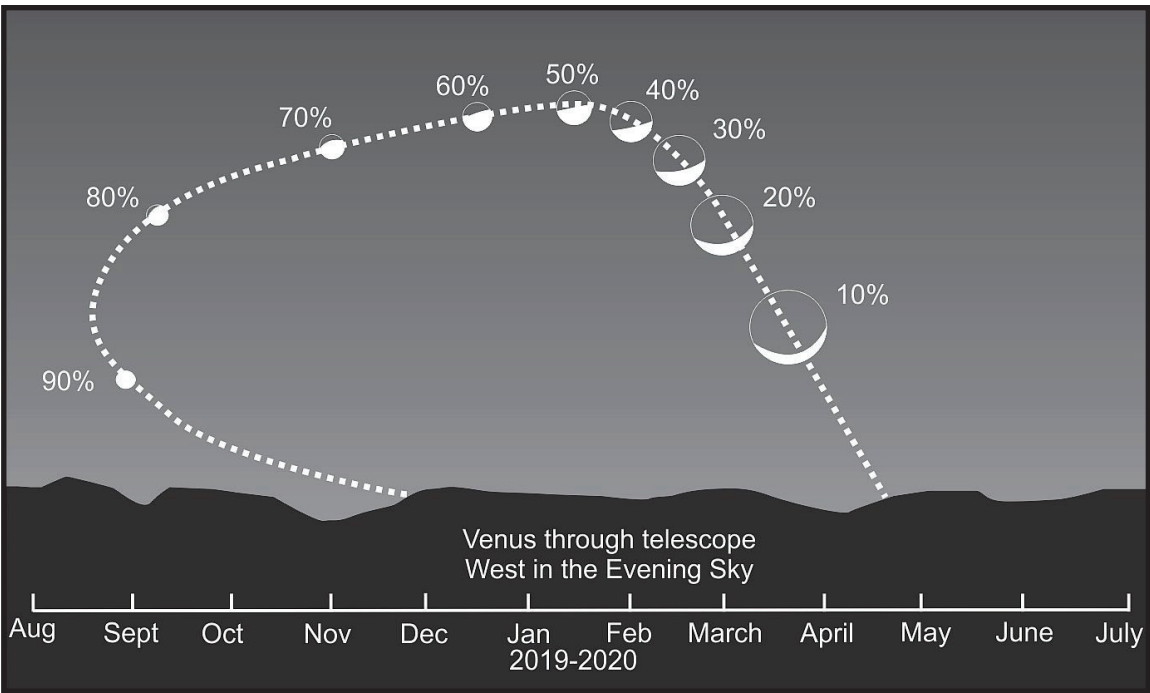
Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

February - Venus

With Valentine’s Day approaching, why not direct our gaze to the planet named after the Greek goddess of love, Venus. The second planet from the Sun at about 100 million km, with an orbit roughly 0.71 that of Earth’s, it the closest planet to us. Venus and Earth are nearly the same size, with Venus’ radius only ~640 km less than our home planet. Venus has an extremely thick atmosphere with surface pressures exceeding 93 times that of Earth’s. This means if you were able to stand on Venus you would be subjected to the same crushing pressure as being 1 km underwater on Earth. This surface pressure, along with Venus’ proximity to the Sun, and its atmosphere being composed of ~97% CO2 creates mind boggling surface

temperatures of 4650°C, making Venus the hottest planet in our solar system.

This thick, white atmosphere is why Venus is so bright in our night sky, as the opaque cloud-tops reflect most of the Sun’s light. Since Venus is closer to the Sun than Earth, it is never fully illuminated by the Sun from our vantage point and it displays phases, just as our Moon does. Galileo made these observations in 1610 when he invented the first telescope. When Venus is on the other side of the Sun from us, it is relatively small, but ~90% illuminated. As Venus orbits the Sun and approaches Earth its apparent size grows; however, on Earth, we see progressively more of the night side of the planet, culminating in a thin crescent before Venus is lost in the Sun’s light. If you have never used your telescope, this is a great starting point for you as Venus



is very easy to locate and you can observe these changes over the next 4-5 months (see attached diagram1). Other than observing the phases of Venus, it is actually not that thrilling to observe with anything other than your naked eye as it appears as a featureless white orb.

Planets and Moon: On the morning of February 18th make sure to set your alarm and find an unobstructed

view to the southeast horizon. Maybe get your headlamp on and hike to the top of Mount Baldy, or drive to the Malahat Summit lookout. Watch the crescent moon rise at roughly 4:30am, even with your naked eye you will see Mars emerge from behind the Moon, a few minutes later, around 4:45am. When a celestial body gets in front of another it is called an occultation. If you are travelling anywhere south and

east of the Rocky Mountains you will be able to view the full occultation, seeing Mars slip behind the Moon and then come out the other side. Unfortunately for us, the Moon and Mars are below the horizon to view the start of the occultation. Full Moon is February 9th, New Moon is February 23rd.

1 Phases of the moon diagram modified from Larry Koehn on Vimeo.

Working with community for watershed wellness

Shirley Astleford
The Shawnigan Basin Society Director & Treasurer

- Our volunteers are constantly engaged with community members concerns.
- Parkland and nature reserve use, lake access, riparian designation, zoning clarification, soil dump and water quality issues are a few recent examples.
- Please consider contributing your time & expertise by joining a committee for one of our ongoing projects.
- ★ Ecologically appropriate watermilfoil management & foreshore restoration
 - ★ Shawnigan Creek, Handysen Creek and Rat Lake habitat surveys
 - ★ Implementation of a plan to increase the amount of forest in public trust
 - ★ Well owners drinking water quality database

- ★ Water & sediment testing services
- The SBS relies solely on donations from community and corporate sponsors for core funding which enables us to apply for project specific grants. Over \$75,000 worth of time and services are delivered by SBS volunteer Directors to the society annually. Your direct financial support is crucial to the continuation of these initiatives.
- Please visit www.shawniganbasinsociety.org or call 250 880 8245 for contribution options & information on our upcoming events.
- DYI Home Cleaner Class February 16th
- Community Outreach –DEVELOPING AN ECOLOGICAL LEGACY IN THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE WATERSHED by BARRY GATES. February 18th
- Fruit Tree and Ornamental Shrub Pruning Class February 22nd



20th Annual Seedy Saturday

Saturday, March 14th 2020

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cobble Hill Hall 3550 Watson Avenue Stu Armour Hall 1438 Fisher Road

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<https://cobblehillseedysaturday.weebly.com>



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Walk Talk

By Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

We can be certain that along the many, many miles of the Great Trail that there are numerous historical places to see. Locally, we have one such place in the “Old Hillcrest Chinese Cemetery”.

Once upon a time, about 1917, there was a big logging and mining boom here on Vancouver Island. A British merchant mariner started The Hillcrest Lumber Company Mill in the Sahtlam area. The

mill’s employees began to move into the area to be near the mill and thus built up a little community. As the mill ramped up production, workers relocated from many parts of the world and along with that there appeared to be a rather large group of workers from the Kwantung Province of China. Due to finances and other influential reasons a lot of these workers were unable to return to their homeland and instead remained here until they perished.

Various sources indicate that

around 1945 the cemetery came about when a couple of members from the Chinese community spoke with the mill owner to secure a spot of land for the deceased Chinese workers. The jobs in that era were often dangerous and work-related deaths were not uncommon. The mill owner was more than happy to donate a section of property as a lot of the mill workers were from the Chinese community.

Within the first 9 months, the first inhabitant arrived due to a fatal injury at the mill. Then the following 23 years brought approximately 123 others residents as they were laid to rest in the space.

To this day, this 80 year old cemetery can still be visited. It can be easily reached either by vehicle via Payne Road or by walking the Great Trail. From the entrance point on Cowichan Lake Road, it is about a 3 kilometre walk to meet up with Payne Road. And from either option you head up a slight incline where the road intersects with the trail, pass under a notable archway and follow the path road to the remaining collection of gravestones.

In 2019, financial support was provided by a member of the Chinese community, along




with some very noble volunteers to help clean up the previously abandoned grounds, document burial records and restore gravestones in an effort to conserve this piece of history for years to come.

Of course, it is a bit of a somber place but it is beautifully situated on a hillside under the shadowy protection of surrounding mountainous ranges. The old Hillcrest mill, which closed in 1968, still

has some remaining historical markers from this time period and is not too far off down the hill.

Many of the gravestones and writings are still intact and share the names of those who lay beneath. Do take time to note the names and perhaps do an investigation into their life stories.

Like photos? Check out The Om Tree Facebook page.



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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.

No registration is required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack.

We will be discussing a wide range of topics.

It all begins at 10:30 AM

Every Thursday except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

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

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Student

by Cary Fagen
Published by Freehand Books,
Copyright Cary Fagen 2019

It surprised me that this book was written by a man. And a young man, at that. However, I later read in an interview that this novel had been inspired by his mother. It speaks to the author’s writing ability and insight that he captured so accurately the life and times of someone of my generation.

The novel is written in two short story forms, almost like two snapshots. One is of the younger woman, unsure and unformed, and the other is of the mature woman, shaped and strengthened by her life experiences fifty years later

The first story begins with a female Canadian university student in 1957, and, although I went to university ten years later, not much had changed. Girls still tried to fit into the male students’ world even though, academically, they might be equals. The opinions and “deep thoughts” most valued were not usually from the “fairer

sex,” but rather from their male counterparts.

Miriam, the heroine of the story, is a serious student and when she goes to her revered and beloved academic advisor in her final undergraduate year, she is told that further education would be a waste of time and money. He believes she would be getting married and busy with babies, so he won’t sponsor her. She is shattered.

Looking back, she sees this was a critical moment in her life. Her dreams and ambitions were broken and it was a long time before her confidence began to grow again. She loses herself in a relationship with a most unsuitable boy and almost derails her life following him.

The second story begins just before Miriam’s gay son’s wedding. She is now an accomplished university professor and author in her 70’s and we are left to imagine how she overcame all of the obstacles to get to this place of achievement, although there are intriguing clues. Her life is comfortable, her husband is also successful, and she is admired and lauded. Her daughters are

capable and strong, and as Miriam takes the time to go through old letters and notebooks, she can hardly remember what it was like to be a young student at their age. Was that really her?

Her son, in his wedding toast to her, lists all of her advocacy projects fighting for the rights of many. She, who had been suppressed, came back swinging and made a better world for all of those around her, including her son, with whom she is very close.

As she cleans up after the wedding, she is faced with yet another challenge and has to make a life-altering decision. She does this calmly and without too much drama, almost as if she had already given it a great deal of thought.

She will survive, as she always has.

Recommended for people my age who remember what a shake-up the last fifty years has been, especially for women. And a good read for those younger ones who need to know that nothing was achieved without struggle.

Rating: 4.9/5 stars

Road ends and public lake access

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

On November 28th I hosted a Director’s Meeting that highlighted the many jurisdictions surrounding road ends and lake access. It was well attended, with almost 100 people filling the meeting space. There were representatives from CVRD Parks, CVRD Bylaw Enforcement, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), RCMP and Conservation. Although MOTI clearly stated that road ends are public right of ways and the public has a right to use them, it appears that no one wants to take full responsibility for enforcing the rules that surround their use. The Ministry owns the road ends, but to date, has not taken action to address the blocking of road ends through fences, construction etc. However, going forward the MOTI has committed to helping the community with a few key offenders.

The CVRD is limited to enforcing zoning; there is a W4 zone that allows for public use of a road end, but prohibits the construction of private docks. Conservation prohibits disruption of the riparian area and any removal of vegetation without proper permits. Finally, the RCMP is only a phone call away if a disagreement about the use of a road end requires police intervention.

Currently the CVRD does manage 3 Parks/Beaches, Memory Island and 4 Road ends:

- ★ May Avenue (public trail access)
- ★ Worthington Road (associated with CVRD’s waterfront park property at this location)
- ★ Recreation Road (public boat launch)
- ★ Bell-Irving Road (beach access launch for kayaks, canoes, small boats)

In 2014 the CVRD was all set to manage two new road ends, but the CVRD and the Director at the time decided not to pursue them due to disagreements in the neighbourhoods in question. In any given neighbourhood there are always mixed feelings about making a road end into a public park. Increase use can create parking issues, litter and noise complaints to name a few of the challenges. The CVRD has a mandate for regional issues that benefit the community at large and in many cases, neighbourhoods want access, but not necessarily a CVRD ‘promoted’ public park. If you are passionate about increasing public access to the lake, I want to help make that vision a reality. Please step forward and let me know. This issue has been talked about for many years because it’s not an easy one to solve, but a determined community can accomplish a lot.

If you have a road end issue I would suggest the following:

- ★ If access to a road end is blocked by adjacent property owners - talk to your neighbours, collect contact info, organize a coffee gathering and invite me. I am happy to help you develop a plan to resolve the issue.
- ★ If someone has built a dock on a road end and are not allowing access - Call CVRD Bylaw, follow up with email (document it) and CC me.
- ★ If someone is not allowing you on a road end access – call the RCMP.

There are over 70 public right of ways on Shawnigan Lake. However, not all road ends are accessible, since some may be too steep and some are better left as wildlife corridors. Road end maps are available online or at the Shawnigan Lake Museum for a small fee. There are many road ends that people currently enjoy, so be a great neighbour and share your favourite one in the community. My top 3 are Tranent/Kews Rd, Munsie Rd and Millicent Rd.

As always I’m available in person, by phone or email. LOVE IT, SHARE IT, PROTECT IT!

Think Shawnigan

Village Design Goes Live!

Tuesday, February 25TH at 7:00 PM
at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

Doors Open at 6:30 PM
- so you can see the plans up close.

See you there!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION : ThinkShawnigan@gmail.com



Shawnigan Moment - Hendrix at Old Mill Park
by Mary Buss



Malahat Legion Branch 134

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion

Check out our February Calendar.

- ★ Every Wednesday's Soup and Sandwich (\$7.00)
- ★ Every Wednesday – Drop-in Crib \$2.00
- ★ Every Saturday – 3:00 pm Meat Draw
- ★ Friday 7th – Roast Beef Dinner (\$12.00)
- ★ Friday 12th – Steak Dinner (\$15.00) and Jam Night
- ★ Sunday 23rd – 1:00 pm General

Meeting

- ★ Saturday 29th – Double Meat Draw - followed by the arrival of the Wounded Warriors

For the past seven years the WOUNDED WARRIORS RUN BC has made a scheduled stop at the Malahat Legion on their run from Port Hardy to Victoria. Legion Members and friends will greet the Wounded Warriors as they arrive around 5:30 pm.

The Malahat Legion's President, Isabelle Hammer, The Defenders Motorcycle Club and the Mill Bay Lions Club will presenting cheques in support their very

worthwhile cause. 100% of the funds donated from Vancouver Island, stays on Vancouver Island.

“Wounded Warriors Canada is a non-profit organization that helps Canadian Forces members, serving and retired, who have been wounded or injured in their service to Canada. They help fund therapeutic programs and solutions for military men and women in need.” (quoted from their website)

Please check our Facebook page [Royal Canadian Legion br 134] for photos and a video as the runners approach the Legion.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department members attended 23 incidents

- ★ Wednesday, Jan 1 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 3 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 5 – RV Fire on Countryside Pl
- ★ Sunday, Jan 5 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Jan 9 - 1st Responder off Bob-O-Link Rd
- ★ Thursday, Jan 9 – Burning Complaint near Masons Beach
- ★ Friday, Jan 10 – Alarms Activated on McKean Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Jan 13 - 1st Responder off McKernan Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 17 – Assistance on Brunton Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 17 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 18 – Assistance on Briarwood Cres
- ★ Monday, Jan 20 - 1st Responder off Briarwood Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 22 – Assistance on Merrifield Ln
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 22 – Structure Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Jan 23 – Mutual Aid MVI w/Malahat Fire on TCH
- ★ Saturday, Jan 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 25 – Chimney on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Jan 27 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Jan 30 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd

Shawnigan storm 2020



Flooding at Masons Beach
Photo Credit - Judy Duncan



Shawnigan Lake
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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvrld.bc.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission(APC)** Meetings TBA
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- ★ **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 **AGM** - November 21st 7pm SL School
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Tues,Thurs & Sat 12-4. General Meetings at 7pm 1st Tuesday of the month. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thursday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com 250-743-9675
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at Mill Bay Community League Hall. southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)

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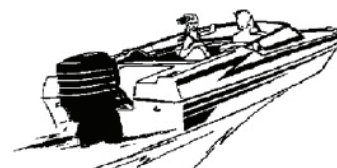
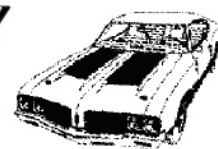


*One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca*

CONGRATULATIONS

Last months photo is a popular spot judging by the number of replies we received. Mary Buss is the lucky winner who answered "It's the boardwalk to get to the dock overlooking where the mill infrastructure once existed. A beautiful spot to fish or watch the sunset! I take my dog (and sometimes cat) there almost everyday!"

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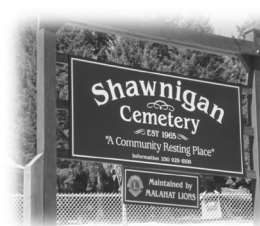
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Shawnigan Lake Museum A year in review

Lori Treloar
Museum Curator

Mission: *To connect community and visitors with the Shawnigan Lake Experience*

Vision: *To share the Passion for Shawnigan Lake – past, present and future*

First, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the 2019 board of Directors – Christine Westland, Marcy Green, Cathy Waet, Gaileen Flaman, Pieter Devries and Grant Treloar. It was a very busy year with a lot of governance work to complete including the development of documents such as a Strategic Business Plan and a Marketing Plan.

I would also like to recognize the large number of

volunteers who have helped us with our fundraisers, our events, our school programs as well as day to day operations. In 2019, there was an increase in volunteers and volunteer hours.

We had over 2800 hours of volunteer service from more than 75 volunteers. Based on the value provided for volunteers (from BC Gaming) our volunteer time was worth \$57 000 in in-kind hours.

And, finally, a big thank you to our members. A solid membership is very important to a successful society and for funders as we apply for grants. Funders like to see strong community support. We truly appreciate the support of our roughly 200 members. You can support your local museum by becoming a member.

2019 was another great year for the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society. Membership, visitor and Facebook follower numbers continued to increase and it was another year of record attendance.

The Society again hosted two free events for the community and visitors. The 7th Annual Family Day event was a big success with the theme It's About the Stories. We had over 100 participants. The 7th Annual Heritage Fair and Family Picnic, an event reminiscent of days gone by, was enjoyed by close to 200 people participating in some old-fashioned fun. Feedback for both of these events was very positive.

We held several Speaker events and book signings.

We provided a Pro-D workshop for Cowichan Valley teachers in May and we offered programming for over 200 students from elementary age through high school.

The Society organized three fundraisers for the museum – a Vintage Sign workshop at the Legion; a Gala evening at the Shawnigan Lake School Crew house - A Night at the Lake with EJ Hughes and a Beer and Burger at the Legion. We appreciate the help from the many volunteers and location partners who helped to make our events and fundraisers a big success.

As most of you know, in 2016 we initiated Project Impact - the plan to enhance and expand the existing museum facility and programming to provide the opportunity to engage the community and increase long term sustainability. In 2019, we continued the work by engaging consultants, such as a designer and archi-

tect as well as a fundraiser/grant writer, all needed to make the project a reality.

In December 2019, we initiated our first Donor Appeal. It was very successful and will be an annual event. Most donors preferred to remain anonymous. However, we thank everyone who contributed, including the following:

- ★ Gary and Freda Dewar
- ★ Dinah and Paul Jolicoeur
- ★ Brenda Eaton and Brent Beach
- ★ Anne McLaughlin

We thank the following Government agencies and Corporate sponsors: Vancouver Foundation, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, BC Gaming, Canada Summer Jobs, BC Rural Dividend, Island Savings Credit Union and Thrifty Foods for their ongoing support for our programs.

Area B Director, Sierra at Area B director at the Museum's Summer fundraiser



Be Water Wise

Watershed & Groundwater Understanding & Management

North Shawnigan is part of the Koksilah Watershed. Join your neighbours and the Koksilah Working Group to learn why some groundwater users faced restrictions last summer and discuss how our community can work together to address this emerging water crisis in our neighbourhood. New maps on display.

Presented by : **Koksilah Working Group**
Date : Monday, March 2, 2020
Time : 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Location : Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
2804 Shawnigan Lake Road

8th Annual Family Day Event Passport to the Kinsol Trestle



- Free Family Fun!
- Hands-on Activities
- Celebrate the 100th Anniversary
- Everyone Welcome

Monday, February 17th
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Shawnigan Lake Museum



shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
250-743-8675



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society