February 2021

A Non-Profit Community Publication

SHOUT OUT OF APPRECIATION FOR THE RCMP

Oriana Parker SCCPAS and CCE&PS

From our island communities, across our province, and this great country we call home, let us shout loudly and proudly our appreciation for the RCMP members, units, and detachments! To all those men and women of the RCMP, for the sacrifices they make on our behalf, so that we can live in safe communities and have peace of mind! We salute you and thank you profoundly!

February 1st is set aside to celebrate the finest police force in the world with a rich and enduring history dating back over 100 years. Here, on Vancouver Island, we are fortunate to call members of the force family, friend, and neighbour! Our concerns are their concerns! We can see, up front, how they make a difference in someone's life!

Working tirelessly, their work brings them to the scene of crimes and disasters, in an effort to be of assistance. They often put themselves into potentially dangerous, and even traumatic situations in order to help others.

Many of us have been a recipient of their kindness and compassion. With COVID, many are at risk of being infected. However, the pandemic does not stop members from risking their lives in order to protect us and our communities.

To all the men and women of the RCMP we thank you for your service past, present and future! You have remained steadfast even though hurtful words have been spoken. Please know that to all of us you remain our heroes and we stand by you and support you. Congratulations on RCMP Appreciation Day!



Make A Difference in Your Community in 2021

Oriana Parker SCCPAS and CCE&PS

South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society, from its inception in 1997, has worked hard to forge a strong partnership with the RCMP. This partnership, comprised of volunteer community members, and the police, is responsible for the success in creating safe and viable communities. Our community policing office is staffed, operated and governed by volunteers. These volunteers are knowledgeable in the needs of their community when it comes to crime prevention. Their partnership with

the RCMP has helped to create safer and healthier communities in South Cowichan. This partnership has been so successful, that as of this new year, SCCPAS has joined with North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP to be known as Cowichan Community Engagement & Policing Society. We are now looking for volunteers from North Cowichan, Duncan and Cowichan Bay who have a keen interest in working together with the RCMP, to formulate community incentives that will address local crime and safety concerns in their own neighbourhoods. A community that is cultivated

and cared for is a safe community!

Volunteers are needed to sit on the Board of Directors. Here are a few of the very popular programs currently in place in South Cowichan. We would be looking at initiating these programs in North Cowichan, Duncan and Cowichan Bay, if they are not already in use.

Block Watch: A neighbourhood program whereby residents come together in an effort to protect each other's homes, roads, and community.

Speed Watch: The main focus of the program is driver awareness. Speed

Watch volunteers monitor speeds throughout a designated area, including schools and playground zones. Using portable radar equipment and electronic signboards, they are able to make drivers aware of their speed. Information gathered is used to determine whether an area requires additional enforcement from the RCMP.

Friendly Phones: A very popular program to help those who live alone help themselves. Daily contact is established with elderly residents, and others, who live alone. It serves as an outreach to those individuals who may have medical

problems or are house bound. Confidentiality is assured and the program is free.

These are only three samples of many programs that have been designed to deliver a safer and healthier community lifestyle. You can make a difference by getting involved! For more information please contact:

Sarah Davidge, Manager Programs & Volunteers Cowichan Community Engagement & Policing Society (CCE&PS) South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS) 845-2B Deloume Road

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Circulation 3200

Shawnigan Focus!

Advertise for as little as \$29.98 per month Contact Kim at shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Shawnigan Focus



Look who came to visit Shawnigan!! Hello Mr. Snowman, so happy you came to play with me! Photo by Jennie Stevens

Random acts of kindness

I'd like to introduce you all to Mel...

Several times now on my daytime walks in the Shawnigan Beach Estates I've come across her with her pail and tongs, cheerfully picking up litter while walking her dog, "pretty much every day", she says! For all of the #LitterHeroes out there, I salute vou. Wouldn't it be nice if we could combine and track our efforts, to cheer each other on? Wouldn't it be grand to look around us on our walks throughout Shawnigan and know that our outdoor spaces are extra cared for by the kind efforts of walkers like Mel? She has the time, yes, but she also finds joy in making her steps count. What if we could keep in touch and belong to a group of like-minded eco guardians, united in community service? I'm working on a plan to support all of you with the heart for this kind of walking and collecting the unsightly trash that seems to never end. Careless tossing may be random but collective resolve is intentional kindness.

Together We'll Transform "Trashed" to Treasured! Stay tuned!!

~Kim Barnard

Shawnigan Weather JANUARY 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	6.3	6.3	5.7	7.5	5.9	7.3	6.6	6.8	6.4
Average Low	0.5	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.1	2.0	1.5	1.4	0.9
Extreme High	15.0	11.2	12.7	12.8	13.0	13.2	13.7	12.0	13.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-2.8	-5.7	-3.4	5.9	-2.4	-5.9	-3.0	-6.5
Precipitation	215.3	254.4	436.9	236.8	414.3	192.8	362.6	227.2	465.8
Days w precip	20	23	29	23	29	23	29	23	29
Year Precip	215.3	254.4	436.9	236.8	414.3	192.8	362.6	227.2	465.8
Precip since Oct 1	534.7	924.7	791.8	876.2	736.6	717.5	638.3	854.8	790.8

Rank since 1914: 17thwarmest, 40th wettest

Lake Temperature: Jan 3 rd : 5 ° Jan 10 th : 4 ° Jan 17 th : 5 ° Jan 24 th : 4 ° Jan 31 st : 4 ° Lake Level Change: Jan 3 rd :+81 cm Jan 10 th :-45 cm Jan 79 th :-18cm Jan 24 th :-45 cm Jan 31 st:-18cm Surface Elevation: 117.77m 117.33m 117.16m 116.70m. 116.54

January2021 was warmer than normal by almost a degree and slightly wetter. Warmest day was on the 12th and the coldest on the 23rd & 24th. There were two days of snow for a total of 9 cm.

South Cowichan Library

In addition to our regular walkthrough service, one person at a time may browse the entire collection for a 10-minute period. Please talk to staff as you enter the library.

Inside, you can find Grab & Go bags with books bundled together by theme, for adults and children. You can also make an appointment to use a public computer or drop in for printing.

We're open Tuesday through Saturday. Tue: 1-3pm & 5-7pm Wed to Sat: 10-12pm & 2-4pm

Masks are now required when visiting the library. A properly worn mask covers your nose and face at all times. This is in addition to physical distancing, occupancy limits, and other safety measures. If you bring your library card or install the MyLibrary! App, you can use the touchless self-checkout machine.

For locals unable to come to the library due to illness or injury, please contact us

about our monthly volunteer Home Delivery service.

If you're not able to come inside or get here during our open hours, let us know and we'll arrange a time to meet at the front door so you can pick up your items.

You can place your requests online at virl.bc.ca or by calling 250-743-5436. You'll get an automatic notification when your item arrives--then come in with your library card to pick it up.

All returned items are **quarantined for a minimum of 8 hours** before returning to circulation. All overdue fines are waived at check-in.

If you need more help than you can get quickly during your visit, please call or email us at southcowichan@virl.bc.ca. We can help you place holds, order the next in a series, get started with eBooks, learn how to access online newspaper and magazines, and more!

Shawnigan Focus Team:

Editors:

Lori Treloar Dave Hutchinson

Advertising and Accounting: Kim Hennecker

Layout:
Taryn Treloar
Local Distribution:
Janet Neilsen

Printed by International WebExpress Box 331 Shawnigan Lake, BC VOR 2WO 250-743-8675

Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)

Jennie Stevens CSAG Member

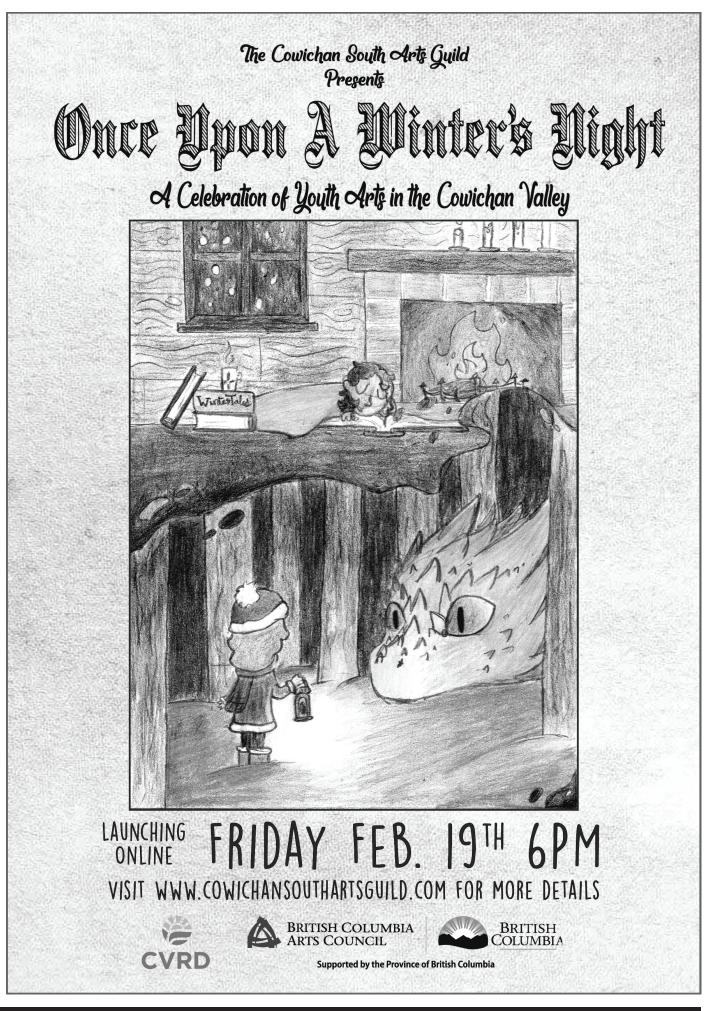
Hello from CSAG! We are excited to share our last event of the Winter, before beginning fresh new programming for 2021!! It has been a very busy year, despite the crazy times we are in, and so many creative projects have come to fruition! We hope you will visit our website and enjoy the many artists & musicians featured in our Spotlight Series and NESA afFAIR. We have been uploading this wonderfully entertaining content during the past five months.

Join us February 19th beginning at 6pm, for an all new launch of YOUTH ARTS in ONCE UPON A WINTER'S NIGHT!!

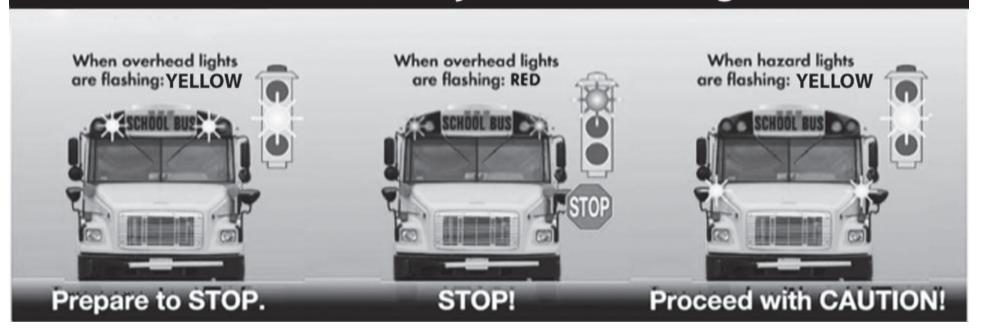
This family friendly Winter-themed Celebration is sure to warm the heart, with numerous locally filmed submissions ranging from Visual Arts, Dance, Song, Theatre and even an Animated, Youth-Composed Music Video. This Event sets the scene for new opportunities as we move ahead with our 2nd year of adapting to online ARTS activities for our Community! We hope to continue this Celebration annually, so stay tuned for ways to participate next year!

Promoting affordable, and often free access to creative arts and culture inspiration for the community is part of Cowichan South Arts Guild's mission. Membership is a mere \$10/yr. We'd love to invite you to join us! Visit cowichan-southartsguild.com or our Facebook page: Cowichan South Arts Guild

Share your ideas, your energy, your enthusiasm and your support, to help us build a strong vibrant expressive arts community in the South Cowichan!



When we stop, you stop! School busses are just like traffic signals.



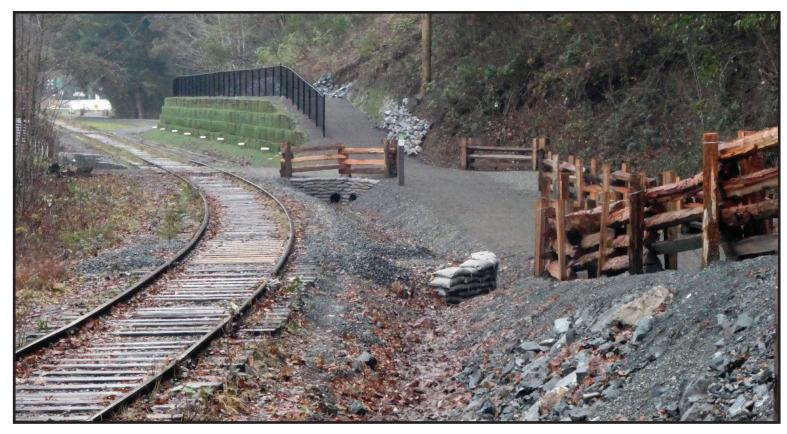
FOLLOW us on TWITTER - LIKE us on FACEBOOK - SHARE your OPINION

Opinion

Al Brunet Shawnigan Resident

The CVRD has completed the Phase 1 and Phase 2 portion of the rail trail running from Mason's Beach to the Government dock in Shawnigan Lake and should be commended for the quality and design of the project. As a walking trail it is comfortable to walk on and, come summer, will also be very attractive. Unfortunately, that is where the praise ends as it should not have been built this way in the first place.

The CVRD has spent far too much money on this project considering that it would have been far less expensive to use the current rail bed, only metres away from the trail. While it is true that the rail bed falls under the jurisdiction of the Island Corridor Foundation, the group who have accomplished nothing with their responsibility, except to allow it to deteriorate, the CVRD should have been going to bat for the people of the valley and insist to the provincial government that they order the ICF to move on. In



other words ICF should be told to "use it or lose it"

Instead of the CVRD and its directors making the case for the comfort, convenience and pleasure of the people, plus the efficient spending of tax dollars, they have chosen the path of least resistance, which is to deplete the public purse to avoid doing the hard work of being the

people's advocates.

Phase 3 (Shawnigan Wharf Park to Old Mill Park) of the project will cost more as it needs to cross many private properties creating the necessity to build accesses to the other side of the trail and tracks for property owners to access their own property. This right to access is established in the Canada

Transportation Act.

The CVRD should avoid these extra costs, put Phase 3 on hold and petition the government to allow the use of the rail bed. That is far less costly proposition.

It has been more than 10 years since the train ceased and it will be decades, if ever, before it runs again. The people of this valley and all British Columbians deserve better stewardship of their property than what we are getting from the ICF, the CVRD and the provincial government.

Editor's Note: The Island Corridor Foundation continues its work to restore rail traffic on the Island and has many supporters. For more information go to islandrail.ca

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'Serving Shawnigan Lake and South Cowichan for over 20 years'

Book Review

Marcy Green Shawnigan Focus

Extraordinary Canadians

Stories from the Heart Peter Mansbridge with Mark Bulgutch Published by Simon & Schuster Copyright 2020 by Simon & Schuster Canada

Are you looking for a book to inspire and lift your spirits? Do you enjoy reading a brief chapter before you fall asleep? This is the perfect solution, a book for everybody and guaranteed to hold your interest from the first page to the last.

A gift from a thoughtful grand-daughter to her grandfather, I grabbed this book as soon as it seemed polite to do so. Peter Mansbridge, the long-time host of CBC's news show, "The National", is a favourite of mine and he doesn't disappoint here. Written with his producer Mark Bulgutch, the process was a series of extensive interviews, followed by writing the story in the first person, allowing the reader to instantly feel connected with the subject.

And what subjects these are: seventeen Canadians, mostly unknown, who represent a wide diversity of backgrounds, ethnic origins and passions. They come from all across Canada and I can only imagine the hard decisions Mansbridge and his co-writer had in making the final cut.

What unites these people is how determined each one was to break through adversity to fulfill their deepest purpose. These are scenarios of courage, hard work and resilience.

Several stories remain in my mind. The

first is that of the rock musician who himself has overcome mental health issues and suicidal thoughts. He takes his band to schools and talks about suicide, and then lets students know they are not alone. After his first gig, a girl came up to him with a suicide note which she felt she no longer needed after hearing the man speak. He has collected many such notes over time and has the signatures of the survivors tattooed on his arms. What a difference he has made!

Another story that has stayed with me is from Rabbi Reuven Bulka. I had seen him on Parliament Hill for the last few Remembrance Day ceremonies giving the Benediction. I was always touched by the thoughtfulness of his words and so it was with sadness I learned of his family's tragic losses in Nazi Germany. However, here in Canada, he has committed his life to healing and peace.

Other stories include Indigenous trailblazers, hard-working immigrants, medical heroes and feminists. A Raptors' sportscaster's story is alongside that of a specialized services soldier who chooses not to give his real name, so covert are his operations. Another is of a woman working devotedly in bird and animal rehabilitation, saving as many creatures as possible. All of these profiles are remarkable and held my attention throughout.

This book is recommended for young people, grandparents, and all those in between. The perfect present for any Canadian because it inspires pride in what we are and what we can be. Definitely one of my favourite reads during this time of COVID.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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Shawnigan Focus

Taxes

Sierra ActonArea Director

We've all heard the expression, that Benjamin Franklin wrote in 1789, "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Taxes may seem simple and straightforward, but as far as Area B taxes go, they are commonly misunderstood. The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is a complex government structure that arguably does not serve our local needs as well as it could, but I will leave that discussion for another day. I will cover the basics and should you wish more information, I would suggest the CVRD website be your next stop. Your "property taxes" are actually made up of multiple taxes, of which, the Area Directors can only influence (need a majority) the CVRD line item. The other taxes such as Fire Protection, Hospital, Education, Parcel, and Rural Tax are set out and managed by other jurisdictions.

The CVRD provides mandated and community

requested services. If you have never been a developer or built a house you may not know this, but the CVRD has many departments including: planning, building inspection, legislative services (create bylaws, runs transparent meetings, etc.), engineering services (approves and manages watersystems), finance, emergency services (responsible for 911 towers and response) and Environmental services (creating the plans for the Province, flood plain mapping, water quality testing, water quantity testing, etc.) just to name a few. Many of these services are paid for by everyone in the region. Sub-regional services such as Kerry Park Recreation and South Cowichan Liquid Waste Management are paid for by the Areas that are covered by the services in question. Local services such as Community Parks and the Community Centre are entirely paid for by Area B. Furthermore, you are only taxed for a service if you receive it (e.g. if you are connected to the Beach Estates Sewer.) Many of the regional services we may not actually notice locally, but they are mandated by the Province and must be part of our planning and legislation.

Assessments of a property's value are made by BC Assessment (which is managed provincially) every year and are based on sales in the local area. In Shawnigan Lake (Area B), assessments are generally much higher than anywhere else in the CVRD because we are closer to Victoria (among other things.) Since the average assessed value is higher, we do end up paying a higher percentage for a given service if it is regional or sub-regional. This is because the allocation of taxes is based on assessed value and are not "flat-rate" (e.g. by population.) Despite this, we still only have one vote at the table (that's me).

Something to note, Area B is not formed by natural boundaries. It was drawn by someone for the Province in the 60's. Area B includes parts of Cobble Hill, and Cowichan Station on the other side of the Koksilah River. This is unfortunate because sometimes they are forced to pay for a local service that is geographically inconvenient for them to use (e.g. the Shawnigan Community Centre).

On your property taxes you will also see a separate tax called Rural Tax, which is

charged to unincorporated areas. The same rate is charged throughout the Province (with the exception of the Peace River Regional District) to all properties in a given property class. This means exactly what you think it means; every residential property in an unincorporated area pays this tax based on that individual properties assessed value, which means that if the assessed value is three times the value of a similar property in say northern BC, then that property pays 3 times the taxes. This Rural Tax is a general tax that goes into the Province's general revenue. The Province determines how much revenue they need to raise for the year and sets the provincial rate in order to raise that amount of revenue. Because it goes into general revenue, it is impossible to say exactly how it will be allocated, but it does cover things like secondary roads

This year the CVRD tax

and the RCMP.

(budget) increase for Area B will come in around 2.5%. This increase is mostly due to the Library Budget (which I opposed) and the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund. I strive to find a balance between social, economic and environmental concerns when voting for, or against, specific budget items.

The Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund is a regional function (meaning everyone pays for it) and it is designed to help save for future land acquisitions. If an important property came along, these funds would be available to help the CVRD acquire it. I have taken the perspective that we need to be able to react quickly when there is an opportunity preserve important ecological and recreational spaces for the future.

As always, I available for a conversation, Sierra Acton.

Love it! Share it! Protect it! Sierra.acton@cvrd.bc.ca (250) 715-6763





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Shawnigan Lake Museum



Lori Treloar *Executive Director*

Thank you to the community for your support of the Museum in 2020 - for responding to our donor appeals, for visiting the Museum, for 'liking' our Facebook posts and for shopping local at our online and in-store Gift Shop. In spite of the difficult times, the Museum managed to be open for most of the year.

The Museum was set to reopen on February 5th but, at this point, that decision will be made after the February 5th update from the Province. Check the Museum website https://

shawniganlakemuseum.com and Facebook for more information.

For those who don't know, the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society was incorporated in 1977 and took over the old Firehall in 1983 to establish the Museum. After 38 years in the same building the Museum is severely space challenged, which restricts the programming and activities that can be offered to the community. For the past few years the Society has been working behind the scenes toward the goal of expanding the Museum. The good news is that we are well on our way to achieving that goal. In the coming months, we will provide

updates on the progress.

In the meantime, you can be part of this exciting project and help to achieve this goal. There are many ways for the community to support the Museum. In addition to the abovementioned, you can become a member, recommend the Museum to friends and family, write a review on Trip Advisor and/or Google, shop in the Online Gift Shop on our secure website, follow the Museum on Facebook and/or consider volunteering.

If you have any questions, contact the Museum at <u>shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca</u> or 250-743-8675.





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Membership packages

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Malahat Legion Branch 134 thanks you



Once again, we would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to the Community for their support of our bottle drives and requests for donations for the Mill Bay Food Bank and Broken Promises Animal Rescue. Even closed, we try to support our community.

With your generous support we are able to pay our utility bills so that when we can re-open, we will be able to. Be sure to check our Facebook or our website for future fund raising.

The Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134 (also known as the Malahat Legion) has had the honour of supporting the Vancouver Island Wounded Warriors Run since the run's inception in 2013. All of the money remains on Vancouver Island BC. Last year we raised over \$4,500.

Due to Covid-19, we are not sure what the plans are for this year's run which would normally finish on Saturday February 27th. We would still like to continue to support this worthwhile project because they make a real difference to many Veteran's lives. Whatever the plans, we will be making a donation to them. If you would like to donate, you can drop off an envelope marked for the Wounded Warriors at the Legion or via e-transfer or credit card to our new website. (https://malahatlegion.ca)

As Dr. Bonnie says, BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE Wear a mask, and keep social distancing

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Web: https://malahatlegion.ca

FACEBOOK: Royal Canadian Legion Br 134

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Department members attended 14 incidents in January

- ★ Saturday, Jan 2 Hydro Lines on Campbell Rd
- ★ Monday, Jan 4 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Jan 5 1st Responder off Bob O'Link Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 6- 1st Responder offShawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 8 Hydro Lines on Sommer Ln
- ★ Sunday, Jan 10 MVI on Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 10 Chimney Fire on Ingot
- ★ Tuesday, Jan 12 Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 13- Hydro Lines onShawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 13

 Hydro Lines on
 Shawnigan Lake Rd

 ★ Wednesday, Jan 13
- − Hydro Lines on S Shawnigan Lake Rd★ Wednesday, Jan 13
- Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd★ Wednesday, Jan 13 -
- Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
 - Wednesday, Jan 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd



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Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny...C.S. Lewis

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton Email sacton@cvrd.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
- Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)

Contact: bburr@shaw.ca **Shawnigan Basin Society**

Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org

Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)

Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com

★ Shawnigan Lake Museum

Reopening will be determined after the updates from the Province on Feb 5th, 2021. Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

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)
- **Note:** Covid restrictions may affect regular meetings. Check before you go...

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



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

NO WINNER FOR JANUARY

We stumped you last month. The photo showed a brand-new sign warning of the intersection of the brand-new CVRD Rail-Trail and the road near Masons Beach.

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INFORMATION SESSIONS...

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