



# Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Thirteen - Issue Eleven

November 2022 Tth'al'xwumutsun

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## Remembrance Day - Royal Canadian Legion

**G.J. Solley**  
Malahat Legion  
Branch #134

On October 22nd the Malahat Legion Branch 134 held a very special touching service at the Cobble Hill Cenotaph for Canadian service men and women who lost their lives on Canadian soil, in the everyday duty of keeping our nation safe.

The Poppy Campaign is held each year from the last Friday in October to November 10th. The money raised provides aid to Veterans. All money raised during the Poppy Campaigns is held in a trust and expenditures must be approved by B.C. Yukon Command. You Can Help Support Our Veterans Approximately 7,000 Poppy Envelopes were stuffed by our volunteers and mailed

out to everyone in the Cowichan Valley. Donation boxes were distributed to various businesses and schools. Donations can also be dropped off at the Legion. Poppy taggers are still needed. If you can spare a couple of hours – please contact us either on-line or by phone. The sign-up sheet is located just inside the Legion door. We are pleased to announce that we held our annual Veteran's Dinner on October 27th at the Legion. The meal was prepared by the Cobble Hill Farmer Institute. It was great seeing our Veterans in person again.

### Remembrance Day November 11th, 2022.

This day is set aside to honour our Veterans who lost their lives or who were injured or suffered PTSD in the various

conflicts.

**10:00 AM**  
Remembrance Day  
Ceremony at the  
Cobble Hill Hall

**10:30 AM**  
Form up for Parade  
to Cobble Hill  
Cenotaph

**10:50 AM** Remembrance Day Ceremony at  
the Cobble Hill Cenotaph

The Malahat Legion will be open after the Service.

*What's happening at the Legion?* Pick up our Monthly calendars or check our website. Have you paid your membership dues yet? Ray Rovas, our membership chair, will be available on Saturdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm



## People of this Place

**Commander  
Annick Fortin**

Somewhere in the Pacific – A long way from her home in Shawnigan Lake, Commander (Cdr) Annick Fortin is currently in the South China Sea as part of a six month deployment on board *HMCS Winnipeg*. Raised in Trois-Rivières, QC, Annick graduated from Polyvalente Chavigny High School in 1991 and immediately joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), looking for adventure and the opportunity to serve her country.



Officer Cadet (OCdt) Fortin attended the College Militaire Royal (CMR) de St. Jean, QC and Royal Military College in Kingston, ON, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Commerce. Each summer she was sent to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt to conduct the various levels of Naval Warfare Officer (NWO) training.

Following completion of university and her NWO training, then-Sub-Lieutenant Fortin first served in the fleet as a Bridge Watchkeeper. As her career progressed, she specialized as an Above Water Warfare Officer, then Deck Officer, then Operations Room Officer, then Executive Officer, and finally, Commanding Officer. She has served on a variety of Royal Canadian

Navy (RCN) ships, from destroyers to frigates. As well, Cdr Fortin has worked ashore at Sea Training (Pacific), Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Vancouver, Strategic Joint Staff, Director General Naval Force Development Office, and Naval Fleet School Esquimalt, first as the Fleet Support Training Officer and returning as the Commandant in 2019. She also found time to earn a Master of Defence Studies from Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

During her times at sea, Cdr Fortin deployed as part of Operation (Op) *Apollo* in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Op *Altair* in the Persian Gulf, Op *Podium* in support of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Op *Reassurance* and Op *Sea Guardian* NATO's marine security operation in the Mediterranean Sea.

Cdr Fortin has had many exciting experiences and opportunities over the years, but when asked what her most memorable moment in the CAF has been, she replied "Being here today, commanding my own ship on a deployment, representing Canada and being able to work side by side with amazing people, knowing that they trust me to bring them home safe!"

What does the role of Commanding Officer entail? "As the Commanding Officer, I am responsible and accountable for the safety of the ship and the crew; by providing overall direction and guidance to carry out our mission."

What is your favourite part of your job? "Everything! Being part of a team that can accomplish amazing things across a very wide spectrum! Leading, taking risks, making difficult decision, representing Canada, seeing success, appreciating resiliency and dedication, motivating, mentoring and developing our future

sailors, leading the way, being a role model, being humble, listening to the stories, being in the moment without forgetting the future, but enjoying and being grateful for every challenge, success, experience and everyone that I have had the honor to serve with. I love it all!"

Cdr Fortin assumed command of *HMCS Winnipeg* in March, 2022, the first female commander of a major Royal Canadian Navy warship on the west coast. Since then she has led the ship and her crew through intense pre-deployment training and preparations, and finally, departing on the actual deployment.

On June 14, 2022, Cdr Fortin and *HMCS Winnipeg* left their home port on a six month sail that includes Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) and Operation *Projection*. In early August the ship completed RIMPAC, which takes place every two years off the coast of Hawaii and is the largest international maritime warfare exercise in the world. *HMCS Winnipeg* then chopped over to Op *Projection*, where she will conduct forward naval presence operations in the Indo-Pacific region as well as conduct cooperative deployments and participate in international naval exercises with partner nations. Operation *Projection* shows Canada's ongoing commitment to global peace. The deployment of sailors, ships and submarines shows how the Royal Canadian Navy is ready to defend Canada's interests around the world.

For more information:

Captain Christine MacNeil, Public Affairs  
Officer *HMCS Winnipeg*  
Email: [christine.macneil@forces.gc.ca](mailto:christine.macneil@forces.gc.ca)  
More information at: Operation *Projection*  
*RIMPAC*



*The Museum is selling hand crafted enamel coated metal poppies for \$30.*

*\$10 for each one sold will be donated to the Remembrance Day Poppy Fund.*

*Open 10:30 - 3:30,  
Wed - Sat*

*or order online at:*

*[shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://shawniganlakemuseum.com)*

## Shawnigan Weather for October 2022

	October Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Average High	14.1	18.6	11.9	19.7	13.0	19.5	13.0	18.9	12.5
Average Low	5.8	8.1	6.2	7.8	5.6	8.5	6.7	7.6	6.0
Extreme High	28.3	27.0	17.1	27.9	18.9	26.9	19.1	26.5	17.5
Extreme Low	-7.2	2.4	0.0	1.3	-0.7	2.5	0.1	2.5	-0.5
Precipitation	114.7	104.1	141.0	68.0	160.2	64.1	171.6	64.8	132.4
Days w precip	16	8	20	9	24	8	21	8	19
Year Precip	830.8	976.0	879.4	770.3	838.2	679.9	770.0	763.0	797.5
Rank since 1914: 2 <sup>nd</sup> warmest, 26 <sup>th</sup> driest									
		Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30			
Lake Temperature		19°	19°	18°	14°	13°			
Lake level change		-1.3cm	-1.3	-2cm	-2.5cm	+2.3cm			
Surface Elevation		115.93	115.91	115.89	115.86	115.88			

The first three weeks of October were close to summer conditions with highs averaging 22° and no rain until the 21st. The lake level also dropped to its lowest level in years as there was only 4cm of rain from the first week of July until the end of October. In the final week, conditions dramatically switched to normal fall weather with normal temps and frequent rainfall.



South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn  
South Cowichan Library  
250-743-5436  
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

Indigenous hip-hop duo **Snotty Nose Rez Kids** (SNRK), from the Haisla Nation in Kitimat, are presenting a live virtual songwriting/music production workshop on Thursday, Nov 17, for teens and youth under

30. There will also be a Q&A and an exclusive recorded performance via Zoom. Go to the library site - virl.bc.ca - and click on Events near the top. Find Nov 17 and click on Snotty Nose Rez Kids Workshop + Performance to find a registration link and more information. **Inspired by Reading Book Club** is a new creation of the Cowichan South Arts

Guild and open to everyone. The first meeting is Monday, Nov 14, 6:30-8pm, to talk about *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall. This group is for anyone interested in reading and sharing inspiring conversation. Book selections are based on creating and sustaining a hopeful and compassionate mindset. The meetings are welcoming, and an accepting environment for all!

**Conversational Spanish** starts at 6:30pm each Monday. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting and chat en español en la biblioteca! Beginners welcome. **LEGO® Club** happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you provide the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event. If you know someone unable

to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our volunteer **Home Delivery Service**. They can get books, audiobooks, and DVDs right at their door monthly. The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open: 10am - 8pm on Monday and Tuesday 10am - 5pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Letter to the Editor

Mary Desmond  
Shawnigan Lake  
At the most recent UBCM (Union of B.C. Municipalities) assembly, the membership passed a motion urging senior level (provincial and federal) governments to support the E&N Rail Corridor “.... so that it can continue to connect communities, establish safe and environmentally sound passenger and freight services, and strengthen economies up, down, and across Vancouver Island.” Further, a recommendation from the delegates urged that “... engagement and consultation with the First Nations affected by the Island Rail Corridor and operation of the railway” should occur prior to March 2023.

There are so many advantages to rejuvenating the E&N; reducing roadway pollution and congestion, providing a safer - and secure - alternative transportation route to the Malahat, as well as opening up access to our island communities to residents and visitors alike. Unfortunately, the political will required to render these ideas into concrete action has been sadly absent. Our senior government leaders, especially those at the provincial level, have been inclined to cry poverty and claim that the rail revitalisation project is “too expensive”. But these glib protestations fall flat when one considers how they justified the sum of nearly one billion dollars for the Royal B.C. Museum refurbishment with such stunning alacrity. However, with the solid - and province wide - show of support from our municipal representatives, the restoration of island rail service has acquired a greater level of political legitimacy.

A sense of optimism, almost extinguished by decades of failure and frustration, has been reborn. This public recognition of the multi-faceted value of train travel is the most encouraging sign to come our way in many a year. Let us continue to hope, pray, and work -write a letter! - to ensure this acknowledgement is fulfilled. **Please Send Your Letters of Support!** Here is the contact information for our federal and provincial representatives: Alistair MacGregor, MP House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

(no postage required) alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca Duncan constituency office Telephone: 250-746-4896 Fax: 250-746-2354 Sonia Furstenuau, MLA Green Caucus The Legislature 501 Belleville Street Victoria, B.C. V8Y 1X4 Sonia.Furstenuau.MLA@leg.bc.ca Duncan constituency office Telephone 250-715-2792 Fax: 778-698-8934 It would be a good idea to keep our Area Director, Sierra Acton, informed as well.

cc your letter to: Sierra.Acton@cvrd.bc.ca The more levels of government who are made aware of your support, the better! A short, to the point letter is preferable. All that is needed is one paragraph stating support for train travel. Perhaps concentrate on how you would like to use the E&N in the future; shopping, visiting, appointments, commuting to work, and so on. \*Please remember all posted letters require a return address or they may not be opened.

Opinion

E&N Train Corridor  
Eric J. Ronse  
Shawnigan Lake  
What is the real reason that politicians cannot agree with re-starting this mode of transportation? Currently, in the Middle East, people of all stripes have concluded that rapid train travel is both practical, efficient and takes polluting exhaust from cars off the road. For example, Saudi Arabia is considering adding more lines to its exist-

ing one, where trains travel at 300 kph. They are not alone, the Sudan, Egypt, the UAE, and far-flung Iran have bought into the sensible notion that rapid trains ought to displace slow and carbon emitting vehicles. We cannot compare our conditions to those in the Middle East. Our highways are not normally clogged. But, to think that in Iran, a trip normally taking 5 hours has been cut to 90 minutes! Let's all get on board. If they can fly at 300kph, then so can we. The time is now!

Shawnigan Basin Society

Stop the Glyphosate Spraying of Forests: Such Spraying Decrease Biodiversity and Promotes Forest Fires  
Bernie Juurlink  
Glyphosate spraying is a common forestry practice throughout Canadian ‘managed’ forests. Glyphosate kills broadleaf plants and grasses but spares coniferous trees. Why spray? Broadleaf shrubs and trees are thought to compete with the desired high-value fibre trees such as cedar and Douglas fir. Completely ignored are: 1) Broadleaf shrubs and trees make the forest more fire-resistant.

2) Broadleaf plants and grasses provide food for deer, elk, bears and other creatures, e.g., in many areas buffaloberries are the main high-calorie food source in the late summer for black and grizzly bears. 3) Broadleaf plants provide habitat for birds, squirrels and bats, creatures that eat insects that damage trees. Damaged trees are more susceptible to forest fires. 4) Broadleaf plants provide necessary shade over fish-bearing streams. 5) Many broadleaf plants interact with nitrogen-fixing bacteria and this fixed nitrogen is shared by all the trees and shrubs in the forest via fungal (cont'd p. 4)

Shawnigan Lake



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11AM to 3PM**  
**Christmas in the Village**  
**SCOUT TREES ❄️ COWICHAN SOUTH ARTS GUILD ACTIVITIES**  
**... and as always, MUCH MORE ...**

Visit our website for more information :  
**www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca**





**MALAHAT LEGION #134**  
**2022 POPPY CAMPAIGN**  
OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>



The **ANNUAL POPPY CAMPAIGN** starts on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed to man the various stations around the Cowichan Valley to collect Poppy donations. All money collected from the Poppy Campaign goes directly to our Veterans and Veteran Families in need.

Approximately 7,000 envelopes have been mailed out to everyone and boxes distributed to various businesses and schools in the Cowichan Valley.

**WREATH ORDERS** will be accepted until Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> on line - **MalahatLegion.ca**, by email - **rcl134@shaw.ca**, or drop by the Legion any Friday or Saturday.

**POPPIES are now available in stores and at schools until November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day 2022 - PROGRAM**

10:00 AM	Remembrance Day Service at Cobble Hill Hall
10:30 AM	Form-Up for Parade to Cobble Hill Cenotaph
10:55 AM	Remembrance Day Ceremony at Cobble Hill Cenotaph

**MALAHAT LEGION BRANCH #134**  
1625 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Road - next to Shawnigan Lake Fire Hall #1

**THE MALAHAT LEGION WILL BE OPEN AFTER THE SERVICE**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**





## Area Director’s Report

**Sierra Acton**  
*Area Director*

Thank you!

Thank you for voting for community. I’m excited to put my experience to work over the next four years!

These last few weeks have been intense, but the definite highlight has been reconnecting and meeting new community members. This community is diverse but shares one commonality: **Kindness**. Highlights from door knocking include, but are not limited to: being offered to come in for pie by Stan and Maria, given a handmade ornament by Stefan and being invited to see Randy’s extensive train set (I hope I have your names correct.) You were all so gracious and it was very clear to me that “you love it here” and enjoy everything Shawnigan has to offer. Cheers to Community! Thank you all for your continued support.

### Important dates:

#### Board Inauguration

November 9th at the CVRD Boardroom at 1:30pm

#### First Community Meet & Greet

of the term - Monday November 28th 7pm-8pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

*Let’s chat about emerging topics that are important to the community.*

#### Volunteers Fair

Save the Date Feb 4th 10am – 1pm South Cowichan

On a less positive note, just days before the election, a piece of illegal advertising was circulated by Canada Post in Cobble Hill. It was published anonymously by one or more individuals in this community. The Elections BC investigation into this is ongoing, but as I have previously stated, I will not be intimidated by bullies or special interest groups, especially those who won’t even sign their name to a letter. However, there were several accusations and half-truths in that letter that should be properly addressed so that

the community has accurate information.

### Let’s start with the Rail Trail:

- Removal of vegetation in the riparian area along the trail: The Qualified Environmental Professionals that the CVRD rely on for making these types of decisions, very clearly stated in the most recent report on the matter, that this project ‘may provide a net benefit by removing and replacing large amounts of invasive plants which will improve the function of the riparian area.’
- The money for the trail is coming from a Gas Tax Grant (which is federal.) There are very specific rules on how this money can be used and the dates by which it has to be spent. It definitely cannot be used for roads or sidewalks. Regardless of that fact, we actually can’t fund road improvements since MOTI owns our roads, and considers them rural highways. MOTI will simply not put in proper sidewalks (hence my focus on trails instead). If we don’t use this money to build the trail, we will lose it. Future gas tax grants may have different criteria, but they will not apply retroactively.
- I am aware of the petition on change.org that opposes this project. For those not familiar with change.org, it is an excellent platform for addressing issues of national and/or global importance. However, we have a much more effective method of determining what our local citizens consider important and, with 68% of the vote, this recent election is a clear and resounding mandate from our LOCAL community to move forward with this project.

### Funding for the Shawnigan Residents Association(SRA):

It is true that the CVRD has given the SRA money for specific projects over the last

four years. It is also true that my husband volunteers on the board of the SRA (he actually does a lot of volunteering in our community.) The CVRD approves the distribution of funds to groups like the SRA through a motion at the board. In order for that motion to be approved, and the funding dispersed, a majority of the board must agree (i.e.7 other directors and me) Once the SRA receives the funds, a majority of the SRA board (I believe there are 7 Board Members at the moment) must decide how the money will be spent. Over the last four years, most of the funds have been used by the Shawnigan Research Group to do water and sediment testing in Shawnigan lake and creek. Some of the money was used to do a Milfoil management and mitigation campaign over the course of two summers to educate waterfront homeowners and lake users on how best to remove or mitigate this invasive weed. The board of the SRA are all volunteers, and my husband has never received a dime from the SRA or the CVRD (which I believe was the implied accusation.)

### The Wastewater Management System:

There was a very preliminary proposal from the Shawnigan Estates developer to include a sewer system as part of a 500 door development on the 100 acres behind the Legion and the “Sager property” across from the SLCC and Dougan Park. The board referred the matter to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC.) The APC were asked to consider the developer’s request to deviate from the normal process and engage with the CVRD and Ministry of Environment on a preliminary approval for a non-standard waste treatment proposal. For those unfamiliar, the APC is a group of volunteers from all over Area B who are familiar with our community vision (Official Community Plan - OCP) and come to the table with different perspectives

to represent the community. As such, an APC meeting is a form of public input, but not actually a public forum (those come later in the process.) In fact, I don’t even get to participate in these meetings, as they are meant to advise the CVRD Board. The APC motioned to advise the CVRD to deny the application. In a nutshell they were concerned;

- with using taxpayer’s money in advance of a proper development process
- that the community has not said they want the 100 acres behind the legion developed (only the Sager Property has been identified in our OCP)
- lack of data and supporting information on water availability.
- too many ambiguous variables.

### The parking lot at Dougan Park

(this is the new parking lot between the community centre and Mason’s beach).

The accusation is that I condoned the filling of a wetland in order to build that parking lot. Well, apparently, I have lived here much longer than the person who wrote that accusation, because even I remember that before that lot was used to store cars and sea cans, it was the old location of Shawnigan Specialty Topsoil. The CVRD didn’t have to do much to build that parking lot; it was already relatively flat and very well compacted.

### The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS):

For the last four years the CVRD has been collecting \$750k per year regionally to support the ongoing work of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) service. This is a new regional service tasked with helping to protect the region’s water resources and it provides funding and oversight for groups like the SBS to undertake local projects. The SBS has, in fact, been working with the DWWP and collecting funds to support

specific projects. In addition to the DWWP funding, the SBS has asked for an additional \$50k every year. However, the community does not support using taxpayer’s money on paying executive director salaries, overhead costs or renting commercial office space (when the community centre is available for free.)

### Taylor Park:

The Kinsol Trestle is one of the Cowichan regions top tourist attractions. Unfortunately, the current parking lot is woefully undersized and located in the middle of a quiet neighbour that is home to around a hundred families. The CVRD staff proposed the parking lot be expanded and moved to Taylor Park. As the Kinsol Trestle is a regional park, it was a matter of concern for the whole board and had to be considered on its merits. The board asked for a full riparian area assessment to be done to see if a parking lot could be situated safely in the park. It was found that this could not be done and so the project was scrapped. It was not possible to short cut this process regardless of how “obvious” some people may have felt the outcome would be. The CVRD board relies on staff and qualified environmental professionals to provide the detail necessary to make properly informed decisions. I am still advocating for the community that lives near the current access point, and I am hopeful that we can find another solution to this problem so that they can enjoy their beautiful neighbourhood in peace.

If you are concerned about any of the projects happening in Area B or you wish to get involved, please reach out and connect. I am very grateful for my team of volunteers and the community for supporting my re-election. I am looking forward to another great four years.

*Love it! Share it! Protect it!*

## Shawnigan Rotary Eco Club

**Kim Barnard**  
*Secretary-President*

I’m continually fascinated by observing the influence that we each have, whether we know it or not. Our actions lead by example, measured by how well we involve ourselves in the stories and experiences of a diverse and divided population.

Leading implies intention. Is an effective leader easy to meet or deal with? Curious and engaged? Caring and kind in how they treat everyone? Listens

to their opposition? Always learning? Many of these are the qualities we look for in Rotary - one who persists in purposing to do good.

For the last 6 months, I have been lucky to be the greeter and office administrator at the Shawnigan Basin Society. It was my job to get to know the environmental work that a small group of dedicated volunteers have been stewarding for the past 10 years. During that time of absorbing and distributing vital information within

the heart of the village, I’ve enjoyed the anticipation of not knowing who I will meet next and developing the practice of creating an “open door invitation”. Imagine welcoming spontaneously honest conversations that span the ecosystems of people, flora and fauna. The room becomes much bigger on the inside!

Our Rotary EcoClub also uses the massive SBS community table to share ideas, problem-solve over coffee, and plan our next projects. We support the gardeners and waterers that look after the beautiful

planters in the Village. We invite speakers, take tours, and make videos of our inspiring stories. We litter-pick and we look for places to beautify, “planting for pollinators” with blooming corridors for our beneficial insects. Most of all, we are practicing what it means to be available to listen, learn and serve in ways that builds goodwill which is beneficial to all.

You could even say that we see ourselves a bit like generous bees, busy pollinating our circles of influence with our shared knowledge - buzzing with

caring and enthusiasm for giving of our time and talents. “Together We GROW” in this Art of Approachability, and we welcome you to connect with us!  
[www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca](http://www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca)





# Shawnigan Focus

## The Ancestors are Watching

**Jared Qwustenuxun Williams**  
*Writer & Educator*

I have this belief that if we walk in this world like our elders and ancestors are standing behind us, we will always walk the right path. If we are conscious of the fact that we only exist due to their perseverance we will do what we can to ensure we don't fail them.

Our ancestors fought for our language, our culture, and our rights. We are the culmination of their endless efforts, so we must not let them down.

When I introduce myself, I always stand and speak Hul'q'umi'num. I can feel my grandma telling me, "Get up and be proud. Don't slouch and look like you don't care. Get up and

show them who you are, you are my grandson."

Or, how sometimes I feel pushed into speaking because my ancestors push me. I speak at public meetings, teach our history, or share our language, all because I can feel them pushing me forward.

Yesterday, during a class, I stood up and walked out of the circle to grab a plant and came back and talked

about it. I shared stories and teachings around it. I almost felt pushed up from my chair. The class wasn't about plants, but I felt overwhelmingly compelled. When I was done, I sat down, and one of the hwulmuhw people in the class spoke about how she loved this plant and knew many of its teachings, but had never heard the story I'd shared.

Sometimes the ancestors

want me to speak for others and not for myself. But if I had ignored my feelings, my intuition, my ancestors, that young hwulmuhw slheni would never know the story about her favorite plant.

It's subtle and can be misunderstood, but I assure you they are there, behind all of us, pushing us to do better for them, for ourselves, and for the generations to come.

## Cowichan South Arts Guild

**Leanne Boschman**  
*Inspired by Reading Book Club*

Some trace the first book club back to the Socratic circles of 400 BC, others to the 17th Century when a group of women met aboard a ship heading to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634. In any case, book clubs in one form or another have been around for a long time...some are more than 100 years old. Whether you have picked

up some suggestions for interesting books to read from the public forum of the Oprah Book Club or have been part of a group of friends who meet for lively discussions of works of fiction, memoir, essays etc. that inspire, haunt, puzzle, and entertain, you are familiar with the social endeavour that brings humans together with the express purpose of talking about books. If you haven't been part

of a book club before, this winter might be the time to try it out. Now that fall has arrived, some of us who like to read engaging ideas and narratives and then take it one step further and find out what others gleaned through reading the same books will be meeting up to do just that. Cowichan South Arts Guild is launching the 'Inspired by Reading' Book Club on November 14 and will continue monthly until April. Everyone is welcome! The first book that we will

discuss is *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, by Jane Goodall, which is available through the Vancouver Island Regional Library. At that first meeting there will be a chance to vote for five more books, titles selected from the 2022 Canada Reads competition, Governor Generals Literary Awards, as well as the Booker and Pulitzer Prize lists (a combination of fiction and non-fiction, and possibly a selection of poetry).

**Where:** VIRL South Cowichan branch in Mill Bay, 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Come out and share your reading reflections.

'Inspired by Reading' seeks to spark inspiring conversations about books selected to create and sustain a hopeful and compassionate mindset.

**Contact:**  
Leanne

[hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com](mailto:hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com)

*(Cont'd from p. 2) SBS*

mycorrhizal networks. Nitrogen is the limiting nutrient in our forests. Alders, buffaloberry, bearberry, silverberries, bitterbrush and ceonothus shrubs such as snowbrush have nitrogen-

fixing bacteria associated with their roots. We now know that willow and poplar trees have nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their stems and leaves. Because mycorrhizal networks allow sharing of nutrients amongst shrubs

and trees, killing nitrogen fixers negatively impacts the health of the valued fibre trees promoting their susceptibility to both insect damage and forest fires. Experimental field trial experiments have clearly shown that the presence of

alder promotes the growth of Douglas fir and western red cedar.

6) The shedding of leaves from deciduous plants also provides nutrients and humus to the soil and, thus, ensures the health of valued fibre trees.

7) There is compelling evidence that glyphosate harms mycorrhizal networks, thus impairing the sharing of nutrients amongst plants.

If Nova Scotia can prohibit the spraying of glyphosate, why cannot we?



## St. John's Academy Spotlight



Visit our website for additional information:  
[www.stjohnsacademy.ca](http://www.stjohnsacademy.ca)

### School Improvement is Ongoing, Joyful Work

*"The campus looks great, best we've seen it in years!"* is the praise we are often hearing from our Shawnigan Lake neighbours. We are grateful for the kind words and to our facilities team, whose unwavering commitment to our school is demonstrated by their ongoing campus improvement work. As we all know, it's the little details that matter.

Our facilities team takes care of the details, which is instrumental to nurturing the culture we are growing at the school. Demonstrating care for our environments (natural and constructed) is one of our core values. Our facilities team embodies that value in their custodianship of our beautiful trees and flowers, our handsome stone wall, safe and clean walkways, our gorgeous waterfront, and the areas that cannot be seen from the road – our energy saving retrofits, water conservation efforts and sewage system upgrading.

We also continue to enhance all aspects of our educational programs. As an IB (International Baccalaureate) World School, we must continually demonstrate institutional improvement. This is consistent with our commitment to learning that is innovative, creative, and 21st century-ready.



As we begin our fourth academic year, we are inspired by the work our teachers are doing to further strengthen the school.

**Three key 2022-2023 projects that will define us as we grow are the adoption of the IB Diploma Program (IBDP), the creation of an Environmental Education program, and our site development plans.**

In preparation for offering IB DP courses next year, SJASL teachers are doing a lot of professional development and Environmental



Education programming. The third focus is our site development plan.

There is an increasing demand within the community for more access to elementary and secondary options that we hope to be able to support in the future as our consultations and community discussions continue.

For a tour of the campus please contact:  
*Jenny Boomer*  
[jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca](mailto:jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca)



E.J. Hughes at Home in Shawnigan Lake

Robert Amos  
Artist & Author

As the years went by, the artist E. J. Hughes became his wife Fern's sole caregiver. They lived near poverty at times, but Shawnigan was a perfect spot, with nobody bothering him. They got a TV set, which became their main source of entertainment.

By the nature of his contract with the Dominion Gallery in Montreal, Hughes sold to them everything he painted. He just had to stay at home and paint. His wife Fern was there with him, but as the years went on Fern's Muscular Dystrophy led to her long, slow decline.

Pat Salmon met Fern in about



1970 and reported "one of the sad things is that with MD the muscles in your face really go, and this gave to her the face the expression that she was displeased. She wasn't - she really wanted to make friends - and that's why she was so glad when I would

go over and see her. Her dad had MD too, and one of her brothers, so she was no stranger to this."

In addition, Fern was diabetic and became blind in one eye. As she and Hughes had no car until 1959, their isolation during their first years was deep. The car was a great luxury and going to the Dairy Queen in Duncan was an immense treat - it was a drive-in, saving Fern the trouble of getting in and out of the car. And now Fern could go with Ed on road trips for sketching. They travelled all around the Interior of the province and to the Rockies in the 1960s. On these trips Fern remained at the motel and

made lunches for him to take when he went out to do his drawings.

In 1971, it became obvious that their house at Shawnigan Lake was impractical, so they looked for something more convenient. They found a level-entry house on Chapman Road at Cobble Hill. Fern, who was not a demonstrative person, said "it's pretty," and Hughes bought it on the strength of her simple and immediate response. Hughes always said that quietness was the big issue but, now, a wheelchair accessible home had become a necessity.

In 1973, after less than two years in Cobble Hill, Fern

died in her sleep at age 58.

"It was not painful, thank God," Hughes later reported. "Fifty-eight is too young to die."

His mother and his family supported him from their homes in North Vancouver, and Hughes was able to carry on.

As he told Pat Salmon, he realized that Fern ("up there in Heaven") would wish him to continue painting. So, he picked up his brushes and got back to work.

But Hughes felt he could not go on living at Cobble Hill. "To be there when it was quiet and not to have Fern call out, "Edward - your lunch!" every day at noon was too painful," he explained to Pat Salmon. So, he moved to Duncan.

Shawnigan Lake School

Tour de Rock

The Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock received a rousing reception from students and staff at Shawnigan Lake School on October 4 and 5.

The festivities were split over two days, with a barbecue for the riders on Tuesday evening, and a rally on Wednesday morning. Since 1998, Tour de Rock has raised over \$26 million, including more than \$600,000 raised by Shawnigan Lake School.

On Wednesday, the riders rode onto campus, and Co-Heads of School, Ingrid H. and Henri G., presented them with a cheque for \$32,000 before they continued their journey.

Truth and Reconciliation Day

A powerful and personal history of the damage done by the residential school system was the focal point of Shawnigan's observation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

Student Hannah F., a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, addressed students and staff, relating that her grandparents were taken from their families and sent to residential schools, and that she is here today because they survived that experience.

A contingent travelled to Duncan to take part in a march organized by Cowichan Tribes. Students

volunteered to set up chairs and helped clean up afterward.

Terry Fox Run

Students raised money for cancer research by taking part in the School's annual Terry Fox Run on September 23. Students collected donations for the Terry Fox Foundation, then ran 5 km, a fraction of the distance Fox ran each day during his Marathon of Hope

**Remembrance Day**  
The entire community is invited to join us for Remembrance Day ceremonies on Friday, November 11. Anyone who wishes to join the school to honour those who served should meet at the flagpole in front of the Main Building at 10:30 a.m. The entire ceremony will take place outside, so come prepared for the weather!

Watch Us Grow!

Lori Treloar  
Shawnigan Lake Museum

We are excited to share with you that the building permit application, for the expansion of the museum, has been submitted! Behind the scenes, we continue to write grants as building costs have spiraled over the last few years. We will also need to raise money to build the new exhibits that we are developing for the expanded space. The Museum has been in the same building, which was the first Shawnigan Lake Firehall, since 1983. Over the course of 40 years, the museum collection, the exhibits and the programming have all increased. As a result, the museum has long since outgrown the building. The expansion will allow us to increase school and community programming, hold community events, create more exhibit space,

offer more volunteer and paid positions, and add accessible washrooms. In addition, the new building will have washrooms that service the Village and Elsie Miles Park. These will be accessed from the outside of the building, on the north side, and will be maintained by the CVRD. We won't have a start date until the Building Permit application is approved, likely within the next month. It is anticipated that the project will take roughly 10 months. For part of that time, the museum will likely be closed to the public (dates to be determined). During that down time, we will be working on re-organizing the collection, writing grants, creating new exhibits and developing new programming.

We truly appreciate the support that we are hearing from the community.

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- Monday, Oct 3 – Burning Complaint on Campbell Rd
- Monday, Oct 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 5 - 1st Responder off Oland Rd
- Thursday, Oct 6 - 1st Responder off Recreation Rd
- Friday, Oct 7 – Burning Complaint in Cougar Ridge Area
- Saturday, Oct 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Oct 9 – Alarms Activated on Barton Pl
- Sunday, Oct 9 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Oct 9 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 12 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 12 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Thursday, Oct 13 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Saturday, Oct 15 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Oct 16 - Burning Complaint on Mable Rd
- Sunday, Oct 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd

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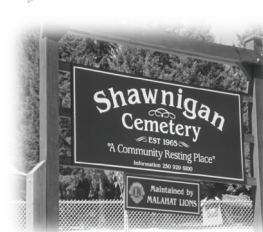
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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

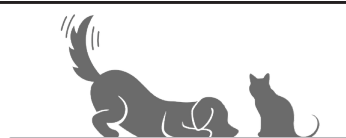
- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Email [sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca)
- **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- **Shawnigan 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 Lake Museum**  
Open Wed - Sat 10:30 - 3:30  
Contact: [museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com](mailto:museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com) (web): [shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://shawniganlakemuseum.com)
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**  
For info: (web): [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca)
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org)
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [blog.ysag.ca](mailto:blog.ysag.ca) (web): [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**  
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): [southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://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 Arts Guild**  
Contact: [hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com](mailto:hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com) (web): [cowichansouthartsguild.com](http://cowichansouthartsguild.com)
- **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- **Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**  
Meeting Info & Contact: [ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca](http://ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca)

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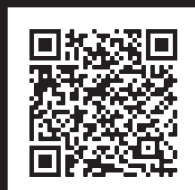
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