



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fourteen - Issue Seven

July 2023 Tum'qw'i'lus

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Restore Island Rail

Warren Skaalrud

Living and loving the traditional territory of the Cowichan First Nation

“Restore the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor to its former glory!” is sometimes shouted, but it’s not the reality of what would come. A restored railway will not only be better, stronger, and faster, it will be modernized, accessible, comfortable, reliable, WiFi enabled, and will better support micro transit options like bicycles. With a refurbished track bed, the ties replaced, and the brand-new tracks it would be a smooth ride! With additional sidings, so more trains can pass (yes, many already exist), and seismic and safety upgrades to the trestles and bridges, people will feel safe and secure while they travel the island.

With the anticipated

\$3-\$9 million in revenue predicted by the Freight assessment completed by the B.C. Government and released in Dec 2022, the railway will be able to generate income to pay for its own maintenance going forward. On a fundamental level, the corridor’s value is widely known and is sorely needed to compensate for rapidly increasing populations and industries all over the island. In particular, Nanaimo, Victoria and Langford are growing at a record pace compared to other cities across the country. It’s not hard to imagine why, after all Vancouver Island is a mild-climate paradise compared to most other places in the world, and our industries and economy are booming!

MOTI and others are predicting another 100,000 people on

Vancouver Island in just 7 years, that averages to about 39-40 people per day. Could you imagine the commutes in 2030 when 1 million people are living here! The steady persistence to solve every transportation problem by involving roads runs counter to just about every goal that every level of government has, especially considering we already have a pre-established right-of-way, the rail corridor. On a restored railway, the trains would run adjacent to the Malahat and touch every major city from Courtenay and Port Alberni all the way through Langford to the start of Victoria’s walkable cycling network. Car ownership is expensive with payments and maintenance and, of course, the fuel prices that are set to grow in perpetuity to reduce pollution from combustion engines. The magic of owning a car quickly



fades when it’s grocery money that has to fill the tank. Many people do love their cars, but the facts are that they pollute with tire particles, oil leaks, windshield washer fluid, and of course exhaust fumes that were proven to alter your brain chemistry by B.C. Universities. There are long-term health effects on us from those gases, we should not be accepting longer commutes as the norm. We should be using our existing railway in addition to the roads to provide alternatives to those that would use

passenger rail services, an estimated 20-40% of the population.

There are no straight lines on Vancouver Island, the land is way too mountainous and full of a vast number of sensitive eco-systems to create an alternate route or to put in a “bullet train.” The recent announcements by government and the \$18 Million distributed through Regional Districts and First Nations for the purposes of engagements is set to start soon. That means it’s not over by any stretch of the imagination. Cases of reconciliation through indigenous partnerships have been successful all over B.C. and in Canada, there is no reason to think we could not see the same here. All the Regional Districts and all the First Nations could put the Vancouver Island Railway back together again.

Island Rail in 1886: Ten trestles built in ten days

Blaise Salmon

The story below appeared in The Daily Colonist, August 14, 1886, after Sir John A. Macdonald hammered home the last spike to complete the E & N railway. The “golden spike” is long gone, but today there is a small monument on the tracks near Cliffside on the east side of the lake marking the spot.

One of the most remarkable facts in the final push to complete the railway for the opening ceremony was that ten wooden trestles were constructed in ten days. These trestles were built to cross gullies along eight miles of the route south and east of Shawnigan Lake. According to the contractor, this required 350,000 feet of timber, in addition to 20,000 ties and eight miles of track. We can assume this was done mostly with Chinese labour, as was the case with many of BC’s early railways. The workers must have been very well-organized and fast. How long would it take to build ten such trestles today? Years, probably. In 1907 the trestles were

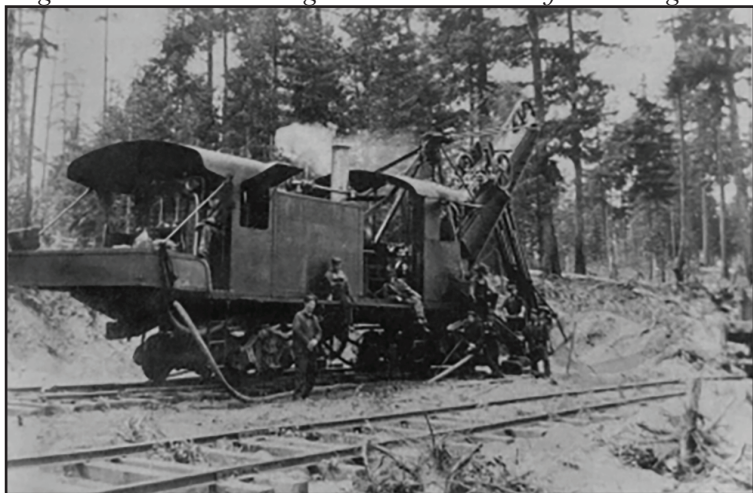
replaced with rock fill which is still visible when walking the route today.

The Daily Colonist, August 14, 1886
The Island Railway: A Monument to Pluck and Enterprise

“The pleasure of the excursion party which left Esquimalt of Friday morning on the first through train to Nanaimo was greatly enhanced by the beauty of the weather and the excellent arrangements made by the officials of the road made for the comfort and safety of their guests. Of those on board none seemed to enjoy themselves more thoroughly than Sir John and Lady Macdonald, who were loud in their praise of the climate and scenery and hospitality of British Columbians. The train sped swiftly along with its human freight and, in about half an hour’s time, Doublehead and Niagara Canyons—deep gorges chiefly by nature—the sides of the mountains—were crossed. Next came Arbutus Canyon whose echo, seven times repeated, is destined to be one of the many attractions of the New Wonderland. Over the high trestle the train thundered, and then dashed through the only tunnel on the line, 150 feet long. A few miles further on

and the summit—900 feet above sea level was reached. From this point a grand view was had of Saanich Inlet and the surrounding country, and the tourists were informed that a climb of 150 feet further toward the clouds would be rewarded by a view of Victoria and the Straits of Fuca, twenty miles away. Having gained the summit, the train began to descend almost immediately. Presently the locomotive whistled “Down Brakes” and the train came to a standstill at a spot where were gathered about 100 persons. This was the junction of the “McLellan and Early” and the “Bell Larkin and Paterson” contracts. Mr. McLellan, who was on board, informed Sir John that in ten days his men had laid 20,000 ties and eight miles of track, besides preparing and erecting ten trestles which required 350,000 feet of timber. The premier expressed astonishment at the rapidity of the work and solidity of the track which, in his opinion, will rank with most of the railways in Eastern Canada. The party by this time had debarked and as the last rail was placed Sir John, armed with a silver mallet, advanced and drove the golden spike home. As the last blow was delivered, the echoes were disturbed for the first time since Creation with hearty cheers for Sir John

and Lady Macdonald, Mr. Dunsmuir, and the Island Railway. Everybody shook hands with everybody and warm congratulations were exchanged.



“The big steam shovel is expected from Vancouver today. It will be employed all summer filling in the bridges on the north slope of the E&N railway between Cobble Hill and the Summit.”
Daily Colonist, February 27, 1907

The voice of Conductor Weldon was presently heard summoning “All Aboard” and in a few minutes the train thundered down the grade and soon the beautiful waters of Shawnigan Lake were seen stretching away to the west and north. This is one of the most picturesque lakes in North America. It about seven miles in length and deep enough to float a large steamboat. The waters abound in trout. Everywhere there are shady nooks and groves,

and, when it becomes known that within an hours ride of the City that there is so delightful a spot, picnic parties will resort there instead of remaining in

town. In the winter there is excellent skating. An hotel will be erected nearby and a small steamboat will be put on the lake next spring...”

No photos have been found of the ten trestles or the Last Spike ceremony. Thanks to Quentin Goodbody of the Ladysmith Museum for photo and Daily Colonist articles.

Shawnigan Lake Rotary EcoClub

Celebrate with Us!
Kim Barnard
Secretary-President-
StoryGatherer

Happy Summer, friends of Shawnigan Lake!

Feel free to take more than you give, leave all the traces, speed not stroll, make a splash, do donuts, blast your tunes, flick your butts, ignore your neighbours, trash your home and land... oh, wait... it's a free country, right? Who's gonna know? Who's gonna care? "Mind your own business!"

Yes, we DO mind. This is everyone and everything's home, and we are all

impacted by your choices. We value safety, courtesy and a healthy obsession with not causing fires and accidents. Pick it up, put it back, slow down, offer to help someone, be bear aware. There are no strangers here, only friends we haven't met yet!

Are you a friend of taking care of our shared natural spaces? We would love to walk+talk with you! Rotary is a member-driven, leader-developing organization that gives us tremendous opportunities to bring our community-building ideas into action. By creating a team of talented people locally, we hope to have both representation and experience in various fields and connections, all for the comparatively low cost of a \$5 coffee a week. Does this sound like a worthwhile investment of your abilities and availability? We hope so! Please check out our website for details - we value our volunteers as friends indeed.

As I reflect on the freedoms we enjoy, they also come with tremendous responsibilities. The next generation needs us to walk our talk, and offer



opportunities to do good for others - especially while having fun outdoors together!

We gratefully acknowledge our gratitude for those whose steps we walk in - the traditional custodians of Showe'luqun, the Hul'q'umi'num speaking peoples - who hunted and gathered in this area, respecting their caring connections to each other and the places where we live, work and play. See you this summer!

www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

Bats

Bernhard Juurlink
Vice President SBS

The Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA) has been carrying out acoustic monitoring to determine which species of bats are present in the Cowichan Valley since 2021. A

number of members of the SBS have participated in these surveys. Officially there are 15 species of bats residing in British Columbia and another three species considered to be occasional visitors. The following nine species are considered to be present on Vancouver and the Gulf Islands: Townsend's Big-eared bat, Hoary bat, Silver-haired bat, Big Brown

bat, Yuma myotis, California myotis, Long-legged myotis, Little brown bat, Long-eared myotis and the occasional visitor, Mexican Free-tailed bat. The acoustic monitoring by CERCA also suggests that the Eastern Red bat is present on Vancouver Island.

BC bats all use echolocation to visualize their environment and

prey in the dark. Fossil records show that this ability to use sound to 'see' was already present in bats 50 million years ago. All BC bats are insectivores. Bats, which have an undeservedly bad reputation, carry out a number of environmentally important roles and are considered beneficial to humans because they eat many insects harmful to trees and to agricultural crops as well as eat mosquitos and gnats.

In summer, many of our bats roost in snags, under bark or on branches of trees while others roost in caves, mines, rock crevices or under bridges. In the winter, the Eastern Red bat, the Hoary bat, and the Mexican Free-tailed bat are thought to migrate south while others seek buildings, caves, mines, and rock crevices as their hibernaculae.

offspring per year. Pups mature in about 80 days but experience a high mortality (up to 50%) during their first winter, likely because they have not stored enough fat to last the winter. Once they survive their first winter, mortality rates are low.

There are a number of dangers facing bats. Cats appear to be major predators of bats. In a recent study of killed and injured bats brought to Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford, BC, 24% were due to cat predation. Wind turbines can be significant killers of bats; however, with the use of acoustic monitoring to detect bats, there are a number of ways to decrease bat mortality due to turbines.

A major concern is the white nose disease, caused Asia. This fungus causes ulceration of the skin and increases the bat's metabolism resulting in depletion of fat stores before hibernation is over. This fungus has now been detected in BC, although, to date, no white nose disease has been observed in our bats. There is some preliminary evidence that bacteria associated with bat hibernaculae in BC may have anti-white nose fungus activity.

But bats should be appreciated for being such wonderful forms of life, forming 20% of all mammalian species. They are the only mammals that have true flight. Did you know that baby bats babble and their mothers respond with the bat equivalent of baby talk?

South Cowichan Library
Monica Finn

The Summer Reading Club keeps kids excited about reading during the school break. Sign up online or in person to participate. We'll have something to do each week in July and August as well as draws for prizes. The fun starts on July 4!

July 7 & 8: Make a wearable button by creating your own work of art and using our button-maker! All ages welcome. Drop in any time between 1pm to 3pm on Friday, July 7, and Saturday, July 8.

Saturday, July 15: Pirate Puppet Show at 1pm

Saturday, July 22: Family Storytime at 10:30am

Wednesday, July 26: Peter Puffin's Whale Tales, all-ages guitar singalong concert, at 1pm

The Adult Summer Reading Challenge and Teen Summer Reading Challenge run July 4 to August 31. Check out virl.bc.ca for more information (including great prizes!).

Local Poets! Let's celebrate poetry with readings by local poets, followed by a discussion. If interested in reading your poetry on Saturday, July 29, please email southcowichan@virl.bc.ca or stop by the library.

The Inspired by Reading book club doesn't meet until Aug 14, so you have time to read from the Summer Book List:

The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible by Charles Eisenstien

Commanding Hope by Thomas Homer-Dixon

Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard

Art of Loving by Erich Fromm

Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr

Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien

Indians on Vacation by Thomas King

LEGO® Club meets every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

10am - 5pm,t Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

250-743-5436

southcowichan@virl.bc.ca



Music in the life of E. J. Hughes: Part One

Robert Amos
Author & Artist

E. J. Hughes (1913-2007) was a visual artist from Shawnigan Lake and Duncan. He neither played an instrument nor listened to music while he painted, but music was an essential part of his family's life and influenced his career.

The Hughes family immigrated from Denbighshire in North Wales in 1884 and brought with them skills for both mining and "silver band" music.

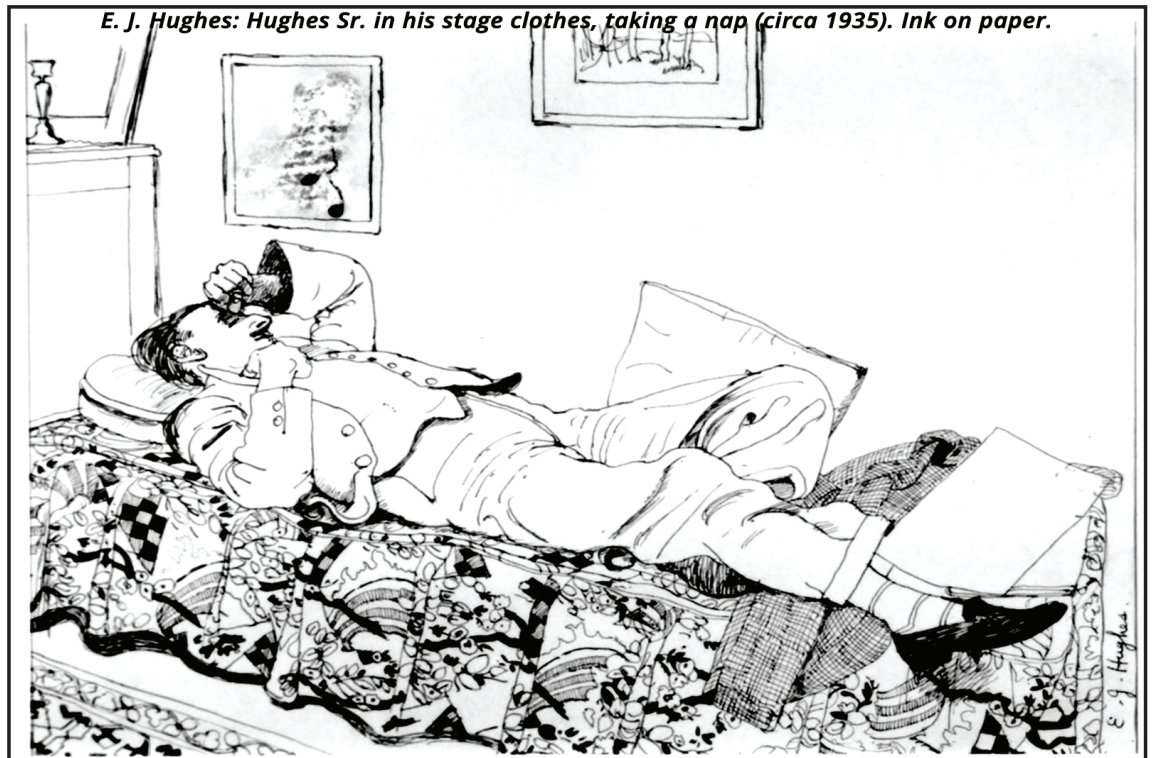
Living in Nanaimo, Edward Samuel Daniel Hughes, father of the artist, had to make his living working "above ground" at the mine, but when his son E. J. Hughes was born in 1913, Hughes Sr. was also a popular musician who played piano at the old Bijou Theatre on Commercial Street and trombone for the Boys Brigade Band and the Silver Cornet Band.

In 1923 the family moved from Nanaimo to Seattle, where Hughes Sr. took

work playing in the house orchestra of a large movie theatre. After a year he returned with his family to Vancouver and took a full-time job as pit musician at the Orpheum Theatre. Hughes Sr. also performed and did arrangements at the Capitol Theatre and, in the summer, he played symphonies and concerts with the Cal Winters Orchestra at the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park.

Imagining that his children would share his interest in music, Mr. Hughes provided music lessons for all four. As Pat Salmon noted, for Edward it was a disaster. "He quite readily understood the theoretical part of music, but couldn't get his hands going fast enough, and he hated the results of his efforts.

Each week he departed reluctantly for his piano lessons, and his frustration increased. To him, it was worse than a trip to the dentist. Later he would remember how he hated even the leathery smell of his roll of piano music. His father then bought him an expensive



E. J. Hughes: Hughes Sr. in his stage clothes, taking a nap (circa 1935). Ink on paper.

gold-plated saxophone, but to the youngster the results seemed even more horrendous." Pat Salmon, personal communication to Robert Amos, 2012.

During his school days in Kerrisdale, E. J. Hughes liked to spend the evening hours drawing. He and his younger brother Gary would share the kitchen table and, with the radio placed on the floor to maximize the table space, the two would listen to jazz while spending happy

hours doing what they loved best.

All four Hughes children showed considerable artistic promise, though Gary was the only true musician among them. He eventually worked in London as a composer and arranger for the BBC.

At the end of the 1920s, the happy life of the Hughes family took an unexpected turn. With the coming of "the talkies" in 1929 pit orchestras in movie

theatres vanished almost overnight. Suddenly out of work, Hughes Sr. with his wife and daughter moved to the mining town of Princeton, where he worked at the Tullameen mines. In addition he played the piano for the dancing lessons his wife provided. In the summer E. J. Hughes came on vacation from the Vancouver School of Art to help out with the family enterprise.

...to be continued.

Shawnigan Basin Society

Thanks for All Your Support!
Shirley Astleford

SBS would like to first thank the community for their support. I had the pleasure of attending the Mill Bay Garden Club AGM on a property near beautiful Baldy Mountain. SBS was the proud recipient of a generous

donation from their fundraising efforts.

We have also recently received donations from Frances Kelsey School through the Victoria Foundation, and Saint John's Academy, who is providing funds for our cold water milfoil removal program.

We also hope to get milfoil removal program funding through an EcoAction Community Grant sponsored by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). We should hear about that grant application soon. We continue to receive generous donations from the Royal Canadian Legion.

Thanks as well to all our individual donors, our SBS members, and other community organizations that keep our efforts for the environment going through both financial and cooperative assistance. We have had discussions with the Cowichan Valley

Regional Government (CVRD) Board and staff including Sierra Acton, our Area B Director. These discussions centre around a new relationship where SBS provides program support through a function referred to as Drinking Water and Watershed Protection. This function was created by a successful community referendum some time ago.

This vote showed that the community understands and supports the need to protect our watershed functions that help to purify our drinking water and to keep our lake and associated streams suitable for the aquatic biology and recreation that they support. We hope that these

discussions bear fruit. We have recently completed a cooperative program with Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB), which included representatives from both the CVRD and Cowichan Tribes. The assignment was to review water sampling programs in the lower Koksilah River, tributaries feeding Cowichan Bay, and the Cowichan Bay Estuary.

We feel it is important for SBS to take a role in the Region, and we hope to continue to assist with volunteering support to the Regional Water Quality Working Group. This will only help the Shawnigan Lake community with our environmental efforts in the watershed.

Opinion

Food for thought
Eric Ronse

I became a Canadian citizen at the age of 12 years. The ceremony was brief, and all were asked to join in the singing of "O Canada" en Francais, in Quebec. Very soon, I found that the lyrics excluded me, as well as everyone who sought citizenship.

"O Canada, our home and native land". Sorry, but all who seek citizenship cannot call forth the word "native". Since none seeking citizenship were born here, that word is specious and requires a simple adjustment.

Can whomever is in charge of our national song please supplant the offending word "native" with "chosen"?

In French, the wording is equally problematic. "O Canada, terre de nos aieux" translates as "O Canada, land of our forefathers." Evidently that cannot be the case for aspiring new citizens.

Their forefathers have been left behind in their country of birth.

I suggest that we please amend the wording as appropriate. No need for setting up a commission to study the matter. Invite people to write in with suggestions and have the newspaper Editor (for example), publish some ideas.

*We're Looking for Writers Who Have Stories
or Articles About Shawnigan!*

Email : shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

Send your article in word, not pdf

If you include a photo, send as separate jpg or png file

Photos should be 300dpi or larger resolution

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

If you have been in the village lately, you may have noticed that the project to expand the museum is now underway. The area on the west and north sides of the museum are now part of an official construction site.

In 1983, the museum, after several temporary locations in Shawnigan, moved permanently into the building that was Shawnigan's first fire hall. The fire hall was built in 1950. A priority during our expansion planning was to keep the original Fire Hall building. Although it would have been easier,



and less expensive, to take it down we did not want to erase that history. Shawnigan has already lost so many historic buildings, and this building has been a perfect fit for the museum for over 40 years.

After 40 plus years, the museum has run out of space for school and public programming. Also, there are no accessible washrooms and

no room to grow. The Historical Society Board has been working toward this moment for over six years. Interestingly, previous Society Board members drew up plans in the 1980s to expand the building, but it did not happen.

We have managed to raise over \$2m which should have sufficed. Then Covid happened. Like so many projects, ours was delayed and costs escalated. The Board voted to move ahead with the project as there never going to be a better time, even if we waited. To move forward, we unfortunately had to do a cost savings exercise which meant removing several features from the plans.

We will continue to raise funds through grants, fundraising events and donations so that we can add back the things that had to be cut. Let us know if you want to help. We thank our generous donors and the funders who have helped us reach this point.

We will continue to stay open to the public on a regular basis unless the construction crew deems otherwise. Our current hours are reduced to Wed-Friday 10:30-3:30 due to an increase in the work behind the scenes.

ShawniganLakeMuseum.com
250-743-8675

Shawnigan Weather - June 2023 Report

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network, Environment Canada and Weather Underground
Reported by Grant Treloar

	June Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Elford Road	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Average High	20.2	24.0	21.0	23.4	21.3	24.0	21.4	23.0	20.0	22.4	20.5
Average Low	10.0	10.3	10.2	9.8	10.6	7.9	8.2	11.1	11.0	10.6	10.5
Extreme High	40.5	30.8	34.4	30.4	33.2	32.5	33.7	30.4	31.4	29.0	31.0
Extreme Low	0.0	5.8	6.6	5.1	7.1	3.5	4.3	7.6	7.4	6.0	7.0
Precipitation	40.0	35.8	77.5	25.9	59.7	28.7	72.3	28.5	42.6	30.0	52.2
Days w precip	11	2	13	3	13	4	13	3	9	4	12
Year Precip	631.7	604.8	835.2	453.7	670.4	541.5	810.1	435.4	601.3	449.2	664.0
Rank since 1914: 14 th warmest, 51 st driest											
Lake Temperature		June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25						
		20°	19°	20°	22°						
Lake Level Change		-4cm	0cm	-1cm	-2.5cm						
Surface Elevation		116.24	116.24	116.23	116.21						

June continued the trend from May with lots of sunny days, warm temperatures, and not much rain. Most of the rain fell on the 10th/11th, just three days after the warmest day on the 7th.

So far 2023 has been much drier with only 71% of normal precipitation.

The lake level at the end of June was the lowest since 2015 and the water temperature was running close to normal (nowhere near the 28° recorded during the heat dome in 2021!)



St. John's Academy Spotlight
Shawnigan Lake



Visit our website for additional information:
www.stjohnsacademy.ca



Members from the Pacific Football Club joined us at the Fun Fair as part of the new sports program beginning September 2023 at St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake.

Thank you to everyone for your support in putting together the 2nd Annual Fun Fair event at St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake (SJASL), and to the community for coming out and enjoying the day with us. It was a great success.

Upcoming Events

- June 23rd is our last day of school.
- August 31st is new orientation day at SJASL.

If you haven't already visited the SJASL website, please do so. For weekly happenings, follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

For a tour of the campus please contact:
Jenny Boomer
jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca



Welcome to Maite Urzúa Legarreta

Hello! I am very excited about this year and joining St. John's. I like enjoying life, working hard, and creating. My background is in Graphic Design but I love art in all of its forms.

I am originally from Chile, where all my beloved family is, but have found a second home here at Shawnigan Lake together with my amazing partner Tim.

I have tried various different sports, but I am currently focusing my time on the Shawnigan Fire Department which I have recently joined. I am continuously learning and I hope to learn much more with all of you!



Welcome to Michael Broadhead

Michael Broadhead was born and raised on a grain farm in Alberta. After graduating from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education (Major in Physical Sciences and Minor in Mathematics), he moved overseas to teach in schools in the UK, Taiwan, China and Singapore. He has spent the last 10 years teaching MYP Science, DP Chemistry, and DP Environmental Systems and Societies in the International Baccalaureate program. In his free time, Michael enjoys hiking, running and volunteering for animal charities. We look forward to Mike joining the St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake faculty this summer as our MYP/DP Science Teacher.



Director’s Report

Sierra Acton
CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake

June has been a busy month for your Area Director. The top three items that came before the CVRD are:

- CVRD managed the Three-Stream Garbage Service.
- Boat Launch Relocation Feasibility Report.
- Concept Designs from the Think Shawnigan Plan.

I know the community has a big heart, and I’m committed to representing you and your values.

Motion:
That it be recommended to the Board that the three-stream (garbage, recycling and organics) curbside collection service that will be implemented in the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s (CVRD) electoral areas as per the 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan, be a CVRD operated and delivered service. Opposed: Directors Acton, Segall, Wilson. Motion Passed.

At the June 28th Board meeting the Chair noted that the Board had directed “that the Cowichan Valley Regional District will continue discussions with Pan Disposal, a small, family-owned business that may be impacted by the implementation of the 3 stream service.

Looking to the future, we are moving forward with a grant request to the Provincial government to initiate a Community Issues Assessment for Areas A, B, and C. This assessment will explore and summarize

governance and service provision challenges in South Cowichan. We sincerely hope the Province sees value in this project and supports the initiative, which is intended as a precursor step to further work that may explore alternative forms of governance. We encourage you to provide your valuable feedback on governance and services during that process.



Sierra in the Canada Day “dunk tank”

On Canada Day, I had the pleasure of experiencing an extraordinary day filled with joy and appreciation for the community. I was reminded of my deep affection for this nation, particularly its people, who consistently show kindness and respect. However, I remain committed to fostering connections with my fellow community members. Social platforms have proven inadequate for meaningful engagement, so I invite you to connect with me through more personal means such as phone calls, emails, or over coffee.

I hope you all enjoy a safe, fun, and memorable summer!

Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
(250) 715-6763

Royal Canadian Legion

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion Branch 134

Well, as usual June was a very busy month. Our weekly Saturday Meat Draws with all the proceeds going into our Gaming account and is distributed to local non-profit organizations. Donations for Toys, Toiletries and Toques raised an additional \$320 for a grand total of \$450, plus more baby and personal hygiene items.

The Outside Flea Market and Tailgate Sale proceeds for Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock. RCMP Rider Troy Mann was given \$520.00 towards his fundraising. Mark the first week of October on your calendar. That’s when the ride comes through Mill Bay. The Walter Hall Annual Fishing Derby had over 50 people registered this year was held on Shawnigan Lake on the 17th.

Mill Bay Lions’ Club and the Malahat Legion Canada Day Pancake Breakfast was a huge success again this year. Over the summer the Legion Bar and Galley will still be open regular hours on Friday and Saturday and the meat draws will continue right through the summer. Also available again this summer are 5.5 kg bags of ice. Cost is \$3.50 each but for Legion Members only \$2.50.

The Legion is still collecting bottle, cans, etc. to continue to help pay for our major utility bills. Please leave them by the service entrance during the day time. Blue recycling bin is available for evening drop-offs.

We are still collecting non-perishable food for the Mill Bay Food Bank and items for Broken Promises Rescue. Gift cards to any local pet store would also be appreciated. Items can be dropped off when you drop off your bottles and cans.

Plans are already underway for a B.B.Q. and another Music Bingo in September so be sure to check our September calendar which will be available in late August.

So a very big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make all this possible and for your donations to support other organizations in need. Have a safe and happy summer!



Mystery Gift? These beautiful pieces were dropped off at the legion, by an older man, in the middle of the night. Help the legion discover ‘who did it’?

WE’RE HIRING! WE ARE LOOKING FOR HEAT PUMP AND SHEET METAL INSTALLERS.

Don’t let the heat get you down.

A heat pump can cool your home in the summer as well as heat your home in the winter! Give us a call to find out more.

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My very first sp’e’qum tu speenhw

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams
Writer and Educator

Many of us GenX/Millennials were taught in grade school that Indigenous people were basic hunter gatherers, but this couldn’t be farther from the truth. Speenhw is great example of Indigenous agriculture, or permaculture, or maybe just culture. Speenhw is grown in p’hwulhp meadows and grasslands which date back thousands of years. Dendrochronological data, basically the rings found in the p’hwulhp, show annual burning of the grasslands going back generations. Burning that made way for the speenhw to grow.

Certain family members would specialize in looking after their families’ fields. By breaking

apart the dirt into square mats, and rolling over sections to harvest bulbs from below, the people could leave the mat of saxwul and speenhw unharmed. But loosening the earth where the speenhw grew the bulbs could grow bigger, while ripe bulbs could be harvested. Then the mat would be placed back into it position to grow again for another year.

Last cool fact...I saw an article recently talking about how many of the p’hwulhp are genetically the same or similar. The article surmised that p’hwulhp trees were cloned or transplanted in other areas on the island and along the coast, with southern Vancouver Island being the centre of this food technology. People saw the value in the speenhw



crop and were taking it home to plant it there. If just one food technology contains that much history, imagine what the whole food system could teach us. I was honoured with a gift of speenhw bulbs a few years ago and I planted them all not knowing what would happen.

Well now I’ve got five pots with five speenhw all getting ready to bloom in their new homes for the first time. I can’t wait to turn them over and soften the soil to see how big I can grow the bulbs. I have no idea how to do this work, but I am called to do it and following that calling is an incredible journey.

“I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it” – Picasso

Punhwe’num (May) “the time when the speenhw blooms”

- P’hwulhp - Garry Oak
- Saxwul - Grass
- Sp’e’qum - Flower
- Speenhw - Camas

Shawnigan Focus Team

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Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency: (250) 812-8030

shawniganfire@shaw.ca

June 2023 Report

Department Members Attended 35 Incidents in June

- Thursday, June 1 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, June 2 – Burning Complaint on Briarwood Dr
- Sunday, June 4 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, June 4 – Smoldering Fire on Wilmot Ave
- Wednesday, June 7 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Thursday, June 8 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Friday, June 9 – Burning Complaint on Forsyth Way
- Friday, June 9 - 1st Responder off Hartl Rd
- Friday, June 9 – Burning Complaint on Lakewood Rd
- Sunday, June 11 – Burning Complaint on Sylvester Rd
- Sunday, June 11 – Alarms Activated on Pillow Rd
- Sunday, June 11 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Monday, June 12 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Tuesday, June 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, June 16 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, June 16 – Burning Complaint on Bob O Link Rd
- Saturday, June 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, June 18 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew & Gregory Rds
- Monday, June 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, June 19 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, June 20 – Structure Fire on Wallbank Rd
- Wednesday, June 21 – Burning Complaint on Pinder Pl
- Thursday, June 22 – Hydro Lines on Colman Rd
- Thursday, June 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Friday, June 23 – Smoke in House on Streamside Pl
- Sunday, June 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, June 26 - 1st Responder off McKean Rd
- Monday, June 26 – Illegal Burn Pile on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, June 27 – Assistance on Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, June 27 – Smoke Sighting Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, June 28 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Wednesday, June 28 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, June 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, June 29 – Burning Complaint on Carlton Dr

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email: 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**
Contact us for information about hours and/or group visits.
Contact: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: (web): www.thesra.ca
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: ysagssl@gmail.com (web): blog.ysag.ca
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria gsolley@shaw.ca
- **Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
Contact: hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com (web): 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

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Congrats to Lucy Ballan

for correctly identifying June's post of the Sculpture located at Shawnigan Wharf Park.

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