



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fourteen - Issue Eleven

November 2023 Tth'la'xwumutsun

A Non-Profit Community Publication

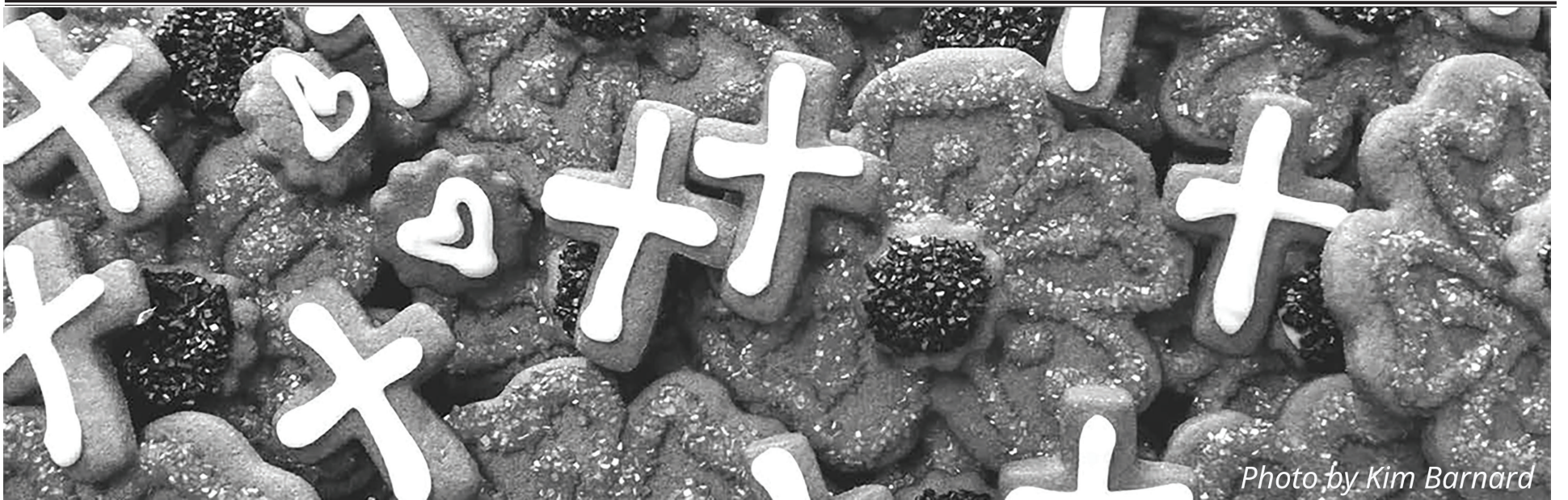


Photo by Kim Barnard

Together We Will Remember Their Selfless Service

Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch 134

Gloria Solley

We would like to thank everyone who came out to help with stuffing our poppy envelopes on October 18th. The envelopes have been delivered to everyone in the Lower Cowichan Valley. The Poppy Campaign started on the last Friday in October and will

continue through to November 11th. During this time, veterans, and others, volunteer their time to distribute the poppies. Tagger help is still needed. Please contact the Legion if you can spare a couple of hours. The money raised from donations provides direct assistance for Veterans in financial distress,

as well as funding for medical equipment, medical research, home services, long term care facilities and many other purposes. None of the money raised during the Poppy Campaigns is spent by or on the Legion. It is safe guarded in another fund which is audited, and it must be approved by B.C. Yukon Command. A special



Thank you Wilf Bauer. If you're looking for those little black centres, Wilf has lots of them. He will be out all week working between Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer. Don't forget to scan your poppies to read about veterans.



MALAHAT LEGION #134

2023 POPPY CAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 27TH – NOVEMBER 11TH



The **ANNUAL POPPY CAMPAIGN** starts on Friday, October 27th. 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 6,000 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 9th 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 11th

November 11th, Remembrance Day 2023 - 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

free Veterans dinner was held on October 26th to honour our Veterans. Anyone who wants to honour a veteran can wear a poppy and it should be worn on the left side of the body closest to your heart during the campaign. So, between the last Friday in October and the 11th of November, when you see Legion volunteers or any other volunteer helping with the Poppy Campaign, please give generously and, of course,

10:00 at the Cobble Hill Cenotaph.

The Legion will be open after the ceremony. (The meat draw is cancelled and will return on November 18th) We would like to thank everyone who turned out for our Annual Memorial Service on October 22nd. The Malahat Legion recognized the 2,521 fallen soldiers who died on Canadian soil. A special thanks to Cde. Bob Collins for organizing this very special event. Be sure to check our monthly calendars and/or our website for up-coming events.

**Remember Them
on November 11th at**

The Mill at Mesachie Lake

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

In 1963, artist E. J. Hughes and his wife Fern drove to Mesachie Lake, a small lake connected to Cowichan Lake west of Duncan. That summer, they were making trips to seek out painting subjects, travel which was sponsored by a Canada Council grant. They parked their Austin Cambridge by the side of the lake, and Hughes patiently drew one of his most unapologetically industrial subjects.

Twenty-six years later, in 1986, Hughes painted the mill in oil paint, and again in 1992, as a watercolour. In the catalogue for the 2003 Hughes retrospective at the Vancouver Art Gallery Ian Thom wrote: "Although Hughes was, and is, profoundly aware of natural beauty, he has never seen a problem with man destroying that beauty and, over the years, has produced a number of images that document British Columbia's logging industry."

The rocky hillsides all around show signs of clearcut logging, and the lake is filled with timber brought in on the railway tracks shown in the bottom left. Two little black and white tugs bob about, moving the logs into place for the mill, and a pile driver works in the distance.

Dominating the centre of the scene are the mill

buildings, smokestack and a beehive burner. Plumes of steam and smoke rise up in the middle of the painting. The sky is overcast grey and there is not a person in sight.

Pat Salmon interviewed Hector Stone, son of the plant's owner, in 1986, and reported his comments: "That is Bear Lake in the distance, a good fishing lake, actually part of Cowichan Lake. Much of the machinery used in this mill which

employed 415–450 men in its heyday, was brought from nearby Sahtlam.

The 155-foot smokestack was made of steel and was raised in one piece like a spar tree in the woods. The mill produced lumber only, and the cone incinerator burned waste logs. In the sixties, that type of incinerator was outlawed and after that the logs were barked so that there was very little waste. We generated all our own power."

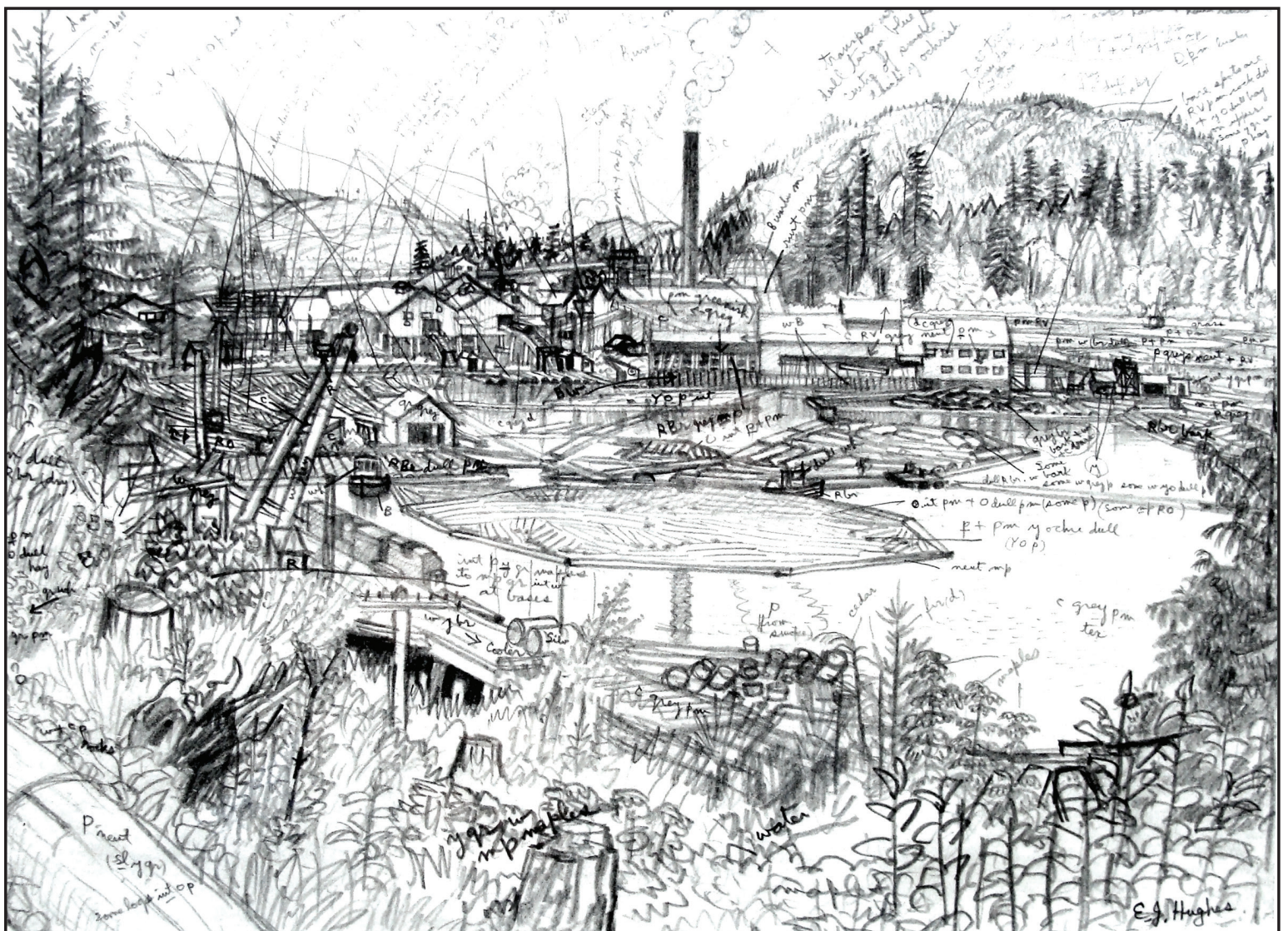
Further, Pat Salmon had a letter from Dr. Ron Orr of Thompson Manitoba on April 2, 1986. He reported that "My father, Gordon Orr, supervised the construction of many of the buildings. Carlton Stone, the plant owner, designed the mill layout in modules.

The powerhouse, main saws, machine shed, planers, loading shed, and dry kilns were all built with sufficient space between, to prevent a fire from consuming more than one unit. The two boats, Kingfish and Woodpecker, show up



nicely," he commented.

The mill closed when timber was no longer available, and the site and machinery were sold. The property later became a Christian summer camp, Camp Imadene. The Mesachie Mill lives on in paintings by E. J. Hughes.



South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436

southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

The Inspired by Reading Book Club

meets on Tuesday, Nov 14, 6:30-8pm to talk about *We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies* by Tsering Yangzom Lama. This is for anyone interested in reading and sharing inspiring conversation. The book club is run by the Cowichan South Arts Guild; meetings are welcoming and an accepting environment for all!

Conversational Spanish meets from 6:30 to 7:30pm each Monday. Drop in, to practice Spanish in a

casual setting and chat en español en la biblioteca! Beginners welcome.

Conversational

Scottish Gaelic is a fun way for people interested in learning and practising Scottish Gaelic to practice together. Check it out on Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm.

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.

Tech Help is available most Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Drop-in or make an appointment for one-on-one help with your mobile device or laptop.

Art for Newcomers is a drop-in group for new Canadians hosted by the Cowichan Intercultural Society. Come by 2-4pm on the first and third Tuesdays or email francoise@cis-iwc.org.

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 library items right at their door at the start of each month.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:
10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday
10am - 5pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at www.facebook.com/

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*Send your article in Word, not pdf
Maximum word count 500 words*

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

*Photos should be 300dpi or
larger resolution*

Cowichan South Arts Guild

Jennie Stevens
President

Imagine walking just minutes from your neighbourhood to a cozy local space to meet up with a few friends, listen to some great music, sit by a warm crackling fire, quench your thirst, share some laughter, and maybe dance to a lively tune...right in the heart of your community. And all of this for FREE! That was my experience a few weeks ago. It can be yours too, every 3rd Friday of the month, at the Malahat Legion! Cowichan South Arts Guild and South Cowichan Music Jam have combined creative forces to bring great free musical entertainment to the community. After a stretch of time off, this first evening of a new Jam series was a



resounding success! It was very well attended by an enthusiastic and delighted audience. This monthly event is sure to become a favorite with many community members, some of whom had never stepped into the Legion facility and were pleasantly surprised. 'Turnip the Beet' - a well-loved local band do a great job of setting the tone of the evening with their consistently professional sound and then the evening shifts

over to a variety of talented musicians each taking the stage to jam with a few others. It is a great opportunity for musicians to network with one another and entertain those who enjoy a musical evening out. An alternative and equally enjoyable musical experience sponsored by CSAG is the non-performance based Acoustic Jams, held the 2nd Sunday afternoon every month, at Mill Bay Hall (Winter location)

& Evergreen Pavilion (Summer location). These friendly gatherings are facilitated music circles, where anyone can come and join in at their own level to sing, play, listen & support. Loads of great songs are shared, a wide variety of acoustic instruments are played, and great connections are made! The number of participants continues to grow. This warm and welcoming group has built the confidence of many who just

needed an opportunity to find their musicality in a safe environment. A wonderful mix of experienced and emerging music makers, Acoustic Jam is a perfect space for anyone who likes to share music in community! (Note: Nov 5th / Dec 3rd, then 2nd Sunday thereafter) **Join Us** for either, or both, of these great regular musical gatherings! For more info, contact hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com



History Always Repeats Itself

The *Shawnigan Focus* is pleased to share columns written by Art Stott. Art's family have been long time summer residents. We are grateful to his family for their permission to use Art's articles.



February 22, 1950
Victoria Daily Times
Art Stott Column —
"On the Times"

If the summer level of Shawnigan Lake is raised, the benefits—if any—to fishermen will be short-lived.

That is the opinion of an ichthyologist. A scientist who studies the lives and ways of fish. The water in Shawnigan is too soft to respond to that treatment, the expert says.

In more alkaline lakes, where the water is harder, more food for the fish is produced, and the greater the depth, the greater the production. Cutting into the shoreline at Shawnigan might provide a little more food for a

short time When it was gone, the fish would again be on short rations. As long as anglers keep pulling out the catches they do now, the only remedy is to put in more fish. Spawning conditions are naturally poor. Taking the beaches from summer cottages is not the answer.

March 1, 1950
Victoria Daily Times
As Our Readers See It
Mr. Art Stott is to be congratulated on the item in his column "On the Times" on Feb. 22, pointing out the futility of raising the level of Shawnigan Lake as a means of improving the fishing in these waters. The raising of the water

level would deprive many children of the small margin of safe beach and shallow water in which they can bathe in summertime, and it would also be detrimental to the values on lakeside property far beyond any hypothetical benefit which might accrue by improved fishing, while the premise on which this belief is based is certainly ill-founded and not approved of by many of those who fish in Shawnigan Lake, as well as by qualified ichthyologists. Restocking will always be necessary no matter what the water level is du, not only to poor spawning areas, but to the continued use of tackle designed not for sport but for the speedy capture and killing of fish in quantity.

No lake can stand up on its own resources to the treatment which Shawnigan Lake receives. It is fished out year after year by the very persons who now complain of the poor fishing and who wish it improved as a "tourist attraction." The proposal to sacrifice the property owner for the benefit of the tourist and to solve this problem not by restocking and the adoption of sport fishing methods, but by raising the level of the lake at the expense of those who have summer cottages on lake frontage, is not a solution at all and one is tempted to enquire if a private axe is not being applied to the grindstone—and who will personally benefit by a raising of the lake level?

M. Bell-Irving



Seen on Shawnigan Lake — 112 Witches
Photo by Marcy Green

Great Ad Rates!!

Contact Kim:

Shawnigan
FocusAds@
gmail.com

The Reality of Running the Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

As a non-profit in an area that is not incorporated, like Shawnigan, we do not have the luxury of Municipal funding. An example of this is the Sooke Museum which receives well over \$200k from the municipality. This, in part is for acting as an info centre. We also act as an informal info centre for Shawnigan but we primarily exist, and move the museum forward, by writing grants. Prior to my involvement with the Museum (2004), I had never written a grant application...now it is a big part of my job. It is an arduous process, it's time consuming, there is a lot of competition, and it absolutely does not guarantee funding. Far from it! However, it is a necessary evil to keep the museum going.

If it feels like we reach out for support and donations often, it is because we know that the community, and visitors, understand the value of our museum and want to help us make a difference. Although it is a small museum (but soon to be larger), we have excellent reviews from visitors,

teachers and the community. Check out Google and TripAdvisor reviews. We have a museum that the community can be proud of, and we want you to feel invested in that success whether it is your time as a volunteer, your investment as a member or your support with a donation.

The good news is that we have recently been successful with a grant application through Destination BC. This grant award, for \$500K, is tourism oriented and will allow us to add back many of the items that we had to cut to get the expansion started. We started the project knowing that if it hadn't begun when it did, it wasn't likely to happen. We had to make some difficult decisions, at the time, to get it going. The budget for the project pre-Covid was \$1.8m. The lowest tender was \$2.4m.

The expansion is not a frivolous project...it is about future proofing the museum for the next generations. The Society started looking for a home for a museum in 1977 and, in 1983, after a few temporary spaces, settled in the original Shawnigan Fire Hall. We

have long since outgrown the building. Due to the historical value of the building, we deliberately chose to leave the Fire Hall in place and expand from there which created increased costs. This project will allow us to continue to showcase the amazing stories of Shawnigan Lake and to add new ones. We will have accessible washrooms (there is currently one non-accessible, non-conforming washroom);

programming space to host events and school programs; archive and artifact storage and spaces to generate revenue. This new grant is Tourism oriented, and we are working on some amazing new exhibits for the new space. As well, the expanded museum will have the amenities (kitchen, accessible washrooms inside and public washrooms from the exterior) needed to invite more visitors to the museum.

Have you visited the Museum? We have heard that people in our community are not sure what is going on next to the museum...it is the museum expansion.

Even by the time we move into the expanded space, before next summer (fingers crossed), we will wish it was larger.

Shawnigan has a big story!



St. John's Academy Spotlight
Shawnigan Lake



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

Pacific Football Academy Update

The Football Academy (TFC) at St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake aims to educate young soccer players while promoting respect, leadership, discipline, dedication and humility.

Our academy this year includes a mix of local and international students from Canada, Spain and China. We invite you to start following us on Instagram @sja.footballacademy for regular updates. Here we share the week-to-week happenings with lessons that are built on character, resilience, unity, understanding and integrity.

The 2024-2025 academic year will see the expansion of the PFC to include girls beginning at grade 10. Interested in joining PFC? Please contact Jenny Boomer, jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca

Thank you to Sheldon Mack for capturing the spirit of the academy through his photography. Photo credits to Sheldon Mack Photography on Instagram @sheldonmackphotography



"Everything is practice." ~ Pete // Students spend their days between the Shawnigan Lake campus and the Pacific Football Club in Langford.



We are grateful for our fearless leader, Jamar Dixon. Want to know more? Follow him on Instagram at @jamar.dixon



Football is life! Our academy players train or engage in community, action and leadership four mornings a week.



Introducing the Pilot Players for The Football Academy, a partnership between St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake and Pacific Football Club.

The Fun of Giving Back in Action!

Kim Barnard
Founder-President-
StoryGatherer

Rotary recognizes skills and experience and encourages club members to practice “Service Above Self” in finding creative ways to use our talents to support projects and help those in need. Most of all, we are encouraged to **Have Fun...in Action!**

At the Shawnigan Lake Community Association’s “Fall Festival & Market” on Sunday, October 22nd at the community centre, we were pleased to offer the opportunity to decorate a pumpkin-shaped gingerbread cookie for \$2 to benefit the CMS Mill Bay Food Bank. This activity was sponsored

by Kim’s Gingerbread and directed by Waldorf-trained Dinah Clark, both members of Shawnigan’s own Rotary club. Our community participants of all ages delighted us with their creations and surpassed all expectations in terms of donations. Together we raised \$196.50 for the Food Bank! Thank you so much everyone!

“Vocational Service calls on us to empower others by using our unique skills and expertise to address community needs and help others discover new professional opportunities and interests.”

<https://rotaryserviceblog.org/2018/01/09/5-ways-to->

[inspire-through-vocational-service/](#)

Vocational designations in Rotary can be as eclectic as baker, administrator, designer, teacher, engineer, landscaper, realtor, secretary, stay-at-home parent - and anyone retired! There is strength, and mutual inspiration, from this diversity of membership.

Maybe a grassroots Rotary volunteering adventure is in your future! Consider planting a commitment to **Giving Back** with your contributions of kindness for years to come. As Canada’s first Rotary EcoClub, we plan for FUN activities

promoting environmental stewardship - in community beautification, restoration and gardening initiatives.

Plus, there is much to discover for yourself by being a part of Rotary’s

friendships around the world. Learn from great examples of vocational service elsewhere and infuse your thinking with that inspiration! If you’re ready for selfless service, Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub membership is warmly welcomed. Let us help connect you!

www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca



Giving Back in Action at the SLCA “Fall Festival and Market

Shawnigan Weather - October 2023 Report

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

	October Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Elford Road	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Average High	14.1	13.8	18.6	15.2	19.7	15.2	20.6	14.8	19.5	14.6	18.9
Average Low	5.8	6.5	8.1	5.8	7.8	4.7	5.2	6.6	8.5	6.2	7.6
Extreme High	28.3	23.2	27.0	26.2	27.9	26.0	29.4	24.6	26.9	24.0	26.5
Extreme Low	-7.2	-2.2	2.4	-2.9	1.3	-4.4	-0.7	-1.2	2.5	-2.0	2.5
Precipitation	114.7	225.0	104.1	150.4	68.0	215.8	109.4	141.2	64.1	144.6	64.8
Days w precip	16	13	8	17	9	14	10	13	8	14	8
Year Precip	830.8	890.5	976.0	654.6	770.3	812.7	954.6	577.7	679.9	583.2	763.0
Rank since 1914: 28 th warmest, 29 th wettest											
Lake Temperature Surface Elevation Lake level change		Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29					
		17"	17"	15"	14"	12"					
		115.83	115.83	115.83	115.91	115.99					
		0cm	0cm	0cm	+5cm	+12cm					

October marked the return of rainy weather and early snow! October 17/18 and 24 were particularly wet with 14 cm of snow falling overnight on the 24/25th.

The last week of the month turned to sunny days and clear, cold nights. The first frost of the fall started on the 26th and continued to the end of October.

Even with the cooler weather at the end of the month, overall temperatures were near normal during the day an much warmer at night.

Although the month was wetter than normal, the total for the year is still 75% of normal.

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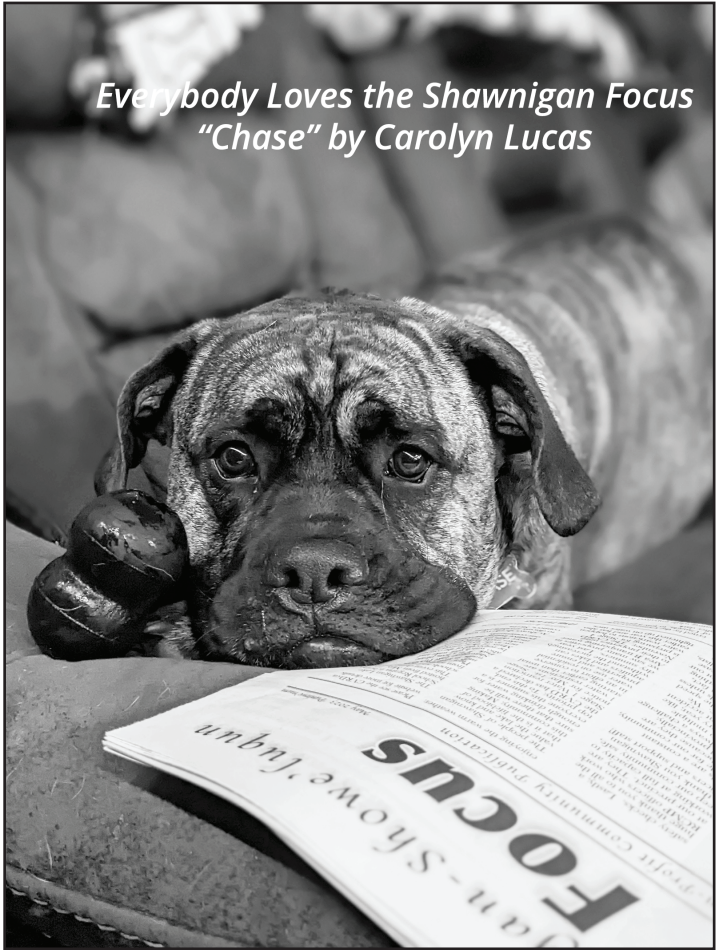
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Opinion

Eric J. Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

When I became a true, proud Canadian in 1967, I was disturbed when our group was asked to swear or affirm allegiance to the flag and sing the national anthem.

The word that millions of new Canadians sang without reflecting on the wording is “our native land”.

Clearly, none of that large number were “native” to the country. This error is unceasingly compounded each time a swearing-in occurs. It would be a small but significant correction by changing “native” to “chosen”.

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency: (250) 812-8030 shawniganfire@shaw.ca

October 2023 Report

Department Members Attended 61 Incidents in October

- Monday, Oct 2 - 1st Responder off Wilmot Ave
- Monday, Oct 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 3 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 3 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 4 – Alarms Activated on Wylde Wood Ave
- Wednesday, Oct 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 4 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 4 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Oct 6 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Oct 6 – Alarms Activated on Ravenhill Rd
- Friday, Oct 6 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Oct 8 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 12 – Alarms Activated on Wooden Rd
- Saturday, Oct 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Oct 15 – Burning Complaint on Lakewood Rd
- Sunday, Oct 15 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Oct 15 – Burning Complaint on Ingot Rd
- Sunday, Oct 15 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 17 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Friday, Oct 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Oct 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Oct 21 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Oct 21 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Oct 23 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Oct 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 24 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 24 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 24 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 25 – 18 Hydro Line Incidents in Shawnigan Lake Area
- Wednesday, Oct 25 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 25 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Thursday, Oct 26 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 26 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 26 – 3 Hydro Line Incidents in Shawnigan Lake Area
-and counting at press time....

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email: sierra.acton@cvr.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
- **Malahat Lions Club**
For information Contact: 250-743-0569

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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.

Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee
for their support!

Reply to: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

**Cheap Ad
Rates!!**
Contact Kim:
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Congratulations!
Adam Higgins
was among the many who
correctly identified the "No
Parking Sign" in front of the
Museum construction area.

The most successful thing the Indian Act accomplished was turning us against ourselves.

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams
Author and Educator

I don't even know the exact number of tribes that would have been encompassed in the Salish Nation, but it ran from northern Vancouver Island to the south Washington coast. We were not isolated tribes working for individual wealth, nor were we a unified group working for a superior like a king or emperor. No, we were family. Everything was done for the good of our family. Trade and relations within the Salish Nation could make or break the entire civilization. We were unified in the cause of joint prosperity for our family, by working as one for the good of all. Sound too utopian? Let's pull up some other supporting theories.

To be a Chief means the one who is in charge of a family or group of families. One had to make choices that were a 100% benefit to the people as a whole. Why? Because in Europe there are standing armies that will defend the king's choices. So, if the king commands you to do something and you say no...well, the standing army kills you. There was no standing army here, at least not in the same sense. If the chief sent people to do something dishonourable, or foolish, and the people said no, there was no secondary enforcement. Of course, honour and cowardice come into play, but for the most part chiefs did not rule with absolute power.

Instead, these Shsiem mustimuhw were chosen from a young age and trained to be empathetic and wise so that when they were given the hereditary chief name, they knew how to lead by listening.

The Indian Act replaced that traditional governance system with the Band Council system - a system that reports directly to Indian Affairs. A system that replaces teachings and leadership with votes and popularity. Suddenly, small royal families that had been carrying teachings and passing on leadership snuw'uyulh for generations were suddenly unseated and out voted by the larger families. Leading up to a point where many of my own tribal members don't know our hereditary chief names, and which village each name belongs to. Even I only know three of the supposed five or six names.

The system broke our nations apart, great nations broken into misplaced tribes. The Indian Act made us in their image. No one took the time to note that in a single village there would be many family houses from different "tribes" all over the Salish Sea. There were Cowichan family houses spread across the Salish Nation, and there were houses from all over the Salish Nation in Cowichan. It's so hard to get this idea across because it's just so foreign to this modern world. But, in one fell swoop, that was undone. We were divided and set to the task of treaty to negotiate and argue



with Canada, and each other, over which land was ours and which land was theirs.

I desperately want to help our people get back who they were. Where the leaders of our community work beyond the confines of the Indian Act. Where we face our enemies with

nutsa'maat shqwaluwun. Where we fight for the good of the entire nation. Where we can show the world that we will not be divided, we will not be separated, and that no matter how they cut us apart, we are one family.

Don't fight over land- the Elders

Stsielhstuhw tu shwaluqwu - Honour our family

Shsiem – leader/manager

Mustimuhw - people

Snuw'uyulh – teachings

Nutsa'maat shqwaluwun – Working as one heart, one mind

shwaluqwu' – family

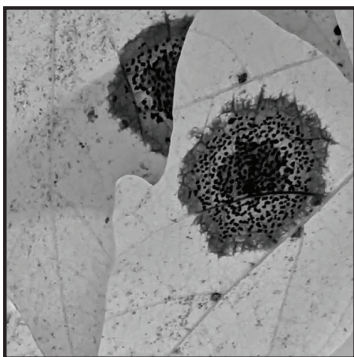
Quw'utsun Nature Rambles

Genevieve Singleton
Nature Educator & Biologist Living in the Cowichan Valley

Ts'alhulhp, Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), is putting on its annual golden show in paradise.

After catching your breath in awe, look at these leaves a little closer and you will likely see on some of the leaves green circles with black dots in the middle. This is the fungus Speckled Tar Spot (*Rhytisma punctatum*) which feeds off the leaves. Ain't nature amazing!! "Fun guys" rule!"

Huy ch q'u (thank you) for taking the time to



read this. In learning about Truth and Reconciliation, I decided one step I could take

was to learn plant words in Hul'q'umi'num' and normalize the use of our First Language in my writings.

Interested in learning

more about local nature? Please ask me questions and follow me at Facebook Genevieve Singleton Quw'utsun Nature Rambles.

Shawnigan Lake



SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
5PM to 7:30PM

Christmas in the Village

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