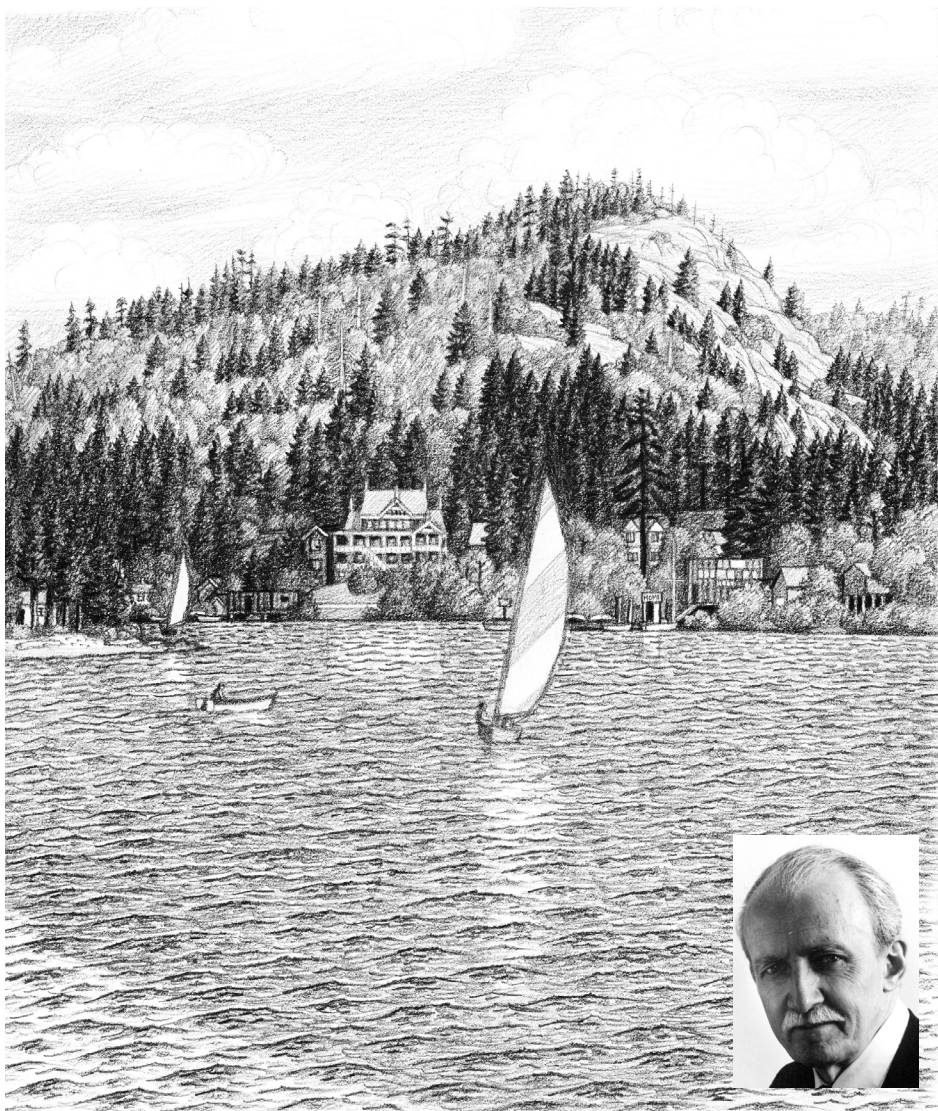




Shawnigan FOCUS

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

Shawnigan: Strong Past, Strong Future



"Old Baldy Mountain, Shawnigan Lake."

E. J. Hughes, 1966.

Voice of the Past

Bruce Hutchinson 1966

In the solemn and somewhat comical debate on Canada's culture, one important exhibit, it seems to me, is usually neglected. I mean the summer cottage. It may be no great architectural achievement, it is more likely to be a lop-sided botch, but it contains the best instincts of the Canadian folk — their memories of olden times, their love of the wilderness, their will to build with their own hands, their stubborn sense of freedom. And nowhere in Canada, I would guess, has the indigenous cult of summer living reached a higher point than

on the shores of Shawnigan Lake.

Concerning this region I can speak with a rather long experience. In 1908, when I spent my first holiday here, most of the shore, except at the north end, was uninhabited. From the cluster of houses around the railway station and Koenig's Hotel beside it, a journey down the lake on a clumsy launch or, better still, on the lumber mill's puffing, grimy steamboat, was a wild adventure for a small boy, a voyage into an unknown continent.

Or if we walked along the tracks to the Strathcona Hotel—a regal establishment which no boy dared to enter—and climbed Mount Malahat, the deer regarded us without the

continued top of next column....

least alarm and the grouse swarmed in their hundreds, as tame as barnyard chickens. (We managed to kill one with a catapult, out of season, but the game warden, catching us with our illegal prize, overlooked the crime and I trust that it is voided by the statute of limitations after almost sixty years).

Already the social life of Shawnigan was elevated, dazzling and luxurious, as a boy saw it, timidly, from the edges. Every Saturday afternoon, before the Malahat Highway was built and the primitive automobiles appeared, a long E. & N. train brought crowds of weekenders, dressed in masculine white flannel and rustling feminine silk. They danced all night at the two hotels, recovered on Sunday and returned to Victoria, leaving behind a welcome silence. But it was always the permanent cottagers who gave the lake its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the land, polluted the water or butchered the forest, as men have done in many other places. They have jealously guarded their joint estate by a silent pact among themselves, a sort of unofficial constitution, all the stronger because it is voluntary.

Toward the end of the nine-

teenth century and in the early years of the twentieth the shore was logged, but you will find scant evidence of that damage now. Only a few big stumps remind us that the lumberjack, with his oxen and then his crude donkey engine, was here before our time. The new forest covers the grave of the old because men have protected it for their own non-commercial purpose.

What, the stranger will ask, are they seeking in an annual migration, as sure and regular as the lemmings' march, to our lake? There is no need to explain the native phenomenon. Enough that we understand it ourselves.

We came here to find the most precious and improbable treasure left in a crowded, crazy world, the treasure of privacy, which few men can still enjoy; and the supreme satisfaction of living, for a little while, as we please.

Some half dozen generations, handing down their camps from father to son, have learned these wholesome mysteries, cooled their bodies in the lake and cleansed their spirits in the woods. An old man who has spent the happiest days of a lifetime building worthless structures, beyond price, and cutting firewood that no money could buy, may be permitted to hope that others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity.

Reprinted from Green Branches and Fallen Leaves, with permission from the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society



Bruce Hutchinson



Today on Old Baldy Mountain - 2011

photo - Sarah Fraser

On the front page of Shawnigan Focus, Volume 1 Issue 1, we have chosen to feature the work of two gifted gentlemen who represent Shawnigan's strong past.

E.J. Hughes, a prolific painter, muralist, and Canadian war artist, was passionate about the B.C. landscape. His legacy is a remarkable body of work, painted in his unique style, depicting the rugged beauty of B.C. Mr. Hughes moved to Shawnigan Lake soon after WWII and painted some of his most successful pieces in his studio overlooking Strathcona Bay. In 1966, Mr. Hughes generously donated a drawing of the

iconic "Old Baldy Mountain" for the cover of the community history of Shawnigan Lake, *Green Branches and Fallen Leaves*. Mr. Hughes left Shawnigan Lake after residing here for more than twenty years. However, his love of the community is evident in the many paintings of Shawnigan Lake that he produced and the fact that he and his family finally came home. He is buried beside his parents and his wife in the Shawnigan Cemetery.

Bruce Hutchinson, a well known political reporter, journalist and newspaperman wrote the preface for *Green Branches and Fallen Leaves*. We have included the preface on the front page as it

clearly supports our very first headline. Mr. Hutchinson's passion for Shawnigan Lake resonates in many of the articles and books that he published throughout his illustrious career. Although he had vacationed at Shawnigan as a boy, his roots settled firmly when he and his wife inherited waterfront property, through her family, early in their marriage. The preface, written in 1966, is as timely now as it was then. He speaks of the "joint estate that has been jealously guarded". At the same time, he speaks of the future with his hope that "...others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity." Mr. Hutchinson's words

are a gentle reminder that we must be prepared to take action to protect what makes Shawnigan special.

"We know the past; we are cognizant of the present, but everything happens in the future."

Garth Harvey

The Shawnigan Focus is an important tool for the Shawnigan community: it will keep us mindful of the past and update us in the present. Most importantly, the newspaper will provide a forum to build a strong community voice so that we are ready to make educated decisions about our future.

Welcome to Shawnigan Focus!

Since the Community Crier ceased publication in 2006, there has been a noticeable lack of communication about issues and events in and around Shawnigan (Area B). A concerned group of Shawnigan residents have recently worked together to launch a newspaper that will endeavour to fill this void. This is the first issue of what we hope will be a much valued community newspaper. We aspire to give you and all who live, work and play in the Shawnigan Lake area a quality local newspaper that will focus on the Shawnigan community.

A community is a group of people who share a geographic area and a common interest in its social, economic and environmental well-being. The key to a happy and robust community is interaction and communication among its members. A local newspaper provides a forum for an exchange of important information and opinions that are essential to the health and vitality of a community such as ours. The vision of the Shawnigan Focus is ***“A Strong Community Through Strong Communication”***.

Shawnigan Focus will report newsworthy information each month, but it will also announce upcoming events, profile local people and activities and look back to earlier times in order that we not lose sight of the

people and the values that shaped the community that we enjoy today. A letters-to-the-editor section will enable community members to give their opinions and register their concerns.

Shawnigan Lake has a long and interesting history. Gradual growth since the beginning of the 20th century has, in recent years, become more rapid. With new residents comes a shift in values and expectations about community dynamics, appearance and function. Rapid growth also results in a general reduction in the knowledge and understanding of the community’s past and the traditional characteristics that have been considered of importance and value.

There comes a time in the life and development of a community when the need of its members to communicate and interact requires a new approach. The Shawnigan Focus team feels that the time has come for this community to have its own permanent newspaper. The several Cowichan and Victoria newspapers lack sufficient focus on Shawnigan community events and initiatives. It is our expectation that Shawnigan Focus will fill this gap and,

in so doing, will nurture in us a strong sense of place and a feeling of pride.

The launch team looked to the community newspaper, Metchosin Muse, as a model worth emulating. We would be remiss if we failed in this first issue to acknowledge the generosity of time and wisdom given to us by the volunteers who produce that paper. Like the Muse, Shawnigan Focus is a not-for-profit undertaking

and produced by volunteers. Most residents in Area B will receive the newspaper by mail. A subscription service is under consideration for property owners who live elsewhere. Paid advertisements will cover production and mailing expenses.

Please read, enjoy and feel free to provide us with your constructive feedback at : editor@shawniganfocus.ca



Shawnigan Focus Launch Team

Lori Treloar, Bruce Fraser, Graham Ross-Smith, Roy Davies, Al Brunet

Shawnigan Newspapers, Old and New

by Lori Treloar

The *Shawnigan Focus* is the latest in a series of Shawnigan newspapers/newsletters produced and distributed by dedicated volunteers over the last 35 years.

On February 16, 1976, Volume 1, Number 1 of the monthly *Shawnigan Lake News* was delivered to every mail box in Shawnigan Lake. This was the first newspaper for the community of Shawnigan Lake. Steve

The lead type was hand set. Every letter, word and picture was hand placed one at a time. Each 8 ½ x 11 page was laid out one letter at a time and then printed individually. The Wachtins continued printing the *Shawnigan Lake News* until Steve’s retirement in 1978.

Brownie Gibson, a regular contributor to the Shawnigan Lake News, a local historian and teacher,

Centre agreed to guarantee \$600 to cover the first issue. This money was never used because advertising revenue covered the costs of printing and distribution. *The Crier* was intended to be non-for-profit and if profits accrued, the proceeds were given to the SLCC. Although the process to produce *Shawnigan Lake News* seemed antiquated, the process for the original Crier was not much of an improvement.

All of the copy for *The Crier* was typed on a typewriter, in manuscript style. The proofed manuscript was then sent to a printing company where the copy was set with linotype. This meant that the entire manuscript was retyped, line by line. Then it was set up in trays in sequence, similar to the letter press process, before it was printed. The printing company produced a “galley proof” for *The Crier* team every month. The editor marked any mistakes in the proof with International Typographical Union symbols and returned

it to the printing company. Any corrections, big or small, required that the entire line be re-typed. Initially, *The Crier* was printed on one 8 ½ x 14” paper and hand folded to make four pages. Eventually, six pages became the norm by including a half sheet insert. This team produced the paper for 10 years with an average circulation of approximately 900.

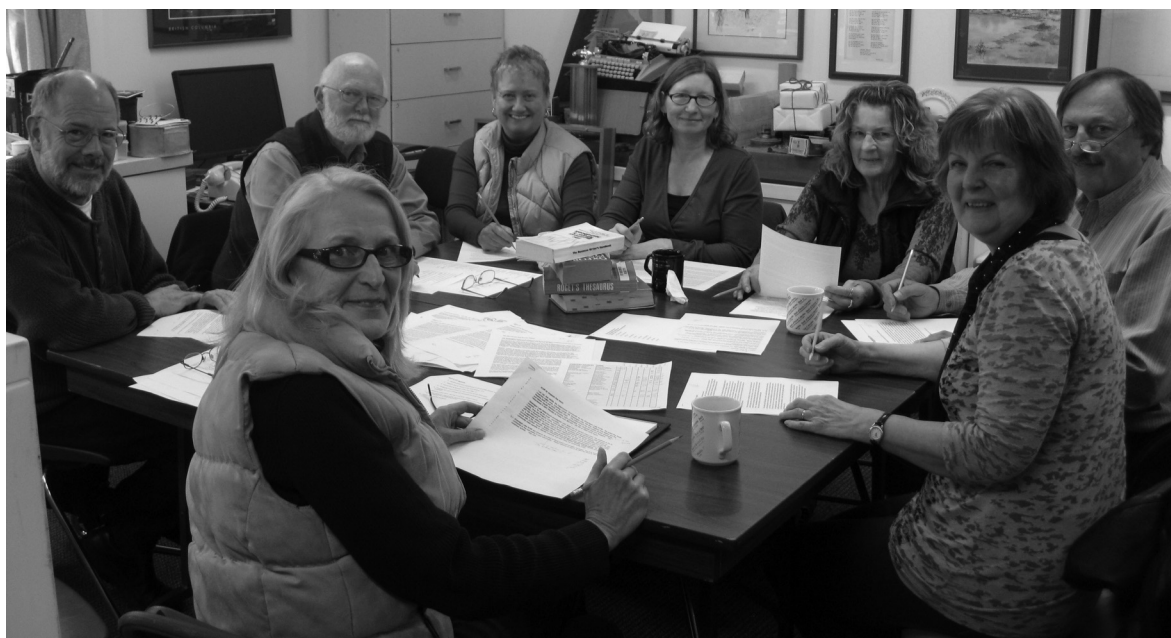
The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Library Society was the first of many groups to produce *The Crier* after the initial crew retired. Many volunteers helped keep *The Crier* in production with only a few interruptions until 2006 when it was finally retired. The Shawnigan Lake Business Association sponsored *The Crier* for its final few years and distributed it quarterly. This was the only time in The Crier history that it was produced by modern methods that we take for granted. Submissions could be sent by email and the layout and set-up was done on the computer. *The Community Crier* connected the people of Shawnigan for over 25 years and the impact from its loss was substantial.

For the past few years, the third “newspaper” in the area, *Shawnigan Times*, has been distributed to roughly 500-600 homes, predominantly in the Shawnigan Village. This is produced by a father/son team and their focus is to provide an advertising medium for the area.

For many concerned residents, it has been obvious for a long time that there was a need to create a vehicle that could inform the community. In response to “popular demand”, a small group has rallied to produce *Shawnigan Focus*, a newspaper which is designed to be a community builder.

As you savour the content in *Shawnigan Focus*, take a moment to appreciate the volunteers from our strong past and the volunteers of our vibrant future who will contribute to the well-being of our community by producing a newspaper that will communicate, educate, and titillate.

Lori is the Curator of the Shawnigan Lake Museum – www.shawniganlakemuseum.com



Issue 1, Volume 1 Proofing Team

Carol Lane, Dave Hutchinson, Bruce Fraser, Sally Davies, Monica Foster, Linda Nelson, Peter Nash, Farrell Magnusson

and Joan Wachtin, who ran a printing business from their home in the village, produced the newspaper in their basement. The *Shawnigan Lake News* was initiated as a way to give back to the community who generously rallied when the Wachtins lost their home to fire. Anything printed by the Wachtins was done in the old fashioned way using an ancient 1899 letter press.

and the Shawnigan Correspondent for a Victoria paper, was an instigator for the second community “newspaper”. In response to “popular demand” a publishing committee, including Brownie, Garth and Gladys Harvey, Annette Clarke and Candy McLennan, produced the first issue of the monthly *Community Crier* in August 1980. The Shawnigan Lake Community

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's name, address and phone number, but the contact information will not be published. Letters should normally be limited to 250 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse abusive language. Send your letters, preferably by email to editor@shawniganfocus.ca or, if necessary, drop them off at the Chippery on Dundas Street in Shawnigan Village between 11 am and 7pm daily.

Dear Logging Company (whoever you are),

First let me celebrate that work is happening, pay is being earned and machinery installments are being made, despite the diminutive size of much of the timber being hauled. I do hope that little of Shawnigan's recent forest is making its way offshore so that local workers at our own Island mills are getting their fair share of the proceeds.

Then, let me thank you profusely for revealing the underlying geological majesty of the west Shawnigan hills that were, until your recent logging, so completely obscured by forest. How nicely you have contoured the edge of your clear cut to mimic the natural landform by cutting over the ridge top, and how discreetly you have left patches of trees to cover the hillside's unmentionables that would otherwise have been obscenely prominent. I just love that one shapely Arbutus tree on the skyline. Also, let me praise you for increasing the ebb and flood of the lake, adding much dynamic interest to the otherwise boring stability that might have otherwise prevailed.

What has impressed me so profoundly, is the care you took to discuss these much-needed changes with us lakers before you began. In no other way could you have ensured such a pleasing landscape design and such a rapid removal of the necessary trees. It is heartening in these days of economic haste to see time taken to ensure that a private interest can serve the common good.

The soundscape of Shawnigan in winter is usually only enlivened by the morning and evening clatter of daily commuters, heading to and from the fleshpots of Duncan and Victoria. It is so much more comforting for us to have the continuous, twenty-four hour throaty roar of excavators, feller-bunchers and log loaders that you have so thoughtfully provided. I lie awake peacefully knowing that they are doing the nightly good work of repairing the haul roads that were so inconveniently washed out during the recent rainstorms. I know it could not be helped, nature being as capricious as she is.

In closing, I am looking forward to the twinkle of subdivision lights that you will leave behind as the legacy of your all-too-brief operations. No longer will the dark and brooding hills remind us of the hostile wilderness that man has been divinely appointed to tame. May the New York stockholders and executives of your landowner reap the just benefits of your work, as I know they will be kindly re-deploying the proceeds in the philanthropy for which the world hungers.

In admiration and respect,
Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Lake



Timberr . . .!

Thanks for the heads up on the coming premier edition.

At the CVRD Board meeting last evening, Bruce Fraser spoke elegantly on the clear-cut operations around the lake. Most disturbing news and while we see and hear the

trucks rumbling by and see the cut marks on the hills, we and I suspect most of the CVRD Board, simply did not appreciate the extent of the cuts.

I am very much involved with the resident's resistance movement against the CVRD's ill-conceived plans to put a ecodump in our residential and agricultural neighbourhood. We have a new web site up and

running ecodepotfacts.com where you might well find all sorts of interesting grist for your coming edition and thereafter too.

We also have some reasonably gifted writers so I will encourage them to watch for and support your paper.

Cheers Joseph Gollner



Oh Crap!

For residents of Shawnigan Lake who do not live on the waterfront or who do not spend time on it in a boat, it may be hard to appreciate the day-by-day damage that the lake is sustaining.

In eight years of living here, I have seen a huge increase in weeds at the end of our dock, a sure sign of pollution. I change our household water filters twice as often now because the water is much dirtier than it was a few years ago. I want to trust that the technology that built my water filters and my magic UV germ killing light will protect me for a while longer. Maybe you think that if enough chlorine is added to your water, you are also safe.

Check out a few coves around the lake and you will find everything from household garbage (some of it still in a plastic bag), an abandoned hot tub, bits and pieces of old docks and plenty of carelessly tossed beer cans. I have no idea of how many gallons of insecticides, pesticides, boat gas or sewage from inefficient septic fields are also in the mix.

Because the lake is the source of our drinking water, all of this my family and I drink! Unless you have your own well, you drink it too!

With hundreds of homes being added to our area, the strain on the lake will soon overcome its ability to dilute the pollutants to safe drinking levels.

There are many local groups dedicated to protecting the lake and its surroundings. So, have a drink of water, relax and decide which one you are going to join.

Al Brunet
Shawnigan Lake

Exciting news!

Our own community newspaper, Shawnigan Focus, will give us a fresh "Shawnigan" take on items of interest. It will help to create a stronger sense of community, allowing us to have more influence regarding important decisions in our area.

Awaiting the second edition.

Peter Nash
Shawnigan Lake

Be Informed!

The draft Official Community Plan for South Cowichan has important implications for the future development of the Shawnigan Watershed. Conservation of the water quality of the lake, a containment boundary for Shawnigan Village, the location of parks and walkways and the bundling of Shawnigan interests with Cobble Hill and Mill Bay are some of the proposals made in the plan. ***The last open house for local residents is from 4pm to 7pm on April 2, 2011 at the Shawnigan Community Centre.*** The CVRD presents a thorough display of the main features of the plan and will have Area Directors, planners and OCP committee members there to answer your questions. ***Surveys online at CVRD site.***

Lake Water

Edited by Dr. Bruce Fraser on Isla del Sol

This section of “The Focus” will feature articles and commentary about the public assets of our Shawnigan Community that we hold in common. Chief among these is Shawnigan Lake itself. Our lake is a home base, a recreation attraction, a place of business, a source of drinking water and a home for wildlife. The many values represented by the lake are leading to increased demands on the water and the lake’s source watershed, resulting in changes that are rapidly accumulating. Accordingly, the Cowichan Valley Regional District is engaged in a number of initiatives looking at lake tity, quality and first article, we three of the ini- are underway. in this series will examine in greater detail the results of ongoing studies and their implications for the future of our water supply.

“Our lake is a home base, a recreation attraction, a place of business, a source of drinking water and a home for wildlife”

Water Initiatives Important to Local Residents
The CVRD “South Cowichan Water Plan Study”, completed in February 2009, highlighted the pressures on the Shawnigan Watershed: increasing population and development leading to expanding demand on surface and ground water; increasing occurrences of lake and stream pollution arising from growing numbers of powerboats and from leaking septic fields; conversion of forest land to urban uses leading to increased volatility of runoff, siltation and nutrient flows to the lake – all made more complex by the pattern of summer drought and winter rains that are becoming more extreme.

The CVRD has contracted with Dr. Asit Mazumder of the University of Victoria to conduct a five-year program of water quality testing in Shawnigan Lake. Dr. Mazumder is well known to local residents for his long-term comparison of the health of Sooke Lake, protected in the Victoria Watershed with the unprotected Shawnigan Lake. He will be generating quarterly reports from multiple sampling stations on the lake and selected points on the water distribution system. The measures to be taken include: fecal coliform bacteria, E. coli and other waterborne pathogens, turbidity and oxygen concentration. The study will also do bacterial DNA finger printing to track sources of fecal bacteria and relate them

to land use patterns in the watershed. All of this will be related to impacts of climate change under varying land use projections and implications for public health.

A pilot water conservation function for the Shawnigan Lake North Water System is about to get underway for the summer of 2011, based on a Water Demand Management Strategy prepared in 2010. The CVRD sponsored process will look at six nents: ing and pricing, leaks system, with eown- accelerated toilet replacement, outdoor watering regulations and audits of commercial and institutional water usage.

“The measures to be taken include: fecal coliform bacteria, E. coli and other waterborne pathogens, turbidity and oxygen concentration. The study will also do bacterial DNA finger printing to track sources of fecal bacteria”

compo- meter- volume tracking in the visits hom- ers,

The mouth of Shawnigan Creek at the north end of the lake gradually accumulates debris, restricting outflow during high water. The result is higher flood levels on the lake. The main issue is not the inconveniences of lake level rise on waterfront properties, but that the increased flood levels cover low lying septic fields, leading to contamination of the lake water used by many local and downstream residents. Cleanouts were conducted in the past by the Ministry of Environment, but have the do the work.

“The main issue is not the inconveniences of lake level rise on waterfront properties, but that the increased flood levels cover low lying septic fields, leading to contamination of the lake”

they no longer resources to

The CVRD cility last year this work, but down because placed the entire burden of cost only on lakeshore properties and missed considering the important water quality issue that applies to all users. It appears that this time it will be proposed to include lakeshore properties and those engaged with the North Water System and The Village Water system to spread the annual \$18,000 cost more equitably over 1700 properties, based on assessment.

proposed a fa- to undertake it was turned it would have

Lakefront Jewel About to Vanish

by Dave Hutchinson

As Joni Mitchell observed:
*Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what you got
‘til it’s gone*

Located at the corner of Worthington and Cullin Roads is a magnificent property which is one of the few remaining large pieces of Shawnigan waterfront. By boat, if you head from the Government Wharf toward the West Arm, the several hundred metres of natural shoreline is on the right. Sometimes referred to as Worthington Point, it was owned for decades by the Worthington/Lendrum family who sold it in 2008.

Since then, some of the old growth timber was logged causing damage to the lakeshore area. As a consequence, restoration was required. Several hundred seedlings, ferns, salal, and other natural species were replanted, many without success. Sword ferns, for instance, were located in the direct sun with no cover. Much of the new plant material is now dead.

Now, there is an application for a high density subdivision which is being considered by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and the CVRD. The site-plan depicts sixteen lots. The waterfront will be shared by twelve lots, all of them much less than the 0.2 hectare minimum size called for by the

CVRD zoning rules. Most of these will require variances from the CVRD because the frontage is less than 10% of the perimeter (they are narrow slivers of land). How can the developer expect this to be approved?

About a year ago, surveyors acting for the developer were on site establishing a new “Natural Boundary” for the shoreline. Was the old one incorrect? The property line has been moved several metres towards the lake, significantly increasing the parcel area and



Thirteen of the sixteen lots are designated “Bare Land Strata” (the other three are “Fee Simple”). The developer has used the lot averaging provision of the Strata Property Act which allows lot sizes less than the minimum, provided that the average size complies with local zoning. Combining the sewage disposal area with one huge oddball lot, along with the twelve narrow waterfront lots, results in an average size of 2.1 hectares. This has been strategically arranged. It is obvious that the extra large lot has been created for the express purpose of enabling all the narrow waterfront lots.

resulting in at least two additional lots. What implications does this have for other lakefront property?

One component of the proposal is a parkland dedication. This isn’t just the developer being nice - it is a legislative requirement. The site-plan indicates a twenty-five metre strip adjacent to the Worthington road end. The local neighbourhood has been using this as a public beach for years, and while it would be nice to have a proper park, it is certainly not justification for approving a subdivision of this density. With a little foresight and creative thinking, it might have been possible for the CVRD to acquire this whole property for a relatively modest expenditure. They could have sold two or three decent sized waterfront lots and kept the remainder for a wonderful park with towering old trees and a beautiful beach area with southern exposure. It could also have made a fine destination resort or an

upscale retirement home. Almost anything would be better than the current proposal.

The primary concern here should be for Shawnigan Lake. The thirteen strata properties are intended to share a common sewage disposal facility that is expected to work perfectly. The lake is the source of drinking water for thousands of people. It is time we took this fact seriously. Imagine twelve more docks and all the associated power-boat issues. Does this kind of intensive development fit with what should be part of our Official Community Plan? There are already several stretches of lakeshore that are overly crowded. Do we want more?

There is nothing wrong with developers creating subdivisions and making a decent profit. Most of us who own property do so as a result of this process. However, the current proposal is not in the public interest. The lake and surrounding watershed are under pressure on several fronts. It would be nice to manage development responsibly so that what we currently enjoy will be preserved for the foreseeable future.

The approving authorities should insist that the developer present a more modest plan with far fewer waterfront lots. Final approval is granted by the MOTI Provincial Approving Officer, who must consider many factors including public interest. If you have concerns or questions, contact the MOTI or the CVRD.

Dave is a resident of Shawnigan Lake

The CVRD is a referral agency in this process and the final decision rests with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Also, this application is using a loophole through the Strata Property Act, contained within section 2 of the Bare Land Strata Regulations 75/78. The local Advisory Planning Commission is working on getting a meeting with the applicant’s agent and the local parks committee is working on getting our comments, as you are aware, to the ministry as well.

Comment: Area B Director, Ken Cossey



FOCUS ON THIS

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In Shawnigan Village

A longtime resident of Shawnigan said that shortly after he arrived in 1977 a delightful, older lady informed him that as soon as he was settled, there were some things in the village that needed to be done. The same is true today.

For the relatively small community of Shawnigan (Area B), it is amazing how many groups and organizations are at work, often behind the scenes, on issues and ideas that are designed to make life easier, better and more interesting for all residents. Local organizations such as the Business Association

(SLBA), the Residents Association (SRA), The Community Centre Association (SLCA), the Parks and Recreation Commission, The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society (SLHS), the Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission (APC), the Shawnigan contingent of the South Cowichan Official Community Plan Steering Committee (OCP) and the new Arts and Culture Collective (Inspire!) all contribute to

“A longtime resident of Shawnigan said that shortly after he arrived in 1977 a delightful, older lady informed him that as soon as he was settled, there were some things in the village that needed to be done.”

the process of community building. Although the above-mentioned organizations are working diligently to improve the community as a whole, each has a different focus.

One of the goals of Shawnigan Focus is to highlight the work of these groups and inform the community. Many of the organizations are introduced in this

issue of Shawnigan Focus. There are countless other groups and organizations in the area as well - we welcome their input in future issues.

Volunteers are the life force for most strong communities. Take time to read the profiles included in our launch issue. Many of the organizations are open to membership. If you are looking for a way to get involved in your community, check out what best suits your interests and become a member of one (or more) of these groups.

Director’s Report for Electoral Area B, Shawnigan Lake

by Ken Cossey



The power of cooperation and the spirit of community is alive and well in Shawnigan Lake. The latest evidence of cooperation is in the creation of this very publication. Various community groups and individuals came together to produce this new community publication, the Shawnigan Focus, I would like to thank this group for working together on getting this publication started. Our community spirit can be found within the various projects, the community events being worked on and the various community groups found in our area. There have been many positive projects and events happening in our area lately: the creation of a joint Official Community Plan for the South Cowichan area, the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon, the redevelopment of the Kinsol Trestle, securing a long term lease for Elsie Miles property, the proposed eco-depot facility, the organization of the Canada Day celebrations, the Christmas Tree light up and the redevelopment of Shawnigan Hills Park. Outside of the actual physical development projects and the organization of various community events, we also have various community groups that are working hard in helping to improve our community and our overall quality of life for our area. This includes community groups like: the Shawnigan Lake Business Association, the Shawnigan Lake Community Association, the Shawnigan Residents’ Association, the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society and the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society. Assisting and working with these community groups are the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s Shawnigan Lake Community Commission, the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Committee and the Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission. Soon, I hope we may also be seeing two new community groups; the Shawnigan Beach Residents’ Association and a new Shawnigan Lake Arts and Culture group.

On March 9, 2011 the CVRD Board adopted the 2011 Budget and the Five Year Financial Plan. The overall CVRD budget is \$26,150,771.00. The effect of the 2011 requisition varies by electoral area or municipality, as outlined in the table below.

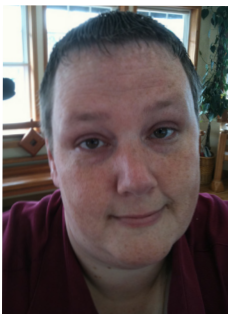
Municipality or Electoral Area	Percentage Change from 2010
City of Duncan	6.60%
District of North Cowichan	5.98%
Town of Ladysmith	4.29%
Town of Lake Cowichan	8.89%
Area A – Mill Bay/Malahat	3.10%
Area B – Shawnigan Lake	2.18% - the lowest increase
Area C – Cobble Hill	2.69%
Area D – Cowichan Bay	3.71%
Area E – Sahtlam/Glenora	6.16%
Area F – Cowichan Lake South	7.76%
Area G – Saltair	4.12%
Area H – North Oyster	4.01%
Area I - Youbou	8.45%
Source – CVRD Budget Bylaw 3470	

Best wishes to the Shawnigan Focus team and thank you for all your hard work in getting this project started.

If you would like to discuss any point outlined in this article or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 250-743-1336 or kcossey@seaside.net.

Shawnigan Lake Business Association

by Roy Davies



The Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA) was started by a handful of business owners who were looking for a way to profile their businesses as well as support the surrounding community. Over the years that handful of members has grown to over 55 and continues to grow. The SLBA has, and continues to be involved in developing methods to profile our members through benefits to our community. Such efforts have included the development of a map of Shawnigan and our website. The map, which is available free of charge, shows not only the streets and businesses, but also provides historical information and details about Shawnigan. 10,000 maps were printed two years ago and to date almost all have been handed out to visitors looking for details on the area.

This spring, the SLBA will be running a re-print of the map. We have taken feedback from the community and will be improving and updating the current design. Also, as we did with the last printing, all members will be plotted on the map as well as being given the opportunity to be profiled. Our website, Shawniganlakeonline.com, was started as a way for our members to get on the World Wide Web. Over the years the site has blossomed. Now Shawniganlakeonline.com provides our members not only an opportunity to be a part of an online business directory, but also provides people outside the area a window to Shawnigan. Through information, forums, buy and sell listings, and photographs, our visiting numbers continue to grow. Most recently the SLBA has been proud to support the launch of the Shawnigan Focus, and would like to thank all the volunteers that have, and continue, to put in countless hours to get this project off the ground. If you would like more information on the Shawnigan Lake Business Association or its projects, please visit our website at: www.shawniganlakeonline.com.

Roy is President of the Shawnigan Lake Business Association

Area B (Shawnigan) Parks Commission

by Margaret Symon

Each Electoral Area within the Cowichan Valley Regional District has an active parks commission comprised of local residents who volunteer their time, and work closely with CVRD Parks Department staff on a range of issues relating to trail and park development, park maintenance, local community parks events, and community parkland acquisition opportunities.

The Shawnigan Parks and Trails Master Plan, over 5 years in the making, was recently completed, the first of any electoral area in the CVRD. Meetings of the Shawnigan Parks Commission are generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at the SLCC, and are open to the public.



Margaret is the Chair for the Area B Parks and Recreation Commission

Send out a notice - Post an event - Make on-line comments - Register to Volunteer - Get a web-link - Post photos - View Photos

www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com



Bookmark it. Keep it handy. Use it!

Find out what’s coming up, going down, who’s responsible, who can help, why you can, why you can’t, who or why we are . . .

Shawnigan Residents Association

by Graham Ross-Smith



Strong and vibrant communities not only require the kind of communication that this newspaper is designed to provide, they also need local organizations that will pursue and protect the interests of their citizens vis-a-vis all three levels of government and powerful commercial organizations such as forest companies, franchise chains and land developers.

The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) is such an organization. Waterfront property owners started the SRA in the late 1980s as the Shawnigan Property Owners Association. The group registered as a not-for-profit society pursuant to the BC Societies Act and continues as such today under the name Shawnigan Residents Association.

The directors of the association changed the name to show that the organization exists for all residents of this unique and beautiful community, not just for those who own property here.

Over the past two decades, the SRA has worked to ensure that growth and development at Shawnigan occurs in ways that are compatible with the nature of our rural way of life and that

do no harm to the waters of the lake itself: the centrepiece of our community.

In the process of representing and protecting the interests of all who call Shawnigan home, (or for cottagers, “home-away-from-home”) the association has come to be respected by both the Province and the CVRD. As a respected community organization, the SRA is able to influence politicians, government agencies and businesses to make decisions and allocate funds in ways that are beneficial to this wonderful place in which we live and play.

The SRA directors thank the Shawnigan Focus production team for bringing this community paper into being and for adopting a goal of providing space on its pages for local organizations such as the SRA to write on issues of importance and to help residents know of their existence and the work they do.

You can expect to read more about the SRA and its current projects in future issues. Also, you can read the SRA Strategic Plan and learn more about the organization on the web by going to www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com.

Graham is a director for the Shawnigan Residents Association

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

by Marian Davies

The SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SLCA) has been an active part of our community for more than sixty years! In the beginning, they were the volunteers who kept activities happening in the original community hall and kept up the maintenance of the facility. Later they took over the administration of the annual Kiddies Karnival which was held on the Elsie Miles School grounds, beginning in the forties and ending in 2004.

The SLCA was the major support in the building of the new community centre as we see it today. In 1992, the community had grown and the original hall only had two rooms to rent out...either the ‘little’ hall which had electric heat or the ‘big’ hall which required someone to arrive four hours ahead and start the wood furnace in the basement and keep it going until the event was over!!

The ‘old’ hall was sold at the same time the VI Regional library decided to close the small library in our

community. That building was also sold with the funds going into a new facility.

In 1994, the focus of the organization changed to hosting special events for our community. Today they are the strength behind the Easter Event on Easter Sunday, Canada Day Celebrations on July 1st and Halloween Howl on October 31st. All events are in partnership with the Community Centre and are held in or around it.

Although member numbers at any given meeting are small, the SLCA attracts many volunteers who come forward to help with each event. They have kept their Registered Charity status and apply annually for Direct Access funding from the BC Lottery Commission to be able to fund events.

We welcome new volunteers at our monthly meetings, usually the 4th Monday. Give us a call at: 250-743-4550 or 2570-43-4204.

Marian is a director on the SLCA board

Shawnigan Lake Weather

by Grant Treloar

In the Shawnigan Lake community, you may notice quite a difference in the weather, even over a short distance. (Statistics are courtesy of the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network)

Location	Highest Temp		Lowest Temp		Total Precip		Days with Precip	
	Feb-11	Feb-10	Feb-11	Feb-10	Feb-11	Feb-10	Feb-11	Feb-10
Village	12	15	-11	-1	118	89	16	19
West Side	12	13	-11	-2	112	67	16	18
East Side	12	14	-11	-2	155	122	17	18
Kelsey School	12	14	-10	-1	106	77	16	19

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Business Embracing Community



The Shawnigan Lake Business Association endeavours to increase the profile of Shawnigan Lake businesses and to support the community.

SLBA Initiatives

The following are some SLBA initiatives that support local businesses and the community:

- Shawnigan Lake Online website
- Shawnigan Lake map
- Business to Business member discounts
- Weekly membership networking events
- Business seminars and workshops
- Sponsorship of community events
- Membership E-News
- Business Showcase (with the Malahat Legion)
- Cairn Park development (with the Rotary Club)
- Sponsorship of Cops for Cancer, Annual International Triathlon

Join the SLBA

SLBA membership is open to all active Shawnigan Lake businesses. Annual dues are \$65. For full details, see shawniganlakeonline.com.

www.shawniganlakeonline.com



I pledge:

- My HEAD to clearer thinking,
- My HEART to greater loyalty,
- My HANDS to larger service,
- My HEALTH to better living,

For my Club, my Community
and my Country

4-H is a program that provides young people, ages 9-20 years, with an opportunity to learn how to become productive, self-assured adults. This is fostered through project and program work, experiences with their 4-H club and their participation in club activities. The goal of the 4-H program is youth development. The objectives of 4-H clubs are knowledge, leadership, citizenship and personal development.

4-H members choose their own project, manage it for a set time, keep a record of that project and present the project before a judge at the end of the term to show they have ‘learned by doing’! The club meets monthly for a formal meeting where the members practice parliamentary procedures. They also meet as often as necessary to learn about their projects through guest speakers, visits to farms, field trips and more. 4-H is an organization that needs family support to help provide adequate housing and equipment for the project and encouragement for the member.

The Cowichan 4-H Community Club meets in Cobble Hill but many of the members live in Shawnigan Lake. Club members learn about their projects: rabbits, poultry, goats, photography. Cloverbuds is the group for members ages 6-8 years. In addition to project management, there is a communication program where the members participate in public speaking, demonstrations and in creating an educational display. Members learn to make good decisions by participating in a judging program where they learn to pick the best of four and give good reasons for their decisions.

All of these programs teach life skills that prepare the members for their adult life and their careers!

To learn more about 4-H in BC go to www.bc4h.bc.ca or to ask about 4-H in your community contact:
Marian Davies, District Key Leader at stayafloat@shaw.ca

Hike for Hospice: Team Spirit!

By Rosemary Michie

If you like to have fun outdoors in the beautiful Cowichan Valley why not take part in this year's Hike for Hospice May 1st at Providence Farm. You can register as an individual or form a team such as ours the "Shawnigan Island Pharmacy Penguins".

Since about 2004, the Shawnigan Island Pharmacy Penguins Team has been supporting the Cowichan Valley Hospice, at first by participating in the Swimathon and now in the Hike for Hospice. In the Swimathon days, some of our team-mates could not swim too well, and were thankful for the floatation devices! Some of the teams would dress up in outrageous costumes; there was lots of good food and there was the challenge of who could swim the most laps (not our team)!

Working at Shawnigan Island Pharmacy, we are privileged to be involved in our patients' lives: from the joy of the birth of a new baby to the heart-break of the loss of a loved one. At the end of life, it is a comfort to know that the Cowichan Valley Hospice is there to provide support and counseling. Often those who have received help are the most generous in their donations.

The annual Hospice fundraiser is now an event that we look forward to each year. It has become part of our work culture and something we are proud to be involved with. One member of our team who has been present at every Hospice Swimathon and Hike is Dennise Andrews. Dennise has also been responsible for collecting most of the donations. She has a wonderful way of asking people for money, which starts off with "I'm going to ask you something, and just feel free to say yes or no". This is very effective and nobody feels awkward if they choose not to donate.

Recently our pharmacy was sold to the Island Pharmacy Group, and the good news is that our new



Rosemary Michie, Dennise Andrews, Christine Oglend, Katie Richardson, Tracy Bell, Leslie Kleiman, Kathryn Lake

owners Erika and Sean Lucas, from Lake Cowichan, are committed to continuing our support of the Cowichan Valley Hospice. Erika and Sean own seven pharmacies in the Cowichan Valley: two in Lake Cowichan; Festubert and Kenneth St in Duncan and now Valleyview, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake. If you would like a pledge sheet for the Hike for Hospice on May 1st, we will have them on hand at each Island Pharmacy. We hope to see you on the Hike!

Rosemary is the Pharmacist at the Island Pharmacy Shawnigan

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Family Caregivers Support Society

By Garth Harvey

Good Morning Shawnigan !

It is good, in our own newspaper, to be able to say "Thank you" to the village for all their support over the years, and we wish the newspaper team the same support that we have experienced...we, being the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society.

Our big news is the "Ending the Silence" program that we started in 2010. This program brings attention to youthful caregivers who provide the same service to society as adult caregivers. A great community builder, Dan Vaillancourt, who you may have known as the principal for Maxwell International Baha'I School, heads up this program. The youth have made a DVD about themselves and it has been shown to the public and a number of high schools. The reaction: as one person said, "It's an eye-opener".

Our Shawnigan Lake Walk Committee is busy planning this year's event for Saturday, May 28. Several years ago, we were asked to join in the Subaru Triathlon event that is run from the West Shawnigan Provincial Park. That is a big event

and people come from all over. We are small and local. It was tempting, but we decided to stay in the village which is our headquarters and has always supported us.

The walk is our major fundraiser and all the proceeds are spent to support family caregivers. The walk is important as it is truly a community fun day, almost totally supported by volunteers.

About 70% of our budget comes from outside the province but it is all spent in an area that includes Shawnigan Lake, Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith and Mill Bay.

On May 28, there will be several hours of live music to welcome the walkers home. Come and join in. You will be welcomed!

You can find us on the web at www.shawniganlakewalk.com [facebook.com/shawniganlakewalk](https://www.facebook.com/shawniganlakewalk) www.familycaregiverssupport.com

Garth is the President of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society


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Shawnigan Lake School

by Dave Robertson



No Longer the "Boys School"!

Arguably the biggest employer in Shawnigan Lake and proud to be a part of this community, Shawnigan Lake School has changed a lot in the last ninety five years. It is, however, in the last twenty years that the real transformation has taken place, with the arrival of co-education to this beautiful campus. Close to half of the 450 student population are girls and the School sees itself as perhaps the purest example in the country of the modern, co-educational boarding school. 400 of those students stay on campus and they come from all over BC, Canada, the USA and the world, 29 different countries in fact.

In a world where the global perspective is increasingly the

desired one, Shawnigan looks to provide a diversity of background and experience at all levels of the school.

It is constructed to mirror the approach of the marvelous country in which we live where strong community values of respect and inclusion are the order of the day. The school has tried over the years to dismantle any mystery or the sense of exclusion both by the way it operates and by hosting various community activities, but it relies on the mutually respectful approach to be able to maintain its proud position of having its gates, literally and figuratively, 'always open'. The young women of Shawnigan are very passionate about their part in the School's efforts to pursue excellence on all fronts and our desire not only to bring the world to Shawnigan but also to bring Shawnigan's name to the world.

David Robertson - Headmaster

It's Spring - Back into Shape with Yoga

by Nicola Cusi



Nicola Cusi

Excess weight has become a common phenomenon, especially rising with children. Canadian Health authorities observed a 70% increase of overweight children between 1979 and 2004. We are lured into a sedentary lifestyle with the conveniences of the computer, which allows us to access many daily tasks, such as communicating with friends, shopping, research, work, entertainment with the luxury of not having to move from our desk.

At the same time as technology should provide us with an easier and more relaxed lifestyle, we are experiencing higher stress levels than ever before. The Canadian Mental Health Association reports a 30% increase from last year!

Yoga offers a holistic approach that has several advantages over regular exercise:

- Yoga can be adapted to EVERY level of fitness and health. There is not a single condition that prevents us from doing Yoga. As long as we breathe, we can do Yoga!

- Yoga is non competitive and no-body has to feel bad about not doing

it as well as others around you. It is more a question of finding a Yoga class that is appropriate to your level of fitness and Yoga experience.

- Yoga is not a fitness regime. It works on deeper levels of your being. With guided visualizations and positive affirmations, I encourage a healthy and positive self-image. I love to remind my students to listen to their body instead of just copying the pose I propose as the instructor. Even as there is always some part inside us that is critical and judgmental about ourselves, we can learn to honor that part inside us, that has unconditional love for ourselves.

- Breathing is an essential, if not the most crucial element of Yoga. Conscious breathing not only has a strong effect of calming the mind, but physically increasing energy levels and with that the metabolism in our body.

- Every Yoga class should end with a relaxation period, teaching relaxation techniques, guided visualization or meditation to help you calm your mind and reduce stress levels. When we feel centered, balanced and relaxed we are much more likely to follow a healthy lifestyle.

Nicola Cusi is the owner of KaliYoga Studio in Shawnigan Lake - www.kaliyoga.ca



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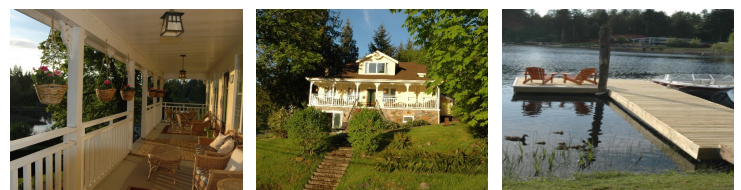
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Myth Buster: Mulch
by Carolyn Dowell

Whatever substance you put in your garden should be for protection (wind, erosion, cold winters, hot summers) and nutrition. Mulch is a substance that does not get dug into the soil, it lays on the top & slowly releases nutrients and instantly gives protection. Mulch or any other substance is not to be put tight all the way around any tree trunk. I use the



analogy: would you want to wear a tight necklace that cuts circulation or a loose comfortable necklace? Anything like a rope or a string of lights, wrapped tightly around a trunk will promote disease for the tree.

Mulch can be cardboard (staples & plastic removed), newspaper, grass cuttings, leaves etc. Don't take all the fallen leaves; the tree depends on the nutrients derived from the decomposition of the leaves on the ground. You want mulch that is from your bio region, not so much from miles away. The best mulch is close by like big leaf maple leaves. My neighbour likes their driveway cleared of leaves and my garden likes the leaves.

"Bark (mulch) is a waste product of the logging and lumber industries. In the Pacific Northwest, it is a waste product arising from the clear cutting of temperate North American rain forests. Our bark mulch is primarily derived from three coniferous tree species: Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar), Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir), Tsuga heterophylla (Western Hemlock). Bark is a protective structure where plants accumulate toxins as a preventative defense mechanism against invading insects and microbes. It quickly becomes apparent that conifer bark mulch - added to foreign ecosystems - inhibits soil biodiversity. Even in woodlands we never find bark completely covering the ground. Ecosystems maintain a very careful car-

bon / nitrogen balance. Bark contains no usable nitrogen, and so its decomposers must take the nitrogen from the surrounding environment. In Nature this comes from decaying leaves, in a pure bark mulch layer it comes from the soil air, depriving the existing vegetation of nitrogen". (Heide Hermary, Working With Nature Shifting Paradigms, The Science And Practice Of

Organic Horticulture, 2007)."

In landscape supply areas, one can see piles of bark mulch alongside piles of composting materials. Seeds blow in the wind, land, and germinate. Soon after you apply the bark mulch to your garden, one sees plants there that were never there before. In my experience, sorrel (a tasty wild edible) is the first to appear. The plant is 90 % root; good luck removing it.

Bark mulch is very acidic, mostly from the cedar bark. If your soil becomes too acidic, the roots of the plants are no longer able to uptake nutrients and slowly the plants die. An example of excess acidic soil is from the area of Ontario, where the maple tree syrup industry struggles to keep the soil less acidic from acid rain. I have to wear good, sealed, leather gloves when I am working in an area that has bark mulch. When my skin comes in contact with bark mulch, I get a nasty rash.

In my opinion, in my garden, big leaf maple leaves are the best mulch because they are close by (in my bio region), they are soooo nutritious and they protect against extreme weather conditions. When I plant, I move the mulch over, plant, then move the mulch back. There are no weeds and I use very little water in the summer time.

Carolyn is Organic Master Gardener with a gardening business in the Shawnigan area

Focus on Food
by Brad Boisvert

Wow, we are very excited to have our own Shawnigan Lake Newspaper. Quite often, as I write for other magazines and publications, I write about the foods of Vancouver Island and the Cowichan Valley. While we are part of both, I want this column to be about food here in Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill, so each month I will bring you what is local, truly local, right in our very own backyard. And speaking of yards...now that Spring has sprung, so has the stinging nettle. You may have noticed it as you are cleaning up around your yard. Some may look at this plant as a nuisance, but I look at it as an intricate part of a good meal. However, as its name implies, it stings, so much care must be taken when harvesting and cooking this ingredient



so this little leafy vegetable packs a whole lot of punch of nutrition as well as being really tasty and easy to prepare.

Stinging Nettle Soup

Yields 3 litres

Ingredient:	Amount:
Vegetable Oil	60 ml
Onion med dice	10 ounces
Celeriac	3 ounces
Garlic Cloves	3 each
Russet potatoes peeled and chopped	2 pounds
White wine	80 ml
Stock or Water	2 Litres
Bay Leaves	3 each
Stinging Nettle leaves	5 cups
Cream	3 ounces

Method:

- 1.) Sweat vegetables (excepted potatoes, and nettle) in oil until onions are translucent no color
- 2.) Add wine simmer reduce by half
- 3.) Add bay leaves, stock and potatoes
- 4.) Cook until potatoes are tender
- 5.) In a blender add Soup and nettle blend until smooth
- 6.) Strain through a fine mess strainer
- 7.) Season (add cream optional)

Brad is the Chef/Proprietor of Amuse Bistro in Shawnigan Lake – www.amusebistro.com

“According to the new OCP Draft for Shawnigan Lake, there are over 7,500 residents in Area B at this time. With the projected growth rate for Area B (Shawnigan Lake), compiled by BC Stats (Ministry of Citizen’s Services), it is estimated that there will be over 11,000 residents by 2026 “



Back row (sort of!): Heather Schyf, Laura Mellish, Candace Boland, Marcia Dakin, Jenny Purslow, Krista Bentley, Karen Best, Amber Arthurs, Lori Walmsley, Derrylyn Allen Front Row: Sarah Fraser, Gail Joyce, Laurie Banasch, Annie Cossey, Tracy Mandur, Karen Goreas

Shawnigan Lake 10K Run/Walk Clinic
by Karen Goreas

If you’ve been out on a Sunday morning lately, you may have seen a herd of determined runners or walkers advancing down the road. They may have been part of the 10th Shawnigan Lake Community Centre 10K Run/Walk Clinic! Ten years ago a friend of mine asked if I would like to coordinate a clinic.... “But I don’t run,” I said. “You could learn!” she said.... And so! Ever since then, each January, with the help of wonderful volunteer leaders, I have coaxed, pushed, cajoled, and hopefully inspired participants in a leveled training program that gets us to the starting (and hopefully finish!) line of the TC10K. We meet each Sunday morning for some educational information, and then out we go to the (as we have discovered) hills of Shawnigan Lake and environs in a combination of running and walking sessions that get us to our goal. It has been fantastic to know of “alumni” that have kept up their training and healthy lifestyle even after the clinic, doing half marathons, marathons, or even just weekly runs and walks. It’s been a great way to meet new friends and discover trails in this beautiful corner of the island. So next year, if you should think you might be brave enough to give it a try, come and join us!

Karen is the Coordinator for the Shawnigan Lake TC10K Clinic

Inspire!

By Lynn Weaver

Inspire! Shawnigan, the new Shawnigan Lake Arts, Culture, and History Collective is launching in Spring 2011.

Our vision is of Shawnigan Lake as a creative centre, where art is integrated into people's lives; where all people have access to the arts, are able to participate in the arts, value the arts, and are enriched by the arts.

We believe that the arts are essential to a vibrant and healthy community, and that artistic excellence and diversity of expression are imperative.

Inspire! funds, supports, and fosters development of the arts on behalf of the people of Shawnigan Lake. We seek to inspire and deliver creativity & expression.

We believe our strength rises from the diversity of our personal attributes and our cultural backgrounds. We are proud of our home in the Cowichan

Valley, and accept leadership as an environmentally responsible and sustainable organization. Inspire! is an independent body, created and mandated by the residents of Shawnigan Lake. The Collective will be part of the Shawnigan Lake Residents Association, and the Cowichan Valley Arts Council.

Our goals for 2011 include the 2nd annual SLAM! Placemaking: Shawnigan Lake Arts & Multicultural Placemaking festival on September 10th in the Village. We would like to invest in the production possibilities in Shawnigan Lake. We are also exploring partnerships and collaborations.

To be involved or for more information, please contact ShawniganArts@gmail.com or call Terry: 250 743 9949 or Lynn (MoonDance Art House): 250 743 5846.

View from the Islands

by Bruce Fraser on Isla del Sol

The "View" will be a regular column, offering comment on the affairs of Shawnigan Lake, its people, its economy and its society.

Winter Morning On the Lake



Most of what happens around the lake is immediately evident to an islander living out there in the middle. The

ducks and geese hiding in the reeds squabble all night long, worried about our resident mink or discussing how they might avoid being feasted on by the Long Island Eagle come daybreak. The crew of male red-winged blackbirds hangs noisily around the bird feeder shouting their impatience with the keeper of the seed, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the females for the nesting season. The Osprey dives for an unwary bass cruising the surface waters. Commuters begin their day around five in the morning, grumpily tail-gating their way to the Malahat, reminding us all that a living has to be made, a car length is worth a life and that relief is only a step away at Jen's Upper Cup Café on the hill where the welcome is warm and the brew is bubbling.

I hear voices on the lake. Shawnigan rowers, bulbous in parkas, soon flash past in perfect unison, while their mentors serenade the lake with bullhorns full of encouragement and the cox's beat the time. It is not yet summer, so the earlybird water

skiers are still powdering their wet suits in anticipation and the cabins around the lake are mostly in dark communion with their mould spores. Rain pounding on the steel roof and a brisk southeaster roaring in the trees completes the morning soundscape out here on the islands. Well, almost completes it, as there is also the symphonic contribution of the loggers in the Shawnigan hills, where feller-bunchers perform insolent dances in the growing clear cut.

The night winds from the south deliver human artifacts to the islands. A derelict wharf, a ruined surfboard, an awkwardly deflated air mattress and an assortment of children's beach toys arrive looking for sanctuary. There is a mostly submerged boat, reminiscent of the African Queen's last voyage, accompanied by an entourage of beer cans, plastic bottles and one lone soccer ball. To my horror there is also a sewage slick, contributed by high water over a septic field. There used to be just reeds. Send in the reeds!

When the wind is from the north, ice rings the island, frost gathers on the wharf and a drift of fine snow slithers under the back door of the cabin. I intend to fix that, one of these days. A quick blaze in the stove, ignited by the coals of the banked fire of last evening followed by a hasty brew of fresh ground coffee work to dispel the shivers. Out there on the dock, a quick binocular check of the lights in shoreline houses, and wisps of rising wood smoke assure me that all is well with our neighbours as the day begins.

RCMP

by Sergeant Rob Webb

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP police the South Cowichan Valley area, including Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay, Malahat First Nation and the Malahat itself (to just north of Aspen Road).

The Detachment has two public service employees and eleven regular members including eight Constables, two Corporals and one Sergeant. The Detachment is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM or 0800-1630 hours.

After hours, you are able to leave a message or call through to our Nanaimo Operations Communication Center. The (OCC) dispatches all service calls and

handles all 911 calls as well.

The Shawnigan Lake Detachment investigates over 4000 calls for service every year. We continue to try to maintain a "no call too small" mentality. Our Detachment's annual performance plan focuses on Traffic, Drug and Property Crime, Youth Initiatives, Aboriginal and Seasonal Policing. We strongly feel visibility is important and do our best to be out in the community.

Cst. Kevin Hopkinson works closely with Bob Wallace and his great crew of Speed Watchers who help us to maintain safer roads. Traffic issues, be it aggressive drivers, distracted drivers (cell phones) and speed unfortunately continue to be prominent in the community.

The bottom line is: slow down and get off your cell phones please.

We also work closely with SCCPAS - South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society, where various groups in the community meet monthly to identify concerns and help make our community safer.

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP are proud to be a part of these great communities we police. We look forward to continuing to live and police in your community. Please continue to call us at 250-743-5514 to report suspicious activity.

Stay safe.

Sgt. Rob Webb is the Detachment Commander for the Shawnigan Lake RCMP

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Join the SRA online at:
www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com
(go to "about the SRA/ membership" - pay online)

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What is it? Where is it? Why is it?



First correct Answer sent to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca
wins a free (but extremely good) cup of coffee at Moziro's

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
APRIL 2011

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EVENTS & CLASSIFIEDS
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CURRENT CIRCULATION: 3500

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND
HOW TO SEND COPY
May Issue: April 15th
Please send copy as an email
attachment using Microsoft Word, text,
RTF or Appleworks to:
editor@shawniganfocus.ca
Typewritten or handwritten copy is
acceptable if you have no access
to a computer. Do not send PDF as it
does not convert properly.
Leave hard copies of articles not sent via
email in the Focus box at the
The Village Chipperry - 1- 2740 Dundas,
Shawnigan Lake

AD DEADLINE
The 15th of every month for month-end
publication.

CLASSIFIEDS
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions may be available in the future.

Additional copies are available at: Style Centre Barber Shop, Subway, Village Chipperry, Moziro's Coffee Shop, Aitken & Fraser Store, Mason's Store, Kinsol Market, Jen's Upper Cup, Cafe Crème and Olde School Coffee.

MAILING ADDRESS
Shawnigan Focus
Box 331
Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

Shawnigan Lake Business Association Presents:

Networking Tuesdays

JOIN THE SLBA ON TUESDAY MORNINGS 8AM - 9AM AT MOZIRO'S FOR COFFEE AND LEARN ABOUT BUSINESS AND HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

OPEN TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

SLBA MEMBERS-
COFFEE \$1 WITH YOUR OWN CUP



COMING PHOTO CONTEST

Attention Shawnigan Photographers: A photo contest is planned for three major sporting events:

Shawnigan Lake Regatta - May 13-15
Cowichan Family Caregiver's Walk - May 28
The Subaru International Triathlon - May 29

Best Action Photo of a Shawnigan Lake participant
Best Action Photo with a Shawnigan Lake backdrop
Best Bloopers

Photos should be sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Deadline: June 10, 2011

Prizes will be awarded for the winners and will be published, along with a selection of runner-ups, in the next available edition of the Shawnigan Focus.

Shawnigan Focus ADVERTISING RATES

Shawnigan Focus is a monthly publication with a distribution of 3500 copies. Canada Post delivers free copies to all available addresses in the Shawnigan Lake area. A number of loose copies are also placed in several businesses for pick-up.

Its committed advertising policy is to maintain a ratio of a maximum 40% advertising to editorial content.

All accounts must be paid in advance, at the time of commitment, by cheque or cash. Stated prices do not include HST.

Prices subject to change without notice.

4x2.5	\$47.
4x4in	\$77.
4x5in	\$95.
5x7.5	\$145.
1/2 Page 10 (w) 7.9	\$285.
full page 10 (w) 16	\$569.
Banner 10 (w)x2	\$96.

Classifieds Rates:

All community/non-profit announcements appear free of charge.
All other classifieds are \$10. for 25 words Payable in advance.
Send pre-typed to editor@shawniganfocus.ca.
Payments can be made at the VillageChipperry.

Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Call-Outs
February 15 – March 15, 2011

Total of 12 incidents:

- 2 Auto Alarms
- 8 Medical Aids
- 1 Hydro Line Incident
- 1 Possible Fire Sighting

For more information about our
volunteer fire department:
www.shawniganfire.com





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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIANT SPCA GARAGE SALE
Saturday May 28, Sunday May 29
9 AM to 3 PM.
7550 Bell McKinnon Rd.,
Duncan, B.C. V9L 6B1
Phone (250) 746-4646

Donations of gently used, quality items for resale are greatly appreciated. No electronics and no junk as we can't afford the dumping fees. All monies raised will stay in the Cowichan Valley to provide care and medical attention for homeless animals.
My Site: <http://www.islandnet.com/~luree/>
My Passion: <http://www.duncanspca.com>

The Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary Cowichan District Hospital is putting on a LEMON & LAVENDER TEA
Sunday, April 17, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Tickets \$5.00 at Mill Bay Community Hall (next to Kerry Park) on Shawnigan/Mill Bay Road
Mini Auction, Sale of Crafts and Baking, "Dragonfly Dreaming" with Lavender Products-
PreSale tickets: to
Call Nadene 250-743-4493
Maureen 250-743-7961

'Culinary Treasure Hunt'
Saturday, May 14, 2011
A fun, tasty and educational event featuring 25+ farms, wineries, restaurants and food producers in the region.
The event begins at the Mill Bay Centre at 10am and culminates with a Picnic/BBQ at the Cobble Hill Fairgrounds at 4:30 PM. Draws for Great Prizes!
\$25 registration - limited to 100 'Hunters'
Includes basket, treasure map and entry in the draw. Funds raised will go toward a new Visitor Centre in South Cowichan.
For more information & registration go to www.southcowichanchamber.org events page
Call 250-743-3566 or email southcowichanchamber@shaw.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week and Easter Services
The Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist
3295 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill 250-743-3095

Holy Thursday, April 21 8:00 pm - Remembering the Last Supper with a Service of Holy Communion.

Good Friday, April 22 11:00 am
The Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
4:00 pm - Praying the Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 24 8:00 am A Traditional Service of Holy Communion.

9:15 am A Contemporary Service of Holy Communion with Sunday School followed by an Easter egg hunt!

11:00 am A Traditional Service of Holy Communion with our Choir. www.stjohnscobblehill.ca

Frances Kelsey Dry Grad Fundraisers!
Buy tickets for a 2011 Hyundai Accent from Duncan Hyundai at:
*Country Grocer April 2nd 10 - 2 pm
*Thrifty's Mill Bay Apr. 30th 10 - 2 pm
*Mason's store May 14th 10 - 2 pm
Garage Sale/Silent Auction:
April 30th 9 - 4 pm at Frances Kelsey School

Cowichan Valley Hospice Society
3rd Annual Hike for Hospice at Providence Farm Sunday, May 1st from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Please join us for a fun family day. Top prizes for the top fundraising efforts. To register phone 250-701-4242 or email cvhospice@shaw.ca. To find out more or get a pledge form, go to www.members.shaw.ca/cvhospice or check out the posters in the village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jazz Vespers at Sylvan United Church
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
Mill Bay (next to Frances Kelsey School)

Saturday, March 26, 2011
4:30 am - 5:45 pm
Spring Plant Sale at Providence Farm
9 am - 3 pm, Saturday, April 30
Farm-grown and community donated plants.
Baked goods and coffee. Art Show and sale.
1843 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan
250-743-4204

ITEMS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Serenity Cove on Shawnigan Lake!
Beautiful 4-BR 2-BTH lakeside home with additional 2-BR suite on a lovely half acre.
Full details @ www.serenitycove.ca
\$599,900

Wanted: Adult water skis - any condition, to be used for second set when going double
plinklater@shaw.ca

Island Metal Works
Custom metal art, signage and parts
Phone April at - 250-743-5059

ITEMS WANTED

Wanted:
The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society is looking for old photos of Shawnigan, Shawnigan memorabilia, artifacts, and stories to add to our archival collection.

This repository benefits the community by providing access to our history. Please contact Lori at 250-743-8675 or shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

ITEMS WANTED

Wanted: Volunteers for the Subaru Shawnigan Lake Triathlon May 28 & 29
For information, tickets, to volunteer or make a donation please visit:
www.triseries.ca/shawnigan_lake/

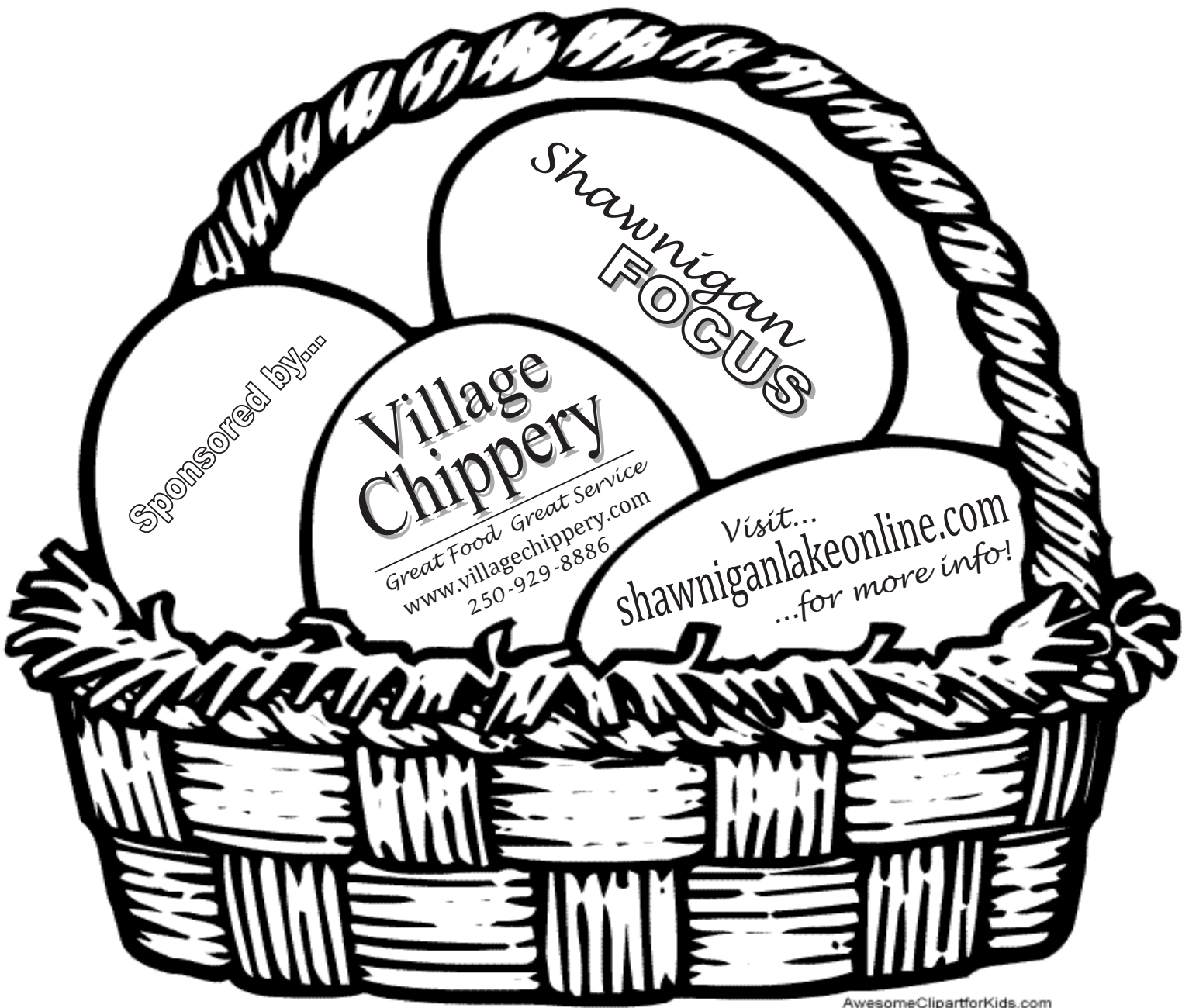
Wanted: One used children's water slide to attach to dock. Will dismantle and pick up if necessary. Also interested in other water toys. 250-743-5605

Donations of new or good used gardening tools, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, etc. Call Providence Farm, 250-746-4204 or drop off at 1843 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan.



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April 30, 2011

COLORING CONTEST



COLOR OUR BASKET FULL OF EASTER EGGS, AND TAKE IT TO THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER 1PM ON EASTER SUNDAY FOR THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT. OPEN TO ALL KIDS 12 AND UNDER. PRIZES AWARDED AFTER THE HUNT. LIMIT ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.