



Shawnigan FOCUS

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

SHAWNIGAN IN MOTION



Senior Girls - Shawnigan Lake Regatta

Photo - Stephen Lane

5th Annual Subaru Shawnigan Triathlon

Organized with military precision, but minus the starting blast from the howitzer cannon of previous years, the 2011 Subaru

in 4:03:36
Rachel McBride of Vancouver in 4:22:45

Olympic:
Killam Nathan of Surrey in 2:11:08

Emma Lujan of Victoria in 2:36:09

Sprint:

Doug Lewis of Victoria in 1:01:36
Maya Munzar of Cobble Hill in 1:12:11

Community partners included Camp Pringle who hosted an Athlete's

Dinner and the Kinsol Market who provided food and refreshments.

The success of the Triathlon is due to the hard work and effort of the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Committee, sponsors and the hundreds of volunteers who come out to help on race weekend. They believe in the athletes and work diligently to ensure that each race is a safe and enjoyable one!



Photo- LifeSport

Shawnigan Triathlon continued its tradition of excellence. Approximately 500 athletes participated starting with the Half Iron (1900m swim, 88km bike, 21.1km run), followed by the Olympic (1500m swim, 44km bike, 10km run), and finally the Sprint (500m swim, 22km bike, 5km run). First place results are as follows:

Half Iron:

Adam O'Meara of Victoria

7th Annual Shawnigan Lake Walk

Another successful year for the Cowichan Family Caregivers annual fundraiser. About 160 participants and 70 volunteers made the May 28th event a worthwhile and fun experience.

Five walking routes ranging from 3.5 to 27.5 kilometres and two kayak routes created healthy appetites for the savoury lunch that was provided. An extraordinary line-up of entertainment and amazing prizes helped make this a wonderful family event. And that is what this is all about – care and support for family and loved ones in times of need.

A big thank you to the Caregivers Support Society and everyone else involved with this meaningful endeavour!



Photos - Dave Hutchinson



More photos pages 2 & 12

We Depend on Volunteers

By Bruce Fraser

Early in the 90's a colleague and I were working on economic development projects throughout the province under a government initiative called "Strong Communities in the 90's". One of our communities was the City of Nelson. There were people working on establishing the heritage streetcar railway on the city's foreshore. There were people working on an audio-assisted walking tour of the heritage buildings of the city. There were people working on an updated golf course, a city park, a local university, city centre heritage buildings and a host of other civic developments. In every case the good works were being fostered by groups of volunteers. In every case the volunteers felt isolated in their endeavours, unremarked and unappreciated by the vast majority of the Nelson population. They were wrong.

On one remarkable occasion we brought thirty civic groups together in one workshop setting. We asked them to estimate their volunteer membership. It was thirty people there, five hundred there, and many such numbers that belonged to each of the participating groups. When we summed the numbers it added up to over half of the city population being engaged in one or more of the social enterprises that were

inventing the future of the city. It wasn't that the work of a group was being ignored by their neighbours, but that their neighbours were personally absorbed with another civic project of importance to the life of the city. The staggering insight was just how much of the inspiring life of the city of Nelson was actually being contributed by volunteers deeply engaged in projects that were not evident to each other.

It is the same in Shawnigan. If you read the published reports of organizations of our area you have to be amazed at the sheer number of groups, the diversity of their interests and the breadth of their contributions to our society. In fact, the well being of our community is not just the product of formal government, or the product of profitable business, but is the product of countless unpaid volunteers, the civic beating heart of a vibrant community. Shawnigan has this quality in abundance.

The Shawnigan Regatta, the Subaru Triathlon, the Caregivers Walk, featured in this edition of the Focus are all dependent for their success on volunteers. The Focus itself is run by volunteers. The real strength of the Shawnigan Community lies in the freely given civic contributions of its citizens. Let's celebrate that fact.



Action Photos - Sarah Fraser & Dave Hutchinson

A Very Happy Birthday for the E & N Railway!



August 13th will be the 125th birthday for the E&N Railway on Vancouver Island but there will be no train to celebrate. Passenger

service was suspended several months ago when it was deemed that the tracks were unsafe.

However, on June 28, there

was finally some good news for rail advocates and the communities of Vancouver Island. Premier Christy Clark announced the best possible birthday gift for the historic rail line – money.

The government of BC will provide \$7.5 million towards restoration of the rail line on the island. \$500,000 will be earmarked for an engineering inspection

of the bridges and trestles on the line, and \$7 million will go to the owners, Island Corridor Foundation (ICF), to repair rotting rail ties, to fix loose bolts and to eliminate encroaching vegetation along the aging tracks amongst other things.

The ICF hopes to receive a further \$7.5 million from the Federal Government to make all of the necessary improvements but a commitment from them has not been announced at this time.

Sir John A MacDonald's promise to build the E & N

Railway was a significant moment in history for BC and Canada. BC was wavering about entering confederation and the island railway was an important bargaining tool. Sir John drove the last spike for the E & N at Cliffside, Shawnigan Lake on August 13, 1886. According to Premier Clark, "it's an historic part of who we are in British Columbia", and "We should do what we can to try and preserve the railway and make sure that...it's there for people on the Island."

It is hoped that rail traffic will return by late fall.

We encourage you to send us letters...

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues; bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. 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 be limited to 250 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Send them to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Patchwork

By Bruce Fraser

Has anyone driven the south Shawnigan road lately? Driven it, that is, without up-to-date certification in emergency slalom maneuvers? I was anxious to get to Jen's for a bowl of their fabulous lunch chili, when I descended into a gloomy pothole that eclipsed my windscreen. Down there, I ran into a meeting of orange-clad road contractors and blue-suited bureaucrats arm wrestling around the negotiating table, arguing about contract terms. "We want more money for pots of asphalt" said the back road people. "You have all you deserve," said the ministry folk, "if you foolishly squandered your annual pothole rations by using shovels instead of spoons, you have only yourselves to blame". Overhead, the roar of gravel haulers continued, spaced occasionally by tooth-grinding tailgaters, sea-going boat haulers and ravenous Hummers seemingly oblivious to the underground scene. From time to time, a sprinkle of triathlon bikers cascaded into the hole, along with two unlicensed dirt bikes and a Shawnigan Station dog-walker complete with micropoodle and rhinestone-studded leash.

"Certainly", I thought to myself, "they seem to have run out of pothole filler before getting to those Harley swal-

lowing road-edge crevasses that have opened up lately. Why, this road hasn't been so carpet-bombed since before the Minister of Highways lived on Stowood Road. What we need is a resident politician capable of intimate relations with our tax base - you know, the one that has been pulled south by the gravitational forces of Langford. Or, maybe our cash has been consumed by the provincial severance agreements, or maybe the bottomless regional district pit of Upper Cowichan, where our dollars go for recycling into depots of inconvenience - or perhaps it went to Cobble Hill with the best road surface to population ratio on Vancouver Island?"

"This certainly justifies my foresight in getting a hill climbing Subaru, with military gear ratios and optional hovercraft fittings", I muttered, as I put the "Bu into full vertical fan and lifted my way back into the daylight. There, to my astonishment, was the back road contractor gloriously paving the upper few kilometres beyond my pothole.

As I hit terminal velocity on the way to the Malahat Village, I couldn't help but wonder why the lower Shawnigan Road missed the paving crew's attention.

Active Lifestyles

By Al Brunet

Some people like to walk or jog or cycle for activity and others prefer to waterski, wakeboard, swim or go 4x4ing. You can almost be sure that, whatever your activity, you are going to annoy somebody.

Just to name a few, walkers and cyclists get annoyed that cars give them little or no room on the road. Wakeboarders can't understand what the big deal is about a few waves because shoreline people get to enjoy the lake 24 hours a day... why can they not enjoy it for a few hours?

Swimmers who want to swim longer distances complain that it is unsafe in the lake because boaters do not watch for them. People who sail don't like the high-speed boaters who do not seem to know boating rules and those same boaters complain that going fast is why they bought that kind of boat in the first place. They have as much right as everybody else.

People who hike for exercise and quiet solitude do not want to hear, or be blown off the trail by ATVs or dirt bikes. Those same drivers want the excitement of testing their skills in rough terrain.

In Shawnigan, the home and cottage owners who live along the shore complain that the enjoyment of their property and surroundings is decreased by many "inconsiderate" active people.

"Active" people complain that these lakefront owners are just complainers who do nothing but sit around and whine. An unfair assessment for sure, as these same homeowners water ski, boat,

cycle, and use cars, ATVs, dirt bikes and sailboats. The only difference is that the lakefront owners pay higher taxes than everybody else. On the other hand, "I pay my taxes" is not an excuse. We all pay our taxes! The cyclist riding on the road does not do it because he/she is broke or had their license taken away. That same cyclist might own a trucking company and pay more taxes in a year than you have ever made.

When we humans have a passion for activity we often forget that others do not always share the same passions. The problem is not the activity necessarily, but that we have collectively developed a sense of entitlement and forgotten our manners at the same time.

Owning lakefront does not mean you own the lake. Your team winning the cup does not mean you can make it uncomfortable for everybody in the restaurant or the streets afterwards. The price you paid for your ATV does not give you the right to go on walking trails and, yes, even cyclists need to stop at stop signs... even in Shawnigan Lake.

Our activities should not cause shoreline erosion. Roads are public and need to be shared. Water quality needs to be "top-of-mind" if we are to continue drinking it and in all cases our favourite activity should not cause others stress! Bottom line? Understanding and respect. That's all.



OCP Past, OCP Future

By Brent Beach

Having worked on the South Cowichan OCP for 3 years I am afraid I have to report failure. The current revision of the OCP (May 20, 2011) fails to adequately address the issue we face now and in the future.

The Shawnigan Lake Watershed Management (Section 5) section provides little more than the 1986 Shawnigan Lake OCP. The objectives are repetitious and fail to recognize that we are losing visual values as well as water values. The policies promise a study of the lake, no action.

Liquid Waste Management

The OCP regards a sewer system as a requirement for increased density. Sewers mean density and little else. This linking of density and sewers is inappropriate in Shawnigan Lake. In many parts of the lake, we want improved sewerage to ensure efficient and cost effective sewage treatment, not for density. Small local sewer systems that handle 100 residents could prove to be cheaper and more effective than one septic field per residence. The OCP prohibits such sewer systems. In its view, 3000 septic fields are much better than 15 to 30 small sewer systems.

Islands

CVRD staff added policies (Main document - Section 5, Section 18.2.4) after the open houses that put severe restrictions on privately owned islands. Islands have been privately owned in Shawnigan Lake for years. We have no evidence that these islands are a source of

pollution in Shawnigan Lake. In fact, CVRD staff said the section was added because of problems at Lake Cowichan. The OCP has effectively down zoned all these islands based on problems elsewhere against resident's advice.

By Laws

The best the OCP can do is ask the RCMP to try a little harder. We need bylaw enforcement in Shawnigan Lake and are not getting it from the CVRD.

Commercial

Shawnigan Lake lacks a commercial core that meets even a fraction of the needs of the community. Until we get a large enough grocery store, for example, residents will have to travel to Mill Bay and Duncan. The OCP increases the amount of land that could be rezoned to commercial, but that is one lot at a time rezoning. Can we really expect to get the commercial core we need one rezoning at a time? (Appendix B, Section 5.)

Water Quality

The key to water quality is not even addressed by the OCP. We must have control over the lands in the watershed. We must be able to control the rate of logging and control the dumping of fill in the watershed. The OCP addresses neither because as long as we are part of the regional district it cannot. Only through incorporation of the watershed can we take control of logging and fill.

Incorporation as part of a South Cowichan is not enough. I have spent 3 years working with the people in

Cobble Hill and Mill Bay. Both groups have excellent people. Both groups are vitally concerned with what is happening in their own communities. Not so much what is happening in Shawnigan Lake. The Steering Committee meeting on the Shawnigan Lake Appendix had only one member from outside Shawnigan Lake attend.

Mill Bay and Cobble Hill have their own serious development issues. Unfortunately, their issues have little in common with our issues. A combined municipality would only serve to weaken the efforts of each community to address its own problems. I sat through endless meetings on Bamberton, Ocean Terrace and The Stonebridge Lands and learned nothing that applies to the Shawnigan Lake watershed.

This 2011 OCP is little better than the 1986 OCP in most ways, worse in some ways. None of the big development problems we have faced in the last 10 years would be prevented by the new OCP. Further, we are prevented by the new OCP from taking action locally on things like area sewage. The new OCP further recommends splitting the Koksilah River watershed down the middle, putting one half in Area B and one half in Area E Policy 25.12). Any hope of coherent management of the Koksilah watershed would be lost if this happens.

I would recommend that all residents of Shawnigan Lake read over the latest draft of the OCP and make their concerns known to the area director and the CVRD council as a whole.

Visitor Comment:

A visitor from Lake Cowichan recently commented that, "you are ruining Shawnigan Lake", and that people from his community look at Shawnigan as an example of "what not to do".

Reader Feedback :

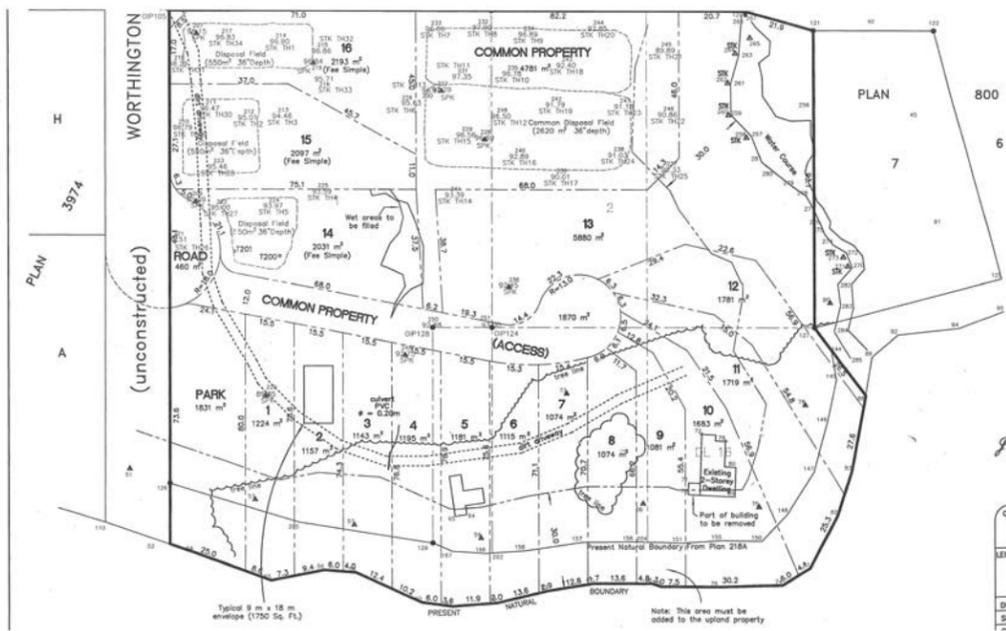
Why? When asked why he was reading the Focus, a young reader, waiting for take-out, advised that he "likes to know what is going on in his community".

Reader Feedback:

People tell us that the Focus has so much material that it takes all month to read. We encourage you to pick it up and read it from time to time before it wraps the fish, or starts the fire.

Worthington Development Sparks Lively APC Meeting

By Dave Hutchinson



The high-density waterfront subdivision proposal for the old Worthington property had emotions running high at the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting on May 5th. The developers have recently submitted a Development Permit Application to the CVRD. Due to significant public interest the CVRD recommended that it be reviewed by the APC. The developers declined to attend but did send surveyor

The site-plan consists of sixteen lots including twelve narrow waterfront strips.

Dan Carrier of J.E. Anderson & Associates as a representative. There was unusual public attendance and the Chair, Graham Ross-Smith, allowed questions and comments. The site-plan consists of sixteen lots including twelve narrow waterfront strips. The lakeshore property line has been re-surveyed which has pushed out the Natural Boundary by what appears to be 10 to 15 metres. This results in at least two extra lots. When

asked about this, Mr. Carrier stated that the old Plan 218A was in error and that modern surveying methods are more accurate. The new boundary has not yet been registered at Land Titles but negotiations are underway with Timber-West who claim rights to the lake bottom. It is interesting that no independent review appears to be required. This also has implications for other waterfront properties. A major concern was that the riparian area (lakeshore and streams) be fully restored and protected. A significant

portion was cleared without a permit in 2008. Mr. Carrier thought the suggestion of a common dock was worth consideration. The plan depicts that there are wet areas to be filled. Mr. Carrier stated that these areas do not connect to the lake. Water does flow across the property in several places from Cullin Rd. towards the shoreline and there were questions about septic treatment. It is expected that the Development Permit will include measures to ensure that all of these issues are addressed.

It was noted that the "Shawnigan Lake North Water System" would provide water. Contrary to years past, capacity of the system does not seem to be an issue.

Most of the strata lots do not conform to the CVRD Bylaw requiring that the frontage of a parcel be at least 10

The lakeshore property line has been re-surveyed which has pushed out the Natural Boundary by what appears to be 10 to 15 metres.

percent of the perimeter. A CVRD memo states that they will need to be varied or reconfigured. Mr. Carrier stated that this does not apply for a strata development. Clarification is

required.

One strongly voiced comment was that if this development were allowed to proceed as planned, then it would set a precedent for other large properties around the lake. This would result in unwelcome densities and further threaten an already fragile watershed. It would be contrary to the objectives of the Official Community Plan.

There was mention of the possibility of a Public Meeting. If this were to occur it should include the Provincial Approving Officer from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. This individual has the final decision on whether the development proceeds and must consider the public interest.

This development started off on the wrong foot when the illegal clearing occurred. If the developers had the courtesy to attend a Public Meeting and respond to the concerns of the community, it could establish goodwill, and perhaps result in a plan that would be acceptable to all.

If you have any comments for the property owner regarding the Worthington development, please forward them to drc@jeanderson.ca

Most of the strata lots do not conform to the CVRD Bylaw requiring that the frontage of a parcel be at least 10 percent of the perimeter.

Team Effort to Eradicate Invasive Weed Plants

By Margaret Symon

Invasive plants are "plants out of place". "Invasives" are non-native plants that have been introduced in British Columbia without the insect predators and plant pathogens that help to keep them in check in their native habitats. Invasive plants result in environmental degradation through destruction of native plant and animal habitat. Invasive weed species reduce property values and the aesthetics of an enjoyable landscape, and can create unsafe conditions. Some invasive species can poison humans, pets, and wildlife.

A common example of an invasive plant is Scotch broom. An escaped ornamental, broom has become naturalized throughout south coastal BC. Did you know broom can be a fire hazard when it dries out in the summer? Other examples of invasive plants are Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Scotch thistle, Japanese knotweed, and daphne.

The efforts of 100 Grade 10 Shawnigan Lake School students to remove invasive ivy from a portion of Old Mill Park in early May are laudable. More recently, the CVRD Parks Dept. student summer crew toiled to cut and remove broom from Memory Island, a small provincial park in Shawnigan Lake. The students were assisted by a member of the Shawnigan Park Commission



who provided a boat access for the students, and a means of hauling several kilograms of broom off the island. Blues Bins kindly donated a bin to take the broom away for disposal.

Memory Island was donated to BC Parks by two local families in honour of their sons who were killed in World War II. It is illegal to camp overnight on the island. It is also illegal to make fires on the island. By removing invasive broom, and tidying up surface and ladder fuels, the CVRD summer students have reduced the potential for wildfire, and have also assisted in rehabilitating the native plant community on the island.

Two particularly nasty invasive plants which have made inroads into the Shawnigan Lake area are hogweed and poison hemlock. These dastardly plants can cause severe skin irritation, may result in partial blindness, and like many other invasive plant species, require Herculean team efforts to eradicate them from an area.

For more information, contact your CVRD Parks Dept. or the Invasive Plant Council of BC www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca or Strathcona Forestry Consulting - strathcona.fc@shaw.ca

Eagle Misfortune Draws Attention to Worthington Development

By Dave Hutchinson

A bald eagle was killed near Shawnigan Lake School on Monday June 18th. It was electrocuted after flying into power lines while carrying a rabbit. The school reported this to the Pacific Northwest Raptor Centre who visited the area the next day hoping to locate the nest of the unfortunate bird.

Mindy Dick of the Raptor Centre was concerned that there may be single-parent eaglets that are without adequate nutrition. During nesting season, evidently the larger female does most of the hunting, while the smaller male guards the nest area.

With help from local residents including Carol Shaw from the school and April Rose of Mason's, store a nest was located on the Worthington property, high up in a massive old fir tree. A lone eagle was perched on a nearby tree, possibly the mate of the bird that was killed. Visible from the intersection of Worthington and Cullin, monitoring of the nest was to continue.

Apparently all eagle nests, whether active or not, are protected by Section 34 of the BC Wildlife Act. A permit is required prior to removal or modification of any tree containing a nest. Significant buffers are also necessary.

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What is an APC?

By Dave Hutchinson

In the last Focus issue, Graham Ross-Smith wrote an article describing the role of the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (ACP) with respect to the Official Community Plan (OCP). Another example of the ACP in action occurred at the May 5th meeting where the Worthington subdivision proposal was discussed. The following is a reminder of the purpose of the ACP.

Whether a Regional District in BC chooses to create Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) is entirely discretionary. The purpose of the APC, as stated in the Local Government Act, is to "... advise the Board or a Director of the Board representing the electoral area, on all matters referred to it by the Board or by that Director respecting land use, the preparation and adoption of an official community plan, or a proposed bylaw or permit that may be enacted or issued" under the Local Government Act.

The most common types of referrals are applications to amend zoning or Official Community Plan bylaws or consideration of Development Permit or Development Variance Permit applications. Other matters that can be referred to an APC are Agricultural Land Reserve referrals, temporary use permits and general land use initiatives that are being considered. APCs are not advocates for any entity, or cause.

The role of an APC is "to advise" the Board; the actual decision making authority

under the Local Government Act rests with the Regional Board. When considering applications, part of the process used by an APC is to review the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaws to determine how the application fits in with the stated objectives of the community. Consideration is also given to the benefits that may accrue to the community if the application is approved. Although the APC is not technically responsible for making the final decision on the matter, its advice tends to carry considerable weight.

The APC is made up of volunteer members of the community, appointed by the CVRD board. Directors, board members, alternate directors, CVRD staff and approving officers are prohibited from being members of the APC, but they may attend meetings in a resource capacity.

APC meetings are generally held once a month in a public facility within the respective electoral areas, at a time convenient for the public to attend.

APC members are individuals who care about their community. They donate time and expertise towards protecting and improving the surrounding area. The members of the APC for Area B (Shawnigan) are: Graham Ross-Smith (Chair), Sara Middleton (Vice-Chair), John Clark, Carol Lane, Rod MacIntosh, Roger Painter, and Cynara de Goutiere (Recording Secretary).

This letter from the Private Managed Forest Land Council is their reply to the letter from the CRVD published in the last edition of the Focus.
April 27, 2011

Dear Warren Jones,
Chief Administrative Officer;

RE: Shawnigan Lake Westside logging

This letter is to acknowledge your letter of March 21, 2011 to the Private Managed Land Council (the Council) and the subsequent meeting at Sydney on April 8, 2011 between representatives of the CVRD and the Council's Ron Davis and Stuart Macpherson. At this meeting we provided an account of the mandate of the Council, listened to your particular concerns with the recent logging on the west side of Shawnigan Lake as outlined in your letter and discussed some possible options to address them. I would like to clarify and reiterate some of the main points we raised at our meeting.

Council's mandate and limitations
The Council is a government agency established under the Private Managed Forest Land Act (the Act) to administer the Act as well as the regulations made under that Act. The legislation applies to private property classified as managed forest land under the Assessment Act. The Council has specified regulation making powers as well as a mandate to ensure compliance with the Act and regulations.

The forest practice requirements on private managed forest land with the Council's jurisdiction are established through a combination of Government's forest management objectives, the Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation, 2007 and the Council's policies and guidelines, including the Field Practices Guide (copies of which we provided at the meeting). The Act sets out Government's environmental values for water quality, fish streams and habitat, critical wildlife habitat, soil conservation and reforestation. The Regulation establishes the constraints and obligations on owners of private managed forest land. The Field Practices Guide outlines the field practices that the Council expects managed forest owners to follow in protecting these values.

Council's regulatory oversight includes using inspections and audits to monitor the performance of managed forest owners. In addition, the Council responds to third part complaints and undertakes investigations where warranted.

Other provincial and federal resource legislation also apply to constrain forest management activities on managed forest land, including the Fisheries Act, the Species At Risk Act, the Water Act, the Drinking Water Protection Act, the Wildfire Act and the Wildlife Act. The Council has no jurisdiction to administer any of these enactments.

Forest practice standards

Your letter mentions that Crown forest land practices should also be made to apply to private managed forest land. When it comes to results on the ground, the practices used on private and Crown forest land are very similar; the main difference in the two regulatory regimes is in the pre-harvest planning phase. Managed forest owners are not required to obtain approvals or permits from Council prior to logging and are not required to consult with the public concerning their proposed operations. Also managed forest owner may decide appropriate harvest levels for their properties without regulatory control.

It is our experience that managed forest owners plan and conduct their operations under the technical guidance of registered professional foresters. They commonly consult with neighbours and interested third parties prior to harvesting property within the urban interface. In addition many owners have obtained independent sustainable forest management forest certification such as SGI and CZA Z809. These

certifications further attest to the standard of their forestry practices.

Harvesting within Shawnigan Lake watershed We understand the concern of some residents for the visual quality of the forested landscape around the lake. Visual quality is a social value that is not included as a government forest management objective in the Act. As such, there are no specific provisions in the Regulations related to visual quality. It has been our experience that managed forest owners are generally aware of visual sensitivity and voluntarily follow forest landscape planning guidelines in the urban interface. At our meeting we provided you with a set of photos showing the opening taken from viewpoints along the road on the east side of Shawnigan Lake.

Given the residential build up around Shawnigan Lake, the concern for cumulative effects that human activity may have on the quality of the water supply is understandable. There are many potential water contamination sources, one of which is forest management activity. Managed forest owners account for approximately 19% of the watershed area. Although much of the second growth has been logged, all areas have been reforested and hydrological recovery is well above the recommended threshold.

As far as we are aware, none of the managed forest owners in the Shawnigan Lake watershed intend to significantly increase the level of harvest in the foreseeable future. Both Kapoor Lumber and Island Timberlands have advised harvesting operations are completed on their properties and the areas have been reforested. We are advised that neither owner intends to harvest in the area until the next rotation (approximately 50-60 years).

Activity within Island Timberlands Block 522 Our office completed an inspection of Island Timberland's Block 522 logging operation on the west side of Shawnigan Lake on April 5, 2011. As this inspection did not reveal any potential contraventions with the Regulation, no formal investigation was warranted. Island Timberlands has provided our office with information concerning the details of harvesting this block that are at variance with some of the concerns mentioned in your letter. In particular:

- Net areas harvested is 55.8 hectares
- Harvesting was 40% variable retention 60% clearcut
- Absence of fish streams, or downstream water intakes
- Harvest plan identified sensitive soil types
- Neighbour at junction of West Shawnigan Lake Road and CRD Sooke Lake water purveyor was contacted prior to harvest
- Most of the area has been replanted this spring
- The area lies within the Coast Western Hemlock zone
- No species at risk were identified.

We encourage you to contact Island Timberlands office to obtain further information and to discuss the facts concerning its operations of Block 522.

Next Steps

At our meeting we offered to attend regular meeting of the CVRD to explain the Council's mandate and to engage in further discussions concerning managed forest land operations around Shawnigan Lake. We could also facilitate a field trip to view private forest land operations with the local managed forest owners.

Please contact our office if you would be interested in a field trip of this nature, so that we can agree on a mutually convenient date.

Yours truly,
Stuart Macpherson
Executive Director

cc: CVRD Board of Directors, Gerry Giles
Minister of Forests, Land and Natural
Resource Operations; Honourable Steve Thom-
son

Island Timberlands, Bill Waugh

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Big Bad Bob at Yoga

By Nicola Cusi



Big Bad Bob (probably not his real name) is a successful contractor. He started working when he was 14 when his dad took him to job sites to teach him the trade. Bob used to play hockey, now at 45 he mostly enjoys it from his living room couch with a beer and a bowl of chips in his hand. Bob hurt his shoulder a couple of years ago lifting a particularly heavy wooden crate out of the back of his truck. He doesn't like to admit that it still hurts, so he continues lifting heavy things. Except that now as he tries to protect his shoulder his whole back is sore every evening.

Bob's wife Shelly does Yoga twice a week. On their last anniversary, which Bob makes sure he never forgets by marking it at the beginning of the year in his calendar, Shelly batted her pretty eyelashes when asking Bob if he didn't want to come to a Yoga class with her. She'd love to share the experience, she said, it might help them to reconnect in a more intimate way. Bob is not against intimacy, especially not on that particular night, so he had no choice than to agree.

A week later, he is equipped with new track pants and a fitted tank top by his wife and off they go to Yoga class. They are a bit late, and a group of 8 ladies and a couple of guys are already sitting in a circle. Bob

sits down a bit awkwardly on the little cushion provided, a bit embarrassed that his legs don't seem to cross over the same way as the others. Casting stolen glances at Shelly for help, she whispers some reassuring words to him and the class starts.

The hour and a half passes quickly. The exercises are mostly more challenging than they look, but Bob is proud that he manages to do most of it. After the initial aversion against an odd breathing technique where you snort with full force through one nostril only, Bob has the sudden awareness that his breathing is not as full and easy as it used to be and makes the decision right there to stop smoking. His legs feel a bit sore, but the shoulder does move a bit easier, and he is more aware of his posture.

Out of his sense of duty and commitment, and mostly not to disappoint his wife, Bob continues to go to class every week. After a couple of months, he notices big improvements in his back and his shoulder. He limits smoking to the weekends and doesn't feel the tight chest any longer when he runs. His improved posture has helped to avoid other injuries at work and he doesn't feel embarrassed any longer talking about it at work. As a matter of fact, he brings two co-workers to class and they sometimes end the evening with a quick visit at the pub. One beer tastes so much better after Yoga!

Nicola owns and operates KaliYoga Studio in Shawnigan

Take a Hike!

By Robin Massey

Ahh the fresh air, the sound of snapping twigs underfoot and lots of smiles. We smile as we carry on diverse conversations with a wide range of personalities and because being outside makes us feel good. As we take in

it all started out as a general interest to explore mountain down the street together and turned out to be a great way for us to get together, get some air and check out the great views that we may have not seen on our own otherwise. Safety in numbers

prevention by improving bone density. Other subtle benefits are the removal of toxins and improvement in respiratory function.

So if you haven't taken a hike in our blessed local forests, what are you waiting for? Get out there! Hiking is



the beautiful scenery during our weekly treks through the woods in and around such amazing sights so close to home in Shawnigan how can one not feel good.

It is quite common for the word 'hiking' to scare some people. Perhaps they have visions of gigantic backpacks, spiky shoes and carabiners. And although this is the case for some avid hikers, the average hiker finds it is just a pleasant walk in the woods. For our hiking group

right?

Hiking is a healthy and fun social gathering; we've certainly had a blast in our adventures! It's truly an amazing way to get outdoors to enjoy the smell, sight, taste, and sound of nature to expand our sense of wellbeing. Hiking also increases awareness, alertness, and concentration, and not to mention brings a peace of mind by pleasing our visual sense. It's also a fantastic cardio workout, helps to decrease blood pressure, and aids in osteoporosis

inexpensive and open to any age or fitness level. If hiking has piqued your interest in the past or you're new to the Shawnigan area, join a group and GET OUT THERE. See some amazing sights, meet some new friends, and increase your wellness. Most groups have various levels of hikers so you are sure to find someone to share with as you walk.

Robin plays on various trails in Cowichan Valley with her hiking group The Iron Butts. www.theomtree.com

Smart? Meters

By Kyla Mortil

The World Health Organization recently announced that cell phones can cause cancer. The cell phone industry has been telling us for years that cell phones are safe.

B.C. Hydro is moving ahead with a \$930-million plan to install 'smart' electricity meters on two million homes this summer. How are these two things related? The smart meters use the same technology as a cell phone: wireless radio frequency. Unlike cell phones, we won't have a choice whether or not we want this technology in our homes. BC Hydro will replace them without asking us. It is most concerning for those people who have their bedrooms on the opposite side of the wall, or worse, a child's bedroom. The radio frequency will be pulsed into our homes 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Electrical engineers report ranges in frequency between 4,000 hertz to 60,000 hz, every 30 seconds, 2,880 times a day. Thousands of people have complained of tinnitus, headaches, nausea, sleeplessness, heart arrhythmia and other symptoms after a smart meter was installed (<http://>

sagereports.com/smart-meter-rf/?page_id=196).

Smart meters are part of an overall system that includes a mesh network, or series of wireless antennas at the neighbourhood level to collect and transmit wireless information from all the smart meters back to B.C. Hydro. This saves them from sending someone out to read a meter, thus saving B.C. Hydro money. Will it save the consumers money? As CBC reported: "A survey by Toronto Hydro showed about 80 percent of people using smart meters are seeing increases, not decreases, on their bills." Where a utility company introduced it in California, the residential rates went up by as much as 300 percent.

These are the possible risks associated with smart meters - health risks, cost increases, and privacy issues (potential risk for hackers), among others. Don't take my word for it. Do your own research. Then decide. Do you want this in your neighbourhood?

Kyla is a Building Biology Environmental Consultant - www.enviro-ops.com or kyla@enviro-ops.com



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Tips For Planting

By Carolyn Dowell

When you are planting, dig a hole about three times the size of the container the plant comes in. The soil here is poor, so add some goodies to the hole. Remember, this is the one and only time you will be at root level, so do everything you can at root level. Most fertilizers, when placed on top of the soil, do not reach the roots and it mostly degrades from the sun.

Goodies can include compost tea, compost soil and or a full-spectrum organic fertilizer. But, don't put too many goodies in, the roots may not want to leave the hole. Compost tea is what is available in your bio-region. I use comfrey leaf, dandelion leaf and nettle leaf. Gaia brand name fertilizers are a good choice. To make the compost tea, I cut the leaves small, soak them in a sealed bucket of water for about a month, strain & use about one large soup ladle to one full can of water. Also, I make another kind of fertilizer from salmon left over bits, like the head, tail, guts and bones. Again, soak them in a bucket of water for about a month and use the same amount. Beware, both buckets will stink, especially the salmon and it will attract raccoons, so seal the lid tight.

When you add the fertilizers to the soil, mix them in well with the existing soil - never leave a distinct layer. Studies show when the soil has different distinct layers, the top layer will need to be completely saturated before the water can move below to the next layer. For example, this is usually why one sees water or puddles on top of fields of planted grass.

You have to tell the plant that it is out of the pot. The plant will be root bound, that is the roots go around and around. You have to break up all the roots. I use a weeding

tool. Make sure the bottom is completely open and the roots are completely free. When you do this, do it above your prepped hole, so there is something familiar in the hole for the plant. If you don't tell the plant it's out of the pot, the roots will remain in the exact same root ball shape as the pot it came in. The plant will have a short and diseased life. When you plant, fill the hole loosely and don't stamp the soil down, loose soil will enable the roots to grow easily. Always water after planting.

Because all fruit trees are grafted, they are very vulnerable at the base of the trunk and they must be secured with two stakes. "Grafting is a method of propagation by which the scion of one plant and rootstock of another are artificially united so that they eventually function as one plant." (Brickell, C. Zuk, J., The American Horticultural Society A-Z encyclopedia). When you plant a tree, don't plant it too deep and never among grass. If you want to see how a tree is planted properly, just observe nature. Nature does it perfectly. Look at the base of the large fir trees. Their non tap roots are at the surface, then go down and there is no grass at the base. Surface roots provide stability.

Grass has completely different nutritional needs than trees. One could say, grass is toxic to trees. If you absolutely must plant a tree in grass, then remove the grass, at a 5 foot radius of the planting area. Carefully remove the grass, set it aside on a tarp, dig your hole, prep and plant. Put two layers of cardboard down, where the grass has been removed and use the removed grass to put on top of the cardboard to hold the cardboard in place. Place the grass upside down, exposing the roots, so it won't root in the cardboard. The best place to get cardboard is from the recycle bin at the base of the community center. This gives a whole new meaning to dumpster diving.

Carolyn is the owner of Carolyn's Gardening Services.

Correction:

In our article on the Kinsol Market, misspelled a name: Sorry, Bessie Sebastiano, and thanks for not being annoyed.

Finding Wellness

By Lynn Weaver

The signs of Spring bring smiles and deeper breath. What a stunning short dance - Spring. Our bodies awaken more deeply and we begin to shed the layers of clothing that have held us snugly all Winter long.

Looking toward the heat of summer it is sometimes tempting to use the weight scale to achieve our goals. Yet health is not a numerical concept and cannot be defined using statistics. Humans tend to want to quantify well-being into easily understandable figures. We feel compelled to ascribe numbers to every aspect of wellness, from the qualities of our food to our fitness levels to the physical space we occupy. As a consequence of social pressures, we turn our attention away from health and focus instead on the most contentious of these figures: weight - checking our scales to see how we measure up. Yet each of us is equipped to gauge our relative healthfulness without any equipment whatsoever.

When we have achieved a state of wellness, we feel buoyant and energetic. Some

are naturally slim, while others will always be curvy. No matter what our weight, we can use the cues we receive from our physical and mental selves to judge how healthy we really are.

Instead of arguing with your scale, commit to a lifestyle that honours the innate wisdom that comes from within your body and within your mind. It is logical to examine how you feel while considering your health: a strong, fit, and well-nourished individual will seldom feel heavy, bloated, or fatigued. If you have concerns regarding your weight, remind yourself that at its proper weight, your body will feel buoyant and agile.

Movement becomes a source of joy. Sitting, standing, walking, and bending are all easy to do because your joints and organs are functioning as they were meant to. When you are physically healthy, your mind will also typically occupy a place of well-being. Mental clarity and an ability to focus are two natural traits of whole-self health. Surprisingly, promot-

ing this type of easy-to-discern wellness within yourself takes no special effort outside of satisfying your hunger with nourishing, wholesome foods and moving your body.

The numbers you see on the scale, while nominally informative, can prevent you from reaching your healthful goals by giving you a false indicator of health. You will know true health because every fibre of your being sends signals of wellness. When you choose to listen to these signals instead of relying on the scale, your definition of well-being will be uniquely adapted to the needs of your body and of your mind.

We can take a cue from the beauty of Spring ~ there need be no scale to measure the Earth's beauty. We are part of Nature. Embody it.

Lynn is the Artistic Director for MoonDance Dynamic Arts



Shawnigan Weather for May 2011 (stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network) compiled by Grant Treloar

| | Shawnigan Normal | Cigarmaker's Bay | Discovery School | Museum | Kelsey School |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Avg High | 16.9 | 15.9 | 14.7 | 15.4 | 15.2 |
| Avg Low | 6.8 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 6.4 | 6.1 |
| Extr High | 33.9 | 22.9 | 20.2 | 21.8 | 20.1 |
| Extr Low | -3.9 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.8 |
| Precip | 48.7 | 86.2 | 68.5 | 64.2 | 62.3 |
| Days with Rain | 13 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 |

Lake Temperature: May 1st: 9° May 8th: 11° May 15th: 12° May 22nd: 14° May 29th: 14°

Shawnigan Weather for April 2011 (stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network) compiled by Grant Treloar

| | Shawnigan Normal | Cigarmaker's Bay | Discovery School | Museum | Kelsey School |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Avg High | 13.2 | 11.1 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 11.1 |
| Avg Low | 3.5 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Extr High | 30.0 | 17.7 | 15.8 | 17.7 | 15.8 |
| Extr Low | -5.6 | -1.0 | -2.3 | -0.8 | -1.0 |
| Precip | 65.2 | 111.5 | 92.2 | 77.1 | 66.1 |
| Days with Rain | 15 | 16 | 20 | 15 | 16 |

Lake Temperature: April 15th: 7° April 30th: 9°

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Scams: Welcome to the (mis)Information Age

By Jeff Wright

The amount of information we are bombarded with seems to be increasing at an exponential rate.

Two such cases hit close to home recently: two "teky" clients were contacted by scam artists. The following are true stories; the names of the clients and the scammers themselves have been changed. The companies are real.

[First story:] George received an invoice from Domain Registry of Canada. This is the first anniversary of George registering his two domains, so the invoice didn't come as a complete surprise. However, George thought his domains were paid up for the first two years, and questioned the invoice by calling the number provided. Damien at DRoC explained to George that the annual registration for one of his domains had arrived and that \$78.40 was due. George paid the amount.

Unfortunately, Domain Registry of Canada wasn't in a position to charge George. They were "domain slamming": tricking domain owners to switch to them as registrar under the pretense doing a domain renewal. (Domain registration information is public and can be found at sites like whois.net.) George is still trying to get his money, and his domain, back.

[Second story:] On Thursday, Bill received a call. Jack said he was calling him from Teche4Pc, a technical remote-

assistance company that was mandated by Microsoft to follow up on errors submitted to Microsoft from Bill's PC. Jack had Bill check his Event Log and there were a number of warnings and errors in there, so Jack offered to connect to Bill's PC to fix the issues.

The key to effective misinformation is that there be a modicum of fact. Teche4Pc does have a believable web presence at www.teche4pc.com (it is unclear if they are a real company or if Jack actually worked for them). Technical remote assistance companies do exist and can (sometimes) help. There are errors and warnings in virtually every Windows user's Event Log. And, Microsoft does collect and use error information when you click "Send Error Report to Microsoft". However, it does not include any personal information from the sender.

Bill is not gullible. He asked Jack to call him back. In the meantime, he called "teky", and got the real story from a real teky. Here is the conversation when Jack called back:

"Where are you calling from?"
 "Oh...um, Victoria."
 "Oh really, in Oak Bay?"
 "Yes, in Oak Bay"
 "Cool. In the new technology park by the lake?"

At this point, Jack hung up. © Jeff owns teky.ca Technical Services Inc. Call 250-929-5333

View from the Islands : Three Horsepower

By Bruce Fraser on Isla del Sol



It was Christmas 1953 in the house of a single mom earning 256 dollars a month as a receptionist. So what did a thirteen-year-old boy in that house expect anyway? Nothing much! In the depths of winter, when the coal was running low, it was extra blankets and a hot chocolate, not turning up the thermostat – mainly because there wasn't one. Slowly, the agonizing wait between wakefulness and enough light to justify going downstairs to check the tree passed like the proverbial molasses. Finally, my sister anticipating girl things and me expecting a nylon stocking full of interesting lumps, crept down to look. What she found fades from memory but what I found was three horsepower.

There, dwarfing the tree, in a massive cardboard box labeled "Evinrude", was a three horsepower,

two-stroke outboard motor. Mere words cannot render the wonder or the excitement of a kid that had rowed from Behnson's boathouse, where our heavy lapstrake was stored, to Isla del Sol and back until the calluses had calluses. Visions of lightning speed on the water filled my imagination. I could run to the Galley in mere minutes to watch Mr. Hamilton building his boat and get a gallon of mixed gas. I could run up Shawnigan Creek at the south end of the lake, where oars were impossible. I could troll quietly in the blowing mists of a summer morning and handle a rainbow without stopping dead with shipped oars. I could make waves to turn and run over with abandon.

OK, so three horsepower was a step up from a row-boat, but the Boak boy had access to a 12 horse and the Wheatons had a Peterborough runabout with a 25 horse Johnson that planed with nary a ripple on the water. People could water-ski behind those boats – I could just fish! I had arrived in the motor world, but there was still lots of room for envy.

Well, that was then. As I look out now from Isla del

Sol in 2011, I see 300 horsepower boats creating wharf eating waves as boarders leap and kids get whiplash on towing tubes at speeds that our old Austin Somerset couldn't achieve going down the Malahat at pedal-to-the-metal speed. Summer is a maelstrom of lashing waves, criss-crossing towlines, pounding surf and fogs of motor exhaust. Summer evenings, when an acoustic guitar chording "Red Sails in the Sunset" was the loudest human sound, have turned into thumping boom box serenades and proudly trumpeted profanity. Boats with poisonous marine bottom paint and through hull toilets have appeared. Boats that could break speed records are breaking them on the lake along with breaking the sound barrier. Shawnigan has shrunk from having mysterious corners that a boy with three horsepower could still explore to a racetrack that can be consumed repeatedly in a few fleeting minutes.

If that thirteen-year old boy were to be coming down those darkened stairs on a twenty first century Christmas day, what on earth would he expect to find?

(paid advertising feature)

SLBA Member Profile



250-929-8886



Always popular are the milkshakes and banana splits along with signature desserts like the Nutty Monkey or Hot and Cold Wonton Kisses. And yes, the Village Chippery is licensed serving up favourites like Meridale Cider and unique cocktail creations including "The Village Idiot".

With a history in the food industry and customer service, Patty Oldfield was eager to find the right spot to showcase her "Chippery" creations. The charm in Shawnigan Village was evident and enticing. When a spot became available it was snapped up and the Village Chippery started serving great food to great people.

The "Chippery" specializes in hand chipped fries and all the wonderful things that accompany them. Menu items include: "We make them ourselves" ground chuck burgers, veggie burgers, hand cut fish cooked in non trans fat canola oil, chicken tenderloins, all beef hot dogs, chili, chowder, salads, wraps and sandwiches.

Two years of serving up great food to great people will be celebrated this summer at the Village Chippery on Dundas Road in Shawnigan Village. For Patty Oldfield and her crew heading into the third year is cause for a party. It just seems like yesterday they were putting the finishing touches on their cozy corner of the building known as "The Purple Building" getting ready for opening day. To celebrate the start of Year 3, they are having cake for their well-wishers and a fishing pond for the kids from noon until 2 on July 10th.

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Shawnigan Lake School - Spring Inspiration

By Kelly Koepf



As we move into spring and welcome the warming temperatures, Shawnigan staff and students are steaming ahead with a spring rush of fundraising initiatives and sport activities. Here are just a few of the projects the School has been involved in: April kicked off with the annual Cowichan Hospital Foundation Fundraiser held on campus in Marion Hall. 343 guests spruced up for a magnificent feast served by 117 Shawnigan student-volunteers. The astounding \$140,000 tally of goodwill flowing from the evening's program will be invested in a new Maternity Clinic and Casting Clinic at the hospital.

Spring at Shawnigan is synonymous with rowing and this year is no exception. At the recent Brentwood Regatta Shawnigan crews earned top standings led by gold medal performances from the Senior Boys Lightweight Eight and Lightweight Four as well as the Junior Girls Lightweight Four. Shawnigan

Crews also medaled in the Junior Girls Eight (Silver) and the Senior Boys Eight (Bronze). The Senior Girls Eight and Lightweight Four also had strong showings, with the latter narrowly

missing out on bronze medals in their final and the Eight finishing fifth overall. Both the Boys Lightweight and Senior Girls earned invitations to the prestigious Opening Day Regatta in Seattle, where both teams placed second in their races.

To round off April, the Shawnigan squash program proudly sponsored the Canadian Junior Squash Championships at the Calgary Winter Club from April 28 to May 1. Five of the School's top competitors delivered strong performances with fiery Grade 11 competitor Bryn Daniels earning a notable 4th place finish.

The Shawnigan squash program is led by renowned international coach Mike Johnson, who enjoys developing players of all levels of experience, from beginners to advanced pros. Members of the public are also welcome to come to Shawnigan's drop-in sessions on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 (Adults), and on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:00 (children age 6-12, no experience necessary, equipment provided). The cost is \$5.00 per session. The contact person is Mike Johnson and he can be contacted through the main office at (250) 743-5516. The squash courts are located at the Shawnigan Sportsplex, behind the tennis courts on campus (parking is available).

Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission (area B) June Message

By Margaret Symon

On behalf of the Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission, thank-you to all our wonderful community volunteers who helped at recent Shawnigan events, including the Shawnigan Regatta, the Caregivers' Walk, and the Shawnigan Triathlon. Having volunteered at the Triathlon, it was great to see so much local volunteer support at West Shawnigan Lake Park and - on the lake (swim), on the roads (bike), and on the TransCanada Trail (run)! Congratulations, too, to local athletes who com-

peted in the Triathlon.

Volunteers are an essential part of our community. Last month, 100 student volunteers and their teachers from Shawnigan Lake School removed invasive ivy from the forest floor and trees at a portion of Old Mill Park. Ivy, like broom, daphne, and Himalayan blackberry, are "foreigners"; these introduced plant species spread from gardens to parklands and forest, choking the natural flora. Thanks to the efforts of the hardworking student volunteers, native plant species

will have a chance to rebound at Old Mill Park, and local biodiversity will benefit. If you and/or a group would like to get involved in volunteering in a variety of ways at our local parks, please contact Graham Gidden, CVRD Parks and Trails Division at 250-746-2500.



Margaret is the Chair of the



Shawnigan Lake Residents Association (SRA)



plan. The plan sets out the

A year ago this month the SRA published its first-ever strategic

organization's mission, vision and five goals. One of those goals is "To ensure that recreation on and around the lake is ecologically benign and inoffensive to others."

One of the ways that the association seeks to achieve this goal is by "promoting and

communicating recreational best practices." So, dear readers, because summer is not far off, it is time to refresh our memories about what are best practices when having fun in, on and around Shawnigan Lake. If you are a cottager

SRA continued...on p.11

Shawnigan Players – Still Putting on a Show!

By Sally Davies

It started simply enough; three lines in the "Shawnigan News" in October 1977 that read: "Drama- call Kent - men needed" along with a local phone number. From this cryptic solicitation, eight people came forward

would have dreamed that this would be the genesis of one of the longest continuously running community theatre troupes in B.C.

The participants ranged from people with established backgrounds in amateur

productions, three generations graced the stage together. Our players came from all walks of life, with a heavy preponderance of local teachers. The productions mounted were as different as the people involved in them.

Our home was the old community hall. Costumes were stored in the attic and someone was delegated to stoke the wood-burning furnace in the basement several hours before the play was to start. On dress rehearsal night there was a family pot-luck. Children played hide and seek amongst the sets and babies crawled across the expanse of the wooden floor before the play got underway. The after-parties sometimes lasted days. The post-production meetings began with a litany of grievances from the community hall caretakers and always an admonition from the "Blue Bird Seniors Group" that the players were using their tea trolley without permission.

When the old hall was sold, we lost our stage. The homeless thespians were not deterred and the play must,

and did, go on. Productions were, and are, mounted in the new community centre but the logistics of sets and lights proved cumbersome in a space that had such high demands upon its use. We remained the "Shawnigan Players" but productions were often mounted further afield (quite literally for Zorba), outside of Shawnigan.

The more off-beat the venue, the more it seemed to suit our collective style. The most organized amongst us gritted their teeth while the "free spirits" threw caution to the wind with little regard

for the logistical or financial practicalities of the day. As the anarchists predicted... it always worked out.

The last play was like childbirth- the agonies soon forgotten as all concerned basked in the warm words and glowing reviews of their newest creation. The family that was and is the "Shawnigan Players" flourishes to this day united by their simple desire "to put on a show" in the heart of Shawnigan Lake- wherever it may be.

Sally is a longtime member of Shawnigan Players



and several months later, a dramatic reading of "Under Milkwood" was staged in the old community hall.

No sets, props, or costumes, just eight people, seated on wooden chairs on an unadorned stage, reciting the words of Dylan Thomas. It is unlikely that Kent Steele, who placed the ad, or anyone else present that evening,

theatre to neophytes who, once bitten by the bug, went on to hone their creative skills and distinguish themselves locally, and in a few cases, on the professional stage.

It was community theatre in the truest sense of the word - no one was turned away and ages ranged from pre-schoolers to our most senior citizens. In many produc-

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Shawnigan Lake Business Association

by Roy Davies

As mentioned in previous reports, the SLBA is working on a reprint of the Shawnigan Lake map. Over the past two years almost 10,000 maps have been distributed to both locals and tourists in Shawnigan Lake. With the number of remaining maps dwindling and the demand growing, not to mention the new roads and subdivisions in the area increasing, it is time for an update.

In addition to the map, the SLBA is working with the South Cowichan Rotary to provide a tourist information sign at Cairns Park (across from the fire hall on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road). This sign will not only provide a street map of Shawnigan and local information but also display ads for local merchants. With the collaborative efforts

of the SLBA board, we are working to provide our members an opportunity for advertising at a very reasonable rate. In addition, we would like to extend this opportunity to non-members. Therefore any business wishing to take advantage of both the Cairns Park sign and the Shawnigan Lake map will receive their 2011/12 membership at no charge.

The cost for advertising in the map will be \$150 plus the \$65 SLBA membership, and the sign will also be \$150 with the \$65 SLBA membership. For both sign and map the total cost will be \$300 which will include the SLBA membership, for a savings of \$65. Any business interested in taking advantage of this unique opportunity, please contact info@slba.ca by July 15th. Space is limited, so



Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign!



BC Hydro is launching a campaign to educate people about the hazards of using their utility poles for advertising. According to Hydro, the poles are private property. People are encouraged to remove their signs before BC Hydro staff remove them. The signs create a safety hazard for the linemen, and even after signs are removed, staples, screws and nails left on the pole create problems.

Most of Hydro's repair

work is still done by linemen climbing a pole on spurs... there are very few bucket trucks. If Hydro is forced to remove the signs, they could send a bill to the offenders... and it won't likely be a small one. Hydro advises that the poles "are not public notice boards" and "there are lots of other venues for people to advertise". For instance, you could always consider placing your ad in the community newspaper **Shawnigan Focus?**

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Welcome to Shawnigan's New Top Cop

By Graham Ross-Smith

After serving our community for over three years, Sergeant Rob Webb was recently seconded to a position at RCMP headquarters in Victoria. Replacing him since early May as Officer-in-Charge at the Shawnigan police station is Sgt. Scott Stephen, 47, who originally hails from Saskatchewan, and has served in nine other western Canada communities. Having just completed four years with the Duncan detachment, he is familiar with the geography and people of the Cowichan Valley. Sgt. Stephen lives at Maple Bay with his wife and two sons.

Sgt. Stephen joined the RCMP 24 years ago after earning a BA degree in sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. After sixteen years of service in various Alberta communities, he

was posted to Nunavut for a couple of years followed by a move to British Columbia.

The people of Shawnigan Lake are fortunate to have as their detachment head an educated, affable and seasoned police professional who indicates much appreciation for the beauty and other virtues of the Cowichan Valley. Sgt. Stephen expresses a strong desire to get to know the people of Shawnigan Lake and law and order issues of concern to this community. He is already aware of concerns about the operation of boats on the lake during the warm months such as excessive noise from motors and on-board stereo systems, damage to docks and erosion along the shore from large wakes (especially those caused by wake boarding), as

well as safety problems that come with excessive speed and impaired boating. Sgt. Stephen is familiar with a police sponsored program in operation at Vernon called River Watch which he intends to implement here with adaptations as required for a lake environment. The Lake Watch Program is still at the planning stage, but with community support and the recruitment and training of a roster of volunteers, Sgt. Stephen feels that a program here can be every bit as successful as the River Watch Program has been at Vernon. Funding for lake patrols has been obtained again this year, so police presence on the lake will be as it was in the summer of 2010.

Graham is very involved in the Shawnigan Lake Community

Shawnigan Lake RCMP - Positive Tickets

Shawnigan Lake RCMP - Positive Tickets

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP will be launching the Act Positive Tickets initiative in the South Cowichan Communities starting in May.

Island Savings Credit Union, the Rotary Club of South Cowichan and the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society are providing financial assistance for this program. Local businesses in the South Cowichan area are supporting the program by donating prizes for recipients.

Positive tickets will be issued to youth displaying exemplary community involvement as well as a positive attitude and good behaviour. In other communities in BC, youth have been rewarded for providing a good example to other youth by following rules such as wearing a helmet while on a bike or by doing good deeds in the community.

The program's main goals are to engage youth, increase positive interaction with law enforcement and develop future community leaders.

Once a youth receives a ticket from an RCMP officer, he/she can turn it in at the Island Savings Credit Union in Mill Bay and choose a reward. The rewards range from passes for skating, swimming, local transit and movies to gift certificates from local merchants in the community.

As well as an immediate reward, youth can fill out an entry form for a \$500 term deposit from ISCU. At the end of September, one name will be drawn out of all tickets for the special reward

The program's coordinator Cst. Furlong and members of the Shawnigan Lake RCMP detachment are looking forward to distributing the cards to deserving youth in our communities. The program has been incorporated in many communities across Canada.

The Positive Ticket program will run from mid-May to the end of September.

RCMP ANNOUNCEMENT

Shawnigan Lake RCMP Staff Sergeant Rob Webb has been seconded to Island District Staffing (CDRA - Career Development Resource Advisor) in Victoria to help with resource matters on the Island. The position is temporary, and it is unknown how long he will be there. This has happened on very short notice.

Sgt. Webb grew up at Shawnigan Lake and he has been a great local asset during his tenure. We wish him well in his new career path.

Sgt. Scott Stephen will take over in Shawnigan for the immediate interim. Sgt. Stephen has an extensive background in policing and will start Monday, May the 9th.

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“Rip” 1933-2011

Shawnigan Lake recently lost a popular member of the community. John Joseph Calhoun Ripley (Rip), with his larger than life personality, died on April 22. Rip was an outstanding community supporter who was involved with countless organizations and projects. He used to say that his “ya-ya” valve was stuck... he simply could not say no when he was asked to help.

After a career in the Canadian Air Force, followed by a stint with the RCMP, Rip and his wife Colette moved to Shawnigan Lake to retire.

Always interested in the latest “tech” gadget, Rip helped many seniors learn how to use their computers. The Ripper also taught hundreds of people how to knit beautiful scarves on a jig. He was a kind and generous man who had worked his way into the hearts of many people in the community.

He was involved in the with Speedwatch program, had sat on the boards of the Legion and the Business Association and he was an instigator for the revitalization of Cairn Park.

Rip was very involved

with our local Canadian Legion. One of his biggest pleasures each year was to arrange for as many dignitaries and politicians as he could, to participate in the Canada Day Flag Raising Ceremony at the Legion. His local comrades recently awarded him with a Lifetime Membership, an honour which was very important to him.

Rip was also a supportive member of the Shawnigan Lake Museum. Until he became very ill, he would arrive every weekend with a bag of cookies for the volunteers. As he walked through the door, he would ask if his tea was ready. On behalf of the Museum, he became the Shawnigan Lake Town Crier. He acquired the costume and the persona to officiate at the Flag Ceremony and later stand in the middle of the village on Canada Day, ushering visitors to the museum. He advised that it was good therapy for “learning how to overcome my shyness problem.” He recently donated his Town Crier costume to the museum, hoping that someone would continue what he had started—but we know that it will be hard to fill his shoes.

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



First correct Answer sent to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins two specialty coffees compliments of Moziro’s

WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER – May Issue

Congratulations to Julie MacNeil! Julie wins two specialty coffees, compliments of Moziro’s.

The picture in our May contest was the head of the concrete lion on the waterfront at the Easter Seal Camp. Chief Justice Gordon Hunter, who owned the property as a summer residence, commissioned the lion sometime in the 1920s. George Gibson

a local architectural carver, whose talents are evident on the CPR Terminal and Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, created it. The lion is strategically facing north to send Hunter’s message to the politicians in Victoria that, in his opinion, they were making “an ass of justice”. The lion has been refurbished several times and looks quite different from the original.

Garage Sale benefits the Kinsol Trestle

Kate Hayden advertised her May 21st Garage Sale in the Shawnigan Focus. It was a wonderful success. Over \$1,000 was gathered from dozens of happy customers who purchased a multitude of eclectic treasure. Kate thanks friend Janet Neilsen for motivational and organizational assistance – hosting a good garage sale is not for the faint of heart! All proceeds will be donated to the Kinsol Trestle Campaign.

Ride to Conquer Cancer

Thank you to all who donated and attended the Ride to Conquer Cancer Garage Sale on Sat May 7 & 14. It was a great success and raised \$630 for the ride.

Electrolysis
by Cindy Rose, C.E.
phone 250.882.9954

SRA continued...from p.9

or waterfront home owner, please ensure that your septic system is working properly; have it inspected and, if necessary, pumped out and/or repaired.

Also, please refrain from over-fertilizing your lawns and flower beds as water quality and fish habitat are harmed when nitrates and phosphates find their way into the lake. Remember, the lake is a drinking-water reservoir for thousands of people.

If you are a wake-boarder, be aware that waves from your boat can erode the lakeshore and damage docks. So please observe the instructions shown on signs that have recently been installed at launch sites and at narrow passages on the lake.

If you operate a power boat or jet-ski, be sure to keep your speed under 8 km/hour when within 33 metres of shore and 65 km/hour when beyond 33 metres, and be careful to keep gasoline, oil and other pollutants and contaminants from getting into lake water.

While using your boat and especially while launching and hauling it out, remember that the right to the quiet enjoyment of one’s home or cottage trumps the right to make noise, so enjoy your boating in as quiet a manner as possible. Always carry life jackets and other safety equipment. Respecting the law and the rights and comfort of others will make for a happy summer for all. The SRA hopes that you will have a good one.

Missing In Action?

The June issue of Shawnigan Focus missed a beat due to the postal dispute. We apologize to our readers and advertisers for the inconvenience. Look for our next issue at the beginning of August.

Community Centre wins “Champion For Children Award of Excellence 2011 Group or Organization Champion”.

This award is presented by Cowichan Success by Six, an organization that is devoted to helping children succeed for life. They are partners with the Aboriginal Success by Six and sponsored by many groups such as the United Way.

This award is in recognition of a group or organization that has made a difference improving the lives of children and families in Cowichan Valley. Many nominations were received and the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre was chosen as a finalist and attended a special celebration on May 14, 2011 where they learned they had won the award.

What a wonderful acknowledgement for the staff at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre to be recognized for all their hard work!

Congratulations Shawnigan Lake Community Centre!

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
JUNE 2011

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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

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

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ROWING RACES IN THE RAIN

By Graham Ross-Smith

Shawnigan Lake School has been hosting the annual Spring Rowing Regatta for the last half century, but seldom has as much rain fallen on participants and spectators as fell at this year's event. Although Saturday, May the 14th was relatively dry, Sunday saw torrential downpours off-and-on during the day. Nevertheless, the regatta was well attended, showing that those who love competitive rowing are a hardy lot.



The grass at the West Shawnigan Provincial Park, where the regatta was held, was not as tough however, as the most travelled parts of the park had turned from grass-green to mud-brown by mid-day on Sunday.

Over the past five decades, attendance at the regatta has ranged from 300 to 1000 competitors. The 2010 event was one of the

largest yet with approximately 800 competitors and between 1,300 and 1,500 spectators. Rowers were all of high school age and represented eleven rowing clubs and seven schools; all of them in British Columbia. The Vancouver Island contingent were Shawnigan Lake School, Brentwood College and Claremont Secondary School.

Rowing boats built for competition racing are high technology machines and are built in

four sizes to hold one, two, four or eight rowers. Fours, quads and eights also have a non-rowing crew member called a coxswain or "cox" for short. Such high-tech equipment does not come cheap. An "eight" can cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 and an oar can run around \$500. The value of all the equipment at the regatta literally was in the millions of dollars.

All of Shawnigan Lake School's boats have been acquired by donation.

Maintenance costs are covered through various fund-raising events. Rowing is one of the major sports at the school. Many of Shawnigan Lake School's best rowers

aspire to become competitors at the Olympic level after graduation, and indeed some former Shawnigan Lake students have gone on to compete successfully at that level.

This annual event brings joy to many and, no doubt, makes a contribution to the health of the local economy. Perhaps next year's weather will be a little dryer and sunnier.



Shawnigan Regatta

By Kyle Hamilton

Shawnigan Lake Rowing, along with athletes from 18 other clubs and schools took to the lake for the annual Shawnigan Lake Regatta on May 13th & 14th. Despite the heavy rain on Sunday, Shawnigan athletes gave the School some excellent results, picking up 8 top three rankings including for first place showings.

Over 1300 athletes and spectators came out to line the shores and cheer on the many teams from all over the Pacific Northwest. This year's seamless organization is once again thanks to the many volunteers - including students, parents and Shawnigan staff - that generously donated their time to make the two day event run efficiently and on-time. Without this committed group, the regatta could not have been as successful as it was.

Saturday's schedule also included a very special boat christening, where three brand new Shawnigan eights were christened. "The Hailstorm" was named after the potentially devastating hailstorm the Shawnigan boat trailer

went through on its way to St Catharines in 2010. Shawnigan lost two eights in this storm, but with the insurance claim, as well as some timely donations from Shawnigan supporters, the School was able to turn that loss into a new fleet of eights!

The second eight was named after long-time Shawnigan Business Manager Linda Ewert. As one of Shawnigan Rowing's biggest supporters on campus, this honour was a long time coming, and certainly well deserved. The final eight christened was renamed after the CSSRA winning crew of 1959. The original "Spirit of '59" was a two year-old boat, which was lost in the hailstorm of 2010. It was only fitting that the School continue to honour that great crew by carrying on the name with its replacement.

The Shawnigan Regatta is the last race of the west coast regatta circuit, and the last chance for many crews to get some all-important race experience before heading east for the CSSRA regatta in St Catharines, Ontario.

INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED

Shawnigan Lake School requires a **Computer Graphics Instructor** for next school year (Sept.-June) Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoons from 3:00 - 6:00pm experienced with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

Contact Don Rolston for interview. drolston@shawnigan.ca

Shawnigan Fire Department

April 15 – May 15 2011

Call outs for the Shawnigan Fire Department for the above period are as follows:

- Apr 15 - F R call on Renfrew Road
- Apr 25 - F R call on Baldy Mtn Road
- Apr 28 - MVI on West Shawnigan Lake Road
- Apr 30 - chimney fire on Widows Walk
- May 4 - F R call in the Beach Estates
- May 5 - auto alarm activated on London Road
- May 6 - MVI on West Shawnigan Lake Road
- May 7 - F R call on Shawnigan Lake Road

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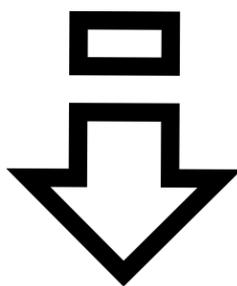


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