



Shawnigan FOCUS

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

OCP RAISES SHAWNIGAN ISSUES A Tale of Three Villages

The CVRD planners and the OCP committee members have made a laudable effort to address the future development direction of our Shawnigan Community. But, there is one curious element that needs our full attention. Highlighted in their plan is the idea of a "Village Containment Boundary" that stretches from Recreation Road in the Southeast to the Renfrew and West Shawnigan Lake

expected to apply. Meanwhile, the real Shawnigan Village within that boundary, where the commercial core and service amenities are concentrated, remains both undefined and fragmented.

We have blank-eyed commercial buildings encroaching on the main road, no connecting sidewalks, very limited parking space, an extremely dangerous intersection and limited space for commercial



At the south end of the Shawnigan watershed, vigorous developments continue, out of sight and out of mind.

The residential subdivisions of Cougar Ridge, Shawnigan Station, Stebbings Road, Goldstream Heights and the proposed Elkington development are bound to attract commercial amenities to provide local service to a growing population. The

centre emerge or are we committing ourselves to a fragmented rural strip development from Sooke

Lake Road to the Malahat?

Shawnigan, in fact, has two distinct villages now and a third is on the way, each with their own unique character and potential.

The lakeside village has a growing collection of complementary boutique-scale service businesses, which could provide a wonderfully

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Road junction in the Northwest.

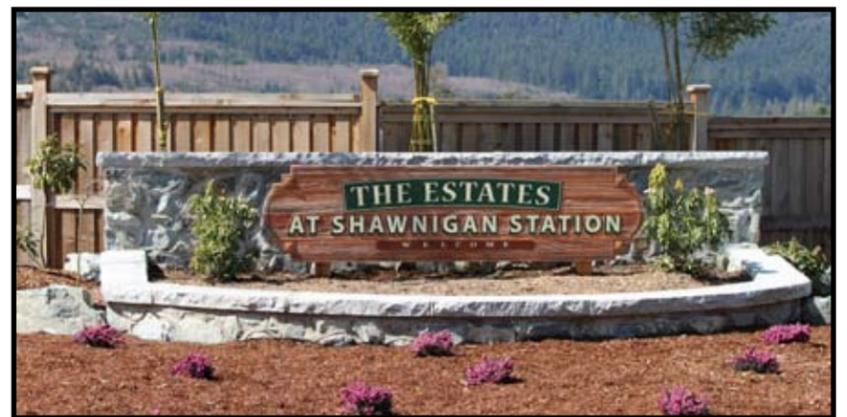
It is difficult to see this extensive rural residential area, with its several clusters of dense subdivision and lakefront recreation areas as a unified "village". More likely, it just represents an attempt to limit rural sprawl from continuing to engulf the rest of Area B where increasing restrictions are

expansion. We have a waterfront area that is only partly accessible and a derelict shelter for a train station. There is no discernible vision in the OCP to tie the parts of our actual village into a coherent public space. Yet, we have the makings of a vibrant village centre in a beautiful lakeside setting just screaming for serious attention.

SCRAP THIEVES IN ELABORATE PLOT TO STEAL RAIL TIES?



On Tuesday, April 19, a flat bed truck loaded with an excavator didn't see the new warning signs calling attention to load heights. The excavator hit the rail bridge knocking it 2 feet off kilter. Rails had to be cut to allow the crane to lift the bridge back into place. There were no reported train delays



rapidly expanding business-industrial area on both sides of the rail crossing, now with at least fifteen distinct businesses, is also likely to increase the demand for associated public services. Island Timberlands, meanwhile, is constructing a development, with preliminary approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, along the South Shawnigan Road in the narrow strip between the road and the railway track, in an area that the new OCP suggests should not be developed. Will a thoughtfully designed South Shawnigan village

compact and walkable community centre. The Malahat village has a growing combination of industrial and service businesses and surrounding rural subdivisions with a large growth capacity that imparts a sense of vitality and promise. The mountain village, on the Elkington property, will set a new standard for a sustainable community in a natural forest setting. We need a vision for Greater Shawnigan that ties our three villages together, each supporting and celebrating the other, with the jewel of our lake at its centre.



What the dog heard
... Page 16

“Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Commercial Opportunities in the Village”

By Dave Hutchinson

Why are so many commercial locations unoccupied in the village core?

Stand at the four-way stop and look around. At last count there were at least eleven locations available for lease. Then consider the following objectives stated in the recently released draft of the Shawnigan Village



ing the space into two smaller areas. There is an advertisement stating 550 sq/ft of space available for \$695. When asked what type of enterprises might be suitable Mr. Kim replied that it should be something that was in harmony with the community. He did not want a tattoo parlour or a head-shop.

The small bakery opposite the Shawnigan Garage closed several months ago. Property owners Tom and Laura Buss have been actively advertising the building for lease or sale. There have been several interested parties. As of early April, the location was still available. The rent is \$1,200/mo for the entire building, about 1,000 sq/ft total when both levels are included. Suggested uses include office space or appropriate retail services.

With the decision by Island Savings Credit Union to close the Shawnigan branch, that space has been vacant since October, 2009. This property, along with the Pharmacy, has recently changed hands. The previous owners were asking \$2,200/mo for the 800 sq/ft. It is not known if this has changed with the new owners but the lengthy vacancy suggests that something might need to be adjusted. When questioned, several people stated that they missed having a financial institution in the village.

The majority of vacancies are in



the two buildings managed by NAI Commercial. The older building was completed several years ago after fire destroyed its predecessor. It has three units, one occupied by Subway, the other two have been vacant for years.

The adjacent building has recently been completed after years of sporadic construction. All five units are vacant. Leasing costs start in the range of \$18 sq/ft plus \$4 triple-net (triple net is where the lessee agrees to pay real estate taxes, building insurance, and maintenance.) This would be about \$1,283/mo for 700 sq/ft. Both buildings are new, modern structures. The units could be used for all sorts of purposes and it seems strange that the owners can accept such high vacancy rates. Doug Ledding of NAI is the primary representative. He states that they are waiting for the right tenants and would prefer to see stable, secure establishments that benefit the community. He cited video-arcades and money-marts as examples of what they do not want. Preferred uses included a bank, a delicatessen, or a garden-shop.

Some are of the opinion that commercial activity in the village has not yet reached a self-sustaining critical mass. For this to occur requires the right combination of people, ideas, timing, resources, infrastructure and



planning. Of great importance to any community is that local government provide an accepted vision and appropriate direction. It has taken decades to produce an updated OCP and things like the development of Shawnigan Village have been haphazard in the meanwhile. We need to ask whether the current CVRD model is working. If not, then what needs to be changed?

Finally, there appears to be general agreement that more shops and services would be a good thing for the village. The community wants all these locations to be occupied by complementary and successful establishments and wishes all the owners well towards that objective.

Dave is a co-editor for Shawnigan Focus and a long-time Shawnigan resident.

More Development Down The Hill

More commercial space may soon be constructed down the hill from the Village four-way stop, opposite the Community Centre entrance. In 2008, there were grand plans for a 100 unit residential townhouse and condominium development along with a commercial centre, nature-trails, and park. There was even mention of a small hotel. The architect drawings made it look attractive and it promised to be a good development for Shawnigan, if implemented responsibly.

The sixteen acres of previously industrial land used to include, among other things, the Shawnigan dump. Fifty years ago, when taking your unsorted garbage to the dump it was commonplace for the whole family to go along and watch black bears paw through the trash. Kids (including myself) found the odd treasure as well. Times do change – perhaps the bears were friendlier then.

Much remedial work has been done on the property but implementation has been delayed and the plans scaled back due to a number of issues. According to developers Richard Sager and Norm Magee, septic treatment costs prohibit the residential component for the time being. This could change depending on what happens with a community sewer system.

The commercial component is still in the works though. Evidently, all the zoning is in place and signs may be up soon announcing what is planned.

Both Richard and Norm envision complementary services to those that now exist in the village core. Walkways and trails would link the two areas.



Is it Time to Talk Incorporation?

Soon, we will again be facing the tough question of incorporation for all or part of the rapidly growing South Cowichan region. We will be debating the pros and cons of becoming fully-fledged municipalities instead of regional district areas and in what combination. We will be asking ourselves if we are willing to pay for the infrastructure, services

and governance needed for the continuing development of the communities of Mill Bay, Cobble Hill and Shawnigan. The designation “South Cowichan” appears to be an historical artifact that does not reflect the differing character of these three distinct communities. Lumping them into one municipality, when each is a diverse regional area in its own

right, may reflect the existing Regional District administrative model. It may not be very effective, however, in dealing with a municipal future that must deal with how people actually see the social and geographic boundaries of “where they live”. Before we lock in a “South Cowichan” Official Community Plan and create the subsequent zoning by-laws for

shaping widely divergent development agendas, we need to open our eyes to the great potential of our rapidly emerging tri-village complex in the Shawnigan Lake Watershed. It may well be time to consider a governance structure that fits our own unique circumstances and concentrates the taxes paid by our residents, businesses and industries on our own development.

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.

APOLOGY

Our announcement in Issue 1, for the last OCP Open House event, had the correct date but the wrong time. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

I am sad . . .

It's hard, as an average resident of Shawnigan Lake, not to feel sad these days.

Driving from my home near the Village (where there continues to be numerous empty storefronts) towards the Trans Canada (where much of the forest alongside the road was scalped and left to the proliferation of broom), and ending up at the south entrance where, many months ago, big machines ripped the trees and earth and left another eyesore at the corner, I become sad.

Looking up at the hillsides around Shawnigan Lake, I am sad to see ever-increasing clear cuts.

I am sad to see businesses and new homes being scrunched right to the edge of roads (after the removal of all trees) and others crowding existing neighbours by being too big for the tiny lots on which they are constructed.

I am sad to see massive, oppressive-looking fences springing up in places that common sense or concern for others would instead dictate the planting of trees.

I am sad that industrial sites are springing up without any apparent parameters, some with little ecological or aesthetic considerations.

I am sad that dozens of commercial signs clutter power poles all around our community, and that garbage fills a lot of our ditches. Roads that desperately need repair, abandoned projects (and those that leave an ugly void while going through lengthy delays), and thoughtless, careless, reckless use of the lake and our parks also make me very sad.

Sadness is also brought on by a great deal of inconsiderate burning, dumping, parking, and partying around the Lake and the feeling that many people, residents or otherwise, do not seem to care about this community or each other.

Sometimes this feeling is overwhelming, and often it is mixed with anger, frustration, a sense that nothing can be done. Publication of Shawnigan Focus has made me hopeful that this is not the case and it has demonstrated that our community definitely does care. I hope that people will use this newspaper to voice their own concerns, become aware of additional issues, and rally with others to protect a quality of life here that is being threatened and has real potential to slip away.

Anne Brunet
Shawnigan Lake



HE WANTED TO THROW A SMALL PARTY FOR HIS "HOME BUSINESS"... THAT WAS 3 MONTHS AGO... KIND OF STRETCHING THE O.C.P. GUIDELINES!

Rusty Rails

It did not take long for the rail lines to become rusty once the train was temporarily stopped for repairs. One wonders why the Island Corridor Foundation had not realized the scope of the work in the years since the land was transferred to the Foundation in 2006. As a home owner, it has always been our practice to secure the funding required before any renovations or repairs were undertaken. Without doubt, the Foundation finds itself in a very unfortunate spot. When, and if, the various levels of government can make a financial commitment to the Foundation remains to be seen.

We are not at all convinced that the railway can be economically viable without continual financial support from a mysterious public/private source. In addition, on a personal note, I use alternate forms of transit when it is convenient, safe, cost effective, functional and reasonably comfortable. All of that costs money and is usually supported in part by taxes.

In the meantime, our concern is what will happen next. How long will we be discussing with our neighbours the decades old question, "What's going on with the E & N?"

Kerr Family

Connections

Thank you for Shawnigan Focus. It is as clear, clean, and refreshing as once was that eponymous lake.

I enjoyed your first edition on many levels, but particularly for its parallel relevance to Cowichan, that other Lake on which I live. Your articles prompted me to reflect upon the connections between our two watersheds.

When Bruce Hutchison was a callow youth of 16, and needed money for an "uncertain future" (his own words), he bicycled to Dr. Stoker's estate here at Marble Bay to saw and split cordwood. In 1917, this commission earned him one dollar per cord plus board and lodging. I like to imagine that his early woodcutting exertions perhaps helped to influence his later more cerebral accomplishments.

The current destruction of forest landscape you reported at Shawnigan Lake also led me back. There were

similar lamentations voiced from Cowichan Lake long before "ecological footprint" or even "environmentalism" were in common parlance. The impressions of Mrs. Susan Stoker, who was an artist, noted botanist, and coincidentally, Hutchison's short-term employer, were recorded in a 1933 Cowichan Leader account as follows: . . . her citation of the destruction that has been wrought by the hand of the lumber industry and man's onslaughts in the district since that time [previous 30 years] is discomfoting.

She gathered her specimens from the lowest end of the valley up to Lake Cowichan from what she describes now as a wilderness, an area which to look at "turns one sick," particularly when one has seen it in its once beautiful wooded state.

Then, every tree, every flower, every shrub was to her different. But now, on the hills and in the valleys there is nothing left, she says, and "the loggers have destroyed everything." The contrast is appalling.

Some 75 years later, Shawnigan Focus is similarly drawing attention to this unfortunate and recurring theme. Let us hope, that this time around, the conversation will gain enough traction to incite the vital landscape stewardship changes so necessary if our communities are to enjoy a sustainable future.

Roger Wiles
(Marble Bay, Cowichan Lake)

Museum a "Gem",

Thank-you and congratulations for creating the informative Shawnigan Focus! It is wonderful to have our own community newspaper again after a hiatus of 5 years. I eagerly await the May issue.

On another note, I urge all residents to pay a visit to our local Shawnigan Lake Museum. It is a gem created and maintained by Lori Treloar, the curator, and her volunteer staff. Our out of town guests are always delighted when we take them. In fact our last house guests even bought a membership!

Kate Roberts
Shawnigan Lake

Comment

Hey Alice, You've Got Company! Timber West in Wonderland

Overnight, and to everyone's surprise, Timber West has fallen down a rabbit hole to Wonderland. What was private would become public. Or, is it that what was private, and now owned by the public would still be private? Would the recently publicly traded, but taken private, but publicly owned, but privately run corporation conducting business as usual still enjoy immunity to public scrutiny as it logs in our watershed and sells forest land for real estate? Would the subdivisions planned by Couverdon comply with the South Cowichan OCP and how would we know? Has the pension bid set up the company for a wealthy buyer yet to appear over the western horizon? Has the Mad Hatter convened the Board Meetings of the Public Pension Fund? Has the Cheshire Fat Cat swallowed the pension fund mushroom? Is the Red Queen in charge of forest practices? "Off with their Limbs... Croquet anyone?"

Perhaps the time has come, in Walrus speak, to sort the cabbages from the Kings. Let's have Timber West act like the public asset that it aspires to become. Let's have it regulated in the same manner as forest companies that work on crown land. Let Timber West face the same monitoring and the same independent audits on their used-to-be "private" land as they do on crown land. Let's have Timber West act like a public citizen in the Shawnigan Watershed. After all, it could now be owned by the elders of our society. But hey, wait a minute, does this mean that current public servants earning their future pension benefits from Timber West operations would also be their own monitors and auditors of forest practice? Would the public service now be a real estate developer as well as the approving officer? Is this a tangled web I see before me?

Oh, and by the way elders, now that you hope to own a good swath of the private land in the E&N land grant area, how about buying us a decent railway! Wasn't that the purpose of that grant, anyway?

Bruce Fraser

Editor's Note: On Friday, April 8th, CVRD representatives met with the Private Managed Forest Land Council in Victoria to pursue the complaint outlined in the letter printed below. The Council assured the CVRD that the logging was consistent with existing private land legislation that, however, lacks three major requirements: effective public consultation, care for visual effects and limits on cumulative impact on the watershed. The CVRD is now carrying the complaint forward to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Stay tuned.

March 21, 2011

Chair Trevor Swan and Council
Private Managed Forest Land Council
PO Box 31059
314 - 3980 Shelbourne Street
VICTORIA, BC V8N 6J1

Dear Mr. Swan and Council:

Re: **Logging on the Western Shore of Shawnigan Lake**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) to advise that at its meeting of March 9, 2011, the Board resolved to formally complain to the Private Managed Forest Land Council about a recent timber harvest on the west shore of Shawnigan Lake.

In early 2011, a large 217 hectare parcel of private managed forest land, located in Block 522 of the Malahat Land District, was clear-cut on the immediate slopes of Shawnigan Lake, resulting in maximum modification to the landscape. Road building, felling, yarding, decking, and log loading proceeded for seven days a week from 18 to 24 hours per day during January and February and well into March 2011.

This private land logging on Shawnigan Lake's western shore proceeded

without any consultation prior to commencement or subsequent contact with Lake residents, water users or local government. Neither Island Timberlands GP Ltd, nor the Private Managed Forest Land Council made any discernible effort to ascertain, or address obvious public concerns.

There is no evidence of consideration of cumulative watershed impact, visual integrity, wildlife habitat, fishery values, threatened ecosystems and species in the basin, forest recovery or soil conservation, within the harvested area and no way for the public to determine what may be planned for the future.

The extent of privately held forest land in the Shawnigan Watershed is a unique artifact of the E&N land grant made in colonial times. What may have appeared to be appropriate at that time to promote completion of a Vancouver Island railway is no longer appropriate in the modern conditions of a major watershed in a highly populated area that contains both, a major investment in residential and commercial development, and dependence on the watershed for domestic water supplies.

Large scale logging that is conducted on large tracts of private land without reference to the context of the rest of the basin landscape is effectively irresponsible.

The rationale that it is private land, and that the owner can deal with it as he, or she, pleases might apply to small land holdings or woodlot-sized properties, although the requirements of limiting damage to their neighbours' interests still obviously applies. A "private privilege" rationale is not appropriate for large-scale holdings. Such lands should be subject to the same regulatory forest practice regime that applies to Crown lands, where issues of community watershed,

visual, wildlife, fishery, and threatened ecosystems, and species values are professionally managed and are thus fully considered, monitored and independently audited.

Currently these are only partially regulated by the Private Managed Forest Land Act and overseen by the Private Managed Forest Land Council that in the current circumstances are patently inadequate to the task.

If forest practices in the Shawnigan Basin are being properly managed, then the following approach should be employed:

1. Thorough consultations with Lake residents, water users and local government should take place before logging plans are developed in order to be able to modify layout and extent prior to expenses being incurred that would lock in development regardless of identified concerns. Consultations should continue during the logging and any subsequent treatment of the land.
2. Proper consideration should be given to the cumulative impact of forest openings and land conversions in the Basin in order to maintain the hydrological integrity of the Lake and its streams. A professional protocol for work in community watersheds should be employed. Similarly, it should be seen to be necessary to respect the requirements that protect a fishery sensitive water body.
3. Consideration should be given to harvesting patterns that used alternatives to large clear cuts in order to limit watershed impact, provide for landscape sensitive visual design, conserve wildlife and fishery habitat, maintain representation of the threatened ecosystem variants and species at risk within the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone and conserve forest soils.
4. Proper consideration should be given to the impact of logging extent and layout on the visual integrity of the Lake environment, given the

5. very high residential, recreational and tourism values present in the basin. Proper consideration should be given to the daily and weekly operating schedule, with its attendant industrial noise and hauling traffic, given the proximity of the logging to residential areas and the limited public road network.
6. Haul routes and haul times should be planned to limit safety concerns and congestion on rural roads, particularly on school bus routes.
7. Land rehabilitation and reforestation should be promptly carried out to ensure that the land base remains productive for sustainable forestry uses.
8. Plans for land conversion from forestry to residential or industrial uses should be discussed well in advance with the Regional District to determine the suitability of the proposals and their conformance with the intent of the applicable Official Community Plans.
9. Planning for and conducting forestry operations in the Shawnigan Watershed should be managed with precisely the same professional and regulatory requirements that are in place for Crown land.

The CVRD is interested in preventing future instances of this type of activity in the Basin. I would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss ways to resolve these issues and explore steps to improve local forestry practices in the South Cowichan Community.

Sincerely,

Warren Jones,
Chief Administrative Officer

JE:WJ:rj

pc: CVRD Board of Directors
Minister of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

Elkington Forest

By Lori Treloar from conversations with Doug Makaroff

For the residents of Shawnigan, the health of the watershed is regularly identified as the most important community concern. Many elements can affect a community watershed, but no threat is greater than the potential damage from unregulated clear cutting on private forest lands within the watershed. Forestry companies are for-profit companies that need to benefit from the assets of their investment. Clear cutting is one obvious solution.

However, there are other options. Eco-forestry is the science of preserving fully intact forest ecosystems while providing for appropriate levels of commercial timber extraction. In south Shawnigan, at the headwaters of the Shawnigan Watershed, there is a unique for-profit development project emerging from the forest that will serve as a model for future forest land use. Over the next 3 years, the 1000 acre Elkington Forest will become an eco-forest conservation community that will retain 85% of its forest in perpetuity. 15% of the property will be used for mixed "light on the land" development and the remaining 85% will have either "no-cut" conservation covenants registered to protect wildlife and plant life, or covenants ensuring only FSC eco-system based forestry operations.

Dr. Eric Elkington purchased the

property in 1946. When Dr. Elkington died, the family had to consider their options relating to the costs of retaining the property. Some light industrial timber harvesting took place out of financial necessity but the family decided that eco-forestry was more in keeping with their vision for the property. Although members of the family will continue to own a large portion of the property, the entire acreage will be under the stewardship of the restrictive covenants held by the Land Conservancy of BC and the CVRD.

The new Elkington Forest community overlooking Shawnigan Lake will offer 77 home sites in three hamlet style villages and allow for 15 eco-industrial business opportunities. The development also has 75 acres for agricultural, agro-forestry, or equestrian uses; all available at reasonable land costs. If a resident chooses to own a horse or wants land for food production, the opportunity is there. The community will have a coffee shop, community centre and picnic area and will become an integral part of the Trans-Canada Trail system on Vancouver Island. In addition, the park dedication allows for a variety of recreational opportunities that include biking and hiking trails in and around the property, access to nature conservation areas, a trail corridor that will eventually connect Victoria to the Cowichan Valley Trail and beautiful forested trails. A destination adventure eco-lodge will also be located on the property.

The Living Forest Communities

team, (see livingforestcommunities.com) led by Doug Makaroff, is collaborating with the not-for-profit Trust for Sustainable Forestry, (see sustainableforestry.com) founded by Order of Canada recipient, Ann Mortifee. Jointly they are creating a new social finance collaboration, which Doug Makaroff says has an ambitious goal of "creating a societal transition from industrial de-forestation to ecosystem-based forestry." This collaboration between for-profit and not-for-profit runs throughout the project, including the planning and development, and culminates with the distribution of a significant portion of the profits to the Trust, who will then re-invest the funds in the best local eco-forestry programs.



Doug Makaroff

While many residents of Shawnigan are concerned with the rampant development proposals in the area, few could find fault with the potential for this type of development. It did not happen by accident - the developers have done their homework. There has been an extensive analysis of the land, including an ecological baseline assessment done by biologists traversing the property, and an archaeological assessment completed in consultation with local First Nation bands.

Care has been taken to plan a sustainable community that respects its surroundings. The timber framed houses, will be heated and cooled by geo-thermal, will feature natural local materials and will rate highly in energy

efficiency. With its own fire hall and fire truck, the community will meet Firesmart certification requirements. The developers have committed to an integrated rainwater management program, and are also applying for the new Salmon Safe certification program to ensure the highest possible water quality within the many streams and water bodies on the property. In the words of Doug Makaroff, "we have focused on the health of the wetlands which are really the filters, or the kidneys of our watershed" and, "We have committed to provide the highest quality of sewage treatment that is available. It will be a 4 phase system consisting of a macro-biological sewage treatment facility that will produce Class A effluent with beneficial dispersal to man-made wetlands or seasonally to raised mound filtration beds... all water sources from the development will have a beneficial impact on the watershed."

The Elkington Forest development may sound like a Utopian dream but perhaps it is just a well thought out culmination of forward thinking planners and a few not-for-profit eco-forest advocates. In Shawnigan's beautiful back yard, developers have come up with a visionary plan that will enable them to protect and profit from a piece of land that was zoned to be clearcut. The long-term benefit for Shawnigan is a sustainable community that retains much of the forest that we cherish, and creates new employment in the forest.

The Living Forest Communities team has recently purchased the land, and is commencing the sale of the first 18 building lots with homes. For more information, see elkingtonforest.com, or phone 250-386-6600.

Stocking our Lake

By Brian Martin

The Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery located in Duncan is one of five Freshwater Hatcheries operated by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. The Society is a non profit organization dedicated to conserve and enhance the freshwater resources of BC for the benefit of the public. Their main partner is the Government of BC and for which the Society delivers BC's lake stocking programs.

Here on the island, Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery stocks about 75 lakes with approx. 300,000 trout per year. This helps to maintain a successful freshwater fishery on Island lakes and streams. Shawnigan Lake is one of many lakes that receive catchable rainbows that are ready to be caught by anglers of all ages. Shawnigan Lake is stocked with 5,000 of these trout in the spring and another 5,000 in the fall. The best fishing occurs on the lake during



Photo: Gabriella Nash

these periods as water temperature in the spring is warming up from the cold winter months and cooling down in the fall from those long hot summer days.

Other lakes stocked in the area are with catchable rainbows are, Spectacle, Dougan, Quamichan, Fuller, and Che-mainus

For more information on our stocking programs, where the hot spots are and tips on how to fish, you can go to www.gofishbc.com which will give you access to updated stocking reports and fishing information as well as a host of other information about the Freshwater Fisheries

Society of BC and what we do. You can purchase your fishing license online. Funds from your purchase go directly to the Society and are put right back into supporting the programs that the Society provides to maintain healthy and thriving recreational fisheries in your local areas.

Brian is the Assistant Manager of the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery.

Director's Report for Electoral Area B, Shawnigan Lake

by Ken Cossey



Ken Cossey

Perhaps the start of spring is finally upon us, but wait I had to scrape my windows yet again this morning. I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Fraser and the CVRD Environment Commission for drawing the CVRD Board's attention to the issue of logging on private managed forestry lands. For lands that fall into this category, they are governed by the Private Managed Forest Land Act and the requirements of this act are guided by the Private Managed Forest Land Council. This council consists of representatives of the companies and individuals with land designated as private managed forest land. Unfortunately, based upon our meeting with part of the land council on April 8, this council has no enforcement capabilities. They have issued a field practices guide though. If you want more information about the group please visit their website at www.pmflc.ca

On another note, did you know that approximately 52.6-percent (56.2%) or 171,506 hectares of the entire CVRD land base is contained within the private managed forest land designation.

Other issues:

Our Annual Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 30th at 7:00 at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Topics for discussion will include the state of our roads, safe boating issues, Shawnigan Hills playing fields, Elsie Miles update, OCP update, the fire department and policing.

Also, "Meet the Director Sessions" are scheduled for:

Friday, May 20th 1-5

Wednesday, July 6th 6-9

Friday, September 23rd 1-5

Monday, October 3rd 6-9

Area B residents can meet with me face-to-face to discuss matters of concern. The Director sessions are held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre lounge.

If you would like to discuss these issues or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at (250) 743 1336 or kcossey@seaside.net

Shawnigan Lake Business Association



Roy Davies

For the past several months, the SLBA has been hosting its Networking Tuesdays at Moziro's between 8 and 9 am. This idea came about as a way for both business and

community members to interact on a casual level. Subjects have ranged from local politics to ideas for a new line of t-shirts. Attendees are encouraged to bring any information on projects they have on the go, or a special their business may be holding. The table is open to ideas, feedback, and questions. Coffee is provided to any SLBA member sporting their own mug at \$1 per fill. If you would like more information on Networking Tuesday, set the alarm, grab a mug and come on down we'll be happy to have you.

Another project the SLBA is working on is a reprint of our map that was produced about two years ago. There

were 10,000 copies printed, and have almost all been distributed through local businesses and community events. The SLBA will be contacting members and business with advertising opportunities soon. If you are interested in getting copies of the map, you can do so through most business in the Village.

Finally, the SLBA board is looking for someone to help maintain our website, www.shawniganlakeonline.com. Over the past few years, Chris Clay, one of our members has been doing an incredible job keeping the site up to date and interesting. Chris and his family are moving to the Comox Valley and so Chris is stepping down as a board member. He will be maintaining the site until a replacement can be found. So, if there is anyone interested in this task, with some knowledge of the field, please let us know. A special thank you also goes out to Chris and all his work over the years.

Please visit www.shawniganlakeonline.com for more information on the SLBA and Shawnigan Lake.

Roy is the Chair of the SLBA.

Shawnigan (Area B) Parks Commission

By Margaret Symon

First and foremost, many thanks to the Shawnigan Focus team for the excellent first edition of our new community newspaper! Well done!

With spring advancing, now is the time to get out and explore our local parks! Final touch-ups are being made this month on first phase upgrades of Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park. Created by local volunteers several years ago, the CVRD took over at the park when the project outgrew its volunteer efforts. With community input, a user-group study was conducted, which recommended a three-phase transformation to the park.

The first phase, including construction of a baseball diamond, a perimeter gravel track, and an international-sized soccer pitch is near completion. Next steps include a washroom facility, picnic shelter, playground equipment, and connections to off-site trails. Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park is accessed from Renfrew Road; turn onto Gregory at the Beach Estates sign, turn right onto Meadowview, another right on Hurley, and then make a short right into the park.

Renovation of the Kinsol Trestle is nearing completion too! Guard

rails are being installed in advance of the grand opening, tentatively scheduled for late spring or early summer.

In the 20th century the transcontinental railway connected all Canadian provinces. Today the 21,500 Trans Canada Trail links every province and territory, from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans. Rehabilitation of the Trestle will complete the "missing link" in the section of the Trans Canada Trail between Shawnigan Lake and the rest of Canada!

On the last weekend in May, please welcome triathletes from the rest of Canada and overseas to the Subaru Shawnigan Triathlon! Three different course lengths will be used on race day (May 29): Half-Iron, Olympic, and Sprint. Volunteers are still needed volunteer@triserics.ca

Margaret is the Chair of the Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks Commission



Margaret Symon



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National Volunteer Week - Why Volunteer?

by Gary Horwood

Volunteerism

In the minds of far too many people, the word "volunteer" conjures an image of little old people, with nothing else to do, selling raffle tickets at a mall.

Not enough people see volunteerism as a way to keep important services running in their communities. Services that would be so outrageously expensive, we could not otherwise afford to have them.

Blood Donor clinics rely heavily on volunteers as do many community theatres. Minor league sports, the local Parks and Recreation commission, arts events, or the MS Society fund-raising walk could never be as successful. Around the province, there are thousands of research, development, and sports boards who work for little or no pay. Mental health organizations like Providence Farm or outreach organizations like Open Door or Salvation Army could never exist without the support of volunteers.

You would not be reading this newspaper if it were not for volunteers as this is an entirely volunteer-run, non-profit organization.

The fact is that, if the tens of thousands of volunteers were not out there doing their thing every day, it is safe to say that most government functions would be crushed by the weight of the extra costs involved in running our society. Volunteerism to society is akin to "family helping family". I will look after your needs today if you help me with my needs tomorrow!

Hi-Tec Volunteer Bureau

In Shawnigan, a new feature has been added to the Shawnigan Residents' Association website. It allows you to register as a volunteer anonymously. When an organization requests volunteers, the system sends you an email with their request. They don't know you have been contacted. If you wish to respond, you do. If not, you can ignore it without feeling guilty.

If you are an organization needing volunteers you simply fill out the online form. After you have filled in the number of volunteers needed, hours, a description of the duties etc. the website will email the form to all registered names on the site. People receiving the form can choose to respond if they have the time or pass on the request. There is no charge for this service.

Go to their website at www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com.

Maybe you can volunteer to drive some old folks around to shop or, serve on one of the many good committees . . . or you can sell tickets at the mall.

One only needs to look at all of the organizations reporting in this newspaper to understand the tremendous need for willing bodies to fill much needed roles.

The rest of the community is your family. What part do you want to play?

Gary Horwood is
President of the SRA

Inspire! Shawnigan Arts, Culture & Heritage Collective

by Terry Dheensaw

Thank you to everyone who attended our first meeting on April 9th for Inspire! Shawnigan, or who expressed interest in involvement with Inspire! Shawnigan. The meeting was a success ~ well attended, with a broad variety of Arts represented.

Building on the momentum of that meeting, we are currently working on:

- getting a web presence (with thanks to SLRA and to Tim Taylor)
- getting funding
- working on SLAM Placemaking: Shawnigan Lake Arts & Multi-Culture Street Fest! (Sept 10, 2011)
- seeking an administrative volunteer
- expanding awareness and support of the Arts in our community.

- building on partnerships and ideas together.
- DRAFTING AN ACTION PLAN

Our next meeting is planned for Sunday, May 29th at the Shawnigan Art House (1756 Wilmot Ave, Shawnigan Village) ~ time TBA

Looking forward to moving forward with you!

If you missed the meeting, or would like more information about Inspire! and the May 29th meeting please contact:

Terry Dheensaw 250-743-9949 tdheensaw@shaw.ca
Lynn Weaver 250-743-5846 shawniganarts@gmail.com or moondancearts@yahoo.ca (also for directions or info re: Art House)

SURVEYING !

By Robin LeGarff

I haven't written anything about surveying since 'way back in the old days, in the Shawnigan Crier, forerunner to today's Focus; but now that I'm safely retired and hopefully out of harm's way, I feel that I can once again ramble away. First, a rant. Most of my work in the last thirty years has been to rectify mistakes of the past, mistakes by the owners or neighbours (but never the surveyors). Here is a list, a lengthy one, of what NOT to do:

- assume that a pipe, peg or post is your property corner
- assume that, because you have the front and back pegs of a boundary, that you can therefore create the straight line between them
- given the first two assumptions, pour concrete for foundations
- ignore the requirements of local authorities. What do they know?
- If a neighbour raises a fuss, throw a rock at him and call a lawyer.

Whoops. The list could go on, but the point of these common assumptions is that much grief can be avoided by phoning a land surveyor (or even an ex-land surveyor) for advice. It may cost you to find out that you were right all along, but it is cheap insurance, and may mollify your neighbour who probably has his own supply of rocks. End of rant, for now.

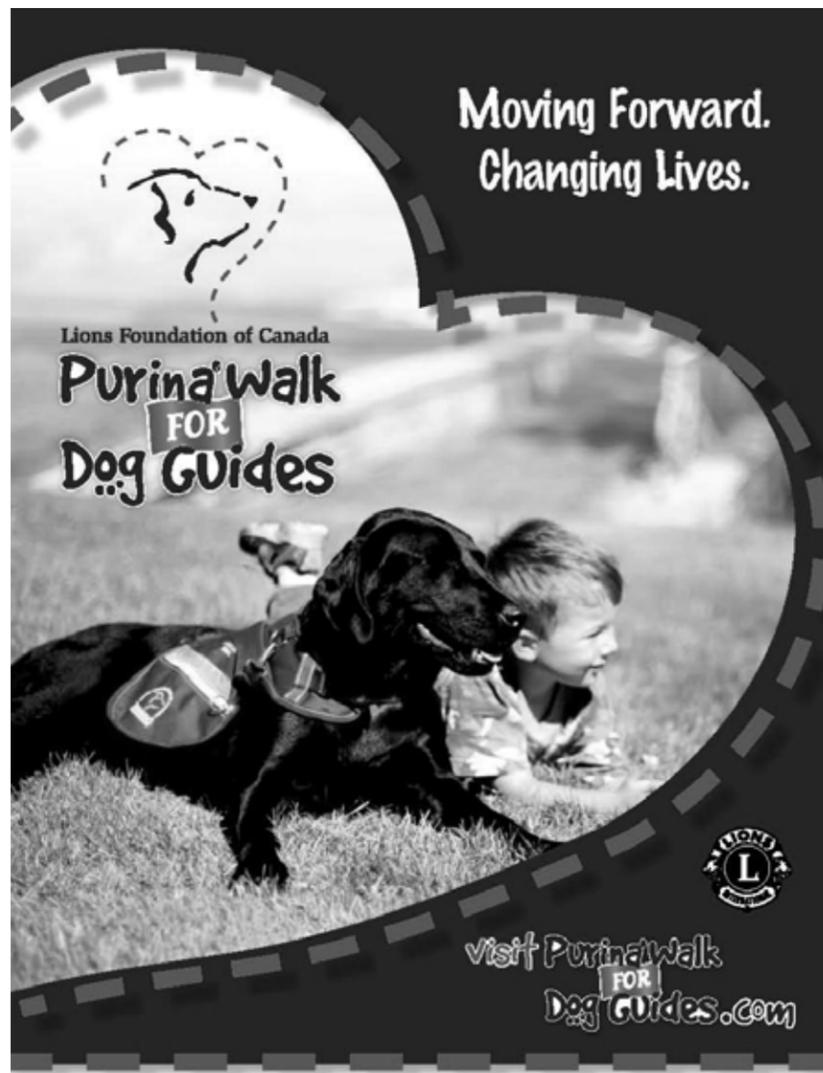
The next important point to make is that a property marker or corner MAY be a 1/2" square iron post (or Pin), or maybe an old iron pipe, maybe a square wooden post, maybe a bronze monument. It also could be missing entirely, if your surly neighbour dug it out and saved it for a decoration in his den. In any event, the current subdivision plan, or even a newer posting plan will tell you or the surveyor you have wisely asked for advice, just what kind of markers (or monuments as we call them) have been placed, or found in

place. What is there now, nobody knows for sure. Surveying is an arcane sort of pseudo-science, trying to be current, trying to be technical, pretending to be oh-so-accurate. But really, we are dealing here with history, so some dimensions are in chains (1 chain= 66 ft.) and sometimes in decimal feet (as in 5.95 feet - 5 ft, 11 1/4 inches). Directions can be in degrees, minutes and seconds in quadrant format (N35°45'20"W) or in azimuth format, starting from due North or due South (so that last example might be shown as '124°14'40"). Wow. Aren't you glad that there are surveyors?

Confused? Of course. That's why surveyors exist. And you thought it was just so that they could make money. Hah. There is help though, CHEAP help; just take your latest tax notice along to the CVRD and ask at the front counter for the plan of the subdivision that created (or modified) your lot. Understanding that plan is not their responsibility, but a careful scan of the information on the face of the plan should help you. First, the title: "Plan of subdivision of ..." followed by a (usually) long-winded parable like "Part of the remainder of Lot 6, Section 5, Range 2, Shawnigan District, Plan 1002," Sort of interesting, but mostly dull, and it doesn't really tell you anything about your lot, just what existed before. It is valuable only to the surveyor who is trying to understand, for example, why the original lot which was 332 feet wide is now only two lots with a total width of 265', including a new road allowance. Okay, let's skip that...

The next useful piece of information is the LEGEND, where much is explained. Little symbols at the corners of the lots tell what sort of monument was set or found there, telling you what you should be looking for, and how far that thing is from some other similar point. See?

Robin is an ex-BC Land Surveyor.



MAY 29TH, 10AM AT SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

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MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

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REGISTRATION OPENS AT 9:30AM. BBQ TO FOLLOW WALK.



SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011
5th Annual Shawnigan Lake TRIATHLON
7:30AM-3:30PM

Join us at West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park or VOLUNTEER for a weekend of fun and festivities! On Saturday kids can register for the FREE Danone Kid's run, enjoy Yoga exhibits by Kali Yoga and fill up at the Camp Pringle Pasta Party. On Sunday watch as hundreds of athletes from all across North America swim, bike and run in and around the lake and along the historic Trans Canada Trail to the Kinsol Trestle!

EXPECT CONGESTION ON ROADS DURING THIS TIME

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The Area B (Shawnigan Lake) Advisory Planning Commission and the OCP

By Graham Ross-Smith



Graham Ross-Smith

The Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC) are closely connected. The legislated purpose of planning commissions 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 this Part."

APCs are made up of local residents appointed by the regional government to serve up to three years without remuneration. In other words, APC members are volunteers to ensure that a relevant OCP is in place and that applications to use land are consistent with the plan. An APC can have as many as ten commissioners. The Shawnigan APC currently has seven.

For the past four years, four of those members have served as APC representatives on the OCP Steering Committee. In addition to attending monthly APC meetings, John Clark, Sara Middleton, Roger Painter and Rod Macintosh attended many working meetings. The committee will continue to hold meetings to incorporate feedback received open houses. Upon completion of that task, public meetings will be held on the amended draft OCP for further public input. Thus, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done by the OCP Steering Committee before the OCP can go to the Province for approval.

All APC meetings are open to the public and are usually held in the evening of the first Thursday of each month at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Copies of agendas and minutes are available through the CVRD.

Graham is a member of the Advisory Planning Commission.

Family Caregivers Support Society

By Garth Harvey

I thought you might like to know why we feel so at home in Shawnigan Lake. It really all started in 1995 when the Senior Advisory Society in Duncan hired a new coordinator for their caregiver support group. Her mandate was to care for Duncan's group and develop support groups in other communities.

With the support of Joanne and Neal Stuart, a group was started in Shawnigan with space in Acacia Ty Mawr. With work going on in other communities, it soon became apparent that more than support groups were needed to support family caregivers. As often happens, more means more money and to get it we would have to form a non-profit company. The SLCC was our umbrella for collecting the money we needed to get incorporation started and the very first tax receipt issued was signed by Marion Davies. Throughout our early fund raising efforts, Bill Levity, Paul Belanger, Shawnigan Players, and others forgotten, loaned their time and talents in our interests.

When we decided it would be better to

do one thing well, the volunteers came out of the woodwork to help with the Shawnigan Lake Walk. The Director of Area B, Ken Cossey has also been very supportive and has provided much needed grant-in-aid contributions.

From under the SLCC's umbrella, and the leadership of a Shawnigan Lake resident, a unique service to family caregivers has developed that has attracted national and international attention. Oh yes, we are quite happy to call Shawnigan Lake Home.

Garth is the President of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Society.

Shawnigan Residents Association

by Graham Ross-Smith

It was over ten years ago that the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) told the CVRD through its area director, Mr. Rick Spencer, that it was time for the area's official community plan to be reviewed. However it was not until Mr. Ken Cossey became the Shawnigan electoral area director that the Cowichan Valley Regional District agreed that a review of the plan was well past due and decided to address the matter.

Through a request to the SRA board, from the CVRD, for an association appointee to the OCP Steering Committee, Mr. Brent Beach was named to represent the members and directors of the association. From the start of the process, over three years ago, Brent has taken his responsibilities very seriously and has been exceedingly generous in contributing his time, knowledge and talent to the work of that committee in order to ensure that our new OCP will be a truly effective guide for the making of decisions bearing on this community's growth and development over the next decade.

Through Brent, the SRA has worked on all subjects covered in the planning document with particular attention being given to that part of Area B known as the Shawnigan Lake watershed. While it is a fact that the watershed land is a relatively small part of the total land area covered by Electoral Area B, it is arguably the most important part of the picture. This is so because the majority of Shawnigan Lakers live in or very close to the watershed lands and because the lake and its watershed, in addition to being the focus of many recreational activities during the summer months, is the source of drinking water for thousands of people. It is essential, therefore, that we "get it right" for this part of Area B in the new South Cowichan Joint OCP.

Whatever the final document comes to look like, you can be assured that Brent and the SRA have worked hard to ensure that the plan protects and enhances that part of our community known as "the watershed."

*Graham is a director on the Shawnigan Residents Association board
Graham is a director for the Shawnigan Residents Association*



Graham Ross-Smith



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Shawnigan Playschool Floats Nautical Art Show

By Crystal Sawyer



Crystal Sawyer

When it comes to excitement about their art exhibition, the kids at Serenity Cove Children's Centre are all in the same boat.

Investigation of Boats — on now until May 9 at Shawnigan Art House/Moon-dance Dynamic Arts School — is the culmination of four month's worth of exploration by a handful of very dedicated four-year-olds.

"What started in November with the idea to build a boat led to a pretty in-depth investigation that consumed this group for months,"

explains Ocean Kneeland, who runs the Waldorf- and Reggio-inspired

playschool in Shawnigan Lake.

Kneeland says she discovered the process of documentation at a Reggio-based playschool during her ECE training. "The passion I've witnessed from these children has been incredible. One of our girls even insisted that she come in for an extra morning because she knew we were painting the sail."

Kathy Sagar, who facilitates the preschoolers, says, "The project really took on a life of its own. It has been a tremendous learning tool for all of us."

Before building the main ship, Sagar explains that the children built endless docks and ramps, created boat-themed paintings, learned to identify all the components of boats, drew plans, and sculpted models from yogurt containers and popsicle sticks.

"We first drew it with markers," explains little Oscar. "Then we painted the sail, then we put the sail through a big pole."

"Then we put dry sand at the bottom, so the mast doesn't wobble all around," pipes in Tristan.

"Everyone drew on it, and everyone paper mâchéd it," confirms Galen. "We all worked on it together, taking turns."

In addition to the huge paper mâché sailboat, the display will include paintings of boats, a scrapbook, documented conversations and photos illustrating the children's work.

See Investigation of Boats until May 9 at 1756 Wilmot Ave., Shawnigan Lake, Fridays 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Mondays 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Crystal is a freelance writer and communication consultant in the Cowichan Valley. Contact her at triveniwest@gmail.com.

Photos - Chris Clay



Saheeb working on his boat

Ecostravaganza! 2011

By Mari Ann Rockson

The Ecole Mill Bay Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be holding Ecostravaganza!, a fun family event, on June 4th 2011, in celebration of World Environment Day, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ecole Mill Bay is a French Immersion public elementary school attended by children from many Shawnigan Lake families.

"Families like mine living in the Cowichan Valley and across Vancouver Island are looking for ways to have a greener, more sustainable lifestyle and a greener future for their children," said Michelle Redfern. "Ecostravaganza! will give people easy ways to be more eco-friendly while having fun at a great family celebration."

This event promotes green living to the 25,000 families living in the Cowichan Valley. It includes a green marketplace, a children's activity area (including eco-carnival activities), a giant plant sale, eco-workshops, a live stage, a silent auction and a used book sale. The green marketplace will feature local eco-vendors and student-made green products, as well as eco-friendly services such as bike tune-ups. There will be a live stage. Four eco-workshops will explore hot topics for green and sustainable living - Solar Hot Water, Geothermal Heating & Cooling, Permaculture and Eco-lawn Care.

Ecostravaganza! 2011 will be solar-powered. "Ecostravaganza! 2010 attracted over 2000 people, 51 vendors and dozens of performance groups, and we are building on this success," said Mari Ann Rockson. "There is a real need in our community for simple and concrete green ideas on how people can change the way they live, consume and commute."

One of the most popular features of Ecostravaganza! is the huge plant sale, which has been a feature at the school since 2009. Mary Plunet, and her husband, Dale Plunet donated plants to the school after she passed away from cancer, allowing her gardening legacy to be spread throughout the Cowichan Valley. Ecole Mill Bay named their children's teaching garden in honour of this devoted and accomplished gardener. \$1,000 from the proceeds of the first school Eco-fair in 2009 was donated to the Canadian Cancer Society in Mary's memory.

The giant plant sale at Ecostravaganza! is made possible by parent volunteers, who dig up donated plants from gardens around the Valley. Plants sold at Ecostravaganza! comprise some of the Valley's favourite species, including plants rescued from local gardens that are slated to be demolished, plants donated by the community and plants divided from the original perennials from Mary's Garden.

Ecole Mill Bay is working hard to be a "green" school. In addition to a composting program, this year, the school is working on a year-round vegetable garden which functions as a classroom. Proceeds will support equipping Ecole Mill Bay's classrooms with new technology, enhancing educational opportunities and providing students with opportunities to be inspired by and connected to the environment and community around them. Partial proceeds will also be donated to Providence Farm.

For more information, go to: www.ecostravaganza.ca/. Admission is free, so come join the fun on June 4th at Ecole Mill Bay (located at 3175 Cobble Hill Rd., in Mill Bay)!

Mari Ann is the 2011 Ecostravaganza Co-chair.

Dwight International School

By Jaimie Love

Dwight International School is a small school with a big heart! We pride ourselves on having exceptional staff who all go that extra mile for our students. With just over 100 students in total, students enjoy small class sizes and get to know one another really well. When asked if they can describe the school in one word, the vast majority of students thought of the same one: community. It's been nearly two years since Dwight opened its doors for the first time and in that short time the students and staff have built a community of caring, nurturing, well-balanced individuals.

Spanning over 23 acres, Dwight is located on beautiful Shawnigan Lake. Currently offering grades 7 through 12, Dwight is excited to be offering grade 6 for the 2011-2012 academic year. Being lakefront allows students to enjoy canoeing and kayaking, swimming and various other water activities. Students make trails running, hiking and even mountain biking in the 20 acres of forest located just beyond the school.

At Dwight, students have the choice of pursuing the world-re-

nowned International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Taken in Grades 11 and 12, the IB Programme is the international standard for academic excellence. The programme is academically challenging yet balanced and prepares students for success at university and life beyond. The IB Diploma is recognized by leading universities around the world and often students can earn early acceptance or even first year university credit for classes taken in the second year of the programme. Additionally, we offer the regular BC Ministry of Education curriculum, making Dwight the only boarding high school in Western Canada to offer both the IB Diploma and BC Dogwood graduation programmes.

We are committed to student-centered experiential learning and always put the students' strengths and interests first. Students are encouraged to engage in meaningful community service, participate in physical activities and explore their creativity as an integral part of their personal development. Committed to both diversity and inclusiveness, Dwight is a multicultural mosaic of bright young minds and is proud to be preparing a future generation of well-educated and ethical global leaders who will seek to create an environment of equality and respect for all human beings.

Jaimie is the Director of Admissions for Dwight International School

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Shawnigan Lake - Home of Canada's 1st Outdoor Triathlon of the Year

2011 marks the fifth annual event for the Subaru Shawnigan Lake Triathlon. This event has welcomed hundreds of athletes of all abilities and nationalities who travel to Shawnigan Lake to swim, bike and run in this beautiful community. The 2011 race will host approximately 500 athletes and spectators from countries as far away as Australia, Switzerland and from across North America. The average age of the athletes is 38.5 and 58% male.

The Triathlon hosts three different distances; the Half Iron (1900m swim, 88km bike – 4 loops around the lake and a 21.1km run), the Olympic (1500m swim, 44km bike – 2 loops around the lake & a 10km run) and the Sprint (500m swim, 22km bike – just 1 loop around the lake & a 5km run). The water temperature is predicted to be 16-19 degree's Celsius, so a wetsuit swim is very likely.

Danone Yogurt & the Triathlon are pleased to introduce the new Danone Kids Fun Run! Bring your kids out on Saturday, May 28th, for this free fun run! The distance is 1km but will be adjusted down for the younger children. All kids 3-13 are invited to participate. There will be great prizes and ribbons for all finishers!

The Triathlon is also proud to support the historic Kinsol Trestle project and Camp Pringle. The Trestle

is slated to reopen this spring and the event is planning to raise funds to donate to this great cause.

Camp Pringle will also host a traditional Pasta Party Athlete dinner held on Saturday, May 28th, from 5 to 7PM. Feel free to join the race organizers, athletes, peers and volunteers at Camp Pringle's beautiful, brand new dining hall. Enjoy Chef Bob's yummy lasagna and other pastas with your choice of vegetarian, meat and seafood dishes, salads and desserts. Tickets are available for \$22.50 and children under 6 eat for free. There will be a number of great draw prizes, so come support Camp Pringle and send some kids to camp!

The success of the Subaru Shawnigan Lake Triathlon has been due to the hard work and effort of the local volunteer committee, sponsors and the hundreds of volunteers who come out to help on race weekend. It's their sweat and tears, and efforts that make the event happen each year. They believe in the athletes and their impact to the community and work diligently to ensure they are all welcome and that each of their races is a safe and enjoyable one!

Please join us May 28 & 29. Meet the athletes and share with them the beautiful community of Shawnigan Lake.

For information, tickets, to volunteer or make a donation, please visit www.triserries.ca/shawnigan_lake/

Colin Anderson

Triathlon participant Colin Anderson has been interested in fitness since childhood. This is his third year as an Individual Olympic entrant. For those who don't know, Colin will swim fifteen hundred metres then bicycle for fifty four kilometres followed by a ten kilometre run.



Two years ago Colin

took part in the Police and Fire Games in Vancouver. He says this really fired up his determination to keep in shape. He enjoys Shawnigan's Triathlon because of the beautiful setting and excellent organization. Not to be outdone, his wife Kristy is entering the Individual Sprint event for the second year.

by Anne Moore

Kim Wildfong

Kim Wildfong is on his second year of taking registrations for the Caregiver Walk.

He credits the volunteer team with working hard all year to ensure the success of this main fundraiser for the Society. As a team member he delivers registration forms to local retailers, enters participants in draws, places ad-



vertisements on the website, on various social media and around the community. He likes to follow up with participants beforehand in case of questions.

New this year is a Community Party with fun and food at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Everyone is invited to celebrate!

by Anne Moore

Janet Neilsen

Janet Neilsen has lived in Shawnigan Lake her entire life. She passionately believes in supporting the Shawnigan Lake Walk, benefitting the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society. Caregiving has been a way of life for Janet. She and her sisters, Linda and Anna, looked after their parents. More recently Janet was sole

caregiver to her dear friend, Lynn, who died from terminal cancer in the spring of 2008.



Janet began walking around the lake in 2006. This year she will be entering the ten kilometre kayaking event. Join with her, walking, kayaking or pledging money in support

of this worthy cause.

by Anne Moore



Margaret Symon

Margaret Symon is the Run Course Co-ordinator for the Subaru Triathlon on May 29th. Her job is to inspect and approve the parts of the course. She says that there are approximately one hundred and sixty volunteers which include students from Shawnigan Lake School. The students run the Aid stations for the athletes, providing water, first aid and lots of encouragement with their cheering and antics.

The Kinsol Trestle Restoration Project is the beneficiary of donations and entry fees for this event. There is also a Children's Run at the West Shawnigan Lake Park, the headquarters for the Triathlon.

by Anne Moore



Anne Moore provided these profiles of volunteers and participants from the Subaru Triathlon and Family Caregivers Walk. All featured people are Shawnigan Lake Residents.

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

	Shawnigan Normal	East Side	West Side	Village	Kelsey School
Avg High	10.0	9.0	8.5	9.0	9.8
Avg Low	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.0	2.3
Extr High	22.2	14.6	13.7	15.0	14.5
Extr Low	-11.7	-1.7	-2.5	-1.5	-1.2
Precip	120.2	206.7	175.2	163.4	157.9
Days with Rain	18	27	30	28	27

Lake Temperature (April 15th): 7°



80 inches of Canucks?WOW!

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Young Entrepreneur Employs Local Students

By Farrell Magnussen

When Chris Hennecker was 12 years old, he delivered local newspapers twice a week. One of his friends asked him if he would like to earn more money by delivering flyers. The Henneckers have a family friend in the publishing business and Chris thought instead of being paid for delivering, why not publish his own local paper. A local paper, with a BIG name. Hence, the "Shawnigan Times" was borne. Chris designed the paper on his computer and his dad, Kim, helped with the business plan and the administration side of the business. Chris administers circulation and advertising. Father and son working together and as they describe it, having fun.

I remember the first time Chris came into my office to solicit advertising for his paper. Who could resist buying an ad from such an enterprising young man starting his own business, and of course, I put an ad in his paper.

Four years have passed and Chris has continued to grow his business. He distributes 600 papers, has 7 paper carriers, and plans to expand his distribution area.

The "Shawnigan Times" focuses on their advertisers. They want to put their message out to the local residents. There are also columns and articles about local issues and interests.

For some local businesses it is the first time that they have placed a print ad, and this can be a valuable learning experience for them. As for Chris, he has learned many valuable skills such as responsibility, negotiating, managing, and decision making.

When Chris graduates from Frances Kelsey School, it is uncertain if the "Shawnigan Times" will continue. But for now, I feel that Shawnigan Lake is lucky to have a young man like Chris in our midst. I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for one of Shawnigan Lake's youngest entrepreneurs, and new L drivers. Chris and Kim can be contacted at shawnigantimes@shaw.ca. or 250-743-2197

Farrell is a proof reader for the Shawnigan Focus.



View from the Islands : The Piano

by Bruce Fraser on Isla del Sol



I was repairing my wharf, hefting a twelve-foot two-by-four over my shoulder, paying no attention to

the lake. You could do that in those days, before passing wakeboats could overturn a squatting Sumo wrestler. In fact, then you could rebuild your wharf once in thirty years instead of annually, but that's not what this story is about. I looked up casually to see a piano emerging out of Butler Bay. A piano? You would not normally expect a piano to float, let alone appear suspended on the waters of Shawnigan.

I limped for the binoculars, having dropped that two-by-four on my shin in my haste to clarify the mirage. It turned out that the piano was real and that it was contained in a small barge heading toward the islands. I fully expected to see Nat King Cole at the keyboard playing ragtime but instead it was Paul, hunching over a small outboard. It was a full size upright and it occupied the whole width of the barge. I had a brief thought about how Paul might have got the piano into that barge, but then I remembered that Butler Bay had a public access beach, not like today where someone has fenced it off for their own private uses.

As the musical barge drew closer I shouted, "Hey Paul, I didn't know you played!" He smiled rather grimly for some reason. It could be that he had begun to appreciate how difficult it might be to get that piano out of the barge. My laughter was brought up

short by another very peculiar sight. His friend Gill was fast approaching in a car. Now remember, I was working on the wharf, it is mid-afternoon and not yet happy hour. Of course, it is perfectly normal for a piano-carrying barge with minimal freeboard to be accompanied by the lake's only amphibicar with minimal freeboard. What else would you expect from those islanders? Now there was a target for a wakeboat!

Gill drove up onto the island and parked, while Paul beached the barge. I rowed over to watch, doing my best to appear impressed, not saying out loud those things that I could later regret. The two men stood shin deep in water looking at the piano. The shoreline accommodated the nose of the barge, but no more. The bobbing piano expanded before our eyes. Where was that Sumo when we needed him? Try lifting a 500 pound piano out of a boat that rises as you lift while standing in soft mud. We were three rapidly shortening men, further diminished by the prospect of playing Mozart in the rain for the rest of the summer.

It was then that an image arose in my mind, stimulated by the bark on my shin, now stinging from immersion in the lake. We could use a pair of two-by-fours and lift the piano like a sedan chair. With a fourth helper and two ten foot boards the lady of the lake was delivered to their cabin in regal style, high and dry, the scene only lacking the fawning eunuchs with the fans and the scantily clad nymphs with the flutes. I can still hear those first discordant melodies, before the arrival of the piano tuner, by amphibicar, of course.

Bruce lives year round on Isla del Sol.

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Shawnigan Lake School

By Kyle Hamilton

Rowers Spring Into Season

Spring season is racing season for Shawnigan Lake School rowers. Now is the time when student-athletes get to use the fitness and skills they have been gaining and perfecting since September. Though the local racing season officially begins with the Maple Bay Regatta in mid-April, for many Shawnigan athletes, the spring season kicked off over Spring Break, when the rowers came back early to pack nearly a month's worth of training into just one week. The athletes rowed three times a day and covered more kilometres in a week than they normally row in a month during the regular school year. Despite living together at the boarding school, and attending many of the same classes, the students got to know and respect each other even more through some intense and rewarding practices.



One of the highlights of the camp was when Olympic gold medalist and Canadian National Team coxswain Brian Price spent an afternoon with

the group, sharing his Olympic experiences and giving the athletes an inside look at some of the biggest international races of his life.

As exciting as it is to welcome current and future Olympians to Shawnigan's Frank Read Crewhouse, the real high point of the spring season is the annual Shawnigan Lake Regatta, to be held this year on May 14th and 15th. That weekend, hundreds of Junior-aged athletes will come from across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, stay at the school, and spend two days racing on one of the best waterways in the country.

For some, the Shawnigan Regatta is the last big "tune-up" before they head to St. Catharines, Ontario for the Canadian Secondary School Championships; for others, it will be their final race of the High School season. But for everyone, it's an exciting event, and one more chance to enjoy spring racing at its best.

Kyle is the director of rowing at Shawnigan Lake School.

Museum Muse

by Lori Treloar

Competitive rowing season is in full swing and almost every day a colourful parade of racing shells traverses Shawnigan Lake in a variety of boat sizes and with different propulsion methods. The scullers work both of the oars and race in singles, quads and eights, usually without a coxswain. With sweep oar rowers, each oarsman manages one oar. These boats race in pairs, quads or eights and usually have a coxswain. These sleek racing boats are made from composite material. Their historical counterparts were made entirely of wood.

Rowing has been an important activity on Shawnigan Lake for well over 100 years. In July 1901, the North Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen Regatta (NPAAO) took place for the first time at Shawnigan Lake. Crews came from far and wide to compete, including Victoria, Vancouver and Portland. In 1910, soon after the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association (SLAA) hall was completed, a local rowing club was established. With two second-hand four oared lapstreaks, purchased from the James Bay Athletic Association (JBAA), the SLAA rowing club was in business. To emphasize the importance of rowing the SLAA, in 1912, commissioned a permanent rowing course on the lake. Denis Harris, a BC Land Surveyor, surveyed the course and the Dominion Government granted a charter for the course to the SLAA. The course started in the area of the current Government Wharf and ended close to the two most northerly islands on the lake. The blueprints for this rowing course are stored in the archives of the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

The annual SLAA Regatta became the event of the year at Shawnigan and attracted hundreds of people who arrived by train for the festivities. Saturday September 7, 1912 was date of the 7th Annual Regatta at Shawnigan Lake sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association. Although rowing was the highlight of the day, a comprehensive slate of events was scheduled. Land events included field events, a variety of running races,

children's sports, and a baseball game. On the water, there were at least nine rowing events, a sailing race, a motor launch race, as well as swimming and diving events. The fun started at 1:00 p.m. sharp and the day ended with a dance at 8 p.m.

For a small community, the Shawnigan locals, male and female, always made a good dent in the rowing trophies. George Kingsley, son of the hotel owner, made the SLAA club proud when he won the singles scull race at an international event. Other world champions, like Eddie Hanlan, raced at Shawnigan as well. Unfortunately, most of the SLAA club trophies were lost in the hall fire of 1930.

At the 25th Annual SLAA Regatta, there were no Shawnigan crews in the rowing events. The regatta continued to be a popular event, but the tides were changing. Gas powered boats were becoming the norm and rowing declined. In 1940, "high powered boats circled an oval course in the International Speedboat Regatta of the Vancouver Island Outboard Association." In the 1950s, Galley owner Mr. Hamilton sponsored several regatta-like events. Canoe races, sailing races and swimming events were the norm rather than competitive rowing events.

In the mid 1950s, the SLAA was given a number of racing boats in need of repair. Ironically, the boats came from the dying JBAA Rowing Club where the first Shawnigan boats were from. One of the boats was repaired, and then sold to Shawnigan School. During this time, a SLAA crew occasionally got together in a boat, but there was a waning interest in the sport. Eventually, in 1960, the remaining SLAA racing boats were donated to Shawnigan Lake School for its rowing program. With interest in the sport on the rise again, Shawnigan Lake School established its own annual regatta in 1961. One hundred and ten years after the first regatta on the lake, the 2011 Shawnigan Regatta is scheduled for May 14 & 15.

Lori is the Curator at the Shawnigan Lake Museum

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 April Issue

Congratulations to **Betty Lord!** Betty wins two specialty coffees, compliments of **Moziro's**.

The April picture is a little red marimba sign at 1975 East Shawnigan Lake Rd that belongs to **Woodruff Music School**.

It represents a very lively little music school in the community, with a unique set of instruments (marimbas) all made locally! The students just hosted a "CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN" fundraiser on April 1st, at Sylvan United Church, which raised almost \$700 for children in the rural villages of the Mhondoro region of Zimbabwe.

The music school has been running for over 17 years, and has managed to always retain a large student population almost completely by word of mouth. We are a very connected group of families, sharing the joy of making music in an atmosphere of acceptance and creativity.

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 Blooper

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 MAY 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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The South Cowichan OCP -

A Resident's Guide

By Brent Beach



The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is conducting a review of the Shawnigan Lake Official Community Plan (OCP) - a review that is almost complete.

What is an OCP?

An OCP is a written expression of a vision of what the community will be like in 5, 10, or 15 years. As such, it primarily defines change - how much change is expected, what that change will look like. Right now, the new OCP for Shawnigan Lake proposes an enhanced commercial area in the village core, some development within a larger village area, but very little development within the rest of the watershed. Some topics - parks and trails, solid and liquid waste management - are covered in other plans, as is the regional growth strategy.

How is an OCP used?

An OCP is a guide to CVRD planners and others who make decisions about how development will occur. All land is zoned - assigned one of 20 to 30 different zoning codes. For each zoning code, development on that land - use and density - is defined by the zoning bylaw for that code. The zoning bylaw is in turn based on

the OCP. For example, the Residential Zone code defines what can be built on a piece of property with that code. The OCP guides the CVRD planning department in writing the zoning bylaw.

Occasionally, development does not exactly meet the zoning for the property. The developer can present an altered plan to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC). The APC uses the OCP to decide whether to recommend for or against the altered plan. That recommendation goes to the area directors who use the APC recommendation and the OCP to make a final recommendation to the CVRD board.

The APC, the directors, and the CVRD would normally all follow the directions in the OCP. They could however make a recommendation contrary to the vision expressed in the OCP.

Where are we in the process?

CVRD planning staff, along with a group of Shawnigan Lake residents (the Steering Committee), have been working on the new OCP for 4 years. The OCP is based on community surveys, feedback from Open Houses, and best planning practices. The steering committee has gone over previous drafts of the OCP line by line.

The resulting draft OCP was presented to residents in a series of Open Houses in March and April. Comments from the public are being collected. Residents can submit comments on the OCP directly through the CVRD website. Public comments are welcome right up until the close of the public hearing - some time in June.

Brent is on the OCP Steering Committee.

The OCP Main Document - (cont.)

Section 5 - Shawnigan Lake Watershed Management (page 28)

While in the South Cowichan document, this section applies only to the SL watershed. Failure to protect water quality in the lake is not an option. The introduction section identifies the threats - lake level (too high, too low), pollution and sediment. Key question for SL residents - does the OCP do enough to manage these threats? For example, this winter there has been quite a bit of sediment flowing into the south end of the lake. Do the OCP policies provide a way to detect the source of this sediment, control the sediment at the source, and remediate if required?

Section 10 Village Containment Boundary VCB (page 65).

All OCPs must provide for expected population growth. This OCP targets growth to the VCB through increased density. This increased density will only be allowed once sewer and water services are available. The OCP says that the current private water providers will continue and expand, but the new sewer system will be public (in fact, CVRD). However, in the case of Shawnigan Lake the public sewer system will not reach the whole VCB. In fact, most policies limit density increase to the very small central area (the current village core) that will get sewer services.

Key question for SL residents - do any of the stated VCB objectives make any sense for the proposed SL VCB? Are they in fact not all directed at an undefined village core? Other parts of the OCP indicate that the SL VCB as a whole will not get sewers.

Section 12 - Rural Resource Designation (page 76).

This section deals with that part of the Shawnigan Lake watershed (and Electoral Area B) that lies outside the SL VCB. While it is largely concerned with forestry there is one item Policy 12.21 b which allows for temporary "asphalt batch plants." Key question for SL residents: Do we want asphalt batch plants operating in the watershed?

Section 13 - Rural Residential Designation (page 82).

This designation applies to homes in Electoral Area B outside the Shawnigan Lake VCB. The OCP specifically prohibits new shared water and sewer systems outside the VCB. This would appear to prevent a group of homeowners from joining together to build a modern sewer system that serves a group of 20 or 30 (or 80) nearby homes. Modern shared liquid waste management systems cost less than a septic system rebuild. Such shared systems would eliminate septic field leakage into the lake.

Section 21 - Liquid Waste Management (page 127).

While sewer systems will be required for density increases within the VCB, the OCP eliminates any density increase related to provision of a sewer system outside the VCB (p128 top). The OCP contemplates a sewer system in the village core but does not commit to it (p130). Shawnigan Lake is a village that is 20 kilometres long and only 100 metres wide in some places. Shawnigan Lake sits in the middle of its own watershed. Key question for SL residents - does a liquid waste management plan suitable for a compact village work in Shawnigan Lake?

Section 24 - Rural Development Permit Area (page 141).

Outside the VCB, some development will go through an extra step - "the owner will submit information that demonstrates how the proposed development meets the guidelines" in Section 24. In particular, Section 24.4.4 Landscaping/Rainwater Management/Environmental Protection (p149) and Section 24.4.9 Riparian Areas Regulation (Freshwater) (p153) are very important on all land within the Shawnigan Lake watershed. This extra step is limited usually to "commercial, industrial and multiple family residential developments".

There are two key questions for SL residents. First, guidelines do not carry the force of regulations. In any conflict between a guideline and a use or density clause in the zoning bylaw, the zoning bylaw will prevail. What then is the point of these guidelines?

Second, most of the undeveloped land inside the watershed cannot be used for commercial, industrial or multiple family residential. What is the point of having guidelines for development that cannot occur?

Appendix B - Shawnigan Village Plan

The second document that all SL residents should read thoroughly is the Shawnigan Village Draft Plan, which appears as a separate document although it is Appendix B of the OCP.

Brent is a member of the OCP Steering Committee.

OCP Open Houses

By Graham Ross-Smith

Maps, pictures and text about the draft South Cowichan Official Community Plan were recently on display at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Seven of these OCP open houses were held in locations in the three electoral areas involved, namely Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay/Malahat and Cobble Hill. Two of them were here in Shawnigan in the late afternoon of April 2nd.

At both events the room was festooned with displays giving information in both graphic and verbal form about the major features of the OCP.

The purpose of the open houses was to inform the public about the plan and to get feedback. In attendance to discuss the plan were the Electoral Area Directors, members of the

CVRD's Planning and Development Department and members of the OCP Steering Committee. On both occasions, the room was frequently alive with animated and excited discussion among those who came out to engage in the OCP review process.

Participants were encouraged to complete a questionnaire on the plan then and there, or to do so electronically through the CVRD's web site. Comments received from the public will inform additional changes to the draft OCP document prior to the holding of public meetings.

To read the draft OCP and to provide comments, go to www.cvr.bc.ca. You can also ask questions or provide comments by contacting Senior Planner Katy Tompkins at 1-800-746-2621 or email ctompkins@cvrd.bc.ca or send a letter to her at the CVRD, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan,

The OCP Main Document - Key sections for SL Residents

By Brent Beach

Some sections of the South Cowichan OCP Main Document are more important to Shawnigan Lake (SL) residents than others. Some sections deal with concerns of Cobble Hill or Mill Bay and do not directly affect SL residents at all.

Key sections for SL Residents:

Section 1- Shared and Sole Responsibility (page 1)

Starting in paragraph 4, page 1, this section explains why there is one OCP for three electoral areas and how responsibility for decisions will be shared. Responsibility within a village area (later called the area within a Village Containment Boundary or VCB) rests solely with residents of the electoral area. Responsibility for the rest of each electoral area is shared between residents of all three electoral areas. The VCB concept is discussed in more detail in Section 10, page 65. Key question for SL residents - do we want to share responsibility for areas of the SL watershed outside the VCB with the people of Cobble Hill and Mill Bay?

Section 1.5 - Population, Growth and Housing (page 9)

This section is well worth reading to see how many people live in each electoral area and how much land is already zoned for additional residential (growth). Notice that most of the land available for new residential development in the rural area (outside the usual villages) is in the Shawnigan Lake watershed.

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Pat Salmon

by Kim Pemberton

“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art...It has no survival value; rather is one of those things that give value to survival.” - C.S. Lewis.

Friendships in a small community like Shawnigan Lake can often happen quickly and last a lifetime. And like author C.S. Lewis so aptly described, while not necessary for one’s existence, an enduring and caring friendship brings value to one’s life.

Such was the case for celebrated artist E.J. Hughes and Pat Salmon, a Shawnigan Lake mother of seven who worked part-time as a librarian and later taught art history at the University of Victoria. Their extraordinary bond lasted nearly 40 years, until Hughes’ death in 2006 at the age of 94. Their 20 year age difference and the fact they were of different sexes seemed inconsequential in their long-standing friendship.

Salmon is one of the few people today who can recall firsthand accounts of this prolific painter, muralist and Canadian war artist. She was a trusted confidante, “girl Friday” and his unofficial biographer for much of their time together. Now 74-years-old, Salmon continues to work on Hughes’ biography in her comfortable, lake view home overlooking Shawnigan Lake, surrounded by mementos of the famous artist.

Salmon’s home is just a short walk away from where Hughes and his wife Fern lived for more than 20 years in their Tudor-style home that looks out to Strathcona Bay.

Salmon chatted about this “well-mannered and eccentric genius,” beginning with the day they first met

in 1968. At the time, Salmon was the mother of five young children, all under the age of 10, living on the west side of the lake with her husband Martin, a land surveyor who was working in Victoria. Like most mothers, alone during the day with young children, Salmon looked forward to the moment her husband got home from work to help out with the kids. She recalled Martin always arrived home at 4:30 p.m. so at 4:20 p.m. she would go up the drive to meet him. It was their time together, however short.

But on this day her husband was late and she started walking further up the road to see if he was coming. Before too long, Salmon realized she had gone too far and was hurrying back to the kids, fearing for the worst. “I could see the headlines – ‘five children die in a house fire as distraught mom roams the lake’. I turned around and started hurrying back but my flip flop broke and I was hobbling along when a great swanky, Yank tank pulled up beside me,” said Salmon.

The window rolled down and a woman’s voice asked if she would like a lift. That person was Fern Hughes, out with her husband for their regular Tuesday ride around the lake. Salmon quickly answered yes.

“In I popped and there was Ed Hughes. We started talking and he

said ‘I paint pictures for a living’ and I answered, ‘I know. You are E.J. Hughes.’ He was so delighted that he was known,” recalled Salmon, who had long been an admirer of Hughes’ work. “I think geniuses are few and far between. It’s a romantic thought but I think most people bow to genius and I certainly did in this case.”

Her admiration for Hughes was shared by many and in the later years, Salmon’s role became one of protec-



photo Susie Moscovich 2007

tor. Hughes found it challenging when collectors and others just curious about Shawnigan Lake’s most famous resident would come knocking on his door.

As Shawnigan Lake museum curator Lori Treloar noted, Salmon “dealt with things he wasn’t comfortable dealing with.” “He was very private and he didn’t want to be distracted and interrupted. Pat made it easy for him to paint,” said Treloar.

As his “girl Friday”, Salmon was often the first point of contact for those outside of town wishing to speak with Hughes.

In the book *A Journey with E.J. Hughes: One Collector’s Odyssey* by Jacques Barbeau, he noted it was through Salmon that would “allow me the opportunity to finally meet Mr. Hughes.” The year was 1991, undoubtedly a major moment for Bar-

beau whose interest in the artist went back as far as 1958 when he saw his first “Hughes” - the cover of a Vancouver telephone directory.

By 1980, Barbeau had started on his path of becoming a serious Hughes collector, amassing one of the largest private collections, all documented in his book published in 2000.

In *A Journey with E.J. Hughes*, Barbeau describes Salmon as Hughes’ “loyal confidante” and described how important she was to the artist. So much so, Hughes did a painting of Salmon, an acrylic on canvas in 1984 which Barbeau later titled *Mrs. S. on Heather Street*. “Mrs. S. is as historically important as it is technically challenging,” Barbeau wrote. “It will become an autobiographical icon as it integrates a number of pivotal references to Hughes’ personal and professional life.

“With Pat Salmon centred in the foreground, Hughes duplicates an earlier sketch of his wife, Fern, and reproduces one of his favourite Vermeers. All the props are tied together with a bouquet of red roses - to commemorate his wedding anniversary - strategically placed next to Mrs. S, the pivotal figure of the painting.”

Asked what she thinks of the painting, Salmon said she never liked it as much as his landscapes, and in fact she was concerned the gallery would have a difficult time selling it. However, it did sell to Barbeau. “I would buy a landscape (by Hughes) before that. I almost felt responsible if it wouldn’t sell.”

Salmon recalled how the painting came into existence. Hughes had snapped a photograph of Salmon waiting for him to get ready for an

Continued on page 14

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The South End is Developing Fast

The South End of the Shawnigan Watershed is growing rapidly and deserves much more attention than it has received so far. For this edition of the Focus we are profiling just four of the growing businesses. More stories of the businesses, the subdivisions and the people will be featured in coming editions of the Shawnigan Focus.

Island Stone

Island Stone, now twelve years old and the first tenant in the once lonely industrial area at the SoutShawnigan rail crossing, moved here from Lantzville 6 years ago. The Shawnigan location was attractive because of land costs and the combination of secondary road location and ease of access to the main highway. They have an extensive stock of structural and decorative stone developed mainly as



a supply for stonemasons and contractors working south of Duncan, on Saltspring Island and in Victoria. They are open for business Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and can serve household level customers even though they specialize in commercial quantities. Their showroom has some wonderful examples of the use of their stone. They draw much of their material from the San Juan Quarry at Port Renfrew, bring granite and basalt from the mainland and augment their variety from the USA.

Draycor Construction

Draycor, located on the west side of the tracks at the Shawnigan industrial crossing is the active construction company engaged in the Shawnigan Station subdivision and the business-industrial centre that is building up around the entrance to Stebbings Road. Consistent with the South Cowichan OCP the main focus in the area is industrial facilities, but resi-

dential development in the Station and on Goldstream Heights, will bring more people who will need at least some local services even though they have easy access to the more extensive services of Langford, only minutes away. Population density will remain limited in the highland areas off Stebbings Road with minimum lot sizes of 5 acres. Draycor has a new building under construction at its Malahat Centre that houses six commercial units of 1500 square feet each, with 40% loft capacity. Two are presently spoken for, and four remain available for aspiring business locators. They expect continued growth in the area as business and industry expand out of greater Victoria. Only two acres of the 10 acre site are used to date and Draycor's Kevin Parker says "We are looking for a large industrial anchor tenant, maybe a warehouse or trucking firm, and will build to suit."

Happy Birthday South Shawnigan Waste and Recycle

South Shawnigan Waste and Recycle, with eight employees, had its first birthday in April of 2011. Mike Boon operates a bin service, waste hauling and recycling service to the South Cowichan area 7am to 5pm on weekdays and 8am to 3pm on Saturdays. Phone 250-733-2931 for rates and materials handled. Mike has extensive experience, having developed Ellice Recycling in Victoria and currently operating the CRD Hartland facility under contract. Their first birthday is bittersweet, as the CVRD traffic impact study conducted by Boulevard Transportation Group in 2010 states that it "assumed that all users would shift from using an existing facility... The South Shawnigan Waste and



Recycle Centre...to instead use the EcoDepot." Replacing the private business with a publicly funded one providing tax supported "free" services appears to run counter to the stated CVRD Waste Management Strategy of

2006 that repeatedly expresses support for private waste businesses and a user pay system. Of interest to Cobble Hill and North Shawnigan residents, this private sector waste transfer station is actually in an industrial zone with highway access.

Jen's Upper Cup Café

Jen's Upper Cup Café opened its doors on July 15, 2010. Her pizza shop in Mill Bay, with its team of great young staff members, provided the launching pad for starting the second business.

Jennifer Thiel joined the Shawnigan Road complex to be part of the exciting development of the area, with its fifteen businesses and counting. The Upper Cup serves a growing number of morning commuters and a lunch crowd from the local area work force that can vary from 60 to 300 employees. Local business meetings can also be accommodated. The café is diner in style, serving working people with a menu that includes "all real food" that Jen selects personally from as many local sources as possible. "I'm very choosy and cook everything from scratch", she says. Jen sees a diverse community arising around her, with a mix of industrial, commercial and residential areas as the "village in the Shawnigan hills" or, perhaps to be called "Malahat Village" begins to take shape.



(Pat Salmon - Continued from page 13) outing from his home in Duncan, where he spent the last years of his life. Salmon was a frequent visitor, going two or three times a week to Duncan and recalled that day was his wedding anniversary - Feb. 13th. As they had done in the past on that date, the two friends would make a trip to Shawnigan Lake and Victoria to view the old homes Hughes and Fern used to live. And as was his custom, each anniversary, Hughes would buy a dozen red roses in honor of his deceased wife.

"He loved it here but she loved it more," said Salmon, noting Fern was also well known in the neighbourhood, particularly with the children. Salmon said the newspaper girl, for instance, was often rewarded with pop and snacks as were the students from Shawnigan Lake School who had the good fortune to visit Hughes' home-based art studio, with their teachers.

The house is located just a few doors down from then Strathcona Lodge (now Dwight International School).

But after 21 years in the house, the couple was forced to move because the driveway was becoming too steep for Fern, who suffered from muscular dystrophy, to manage. "Their house had virtually no plumbing and it was difficult to maintain the grounds," explained Salmon. The couple's next move was to a little house in Cobble Hill, then after Fern's death Hughes moved to Ladysmith for one year then Duncan for his remaining years - still close enough for his good friend Salmon to visit.

Hughes believed Shawnigan Lake had the finest water so Salmon would regularly bring drinking water to him in an old orange, plastic jug he owned. "He thought the water in Duncan was poison. Then a report came out saying Duncan had the best water on the island. I'd bring that to him so he wasn't poisoned. I never argued with him. He still liked his water from Shawnigan Lake." "He was much more of a character than anyone realized."

Author's note: Kim Pemberton is a Vancouver Sun reporter and the owner of Shawnigan Lake House, a year-round vacation rental property. Her house, coincidentally, has the same lake view Hughes and his wife enjoyed since it is located next door to their former Shawnigan Lake home.

Happy First Birthday Kinsol Market



When Jenn Eriksen chose Shawnigan Lake as a more convenient community in which to locate for her commute to the University of

Victoria Law School a very different adventure was about to unfold. After sixteen years in banking, with sights set on a law career, Jenn rented a cabin on the west side of the lake in February 2008 and settled in. Within a week she met Norm Smith, a partnership blossomed and the Kinsol Market idea began to rise from the ashes. Norm had rebuilt the old building that had been destroyed by fire, named it and hand carved the sign, setting the stage for the birth of an entrepreneur. The refurbished Kinsol Trestle is the inspiration for the market's name and it will display a gallery of historic photos, provided

by her friend Cindy Plasterer, for the expected opening of the trestle in June 2011.

Jenn's new adventure opened on April 7th 2010. The Kinsol Market, looking like a small convenience store set in the forest, off the beaten path, alone on a rural road is much more than it seems. Yes, there are the usual necessities that a rural store should provide, the groceries, household goods and hardware that you need right now, when a run to Shawnigan Village would seem like just too much trouble. But the Market is so much more. It is an oasis of home cooking second to none.

Jenn cooks everything from scratch from fresh ingredients. The vegetables come in daily from the farmers market, the beef, turkey and ham are roasted fresh for the lunches and dinners and the soups fall from heaven every morning. You could eat this healthy and delicious food every day and live to be a hundred! One customer, after three months of daily dining, startled his doctor by being so tuned up that



he was able to go off his blood pressure medicine. Walk every day on the Trans Canada Trail and eat at the market- that's the secret to a long life.

Market foods cover breakfast, lunch and dinner, enjoyed on site or taken home. Catering, from snacks to full dinners, is available in the summer for your special occasions. The winter down time has been surprisingly quiet for the market and Jenn is anxious for the summer people to come back. "I have built wonderful relationships with them and can't wait to see them again", she says. She gives special thanks to her sister Bessie Sebastian and her friend Linda Lecky for helping her through the winter months and has high

praise for her loyal customers from the family friendly community of Shawnigan Lake that she has come to love. Customer Adrian says "I can't drive by without stopping at the market... love the food", while Ralph says, "she is a great cook and I eat there often". When you enter the market, you are just as likely to see Jenn's daughter Abbie, going on nine, behind the

counter and fully in charge as a working partner. On weekends, the family team expands to include daughter Belle, who at sixteen is in high school in Duncan and has recently caught the market spirit, aspiring to



a future career as a baker. This is a hard working family! I have tried the soups, sandwiches and the best Greek Salad this side of Athens. As I left the market, a stuffed pepper and chicken dinner was being created and I had to tear myself away. Unfortunately, Kinsol Market recipes are secrets. So, just accept the mystery and go there often for the daily specials. Law school will have to wait, and we should all be glad.



Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department recently held a contest to name their new mascot. Trevor Jacques suggested the name Diesel and his name was chosen from hundreds of entries. From left to right: Monica Vermette (fire fighter), Paul Mead (fire fighter), Grade 3 student/winner Trevor Jacques and Diesel the new mascot.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP

By Rob Webb



In an attempt to keep the community informed, we will try to provide monthly updates regarding various crime trends, policing and community issues.

Reported Property Crime for the month of March remained very low. There were fifteen serious accidents in March. Injury accidents or damage over \$1000.00 will be considered as serious accidents. There were seven immediate roadside prohibitions (IRP'S) by drug or alcohol for March. Overall, through the calendar year we are ahead of last year for calls for service.

March is the final month of our fiscal year end, and with that comes our new Annual Performance Plan for the detachment. Typically, policing does not change a lot in our area from year to year and we do seek community input regarding same. Some new initiatives and or strategies we are looking to this year do include the following: increased presence on the Trans Canada Highway (TCH) especially at or near intersections, the targeting of Prohibited Drivers, as well as Random Check Stops will

be increased.

Seasonal Policing will also remain a priority. Sgt. Webb presented at the March 16th Area Director's meeting at the CVRD. He discussed both Lake Cowichan and Shawnigan's past year on the water and plans for this upcoming summer. A big thank you to all three Area Directors for their continued support regarding safer waterways. The goal of Shawnigan Detachment for a "fatality free" summer in 2010 was achieved. More to come regarding seasonal policing in the coming months as we edge closer and look forward to a safe summer season.

Auxiliary Cst. Gary Holmes is in the preliminary stages of establishing a Business Watch for the South Cowichan / Shawnigan Lake Detachment area. Contact information and recruiting will be upcoming, hopefully within the next month. Business Watch will and can benefit us all greatly. Stay tuned for further information.

Be safe.

Sgt. Rob Webb is the Commander for the Shawnigan Lake Detachment
250-743-5514

Business Embracing Community

by Patty Oldfield

It is the efforts of the Shawnigan Lake Community Association that puts eggs in the Easter Egg Hunt, a howl in the Hallowe'en Howl and a parade on Canada Day. The nonprofit organization has a small membership but attracts a large number of volunteers from the community.

This Mothers Day, the Village Chippery is sponsored a fundraiser for the SLCA with a "High Tea" honouring Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Grandmothers and Aunts. The proceeds went to the SLCA. There was delicious finger sandwich-

es, delicate pastries, and Murchies Tea for the ladies attending. Several businesses from Shawnigan Lake contributed wonderful prizes and donations to fill a "Swag Bag" to make the Tea a memorable occasion.

"Business Embracing Community" is the slogan of the Shawnigan Lake Business Association. Through their generous donations, they have made it more than a slogan. Our hopes are to make this an annual event as a fundraiser for the SLCA and an afternoon of fun and frivoli-TEA. for the enjoyment of all.

Patty is the owner of the Village Chippery.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Six callouts for March 15 to April 15 are as follows:
One Auto Alarm in the 2300 block of Shawnigan Lake Road
Three Medical Aid responses -
*one in the village community
*one on West Shawnigan Lake Road
*one in the Beach Estates

Two Motor Vehicle Incidents -
*one on Thain Road

SLBA Member Profile

Style Centre

Barber Shop



The **Style Centre Barbershop** has been operating in Shawnigan Village since 1985. Bill and Marian Davies moved it from Langford where they operated both a barbershop and beauty salon since 1969.

Bill purchased the small quaint building on the north corner of the village where his porcelain horse chair for children and wooden barber pole quickly became a notable décor in the village.

The traditional barbershop was a popular place for men to meet and be informed on local happenings. Eventually Bill added a second barber allowing him time to also set up mobile shops in local private schools and Acacia Lodge.

In 2001 a fire destroyed the pharmacy across the road and Bill saw an immediate need for more rental space in the village core.

He sold the small original building which was moved next door and on his land the Shawnigan Village Centre was opened in 2003 with the barbershop, again, holding its prominent place "on the corner in the village"!

Soon son, Roy, realizing the success of his father's business, joined the family team. Later Marian and Holly added ladies haircuts on Wednesday's and Saturdays.

More than 25 years in the village and the barbershop still offers good prices and takes the time to make getting a haircut an enjoyable experience for all ages, especially children! Their porcelain horse chair now seats second and third generation clients!

Today the **Style Centre Barbershop** is open six days a week, offering haircuts for the whole family by Roy or Holly. Bill and Marian are still available part-time when they are not travelling or enjoying their semi-retirement!

Brought to you by members of the Shawnigan Lake Business Assoc.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT THE RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER
Garage Sale on Sat May 7 from 9-12 @ 2859 Meadowview Rd, Shawnigan Beach Estates. All proceeds to support the ride. Quality donations welcome. Call Farrell 250-743-9816 or Sue 250-743-4399.

GIANT SPCA GARAGE SALE
Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29, 8:30 AM to 3 PM.
Visa, Mastercard and Debit accepted
7550 Bell McKinnon Road, Duncan, B.C. Phone (250) 746-4646
Donations of gently used, quality items for resale are greatly appreciated. Cut off date for donations is May 16. 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.

ECOSTRAVAGANZA AT ECOLE MILL BAY
June 4th 10am-4pm. 3175 Cobble Hill Road. This is a family fun day in celebration of World Environment Day. Come and enjoy the huge plant sale, workshops, EcoMarketplace, and Entertainment. Admission is free. To register for workshops or more info: www.ecostravaganza.ca/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROVIDENCE FARM
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Thank you for helping us help others!

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

1st SHAWNIGAN LAKE BEAVERS, CUBS, SCOUTS AND VENTURERS BOTTLE DRIVE
May 7th 2011. Kids will go door to door though the Shawnigan collecting recyclable bottles. Bottles can also be dropped off Saturday May 7th, 9:00- a 1:00, at the Shawnigan Legion.
Funds raised go to youths registration fees for this next Scouting year. Your support is appreciated. Contact Bill Thow at thow@pacificcoast.net or 250-743-1683

FRANCES KELSEY DRY GRAD FUNDRAISER!
Tickets for a 2011 Hyundai Accent from Duncan Hyundai at:
*Mason's store May 14th 10 - 2 pm

SOUTH COWICHAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
"Saturday Nite Alive" Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
Pastor Terry Hale 250-701-5722
All are Welcome.

SERVICES

Gentle Touch (tm) Reiki for Animals, a mobile service. Hands-on healing from a Christian perspective. Accredited training and treatments for humans at my studio.
Anne 250-743-0727

HELP WANTED

Summer work opportunity at the Shawnigan Lake Museum (dependent on grant approval). Seeking a motivated University student, who will be returning to school in the fall. See full details at www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

Volunteers are needed for many committees and worthy causes in the Shawnigan Area.
Positions range from just a few hours on a single day to full commitments with an ongoing group.
Register your name on the Shawnigan Residents' Association website. Your name is not seen by the general public or the requesting organizations. You are contacted by email and only respond to items of interest to you.

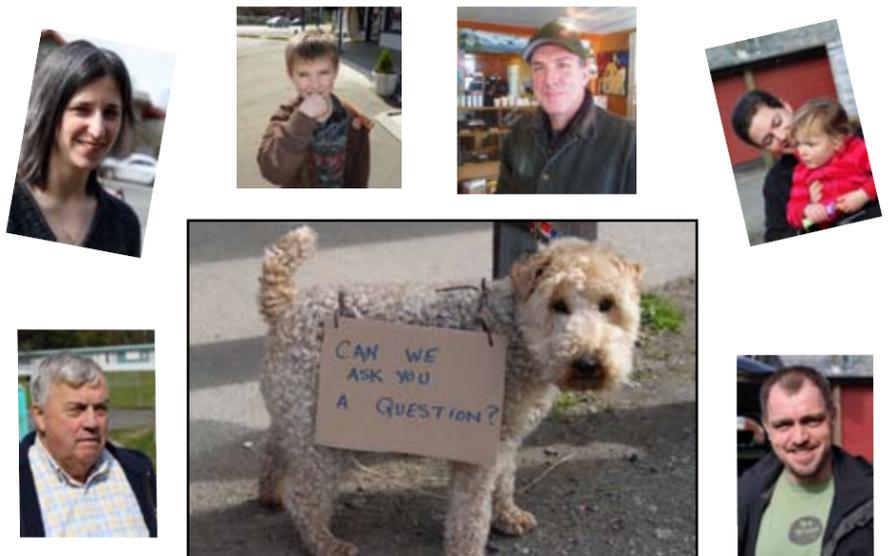
Go to www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com - click on the "Volunteer Bureau" tab and sign up!

ITEMS FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE
Saturday, May 23, 9am to 3pm
2217 London Road (off Brandon Road off West Shawnigan Lake Road)
We had Two houses now One.
- Several quality pieces of furniture
- Kitchen tools, small household items & Baskets. Contact: Janet Neilsen 250-743-9955 paddleboat@shaw.ca

In an informal poll of the "Village People" The Focus asked

What kind of shops or services would you like to see in the vacant commercial spaces?



You answered

Bakery, No Franchises, Dental Clinic, Library, General Office Supplies, Deli, Bank, Candy Store, Garden (Dig This), Tourism Draw, Florist, Hardware, Future Shop, Hair Salon, Clothing, Nothing - no stores, Farmers' Market, Art/Tourist, Music Store, A place for young people, Pet food/supplies, Books, Used Book Store, Wine & Cheese Shop, Clothing, Dollar, Garden Supplies, Health Food, Head Shop, Jeweler, Place to Dance, Pottery, Quilt/Knit/Weaver Supplies




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