

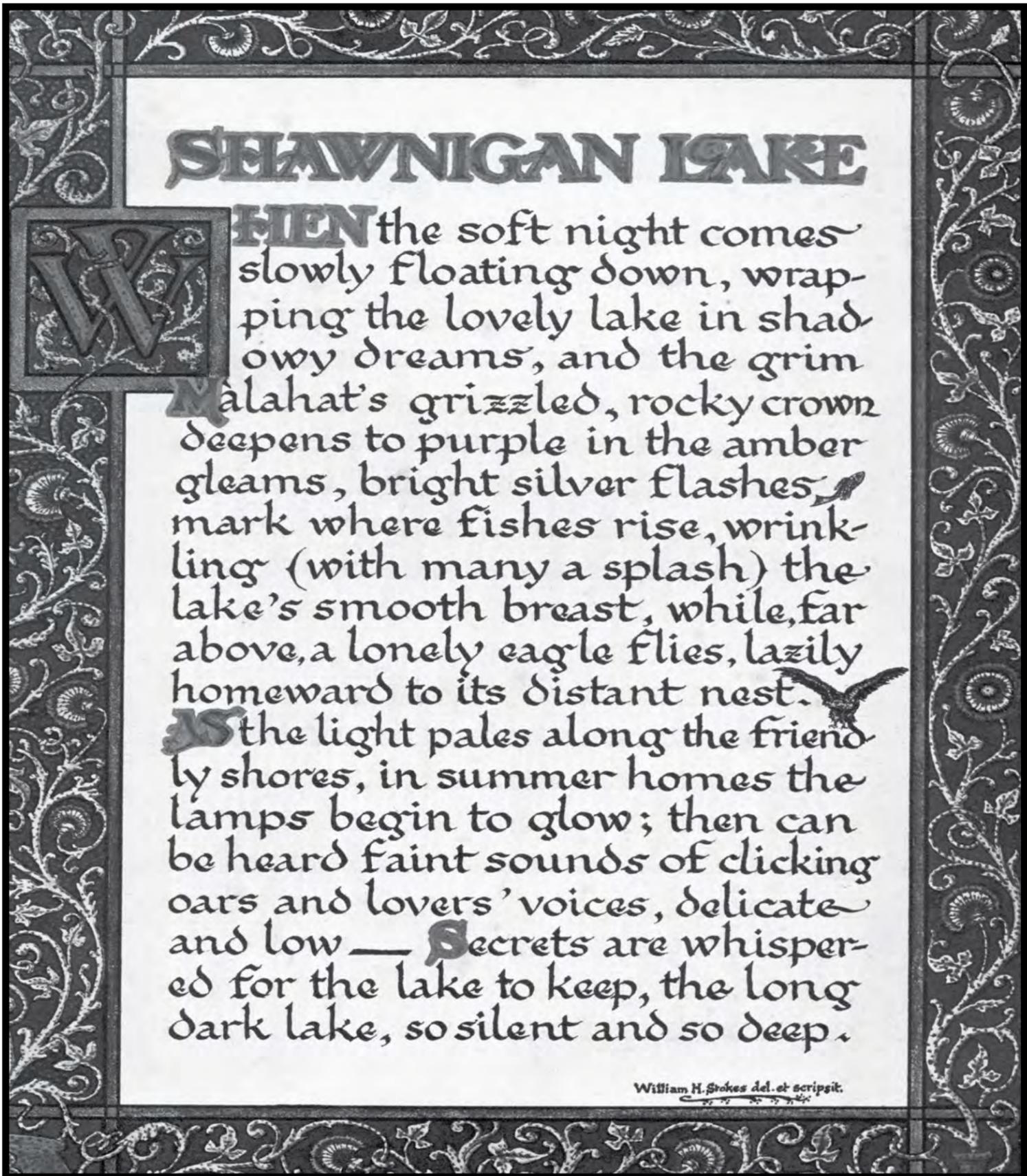


# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Two - Issue Seven

JULY 2012

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"



Printed with permission from the author's granddaughter

William H. Stokes (1881-1938)

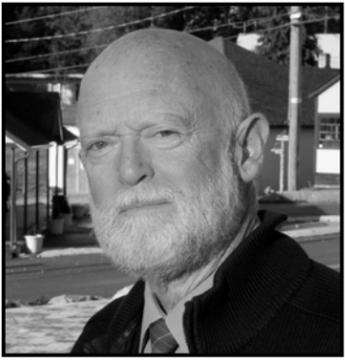
W.H. Stokes was educated in both India and England before emigrating to Canada in the early 1900s. He worked for the Forestry Division of the BC Government as an artist and calligrapher. Stokes spent long happy summers at Shawnigan Lake, reflected in this poem written in 1917. The family reproduced the poem so that others could share his appreciation of the magic of Shawnigan Lake. Beautiful colour reproductions are available for sale at the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

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# Our Choice: The future of Shawnigan Basin



**Dr. Bruce Fraser**  
*Area Director*

### Business as Usual

We have choices to make. We could agree to continue developing the Shawnigan Watershed in ways that have become conventional. We could increase the number of subdivisions with tract homes and miles of pavement. We can continue to clearcut private forests, scatter the landscape with gravel mines and compress nature into a system of small parks, themselves developed into commercial enterprises. We could build settlements everywhere that private enterprise might desire, with their infrastructure of roads, sewers, hydro lines, transit, parking lots, commercial amenities, recreation facilities and concrete buildings. We could continue to import our food from elsewhere, dependent on fossil fuels to get it here. We can let our lake slowly transform into a swamp of weeds, invasive species and human wastes, stirred by the exhausts of an unending parade of ever-larger motorcraft. We could build a chemical laden artificial pool to replace the swimming beaches of the lake and the pools of a wild river, allowing such natural assets to become only memories and not the reality of tomorrow's children. We could decide that Shawnigan should become a haven for escape development, absorbing the overflows from an already congested Capital Region. We could go for quantity and perpetual growth, becoming urban in the process, with tax rates to match.

### A Future Oasis

We could also choose to do things differently. We could decide that the human occupation of the watershed should be carefully limited, that industrial activity must be compatible with ecological security. Water could be seen as the most important product so that our basin is maintained in healthy condition for this most critical resource. Our streams could run clear of mud and absent of pollutants from industrial activities. Our new settlements could be hamlets in scale, each with small scale businesses and industries that allow people to live and work in the same place, allowing natural forest surroundings to remain the dominant feature of the landscape. We could conduct forestry on

a sustainable basis, harvesting in perpetuity and maintaining local woods employment by taking smaller amounts with extreme care for the soil, streams, wildlife habitat and visual integrity of our community. We could identify and take pains to maintain our small stock of food growing land, whether in farms or individual gardens. Our markets could be full of purely local products, marketed with pride by our immediate neighbours. Our parks could be connected by trails that network our community with physically healthy modes of transport. Our primary village could be a walkable gathering place for local celebrations. Our lake could be recovered by voluntarily limiting our uses and taking responsibility for our household wastes. We could be an oasis, known as a rural paradise, where growth is in quality of life and not quantity of consumable things.

Of course these two alternatives are just extreme set pieces, but they bookend the potential futures we could face. Better that we achieve the right balance by our conscious choice rather than having it arise from the accidents of inattention.

### Today's Choice

The current proposal for a contaminated soil treatment and storage facility in the Shawnigan headwaters that lies before the residents of Shawnigan is just one of many challenges to the future of our basin. The two contrasting visions suggested here are just snapshots to illustrate how alternative visions of the future can shape individual choices we make each day. Such choices accumulate to create our future. It matters enormously what vision we choose to adopt as a community because so much of what we can do to our landscape will prove to be irreversible in our and our children's lifetime. That is the context in which we need to evaluate the facility proposed by South Island Aggregates.

### The Case for and Against the SIA Proposal

#### The Case For

The SIA argument for the use of contaminated fill for the reclamation of the Stebbings Road Quarry is that a properly engineered, licensed and managed facility would replace the many informal soil dumps that are now scattered and unmonitored across the region. The quarry site is said to be ideal for the purpose because of the bedrock base and extremely limited percolation into the Shawnigan aquifer as demonstrated by test wells drilled by the engineering consultants. Baseline studies have been done and the site would be independently and continuously monitored to demonstrate that the system

functions as planned to prevent contamination of the streams and aquifer. If problems occur, the progressive infill model and the leachate treatment system would allow for repair as the quarry continues to be mined and backfilled. It is further supported by the reduced overall costs to society of having a facility located within economic reach of most of the contaminated soil sources on Vancouver Island including many within the Shawnigan basin. This would facilitate the remediation of brownfield sites, particularly in the Capital Region, that would otherwise not be available for more economic uses.

For the proponent, it is clear that there is a significant competitive commercial opportunity if government approves the reclamation application because the nearest major competing receiving sites are on Koksilah Road, also in a community watershed, or in Cumberland at greater hauling distance. For the Capital Region it is clear that there are development opportunities. For government, public revenue will be enhanced and jobs will be created. Tipping fees could provide the Regional District, the Malahat First Nation and the Shawnigan community with a flow of funds that could be used to support local infrastructure maintenance and enhancements in a time of limited public funds from taxation.

Continued growth would be supported in Shawnigan by accommodating the needs of the Capital Region to transfer to us their accumulated wastes. Besides the obvious benefits there are also risks to be considered.

#### The Case Against

The essential fact in the SIA proposal to use contaminated soils for the reclamation fill at their Stebbings Road Quarry is that they cannot guarantee zero leakage of contaminants from their engineered containment system. The effectiveness of their design ultimately depends on leachate treatment facilities that are dependent on long term maintenance and security of pumps that require electricity in an area that can experience extended outages. Increased intensity of storms as climate change proceeds, major seismic events or simple human error can intervene in the best laid plans. Because there will always be a finite risk of leakage as the system ages, the Shawnigan Community stands to bear the long term risk of degradation of its irreplaceable domestic water supply. While the facility may well work effectively at the beginning, given the 50-60 year duration of the active operation and the virtually permanent location of the contaminated soil in the headwaters once the quarry is

closed, the risks are also permanent. No current compensation for such a circumstance is possible to ensure diligent management so long into the future through environmental disasters, changes of ownership and the vagaries of provincial government regulation.

While the engineering proposal for the quarry is well thought out, with advances in design that are leading in the technology of today, placement of the facility directly in the headwaters of a community watershed takes risks with a domestic water supply. The understandable public judgment is that this facility is in the wrong place. Siting of a contaminated soil treatment and storage facility should be based upon minimizing risk to the environment in the case of failure. In the current application, the site is based upon using an existing quarry that did not pose such contamination risks when licensed as a quarry or if reclaimed using clean fill as originally proposed.

Conversion to a contaminated soil facility is a matter of commercial opportunity not one of selection based upon minimization of associated risks to a critical public water supply. The site selection process is reversed, putting incidental opportunity before suitability. It is not fair for us to question the motives or sincerity of the owners of South Island Aggregates and their engineering consultants who have invested heavily to prepare what they believe to be a proper facility supported by due diligence. They have gone through the "legal front door" with their application, unlike most of the informal private land waste dumps that are being used by others. It is fair, however, for the Shawnigan community to come to the conclusion that the potential benefits do not outweigh the risks. The correct precautionary conclusion is NO, not in our domestic watershed. This was very clearly expressed by the majority in attendance at the July 12th, 2012 public meeting held by the CVRD.

Of course, if we make that judgment for South Island Aggregates, we should also be prepared to deal with the threats to the integrity of our water supply that each of us is already contributing to the streams and our lake. Clearcut logging, land development, failed septic fields, motorized watercraft exhaust, impervious roads, cosmetic pesticides and agricultural fertilizer runoff are just some of the issues that cannot be wished away while we target one particular operation.

#### Plan B

South Island Aggregates will need to fulfill their obligation to reclaim their quarry regard-

less of whether or not they are permitted to use contaminated fill. The alternative may be to use what is termed "residential quality" fill that poses no threat of leakage of contaminants into the watershed. This alternative has not been designed or its costs estimated so its commercial viability is not known.

It is also not known at this time what class of material is stored in the large fill pile that is already accumulated on the site adjacent to the quarry or if that could be used. Without a "plan B" that could be assessed for benefits and risks, Shawnigan residents and water users have no option but to oppose the current reclamation proposal.

#### Role of the CVRD

The CVRD has committed itself to manage all waste streams arising from within its borders, expressing a "zero waste" objective for the long term. We have domestic garbage, liquid wastes, organic wastes and contaminated materials of our own that need proper treatment and disposal. For these purposes, sites for landfills, treatment facilities, composting sites, or recycling depots must be chosen to augment those we have now. There are many areas where such facilities will be inappropriate for environmental, economic and social reasons. The job of finding suitable sites has up to now been either historically convenient in a time of smaller population demand on our land base or left to the private sector to propose based on what land happened to be available. The widespread and uncontrolled dumping of soil and other wastes on private land parcels in the Shawnigan watershed is creating unacceptable risks to our water supply. That is why the CVRD has entered into the collaborative arrangement with the Ministry of Environment to try to achieve effective controls where provincial and local government jurisdictions clash.

Facility siting, along with the necessary land use zoning, is now complex and controversial. A region-wide thorough process of waste site identification that engages the public and takes into consideration the social, environmental and economic risks and benefits needs to be conducted. This should be a deliberate and open public process, with clearly identified options to consider, not the series of surprises that can arise from the accidents of commercial opportunity or occasionally available real estate. The CVRD should conduct this process, with the best interests of the public forefront among the considerations, and with particular concern for the aquifers and waterways that are crucial for our future.

## WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues; bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals. Send letters to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### Leaky quarry syndrome?

Dear Editor

There has been a lot of verbiage lately about the safety of dumping contaminated waste, here, there, anywhere.

As the owner of a 2m x 3m goldfish pond, I have something to contribute. The pond has a liner, butyl rubber I am told, probably six years old, and it seems to be leaking. I say 'seems' because the only evidence is that the water level is dropping and needs to be topped up every two weeks or so instead of annually. There is no real concern, yet, because that leakage doesn't pose any kind of threat downstream (meaning at the road that passes by).

But here's the thing...I'd like to stop the leak because it's a nuisance having to re-fill the pond so often, and it won't get any better - it'll get worse. And, I can't find the leak.

I DO have the option of removing the fish, the plants,

the decorative statues, the miniature bridge and the liner itself, but then what? There's still the problem of locating and repairing the leak AND knowing that this leak developed by itself after six years. How many other leaks are preparing to spitefully launch themselves as soon as I replace the liner?

My problem is probably trivial; I can farm out the fish for adoption, drain the water, fill in the hole and read a book. But the problem for South Island Aggregates is not trivial, and not just because of the size of the pond. They propose to fill their abandoned quarry with 'contaminated' soil dumped on top of a seal, or liner. If that liner starts to leak (and there isn't an 'if'), how will they know? And, what can they do? And, even if there's a time lag before the leak makes itself known, there's another problem. It sometimes rains in this country. Sorry, but it's true, and if the seal works as it is intended, then a brand-new water-table will form above the seal, allowing

the contaminates to leach into that water which will rise until it overflows.... and heads for Shawnigan Creek, Shawnigan Lake .... Whoosh!

-Robin LeGarff

### We're closing...

Dear Editor

We're Closing...on July 31, 2012 and we would like to thank-you for your friendship and support through the last few years. We will miss you all.

As with most things in life, things change as opportunities present themselves for one to grab and grow and learn. Abbie and myself are starting a new journey.

We will continue to live in Shawnigan Lake and we are excited by our new opportunities. We hope to see you all in the future.

Thanks again,

-Jenn & Abbie, Kinsol Market

### Fresh water is priceless!

In 2001 we were warmly welcomed to Canada by the immigration authorities at Montreal -Dorval International airport as it was known back then. Clearing customs we headed to the domestic departure lounge and from there to our chosen home of Calgary, Alberta. Why Calgary you might ask? Several reasons actually. How about an expanding economy, low tax rates, landlocked (just like Johannesburg - our city of origin) and one more obscure reason - fresh clear drinking water. Snow melt from the Rockies flowing into the Bow river and ultimately into our homes.

Immigration has a weird effect on your Karma! It forced our family to focus on what is normally taken for granted. One needs to rationalise why one takes this giant step, uprooting the family from all that they are familiar with to take a chance and settle in a new land. Here an example of

just such a rationalisation:

The abundance of fresh drinking water in a country (Canada) so sparsely populated is a huge attraction to an immigrant. When you see, first hand, how fresh water is being fouled and polluted in other parts of the world, from over-population and neglect, you realise just how important fresh water is. Reason enough to migrate to where it's plentiful and clean.

The past few weeks have been a sobering and thought provoking time for me. The SIA application is on the table and I wonder how this might affect our community in the future. Our fresh water is under threat, it is a precious life giving gift and we owe it to our children to make the right decision.

-Dewar McCarthy

**FYI: the cartoon in the June 2012 Focus depicted a dump truck with an incorrect symbol. The symbol represents nuclear or radioactive waste and misrepresents the material that SIA will use to fill the quarry if their application is approved. We do not wish to mislead readers.**



Summer Program at Shawnigan Hills - Photo by Sally Davies  
Van West, Jace Dixon, camp leader, Taylor Knowles, Maya West, Chloë & Alice Tillie Fowler. Danielle Koekkoek is the program coordinator (standing sunglasses).



New washroom/changeroom building at Shawnigan Hills Park



View of the Lake from a kayak - Myrna Proulx

**If you want others to be happy,  
practice compassion.  
If you want to be happy, practice  
compassion. - Dalai Lama**

[www.shawniganfocus.ca](http://www.shawniganfocus.ca)

# Waste? Not! Want? Not!

**Brent Beach**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

I attended the SIA meeting on Thursday July 12. I was quite impressed with the many people who spoke eloquently to the issue.

On the one side we have a company that will produce \$80 million worth of aggregate and accept \$30 million in fill, even if the fill is not waste. More if the fill is waste (fill that could not be used for residential or industrial purposes). A lot of money and a professional engineering team trying to build a safe facility.

In the middle, the Ministry of Environment following a process designed to accept proposals. The proponent submits the proposal. Government departments critique the proposal and send it back. The proponent tweaks the proposal. Only when it will pass scrutiny does it go to public review.

On the other side, simple folk who ask the simple question - How could you possibly even consider putting

a contaminated waste facility in our watershed?

As a property owner on the lake, this facility has no upside for me, only down sides. In a small way, it is like the Northern Gateway Pipeline. Yep, that pipeline will make big oil companies rich. It may produce tax revenues somewhere else. The issue is that any spills occur right here, where we live. With the SIA waste site, any error means my property value crashes. I start bringing water in from Victoria. I no longer swim in the lake. I can look at the lake. I cannot use it. With nothing but downside, why would I want to allow this?

The proponents and a couple of supporters say that the Island needs such a facility. Perhaps it does. However, there are many locations that could host such a facility where failure would affect no one's drinking water and no one's property values. If there is indeed a need, someone else will find a site

and built an equally good facility. They may hire the same engineers and they may even design a better facility. It will have all the upsides of the SIA facility - same or better technology, same safety or better factors - but none of the down sides - the drinking water and property values of 8,000 people will not be at risk.

The SIA people seem like nice people. The engineers seems like nice people. I admired how they kept their cool even when provoked (although it was a close thing).

Nice is not good enough.

If they really want to do this, they must find a site where failure of their design does not affect so many people.

This proposal does not have to have an acrimonious resolution. I hope that the proponents will realize that while there is upside for them, the risks make it impossible for residents of the area. I hope they will withdraw their application. Marty - you will make lots of money with your quarry without adding in the contaminated waste sideline. Can you leave it there? I sure hope you do.

The one player missing in action was the CVRD. They organized the meeting, yes. The chair of the CVRD did

a good job of chairing the meeting. However, the role of the CVRD in this was not examined at all.

In 2007, CVRD staff recommended that the CVRD not try to write a [SOIL REMOVAL AND DEPOSIT BYLAW](#) saying the Ministry would never accept it. In 2009, [Metchosin passed such a bylaw](#) and the Ministry accepted it.

During the OCP steering committee meetings, CVRD staff refused to add soil removal and deposit recommendations to the OCP. They also refused to add restrictions on gravel pits and quarries, although the CVRD has successfully [defended such restrictions in the BC Supreme Court](#). Is the CVRD willing to challenge the Provincial government only when it affects Cobble Hill?

Ministry of Environment officials appear to be pleading with the CVRD to do something to protect their residents. ["Regional districts have mechanisms to control land use through zoning and bylaws."](#) They seem to be begging the regional district to put zoning bylaws in place to prevent these facilities. Then they will be able to say to proponents - "We would like to consider your proposal, but unfortunately the CVRD

Bylaws do not allow such a facility".

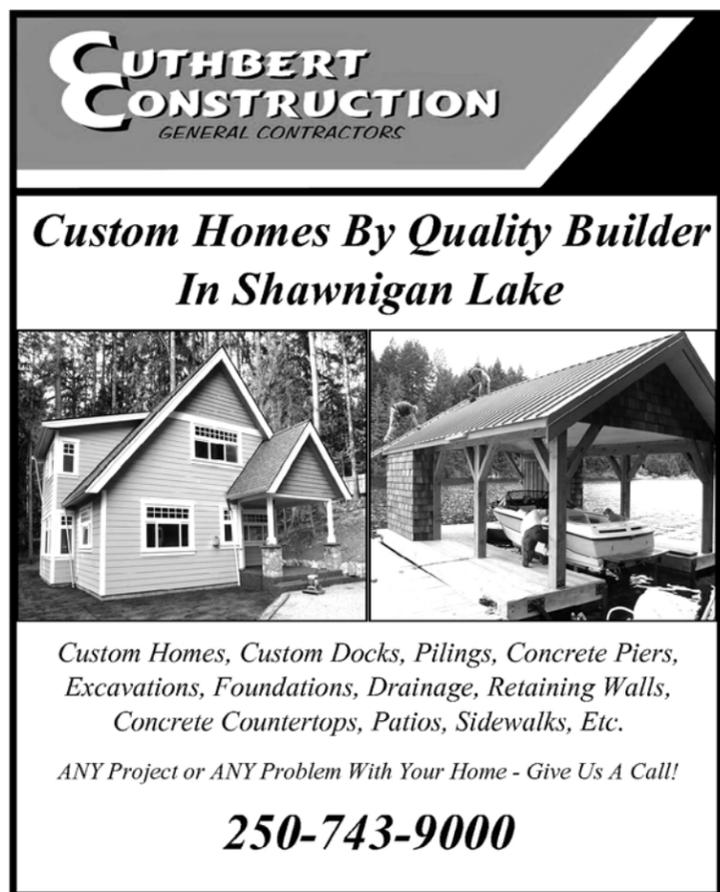
Rather than bylaws that shield us from this nuisance, our new OCP does nothing to manage aggregate extraction or fill dumping. [Our new bylaws](#), still in the draft stage, do nothing to control aggregate extraction or dumping. In fact, they appear to encourage it.

Not just in Shawnigan. The proposed South Cowichan (a mythical entity, similar in its imaginary nature to the Eco Depot and hopefully, the SIA contaminated waste facility) Bylaws contain no restrictions on Soil Removal or Deposit. They contain no controls on aggregate extraction and processing on Industrial or Rural Resource zoned lands (there are no longer any Forestry zoned lands).

With no help from the CVRD, the residents must confront this challenge on their own.

The problem we have is that a mediated solution does us no good. The middle ground between a contaminated waste facility and no contaminated waste facility is not half a waste facility. It is not a not-too-badly-contaminated waste facility.

The only acceptable outcome is NO facility at all.



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## TAKING A STAND Shawnigan Residents Association

**Graham Ross-Smith**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

At the South Island Aggregates (SIA) public meeting, on July 12th, President Garry Horwood, on behalf of the board of directors of the Shawnigan Residents Association, expressed strong opposition to the Province's granting a waste discharge permit to South Island Aggregates (SIA). If granted, the permit would enable the rock mining company to import huge amounts of contaminated soil from anywhere into the lake's watershed over the next half century.

"We will not accept this type of development in our drinking-water watershed," he said, explaining that the placement of contaminated waste in this community's watershed is primarily a matter of right and wrong; an ethical issue.

Despite assurances from SIA, and its engineers, that the waste will be sequestered in such a way that the toxins and contaminants contained in it will never get into Shawnigan Lake through surface water or ground water routes, even following a major earthquake (i.e. over 7.2 on the Richter scale), the directors of

the Residents Association felt strongly that it is unwise and wrong to bring such material into our reservoir's watershed even if the estimated risk of pollution is very small. The Association is of the opinion that there is no such thing as "no risk" with such storage undertakings, and that it would be best to find a site to receive the contaminated waste in a southern Vancouver Island watershed that does not feed water into a community's reservoir.

In order to obtain an expert second opinion, the Shawnigan Residents Association is seriously considering contracting with an independent hydro-geologist and other experts to provide a critique of the SIA's engineering study and risk assessment documents in order that the association's final position on the issue will not be based solely on information provided by SIA. Shawnigan Lakers interested in supporting the association in this matter may do so by going to the SRA website at [www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com](http://www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com) and becoming a member.

For more information, see page 12.

*Shawnigan Focus contacted representatives from South Island Aggregates (SIA) for comments on their proposal, the application process and their thoughts on the opposition from the community. Unfortunately, no comments were provided. For more information about SIA, visit the their website at [www.sialtd.ca](http://www.sialtd.ca)*

# Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks Commission



**Margaret Symon**  
Chair of  
Parks  
Commission

Of the hundreds of docks that extend around the shoreline of Shawnigan Lake, the majority belong to private lakeshore residential properties; a small number are associated with commercial ventures; much fewer are located on park property, where they are maintained by the CVRD. One day near the end of June this year, one of our park commission members watched from the east side of the lake as a boat towed a dock toward Memory Island, a provincial park managed under a lease agreement by the CVRD Parks Department. Curious, the park commission member captured the following scene on video: the lone boater unhitched a derelict dock on the shores of the island park, and then sped away.

Old, abandoned docks pose a safety and liability issue, particularly on parkland properties, where the CVRD is obligated to remove the structures – at a cost to taxpayers. Only a few weeks before our commission member filmed the dock discarded on Memory Island, the CVRD was required to remove two old docks from the island. A full day's labour was

involved in pulling one of these waterlogged docks out of the water. Dismantling the same dock took almost three and a half days. Last year, another dock was removed from Memory Island. About the same time, a dock deposited at Recreation Road had to be removed. The CVRD has disposed of at least 3 old docks at Old Mill Park within the last few years. Removal of old docks from lakeshore parks regularly costs the CVRD Parks Department – and taxpayers – thousands of dollars.

Valuable amenities for boaters, docks also carry a risk and a responsibility. The vast majority of lakeside property owners, including those who are fortunate to own docks, are responsible citizens. When planning new or replacement dock structures, it is important to consider the potential impacts of the proposed works. Appropriate permits and authorizations from all regulatory agencies must be obtained before proceeding with the project. In addition to complying with the law, dock works must be conducted in a manner that avoids, mitigates or lessens potential impacts to lakeshore habitat, water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife populations, and public safety and property.

Best management practices

and standard project considerations for dock structures can be found on the Ministry of Environment website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/instreamworks/moorings.htm>). Many factors need to be considered in the construction, maintenance, and removal of docks and small moorings:

- ensure any works adhere to Regional Timing Windows to prevent disruption of fish and wildlife habitat
- choose a design with the smallest possible area that will fulfill your needs.
- minimize disruption to habitat by ensuring removal activities do not include dredging, blasting, and/or placement of fill below the High Water Mark
- immediately notify the Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans if significant damage to a lake or foreshore or if significant quantities of deleterious substances occur to the lake as a result of removal works (MOE Emergency Management Plan Incident Reporting Hotline 1-800-663-3456; DFO Observe, Record and Report Hotline 1-800-465-4336);
- prevent interruption of water currents and

reducing potential for altered patterns of erosion or sediment deposition by leaving the site in as natural a condition as possible, and installing a minimum number of well-spaced pilings

- do not use rubber tires as floatation system components for floating dock sections, as they are known to produce extracts that are toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates
- avoid construction of multiple structures in a localized area by designing communal structures rather than private structures
- minimize shading from access ramps or walkways by elevating them above the surface of the water and designing them to have a maximum width of 1.5m
- do not use bare polystyrene for dock floats; it breaks down and small bits can be swallowed by fish

- build grating into the surface of the dock to allow light to penetrate
- remove existing structures and/or pilings in a manner that prevents foreshore disturbance and/or sediment generation
- remove any old structures or pilings to a suitable upland disposal site away from riparian vegetation to avoid waste material from re-entering the lake environment

Adherence to best management practices will help to ensure both the longevity and enjoyment of the dock, while minimizing potential impacts on the lake environment. Prudent management of moorage facilities will also help to minimize the number of times the CVRD Parks Department is required to salvage derelict docks from Shawnigan lakefront parks at considerable effort and expense to me and you.

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## RCMP SUMMER

**Sgt. Rob Webb**  
Detachment Commander,  
Shawnigan Lake RCMP  
250-743-5514

The end of June saw the Detachment busier than usual with an unfortunate increase in mental health calls for service, domestic violence and general nuisance calls as well. We were and have been kept busy with year end grad parties both locally and from neighbouring high schools. We have tried to address this with Bus Companies out of Victoria and recently intercepted them and had all the students loaded back on the bus and returned to Victoria. These types of instances are tying up our resources far too often of late.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP are asking that citizens, neighbours, be respectful of your fellow neighbour. "We have certainly seen an increase in house parties that are going well past a reasonable hour or far too loud regardless of the time of day".

The summer weather has now hit and again we are making a concerted effort to get out on the water and help to ensure everyone can enjoy their time safely. Friday nights have been busy on the lake of late and we are working to get out and surprise a few of those boaters. This is yet another area where we all need to be respectful of our neighbours, fellow

boat operators, and other recreational folks on the lake.

On June 24th Sgt. Webb, Cst. Denise Sutton, President Christina Pratt and Collen Woodger of ICBC (absent from photo) presented Bob Wallace of Speed Watch with a "Maintaining the Right" Print for his over 2000 volunteer hours. This took place during the Mill Bay Community League's Recognition Night. Congratulations Bob and thank you again for all your hard work in helping keep our roads safer.

South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS), CVRD Director's Gerry Giles, Mike Walker and Bruce Fraser, Shawnigan Lake RCMP and many community volunteers recently celebrated the opening of the South Cowichan Community Policing Station in Mill Bay on July 5th



Cst. Denise Sutton, Sgt. Webb, Bob Wallace, Christina Pratt

as well. "The whole area has responded very positively". Sgt. Webb wishes to thank all the volunteers and welcome Gail Stroud as the new coordinator for the community policing station.

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## RCMP Report

**Sgt. Rob Webb**  
Detachment Commander,  
Shawnigan Lake RCMP  
250-743-5514

Shawnigan Lake Detachment executed a Search Warrant in the 1600 block of Shawnigan Lake Road on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP entered the residence and surrounding outbuildings at approximately 11:35 am in search of a suspected Clandestine Lab. The search required the assistance of numerous resources including the RCMP North Cowichan/Duncan Police Dog, BC RCMP Clandestine Lab Team, Island District Federal Drug Section, Island District RCMP, Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the British Columbia Ambulance Service.

The search of the residence and surrounding out buildings resulted in the seizure of cash,

methamphetamine, numerous chemicals in various states suspected to make methamphetamine, as well as various amounts of suspected street level drugs including mushrooms, ecstasy, and marijuana.

The outbuilding that housed the majority of the chemicals has been sealed off and will require further examination. Experts in Clan Lab investigations advise that the materials were contained to the building and that there appears to be no environmental concerns at this time.

During the initial entry to the property and surrounding area, several residences were checked with the majority of homes empty with folks at work or empty seasonal cabins.

The search is a result of a two day investigation. The suspect in this matter is

currently at large. A warrant for his arrest is being sought for Assault as well as several charges under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Numerous items were seized during the investigation. A local environmental company came in after the investigation and removed all harmful or suspected harmful products

The investigation is ongoing. Shawnigan Lake RCMP would ask that citizens remain vigilant and continue to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

A special thanks to BC Ambulance and SLVFD to ensure everyone's safety.

RCMP Shawnigan Lake Detachment  
2780 Shawnigan Lake Rd.  
Shawnigan Lake B.C.  
V0R 2W0  
250-743-5514 Work  
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 Email:shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 22 Calls in June:

- Sunday, June 3 - Burn Pile on Renfrew Road
- Monday, June 11 - MVI on Owl Road
- Monday, June 11 - 1st Responder in the Village
- Wednesday, June 11 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Road
- Saturday, June 16 - 1st Responder in Shawnigan Beach Estates
- Saturday, June 16 - 1st Responder in Silvermine Estates
- Saturday, June 16 - MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Road at Wright Road
- Saturday, June 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Road
- Monday, June 18 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Road
- Tuesday, June 19 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Road
- Wednesday, June 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Road
- Wednesday, June 20 - 1st Responder in Shawnigan Beach Estates
- Thursday, June 21 - 1st Responder in the Village
- Friday, June 22 - MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Road at Skylar Circle
- Friday, June 22 - MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Road at Wright Road
- Saturday, June 23 - 1st Responder in Shawnigan Beach Estates
- Saturday, June 23 - MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd at Sooke Lake Road
- Saturday, June 23 - 1st Responder on Renfrew Road at the Logging Road
- Sunday, June 24 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road at Stowood Road
- Sunday, June 24 - Assist in Shoreline Search near Shawnigan Lake Road at Stowood Road
- Thursday, June 28 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Road
- Saturday, June 30 - Chimney Fire off Silvermine Road
- Department Officers Attended 7 Burning Complaints in June.

Members of the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Department would like to thank everyone who attended the successful Car Wash on June 23rd. Donations of over \$1100 will be forwarded to the Cowichan Valley Fire Departments Fire Safety House Fund.

# Shawnigan Lake Community Association

**Marian Davies**  
*S.L. Community Assoc.*

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association wishes to thank everyone who made their Canada Day celebrations a huge success! The day began with the Malahat Legion and the Mill Bay Lions club who provided a wonderful pancake breakfast. This was followed by the flag raising at Cairn Park which was groomed to perfection by the South Cowichan Rotary crew. The Shawnigan Lake Business Association dedicated the new map now displayed in the park. The parade led the crowds to the Elsie Miles grounds for more family fun! Appreciation is given to Shawnigan Lake Fire Department, RCMP, CVRD, Shawnigan Scouting and Scotland Scouts, Shawnigan Lake Museum, Cowichan 4-H Community Club, Kerry



*Canada Day Parade!*

Park Skating Club, Subaru Triathlon Volunteers, Cowichan Green Community, Trees for Children, Village Chippery, Par-T-Perfect, Shawnigan Garage, Inspire! Shawnigan, BFI, South Cowichan Recreation, RONA, SLCA volunteer members and, of course, everyone who came out to support

and participate!

Our next event will be a Family Halloween Dance on October 27th at the Community Centre!! This event will replace the annual Halloween Howl usually held on Oct 31st. Please make this change on your calendars NOW!!

# Malahat Legion

**The 28th Annual Walter Hall Father/Son/Daughter Fishing Derby** took place on Saturday June 16th.

The weigh-in for all fish took place at the Malahat Legion, 1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.

All fisherpersons, big or small, received a prize at the end of the day.

The Malahat Legion would like to thank all of those that took part and also all of the Legion volunteers who helped make the day a great success, especially those who manned the BBQ's. Special thanks to Linda Filgate who organized the event, rounded up prizes and then MC'd the award and prize giveaway. The Malahat Legion would like to thank all participants and we hope that next year the Derby will be even bigger and better.

Children winners were:

Evan Pywel	5 lb 1 oz	Ling Cod	Trophy/Prize
Ryelee Simard	1 lb 3 oz	Trout	Trophy/Prize

Adult winners were :

Fred Stein	Bass	Trophy/Prize
Mike Yakomewich	Halibut	Trophy/Prize
Ray Moore	Trout	Trophy/Prize
Tony Simard	Salmon	Trophy /Prize

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## Shawnigan Service Club



**Gary Dukelow & Kelly Koepf**  
Shawnigan School

Working from the premise that we find ourselves when we lose ourselves in the service of others, the aim of the Shawnigan Service Club is to support and promote a culture of compassion.

Grade 12 student Vanessa Smith feels that she has benefited from the Club's objectives, "I joined the Club because of the happiness that I am able to give people by spending only an hour with them once a week, and in return, for the satisfaction they have given me. I also appreciate all the extra opportunities we have to be involved within the community. The greatest lesson I have learned is to be inclusive to every human being, no matter his or her situation. It has been such an eye opening experience

to be a part of something so much bigger than Shawnigan, something that truly affects others for the positive."

The Shawnigan Service Club strives to engage students in a wide variety of community causes and activities. Some students build supportive relationships with elderly people whose lives are curtailed by limited social interaction, and they do this through weekly visits to the Cerwydden Care Centre, Acacia Ty Mawr and Sun Ridge Place. Other students spend time each week with developmentally disabled youth from the Clements Centre, helping to normalize and stimulate their lives. Last year, some students donated their time and talents by tutoring elementary school children at Hiye'yu Lelum

House of Friendship. They also made homemade chicken soup for local elementary school children, guided by a local First Nations Chef, whose stories were as good as the soup!

First year Service Club Member Vivian Braithwaite enjoys the multitude of opportunities Service Club members have to be involved, "I enjoy that every day in the Service Club is completely different and that after each session, whether it be at Cerwydden and Care or Clements or Acacia, I come back with a smile and feeling relaxed, despite whatever is going on in my academic life back at school."

Aside from their set weekly visits at these community organizations, student leaders from the Service Club also regularly step forward to spearhead school-wide



Photo by Stephen Lane: Vivian Braithwaite enjoying a moment with a resident of Sun Ridge Place

opportunities for volunteering at events such as the annual M.S. Walk, the Caregivers' Walk, the Hike for Hospice and the Hospital Foundation Gala.

"The annual Hospice Dinner at Shawnigan is always a fun experience and highlight for me, but just being able to get out of school to see and socialize with the new people is great, a definite stress reliever, "

states veteran Service Club member Fraser Blanchflower. "There's not one thing I don't enjoy about Service Club. The feeling you get at the end of the day, how worthwhile and easy it was to just sit down and talk to someone and knowing that you helped make their day, talking to new people and hearing their stories, and the friendships that you build -- it's beneficial to everyone, it's awesome!"



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This is the banner over the Community Hall for the eighth Shawnigan Lake Walk, which started and finished on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. But the positive energy generated will percolate down through the community as long as memory lasts. I am awestruck by the almost 300 people that volunteered, walked, kayaked and businesses that came together to make June 3<sup>rd</sup> a great community event. The planning committee, staff and volunteers, started planning a year ago and there was staff and volunteers there for the clean up at the very end.

It was more than a Shawnigan Lake event. Maggie came from Nanaimo to set up the dining room. Heidi came from Victoria to slice onions. Gerry of Arbutus Ridge, our long-time parking lot attendant, who came in his Sunday suit last year, arrived this year in working clothes and we still welcomed him. Grant and Rod, as always, were there with their trucks. Kathy did yeoman service on organizing and as official gopher. The MC

and entertainers gave their time and talent. Directors and staff members were there and when we needed even more energy Taryn came on staff.

The businesses that supported the walk with food, water, money, advertising, tents and whatever will be thanked in the press. But Susan, your cookies were fantastic.

Those I have mentioned, those I have overlooked, those I have forgotten, those I will never know, I sincerely thank you for supporting a charity that is heart to my heart. What is really wonderful is those who pledge which show people do share their good fortune with one is less pleasant circumstances.

It is said that a good deed shines forever in eternity.

Garth Harvey, President  
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society  
**p.s. We made just over \$21,000.00**



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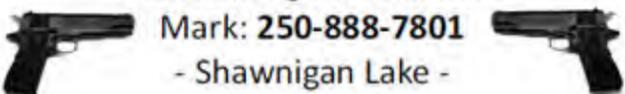
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# The Show and Shine SHONE!



*Photo Credit: Sally Davies*

**Sally Davies**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

The fifth annual “Show & Shine” was by all measures an overwhelming success. After weeks of relentless rain and cold weather, the sun broke through and the motor gods smiled upon the day.

It was truly a community event. Shawnigan Lake School generously provided the venue, giving local residents and visitors alike, a chance to view the beautiful campus in the heart of our community.

Country Grocer, Fountain Tire, Ledge Plumbing, and Hagel Contracting were among the local business that

generously donated and Lucy took time off work at “Thrix Salon” to man the barbecues. The recipient of all this generosity was the “Cowichan Valley Hospice”. Organizer Lorin Inglis, states that \$2500. will be going directly to this valuable community resource.

The event is garnering a reputation as one of the best car shows on the Island and now draws car enthusiasts from all over B.C. (and beyond) It is establishing itself as a “go-to event” on the Shawnigan summer calendar as it grows in size and reputation.

## Take a Hike!



**Robin Massey**  
[www.theontree.com](http://www.theontree.com)  
*Shawnigan Focus*

The first Sunday after the Summer Solstice inspired us to enjoy the beauty of the Kinsol Trestle Bypass Route. For this hike, we started at the Koksilah Provincial Park 4km West of Shawnigan Lake on Renfrew Road, otherwise known as Burnt Bridge.

From what I understand, the area is known as ‘Burnt Bridge’ due to an old wood bridge that used to join the two sides of the river leading to the silver mine. The original bridge burned down in a large forest fire and was replaced by second bridge which was then later replaced with the concrete and steel structure that we now see.

Just to remind us to always be aware that these forests are the home of wildlife and we are, in fact, guests we were pleasantly surprised with the grace of seeing a wolf couple trotting down alongside the gravel road carrying a rabbit home for breakfast as we drove into the park. And, although we were awestruck by the sight, they really didn’t give us the time of day – perhaps they had their minds on the feast awaiting them.

We wiggled our way through the yellow gate, headed over the bridge to the mainline trail and steered right for about 20 minutes arriving at the ‘Kinsol Trestle Bypass Route’ sign indicating the trailhead.

This trail immediately greets you with a loooong and steep decline which requires careful footwork and some of the most amazing temperate rainforest around – stick with it, as you won’t regret it!

Depending on the time of year the trail can be either very wet or just right. And, although any time of the year is wonderful to explore it, the summer months are truly ideal to avoid climbing through the spring waters that may cut off the trail at several points.

We stayed true to the trail and approximately an hour and a half later came upon a fork in the trail, leading to the trestle to the left or to the beach to the right. We went with beach! We worked our way down to have our picnic on the beautiful rocky riverside which had the most perfect perches for our

backsides as we munched on our fabulous nuts, fruits and cheese.

At this point, we felt most satisfied with our progress of the morning and chose to head back to our initial point. But, if you find yourself having 3-4 hours of free time, the trail will take you on a one way trip right to the Trestle.

The difficulty level is easy to moderate. There are a lot of ups and downs, so trekking poles are recommended for the downslopes, especially for known knee issues. It was 2.5-3 hours round to our picnic point. This area is also known cougar country (and wolves...!), so wear bells, make lots of noise, and bring your K9 friend if she is bigger than your purse.

Next month, why don’t you join us on the Cowichan River Footpath? We promise to be nice!



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# The Wild Side - Black bears abounding

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Black bears were a common sight around Shawnigan just a few decades ago. They were a highlight of most trips to the dump and no one got too excited seeing them scamper across the road or foraging in a berry patch. A shotgun loaded with rock-salt was often the solution for those who got caught raiding a vegetable garden or orchard.

With increasing urbanization their numbers have diminished and they appear to have become more reclusive. Sightings are rare and often result in media attention and calls to conservation officers. The rural tolerance of the past has been displaced by suburban apprehension. This is understandable as most of us don't have a shotgun at the ready, or a rifle in the truck any more – probably a good thing!

So what's up with the bruises this year? There have been an unusual number of sightings and disturbed garbage cans throughout the region over the last few months. Has this spring just been an anomaly or are we going to become like North Vancouver where thousands of the displaced creatures are sighted each year? We want to hear from readers on this topic. Send us your bear stories: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

A Few Bear Facts From Various Sources:

The BC Wildlife Branch estimates that there are between 120,000 and 160,000 black bears in the province.

- Adult black bears are usually 5 to 6 ft long with a shoulder height of 2.5



*American Black Bear – Google Images - Scientific Name: Ursus americanus vancouveri (Vancouver Island Black Bear)*

- to 3 ft. Standing up, a Black Bear can reach up to 7 ft tall.
- A typical adult black bear weighs between 200 and 400 pounds, with some reaching 500 pounds; females are a third smaller than males.
- Black bears have a lifespan of about 20 years; they can run up to 35 mph, climb up a tree easily and are good swimmers
- Black bears are omnivores with a diet of plants, meat, and insects. Only 12% of their food is animal matter.
- The area that a specific bear uses throughout the year for food, water, breeding, and shelter is called its home range. Home ranges of adult males, typically 25 to 150 square km, are larger than those of females, which vary from 5 to 25 square km.
- Bears mark their territories by rubbing their bodies against trees and clawing at the bark.
- Sounds expressing aggression include growls, woofs, snorts, bellows and roars; sounds expressing contentment include mumbles, squeaks and pants.
- In coastal British Columbia, almost all black bear dens are in or under large-diameter trees, snags, logs or stumps, and may be up to 25m above the ground.
- Black bears enter their dens in October and November. Prior to that time, they can put on up to 30 pounds of body fat. Hibernation in black bears typically lasts 3–5 months. During this time, their heart rate drops from 40–50 beats per minute to 8 beats per minute. Their body temperature does not drop significantly (staying around 35 degrees Celsius) and they remain somewhat alert and active. If the winter is mild enough, they may wake up and forage for food.
- Breeding usually occurs in June and July. Litters are usually born in late January to early February. Litters usually consist of two cubs. The cubs will stay with their mother for about two years.
- Despite being quadrupeds, bears can stand and sit similarly to humans.
- Black bear fat was once valued as a cosmetic article which promoted hair growth and gloss.
- Ten thousand-year-old skeletons in caves on Vancouver Island indicate that black bears arrived soon after glaciation.
- Across North America there is increasing interest in the black bear as a game animal. In recent years hunters in Canada and the United States have taken about 40,000 black bears per year.
- Trash and bird feeders are the most common attractants responsible for luring bears to human dwellings. Pet food, charcoal grills, fruit trees and gardens may also attract bears. Once a bear finds food around your home it will likely return.
- Conservation officers have to kill up to 1000 black bears every year because of serious conflicts with people. Improperly handled garbage is the greatest cause of human-bear conflict in British Columbia, and responsible waste management is the best approach to preventing conflict.
- Black bears rarely attack when confronted by humans, and usually limit themselves to making mock charges, emitting blowing noises and swatting the ground with their forepaws.
- Bears are physically powerful and are capable of fatally attacking a person. However, for the most part, they are shy, easily frightened and will avoid humans. Injuries caused by bears are rare, but widely reported. The danger that bears pose is often exaggerated, in part by the human imagination.

## May I have a word?

**Monica Foster**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Nice. Now, there's a nice word.

It's not offensive; it's not bold or outrageous, daring or flamboyant or cheeky. It doesn't stand out in a crowd; it's possibly just a little boring. When I was a teenager, once describing something as nice, my English granny admonished me: "Nice? Good Heavens! There are so many more words to choose from than just "nice" She was challeng-

ing me to not be lazy in my speech, and to be more precise in my description. That lesson has stuck with me, and I still chuckle to myself when I use the word. "Nice" has become a default word, one to use when you can't think of anything better. Just watch any house-hunting show on TV. As the buyers tour the house, count how many times they use the word nice. "This entry is nice; nice tiles... oh,

the kitchen is nice... nice-sized family room..."

It seems a shame to use one word for so many things when English has so many precisely nuanced ones.

A nice person could also be described as genial, cordial, pleasant, kind, friendly, helpful, good-natured, good-hearted, generous.

A nice day can be sunny,

balmy, fresh, fun-filled, relaxing.

A nice meal can be tasty, satisfying, balanced, well-presented.

If you find yourself (like me) using "nice", why not challenge yourself to find a more precise word? There is no downside to improving or increasing your vocabulary; the more words we have at our disposal, the clearer our

thoughts and communication can become. Have you ever had to say "Well, it's hard to explain.?" If I find myself saying that, it's usually because I lack the word-power to express the concept.

Ironically, or fittingly perhaps, the English word nice originally meant simple, silly, or foolish, from the Latin nescius, to be ignorant.

How nice!

# Shawnigan Focus

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JULY 2012

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

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available. Please contact editor@shawniganfocus.ca for details. Note: *Views expressed by individual authors are not the opinion of Shawnigan Focus, but of the comment writer.*

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## WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT? WHY IS IT?



## WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER: JUNE ISSUE

### stumped you!!

There were no correct answers for our June contest. The picture shows railings at Discovery School.

Winners receive two specialty coffees at Moziro's

*First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins*

## FEELING CREATIVE? CARTOONS WANTED!

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## Shawnigan Weather June 2012

(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network)

*compiled by Grant Treloar*

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Shawnigan Museum	Kelsey School
Average High	19.6	18.1	17.7	17.6	18.2
Average Low	9.7	8.8	8.4	9.2	9.1
Extreme High	35.6	23.1	23.3	23.9	22.3
Extreme Low	0.0	5.4	4.1	5.7	5.8
Precipitation	40.2	54.2	44.1	39.5	39.7
Days with Precip	10	17	15	16	15

Lake Temp: June 3<sup>rd</sup>: 16° June 10<sup>th</sup>: 16° June 17<sup>th</sup>: 16° June 24<sup>th</sup>: 17°

# Shawnigan Lakewatch

www.Shawnigan-Lakewatch.com

Property Security and Maintenance for the Shawnigan Lake Area

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## SIA Application Contact Information

If you have concerns about the SIA application to deposit contaminated waste in our drinking water watershed, here are the people you should contact:

#### Hubert Bunce

Section Head, Business and Standards Regional Operations Branch – West Coast Region, Ministry of Environment  
[Hubert.Bunce@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hubert.Bunce@gov.bc.ca)

#### Terry Lake

Minister of Environment  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

#### Christy Clark

Premier of BC  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

#### Bill Routley

MLA: Cowichan Valley  
[bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca)

#### Rob Fleming

MLA - Environment Critic  
[rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca)

#### Jean Crowder

MP: Nanaimo-Cowichan  
[Crowder.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Crowder.J@parl.gc.ca)

WEBSITE INFO

## CHECK IT OUT!!!

[www.shawniganfocus.ca](http://www.shawniganfocus.ca)  
View Our past issues & Twitter feed

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Jim Musselwhite  
Shawnigan Lake, BC  
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