



# Shawnigan

# FOCUS



Volume Two - Issue Twelve

DECEMBER 2012

*A Non-Profit Community Publication*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS SHAWNIGAN!

### There's something fishy going on...

What a splendid Christmas present! We have thousands of spawning coho salmon in our watershed. A huge thank-you to all who have helped make this happen. It is also a reminder that the lake and surrounding watershed are a large part of what defines us as a community. We need to care.

#### What people are saying:

"We saw several fish at the bridge nearest the lake on West SL Road. Saw one fish near the bridge on Sooke Lake Road"

"There were about ten salmon hovering about facing upstream in the pool at William Rivers Park"

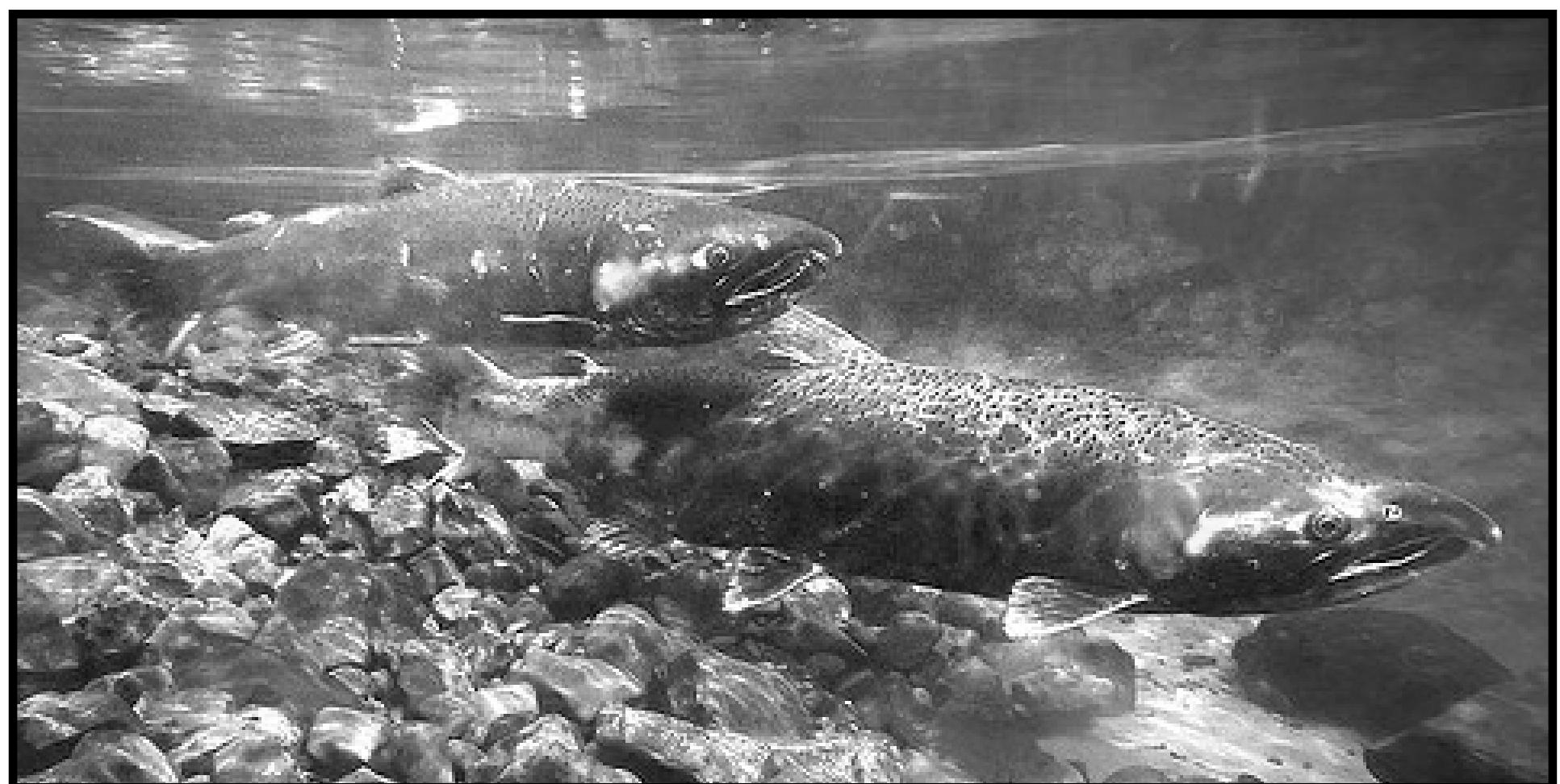
"We've seen them in Hollings Creek, behind our place."

"I was startled to see a huge, fast fish swimming off Old Mill Park."

"We wondered what this large fish was down the Arm."

"Last Wednesday, was the first time that I saw the salmon and there were about 4 of them in the small creek on our property. I went to my neighbours who live at the mouth of the creek and there were another 6 in different pools."

**More fish stories on the following pages: 7, 9 & 10**



Coho salmon near the end of their journey.

## More good news from Santa

**Bruce Fraser**  
Area Director

We have a nice piece of long-awaited good news to celebrate!

On December 5, 2012 School District 79 accepted the CVRD's offer to purchase the Elsie Miles School property in the heart of Shawnigan Village. The CVRD has been leasing the property for several years, but always had the uncertainty that the lease could end leaving the community with a vacant centre or an unwanted development. This land was the last piece of real estate that could be transformed into a public gathering place to consolidate the business community, the museum and the Community Centre into a single integrated whole. While I have the privilege of announcing the agreement between the CVRD and the School District, work toward

this end has been going on for years. Ken Cossey supported and fostered this project during his term of office and Regional District staff have been working behind the scenes to make it possible while also applying for grant funds to support renovation costs.

Many share the vision for a rejuvenated Shawnigan Village. For the past few months the Shawnigan Village Development Council has been working with architect Christine Lintott to prepare a master plan for the future configuration of the village. At the centre of this concept is the Elsie Miles property as a gathering place, linked to the commercial centre and to the lakeshore. Meanwhile the Parks Commission and the Community Centre Commission have been marshalling their thoughts as how best to make use of the property for community purposes. The three teams are now working together and will be consulting the Shawnigan

public as a host of grand ideas mature into concrete development plans.

Purchase of the property for \$750,000, based on a current real estate appraisal, was made possible by drawing on the existing reserve funds of the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission and the Area B Parks and Recreation Commission, supplemented by short term borrowing of funds. The ongoing cost of leasing the Elsie Miles school building and property has been \$30,000 a year that will not now be needed. The cost of borrowing to complete the purchase price will be a line item in the Community Centre budget that will cost Area B taxpayers 2.10/100K of assessment per year for five years and then will cease. It will likely take until the Spring of 2013 for the enabling School District by-law to be prepared and for the Minister of Education to provide formal approval of the sale.

# What's going on in Shawnigan Lake?

## Shawnigan Transit benches

Elijah Fraser  
Shawnigan Focus

Transit ridership is on the rise in Shawnigan and waiting for the bus just got more comfortable. New benches installed in front of Steeples Restaurant, the Style Centre Barber Shop, and Mason's Store, are three of twenty-five benches funded through the CVRD's Transit Budget. In consultation with the BC Transit operating company and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the benches were sited in locations around the Cowichan Valley. The Benches are constructed of locally sourced materials and were installed by the CVRD Parks Department.



"We are hoping that the Board will continue to support this initiative so that more benches can be installed in the coming years," said Rob Williams, a Transit Analyst with the CVRD Engineering Department.

and a temporary line was run above ground along the bank of the ditch.

"Approximately thirty percent of our (user) rates go into a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund to replace parts of the system that are getting old, and so it seemed to be the right time to replace that whole section," said Rod Lidstone of Lidstech Holdings Ltd. (SVWW).

The line was upgraded to the current standard six inch pipe, which will improve service pressures and reliability, and eventually will be connected back to the grid in the village for better distribution. Although it currently only serves a couple of residences, there is the potential for more connections. A new hydrant was also installed along the road near the fire hall and the standpipe at the end of the line allows connection for firefighting.

## Water main upgrades

Elijah Fraser  
Shawnigan Focus

After completing repairs to a water main leak at the intersection of Shawningan Lake Road and Shawnigan Mill Bay Road earlier this fall, Shawnigan Village Waterworks (SVWW) turned its attention to ongoing upgrades.

A section of water main crosses under the road between Gibsons Park and the Shawnigan Fire Hall, and then runs under Shawnigan Mill Bay Road towards the village. According to John Motherwell, of Motherwell and Associates Engineering Ltd., the two inch polyethylene line was installed before 1975. During the last two summers cracks in the line resulted in leaks. Recently, the section was abandoned

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## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

DECEMBER 2012

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### ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. 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. [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

*Views expressed in articles are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.*

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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## WHERE'S DECLAN?



# Editorial

## 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)

## Excerpts from letters of concern re: Shawnigan Residents Association Public Meeting on the soil dumping application

Having reviewed the independent Lowen Hydrogeology Report and the Sylvia Barroso/Pat Lapcevic Review it is evident that further investigations of the area in question are necessary before any final decisions can be made by the MoE.... I hope all sources of information/recommendations will be thoroughly reviewed before undertaking a permanent contaminated soil dumping site in any active and vulnerable watershed.

~Heather Noakes

I have been enjoying Shawnigan Lake for over 55 years and living and working here since 1976. I am appalled at the thought of a private company given an opportunity to make a profit at the expense of our community. The life expectancy of the containment is not satisfactory. The area is adjacent to a creek that feeds our water supply. It is in the same aquifer that feeds our lake. It is the water that we all drink.

~Ron Cuthbert

I find it insulting and depressing that I should have to campaign to business people and government officials to do something as basic as protecting drinking water. And yet, here in Shawnigan, we have a corporate entity ready to gamble the integrity of our lake and watershed by applying to dump contaminated soil into it.

~Al Brunet

The fact that reports from experts seem to conflict, should be enough to turn down this proposal, let alone the argument that it shouldn't be considered in the first place because it falls within a source of drinking water for a community larger than the size of Duncan. ... Please don't approve the dumping of contaminated soil in our watershed. Thousands of people live here and drink the water.

~Grant and Corinne Price

On any given weekday, convoys of double tandem trucks grind their way up and down the island corridor, hauling who knows what to

who knows where. This is before the SIA proposal has apparently even been approved. Consider that our public agencies charged with protecting our environment are even entertaining this proposal!

~Sally Davies

I'm gravely concerned with the evaluation of the South Island Aggravate [SIA] proposal to dump five million tonnes of contaminated soil into the Shawnigan drinking watershed. You have two critical reports on the SIA proposal, one from the Forestry Ministry and the Lowen Report. A report prepared for the Shawnigan Residents Association recently. Repeatedly, I'm told by Ministry of Environment staff that they must follow their regulations with respect to the SIA proposal. Approving the proposal unless it contains serious short comings. It is patiently clear that you now have ample cause, based on two highly critical scientific and technical professional reports, to reject the SIA proposal.

Mr. Bunce, you are a professional senior member of the Ministry of Environment. As such exercise your responsibility by rejecting the SIA proposal now and in so doing protect the source of drinking water for many Shawnigan Lake residents.

~Joseph Gollner

I am a third generation resident of Shawnigan Lake and my family has resided here since 1950. The protection of our water supply is a fundamental principal which not only is comprised of issues related to the health and wellness of our population but raises further ethical and moral considerations around the lack of acceptable practice to compromise our clean water systems.

The proposal by South Island Aggregates(SIA), who are already dumping contaminated soil in our water protection area, to produce a 5 tonne capacity dump for contaminated soil within our aquifer over the next several decades is of significant concern and risk.

Overwhelming scientific evidence provided by the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Environment, The Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Lowen Report have shown statistically significant risks and raise serious concern in the discrepancy of the report provided by SIA. In fact, the discrepancy and degree of variation on the environmental, water and safety impact of the SIA proposed project on our water system shows considerable risk in both the immediate and long term if such a proposal were to be approved. Based on these factors, the degree of harm and risk towards the impact on our water system is not only concerning but unacceptable.

As noted by Justice Dennis O'Connor who led the Walkerton Water Inquiry in 2002 which left a community grieving over the deaths and destruction of their water supply, "the first barrier to the contamination of drinking water involves protecting the sources of drinking water". Any move by the Government of BC to approve what amounts to a big business money grab, regardless of the complete lack of moral and ethical decision making on the part of SIA, based on the available evidence presented by several experts including those within your government, must lead to a decision to reject any such proposal by SIA. The risk to our water and environment is too great.

The issue we face is simple. Water is critical to all aspects of life. My expectation as a tax payer, voter, resident and concerned citizen is that Government must in all instances place the protection of safe and reliable sources of water above the pressure of opportunistic business practices now and in the future.

We require a multi-barrier approach towards the protection of our water management and must take action to prevent contaminated sources of material to impact our water. The SIA proposal must in all aspects be rejected.

I look forward to your response.

~J. Walker MSW

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**SLBA**



**By Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) hosted its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 29th. The main item on the agenda was a presentation by Dennis Lowen of Lowen Hydrogeology which identified concerns with an application by South Island Aggregates (SIA) to deposit five million tons of contaminated waste in the Shawnigan watershed. Lowen was hired by the SRA to review the SIA proposal.

A sizable audience braved inclement weather to attend the event which was hosted in the Hugh Wilkinson Theatre at Shawnigan Lake School. Interest was high as Lowen questioned assertions made in the Technical Assessment Report provided by Active Earth Engineering, the consulting firm employed by SIA.

Lowen began by describing how his personal knowledge of the hydrogeology of southern Vancouver Island has been gathered over decades of experience in this region. He went on to discuss and illustrate areas of disagreement with Active Earth.

Active Earth claims "liners have been successfully used at landfills for decades and that their lifespan is considered indefinite." Lowen says "many studies have shown that landfill liners eventually leak. In fact they generally leak soon after filling has begun. An engineered liner is no guarantee that contaminated landfill liquids will not escape the proposed landfill."

Active Earth contends that the site is ideal because the underlying bedrock is highly impermeable and any leakage would take 100,000 years to get through to the aquifer below. Lowen disagrees and asserts that the bedrock is

fractured throughout and that the aquifer is highly vulnerable to contamination from surface sources. "The contaminated flow from the landfill will readily reach the underlying drinking water aquifer and could present a health risk." Lowen also points out that "any contamination carried by the groundwater flow would reach the lake with little attenuation. There would be little absorption or filtration in open bedrock fractures and only dilution would reduce contaminant concentrations. Dilution alone may not be enough to prevent contamination of lake water."

Hydrogeology is often complex and it is not unusual for experts to disagree, according to Lowen. Differences can be resolved by more study and 3rd party review. Active Earth is less diplomatic. In a written response they claim that "many of the conclu-

sions drawn by LHC are incorrect." They further state that the Lowen "assessment of groundwater flow rates is intentionally misleading."

This SRA gathering was similar to previous public meetings concerning the SIA proposal. In stark contradiction to the Active Earth claim of "a high-degree of indifference to the proposal by the local population", there are many serious and legitimate concerns as evidenced by the numerous questions and comments voiced by a diverse group of attendees.

Bruce Fraser, the elected Area Director for Shawnigan, commented "Downplaying the public concern for threats to the Shawnigan watershed appears to be an attempt to dismiss a public outcry that was abundantly evident during the consultations."

One thought frequently expressed is that any uncertainty

about risk should immediately disqualify the proposal. Locating such a facility next to Shawnigan Creek, in a Designated Community Watershed providing drinking water for thousands of people, would be absurd. End of story – further study not required.

On November 30th the Ministry of Environment issued the following statement: "Last week the applicant (SIA) submitted their final application documents in support of their contaminated soil treatment and disposal permit application. The Ministry will be reviewing the technical and consultation related documents received and hope to be able to make a decision early in the New Year."

The SRA is to be commended for engaging Mr. Lowen and organizing this event; thanks also to Shawnigan Lake School for providing the excellent facility.

## Alternate approval process needs altering

**Joseph Gollner**  
*Shawnigan Resident*

Members of the public often ask what an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) is. Hopefully this explanation will help to answer their question. The AAP is a financial management instrument used by Regional local governments to raise funds for new activities or projects, when borrowing is required.

The Local Government Act restricts a Region's capacity to borrow money to using either referendums or the AAP. The Act also directs that the Region use a "function based" budget system. This requires that every new activity or "function" is listed as a new line-item and accounted for separately in the Region's budget.

If the CVRD needs to raise funds in order to undertake something new, whether it is simple as street lighting or a major project like a sports complex, then it has two choices, a referendum or AAP. The AAP is highly successful. The CVRD's success rate is close to 90%. Various reasons are given ranging from voter apathy to the voters not understanding the process. However, the main reason why the public does not like the AAP is likely because it is a form of negative option billing. From the administrative perspective, the AAP is relatively cheap, easy to execute and, most importantly, requires little political risk.

The CVRD can also use referendums to raise funds. However, referendums are costly, time consuming, and need more support because of the requirements of the Elections Act. Most importantly, political capital is involved. Politicians need to sell the merits of the project to the voters. When the voter has a secret ballot, success is not guaranteed.

The reality is that the AAP is legal in BC. Its use can and is used to facilitate the

normal process of governance and finance within the CVRD and other local governments across BC. That said, the public rightfully expects a fair and open process. This can, in part, be met by applying Best Practices (BP). While the Act sets out what is required to make an AAP legal, it also allows room for the application of BP to make the process more open. Some Regions are actively working on their own AAP guidelines.

Recently, I made a presentation to the CVRD's Regional Services Committee suggesting some ideas which, if implemented, would help to improve the public's understanding of the AAP:

**Official Notice:** The Act sets out what must be included in the official notices. BP would also specify that AAP notices be written in plain English. Making the notice understandable to most voters as opposed to the current practice of designing the notices so few will read and even fewer understand them.

**Response Time:** The Act requires a minimum of thirty days for the process but that does not mean it must be only thirty days. As a BP, the time could be expanded as necessary to provide the public with longer to investigate, consider, and respond. If, for example, the topic is costly, complex, and involves numerous Electoral Areas then perhaps forty five days or longer is required.

**Signatures:** The Act allows for multiple signatures on the Elector Response Form. Doing so would give taxpayers more flexibility to organize an individual or collective response; it would also encourage public participation in the process being considered.

**Form Availability:** The Act does not specify that forms be available only at the municipal hall. BP would have them

readily available on the net, at all staffed CVRD facilities and outside daytime office hours too.

**Privacy:** A ballot is protected and so should be an Elector Response Form. Once the form reaches the CVRD it is handled like a ballot but often there are many hands between when a form is signed and when it reaches the CVRD. BP would help to ensure privacy of the forms.

**Cost:** The CVRD BP guidelines should have reasonable upper and lower bounds. For example: Lower level \$10,000; upper level \$250,000. These reasonable limits would help motivate effective planning in the CVRD so that the AAP does not become routine.

**Timeframe:** BP guidelines for the AAP would provide reasonable timelines as to when the process can be applied. For example, the process should not be used within four months on either side of an election, or annually when the budget process is actively underway.

**Communications:** Under BP guidelines appropriate training would be provided so staff could respond competently to taxpayer inquiries. When information is sent to voters involved in an AAP, in addition to advertising the merits of the project, the guidelines would ensure that the material also contain essential information on how taxpayers can get more information on the project and make their views known.

Currently, and despite the views of some members of the CVRD Board, numerous voters do not know what the AAP is or how it works. Instead they see it as an arbitrary bureaucratically applied tax grab. Best Practices, if implemented, could make the AAP more fair, open, and meaningful to all.



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## Take a Hike!

**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Random rainy afternoons are great for exploring new trails. Believe it or not, most of the time when in the forest you are protected by nature's umbrella in the canopy of the trees, so don't let the rain stop you!

I've been told on numerous occasions by numerous people about how wonderful and beautiful the Kingburne Park trail is... so, on a cabin-feverish rainy afternoon my mom and I, along with our two dogs, took on the quest to check it out.

Getting there was simple enough... turn left onto Thain Road from Cobble Hill Road and take a right onto Kingburne. Follow Kingburne all the way to Gray Lane, go right again and follow to the end. Once in the little key hole parking area you should

be able to spy the CVRD's 'Welcome to Kingburne Park' board confirming you are indeed in the right place.

As we walked through the thick, rich woodlands we are amazed that we hadn't been on this trail before, as it is truly a stunning area. There are some stairs leading down that can be quite slippery on a rainy day but the trail itself is easily achievable by all ages and stages of walkers, runners and hikers alike.

If you stay on the more commonly used trail you will come to a protective fence on the bluff overlooking the river. As I write this, I have visions of returning to this spot once we are out of the liquid sunshine season and parking under the shade of the trees and relishing the music of the river passing below while snacking on picnic goodies with a few of my favorite people.

On this particular walk, we limited ourselves and spent about 1.5 hrs following as many branches as we could. The trail along the cliff's barricade continues right down to the river which I imagine is amazing in the summer – right now it's a bit on the dangerous side so please proceed with caution! The river is moving very fast and even a lot of K9's are no match for its strength.

Thank you so much for your reading support in 2012. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Iron Butt's! Next month, come out and join us as we see what Spectacle Lake has to offer on the 30th of December... not to mention burn off some post Christmas joy!

Be well.

Robin Massey (Captain Tailfeather) plays on various trails with The Iron Butts [www.theomtree.com](http://www.theomtree.com)

## Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

**The Shawnigan Lake Adventure**

**Ranjana Basu**

Yes, this is the new name of Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society's well established and popular annual fundraiser. We have grown from The Shawnigan Lake Walk into the Shawnigan Lake Adventure! Now there will be four ways to participate and enjoy this event on Sunday, June 2, 2013. You can walk it, bike it, kayak it or geocache.

For those who walk it, there will be 5 routes to choose from. Cycling enthusiasts can opt for

a longer or shorter route almost exclusively on the Trans Canada Trail (TCT). A guided 12k route on the waters of beautiful Shawnigan Lake is available for kayakers while the geocaching fun will happen along a portion of the TCT.

Meanwhile, back at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, there will be delicious vegetarian food specially prepared by local eateries and relaxing foot massages waiting for you to enjoy after you've completed your activity.

Participants and everyone in the community can join in the excitement of the new artisan's

court and live entertainment. Of course, as always, there will also be raffle tickets for a fabulous prize for sale!

The organizing team is busy planning a day for people to enjoy and support a local charity at the same time. We're looking for volunteer coordinators so please call Kathy at 250-748-9937 if you have some time. All proceeds from the fun event will support families right here in the Cowichan Region who are struggling to cope with illness or disability. Stay tuned for updates leading up to Shawnigan Lake Adventure! [www.ShawniganLakeAdventure.com](http://www.ShawniganLakeAdventure.com)

## Shawnigan Parks & Recreation: (Area B) Bright Angel Park

**Margaret Symon**  
*Chair of Parks Commission*

It's Christmas: did you know angels are busy at Bright Angel Park? In an earlier edition of the Focus, we told you that the South Cowichan Parks Commission (including Areas A, B, and C) recently assumed responsibility to oversee Bright Angel Park. Donated in 1958 by Jack Fleetwood, an Irish Catholic and writer, and his wife, the parkland along the Koksilah River was named Bright Angel Park in honour of guardian angels.

Beginning in 1988, the Bright Angel Support Society was influential in developing trails and amenities at the park, with the result that Bright Angel Park became one of the most popular parks in the Cowichan Valley. Attractions include a suspension bridge over the river, walking trails, swimming, nature study, picnicking, group camping, a fitness circuit and a children's playground with a popular "roundabout" and Cowichan's prototype "zipline". Sadly, over the last decade as members of the original Bright Angel Support Society declined so, too, did the improvements to Bright Angel Park.

A management plan and much needed upgrades are coming to Bright Angel Park! In 2012, a \$560,000 CVRD grant application for park upgrades – including \$100,000 in matching funds

– was approved by the provincial government for the rejuvenation of specific facilities at Bright Angel Park. Two recent open houses in November – one at the park, the other at the Hub at Cowichan Station – provided an opportunity for the public to have a chance to hear about the plans for the park. High priorities will include replacing the old outhouses with washrooms and revamping the parking area away from the sensitive riparian area. Upgrades must be completed by the end of March 2015.

Please help Bright Angel Park's rejuvenation process by completing the CVRD's online survey: <http://www.crvd.bc.ca/Civic%20Alerts.aspx?AID=708>. The park's bright angels appreciate your input into their favourite Cowichan park.

Merry Christmas from the Shawnigan Parks Commission.

**Wanted:** Responsible gate keeper for West Shawnigan Lake Park. Duties include opening and shutting parking lot gate on a daily basis. Works best if you live next to the park! Small remuneration. Contact Ryan Dias at CVRD 250 746-2500.

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# Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable



## Georgia Collins Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable

The Shawnigan Basin Society will support the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable.

We have some amazing people in our community who have stepped forward to engage community in the Roundtable's vision. This group forms the board of our newly established non-profit, the Shawnigan Basin Society, which will serve to fundraise and forward the objectives of the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable.

We are pleased to introduce:

**Dave Hutchinson,** President spent summers at Shawnigan before becoming a full time resident in 1969. Attendance at George Bonner and Cowichan Senior Secondary led to graduation from the University of Victoria with degrees in Mathematics/Computing-Science and Economics. Timber-cruising around the province, and several years' work at Crofton preceded a career in Information Technology. Public-sector employment for several ministries interspersed with private-sector work in Southeast Asia and India have provided a useful perspective. Dave and his wife Janet Neilsen have been lucky to enjoy living at Shawnigan for decades. The lake and surrounding watershed are what define us as a community and a concern for their continued health provides motivation for becoming involved with the Shawnigan Basin Society.

**Grant Treloar,** Vice-President Shawnigan Lake has been a part of Grant's life thanks to his grandparents having had the foresight to

buy property from his great uncle almost 100 years ago. At the summer cabin on the lake, Grant spent many happy summer days as a child and teen, and then, too, with his wife and three children. Ten years ago Grant and Lori moved here permanently and now enjoy the year round activities with their family and friends. An educator in the Sooke School District for 32 years, Grant spent 18 of them as Principal at four elementary schools. He retired 4 years ago, and is currently a part-time sessional instructor and student teacher supervisor in the Education Department at the University of Victoria. Grant has been a member of the board of the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society and an active volunteer at the local Museum since 2005. He is also a member of the Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission.

**J.E.L. [Larry] Gollner,** OMM, CD, Treasurer is from Vancouver. He joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as a soldier in 1956 and served until 1993. After leaving the Army, Larry settled in Victoria, went into business, and became a community volunteer. Christine Ann Mackenzie and Larry married in 1962. They have three children and six grandchildren. They live in Cobble Hill, on their hobby farm, where Larry, besides tending to his vines and garden, paints, and is active in community affairs.

**Blaise Salmon,** Director is an independent financial advisor who has worked for RESULTS Canada, a grassroots citizen advocacy group, and Oikocredit, a global microfinance provider. He currently serves on the board of sev-

eral volunteer organizations, including Primary Schools for Africa. Blaise and his family recently moved back to the Shawnigan area (where his family has had a cabin since 1946), joining his parents, four of his siblings, and their families who all live nearby.

**Ross Tenant,** Director is a developer committed to building healthy, sustainable communities. His background includes 20 years in the computer and telecommunications fields in various sales, marketing and general management roles that spanned domestic and international markets. More recently he has spent the last 12 years in the property development business working on small and large projects with roles that include, Development Manager, Partner, and President of a an island-based development company. He believes strongly that dialogue and consultation leads to the best planned communities. Ross has been married to the love of his life (Evelyn) for 33 years and they have raised three sons (Brett, Dean, and Scott).

**Doug MaKaroff,** Director has 22 years experience as an urban planner and real estate developer, most of which have focused on applying the principles of Sustainability and Urbanism to real estate projects. From 1991 to the present, he has been the President of an urban planning consulting firm, serving public and private clients on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. During this time, Doug was responsible for a wide variety of planning studies, including the creation of urban tree preservation bylaws, land use bylaws, development permit guidelines and official community plans. As

the President of Living Forest Communities, Doug is responsible for the success of the Elkington Forest project. He is committed to establishing this innovative conservation community model by utilizing tested and proven economic and environmental principles.

**Georgia Collins,** Executive Director has been a Shawnigan resident since 2006, moving here after completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Emily Carr University. In order to take on work in the watershed full time, Georgia left her position as a Community Liaison Coordinator for Victoria Women In Need Community Cooperative (WIN) where she was working with donors and women in need. While there, Georgia also had the opportunity to contribute to developing the Community Action Plan on Poverty. Georgia is a board member of Inspire! Shawnigan and is also Co-Chair of the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable. As a mother of two young children who is keenly interested in politics, creative expression and individual transformation, Georgia is dedicated to bringing community together to create a world that works.

**Melissa Nottingham,** Administrative Officer grew up in the Cowichan Valley and after leaving for over ten years returned to raise her own family. She has a wildlife biology degree and is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Environment and Management. Melissa has worked as a fisheries biologist in Alaska, an endangered species observer in Florida and a language instructor in both Colombia and Canada. Before returning to school she worked at

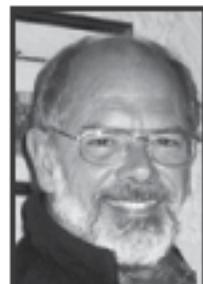
the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Melissa's general interest is in community based resource management, specifically watersheds. Her spare time is filled with enjoying Cowichan with her husband and two young children.

One of the Shawnigan Basin Society and Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable's major undertakings for the next several months is organizing the Shawnigan Gathering, an all basin symposium. We are inviting the entire Shawnigan Community to gather, connect, discuss, perform, and create our vision for the future of our community. We have already invited masters students from UBC to take a close look at Ecological Watershed Governance, comparing the Sooke Lake Reservoir, a relatively untouched watershed, to Shawnigan Lake, a watershed touched by residential use, forestry practices, recreational use, mining and industrial operations, etc. The students will study these two watersheds and provide recommendations on how to create a sustainable community in which people, ecology and the economy thrive. These findings will be presented at the Shawnigan Gathering on April 6th & 7th, 2013.

Did you know that 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation? Stay tuned for more Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable events coming up in this incredible New Year dedicated to exactly what we are committed to!

Visit us at: [www.shawnigan-watershedroundtable.ca](http://www.shawnigan-watershedroundtable.ca)

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From left to right: Dave Hutchinson, Grant Treloar, Larry Gollner, Blaise Salmon, Ross Tenant, Doug MaKaroff, Georgia Collins & Melissa Nottingham

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## Shawnigan Creek Salmon Run

**Brent Beach**

*Shawnigan Focus*

No need to head over the Malahat to do your salmon run viewing this year. We are having a record salmon run right in Shawnigan Creek! These fish are the result of a stocking program begun years ago. Hatchery salmon were released into Shawnigan Lake

and spread into the various creeks that feed the lake. They then went down the outflow creek to the ocean and spent two years at sea. All the salmon on that come into Shawnigan Creek are Coho.

We have no naturally occurring salmon in the Shawnigan Lake system. The falls at the bottom of the creek, where

the creek empties into Saanich Inlet just north of Mill Bay, are tall enough that no fish can make it into the creek. When the fish return to the creek, they are caught in fish traps, crated up, and brought to various locations along Shawnigan Creek and also directly into Shawnigan Lake.

The work of penning the

salmon, crating them up, then trucking them from the ocean up to locations along the creek is done by the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society who have been active since 1971. Combined with guidance from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and help from Shawnigan Lake School and other volunteers the decades of work have

been a remarkable success.

Over 4,200 Coho have already been moved from the ocean to the Shawnigan Lake watershed. Last year only 8 fish returned. The number of fish returning this year is far beyond any return in the past.

Visit [brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/](http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/) for more pictures.

## Shawnigan Lake School - Circle of Life

**Sarah Doyle**

*Shawnigan Lake School*

Shawnigan Lake For the past 32 years, Shawnigan Lake School has been engaged in salmon enhancement initiatives and education. With the School's Mark Hobson Hatchery as the centrepiece, countless Shawnigan students have learned about the economic, social and ecological value of these amazing fish. In addition to their on campus education, students travel to streams, rivers and other hatchery facilities on Vancouver Island to see their subject at work in its natural habitat.

"The up-close-and-personal education that students experience with this program embraces a host of learning styles that help to literally bring the facts alive," states the School's Environmental Programs Coordinator, Scott Noble. "In addition, their engagement in the Salmonid Enhancement Program helps prepare them to be effective stewards of this vital West Coast resource. As adults, faced with decisions that will impact the natural resources landscape of this world - be it local or global - the hope is that the students will be armed with the knowledge and experience to assist them."

Every November, the School's Hatchery program receives brood stock from the Mill Bay and District Conservation

Society's trap on Shawnigan Creek or from the Goldstream Hatchery. With the assistance of Erica Blake, the DFO Community Advisor for the region, students learn to extract the eggs from mature female salmon and milt from mature males, and to complete the external fertilization process. The fertilized eggs are "planted" in incubation units, and the developing salmonids are monitored through the winter months. During this time, students measure the water's temperature to determine accumulated thermal units on a daily basis that are used to assess the stage of development of the developing salmon. All the while, the School's Environment Club plays a key role in managing the facility, helping to keep it running smoothly. Come early spring, the emerging fry are put on a feeding program for a few weeks and their adipose fin (the small vestigial or useless fin on their dorsal surface) is clipped in order to identify them as "hatchery fish." The fry are then released by the students into local streams and rivers as directed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

This fall's return has been a particularly special one. On two occasions, Shawnigan students were able to join the dedicated group of volunteers at the Mill Bay Fish Trap, where record numbers of coho salmon made their way to the

mouth of Shawnigan Creek. Here the crew physically lifted the spawners past the seven impassable falls along the lower stretch of Shawnigan Creek. The salmon then continued their fight upstream to spawning grounds throughout the Shawnigan Watershed.

"Sometimes, like this year, some will choose to 'hang a right' and head up Hartl Creek, on the School's campus," says Noble, who has spearheaded the Shawnigan program for 30 years. "Community members all around the lake are noticing spawning coho where they've not seen them before."

As for this year's brood stock, 35 coho were randomly selected at the trap and delivered. Of those, three had had their adipose fin clipped. Since the School's hatchery is the only one clipping and releasing coho fry into the Shawnigan creek system, and salmon almost always return to their natal stream system - the one from which they were born - those three almost certainly came from our hatchery. One of these three was a female that made her way back to provide our hatchery this year with a new batch of eggs - a whopping 3500, in fact. To quote a famous Disney tune, "it's the circle of life."

The School's hatchery was established by Mark Hobson (world renowned wildlife artist and former staff member and alumnus of Shawnigan Lake School) in 1980, and is one of the first on-campus high school fish hatchery programs in British Columbia. Thanks to the donations from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Shell Environment Fund and the Shawnigan Foundation, along with invaluable support from DFO and its community advisors, the program has flourished.

For more information, please contact: Sarah Doyle, Communications and Media Relations [sdoyle@shawnigan.ca](mailto:sdoyle@shawnigan.ca), 250 743 6267 or 250 588 8027



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# Residents Association holds Annual General Meeting

Graham Ross-Smith

Shawnigan Resident's Assoc.

The Shawnigan Residents Association is very grateful to Shawnigan Lake School for allowing the association to use its Hugh Wilkinson Theatre on November 29th as the venue for its combined annual general meeting and public meeting on the issue of contaminated soil being trucked into the lake's watershed.

About 80 people braved nasty November weather to attend the evening meeting. Expired memberships were renewed and new memberships taken out. Many of those present made generous contributions to help the SRA cover the costs associated with obtaining professional expertise on the contaminated soil issue. The members present elected a new board of directors consisting of Garry Horwood, Al Brunet, Graham Ross-Smith, Dewar McCarthy, Sally Davies, Grant Price,

Calvin Cook and Jim Green. Retiring members Craig Mearns, Gaileen Flamen and Wendy Woollven were thanked for the contribution that they made to the work of the association over the past year, and President Garry Horwood received a round of applause for his exceptionally effective and hard work during his term as president.

In his President's Report, Garry Horwood touched on the following SRA recent achievements:

1. Obtained a commitment from the CVRD to ensure that water will flow out of the lake rapidly enough to prevent damaging floods by keeping the upper reach of the North Shawnigan Creek free of any blockages.
2. Placement and ongoing monitoring of six water level gauges at the lake and along the upper reach of
3. Regular sample-taking of lake water and submission of results (temperature, turbidity, etc.) with the help of staff and students of Shawnigan Lake School as part of the lakes monitoring program of the B.C. Lake Stewardship Society; of which the SRA is a member.
4. Contracted with hydrogeologist Dennis Lowen for an objective report on the possible impacts on water quality of the South Island Aggregates Ltd. request to bring contaminated soils into the lake's watershed for storage over a 50 year period.
5. Enabled community members to learn from Mr. Lowen of the findings of his study of the SIA site

North Shawnigan Creek in order to generate data about places that restrict water flow.

by holding the public meeting of Nov. 29th.

6. Applied for and received a significant grant for watershed and habitat professionals (Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting) to study the health and functioning of the watershed in order that a watershed management plan can be developed and implemented.

The AGM portion of the evening was kept to only a few minutes in order that there would be sufficient time for a presentation by hydrogeologist Dennis Lowen followed by a question and answer session about the South Island Aggregates' application to import contaminated soil over the next fifty years for storage at its quarry in the watershed.

For more information, please visit the SRA website at [www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com](http://www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com)

## Let's Make Music!

Jennie Stevens  
Woodruff Music School

Music is a universal language, found in every society in the world. The joy of music is an integral part of the human experience, and when we provide a rich musical environment for our children in the early years, it greatly enhances their natural tendency to move, and be expressive in speech and song. Musical activities can stimulate development in every area of the brain, helping children to be successful in any number of other tasks. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by many live musical opportunities, as well as having access to recordings spanning a wide variety of musical styles from all over the world. While this provides

wonderful rich experiences for families, it is so important to not lose sight of the joy of families sharing simple music-making time together. With so many accomplished "professionals", many parents feel inadequate in their musical abilities. What can parents do, to be actively involved in encouraging their children musically?

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher! Your greatest musical attribute as a model for your child is showing a joy and interest in sharing music. This is the most powerful motivator, whether or not you have a good singing voice, or any musical training. Simple musical interactions between parent and a young child, such as lullaby singing, fingerplays, beat

keeping games & silly songs to ease transitions during the day, all help build strong bonds of relationship, and encourage a love for music. When music is part of everyday life, the child absorbs it easily. Learning to play an instrument with your growing child, or joining a choir is another way to actively participate in sharing music, even if you are a "beginner" yourself!

So this Festive Season, along with the wonderful musical entertainment you might take in, gather your family, and find ways to share in the simple pleasures of making music together. It is one of the greatest gifts of the season! (excerpts from a previous handout for Woodruff Music School)

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# Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

## Gear up for fly fishing



**Richard Wilby**  
Owner, Forged Fly Fishing

I am reminded of my favourite fish story when someone asks, "Why do you love fishing so much?" It's not the answer they would expect, which only makes the story better. I was trying out my new float tube, basically an inflatable lazy-boy which becomes mobile by the user by paddling his legs that are suspended in the water. It was a more-than-usually beautiful night on Langford Lake, as the sun was just starting to set, and towards town there was a large, dark storm that threatened the lake, with every passing minute, an impressive lightening display. Fearing that my fly rod would recreate a Benjamin Franklin experiment, I decided to pack it in. I was two trout in by this time, both over 14 inches, and both caught on my favourite lake fly, a maroon leech with a

red bead underneath the copper cone head for weight. Not 50 feet from shore I was into another trout, which I landed quickly and removed the hook. It had not sat on my lap-tray for 3 seconds when I heard a bass-like thumping behind me. When I turned, I was met by very large talons at my face, which almost caused me to upset the float tube trying to dodge them. In an instant, this Stuka dive bomber cuffed me upside the head with his wing, knocked my fly rod out of its holder, and grabbed Tommy Trout from my lap. After recovering from the shock, I quickly looked around for validation, but as with most amazing feats in life... nobody saw a thing. I had basically lapped a very large bald eagle.

Anyone can learn to fly fish. I have taught everyone, from small children to the elderly, but the joy in their face when they start to get it is generation wide. It is an art and skill that doesn't take long to get the hang of, but a lifetime to master. Compare fly fishing to wine. Anyone can enjoy it without being a sommelier, but with unending learning, studying and practice, you take away more amazing and beautiful things that you will keep with you for the rest of your life.

On Vancouver Island, any lake or river is capable of producing fish, with spring and fall being your best time. My favourite haunts are the pre-mentioned Langford Lake, Shawnigan Lake, Elk Lake and Fuller Lake. For rivers, the mighty Cowichan River or Sooke River never fails.

So, you're standing there knee deep in the water, about to cast your new rig, and it suddenly hits you. Why do I even want to do this? It's many different things for many different people, but overall the sport of fly fishing is as relaxing as it is exhilarating. Personally, nothing helps me wind down after a hard week like casting out to dark water, not knowing what lies in the deep. Even on those fish-less days, the naturally setting of the water eliminates all of my worries and stresses, and recharges me for the week ahead. And believe me, the adrenaline shot from feeling that tug on the end of your line will keep you coming back for more.

And with that, I hope to see you out on the water. Tight lines!!

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## View From The Other Side

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

Just over the ridge of the hills to the west of Shawnigan Lake is the Sooke Lake Reservoir and its watershed; the source of water for Greater Victoria. Ted Robbins is the acting General Manager of Integrated Water Systems (IWS); the Capital Regional District's division responsible for the delivery of safe potable water to the majority of households in Greater Victoria. Since our watershed buts-up against his watershed, I recently interviewed Mr. Robbins to get his views on how we are dealing with water management in our watershed.

Clearly these two watersheds are quite similar in

terms of climate, topography and eco-systems. And both watersheds collect and send rainwater into lakes that serve as reservoirs. The differences, however, are considerable. The Sooke Lake watershed has a single purpose, a single owner and is managed by a single agency (the IWS), whereas the Shawnigan Lake watershed has a multitude of uses or purposes, a plethora of land owners and no management organization at all. Mr. Robbins pointed out that multi-purpose watersheds are very common and observed that the residents of Greater Victoria are fortunate and unique in having a single-purpose watershed thereby being free from the many challenges that plague multi-purpose water source areas.

The CRD owns 98% of its water catchment lands and has full control over all lakes, rivers and streams on those lands. It intends to acquire the remaining 2% eventually. Having full control of its watershed lands has enabled the IWS to totally secure its lands by means of fences and gates thus preventing trespassing. No one can enter the Sooke Lake watershed on foot or in any sort of vehicle, including float planes, without first getting permission from the IWS.

Though activities in the watershed are now strictly limited to those involved with water management, there was a time when some commercial logging was allowed in order to generate revenue to offset some of the costs of operating and maintaining the water supply system. However, about a decade ago logging was stopped once and for all because it was considered "less than best practice" in a reservoir's watershed. Mr. Robbins explained that today "the ecosystem is fully managed: everything is managed from the wildlife in the lands to the forest and everything in between." "We would never go back to logging now" he said. But even though natural ecosystems are protected

in order to allow them to do their work of water retention and purification, the IWS treats its water before distribution with ultra violet radiation (to kill parasites that might be in the water from wild, warm-blooded animals such as deer and elk,) and with chloramines (to kill harmful bacteria).

Because Mr. Robbins' area of responsibility is the entire CRD, he is more familiar with Salt Spring Island's St. Mary Lake than with Shawnigan Lake. St. Mary Lake is the main source of water for the Salt Spring water system.

Like Shawnigan Lake, it is a multi-use reservoir in a multi-use watershed over which the IWS does not have any control of land uses. In this and other characteristics, Mr. Robbins suspects, the two lakes are probably quite similar. Also, like Shawnigan, the St. Mary Lake area is experiencing significant development. There are no controls on activities on the lake, no sewer system, and many septic systems; some of them failing.

Mr. Robbins suggests that it might pay for us to take an interest in the current problems facing St. Mary Lake and the methods that the residents there find to deal with them.

For example, in recent years St. Mary Lake has had a persistent problem with blue-green algae. A working group has been formed to seek solutions for this serious situation. Blue-green algae can produce a dangerous toxin. Getting rid of this algae can be difficult or, at some point in time, impossible. At that point, the only option is to treat the water. This is extremely expensive for small communities as the community of Fulford Harbour, with only 96 households, has discovered. Each household there pays over \$2000 a year for water.

The best way to protect a source of drinking water is the "multi-barrier" approach adopted by the managers of Sooke Lake and its watershed, but, as Mr. Robbins points out, this is really only possible when those responsible for managing water have control over activities in the watershed. Mr. Robbins suggests that we at Shawnigan might do well to make contact with the working group at St. Mary Lake to establish a relationship for sharing information about water quality problems and possible solutions.

Look for an article on the Salt Spring Island situation in a future Focus article.

## The Wild Side - Web of Life

**Brent Beach**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

This has been a big return year for Coho in the Shawnigan Lake watershed - including Shawnigan Creek. After leaving Shawnigan Lake, Shawnigan Creek flows through some of the best farm land in our area and falls into the ocean at Mill Bay. This set of falls is high enough that salmon never made it into the Shawnigan system on their own.

Once released, the Coho hunt for suitable creek habitat to spawn. One such creek is Shawnigan Creek - the main creek that drains the south watershed. You cannot see the creek very well from anywhere along the road because it runs through private land. It does pass under a bridge on West Shawnigan Lake Road, about 1 km from the southern intersection with East Shawnigan Lake Road. If you stop at the bridge and look south you will see through the trees a large log jam about 50 metres from the bridge.

After spawning, the Coho die and float back down the creek. The dead fish don't do as well

at the log jam as the live fish. The day I went by, water was flooding the field above the log jam. I was alerted to this by the presence of a Bald Eagle in the field. Normally a stubble field would not attract a Bald Eagle. A flooded field with a salmon carcass is a Bald Eagle buffet.

While looking into the field I noticed another bird for whom the salmon run is an important part of its life cycle - an American Dipper.

The Dipper is normally found in year round streams. It actually feeds in the stream. It stands in shallow water looking into the stream. It is looking for aquatic insect and their larvae, tadpoles, small crayfish. To catch this food it actually

ducks its head under water and walks along the bottom. It appears to use its wings as rudders. When it pops back up, you can see water beading off its feathers - it is well adapted to life in a creek.

So, what was it doing out in the field? It does not feed on salmon carcasses, but it does eat salmon eggs! It must be that the log jam is causing salmon eggs dislodged by the current to float out into the field along with the carcasses. The Dipper just followed the eggs.

The presence of the Dipper in the creek is a good sign. It indicates that the water is supporting insect life and the creek is healthy.



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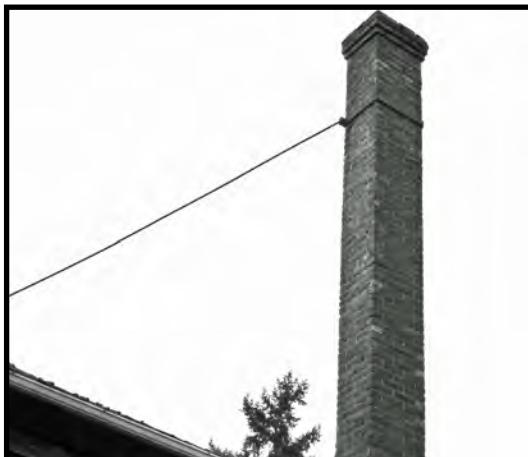
# Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

Shawnigan Weather October & November  
stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Treloar

	October Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Kelsey School	
		2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
Average High	14.0	13.7	13.1	13.4	13.2	14.2	14.3	13.9	13.8
Average Low	5.7	6.6	5.8	5.8	4.7	6.3	5.9	6.1	5.2
Extreme High	28.3	23.5	16.7	23.5	17.6	25.4	19.8	23.6	18.0
Extreme Low	-5.7	2.8	1.3	2.3	-0.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.3
Precipitation	104.8	228.7	89.0	166.4	69.7	195.0	69.6	140.7	57.7
Days w precip	14	16	20	16	21	16	20	18	21
Lake Temperature:		Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> : 16°	Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> : 15°	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup> : 13°	Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> : 11°				

	November Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Kelsey School	
		2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
Average High	8.3	8.4	7.2	8.3	7.3	9.1	7.9	9.4	8.2
Average Low	2.4	3.7	1.0	2.6	-0.3	3.6	0.8	3.6	0.4
Extreme High	20.0	14.1	12.2	13.4	12.6	14.8	12.8	15.0	12.4
Extreme Low	-15.6	-1.3	-3.4	-2.8	-5.2	-1.5	-4.3	-1.7	-4.0
Precipitation	214.6	241.4	214.1	182.6	158.0	190.8	156.2	142.2	124.8
Days w precip	21	19	25	21	28	18	27	19	29
Lake Temperature:		Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> : 11°	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> : 9°	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> : 9°	Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> : 7°				

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



## WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER: NOVEMBER

### CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for November was  
**Marian Davies**

The photo was of one of the white crosses at the Shawnigan Cemetery which mark the graves of our veterans. They are placed about a week before Remembrance Day and remain until late November.

We will remember.

Winners receive two specialty coffees at Moziro's

First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins

## WHERE'S DECLAN?

Galland Park is a 1.14 acre neighbourhood park on Galland Road. Turn off East Shawnigan Road onto McKernan and then right onto Galland. It offers a small playground and picnic area. The park is named after the Galland family that had a farm in the area. No washrooms.

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Contact Jim Musselwhite at 250-686-0286 or getsolar@shaw.ca  
www.getsolarsolutions.ca

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# Shawnigan Focus

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

## CLASSIFIEDS

### You need it? We got it!

#### WANTED!!

Cash paid for vintage (1920s -1970s) clothing, footwear, jewellery, luggage, purses, etc. Must be in good condition. Please email to [spazzycat@shaw.ca](mailto:spazzycat@shaw.ca)

#### CARING & CAPABLE, CAT & HOUSESITTER

\$50 per day/ \$40 if away over 7 Days Requirements: Internet, emergency contacts, & pet supplies. Shaun 250.885.0206

#### WHAT IS MISSING IN SHAWNIGAN?

1. A Deli meat counter, also serving smoke meat sandwiches homemade soups etc.
2. A gift and fashion jewelry shop.
3. Pet supply store.

If you believe there is a need for something I have not mentioned feel free to add it to my list.

Please respond in order of preference to:  
[Guinivere555@msn.com](mailto:Guinivere555@msn.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Area B Director's meetings

1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre (SLCC)

#### Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission

1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at SLCC

#### Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission

3rd Thursday of each month 6:30pm at SLCC

#### Shawnigan Improvement District

2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall

#### Shawnigan Residents Association

#### Shawnigan Lake Business Association

1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm, currently at the Village Chippery

#### Shawnigan Lake Community Association

4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca) to get on the mailing list. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.

#### Shawnigan Village Development Council

As announced. Everyone welcome!

#### Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable

Upcoming Dates TBA (see website for details: [www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca](http://www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca))

#### Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage

Shawnigan Lake Facebook group has the objective to be for daily postings of people's stories, news and events on a more personal scale. Please view <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>

**Malahat Legion:** 1625 Shawnigan–Mill Bay Road - For more info: 250-743-4621 Ham & Turkey Draw Dec 15th, Members Childrens Christmas Party Dec 16th, Drop in Darts - Dec 12th and 19th, Drop in Crib - Wed nites at & PM, Legion will be closed Dec 23rd to Jan 2nd, Meat Draw Jan 5th, Brunch Jan 6th

## Happy Solstice

from  
MoonDance Dynamic Arts School

"They carol, feast, give thanks, And dearly love their friends, And hope for peace." - Susan Cooper

WINTER II SESSION STARTS JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Register at [www.MoonDanceArts.ca](http://www.MoonDanceArts.ca) or call 743-5846.



Art House, a MoonDance studio, on Wilmot at Dundas  
The place to move. The place to be moved.

## Shawnigan Moments



Laurel Singers caroling at the Village Light-up

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## Shawnigan Times final issue

The Shawnigan Focus team congratulates Chris and Kim Hennecker for producing the **Shawnigan Times** twice a month for an amazing 111 issues. It is a considerable achievement that has benefitted the community of Shawnigan Lake. We salute your efforts!!

From Area Director Bruce Fraser to Kim and Chris Hennecker: "I can't tell you how impressed I have been at the teamwork you and Chris have shown our community. I admire you both. While I can see a chapter closing for now, I would be interested to know what your next move might be."