



SIA PERMIT STATUS REPORT

Brent Beach *Shawnigan Focus*

The SIA application to dump contaminated waste in a quarry in the Shawnigan Lake watershed continues to occupy the minds of many groups and individuals, both inside the valley, and elsewhere in BC. This is the first monthly column summarizing the ongoing activities of most of the groups involved. **If you or your group have an event related to this issue or are working on the SIA permit and would like to have information included in the next article, send an email before September 5 to brent@shawniganfocus.ca**

The Ministry of Environment wrote (Aug 7): "Ministry staff are still reviewing public input from the consultation period for the draft permit.

We anticipate a decision to be made in the coming weeks."

The CVRD is active on two fronts. From Chair Rob Hutchins (Aug 6): "CVRD staff is endeavouring to establish a meeting between the CVRD and the new Minister of Environment and Premier Clark at UBCM this September regarding the contaminated soils issue." Gerry Giles, chair of the Soil Relocation Committee, adds (Aug 6): that the purpose of such a meeting is to make it clear to the Provincial government that "the deposit of contaminated material in a drinking water watershed is unacceptable."

Area B Director Bruce Fraser adds: "When, and if, a permit is issued by the MOE, the CVRD will take the next steps to oppose the permit." Rob Hutchins: "A CVRD Board

resolution is required to take legal action and commit public funds." (Aug 6)

The Vancouver Island Health Authority "remains interested in the issue and monitors activity related to the application for the permit," but that "There are no specific activities being undertaken beyond routinely monitoring the issue." (Dr. Paul Paul Hasselback, Aug 8).

Citizens groups within the valley continue to work to oppose the permit and to bring legal action through an appeal of the permit, should the MoE grant the permit. The Shawnigan Residents Association (www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com) has hired a law firm and continues to fund raise to pay for its appeal should the permit be issued. More SRA events are planned for September

Individuals continue to voice their opposition. John Hayes, who provided the original "Save Our Water - Shawnigan" signs, has now produced bumper stickers with the same design. These are available for a minimum \$5 donation at the Inspire! Office and Shawnigan Lake Museum. Funds collected will be used for protecting the watershed.

Also, at the provincial level, the CVRD will be presenting a resolution at the annual meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities to "to highlight the need for government to increase the level of direct community participation in watershed management" (Area Director, Bruce Fraser).

We in the Shawnigan Lake watershed are not alone. The POLIS Project in Ecological Governance at the Univer-

sity of Victoria has surveyed many of the "230 non-profit, non-governmental organizations across British Columbia" that are working to protect water in BC. The report arising from that survey - The State of the Water Movement in British Columbia - is available at <http://poliswaterproject.org/publication/561>.

230 groups across the province! Water quality and watershed governance are paramount issues of our times.

The executive summary of that report concludes that the route to freshwater protection requires "establishing a new approach to governance that emphasizes watersheds and builds on the strengths of local leadership, community capacity, and a stewardship culture for fresh water."



Mason's Store



Sally Davies
Shawnigan Focus

You could tell the time of day by who was seated at the lunch counter at Mason's Patio. A veritable "Who's Who" of Shawnigan history, perched on stools around the horseshoe lunch counter or at the tables that slanted on the sloping floor, upon which an earlier generation of teenagers learned to jive, back in the day when sock hops were held there.

When we arrived in 1975, the locals were bemoaning the days past, when Eileen and Pat Mason ran the place. The food was so good and so cheap, we were told, that families didn't bother to cook at home.

When daughter Midge and her husband Norm Carey assumed the helm, it continued to be the hub of the community. Thick round pieces of sourdough bread, that Midge baked in peanut butter tins, were slathered with Cheez Whiz or peanut butter. Coffee was "coffee" - no politically correct oven roasted beans, no cappuccinos, and no one looked askance at eggs liberally

doused with ketchup or HP sauce. Coffee, for the "regulars" was spiked with Kahlua the day before Christmas.

The store had three incarnations, and three successive generations ran the place, making it the longest continuously operating business in Shawnigan Lake owned by the same family (by the time Jim Carey took over from his parents).

This was the place for all of the news and the gossip in the days before cell phones, when all the houses were on telephone party lines. Assuming a place at the lunch counter was your entrance to the community conversation, cigarettes and coffee fuelling the chatter.

Logging trucks rumbled past the windows (which at that time faced the road and the beach), loaded with massive timbers, much to the delight of my infant son who sat in a high chair facing the window. The previous night's hockey game was replayed and analyzed by the sports fans and all the births, deaths, and marriages in the village were discussed and the circle of connections to

the subject of the conversation were defined.

Bernie Falconberg, the postmaster, might complain that Victoria sent up another bag of mail that should have gone to Cobble Hill, forcing him to take time away to throw it in his car and drive it to our neighbouring community. The notion of sending it back to Victoria would have defied his good-neighbour logic.

The boys, before it was co-ed, from Shawnigan School would do a daily slow march in twos and threes down Renfrew Road to stock up on chips and pop at Mason's. In the summer, sandy-footed children crossed the road from the beach, for their requisite popsicles or ice cream or to agonize over which penny candy to choose. The clanging of the bell at the village railway crossing announced the passing of the day liner twice a day and the same children scrambled up from the beach to wave to the passengers when the Dayliner passed.

Dylan Thomas could have done justice to a day in the village life of Shawnigan Lake as seen from the window of "Mason's Patio Store".

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

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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.

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS

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Shawnigan Moments



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 as 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

Media Reaction

Shawnigan Focus,

I was surprised and disappointed to see the recent media coverage of the response by a Shawnigan neighbourhood to a local medical marijuana producer.

As the producer has a Health Canada Licence and the zoning of the lot permits both home based business and small scale agriculture, it has yet to be shown that they are doing anything illegal or even are in contravention of regional bylaws. The operation has a low profile and is purpose built and so will be unlikely to result in fires or building damage that is often seen with illegal grow operations. I doubt that had it been a tomato producer for a local farmers market that it would have received the same attention.

As much as this individual may not win any neighbour of the year awards they have a right to make use of their property as zoning permits. I empathize with the neighbours who have complained of odours and loud parties (at the neighbouring residence); many neighbourhoods deal with similar issues, some suspected illegal grow operations too.

There has to be a better manner of dealing with these issues than protesting in front of people's homes joined by the Area Director and news cameras. It is defamatory to spread suspicion and rumours in the media as to the producer being a criminal or having ties to organized crime. This visible action increases the risk of attention by actual criminals and damages not only the producer's reputation but that of our community.

Instead of wading into and perpetuating the dispute, our Area Director should be addressing the fact that we do not have adequate bylaws or enforcement to deal with fairly typical nuisance complaints. It is not good enough to point the finger and wait for the federal government to change regulations with regards to the production of medical marijuana. Without adequate bylaws, similar disputes will continue in closely occupied neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,

Elijah Fraser

For Sale?

Dear Editor,

It is now more than 3 years since the CVRD Board decided, in secret, to purchase a 22 acre piece of land on Cameron Taggart Road for the failed 4 acre South Cowichan Eco Depot. The Board wasted more than \$1.5 million to purchase the property, hire many consultants, promote it using high paid spin-doctors, tried to defend themselves in court, and plan for a Cadillac style of industrial development waste dump and recycling centre in a rural residential and agriculture area. And, they continue to spend more tax money on this unwanted project!

In November, 2011 the CVRD's proposal was soundly rejected by taxpayers in a poll during local elections. The CVRD Board finally voted to abandon their discredited EcoDepot in January, 2012. Let's not forget the BC Supreme Court subsequently also ruled against the CVRD's attempt to ignore its own zoning bylaws and foist an illegal development on the public.

The cavalier attitude of the CVRD staff and Board to taxpayer's money is well reflected by the fact that 18 months after the CVRD decision to abandon the EcoDepot there is still no "For Sale" sign on the property and money continues to be wasted on this debacle by inaction and make-work projects in the CVRD. How difficult is it to put up a "For Sale" sign?

A year after abandoning the project the CVRD Chair and his \$200,000 per year administrator "consulted" with local residents in February, 2013 about what to do with the property at a community meeting in Shawnigan Lake. They were told very clearly the community wanted the EcoDepot property sold as-is, where-is, pronto, without subdivision or any more bureaucratic attempts to delay the process or continue bleeding tax money on this project. It is now August, 2013 and nothing has been done to sell this property as the taxpayers wanted!

The CVRD purchased the EcoDepot property after 15 minutes of secret discussion in 2010 and it's taken almost 2 years to get the For Sale signs up again and try to and re-

cover some of our wasted tax money! This huge CVRD bureaucracy appears incapable of respecting public interests or our money.

Yours truly,

W.E. (Bill) Dumont

Dedicated Doc

Dear Ed.,

I just want to share some great news with my neighbors. We have a top notch Plastic Surgeon in our area. I didn't know this until I required the services of one recently. I assumed I'd need to go to Victoria or Nanaimo many times. Dr. A. Anzarut has an office in Duncan, lives in Cobble Hill, and works in the Duncan Hospital.

He does excellent work, PLUS: He offered me his cell phone number if I couldn't get a quick response on a weekend; and he telephoned me long distance from his vacation in Ontario (on a Saturday evening), when my anxiously awaited diagnosis was sent to him.

The last time I had service of that caliber, from a busy medical professional, was a home call when I was a little kid, (about a hundred years ago).

Thank you VIHA and Dr. Anzarut.

Sincerely,

Fred Buchan

Kerry Park vs The Quarry

Brilliant suggestion! So many people enjoy the Quarry for so many things, it would be an excellent suggestion to secure it for dog walks (off leash) for picnics, hikes, and wonderful swims in that Great Lake! I would happily approve a tax to buy the Quarry, long before I would turn Kerry Park into some showplace for who knows who. Great suggestion!

Brenda Burch

In response: What a scam!

Dear Editor:

Ref: CVRD's Morrison calling for municipal auditor

What a scam! What am I talking about? Director Mor-

risson's grandstanding on the call for a municipal auditor, to conduct a review on some sort of hidden salary increase. His total lack of understanding on the reasons for the increase remains a mystery and his explanation on being under-informed is politically motivated as outlined in how he has approached this issue. He starts off by stating that he voted in favour of the 2013 budget and then turns around and implies that the CVRD Administration withheld information from him and has subsequently asked for a municipal audit to be conducted. While I am not a municipal auditor, the increase can be attributed to any one of or any combination of the following factors:

The current CVRD policy of no banked vacation time is allowed. Therefore if you do not use up your approved vacation time, the CVRD must buy out your holiday time.

Individuals have been promoted, both recently and in the past, so the responsibilities have changed for that individual. With additional responsibilities you are generally provided with additional pay.

Individuals are filling in on an acting managerial role.

The CVRD Board, including Director Morrison, have been authorizing additional services, so job descriptions need to change to focus on the new services mandated. If you change a person's job description without a pay rate change then you may find that you have constructively dismissed that employee. This process can be very costly to resolve if the individual takes the Board to court.

The regular bump up may have been missed in the past so a larger bump up is required to bring that individuals' pay rate in line with the approved CVRD pay scale.

So the question becomes one of why would Director Morrison openly criticize the CVRD Board and the Administration staff? Perhaps it is to further his personal political agenda. One thing is very clear to me though in that once again he has failed to conduct a thorough review of the issue and instead has publicly proclaimed his innocence by trying to create the appearance of being under-informed and then tries to distance himself from a decision that he was a part of.

Ken Cossey

“SHOPPING LOCALLY”
AND
“SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS”
GROW-OP

RE: Rick Restell & Grow-op columns in July
Joan Wachtin - Shawnigan Lake, B.C.

Sudden CVRD burning bylaw for Shawnigan!

Dear Editor,

I would like to voice my concerns over the Cowichan Valley Regional District's newly enacted Nuisance Smoke Pollution Bylaw #3716.

A little history first: As Chair of the Shawnigan Improvement District I attended a meeting hosted by the CVRD on July 5th, 2011, at the Mill Bay Fire Hall regarding a proposed burning regulation bylaw. In attendance were some CVRD directors and staff, local fire chiefs and fire improvement district trustees. One of the first topics discussed by the CVRD was the fact that they had no jurisdiction regarding fire regulation bylaws if a bylaw is already in place by the Authority having Jurisdiction which, in the Shawnigan Lake area, is the Shawnigan Improvement District. Shawnigan Improvement District Fire Regulation Bylaw #92 has been in place since 1989 and clearly details what, where and when burning can take place.

The Shawnigan Improvement Trustees unanimously decided to continue to operate

under Bylaw #92 and communicated that to the CVRD by email that same night. Nothing further was communicated from the CVRD until earlier this year when they again invited district trustees and fire chiefs to attend an air quality meeting. Former District Chair Glen Sanders and I attended and we once again voiced our concerns. There was no further communication from CVRD following this meeting.

Fast forward to July 10th, 2013 when we are informed the CVRD directors have enacted Nuisance Smoke Pollution/ Burning Bylaw #3716 effective immediately.

Here are a few, but not all, of our concerns about CVRD Bylaw #3716:

CVRD Bylaw #3716 allowable burning windows are March 15th to April 15th and October 15th to November 15th. In contrast, the Shawnigan Improvement District Bylaw #92 allows burning October 1st to June 15th, thereby alleviating a concentrated burning window that promotes a potential vast

amount of smoke in a short time period. March and April are typically a wet time of the year that would add to the smoke production. Having the opportunity to burn until mid-June allows for debris to dry, burn quickly and with less smoke production.

Another definite concern is the stockpiling of combustibles. The Shawnigan area is typically a high risk for Wildland-Urban-Interface fires. Anyone who has experienced a winter storm in Shawnigan can attest to how much yard debris can accumulate in a short time. Adding these combustibles to the fire load is not an acceptable risk. CVRD advocates property owners taking yard waste to the recycle depot but this isn't an option for everyone – not everyone has a truck and/or trailer or the financial means to pay someone to take it away.

CVRD Bylaw #3716 states there will be no burning within 10 metres of a property line. Does this distance eliminate smoke production? Maps of the Shawnigan area show a quantity of long nar-

row lots, especially around the lake. So, quite possibly, even if a property owner has an acre or more of land, if the lot is less than 20 metres wide then the burning of the fuel load would be in violation.

Another issue is enforcement. Currently, officers of the Shawnigan Fire Department normally deal with burning complaints in a matter of minutes, whether it is burning in a prohibited time, burning of illegal material or a fire creating noxious odours. The CVRD's bylaws are enforced by two bylaw officers who cover the entire Regional District for each and every bylaw. If an officer is dealing with a noise complaint in North Oyster, what will be the response time to a smoke complaint in Shawnigan Lake? What happens after hours and on weekends – does an officer get called out and will there be any evidence left of the nuisance smoke by the time he arrives? What is the callout rate for a bylaw enforcement officer, which will be paid through our ever-increasing CVRD taxes? How does the enforcement officer

measure the smoke to determine if it is an acceptable level?

I have been involved with the Shawnigan Improvement District and Shawnigan Fire Department for more than 36 years and cannot recall being approached by any Shawnigan Lake resident asking for stricter burning regulations. I believe the Shawnigan Improvement District has been proactive in establishing its original fire regulation bylaw 24 years ago, and with two amendments the bylaw has continued to work for our district. The low number of legitimate burning complaints the fire department receives annually supports my belief. If Shawnigan Improvement District Fire Regulation Bylaw #92 wasn't in existence I would endorse CVRD Bylaw #3716 as a step in the right direction (with some modifications) but I also believe you should listen to experience and not try to fix something, which in my opinion, isn't broken.

Keith Shields
Fire Chief, Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

We are "Them"

Rick Restell

You've probably heard someone complain about "them", usually when referring to government. You may have even caught yourself doing it.

"They should fix the roads".
"They should stop wasting our money".

So, who are "they"?

"They" are us, in every sense of the word. We elect a gov-

ernment in our democratic society and we instruct government in every way as to what we want them to do. That's how our system works and it is the envy of every society in the world that hasn't the

freedom to choose leaders or instruct how the rules should be made or enforced.

So many people here don't take an interest in politics; they are content to allow others to keep up to date on the issues and make all the decisions. Only half of us vote.

Our local government (the CVRD) is the elected body that we have instructed to look after things like recreation, garbage collection, and land use. We give them instructions on what we want through various committees and advisory councils that debate matters of importance. We also elect Regional Directors to be stewards of the organization and give their approval before allowing the spending our tax dollars.

Recently, a CVRD Director, Ian Morrison, has publicly stated that he did not understand the 2013 CVRD Budget and pointed to the salaries of the CVRD Senior Staff. He expected salaries for 2013 were increasing at the same rate as the unionized staff, roughly 2.5%. In reality, and only after exami-

nation of the Public Bodies Report, has it become clear that the CVRD Senior Staff have received pay increases closer to 11%.

Whatever the reasons for this increase, and there have been lots of explanations, the fact that CVRD Directors were surprised by this is alarming. How could the Directors have approved the 2013 Budget without knowing this? Or if they did know, how could they have allowed it to happen?

Spending is out of control at the CVRD. When the rest of the working world is accepting very low wage increases and inflation is running close to 1%, the CVRD has increased the numbers of senior staff and given them very generous increases.

"They" should stop this! Well, what are "we" going to do about it? If there was ever an issue that should get more people involved in local politics, this is it. This is the kind of issue that begs the question: Couldn't we take on these tasks locally here in Shawnigan and spend less than the CVRD?

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Excluded personnel salaries

Dr. Bruce Fraser,
Director, Area B

A Proposal

The issue of cost of salary and benefits of excluded personnel raises questions of the rationale for cost escalation, the Board oversight role and the introduction of reasonable limitations on cost growth. The issue is not about the value or performance of individual staff members, but is about the total cost of senior management salaries in relation to the budget for delivery of operational responsibilities and the magnitude of salaries in relation to reasonable comparators in the local economy.

This is a structural issue that

needs the Board's constructive attention by:

1. Conducting a "core review" of departmental functions to assess the balance of staff and operational costs and their trajectories over the last decade in relation to the budgets for operational tasks performed
2. Establishing a standard Board process for assessment of salary and benefits cost of senior management at the time of annual budget development
3. Examining the current rationale employed to justify the growth of senior

management salary and benefit packages (scale lift, experience steps, management responsibility change, substitution pay, holiday pay-out, retroactive settlements)

4. Examining the scale structure that is being used for annual merit/experience increments
5. Developing a methodology for establishing senior staff salary & benefit packages that incorporates:
 - ★ comparing the CVRD with similar local government jurisdictions
 - ★ assessing span of control, task

responsibilities, supervision load and budget responsibility to give a rational base for salary category assignments

- ★ developing indicators of local economic conditions that can be used to set limits on growth that reflect the taxpayer experience within the Regional District
- ★ developing guidelines for capping senior positions, invoking rate increase freezes, initiating hiring or replacement freezes or staff reductions to limit the total salary and benefit packages of

the senior staff group when set cost thresholds are reached

6. Taking decisive action to bring the salary cost of excluded staff into reasonable balance with public expectations for fiscal prudence and the economic experience of taxpayers within the regional district

In order to initiate a systematic process of salary review the Board Chair could appoint a team to initiate the necessary analyses and to make recommendations to the Board in time for the upcoming discussions leading to the 2014 Regional District Budget.

Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks and Recreation Commission

Margaret Symon
Parks Chair

At press time, sunshine and dry weather continue into August. Over two thirds of the forest fires that have occurred in BC so far this year have been caused by human carelessness. Effective August 1, 2013, in an effort to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect the public, the

Coastal Fire Centre prohibited all open fires. The prohibition will remain in effect until Oct. 15, 2013, or until the public is otherwise notified.

When visiting local parks, please be extra vigilant so as to prevent forest fires. Campfires are not permitted in any Area B parks at any time of year. If you smoke, never toss cigarette butts out into brush, dry

grass, or the forest, or out of your vehicle. (On this subject, stay tuned this fall for a new ruling against smoking in CVRD parks.)

To report a forest fire, call *5555. Check out FIRE-SAFEBC.CA. Play it safe this summer to protect our parks, forests, and communities – and the firefighters who must contend with wildfires.

Editor's note:

Wednesday August 7th: Driving up the Malahat, from Goldstream, on the way back to Shawnigan, we noticed smoke ahead which is never a good sign in a hot, dry summer. As we approached the straight stretch, we could see a fire burning on the west side of the hill. The likely source for a fire in this spot would be a cigarette

thrown from a passing vehicle. Along the side of the highway, many vehicles were parked. As fire crews had not yet responded, several good Samaritans had stopped and were up on the hill trying to put out the fire. Bravo to all of the people who put themselves in danger to contain the fire!! Otherwise, it may have spread out of control before fire crews arrived.

Happy Birthday E&N Railway!

August 13th is the 127th birthday of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) Railway (also known as the CPR) on Vancouver Island. On this day in 1886, Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald hammered the last spike at Shawnigan Lake. This rail line was significant because BC insisted on the Island railway as a condition for joining confederation.

These days there is little, or no, traffic on the rail line. A train service agreement between VIA Rail and Southern Rail is needed to access Federal, Provincial and Regional Government money to upgrade the Vancouver Island Railway. Despite VIA's repeated assurances that they will support rail on the Island, VIA has not responded. For more information on this issue, or to find out how to lend your support, go to <http://www.islandrail.ca>



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SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 21

September 1, is the launch day with all the Scarecrows on display throughout the community. Trail maps and voting cards will become available. Participating businesses may have special offers for those in proper Tacky-Tourist attire. So remember to Dress-Up-Down!
September 21, is the final day of the SCARECROW TRAIL and the winner will be announced at the INSPIRE! SHAWNIGAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE. Be sure to get your votes in, one vote per person. There will be draws from all the voters with prizes donated by participating businesses.

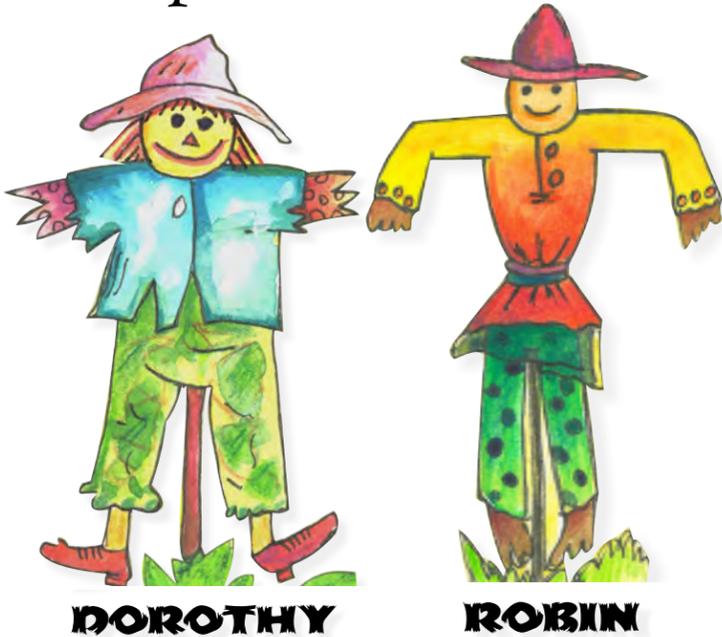
Voting boxes will be in place @
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SCARECROW TRAIL
Scarecrow graphics by Francoise Moulin

Shawnigan Focus

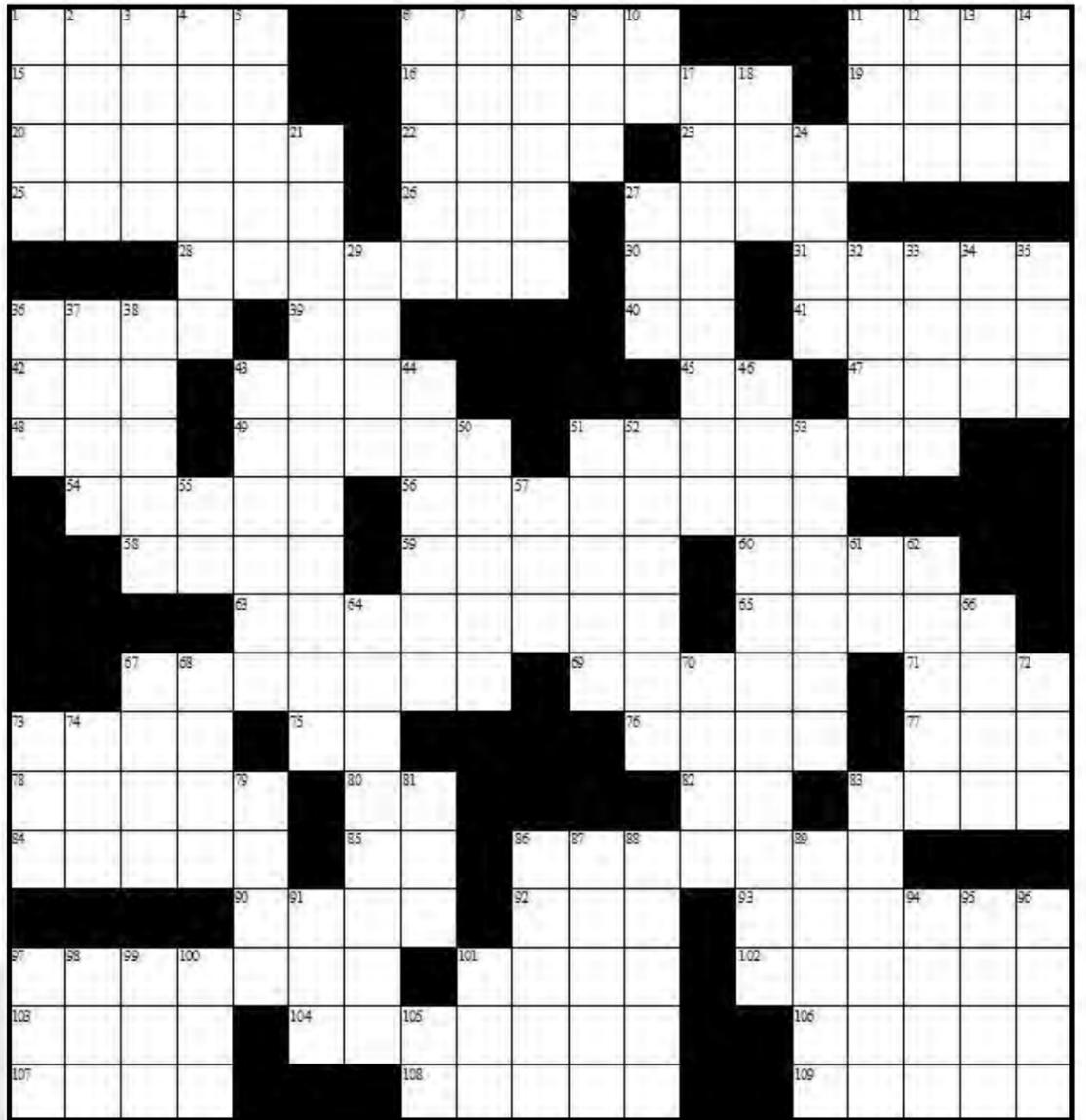
Follow the Scarecrow Trail in
Shawnigan Lake and
vote for your favourite!!
September 1st - 21st



Scarecrows created by Francoise Moulin

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AUGUST CROSSWORD



Across

1. Marshy
6. Stage
11. Food (slang)
15. Goodbye (Fr.)
16. Fiery-tempered one
19. High desert plain
20. Remains from long ago
22. French friend
23. Reveal
25. Depp film "Donnie _____"
26. Hairstyling product
27. Remain
28. 16th C. weapon combining spear, axe, and pick
30. Angola
31. Dr.'s instructions to Pharmacist
36. Unicellular water plant
39. Ireland
40. United Kingdom
41. Yours (archaic)
42. Madame's dear husband
43. Speak indistinctly
45. Australia
47. Sicilian volcano
48. Baleen whale
49. Symbolic animal or plant
51. Jimmy Durante's nose
54. Inuit boat
56. Inadequate amount
58. Loose Hawaiian dress(alt.)
59. With 50D, longtime Shawnigan Lake educator
60. Above
63. Trailblazers
65. Fire set with reckless intent
67. Sad-eyed hounds
69. Marten fur
71. Russian space station
73. Name or designate
75. Tunisia
76. Fish eggs
77. Old French coin

78. Permit

80. Oman

82. Iceland

83. Verse

84. "Pink Panther" director Edwards

85. Laos

86. Train unit

90. Ebb and _____

92. Not even

93. Extremely pleased

97. On your lapel at a conference

101. Having two like parts

102. Money (Sp.)

103. Shrek is one

104. Tube and plunger

106. Measures of land

107. Work hard

108. Below

109. Feeling

Down

1. Backward facing point
2. River in Central Europe
3. _____ Monster
4. Japanese hostess
5. Perennial shrub native to arid parts of the Americas
6. Virus that replicates within bacteria, for short
7. Bart's dad
8. In an inclined position
9. The cat's mother
10. Estonia
11. Monsanto's legacy
12. Priest's title
13. Utilize
14. Legal booze can
17. German freeway
18. Nature's blueprint material
21. Monologist
24. Abnormal growth
27. Stretch and fall slightly
29. Brand of aftershave
32. At the home of (Fr.)
33. "Putting on the _____"
34. Motel predecessor
35. Legume
36. Donkey
37. In place of (Fr.)
38. Scary fairy tale brothers
43. Postal payment chits
44. Confess and feel remorse
46. Segregated into components
50. With 59A
51. Mixes
52. Roman ruler
53. Bodies of work
55. International Unit
57. Mao _____ Tung
61. Spain
62. Juliet's love
64. Study of wine
66. Pleasant
67. Virtuoso banjo player Fleck
68. Out of control
70. One way to cook
72. Screech
73. Pat lightly and quickly
74. Building extension
79. Crosswise woven fibres
81. Mouth of a voracious animal
83. Strut
86. Spherical
87. Proverb
88. One who loaf
89. Also known as
91. _____ Vegas
94. Sea bird
95. "_____ Tu", International 70's hit
96. Measured amount
97. A negative
98. Some time before
99. Medical diagnostic procedure
100. Moray
101. Cacophony
105. Russian Federation

Crossword by: Monica Foster Solution on Pg: 13

TOUCH
TELLINGTON TOUCH TRAINING

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Join us for a Sense of Shawnigan workshop

Lori Treloar

Regional Lead, Speak Easy Project

September 14th

10 a.m. - Noonish

Inspire! Gallery

Under the umbrella of the Cowichan Valley Arts Council, and funded by agrant, the Speak Easy project is designed to promote cultural mapping from the sub-regions of the Cowichan Valley. Through photos, submitted by anyone who is

interested, we will present Shawnigan's cultural assets in the categories of What was then... What is now... and What could/might be... The photos and related stories submitted will be posted to a dedicated Shawnigan page on the Cowichan Counts website. This web page will be a living, breathing document generated by the residents of Shawnigan to celebrate culturally unique people and places in our area.

This project provides a unique opportunity for everyone, and anyone, to showcase what is great about Shawnigan and add to a creative online storyboard of our area.

You are encouraged to attend the workshop, which is meant to inspire you to submit more photos – all you need for the workshop is to choose a photo to share that represents your sense of Shawnigan. Please choose one picture of Shawnigan that represents one

of the following:

- ★ Shawnigan tastes like...
- ★ Shawnigan feels like...
- ★ Shawnigan smells like...
- ★ Shawnigan looks like...
- ★ Shawnigan sounds like...
- ★ I remember...

You don't want to miss this opportunity to express your feelings for Shawnigan!

If you choose to participate, or have any questions, please con-

tact Lori at loritreloar@shaw.ca prior to September 9th. Participants are asked to send their chosen photo to me by email. I will have the photos printed, all the same size, and have them ready on the day of the workshop. Submitters will be asked to hold their photos during a planned activity. If you do not want to submit a photo, we still encourage you to attend. The activity will be meaningful for both participants and audience. Refreshments will be provided.

Inspire! Shawnigan

Cheryl Bakke-Martin

Inspire!

The folks at Inspire! have been busy working on a number of exciting events for the community to enjoy this fall. Starting with a new show, hosted on the gallery walls on August 18th, 2013.

We are pleased to welcome CVAC's "Best of the Best" show which will run until the September long weekend. Excitement is growing for our first annual Chair-ity event. Artists are now being selected to paint a chair similar to the ones in our Community Gathering Space, which will all be unveiled at the upcoming Inspire!fest on Sept. 21st. These lovely functional works of art will be auctioned off and proceeds will go back to Inspire! Shawnigan Arts, Culture and Heritage to allow us to continue to provide the Gathering Space and a various arts programs to the community. And finally, capturing most of our attention is the planning for the upcom-

ing annual Inspire!fest, a celebration of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Shawnigan Lake, (formerly S.L.A.M. Street Festival).

This year will see yet more growth as we stretch the venue all the way from Dundas, through the green space behind Inspire! to the street on Shawnigan Mill Bay road and onward down to the Museum and the Park at Elsie Miles. There will be all kinds of entertainment, art activities for everyone to participate in, buskers, the finale of the Scarecrow event in the village, and culminating in a family picnic and an evening of music in the park.

Details are still being ironed out and we are looking for vendors, artists, performers, and volunteers to participate. Drop by or send us an email if you would like to get involved. cheryl@inspireshawnigan.com.

Inspire!fest adds heritage

The Shawnigan Lake Museum is organizing a Heritage component for the already successful Inspire!fest that takes place September 21, 2013.

Plans include demonstrations of crafts and skills that were part of everyday life for men and women in the past.

Activities that most of us now think of as hobbies, such as spinning, weaving, quilting, carving etc., were essential in a rural or cashless community. Women often sewed or knitted all of the clothes for their children. Children's toys were often made in Dad's workshop. Shoes were repaired, rather than replaced.

In addition to demonstrations, there will also be hands-on activities for everyone.

If you have a craft or skill that you would like to share for a few hours with the community, please contact Lori by email at Shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca or phone 250-743-8675.



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WANTED

Shawnigan Lake Resident
to serve on
Kerry Park Recreation Commission

The Cowichan Valley Regional District is inviting applications from interested Shawnigan Lake residents wishing to serve on the Kerry Park Recreation Commission. There is currently a vacancy on the Commission for a term ending December 31, 2014.

Interested applicants should have strengths in terms of experience, skills, education or a strong interest in a specific aspect of recreation and culture services or recreation facilities.

Applications are being accepted until 8:30 am on Monday, August 19, 2013 and can be submitted by email to jbarry@cprd.bc.ca or sent to Joe Barry, CVRD Corporate Secretary, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC V9L 1N8. Applications should contain a summary telling us about yourself, your area of expertise, and why you would like to service on the Commission.

Specific questions regarding the Commission should be directed to Kim Liddle, Manager, South Cowichan Recreation at kliddle@cprd.bc.ca or at (250) 743-5922.

Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8
Telephone: (250) 746-250 Fax: (250) 746-2513

cowichan
www.cprd.bc.ca

Shawnigan Lake Triathletes make \$1000 donation to help Rotary build local trails

MEDIA RELEASE

Shawnigan Lake, BC – July 16, 2013 – 3:00 pm

Members of the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Race Committee and South Cowichan Rotary Club gathered today at the new West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park – TransCanada Connector Trail for a special presentation and celebration.

Paul Regensburg, Series Director of the Subaru Western Triathlon Series attended to present a cheque for \$1000 in athlete donations to the South Cowichan Rotary Club. A total of \$2500 was raised via the Shawnigan Triathlon Athlete Fundraising program which will be used for local trail building projects.

The site of the presentation, the Connector Trail at West Shawnigan Park, was a project completed by the Rotary Club, in partnership with CVRD Parks and BC Parks, just in time for the 2013 Triathlon this year.

“On our May 4 trail building



day, we hadn't even put our rakes down and we had our

first trail “customers” – a bicycle riding friendly family of 4 from Victoria”, said Alan Lolacher, Rotary Club President. “The triathletes loved the new trail during their race and were very appreciative.”

“This is the first year we have implemented the Athlete Fundraising Program, and we are happy with the success in this first year”, reported Sarah Malerby, Shawnigan Triathlon Race Director. “It is very rewarding to build a connection between the triathletes and the local community with a fundraiser that leaves a legacy of trails for everyone to enjoy. I am already looking forward to building on this fundraiser next year.”

“Now that it is summer time, the Connector Trail is busy every day, providing a much needed access for locals and visitors to the lakeshore. The Rotary Club has done a great service to the community by providing this trail”, stated Malerby.

The South Cowichan Rotary Club has a long history of ‘hands on’ community projects that include trails, parks and other community facilities.

In addition to the Connector Trail, there have been several other trail building projects, such as the Northern Kinsol Trestle trails, the Aros Road Trail in Cobble Hill, 12 km of the TransCanada Trail from Magee Creek bridge to the Kinsol Trestle and the fitness trail at Frances Kelsey school.

And it doesn't stop there. Future trails are in the planning stage for construction in the spring of 2014 and 2015. “We are currently investigating the rehabilitation and expansion of the Jack Fleetwood trail along the Koksilah River and a further 6 km section of the TransCanada Trail,” said Lolacher.

South Cowichan Rotary members have been active in the rehabilitation of Cairn Park across from the Legion in Shawnigan Lake as well as construction of the dog and bike parks at the Cobble Hill recreation area. Last year, the club built an addition to the CMS Foodbank in Mill Bay to expand the facility that they had built ten years before.

This past weekend, 22 South Cowichan Rotarians,

along with over a dozen community volunteers, removed the old Discovery School playground, which will be rebuilt and donated to a community that could not otherwise afford one.

“Rotary is a volunteer organization focused on building communities - both locally and internationally,” reported Alan Lolacher. “The Discovery School playground project is a great example of how a local effort can make a difference on an international level. Rotary's approach is all about ‘hands on’ contributions in our community. We do this by engaging with others to change the lives of the less fortunate for the better.”

Fundamentally, Rotarians believe in ‘Service Above Self’ and this year's theme is ‘Engage Rotary and Change Lives’.

Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary, Club events, or how to become a Rotarian, can check out the club website at www.southcowichanrotary.org or contact President Alan Lolacher at (250) 413-7549 or email alanlolacher@yahoo.ca.

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Y.S.A.G.S. - Young Seniors Action Group Society

Ed Wiebe
Y.S.A.G.S.

Last month Ray Bootland, our President, explained the origin of our senior's group and the scope of our mandate. Now and in future issues, we will highlight our ongoing activities in more detail.

We have two walking groups, men's and women's, with a designated group leader for each. Both groups meet Mondays, but at slightly different times, in the Shawnigan Lake Legion parking lot. For some special outings the groups join and these are usually all day events which include meals out.

Here is Vera's invitation to join her:

Y.S.A.G.S. Young Senior Action Group Society welcomes all ladies, 55 plus, to the women's walking group. Join us for some fresh air and exercise as we get to know our neighbours and our community. Weather permitting, we may travel further afield up Island or to Victoria. At times, we will pack a lunch or have coffee and lunch at a local restaurant. We accommodate all walkers,

meeting Mondays at 9:30 am at the Legion parking lot.

For further information phone Vera at 250-743-7030.

Here is Denis's invitation to join him:

Any Monday morning you may see a group of about 10 senior men walking in your area. This could very well be the Y.S.A.G.S. Men's walking group. This group meets at the Shawnigan Lake Legion parking lot at 8:30 am every Monday to walk local trails or sometimes roads. If it happens to pour rain, you might find us at a local coffee shop till it eases up, but we still get a walk in, even in the rain. Once a month a special hike is planned to Nanaimo or Victoria areas. These hikes are 8 to 12 km and include a lunch. We get back to Shawnigan Lake at about 2 pm. We have walked a lot of our beautiful local area and would not want to be anywhere else.

Anyone interested in joining us, age 55 plus, please phone Denis at 250-743-3107. Check out our blog at: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> or email us at: ysagssl@gmail.com



At the quarry



At the Last Spike

Wild Side – Double-crested Cormorant

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

Family: Phalacrocoracidae

Genus: Phalacrocorax

Species: P. Auritus

Cormorants are aquatic birds known for their fish eating diet. In some areas, the Double-crested Cormorant has been persecuted for competing with fishermen for their catch.

The adult Cormorants, commonly seen on Shawnigan Lake, are goose sized and iridescent black with a patch of yellow on their throat. According to different reports, Cormorant feathers are described as either non-

waterproof or water permeable. The ability to wet its feathers decreases its buoyancy, making it easier for the bird to dive deeply and chase fish. After fishing, Cormorants will perch on logs, or exposed rocks, in the sun and spread their wings to dry them. Their webbed feet are unusual in that the web connects four toes instead of three, which allows them to cling to rocky cliffs. The average lifespan of the Cormorant is six years.

A group of cormorants can be called a flight, gulp, rookery, sunning and swim of Cormorants.



Cormorants at Mason's Beach ~ Photo by: Sally Davies

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Photo: Juliana Wigmore

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EcoVillage ~ Tucking in for fall



Contemplation in OUR garden allows us to reflect on the past season and look forward to the spring ahead.

Long, still-warm days often stretch into September and make it hard to believe that summer is already winding down and sliding into fall.

However, at OUR Eco-village, September sees us shifting our focus from this year's internships, high-intensity food production, and near-daily special events to a period of preparation and reflection, where we put our garden to bed, look back at the year that was, and take a deep breath before the next year starts in earnest. Here are five of the steps we take to prepare OUR garden for winter in the Shawnigan area; all are ones you could use at home.

Amend your beds with lots of compost. Because you are adding the compost in the fall, the material has time to break down before the spring planting season. As a bonus, yard waste will break down in beds over winter, saving you from having to bag it up and haul it away during fall cleanups.

Plant cover crops in empty beds. We like rye because it grows quickly and does a great job holding soil in place over the winter.

Do any major weeding. Clear out grasses and big, obvious weeds before everything slows down for the winter. Like doing laundry on the last day of vacation, you'll be glad you did so when spring rolls around next year!

Mulch heavily, using seaweed, newspaper, or hay. This helps to protect soil from erosion, keeps it slightly warmer for worms, and will also act as an additional amendment.

Take a break from outside and plan your spring planting. It seems early, but OUR garden team is already planning their 2014 planting! Time to get out your seed catalogues and get inspired by the beautiful photos and delicious descriptions. Be careful to choose according to your family's tastes and your garden's attributes, resisting the urge to choose one of everything. Here at the Village we call that temptation FOMO—Fear Of Missing Out—and while it is perfectly understandable, it can lead to some challenging gardens!

Bonus: One of our favorite ways to prepare for next year is to take a moment

to get a sense of all that has happened in the most recent growing season and to connect with the friends and family that contributed. We do this annually at OUR Harvest Feast, which occurs this year on October 14. It is a time for us to open our Village to the wider community and to invite everyone for a meal and chat. It's also a chance for us to thank OUR Sustainers, who make small financial contributions each month to the running of the Village in exchange for discounted access to all courses and events and, of course, many thanks from the Village.

They, like everyone in the wider community, hold a special place in OUR hearts and we look forward to welcoming all to the Village for a visit, reflection, and look forward this fall. We will also be holding a 10-year reunion for our very first cohort of natural building interns that day, and would love the community's help in spreading the word to our original intern team!

Find out more, register, or become a sustainer at www.ourecoovillage.org or by phoning 250-743-3067.

So I wanted to be an animal dentist...

Taryn Scott
Shawnigan Focus

A few months ago as I was playing with my 4 year old pug Daxia (her name means "Big Hero" in Chinese), I noticed that her normally scraggly looking teeth looked even more gnarled than usual.

I checked Dax's mouth over and found that despite displaying no signs of sensitivity, three of her front teeth were quite loose and green at the base of her gums.

I called the Vet and set up an appointment.

After visiting with the Vet, hearing her sound advice, and receiving the huge quote for extracting Dax's teeth, (which involved anesthetic), I thought I would contemplate my options for a few days.

I recalled seeing the BriteBark ad as I was laying out the June Focus and decided to call them for an alternative opinion.

I took Dax to meet with the ladies at the Duncan BriteBark



Daxia ~Photo by: Tara Olsen

for a consultation.

Within minutes of arriving at BriteBark, both Dax and I were put at ease by the warm, informative and friendly service offered by the BriteBark staff.

BriteBark provides, natural, anesthetic-free, teeth cleaning for pets.

The Oral Hygiene Specialists immediately told me that Dax's

teeth issues were very minor and her loose teeth would likely come out during the painless procedure.

One hour later, at half the cost, with fewer, sparkling clean teeth (anesthetic-free), and a satisfied pug, I was very happy to have tried this alternative non-invasive method to take care of Dax's oral Hygiene..

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Blackberries!

Elijah Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

The wild (invasive) Himalayan Blackberries have been slow to ripen this year. Some of our summer visitors have left disappointed. They always look forward to the free supply of what is a fruit delicacy in many parts of the country. But the picking season will soon be in full swing so grab a bucket. If, so far, all your blackberries have come in overpriced plastic clamshell containers, here are some picking tips.

Location is everything. Take the time to find a spot that suits you, and your experience will be much more enjoyable. If you are picking with children or don't wish to endure the soothing sounds of traffic, avoid roads. Blackberries will pretty much grow anywhere so avoid areas where pollution may be an issue such as rail beds. Many bushes even along property lines do not get picked but when in doubt be

courteous and ask nearby residents. With the dry weather we have been having, nearby sources of water will result in plumper juicier berries. If picking in less populated areas always bring a friend and remember, we aren't the only species that likes to fatten up on these delicious treats.

Dress for the weather; I have rarely picked in the shade. Long sleeve shirts, good footwear, and sometimes even pants, are a must to protect from the thorny stalks. Many shallow buckets are better than one large bucket as the fruit can be fragile. I prefer to reuse yogurt containers. I tie a string around one and let it hang around my neck to keep both hands free. Then I place a second container in the first. Once full I remove the container, set it aside with a lid to prevent spills and continue with the next one. If you have found a good remote location



lopers and a step ladder can be useful.

Finally don't pick more berries at a time than you can eat or preserve. It is easy to get too ambitious and end up with a soggy fruit fly infested pail. In recent years we have taken to canning our berries as we often can pick and eat

more than we have room in the freezer. Two years ago we made our own blackberry wine which we are enjoying to this day. One of my favorite summer treats is to pour it over vanilla ice cream. If making your own sounds a bit too ambitious, you can take your fruit to some of

the local wine and beer "UBrews" and be involved as much or little as you wish in the process.

Do at least try one of the many blackberry wines or ports offered by our local wineries, or hunt for the pre-picked variety at your favorite farmer's market.

Shawnigan Weather JULY

UVic Weather Network ~ by Grant Treloar

July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	
Average High	22.9	27.2	24.5	25.3	23.0	26.5	23.9	24.9	22.9
Average Low	11.7	12.7	12.6	11.5	12.1	13.0	12.7	12.5	12.4
Extreme High	37.2	33.3	29.7	32.3	28.8	32.8	30.2	31.5	28.0
Extreme Low	3.9	9.1	7.1	7.6	6.1	10.3	7.9	10.0	7.5
Precipitation	24.7	1.5	21.5	1.0	15.7	0.2	14.9	0.8	19.2
Days w precip	6	1	5	2	5	1	5	3	7

Lake Temperature: July 7th: 24° July 14th: 23° July 21st: 25° July 28th: 25°



Photo Credit: Taryn Scott

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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Looking north of Duncan, Mt. Prevost seems like a daunting hike, yes... unless of course you drive almost to the top and climb the last little bit to the war memorial – but that doesn't really count! The name Mt. Prevost is homage to British Commissioner James Prevost who was instrumental in the Pig War (San Juan Islands boundary dispute). If you have a chance to look it up, the Pig War is a very interesting story in itself based on an incident that was sparked by the shooting of a pig.

Our lovely group of lovely hikers took to one of the biggest hills in Duncan, back in June, and even though it was a bit of a rainy day this hike was spectacular, as usual, and the trees selflessly shielded us from getting soaked. Lucky for us by the time we were top-side just 2.5 hrs later it was all clear skies complete with hang gliders floating about. This is not always the case though. Sometimes when you get to the top on those sorts of days it's a cloud filled abyss – we know that from experience!

We commenced at 8:00 am by rendezvousing at the substation on Mt. Prevost road parking area. Directly across the road lives a wee trailhead through the bush which we most enthusiastically headed toward. Following this path it

turns into a bit of a road, but shortly after there is a 'subtle' but not completely noticeable trail leading off to the left and then down into the creek area. Cross a little bridge and head up the embankment. Passing various sculptures will indicate that you are on the right trail. After you bump into a logging road, go right and follow it for about ten minutes to the next left upwards trail. Follow that puppy up (and it is waaay up) to yet another logging road. Take a diagonal right across the road. The end of this leg is the memorial's parking area. Follow up left all the way up for the most amazing view of Duncan.

This route is intermediate to advanced hiker and took us 2.5 hrs up. Depending on your route downward it can take up to 2 hrs, we chose the road for something different and to avoid furthering injury to some previously injured feet and knees. I also add special mention that parts of this route are on mountain bike trails - so be extremely aware and yield to them because they are clipping along really well!

Next month: Iron Butt's head out to Kinsol Trestle Bypass Route.

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's view-points with The Iron Butts (www.theomtree.com)



War Memorial on top of Mr. Prevost - dedicated in 1929

**Shawnigan
Lakewatch** 
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**Thank-you to our
Speakers, Sponsors and Volunteers
for making our July 6, 2013
BLOCK WATCH Community Safety Workshop a success.**

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Shawnigan Lake RCMP – Constable Lora Favor
Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department – Paul Mead
ISCU – G.I.F.T. Program – Chris Waddell
Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute & Agricultural Society
CVRD – Parks, Recreation & Culture
Thrifty Foods – Mill Bay
Subway – Shawnigan Lake
Mason's Store and Patio
Country Grocery
South Shawnigan Community Policing – Julie Rosenthal
Duncan Community Policing – Carol-Ann Rolls
Bobbie Swinney
Pam Taylor
Joan Curtis
Bernice James
Charlotte Haggart
Rosalie Power

SRA Report

Jason Walker
Director & Board Secretary

A big thank you to over 120 people who showed up to our July 15th Burger and Beer Fundraiser at the Cobble Stone! Thanks to your generous support we raised over \$2,500 all proceeds went to our legal action fund! Stay tuned for our September events! If you have an idea for a fundraiser or you would like to host please contact us at donate@sramail.ca.

The SRA continues to monitor the SIA/Cobble Hill Holdings permit which has yet to be issued. We are putting pressure on government and politicians to gain traction in stopping the contaminated soil dump permit that will impact our community

for years to come. Our legal team is in place, our plan is well thought out and we are ready to respond to the permit the moment it is dropped. As you know, this is an expensive endeavour and we are represented by Farris LLP your contributions are always welcome.

Another key issue facing Shawnigan Lake is taxes. We have seen our taxes increase substantially over the past few years with what some would argue minimal service increases. Last year we saw at the CVRD board table some interesting spending decisions including Grant and Aid funding that seems to exceed the fiscal realities of

the region. In response to this concern, the SRA board has struck a committee to examine Taxes and Governance impacting Shawnigan Lake. We are pleased to announce that Rick Restell, owner of Bonterra Pizza, will be chairing this committee and we look forward to working with Rick moving forward. Do you have suggestions or ideas on taxes or governance? Email us at info@sramail.ca we would love to hear from you.

On behalf of the SRA we would like to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a happy and safe summer! Visit our new website www.thesra.ca

“The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.” ~ Marcus Aurelius

Medical Marijuana and legal grow-ops

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Last month we reported that the RCMP had raided a marijuana grow-op in a quiet residential neighbourhood of Shawnigan. The foray, involving four vehicles and several officers, required planning and coordination. After forcing the door of the unoccupied structure they spent a lengthy period waiting for Health Canada to eventually confirm that the operation was a licensed grow-op under the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR). This is a scenario that happens frequently. Common sense would call for law-enforcement to determine the legality of the site prior to the raid thereby avoiding a significant waste of money and resources. The following is a statement from the federal authorities:

Due to the Privacy Act, Health Canada cannot disclose any information about third parties. As such, we cannot confirm whether or not an individual holds a valid licence to produce marihuana for medical purposes.

Presumably, Health Canada is able to release information after the site has been entered by police.

So, the grow-op is legal, but neighbourhood concerns remain. Pungent odours bother nearby residents. Anxiety is voiced that the site is a magnet for criminal activity. There are assertions of diminished property value. Evidently a grow-op, even a legal one, is not viewed as a desirable neighbourhood feature. It might depend on the individuals involved with the operation. A well-maintained property with responsible owners, who ensured that the facility had appropriate ventilation filters, would perhaps be better tolerated. Operators with a little foresight might also inform the local authorities in order to prevent unnecessary and costly invasions.

All grow-ops, legal or not, want to avoid notice. The telltale smell can motivate a range of characters willing to break and enter multiple residences if the precise location is not known. It might be local delinquents on a whim or it could be someone truly dangerous. A crop of high-quality BC-Bud represents serious money and there have been numerous cases of armed assaults and even the occasional homicide related to marijuana grow-ops.



BC-Bud (Google Images)

How did this situation arise? In 2001 Health Canada introduced the MMAR in response to a court decision which said that Canadians should have reasonable access to marijuana for medical reasons. With a doctor's approval, patients can apply to Health Canada for an "Authorization to Possess". The "treatment supply" varies, depending on the patient's condition, typically from 1 to 5 grams per day (although there is provision for larger quantities). Patients are allowed to possess up to a thirty day supply, e.g. 30 to 150 grams (about 1 to 5 ounces) depending on their condition. There are three options on how to obtain your supply: direct from Health Canada, grow your own, or appoint someone to grow it for you. The quality of the Health Canada product is alleged to be poor so most patients opt for a "License to Produce".

Health Canada is generous when it comes to the amount of pot that can be grown. A licensed indoor grower, producing for someone with a prescription of 5 grams per day, can have up to 25 plants at a time. A person with a production license can be permitted to produce for up to two individuals. Each grow-op site can have up to four production licenses. That would total 200 plants if each prescription was 5 grams per day. Critics of the MMAR claim there is no realistic way that anyone could smoke that much marijuana and that excess quantities are being diverted into illegal sales.

A CBC news item mentions a grower who says he and many others are making thousands of dollars every month growing licensed medical marijuana and selling it for illegal distribution on the streets, and there is little police can do to stop it. He estimates he gets about

\$20,000 every two months from his basement operation. With six crops a year, that's about \$120,000 a year.

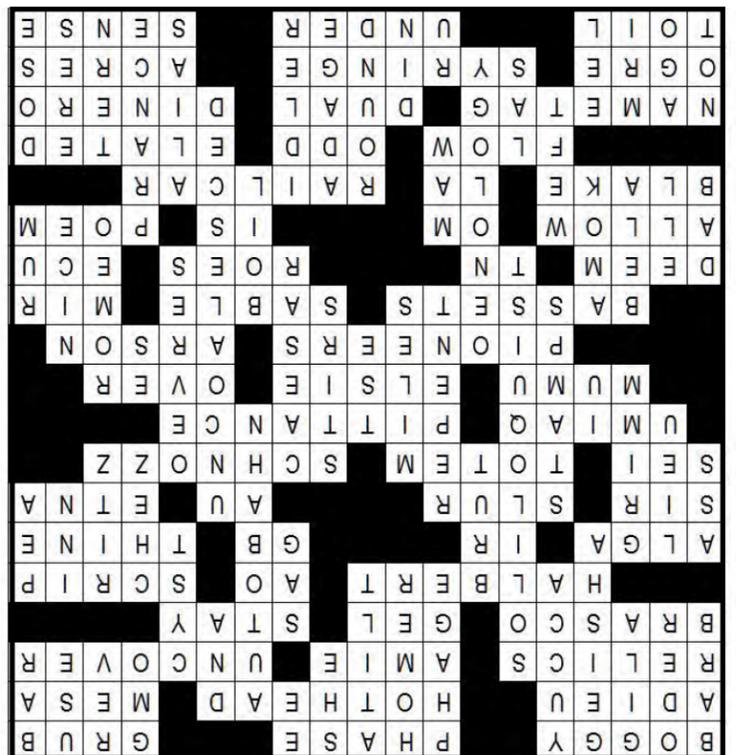
At the start of 2012, there were 4,169 legal grow-ops in the province. By the end of 2012, the number had jumped to 11,601. B.C. accounts for over half of the growing licences issued in Canada. Law enforcement is frustrated by the lack of facility inspection by Health Canada and the lack of authority for alternate inspections by lower levels of government. Health Canada is supposed to inspect legal grow-ops but follow-up is lacking and police don't have the authority.

In response to the problems of the current system, the federal government has proposed changing the rules. In line with other controlled substances, personal and designated production will be phased out and replaced by commercial growers who will have to meet extensive security and quality-control requirements. Treatment supplies will be dispersed through pharmacies or by mail. The new regulations are intended to be fully implemented by April 2014.

Many see the new regulations, which will treat marijuana like other pharmaceuticals, as a positive step. Not everyone is convinced though and a new set of potential problems have been identified.

What about the legalization argument? Perhaps we just need to look south and learn from Washington and Colorado who are anticipating billions in tax revenue. Legalization, if sensibly implemented, would make medical access issues irrelevant. BC-Bud has been a huge component of the underground economy for decades and the situation is comparable to when alcohol was prohibited. Why not capitalize on local expertise and transform organized crime profits into tax revenue?

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RCMP Report

Sgt. Webb
Shawnigan Lake RCMP

Shawnigan Lake RCMP continue along during the busy summer months. We have found all areas of recreation busy, including the lake, rivers and the Cobble Hill Quarry. We are working with the owner of the Quarry, CVRD, local residents and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to close access to vehicles into the Quarry. "Realistically we cannot keep everyone out but we would like to eliminate vehicle and ATV traffic as these are what bring in large quantities of liquor and garbage. The property is private and really, no one should be accessing it. We are concerned for people's safety and

have increased patrols in the area including ATV and traffic check stops in the area, with positive results."

Our boat patrols on the water have gone very well so far. We are finding most folks on the water compliant but will continue to have a presence throughout the summer months. Some tickets have been issued for excessive speed, boats have been removed from the lake, and positive tickets issued for youths wearing life jackets.

Calls for service continue to be steady and, through July, on pace with previous years. We have experienced a few break-and-enters to residences

in the Cobble Hill and Mill Bay area and these are still under investigation. These instances are highly traumatic for the homeowners whose residence is supposed to be secure and safe from these criminals.

Traffic safety continues to be a priority for the area. We are regularly augmented by South Island Traffic Services and even the Nanaimo Integrated Road Safety Unit has been doing enforcement in the area. Check stops are being administered with positive results throughout the South Cowichan area.

Please stay safe, drive and boat carefully, and respect your fellow neighbours during this sunny social time of year.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0
Telephone: (250)743-2096 Fax: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency Telephone: (250)812-8030
Email:shawniganfire@shaw.ca

*Department Members Attended 19 Calls in July
Department Officers attended 3 burning complaints.*

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ★ Tuesday, July 2 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd | 1st Responder in Beach Estates |  |
| ★ Thursday, July 4 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd | ★ Thursday, July 18 – Bush Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd | |
| ★ Friday, July 5 – Unattended Fire on Bonnie Pl | ★ Thursday, July 18 – 1st Responder in Beach Estates | |
| ★ Saturday, July 6 – Illegal Burn on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd | ★ Friday, July 19 – Bush Fire in Old Mill Park | |
| ★ Sunday, July 7 – Unattended Fire on Renfrew Rd | ★ Saturday, July 20 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park | |
| ★ Monday, July 8 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd | ★ Sunday, July 21 – MVI on Renfrew Rd | |
| ★ Tuesday, July 9 – 1st Responder in Beach Estates | ★ Monday, July 22 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd | |
| ★ Wednesday, July 10 – | ★ Thursday, July 25 – Smoke Sighting off W Shawnigan Lake Rd | |
| | ★ Friday, July 26 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd | |
| | ★ Sunday, July 28 – Lift Assist in Beach Estates | |
| | ★ Sunday, July 28 – MVI on Shawnigan lake Rd | |
| | ★ Monday, July 29 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | |

Clean Drinking Water and Healthy Choices

Household Cleansers- How to go 'Green' and be Safe!

Borax (a mineral that deodorises and disinfects), soap (made from animal or vegetable fat and alkali, not detergent which is petroleum-derived), baking soda and vinegar are all substitutes that will do the job and be far better for you and the environment.

Drain Cleaners

Pour a cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by one-half cup of vinegar and cover the drain tightly for one minute. Rinse with a pot of boiling water.

Disinfectant

Soap and hot water take care of common kitchen bacteria adequately; a solution of one-half cup borax to one gallon hot water makes for a stronger disinfectant.

Glass Cleaner

1 part vinegar, 4 parts water

All Purpose Cleaner

1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/4 cup vinegar (a superb grease cutter) in 1 gallon warm water.

Silver Cleaner

Toothpaste.

Chlorine Bleach

Borax or washing soda.

Fabric Softener

Add 1/4 cup baking soda or 1 cup vinegar to the final rinse cycle of our wash.

Furniture Polish

Mix one teaspoon lemon juice with two teaspoons vegetable oil. Apply with a clean dry cloth.

Air Freshener

Set out vinegar in an open dish; potpourri; baking soda in fridges, diaper pails.

Submitted by S. Saunderson on behalf on the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Committee

Reprinted from The Community Crier - January 1998



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Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

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 Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association**
1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm, currently at the Village Chipperry
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact 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**
See website for details: www.shawniganwater.org
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
For more info: www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)** A group for active seniors around Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay. Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum** - Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **www.exploringshawniganlake.com**

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



CONGRATULATIONS! JULY

The winner is Brenda Sanders. The photo showed "T2" on one of the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department Trucks. "Tender 2" is built on a Kenworth T-800 chassis and powered by an Allison 4500 EVS transmission & a Paccar ISX 15 500-HP engine, the truck is equipped with a Darley 1,500 GPM pump & a 3,000 G polypropylene water tank. Winners receive two specialty coffees at Shawnigan House

First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins

Mini Pow Wow & Multicultural Gathering:

Creative space for strengthening unity between all nations for the health and well being of all life on Mother Earth. Location: 992 Nightingale Rd Mill Bay

All Welcome, All Nations, All Generations, All our Relations.

- August 30th - Eve Opening Ceremony 7pm
- August 31st - 9 30am start All Day into Eve: Dance for Mother Earth, Interactive Workshops, Craft Tables, Community Potluck Dinner
- Sept 1st - Closing Ceremonies potluck lunch

Registration by suggested Donation ~ We need volunteers ~ Family Event (no alcohol/drugs)

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Yoga Schedule starting
Tuesday September 3

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Nicola Cusi Yoga Centre

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www.kaliyoga.ca
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mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
9:00 - 10:00 am gentle beginner	9:00 - 10:00 am chair yoga	9:00 - 10:00 am gentle beginner	9:00 - 10:00 am restorative	9:00 - 10:00 am gentle beginner	
10:10 - 11:10 am dynamic flow		10:10 - 11:10 am dynamic flow		10:10 - 11:10 am dynamic flow	10:00 - 11:30 am hatha all levels Nicola
5:30 - 7:00 pm hatha all levels Nicola	5:30 - 7:00 pm hatha all levels Robin	6:00 - 7:00 pm yin yoga	5:30 - 7:00 pm AcroYoga begin Nicola	3:30 - 4:30 pm aerial dance intermediate	
7:15 - 8:15 pm CAT/Yoga for Back	7:15 - 8:45 pm AcroYoga interm Nicola & Pan	7:15 - 8:45 pm dynamic flow Nicola	7:15 - 8:45 pm back care injury prevention	4:30 - 6:00 pm aerial dance advanced	
				6:15 - 7:45 pm breathing/relaxation every last Fri/month	

Please confirm recent updates of schedule online: www.kaliyoga.ca

All Yoga classes are drop-in. **Pre-registration required for Aerial Dance, AcroYoga and workshops.**

SHAWNIGAN BASIN AUTHORITY

The Shawnigan Basin Authority is a new structure intended to provide local input into decisions that affect our watershed.

If you live in CVRD Electoral Area B (Shawnigan) this initiative could cost you a little money.

A proposed tax levy would result in about \$4 per \$100,000 of assessed value added to your property taxes each year (\$20 for a \$500,000 house).

Can we afford not to gain control of our watershed?

What issues in Area B indicate the need for a Basin Authority?

Extensive impacts on the quality and quantity of our water supply can occur as a result of private land logging, gravel pits, contaminated soil dumping, back-country access, recreational pressures, aging septic systems, interface wildfire risk to communities, invasive species and loss of biodiversity – all accentuated by climate change that is altering the pattern of winter precipitation and summer drought. Most of these issues, if they are addressed at all, are dealt with piecemeal by a host of government agencies with no means of coordination or capacity to deal with cumulative environmental impacts.

What is the basic purpose of a Basin Authority?

The Authority is intended to provide the Shawnigan public with a civic mechanism that can create a watershed master plan, to identify, fund and implement watershed security projects, to coordinate the efforts of the many government agencies with watershed responsibilities, to assemble all research and monitoring information gathered within the basin and to ensure that the concerns of the public are respected in all watershed decisions.

What are the components of the Authority?

The Authority consolidates three existing civic organizations: The Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable designed to engage the public with the many government agencies; the incorporated non-profit Shawnigan Basin Society designed to apply for, manage and account for funds raised to create the master plan, implement projects, coordinate watershed initiatives and to engage the public; and the Ecological Design Panel of land and resource experts that provide scientific and technical advice to the Roundtable, the Society, government agencies and other interested parties. The Authority will also create a widely representative group of Shawnigan and Koksilah citizens, government and industry to steer the whole collaborative process.

What is the geographic area of interest for the Authority?

There are two main areas of geographic interest; the Shawnigan Basin from its headwaters at the Elkington Forest to tidewater at Mill Bay and the upper reaches of the Koksilah watershed within Area B, particularly that area with residential developments.

Who created the Authority?

The Authority was created by resolution of the Shawnigan Basin Society's Board of Directors. Dave Hutchinson is the President of the Society and Georgia Collins is the Executive Director.

What is the relationship between the Authority and other Shawnigan Groups?

The Shawnigan Basin Authority is a civic governance mechanism for gaining the official attention of government agencies with legislated responsibilities within the watershed landscape. It is only one of many necessary partners in achieving greater attention to the issues of watershed integrity. The Business Association, the Community Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Residents Association, the Historical Society, the Inspire Arts organization, the Parks and Recreation Commissions, The Hub Society, the public and private schools, along with the diversity of social service groups in our community need to make common cause. The security of our watersheds is important to public health and safety, to the value of our properties, to the enjoyment of our recreation environment, to the long-term economic health of our business community and the ultimate welfare of our children and their children. Each organization has a role to play and must put their shoulders to the wheel if we are to succeed. United we stand...

What is the relationship between the Authority and the CVRD?

The Authority is independent of the CVRD but is supported by the Area Director and maintains a strong cooperative link with the CVRD Board and Staff. The Shawnigan Basin Society was launched with assistance of a local grant in aid. Active partnership with the duly elected local government is one of the essential ingredients in taking positive control of our watershed.

What is the relationship between the Authority and the Cowichan Watershed Board?

Much of the Authority initiative is modeled after the Cowichan Watershed Board and the two are intended to work in close cooperation. Members of the Board were engaged with the original development of the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable and remain active collaborators with the Authority.

Why call it an "Authority" if there is no official governance mandate?

The Basin Society's intention is to send a very direct message to senior government that the Shawnigan public wants to play a significant and material role in decisions that affect management of their watershed, not just to be consulted along the way as fragmented decisions are made by various agencies.

Why launch the Authority now?

The province is currently working on revisions to the 100 year old Water Act. This provides a window of opportunity to press the case for greater community control of source water protection, an initiative that has widespread support among communities throughout the province and is being championed by the POLIS group at the University of Victoria. The issue will be debated at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities conference in Vancouver during the week of September 16th, 2013. Shawnigan needs to be positioned to take advantage of the timing of events, which is why the Authority initiative was launched by the Society in July of 2013.

When will the Authority's mandate and overall plan be discussed in public?

The draft outline of the Authority has been published in the Shawnigan Focus, discussed publicly at Director's, Parks and APC meetings and published on the Director's web site. The Authority will be put in place progressively over the fall of 2013. As well as publications in the August and September issues of the Shawnigan Focus, details will be provided for open public comment at regular Directors meetings, a public meeting to be held at Dwight International School on September 21st, on the shawniganwater.org website and at meetings with interested parties and organizations at their request to the Society.

Who will be members of the Authority?

In addition to the existing participants in the Society, the Roundtable and the Ecological Design Panel, a broad representation of the Shawnigan and Koksilah public will be sought by the Society to act as inaugural Authority members. The intent is to create a strong working group of willing citizens along with government and industry partners and to support them through extensive public engagement.

What is the intended relationship with First Nations?

Both the Malahat First Nation and the Cowichan Tribes will be invited to join the Authority as both have long-term traditional rights and interests in the geographic area.

What is the intended relationship with the Shawnigan Improvement District?

The SID has a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the Shawnigan watershed, along with the Malahat Fire District to the south and the Cowichan Bay Fire District to the north. Fire safety is not just about protection of residences but is also about protecting the forest landscape that supports the hydrology of the watershed. The Fire services are part of the emergency operations system that deals with major community threatening fires. They are essential partners in achieving basin level management and need to be directly engaged with the Authority.

Why is a \$50K per year Area B tax levy for the Authority being proposed?

Many sources of private funding do not contribute directly to governments and much of what is available to incorporated communities is not available to unincorporated electoral areas. In any case, most funding agencies, whether private or public, usually require a proportion of matching funds from local sources. If Shawnigan can provide a base of local funding, this can be multiplied many times over because a stable local contribution can be guaranteed and would show that the Shawnigan community is willing to put their own resources on the line first.

How will the tax levy proposal be decided by the Area B community?

A new CVRD function to provide the Shawnigan Basin Society with an ongoing funding base must be approved by the community before it can be initiated by the Regional District. In order to be active by the 2014 fiscal year, an Alternative Approval Process would need to be completed by November of 2013. The process was launched at the July meeting of the CVRD Board to meet the potential timetable. The tax levy proposal will be thoroughly discussed during the fall series of public meetings and publications. Eventually the community will decide if the levy is acceptable.

If approved by the Area B community, what would the money be used for?

Funds raised by the tax levy would be earmarked for development of a watershed master plan, a basin data bank, implementation of watershed ecological and hydrological studies essential to the plan, ongoing public engagement, coordination of government agency activity in the watershed, interface fire protection planning and fuel management programs in critical areas and as local funding leverage for applications to outside foundations and government infrastructure programs.

How will the financial affairs of the Authority be accounted for and reported?

The Shawnigan Basin Society will budget for income and expenditures, provide for accounting and audit services and will provide a public annual report of all activities undertaken with funds received from all sources.

For more information see : www.shawniganwater.org

paid for by the Shawnigan Basin Society