



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Three - Issue Seven

JULY 2013

*A Non-Profit Community Publication*

## MOUNT BALDY RESCUE



*Photo Credit: Dave Hutchinson*

**By Elijah Fraser**

At approximately 2:00 pm on the 8th of July, Cowichan Search and Rescue received a report of a male hiker who had fallen down a slope and injured his leg while hiking with a group on Baldy Mountain.

From a mobile Command Centre set up at the corner of Shawnigan Lake and Elford Road, as well as a staging area at Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan, volunteers from Cowichan Search and Rescue guided members of the BC Ambulance Service to the individual.

Joint Rescue Operations Centre in Victoria dispatched a Cormorant Helicopter from 442 Squadron in Comox which could be seen circling around Shawnigan Lake that evening. The Cormorant hoisted the individual at approximately 7:30 pm and flew him to Victoria General Hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

### Something smells like a skunk

*Shawnigan Focus*

There was some excitement near the intersection of Worthington and Cullin Roads on July 10th.

RCMP attended a suspected marijuana grow-op.

As nearby residents gathered to watch, there were comments about characteristic odours wafting about the neighbourhood in previous weeks.



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# Food for thought: Kerry Park or Quarry?

Many feel that property taxes have increased alarmingly over the last few years and agree that the decision not to approve over \$14 million for improvements to Kerry Park is a good one. Unfortunately, we collectively can't afford it.

What if we did have a spare \$14 million for Regional Recreation, though? Would Kerry Park be the best place to spend it? For \$6.9 million we could pay the full asking-price

for the 568 acres of Quarry Lands including Kingzett Lake. An appropriate portion could be reserved for future residential development which could largely (if not completely) compensate for the original purchase costs. We could work with property owners to establish a public corridor from the Quarry along the old Silver Mine Trail to the Kinsol Trestle. And, we would have millions left over for other things!



Looking southwest over the Quarry (Kingzett Lake) – Photo by Dave Hutchinson

## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

July 2013

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AUGUST 2013 Issue: August 4th

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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 for a fee. Contact: 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.

### MAILING ADDRESS

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## Another Successful Show & Shine!

Sunday, June 30th was a blisteringly hot day but that did not stop masses of vehicle enthusiasts from attending the 6th annual Shawnigan Show and Shine. This event is receiving accolades as one of the best of its kind, as evidenced by growing popularity with both participants and spectators. Kudos to the organizers! The Clements Centre Society is receiving a substantial donation as a result. Thank you to Shawnigan Lake School for providing the delightful park-like location.

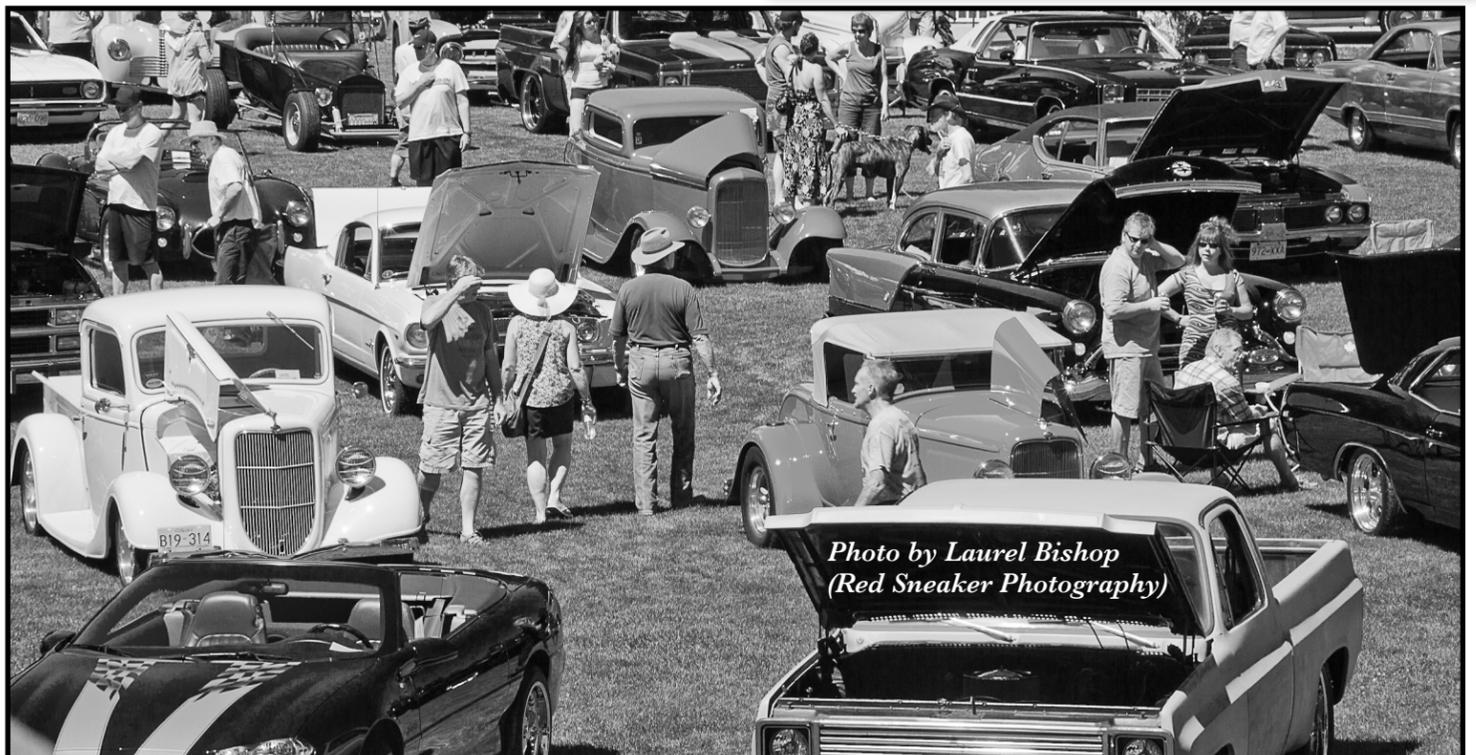


Photo by Laurel Bishop  
(Red Sneaker Photography)

## 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](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### Top 5 CVRD Salaries

Dear Focus,

In June, the CVRD released its «Statement of Financial Information» for 2012. Under the Financial Information Act of BC, this information is required to be made available to the public.

The information below is based on the top 5 CVRD salaries, for 2002 (baseline) through to 2012, drawn from the official CVRD reports for each year.

While inflation was 19.9% for the period (from CPI data), the top 5 CVRD remuneration grew an average of 75.9% from 2002 to 2012.

Director's remuneration increased 32.7% for the same period.

At the request of the CVRD Board, all reports from 2002 to 2012 have been published on the CVRD website at: <http://www.cvr.bc.ca/index.aspx?NID=1752>

~Blaise Salmon

### The commute!

Dear Editor,

As we commute to Victoria regularly, my partner and I have noticed some real challenges drivers are having when it comes to merging. Thinking they are doing the right thing, drivers are creating one lengthy, slow lane long before the merge needs to occur. And that, in turn, creates a dangerous situation, as drivers get upset when others continue in the open lane.

“Zipper-merging” is actually the way to go to keep traffic flowing and to keep things “fair”. Read about it at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2013/07/04/f-traffic-zipper-merging.html>

~Gailen Flaman

### Re: Its that time of year again (June 2013 Shawnigan Focus)

I agree with “your neighbour” (June 2013 Focus) that everyone needs to be diligent and always alert while on the lake, for an “accident” can always be prevented with due care and attention. However I was talking to an experienced boater (don't know if it was the same boater mentioned or not) but they had a similar incident in which they suddenly came across a swimmer

### CVRD Employees Earning Greater Than \$75,000 & Employees Receiving an Increase Greater than 5% in 2012

BC Wage:		2008	% Inc.	2009	% Inc.	2010	% Inc.	2011	% Inc.	2012
							2.9		2.7	
Employee	Position									
Adair, Jason	Superintendent, Solid Waste Operations					\$ 86,484.33	1.9	\$ 88,092.63	12.1	\$ 98,730.23
Anderson, Thomas	General Manager, Planning & Development	\$ 117,501.57	7.9	\$ 126,768.05	5.5	133,761.31	3.1	137,941.21	7.4	148,138.07
Austen, Ronald	General Manager, Parks, Rec. & Culture	108,137.71	1.4	109,601.88	19.0	130,399.18	0.1	130,562.88	14.6	149,585.83
Barry, Joseph	Manager, Legislative Services	96,371.77	1.6	97,927.08	10.3	108,047.74	- 2.4	105,419.96	9.3	115,231.64
Blatchford, Linda	Manager, Cowichan Lake Recreation					100,338.49	- 6.6	93,739.13	15.0	107,823.68
Conway, Robert	Manager, Development Services			89,904.01	8.3	97,364.22	5.9	103,122.19	14.8	118,403.92
Dennison, Brian	General Manager, Engineering Services	117,934.44	0.2	118,115.75	11.0	131,124.88	1.4	132,952.98	10.7	147,113.66
Dias, Ryan	Parks Superintendent					82,119.77	1.3	83,215.74	14.6	95,386.92
Elzinga, John	Manager, Island Savings Centre	88,374.43	7.0	94,589.31	5.6	99,864.29	- 2.2	97,663.62	9.7	107,099.09
Etherington, T.	Utilities Operator							79,685.18	6.3	84,698.78
Ewing, Christopher	Manager, Information Technology	80,249.65	- 0.4	79,890.90	17.8	94,091.55	- 0.1	93,963.13	13.1	106,273.48
Farquhar, Brian	Manager, Parks and Trails	83,554.93	16.0	96,911.68	0.7	97,552.00	4.3	101,700.04	13.5	115,407.22
Frost, Robert	West Coast Facility Coordinator					82,590.78	- 2.3	80,675.21	12.0	90,396.40
Harrison, Kathleen	Legislative Services Coordinator					80,116.01	2.8	82,336.60	10.9	91,272.25
Hulti, Mary	Human Resources Consultant					84,886.67	0.9	85,624.68	12.2	96,066.76
Hurcombe, Steve	Budget Coordinator					83,320.17	4.0	86,616.45	9.0	94,427.95
Jackson, Jeralyn	Project Engineer					85,415.26	2.0	87,158.36	8.2	94,327.94
Jones, Warren	Chief Administrative Officer	171,820.68	5.9	181,956.14	- 5.5	171,997.88	3.8	178,615.58	11.4	198,976.81
Kueber, Mark	General Manager, Corporate Services	135,645.65	- 3.8	130,540.07	8.7	141,847.07	3.8	147,290.45	6.1	156,338.50
Leitch, David	Manager, Water Management	83,554.93	6.7	89,156.76	16.7	104,086.66	2.0	106,200.34	5.5	112,056.54
Liddle, Anthony	South Cowichan Facility Coordinator					78,478.00	- 0.9	77,759.60	11.8	86,926.16
Liddle, Kimberly	Manager, South Cowichan Recreation			76,765.72	17.5	90,203.78	3.5	93,324.51	9.6	102,308.67
McDonald, Robert	Manager, Recycling & Waste Management	81,275.80	3.5	84,104.26	14.2	96,049.70	2.9	98,852.74	8.2	106,987.99
Millar, Geoffrey	Manager, Economic Development	89,507.75	- 0.3	89,252.80	13.9	101,686.16	- 4.6	97,000.02	12.6	109,248.25
Miller, Catherine	Manager, Regional Environmental Policy	75,804.21	3.5	78,475.70	17.2	91,951.87	- 1.6	90,503.09	19.3	107,948.68
Moss, Sharon	Manager, Finance	89,267.75	0.6	89,759.60	12.1	100,614.11	2.2	102,872.29	15.0	118,323.49
Olive, Norman	Manager, Capital Projects					98,818.39	3.4	102,214.34	15.0	117,534.02
Sanderson, Sybille	Acting General Manager - Public Safety					82,680.10	14.1	94,333.39	14.2	107,739.84
Schafer, M.	Technical Director									85,185.85
Schrader, Kirsten	Manager, Arts and Culture					79,921.94	12.6	89,979.26	13.4	102,021.37
Tippet, Mike	Manager, Community & Regional Planning	94,836.75	0.7	95,531.52	12.2	107,184.68	5.8	113,361.20	11.9	126,834.73
Wakeham, James	Manager, Facility, Fleet and Transit	84,358.18	13.0	95,291.70	9.2	104,068.86	- 4.6	99,291.92	7.9	107,094.66

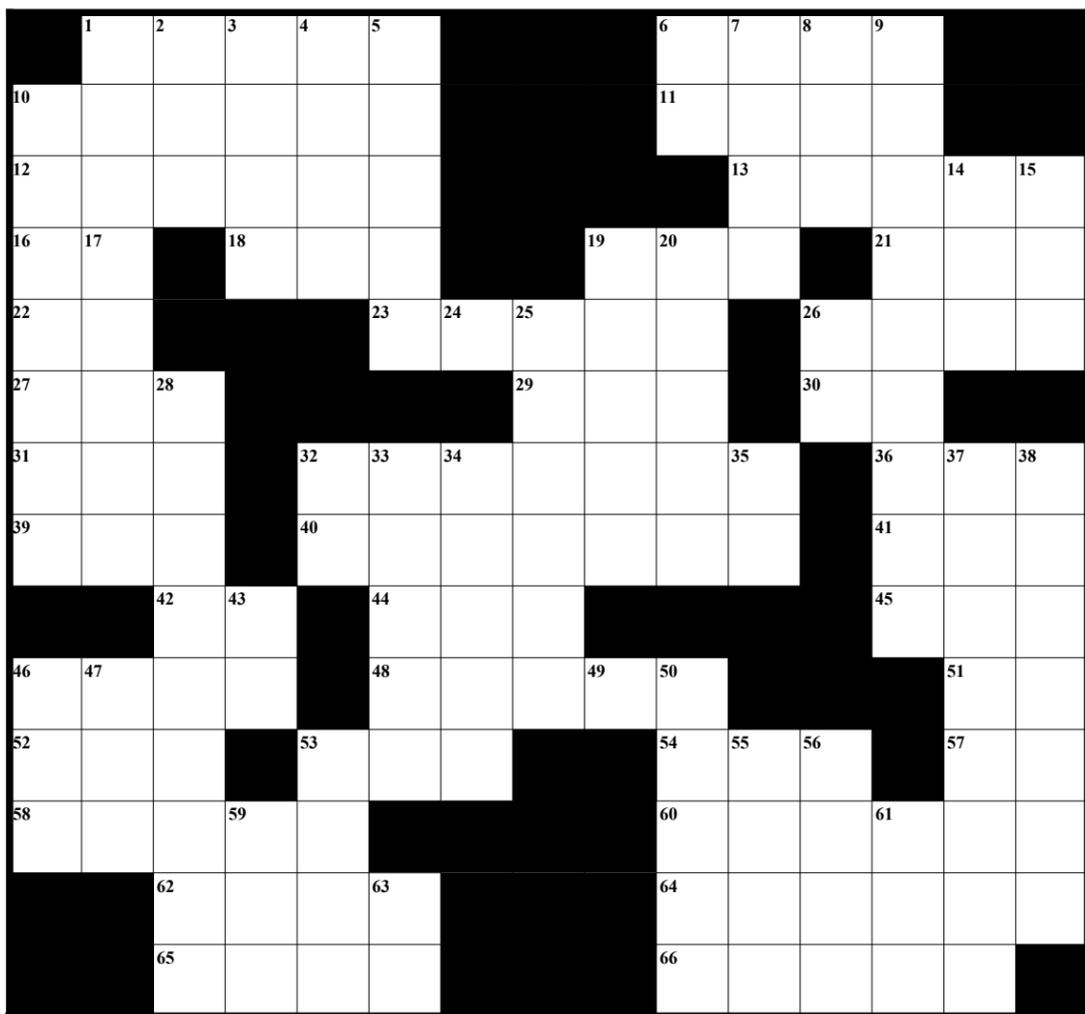
“practicing” on the Saturday before the Triathlon.

This particular athlete was swimming across the lake from the Prov. Park towards Mason's Beach. However, in this case, the boater was not upset about it, only surprised that a swimmer was so far out in the lake with no boats, markers, neon cap or any other form of safety for themselves. Our discussion brought up an idea that maybe the Triathlon Committee might like to include in the next Triathlon. We (the Committee and volunteers) put notices in the local papers weeks before the event, and post signs up around the lake forewarning the public to watch out for runners and bikers on the road. As we know, many practice running and biking the perimeter roads leading up to the event.

On the day of the event we have volunteers all around the lake, making sure all athletes are safe. We also have volunteers on the lake to aid and protect the swimmers. However, we do nothing about athletes who wish to practice swimming prior to Race Day. Would it not be a good thing to add some lake markers on Saturday and put notices at boat ramps, so boaters would be forewarned that there is a greater chance that swimmers may be practicing on the Saturday?

After all, we invite the “world” to our community - why not raise our safety bar just a bit.

~A friendly neighbour



#### July Crossword

##### Across

1. Large iconic Canadian mammal
6. At once, or soon (archaic)
10. Depress one's spirits
11. Broad valley
12. Naval standard
13. Parts of a bridle
16. Spanish agreement
18. \_\_\_ de Cologne
19. Fish or frog youngsters
21. Hair styling product
22. On condition that
23. Little (Brit. slang)
26. Hail to another ship
27. Acquire
29. Misspelled Roman 3
30. Note well (abbr.)
31. Directions without west
32. Radio receiver for Police frequencies
36. Relative of the lute
39. Home of hockey's Blues (abbr.)
40. With 25D, local tourist attraction
41. Utilize
42. Printing measure
44. Spanish gold
45. Period of good or bad luck

46. Church section
48. Eyelashes
51. Smallest US state
52. Uncontrollable twitch
53. Hawaiian guitar, for short
54. Dentist's degree
57. For example (Lat.)
58. Unit of thread
60. Shooting star
62. Soft wood
64. Courage, spirit (Lat.)
65. Dash, flair
66. Mole or birthmark

##### Down

1. Become real
2. Mantric words
3. Sheriff Andy's son
4. Video game pioneer
5. Fancy boredom
6. Sales spot
7. Not a one (arch.)
8. Spanish shout of approval
9. One who lives nearby
10. Drawings, patterns
14. When old becomes new again
15. Cunning

19. Stone for striking fire
20. Party
24. Roman 100
25. With 40A, restored marvel of construction
26. Indefinite article
28. Use this to watch the distant skies
32. Like Rd or Ave
33. Slow-cooking pot
34. Former 5 star Malahat resort
35. About (abbr.)
37. Charging exorbitantly high rate of interest
38. Units of thread
43. The person doing this puzzle
46. American Tribal Style bellydance (abbr.)
47. Apple seed
49. With 43D and myself
50. Pitcher of 6D
53. Forearm bone
55. Aboriginal Nation based in NWT
56. \_\_\_ Bators, punk pioneer
59. Mixes with vinegar, not water
61. Large flightless bird
63. Former Dayliner

Solution on Pg. 9

## The Kerry Park decision

**Bruce Fraser**  
Area Director

Kerry Park Arena, built in the '70's, is beset with aging infrastructure as is common with buildings of that vintage. We have an excellent staff, running a very tight ship, and making the best of a facility that presents ongoing maintenance and repair problems. The time has come to move from an annual repair schedule that just barely keeps ahead of the game to a renovation that puts Kerry Park in good long-term condition.

The Kerry Park Commission has been working on strategies for doing the necessary renovations to keep the facility functional. The recent public discussions about what to do with the facility indicated a variety of opinions ranging from "do nothing" to "tear it down and start over" to "do the minimum necessary to keep it functioning" to "add capacity to make it into a community centre, not just an arena". The issue for the commission has been how to respond to this range of opinion, how to provide the community with a needed facility over the long run and how to pay for it.

The Commission initially read the public response to be that a community centre model would be preferred and that this would require borrowing on the order of \$14 million to accomplish the task and lead to a significant tax cost that could only be approved by public referendum. The community centre transition would provide for all the necessary renovations of the existing facility but also add space for improved change rooms, seniors and youth meeting spaces and additional rooms for community programs. This remains the long-term vision for accommodating the needs of an expanding population and changing demographics.

The conclusion that the community was willing to bear the cost of the full upgrade was challenged by some Directors, causing the Commission to take a longer look at both the incoming opinions and the concerns of Directors about the impact of a tax increase under current economic circumstances. The result was a retreat from the maximum development to something much more affordable.

The conclusion was that the local economic conditions do not justify a major tax increase at the present time. Given that conclusion, a least cost option was developed, one that would not require a tax increase, but would still see some of the critical renovation objectives achieved. The plan is now to use accumulated reserve funds of \$1M, borrow another \$2M on a short-term basis and use the existing annual tax amount that goes to reserves to pay the amortization cost of the loan. The \$3M thus raised is sufficient to begin the most important renovations to the electrical system, the water system and the upgrades to the ice arena. These renovations are part of a long-term plan and would be required regardless of the scale of the reconstruction.

Essentially, the Commission decided to take the most fiscally prudent approach, to avoid the cost of a referendum, to avoid a tax increase and to initiate a "pay as you go" renovation schedule until economic conditions allow consideration of a more extensive upgrade.

## Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks & Recreation

**Margaret Symon R.P.F. E.M.R.**  
Parks Commissioner

At the mention of summer, we naturally think of Shawnigan Lake. In addition to serving as a very important reservoir of drinking water, the lake provides a host of outdoor recreation possibilities: boating - powered or otherwise; water-skiing and associated water sports, swimming; angling; and nature viewing. Riparian vegetation around (some of) the lake supports local wildlife several species of fish live in the lake. The lakefront is home to many year-round Shawnigan residents (in addition to summer visitors from Victoria and further afield). Very importantly, Shawnigan Lake contains essential water for fire suppression. Shawnigan Lake is fortunate to hold such a rich resource, but from a public perspective, much of the lake is either without public access or the existing access is so poor the public is not adequately served.

Currently, the short list of public access points around Shawnigan Lake is limited to a handful of beaches and/or boat launch sites. Shawni-

gan Lake currently has over 70 undeveloped road ends around the lake. These road ends, created through the process of development and subdivision of lakefront lands over past decades, are owned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). A number of these road ends provide informal public access to the water and shoreline of Shawnigan Lake; many remain natural, offering ecological integrity to the lakeshore. Encroachment of these road ends is a growing problem, with illegal docks, garages, fences, and garbage blocking access.

Approximately 21 road ends around the lake are designated drafting sites for Shawnigan Fire Improvement District (SID). In the case of a structure fire (or interface fire) anywhere around the lake, these designated road end drafting sites would provide essential access to fireflow (unlimited water for fire suppression). A number of these road ends could also provide strategic access to the lake for

BC Ambulance. At one time, all designated road end drafting sites around Shawnigan Lake bore signage installed by the SID to indicate their importance in an emergency. One by one these signs were illegally removed; few, if any still remain.

A key tenet of the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan (2010) is a recommendation to pursue either "lease or occupy" or enter into an agreement with the MoTI to acquire some or all of the undeveloped road ends abutting Shawnigan Lake for the purpose of developing as public lake accesses - or leaving in a natural state.

In cooperation with the Shawnigan Fire Improvement District, the Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission is currently striving to ensure emergency access to key road ends, while carefully balancing public safety with water quality and biodiversity, private interests, and public access to Shawnigan Lake.

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**CVRD**

**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@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:jbarry@cvrld.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@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:kliddle@cvrld.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

  
www.cvrld.bc.ca



Photo Credit: Dave Hutchinson

YSAGS clowning around in the Canada Day parade!

## Y.S.A.G.S.

### Young Seniors Action Group Society

**Ray Bootland**  
Y.S.A.G.S.

In 1972, Health and Welfare Canada developed the New Horizons Project for the older and retired Canadians to share their interests, skills and talents while developing and carrying out projects of their own choosing. New Horizons required that a Board of ten (10) Directors be elected of which 70% must be 60 years of age or older and permanently retired. It also had to be open to all Seniors in the area at a cost obtainable to all. In 1988 ten (10) members of the Malahat Legion, Branch #134 got together and formed Y.S.A.G.S.

They applied to and received permission from PACIFIC COMMAND (Legion) to sponsor this project and with much time consuming work, research and communication, received a grant from New Horizons, B.C. Lottery, Seniors Lottery, CVRD Shawnigan Lake and CVRD Cobble Hill. At this time there was a "LETTER OF AGREEMENT" drawn up by Health and Welfare Canada, (New Ho-

rizon) and signed by the Legion Branch #134 President.

Another letter of approval from Pacific Command that indicated this project is to be controlled by the Seniors and any assets acquired are owned by Y.S.A.G.S. Y.S.A.G.S. is a registered non profit society with it's own by-laws. Membership is \$20.00 a year which gets them a membership card, permits them access to all YSAG activities and facilities. Y.S.A.G.S. pay a society registration fee each year, get their own Gaming License to run their Bingo, 50/50 Draws and Raffles. In the beginning Y.S.A.G.S. had ten (10) members who participated in six (6) activities. Today we have approximately 160 members and there are 16 fun filled activities to keep them busy. Canasta, Chess, Computer Club, Crafts, Lapidary, Line Dancing, Photography, Quilting, Stained Glass, Tai Chi, Ladies and Mens Walking Club, Wood Carving, Zumba Gold, Pot Luck Suppers, B.B.Q.s, Bingo, Trips to places of interest on the island and an annual Picnic.

Y.S.A.G = Why Sag

**Out of clutter, find simplicity**  
**From discord, find harmony**  
**In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity**  
~ Albert Einstein

## Shawnigan Residents Association Report

**Jason Walker**  
SRA Director / Board Secretary

A big thank-you to the 350 people who attended the SRA's "Rock for Clean" Water with the Smiley Band on June 15th! The night was a great success and thanks to your support close to \$5,000 was raised for our Legal Action Fund to stop the SIA contaminated soil permit! Stay tuned for more to come including a Burger and Beer night at the Cobble Stone!

The SRA is pleased to announce that Ann Marie Thornton has been appointed to our board as Director of Fundraising. Ann Marie brings a wealth of experience as a business owner and long-term Shawnigan resident. Welcome Ann Marie!

This year, the SRA has been busy representing our community on a number of key

issues. We held a successful all-candidates meeting for the recent election that was attended by over 100 residents; to increase public safety, we helped to negotiate a new location for the RCMP boat house with Parks and Rec along with Shawnigan Lake School; we have secured funding for 3 lake level monitoring stations that are now in place; we continue to fund the mapping of the watershed by through contracted services and, we are studying the recent significant tax increase, with minimal increases in services, and are preparing a response. Our new website will be launched in the next few weeks so keep an eye out!

We are moving forward preparing an appeal of the SIA contaminated soil permit, which we understand will be issued shortly. As you likely are aware, the MOE is in a position to grant SIA (Cobble

Hill Holdings) a permit to dump contaminated soil within our watershed placing the environment, our drinking water, our quality of life and economic stability at risk. Over 4,000 people have signed our petition to stop government from destroying our water source but the fight has just begun!

The SRA has retained Farris LLP to represent us in stopping the issuance of any such permit. We believe that the Province is not representing the best interests of the people of our community nor listening to leading scientific experts who are opposed to this permit. As you can imagine, this is an expensive endeavour and we need your ongoing help and financial support. Contributions can be made on our website! As always, we are looking for new members and you can sign up on our website [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca).

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Photo: Juliana Wigmore

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## INSPIRE! Summer Show ~ Artist Profile

Compiled by Jennie Stevens from excerpts by John & David Alexander

Inspiration can come in a variety of ways, when least expected. Sometimes, it is through the triumph over much suffering. Leokadia Marie Alexander's story is an example of this, a story of inspiration, rooted in a deep need to follow her passion, while at the same time finding a way to heal from the trauma that had taken away her ability to do so.

Born in 1948, in a Bavarian camp during WW II, her family relocated as refugees to Australia a year later where she was to show early signs of artistic talent. Leokadia completed her education and went on to become a gifted multi-media artist and art teacher, eventually moving to Canada and sharing her life with her husband John. Together they raised two sons in their Mill Bay home. Some of her happiest times were spent

sharing her love of art with the many students who were fortunate enough to benefit from her nurturing artistic guidance. She taught locally both at Brentwood College, and at Chemainus Secondary School. During the 1990's, Leokadia's success as an artist led to her work being sold in over 100 outlets throughout the US Pacific Northwest & Canada.

Life was to change dramatically in late 2006, when Leokadia lost her ability to create art, at age 56, after a traumatic brain injury resulting from a car accident. No longer able to translate what she saw onto canvas, she refused to succumb to self-pity or despair. She turned instead to growing vibrantly colourful Rose of Sharon flowers, grown for thousands of years on the Plain of Sharon in Israel – the birthplace of her Chris-

tian faith. Inspired by these beautiful flowers, encouraged by her loving husband, and empowered by her passionate connection to the Holy Spirit, Leokadia began to paint again, three years after her accident, from deep within her heart. In her process of rediscovering who she was as an artist, Leokadia began to develop a unique multi-media painting technique that addressed her issue of short-term memory loss. Beginning with a period of experimentation, she began to paint in a way that was entirely new & unique, with a completely different technique to that of her earlier pre-accident work. While before she had created large pieces with meticulous attention to the smallest of details, the new work was much larger, with vibrant colours, very bold & spontaneous. And so, a new artist with a new style was reborn at age 60.

Sadly, Leokadia had another health challenge, which was to shorten her journey of resilience - a reoccurrence of terminal breast cancer, discovered & treated in 2004, thought to be in remission. During the final 2 years of her life, despite great pain & weakening strength, she poured her heart & soul into completing the prolific series of giant canvases on the Rose of Sharon theme. To see Leokadia's paintings, is to recognize her deep connection to the beauty of creation and her joy in expressing the love that was in her heart. They fully illustrate with their brilliance & light, the triumph of the human spirit over trauma & pain, bringing hope and inspiration to others. As therapist Dr. Tamara Goranson comments: "Because of her willingness to accept loss and... adapt to her change of life circumstance, Leokadia allowed trauma to

transform her for the positive instead of for the negative. Her legacy is not only the art pieces that she left behind but also her role-modelling and in particular, her resilient attitude.' I now use Leokadia's art pieces to encourage others... to recreate a meaningful life in the aftermath of tragedy."

This summer, INSPIRE! is hosting a vibrant beautiful display of Leokadia's amazing work. Large, colourful & deeply textured canvases, embellished with gold & silver leaf grace the walls of INSPIRE'S Community Gallery Space. Leokadia's original work has undergone a hand embellishment giclee process, which adds richness, depth & fine detail. Banners of her paintings also hang from the ceiling to add a new dimension to the room. Please come and see this beautiful show, which runs until August 17th.

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Mick, Shawnigan Focus Mascot, Canada Day Parade



Locals enjoy participating in the Canada Day Parade in Shawnigan Lake Village

# Wildside: The Rufous Hummingbird

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Is that hummingbird feeder empty again?! Mixing the sugar-water and re-filling the feeder was a daily task through May and June. As we enter July the pace is decreasing as those voracious hummers, having hung about for a good Canada Day party, start thinking about their long trip back to Mexico.

The Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), is described as the feistiest hummingbird in North America. These brilliant birds are relentless attackers at feeders. The larger Anna's hummingbirds (recent winter residents accustomed to having feeders to themselves) are rudely displaced when the Rufous arrive in the spring. The Rufous get furious with each other too. At times we have counted up to a dozen of these tiny pugnacious creatures aggressively buzzing about and chasing each other away from the feeder.

**Some Details:**

- ★ In good light, male Rufous Hummingbirds glow like coals: bright orange on the back and belly, with a vivid iridescent-red throat. Females are green above with rufous-washed flanks, rufous patches in the green tail, and often a spot of orange in the throat.
- ★ Often described as "feisty," the Rufous has an ideal size-to-weight ratio. This bird outflies all other species, and usually gets its way at feeders at the expense of slower, less-maneuverable hummers.
- ★ Hummingbirds get the energy they need to maintain their astonishing metabolism primarily from flower nectar and the sugar water they find at feeders. For protein and other nutrients, they also eat soft-bodied insects. The opinion of the majority of hummingbird researchers is that a 1:4 mixture of white sugar to water in feeders has been shown to do no harm.
- ★ The Rufous Hummingbird makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird in the world, as measured by body size. At just over 3 inches long, its roughly 3,900-mile movement (one-way) from Alaska to Mexico is equivalent to 78,470,000 body lengths. In comparison, the 13-inch-long Arctic Tern's one-way flight of about 11,185 mi is only 51,430,000 body lengths.
- ★ During their long migrations, Rufous Hummingbirds make a clockwise circuit of western North America each year. Their journey follows the "Pacific Flyway" or

"Floral Highway" through the mountains and deserts of the Pacific West Coast. The pace of migration is determined by the blooming times of the flowers favoured by the hummingbirds. From Mexico, they move north in late winter and spring, reaching British Columbia by May. As early as July they may start south again.

- ★ Hummingbirds are among the smallest of the birds and are the only birds that can fly backwards. They can hover in mid-air by flapping their wings up to 90 times per second. They can fly at speeds more than 54 kilometers per hour. Hummingbirds have the highest metabolism of any animal. Their heart rates have been measured as high as 1,260 beats per minute and yet they have been known to live as long as 12 years.
- ★ The Rufous Hummingbird has an excellent memory for location. Some birds have been seen returning from migration and investigating where a feeder had been the previous year, even though it had since been moved.
- ★ When agitated, Rufous Hummingbirds fan their tails and chirp. Males flash their iridescent throat patches.
- ★ The collective name for a group of hummingbirds is a "hover" or a "charm".
- ★ The female builds the nest alone using soft plant down held together with spider web. She decorates (or camouflages) the outside with lichen, moss, and bark. Finished nests are about 2 inches across on the outside, with an inner cup width of about an inch. Nests may be reused the following year, not necessarily by the same individual.
- ★ The annual Breeding Bird Survey indicated a slow decline in Rufous Hummingbird numbers in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia (1-2 percent per year from 1980 to 2004). Nevertheless, a 2006 study estimated a total population of at least 6,500,000, and the species is typically regarded as secure.
- ★ Bird watching with a twist: The Pentagon is developing a robot hummingbird, or "hummingbird drone". Equipped with a small video camera for surveillance and reconnaissance purposes it can operate in the air for up to 11 minutes. It can fly outdoors and also investigate indoor environments.



*Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus)*



*Lose Something? This abandoned boat was found floating in the south end of the lake after unsuccessful attempts to sink it.*

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## Exercise Dawn Blitz 2013



LS Elijah Fraser /HMCS Saskatoon  
LS Dan Robinson /HMCS Nanaimo

HMCS Saskatoon, and HMCS Nanaimo, along with Fleet Diving Unit Pacific, and staff from Canadian Fleet Pacific all took part in Exercise Dawn Blitz 2013 during the month of June.

The two Maritime Coastal Defense Vessels are among six of their class stationed on the West Coast and commonly seen in local waters. Based out of CFB Esquimalt the Royal Canadian Naval (RCN) vessels

are 55 metres in length and manned by a crew of 31 Regular and Reserve personnel. The ships' large aft "Sweep Decks" make them versatile and can be equipped with modular payloads. The Canadian Vessels joined five other nations in the four week US lead amphibious and mine counter measure (MCM) exercise off the coast of California.

Under the command of the

US Mine Counter Measures Squadron 3, the Canadian units were active in clearing the approaches of Port of Hueneme, and waters off Oxnard County, California. The mine clearance allowed for the anchorage of the American ship SS Curtis to load equipment, and the subsequent amphibious assault of beaches at Camp Pendleton by US Marines and Japanese Defence Forces.

HMCS Nanaimo, recently fitted with a new Launch and Recovery System for its Klein 5500 side scan sonar, produced bottom survey data for the route into Port Hueneme. In the course of one week, the Nanaimo surveyed 18.5 square kilometres of ocean, located two exercise mines, one underwater improvised explosive device, and one airplane.

Data from HMCS Nanaimo, processed ashore was used by HMCS Saskatoon to investigate and identify the objects. Using two remote operated vehicles, a Bottom Object Inspection Vehicle (BOIV) and a smaller Seabotix ROV, piloted by Port Inspection Divers, Saskatoon investigated 55 contacts over eight days and identified two Manta mines, one Rockan mine and one underwater IED.

While the mines were inert, the RCN benefitted twofold from the exercise; in the planning and coordination of mine clearance operations by the Headquarters Staff, and by utilizing the ships and their payloads in

an operational capacity in a medium tempo environment.

"From the ship's perspective, the exercise was a resounding success as integration into the multinational MCM force went seamlessly," said HMCS Saskatoon's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Larry Moraal.

Concurrently, during the exercise, Maritime Surface Officer students were embarked in both Nanaimo and Saskatoon. The students were exposed to their first naval exercise and MCM operations; throughout which they were integrated into every organization onboard ship. After a quick break in North Vancouver for Canada Day Celebrations, both ships are continuing with their training before returning to CFB Esquimalt later this month.

HMCS Saskatoon's Operations Officer, Lt(N) Gregg Morris, and Senior Naval Communicator, LS Elijah Fraser, are both local Shawnigan residents.

## Another point of view

Brian Jackson

This morning I sat and read the Leader Pictorial front page article on 'Beaver replaces the Dominion' with great interest. I, for one, will await more details of what will develop with this new vessel squatting in the Bay and hope it is not another example of the misuse of our waters around the island. However, I must admit, seeing the picture of the S.S. Beaver brought a

whole different perspective for me. I was in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of my Engineering apprenticeship when I was selected as part of the team to build an S.S. Beaver replica. This was going to be the Canadian Navy's contribution to the Centennial Celebrations of Vancouver Island and the colony on mainland British Columbia joining confederation. The original vessel had

a long and colourful history until she ran aground near Stanley Park in Vancouver. We were given a Navy ammunition vessel (Hull #216) with the approximate dimensions of the original S.S. Beaver and told to build the "copy" around the existing hull. We produced the conceptual arrangement; new lines plans; drew up all the construction plans; and proceeded to re-



skin a steel vessel into a large timber hull to replicate a classic and very unique piece of British Columbia history. To me, the Beaver photo brought back the great 60's and the beginning of my Engineering career. I was working with very experienced Draftsmen, Engineers and Trades people. Everyone worked together towards a common goal. People

with years of experience were not afraid to share that knowledge with others and I was lucky enough to have worked with some very intelligent and creative people and to learn from their inventiveness. It was a fun and rewarding time working on that project and I will always remember those good times when I see pictures of the S.S. Beaver.

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## Take a Hike!

**Sarah Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

In June, I ventured on my own without the Iron Butts to the Carmanah Valley Provincial Park. I felt slightly selfish about it but as the group's leader I feel a sense of duty to acquaint myself with potential hiking excursions prior to taking the group.

The Carmanah has been on my radar for quite some time simply because it is home to some of the world's largest trees (some reach beyond 95 meters!) as well as having ancient trees that are said to be over 1,000 years old.

Our access point was through the cute town of Youbou, past Nitinat Lake and various logging roads. I would post directions but, if you 'google' it or check out BC Parks website, there are various ways to get there and another way may suit you better. One thing for sure though, a 4x4 is definitely handy to have for the roads up to the trailhead. From downtown Duncan it was merely a two and a half hour drive, which is amazing that this famous site is so close and can be done on a day trip.

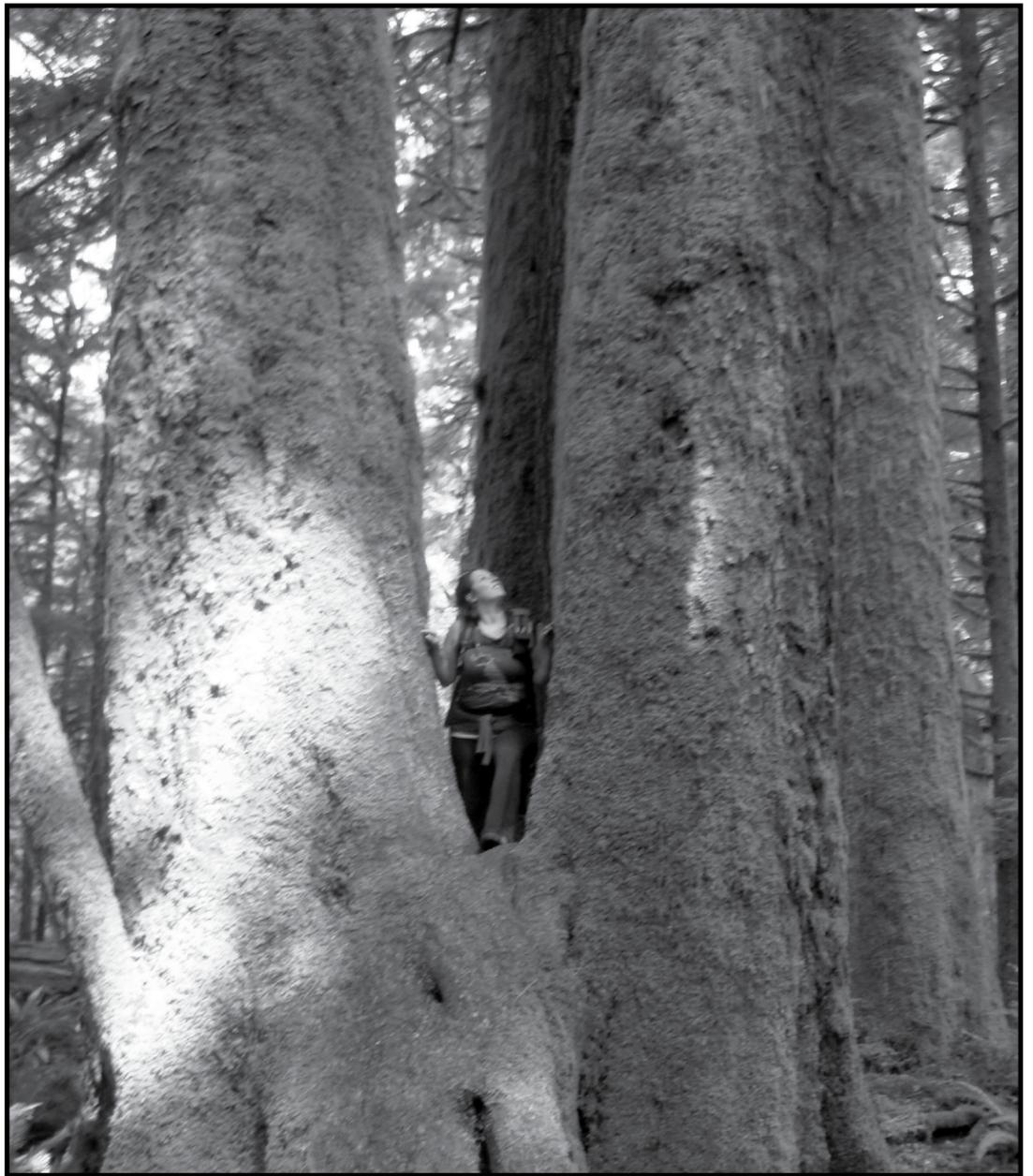
The forest area has been protected for hundreds of years which has allowed the Sitka spruce and Hemlock trees to thrive. According to BC Parks the area's large Sitka

spruce ecosystem contains 2% of BC's remaining old growth forest. Now that's something to see!

Be plenty aware of bears indeed. On our way out, I was very thankful that it was from a car that I saw four and a half black bears (one was a cub) in a half hour span. It was a notable reminder that we are in their territory and to be very cautious with food, always stick to the main trail and to make noise when moving about the woods.

The park trails are well maintained and a good portion are on wooded boardwalks. There are park maps available right at the entrance kiosk which outlines all the highlights to enjoy. One must-see is the Randy Stoltmann Commemorative Grove. This grove is a sacred Sitka spruce grove that Randy (who passed in 1994) and a friend discovered back in 1988. Randy made it his mission to bring it world wide attention – especially when it was threatened to be logged.

Depending on the time of year, the trails are prone to be mucky and wet. However, June appeared to be the perfect time for us with a sunny Saturday and a dry trail. The park path is an intermediary challenge and some areas are advanced in nature due to slippery moss patches and steep inclines. Good boots



*Adventures along the trails of Carmanah*

and perhaps hiking poles are recommended. Once you have a peek at the map online or other, you will see that there is no shortage of things to see and you have the option to make this hike as long or as

short as you like.

I certainly recommend the Carmanah to those who strive to be in secluded nature amongst some of the worlds biggest and oldest giants!

Source: [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)

Next month: Iron Butt's head out to Oliphant Lake, join us!

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's viewpoints with The Iron Butts ([www.theomtree.com](http://www.theomtree.com))

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Crossword Credit: Monica Foster

Got something to say? Send your articles to: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

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Information online @ . . .

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

. . . or visit

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## RCMP Report

**Sgt. Rob Webb**  
*Shawnigan Lake RCMP*

Shawnigan Lake RCMP are into one of the traditionally busiest times of the year. The late arrival of the good weather has people busy out and about in parks, on the lake, house parties and busy roads, especially the Trans-Canada Highway.

RCMP have completed several boat patrols on the water already with the majority of boaters in compliance with Transport Canada boating requirements. Boaters are reminded to carry their operators card when operating vessels out there. Some ATV patrols have also been completed in the parks, Kinsol Trestle, Trans Canada Trail as well as the local Quarry. Vehicles found inside the Quarry may be subject to a tow bill as well as a \$115.00 fine for Trespass on Private Property. Keep vehicles out of the Quarry.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP ask that everyone be mindful of their neighbors and keep back yard parties and barbecues respectful to allow all to enjoy the great weather and their own property.

The sunny weather ultimately speeds up vehicles. South Island Traffic Services (SITS) and our Integrated Road Safety Units will be in our area sporadically over the summer. Please obey all highway speed limit signs and stay off your electronic devices.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP are in the process of having a RCMP boat house built which will be placed on the lake, hopefully, by early August. There will be more to come on this collective effort next month.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP welcome recent new members Cst. Rennard Jo who has previous experience in the Lower Mainland and Comox Valley. Cst. Patrick Delano has also arrived and was previously posted in Fort Nelson. Cst. Amanda Curwin has transferred after five years here to SITS. PS Keith Thomson has been hired as our new full time clerk and is presently handling the front counter duties. Congratulations to the South Cowichan Community Policing Office on their one year anniversary- July 4th. Stay safe!

## SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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*Department Members Attended 18 Calls in June 2013*  
*Department Officers attended 2 burning complaints.*

- ★ Saturday, June 1 – 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Tuesday, June 4 – HazMat Call off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, June 7 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, June 14 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, June 14 – 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Saturday, June 15 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, June 15 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, June 17 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, June 17 – 1st Responder on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, June 17 – 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- ★ Wednesday, June 19 – Vehicle Fire in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Saturday, June 22 – Alarms Activated off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, June 24 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Monday, June 24 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, June 25 – Unattended Fire in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Wednesday, June 26 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, June 29 – 1st Responder on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, June 30 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd



This is a reminder to Shawnigan Lake residents that open/backyard **burning** & use of burn barrels are **banned until October 1st.**

Campfires 1/2 m x 1/2 m or 18" x 18" in size are allowed. Don't leave it unattended. If the hot weather continues, campfires may be banned as well.

**Thank you in advance for your compliance!**

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## Buy Local

**Rick Restell**  
*Local Business Owner,*  
*Bonterra Pizza*

It is important to buy locally as much as possible. My business mentor advised me, early on in my working life, that you support your customers first, your neighbours second, and everyone else a distant third.

I was thinking about this recently and it occurred to me that we have supported in one way, or another, almost every business in the area. We get our gas for our three vehicles at the Shawnigan Garage; our vehicle servicing at Jickling Automotive; Roy Davies cuts my hair; Anne's is done by Misty at Thrinx; and our family has eaten at every coffee shop and restaurant in the area. We have supported the local pharmacy; we've bought three new cars, as locally as we could; our restaurant buys supplies from local grocers and farms; our equipment is maintained by as many local suppliers as possible and our signs are produced by Derek at Signology.

This can be a hard thing

for people to get their head around - buying locally often means paying more (but not necessarily). I'll tell you right now that Wal-Mart is less expensive on almost everything and that chain restaurants sell pizza cheaper than us. What you need to look for is value, and ensure that you're weighing all the factors that go into your purchase. Does the business shop locally themselves, and is there a benefit to yourself or to the community when they do? If we buy from a business that stays open to serve our store or family as well as others, does it benefit us to have the convenience of that product or service available locally? I think so.

When we're asked to sponsor an event, donate to a local charity or volunteer our time, we almost always say yes, just like so many other great local businesses.

The success of the businesses in your neighbor-

hood brings with it great convenience for you as well it improves property values, encourages other businesses to start up and generally makes for a vibrant community. Big Box retailers and chain stores have destroyed the local economies of many small towns. They buy nothing local; create part time, minimum wage jobs; and pay their profits out elsewhere.

The antidote to empty storefronts, declining property values and minimum wage jobs is simple - buy local! Make it your first thought to see if what you need can be sourced here in South Cowichan from a business that is owned locally by people that support your community, and your community and your family.

After 35 years in financial services and consulting, Rick has taken on the task of providing Shawnigan, Mill Bay and Cobble Hill with what he likes to call "good times in a cardboard box" (Pizza)



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## 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.shawniganresidentsassociation.com
- ★ **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**  
See website for details: [www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca](http://www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca)
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage** Mondays 5-6, Janet Cundall hosts: connecting to our source of peace and harmony. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 Stephanie & Robert Cerins host Happiness Heals - \$10. For more info: [www.inspireshawnigan.com](http://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](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum** - Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4.  
[www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com) email: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

## CLASSIFIEDS

### LOOKING FOR A ROOM:

Small suite with reasonable rent for widow on pension.  
Contact Dee at 250 208 0293 or [dvoskuilen@yahoo.ca](mailto:dvoskuilen@yahoo.ca)

### WANTED

Vintage dealer/collector wants to purchase your clothing, jewelry, purses, footwear, luggage, etc. Call 250-929-4213 or email [spazzycat@shaw.ca](mailto:spazzycat@shaw.ca)

### WANTED

Donations of working LCD monitors, plus working or broken Laptops needed for Y.S.A.G.S. Seniors New Computer Users Group. Call Mike for pickup at 250-743-8892.  
All personal data will be securely erased.

## Community Family Fun Day

Hosted by the Mill Bay Lions

**Sunday JULY 28 from 11 to 3**

at the Mill Bay Lions Den

(corner of Shawnigan Mill Bay and Cameron Taggart Roads)

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



### CONGRATULATIONS! JUNE

The winner for June was Emily Black. The photo, taken from a boat, showed the windmill on the property just south of the Easter Seals Camp. Manufactured by Aermotor for pumping water, there are several of these units around the area. Aermotor was established in 1888 and is still in business.

Winners receive two specialty coffees at Shawnigan House

First correct answer sent to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca) wins

## Shawnigan Weather JUNE

UVic Weather Network ~ by Grant Treloar

	June Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	19.6	21.6	18.1	20.7	17.7	21.6	17.6	20.6	18.0
Average Low	9.7	11.1	8.8	10.4	8.4	11.3	9.2	11.1	9.1
Extreme High	35.6	32.6	23.1	32.5	23.3	33.9	23.9	31.5	22.5
Extreme Low	0.0	7.3	5.4	5.8	4.1	6.8	5.7	7.5	5.5
Precipitation	40.2	61.0	54.2	43.5	44.1	35.5	39.5	43.9	44.2
Days w precip	10	12	17	13	15	13	16	13	16

**Lake Temperature:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 18° June 9<sup>th</sup>: 19° June 16<sup>th</sup>: 19° June 23<sup>th</sup>: 19° June 30<sup>th</sup>: 25°



- BCAA Certified Auto Repair Facility.
- Certified Government Inspection Facility & Out of Province Inspections.
- Certified Mechanics At The Best Rate.
- Alignment Specialists.
- Tire Sales & Repair.
- Diagnostics for Domestic, Import & All Make Marine Services & Repairs.



Thank You to our Loyal Customers for giving us the highest satisfaction rating with BCAA

Full Service Save-On-Gas Station  
Loaner Vehicles and Door-to-Door Service when available.  
Call now and make appointment today!

**250-743-2122** Located at the 4-way in Shawnigan Lake Village.



Lunch - 11:30am  
Brunch - 10:30 Sundays  
Dinner - 5:00pm Daily

**250.743.1887**

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

2744 E. Shawnigan Lake Rd.

**Check out  
our website:**  
[shawniganfocus.ca](http://shawniganfocus.ca)

**Introducing and joining us  
at 2740 Dundas Road . . .**



**. . . the newest member of our Shawnigan Lake business community.**

**THRIXX**  
S A L O N



**250 733 2231**

**Village**   
**hipperly**.com

*Shawnigan's Favourite Family Restaurant*

**250-929-8886**

*'a menu as diverse as our customers!'*



**Beef**

**Pork**

**Poultry**

**Seafood**

**(FRESH FISH PROGRAM)**

**Deli**

**Bakery**

**Produce**

**778-356-3313**

*New to the community, **Steers Meat Shop!** Opening this July in the summer of 2013, is locally owned and operated by husband and wife team Melissa and Paul Steer.*

*Joining this experienced pair, is family friend, Stacey Cappello. Between the trio, they have over 50 years of meat cutting, processing, customer service and sales knowledge*

*Above all, they strive to offer the highest quality service to meet your individual need, and to bring convenience to the community and its families. They endeavour to source locally, to support local businesses.*

**TUESDAY – SUNDAY 10:00 – 6:00**



**DJ's**  
esthetics studio

**250.929.2294**

**Welcome and Good Luck  
Melissa & Paul  
from your neighbours at  
Shawnigan's own landmark –  
'the purple building . . .  
. . . where friends meet!'**



**Thrixx  
Tanning  
Salon**

**250 733 2222**

**WATER**



**Clean  
Refreshing  
Delicious**

**Fast  
Convenient  
Local**