



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Three - Issue Ten

OCTOBER 2013

*A Non-Profit Community Publication*

## THE WILD SIDE SERIOUSLY?? JELLYFISH IN SHAWNIGAN LAKE?

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Hmmm..., You don't say..., Oh really..., – seen any flying saucers lately? You can't blame Lee Curtis and his wife Pauline for anticipating disbelief after their recent observations. Back around Labour Day, after finishing a ski and settling into water, Lee was amazed to find himself surrounded by hundreds of jellyfish. Lee, the president of the local Ski Club, was astonished. He and Pauline started spreading the word and doing some research.

I spoke to Lee on October 6th and he said they were still around. Sure enough, after rowing over to the east side near Old Mill Park, we found dozens of the creatures. About the size of a quarter they were easily seen near the surface.

At lunch, with an old friend of the family, I brought up the subject. Sue used to swim here with my mother and has a childhood memory of my grandfather cautioning the two of them to “watch out for

the jellyfish!” “They really were there”, she said. This would have been the early 1940s.

It turns out that Shawnigan is not alone. A quick on-line search returns many results. “Freshwater Jellyfish Blooms Cause Sensation in North America” reads one article from 2010. The culprit is ***Craspedacusta sowerbii***, a species of freshwater jellyfish. One theory is that it was transported out of China in the 1880s while attached to lilies.

### Some Details:

- ★ There are three species of freshwater jellyfish, but only this one has become established around the world in every continent except Antarctica.
- ★ The freshwater jellyfish feeds on microorganisms in the water column so they are competing with other organisms which feed on the same sources. Large numbers may impact native populations although, currently, there is no data to support or refute this.

- ★ Just like salt water jellyfish they do have stinging cells. However, these cnidocytes cells are used for paralyzing very tiny prey and have not been proven to have the capacity to pierce human skin.
- ★ The collective name for a group of jellyfish is a “fluther” or a “smack”.
- ★ They have been discovered in both pristine and heavily polluted waters. One Pennsylvania study found that the only thing significantly impacting their presence was the level of chlorine in the water.
- ★ *C. sowerbii* begins life as a tiny polyp, which lives in colonies attached to underwater vegetation, feeding and asexually reproducing during spring and summer. Some of these offspring are the sexually reproducing medusa (the jellyfish form we easily notice). Fertilized eggs develop into larvae called planula which settle to the bottom, and develop into polyps. During winter, polyps contract and



*Photo by Dave Hutchinson*

### Freshwater Jellyfish in Shawnigan Lake

become resting bodies, called podocysts. It is believed that podocysts are transported by aquatic plants or animals to other bodies of water. Once conditions become favorable, they develop into polyps again.

- ★ The medusa's appearance is sporadic and unpredictable from year to year. It is not uncommon for very large numbers to appear in a body of water where none have been

previously observed.

- ★ Blooms of the species are common in late summer when lake temperatures are optimum. The species prefers still water to moving water.
- ★ [www.freshwaterjellyfish.org](http://www.freshwaterjellyfish.org) reports several nearby sightings including: Florence, Glen, Maltby, and Kilarney lakes near Victoria; Beaver Lake near Cowichan Lake; and Enos Lake near Nanoose Bay. *Shawnigan Lake is not listed.*



## Shawnigan Moment

*Double Rainbow - Photo by Mahri Sherlock*

## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

OCTOBER 2013

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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.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 or groups. Send letters to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

## X MARKS THE SPOT



Photo by Gabi Shewchuk

*Sunday, September 29th, on a very wet day in Shawnigan, a woman slammed the car she was driving into a hydro pole on Renfrew Road. Emergency crews attended and found her with minor injuries. She was transported by ambulance to hospital.*



## Black Swan's 'Duffman' wins the Scarecrow Trail!

*(Left to right) Denika Osmond - owner Black Swan, Traci Waite - Coordinator CMS Food Bank, Lisanne Richard - employee Black Swan Liquor Store, Scarecrow "Duffman", Patty Oldfield - owner Village Chippery/Scarecrow trail organizer, Terry Eden - President CMS Food Bank, Mark Osmond - owner Black Swan*



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## Re: SIA Contaminated Soil - Letter to the Premier

September 24, 2013

Honourable Christy Clark,

Dear Premier,

I am very conscious of the fact that this letter may never reach you or indeed that it may just be another one of hundreds that come your way. I am compelled to write about the opportunity that has been created by the very unfortunate sequence of events involving the Shawnigan Lake watershed and SIA. I do not need to go into the technicalities as I'm sure you can be, or will be, well briefed by others, but I do think that there is a leadership opportunity and, not surprisingly, that is always of great interest to many of us.

The organization that I have the privilege to lead is the biggest employer in this area and enjoys an increasingly significant international reputation for excellence in education. As you can imagine, there would be a potentially significant economic impact to any adverse publicity about a contaminated

watershed for this community. That, however, pales in comparison to the seriousness of the very real human threat that exists to the health and well being of the families in this area if the present plans go ahead. It seems intolerable and absolutely unacceptable in these times of enlightened environmental awareness for a series of bureaucratic steps to sweep aside common sense and the very real concerns of desperately worried parents of young families. That is why an opportunity exists.

The Liberal Government of BC could show even greater leadership in environmental protection, in contrast to that not being shown by our Federal Government, and could intervene to show that common sense, founded in sound human judgment, should always prevail. Water may well be one of the major issues of the next twenty years and a party/government that has the foresight to acknowledge that fact should attract a lot of positive attention. As a perennial Liberal voter, I would be proud if you as the leader could reconsider what is happening

in this area with this whole issue. Everyone is looking for politicians who 'walk the talk' when it comes to that most profound of challenges – the safety and health of any of British Columbia's citizens - and I submit that we have a potentially very serious, if not tragic, mistake about to be made in Shawnigan Lake. Among the many aspects of this whole situation that I am missing, I fail miserably to be convinced that there can ever be any justification for putting contaminated soil up high at all, given what happens with water and gravity.

Among the many things I have learned about leadership, I would place the quality of courage right up there, as would you no doubt. Now, would be a perfect time to show that quality to the British Columbians of Shawnigan Lake.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. My best wishes,

~David Robertson, Headmaster,  
Shawnigan Lake School

**Response from Premier Christy Clark**

## Re: Contaminated Soil

October 2, 2013

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you for your letter and kind words. I appreciate the time you have taken to share your concerns with me regarding the Shawnigan Lake watershed, and it is clear from your note that this is a very important issue to you. I have received a lot of mail on this matter, and I want you to know that government is committed to ensuring environmental protection and safe drinking water.

On your behalf, I have shared your letter with the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, so that she also has an opportunity to review your comments. I can assure you that your feedback will be included by the minister and her senior staff in related discussions moving forward with this issue.

Thank you again for writing.

pc: Honourable Mary Polak

**Office of the Premier**

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## Let's attack ISSUES, not PEOPLE!

In the heading to the section on Letters to the Editor, you state that letters should attack issues and not individuals. Perhaps that should extend to groups of people as well. Joseph Gollner has once again attacked unnamed persons that, in his opinion, "gained from this permit to deposit five million tons of contaminated soil..." He then goes on to attack the Liberal Party of BC with no evidence whatsoever. I know it's his opinion and political parties are fair game in the media, but these attacks involve others. If what he says is true then there had to have been payoffs to accomplish this and our fellow citizens and government employees have been dragged through the mud-slinging as well.

Surely there is enough outrage about the facts in this case that we don't need to make up stories that could potentially hurt innocent people.

Rick Restell, Shawnigan Lake

# The Power of Zoning

In the struggle between the residents of Shawnigan Lake and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) over the siting of contaminated soil storage facilities, the long-term outcome will be determined by our local zoning bylaws.

In a rather long article on the BrentattheFocus blog, I discuss the background behind the struggle. The provincial ministries know that most areas will resist certain activities. In our case, gravel quarries and contaminated soil storage sites. Both of these activities are necessary, on a provincial scale, but resisted, on a local scale.

A solution is for regional districts to accept responsibility for zoning for these activities. Regional districts agree that they will zone some (sufficient) areas for these activities, while reserving the right to exclude these activities from other areas.

Provincial courts have upheld the regional district's right to restrictive zoning, even when the zoning is contrary to permits issued by Ministry of Mines (MoM) and MoE. Those rulings have set the precedents for the current legal challenges to the SIA Permit to Store and Process contaminated soil. A CVRD suit against the SIA MoE Permit could well prevent either activity on that site. A CVRD suit could also prevent changes to the SIA MoM permit, which are required before

the SIA site changes from a quarry to a contaminated soil storage site. A further CVRD suit could force SIA to remove the mountain of fill on the property adjacent to the SIA quarry site.

All the CVRD legal actions are based on our current zoning - which is in turn based on the old (1985) Shawnigan Area B OCP. Those bylaws were written before the possibility of a contaminated soil storage site within a densely populated watershed was imagined. We know better now.

## New Zoning Considerations

We have a new South Cowichan (Areas A, B, C) OCP (2012) but have yet to pass a new set of bylaws to implement that new OCP.

We have an opportunity to take a very close look at those bylaws before they are enacted. In particular, the part of the bylaws that specify activities permitted in each zone.

Right now, there are no zones in which storage of contaminated soil is specifically allowed. There should be, along with a specification of how that activity is regulated. Parts of the current SIA permit could serve as source material for the writers of the contaminated soil storage site zone. Additions would be required, since the permit is not, in my

view, sufficient even in an area with few downstream values.

## What are downstream values?

Downstream from the SIA site is Shawnigan Lake and Shawnigan Creek. Shawnigan Creek flows through Area B into Area A and reaches the ocean after flowing through farmland, past Kerry Park, through land in Mill Bay (which is zoned for a large residential development) then past Brentwood College into the sea. Real estate along this route is valued at over \$2 billion dollars. Aside from the asset values under threat, the watershed is the water supply of over 8,000 people.

There could well be sites in Areas A, B, or C with almost no downstream values - for example, small valleys with no residents and no surface water outflows. Parts of Area B to the west of Sooke Lake come to mind.

The zone that allows storage of contaminated soil would include in its specification a limit on the downstream values for a site with this zoning.

## Getting The New Zoning Bylaw Right

We have spent over a year on these bylaws already. Let's take the time to get the new bylaws right, so they will serve us long into the future.



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## The Advisory Planning Commission: What is it?

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

(Reprint from June, 2011)

Whether a Regional District in BC chooses to create Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) is entirely discretionary. The purpose of the APC, as stated in the Local Government Act, is to "... advise the Board or a Director of the Board representing the electoral area, on all matters referred to it by the Board or

by that Director respecting land use, the preparation and adoption of an official community plan, or a proposed bylaw or permit that may be enacted or issued" under the Local Government Act.

The most common types of referrals are applications to amend zoning or Official Community Plan bylaws or consideration of Development Permit or Development Variance Permit applications. Other matters that can be re-

ferred to an APC are Agricultural Land Reserve referrals, temporary use permits and general land use initiatives that are being considered. APCs are not advocates for any entity, or cause.

The role of an APC is "to advise" the Board; the actual decision making authority under the Local Government Act rests with the Regional Board. When considering applications, part of the process used by an APC is to

review the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaws to determine how the application fits in with the stated objectives of the community. Consideration is also given to the benefits that may accrue to the community if the application is approved. Although the APC is not technically responsible for making the final decision on the matter, its advice tends to carry considerable weight.

The APC is made up of

volunteer members of the community, appointed by the CVRD board. Directors, board members, alternate directors, CVRD staff and approving officers are prohibited from being members of the APC, but they may attend meetings in a resource capacity.

APC meetings are generally held in a public facility within the respective electoral areas, at a time convenient for the public to attend.

### Crown Land in the watershed

Malahat Tenure Holding Ltd., a forestry company wholly owned by the Malahat Indian Band, will be publishing a Management Plan and Woodlot Licence Plan for the Crown Lands in the Shawnigan Lake watershed on which they have logging rights. The documents will be available at the Band office and at <http://www.capfor.ca> after October 14. The comment period ends December 13.

*Their map, included in the announcement, shows that the plans cover almost all of the remaining crown land in the watershed.*

## APC Report

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

### Subdivision of Forestry Land gets conditional APC recommendation

The South Cowichan Joint Advisory Planning Commission differs from the regular Shawnigan APC in that it considers applications that involve land use outside of Village Containment Boundaries as defined by the Official Community Plan. The Joint APC includes representatives from the APCs of Shawnigan, Mill Bay and Cobble Hill.

On October 3rd the Joint APC met to discuss an application submitted by Craig Partridge and Ron Sharpe to rezone 61.7 hectares (152.5

ac) from F-1 (Primary Forestry) to a proposed new, site-specific residential zone. The application involves three subject properties located on south side of the 2900 block of Renfrew Road (opposite Isabelle Place). It is proposed to subdivide the three properties into 28 fee-simple lots that are one hectare (2.5 ac) in size. The developers are proposing several community amenities including 50% of the total land area as a Parkland Dedication, and the gifting of five lots to various organizations and initiatives. If approved, this proposal will require amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and the OCP.

The current application is the most recent variation of several previous proposals.

The following motion was approved at the Joint APC meeting:

**MOTION:** Recommend approval subject to the outcome of a joint APC Planning Department meeting to review the nature of the amenities, how covenants are enforced, road base changes, and other related details. MOTION CARRIED.

Assuming that the request for a discussion with CVRD Planners is heeded, and the outcome of that results in a positive Staff Report to the CVRD Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC), then the next steps would include a Public Hearing prior to final CVRD Board approval. Stay tuned.



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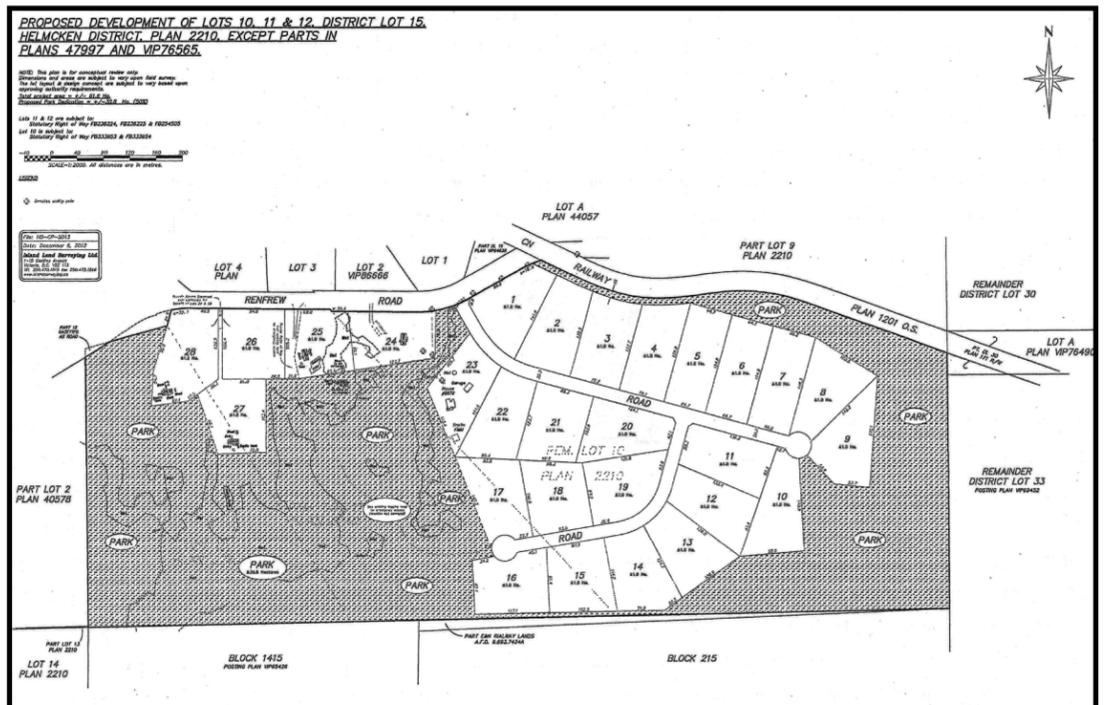
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# Village Development Committee

**Lori Treloar**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

For the past eighteen months, an ebb and flow' group of Shawnigan residents has met with architect, Christine Lintott, to discuss the future potential for our Village. This has been an open and inclusive process – we have promoted and encouraged any and all people to participate!

As a group, we recognize that the Village Development Committee is not in the position to decide for the residents of Shawnigan what is right and/or what is best for the village. However, we have a strong motivation, and need, to create a master plan for our Village and for our new green space on the former Elsie Miles School grounds. How

do we want it to look? How do we want it to feel? Who do we want to attract? What would make more people stop in the Village?!

A master plan for the Village, and the green space, would allow the community to go after a variety of funding opportunities, from government grants to private sector community-based grants for individual projects - as part of the whole. The important thing about an overall master plan is that every component can be achieved on an individual funding basis, yet not interfere with the overall picture. Christine Lintott is key to the success of this overall plan. She takes the suggestions of the group, even their wild and crazy dreams,

and synthesizes them into a rational, achievable goal. She has generously given her time and energy to this end and, in the process, has produced some visual possibilities for our area. These ideas are not written in stone. The master plan is meant to be something that can be fluid and adapt as the process evolves.

The group itself has, on behalf of the community, recommended that the 'look' of the village and green space should reflect the greater community of Shawnigan. We recognize that we are a rural community, but also a recreation destination. Our roots reflect both aspects. Logging and resort hotels were the birth of the community. The group feels that

wood is the logical choice for many of the 'decorative' objects in the Village – from benches, to boardwalks along the lake, to a timber-framed roof over a community gathering space. We believe that when we talk about Shawnigan, we are talking nature-scaping. Natural and unique, and fitting for Shawnigan, is the overall concept of the group.

The group is interested in providing amenities, such as a pier at the bottom of the Village hill so that visitors can enjoy views of the water, and so that non-powered boats can tie up and access the village; a covered space for markets and entertainment; a traffic calming element to the Village area; a children's play area –

with a possible water element park; a multi-use building for arts, culture and heritage that includes a senior's drop-in area and many other visions.

Together we can make Shawnigan a destination for visitors and a place to 'play' for residents. Don't be shy... come out to a meeting and contribute your ideas...

*"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."* ~Jean Vanier

## Director's Report

**Bruce Fraser**  
*Director, Area B*

### Goodbye to Rob Webb

Shawnigan will greatly miss Sergeant Rob Webb as he transfers to a new position to the South. His tenure in his home community has been accompanied by extensive community involvement, sensitivity to the nature of the Shawnigan community and its residents and increased respect for the work done by the officers of his detachment. We wish him well in his new assignment and are also very happy to hear that he will still make his family home in Shawnigan. Thanks Rob.

### Creating the Shawnigan Basin Authority

The SBA is a fledgling, adapted by the Shawnigan Basin Society from the Watershed Roundtable to take advantage of coming changes in the Water Act. It looks like there will be an opportunity for local watershed groups to become more officially engaged in watershed management. We expect a draft legislative paper to be published soon that will announce government intentions. In the meantime, the CVRD is contemplating establishing a regional watershed authority to act as a local government umbrella for all watershed groups in the region, including Shawnigan and Cowichan. Any delegation of watershed management responsibilities from the provincial government is only likely to be granted to local governments, at least in the short run. The SBA was announced in time to be part of this change of governance and to make sure that Shawnigan was not left behind as

things progress. The community now has time to put the Authority and its membership together with extensive public involvement. The Shawnigan Basin Society is responsible for this effort.

### Funding the Shawnigan Basin Authority

Working its way through the approval system is an initiative to provide the Basin Society with an annual tax levy of \$50K to fund the work of the Basin Authority. This level of tax funding is comparable to what is now being provided by the CVRD to the Cowichan Watershed Board. The main purposes of the funding is to support development of a watershed master plan, to implement restoration and management projects and to increase our efforts to deal with interface fire risks in our communities. Having locally based funds available allows Shawnigan to apply for government and foundation grants for watershed work that normally require a local contribution to provide eligibility. The funding proposal will be put the community in the form of an Alternate Approval Process, likely in November. Steps will be taken to ensure that those who oppose the AAP will have access to the information needed.

### Maps and Models

There are some surprises in store for people who look over the 3D model of the Shawnigan Basin that is now on display at the Inspire Gallery in the village. The model demonstrates how small our watershed is given the huge investment in water

supply, residential development and recreational property that our community has made in the Shawnigan Basin. The model, created for local use by Couverdon, the real estate arm of Timber West, comes at a price tag of \$10K and is a horizontally and vertically accurate scale model that shows the topographic features as well as the major development patterns on the landscape. Also on display is a series of maps that show in great detail the human footprint on the basin, including all lot lines, land ownership and many aspects of the geography, including areas of aquifer vulnerability. Come and have a look during Gallery hours or during the Director's hours, 11-1 MWF or by appointment.

### Going to Court to Defend Our Watershed.

This week the CVRD will petition the Supreme Court of British Columbia to uphold the authority of the Regional District zoning by-laws for Area B. The CVRD has written to SIA to indicated that their planned, and now permitted, contaminated soil remediation and landfill on Stebbings Road is in violation of current zoning by-laws. The CVRD has also filed its appeal of the permit to the Environmental Appeal Board and made application for a stay that would prevent SIA from proceeding while the appeal is being heard. The CVRD and the SRA are collaborating on their approach to the appeal to ensure that we each play to our strengths and avoid costly duplication of legal effort.



**Thank you Sergeant Rob Webb for your service to the Shawnigan Community. We wish you well in your new assignment.**



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## “One local businessman’s opinion”

**Rick Restell**  
*Local business owner*

### The City of Shawnigan Lake?

*Cities tend to have obvious municipal governments.*

If you go to Victoria, they have a prominent City Hall on a major intersection in downtown, they have trucks carrying workers and equipment to various job sites and if you operate a business there, you meet a variety of inspectors and licensing clerks that help you get through their rules and regulations. They are one of the larg-

est employers in the region with 777 employees handling things such as Fire, Police, Finance and Public Works.

By contrast, the district of Metchosin manages to operate with total staff salaries of \$264,155. Many jobs are contracted out to businesses in the area. The Highlands operates out of a small building in the woods and even Langford operates from an office building with little fanfare.

Shawnigan would certainly be more likely to resemble Metchosin or Highlands with a very small staff and many services performed by local

business people which would assist the local economy. If a road needs repairs, then a local road company would be used, helping that company pay its bills and keeping taxes low.

If Shawnigan were a city, we could embrace social media and modern technology, giving us a more open, transparent and approachable government. District offices could be open at times when residents need them.

Larger cities tend to have a local government that has a momentum. Staff hired to handle certain functions are

in control and have an agenda regardless of elected officials that may ultimately be responsible. If all the elected officials were kidnapped, it would still be business as usual at City Hall. Licenses would be issued, banking would get done and reports would be completed. What wouldn't happen is the oversight and planning functions that are so important. That is what transfers the wishes of the residents into action.

The Elected Officials must clearly be in charge and responsible for the outcomes of the city. Without that, the

result is a bloated administration carrying out the business of the city, and elected officials that aren't quite sure what's going on. Why is our budget increasing by that much? Why has it taken years to find the zoning regulations for that piece of property?

If the District of Shawnigan is to become a reality, it is going to be up to the residents of the area to get behind this and help create a modern vision of what a city could be. A city that engages its residents, and is responsible to them for keeping true to their vision for the future.

## Notice from the SLBA

The SLBA Board announces the resignation of AJ Anderson as chairperson and board member of the SLBA.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank AJ for his inspiration, long hours and the energy he put in to the position during his short term. The board and members appreciate all the support, guidance, energy and encouragement. We wish you and your family continued success.

The SLBA Board of Directors would like to announce the newly appointed Board for 2013/14 season:

- ★ **Chair: Trina Burns,**  
*Insurance Specialist - [trina@slba.ca](mailto:trina@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Vice Chair: Chris Clay,**  
*Digital Bloom Web Design & Development  
[chris@slba.ca](mailto:chris@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Treasurer: Dewar McCarthy,**  
*Dewar McCarthy & Company  
[dewar@slba.ca](mailto:dewar@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Secretary: Lindsey Henderson,**

*Intown Creative Graphic Design.*  
[lindsey@slba.ca](mailto:lindsey@slba.ca)

- ★ **Director : Roy Davies,**  
*Style Centre Barbershop - [roy@slba.ca](mailto:roy@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Director: Nicola Cusi,**  
*Kali Yoga - [nicola@slba.ca](mailto:nicola@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Director: Patty Oldfield,**  
*Village Chippery - [patty@slba.ca](mailto:patty@slba.ca)*
- ★ **Director: Rhonda Anderson,**  
*U Dog Mobile Dog Care Shawnigan  
[rhonda@slba.ca](mailto:rhonda@slba.ca)*

Being a member of the Shawnigan Lake Business Association is a wonderful opportunity to promote your business, get to know other business owners and shape our community with active engagement. Please visit our website for further information and membership registration. <http://www.shawniganlakeonline.com>

Make sure to mark Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar for the annual SLBA Christmas event...watch for more information.

## SRA update

Fall has arrived and the SRA is in full swing! We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Black Swan Pub for hosting our Beer and Burger night last month, which raised over \$3,000. All proceeds went to the SRA legal action fund with the Black Swan donating all food and beer costs!

The SRA filed a Stay with the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) to stop South Island Aggregates and their Contaminated Soil Landfill permit from moving forward until the matter is heard which was to be decided on October 2nd. This date was extended at the request of SIA's counsel Mr. Alexander of Cox Taylor who stated he had only recently been retained by SIA and required time to prepare a response. The EAB extended the decision date to October 15th so that SIA can respond. We are awaiting the EAB decision.

Working collaboratively with the CVRD, members of our Legal Committee and executive have met with CVRD political and administrative leadership on the SIA matter. We are working hard to ensure our legal strategies are on track. The CVRD and the SRA are each taking similar, yet strategically different, approaches towards stopping this permit.

The SRA will be holding its AGM in November. The date is to be determined, so stay tuned for information. Since we expect a decision from the EAB on the Stay and hopefully a date for the appeal we will be dedicating the public portion of this meeting to the SIA Contaminated Soil Landfill permit.

As always we encourage you to become a member! You can do so on our website [thesra.ca](http://thesra.ca). We are also seeking new board members and committee members. Please contact us at [info@srmail.ca](mailto:info@srmail.ca) if you are interested.



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

# ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

The take-home message is loud and clear, ACTION IS NEEDED NOW! That's what Dwight School Canada students, Helen Volokhova, Mariah Rutherford, Chloe Stevenson, Johannes Bodendorfer, Alex Teshabaev, Shawnee George and Kristen Peter experienced at this weekend's PowerShift conference.

PowerShift BC is a solution-focused, youth-led gathering, and movement, with the commitment to "shift our economy not only to address climate change, but to build a more resilient and just society." This year's gathering brought in the likes of David Suzuki and

Maude Barlow and precipitated a march to the Legislature in the name of immediate action on climate change.

In a Saturday workshop on stopping coal exports from BC, Kevin Washbrook of Voters Taking Action On Climate Change explained that if we do not immediately reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, the global climate will reach a point of no return within 5 years. He makes the case based on the feedback loops that will emerge as we go past two degrees of warming - including the melting of the permafrost and the disappearance of polar ice. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/kevin-washbrook-makes-coal-a-burning-issue/article13707013/>

Sonia Furstenuau, History teacher at Dwight, also attended PowerShift and mentions that "military historian Gwynne Dyer tells us that climate change is humankind's final exam. We have had practice exams – world wars, the nuclear arms race, famine, and epidemic disease – but we have never had to face a challenge on this scale. The urgency of climate change and our need to immediately respond to this threat is unmatched by anything in history. We are

hurting towards Earth's sixth mass extinction event; in the starkest terms, our inaction today will result in unbearable suffering in the future. We owe it to our children and to all of the generations to come to meet this challenge with an unprecedented unity and vigour."



The entire weekend was full of sobering insights into the fate of our planet. However, despite the grim science on climate change, there was an enormous amount of positive energy and willingness to take action to create a sustainable world that works for everyone.

the program allowed us to stay under shelter. The Cubs built tin can stoves and crafted leather "woggles", baked bannock and helped prepare their dinner on the woodstoves. A brief patch of blue sky even allowed for a quick game of tag in the field. Eyelids began to droop as the day wrapped up with a final round of hot chocolates and stories read around the woodstoves.

## Camping in the rain

**Elijah Fraser**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Bannock... Tents... Campfires... Hikes... Smores... Card-games and Chess ; all highlights of the 1st Shawnigan Cub Scouts on their first camp of the year.

"Am I the only one having nightmares about the torrents of rain this weekend?", one leader asked, confirming my own fears of the misery induced by cold, wet 7-11 year olds. Each weather forecast for the final week of September looked bleaker than the last. But armed with every tarp we could get, we went ahead. Mercifully, the rain held off as the tarps were rigged and the Cubs settled into their tents on the Friday evening. There was even time for a bonfire before the sky opened above our group site at Goldstream Provincial Park.

And rain it did. I awoke in

the middle of the night to the pounding against the tarp.

The monsoon carried on into Saturday morning. We were ever so grateful for the covered cooking and eating area, with its two large woodstoves. As the Cubs made trail mix, no one was anxious to step out into the cold shower. But we knew that 15 Cubs can only be kept cooped up for so long and so rain or... (more rain?), we stuck to the plan and headed out to complete the 2.5 km hike to the Nature House. The cubs cheerfully helped each other along the trail sharing umbrellas and jokes, and stopping to identify mushrooms, plants, and trees. We arrived slightly soggy. I have never seen children so eager to take in an art exhibit.

"Mug ups" of hot chocolate, dry clothes, and warm woodstoves were in order as we returned to camp. As the rain continued, the rest of

Camping in the rain, provided an opportunity not only to experience the outdoors and weather at a time when we most often huddle inside, but it was a great learning experience for the Cubs in being prepared, and dressing, for what is an eventual-ity on our Coast. Next stop, winter camping.

For times and locations that the 1st Shawnigan Cubs, Scouts, and Ventures meet, see the Focus Community Calendar.



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## Young Seniors Action Group Society

**Mike Lund**  
Y.S.A.G.S.

We are pleased to announce the Beginning Computer Class. We meet at 10:00 - 12:00 each Wednesday morning. The class is hosted by Mike Lund and Ed Wiebe. This class took form this summer. Machine donations were acquired by word of mouth and through a generous ad in the Shawnigan Focus. This equipment was then inspected, cleaned, repaired, if needed, and reloaded for class use. **We are still accepting all computer donations with a preference for laptops.**

This class is open to YSAGS members, a limited number of Legion members and the public for three tryout lessons

to determine if they would like to join. The main aim of this class is to get seniors, 55+ introduced to computers. This class is a safe, friendly place to learn all aspects of using a computer. There are no formal tests or marks given. These days, a computer lets you do online-banking, food or other shopping, health or hobby research, stay in contact with friends and family, watch news and TV shows online, do e-mail and most importantly, stay in touch with the world to combat becoming isolated.

We have a small number of machines available at the class and can supply a home loaner-computer to YSAGS members. Topics covered are, parts of the computer, use of the mouse, keyboard and/



or trackpad, also common internet browsers and safe internet practices, e-mails and Open-Office. In the future, with more current equipment, we will cover Skype with video and newer operating systems. The class format is a structured component with hands on learning, followed by related questions and topic follow-up. New questions are explored. There may be some homework for those with a computer at home. If a student has a specific need, we will try to accommodate that. We welcome Mac users and will have a Mac to use shortly.

We have several helpers from our Tuesday Computer Group so that one-on-one teaching is possible.

After graduation, we have the more general Computer Group that meets on alternating Tuesday mornings 10:30 - 12:30. Contact Mike 250-743-8892.

### Here is some more information:

We are a non-profit registered senior's group. Our membership comes from the Cobble Hill, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake area. We

meet monthly from September to June with presentations from our members or guest speakers. We have special activities such as Dinners, Bus Trips, Barbeques and Picnics. In addition we have sub-groups which meet on a weekly basis. These are led by group leaders. Examples are Walking, Woodcarving Line Dancing, Photography, Computers, Quilting, Crafts, Chess, Canasta and others.

Check out our blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> Contact us at: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com) or phone: 250-743-8344.

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Photo: Juliana Wigmore

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## “We must learn to get along”

**Garth Harvey**  
*Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society*

One of my earliest memories is my mother saying to me, “You must learn to get along”.

As the ninth child of my father's twelve, living in a house that was much less spacious than the houses of today, it was essential that we learned to get along. Getting along in a large family, or anywhere, one does have to be submissive. One learns to respect boundaries and cooperate. In a family, as in life, we each do what we do and it is important in the overall scheme of things. A happy volunteer for the Shawnigan Lake Adventure (Cowichan Family Caregiver's Society) said, “We each have small parts, but they all fit together to make it work.” And it is the same everywhere.

One may not like the space he or she is in at any particular time, but fighting it is not the answer. Go with the flow. What we do today sets the stage for tomorrow and things will

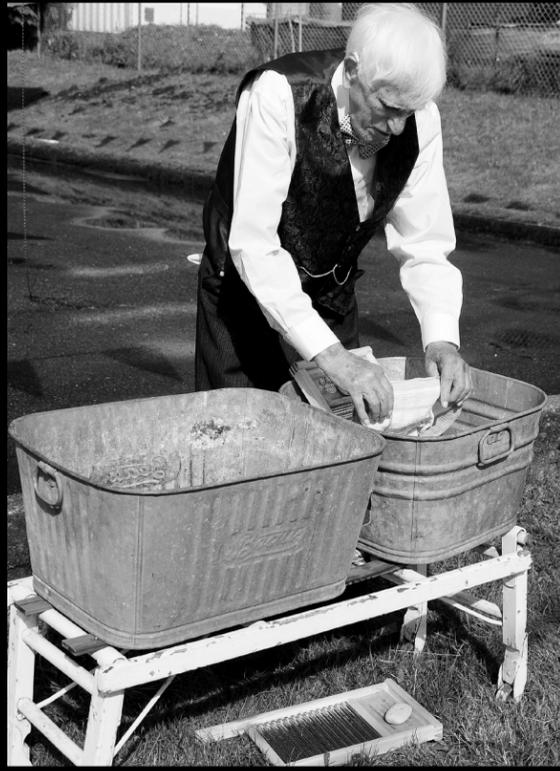
work out, as they always do.

In 1927, a woman with advanced ideas started a girl's school. The school's motto was Cherchez - search. She believed that young ladies should go out into the world and search out a niche that suited their skill and personalities, not be satisfied with traditional roles for young women. Fifty years later a student wrote,

“I am one face in a crowd;  
I am one living soul on earth;  
I am one out of millions;  
I am important;  
I am me.”

We do not wish ourselves into the Caregiver's role, but when it is over we must move on...find a new identity. Cherchez.

# Inspire!fest & Heritage Fair Photos



*The Museum Scarecrow & busker Jim ~ Garth shows off his laundry skills ~ Keira makes a pretty picture - Photo: Ed Weibe*



*Inspire!fest ~ Food, entertainment & artful activities for all!*



*Inspire!fest vendors from BellaVita Artisan Studios*



*Shawnigan Quilters demonstrate their skill at the Heritage Fair - Photo: Ed Wiebe*



*Inspire!fest provided great entertainment for all to enjoy including Kiva Beat ~ Dwight students dress up at the vintage photobooth ~ Photo: Ed Weibe*

## Take a Hike!

Robin Massey  
Shawnigan Focus

The Cowichan River Footpath has been around about forty odd years in some form or another and has three main access points to choose from. The western access is located from Skutz Falls Road, the middle access from Stoltz Pool and the most easterly access, for us travelling from Shawnigan, is the Glenora Staging Area off Robertson Road. This past summer, the Iron Butts and I started our hiking adventures from Glenora which features swanky wash-room facilities, picnic areas, a children's playground and ample parking.

Starting at the facilities building, we went right which leads to a map overlooking the area. If you were to go right at the map you will find the Cowichan Fish & Game Association which also has parking that you can utilize, if desired. Going left around, and behind, the map will take you down to the river footpath. Stay right on each divide and then head straight to take a moment of reflection, on the wood deck, and sip in the beauty of the river below. Having previous experience of clambering along

the river's edge, we opted to turn around on this occasion and head back up to access the main trail on the left.

The river footpath itself is a gorgeous scenic route curving along the river's edge with the most amazing trees and fungi, and, if the water is low, you can often find a rocky patch of beach to soak up the sun and perhaps even dip into the cool and refreshing waters of the Cowichan...be careful though, as this river can move FAST!

Our chosen loop route will eventually get you up to a butt blasting set of stairs connecting you back to the old abandoned CNR railbed referred to as the Trans Canada Trail (also accessible from the Glenora Staging area left of the building). The Trans Canada trail is the perfect play-place for cyclists and horse-back riders since it boasts a serenely flat, but very pretty trail which guides you across some really cool bridges such as the converted Holt Creek and the 66 Mile trestles through to Stoltz Pool and Skutz Falls (20 kms from the Glenora Staging Area).



The Glenora Staging area is a great epicentre to many trails and routes. Google a map, choose your path and get out to explore!

Did you know that the Co-

wichan River was recently designated a Provincial Heritage River because of its internationally renowned wild salmon and steelhead population? It is also one of only three BC

ivers designated as a Canadian Heritage River. Yay for us!

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



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Email: [shawniganfire@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganfire@shaw.ca)

**Department Members Attended 18 Calls in September.**  
**Department Officers attended 0 burning complaints.**

- ★ Wednesday, Sep 4 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sep 5 – 1st Responder on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Sep 6 – Lift Assist in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Saturday, Sep 7 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sep 8 – Structure Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sep 10 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd

- ★ Wednesday, Sep 11 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sep 16 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sep 21 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sep 22 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sep 23 – Chimney/Structure Fire on Peerless Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sep 25 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill

- Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Sep 27 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sep 29 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sep 29 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Sunday, Sep 29 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sep 29 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Sunday, Sep 29 – Hydro Line Fire on Renfrew Rd

Shawnigan weather ~ SEPTEMBER ~ UVIC WEATHER NETWORK ~ BY GRANT TRELOR

	September Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	20.2	<b>20.9</b>	23.6	<b>20.3</b>	22.5	<b>21.3</b>	23.8	<b>20.4</b>	22.6
Average Low	9.2	<b>11.6</b>	9.2	<b>10.5</b>	9.0	<b>11.5</b>	9.5	<b>11.1</b>	8.6
Extreme High	33.5	<b>33.7</b>	30.2	<b>33.1</b>	29.2	<b>35.0</b>	30.7	<b>32.0</b>	29.0
Extreme Low	-3.9	<b>5.6</b>	5.2	<b>4.2</b>	4.6	<b>6.1</b>	4.8	<b>5.5</b>	4.0
Precipitation	37.6	<b>154.5</b>	2.3	<b>140.2</b>	1.7	<b>142.2</b>	1.2	<b>159.4</b>	0.6
Days w precip	9	<b>16</b>	3	<b>19</b>	3	<b>20</b>	2	<b>17</b>	1

**Lake Temperature:** Sept 1<sup>st</sup>: 22° Sept 8<sup>th</sup>: 21° Sept 15<sup>th</sup>: 21° Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>: 19° Sept 29<sup>th</sup>: 16°

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**  
1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**  
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**  
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**  
3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**  
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](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca) to get on the mailing list. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**  
TBA Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable**  
See website for details: [www.shawniganwater.org](http://www.shawniganwater.org)
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**  
Inspire! Community Gathering Space - open M/W/F 11 a.m. -4 Looking for Saturday volunteers. Contact: Lynn at 250-743-5846 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)
- ★ **[www.exploringshawniganlake.com](http://www.exploringshawniganlake.com)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Shawnigan Dollars

- ★ Reminder: any Shawnigan Dollars (issued at the 1st Annual Family Day event) will expire at the end of October. If you still have some kicking around, be sure to use them at participating businesses in the Village as soon as possible. For further information email: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### Speaks Easy Launch

- ★ Free event. October 23rd from 7pm – 8:30 in the Cowichan Theatre. Join in this celebration. It's a happening; a performance; an opportunity to express what you think creative culture is; and an invitation to have fun. [www.cowichanculture.ca/speakseasy](http://www.cowichanculture.ca/speakseasy)

### WildWings Festival 2013

- ★ Let's bring our community together to celebrate the Somenos Marsh and the wildlife it supports. Please check our website events calendar, [www.wildwingsfestival.com](http://www.wildwingsfestival.com)

### Cowichan Valley Fleece and Fibre Festival

- ★ Saturday, October 26 from 10-4
- ★ Cobble Hill Community Hall and Fairgrounds
- ★ [www.fleeceandfibrefestival.com](http://www.fleeceandfibrefestival.com)

### Fundraising Tapestry Gala

- ★ October 26 5:30-10 pm at the Quw'ustun Cultural and Conference Centre, Duncan. Proceeds will support three charities: Cowichan Intercultural Association; Volunteer Cowichan; and the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society. Information: 250-748-3112 or [www.cis-iwc.org](http://www.cis-iwc.org)

### First Shawnigan Scouts

- ★ Cubs(8-10 Years): Each Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm SLCC
- ★ Scouts(11-14 Years): Each Wednesday, 7:00-9:00pm Discovery School
- ★ Venturers(14-17 Years): Mondays after school
- ★ Register: William Thow, [thow@pacificcoast.net](mailto:thow@pacificcoast.net)

What is it? Where is it? Why is it?

CONGRATULATIONS!  
SEPTEMBER

While there were several people who got the correct answer, the first was Bruce Stevens who is the winner for September. The photo showed one of the anchors for the telecommunications tower on the west flank of Old Baldy Mountain.



first correct answer sent to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca) wins two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House!

Shawnigan

## HALLOWE'EN HOEDOWN

Saturday, October 26 6-8 pm - Shawnigan Lake Community Centre  
Free Admission - Family Fun For All



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
featuring  
Shelley Vaags (Smiley)

SLBA's Porta-Ball Hockey!  
Treat Bags & Free Pumpkins

Concession - Complimentary Hot Dog & Drink per person

Put on your costume and kick up your heels...the party is on! Yee-haw!

Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association and the BC Gaming Commission

## Silting and lake levels

**Brent Beach**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Another column about water and Shawnigan Lake. It is that time of year again.

I read over my previous Focus columns, and, while I might edit for writing quality, the numbers are still correct.

### Water Quality

Key results - in a year with normal rainfall (about 1.2 metres), enough rain falls in the watershed to completely flush out the lake. While there are potential water quality problems that everyone worries about, there are no current actual problems.

Potential water quality problems are of two types - chemicals which might cause algal blooms and bacteria that could make people sick.

The main contributors to algal growth are nitrogen and phosphorous. Both are very low, reflecting the yearly flushing action. There have been small increases in nitrogen, which could be the result of the logging on the west side of the lake. Levels are still low and the lake is still pretty clear.

Levels of e-coli in the lake are very low. Human originated bacteria could indicate septic field problems or could indicate more direct transfers, or both. Other indicators of septic problems are chemicals that only arise from septic systems - caffeine, tylenol, statin drugs are the common examples. So far their levels are far below those which would cause harm. On going water sampling and testing is still important.

In the 2011 results from UVic's Dr Mazumder, the amount of wolf-originated e-coli found during sampling exceeded the e-coli of human origin.

### Water Quantity

So, water quality is good

and being measured. How are we doing with water quantity?

Our usual high yearly rainfall means we get a complete flush of the lake preventing any year-over-year build up of pollution in the lake. This high rainfall comes with a downside - in very high rainfall years we can get flooding.

We have had some pretty serious flooding, most recently in 1999.

As mentioned in earlier articles, Grant Price, Graham Ross-Smith and I put 5 water-level gauges in the outflow creek to see if we could determine the location of any significant restrictions to flow rates during times of very high water levels. Unfortunately, last winter was a low rain year and we did not get to see any really high water. Perhaps this year we may be lucky and have some flooding!

In late September we went back into the creek - in hip waders rather than kayaks. We did an outflow creek depth survey at two locations. One of those locations, under the railway bridge, was also surveyed by the province back in 1979. This diagram shows how the creek now compares to the creek back in 1979.

Working through this model from the creek bed to the surface:

- ★ 1 the profile in 1979
- ★ 2 the profile in 2013
- ★ 3 the water level Sep 26, 2013.
- ★ 4 water level Nov 10, 2012 (no sediment)
- ★ 5 water level Nov 10, 2012 (with sediment)

The tricky part is item 4. The level we actually measured on Nov 10, 2012 (the highest

level last winter) is given by the top level, level 5. Level 4 is the level it would have been if the new sediment was not there. It turns out to be over 16 centimetres, or just over 6 1/2 inches. (The cross-section area between level 4 and level 5 is equal in area to the cross-section between level 1 and level 2).

There could well be other parts of the creek which cause more of a bottleneck than the railway bridge. A more extensive survey of the creek will identify potential bottlenecks. The railway bridge is likely to be a key bottleneck because as the water level rises, the creek cannot spread out to allow greater flow in just this one place. The creek bed under the Renfrew Road bridge gets wider as the water level gets higher - ending at over 17 metres across, while its maximum width at the railway bridge is 11 metres.

Right now though, we can be pretty sure that if we removed silt at the railway bridge to return the creek bed to 1979 levels, the high water last winter would have been about 16 cms lower.

Perhaps even more important, if we removed silt under the railway bridge equal to twice the build up, we would reduce the maximum water level in the lake by over 32 cms (over 1 foot). For a relatively minor operation, which could probably be accomplished by one or two people with shovels in a few hours, we would considerably reduce flooding effects. This work would only affect 3 to 4 metres of the 400 metre outflow creek above the weir.

### Wetter Winters, Drier Summers?

A final note on rain seasonality and climate change. Residents paying attention to

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the weather have noticed we are having drier winters and wetter summers. The climate change models for our area are predicting shorter more intense rainy seasons with longer, drier dry seasons.

Are those models wrong? Are our weather memories at fault?

No and No.

Climate projections are long term averages over large areas. The weather at any point within a large area and over the short term can be very different. We continue to monitor water levels and continue to expect to be surprised.

