

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue One

January 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

THE SHAWNIGAN SHIVER

It was an Ice Breaker January 1st, 2015

The **Second Annual Shawnigan Shiver** was a resounding success on many levels. As someone who is involved with many of the Shawnigan events over the year, this one stands out as a truly collaborative community event. Although the air temperature was cooler this year, at 0 degrees, the water temperature was the same as last year - a balmy 4 degrees. The number of swimmers was down from 2014 but, not the enthusiasm.

Volunteers and organizers come out of the woodwork to plan and make this fun event happen - it was not a single group, but many individuals who come together to bring in the New Year at Shawnigan with enthusiasm and smiles. And then there are the 'swimmers'. Thank you to all the participants! And thank you to...

- ★ **The Shawnigan Focus team**, led by Lori Treloar, was the main sponsor and helped organize, fund and volunteer at the event.
- ★ **Patty and John Oldfield** from the **Chippery** helped to organize the event and for donated hot

cider and prizes.

- ★ **Heather Plumb**, who helped organize the event, helped with set up/take down and brought the very necessary and welcome fire pit.
- ★ **Marian Davies** who helped organize the event, arranged the tents and managed the food service with **Bill Davies**. Thank you Marian, also, for arranging donations of cookies and hot chocolate!
- ★ **Sarah Malerby** who helped to organize the event and put together a great team of volunteers for the registration/prize table: **Betsy Burr, Kim Krejnik, Del Morgan and Megan Slee**.
- ★ **Roy Davies** who has kindly provided music for the first and second Shiver.
- ★ **Grant Treloar** who MC'd the event and braved the waters to do a pre-swim safety check.
- ★ **Fire Chief Keith Shields** and the SL Fire Department for their help, providing us with volunteers, tables, set up/take down and the official siren.
- ★ **Francoise Moulin** for designing the beautiful

'Shiver' art on our posters, buttons etc.

- ★ **Ken Napier and Margaret Symon** who generously donated their time as First Aid Service - Margaret also did some heavy manual labour to rid the beach of ice...**thick** ice!
- ★ Boat Patrol - **Bill Savage** with his doggie crew and **Ron & Ros Cuthbert** on their barge Rusty.
- ★ **Jim** at **Mason's Store** for donating hot chocolate.
- ★ **Mike** at **Thrifty Foods** for donating the cookies.
- ★ **Lois** from **Esthetics by Lois** for donating prizes.
- ★ The **Community Association** for lending their tents.
- ★ The YSAGS clowns, **Dianne and Penny** who rallied the crowd and provided a rousing warm-up.

Thank you to all of the great volunteers...this is one event where people readily and happily volunteer to help. Could it be an avoidance tactic?



Photos by Dave Hutchinson, Sally Davies and Ros Cuthbert

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS JANUARY 2015

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

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independent, local, non-
profit publication, produced
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Shawnigan Focus endeavours
to inform; promote involve-
ment in the community;
and interest a broad cross-
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Speed Watch ~ Keeping your roads safe

Oriana Parker
Speed Watch Volunteer

With the approaching holi-
day season, the Speed Watch
team of volunteers will be out
in the Shawnigan/Mill Bay
area monitoring speed on our
roads in the hope that every-
one will arrive safely at their
destination. Speed kills! It
is the leading cause of death
on our roads leaving behind
unbelievable trauma, pain
and loss. Just think about this:
a pedestrian hit at 30km/h
has a 90% chance of surviv-
ing while a pedestrian hit at
50km/h has an 80% chance
of being killed. On a re-
cent questionnaire, 80% of
those polled indicated that
speeding was their primary
concern. Speed Watch was
first introduced to the South
Cowichan Valley in 1998 by
the Shawnigan Lake RCMP
detachment in a response to
raise road safety and aware-
ness. However, due to local

development, ongoing con-
struction on the Malahat, and
more congestion on our roads,
the speeding issue has become
more critical.

SW Co-Ordinator Bob Wal-
lace, who has been with the
program since its early days,
describes it as follows, "The
Speed Watch van is parked
in designated spots in and
around Shawnigan Lake, Mill
Bay and Cobble Hill. With
the use of equipment provid-
ed by ICBC and the commu-
nity policing van, volunteers
monitor the speed of vehicles
on our roads. A reader board
displaying a vehicle's speed
is prominently mounted next
to a board that indicates the
speed limit, allowing the
driver to see the variance
between the two. Speeders'
information, such as license
plate number, make and col-
our of the vehicle, time and
place is sent on to the RCMP
and ICBC. This is followed

up by a letter from the RCMP.
If the same motorist is found
to be speeding on other occa-
sions, a notation will appear
on his record."

Volunteers have clocked
more than 300,000 vehicles
from 2002 to the present. The
message is clear - residents
will not tolerate speeding. As
well, the Speed Watch team
has been active on other pro-
grams such as Seat Belt Watch
where it was noted that 20% of
those monitored did not wear
seat belts. Again, all stats are
sent to the RCMP and ICBC.
The South Cowichan group
also raised \$5,000 for the Be
Safe and Be Seen Campaign
for elementary school children.
Concerned about speeding?
Come out and join our team!
New volunteers are always
welcome! For more informa-
tion visit the South Cowichan
Community Policing Office at
the Mill Bay Centre or call the
office at 250-929-7222.



Santa with Mick the Elf at the SLBA Christmas in the Village
-Photo by Dave Hutchinson



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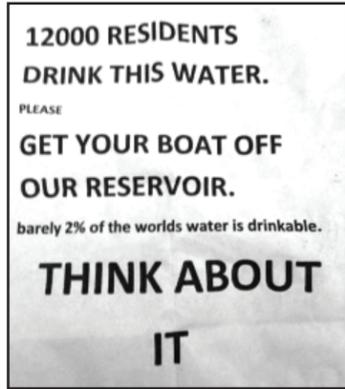
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The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters 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.



How NOT to Save Shawnigan Water

Dear Shawnigan Focus,

My family and I are residents of Shawnigan Lake. My husband spent his summers as a child here on the lake, and in 2002 we moved here to raise our family. We live on the West Arm, we are owners of a boat lift, with a dock and beach. We are very conscientious of being respectful to other waterfront property owners as we too have experienced our dock being "rocked" and damaged due to careless boaters. We are proud members of the Victoria Aqua Ski Club, one of the oldest ski clubs in BC and SRA.

That being said, on December 6, 2014, a beautiful day here in Shawnigan, my family decided they would like to go for a ski (yes we water ski and wakeboard all year!) The water although chilly, was beautiful. My husband and son each had a great ski. When we returned to the Government Wharf parking lot, the attached item (flyer) was found on our windshield.

The person who left it has no idea!!

We ARE residents, this IS our drinking water too! I can respect that they have a different opinion than we have but this coward, who left this is a type of bully! Who hides and waits until people leave to then leave this note and writes "Get Off :)" when no one is there? If they feel so strongly about their feelings, grow some testicles and have a conversation!! If they think they are doing anything in the fight for our drinking water they are doing the exact opposite!

Sincerely, The Lindsay Family

Editorial Comment:

We feel that whoever is responsible for the flyer is misguided. It is a perfect way to make people dismiss the "Save Shawnigan Water" effort as an irrelevant group of offensive extremists. This kind of behaviour should be discouraged.

Shawnigan, told our elected representa-

tives, albeit marginally, that this is not how we want to spend our tax dollars.

When the votes were finally tallied for the "Sportsplex" funding referendum, the naysayers in the C.V/R.D. were directly proportional to the geographic distance to this facility in Duncan.

Shawnigan, told our elected representatives, albeit marginally, that this is not how we want to spend our tax dollars. In this age of declining funds and offloading at every level of government, when we can't even get a crosswalk in our village core, the holder of the single purse should have a say on how our discretionary tax dollars are to be spent. The supporters and employees of this complex would not be in this quandary if the people had been afforded the opportunity to say they wanted to fund it in the first place.

The purported purpose of this facility is to promote health, fitness, and tourism. Yes, my grandchildren did have their school track meet at the Sportsplex, and yes I was invited to circle the track in support of a worthy cause; but a simple cost/benefit analysis would raise other possibilities for most people.

In Shawnigan Lake, we host the «Subaru Classic Triathlon (now the Ironman)» in which triathletes from around the world come for one day. When these athletes leave, the wilderness trails they used are left in an improved state for all of us to enjoy on a daily basis for the rest of the year. Likewise, the Trans-Canada trail sees international hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders exploring the Kinsol Trestle and environs. Shawnigan Lake and Brentwood schools host annual rowing regattas and have even provided training venues for Olympic Rowing teams.

Handicapped children from all over B.C. have cherished days enjoying the Lake at the Shawnigan Easter Seal Camp every summer.

All this for the cost of CVRD parks staff and bylaw enforcement officers who keep and protect what God has given us in its natural and pristine state.

Were I queen of Shawnigan and could divine the worthy recipients of our public dollars, the Seniors group in the South End or Y.S.A.G.s would be at the top of the list.

On any given day the Malahat Legion is a hive of activity with a host of programs run by volunteers, available for the cost of a \$20. membership. Our local seniors are provided exercise, mental stimulation, and companionship, undoubtedly delaying the inevitable cost to our health care system and long term

care facilities. The venue is presently not large enough to house the ever-growing numbers that are discovering this wonderful society.

So while I have nothing against the Sportsplex in Duncan, or the Commonwealth pool in Victoria, or Roger's Arena in Vancouver, I would like to subsidize what is for the greatest good for the greatest number in our community.

Sincerely, Sally Davies

The partly new CVRD board is going to act as irresponsibly with taxpayer's money as the previous board

It's already clear that the partly new CVRD board is going to act as irresponsibly with taxpayer's money as the previous board which had a nasty habit of giving away money to third parties with little oversight or realistic assessment of the usefulness of the spending. Virtually all such CVRD giveaways involve a special interest group pleading for more money that they are unwilling to raise themselves from the public. They do this because it's a lot easier to get into the taxpayer's pocket through the weak CVRD board. Most of the time these groups exaggerate their community service and predict that some dire public disaster will occur if they don't get more money.

Under the direction of the new CVRD Chair, who applied for and whose community supposedly benefitted from the increased grant, the board voted to increase the grant to the North Cowichan Community policing by a whopping 24.9% even though the group did not even ask for that much!

The 24.9% increase is really a subversion of the law in that if they gave the group a 25% raise the voters would have to approve this huge grant increase of almost \$25,000 on top of the \$100,000 the group gets now. This group has spent almost \$1 million of taxpayer's money in the past 10 years.

Just about every other volunteer group in the Cowichan Valley raises its own

money directly from the public except, of course, the lucky ones that are already in the CVRD trough. But this one gets almost 80% of its funding from the taxpayer and there is a well-paid, full time employee who takes home most of the money provided by taxpayers.

The CVRD should require any special interest group asking for taxpayer's money to fund raise themselves at least 90% of their spending. There is no more acid test of genuine public support than fundraising or a referendum. The better solution is to stop all grants to third parties like most other Regional Districts in the province.

W.E. (Bill) Dumont

Re: Fran von Alberich's letter (December Focus) regarding the Sunny Daze Campground.

The Sunny Daze Campground sits on F-1 zoned land (forestry). This zoning does not permit the activities (business activities, including camping) that have been occurring on this site for a number of years.

The members of the South Cowichan Advisory Planning Commission visited the site twice (in response to a temporary application permit last spring and rezoning permit application this fall) as part of the process for making informed decisions. Any noted violations that were observed and discussed at the two meetings were a result of these visits, not because of any bias or prejudice.

The job of the commission is to make recommendations based on the merits of the application. The commission members had concerns about compliance related to fire risk, use of riparian areas for camping and violation of noise bylaws. Local residents were concerned with the frequent loud music that went on well past 1 AM.

Ms von Alberich was given a great deal of time to both present her application and answer questions from the commission and members of the public. I suggest Ms von Alberich and others interested refer to the minutes from this meeting for specifics and the questions/responses that occurred. (<http://www.cvrdbc.ca/Archive.aspx?ADID=2369>)

It was not mentioned that the weddings and regular "festival events" that have occurred during the spring through fall season, sometimes attracted hundreds of overnight participants to this location, which has 26 camping sites and 12 RV sites.

The Advisory Planning Commission has no "selfish agenda". It exists to "...to advise the Board or a Director of the Board...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 that may be enacted or issued under this Part." (Section 898 of the Local Government Act)

Grant Treloar

Chair, Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission

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The importance of caring for caregivers

Jodie McDonald, MSW RSW
Caregiver

When I was a child, I watched my mother care for our older relatives, whether they were on her side of the family or my father's. As a nurse, she was invaluable, taking frail French Canadian aunts to doctor's appointments, translating prognoses and protocols, treating them to lunch afterward and giving their apartments a good dusting. She called them, brought them home-cooked meals and made sure they took their medications.

What I've learned from my mother is that caregiving matters. Whether we're caring for a spouse with

dementia, a parent who's had a stroke, or an adult child with a disability, our caregiving has a value so great it's difficult to measure, whether personally or economically. Caregiving is full of love, devotion, effort, and patience. When caregivers don't receive the support, information and care they need, it can also be full of frustration, exhaustion, resentment and fear.

I'm proud to be the new Coordinator of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society (CFCSS), as Ranjana Basu, who held the position for many years, has moved on to pursue a doctoral degree. The CFCSS is a non-profit organization that offers

support to those who often put themselves last on the list – caregivers. Through our professionally facilitated support circles, groups, one-on-one support, counselling, advocacy, information, referral and education, we offer care to those who care. We also have a Young Carers Program, to support youth who take on a caregiving role in their families. Our goal is to ease the burden of caregiving so that caregivers can continue to serve their valuable role in our families, our society, and our healthcare system.

If you are or know a caregiver who could benefit from our services, please call us at 250-743-7621. We offer services from Ladysmith to Mill Bay.

Reflections on giving

Michelle Andruskievicz
Dwight School

What a quiet time of year the holidays bring to the campus of Dwight School Canada, located on the eastern shore of Shawnigan Lake. With first term of the new school year behind them, students are home for the holidays. Many students fly home to be with family and friends. It's quite a fascinating time to reflect on all that has been accomplished since September. Woven into the academic life at Dwight are service work,

community building, sports and creative endeavours.

New students joined the Dwight community this year, beginning with the annual adventures of the Great Canadian Shoreline clean-up. Many dorm students volunteered at the Cowichan Intercultural Society's One World Festival in October. Grad council fundraising is underway with raffle sales, a fun-filled Halloween dance, and seasonal greeting grams. Students from our valley have welcomed students from

over 16 countries, to become part of the Canadian culture commemorating things we may take for granted such as Remembrance Day, the experience of attending the Nutcracker, along with cookie and tree decorating.

Local and international students help one another to expand their world view.

A small school with a big heart, many contribute, and give, to the development and growth of these students. Dwight School faculty and staff provide great care and

concern for their students.

There is a diverse community with over 50 staff, plus some active parents, that help guide students with their education; support with activities and service work; and coach sports. Staff help to provide a home away from home - nutritious meals; a safe place to live; weekend activities; tutoring; study time; guidance with courses; and future career aspirations.

Staff members also take time to listen student's thoughts and concerns to show a student that they do matter.

What is most important is that students experience a community of care beginning at the school and extending out to the community of Shawnigan Lake, from local store owners to our local RCMP detachment.

At this time of well wishing, gift consideration, and family time - students also took some time to think of others during this season of giving. There

was fundraising to provide educational opportunities for girls in Nepal, donations to the local food bank, and time to 'Write for Rights' to lend our voices in support of others struggling in their right to freedom.

These events provided opportunities to learn of the challenging situations individuals face and to gain a deeper sense of appreciation of what we may take for granted.

Beneath all of these actions of giving is an attitude of service, and passion for education on many levels. Students matter. And what these students are being shown is to see beyond their current situation, while being encouraged to explore their capacity, skills and talents to propell them forward to prepare for not only the coming New Year, but also for life.

Giving, in its entire myriad of forms, from so many people, in the Dwight community along with our local community, is a wonderful thing.



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CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY 2015 "Passport to Shawnigan" Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Museum



Participate in a Shawnigan family adventure in your own backyard, and win Shawnigan prizes.

With your passport, you will visit spots that have been chosen this year to celebrate Shawnigan road names. Have you ever wondered why a road was given its name? This is your chance to find out.

Registration begins January 31st. You have up to, and including, February 9th to complete your passport.

Passports will be available at the Shawnigan Lake

Museum and the Village Chipperry. Registration is \$3 per family member, which includes a light lunch and the Family Day activities.

On Monday February 9th, bring your completed passport and join us in the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre from 11-2 for great family activities.

Grab your passport and have a fun, family adventure in and around Shawnigan.

For more details email:

shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

Director's Report - Area B

Sonia Furstenau
CVRD Director for Area B (Shawnigan Lake)

A cooperative, collaborative community

I spoke about this quite a bit during my campaign, and I have put quite a bit of thought into it since the election. What does a cooperative, collaborative community look like? Why is it important?

In many ways – perhaps in all of the ways that matter the most – Shawnigan already is a cooperative, collaborative community. I saw this at Christmas in the Village, when I watched students from Dwight School work together to put together a street hockey rink supplied by the Shawnigan Lake Business Association. I saw it when I watched people of all ages play in that rink – the bigger people looking out for the smaller people, ensuring that the game was fun for everyone involved.

In our response to the threat

of a contaminated soil site, we have been cooperative and collaborative. The Shawnigan Residents Association secured strong legal representation, and in this effort, the SRA has been supported by the hundreds of people who have donated money – to the tune of more than \$250,000.

Cooperation and collaboration help us realize our goals and make us feel good, but are they essential for the health and well being of our community?

Research in fields from anthropology to psychology demonstrates that cooperation is not only beneficial in our modern world, but it may have been the trait that led to evolutionary success for homo sapiens. Darwin's theory is often associated with the term "survival of the fittest" but "cooperation" appeared far more frequently in his treatises than "competition". According to Darwin, "those communities which included

the greatest number of the most sympathetic members would flourish best...".

It is hard to dispute that the community of Shawnigan has a great abundance of sympathetic members.

At the South Cowichan Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in December, former and current Area Directors gathered with over a hundred people who donate their time, energy, and expertise to their communities. It was humbling to see so many who are so committed to making a difference.

As one former Director pointed out, it is the volunteers who are responsible for so many of the positive accomplishments in our communities. Without the support of so many, we as Area Directors would be much more limited in our ability to create constructive change.

I invite people to come forward help to shape the future of Shawnigan. We have some

daunting challenges, including protecting our drinking water and restoring our watershed. We also have exciting opportunities, such as the development of the Elsie Miles property into an inviting park that serves the present and future needs of our community, and the creation of walking and cycling paths that will help make our community healthier and more connected.

If you would like to be directly involved in these opportunities, please contact me at sfrustenau@cvr.bc.ca. I am seeking people who may be interested in being on either the Parks and Recreation Commission or the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission.

I will be available in the Watershed Office in the Village on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 and 11:30 am, and at Area Director's Meetings at 7:00 pm in the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre on the first Monday of each Month.

Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission:

made up of local residents who volunteer their time and work closely with CVRD Parks Staff on community parkland acquisition opportunities, trail, and park development, park maintenance, and local community parks events.

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission:

To provide an inviting place that encourages the growth of community spirit in Shawnigan Lake by:

- ★ Working with community organizations to inspire community involvement
- ★ Responding to community needs for recreation, fun, and education in a respectful, cooperative manner

Shawnigan Lake Community Association needs you!

Marian Davies
SLCA

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association has been active in our community for nearly seventy years, and its priorities have always been providing recreation opportunities and bringing the community together in a fun way.

From the original Community Hall to Kiddies Carnival to the present day Community Centre and special events that take place, in and around the Centre, the SLCA has been a significant part of each.

The SLCA is a registered BC Society and a Canadian Registered Charity and for the past eight years has been primarily funded by Community Grants from the Province of BC. Each year, the hard working SLCA volunteer members organize an Easter Event on Easter Sunday, Canada Day event on July 1st and a Halloween-flavoured event on the last Saturday in October.

Beyond these events, their budget and volunteers support other fun events within the community that are organized by community groups and are open to all residents. Today, every month of the year has at least one affordable fun event that has been organized by local volunteers in Shawni-

gan Lake! Ten years ago the only complimentary special events in our community were organized by the SLCA. Times have changed!

To maintain the status as a registered Society and Charity, the SLCA must have a complete Board of Directors. This Board has been filled for many years by a small-dedicated group of volunteers who hold a passion for their community and enjoy the task of organizing events. Events would not have been successful without the additional volunteer help from the community, including both Shawnigan Lake School and Dwight International School.

This small team is now seeking the community's help! We need to grow with new ideas and welcome new faces. We have a solid foundation but we need help renovating our structure!

The Annual General Meeting for the SLCA will be held on Monday, January 26th at 7:30pm at the Village Chippery. Complimentary snacks will be served. Please plan to attend and become a part of our team!

To RSVP or for more information, email shawniganmom@gmail.com or drop in for a chat with Patty at the Village Chippery.

New Year, new ideas for Inspire! Shawnigan

Jennie Stevens
Inspire! Shawnigan

Bringing attention to the need for creative spaces and activities in our Village was one of the motivations behind Inspire! Shawnigan Arts Collective setting up

our little gallery 3 yrs ago. It grew to host, with the help of dedicated volunteers, a multitude of workshops, musical events, art classes, Village Festivals and more.

This year, Inspire! has decided to try something different and will now move to incorporate the many local studio locations, matching

venue to activity...in part to highlight the many wonderful artist spaces in the area. As of February, the Village space will be closed, but we hope the community will still stay in touch through our website: inspireshawnigan.ca

And, through community notices, as Inspire! continues to find ways of supporting the integration of arts, culture & heritage into the community, including continued involvement in local Shawnigan events. Thanks to the many volunteers and participants, and to those who showed interest, by "shopping locally" in the gallery! Happy Creative New Year to you all!

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Young Seniors Action Group Society (Y.S.A.G.S.)

Ed Wiebe
Y.S.A.G.S

Looking forward to a great New Year!

As this article is being written we are still very much in the Holiday mode. We seniors had our annual Christmas Dinner served to about 80 YSAGS members by Legion volunteers. Thank you volunteers. We also had a great Raffle and Bake Sale. Our various activity groups are planning breaks over Christmas and New Years to spend time with families.

When you read this, we will be back to all our regular schedules. Our first regular meeting in 2015 will be January 20 at 2:00 pm. The program is being formulated now so contact me for more details.

After our successful trial Sunday movie Matinee earlier in 2014, we have plans to organize one each month through to March. The next Matinee will be Sunday, January 25th at 2:00

pm. Entry is by donation of non-perishable food to our local food bank. Soft drinks and popcorn will be available. The featured movie will be announced at our regular meeting. All YSAGS and Legion members are invited and if you don't fit into those two categories, give me a call to receive an invitation.

Our new slate of officers and directors are just now settling into their respective roles and looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

We are open to new ideas and suggestions for new activities. Your input can only make this "Action Group" better!

We have a Blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> where you can see and read about some of our activities or phone Ed: 250 743 8344 for more information. We also can be reached by email: ysagssl@gmail.com

YSAGS dues are \$20 a year and that allows you to participate in all of the YSAGS organized activities.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030

Email:

shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 35 Calls in November



- ★ Sunday, Nov 2nd – Assistance on Thain Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 2nd – Electrical Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 6th – 15 Hydro Line Incidents in the Shawnigan area
- ★ Thursday, Nov 6th – Assistance on Northgate Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 7th – Hydro Line Incident in the Beach Estates
- ★ Sunday, Nov 9th – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Sunday, Nov 9th – Bush Fire on Ida Ave
- ★ Monday, Nov 10th – Chimney Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 11th – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 14th – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 17th – Assistance on Miner Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 18th – MVI on Ingot Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 19th – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 20th – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 23rd – MVI – 1200 Block Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 27th – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 27th – 1st Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Friday, Nov 28th – Assistance in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Saturday, Nov 29th – MVI on West Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 29th – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ The Fire Chief Attended One Burning Complaint.

Malahat Legion Branch 134

Comrade Win Teague
PR Coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, associate members and everyone else who lives in this beautiful Warmland a very Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Come in and meet the Branch's New Executive members who will be sworn in Sunday January 17th at 1 PM. Say hello and

give them your best wishes for a successful year.

Please remember that we may now have a full Executive, but we always need volunteers to make the Branch work effectively.

PS General Meeting times were changed for those members who do not like to drive at night, so please come out and support your Legion Branch

Shawnigan Weather Information

Yearly Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Average Temperature	9.6	10.9	10.4	10.5	9.8	11.3	10.6	10.7	10.1
Extreme High	37.2	34.1	33.7	34.6	33.1	35.8	35.0	33.5	32.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-8.2	-8.8	-9.6	-11.3	-8.5	-9.7	-9.0	-9.0
Precipitation	1247.6	1350.5	1078.1	1306.7	825.0	1143.4	832.3	1242.8	856.8

Rank since 1914: 2nd warmest, 37th driest

November Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Average High	8.3	9.1	8.5	9.3	8.9	10.1	9.6	9.2	8.9
Average Low	2.4	2.0	2.3	1.2	1.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
Extreme High	20.0	15.1	13.4	15.0	13.2	15.8	14.3	15.0	14.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	-7.2	-4.4	-8.2	-5.4	-7.7	-3.9	-7.5	-4.0
Precipitation	214.6	130.7	144.7	155.5	98.0	132.5	90.7	141.6	108.2
Days w precip	21	18	15	19	15	22	15	16	16
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	935.4	1168.4	1037.2	1122.6	791.9	985.1	804.6	1062.0	825.6

Rank since 1914: 46th warmest, 38th driest

Lake Temperature: Nov 2nd: 13° Nov 9th: 11° Nov 16th: 8° Nov 23rd: 8° Nov 30th: 6°
 Lake Level Change: Nov 2nd: +23cm Nov 9th: +18 cm Nov 16th: -20cm Nov 23rd: 0cm Nov 30th: +33cm

December Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Average High	5.6	6.6	4.5	6.9	4.7	7.5	5.1	7.2	4.9
Average Low	0.4	1.7	-0.4	0.9	-1.3	1.7	-0.5	1.4	-0.6
Extreme High	16.0	13.6	11.6	13.0	10.5	14.2	10.9	14.0	10.5
Extreme Low	-15.0	-5.1	-8.8	-6.4	-11.3	-5.3	-9.7	-6.5	-9.0
Precipitation	208.7	181.1	38.6	182.8	33.1	157.6	27.7	180.8	31.2
Days w precip	20	22	13	22	13	21	13	21	13
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	1144.1	1350.5	1075.8	1306.7	825.0	1143.4	832.3	1242.8	856.8

Rank since 1914: 20th warmest, 42nd wettest

Lake Temperature: Dec 7th: 6° Dec 14th: 6° Dec 21st: 6° Dec 28th: 5°
 Lake Level Change: Dec 7th: -15cm Dec 14th: +53cm Dec 21st: +28cm Dec 28th: -13cm



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. **Regular hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:30 at the Watershed Office in the Village
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
No regular meeting in January 2015
- ★ **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 each month 7pm www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
AGM January 26th - 7:30 at the Chippery. Contact shawniganmom@gmail.com
- ★ **Inspire! Shawnigan - Arts, Culture and Heritage AGM**
Saturday, February 21st at 11:00 a.m. Open Wed/Thurs/Fri 12:30-4:30 www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Annual closure: December 22nd - January 30th for maintenance www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for December was Laura Buss who cleverly identified the planter pot, with the inspired artwork, on the patio of Shawnigan's world famous "Village Chippery".

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View from the River - Predictions for 2015

Bruce Fraser

Fifteen years into the 21st century my crystal ball is fairly humming with the exciting indications in the near future for Shawnigan. Here are some of the images swirling around in the glass globe...

January: The Environmental Appeal Board will deliver its 500 page verdict and the industrial attempt to recreate the "Folly of Mt. Polley" in Shawnigan will fall to the pressure of public opinion, not without an epic fight, but for certain

February: Two cases of middle-age rheumatism will persist into February, caused by excessive enthusiasm during the Shawnigan Shiver. Sorry no names, North Korea objects to their release

March: South Cowichan Area Directors will suggest that Site C could be avoided by raising the weir at Lake Cowichan to a height of 50 feet, thus creating a sovereign hydro power source for households – should any be left above the flood line

April: Premier Clark will announce the amalgamation of Goldstream Heights with Langford, allowing construction of a new highway by-pass around the Malahat, surpris-

ing island residents that a liberal government would build a road to "nowhere"

May: Shawnigan Station construction finally begins after a decade of horse trading with the Ministry of Environment over the presence of broken coke bottles in the underlying soil

June: A Shawnigan Lake road end will be blockaded to prevent the outrageous encroachment by non-waterfront owning residents, and the use of coarse language while launching un-muffled boats

July: The winter debris boom, long under construction for Mason's Beach, will finally be installed only to be removed, immediately, to avoid incurring a swimming hazard and public liability

August: Shawnigan House Coffee and Oma's bakery will join with the Shawnigan Lake Museum to host "mocha & pastry night at the movies" in the new heritage amphitheatre, built on the Elsie Miles school grounds from timbers salvaged from the old community hall

September: Shawnigan track-side residents will be woken by the horn of the passing excursion train carrying

CVRD politicians to Victoria, they being clearly visible in the dining car windows

October: Bottled water from Shawnigan Lake will be hand carried to the Duncan Farmers Market in a "procession of solidarity" as the 2015 drought lingers into the fall

November: The south end fire hall will finally be constructed on a barge and towed into place at the mouth of Shawnigan Creek where sufficient water is guaranteed... Timberwest has granted the Improvement District some lake bottom acreage for the purpose...but the province is still arguing over lease charges for the water...and the MOTI is still working on the causeway necessary to get the fire trucks to land. Fisheries and Oceans has delayed their permit until their one remaining officer has concluded her work in Newfoundland, and Island Health is simply conflicted over sewage disposal from the barge

December: Prime Minister Trudeau will declare the Shawnigan Watershed a "World Conservation Area", resulting from a Private Member's Bill jointly sponsored by MP's Collins and May in a show of unprecedented multi-party collaboration

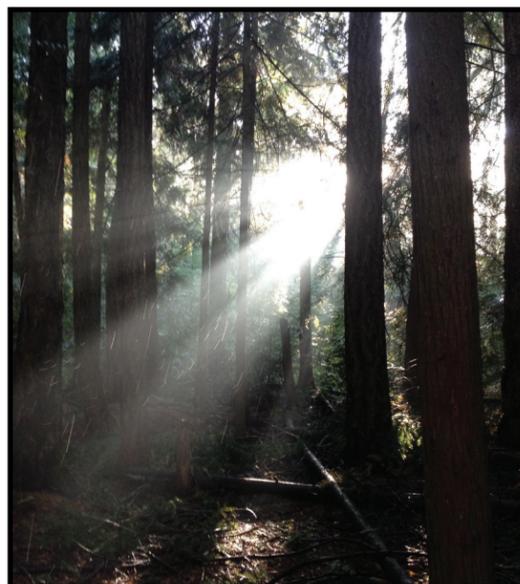
Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

We have just passed through the season of gratitude for family and friends. And with the same theme in mind, I'd like to mention a relatively new trail in the town of Duncan. After a local contest was held, the name "The Friendship (siye'yu) Trail" was chosen as the favourite from 45 suggestions. The judges found the name very suitable in connecting with the friendship between the two municipalities.

The trail is ongoing in its creation at the moment but presently it connects downtown Duncan through to the Cowichan Commons. Future plans are in place to eventually connect North Cowichan and the Cowichan Valley Trail, which then will become part of the Trans-Canada Trail network system.

In between the rainy days my 4 legged hiking pal and I headed out on a lovely afternoon to peruse this new trail. We whipped around the traffic circle at the end of Canada Ave (and Sherman Rd) and parked at the end of the residential street by the barricades. Immediately, the forest welcomes you and you almost forget that you are in a bubbling area of business. Around a bend you find yourself on an adorable little bridge and up through to Green Road. The trail more or less runs parallel with the railway track all the way to the Cowichan Commons. After the Commons and Averill Creek, it feels like the trail drops off – and essentially it does – for now, until it is further



developed at least.

There are two choices in the meantime. One, you can always turn and go back the way you came; OR, if time permits, you can go left onto Lane Rd toward Sherman Rd and either head back down to the traffic circle OR scoot across the marked crosswalk and hit the Cowichan Valley Trail that promises so many other adventures!

I and many others, I'm sure, are thankful for this trail, not only for a pedestrian commute but a nice dip into wilderness. I certainly look forward to seeing how the Friendship Trail evolves and connects the community even more in the future!

Robin hangs out in the wilderness on a weekly basis with a fun group of locals. Contact robin@thecomtree.com to join them and see some of the amazing things that our fabulous home has to offer.

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SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2015

To receive reports and review accounts for the year
January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Date : Sunday, January 25, 2015

Time : 12:00 NOON

Place : **SYLVAN UNITED CHURCH - HALL**
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
Mill Bay, BC

Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR
250-929-6100

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