

Shawnigan FOCUS

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A Non-Profit Community Publication

NATURAL GAS LEAK THREATENS SHAWNIGAN CORE

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

On September 9th 2010, in the California suburb of San Bruno, a gas leak and explosion killed four people and destroyed 53 homes.

On September 8th 2015, near Mason's Beach Parking Lot, a major gas leak occurred. Fortunately it did not ignite and caused only minor inconvenience. What is remarkable, and unacceptable, is how long it took for the leak to be stopped.

The hurricane of hissing gas started about 1pm and the prevailing breeze propelled it up towards the RCMP Station and Community Centre. The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department responded quickly with traffic re-

routing and the evacuation of nearby residents and businesses.

The gas line is owned and operated by Fortis BC who was promptly called. Determining how to shut things off is evidently not a trivial procedure and specialized knowledge is required. Apparently there are diagrams to locate and options to consider.

Meanwhile the leak continued for over two hours. How significant was the risk? What damage would an explosion have done? Was this an exceptional local event or was the surprisingly slow response indicative of a regional or even larger problem?

Fortis BC needs to be held accountable and this is something the CVRD must follow-up with.



San Bruno gas explosion – could this have happened in Shawnigan?

Shawnigan gets noticed at UBCM

Area B Director's Report
Sonia Furstenau

It has been an extraordinary week at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in Vancouver. A vast mingling of elected officials from all over the province took place over five days. Local government representatives, MLAs, and staff learned from each other, shared stories, lobbied, and networked their way through long days of clinics, workshops, meetings with ministers, plenary sessions, and through long evenings of receptions.

There were some fascinating debates during the resolution sessions, which covered everything from environmental rights to campaign spending. On Wednesday, the first round included the resolution on an Environmental Bill of Rights, put forward by the Richmond Council, and containing the "Blue Dot" vision of entrenching the rights to clean water, clean air, and clean soil. The debate was engaging and intense, and speaking in favour of it I told the story of Shawnigan Lake and how we have lost our faith in the Ministry of Environment to protect our drinking water. (A video and media reports are posted on my facebook page: Sonia Furstenau for Shawnigan Lake.) The resolution passed, which sends a clear message to the provincial government that a healthy environment is a priority in communities across BC.

Also passed was the CVRD resolution that the Ministry of Energy and Mines respect local bylaws on land use, and not permit activities that



contravene our zoning bylaws. This is a clear assertion of our right to determine what activities happen in our communities.

I also met with Ministers Polak and Bennett, and clearly reiterated Shawnigan's position on the permits that have been issued to SIA/CHH. I will follow up with both of them on the discussions that we had.

It was inspiring to meet so many hardworking and committed local leaders from across the province. There's the Mayor of Enderby, for example, who sits with each of his council members to discover their passions, then assigns them portfolios based on these passions. In doing so, he has created a cohesive and committed team of councillors who are able to bring their greatest strengths to their jobs. All week long, I met elected officials who are true champions for their communities.

One theme that surfaced repeatedly was emergency preparedness. In a room of 200 people, only a few were able to put up their hands when asked if they had not experi-

enced an emergency event in their communities in the last year. The gas leak that happened in Shawnigan in September is a stark reminder that emergencies come without warning. Last October's windstorm, which cut off roads and power in Shawnigan, should also remind us that it is our responsibility to be prepared for all manner of weather events, particularly as winter approaches.

Mayor Josie Osborne of Tofino explained that we need to develop resilient communities, and that if we are not personally prepared for emergencies, then our communities won't be prepared. This goes beyond candles and water – we need to be physically and psychologically prepared; we need to be consciously planning for a variety of scenarios. And we can't assume that we can rely on government. As a Vancouver councillor explained, in the context of the oil spill they had last spring, our systems are not ready for catastrophic events.

In another session on emergency preparedness we, as elected officials,

were urged to reinforce the very important need for 72-hour kits. The reality is that in the case of a catastrophic emergency, you and your family could be on your own for several days. And in the case of an evacuation scenario, you will not have time to put a kit together. Create plans, and coordinate with your families and neighbours, because the reality is that in an emergency it is not enough to only take care of ourselves – we need to take care of each other. Google PreparedBC for lots of information on practical steps you can take, including what to put into your kits.

I will commit to working with the staff at the CVRD to better understand the emergency protocols, and to work on improving our community's preparedness. I ask everyone to set aside a few hours and get prepared in your own households – it will indeed make us a far more resilient community if each of us takes responsibility now.

And during an emergency, please heed the direction of our well-trained crews. The members of the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department, the RCMP, and Mainroad staff coordinate their efforts and take action – we need to let them do their jobs and listen to their directions. This will make all of us safer.

Finally, one last reflection from UBCM: when we came together and listened to each other, we grew wiser; when we came together and spoke with one voice, we grew stronger. It is the coming together that makes great things happen.

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS OCTOBER 2015

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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 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 \$30 per year. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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Monster sunflower

This "mutant" or "monster" sunflower can be found at the home of Bob and Cheryl Mohat in the Shawnigan Beach Estates. With such perfect conditions for growing plants this year it was a special treat to have this appear in her newly renovated front yard vegetable garden.

Sunflowers are an important part of a garden as they attract birds that help pollinate the plants. Every garden should have a sunflower and Cheryl got a bonus one this year!! She has counted 27 heads and it continues to blossom, so the number will increase! The birds will be happy!



What's Coming Up?

Our Ecovillage Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 10th
1:00-9:00

Join in the 'community building' and fun as neighbours near and far bring together a deep sense of gratitude as we celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend.

Be there for a BIG announcement; and for a ribbon-cutting of the new awarding of OUR Canadian Showcase for Integrated Community Design in an important step.

250-743-3067

info@ourecovillage.org

The wars of
the twenty first
century will
be fought over
water
~Ismail
Seragelden



TO DO:

VOTE

October 19th

**Flu clinic
Nov 3rd**

S.L. Community Centre

Get involved!
Volunteer in the
community

**Donate
to the
purchase of
Mt. Baldy
See p. 12**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS... EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

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.

Hey, that's pretty darn good spindoctoring

Dear Editor:

It is no surprise that CVRD staff have recruited a \$130,000 per year spindoctor (the real cost is always higher than the budget cost!) over the objections of their own CVRD Board and taxpayers. However, it is shocking that the Board Chair went along with this lapse in good governance. The CVRD Economic Development department has mostly ignored the Board and taxpayers as well.

CVRD staff have hired more staff and continually enriched themselves beyond reason over the past two decades using a faulty salary increase system and weak boards. Staff compares themselves to other irresponsible local governments when the only group they should be compared with is local taxpayers and local businesses.

The result is that CVRD staff has pay rates and generous benefits much more lucrative than the private sector and out of reach of most taxpayers in the Cowichan Valley. Every year staff get pay raises through promotions or general increases. The CVRD board has dutifully gone along with all this in the absence of meaningful staff performance measurements or genuine spending reviews. CVRD taxes would be 1/3 to 1/2 the current level if raises and spending had been kept to the level of growth and inflation in the Cowichan Valley.

This same leadership vacuum has been used to ramp up CVRD staffing to more than 225 employees and spending of \$79 million a year for an organization that has a rather limited responsibility but likes to boast about everything it does and controls. It is always in the lineup when some new idea or goofy spending project pops up for attention. You can bet the new spindoctor will have a field day spitting out press releases and twisting the truth about what the CVRD is really up to.

It seems reasonable to me that if someone quits and that job is no longer of use to the organization, you cut spending and taxes. But neither has occurred in hiring the spindoctor--staff claim they are only using money saved by other people quitting and not being replaced to pay for this new permanent CVRD hire.

Hey, that's pretty darn good spindoctoring itself!

W.E. (Bill) Dumont

The burning of leaves is prohibited 365 days a year

Dear Editor,

As summer ends, and autumn begins, backyard burning season will quickly be upon us. A friendly reminder that, as we are a part of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the burning of leaves is prohibited 365 days a year, because leaves can be composted for free at various locations around our district. It only takes one fire, to completely smother a neighborhood in thick, toxic smoke. During the times in which people are burning leaves, it means our asthmatic children have to play inside, sometimes for days on end, while damp leaves smolder, on otherwise gorgeous, sunny days. For many of us, this means resorting to the use of expensive inhaled steroids, so we can breathe. For others, it means hospital admission, to deal with irritated airways and severe shortness of breath, directly caused by the burning of leaves.

Please remind your friends and neighbors that leaf burning is always illegal in Shawnigan. If you own a pickup truck, perhaps you can offer to take a neighbor's load of leaves, along with your own, to the composting yard. Central Landscape Supplies on Fisher Road in Cobble Hill takes yard and garden waste for free. Even some private homeowners are requesting the donation of leaves for compost. So, now, there's really no need to burn and get all smoky!

Please check out all of the CVRD burning regulations

at: www.cvrld.bc.ca

Sincerely, Suzanne Tedrick

References:

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/Home/View/9992>

"Permitted Burning Materials" means untreated natural wood, prunings, branches, tree trunks, stumps or other vegetation that do not constitute Compostable Materials.

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?NID=1463>

Many CVRD residents already recognize the impact of smoke from open burning and choose to take yard and garden material to a CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depot for free recycling. You are encouraged to be a good neighbour and do the same.

There are alternatives to burning! Yard and garden materials like small branches and leaves can be recycled for free at many convenient locations in the CVRD. Check out the new Cowichan Recyclo-pedia for details and hundreds more recycling ideas!

<http://www.zerowastecowichan.ca/recyclopeda/products/yard-and-garden-waste>

Compost your yard and garden waste at home or bring it to a CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depot or Central Landscape Supplies, for free recycling. Accepted materials include grass clippings, leaves, and tree branches no more than 3" in diameter. Larger branches and stumps can be disposed of as scrap lumber for a fee. No rocks, dirt or sod accepted. Dispose of unused domestic pesticides responsibly and recycle clean leftover plastic plant pots and trays at CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depots.

Editor's Note: *The Shawnigan Improvement District has the authority to decide when burning is permitted for this area, based on local conditions. Their rules may differ from the CVRD rules and in fact, Shawnigan can burn respectfully from Oct 1st - Jun 15th. Notices and updates are posted in front of the Fire Halls.*

Bozo and Bonzo

A couple of Fridays ago, my friend and I decided to go for a walk. A popular destination came to mind, so we proceeded to the west side of the lake. It was a wonderful day - peaceful; warm; great conversation. We were both enjoying our wilderness walk and time passed quickly. We decided to cut down the logging/trail bike access that comes out to the road by the 5 corner and creek at the south end of the lake. As we were approaching the gate, we saw a truck pull in up to the gate and then back up and out of sight from the traffic on West Shawnigan Lake Road.

Two men got out of the truck, and started unloading garbage from the truck box. I was furious and was about to confront them but my friend grabbed my arm and pulled me back, and gestured to me to SHHH... That's when I noticed that this beautiful, intelligent, phone savvy woman was taking a video of what these two clowns were doing. Technology these days! Pull out your cell phone; press a button and presto - video camera in hand.

The guys emptied the contents of their truck. Then they hopped into the cab and drove away.

What would your parents think? Your friends? Your children? Personally, I am disgusted. A message for you clowns: You probably think you're smart but instead of being responsible and taking this stuff to the local recycling depot, you maybe saved enough money for another pack of smokes or a six pack. The little bit of organics you dumped will eventually break down, but the other stuff and the plastic won't.

I challenge you both to get back in your white American model pick-up truck, license number BG40., and go clean up the mess you left on Friday the 18th of September at 5 pm. And remember: Good people with cell phones are watching clowns like you.

Bozo, Bonzo...remember the oath? You're clowns - you're supposed to put smiles on faces...not frowns.

W.S., Shawnigan Lake

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY TO MICK CUTHBERT!



FROM YOUR PALS RADAR & APPLE



BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR JUST WANT TO ANNOUNCE SOMETHING NICE?
ADVERTISE IN THE FOCUS. DISTRIBUTION 3,000+ ADS@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

Voices of the Past

By **Bruce Hutchison**
(July 28, 1978)

A boy, a rainbow and a golden dawn

The boat was new, home-made, flat-bottomed and painted in a hideous pattern of yellow and blue. But to the old man on the shore of the mountain lake it seemed familiar. He had seen such boats before now, had built them for himself, long, long ago. The boy pulling the oars and the shaggy black mongrel dog beside him were familiar, too. They reproduced, without knowing it, a lost chapter in the story of Canada.

At this hour, shortly after daybreak, no one else had returned to the lake. It was the right time to catch trout before the clamorous speedboats and water skis drove them into hiding. The boy fished patiently with a trolling line, a flashing spoon and a worm for bait. Trout and dog, of course, were as essential to the story as the boy, inseparable companions and timeless.

When the boat came nearer to shore the man saw that the boy was red-headed, freckled and deeply tanned—a portrait of boyhood incarnate, universal and unchanging throughout the ages. Everything looked exactly as it should to a man

who had once been a boy and remembered the story.

Evidently the morning's luck was good. Answering the man's discreet inquiry, the boy held up a fish almost nine inches in length, a rainbow trout with the glowing unmistakable stripes on its flanks, the best of trout and unique to the Pacific slope of America.

Who, the man asked (knowing the answer), had built the boat? The boy said he had built it, all alone, of lumber from the abandoned sawmill further down the lake. Why the colour scheme of yellow blobs and jagged blue streaks?

The boy pondered that embarrassing question for several moments. Finally, his face turning as red as his hair, he disclosed his secret. The boat, he said, was named The Golden Dawn. The yellow blobs represented the sun at its rising and the blue streaks indicated a morning sky.

Though the words were halting and confused, the man understood at once, understood better than the boy. Here, as the boy could not know, was the imaginary but only true gold of innocence, the dawn of youth perpetual, the story written in a rune common to all mankind.

As the man knew too well, it was not the story in the newspapers and repeated hourly on the radio. But for a few more years the boy would remain mercifully ignorant of the world's practical affairs.

He had yet to hear, for example, that the nations spent \$400 billion annually on weapons designed to destroy their civilization in half an hour or less while the United States government and Supreme Court were gravely alarmed because a hydro dam threatened to destroy the snail darter, the species of tiny, inedible fish, unlike the noble rainbow and not worth catching. The boy knew nothing of Russian purges, economic crises, terrorist plots and the solemn lunacy that masqueraded everywhere as human wisdom and brilliant statecraft.

Alas, he would learn the facts soon enough. The gold would fade and the blue turn grey. In the meantime he was satisfied with his boat, his clumsy masterpiece. He needed no gasoline engine when he had oars, no water skis when he could catch trout, no other society when his mongrel dog accompanied him. He had no problems, made no demands on the national economy, lived as nature intended before the golden dawn of the technological era, the ever-rising standard of life. Yes, everything was as it should be on the quiet lake.

The boy rowed away but suddenly turned back and offered the nine-inch rainbow to the man a shy gesture of recognition, a humble tribute to age. The man accepted the gift lest he offend the giver, though he didn't

want the trout.

Then, of sudden, the summer idyll collapsed. The boy said he was working at odd holiday jobs and saving up to buy a secondhand outboard motor for his boat and already had almost sufficient money. Still more wonderful, his father had even promised him a speedboat of genuine fibreglass, with an engine of 50 horsepower, when he graduated into university, some years hence. That prize was worth waiting for.

Boat, boy and dog slowly disappeared in the morning mist. The man returned to his cabin, cooked the rainbow and ate a gourmet breakfast. But somehow he didn't much enjoy it.

Reprinted with permission from the Vancouver Sun

Public water survey

Kelly Mussellwhite

Coming Soon to Shawnigan Lake Residents!

Shawnigan Lake has been the focal point of research for many decades. Whether sampling turbidity, nutrients, oxygen levels, and temperatures to ensure water quality objectives are met by provincial standards; studying alternative methods of lake water treatment to deal with water quality issues on Mason's Beach with the help of RES'EAU's national consortium and a \$2 million mobile laboratory; conducting annual fish stock analyses in a science classroom at Shawnigan Lake School; attending "Thinking Like a Watershed" workshops to identify local priorities while undergoing a comprehensive community planning process; or comparing and contrasting our neighbouring Sooke Lake watershed with the Shawnigan Lake watershed as done by Dr. Asit Mazumder from the University of Victoria, research has consistently demonstrated the changing nature of our community's water source.

Building upon this knowl-

edge, the Environmental Initiatives Office of the CVRD in partnership with Brock University's Dr. Steven Renzetti, prepare to undertake another study and require the help of local residents. This study takes the form of a survey.

The purpose of the survey is to learn about how residents in our region value Shawnigan Lake and the natural resource it provides – fresh drinking water. By understanding how and why citizens value this "natural capital", government policies can be better developed to successfully protect and restore Shawnigan Lake, an ecological and recreational asset to our community.

An invitation will be arriving at your home soon asking for your participation. If you would like to complete the survey, please visit www.brocku.ca/wepgn, click on the link to the survey website, and input the 6 digit code found in your letter. All surveys are anonymous and will take about 20 minutes to complete.

The CVRD and Dr. Steven Renzetti thank you for sharing your views and your time.

Shawnigan

HALLOWE'EN HOEDOWN

Saturday, October 24 6:30-8:30 pm - Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

Free Admission - Family Fun For All



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
featuring
Shelley Vaags (Smiley)

SLBA's Porta-Ball Hockey!
Treat Bags

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

Hee-Haw Halloween

Hee-Haw! Come join our Halloween Hoedown on Saturday, October 24th from 6:30-8:30pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre! Shelly Smiley Vaags and friends will entertain and keep your toes a tappin'! There will be a concession, treats, prizes, and games, all surrounded by Halloween Harvest decorations. Bring friends, and family, and dress in either western theme or your Halloween costume. No admission fee!

The volunteers of the Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA) bring this event to your community. We welcome participation from other groups that fit our theme. Your local Business Association will bring its popular ball hockey rink.

If you wish to volunteer, donate wrapped treats in original wrappers, donate prizes or host an activity please contact shawniganmom@gmail.com or drop into the Village Chipperry or the office of the Community Centre.

Foreshore to Forest

Bruce Fraser

Long Range Planning for the Shawnigan Watershed

The Shawnigan Basin Society has now completed assembly of scientific and technical information about the Shawnigan Watershed. Ecological condition of the lake foreshore, assessment of the upland forests, mapping of land use patterns and the physical geography of the basin are now available to assist us in planning for the future integrity of our watershed.

In the short term we have all had to focus on the immediate threat of the SIA contaminated soil facility, a battle that is not over by any means. This insult to our water supply, though of such significance by itself, is only one of the issues that must be dealt with to keep our water supply safe, our community backdrop attractive and our local economy strong. Climate volatility, drought and fire risks, clear cut industrial forestry, land developments, mining for gravel, recreation pressures, along with water pollution entering from many

sources, all influence the environment that supports our rural way of life.

During the month of October, the Basin Society will begin the lengthy public process of watershed planning. We will begin by engaging residents throughout the basin in reviewing the scientific and technical information, in conversation about what we want for the future and in grappling with the complexity of multiple governance agencies and fragmented land ownership. Public teams will be set up by sub-basin to make sure that all concerned have the time needed to be heard directly. A technical team of experts in hydrology, forestry, ecological restoration, remote

sensing, public health and land use planning will support sub-basin groups. The Society will work closely with First Nations, government agencies that have local jurisdictions over land and resource use and with the CVRD Planning and Engineering staff to encourage all parties to pull in the same direction.

The work of the Society has been enabled by the local tax contribution of \$50K per year. This local contribution, evidence of our own commitment as a community, has resulted in considerable outside support. We have received a \$40K grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, a \$50K contribution from Couverdon Real Estate

for land use mapping and a physical watershed model, an in kind remote sensing analysis worth \$60K, and generous assistance from CVRD staff.

A volunteer Board of local citizens, chaired by past Area Director Bruce Fraser, manages the Society. Kelly Musselwhite is the part time Executive Director, assisted with administrative duties by Melissa Nottingham. The Society is accountable to the public through annual financial and activity reporting to the CVRD Board and by regular liaison with Area Director Sonia Furstenuau. It maintains a village watershed planning office where anyone interested can view the work being done and meet with Society representatives.



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Area B Parks Commission

Margaret Symon,
Chair

A unique opportunity has arisen to acquire a significant part of our Shawnigan landscape – but the deadline is short. Old Baldy Mountain, at 462 m, dominates the skyline above Shawnigan Lake. Those undertaking the steep climb to the summit are rewarded with stunning views in all directions – of Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula, and further to the Olympic Range and Mt. Baker, of Cobble Hill Mountain and the forests stretching away into distant mountains along the Koksilah. While the southern portion of Old Baldy Mountain is Crown Land, the northern slopes and top of Old Baldy Mountain have been held in various private ownerships over the years.

In 2010 the CVRD Area B Parks and Trails Master Plan identified acquisition of Old Baldy Mountain as a key priority. For almost twenty years leading up to the Master Plan, the then Shawnigan Trails Committee, headed by the late George Norris, a renowned sculptor and carver who resided at Shawnigan

Lake with his wife, Phyllis, tirelessly mapped and photographed trails and sensitive ecosystems in the Shawnigan area, including Old Baldy Mountain. The trails committee met upstairs in George's backyard workshop, amidst tools and carvings and sawdust. George, who owned neither a computer nor typewriter, tirelessly hand wrote letters in artistic script to forest companies and government agencies, beseeching acquisition of Shawnigan's special places.

George Norris wasn't the only Canadian renowned artist inspired by Old Baldy Mountain. E.J. Hughes, who also lived for many years at Shawnigan Lake, and whose works hang in the National Gallery in Ottawa, painted Old Baldy Mountain in 1961.

During the time my eldest son was at Frances Kelsey, he met George and Phyllis Norris on Old Baldy Mountain. My son often climbed the mountain, and welcomed friends from Frances Kelsey to join him. He built a cairn on the summit, and left a log book in a jar, where others who summited "Baldy"

left their names and comments about their climbs. About ten years ago, my son returned from a climb up "Baldy," and asked, "Who's plowed the top of Baldy?" It seems a developer who envisioned a helipad on the top of Baldy flattened the summit with an excavator. Sensitive ecosystems on the mountain were encroached by broom.

We have a unique opportunity to raise monies to acquire Old Baldy Mountain – but the deadline is looming in early November. Please look out for promotional pamphlets and posters in the Shawnigan community. Information tables will be set up at various dates outside Thrifty Foods. Fundraisers are planned.

George Norris and my oldest son, Gavin, no longer make their beloved treks up Old Baldy Mountain. Both have passed away. I know, however, that they would be immensely pleased to know the Shawnigan community is trying to acquire Old Baldy Mountain for you to enjoy, and as a legacy for generations to come.



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You Should Read This!

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

A Man Called Ove

-by Frederik Backman (Translated by Henning Hoch)
Copyright 2014 - Published by Hodder Stroughten Ltd. London

Is it possible to love the character of a cranky, bitter old man who is critical of most everyone he encounters? By the third page of this book I was intrigued, and by about the tenth, chuckling in sympathy. The last two chapters required tissues, so be forewarned: you might find this curmudgeon's story very appealing.

Ove, a lonely Swedish widower, sees that the world is going to the proverbial dogs. Nobody seems to follow the rules or understands how things should be done. And certainly, no one knows how to fix things anymore, most particularly cars. His disgust for the trendy and the hip is visceral, while his hatred for bureaucrats or "the men in white shirts" is intense.

As the story unfolds, a cast of imperfect characters bumps into Ove's solitary

life and slowly, against his will, these people embrace him into their chaotic community. His very pregnant new neighbour, Parveneh, becomes his unlikely saviour, a woman as feisty and as powerful as himself. Because of a series of accidents and unfortunate events, Ove reluctantly begins to help these people, seeing them as hopeless and inept, unable to fend for themselves.

Through flashbacks, we slowly learn Ove's story, how he was orphaned at 16 and had to learn to survive on his own through hard work and determination, living a life of black and white until his future wife, Sonia, came into his life like a burst of colour. From that moment on, he was safe in her love, and, when she died, his life was over. Or so he thought.

Frederik Backman writes with simplicity and great heart. The short chapters are individual gems and the characters are interesting and believable. There is even a mangy cat who matches Ove's grumpiness and who, in the end, understands the old man very well. Charming, touching and entertaining, this is a great Autumn book to curl up with in front of the fire.

Rating: 5/5 *****

S.S. Princess Mary by EJ Hughes

Nastazja Pedersen
Shawnigan Museum Volunteer

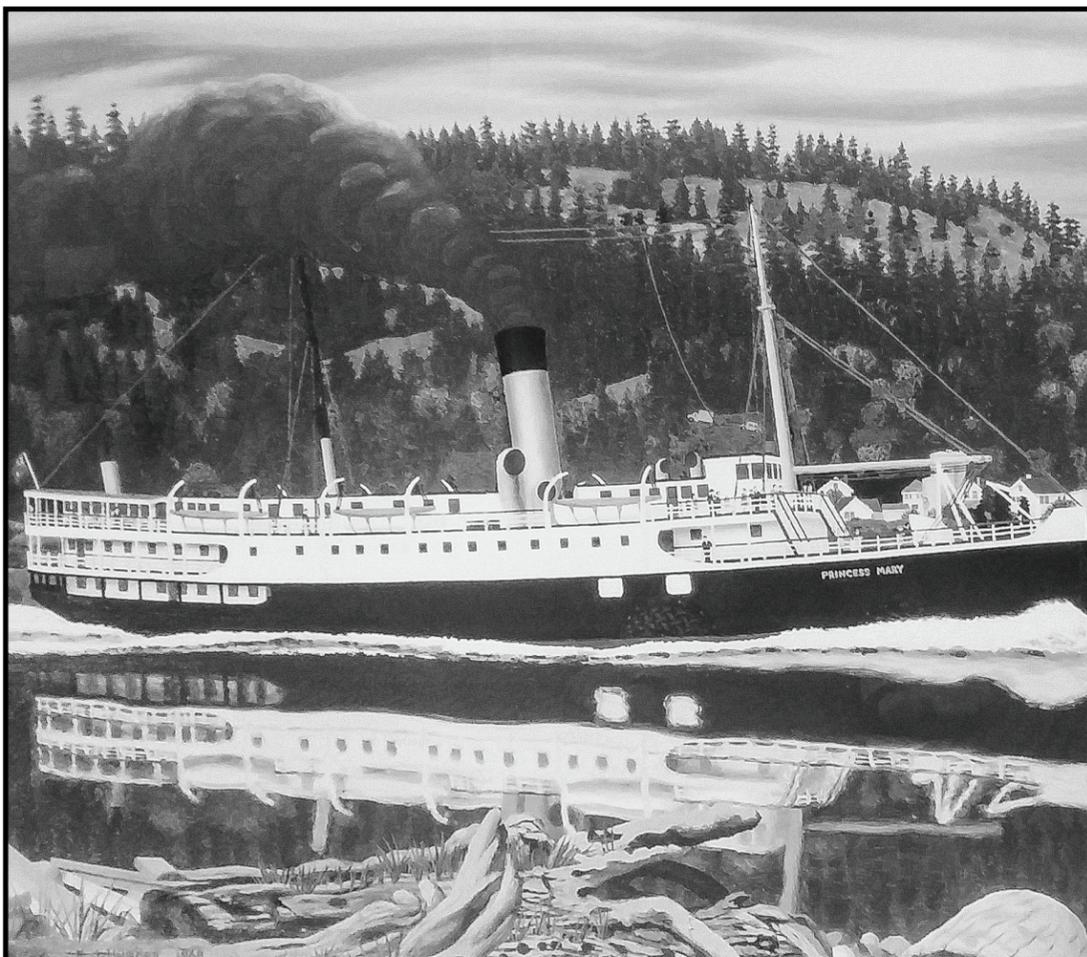
SS Princess Mary made its first sail in 1911, two years before E.J. Hughes was born, from Vancouver to Comox with a stop in Nanaimo. At some point, Hughes would have witnessed the passenger ship as it passed through the Georgia Strait on one of its many trips. SS Princess Mary travelled varying routes, with stops in Skagway, Alaska, Prince Rupert, Powell River, the Gulf Islands, Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle.

The ship was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and was in use until 1951. It was part of a "four sister fleet" with SS Princess Adelaide, SS Princess Alice, and SS Princess Sophia. Named for a daughter of King George V, the SS Princess Mary also served as a troop ship in WWI. After the ship was retired, parts

of it were used to build the landmark Princess Mary Restaurant in Victoria, which closed its doors in 2007. Ironically, it spent more time as a restaurant than a steamship.

Hughes' choice to paint to an array of subjects has made him viewed as a recorder of history. While mainly a landscape artist, Hughes' inclusion of boats, ships, houses, roads and farms allows his work to be used in a comparison of historical times to present day. In the case of SS Princess Mary, Hughes' painting acts as a colourful record to be paired with the black and white photographs of the historic ship.

You can find this reproduction, as well as many more, at the Shawnigan Lake Museum which is open Friday - Sunday 11:00-4 through the fall, winter and spring (except January). Hours are extended through the summer months. www.shawnignalakemuseum.com.



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Safety Reminders for Back to School

Oriana Parker
South Cowichan
Community Policing

October 2015 Issue

Now that the kids are back at school it would be a good idea to enforce a few important safety tips. An "illness etiquette" talk reminding your children to respect the health of others by covering their mouth and nose and washing their hands after coughing and sneezing. Make certain they carry extra tissue during cold season. Encourage family members to stay home when they are sick. This includes staying home from school and any social activity until they have recovered.

As well, a wise approach to the chilly, dark days of fall and winter is to dress your children warmly and in light coloured jackets and accessories so that they can be seen by motorists.

Canada Safety Council Safety Reminders for Back to School

Research conducted by Transport Canada shows that school bus travel is one of the safest methods of transportation. It is 16 times safer than travelling in a family car per passenger/kilometre of travel. Although school buses have an excellent safety record, mishaps can happen. These mishaps can include instances

where children are injured while riding on the bus. It is more common however, for injuries to be sustained once outside the bus, including being hit by their own school bus or other vehicles.

Every driver must remember that when approaching a stopped school bus (on a non-divided road) that has its overhead red signal-lights flashing and side stop sign out, must stop before reaching the bus and must not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing.

Parents and guardians must respect their child's school safety measures for dropping off and picking up their children at school. Every effort must be made to avoid collision and injury by refraining to create hazardous situations of traffic congestion and unsafe driving practices within the school zone. Respect posted speed limits, and designated drop-off and pick-up areas.

To ride a bicycle to and from school, children must be mature enough (minimum 9 – 12 years old), and must have enough experience. The rider should be able to scan ahead and check behind without swerving.

To ensure safe cycling, young cyclists must:

- ★ Wear a properly-fitted helmet, and have clothes that are suited for

cycling (e.g. their pants tucked in).

- ★ Have their bikes fitted properly and in good working order. The bike should have a regular maintenance check-up and should have a bell. It is also a good idea to have a safety flag.
- ★ Know and obey all traffic rules, signs and signals. They must signal turns and stops. Ride in a straight line in the same direction as traffic and stop at every stop sign.
- ★ Be predictable to other road users by riding with the traffic usually on the right hand side of the roadway.
- ★ Never ride in the dark. If an older child must ride in the dark, make sure that reflective clothing and night-accessories (e.g. reflectors and lights) are used.
- ★ Many children use roadways to make their way to and from school. Parents and guardians must review road safety rules with their children and the importance of not accepting rides or any invitations from strangers. It is best to walk with a buddy and keep focused on getting straight home.

To keep safe on roads, children pedestrians must:

- ★ Find a safe and direct route to school with the help of their

parents. Hazards should be identified (train tracks, busy intersections, etc.) and a designated route with safety rules should be established.

- ★ Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, use the left side of the road facing traffic.
- ★ Cross streets only at crosswalks and learn to look to the left, the right and then left again before proceeding, even at intersections with pedestrian walk signs.
- ★ Wait until traffic comes to a stop before crossing. Make sure drivers see you before you cross.
- ★ Prevention is the key to safety. With education and awareness, all children should be able to get safely to school and home again. Take the time to share these valuable rules and tips with your children.

B.C. penalties

- ★ Speed in school zone: \$196 to \$253
- ★ Speed in playground zone: \$196 to \$253
- ★ Fail to stop for school bus: \$167
- ★ Fail to yield to pedestrian: \$167
- ★ Disobey school guard/patrol: \$167

It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

L.M. Petersen
Dwight School Canada

The community of Shawnigan Lake has a unique vibe and a friendly island mindset. It provides a relatively safe environment and is supportive to visitors and students from the many countries represented at Dwight School Canada.

Dwight strives to educate the complete student and to equip them with the skills they need to transition success-

fully into adult life. Part of this process is to identify an area of interest or enjoyment and build on it. One tool used to accomplish this is CAS (Creativity Action Service), an integral part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, and a requirement for all IB and boarding students.

Creativity; students engage in an artistic pursuit such as music, drama or the culinary arts. Through hands-on

experience students learn creative thinking and personal expression.

Action; students engage in a physical pursuit like rugby or yoga. Students learn to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle in balance with their academic work.

Service; students take part in volunteer work that will address a need within the community and will also result in a learning benefit

for the student. This collaboration teaches responsibility, decision-making and problem solving skills.

This type of learning is most successful with the support of the greater community, and students are always looking for new opportunities to contribute. "It takes a village to raise a child" is a proverb that rings true when trying to cultivate students who demonstrate cultural sensitivity and broader vi-

sion. The Village of Shawnigan Lake has much to offer, and more to gain. Students are willing to serve the community in an area of need, and are eager to learn interesting skills from local artisans.

Community is an important pillar of life at Dwight, and the school is interested in exploring how your passion may be shared with their students to help expand the borders of the neighborhood.



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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Just 42 minutes or 48.5 kilometres north from Shawnigan Lake is Ladysmith. Ladysmith is located on the 49th parallel on the eastern coast of the island and has some very beautiful trails that we explored over the summer. Our very first stop was a visit to the Holland Creek Trail.

The Holland Creek Trail is a pretty spectacular 5.8 km path and pretty much located in town suburbia. However, when you are strolling along its peaceful creek-side paths, it's hard to notice. Due to the trail being essentially right through town, there are so many access points to choose from! The main trailheads are on Dogwood Rd, Mackie Rd, or the corner of 6th Avenue and Methuen Street, or from Holland Creek Park. Use your Google tool and pick a fave, or just eny, meeny, miny, moe one.

Regardless of where you start, the trail is completely marvellous and has a nice full loop. Alas, due to its many access points you may decide to do smaller sections. In most areas of the loop the terrain is good for all levels and, in some places, also wheelchair accessible with assistance from the Methuen trailhead. Oh... and if you really, really enjoy stairs, make sure you get to the East side - there's a gazillion of them that way!

The Crystal Falls, also known as "The Falls", are sort of a main feature of Holland Creek Trail. The waterfall is located close to the Mackie Rd trailhead with a rewarding vantage point perched up on the south side behind the protection of a fieldstone wall. Just below the falls is the Colliery Dam and reservoir which is said to be a spawning station for salmon in the fall - please be careful and honour their process by giving them some space.



The trails meander and dip, taking you right down into the creek where you can get right in and have a peek, when the raging waters of Spring are not scary and up close. A lot of cute little bridges

and boardwalks take you safely over crossings moisture free, so you can enjoy the trickling sounds of nature and see a few fishes.

Would you like a visual tour of this wonderful beautiful place? See this

little video from Take 5 Publications located right in Ladysmith <http://take5.ca/holland-creek-trail/>

Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.

WildSide: The Sooty Grouse

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Recently, while on a hike between Kapoor Hill and the Koksilah River, we startled a grouse. Not to be outdone, it startled us as it flew unexpectedly across our path and perched on a nearby fir branch. Cameras appeared and the bird obligingly waited for the photo session to finish before flapping away out of sight.

It turns out this particular bird was likely a female Sooty Grouse - a relatively new moniker - as prior to 2006 it would have been called a Blue Grouse. The Blue Grouse is now obsolete, having been split into the Sooty Grouse and Dusky Grouse, based on DNA evidence.

There are three species of grouse on Vancouver Island: Ruffed Grouse, Sooty Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan. White-tailed Ptarmigan inhabit remote alpine areas and are unlikely to be seen unless hiking in the mountains. The Ruffed Grouse is the most common species in our area. It is also responsible for the woodland "drumming" heard as the male beats its wings while



A female Sooty Grouse (Dendragapus fuliginosus)

perching on a log, in order to attract a mate. The Sooty Grouse prefers semi-open woodlands and is commonly seen in clear-cuts before new trees reach significant height.

A few details about the Sooty Grouse:

- ★ The name derives from the colour of the male, which is a sooty slate-blue. Females are

mottled brown.

- ★ This species, with a weight of more than a kilo is nearly twice the weight of a Ruffed Grouse.
- ★ When flushed, these birds will often fly to an evergreen branch and freeze.
- ★ They can have a large number of eggs in their clutch, as many as fifteen have been observed.
- ★ In contrast to most other bird species, which in late summer or fall either leave for southern climes or move to lower elevation, Sooty Grouse do the opposite and move higher up the mountain slopes to the sub alpine, where they spend the winter feeding on conifer needles.
- ★ Collective nouns for grouse include: chorus, covey, drumming, grumbling, and leash.
- ★ A grouse is a small game bird, but the verb to grouse is different. It means to gripe about how unhappy you are - express complaints, discontent, displeasure, or unhappiness.



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Young Seniors Action Group Society

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

Fall Schedule

The first General meeting to start off our new year was held September 15. We had 42 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Our guest speaker Dale D'Arcy explained to us the HandyDART subsidized program available to all residents in the CVRD area that need transportation from time to time. This seems to be a great fit for many of our members who may have lost the ability to drive and/or feel it is time to give up their driver's license. There are also other reasons where a ride to the doctor's office or a store, as examples, are needed but a person does not really want to ask favours from other people.

To access the program some paperwork

is required, usually with input from your family doctor, but once the registration is done, it allows the client to arrange for pick up and return to their home. Each trip is \$2.00. The initial registration process gives the information needed to get the appropriate bus out to do the pick up. Buses with side or rear loading lifts or ramps can accommodate scooters, wheelchairs or walkers.

At present, the service is available on weekdays and Saturdays during daylight hours only - as the program expands, Sundays and Holidays may be included as well. Remembrance Day will have regular service available.

This is a great example of how our local government helps seniors and others in our area. If you have a friend who could benefit from this great program, share this information with them.

For more information call Oak Transit:

250-710-8795 or email: darcydw@oak-transit.ca or go to www.bctransit.com.

Looking ahead, besides our regular group activities we have two special events:

- ★ The first, in October is our Harvest Dinner on October 6; and the second is the work of preparing the Memorial Day Poppy envelopes to go into the mailboxes.
- ★ Together with Legion members we will package up a total of 6000 poppies on October 22.
- ★ 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.

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Department Members
Attended 19 Calls in September

- ★ Wednesday, Sept 2 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 3 – MVI in the 3100 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 3 – MVI in the 3100 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 3 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 4 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 6 – 1st Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Sunday, Sept 6 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 7 – Burning Complaint on Cliffside Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 8 – Haz-Mat Gas Leak at Hipwood & Shawnigan Lake Rds
- ★ Friday, Sept 11 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 12 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 16 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Thursday, Sept 17 – Alarms Activated on Stevenson Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 17 – MVI at Shawnigan Lake & W Shawnigan Lake Rds
- ★ Thursday, Sept 17 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Friday, Sept 18 – Mutual Aid Water Rescue w/ Mill Bay Fire Dept
- ★ Saturday, Sept 19 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 20 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 23 – MVI in the 3200 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd

ATTENTION: ALL VETERANS

Cde Win Teague
Public Relations Coordinator
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 134

MALAHAT LEGION BRANCH 134 is holding a dinner for all Veterans on the 22nd of October 2015. You do not have to be a member of the Legion in order to attend this dinner. There is no cost

for any Veteran. If you plan to bring a guest there is a cost of \$15. Cocktails at 5 pm. Dinner at 6 pm. Bartender phone number: 250 743-4621

What we do need you to do is call the Malahat Legion and tell us your name & your guest if you have one or drop into the Legion itself and the staff have a sign up board.

There is a limited amount of seating for this dinner so let us know as quickly as possible.

All households will be receiving their envelopes for the Poppy Fund later on this month. This is the largest fund raiser for the Royal Canadian Legion and its veterans. Please reply as promptly as possible. Thank You in advance.

Shawnigan Weather August 2015

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

September Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Average High	20.2	19.2	22.8	18.7	22.0	19.2	23.1	19.0	22.3
Average Low	9.2	9.5	10.4	8.5	9.9	9.6	11.0	9.2	10.3
Extreme High	33.5	28.7	29.2	27.6	29.8	28.9	31.4	27.0	29.5
Extreme Low	-3.9	4.4	6.7	3.6	5.4	5.3	6.5	5.0	5.5
Precipitation	37.6	83.6	78.7	75.4	63.8	69.5	50.7	75.2	54.6
Days w precip	9	15	8	17	10	16	11	14	11
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	720.8	672.3	824.8	633.2	766.7	557.9	671.9	620.0	741.2
(up to September 27 th) Since 1914: 45 th coldest, 22 nd wettest									
Lake Temperature:	Sept 6 th : 18°		Sept 13 th : 21°		Sept 20 th : 17°		Sept 27 th : 16°		
Lake Level Change:	Sept 6 th : +2.5cm		Sept 13 th : -1cm		Sept 20 th : 0cm		Sept 27 th : -1cm		



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenu**
Office hours (Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 to 11:00), and *Director's Meetings* (First Monday of the month at 7:00) at the SL Community Centre.
For updates: check www.soniafurstenu.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday of month. Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Third Thursday in September. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Oct. 22nd - 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**
for info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of September 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:00-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **Village Development Committee** TBA Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd

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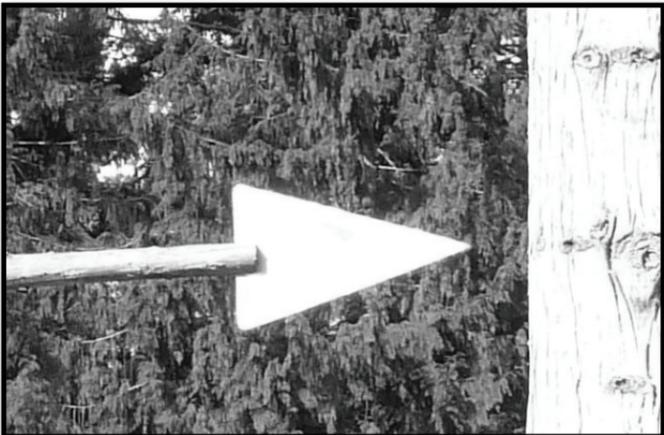
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What Is It? Where Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for September was Laurel Whyte who was the only person to identify the Window Shutters on the old Community Hall. There isn't much time left to admire the venerable structure. Built in 1931, it is beyond repair and deconstruction has commenced. Some components will be recycled.

Classifieds

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If you are looking for a second job, extra income or are in post education all week and can only work on weekends, this shift is for you! Permanent Saturday and/or Sunday 9am - 6pm you pick! one or both shifts guaranteed and available. Busy Full Service Gas Station, paid training! Need Mature, Reliable male or female able to work in a fast paced environment with a team. Excellent customer service a must, responsible for cash and credit card transactions. Uniform provided. Come join our already great team and service a great community! Email us, come by with your resume or call and ask for Tom : Shawniganlakeautomotive@shawlink.ca

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\$500,000 needs to be fundraised before November.

At this time, 20% (\$100,000) has already been donated.

All donations are 100% tax deductible. All proceeds go directly toward acquisition of the property.

Be a part of the Mt Baldy legacy project with your generous donation.

Contact Area Director Sonia Furstenau: sfurstenau@cvrld.bc.ca

Donations can be mailed to:

Brian Farquhar, CVRD, 175 Ingram St, Duncan BC V9L 1N8

Cheques payable to CVRD with 'Mt Baldy' in the reference line.

Sunday, Oct 4th – 2-4 "Protect Baldy Mountain as a Park - Forever" Information gathering and tea time at the Ecovillage, 1565 Baldy Mountain Road. Sonia Furstenau will be there to answer questions, etc. Info: 250-743-3067 info@ourecovillage.org

Wednesday evening, October 30th – Please come out for a Mt. Baldy fundraiser and celebration at Shawnigan Lake School. There will be a silent auction, and a live auction for a beautiful Baldy painting from a local artist.



EJ Hughes "Looking North over Shawnigan Lake"



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