

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue Two

February 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER?



Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

First let's define "community". The Latin word "communis", meaning "things held in common", is the root of various words including common, commune, communicate and community. One definition holds that a community is "a social unit of any size that shares common values." Shared intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, and risks define the identity and cohesiveness of a community.

Is the CVRD a community? What about North Cowichan? Does anyone feel like a member of "South Cowichan?" These sterile terms are useful for administrative and commercial purposes but lack the necessary ingredients to be considered a proper community.

What about Chemainus, Duncan, Cowichan Bay or Cobble Hill? Take a stroll around any of these places and it is clearly evident that they are fine examples of communities in the correct sense of the word.

The Shawnigan Focus: In front for our community!

We at the Shawnigan Focus believe that Shawnigan Lake is also a strong and true community. Our history, geography and people define us. Our gem of a lake, the village core, the parks and trails; all make this a special place to live. And special people do live here. They make up our business community, our volunteer groups, our artists, musicians, writers, students, academics, clergy, builders and tradespeople. All these exist at a scale that reflects the essence of what is meant by community.

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, non-profit publication produced by a team of volunteers. We care for, and report about, Shawnigan Lake. We are a true Community Newspaper. Thank you for your continued support.

Do you have feedback for the Focus? Send us your thoughts and ideas to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS FEBRUARY 2015

EDITORIAL TEAM

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

LAYOUT

Taryn Treloar

ADVERTISING

Kim Hennecker
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

FOCUS TEAM

Linda Nelson
Farrell Magnusson
Monica Foster
Sally Davies
Peter Nash
Bev McCooey
Marcy Green
Grant Treloar
Janet Neilsen

ACCOUNTS

Kim Hennecker

COPY SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For MARCH 2015

Issue: MARCH

Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, RTF or Appleworks to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca Please do not send a PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles in the Focus box at the The Chippery: 1- 2740 Dundas, Shawnigan Lake

AD SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Contact Kim at ads@shawniganfocus.ca Ads

should be sent in correct sizing, B&W, high resolution, and as a JPEG or PDF. Kim is available to help create or reformat your ad.

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 (under 30 words) ads@shawniganfocus.ca

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.

MAILING ADDRESS

Shawnigan Focus - Box 331,
Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Museum Curator

It constantly amazes me how positive energy gets results. I have been at the museum for ten years, this month, and I am so grateful for the people and businesses that have stepped forward to help make our museum something that the community can boast about. If you haven't been in, do it. You will be surprised...it's bigger (and better) than it looks.

When I moved to Shawnigan, I wanted to get involved with the museum. As a former teacher, and someone who was passionate about Shawnigan, it seemed like a good fit. It took almost six months to contact someone who was involved with the museum as it was seldom open. When I finally got through the door, the Curator was ready to move on. Suddenly, I was in charge.

There was no income, no bank balance and a lot to be done. The agreement between the school district and the Historical Society, for the use of the building and grounds, was that the Historical Society was responsible for all of the maintenance, operating costs, insurance and improvements. Therefore, there was no hot water, no heat and a variety of other major issues to deal with.

We closed the museum for six months to rework the displays, clean and organize. We had to be creative on a shoestring budget...the paint colours were chosen from the leftover paint at our house.



2005

We were given a large amount of wood from the partner of one of the board members. That wood became floors, wainscoting and trim throughout the museum.

That was the beginning of a long stream of generous donations. When we have had an idea, and/or a need, there has always been someone, or a business, willing to help. I have learned to dream big and believe that most things are possible.

We have come a long way in ten years thanks to the help of so many supporters along the way. It would be impossible to name everyone but there are a few that need special recognition: Garth Harvey, who has been a volunteer since the museum opened in 1983, has been essential to our success; Ken Cossey who, during his term as Area B Director, recognized the importance of the museum and secured some basic funding; Pat Salmon, who has trusted us with a unique collection for a small

museum; a Board of Directors that has evolved into a strong, hands-on group of advocates; and volunteers that help to make magic happen.

During this past month, we installed a new 'school' display in the last unused crevice of the building – the old furnace room. It would not have happened without the help of several volunteers, including: Garth and Dave who helped us purchase the technology; Doug Gamble - we might never have finished the display without his help!; Conrad Haug who kindly fixed the drywall; Mark Wolosczyk and Grant Treloar who worked tirelessly; Gavin McArthur; Helmut Teunissen; Norm Harding for their contributions, and the Board of Directors who supported the idea and came to clean up in time for us to open...it was down to the wire!

Thank you to all of the supporters and donors who make it possible for us to improve and evolve.



2014

Sarah & Co. Property Maintenance

Free Estimates Seniors Discount
Carpentry. Eavestrough Cleaning.
Hauling. Lawn Care. Landscape &
Design. Painting. Powerwashing.
Rubbish Removal.
Small Moving Jobs

Sarah: 250 733-0671 250 732-3591


NATURE'S EDGE



Cedar signs

HAND PAINTED • SANDBLASTED • HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS FROM \$50

250 701-7408

WWW.NATURESEGE.CA

Advertise in The Focus - ads@shawniganfocus.ca

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.



Shameful Behaviour!

Dear Editor,

I hope you will let the neighbourhood of Shawnigan Lake know that the woods and waterfront of Shawnigan Lake have garbage and litter everywhere.

These pictures are the field and woods behind Mason's store. I think the teenagers buy their junk food and meet up in the woods as they do on the waterfront, and they leave their mess behind.

Then there are the bags of garbage dumped in the field behind Mason's store. It makes me angry! I hike with my dog a lot and I see the garbage dumped here and on the side of Thain Road ...and so many other places.

I moved here from Nelson (West Kootenay) two



years ago and the biggest disappointment about moving to the Island is the garbage everywhere. I read a lot about the toxic dump in Shawnigan Lake's watershed and the huge battle the residents fight. But, cleaning up this trash around the lake is something that can be done by everyone.

There is a sign above a garden gate on the Shawnigan Lake School's grounds and it says "To Begin. Begin."

It's time to Begin

Sincerely,

Joanne Delfae Wallace

Editorial Comment: We agree that there is a significant problem of litter and illegal dumping which reflects poorly on our community. The offenders, while few in number, need to be stopped. A community campaign is overdue.

A Valentine's Greeting for Shawnigan!

I would like to say Happy Valentine's Day to all the wonderful Village businesses that make it so easy to feel as though there is no reason to need to go beyond my community...I am so well served by those right here!

You are very appreciated...all year round!

Jennie Stevens



Picture this:

A seven year old girl standing on the side of a busy road at 7:30 a.m. in the dark waiting for the bus. Now picture this: The same seven year old girl waiting for the last bus at the end of the school day and arriving at her house at 3:05. That means her school day is seven and a half hours long (instead of 6).

This all comes down to the decision to save money so the school district decided to remove half the bus drivers resulting in the same bus drivers doing the elementary and secondary students. So now school starts extremely early.

The only way to fix this is to get the school board to rehire the bus drivers by convincing them it is putting children in danger.

Peter Salmon age 9

Malahat District Legion #134 Shawnigan Lake

Royal Canadian Legions across this great nation of ours are in a world of hurt. Veterans are passing on quicker than new members are joining. Memberships are dropping, and Legions are closing.

In 2015, we want to encourage more community members to come see what our venue has to offer. To find out what we are offering, visit our Facebook page Malahat Legion Entertainment & Events, LIKE us, and activate GET NOTIFICATIONS.

We are not fancy or as hip as many other places, but we are comfortable.

There are some misconceptions that we are a completely closed club. Not true. We welcome guests at all times. You must have a Military connection to join the legion. Not true. All individual may join. Only older veterans go to the legion. Not true. While there are older veterans, which you can learn a lot from, there are younger veterans and regular community members

that are members or guests that come in on a regular basis. The legion only involves veteran activities. Not true. While that is the basis of our legion, in the last two years we have hosted many events that you may find in other popular watering holes. In 2014, we held many SOLD OUT dinner and dance events with bands like The Cookie Monsters, The Bratz, Montgomery County, and on New Year's Eve, The Smiley Family. We host the annual Canada Day Community Pancake Breakfast in our large backyard. We have several dart teams that play in the Cowichan Valley Dart League, and lots of dart boards, if you want to try it for yourself. There are two pool tables that are FREE use.

Every Second Friday for almost two years, we have a Steak & Jam Night, and you would be surprised at how many people you probably already know that come out. Next dates are Feb 6 & 20, and every second Friday after that. Steak dinner @ \$9.00 from 5-730pm, Jam

starts and ends whenever it happens. Musicians & Singers always warmly welcomed.

A new project we started in January was to host a market, Saturday Jan 24 called LOCAL >2< LOCAL MARKET. Our Mandate is to offer a venue all year for locals to promote their handmade and home based businesses that do not have a store front. In the warmer months, we hope to move to our expansive fenced backyard, and increase the amount of space offered to include fresh items. Our next Market date is Feb 21, and we welcome you to come and support local. If you are interested in participating in the market, please contact co-ordinator by emailing: legion134sportsentertainment@gmail.com

We also have a good size hall with dance floor and stage for rental, with optional kitchen. In the warmer months, we also have a large fenced backyard.

We can be reached by phone at 250-743-4621

Wounded Warriors Canada



Harold Davis
Branch 134 Service Officer

Wounded Warriors Canada is a non-profit organization that helps Canadian Forces members who have been wounded or injured in their service to Canada. Wounded Warriors' primary focus is on mental health and, particularly, the staggering impact of PTSD and Operational Stress Injuries. They help find solutions where gaps have left our veterans in need.

To enhance financial support and raise public awareness for Wounded Warriors Canada, the Wounded Warriors Run BC (WWRBC) was created. A 5-member team of Canadian Forces personnel will relay run the entire length of Vancouver Island for six consecutive days, February 15 -20, 2015. The team will run, rain or shine, from Port Hardy to Esquimalt covering an excess of 600 km.

Our Branch goal is to raise \$1000 for Wounded Warriors

Canada. To help our local Branch meet our goal, we have setup a donation box at the bar. You can drop off a donation there, or mail it to our branch office, you can also donate directly to Wounded Warriors via their website www.woundedwarriorrunbc.com. Under the message part of your donation please add BC Wounded Warrior Run BC Legion 134. That way they know you are part of the BC Wounded Warrior Run. Any online donations over 20.00 can request a tax receipt by filling in the receipt part of the donation on line. The Branch will not be issuing receipts as we will be making one donation under the Branch Legion 134.

The Wounded Warrior runners will be arriving about 1730 hours on 19 Feb 15, Please come out and show your support

Your donation will support a wide range of programs and services provided by Wounded Warriors Canada

LIKE us on FACEBOOK!

To be, or not to be, The Municipality of Shawnigan Lake? That is the question.

Graham Ross-Smith
Focus freelance reporter

Whether or not the community of Shawnigan Lake should cease to be a CVRD electoral district and, instead, become a municipality was a central question during the local government elections last November. One candidate in particular, Brent Beach, made this the main thrust of his campaign.

This is certainly not a new issue for Shawnigan Lakers. The feasibility of municipal status was formally studied in the 1970s, the mid 1990s and again about ten years later. The studies considered

the idea of Shawnigan Lake having its own municipal government, and also the idea of being a part of a much larger, geographically, municipality involving neighbouring communities such as Mill Bay and Cobble Hill. None of the studies resulted in any new municipality being established in the south Cowichan area.

Municipal status for Shawnigan is an idea that just won't go away. The Directors of the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) recently struck a committee to study the prospect of Shawnigan as a municipality with the focus being on Shawnigan Lake alone, and not as part of a

larger local government entity. The hope is that this will make for a cleaner, simpler examination of municipal status and will lead to a clear "yes" or "no" as to whether or not this community would be able to function as a stand-alone municipality. If the answer is clearly a "no," then, presumably, a larger municipality can be looked into at some later date. If the answer is a "yes", then a process will be established and followed in pursuit of that goal.

The new SRA committee is called the Shawnigan Governance Committee. It had its second meeting in Shawnigan Lake School's beautiful Pavil-

ion building on the evening of January 13th. The intention of the SRA board is to engage persons and organizations with an interest in the future of Shawnigan Lake, not just those who are SRA members. About twenty people attended the meeting and discussion was wide ranging. The new Shawnigan Area Director, Sonia Furstenau, represented the CVRD. The area's largest landowner, TimberWest/Couverdon was also well represented.

It was clear by the end of the meeting that answers must be found to a multitude of questions before any conclusion can be reached

regarding the costs and benefits of Shawnigan becoming a municipality. The committee must still select a chairperson and establish its terms of reference. Much work lies ahead, and it will take considerable time before a report on the work of the committee can be written. No doubt the community will be informed of progress in the pages of the Focus as headway is made.

If you are interested in participating in this governance project, please contact Al Brunet at 250-686-2704. All points of view are welcome, not just those which favour municipal status.

Check out our website:
Shawniganfocus.ca

Mason's Store
Family owned since 1956
Your one-stop convenience store.
We have everything:
Subs & Hot-Dogs - Slush - Instore Bakery - Lottery
Giftware - Greeting Cards - Balloons - Fax & Photocopy
Dry Cleaning - Rug Doctor - Hunting Licenses - Fishing Tackle
1855 Renfrew Road
Ph: 250-743-2144 Fax: 250-743-7883

VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS
Group Fitness | Personal Training | Weight Loss
Supplement Centre | Infrared Sauna | Tanning
Strength & Cardio Equipment | Free Weights
Valleyview Centre
#1-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd, Cobble Hill
Email: info@valleyhealthandfitness.ca
Web: www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca
Phone: 250-743-0511

Forest, lake and ocean view lots starting at \$199,000
Phase I - Trailhead Hamlet - 50% sold
Enjoy hundreds of acres of quiet, mature and protected forest, and open fields surrounded by parks, wetlands, hiking trails, equestrian and agricultural areas. Build your dream home in one of our residential clustered hamlets. Choose from eight model home designs or custom build your home according to our Forest Hamlet Design Guidelines.
Real Estate that Makes a Difference
Protecting the Forest and the Shawnigan Watershed
www.ElkingtonForest.com
Call 250-508-3299 for an appointment
at the Sales Centre, 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road.
ELKINGTON FOREST
YOUR PLACE IN NATURE

Shawnigan Weather January 2015
Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Average High	6.3	7.7	6.9	7.9	7.7	8.3	8.1	8.3	7.6
Average Low	0.5	2.8	1.4	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.3	2.0	1.0
Extreme High	15.0	13.2	11.8	13.2	14.0	13.8	16.0	13.5	14.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-2.2	-3.1	-3.4	-4.4	-2.5	-3.5	-4.0	-3.5
Precipitation (mm)	215.3	161.8	158.2	161.2	152.1	135.4	128.4	156.6	153.0
Days w precip	19	19	13	19	13	18	13	18	13
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	587.5	161.8	158.2	161.2	152.1	135.4	128.4	156.6	153.0

January 2015: 4th warmest 40th driest since 1914

Lake Temperature: Jan 4th: 4° Jan 11th: 5° Jan 18th: 5° Jan 25th: 5°
Lake Level Change: Jan 4th: 20-cm Jan 11th: +20cm Jan 18th: -5cm Jan 25th: +13cm



Few of us will forget the severe windstorm of November 6, 2014 that hit Shawnigan with a vengeance, causing major power outages, damage throughout the area, and general chaos. Another surprise windstorm hit the area, overnight on January 17th, and again, caused major outages and damage. Power was out in some neighbourhoods for up to two days; the East Shawnigan Road was closed for most of Jan. 18th - traffic was rerouted through Mill Bay because several big trees had fallen. One unfortunate boat owner lost two boats, parked on his property - a ski boat and a beautiful, vintage Peterborough - after a large tree dropped on both.

Director's Report - Area B

Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

It was my toes that hurt the most on New Year's Day. Heading out to join in the Shawnigan Shiver, I had made the mistake of wearing my funny five-finger shoes, which ensured that each toe was isolated from the others, unable to generate any heat at all. I had also made the mistake of arriving an hour too early.

I registered (number 01!), then headed back to the car for my warm socks and boots, and drove home to make some hot coffee. By the time I got back, many warm and wonderful folks had gathered on the beach and the festivities were well underway, and we soon found ourselves, for the briefest moment, bathing in the frigid lake water.

It has been one long plunge ever since – and sometimes into hot, not cold, water. Just as there's no way to prepare for the shock of the freezing cold Shawnigan Lake water in January, there's no way to truly understand the job of Area Director until it's underway.

The job seems to naturally fall into two broad and over-

lapping categories – community work and CVRD Board work. In the community, I feel continuously grateful for the many people who are putting so much effort into finding ways to bring us together and move us forward as a community. I feel very much a part of a number of formal and informal interconnected teams in Shawnigan, and I spend much of my time working and coordinating efforts with people in the community. There is an exceptional level of cooperation and support happening in Shawnigan, which is what makes events like Christmas in the Village, the Shawnigan Shiver, Family Day, and the Shawnigan Gathering possible. Next time you're enjoying one of these amazing events, consider the time and efforts of the volunteers who made them happen – these are the true heroines and heroes of our community.

Another side of my community work is hearing from people who have concerns, and trying to find ways to have these concerns addressed. As the first point of contact for many people with a broad array of issues, this important aspect can occupy a significant portion of my

time and energy.

The work at the Board table is complex, daunting, and at times, exhausting. We are beginning the process of examining and making decisions on the budget. I have just now returned from two Regional Committee meetings, which stretched from 3:00 to 9:30 pm. Faced with difficult and important decisions, the directors are all doing their best to ask relevant questions and to make informed choices.

Just as I erred on New Year's day by wearing the wrong shoes, I'll surely continue to make mistakes in this new and unfamiliar role. I'll try to do as I've done from the outset - seek the support and guidance from people I trust, be mindful of the thoughts and opinions of all who offer input, and try to do the best for the community.

--

Watch for a few upcoming changes in and around the Elsie Miles / Community Centre property:

- ★ The portable, which is used for storage and currently centrally located, will be relocated to the back of Elsie Miles School.



- ★ Some of the chain-link fence will be removed, and replaced where necessary with more attractive fencing
- ★ The porta-potty next to the Shawnigan Lake Museum will be removed, and a more functional public-access toilet provided on the site
- ★ The old Community Hall is slated to be torn down, and is scheduled to happen before summer.

How to get involved:

There are many ways to get involved in the community. The Parks Commission and

the Community Centre Commission will be having AGMs and elections in March. The Village Development Council, a group of volunteers working on a community vision for the Elsie Miles site, is open to any who would like to participate. The Trails Team, a volunteer group that will prioritize and move us forward on walking and cycling trails, is also open to anyone interested in getting involved.

Whatever your passion, there is an opportunity for you to participate! Check the list of community meetings in each issue of the Shawnigan Focus, or contact me at sfurstenau@cvrd.bc.ca



FUNDRAISERS FOR FRANCES KELSEY GRADS

METAL RECYCLING BIN at Mason's Store in Shawnigan Lake, which is open until May, 2015.

VALENTINE'S DANCE - Saturday, February 14, 2015, 8:00 pm to 12:30 am at Shawnigan Lake Community Center. Live Band MAXWELL SMART. Cash Bar. 50/50 tickets, Balloon pop prizes. Pizza by the slice after 11:00 pm. Tickets only \$20.00. Tickets can be picked up at Sun Life Financial at 2990 Horton Road, Mill Bay, BC. Call Nickie Williams at 250-743-7459 to arrange pick up of tickets or Lynn Mellemstrand at 250-715-7884. Must be 19 years to attend.

Thanks for supporting our 2015 Grads.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!
Get in shape and feel great with Ladies kickboxing fitness classes. Equipment provided. ~any fitness level ~ any body ~ tons of fun ~

LADIES BOX FIT CLASSES START FEB.3
8:45-9:45am Tuesday & Thursday \$60 per month (8 classes)
@Shanti yoga & meditation studio, 2740 Dundas St.
Call Rebecca to reserve your spot! 1-250-702-3837
*sign up and receive 50% off a full nutrition consultation and plan with Shawnigan Lake Nutrition Consulting

“theHive”
Integrated Business Centre
OPEN HOUSE

Join us for some light refreshments and meet our team of professionals.

~Yoga
~Meditation
~Nutrition Counselling
~Relationship & Life Coaching
~Insurance & Health Benefits
~Kickboxing

Saturday, February 28th 10am-4pm
Located in the heart of Shawnigan, @
2740 Dundas St.
(upstairs in the purple building)

Come see what the buzz is all about!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Shawnigan Residents Association Report

Victoria Robson
Acting Communications
Director

Shawnigan Lake Residents should be proud of the dynamic work and commitment achieved over this past year, fighting for its right to clean water. With overwhelming support, our community raised over \$250,000 to fight the Ministry of Environment granting a permit to South Island Aggregates allowing the dumping of 5 million tons of contaminated soil in our watershed, impacting the safety and security of 12,000 residents who rely on Shawnigan Lake as their primary drinking water source.

The sad news is that no decision has been made and more fundraising will need to occur in 2015 to pay for legal counsel and experts to back our protest.

To remind you of how much work has gone on this past year - here is a recap on events.

- ★ November 2013 the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) "ruled that the matter pertaining to the Environmental Management Act regarding an appeal to Permit PR-105809
- ★ November 2013 the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) "ruled that the matter pertaining to the Environmental Management Act regarding an appeal to Permit PR-105809
- ★ But February brought

Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd aka South Island Aggregates (SIA) would be conducted as a public hearing over a four-week period in March 2014."

- ★ The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) committed to raise the necessary funds to ensure that the appeal would be successful.
- ★ On Christmas Eve, SIA asked the EAB to lift its stay order and allow 40,000 tons of contaminated soil be dumped immediately on their property before the Board was to hear the appeal scheduled for March 2014. The SRA fought this decision.
- ★ In January 2014, a generous donation was made that produced the SRA's infamous billboard to help get the message out to the public about SIA's contaminated soil dump and the threat to our drinking water.
- ★ Later that same month a generous donation of \$30,000 from Shawnigan Lake School (SLS) was provided to support the SRA's legal action fund.

disappointing and stunning news when a decision by the EAB was released that varied its earlier ruling, and allowed SIA to dump contaminated soil into its landfill before the merits of the case were heard by the Board.

- ★ Again in February, in the spirit to fight such injustice, the SRA released a public service announcement with award winning Documentary Filmmaker Paul Manly. The film clip brought the issue to a new level which showed that contaminated soil dumping is not just about Shawnigan, but a concern for all British Columbians. As stated "when the will of big business trumps science and common sense, we must stand up and do what we can to stop the efforts of SIA from turning Shawnigan Lake into BC's toxic soil dump."
- ★ Early in March, the Nugent Family graciously sent out a challenge to the community asking people to send in their

contributions to the SRA and that those monies would be matched dollar for dollar to a maximum of \$10,000!

- ★ Another public event took place on March 27th as the SRA along with staff and students from SLS and Dwight International School, and a range of community members and groups rallied on the Legislative precinct in Victoria to bring awareness to the state of affairs.
- ★ In April, the community and Shawnigan Lake School raised an additional \$45,000 for the legal battle.
- ★ In May, a successful Black and White benefit gala, organized by Anne Marie Thornton helped raise funds.
- ★ All the while, the hearing dates were extended and the process finally concluded in July. We are still waiting for a decision.

Congratulations! The goal to raise \$250,000 was achieved!

However, even as we wait for a decision, the work to

fundraise will continue. We need to pay for the technical experts which were brought in for the hearing and for the excellent legal representation from our lawyers. While \$250,000 was raised, the bills are coming in and far exceeding this amount. The tally has reached \$629,000 given the extensive research and time involved in the extended legal hearings.

As we yield to the New Year of 2015, and the anticipated decision from the EAB and its outcomes as a result of that decision, the SRA will continue to fight protecting our environment, and our water. To that end, the SRA calls for renewed and resourceful energy from our members and the public to continue our fundraising efforts in 2015. If you are interested supporting our fundraising campaign, learning more, or joining the association please contact us at <http://www.thesra.ca/communications/contact-us>.

In the meantime, and most importantly, the SRA wishes to thank each and every one of you who have supported the SRA in this work.

Wishing you and yours the very best in 2015.



EDIE WRAGG DENTURIST INC.
BUS: 250.743.3311
Fax: 250.743.0737
Valleyview Centre
#18-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd.
Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L3



Welcome knitters! Come sit by the fire...

You are invited to join our monthly creative gathering of positive thinkers/doers! Bring your knitting, (or another creative project you might be working on), and be part of a relaxed evening, connecting, sharing, renewing...

7:15 PM, on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Check website for a variety of cozy studio locations.

INSPIRE! sponsors these regular informal

evenings with the continued vision of building strong community through the arts.

INSPIRE's AGM is coming up, Saturday, Feb. 21st, at 11:00 AM

The meeting is being held at the ART HOUSE, kitty corner to the purple building, "behind the cob bench" !

We are hoping to take a photograph of the team, from its origins to now.

Please feel free to join us!



RBC Royal Bank®

Get instant results with our Rate Loss Program.

Switch to an RBC Homeline Plan® credit line and pay only prime + 1/2% vs. prime +1% at your bank.

Join the thousands who have lost rate and saved thousands of dollars.

Introducing the RBC Rate Loss Program: a fast and easy way to go from paying 4% (prime + 1%) at your bank to 3.5% (prime + 1/2%) by switching to an RBC Homeline Plan® credit line. You could save as much as \$5,000 in interest payments* and worry less, sleep more and feel better. **And we'll even cover your switching costs!** So get with the program -- and lose the rate you've been carrying today.



Contact me today to find out more:
Emily Black
Mortgage Specialist
250-745-7692
emily.black@rbc.com

Advice you can bank on™

* We will pay the basic title insurance fee (not including migration fee), appraisals/property valuation fee and one discharge/switch out fee at another financial institution (up to \$300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance \$50,000. * Savings based on \$100,000 secured line of credit with interest being paid over 10 years comparing a 3.5% annual interest rate to a 4.0% annual interest rate. The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. Rate is effective as of September 20, 2011. Personal lending products and residential mortgages are provided by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. © / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. 39106 (09/2011)

Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Follow the White Rabbit....



It sort of sounds like an excerpt from Alice in Wonderland...and you just might feel like you are in the classic story when you follow what some know as the 'Rabbit Trail' behind Mill Bay Community

Centre on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.

The lower trail that follows Shawnigan Creek (aka Hollings Creek) guides you through bountiful greenery with several offshoot trails and points of interest that overlook the river. The river can be raging this time of year but it is slower and more inviting during the summer months. The lower trail leads us to a little beach area where you can practice your art of rock skipping, or just take a moment to be one with the bend in the river.

The upper trail also boasts plenty of fabulous peekaboo views of the river, as well, but with less of an incline. Following the upper trail past the little hall, which curves around bridge brings you to a great little spot where you can hear nothing but rushing water – this can be a wonderfully calming sound.

THE JACK LONG TRAIL

John Robert (Jack) was born in Vancouver the same year that the B.C. Forest Service was created. Always a passionate lover of nature, Jack's forty-year working life was spent with that Service. At age 21 he ran compass on one of their cruise jobs in Burns Lake; at 22 he was first hired under their Youth Forestry Training Program, later assigned to an VFP crew to build a trail and lookout at Boer Mountain.

By 1937 Jack had moved to Vancouver Island as a sub foreman developing Elk Falls Park near Campbell River; from there he was charged with founding the Quatsnoy Nursery, and by 1944, the BCIS nursery at Duncan. He

THE HARRISON TRAIL

Brian Harrison has a remarkable record of community service. Educated in the Cowichan Valley and the University of Victoria, Brian's successful career as an educator and school administrator is only part of the story. In addition to having been elected six times as Mill Bay - Malahat Area Director, he has acted as Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Brian has been an effective voice in representing this area's interests through many, many hours of discussion, meetings and debates. His love of sports (especially hockey) resulted in Brian serving as Chair of the Kerry Park Recreation Commission

OBIE'S CORNER

Obie Olson, a long time resident, was responsible for the famous white rabbit markers along the trail. Reputed by Obie in 2010, these have guided children of all ages around the trail loop since it was originally built.

KERRY PARK

Kerry Park is named after John Kerry, the generous benefactor who gifted this property to the Mill Bay Community League for the use and enjoyment of local residents.

The Community League was founded in October 1945 to further the community's common interests. Mr. George Frayne donated a small lot on the Shawnigan-Mill Bay roads for a community hall and offered to sell a block of 19 acres for \$1,600. The League did not have the funds and there was little prospect of raising such an amount.

Mr. John Kerry stepped in, purchased the property and made it available to the Mill Bay Community League on very favorable terms. Title to the property was later granted to the League as John Kerry's bequest to this community.

Today, Kerry Park is home to the Mill Bay Community League Hall, the Tennis Club, Kerry Park Recreation Centre, and a nature park and trails.

These trails were built and are maintained by volunteers like Obie.

and as Sports Director for the 2005 BC Seniors Games. Brian played a key role in the construction of the Kerry Park arena and recreation centre. He is presently (2011) on the Board of Directors for BC Hockey, and also serves on other sport and volunteer organizations.

Brian and his wife Gerry work as a team, and together they have a long history in supporting the Mill Bay Community League and especially Kerry Park. The 'Harrison Trail' is named in recognition of their combined efforts on behalf of our community.

Be happy for no reason, like a child. If you are happy for a reason, you're in trouble, because that reason can be taken from you -Deepak Chopra

Hand in Hand Thrift Shop

Trish Holland
Hand in Hand

A unique community venture, the "Hand in Hand" Thrift Shop opens on Saturday February 14, 2015 at St. John's Anglican Church, 3295 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill.

A Recipe For Community Success

Combine: a group of dedicated volunteers from two churches in the South Cowichan Valley.

- ★ Mix: together a stockpile of upmarket donations of clothing.
- ★ Add: a space with parking
- ★ Knead in: the fostering of community spirit.
- ★ Work: for hours to provide a sharp and tidy welcoming thrift shop in a charming village location
- ★ Result: you have the Hand

in Hand Thrift Shop at St. John's Anglican Church.

The Hand in Hand Thrift Shop, offering clean, gently worn ladies', men's and children's clothing, will have its inaugural opening from noon to 4.00 pm on Saturday, February 14th. After that, Hand in Hand will be in operation on Fridays from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Melissa Howard, of Sylvan United Church says, "Hand in Hand is a fun Christ-centred endeavour showing the community what great things can happen when people work together. The shop is small in size but big on quality and value. Our pricing is fair and we really want our neighbours and all those savvy thrift shop fans to have that 'Wow' experience when they walk through the door".

Trish Holland of St. John's Church echoes Howard's comments by stating "We all

really embrace the merits of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and thought, hey, this is a way we can work together and kick it up a notch for our community with value, quality and a fun experience."

Donations to the Hand in Hand thrift shop support our churches in helping a variety of local, national and global charities. It may be of interest to know that in 2014, St. John's Church contributed over \$30,000.00 to charities locally, and around the world. In addition to the monetary gifts, our church also provides a place for community programs to take place, and our members give their time volunteering in many activities and agencies that support the greater community.

For more information and to donate items to Hand in Hand please contact Trish Holland at 250-743-3095

Shawnigan Cemetery

EST 1965

"A Community Resting Place"

Information 250 929 6100

Maintained by
MALAHAT LIONS

CUTHBERT CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

South Facing Waterfront
OFFERED AT **\$699,000**

1950 sq ft totally renovated home on aprox .88 acre, beach and deep water moorage, dock included. Beautiful 600 ft deep lot, park like setting.

250-743-9000

Custom Homes, Custom Docks, Pilings, Concrete Piers, Excavations, Foundations, Drainage, Retaining Walls

ADVERTISE IN THE SHAWNIGAN FOCUS!
Great rates, great exposure! ads@shawniganfocus.ca

Helping you to help yourself: Friendly phones

Oriana Parker
South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society

Here's a simple and creative way to show a family member or a friend that you care about their wellbeing. The South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society has implemented the Friendly Phones program. It's a tool designed to help people help themselves. An SCCPA specially trained volunteer calls daily, at an appointed hour, from Monday to Sunday to make certain all is well. This service is absolutely free. Residents of South Cowichan who live alone, even for short periods of time, are eligible for this program. Single, widowed, senior or housebound, this program can add to your sense of security. It's an easy way to connect to your community. As well, it provides peace of mind for absent family and friends knowing you are on a daily community calling list.

One of our clients, who calls herself Ann, is a resident of Beach Estates in Shawnigan Lake. She

has been a client for over a year and has this to say about the program, "I've lived in the area for 26 years. I've been a recipient of that morning call now for some time and I look forward to it. It gets me up and starts my day. I recall the fanfare one morning when I had forgotten about the call and did not answer the phone as usual. Instead I went shopping with a friend. When I returned I had two very frantic neighbours looking for me and wondering what happened. In this respect it's nice to know that people will be on the lookout should I get into some emergency situation. I find the volunteer caller to be very friendly and we end up having a nice chat. She has been very helpful especially a few weeks back when we had that dreadful wind storm. I found that my backyard was littered with branches and I wanted them taken away as soon as possible. She suggested a service to me. I called, and without even noticing, someone came and cleaned up. Friendly Phones is a comfort to my children, those near and those who are scattered across Canada and the US. I'm so pleased with this service that

I have been mentioning it to my friends. Hearing a friendly and caring voice every day really makes me feel happier. My children are grateful because if they don't speak with me on a certain day, they know someone has."

The South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society's Mission Statement reads as follows: To build and strengthen bonds in the South Cowichan area by encouraging representation, input and feedback from RCMP, local businesses and residents. Our community policing programs will provide citizens with the opportunity to obtain the latest information on safety and crime prevention.

If you are interested in Friendly Phones you may drop by the SCCPAS office and pick up a brochure or speak to the office manager. All information is completely confidential. The office is located in the Mill Bay Shopping Centre #120-2720 Mill Bay Road. You may also contact us by phone: 250-929-7222 or email: sccp@shaw.ca or check out our website at www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca



Amber, Alice and Alice's mom

The Windstorm

Bruce Fraser
A view from the river

"It's an ill wind blows nobody good" is an old saying, attributed to Sir Walter Scott, that is well appreciated by our goats. The recent Shawnigan windstorm caused power outages, blocked roads, a narrowly missed research trailer, crushed outbuildings and a sleepless night with howling dogs. But for Alice and Amber, the Riverpool Farm goat herd (well, herd is a bit presumptuous) the wind brought a cornucopia of fresh forage. How were we to know that downed branches of Douglas fir, complete with a delectable fringe of lichens, were to be the California Salad of January to goats otherwise confined to net bags of months old hay and a bit of desert alfalfa trucked in from Alberta.

We are left wondering, however, if there is a downside to Douglas fir supplements. Amber was reputed to be gestating kids, having spent three months in the company of a billy with intentions. Here it is the end of the possible kidding period for Amber and she is neither fatter nor fresher. Could it be the acidic needles, the medicinal lichen, or just that she was unimpressed with billy's equipment? Alice is above such considerations as she

has yet to meet the billy of her dreams.

Each morning of late, the two goats have found branches woven into the wire of the pasture gate. When the barn door is opened they make a dash for the gate, not to see if the dogs are loose, but to get a bit of the new Koksilah Green. We are not sure if the other kind of Koksilah Green would elicit such excitement – that is an experiment yet to be tried. I suspect that "goats on the roof" may actually be a metaphor for getting high, not just high.

Not to be caught short, in case Amber were to become a mother and enter the ranks of the milkable, we have been practicing making cheese and yogurt from imported goat milk from the community farm store in Duncan. It is probably just as well that the kidding has been delayed, as our forays into cultural appreciation have had mixed success, with rubbery mozzarella, missing chevre cultures that have disappeared into the black hole of "things that can't be found in the kitchen" and runny Bulgarian goo. With practice, however, we are now ready with a killer Greek Yogurt. If we could get a Riverpool Farm supply of milk we would be able to begin the process of paying off the hundred year mortgage on the barn!



ALL SEASON COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
Power & Window Washing, Gutter Cleanout & Snow Removal
Planting, Pruning & Removal of Trees, Hedges, Perennials
Green Space, Yard, Site & Building Maintenance
Landscape Installations, Grass & Turf Care
Haulage, Small Moves & Junk Removal

SENIORS DISCOUNTS • FREE ESTIMATES • SERVICE PACKAGES

Paul Chorney: 250-510-5177
www.canopypropertieservices.com
Canopy Has You Covered!

FEBRUARY SPECIAL
with ...



Vanessa Martel
Certified Esthetician

Complementary
Eye Brow Shaping
(with any service)

Esthetics by Lois

**MANICURES • PEDICURES
FACIALS • WAXING • TINTING**

250-743-5559 

HOURS - Tuesday thru Saturday - by appointment
Evening appointments available

lois@estheticsbylois.ca www.estheticsbylois.ca
In Shawnigan Village @ 1755 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

Products we use and endorse :

- Dr Renaud – Skin Care
- O.P.I. Gel Colour/Polish
- Gewol – Foot Care
- Spa Binge Naturals – Vegan
- Young Blood – Mineral Cosmetics
- Cresty – Semi-Permanent Eyebrow Make-Up
- Footlogix for Feet
- BCL Spa Organics
- MICHA Lash Extensions

ADVERTISE IN THE SHAWNIGAN FOCUS!
Great rates, great exposure!
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Time to start training!

Sarah Malerby, Race Director
Shawnigan Lake Triathlon

On May 24, 2015, Shawnigan Lake will host the 9th Annual Shawnigan Lake Triathlon – powered by IRONMAN.

There are two great events to choose from:

- ★ Sprint – 750 m Swim, 22 Km Bike, 5 Km Run
- ★ Olympic – 1500 m Swim, 44 Km Bike, 10 Km Run

The swim takes place at West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park, the bike loop is around the lake and the run is on the Trans Canada Trail. This is Canada's first open water race of the season, so it is a popular race for those working up to longer distances later in the year.

This race is also host of the BC High School Championships – where youth from all over BC are coming to compete for the \$500 Top Prize. Shawnigan Lake School is a huge supporter of this event and will be working with IRONMAN to provide special opportunities and youth clinics to support high school athletes.

If you can swim, bike and run – just add a little practice and training – and you can do a triathlon! If you have two friends, and can produce a swimmer, biker and runner trio - you can do it a little easier on a relay team – all the while having a great

time with your friends!

If you are new or looking for training support or to hook up with other triathletes in the area, here are some local groups and resources to check out:

- ★ Aspire Triathlon Club (Shawnigan Lake): <https://aspiretriathlon.wordpress.com>
- ★ Ceevacs Roadrunners (Cowichan Valley): <http://www.ceeavacs.com>
- ★ Masters Swim Club (Cowichan Pool Duncan): Drop in – Mon & Wed 6:30 to 8:00 pm
- ★ Cycle Therapy (Duncan)– Bike Spin Classes & Group Rides - <http://www.cycletherapy.ca/>
- ★ South Cowichan Recreation (Shawnigan Lake): TC 10K Running Clinic – Sunday mornings - <http://www.cvr.d.bc.ca/index.aspx?NID=95> (See Recreation Guidebook)

There are also lots of great training plans available on-line – try a Google search for triathlon training plans or contact some of the above resources to find a personal coach.

If Triathlon sport is not for you, there is opportunity to get involved through volunteering. Lots of volunteers are needed to organize the Triathlon and the Shawnigan Triathlon Festival, so if you'd like to get involved – please send me an email or check our website/facebook page.

Happy Triathloning and hope to see you out on



the trails!

Email: sarah.malerby@ironman.com

Website: <http://ap.ironman.com/triathlon/events/americas/multisports/shawnigan-lake-triathlon>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShawniganLakeTriathlon>



An amazing kid!

Michelle Andruskievich
Dwight School

What goes into the making of an Amazing Kid? Ask Dwight School Canada student Madeleine Corwin!

Each year, CTV Vancouver Island & Save-On-Foods award fifty scholarships to students who demonstrate distinction in academics, the arts, athletics, leadership, or community service. Madeleine demonstrates drive and persistence, passionately pursuing her academic and dance goals while remaining connected to her philanthropic interests. Overcoming adversity is a familiar part of the journey. As a local student attending Dwight School Canada, Madeleine Corwin has always set the bar high and is poised to graduate with both the BC Ministry Dogwood Diploma and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma this Spring. The IB Diploma Programme, is a rigorous two year pre-university program that challenges students to balance their academic pursuits, passions and service work. “She is in the top of her class,” notes her teacher Kristy McLeod.

“Madeleine has a positive attitude, she strives for excellence, without putting others down.”

Coming from a family of dancers, her mother's passion for dance opened the world of dance to Madeleine and her siblings. Madeleine has been

dancing for 13 years, having studied contemporary, modern, character and tap dance, with her main focus on ballet. Madeleine studied a year at Canada's National Ballet School when, at 13, difficult circumstances required her to withdraw from the school. This setback did not slow down her passion for life, nor for dance. Madeleine continues to dance, practicing 12 hours a week in preparation for competitions in the Cowichan Valley this spring.

Her passion extends beyond dance as she is a philanthropist at heart, who enjoys finding ways to support and help others. Each week, she is one of a group of Dwight students that visits Acacia Manor, providing conversational opportunities that leave both youth and the elderly feeling engaged and connected, and also provide opportunities for residents to share conversation with the youth. Madeleine is also involved with the school Service Club and the Graduation Community Council. Her energy has involved engaging the Dwight community in fundraising efforts for building schools in Nepal, Haiti, as well as raising funds for the graduating class.

As one of several environmentally engaged and active students that live on campus at Dwight School Canada, Madeleine took it to heart to speak with community members about Shawnigan Lake's

watershed. Her courage, commitment and convictions were evident when she spoke at the Legislative Buildings in Victoria with a message to Save Shawnigan Water. A very articulate young woman, Madeleine hopes these efforts helped to make a difference. She intends to continue her studies while

pursuing a post-secondary degree in International Relations or Political Science.

Seventeen year old Madeleine has accomplished a great deal in a short time span and she is just getting started! She exemplifies a well-rounded young adult, positive in character and

passionate in how she engages with the world around her. We at Dwight applaud you for your accomplishments and your award Madeleine! The CTV Vancouver Island & Save-On-Foods “Amazing Kid” segment recognizing Madeline airs on CTV on February 5th. Don't miss it!!

Every Dwight School Student Shines Through Personalized Learning

Students like Madeleine excel at Dwight, where we offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum — recognized worldwide as the “gold standard” in pre-university preparation.

We welcome you to schedule a visit or spend a day as a Dwight student. Contact our Admissions Department. admissions@dwightcanada.org 250.929.0506

DWIGHT SCHOOL CANADA
Igniting the spark of genius in every child

PERSONALIZED LEARNING | COMMUNITY | GLOBAL VISION

Grades 6 – 12 | Weekday Boarding available
Diverse Extra-Curricular Program
Summer Leadership Academy
www.dwightcanada.org

Join a fire department... me?

Wes Hyde
Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

I grew up in Victoria and moved to Shawnigan Lake in 2005. Until then, I had thought that volunteer fire departments were only for remote areas and small islands. It was only after meeting my wife and watching her father run off to the hall when his pager toned, that I started to understand the volunteer fire service. I watched him go and wondered what type of incident he was heading to; it made my life seem boring and unimportant. I finally joined Shawnigan Lake Fire Department in 2008.

I did my best to learn where things were on the trucks and keep up on calls. I thought that I was working on my skills and knowledge and becoming a better fire fighter who was able to respond more efficiently to first responders, auto extrications, structure and wild land fires, technical rescues and more. Little did I know that I was improving much more than just my skills. Being a part of this department has helped me hone my values and ethics; it has given me confidence and a level of fulfillment that was missing in my life.

The fire department has satisfied my need to be part of a

team. As a teenager and young adult, I had enjoyed competitive sailing and rowing; I was craving the comradery that results from working closely with others to achieve a goal. The fire department is a team, but the stakes are not winning or losing, they are saving someone's life or house and property. This intense environment makes the team that much closer. I know that the friends I have made here can be depended on day or night. Furthermore, the leadership of veteran members has provided me with the guidance and mentorship I was lacking in my life with my father out of the picture. For myself, becoming a member of Shawnigan Lake Fire Department was a life changing event. It has given me a great deal – I am definitely a better person today because of it.

Being a fire fighter is a serious commitment; you give a lot to the team and community. However, I hope that if you read this you understand that the team and department gives back as well. You have the potential to pick up employable skills while gaining the confidence to do something that others think is crazy. You will also meet some amazing mentors and friends. If you are interested in learning more please check out our website at www.shawniganfire.com.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department Members Attended 19 Calls in December



- ★ Sunday, Dec 1st – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Sunday, Dec 1st – Alarms Activated on Cullin Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 1st – Hydro Lines on Tharratt Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 12th – Lift Assist with BCAS off Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 12th – Wash Down in the Village
- ★ Sunday, Dec 14th – Alarms Activated on Treit Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 16th – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 18th – Lift Assist with BCAS off Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 19th – MVI on Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 21st – 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 25th – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 25th – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Friday, Dec 26th – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 26th – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 26th – 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 28th – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 29th – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 29th – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 31st – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS



The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department is currently accepting applications for:

Fire Fighters & Junior Fire Fighters.

Applications can be obtained on the Department website: www.Shawniganfire.Com or on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Hall 1, 1645 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road.

Young Seniors Action Group Society

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

Up and Running in 2015

We are now well into our regular group activities, and also the special functions like our regular general meetings, Bingo and, after our successful trial, Sunday Matinee.

Our regular Bingo date has now moved to the second Tuesday of the months that

we have Bingo, the latest was on January 13th. Our winnings are small but so is the cost (25 cents per card). It's about the great company you enjoy with fellow players.

At our meeting on January 27th, our guest speaker was Dr. Joann Welham, a Chiropractor now located in Mill Bay.

Our second Sunday Matinee on January 25 was a great success and so we are plan-

ning another one on February 22. For further details contact us by phone or email (see below).

We just can't wait for the real Valentine's Day, so we will celebrate on February 10, when a Pot Luck Dinner is planned. Entertainment will be provided by the Norwegian Dancers from Victoria.

Again, our regular monthly meeting is the third Tuesday of the month, February 17.

The presentation details have not yet been confirmed.

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.



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



Nationwide Partner as of January 2015



FREE Roadside Assistance and Warranty to all our customers. Ask Us How!

Call and make appointment today!

250-743-2122

Full Service Save-On-Gas Station
WINTER HOURS Mon-Fri 7-7pm, Sat 9-7pm, Sun/Holidays 9-5pm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
1st Monday of the month. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday in February 2015. 7 pm at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
- ★ **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**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of each month 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
AGM - Saturday, Feb 21st 11:00 a.m. at the Art House
www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
AGM - Feb. 17th 7pm. at the museum. Show and Share and light refreshments following AGM business.
- ★ Mark your calendar for the **Gathering** - March 13th and 14th

**SHAWNIGAN MILL BAY
AUTO PARTS (1992) LTD.**
743-3355



**Mill Bay's
Auto/Marine
Parts Store**
Pioneer Square



Proud to Call the Island our Home
www.adamstreeservices.org

24 HOUR
emergency
service

ADAMS TREE SERVICE

- Tree removal
- Spiral thinning
- Tree topping
- Lot clearing
- Stump grinding & removal
- Hedge trimming & shaping
- Fruit & ornamental pruning
- Excavating & Bobcat work



Free estimates | 24 Hours **250-516-8315** Fully Insured | Since 2000



HARMONY TAILORS

Shawnigan Lake

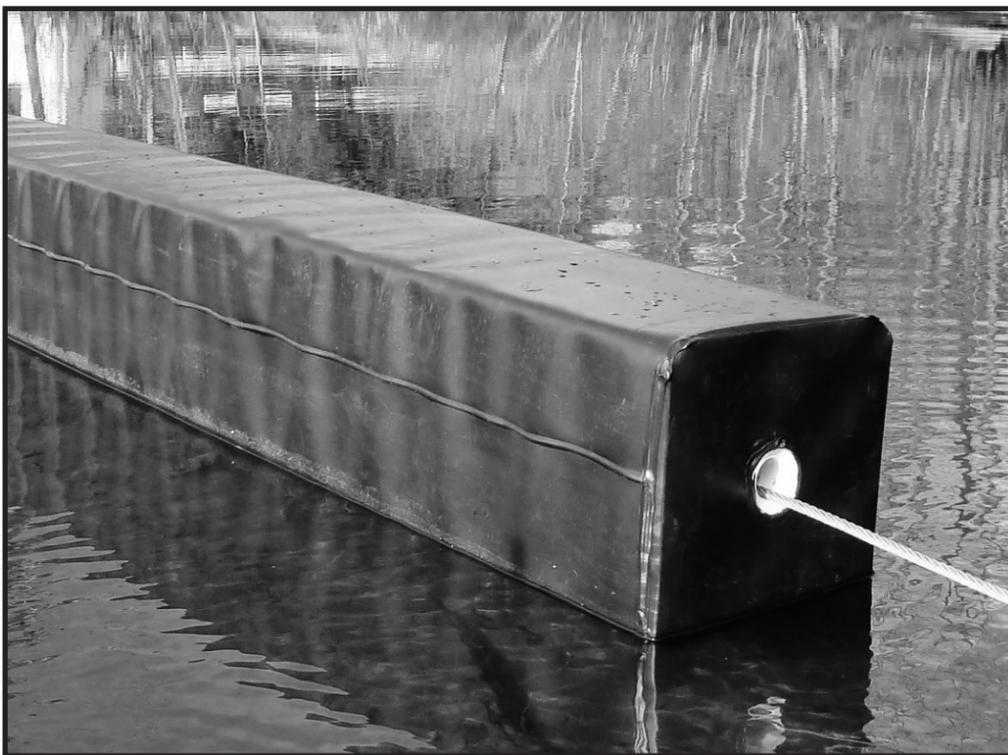
Repairs & Alterations
Custom Creations
Fine Dress Making

Nina Wang : 250-466-4206 / 250-929-4685

Finding the perfect harmony between pattern, design & you.



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 January was Paul Hatch who answer was selected for last month's photo showing the "bedspring" bridge that used to span Williams Creek on the way from Shawnigan to Port Renfrew.

Please see the article in this issue for more accounts about this memorable piece of our history.

Health - Fitness - Strength - Peace of Mind



Daily Yoga
AcroYoga, Aerial Dance
All Levels - Drop-in welcome!

KALI YOGA

Nicola Cusi Yoga Centre

nicolacusi@yahoo.ca
250 466 0006
www.kaliyoga.ca

Ben  Kotler, MA
REGISTERED
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR



www.feelchange.ca

SHAWNIGAN LAKE 2721 Shawnigan Lake Road **250-634-1634** info@feelchange.ca

Weekends Worth Waking Up For!

Saturday & Sunday Breakfasts starting at 8AM



featuring
FULL ENGLISH BREAKFASTS
EGGS BENEDICT
and introducing
"SHAWNIGAN SCRAMBLES"

OPEN DAILY AT 11AM
WEEKENDS FROM 8 AM
250-929-8886

Village
hipperly
.com

LUNCH • DINNER • LICENSED
SATURDAY & SUNDAY BREAKFASTS

FREE DESSERT

With reservations made before February 12th
for Valentine's Day Weekend - February 13/14/15

www.villagechippy.com • LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
2740 Dundas Road, Shawnigan Village

The Williams Creek Bridge: Gone but not forgotten

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Last month's "What Is It" contest stirred up memories for quite a few readers. We have printed some of the replies below.

I have my own memories of this bridge. Once, in the late 1950s, I remember my mother took us on a drive out that way and, when we got to the bridge, I got out of the car and scared my small self, looking over the side. I remember there was a "bow wave" as the bridge deck moved in response to heavier vehicles.

Years later, about 1992, my friend Mark Goodall had read about what a great bike ride it was from Shawnigan to Port Renfrew and how, although closed to motor vehicles, you could still go over on a bicycle. We set off on hot summer day and, after hours of pedalling, got to where the bridge had been – they had demolished it for liability reasons just the week before! We had people expecting us in Port Renfrew so decided to look for another route and ended up pedalling many more kilometres almost to Lake Cowichan and then back towards Port Renfrew where we arrived, exhausted at dusk, but luckily still in time for a restorative beer (might have been several) at the pub.

Rolf Grass: *Of course, it's the old Port Renfrew Bridge. But shouldn't it say "Where was it?" not "Where is it?" Anyhow, if you are younger than 50, you probably won't remember it.*

Barb Fedun: *I remember going across the bridge in dad's truck and the bridge moved as we went across. It seemed like one could drive right off the bridge into the canyon - kinda scary :-)*

Shawn Wright: *... I have many memories of crossing it on fishing trips to Harris Creek and other areas on the West Coast. When I last visited, there were still some timbers and cables remaining in the forest at the edge of the canyon. It was always a thrill crossing this bridge, which was not visible until you were on it.*

IRC Fraser: *The picture is the suspension bridge on the Renfrew road. It is located about 22 kms. along Renfrew road. BCFP*

removed it years ago because of its poor condition. It was built originally for the men who went home on the weekends from the logging camp in Port Renfrew. The train used for logging would bring the men up to the bridge; they would walk across where they kept their cars on the Shawnigan side. The train was always run by Waddy Weeks, who ran it until it was replaced by logging trucks. Waddy drove the first logging truck that came to Renfrew after the train was parked. After the tracks were removed you could drive your vehicle all the way into camp. They always worried someone would cross with a heavy machine, and fall through, so years later they removed it.

Paul Hatch: *The picture is of a bridge spanning Williams Creek on the Shawnigan to Port Renfrew Rd.*

It's known as a reverse suspension bridge. I believe it is no longer in existence ...

Jeff Chappell: *... the old way to span a gorge.*

Kate & John Roberts: *It is the old suspension bridge on the logging road on the way to Port Renfrew. My husband and I crossed that bridge several times in the 70s and it always was a little scary as we descended down into the middle across the canyon.*

Dan Salmon: *Old Renfrew Road suspension bridge...*

Richard Pope: *That picture, of course, is of the Williams Creek Bridge which, if I remember correctly, was about 40 kms west of Shawnigan on the old road to Port Renfrew. It was known as "an inverted suspension bridge". Alas it is no longer there ...*

Rick Mason: *The Williams Creek suspension bridge on the Port Renfrew road.*

Ross Hagel: *This bridge spanned Williams Creek on the Shawnigan Lake to Port Renfrew Road, on southern Vancouver Island. It was known as a reverse curve bed spring suspension Bridge. It was removed a few years after this photo was taken ...*

Peter Dale: *... the old suspension bridge on the road from Shawnigan to Renfrew.*

Robert Taylor (or son of): *my Dad says it is the old cable bridge on the old road going from Shawnigan to Renfrew for logging. He said it is no longer there.*

Theresa Nikirk: *... the*



The memorable Williams Creek Bridge

Williams Creek Suspension bridge. The location is on the old Shawnigan Rd to and from Port Renfrew at about 17 mile mark.

Joe Maurer: *the old cable bridge we used to drive over going from the back of Shawnigan/Renfrew road towards Jordan River*

and Port Renfrew. The bridge is now closed to vehicles.

Tiffany Weatherston: *... Bedspring Suspension Bridge over Williams Creek - on your way to Port Renfrew from Shawnigan Lake.*

Trisha Bland: *I miss the ac-*

cess the bridge provided to the West Coast! It's a much longer trip via Sooke or Lake Cowichan ...

David Barnes: *It's the reverse curve bed-spring suspension bridge. It was over Williams creek on the Shawnigan lake to Port Renfrew road ... hope I win!*

Who makes Shawnigan Lake a better place to be?



This is your chance to participate in the COMMUNITY AWARDS to be presented at the SHAWNIGAN GATHERING on March 14, 2015
This year the theme is COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY.

Nominate an individual/business/group in our community that makes a difference.

Two awards will be given to either a business/group, and four awards given to individuals.

Provide the name of your nominee and a brief explanation why they deserve a community award.

NOMINEE

Name _____

Telephone _____

email _____

CATEGORY

Individual

Group

Business

Please provide your name and contact information.

NOMINATOR

Name _____

Telephone _____

email _____

Drop your completed nomination form at the one of the following village locations - Village Chipperry, Shawnigan Coffee, Style Centre Barbershop, Shawnigan Lake Museum

OR mail to

Shawnigan Gathering, PO Box 331, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

OR email to

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Family Day 2015
Get your Passport to Shawnigan and explore your community. Available at the Museum and Chipperry.
Wind-up activities Monday Feb 9th at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre 1-2