

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eight- Issue Twelve

December 2017

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Join us for the 5th Annual Shawnigan Shiver!

January 1st at Government Wharf Park
Registration begins at 11:15 AM



Art by Françoise Moulin

Take the 'plunge' at noon

- ❄️ \$2 Registration
- ❄️ \$5 includes a Shawnigan Shiver Toque
- ❄️ Hot Drink, cookies and fun included
- ❄️ Annual 'Shiver' button for swimmers that get wet-to the waist
- ❄️ Sponsored by the Shawnigan Focus

More Info:

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Happy Holidays from The Focus

Dave Hutchinson and Lori Treloar
Co-Editors

First, we would like to extend a big thank you to the many people who volunteer their time to produce this monthly focus on Shawnigan.

The Shawnigan Focus is produced by volunteers who believe that by publishing and distributing the Shawnigan Focus to all members of our area we will help build an engaged community...

Kim Hennecker who keeps us in line with our ad accounts, and helps advertisers to create great ads; Taryn Treloar who manages the layout; Janet Neilsen who distributes the non-posted copies on her monthly paper route, and the proofers: Marcy Green, Pete Nash, Bernie Lewis, Sally

Davies, Bev McCooey, Linda Nelson and Monica Foster.

Thank you, also, to the many writers who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the paper, through letters, community reports and articles. We are proud to produce a forum that speaks to Shawnigan issues.

And thank you to all of the researchers who kept the community informed about the issues with the contaminated waste site. We have covered some meaty issues in the last few years in a professional and competent manner.

We also appreciate our out-of-town supporters who subscribe to the Focus so that they can keep in touch with what is happening in the community.

Last, but not least, thank you to all of the advertisers who support this community endeavour. We would not be able to produce, print and post the Focus without you! The Focus never intended to make a profit...and does not. Volunteers receive no compensation for their efforts in the production, publication and distribution of the Shawnigan Focus. However, there are costs associated with ensuring that the Shawnigan Focus is shared with the community. This is where the advertiser becomes an important and integral partner in the process. Without the support of advertisers, the Focus would not be possible. We encourage all of our readers and members of the Shawnigan Lake community to support our advertisers at every opportunity.

5TH ANNUAL SHAWNIGAN SHIVER

Entry form & liability waiver

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Rules & Guidelines

- ★ Children must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times.
- ★ No jumping off dock, no wet suits, no alcohol, footwear is required. Anyone with heart problems - just watch, please!
- ★ Don't stay in the water more than 10 min.
- ★ Release of liability, waiver of claims, assumption of risks and indemnity: In consideration of the shawnigan shiver swim organization accepting this entry, i hereby acknowledge the inherent risk, hazards and dangers involved in participating in the shawnigan shiver swim, including loss of consciousness, hypothermia, heart attacks and other Life-threatening conditions due to large and sudden changes in environmental temperature. I hereby assume and accept any and all risk of my injury, paralysis or death and agree to abide by all shawnigan shiver swim rules, regulations and guidelines. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors and administrators, hereby waive and release, indemnify and hold harmless the shawnigan shiver swim organization, their sponsors and any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits, expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care and negligence of any kind or nature, whether foreseen or unforeseen, arising directly or indirectly out of any damage, loss, injury paralysis or death to me or my property arising out of my participation in the shawnigan shiver swim.
- ★ If under 18 years of age, parent or guardian must sign below:
- ★ In consideration of the above minor being permitted to participate in the shawnigan shiver swim, I, the undersigned parent and/or guardian of the above minor, or himself/herself & on behalf of said minor hereby join in the foregoing release, waiver, assumption of risks & indemnity, & hereby agree to save and hold harmless & indemnify the shawnigan shiver swim organization, their sponsors & any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care
- ★ Negligence made or brought by said minor or by anyone on behalf of said minor, as a result of said minor's participation of the shawnigan Shiver swim.

Name of Guardian: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby confirm that I am in good physical condition and do not suffer from any disabilities or physical conditions. should prohibit my participation in the Shawnigan Shiver swim.

That places me at risk or otherwise I hereby affirm that I fully understand the preceding paragraphs and volunteer to participate at my own risk.

Participant: _____ Signature: _____

Witness: _____ Signature: _____

Happy Retirement from a fulfilling career



Oriana Parker,
SCCPAS

Sergeant Scott Stephen, RCMP Detachment Commander for Shawnigan Lake, is retiring in January 2018.

Looking back, he can pinpoint when and why he decided to join the RCMP. He

was born and raised in Lanigan, Saskatchewan which sits between Yorkton and Saskatoon and is home to one of ten active potash mines. The area is known as “The Land of Potash” because it makes up the world’s largest commercial potash mining belt.

Reminiscing about his child-

hood, Sgt. Scott recalls, “The population of our town was about 1400, most people knew one another and this was the same with the RCMP members. They lived here, they were our friends and neighbours, our coaches, our leaders, our protectors, and most, importantly, our first responders. I, too, envisioned a career in the force because I saw first hand the difference they made in my community.”

He continues, “It’s a dangerous and often under-appreciated job but it’s very rewarding, especially when you can save a life. Pulling a drunk driver off the road can avert a crash or a pedestrian being hit in a cross walk. Writing traffic tickets can change the driving habits of countless drivers, preventing death and lots of pain and suffering. We constantly put

ourselves in harm’s way to save innocent and defenceless people and animals. I am proud to say that even with the smallest things we do, we are looking towards sparing our friends, neighbours and community from crime and loss of life.”

Prior to joining the RCMP, Sgt. Scott graduated from the University of Saskatchewan. He served in detachments all over Alberta, in Nunavut, and little settlements in the Arctic. His wife Pam accompanied him to these isolated places and his gift to her was to seek placement on Vancouver Island just before retiring. Pam is from Victoria and she and Sgt. Scott have two boys.

Reflecting on his four years as Detachment Commander, he says, “Managing and leading the detachment carries with it

many responsibilities and headaches. We see people at their best and their worst. Sometimes it gives me great pleasure to leave my desk job and go out in the field with my fellow officers. There is a special camaraderie shared between us! We will go to great lengths to support one of our own!”

Sgt. Scott has enjoyed a satisfying and successful career and is looking forward to getting a full uninterrupted night’s sleep and of sleeping in and enjoying his day with his family. Of his career, he says “Police work is one of the best jobs! It has been a pleasure interacting with the South Cowichan Community Policing Office – it’s a relationship that is good for the community. As well, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!”



Volunteers braved the elements on November 3, to do additional work on the trails of Old Mt Baldy.

The group tackled the cleanup of the branches and smaller trees down due the snow to keep the main trail open for users. Over the coming months we will be having more work groups out to carry on with the enhancement of the trail network on our newest Park for Shawnigan Lake.

Please watch for notices. All community members are welcome.

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS - DECEMBER 2017

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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.

The Shawnigan Focus is

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Additional copies are available in The Village.

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Safety barrier posts: good idea or thoughtless waste of money?



Last month's "What Is It" contest depicted one of the white reflective barrier posts recently installed along Renfrew Road between Mason's Store and Worthington Road.

They are a controversial topic and we received many responses both for and against. Excerpts are printed below.

Comments from Ministry of Transportation representative:

The delineators were installed on Renfrew Road to act as visual barrier; they are there to act as an additional aid, along with the fog line to advise drivers that they are crossing over into the shoulder of the road. They were paid for by CVRD and meant to aid in the security of the people that live in the area for walking, cycling etc. I have had our District Engineer out and walk the area with me and had her approval as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure are the property owners.

Comments from a bicycle enthusiast:

I can answer the first two parts of your quiz, Where and What, but I have no idea about Why.

- ★ *Where: North side of Renfrew Road, between Mason's Store and Worthington*
- ★ *What: Plastic bollards mounted in the highway shoulder*
- ★ *Why: Presumably to increase business for autobody shops, but that's only a guess*

It's possible that these items provide some sense of safety for pedestrians as I do see a number of young people walking between Shawnigan Lake School and Mason's plaza. However, against this is a greatly increased negative interaction between cyclists and some motor vehicle drivers. Cyclists such as myself are not likely to ride on the shoulder, with those obstacles on their left side, because that portion of the roadway now appears to be a sidewalk, where cycling is forbidden by the Motor Vehicle Act. And for any who do choose to ride there, encountering pedestrians will now cause a cyclist to make a much more sudden and dramatic excursion onto the roadway, increasing the risk of collision with passing motor vehicles. Prior to the installation of these hazards there was enough room for cyclists and pedestrians to pass without the cyclist having to move much beyond the fog line, but

that is no longer possible. And these things do nothing to increase civility. Since their installation I have been subjected to verbal abuse from passing motorists who object to my riding on the roadway, which the Motor Vehicle Act requires me to do if the new "separated" area is indeed a sidewalk.

Comments from a new resident:

These white metal poles serve as road markers for driver's to clearly show where they should not be driving since the area on the inner side of the poles is designated for pedestrians to walk safely on. Since there aren't any

overhead street lights, they help drivers to see better in the dark and not go off the road or hit a pedestrian during daylight hours.

We have just moved here and thought these markers were a wonderful idea. I hope the town continues to keep them up since I notice some are missing and one has recently been hit. Proves they do the job don't you think.

Comments from someone who likes the Focus!

It's sad to see some of them have already been knocked out or broken.

Great little newspaper - Thank you



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Homestay Families Needed

(We have a greater need for homes wishing to host male student)

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- Be open to new cultural experiences
- Integrate your student into your family life and share activities together
- Have transportation and the ability to pick up students occasionally
- Provide a private bedroom with a desk, dresser and closet
- Provide healthy meals and snacks

Families are paid \$850 per month

Report from Frances Kelsey Secondary School

Kris Vopnfjord
Guitar Teacher

Q it up and get in The Zone as students record music and song.

Frances Kelsey has a new program for students from grades 9 through 12 called Recording Studio.

It is an exciting time for students and educators in British Columbia! As our new provincial curriculum unfolds, we see great potential in new learning opportunities, new private/public partnerships and the ability to inspire students with new

courses that may not have been offered in the past.

Through the generous and ongoing support of 100.3, "The Q," and 91.3, "The Zone," we have been able to purchase recording equipment, instruments and gear which allow students to create, record, mix, master and share music of their own creation. Students in the class book time in the studio to record their classmates. In preparation for studio time, a teacher guides them through the process; song and lyric writing, working successfully in a group, sharing and shaping

ideas, translating ideas into a recording, and then sharing it digitally with the world.

In the near future, our students will manage the studio themselves. Although we are in early days, many songs have been written and recorded in Kelsey's Studio and the results are inspiring. Three school bands are currently slated to begin recording albums in 2018. Look for our Kelsey Recording Studio to be a part of our excellent school website this year and listen to the talent of our youth in the south end of the Cowichan Valley.

Report from Discovery Elementary

Shayla Symes
Student

Discovery Elementary School has many amazing activities going on! One of our main activities is Young Entrepreneurs. The grade 6 and 7 students are making some really interesting products. They will be selling them in the gym on December 19th. We are very excited for everyone to see all our products and we are having fun learning

how to start a business.

We are also having a winter concert this year on December 7th. A big thank-you to our talented music teacher, Mrs. Williams! Classes will be performing songs from Frozen, Elf, The Nutcracker, The Grinch, and much more.

One of our favourite things to do at Discovery is exercise. We recently participated in soccer, field hockey, cross

country running, and now we are doing basketball. We also do a school run every Friday.

Leadership students love to help out with dances, plays and spirit days. Our school has so many wonderful students that help make us a community.

I'm so proud to be a student at Discovery Elementary and am glad they are such a warm, welcoming school to everyone.

The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department presents its annual

SANTA RUN

Wednesday, December 20th
6 pm to 9 pm

Santa visits the Beach Estates starting at Ceylon Road, making his way to Linden Lane. On the East side, Santa starts in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnum Park area. Santa will be making his first-ever visit to the Cougar Ridge salt shack to meet with the neighbourhood children, then on to Shawnigan Station.

DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD BANK GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Queen's Corgi
(On Purpose)

by **David Mitchie**
Published by *Conch Books*
Copyright by *Mosaic Reputation Management 2016*

Finding a light and easy book for December wasn't as easy as I thought it would be; so it was a relief to discover this one. "The Queen's Corgi" combines three things I enjoy: a dog story, interesting information about Queen Elizabeth, plus some gentle spiritual teachings to ponder.

Quite a tricky formula, but Mitchie manages to write an engaging and humorous story that touches the heart and feeds the soul.

Nelson is a little corgi puppy who is

rescued from unscrupulous breeders by the Queen's lady-in-waiting. He is taken from a chaotic setting and introduced to the grand rooms and ordered ways of Windsor Castle, where he spends his first night in the Queen's bedroom. In a sweet little vignette, he whimpers several times in the night and is quickly dealt with. "We can't have this", said the Queen, getting out of bed and lifting him on top of it. He happily snuggles in and his new life begins.

His companions are two older corgis. The leader, Winston, named after the famous Prime Minister, is an ancient dog of great wisdom who kindly mentors the pup. Margaret, a rather rules-ridden but well-meaning dog, teaches him the ropes. After nipping the ankles of a well-known trade union leader, she was immediately named after the formidable Ms. Thatcher. The Royals

seem to enjoy these inside jokes.

Together, the three dogs follow the Queen and the Royal Family on daily rounds of appointments, walks and receptions. Not only do they provide companionship and entertainment, but they also conveniently clean up any dropped vol-au-vents or pastries.

Nelson eventually learns good manners after a series of embarrassing incidents and finally receives his name after he makes a heroic intervention. The question of whether his namesake is Horatio Nelson or Nelson Mandela doesn't seem to worry anyone. It is decided that he has qualities of both and has the makings of a great diplomat.

Throughout the book, Nelson learns many lessons from a variety of teachers: from Winston to horse trainers to the Archbishop of Canter-

bury to Michael, a mysterious figure who inhabits the castle. But, most of all, it is the Queen who teaches him how to live a good doggy life. In this story she is cast as a positive role model. "She was a living, breathing example that a fulfilled and purposeful life arises when we use whatever abilities we have for the greater good. Do small things with great love."

David Mitchie is known for his "The Dalai Lama's Cat" series and other stories relating to Buddhism. He manages to tell a good yarn while tucking in a few teachings, and, for the most part, it works.

Pair this with a slice of Christmas cake or shortbread, and serve with a glass of eggnog. And, if you're lucky, read it snuggled up to a warm, furry creature.

Rating: 4/5 stars

Give a gift that goes generations

Yuri Murakami,
Naturopathic Doctor,
OUR Ecovillage

For many of us, it is a time of year for doing the gift shopping. But before making a shopping list year, we want to challenge you to think of the bigger picture. What is a sustainable model of gift giving?

First, the gift should leave as low an ecological footprint as possible. Shopping from local markets, craft fairs, or making a gift yourself would be a great idea, especially for the children, helping to be in touch with the idea of supporting the community they live in. For the adults, a wonderful gift

can be a service, and not goods which may end up in a landfill. A meaningful service like self-care and time, where people can experience something memorable, are as gift-worthy as anything you can put in a gift box

You can also show your thoughtfulness and care by giving a service to a loved one. This can be much better than things that come in packages.

And last, how about a gift that has a positive impact for many generations to come? Supporting the community and the projects that serve the future can be also an amazing gift and will be remembered by future generations.

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn
Manager

I would like to introduce myself as the new manager of the South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre. I have most recently been at the Cowichan Lake branch but have worked in all the Cowichan Valley libraries over

the past ten years.

Judy Baxter set a high standard here for more than ten years, helping make this library a wonderfully popular place. Everyone at the South Cowichan library looks forward to continuing that level of service.

We are now lit up for the holidays and getting busy again.

The recent storms have seen regulars, as well as new arrivals, coming in for novels and DVDs to help pass the long dark evenings.

We're open every day except Sunday so if you need any help with a reading recommendation, digital resource, or just have a question, please stop by!

Family law: Separation- The Nicole & David story

Kathleen Code
Alinea Legal Coaching

The story of Nicole and David is a fictional narrative - the first of a series that follows the couple as they make their way through the family law process in BC.

After 15 years of marriage and three children, Nicole and David have decided to separate. David often works overseas and has decided to remain there in company housing. He wants the children to visit and learn about the culture and the work he does. In addition to looking after the children and David's aging mother, Nicole works part time as a massage therapist. David has missed two mortgage payments, but Nicole can't afford the mortgage on her own and her own health is starting to deteriorate. Nicole is furious and scared for her future. She has no idea what to do

or how to make David pay the mortgage.

A separation occurs the moment one party indicates to the other that they are ending the relationship. A couple does not need a declaration from the court or an agreement to make the separation "legal." However, once you are separated, it is important to start taking steps to arrange your parenting and financial affairs accordingly. There are also important time limits to apply for spousal support and to divide property, debt, or a pension.

While Nicole and David agree about parenting styles, Nicole knows she has to address the mortgage and property issues right away, and she is worried about the proposed overseas visits and how to keep the finances from overwhelming her. David is away and doesn't seem interested in the details and says he'll

do what he can. Nicole researches her legal options, and once she has a legal plan and budget in place, writes up a separation agreement. It's an agreement she believes is fair and responsible, and includes owed and ongoing mortgage payments. David proposes revisions, which Nicole's lawyer reviews to ensure her interests are protected. Nicole and David sign the agreement.

This document becomes a binding agreement and requires the signature of at least one adult witness. However, it can only be enforced if it is filed with the court. Nicole is confident David will abide by the agreement, but after two missed support payments, she files the agreement with the court.

Next topic: Mediation

For further information about legal coaching, planning and budgeting, contact Laurel Dietz at Alinea Legal Coaching.



Mason's Store
... wish our
Shawnigan Lake friends
and customers a ...
**Happy
Holiday Season!**

OPEN EVERYDAY
Monday - Friday 6:30 AM - 11:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS
Christmas Eve 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Christmas Day CLOSED
Boxing Day 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
New Year's Eve 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
New Year's Day 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

"We are all one. Only egos, beliefs and fears separate us." - Unknown

A Season to be grateful

Sonia Furstenau
MLA

The holiday season is upon us. There are many traditions celebrated at this time of year, and one thing that connects all of these traditions is gratitude.

I would like to reflect, as we end our legislative session, on the things I am grateful for.

I am grateful to the staff at the Legislature, including the Sergeants-at-arms, maintenance staff, cleaning staff, the restaurant staff; and the clerk's office, for helping us navigate parliamentary procedure, the librarians for responding so quickly to reference questions, and the pages who tend to us while the house is sitting. These dedicated individuals make the old stone building a warm and welcoming place to be.

I am grateful to the exceptional staff and volunteers in

our legislative and constituency offices, who have provided me with everything I need to feel empowered and successful in this very serious responsibility of being an MLA.

I am grateful for the relationships I have developed with many members of the house, in government and opposition, these last few months, and for the hardworking ministerial and government staff who have helped me to be effective in my work.

I am grateful to the press for the work they do to communicate to the public what is happening with their government.

I am grateful for how much I've learned from people who have reached out to me from the various organization and advocacy groups. These past six months have been akin to a high intensity university program - which, given how much I liked attending university,

this is pretty much a dream come true.

I am grateful for my community in the Cowichan Valley, and to the community groups, local governments, and countless volunteers who keep our social programs working, often without the resources necessary to meet their needs.

Finally, I am grateful for my family. My amazing and supportive husband Blaise has held the fort while I am down here, and my children are looking forward to their mom being home more often. I am sure everyone understands when I say I am looking forward to curling up on the sofa with my kids for a good long cuddle.

I recognize what a gift and a blessing this role is - it is a serious responsibility, but also extraordinary opportunity to make a positive difference.

The Museum

Sunny Flaman-Taylor

The Shawnigan Lake Museum is a great place to go. With its friendly entrance, family and friends will be lost in a world of wonder! In 1983, the old Fire hall (created in 1950) became the home of the museum. Lori Treloar, is the Curator and Executive Director. My mother, Gaileen Flaman is a Board Member along with nine others. I hope to be a volunteer at the museum one day. So, I am inspired to be like my mom!

Lots of people think the museum is tiny from the outside, but "do not judge a book by its cover!". The museum has lots of exhibits from when pioneers settled in the area, like a barn with old tools and an old schoolhouse. There is also a little general store and a parlor with a gramophone. Sometimes I like to sit in the super

great theater with its red velvet chairs and big screen! There are many interesting videos and photos from the past. Lots of the images are from previous Canada Day celebrations.

If you are interested, you can go to the museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 4:00pm. According to TripAdvisor it has 5 stars! So, if you like this article, go ahead and check out the museum!!!

I really hope that this article will be printed in The Focus and posted on the website (www.shawnigan-lakemuseum.com) as a way to volunteer for the museum. Oh, and why do I want to be a volunteer? I would like to become a volunteer because I am going to need something fun to do on the weekends. Well, now do you believe it's amazing place to go to?

Director's Report

Sierra Acton
Director Area B

Holiday Joys of Shawnigan

The holiday season has arrived. Along with the season comes a special sense of community. We share a collective concern for our lake and this has created a special bond of hope and unity for all of us here in Shawnigan. In the spirit of hope and giving, many volunteers are already busy collecting, pledging and collaborating for multiple charities and neighbours alike (there are various groups on Facebook etc. if you would like to get involved.) I am always in awe to hear about the behind the scenes work that goes on in our community...we are truly blessed! I would like to honour all the volunteers in our community from coaches, tutors to trail blazers. Your hard work, dedication and love for community are so appreciated. Hug a volunteer today!

Love it!

With the season of hope, we can see the revitalization of Shawnigan taking place. Various projects are underway or complete. For example, the revitalization of the Elsie Miles Park (in the village centre) where our new timber-framed pavilion and park project is a perfect example of the hope and vision that we see for our village. This will be the heart of the village: connecting the community centre, museum and village core. Our future

also holds the Shawnigan Lake Museum expansion and Rail with Trail project which will create a peaceful walking trail from Mason's Beach to Old Mill Park along the unused tracks at the lakes edge. In addition, we recently welcomed a new business to the area; "Montra Thai Eatery" a Thai bistro that wowed us straight away and has already become the talk of the Valley.

Share it!

The Shawnigan Community Centre also looks to the future in hope of revitalization. The Shawnigan Lake Commission (a volunteer group that advises on decisions made for the community centre) strives to revitalize the centre with a peaceful, loving atmosphere for the whole community to share. An internet cafe is in the works and design plans are being discussed so that provincial and federal funding can be obtained for the 25th anniversary of the centre in 2019. The Commission dreams of cozy comfortable setting, a cafe and a patio view of the lake. That dream will be realized with a bit of gas tax funding, elbow grease and determination and is slated for a 2018 Spring project, with additional plans for the Centres 25th anniversary in 2019.

Protect it!

At the Cowichan Valley Regional District, budget season is over and proposed budgets for 2018 can be previewed at www.cvrld.bc.ca. This month we also came together with various groups to help address

the growing concern of illegal garbage dumping in Shawnigan. In conjunction with the Shawnigan Residents Association, the CVRD will be implementing a few strategies in the New Year to try and combat this issue (stay tuned for more details.) I have boasted before about the Shawnigan Research Group who continue to work behind the scenes in an effort to have the contaminated soil removed -thank you SRG for the continued hope you bring. To complement these efforts, the long awaited Soil Bylaw (for regulating the deposit of soil) has finally been sent to the Province for approval and we are anticipating a quicker than usual turn around since we have such an influential and hard-working MLA to help expedite the approval.

This is a wonderful time of year to share and enjoy the community spirit here in Shawnigan. I look forward to various holiday activities including the Christmas Skate at Kerry Park arena - get your free tickets at Thrifty's. However you choose to enjoy this wonderful season, I hope you will join me in celebrating our community, the things we have accomplished, all of our volunteers and all the great things that next year will bring.

Let's connect:

Sierra Acton
cell/text 250-732-0368
Sacton@cvrd.bc.ca
FB: Sierra Acton Area B
www.iloveshawnigan.com
Next Director's Meeting
February 5th, 2018



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Merry Christmas to you!
from the **Village Chippery**



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- 2** Select Artisan Beer, and . . .
- 2** Ice Cream for Dessert

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Shawnigan Lake joins in global celebration

Michael Robinson
Secretary, *The Baha'is of Shawnigan Lake*

In October, the Baha'is of Shawnigan Lake and many friends participated in a global event as they paused to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet Founder of the Baha'i Faith. Baha'u'llah's primary message of hope to the world was that of unity, and on October 21st, more than fifty friends and Baha'is joined millions from virtually every country, island, city, town and village on the planet to pay tribute to Baha'u'llah.

Persecuted for teaching such things as the equality of women and men, a principle that He characterized as an essential requirement for the progress of civilization, Baha'u'llah was cruelly beaten, chained and imprisoned. He and His family were exiled

to Iraq from their native Persia, where He continued to proclaim unifying views like the oneness of religion, the vital importance of education, the oneness of science and religion, and the elimination of every form of prejudice. As His influence flourished He was further banished to Turkey and ultimately sentenced, in 1868, to strict confinement in the penal colony of Akka, in modern Israel. In His later years local authorities begged Him to leave the confines of the prison city to reside in a rented property nearby where He lived until his death in 1894.

As a prisoner and an exile, Baha'u'llah (Glory of God) invited the world to consider His message of unity and peace, a call that was answered so beautifully in a worldwide celebration in October. Gatherings took

many forms, each demonstrating the principles of oneness and unity, each reflecting the richness of local language and culture and ranging in size from intimate gatherings in humble village homes to large assemblies in stadiums. Local Island events were also held in Cowichan Bay, Mill Bay, Cobble Hill, Duncan, in First Nations communities, as well as in villages, towns and cities across Canada.

Prior to the Bicentennial Celebration, and in honour of this important year in Baha'i history, the Shawnigan lake Baha'i community donated two trees to beautify the new pavilion in Elsie Miles Park. On October 7th, as the community gathered to officially open the new pavilion, the Baha'is were honoured to offer the blessing, sharing one of Baha'u'llah's beautiful prayers that begins, "Blessed is the spot, and the

house and the place..." and ends, "and the sea, and the island, and the meadow, where mention of God hath been made and His praise glorified." This beautiful prayer was recited in English, beautifully sung by the children and chanted in Hul'qumi'num by Cowichan First Nations Elder, Robert George, using a translation rendered by his grandmother.

The celebrations will continue for the Baha'is of Shawnigan Lake and around the globe throughout this Bicentennial Year, and at present, local gatherings are being held to view the film produced for the occasion by the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa, Israel, titled "Light to the World" a visually beautiful celebration of Baha'u'llah's compelling story voiced by wonderful souls from numerous backgrounds, cultures, languages and races, our spectacular human family.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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



Department Members Attended 18 Incidents in November

- ★ Thursday, Nov 2 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 3 – Structure Fire on Cougar Ridge Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 7 – Alarms Activated on Larson Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 11 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 12 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 12 – Chimney Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 15 – Alarms Activated on Skylar Circle
- ★ Thursday, Nov 16 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 17 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 18 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 19 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 21 - 1st Responder off Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 22 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 24 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 25 - 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 28 – MVI on Thain Rd



Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134

G. J. Solley
Royal Canadian Legion

On behalf of the royal canadian legion malahat district branch 134, we would like to thank everyone for their support, time and help with the following activities:

- ★ October 21st: Special Remembrance Ceremony honouring the men and women who died in active service on canadian soil.
- ★ October 26th: Annual Veterans' Dinner honouring the men and women who have served to protect our country.

- ★ October 28th: November 10th Annual Poppy Campaign. Veterans, Legion Members, Air Cadets, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets And Community Members who braved the elements to give out poppies and collect donations to support our veterans.
- ★ November 11th - Remembrance Day Ceremony & Receptions - honouring the men and women who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

All donations raised by the poppy campaign go toward helping our veterans in our area.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cverd.bc.ca Next Director's Meeting: Feb 5th, 2018. For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Meetings TBA at Shawnigan Lake Community
Contact: Bruce at jenniebruce1@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
TBA as needed. Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Fri - Sun. 10:30-4 until Dec. 17th. Reopening Feb. 2nd, 2018. For info, contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:-5:00pm. General meeting 3rd Sunday, 1:00 pm
Contact: Gloria.gsolley@shaw.ca

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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 winning answer for November was submitted by Dave Macmurchie had plenty to say about the controversial white plastic posts recently installed along Renfrew Road between Mason's Store and Worthington Road. See further coverage in separate article.



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Walk Talk



Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

In 1849, when only 19 years old, Caleb Pike hopped onto Hudson's Bay Company's

Norman Morison vessel with two of his brothers and sailed from England to Victoria. They were among the settlers landing on Vancouver Island to help build HBC farms

establishing British claims and settle the Island. Contracts were generally 5 years long and, at completion, they could either earn 25 pounds (\$125 at the time) or obtain 25 acres of land on the Island.

It is believed Caleb worked the latter part of his years at Craigflower Farm, and in 1856 purchased 40 acres of land in Esquimalt, thought to be part of his settlement from HBC. Then, sometime between 1856 and 1858, he purchased additional lands and stayed until he sold it all in 1866. The next adventure for him, his wife, and four kids was procuring Pike's Lake Farm in the Highland District.

During the period of 1871 to 1874, after learning of the successes his brother experienced on the mainland, Caleb left his farms on Vancouver Island for Mud Bay. Following the death of his wife he returned to the Island farm in 1879 where he stayed until his passing. Following his demise in 1888 his youngest son Henry bought the balance of his father's crown grant of 160 acres for \$160, sold the farm in 1912, and moved to Langford.

The Pike Homestead is still

located at the Highlands Heritage Park today on Caleb Pike Road and much of the original property is what we know as Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. Nearby Emma Dixon Road was named after Caleb's eldest daughter who married the notorious Josh Dixon.

It may seem like this is a long introduction to a hike. However, part of the attraction of hiking on our Island is learning the history which gives a deeper sense of gratitude for the lands that are available to us to explore.

The hike to Holmes Peak begins at the end of Caleb Pike Road. From the map-board take an immediate right, then the next right at the next sign-post. The trail

is fairly well marked from that point on, and like Jocelyn Hill, it will shower you with gorgeous foliage and flora along with stunning views of the Saanich Inlet towards the Malahat. It's not a long hike per se (1.5 hours round trip), but a nice steeply graded trail guaranteed to get you sweating; and for that reason we would call it an intermediate hike.

The peak itself is subtle and could be easily missed if you are head down and focused. Note that when the trail splits around an arbutus grove, stay left to soak in the views.

Like pictures? See the photos from this hike (and others) on our Facebook page – The Om Tree.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

A Free Drop-In at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre



Healthy Beginnings is a friendly, relaxed group for moms and dads with babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age.

No registration is required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack.

We will be discussing a wide range of topics.

It all begins at 10:30 AM

Every Thursday except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

INFORMATION : Rhoda - 250 709 3050

EMAIL : rhoda.taylor@viha.ca

FACEBOOK : **Healthy Beginnings Cowichan**

Shawnigan Moment



Work underway for the expansion of the Shawnigan Village Waterworks pumphouse

Shawnigan Weather NOVEMBER 2017

- Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	Nov Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	8.3	7.6	9.8	8.2	10.1	8.4	10.6	8.2	10.3
Average Low	2.4	3.1	5.6	2.7	4.7	3.0	5.4	3.1	5.2
Extreme High	20.0	15.0	13.5	14.6	15.0	16.3	15.0	16.0	15.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	-3.2	0.9	-3.7	-0.7	-3.8	0.9	-3.0	1.0
Precipitation	214.6	306.3	257.2	308.4	252.8	283.6	222.8	311.2	255.9
Days w precip	21	25	27	28	26	28	27	25	28
Year Precip	935.4	1201.2	1363.7	1140.6	1384.9	283.6	1211.8	1131.2	1373.3
Precip since Oct 1	319.4	444.4	576.5	441.7	564.0	394.1	511.4	435.8	574.5

Rank since 1914: 50th warmest, 11th wettest

Lake Temperature: Nov 5th: 9° Nov 12th: 8° Nov 19th: 8° Nov 26th: 7°

Lake Level Change: Nov 5th: +2.5cm Nov 12th: +5 cm Nov 19th: +71cm Nov 26th: +55cm

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