



May I Introduce myself?

I am your new Area Director, Sierra Acton

Finally, the sun is shining! It was a long winter, but that did not stop me, and my dog Sam, from enjoying the Kinsol Treadle and Mount Baldy. They are two of my favourite places and I appreciate both these landmarks not only for their natural beauty, but also for the monumental community involvement it took to make them what they are. Even today the community continues to build legacies. For example, the Elsie Miles Pavilion and the Museum expansion are underway.

The Cowichan Valley said loud and clear that we want to protect the area we live in when we elected Sonia Furstenuu as our MLA. Sonia has given me a firsthand view of how important a

Director's role is to the community we serve. She had the ability to solve issues by bringing groups and people together and by working closely with other levels of government and never forgetting that we are all human. In my opinion the best part of being a Director is meeting the presentations and conversations around the board table. Every day I am connecting with new and familiar faces.

My strength is helping inspire people to an idea I am passionate about. I focus on the positive. I see people's strengths and I love connecting them with others. Given how complex this role is, I am honoured to have been entrusted with this position and will seek to be elected as Area Director in the by-election this fall.

Sonia Furstenuu built many amazing teams, including

a parks and trails team; a research team; fundraising team; an Elsie Miles Park improvement team. Should you wish to join any of these teams or get involved in another way I would love to hear from you. We are the biggest unincorporated area in BC, so this is truly a group effort. I welcome any advice, input or simply, I would love to hear your story of why you call Shawanigan Lake home.

Ways to connect:
SActon@cvrd.bc.ca call/text
 250-732-0368

Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
 Directors Meeting at the SLCC at 7 pm every first Monday of the Month

We are moving forward and I plan to keep the momentum going. I hope you will join me, in service, Sierra Acton.

The next chapter begins...

Sonia Furstenuu MEA-elect Cowichan Valley

In the agreement that was hammered out between the BC Green Party and the BC NDP and announced on May 30, there is one clause that likely won't get a lot of media attention.

But for me, it was one of the most important clauses of the agreement:

"Restabilize the Environmental Assessment process in BC and reverse and address failures in the professional reliance model in BC, so that British Columbians' faith in resource development can be restored."

In Shawanigan, we lost faith in the provincial government when they issued a permit that should never have been issued.

It was this failure that catapulted our community into a four-year effort to protect our watershed, and catapulted me into local politics.

And over the past several years, I have heard from communities across BC that have also lost faith in the processes that have resulted in permits being issued for projects that negatively impact water, air, and soil.

It was this that drove me to run for MLA - and I remain

determined to do all that I can to protect communities and the ecosystems they rely on to thrive.

Just as we made history in Shawanigan in February when the Minister of Environment used her authority under the Environmental Management Act to cancel the permit for the contaminated landfill, the BC Greens made history in this election by being the first Green caucus ever to be elected under a first past the post system.

And just as we learned in Shawanigan how to work together in a truly cooperative and collaborative way, I feel incredibly hopeful and optimistic that we are at the beginning of a new era in BC politics - an era that will see a spirit of cooperation and collaboration infuse how we govern in this province.

We often hear the word "power" associated with politics, but the reality is that it's not power a person gets when elected, it's responsibility. As MLAs, all 87 of us have a shared responsibility to try to do the very best we can for the people of BC - including future generations. We have a responsibility to try to ensure that the world we leave our children is not worse than the world that was left to us, and we have a responsibility to reach

across party lines to find what unites us, rather than dwell on what divided us.

I would not be the person I am if it were not for my years in Shawanigan. Our collective efforts, and our commitment to building community - even in the most challenging of circumstances - has deeply shaped my views of the world, and of politics. I will never lose my conviction that we do better when we work together, and that our decisions will be im-

proved by listening to a diversity of perspectives and ideas.

Thank you, Shawanigan, for helping me become the person I am today.

And thank you to all who gave their time, energy, and passion to our election campaign. We could not have been successful without the commitment of so many.

I could not have anticipated how instantly I was to be swept up into my new role

as MLA-elect, or how intense the weeks following the election were to be. And so I feel that my departure from my Area Director position was far more abrupt than I had hoped. I am grateful to Sierra Acton, who has stepped enthusiastically into the role of Area Director. A by-election will be held at the end of September.

As I step into service to the Cowichan Valley and to all of BC, I remain committed and truly grateful to the Shawanigan community.



Politicians of all stripes working together (left to right): Sonia Furstenuu, Alistair MacGregor, Steve Housser, Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, Kerry Davis and Lori Iannidinaro, Blue Dot Day, April 2015

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS JUNE 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 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:
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Shawnigan Pavilion: Call for Volunteers & Sponsors

Shawnigan we are proceeding with building a beautiful timber frame structure in Elsie Miles park for the benefit of the community for public gathering, recreation and utility space. Major funding for the project is coming from the CVRD, the remaining funds needed to complete the building are being sought through community sponsorship and community volunteer effort. The necessity of community participation in both the funding and construction of the project is a reality. This vision anticipates cultural, social, personal and communal benefits for participants that stem from the collective effort and participation for the common good of our community. It's an exciting project which we hope will inspire you and your family or business to contribute to your community which will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

We need volunteers for the following projects & proposed timelines.

Foundation - the construction work will begin with foundations; we need some experienced construction people who can layout and build the form work and pour the concrete. July 3-12

Staining - the timbers need to be stained before the raising. We'll lay out all the pieces out and apply stain over several weekends. Aug 05/06 & Aug 12/13

Frame Raising - 30,000 pounds of timber, 2 days and lots of people will see this frame standing. Volunteers will work in teams under the direction of professional timber framers to assemble and fasten the pieces together. The work is heavy but straightforward and no experience is required. Aug 19 & 20

Businesses that are able to contribute goods or services have several options for recognition, please contact loritrebear@shaw.ca for more information.

We will be hosting a ceremonial Canada Day ground breaking during the events in the village on Canada Day. Individuals contributing monetarily towards the project will receive tax receipts for contributions of \$25.00 or more, and for \$50.00 we will be offering the opportunity to write your name on one of the timber pegs, and pound it into the structure at our frame raising.

During this 150th year of Canada's celebration this is a fantastic way to be an important part of creating an exciting welcome to the Village and Elsie Miles Park. Helping create a legacy structure available to everyone and helping cement Shawnigan as the amazing community that it is. Your support can make this happen. Please consider helping us realize this project.

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

**Karolien vandermisssen
SECCA**

The countdown has begun for the celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary on Saturday, July 1st, Shawnigan Lake, get ready for a day filled with fun family activities for all ages!

The festivities start early with the annual legendary pancake breakfast served by the Mill Bay Lions and Malahat Legion at the Legion Hall from 8:30 until 11:00. Don't starve the day on an empty stomach!

At 10:45 its time for the parade! The parade assembles at Cairn Park (across from the fire hall) and leaves at 11:15. The more the merrier! Everyone is welcome to join in on foot or on decorated bicycles. Feel free to dress up in a 'Canada Day' theme! The parade will end at Elsie Miles Park where the local fire department and Chief Keith Shields will raise the Canadian flag at noon while we proudly sing the national anthem led by the choir from Ecole Cobble Hill.

The rest of the day will be filled with tons of fun family activities: there will be a build-it booth by YSAGS, the firehouse, a bouncy obstacle course, the ball hockey rink and plenty more. On stage, Pony Club will bring great

music to inspire the day!

At 1:00, the ceremonial ground breaking will take place for the timber frame pavilion that will be built over the summer.

You won't go hungry during the Canada Day Celebration. On top of ice cream, cotton candy and other treats, we will have giant cake to share. There will be plenty to go around!

This day is organized by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association with the help of The Malahat Legion, The 4-H of Cowichan/Cobble Hill, YSAGS, The Mill Bay Lions, Rotary, Shawnigan Fire Department, Shawnigan Lake Museum, South Cowichan Recreation and many volunteers.

Canada Day festivities will continue until late that night with a Canada 150 dance at Kerry Park curling rink. The dance will kick off at 8:00 pm, with live music from The Smiley Family.

Would you like to help out on this day? Please send an email to shawniganlakecomassoc@gmail.com before June 26th. All helping hands are welcome!

Community Events

Shawnigan Lake Museum fundraiser Oodles of Noodles - Dinner by donation

- ★ **Where:** Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **When:** Sunday, June 11 from 5-7
- ★ **What:** Piles of pasta, balloon prize pop, face painting and more family friendly activities.
- ★ **Why:** To raise funds to expand the museum
- ★ **How:** If you want a plate, please donate.
- ★ **More info:** shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

READ PAST ISSUES ON OUR WEBSITE:
SHAWNIGAN.FOCUS.CA

Shawnigan Weather MAY 2017 - Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - compiled by Grant Treloar

	May Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Eifford Road	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	16.9	18.5	21.2	18.5	20.3	18.5	20.7	18.1	20.4
Average Low	6.8	6.8	8.7	6.8	8.6	7.9	9.1	7.6	8.7
Extreme High	33.9	30.9	28.6	28.6	27.2	28.1	28.6	27.0	27.5
Extreme Low	-3.9	3.1	5.2	2.4	3.9	3.6	4.9	3.0	5.0
Precipitation	48.7	46.9	10.4	40.0	8.6	36.8	8	42.2	10.8
Days w/ precip	10	12	6	12	8	12	6	12	8
Year Precip	556.0	674.6	664.4	625.3	707.6	545.4	589.8	612.1	688.0
Rank since 1914: 24th coldest, 48th wettest									
Lake Temperature:	May 7 th : 12"	May 14 th : 13"	May 21 st : 16"	May 28 th : 21"					
Lake Level Change:	May 7 th : 0cm	May 14 th : 0cm	May 21 st : 0cm	May 28 th : 0cm					

Take A Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

If and when you find yourself in Nanaimo with a couple of hours to burn, why not make your way to Mt. Benson Regional Park? The most popular trailhead is very nicely situated at the free parking area located on Benson View Road, which can be accessed from Highway #19 to Jingle Pot Road to Kilpatrick Road.

Your first few steps will lead you across floating boardwalks over the eerie waters of Witchcraft Lake. Turn right to begin your adventures. If you choose to ignore the charming handmade Mt. Benson sign avoiding the incline, you can continue onward to an arrangement of logging trails leading to a maze of trails upon trails.

However...following the Witchcraft Trail signs will give you a much more intense and rewarding journey. Right at the onset you are presented with zigs and zags of butt busting and sweaty fun.

In the midst of spring the terrain was soft and mushy adding some extra cardio expenditure. I suspect that during the summer it may be a different experience entirely. I have to say that we are lucky that NALT (Nanaimo & Arca Land Trust) created signage that is impeccable and, as long as you keep your eye on the orange triangles, you will be guided up the 3 kilometre trek (2-3 hours for most) to rewarding views of the Strait of Georgia, the Salish Sea and parts of the Cowichan Valley. Looking the other way greets you with sights of the Pacific Ocean, Bamfield and Port Alberni. On a clear day you may even see parts of the Vancouver mountain range.

Reaching a height of over 3,000 feet (1000 metres) Mt. Benson is said to be the highest point in Nanaimo. Once upon a time, the mountain was known as Wakeisah (meaning "a long way off") by the local First Nations. On June 30th, 1910, it was renamed Mt. Benson after being charted by Captain George

Henry Richards from the British Navy in reference to Doctor Alfred Robson Benson from Whitley, Yorkshire who worked at various Hudson's Bay Company outposts near the area in the late 1850s to early 1860s. There are no historical facts explaining the ways of naming the mountain after him.

If you're entertaining the idea of heading to Mt. Benson, you can certainly navigate your own way on a solo trip or with your favorite hiking buddy (4 legged included). However, if you're one to thrive in a group setting the NALT leads regularly guided hikes. For their details (www.nalt.bc.ca). Also available on their site is a sweet treat of a virtual hike up the mountain!

As mentioned before, the terrain is full of deep inclines on the way up and declines on the way down. If you have trekking poles and ankle supported footwear they will certainly put to good use. The Om Tree



Did you know?



Canada's population as of January 2017 is just over 36,500,000. It is the biggest country in North America and the 2nd largest country in the world in land area.

It has the largest undefended border in the world between Canada and the U.S.

80% of the population lives within 200 km of the border

Taste & Odour Concerns Regarding the Water

CVRD Statement
May 16, 2017

Customers of the Shawnigan Lake North Water System have expressed concerns about the taste and odours from the water. The CVRD is aware of the issue and suspect the taste and odours are from naturally occurring brown algae present in Shawnigan Lake. Algal blooms occur each year at Shawnigan Lake and they are a somewhat unpredictable occurrence that is influenced by sunlight, amount of nutrients and warmer temperatures. Some years, the effect on the water quality is more noticeable, as it is this year. Apart from taste and odour concerns there are no known health concerns related to these algal blooms.

To confirm the types of algae present in the lake water a sample was taken this morning (May 16) and sent to a laboratory for analysis. The laboratory will also be analyzing for metals in the water. Results from these tests are expected in 1-2 weeks. A sample for metals and nutrients was taken on May 4 and results from this sample is expected shortly. Both of the results of these tests will be posted on the website.

The system water is sampled each week for bacterial contamination (E. Coli and total coliforms) and past results for these routine tests have been negative for bacterial contami-

nation, including the sample taken Monday, May 15.

Comment: Shawnigan Basin Society: Bruce Fraser

The Shawnigan North water system is very closely monitored and managed by CVRD staff with testing results regularly posted on the CVRD website. Issues surrounding the current taste and odour problem are currently attributed to a spring algal bloom of naturally occurring species in the lake but a final determination is yet to be made. The bloom appears to be the source of a spike in pH to around 9 as opposed to levels normally around 7.3 (pH measures acidity levels with 7 being neutral, less than 7 being acid and above 7 being basic). While the lake intake is currently basic the chloramination process reduces it to near neutral within the north water system.

There are two main concerns beyond the levels of metal and other contaminants: one is fecal coliform that is sampled for weekly and monitored by Island Health so as to ensure that domestic use water meets Canadian Water Quality Guidelines; the second is turbidity in the lake water because organic matter suspended in water that is chlorinated can give rise to secondary disinfection products that are carcinogenic. Levels of these are monitored quarterly and any exceedence

es are noted in the annual reports for the system.

The magnitude of Spring algal blooms is influenced by lake conditions - particularly the availability of nutrients and favourable water temperatures. While this potential for annual occurrence is always present, the degree can vary considerably as appears to be the case this year. While the immediate public health concerns may be alleviated by the current test results, it is important to look beyond this year to the long-term issues in the basin. Contaminants from industrial sources, coliform from human and animal sources, turbidity and nutrients from land use and leaking septic fields along with increasing water temperatures from climate change are all occurring. They represent threats to public drinking water that have the potential to grow over time.

One of the main bulwarks against negative changes in the lake water is the integrity of upland forests, streams, wetlands and riparian areas. This is why the Basin Society is dedicated to a Foreshore to Forest planning process, the foreshore restoration program and the dialogue with private forest companies about how they and the rest of us reflect on what we must all do to ensure that we have a healthy watershed fifty years into the future.

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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.

Toddler Group starts at 9:30 AM
Infant Group starts at 11:00 AM

Every Thursday except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

INFORMATION : Rhoda - 250 709 3050
EMAIL : rhoda.taylor@viha.ca
FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan



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Web: www.warmlandcentre.ca

Hours: Open daily 10am - 6:30pm



Shawnigan Shoreline Cleanup

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The weather on Saturday May 20th was perfect for the first annual Shawnigan Shoreline Cleanup. About forty volunteers of all ages turned out in various watercraft and on foot to collect shoreline debris. Many thanks to Rebecca Frostad and Ron Cuthbert for organizing the event and to Shirley Hunter for the hotdogs!



Roz Cuthbert with a full kayak
Mick acting as pilot



Ron Cuthbert provided the dump-truck
which took away a sizeable load.

The Shawnigan Basin Society Announces the Introduction of Signage at the Ecological Restoration Site in the West Provincial Park!

Kelly Musselwhite
Executive Director,
Shawnigan Basin Society

On September 24 and 25, 2016 and with the support of \$5000 Aviva Community Grant funds acquired through online voting, the Shawnigan Basin Society hosted an ecological restoration workshop with renowned bioengineering expert, David Polster and our very own bioremediation expert, Carolyn Dowell. The workshop was a two-day effort; the first day provided a theoretical background on how to support and guide Nature's process; the second saw a team of local volunteers, including a Shawnigan Lake School teacher and students, collect and install willow and red osier branches as live stakes and a wattle wall.

Restoration of this nature is intended to mitigate foreshore erosion by absorbing and dissipating wave energy; enhancing environmental biodiversity and plant and aquatic habitat; restoring ecological services as root systems clean surface water entering the lake's edge; reducing sediment runoff; and protecting overall ecological integrity. The project was also

intended to both demonstrate the capacity of restorative work and to invite consideration from Shawnigan Lake foreshore residents to having their property assessed for a similar project. By mimicking Nature's process, efficient, effective, and inexpensive solutions can be achieved in lieu of retaining walls, which are ecologically destructive, ineffective for absorbing and dissipating wave energy, and cost excessive.

Signage has been created to share our story and will be installed near the first restoration site at the north edge of the West Provincial Park's

foreshore. Intentionally placed in a high public area, the information made available will be updated every 6-8 months to demonstrate the success of this model and exemplify how cooperating with Nature benefits us all.

Deep gratitude is extended to Troy Lywood, Jacqui Gilbert, and Carol Amnett for their skills and dedication in designing and building the sign. A giant thank you is extended to Bill Savage for donating the wood and to Graham Gidden of the CYRD Parks Department for his help in seeing this project supported.



"Listening is the first step and the last step." ~Cantus Fraggie

“Final Closure” of the Contaminated Soil Landfill

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

On March 15, 2017, following the cancellation of the Permit on February 23, Mary Polak (then the Minister of Environment) issued an Order with regard to closing the contaminated soil landfill on Stebbings Road.

The Order identified the following Named Parties:

- ★ Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd., owner of the Land and Facility;
- ★ Martin Use Block and Michael Kelly, directors of Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd.;
- ★ South Island Resource Management Ltd., operator of the Facility; and

South Island Aggregates Ltd., operator of the quarry reclamation program on the Land;

The Named Parties were given two options:

1. To submit a plan to permanently close the landfill to the Ministry for review and approval. This would leave the contaminated soil onsite.
2. To submit a plan to close the approximately 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil to the Ministry for review and approval.

April 17 was the deadline for the decision with a May 31 deadline to deliver a plan. Not surprisingly, the companies elected to leave the contaminated soil onsite and produce a “Final Closure Plan”.

The Ministry also stipu-



Can 100,000 tonnes of contaminated muck be safely stored in our watershed - forever?

lated that the closure plan include an implementation schedule which provides for commencement of closure activities by July 1, 2017, and completion of all closure activities by October 31, 2017.

The Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) consists of several people who have been assisting Sonia Furstenau (in her role as Area Director) with providing community knowledge towards an evidence based dialogue with the Ministry over the last two years.

On Thursday, May 18th members of the SRG and the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) met with a Ministry representative and two Ministry contracted engineers from Hemmera Environment Inc.

About two hours were spent observing the site and discussing the history, current status and community concerns related to the landfill operation and the approximately 100,000 tonnes of contaminated

material which sits on the site. This was followed by a one hour meeting in the Village Watershed Office.

The Ministry position is that any closure plan must use the Ministry publication “Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste” (LCMSW) for guidance and provide sufficient technical justification to demonstrate that any proposed site-specific alternatives provide an equivalent or better level of environmental protection.

The SRG position is that there are problems with the liners and associated infrastructure of the landfill cell and that contaminants are currently leaking into the local environment which present an unacceptable long-term risk to the watershed. This is based on observation of the cell construction and water quality test results. This is the paramount issue for the community.

The SRG and SRA are adamant that water quality testing be resumed and that one or more tests be devised to conclusively determine whether the liners and associated infrastructure are performing as required. The Ministry claims that this concern has been noted and options are being considered.

The SRG will provide a formal response to the Ministry regarding the “Final Closure Plan”. The SRG and SRA emphasize that all documented concerns should be answered prior to a decision.

The SRG has also expressed concern that any final closure process should include confirmation that the Ministry of Energy and Mines will enforce previous commitments related to the quarry/reclamation aspects of the mining operations on both Lot 23 and Lot 21. The mountain of fill on Lot 21 was originally intended to be used as reclamation material for the quarry on Lot 23.

Finally, assuming mine closure and the termination of the Mines permit, the SRG asserts that the land must be suitable for its end land use as defined by the Cowichan Valley Regional District zoning bylaw.

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Interested in Learning About Eurasian Milfoil in Shawnigan Lake?

THE SHAWNIGAN BASIN SOCIETY

is hosting a presentation and discussion on
Saturday, June 24 from 10AM to 12PM.

Join us in the Village Watershed Office

#4 - 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

(across the street from Shawnigan House Coffee and Oma's Bakery)

Agenda:

- 1) What We Know
 - a) What is Milfoil?
 - b) Milfoil in Shawnigan
- 2) What Can Be Done?
- 3) Final Thoughts
- 4) Open Discussion

Staying safe and being active

Greer Stewart, President
South Cowichan Community Policing

The gap between seniors and children in Canada is continuing to grow, according to a 2016 census. The 65 and older demographic could very well become a quarter of our population by 2031, which highlights the need for continued focus and care for seniors in our community.

We are fortunate in the Cowichan Valley to have boundless opportunities for our seniors to stay active and engaged. South Cowichan Community Policing has a very active role in the well being of our residents, especially our seniors.

We offer a place to voice concerns, welcome solutions, and provide a free, Friendly Phones program. The purpose of Friendly Phones is to provide support to our elders living alone. We place a "check in" call daily and can provide the missing link when family is absent.

There is a lot more going on in our community than one might think. Shawnigan Community Centre, Kerry Park in Mill Bay, and Cobble Hill Hall are all active with options for our seniors.

I, myself, am a motorcycle enthusiast. I can assure you that you will rarely see a motorcycle parked in front of a therapist's office! I have witnessed a growing number

of seniors taking up this activity over the past 5 years. My point is, BE ACTIVE! Bring your best self out and continue doing what you love, or explore activities new to you, depending on your physical ability.

Whether you are a gardener, artist, builder, teacher, curler, swimmer, golfer, or crafter, this community values your knowledge and influence.

Please feel free to call our office any time and let us know who you are and HOW you are! We are here to listen, understand, provide information and be your voice, if needed, in this ever changing world. Let's keep our amazing community safe and supportive for all.

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Department Members Attended 27 incidents in May 2017

- ★ Thurs, May 4 – Structure Fire on Gregory Rd
- ★ Thurs, May 4 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sat, May 6 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sun, May 7 – 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- ★ Mon, May 8 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tues, May 9 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tues, May 9 – Vehicle Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, May 10 – MVI on Thain Rd
- ★ Fri, May 12 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sat, May 13 – 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Sat, May 13 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Mon, May 15 – Structure Fire on Northgate Rd
- ★ Mon, May 15 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wed, May 17 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, May 17 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wed, May 17 – 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Sat, May 20 – Haz Mat on Skrimshire Rd
- ★ Sat, May 20 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Mon, May 22 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tues, May 23 – 1st Responder off Terrace Rd
- ★ Wed, May 24 – 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Thurs, May 25 – 1st Responder off Carlton Dr
- ★ Fri, May 26 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sun, May 28 – Mutual Aid Mill Bay for Bush Fire
- ★ Tues, May 30 – Mutual Aid Malahat for Hydro Lines
- ★ Tues, May 30 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wed, May 31 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd

First work party on the trails of Mount Baldy

Glen White
Trails team

The first steps to help make Mt Baldy more accessible for people to hike, and view the spectacular scenery from the look-out by the communications tower, was undertaken today.

A small but enthusiastic group of people came out with cutters, loppers and saws to clean up the first cross trail off the main route up Mt Baldy. A combination of members of the Parks Commission and The Shawnigan Trails Committee put in a full morning clearing the trails and making them safer for people to use.

Under the direction of Dan Brown from CVRD Parks, the group cleared the trail of overhanging branches, snow

damaged trees and the ever present broom.

A cool overcast day made the day perfect for this kind of effort and the group enjoyed the morning workout and camaraderie.

We hope that many more people will want to access Mt Baldy to get to know this gem of Shawnigan Lake, with great views of the beautiful lake as well as the Sooke Lake Reservoir and surrounding area all of which helps to reaffirm that we truly live in a spectacular part of Vancouver Island.

With the new trail branching off to the right about a third of the way up, the amount of more challenging hiking is reduced and the new trail offers a break from the climb while taking you to spectacular views of Shawnigan Lake from the



Communications Tower. We hope you will take an opportunity to share in the newest park and trail in our part of the world.

The Parks Commission wants to thank all the volun-

teers who came out today: Sierra Acton, Karen Booth, Lisa Large, Jeff Patterson, Jim Ward and Glen White. It is the volunteers who are the backbone of our community and really bring out the best in Shawnigan Lake.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cvrd.bc.ca For meeting updates check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Meeting TBA at Watershed office: #1-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
Contact: 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: cheek.wvwaethra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: blaur@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 1-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: lvhife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Wed.-Sun. 10:30-4 For info contact: shawnignlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca

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INCORPORATION IOI

If you are interested in incorporation
for Shawnigan Lake, you can start
by assessing a number of videos on
this topic, posted on youtube. Go
to www.shawniganfocus.ca and search
for Shawnigan Incorporation.
These videos were compiled
during community workshops on
incorporation at the Shawnigan
Gathering in 2006.

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 winning (and only) answer for May was
submitted by Kevin Turenne who identified the
mystery rail device as an oiler used to lubricate
the flange of the train wheel as it rolls over it.
Its location is about a half kilometer south of
the last spike on the E&N rail line.

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Golden Son

by Shilpi Somaya Gowda
Published by Harper Collins
Copyright 2015 by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Anil Patel, is the eldest son of a prosperous and respected family in the farming region of Gujarat. His father is the village wise man and arbiter of the local disagreements. It is expected that Anil will, in time, continue this role. However, his decision to be a doctor is supported by his family and eventually he goes to a city in Texas to complete a residency. His brothers carry on the tasks of the farm, although his place in the family will be waiting for him on his return.

Leena, his childhood friend, is from a different (and lower) caste and so is expected to marry and bring her family honour. Her parents are devoted to their only child and work hard to find her a suitable husband, assisted by Anil's father. The marriage is a disaster and illustrates the low value placed on women in some of the poorer parts of India. Leena eventually finds her way back from terrible abuse and learns to create her own life without the initial acceptance of her community.

Anil's struggles with the

hardships of a resident's life are compounded by his foreign new world. The food, customs and values are very different from home, but he finds support in an unlikely pair of room-mates, also from India, who are familiar with his feeling of being torn between the old and the new culture. He also experiments with a romance with an American woman, which adds to his feelings of alienation from his family.

The plot revolves around Anil and Leena's separate stories and how in the end they meet again as adults and have a profound effect on the lives of each other. The ending is unexpected, but satisfying.

Gowda has a wonderful talent for taking us into the story through the senses. In India, we can smell and taste the spicy food and touch the warm soil and the cold clay. We imagine the vibrant colours of the countryside and see the rich diversity of people.

Conversely, we shiver at the harsh reality of the Texas ER where marginalized people come in and often die. The bodies are sliced apart and then sewn up, all with speed and dispatch. The residents are somewhat disposable and only the brightest and most connected survive.

The characters in this novel are all compelling. Families are particularly complicated especially with the weight of expectations on the younger members. While love and kindness are demonstrated, various degrees of cruelty are too, particularly in relation to Leena.

This is the kind of book that takes you into a different world where, when you turn the last page, you come up for air, a little dazed and sorry the story has ended. Recommended for those who like learning about how cultures are different, but families are often the same.

Rating: 4.7/5 Stars

32ND ANNUAL WALTER HALL MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY
Saturday, June 17, 2017

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Malabar Branch #134
- MILL BAY LIONS CLUB



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☛ **WEIGH-IN CLOSES @ 2PM SHARP** ☛

ROD & MEAL TICKETS - ON SALE @ THE LEGION

(Limited availability until Legion closing Friday, June 16, 2017)

ADULTS 12YRS & OLDER \$25.00

YOUTHS 12YRS & YOUNGER \$7.50

MEAL - Hamburger or Hot Dog, Chips (Water & Juice)

IT IS THE FISHERMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THE DERBY RULES
(A copy is posted on the Sports Bulletin Board)

FAMILY FREE FISHING DAY - NO LICENCE REQUIRED!

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Canada's 150th Celebration

Saturday July 1st

Shawnigan Lake



9 - 11 am: Pancake Breakfast at Legion Hall

11 am: Parade assemblies at Cairn Park

11:15 am: Parade travels to Elsie Miles Park

12 - 3 pm: Canada Day Carnival at Elsie Miles Park;
Museum OPEN

1 pm: Ground Breaking for NEW Pavilion

1:30 pm: Canada's 150th Birthday Cake!

8 pm - Midnight: Dance at Kerry Park Arena;
Tickets \$20 Call 250.743.5922 for details

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Cake
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and more!



Mel Losey, our Poppy Chairman, presented a cheque to Broadmead Care Coordinator in the amount \$4,300 towards a blanket warmer unit for Veterans who live at home. We also donated a wheelchair for a veteran from our Legion valued at \$5,000, plus some Veterans books as well.

Summer Reading at Vancouver Island Regional Library

Vancouver Island Regional Library invites kids aged 0 - 12 years to join Summer Reading Club. Participants will embark on a reading adventure at the library with this year's theme: Walk on the Wild Side! Summer Reading Club encourages children to read a little every day by providing: Fun tools, such as colorful reading records, tattoos, magnifying rulers, and med-

als and chances to win great book prizes—the more they read, the more chances to win.

Best of all, Summer Reading Club is free and all Summer Reading Club registrants are welcome to participate in the library's Read Down You! Fines promotion. For every reading record page a child completes, they are eligible to have up to \$5 in fines removed from

their library account.

Summer Reading Club kicks off in South Cowichan Library on Friday, June 23 with the Woodruff Youth Marimba band. You can also register your children online at www.virl.bc.ca or drop by in person to the branch starting June 15th. We will be having lots of great programs and activities going on all summer long.

Planning a family trip or vacation? Don't forget that children can borrow from and return books to any of the 39 branches of Vancouver Island Regional Library located on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the central mainland coast. We make it that easy for you!

For more information, call or visit South Cowichan Library 250-743-5436.