

# Shawnigan FOCUS

Volume Seven - Issue Twelve

January 2017

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## 4th Annual Shawnigan Shiver January 1st 2017



Photo by Kathy Hagerty

### Lori Treloar Co-editor of the Shawnigan Focus

The air temperature was warmer this year, at 2 degrees, but it didn't feel like it with fresh snow on the ground and a chilly wind. The water temperature dipped to 2 degrees (at least 5 degrees cooler than the ocean) from 3 degrees last year. That did not stop more than 80 enthusiastic registrants from taking the plunge in front of as many warmly dressed spectators.

As someone who is involved with many of the Shawnigan events over the year, this one stands out as a truly collaborative community event for me. Although the Shawnigan Focus is the main sponsor,

this event is not about a single group, but about many individuals who come together to bring in the New Year at Shawnigan with enthusiasm and smiles.

Many thanks to...

- ★ Patty Oldfield and Marian Davies for their help with the organization of the event, and Patty and John from the Chippery for providing coffee for all the meetings. Also, to Marian, and Andrea Schroepfer, who took the time to decorate the gingerbread cookies with bathing suits and bikinis. The cookies were baked by Brookes School.

- ★ Fire Chief Keith Shields,

and members of the SL Fire Department, who have helped every year with set up/take down, and provided us with tables, a generator, garbage bins, and the official siren.

- ★ Heather Plumb, who has helped every year with set up/take down and brought the very necessary, and welcomed, fire pit.
- ★ Ken Napier, a paramedic and also a volunteer firefighter, who was willing to offer his skills in case of an emergency.
- ★ Marian Davies and Bill Davies, for arranging the donation of cookies, for making the hot chocolate with Patty and for dispensing these goodies

every year...this year with the help of Andrea.

- ★ Jim Carey, at Mason's Store, who generously donates the hot chocolate that is served to the chilly participants and spectators.
- ★ Roy Davies, and Lisa Finch, who kindly provides music and audio for every Shiver event. Best Shiver song: The Rocky Theme!
- ★ Betsy Burr who has volunteered every year to manage the registration table, and to Sally Davies who helped with registration this year.
- ★ Grant Treloar, who MC's the event and threw gravel on the snow on the beach before the swim.

- ★ Francoise Moulin, who designed the beautiful 'Shiver' art for our posters and buttons.

- ★ Ron & Ros Cuthbert, who provide boat patrol with their barge Rusty...just in case

- ★ Denise Holloway, who rallied the crowd and provided a rousing warm-up just before the 'swim'.

This is one event where people readily and happily volunteer to help rather than participate.

We do it for the 'swimmers'. Thank you to all of the brave participants! Hope to see you next year!

Happy New Year from the Shawnigan Focus Team!

## Predictions for Politics in 2017 from Riverpool Farm

### Bruce Fraser Shawnigan Resident

Alice the Nubian will gain the nomination for the New Barn Party, rising to popular attention on the slogan "Hay before Gas", exciting a host of interpretations from the media.

Amber the Dwarf Nigerian, rejecting the misogynist insults from the leader of the Alt-Right-Hand Party has become totally fed up with being called "Shorty". Her actual political leanings are toward the Earth First Party whose slogan "We are Closer to the Ground," appeals to females of her stature. She is likely to be the next Cowichan MLA as the vote is split between the sheep and the alpacas.

The Riverpool chickens are hotly divided among libertarian, neo-conservative and reformist platforms, mainly due to their difficulty in telling the difference among them. Arguments go squawking far

into the night as the political droppings accumulate.

Islay the Shilo Shepherd thinks all those gloriously nauseous "prosperity forever" TV ads are just a dog's breakfast. She would like to see a much more sophisticated discourse dealing with how to stem the fentanyl crisis in dog parks and the escalating cost of veterinary insurance.

Zaya the younger Shiloh can't wait for the campaign speeches to begin. She particularly likes the humorous parts where the candidates explain how bad their competitors will be if elected. Her advice is for the hopefuls to tell everyone about what they are actually going to do for animal welfare, but she knows that she would be barking mad to believe that would really happen.

Quidi Vidi the Imperious does not believe in elections. She believes in the Divine Right of Cats, that Cleopatra was a feline, that birds were created for

her amusement and that politicians of all stripes must bow down before her rightful demands. "Let them Eat Kibble," she murmured as she fell asleep in front of the fire.

Archie the Border Collie, on a complaint by the CVRD, will be arrested and charged by the RCMP with illegal parking while found in Shawnigan Village loitering behind the wheel of a truck. Archie will likely bark, "The next thing they will be accusing me of is building dog houses without a license!" Archie can't wait to pee on all those campaign signs.

Meanwhile, the habitats of elk, bear, deer, otters, mink, grouse, pheasants, ravens, herons, owls, eagles and bats continue to decline and their voting populations diminish. It is rumoured that they are arming themselves and joining into militias to repel undocumented immigrant species from crossing over the border fleeing from the coming pogrom in the south.

## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS JANUARY 2017

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# In memory of Martin Salmon

January 7, 1935 – December 17, 2016



Martin and Pat on their wedding day

### Blaise Salmon

Martin's Son ~ Shawnigan Resident

Dad built a number of houses in the Shawnigan – Mill Bay area. He was an old style carpenter and house builder, careful, meticulous and slow. That could also sum up his approach to life: careful, meticulous and slow. Sometimes annoyingly slow. But in the end people that build a simpler life can end up being the ones that provide unseen strength and support for the rest of us. I think that was the case with Dad.

Martin leaves his wife of 58 years (Pat) and seven children: Blaise (Sonia), Roni Costello (Brian), Lori Olson (Ken), Dan (Tracy), Mark (Maureen), Krista Leigh and Tara Zinkan (Ted), thirty-one grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Many of these still live in and around Shawnigan.

Pat picked this poem in Martin's memory, from the large collection she can still recite. The American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote it in 1850.

## The Builders

All are architects of Fate,  
Working in these walls of Time;  
Some with massive deeds and great,  
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Nothing useless is, or low;  
Each thing in its place is best;  
And what seems but idle show  
Strengthens and supports the rest.

For the structure that we raise,  
Time is with materials filled;

Our to-days and yesterdays  
Are the blocks with which we build.

Truly shape and fashion these;  
Leave no yawning gaps between;  
Think not, because no man sees,  
Such things will remain unseen.

In the elder days of Art,  
Builders wrought with greatest care  
Each minute and unseen part;  
For the Gods see everywhere.



Photo by Lindsay Ridell



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## Mark your calendars:

### Canada Day Meeting

January 19th at 7p.m.

Happy sesquicentennial...or, in other words,  
Happy 150th birthday of Canada!

Shawnigan is planning a really BIG July 1st  
event to celebrate. If you would like to help  
in the planning for this exciting event, mark  
your calendar for a preliminary meeting  
Thursday, January 19th at 7pm. Everyone is  
welcome! The meeting will be at the Shawni-  
gan Basin office - Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill  
Bay Road.

For more info contact Marian at:  
[shawniganmom@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganmom@gmail.com)

### Family Day

Passport to Shawnigan

Feb 13th at the Shawnigan Lake  
Community Centre

The theme this year is how Shawnigan  
factors in the history of Canada

Event sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake  
Museum.

More details in the February Focus.

For more info contact:

Lori Treloar  
[shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

## Thank you from the bottom of our hearts

**Shelagh/Shemama Bell-Irving**  
*Shawnigan Resident*

It's December 23.

10 years ago today we were able to bring Gary home for Christmas.

He was recovering from his Sept 6, 2006 near fatal trucking accident.

We brought him to a home completely built by community. We tore the old cabin/boat-house apart on Oct 13 and thus it began.

So many people made this possible.

Doug Gamble took 2 weeks vacation from building Bonner School to be the foreman and teach me how to build a house. Bill Savage came everyday and did a bit of everything. Dan

Daigle and Doug Ramsfield wired my house in torrential rains and snowstorms. Lori, a carpentry student at VIU, came every weekend to learn from Doug. Dustin the plumber did most of the indoor plumbing by headlamp after he had worked his 8 hr shift at Bonner School. He could not complete the job because a pineapple express came through and the water was right up under my cabin... plumbing in a wetsuit was not in Dustin's skill set... CVM plumbing stepped in on Dec 21st and finished the plumbing, which provided indoor flushing toilets after 8 years of a composting one. Eecole Electric supplied the wiring needs.

Rona Cobble Hill donated floors and expertise and advice to me as I stood there at their desk with my list in

hand, having no clue.

Creative Woodcraft built our kitchen cupboards so quickly and installed them on the first day of their Christmas holidays. Their secretary Linda always had a hug for me, as I would stop in on my way to or from Rona, sometimes in tears as I was overwhelmed by it all.

The CVSA soccer team that came and threw my old house in a dumpster. Brentwood School soccer team came and chopped wood...nothing made me smile more than see a school bus arrive with strapping young men, some having never chopped wood before - a good skill to learn. I had 6 Mormons that came and volunteered Tues and Thurs. After all this time, I can't remember their names.

Kim Fairhurst taught me how

to feed volunteers. Friday nights were spent at Costco getting food and supplies for the weekend crew. I never knew how many, or who, but I always fed them. One young man loved being fed and wondered why I didn't have even more volunteers, as the food was great.

Brett came and helped build Garys bridge so he could get into the house with his walker. Mike Vey came and cut down my trees behind the cabin so we could build Gary a room on the main floor. I cried as he cut down my trees but in return they heated our house for 2 years.

Jon Coleman brought his mini excavator to dig out the back for our foundation then nearly got stuck trying to get out again. Countless total strangers came

and helped do what they could. EMCO plumbing donated a hot water tank.

Our house was built by a benevolent army of volunteers. Thank you to the wives that lent us their husbands.

Ten years ago I learned how compassionate this community is as I struggled to raise two kids and care for a severely injured husband while living in my grandmother's uninsulated cabin with frozen pipes.

We learned that community comes together to help those in need. We carry that gift with us and pay it forward at every opportunity.

We got Gary home for Christmas, as I had promised him in the hospital. I have seen and been a part of miracles and unconditional love and generosity.

## "Leave Ass Alone Acres"

**Chrissy and Banjo**  
*Shawnigan Resident*

I just wanted to clear something up about my donkey, because I don't need any more nosy, opinionated strangers coming into my driveway and telling me how to take care of my donkey! Donkeys cannot be fat. They can founder easily but are stoic (don't show pain) so if they are foundering by eating too much rich grass, by the time they are laying down and won't get up, it's too late and hard for them to recover. They get fat deposits along neck, side and rump that never go away. My donkey, Banjo, has fat deposits along the crest of his neck, and had them when I got him. They are not supposed to look like fat ponies!

I bought Banjo when he was 7 years old from a lady who was using him for breeding horse mares (to make a mule). He was gelded (castrated) just before he came to me. I did my homework and educated myself on donkey health, behavior and training - anything I could learn! They are different from a horse. Donkeys are closer in relation to a zebra than a horse. They are more fight than flight! They stop and examine the situation and determine the best course of action. I love that about them! It's often mistaken for being stubborn, but they don't want to hurt themselves! A horse most likely would!

Banjo is 16 years old. Donkeys can live up to and beyond 40 years old...hence

the saying, "In donkeys years". He is 12.3 Hands high (4 inches is a hand) and is considered a large standard size donkey, which is totally suitable for a small lady (like myself) to ride. He didn't know anything about being ridden when I bought him. I had horse experience - owned horses for about 15 years, taking care of them myself (not boarded, where someone else does it) and was in charge of care and feeding of a 25 stall barn in Sooke for over a year with no horses getting sick or injured.

So, back to training a donkey-way which is different than a horse. He taught me patience and I had to trust him for him to trust me. We rented in Metchosin on acreage for years until we bought our first house this May in Cobble Hill. We had the barn roof and walls redone and a safe fence built before anything got fixed in the house! We love our critters! When I rode Banjo in Metchosin down the road to the Galloping Goose-Trail people would give me thumbs up for getting him out and it was all positive. Up here different story! He's too small to ride (One stranger's opinion). Look up what a large standard can hold. He is stronger than a pony. Another comment was he's lonely. He is a Jack that was gelded late! We got him a goat to keep him company at our last place and he killed it! They can be used for guarding sheep and goats if they're around them when younger. They kill coyotes! They can have Assitudes!

Especially Jacks! That is why the goats we have now are not with him! Tried putting him with a horse. The horse bit and kicked him! No short ear is going to bully my Long ear!!

The latest was when a very rude lady pulled into my driveway (passing about 4 keep out, no trespassing signs) as I was shoveling the icy snow from his paddock so he can come out of his cozy stall and walk around (he doesn't like the snow). This lady told me that he's lost weight and is too skinny!!! Well, I wasn't very nice back to her, Of Course! I told her to get off my property and do her homework before voicing her opinion, with some other choice words...but no need to repeat those. LoL. As she was getting into her truck she said she was going to call the S.P.C.A. My Vet and my Farrier Ken Beaver (trims Banjo every 6-7 weeks) said he's perfect weight and not to mess with him! Awesome farrier by the way...he knows his stuff!

Also, donkeys have hollow hair, like deer. Sothey get cold easily especially when they get wet, that's why I blanket him. They molt in the spring (like a deer) and he'll be patchy(!)...just so I don't get any nasty comments about that either!!! I take really good care of my animals and would like people to mind their own business and stay off my property and away from my ASS!! Might name the place "Leave Ass Alone Acres".



### SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY

#### Notice of Annual General Meeting 2017

To receive reports and review accounts for the year  
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Date : Sunday, January 22, 2017  
Time : 11:45 AM  
Place : SYLVAN UNITED CHURCH - HALL  
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road  
Mill Bay, BC  
Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR  
250-929-6100

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# Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Director's Report

**Sonia Furstenau**  
*Area Director*

It's that time of year – on the radio, in the papers, on the news, and in social media everyone is looking back at the year that was.

And it seems 2016 is a year that many are prepared to turn their backs on.

It does seem to have been a particularly challenging year. The unfathomable suffering of the people of Syria has been relentless. Zika, a frightening new virus emerged in South America, affecting the most vulnerable populations. England took a giant step towards isolationism with the Brexit vote. And the US took a giant Orwellian leap by electing the most implausible candidate ever to be their president.

Many prominent actors and celebrities have also passed away this year. My favourite

comment on all these losses is that David Bowie has created an alternate universe and he is populating it with all his favourite people (Prince, Alan Rickman, Leonard Cohen, George Michael, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds and so many more).

Here in Shawnigan our efforts to stop the landfilling of contaminated soil have had many ups and downs this year. We literally took our efforts up in the air on January 6th with our "Helicopter Day", and then had our story told all across Canada by CTV's flagship investigative news program W5. Our spirits were raised through the stratosphere on March 21st when the CVRD won its BC Supreme Court case, but it was sadly to be downhill from there. First the company being allowed to continue to import soil through the summer, then with the overturning of the decision in

November by the BC Court of Appeal. And in October, a contact water breach started that has never ended. According to data from the Ministry of Environment's own website, the water leaving the site has not met the requirement that it meet drinking water and aquatic life guidelines since the breach first started.

And we still wait – as we have waited for so many years now – for decision makers who do not live here to determine the next chapter in this miserable saga, and we remain steadfast in our determination that this story is only over once the trucks are removing the soil from that site.

So what to do in the face of all of this challenging news? I find it most helpful to be grateful. And I am grateful for so very much.

I am grateful to live in a place as beautiful as this, to be

able to take walks up a mountain and along the ocean on the same day.

I am grateful for the bounty of this valley, which is so extraordinary in its diversity and its quality. Who could imagine a place where you could find buffalo milk cheese, locally made cider and wine, an endless abundance of fresh produce, divine chocolates, and locally roasted coffee? And all the artists and artisans who create paintings, textiles, sculptures, music, plays and so much more – they make this valley truly vibrant.

I am grateful for the Shawnigan community and the wider Cowichan Valley community, both of which are bursting with amazing people, incredible talent, and a warmth that matches the (usually) gentle climate that we enjoy. In Shawnigan, I cannot make a trip to the village without seeing a friend,

sharing a hug, exchanging a story – and it makes life so much richer, so much more lovely.

I am grateful for my friends, who are so generous, supportive, kind, and fun – and who keep me grounded and remind me of the things that really matter – good food, good company, and good stories.

I am grateful for my family – my unwaveringly supportive husband Blaise, my children and step-children, my mother and step-father, and all my aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and in-laws. My family is the well from which I draw my strength, energy, and hope.

And so even at the end of the year that we wish we could have skipped, there is still so much to be grateful for. As I look ahead to 2017, I know that these parts of my life – community, friends, and family – are the parts that matter the very most, and for which I will be forever grateful.

## Healthy eating for winter: Food as medicine

**Yuri Murakami,**  
*ND from OUR Ecovillage*

With all the celebrations to start 2017, you may have indulged in things your body does not like so much. Many of us are aware that some food items can be harmful to the body, but the opposite is also true - foods can be used as medicine to heal the body.

Ancient cultures believed that we should be living together with natural cycle,

and eating according to seasons. This can be a helpful way to stay healthy throughout the year.

Winter is associated with cold, slow, and dense, and it is an important time for restoring your core energy. It is just like trees focusing their energy to the root, and waiting to use it for birthing new leaves.

Winter foods are also associated with dense nutrition such as root vegetables,

meats, and nuts & seeds, and the best way to cook is slowly: like baking, roasting, and stewing. Using the food to help body stay moist and warm is also important, so soups and stews are ideal foods! Here are some food items that are especially helpful for colds & flu in winter:

★ Ginger is warming, anti-viral and great for congestion, sore throat, headache and fever.

★ Pear is helpful for cough and congestion. It is cooling in nature, so making compote with warming herbs like cinnamon and nutmeg can create a nice winter treat.

★ Squash & Root Vegetables, especially orange or red coloured ones (squash, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.), contain high amount of beta-

carotene for the immune system.

★ Bone Broths are great at fighting infection by improving the immune system. They are also packed in nutrition and great food for winter to restore your body.

Please join our retreat in March to learn more about Food as Medicine and what you can do to help welcome spring at OUR Ecovillage.



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## Take A Hike!

**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Lake Focus*

I've lived on Vancouver Island for 10 years and I'm a little embarrassed to say that until recently I have never walked the 'Breakwater' at Ogden Point. And if you haven't either, Ogden Point is a deep water port facility located in Victoria's South-west. Its namesake is attributed to Mr. Peter Skene Ogden who was a Canadian Explorer and North West Company fur trader in the mid-1800's.

The story, as I understand, is that from 1914 to 1917 whilst the piers and cargo warehouse were being constructed, the breakwater was built to protect the area from the elements and establish deep port facilities. The project was a result of the expected increase of

marine traffic following the Panama Canal launch. Today it hosts cruise ships and bulk cargo arrivals.

The breakwater walkway is made from one million cubic yards of locally-quarried rock placed in the water to support more than 10,000 granite blocks stacked in a nine layered pyramid up and out of the water molding into the delightful 1.6 kilometer pathway to the lighthouse and back.

In 2001, it was named a National Historic Civil Engineering Site. And, although since its creation the wall has not required any major restorations, it has undergone a creative facelift or two. Until 2009 it was a simple grey concrete barrier, but now we can see a beautiful mural on the inside. 'The Unity Wall' (Na' Tsa'

maht) was shaped in two phases and sponsored by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. It was designed to honor the traditions and history of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. Stay tuned as a Phase III is in the works as well, this time to illustrate the signing and significance of the Douglas Treaties and the founding of Victoria 150 years ago.

Prior to 2013 there were no railings. Is it just me or is that kind of scary!? Imagine the stories of mishaps and missteps that sparked the need for a railing to be put in place. But even now when on the breakwater trail you certainly are not trapped solely to the upper path. In fact, there are stairs that allow one direct access down to water level and onto the blocks to practice your wave dodging talents.

Getting there is part of the adventure! Especially, if like me, you are not used to driving in the city. From downtown Victoria make your way onto Belleville Street, pass the Legislature and stay put on that road as it rounds around, winding in and out of the neighbourhoods. You will more than likely notice that the street name changes, but use your stick-to-it-ness until you pass the cruise ship terminal on the right hand side and begin your eye spy for a formidable parking spot.

The trail can be endured during any weather, but the most fun however is on those stormy rainy days!



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## Book Review

**Marcy Green**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

**"What Alice Forgot"**

*Written by Liane Moriarty*  
Published by Berkley Books  
Copyright 2009 by Liane Moriarty

After months of watching bleak Nordic Noir mysteries on Netflix and reading well-written books with depressing subjects, I was ready for a change. I went looking for something to read that was kinder, something that was "happy, but not sappy", as we say in my book club. And so I dug around. I even found some old Maeve Binchy paperbacks that were actually quite delightful with their quirky Irish characters. But there must be something that was more current, I thought.

Browsing in my favourite independent bookstore, I came across this book and remembered that I had enjoyed the author's previous books. She is an Australian with a good eye for suburbia, populated by "yummy mummies" who clutch lattes and wear yoga pants as they drive their SUV's from Pilates to after school lessons for their children. Her humour and ability to skewer the self-importance of others is refreshing and I enjoyed googling Australian words such as "punnets", "pikelets" and "lamingtons".

This novel's bewildered protagonist is named Alice (not to be confused with "Alice in Won-

derland" or "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova, although elements of both books echo through this one, especially the parts about disorientation and memory loss.)

She has had a fall at the gym and remembers nothing of the last decade. The oldest of her three children is ten, so this presents a problem as she navigates through her daily life, trying to parent children she has no knowledge of, understand why her marriage has fallen apart, and determine why she and her sister are no longer close. She is also bemused at how she has become so skinny and fit.

Not many of us get a chance to review our lives in this way. Alice has the vivid memory of her past self and, as the clues to her current identity come through the behaviours and comments of the other characters in the book, she realizes that she has become driven, brittle and unhappy.

Of course, as this is an upbeat book, all gets resolved and everyone becomes just a little wiser as a result. However, the issues are still complex and the intelligence of the reader is respected - a perfect book for the beach or a raw winter's day.

I enjoyed this novel so much that I went out today and bought her latest book, "Truly Madly Guilty". Pass the chocolates.

**Rating: 4.6/5 stars.**

### Did you know?

...that Canada is celebrating its Sesquicentennial (ses-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl) in 2017? This splendid word refers to the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of a significant event. - it's a great word if you want to impress people!



**Dr. Mackenzie Brooks**

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## South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS)



**Sarah Davidge**  
SCCPAS

SCCPAS Vice President Tony Jackson possesses many talents, all of which will be a definite asset to our society. I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed in making my wife Sarah and I feel so welcome and included in the community since we arrived 18 months ago. We have shared with many people that we have not experienced the level of community spirit that exists in the South

Cowichan Area in any of the places we have called home before.

The level of commitment to bring about positive change both within the community and globally is evidenced on a daily basis and is truly inspiring. Outside of work rugby was my passion, which I played for over 30 years. Now Curling at Kerry Park fuels my competitive nature. Since moving to the community we have both become active members of The Rotary Club as well as my involvement in SCCPAS as a Director.

Recently elected as V.P., Tony has this to say about his position, "I have Shirley Walker to thank who took me under her SCCPAS wing and also the Directors who have put their trust in me by asking me to take on this role working with them and the community." Both he and Sarah are passionate about their involvement in volunteer work being actively engaged in a number of projects, both locally and internationally. Prior to arriving in the South Cowichan Valley, Tony was based in Hong Kong for a number of years as Regional VP for Talent Management

working across eight countries. He also worked in Dubai as the Regional Learning Development Director across twelve countries. Throughout his career he was fortunate to work in over 30 countries, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. His knowledge and experience will be utilized to the upmost in implementing programmes and strategies that will promote and protect the wellbeing of our community. As Vice President, he would like to remind you that the SCCPAS key goals, are as follows:

- ★ To increase the development of broad, community-based partnerships that address local crime prevention concerns;
- ★ To increase public support of and support for crime prevention;
- ★ To increase the capacity of diverse communities to address crime.

His motto is "safety doesn't happen by accident." If you are interested in learning more about SCCPAS or in volunteering drop into our office in the Mill Bay Shopping Centre and see what you can do.

### 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 28 incidents in December

- ★ Friday, Dec 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 2 - 1st Responder off Fitzgerald Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 5 - Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 8 - Alarms Activated on Lisa Close
- ★ Thursday, Dec 8 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 9 - Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake/Cameron-Taggart Rds
- ★ Sunday, Dec 11 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake/Filgate Rds
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 13 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 16 - BCAS Assistance off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 19 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake/Cameron-Taggart Rds
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 - MVI on Cameron-Taggart/Lovers Lane Rds
- ★ Friday, Dec 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 24 - 1st Responder off Ravenhill Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 24 - Hydro Lines on Ravenhill Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 24 - Chimney Fire on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 24 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 26 - Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 26 - Alarms Activated on Skylar Circle
- ★ Monday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 27 - BCAS Assistance off Terrace Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 27 - Structure Fire on Sunnybrook Ln
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 27 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 28 - BCAS Assistance off Silvermine Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 28 - Mutual Aid MVI with Mill Bay Fire on Telegraph Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 28 - MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay/Cameron-Taggart Rds
- ★ Friday, Dec 30 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd

December 2016 was the coldest December since 2008 and ranks as the 2nd coldest in the last 30 years. This month was the 9th driest since 1986.

### Weather Report

2016 tied for 2nd warmest since 1914. 20 of the warmest years have been since 1987. It was the 4th wettest since 1987.

	December Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Average High	5.6	2.7	5.7	3.2	5.9	3.8	6.4	3.3	6.3
Average Low	0.4	-1.4	1.8	-2.3	1.1	-1.8	1.7	-1.7	1.6
Extreme High	16.0	9.5	13.1	8.8	12.8	9.6	13.7	9.0	13.5
Extreme Low	-15.0	-7.2	-3.4	-8.4	-4.1	8.0	-3.9	-7.5	-3.5
Precipitation	208.7	177.3	272.6	161.5	332.7	152.9	287.4	157.4	313.2
Days w precip	20	22	23	22	23	27	24	23	24
Year Precip	1247.6	1541.0	1220.9	1564.4	1281.8	1364.7	1113.0	1530.7	1223.2
Precip since Oct 1	528.1	753.8	533.9	725.5	647.8	664.3	553.8	731.9	604.6

**Rank since 1914: 15<sup>th</sup> coldest, 26<sup>th</sup> driest**

<b>Lake Temperature:</b>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> : 7°	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> : 5°	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> : 3°	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> : 3°
<b>Lake Level Change:</b>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> : -23cm	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> : -22 cm	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> : -9cm	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> : +14cm

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Rd	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Avg Temp	9.6	11.1	11.7	10.7	11.1	11.2	11.9	10.9	11.4
Extreme High	37.2	34.9	35.0	34.5	34.1	35.1	35.2	34.5	34.0
Extreme Low	-21.1	-7.2	-3.6	-8.4	-5.4	-8.0	-4.4	-7.5	-4.0
Precipitation	1247.6	1541.0	1220.9	1564.4	1281.8	1364.7	1113.0	1530.7	1223.2

**Rank since 1914: (tied) 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest, 6<sup>th</sup> wettest**



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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**  
Office hours by appointment. Email [sfurstenau@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:sfurstenau@cvrd.bc.ca) For meeting updates check [www.soniafurstenau.ca](http://www.soniafurstenau.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**  
Meeting TBA at Watershed office: #4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd. **Contact:** [gtrreloar@shaw.ca](mailto:gtrreloar@shaw.ca)
- ★ **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](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Canada Day - 150 Celebration meeting** See page 2 for details
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
Meetings held 1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: [lulife@shaw.ca](mailto:lulife@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [www.ysag.ca](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Closed for winter break and maintenance [www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com)  
For info contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca) Mark your calendars for Family Day - Feb. 13th. More details in the February issue.
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**  
Contact: 250-929-7222 - [www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)

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Reply to: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

## No Winner for December!!

The photo for December showed one of several Rotary International book exchange kiosks that have recently appeared in our community. This one is next to the Postal Boxes at Renfrew & Bellendean. A nice idea and it would be good to get the full story.

Recycling in South Cowichan,  
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Toddler Group starts at 9:30 AM | Infant Group starts at 11:00 AM

INFORMATION : Rhoda - 250 709 3050

EMAIL : [rhoda.taylor@viha.ca](mailto:rhoda.taylor@viha.ca)

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## A questionable replacement for the “The Gov”?

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

The official CVRD name is “Shawnigan Wharf Park”. Located at the end of Thrush Road, it is the “Government Wharf” that has long defined the place. A community focal point; during the summer, generations of Shawnigan youth have simply said “see you at the gov”.

The CVRD took over the pier and wharf subsequent to a marine asset disposal program initiated in 2008 by the Federal Government in an effort to reduce costs.

There was a time when things were built to last and Federal wharf design reflected this. The floating dock was made with heavy timbers supported on large, tight-grain cedar logs. It was secured by two dolphins of four piles each (never mind the creosote). A heavy structure, it was steady in the largest waves. A substantial wooden rail enabled boats to tie up anywhere around the perimeter.

The last major Federal maintenance was in 1975 and some discussion about necessary repair has occurred. The 2010 “**Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan**” mentions “*redeveloping the dock for swimming*”. Minutes of the Area B Parks Commission from October 2013 remark: “... Request to CVRD to see what

*happens regarding possible extension of lease of West Shawnigan Provincial Park before moving forward with decision regarding repairs to Government Wharf*”. Then, rather suddenly in mid-November, the old dock was removed and replaced with a structure built by CVRD Parks.

The new structure is comprised of two 10’x20’ platforms connected by a hinge. The deck is made from 2x6 planks nailed into supporting beams supported by plastic encased foam. It is a light structure which will bounce in the waves. Four of the piles were removed and there are no cleats or other hardware for tying up boats. The community has noticed and the consensus seems to be that it is a poor, and perhaps unnecessary, replacement.

Two local dock builders with significant experience independently stated \$30 per square foot as the going rate for this type of construction. That would amount to \$12,000. The CVRD budgeted \$26,000 for the whole project which included replacement of the ramp and disposal of the old dock. Fortunately it was decided that the ramp was in good shape and did not need replacing. The CVRD expects the project to come in under budget.

It was also suggested that all the old dock needed was

re-decking and perhaps a few supporting timbers replaced; that the flotation was sound and would have lasted for many more years. One contractor offered to take the logs and timbers away (at no charge) for re-use but says the CVRD declined and instead paid for deconstruction and disposal at Bings Creek – this does appear to be an inexcusable waste!

Several people have pointed out inadequacies with the new structure. The ramp that comes down from the pier is heavy and the new dock is tilted – more flotation is required – was this not calculated in the design? Why no cleats for tying up boats – is this ok with emergency services? It is interesting that a plastic swim ladder was installed - right under signs that prohibit swimming, diving or skiing! Other questions remain. Why was there no public consultation? Should CVRD staff be building docks? Why didn’t the project go to tender and provide opportunities for local builders?

Representatives of CVRD Parks are confounded by the controversy – they say that this was just a simple replacement of an aging dock. Perhaps we Shawnigan people are just being contrary again. What do you think? Reader’s comments welcome to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca).



The old Government Wharf aka “The Gov” – built to last!



The new CVRD dock – a lightweight replacement -Perhaps unnecessary.



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