



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Nine - Issue Twelve

December 2018

A Non-Profit Community Publication

SHAWNIGAN UPDATE

Sonia Furstenu
MLA for Cowichan Valley

Looking back at the many posts I wrote about the contaminated soil saga in Shawnigan, I came across this passage in December 2017 in which I summarized where things were at in our efforts to see Cobble Hill Holding's (CHH) permit cancelled.

"In July 2015, a document that outlined a business partnership between SIA/CHH and their engineers, Active Earth Engineering, was anonymously delivered to the Shawnigan Residents Association. It is a signed contract in which the two parties agree to a 50-50 split of profits from the contaminated landfill."

The community thought that surely, given that the company and its engineers had concealed this partnership throughout the application process for the permit, and denied its existence under oath during the Environmental Appeal Board hearings, the Ministry

of Environment would have sufficient grounds to at least suspend the permit until the courts had heard the case. But the Ministry took no action, continued to allow dumping at the site, and sent the message out to all of BC that they are comfortable with permit applicants misrepresenting themselves throughout an entire permitting process."

The astonishment that we all felt then - astonishment that a government would not object to the deception and the blatant conflict of interest at the root of the relationship between CHH and Active Earth Engineering - has remained a driving force for me through the past three and a half years.

What we learned then was that BC had adopted a "Professional Reliance Model" in the early 2000s, essentially de-regulating much of the resource industry, and putting oversight into the hands of qualified professionals hired by industry.

There were meant to be checks and balances in this system, but as we saw in Shawnigan, these checks and balances were not necessarily working.

And so, as part of our BC Green platform in the 2017 election campaign, we included a commitment to address the weaknesses of the professional reliance model - and this was brought forward in our negotiations with the NDP. In our Confidence and Supply Agreement, we agreed to *"Revitalize the Environmental Assessment process in BC and review and address failures in the professional reliance model in BC so that British Columbians' faith in resource development can be restored."*

This May, consultant Mark Haddock released his Professional Reliance Review, with 121 recommendations to improve professional reliance by *"increasing transparency and accountability, ensuring the appropriate use of Qualified Professionals, and*

implementing best practices."

And this fall, legislation was introduced that implements Haddock's first two recommendations. Bill 49, the Professional Governance Act, creates an office of the superintendent of professional governance and creates more consistency, transparency, and accountability around the roles and expectations of qualified professionals.

Many of Haddock's other recommendations are being implemented in the operations of the resource ministries, and as a caucus we will continue to monitor the progress on this file.

While this doesn't solve all potential issues, this legislation was a significant step forward for BC, and it will hopefully achieve what so many of us in Shawnigan often said: we don't want other communities to have to go through what we went through in Shawnigan.

Challenges remain for our region - soil continues to be trucked into South Cowichan daily and is being deposited at various sites in Shawnigan and Mill Bay. The recent passage of the long-awaited soil bylaw at CVRD will hopefully mean that the regional district will soon have the necessary tools to address this ongoing issue.

What remains to be done in Shawnigan is the removal of the contaminated soil that was deposited at the SIA quarry. The Shawnigan Research Group, the Shawnigan Residents Association, and Sierra Acton have remained active and vigilant on this, and I have also continued to actively work on this from within the Legislature. As I have maintained from the outset, this story is not over until the soil has been removed and the site has been restored.

Basin Society investigating a new approach

Bruce Fraser & Kelly Muschelwhite
Basin Society

While we were all concentrated on the issues of contaminated soil dumping, the dynamics of a deteriorating watershed continued unabated from multiple causes. The proliferation of milfoil in the lake is a visible symptom that is now demanding our full attention.

Invasive milfoil likely entered the lake from itinerant boats, carrying it here from other lakes. Once here, it is spread through natural seeding and fragmentation. Fragments, each of which can form another plant, are created and distributed by mechanical disturbance and shoreline wave action. It is now present throughout the shallow zone around the lake perimeter wherever the bottom substrate is favourable. Milfoil is extremely resilient and once established is nearly impossible to eradicate.

Milfoil has been in Shawnigan for many years but has recently exploded in abundance. The main driver of milfoil growth is the availability of the limiting nutrients, phosphorous and nitrogen. These nutrients are present in the lake sediments and can be taken up by the milfoil roots. Phosphorous comes into the lake from numerous sources, siltation arising from

roads, dumping and logging in the uplands and from leaking septic fields that surround the lake. Conventional wisdom suggests that the annual flushing of the lake through winter runoff can deplete nutrients in the water and keep the lake in its historic nutrient-poor status, but the flushing does not remove nutrients accumulated in the sediment.

As copious shedding of milfoil detritus falls to the bottom of the lake it is decayed by bacteria using oxygen available in the water. Once that oxygen is depleted a zone of low to no oxygen can develop in the sediment layer. In oxygen rich environments phosphorous is bound to iron compounds in the sediment and becomes unavailable to plants. In oxygen poor environments phosphorous is released from the iron compounds and becomes available to plants. Ironically, this cycle is favourable to milfoil as it recycles the nutrients made available by the decay of its own detritus.

The Shawnigan Basin Society is investigating a milfoil control method that can alter the phosphorous binding and release system to affect milfoil growth. Traditional methods of milfoil control include herbicides, shading, rototilling the lake bottom when the water is coldest, me-

chanical harvesting and physical removal by divers. Poisons are obviously inappropriate for a drinking water supply, shading with fabrics and uprooting by divers are expensive and labour intensive and mechanical harvesting means are both expensive and, because of mechanical fragmentation effects, ultimately only cosmetic. Experience in Okanagan lakes and Chris-

tina lake in BC provide lots of information about costs and effectiveness for us to consider. Christina, for instance, requires a budget of \$300,000 a year for the work of divers, raised by tax levy from a single electoral area.

In the new year the SBS will conduct a scientific field trial of a nutrient cycle alteration method, the same strategy being

proposed in the Capital Regional District for Elk and Beaver Lakes. It has the prospect of being relatively simple, less labour intensive and capable of being deployed by individual lake front owners or groups of owners at low cost. Stay tuned for announcements in the new year about the trial and public meetings to discuss design and trial locations.

Join us for the 6th 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:
shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

A Safety Letter to Santa

Sarah Davidge
Shawnigan Lake Community Policing

- ★ **Speed Watch** - remind everyone to slow down, enjoy the drive and share the road. It's good to give, volunteer in 2019.
- ★ **RCMP** - remind people to lock their houses, sheds and vehicle doors.
- ★ **Block Watch Groups** - a special gift of "Thank you" for being active in your neighborhood and our community. RCMP/Fire/EMT - a Reflective House # Sign on everyone's Christmas List. Giving this gift of safety gets you a free medium Panago Pizza, Mill Bay.
- ★ **Fire Fighters** - give water to the thirsty Christmas Tree; keep all plugs away from water sources; Enjoy the candles but remember to extinguish them before retiring for your long winter's nap.
- ★ **Shopping Centre** - reminder drive safely amongst the hustle and bustle to get the last parking spot for that perfect Christmas present. Kindness gets you on Santa's Nice List. Naughty gets you a Lump of Coal (of course you could find a diamond...lol).
- ★ **RCMP Scams** - a reminder to be aware that all those offers that seem to be too good to be true definitely are. Guard your credit cards and personal information that could offer those "Grinches" a way to steal your Christmas cheer.
- ★ **ICBC** - CounterAttack/Cell Watch - to those celebrating over the Holiday Season, arrange a safe ride home and have a designated driver. If you are driving, be alert and remember distracted driving has a high cost. Leave Your Car at Home and Your Phone Alone.
- ★ **Community Policing** - FREE Friendly Phones - remind those who are elderly/living alone, that we offer a daily phone call from Volunteers who genuinely care about their wellbeing. Just give us a call and we will add their name to the list.

I heard him exclaim as he drove
safely out of sight...

Enjoy a Safe & Merry Christmas from
all of us at SCCPAS.

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Becoming

by Michelle Obama
Published by Crown New York
Copyright 2018 by Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama, the first Black American to occupy the White House as First Lady, writes a vulnerable and honest memoir. Her personality and humour shine through the chapters, making her very accessible.

She was born in the South Side of Chicago, a working class neighbourhood where the whites were fleeing into the suburbs. Here, her closely knit family struggled but worked hard to give her and her older brother encouragement and the means to get a good education. Always a good student, Michelle went on to Princeton University and then the Harvard School of Law.

She speaks of "that everyday drain of being in a deep minority". As she becomes a lawyer in a top-ranked corporate law firm, and then a high ranking executive, she is often the only woman in the room and certainly the only black one. Always striving, she moves through all the barriers, girded by her intelligence, work ethic and warmth.

When she meets Barack

Obama, she comes to realize that they are complete opposites. He is cerebral and contemplative while she is a gregarious planner, always needing to have all the details in place. After their marriage, his casual approach to time while he is immersed in his work pushes the limits of her patience.

Michelle then takes us through the painful story of infertility, IVF treatments and then the eventual delight in the birth of their two daughters. Her stories of juggling work and motherhood are familiar to those of us who have experienced this busy time, as are the stories of her strong supportive group of female friends.

The book shifts into high gear when Barack decided to run for the Presidency and her description of the political process and her personal responses are fascinating. Once in the White House, they all must acclimate to living in a fishbowl, open to both admiration and criticism such as few have experienced before. Being the First Black American family in the White House, they are acutely aware of their responsibility to be above reproach.

Trying to give their girls a normal upbringing is daunting, but they manage to provide them with the skills to deal with the scrutiny, as well as time to be

children. As Michelle takes on special projects and spends time making clothing choices and being styled, she

shakes her head at Barack as he maintains his "loose-jointed Hawaiian casualness", pulling the same dark suit out of the closet while not even having to comb his hair. She gets into trouble with the press by describing his snoring and his habit of leaving his socks on the floor. But through all of this, they keep their ritual of family dinners together and continue to support and love each other.

Finally, their eight years are over and they prepare to hand over their roles to a new couple, the Trumps. Michelle is gracious in how they do it, but finally exposes her feelings for a man who put her family at risk when he declared Barack was not born an American citizen. After this she always feared for their safety, and she now has some things to say about the new President's character.

Typically, she ends on a high note, advocating inclusion and compassion, continuing to be a strong role model for women, men and peacemakers everywhere.

This extraordinary book is highly recommended and is now flying off the shelves.

Rating: 5/5 stars

South Cowichan Library

Community Christmas Sing! Everyone is welcome to this free sing-along on Wednesday, Dec 5, 6-7:30 pm. Fill your lungs and proclaim your community—your body and brain will thank you. Hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild.

LEGO® Club meets on Wednesday, Dec 12, 3:30-5:30pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you provide the imagination, on the second Wednesday of every month. This is a free, drop-in event best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO is welcome.

French Conversation Club is on alternating Thursdays, December 13 & 27, 5:30-7pm. Come by and practice parler en français with a

native French speaker.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry at the Library: Please join us for a holiday party for all ages on Saturday, December 15, 1:30 to 3:30pm. Celebrate your community with music, food, stories, and crafts. We'll have snacks and drinks for adults and children. Kids can listen to a storytime by Wing-Han and Jude, as well as create origami and a greeting card. Finally, everyone will sing along with a performance by the Four Tenors of the Cowichan Valley!

Chess Club: 1 - 4pm on Friday, December 30. This drop-in group for chess players meets on the last Friday of each month. New players welcome. Free.

Discovery News

Shayla Symes - Grade 7 student
Discovery Elementary

Discovery Elementary is busy preparing for this year's Christmas Concert. It is going to be done differently from previous years. This year the classes will be buddying up (big buddy classes with their younger buddy class) and performing together. Our winter concert will be on December the 13th and it is being

prepared by the Discovery teachers. There will be acting breaks performed by the drama group. This drama group was created from our grade 6/7 electives.

The Chamber Choir is also going to sing a song. It should be a great show and the students are very excited to see what the other classes are going to do for this concert. We hope Discovery families enjoy the show!

Do...or do not. There is no try. - Yoda

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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.

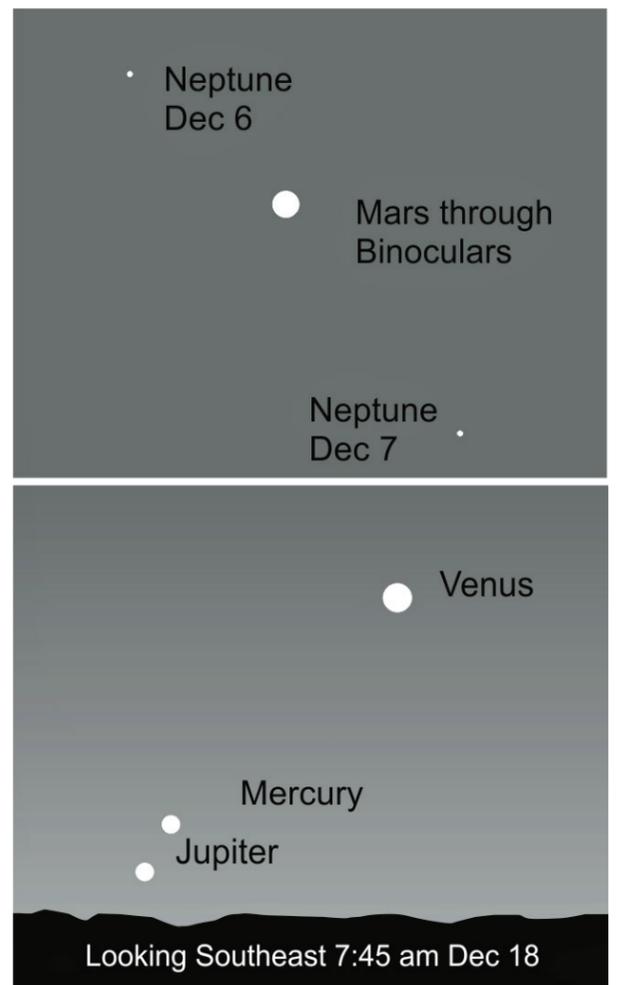
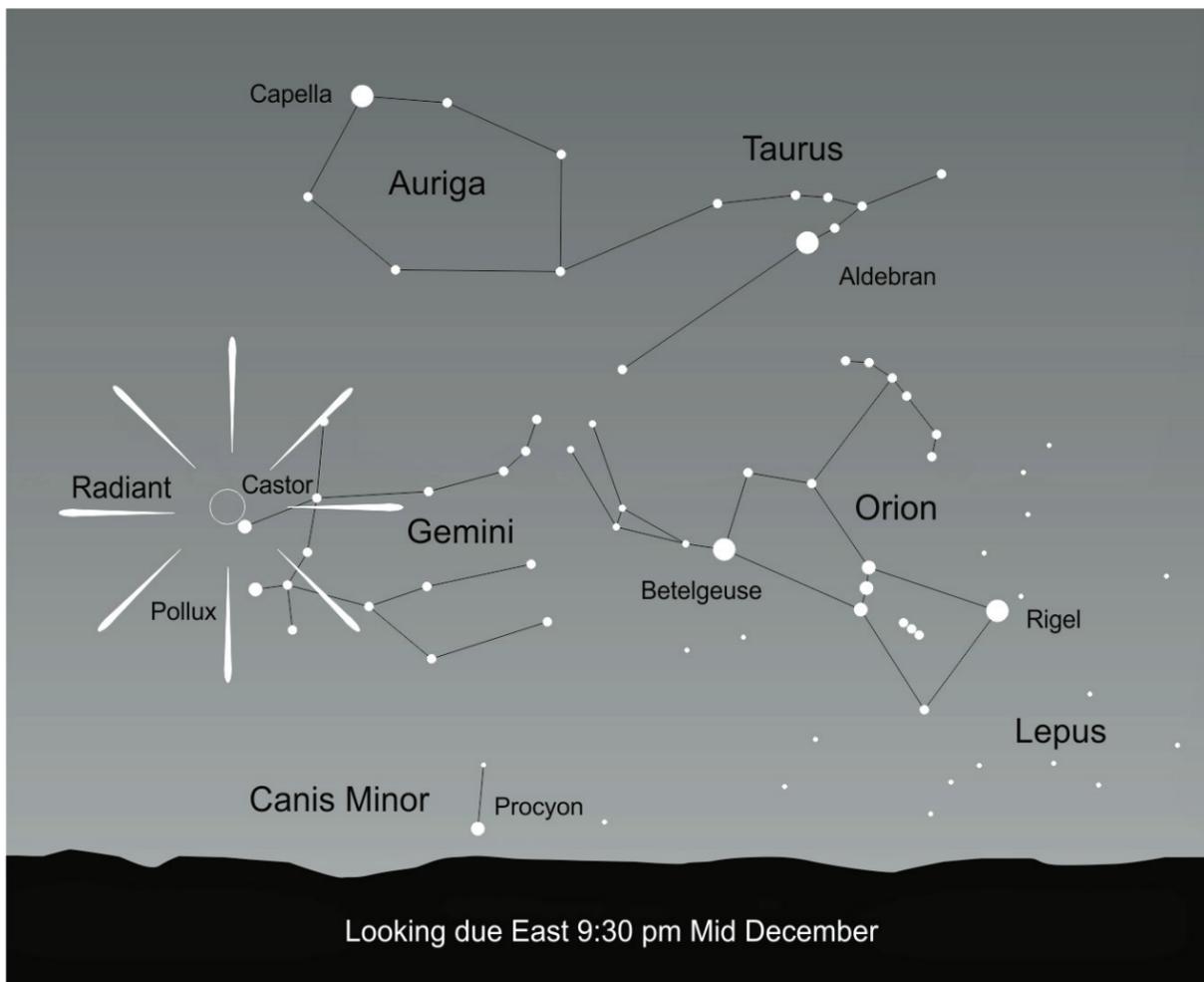
No registration is required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack.

We will be discussing a wide range of topics.

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 Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

December: Gemini the Twins and the Geminids Meteor Shower

In December, the classic winter constellations make their return to the evening sky. We can use Orion the Hunter to help us find the topic of conversation this month: Gemini the twins. Mid-month, around 9:30 pm, look due east to spot Orion's belt, sword, bright shoulder Betelgeuse, and bright foot Rigel. By tracing a line from

Rigel through Betelgeuse and onwards you will notice two stars that have very similar brightness. These are the two stars that make the heads of the twins, Castor and Pollux. To remember which star is which, you can find two other bright stars to assist. By tracing a line through Orion's shoulders towards the northeast horizon you will find the bright star Procyon. Using Orion's sword as our next guide, trace a line that goes straight up through Orion's head. The next brightest star along that path is Capella.

Once you get used to locating these stars it is very simple to tell Castor and Pollux apart. Using the first letters of the prominent stars, Castor is towards Capella, and Pollux is towards Procyon.

Gemini the twins are prevalent in both Greek and Roman mythology. The Greeks identified the twins as Castor and Pollux, the names which obviously stuck for the two brightest stars of the constellation. The Romans identified the twins of Gemini as Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome.

December is the special month for Gemini as the annual Geminids meteor shower radiates from the constellation throughout the month, peaking mid-month. Unlike most meteor showers that originate from the dusty debris left behind by comets, the Geminids originate from an asteroid called Phaethon.

Planets and Moon: Get the binoculars out on the nights of December 6th and 7th and spot the brilliant red Mars in the Southwest around 8pm. With your binoculars on the night of the 6th look to the 11 o'clock position from Mars and spot a star that is notably blue compared to those

around it. The following night on the 7th look to the 5 o'clock position relative to Mars and find the same blue orb. This, of course, is not a star, it is the planet Neptune.

If you are an early bird, the lookout on the Malahat Summit on December 16th will be an ideal spot at dawn to watch Venus, Mercury and Jupiter make a celestial trail towards the approaching, rising sun. These three planets will continue this pre-dawn march throughout the later part of the month, with Mercury moving rapidly relative to Venus and Jupiter. New moon is Dec. 7th; full moon is Dec. 23rd.

Community Choices

Tom Lupton
Shawnigan Residents Association

My youngest has this wonderful habit of eating apples. I should clarify this... he has a wonderful habit of eating half of an apple and then leaving the rest for the fruit flies and the compost to enjoy - he's very generous this way. Every Monday when I drag that green bin to the curb, I am both impressed at how heavy it is and grateful that it isn't ending up in a landfill somewhere like it did the in the 'good ole days'. On days where I am not rushing to work, or rushing the kids to school, or rushing... somewhere, I get to watch the PAN disposal group navigate their way up and down my very narrow street and deal with thousands of pounds of rotten, maggot ridden, and stinking compost with a genuinely

friendly demeanour.

Then I found out that their days are likely numbered around here. I thought that was curious, so I started asking some questions. It turns out there is a new garbage disposal plan from the CVRD based on a \$30k study that will cost upwards of \$2.7 million per year. Then I started asking who decided that we needed a new garbage disposal plan when our current one seemed so great.

It turns out that the CVRD, stationed in Duncan, has made a decision on what is best for the citizens of Shawnigan. Ok, someone has to make the calls, I get that, but surely the residents were consulted, surely there was a town-hall meeting for a community of more than 8000 residents to voice their opinions about this plan. Turns out we weren't,

and there wasn't.

So, despite our Area Director opposing this move; despite a lack of community consultation; and despite (from what I can gather) any desire for this change from the community, this move is taking place whether we like it or not. That makes me wonder how many other decisions are made, or not made, with our taxes that we have no input into. It also makes me wonder what we can do about it. On the heels of SIRM (dirty dirt), derelict roads, garbage plans foisted upon us, and a CVRD that doesn't seem to want to listen to the wishes of the residents, perhaps the whippers of Incorporation around here need to get louder... a lot louder.

In the meantime, I wonder how those massive CVRD garbage trucks are going to get in and out of my street.

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Court ruling confirms sawmill is illegal

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

In a November 26th BC Supreme Court Judgement, Justice Robin Baird has ruled that the sawmill operated by Patrick Stack at 3172 Shawnigan Lake Road is illegal.

Mr. Stack had been operating PM Mobile Milling for over eight years and had gradually increased the size and scope of the facility. The property is zoned Suburban Residential (R-2) which does not allow a permanent sawmill operation. Neighbours, some who had lived next door for decades, objected to the noise, dust and

traffic. Mr. Stack applied to have the property rezoned but, following a Public Meeting, the application was denied by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD). In November 2016 the CVRD initiated an action with the Supreme Court because the mill had continued to operate and bylaw enforcement was ineffectual.

Comments from Justice Baird:

- ★ While the respondents purchased the property in 2010 and have been working the sawmill on it ever since, they have never lived there.
- ★ In recent years the CVRD has

received complaints from the owners of two neighbouring properties about the respondents' sawmill operation. I would emphasise that, although the area in question is semi-rural, and the properties are quite large, it is nevertheless a residential and not an industrial zone. The neighbours complain that the Company's milling activities are conducted every weekday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. all year round. There is a great deal of noise and dust created thereby. They are disturbed in the quiet enjoyment of their properties by the constant whine of chainsaws, the din created by bucking and ripping up logs, the racket of the forklift as it lifts and moves logs, and the annoying beeping sound that modern day commercial vehicles make when they are in reverse gear.

- ★ I don't blame the neighbours in the least for being annoyed by this. Who settles in a residential area expecting there to be a



PM Mobile Milling operation in 2016

commercial sawmill next door?

- ★ In my view the CVRD is 100% correct in taking the position that commercial sawmilling and the storage and distribution of wood products, which together are clearly the Company's main functions, are not permitted in an R-2 Suburban Residential zone.
- ★ I conclude that Mr. Stack's use of his sawmill for the non-commercial purpose of constructing or completing permitted improvements on the property is an admissible

accessory residential use.

- ★ Although Mr. Stack is permitted to carry on milling wood on the property for this limited purpose, I hereby declare that use of the property for any purpose related to commercial sawmilling is in contravention of the Zoning Bylaw, and I order the respondents to cease and desist from using the property for any such purpose effective immediately.
- ★ In my view the CVRD has been prevailingly successful and will have its costs on Scale B.



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Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Transition months such as Fall to Winter are an amazing time to get out and see the natural wonders of waterfalls. It is hard to choose a favorite, but Goldstream's Niagara Falls; Nanaimo's Ammonite and Benson Creek Falls; Crystal Falls in Ladysmith and of course our local falls of Manly Park are all worth the effort.

Recently we added Gowland Tod's Cascade Falls to our adventure album. Starting at the parking area for Mount Work, off Ross Durrance Road, we crossed the road to access the Mackenzie Bight Trail for the long descent to Saanich Inlet. Naturally we lingered a while climbing upon rocks and outcroppings, taking photos of the divine landscape and chatting with curious seals.

Doubling back slightly we then crossed a little bridge perched over the union of Pease Lake Creek (the Cascade Falls water source) and an unnamed creek that originates somewhere near the Mackenzie Bight trailhead. Together they spill out into the ocean.

The Cascade Falls trail from this direction is undeniably an effort where your butt muscles and calves will remind you of their existence. However, as you trudge slowly and steadily up the winding path, with its numerous steps (of different heights) and rocky terrain, you will be rewarded first by the sound of the falls, and then by the sight. As you scramble up you will see a couple levels of the falls as they pool, before releasing down below.

The good news, however, is that once you reach the top of

the falls the rising climb is more or less behind you.

The rest of the loop back to the road is picturesque winding through tall trees, fern forests and temperate surroundings at a much more relaxed pace. Some may choose to initiate their loop closest to the falls. However, please be aware that climbing up the Mackenzie Bight Trail is not an easy feat either, as it has a long drawn out incline that is sure to get your cardio thumping.

Once upon a time we did venture the Cascade Falls loop during the summer, and although the workout was without question fabulous, there were no falls to speak of. Please keep the time of year in mind when you head out hunting for falls!

Check out pictures for this hike and more at The Om Tree facebook page.

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REINTRODUCING...

The Shawnigan Basin Society



Working to Protect and Secure the long-term Health and Safety of the Shawnigan Community Watershed and the drinking water it provides.

Beginning December 2018

Community Office Hours will be

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday * 10:30 to 2:30

(* COME JANUARY OFFICE HOURS WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE WEEKENDS)

Join us at #4 - 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

and get informed about the exciting initiatives planned for 2019!

For more information, visit our website: www.shawniganbasinsociety.org

Questions? Email: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org.

Area B Director's Update

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

Love it!

One upside to the fight against the contaminated soil dump was the many new friendships that were created standing on that hill. We were brought together by our love for community, or belief in what was right and our passion to protect this valley for future generations. Those shared values galvanized many new friendships.

One of those new friends was Heidi Goddard and she is now my Alternate Director. Heidi and her daughter where literally the 'poster child' for the Save Shawnigan Water Campaign: the photo of her standing in front of a truck, in the dark, with a baby strapped to her chest. She is dedicated to her community like so many others that braved those cold, dark mornings. I'm thrilled that Heidi will be filling in for me, when I can't attend. But Heidi is not the only one starting a new role; I was elected to Vice Chair of the CVRD Board on the night of the Board Inauguration, which is a new role for me as well. I am excited for the challenge of this new position and the associated opportunity to grow and learn.

I will be working with my friend and mentor, Ian Morrison, who

is the CVRD Board Chair.

Share it!

Budget season is coming up at the CVRD. This means the Board will be reviewing all of the tax allocations for the various Areas. Certainly with the new Housing and Water functions, I will not be advocating to increase taxes on extra expenditures if they are not a priority. If anyone has input on this topic or anything else CVRD related, please contact me.

Protect it!

This week the courts decided in favour of the CVRD on a crucial zoning issue. Specifically, that a sawmill is not a home based business and that the commercial use of a sawmill is not permitted in an area that is zoned residential. The decision affirms the Regional District's zoning authority and validates that the CVRD's decision to pursue bylaw enforcement action in this case was supported by law. Any further commercial activity at the site in question will be in violation of a court order. Unfortunately, going to court is expensive and it ends up costing tax payers a significant amount of money.

(Bylaw is very challenging for electoral areas as we don't have as many enforce-



ment and regulations 'tools' as municipalities.)

A message from our Local MOTI Rep on Preparing your home and property for winter, rain and snow storms;

We advises that home owners check culverts, gutters, downspouts and perimeter drains around their house to ensure everything is working properly, and free from debris.

Mainroad Contracting will make every effort to keep roadside catch basins, culverts, and ditches clear.

Residents are requested to help by not depositing debris, leaves or garden trimmings in drainage ditches, and by preventing debris from accumul-

ing against ditches.

Homeowner Drainage Checklist

- ★ Clear your gutters and downspouts. Ensure that they remain clear through the winter.
- ★ Have your drain system cleaned and repaired if necessary. Remember, drain tiles will plug over time with mud, silt or roots, and in some cases, may even fail due to age.
- ★ Ensure that any surface that drains, such as those located at the bottom of driveways and stair wells, are clear of mud and debris and remain clear through the winter.
- ★ Ensure your driveway culvert is clear (that you

can see daylight from one end to the other).

- ★ Maintenance of culverts located underneath driveways are the responsibility of the individual home owner. If you notice flooding during office hours on any of the roads, please contact Mainroad South Island Contracting Ltd at 250-391-7310 or 1-877-391-7310 (24/7)

Join my monthly email list for updates and community information by forwarding your email address. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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Area B Parks Commission

Glenn White
Area B Parks Commission

Area B has a Parks Commission made up of local volunteers who act as an advisory to the CVRD to support and guide the development of parks in our area. Over the years, our commission has developed a long term plan for Shawnigan Lake and, thanks to those previous commissions, we have so many wonderful parks in our community. The commission is instrumental in identifying opportunities by building a Parks Master Plan and then supporting those plans for the community.

The plans are all reviewed and shared with the community and under the commission, our parks system has thrived.

Each year the commission reviews

the Parks Department Budget for Area B. We provide feedback and discuss priorities for our area with the staff of the CVRD. Working with the CVRD provides us with access to expertise and the funding from taxes and grants to develop and improve our parks. These discussions are happening right now if you would like to give input.

Assets like Old Baldy Mountain consume a large part of our budget until which time the loan is paid off. In 2020, the loan will be settled therefore freeing up funds for us to begin development of the Park. For the next couple years we will be planning and developing a master plan for Old Baldy. By planning ahead we are able to be fiscally responsible and have our parks represent the community's wishes. This kind of foresight is how we got to where

we are today. Our ongoing success comes through acquiring and setting aside areas for the future by acting on opportunities as they arise. Establishing parks like Old Mill Park and, recently, the work on the rail trail are examples of how the plan all fits together to provide an integrated accessible park system for the community and visitors.

Some of our projects take time to evolve and priorities have to be set to ensure we are providing the best possible decisions for our community as a whole.

Interested in joining our commission? If so, we would love to meet you. Please contact Area B Director Sierra Acton (SActon@cvrd.bc.ca) or attend any of our Parks Commission meetings which are open to the public. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department members attended 22 incidents in November

- ★ Thursday, Nov 1 – Alarms Activated on Berger Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 1 – Alarms Activated on Berger Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 1 – Hydro Lines on Cougar Ridge Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 2 – Newspaper Fire on Filgate Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 2 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 2 – Flame Sighting on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 3 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 4 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 5 – Assistance on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 7 – Compost Fire off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 12 – Structure Fire on Airbright Ln
- ★ Sunday, Nov 18 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 19 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/Mill Bay Fire Dept
- ★ Monday, Nov 19 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 23 – Burning Complaint on Steinway Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 24 – Compost Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 25 - 1st Responder off Briarwood Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 27 - 1st Responder off Widow's Walk
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 28 – Lift Assist off Shawnigan Lake Rd

The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department presents its annual

SANTA RUN

Wednesday, December 19th
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. At the South end, Santa will start at Shawnigan Station then over to the salt shack in Cougar Ridge to meet with the neighbourhood children.

DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD BANK GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Malahat Legion

G.J. Solley
Malahat Legion

November was a very busy month at the Legion. We would like to thank everyone for their time and support in aid of our Veterans. From the POPPY CAMPAIGN, the REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE and receptions following at both the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute Hall and the Legion. Without everyone's help we would not have been able to accomplish our goal of supporting the Veterans.

On November 17th, we hosted a successful fund raiser for the Shawnigan Museum. Photos are available on both of our face book pages. If you are interested in having us host a fund raiser for your group, or just wish to book a private function, please contact us.

During December we are collecting non-perishable items for needy families in our area. A donation box is located near the front door. Our Double Meat Draw will be held on December 8th and our Ham & Turkey Draw and YSAGS Bake Sale will be held on 15th. Our final meat draw of the year will be held on the 22nd and will resume on January 5th, 2019.

The Legion will be closed on 23rd, 24th, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. It will be also be closed on the 30th and 31st of December.

On January 1st we are holding our second Annual Open House from 2 – 5 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cverd.bc.ca For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
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**
Meetings TBA. Held at the 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. Office hours: Tues & Thurs 11-1 Wed 6-8. Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Closed Dec. 17, 2018 until Feb 1, 2019. 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 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at Mill Bay Community League Hall. southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com

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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

Last month was difficult and Angus Preston (age 8) is very clever! He was the only one able to identify the underwater mystery as the "ramp/railway" at Old Mill Park, which would have been used as a boat launch when the mill was still in operation.

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Shawnigan Focus



A Coho Salmon jack hiding below an alpha male.

Shawnigan Creek Coho Update

Ken Gray
Secretary & Director

With the recent heavy rain putting a huge volume of water into the creek and just a couple fish returning in the past week, the trap has been shut down for another year. The final total of Coho captured and moved into the Shawnigan system was 2,128, of which 240 were jacks.

We were able to fill the Goldstream and Shawnigan Lake School's hatcheries requests for brood stock, quite easily.

It was an interesting year, with the fish coming in at the start of October, with next

to no water in the creek to support them. It was also a very long season, finishing at the end of November, with many hours spent at the trap, as there was no real pattern to when the fish would arrive and try the falls and be able to be captured.

The media made an appearance at the trap this year, shining more light on our project and of its importance on the South Coast. As in previous years, as our project has stepped more in to the lime-light, our list of volunteers and supporters continues to grow. We had volunteers fly in from Quebec and Alberta,

just for the chance to be part of this amazing experience, something we are grateful to have in our own backyard.

The Executive and Directors of the Mill Bay & District Conservation Society, would like to convey a HUGE THANKS, to all who volunteered their time and effort, in once again making this project what it is, a very successful salmon enhancement story! We are an inspiration in many aspects.

Hopefully, everyone will have a great off season and be ready to do it all over again next year.

Shawnigan Weather November 2018

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	Nov Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Average High	8.5	9.9	7.6	11.2	8.2	11.2	8.4	10.4	8.2
Average Low	2.6	3.9	3.1	3.7	2.7	4.5	3.0	3.8	3.1
Extreme High	20.0	15.0	15.0	16.7	14.6	16.9	16.3	16.5	16.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	-0.8	-3.2	-0.9	-3.7	-0.3	-3.8	-1.0	-3.0
Precipitation	225.4	204.3	306.3	187.4	308.4	169.4	283.6	199.3	311.2
Days w precip	21	19	25	21	28	20	28	18	25
Year Precip	935.4	1013.1	1201.2	945.1	1140.6	860.5	1012.2	994.6	1131.2
Prec since Oct 1	319.4	316.4	444.4	284.7	441.7	262.4	394.1	297.7	435.8

Rank since 1914: 13th warmest, 40th wettest

Lake Temperature: Nov 4th: 11° Nov 11th: 10° Nov 18th: 9° Nov 25th: 8°
 Lake Level Change: Nov 4th: +12cm Nov 11th: +3cm Nov 18th: +9cm Nov 25th: 0cm
 Surface Elevation: 116.02m 116.05m 116.14m 116.14m

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CANNABIS & REAL ESTATE - Going forward!

Of interest to me are the new cannabis laws that came into effect as of October 17, 2018, and how necessary it is to evolve with this new reality. While cannabis for medical purposes may be grown legally 'at home' with the necessary license, the possibility remains that its cultivation could result in a property defect. With 'at home' cannabis cultivation there is the potential of a toxic hazard developing that may not be discovered during a reasonable examination of the property. In the Real Estate industry, we are often required to deal with the consequences of the legalization of the cultivation of cannabis, sometimes on a daily basis. If you are a client and potential buyer of a property with a cannabis related history, it is our legal obligation to fully disclose any information that we may know in relation to that history. Additionally, it has consistently been recommended that you have a professional home inspection completed prior to finalizing a home purchase. The home inspection continues to be a crucial part of any home purchase, now more than ever.



Jacqui Migowsky

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