

THE POTTENGER CURVE FACES THE TEST OF THE WOODS

Bruce Hutchison

The Science of economics reared its noble head in our remote neck of the woods early this year with the arrival of Professor Ira Pottenger Ph.D. and after that things were never quite the same again.

You could tell right away that he was an economist. He spoke in the crisp, dogmatic idiom of his profession. He reeled off statistics like a computer. He knew everything, explained everything, and the Bottom Line of truth was written almost legibly across his shiny bald head. The man was infallible and knew it.

When he had bought the dilapidated Elwell place (at an outrageously uneconomic price) and settled down, on a large indexed university pension, to write his final masterwork on the Canadian economy, the damp intellectual climate hereabouts improved remarkably. Even Archie, the ancient handyman, would sit with the Professor (so long as the bottle lasted) to hear him expound the famous Pottenger Curve with graphs and diagrams scribbled on scraps of paper.

Unfortunately, the Professor recalled, the federal government had refused to accept his advice and plunged Canada into economic chaos. But once his book was published he was sure no government in

the world could reject its conclusions and follow the Curve to the truly Just Society.

Meanwhile he applied his own doctrine to the practical business of the woods and we all admired his energy and imagination, extraordinary in a man of his advanced years.

First, he said, the infrastructure of his estate must be repaired and he undertook the job of shingling his little house. Apparently, his education, though vast, hadn't included shingles and he failed to lay the necessary double row at the lower edge of the roof, thus leaving spaces quickly penetrated by the rain of a drenching spring. All the shingles had to be ripped off and ruined, the work started again from the beginning – a rather costly mistake. But with our counsel and moral support from a distance the project was completed at least, only a few leaks overlooked.

Then the Professor introduced us to the mysterious Economics of Scale by undertaking to cut up a giant windfallen balsam tree for cord wood needed immediately in his stove. We warned him that it wouldn't be sufficiently dry for use before next year at earliest but he went ahead with determination and the best chain saw he could buy in Nanaimo.

For some unknown reason, he couldn't start the saw until he remembered to put some

gasoline in the fuel tank. Still it wouldn't start and the Professor's language was unsuitable for publication. But in a moment of inspiration he gave the saw a mighty kick with his new hobnail boot and it came clattering to life. The Professor's faith in modern technology was confirmed, as he told us, in a fine alliterative phrase, "man must master the machine."

He had mastered it and the saw worked for nearly half an hour. But after the Professor had cut a neat swath in his overalls and escaped the amputation of his left leg by less than a centimetre he hired Archie to deal with the bulk of the tree in order, he said, to make more time for the book and the Curve.

Approaching a pretty difficult task in the dense tangle of underbrush and rocks, Archie reminded the Professor of certain basic facts as measurable as the Gross National Product.

"You," Archie gently intimated, "are a damn fool and bloody idjit. Now get the hell out of the way."

The Professor took this subtle hint and returned to his house, muttering something about Adam Smith's efficient Division of Labor. And since he did not care to lug the heavy hunks of balsam out of the bush, he employed Jimmy Scott, a teenager of enormous strength, at a wage of \$4 an hour (unindexed.)

Such wages, said the indexed Professor, were inflationary, the unit cost of the wood extortionate. "That boy's Productivity," he complained, "is ridiculously low and he's only marginally motivated. The young are all spoiled nowadays."

Jimmy protested that his wages were much less, and his work much more useful, than those of the Canadian Parliament, as recently increased to set what the government called a good example for the Post Office strikers.

However motivated and ignorant of economics, he began and split and pile the wood at a cost, we reckoned, of about a hundred dollars per cord (including Archie's unspecified monetary reward, plus a liquid bonus several times a day as required.) The Economics of Scale are always expensive. You can't have technological efficiency on the cheap.

The Professor worked hard on the Curve in his house which remained chilly because the balsam, full of sap, didn't burn very well. But oddly enough, to judge from his perpetual thirst, Archie was dry all the time.

The Curve and the woodpile advanced together in a triumph of economic fine tuning, both almost complete at midsummer. Then, a few days ago, we were

shocked by an unexpected change of plan.

A messenger from the grocery store called the Professor to the village telephone and he talked for most of an hour. Returning to his house and a pensive mood, he informed us confidentially that he had accepted a commission from some thrifty republic in Central America (its name unmentioned for secret reason of state) to advise the government on the development of the local forest and housing industries.

As an ardent sympathizer with the Third World, the Professor could not refuse to share his unequalled knowledge, the Curve and, we gathered, a handsome honorarium from the republic's treasury, indexed of course.

Alas for our intellectual climate, he has departed, with the manuscript of the Curve, the Economics of Scale, and the Bottom Line. No doubt the republic will flourish on his expertise, the Pottenger estate is up for sale at a re-inflated price, the balsam is drying out, and so is Archie.

Bruce Hutchison was a well-known Canadian author and journalist who wrote many stories of his experiences at his family summer camp at Shawnigan Lake. In fact, he also did a lot of writing while at the lake. His first holiday at Shawnigan was in 1908. He died in 1992.

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Students in computer lab creating a spread for FutureBook's annual layout and design contest during a summer workshop August 21-23. A Shawnigan Focus editor had the opportunity to speak to the students about journalism during this workshop at Shawnigan Lake School.



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Makers' Circle

New CSAG Event Series:



Makers' Circle is an opportunity for artists, artisans and crafters to meet on Thursday afternoons to spend two hours with like-minded 'makers' and work on their portable projects in an atmosphere of support and sharing.

We will meet bi-weekly from 1:00 – 3:00 on Thursday afternoons at Shawnigan Lake Recreation Center. Our first Makers' Circle will be on 26 September, 10 and 24 October, and 7 and 21 November. With our last meeting for 2019 in December.

We will resume in January 2020. Makers will be responsible for all their own supplies and snacks. We will provide tables, chairs, floor protection and a space to meet like-minded community members.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



**WHY FIT IN
WHEN YOU
WERE BORN TO
STAND OUT?
~DR. SEUSS**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

With the federal election campaign well under way, certain citizens appear determined to vote "strategically". This requires supporting one party, usually established and with a reasonable chance of success, to prevent a similarly endowed opponent in an "enemy camp" from gaining victory. Frequently the candidate chosen to thwart the rival is not the strategic voters' first choice. More often than not, their first choice would be a candidate from a smaller, less "old style" party, or perhaps an Independent. That this preoccupation with "keeping someone out", rather than "getting someone in," is ultimately self-defeating seldom occurs to the strategic voters.

By not supporting the party of their original instinct, they deny themselves the personal satisfaction of having followed their true preference, and may well have harmed the prospects of their first choice in either actually being elected, or at least building a strong

base for future elections.

Another consequence is the continued dominance of two opposing "gangs" vying for supremacy at the top of the political order. With dreary predictability, the succession of the status quo is assured through the dismissal of newer and different political directions. This is not voting "from the heart" [thank you, Paul Ruszel !], but allowing fear to dictate our political decision making. To those who complain about the same tired old scenarios being played out, why not try something different? Change can be rewarding!

Of course, fear is a powerful motivator, and in the past, I, too, thought along these lines. I suppressed my natural inclination to vote Green, even though the Green Party's authentic and unswerving commitment to caring for our planet - likely the only earthly home we humans will ever have! - was unfettered by allies in the corporate realm or allegiance to labour

unions. Eventually the realization began to dawn that, unless we who shared the same values actually began to act on these principles, then the ideals we cherished would never manifest in concrete terms.

Possibly an element of synchronicity was in effect, for lo and behold! the Greens began to be elected, both federally and provincially! People voted with their hearts and met with success!

Whether your heart's desire is an Independent [should one have emerged at the last gasp], a Green, or a member of the Fraternity of Pink Polk a Dot Hippopotamuses, vote accordingly. Your choice can only succeed if you register your support!

Clearly the way forward is based not on fear, but hope

Sincerely,

Mary Desmond
Shawnigan Lake
250-743-2278



Crates of Poppies ready to be stuffed for Remembrance Day. Volunteers are needed to help. Wednesday, October 9th at 1 pm sharp at the Malahat Legion.

South Cowichan Library

Book a Librarian! Interested in finding out answers? Schedule a 30-minute session at a time that works for you.

LEGO® Club meets every Wednesday, 2-5pm. 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. DUPLO available too.

Tablet Workshop on Wednesday, October 2, 6-7:30pm. Learn how to use the tools in your tablet to access digital resources from the library. Just bring your tablet.

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program starts on Friday, October 4, 10:30-11:30am. Songs, rhymes, and stories for children 0-4 and their adults. In partnership with Island Health.

Family Storytime happens every Saturday, 2 - 2:30pm. Join us for books, stories, and songs. For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults.

Medicine Gathering with Cowichan Tribes Elder Della (Rice) Sylvester: Thursday, Oc-

tober 10, 5:30 - 7:30pm. Learn traditional uses for plants in the region as part of a walking tour. Open to all ages, minors must be accompanied by a caregiver.

French Conversation Group meets on alternating Thursdays (October 10 & 24) from 6 to 7pm. Come by and practice parler en français with a native French speaker.

Teen Games Night is a monthly program for teens. Play one of our games (Sushi Go!) or bring your own. From 5:30 to 8pm on Thursday, Oct 17.

Ukulele Workshop by David K with the Cowichan South Arts Guild: 6 - 8pm on Wednesday, Oct 23. All levels welcome! Bring your uke, guitar with capo, or just bring yourself to start learning to play this popular and expressive instrument. Free, handouts will be provided.

Chess Club: This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, September 27, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome.

The Wild Side



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

One of the best things about living at Shawnigan Lake is that there is an endless opportunity to experience nature and its beauty through the abundance of plant and animal life in the area.

We have always enjoyed a wide variety of wild birds visiting our yard. In fact, we actively encourage their visits by providing cracked sunflower seeds, peanuts and home-made peanut butter 'suet' cakes.

More recently, we are having regular stopovers from a Great Blue Heron. This tall blue-grey bird, the largest Heron in Canada, can be roughly 1 metre high (with neck outstretched) and weigh around 2.5 kg. Its impressive wingspan is almost double its

height. In flight, the Heron resembles something from prehistoric times with its wide wingspan and deep, slow wing beats. Herons are very distinctive in flight with their long legs trailing behind them and their neck bent in an S-shape.

The adult Great Blue Herons show brighter colours during the breeding season, moult some plumes in summer, and change to duller colours in winter. The adult male and female look very similar but the male is usually larger.

This beautiful bird lands on our log, always alone, and patiently waits for a fish to appear. Sometimes it will stand motionless in one place for a very long time, just watching. Other times it will slowly and carefully walk back and forth along the log. When a fish or other prey is spotted, the

Heron catches it with a lightning fast thrust of the beak. Herons also eat frogs, snakes, crabs and insects.

A Heron is generally silent but does make sounds during courtship displays, or when alarmed or startled. Herons can live long lives – sometimes even up to 17 years.

Great Blue Herons tend to forage in marine coastal environments and in freshwater habitats, but choose to nest where few mammals or snakes can prey on them. These birds sometimes nest alone, but often do so in colonies consisting of a dozen to several hundred pairs.

Our visitor has always arrived alone, often late in the afternoon and sometimes stays for up to an hour. It is a treat to quietly observe this beautiful bird enjoying the lake as much as we do.



Think Shawnigan

Think Shawnigan is an intense design and planning process generating creative ideas for the future look and feel of Shawnigan Village.

Design Week: Get Involved

October 17th Ideas Fair

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

All the input gathered so far: An opportunity for community members to drop-in and add to the ideas for designing the future Shawnigan Village.

October 18th Studio Drop-in

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Meet the designers and see how the community ideas are being shaped in terms of design directions for enhanced street design, meeting places, pedestrian connections, as well as housing and commercial development.

October 19th Public Presentation

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Presentation of draft design concepts and early directions for Shawnigan Village. See the grand reveal of what the planners have designed, based on community ideas. Sketches will give us a sense of how our community could be, as together we envision the future of Shawnigan Lake.

December 2019

Final designs, report and presentation.
(Specific dates to be confirmed.)

Keep in touch

ThinkShawnigan@gmail.com

f @Shawnigan Gathering

iloveshawnigan.com/events

*All events held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

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Shawnigan Focus

Why Museums Matter

Paige Henry
Shawnigan Lake Museum

It can be difficult to think of the past as a time that really existed. This is especially true in today's world, where everything is in a constant state of evolution.

We've hardly made one development or started a new trend before we move on to something else. It's hard to think that, in some other time, everything we now consider "dated" was modern. At some

point, the past was someone else's "now."

Museums seek to bridge the gap between ourselves and the past. They present history in its purest form and let it speak for itself. They understand that history doesn't always need adaptation- the best way to understand it is to experience it firsthand. And stepping into a museum is one of the most authentic experiences you can get.

Museums are places to cre-

ate connections, both with the past and with each other. Every country, every community, every family has their own unique story, but stories themselves don't belong to any particular place or culture. We have told stories since the beginning of human society, and it's crucial that we continue to do so. Stories help us discover bonds we did not know existed, forge connections between people who might otherwise have nothing in common, and make our sprawling, complicated world feel a little smaller.

Even if you're not so interested in education, it's hard not to respect the effort

museums put into preserving objects that would otherwise be lost. In a time where many things are disposable and mass-produced, it's strange that something as simple as a medicine bottle or cocoa can was once worth keeping. It's largely thanks to the resourcefulness and foresight of our ancestors that we have so many artifacts left- everything was made to last, to have another use beyond its original purpose.

I look at the rows of beautiful glass bottles in our museum's mock general store and feel wistful for a time when even mundane objects

were made with such care.

Despite the vital role they play, museums- especially those in small communities- don't always get the attention they deserve. The reality is, many people don't think of a place like Shawnigan Lake- or Canada itself, for that matter- as having a rich and complex history.

I wonder if, one hundred years from now, our descendants will preserve what we left behind. Will they create museums in honor of us? Will they go to great lengths to spread our stories?

We'd best leave them lots of stories to tell.



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Shawnigan Moment



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Akin

by Emma Donoghue
Published by HarperCollins Ltd.
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If you've read "Room" or seen the movie, you will be familiar with the author's ability to tell a spell-binding story. Her latest book is entirely different in subject matter and yet manages to give us an equally gripping, although less harrowing read.

Noah is a childless, retired Professor of Chemistry living in a comfortable apartment on the Upper West Side of New York. At almost 80, he is set in his ways and a little cranky, although the voice of his dead wife, Joan, still lives in his head, reminding him to lighten up.

As he prepares for a trip to his birthplace in Nice, France, his life is disrupted by a call from a social worker. She informs him of the existence of a great nephew, whom he has never met, and who, because of a tragic set of events, is homeless. She asks him to take

temporary charge of the boy, and, despite his reluctance to do so, he agrees to take the boy for a week or two. An emergency passport is obtained and they are set to go.

Michael, the nephew, is 11, and has lost the protection and love of his grandmother through her untimely death. His troubled father died young through an opioid overdose and his mother is in prison. He is suspicious, street-wise and belligerent.

The scene is set for the story of the Odd Couple, divided by two generations, and worlds apart in life experience, class and attitude. And, oh, there is plenty of attitude in both of them.

Their seeming inability to communicate is painful, but, gradually and slowly, Noah begins to bridge the gap, but not without some frustrating and profane exchanges. As he realizes the extent of the losses the boy has endured and the intelligence of the brain behind the tough facade, he becomes intrigued. He is also touched by the hidden vulnerabilities and realizes this "hardass" is also

an unmoored child.

The plot that carries the story forward is generated by a set of mysterious photographs discovered by Noah that cause him to wonder about the part his French mother played in the war. Was she a Collaborator with the Nazis or was she a heroine in the Resistance? With the help of Michael's tech smarts and quick eye he begins to unwind the mystery. Together, and with many misunderstandings, they find out the answers.

The ending of this novel does not tie up things carefully into the 'happily ever after' category, but there are plenty of indications that Noah will not desert his newly found relative and that their relationship will continue. In fact, there is potential for a second book here, one I would gladly read.

Recommended for those who appreciate the generational differences and are trying to bridge them. Also for those who enjoy a good mystery and a well-written yarn.

Rating: 4.9/5 stars



Director's Report

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

If we can Think-Shawnigan, we can create it!

Love it!

No doubt Shawnigan Lake Village is the heart of our community. We all want to be proud of the place where we live, work and play. How do we ensure that we grow with connectivity and thoughtfulness? How do we keep our identity and at the same time meet the needs of our growing community? Our village has 13 acres of empty private land and many parks and public spaces.

We have a special opportunity now to guide our village as it grows instead of trying to repair unsuccessful developments in the future.

Share it!

From October 17th to October 19th the Shawnigan Lake Community will be involved in an Intensive Design and Planning process that will

help shape the future look and feel of the Shawnigan Village. During this process we will look at the heart of the Village and the surrounding area. This intensive process will develop detailed three-dimensional drawings that will be grant and project ready. We have been gathering the community's input at events since this Spring and most recently at the Think-Shawnigan Gathering. So far, the common themes are: walking improvements, park enhancements, retail ideas/spaces and housing.

Mark your calendars to participate:

- ★ October 17th Ideas Fair (Hear and add to what the designers have heard so far) 7-8:30pm
- ★ October 18th Studio Drop-in (Watch the designers at work, See the ideas taking shape) 4-6pm
- ★ October 19th Presentation of draft design concepts for the future Shawnigan Village 4:30-6:30pm

★ All events are FREE and will be held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre! All welcome!!

After the intensive design process, the consultants will polish the results and share the final designs. This is anticipated for December 2019. Sign up to be kept informed at thinkshawnigan@gmail.com.

Protect it!

Please get involved. Provide your input. Be part of the future of Shawnigan. More details:

PlaceSpeak - <https://tinyurl.com/y6fuwy6b>

<http://www.iloveshawnigan.com/events.html>

Facebook Think Shawnigan Movement

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC, V9L 1N8
Sacton@cprd.bc.ca
(250) 715-6763 - cell/text
iloveshawnigan.com



Photos from the Gathering

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
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Shawnigan Focus

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Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

October: Star Evolution

Over the past years we have talked at length about where stars form, like in the Orion Nebula (Feb 2018). We have also looked into supergiant cool stars, like Betelgeuse and Antares (Feb 2018 and Aug 2019, respectively), and hot blue stars like Rigel (Feb 2018). What we have not addressed is what stars actually are, how they form and, ultimately, how they die. No star chart this month - just science!

A star is a gigantic nuclear

furnace, with the vast majority of stars fusing hydrogen into helium (fusion is when atoms of a lighter element form into a heavier element). This nuclear fusion creates a great deal of energy which, fortunately for Earth, keeps water in a liquid phase and allows for life to persist.

A star begins its life as a cloud of interstellar gas and dust. If that cloud is disturbed, it begins to collapse on itself, and also begins to rotate. As the cloud collapses and heats up, a protostar begins to take shape at the centre of the spinning mass. As temperature and pressure rise

in the protostar the fusion of hydrogen into helium begins, and the star is born. The life cycle of a star is completely dependent on its initial mass. Stars that are much larger than our Sun live violent, short lives. Stars like Rigel in Orion will only live for 10-15 million years - it is a star so large that the internal temperature and pressure burns through the initial hydrogen very quickly.

Once the hydrogen is fused into helium, the star collapses in on itself and causes the interior pressure and temperature to increase. This increase in temperature begins the

fusion of helium into carbon and oxygen, and also causes the star to expand rapidly. In giant stars, the process continues, with heavier and heavier elements fused in the core. At each stage of fusion the star increases in size, ultimately to a supergiant star, like Betelgeuse in Orion or Antares in Scorpius.


Fortunately for life on Earth, a star like our Sun has a much longer and stable life relative to the giant stars of our Universe. Our Sun is 4.5 billion years old and is still fusing hydrogen into helium. It is roughly half way through its hydrogen and will become a red giant once it

begins to fuse helium to oxygen and carbon. At that stage the Sun will become red and its outer surface will balloon and extend somewhere between the current orbits of Venus and Earth. Mercury and Venus will be swallowed up and destroyed by the expanding Sun, Earth's surface will be baked, the oceans boiled off. No need for urgent concern - this scenario models 4.5-5 Billion years into the future.

Planets and Moon: Saturn and Jupiter are still prominent in the western evening sky (see last month). Full Moon is October 13th, New Moon is October 27th.

Shawnigan Weather SEPTEMBER 2019

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	Sept Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	20.5	19.7	19.7	19.6	20.1	19.8	19.7	19.3	19.3
Average Low	9.3	11.2	9.9	11.5	10.1	12.1	10.8	11.0	9.5
Extreme High	34.0	28.7	29.1	28.0	27.8	28.0	27.7	27.0	27.5
Extreme Low	-3.9	3.6	6.1	4.0	5.4	4.3	7.4	3.0	6.5
Precipitation	33.3	96.6	87.8	84.8	71.5	83.7	65.6	88.6	75.5
Days w precip	8	16	15	16	15	15	12	15	12
Year Precip	716.1	627.8	686.4	543.9	650.1	508.0	603.6	596.2	699.3

Rank since 1914: 30th warmest, 16th wettest

Lake Temperature: Sept 1st: 22° Sept 8th: 21° Sept 15th: 19° Sept 22nd: 18° Sept 29th: 16°

Lake Level Change: Sept 1st: -2.5cm Sept 8th: -1cm Sept 15th: +1cm Sept 22nd: 0cm Sept 29th: 0cm

Surface Elevation: 116.05m 116.04m 116.05m 116.05m 116.05m

September was almost 3 times wetter than normal, and a little bit warmer than usual. The hottest day was on September 5th while the coolest day was September was on the 30th. Wettest day was on the 12th with 31 mm that day. Overall precipitation still continues to run below average in spite of this wet month.

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Phone: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency
Phone: (250)812-8030
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department members attended
12 incidents in September



- ★ Friday, Sept 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 10 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 12 - MVI at Dunwick & W Shawnigan Lake Rds
- ★ Saturday, Sept 14 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 14 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 15 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 25 - Hazmat Incident at Renfrew & W Shawnigan Rds
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 25 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd

Want to send an editorial submission?: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Director's meeting - Oct 7th at 7pm at S.L. Community Centre. Email sacton@cvrld.bc.ca
- ★ **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.
- ★ **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: lburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. General Meetings at 7pm 1st Tuesday of the month. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thursday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **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
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)

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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

The winner for September is Betty Lord who recognized one of the Telus Cable signs which mark where underwater cables cross two sections of the lake. This one was the sign near Verlon Road. The other cable crosses the West Arm. They have been there for decades and it would be interesting to find out if the cables are still used.

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Walk Talk

By Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

This month we head back to Crofton to chat about another fabulous adventure, this time - lakeside.

Wait... did you say "lake"? Yeah! I didn't know it either but Crofton has a lake that is a beautifully hidden gem with an equally beautiful little trail looping around it.

Upon googling it you may notice several access points - but they all require some sort of physical effort which is perhaps why it is elusive and quite quiet once you get there. Because our focus lately has been launching from the Osbourne Bay Road parking area, we started there. After crossing the road and not too far in, you will encounter the first junction of the trip - go right for the lake search.

Following a smallish climb, you will receive some directional assurance that you are on the right track in the form of a sign tacked to a tree. Continue meandering, while enjoying the sites and diligent-

ly sticking to the main road until you reach a curve, followed by a decline leading to the next junction. This time you will go left. Again, stay on the road for a short while to the next junction - take another left. And if I remember correctly only one more junction in which requires another left and then you will see what appears to be a body of water, near the bear warning sign.

Depending on the time of year, you may arrive at the lake to witness an eerie and wonderfully mysterious fog lingering just above the water. Perhaps some lily pads in bloom and the bulrush - as far as the eye can see. One of the best parts is an adorable little walkout pier that allows you to peek into the murky waters to try and catch sight of what lurks beneath the surface. Continue past the pier and take a slight left, over a little creek boardwalk and around to the right to begin the lake trail loop.

The terrain of the lake trail is much different than the first half of this adventure. It

consists of soft spongy earth deep within the protection of an overhead canopy keeping you shielded from both sun and rain alike. There are various wee inclines and declines on the squishy springy earth which can certainly make good use of trekking poles if you have them.

Stay on the main trail through all the junctions until it spills onto another road, then go right to return to bear warning sign once again. Should you have not left any cookie crumbs to follow out, take three rights and one last left to find your way back to the Osbourne Bay Road and completing your 8ish kilometre hike.

Worthy mention: This area is a known favorite party place for cougars and bears - avoid going at it alone and instead be noisy, laugh out loud a lot and bring your wildlife provisions!

See our photos from this hike and more at The Om Tree Facebook page.

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