



Shawnigan Focus

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A Non-Profit Community Publication

WHO IS RUNNING THE SHOW WITH BC QUARRY REGULATIONS?

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

A recent statement from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources has raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the Ministry in protecting the public interest. Senior officials are attempting to renege on commitments requiring a quarry operator to use a massive mountain of stockpiled soil for reclamation. If this breach of contract is allowed it will unfairly provide a large financial benefit to the quarry operator and also perpetuate a significant risk to the Shawnigan watershed which provides potable water for over 12,000 people.

In October 2006 South Island Aggregates Ltd (SIA) received a Quarry Permit (Q-8-094) from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for Lot 23, a property on Stebbings Road owned by Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd (CHH). In July 2008 SIA applied for another Quarry Permit (G-8-331) for Lot 21, the parcel immediately to the north of Lot 23. Both SIA and CHH are owned and managed by Michael Kelly and Martin Block.

For several years the two properties were managed as one entity for rock quarrying and receiving material. There was considerable controversy about the quantity and the provenance of the material that was received, as illustrated by the following quotes:

Ian Webster, Former Inspector of Mines, Email, April 17 2007:

I requested to see records of material being brought to the mine site and was provided with only two vague "Material/Soil Acceptance" forms and they did not show volume or description of material. There were no records for the wood waste brought to the site (600 tonnes). Mr. Block seemed to be completely unaware that there is a permit condition requiring a registered professional certify all fill as "clean".

Ed Taje, Regional Manager of Mines, Email, March 1 2007:

Further to our discussions regarding the wood waste, tires, asphalt and soil being imported to the quarry site on Stebbings Road ... The import of waste



Mountain of questionable fill on Lot 21 - Clearly encroaching on CVRD property.

material to a mine site is not permitted ... all imported waste material, wood, asphalt, and tires must be removed from the mine site.

Ed Taje, Regional Manager of Mines, Email, April 19 2013:

The existing permit allows for the stockpiling of residential classification soil for final reclamation. The stockpile as it sits now is not a suitable final end land use.

Sean Hern, Lawyer, Letter on behalf of Shawnigan Residents Association, May 20 2014

In our view, the Ministry of Energy and Mines ought to have a very close look at how the SIA quarry has been, and is being, operated. It appears to us that SIA has been, and remains, out of compliance with its quarry permits in a number of respects and we do not understand why the Ministry of Energy and Mines seems to have turned a blind eye to this ...

Lot 21, for which SIA has a quarry permit, has been used since 2006 as a fill site. Mr. Taje explained on the witness stand that for the purposes of SIA's operations, at least since 2010 he allowed SIA to bring soil onto Lot 21 under the premise that it was being stored there for use in reclamation of the

quarry that was being mined on Lot 23. In other words, he considered Lots 21 and 23 to be effectively one quarry. Under that premise, SIA deposited on Lot 21 thousands of truckloads of soil, filling up a gully and creating a mountain of new soil. Our understanding is that there is far more soil on Lot 21 than could ever be used for the reclamation of Lot 23. Moreover, a huge amount of soil has been deposited on Lot 23 as well, purportedly for reclamation purposes. It is difficult to appreciate the amount of soil that has been brought on site without visiting it.

Under the mining permits, SIA must keep accurate records of the material deposited on site for reclamation purposes. The SRA asked for these records in the MOE Permit appeal hearing and our lawyers were provided four file folders of freshly printed documents. These didn't have the look of historical mine records, they seemed to originate from one source (LeHigh), and there did not appear to be near enough records to represent the amount of fill deposited on site. Moreover, we heard second-hand reports from a member of the community that shortly before producing mining records in the appeal process, SIA was calling around to its customers asking for records to be reproduced and provided to it. As a result, if you ask for the mine records that are

required to be maintained under the permit, we don't expect you will receive them. Google Earth imagery shows this fill appeared between 2006 and 2010. It was received and stockpiled allegedly as reclamation fill for the quarry operation on Lot 23. SIA record keeping is poor and no one really knows what the volume is. There appears to be far more material than could fit onto Lot 23, never mind what is allowed by the Mine Permit. Instructions from MEM and other agencies to address this monumental problem have clearly been ignored by SIA and not enforced by the Province.

Scott Cunningham, CTV Reporter, CTV News, Apr 22 2015:

"A woman who worked for South Island Aggregates in 2006 has come forward to CTV news, she says the company began accepting industrial fill as a way to make money, and she says they were willing to take almost anything, no matter its environmental impact."

Brian Carruthers, CVRD CAO, Letter to the Ministry, April 27 2015

As an adjacent property owner that has been blatantly impacted by the mining activities of SIA/CHH, the CVRD remains disappointed by the

lack of action on the part of SIA/CHH or the Ministry in addressing these outstanding issues.

MOE - Environmental Protection Division, Historical Records Review, June 23 2015:

It is important to note that the historical files provided by MEM were simply labelled Lehigh Northwest Materials and Victoria Materials Depot Ltd. No information was provided to directly link South Island Aggregates Lot 21 operations to the records. Therefore, information contained in the records provided cannot be directly linked to the latter company and Lot 21 without additional clarification. Further, upon review of the file contents, it was concluded that the records provided did not contain adequate information to sufficiently describe: the origin, deposition location, or environmental quality of soils arriving at Lot 21, assuming Lot 21 is actually the deposition site. Further, the information contained in the records is generally insufficient to be considered representative of the overall soil quality at the site due to a lack of specific information such as, geographical reference for soil deposition at the deposit site, and comprehensive chemical characterization for all soil received for deposit at Lot 21.

Who is running the show with BC Quarry Regulations? Continued Page 1.

Throughout all of this was the commitment by the Ministry that the material on Lot 21 must be used for final reclamation. The Regional Manager, Mr. Taje, and the Chief Inspector of Mines were clear on this point:

Ed Taje, Regional Manager of Mines, CVRD/MEM Meeting - May 30, 2015

When asked whether the stockpiling of materials onto Lot 21 was allowed because they were going to use those materials to remediate the mine, Mr. Taje replied “That’s absolutely correct”.

Ministry of Energy and Mines - Information Sheet – July 16, 2015

Mines Act Permit Q-8-331; Lot 21. The purpose of the imported soil is to back-fill the quarry under Mines Act

permit Q-8-094 (Lot 23)

Al Hoffman (Chief Inspector of Mines) response letter to SRA, July 11, 2016

Currently, there is a Stop Work Order, dated May 1, 2015, preventing SIA from importing further amounts of soil onto Lot 21. The intent of the soil currently onsite is for reclamation purposes for the adjacent Lot 23.

It is now 2019 and 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil have been sitting on Lot 23, the unfortunate legacy of “Professional Reliance” as practiced by the BC Liberals. The Waste Discharge Permit was cancelled over two years ago and the NDP government has been dithering on whether to remove the material or let it sit there forever. The latest “Final Closure Plan” en-

tails trucking in another 70,000 cubic metres of capping fill to bury the contaminated waste. Incredibly, the government appears to be seriously considering this option. There has been no mention of using the fill on Lot 21 as per the original intent and understanding between the quarry regulators and the operators. More importantly, there has been scant consideration for removal of the contaminated waste.

The Ministry now seems poised to allow the quarry operators to escape their obligations with no consequences. David Caughill, Regional Director of Mining Operations, claims there is no mechanism to enforce the requirement that the stockpiled material on Lot 21 be used for reclamation. At an April 16th

meeting hosted by the Ministry of Environment, attended by representatives of the Shawnigan Community and the Malahat First Nation, Mr. Caughill’s opinion was that both Mr. Taje and the Ministry Information Sheet were in error. No mention was made as to whether Mr. Hoffman, the Chief Inspector of Mines, was also mistaken.

The significant financial benefit to the quarry operators could be twofold. They would be spared the cost of moving the material from Lot 21 to Lot 23. Also, if the proposed closure plan is approved, they could charge fees for receiving the additional fill intended as a cap for the contaminated waste.

This is a troubling and alarming situation. The Ministry

appears to be favouring these particular operators. It is perplexing that there is no concern regarding the volume, source, or quality of the material that was deposited on Lot 21. There is an attitude of let’s sweep the issue under the rug and hope that any scrutiny will dissipate with time.

Regulatory capture occurs when an agency, created to act in the public interest, instead advances the concerns of the sector it is charged with regulating. Given the particulars of this situation, it seems reasonable to ask that any necessary steps be taken to ensure that this is not the case within the departments responsible for mining regulations. The material on Lot 21 should be used as final reclamation as agreed.

Shawnigan Weather April 2019 - Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	April Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	13.5	14.0	13.3	13.9	13.8	14.7	14.1	14.0	13.2
Average Low	3.8	5.3	4.6	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.3	5.2	4.4
Extreme High	30.0	20.2	26.7	21	26.3	21.7	28.3	19.5	25.0
Extreme Low	-5.6	0.8	-0.9	1.5	0.7	2.0	0.9	2.0	0.0
Precipitation	71.9	67.9	132.7	58.1	140.7	48.1	121.9	60.0	138.2
Days w precip	16	13	18	13	18	13	18	13	21
Year Precip	541.1	406.6	549.9	373.1	532.8	347.5	495.2	402.8	575.4
Precip since Oct 1	1075.8	1003.1	1132.6	950.5	1093.9	927.1	1006.0	969.5	1128.4
Rank since 1914: 15 th warmest, 51 st wettest									
Lake Temperature:	Apr 7 th : 7°	Apr 14 th : 9°		Apr 21 st : 11°		Apr 28 th : 11°			
Lake Level Change:	Apr 7 th : +2.5cm	Apr 14 th : 0cm		Apr 21 st : -2.5cm		Apr 28 th : -2.5 cm			
Surface Elevation:	116.59m	116.59m		116.56		116.54m			

April was slightly below normal for rainfall and slightly above average for temperature. The warmest day, ironically, was April 1st and the coldest was April 28th.

2019 has been considerably drier than normal. The wet season (October - April) was more than 100mm below normal.

South Cowichan Library

Tablet Workshop on Wednesday, May 1, 6-7pm. Learn how to use the tools you already have in your tablet to access digital resources from the library. Free, just bring your tablet.

French Conversation Group is on alternating Thursdays (May 2, 16, 30) from 5:30 to 7pm. Come by and practice parler en francais with a native French speaker.

Houseplants for Your Health on Saturday, May 4, 1-2:30pm. Join Shirley Bellows to learn how growing houseplants can help you and your home be healthier. This demonstration will also feature houseplant care including transplanting, fertilizing, and propagation. Limit 10 people. Please call the library at 250-743-5436 to register.

LEGO® Club meets on Wednesday, May 8, 3:30-5:30pm. 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. Second Wednesday of every month.

Family Storytime is Saturday, May 11, 11am to noon. Join us for stories, rhymes, songs, and crafts on the second Saturday of every month. For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults. Free.

Watercolour Landscapes with Karen Gillmore on Thursday, May 23, 5:30-7:30pm. Learn the basics of watercolour painting in this playful workshop from the Cowichan South Arts Guild. Learn a variety of techniques and then finish off your beautiful sky with a simple landscape as a small picture suitable for a note-card or framing. All levels welcome and supplies provided.

Chess Club: This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, May 31, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

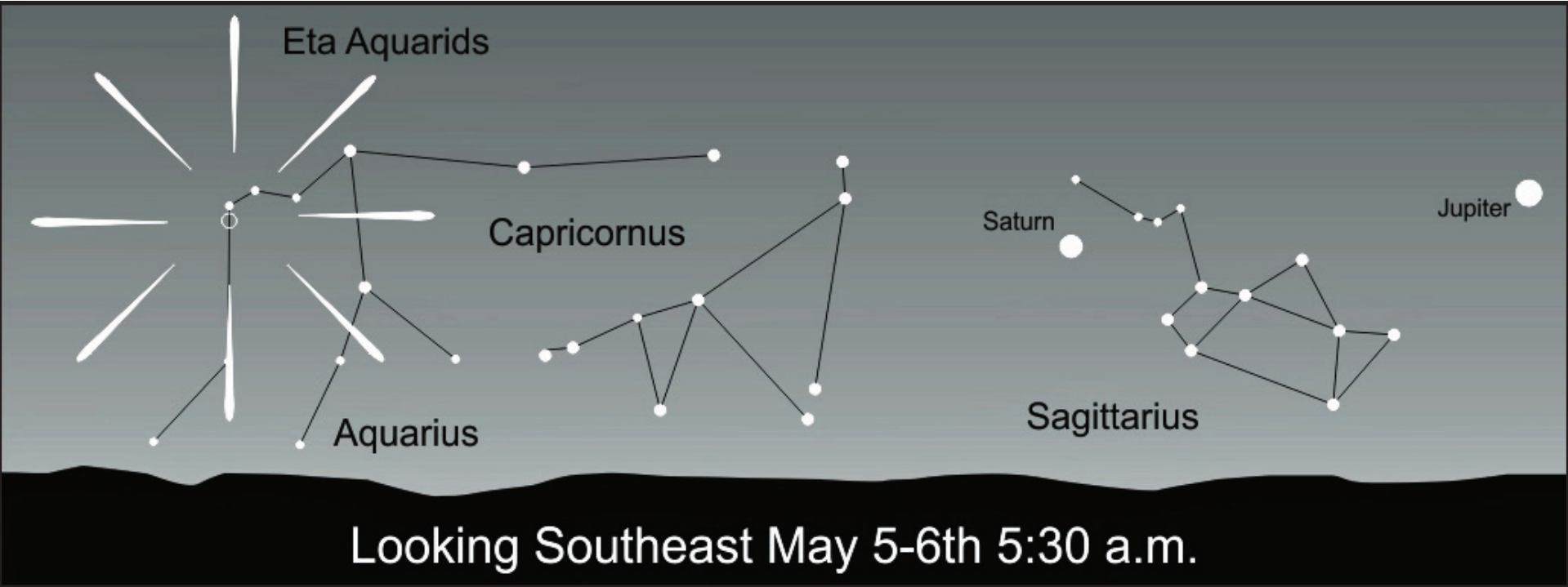
Keep up to date with the library at our Facebook page: VI Regional Library South Cowichan

Connector Trail



New trail from the rail trail to Elsie Miles Park

We buy a bottle of water in the city, where clean water comes out of its taps. You know, back in 1965, if someone said to the average person, “You know in thirty years you are going to buy water in plastic bottles and pay more for that water than for gasoline?”, everybody would look at you like you’re completely out of your mind. - Paul Watson



Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

May: Aquarids and Halley's Comet

We will leave the evening sky behind us and set the alarm for pre-dawn viewing in May to witness the Eta Aquarids meteor shower with Saturn and Jupiter as a backdrop.

Looking Southeast from roughly 4 am to dawn through the first week of May you should see approximately 20-25 shooting stars per hour emanat-

ing from that region of the sky.

The radiant of this shower is quite low on the horizon in the constellation Aquarius. That, combined with the relatively high velocity of the meteoroids (66 km per second), yields particularly long tails on these meteors. The moon will be behind the horizon offering a nice dark sky until the sun starts to brighten things up.

These objects are the dust debris left behind from arguably the most famous comet of all, Halley's Comet. Halley's

Comet last entered our inner solar system in 1986, and will return in 2061. It orbits the sun once every ~75 years. Halley's Comet is named after Edmond Halley who, in 1705, worked out the orbital period of this comet using Newton's new laws on gravity, and also documentation of observed comets recorded in history. In 1705 Halley predicted that the comet would return in 1758, and although he passed in 1742, an amateur astronomer by the name of Johann Georg Palitzsch spotted the comet on

Christmas Day 1758, forever linking Halley's name with the comet. Interestingly, the meteors that we view in the Eta Aquarid shower no longer lie on the path of Halley's Comet, and must have somehow separated from the comet hundreds of years ago.

Planets and Moon: While you're up so early to watch the meteor shower, the two largest planets in our solar system are easy to spot. Jupiter will be the brightest object by far, almost due south. To the immediate

left of Jupiter, spot the familiar teapot shape of the constellation Sagittarius, with the next brightest object in the night sky, Saturn, located just off the handle. You may be able to pick up Venus very low on the horizon, toward the Sun, just before sunrise. Mars is also relatively easy to spot in May as it is directly over top of Orion the Hunter in the evening sky. On the night of May 7th the crescent moon will be very close to the red planet. *New Moon is May 4th, Full Moon is May 18th.*

Responsible Government

Thomas Lupton,
Shawnigan Residents
Association

One of the best things about becoming a parent and (gulp) an adult, is that I get to smugly repeat all of the 'parenting' mantras that I used to hear ad nauseum when I was a child. Phrases like "clean your room" or "don't be so selfish" or my favorite synonym for no: "we'll see". I must have heard that thousands of times as a kid, and now I've repeated it thousands more as a parent. In fact, it has become so ingrained in my lexicon that, as the saying goes, if I had a nickel for every time I heard or said "we'll see", I'd probably have enough to pay for the removal of the toxic soil myself!

However, the phrase that has actually resonated the most with me from my childhood was "take some responsibility." As a kid, this didn't really impact me, and there is good reason for this. Kids, by design, are selfish. They are ego driven and focussed on personal goals and don't have enough life experience to appreciate the importance of responsibility. This is why

kids don't get to drive motorized vehicles, vote in elections, hold positions of importance in society, or be allowed to live on their own.

As an avid mountain biker, I get to enjoy the fruits of adulthood by exploring the beautiful trails in and around Shawnigan. While I am mostly awestruck by the natural splendor that abounds, I am frequently disappointed by the garbage and waste that is dumped in our trails. Social degenerates who dump couches and waste in the bushes are a particular problem, but so too are the 'adults' who dirtbike or ATV up into the bush, have a fire, and then scatter their beer cans and smash their bottles. I can hear my father yelling "take some responsibility for yourself!" and shaking his head disappointedly.

This absolutely isn't an indictment on motorized sport. Rather, it is an indictment on anyone in our community who refuses to own their selfish behaviour. It's not just beer cans in the bush - it's car batteries leaking into the soil, it's septic fields that overflow into the lake, it's the trash that

pollutes our drinking water. Irresponsibility and selfishness wear many masks. In his book, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, Doug Griffiths speaks about 'Taking Responsibility' as a foundational element of communities that thrive.

While a few bad apples shouldn't ruin the bunch, we should ask ourselves, how good are we as a community at taking responsibility? In some ways, exceptionally good. Shawnigan clean-up days, fighting the toxic soil dumping, helping our neighbours and so on. But we are also constrained by government to the extent to which we can take responsibility for ourselves because many of the actions we would take require government officials from Duncan. Beyond lobbying the CVRD, what other actions can we take? The extent to which incorporation will allow us to do that is a bit of an unknown quantity, but surely we should find that out if we want, as I suspect we do, the best version of Shawnigan Lake we can have.

Now, time for me to clean my room.



Shawnigan Lake - Area B

Director's Meeting with Director Sierra Acton

FireSmart - Wildfire Preparedness.

Protecting your family & property!

Presented by : **Shawnigan Lake Fire Department**

Date : Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Time : 7:00PM
Location : Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
2804 Shawnigan Lake Road

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Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Up and down our beloved Island, in almost every community, is a Nature Centre (or house). Typically known as a hub of environmental and ecosystem facts, these Centres are a remarkable way to gain knowledge about an immediate area.

One such Centre is located on the nature reserve of Swan Lake, tenderly tucked in within the hidden sanctuary near Pat Bay Highway and East Saanich Road. The Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is an educational space featuring interpretive displays to enlighten the intellect in relation to the immediate ecology. And here we also learn the deep importance of how the marshy lowlands are essential to the survival of its wildlife community members. The area is home to a diverse group of animals like deer, muskrats, river otters, and mink. It is a home to many feathered friends as well, including sparrows, finches, blackbirds, owls, and ducks. And even an elusive painted turtle finds

the landscape irresistible.

Formed some 12,000 years ago, the lake was born by the recession of one of the last glaciers. Its water supply is now largely collected by the watershed north and east of the area via Blenkinsop Creek.

Swan Lake is recognized as an old Songhees hunting, fishing, foraging and gathering place due to the high volume of arrow/spear tips and food remains found. During the 1850's the land became the property of HBC igniting a long farming history and, consequently, a well known dumping site for local farms and vineyards. In 1864 there was even a famed hotel on the southern side of the lake – but sadly it burned down ... twice in fact.

In 1963 the area was connected to the city's sewer system to help filter out the junk and by the early 1970's it was beginning to resemble the sanctuary you see today. 1975 it was formally incorporated as Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Centre Society.

A wonderful way to see the sanctuary is utilizing



the gentle 2.5 km trail loop around the lake.

The trail provides a way to explore the natural lands by going over carefully constructed wooden boardwalks and bridges. You have the opportunity to stop in at a couple of viewpoint docks

overlooking each side of the lake. And of course, take a wander over the floating trestle that crosses over one corner of the lake that was made possible purely by donation.

Before you go however, please be aware that, due to the sensitivity of the sanctu-

ary, your furry friends will have to stay napping at home, and there are no bikes or boats permitted.

See more at <http://www.swanlake.bc.ca/>.

Check out The Om Tree Facebook Page for our photos and hike schedule.



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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus
Homes (A Refugee Story)
Abu Bakr Al Rabeeah
with Winnie Yeung
Published by Freehand books
Copyright by Winnie Yeung 2018

CBC Radio has a contest every year for a current book Canadians are recommended to read. The 2019 theme of Canada Reads was, “One Book to Move You”. After listening to the debates, I bought this memoir, “Homes”.

Abu Bakr was 16 when he arrived in Edmonton with his family. He met Winnie Yeung in his English class, and when she began to listen to his accounts of life in war-torn parts of the world and the family's journey to freedom and safety, she was fascinated. As their communication increased and deepened, she asked her student an important question, “What is a secret wish you have?” He thought about it and said softly, “I wish to share my story.”

The narrative begins in Iraq when Abu Bakr is 10, and where the family experiences discrimination from being Sunni Muslims in the pre-

dominantly Shi'ite area. Before long the danger increases with the war. With screaming jets overhead, car bombs and civilian killings escalating, the father decides that the family must flee to a safer place.

They go to Homs in Syria with extended family members and attempt to establish a normal life. The chaos of civil war is a daily reality there, too, and Abu Bakr describes the dismembered bodies in the street, the uncertainty of checkpoints and the constant threat of death.

In spite of the terror, he also leads a boy's life of soccer, kite flying and Play Station games with his closely-knit cousins and friends. His family is loving and interconnected and we experience the rich textures and joy of their time together.

Eventually, after several years of trying to obtain visas to safety, the UN gives them the wonderful news that they have been accepted in Canada. The family of ten begins the long journey from the heat and colour of the neighbourhood marketplaces to the cold, wintry landscape of Edmonton where, as Bakr

says, no one is walking in the streets.

Winnie Yeung weaves the story together skillfully, and the view of besieged Syria from a boy's eyes is riveting. She explains in a note at the end of the book that she filled in the gaps by also interviewing the adults in the family, thus getting a wider perspective.

What I found just as interesting as the build-up and flight to Canada was the boy's experience of adjusting to a more isolating Canadian culture after the communal and inter-woven comfort of “the streets clogged with people shopping, visiting and celebrating Ramadan.” Talk about culture shock.

And yet with help the family has adjusted, and, by all accounts, the boy is finding his place in his adopted country. The beautiful game (soccer) has helped.

Recommended for all of you who have had to leave home and start again. This book celebrates that courage, and is, indeed, one to move you.

Rating: 4.9/5 stars

Shawnigan Area Director’s Update

Sierra Acton
Area Director

Love it!

The Community was well represented at the CVRD board meeting on Wednesday April 24th - everyone from frontline protestors, to letter writers, to soil dump site monitors, to documentary photographers and other active community members filled the gallery in support of the long awaited Soil Relocation Bylaw. Many of you have probably noticed the endless stream of dump trucks headed up the Malahat every day and wondered where all that dirt was going. Well, with this new bylaw, the CVRD will now know where the soil is coming from and where it’s going. Hopefully this much needed regulation will help reduce turbidity (from erosion) in our lakes and

streams, protect the beauty of our natural landscapes and reduce the volume of heavy trucks on our roads.

Share it!

The Community came together to celebrate “what NOT to do” with guest speaker Doug Griffith, author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community. The satirical presentation was well received. It was upbeat, inspiring and the perfect start to many more conversations on the future of our village and where we see it going. It you want to join the conversation, please reach out so I can connect you with the ThinkShawnigan movement.

We are blessed to live in a beautifully forested area, but with our forests comes the unfortunate risk of wildfire. The best protection against

loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention. As we head into another long hot summer, I am pleased to host the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department at my next community meeting. They will present valuable information on how you can help to protect your family, property and neighbours from the risk of fire. Mark your calendar and see you at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre on Tuesday June 11th at 7pm.

Protect it!

Recently, I attended a crucial meeting with our team, the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA), the SRA’s legal counsel and our MLA, at which the Ministry of Environment (MoE) staff made it clear that the Contaminated Soil Dump is a landfill and, as such, it requires a closure

plan. The MoE is preparing to present a closure plan, created by Sperling Hansen Associates (SHA), to the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. George Heyman. The plan entails trucking another 70k tons of soil up the Malahat to bury the 100k tons that was already dumped. This despite the fact that Justice Sewell’s ruling called into question the legitimacy of the entire permitting process. This despite evidence that the site is already leaking. This despite the fact that there is already a huge amount of fill sitting on the adjacent lot that was supposedly intended for this very purpose. When it comes to the contaminate soil dump, it appears that the bureaucracy at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is not interested in making a decision based on fact and

logic. At the moment they are simply presenting the Minister a closure plan for approval and he will have to decide if the plan is “reasonable and necessary to protect the environment.” Removal of the soil is not even on the table!! It is clear now that this decision will ultimately be a political one - no amount of facts will change the outcome. Our pleas go out to our friends in the BC NDP and the BC Greens to once again stand up for Shawnigan Lake.

Monday May 6th 7pm Director’s Meeting at The Hub Cowichan Station

Tuesday June 11th 7pm Director’s Meeting at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

Sierra.acton@cvrd.bc.ca

Newly elected Commissions

Area B – Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission

- ★ Cory Cherriere
- ★ Pieter deVries
- ★ Jennifer Edwards
- ★ Elijah Fraser
- ★ Erica Hamilton
- ★ Matthuw-Ronald Jones - Chair
- ★ Rick Kowalewich
- ★ Jeff Patterson
- ★ Bruce Stevens
- ★ Glenn White - Secretary
- ★ Catherine Whittome

Area B – Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission (APC)

- ★ Chris Curley
- ★ Dave Hutchinson
- ★ Donald Hurst
- ★ Edwin Rebner
- ★ Grant Treloar
- ★ Kelsie Roze
- ★ Matt Sager
- ★ Michael Astleford
- ★ Michael Battler
- ★ Pieter DeVries
- ★ Rodger Hunter
- ★ Tim McCooley

Area B – Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission

- ★ Heidi Goddard
- ★ Lorraine Keen
- ★ Esther Small
- ★ Jennifer Edwards
- ★ Sierra Acton
- ★ Kim Barnard
- ★ 1 seat vacant. Contact Sierra Acton if you are interested in joining this commission. sacton@cvrd.bc.ca

Sharing Shawnigan’s History

Nicole Ronald-Jones
Archivist, Shawnigan Lake School

Did you know that Shawnigan Lake School has its own archives? The Shawnigan Lake School Archives hold over 100 years of the school community’s memory. The archives’ large collection includes a wide range of material and artifacts: news clippings, documents, books, yearbooks, chapel programs, scrapbooks, digital photos, school china, uniforms – even an old cougar pelt!

When Nicole Ronald-Jones became the school’s archivist in 2017, she did so with a mission to “collect and conserve”. “I have a passion for organizing, and a deep respect for all things Shawnigan,” says Ronald-Jones. “I take pride in being the keeper of the school’s collective memory and in preserving the past for the benefit of the future.”

The huge task of gathering and organizing accumulated school memorabilia began in 1970s, and continues today, archiving the day-to-day business and activities of the school, as well as tackling boxes and boxes of uncatalogued potential treasures. The digital era brings a wealth of

new material, as well as its own challenges, in the form of files, photos, emails, and other digital assets. There are practical concerns for storing and managing such a large amount of data, as well as finding ways of future-proofing to ensure that files remain readable in the face of ever-changing technology.

“Many of the research requests I receive come from alumni or others who have a connection to the school,” notes Ronald-Jones. “But I welcome other requests, too – family history research, queries by war researchers, or questions about the founder and history of the school. Provided it fits within privacy laws, almost any question is considered.”

Ms. Ronald-Jones has a request of her own for the Shawnigan Lake community. “When Strathcona Lodge School closed in 1977, Shawnigan Lake School adopted the alumnae of ‘Strath,’” says Ronald-Jones. “I would love to expand our collection of Strath memorabilia, photographs, artifacts and stories. If anyone has any information or items to share, I am very happy to receive them.”

For more information, email Ms. Ronald-Jones at: nronald-jones@shawnigan.ca

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

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Thoughts on the Rail Trail

Opinion:

Tom Buss

Shawnigan Lake Resident

Have you Shawnigan taxpayers seen "Phase 1" of the new rail trail?

Do you like it?

Do you think it serves a **USEFUL** purpose?

The popular grassy area near the

Government dock is now gone - will you miss it?

Shawnigan has a parking problem already - where will people using the trail park?

What about the increase in your taxes to cover the costs of this trail and the regular maintenance of it?

What are the details of the lease?

The gas tax? How far does it go?

What about our wildlife & the environmental impact within our riparian area?

The CVRD has proposed the next phase headed south going from the Government Dock to the Old Mill Park.

Do we taxpayers want it? Do we need it?

Please speak now!

We currently have a **GREAT** old trail; it's called "THE RAIL". It's been happily used for over 100 years!

The Focus invites feedback on this topic. What is your opinion?

Tell us what you think with an email to shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com



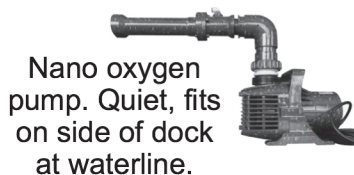
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Call **(250) 413-7916** (Victoria) or email: les@gaiawater.com

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BC V0R 2W0
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Fax: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency
Phone: (250)812-8030
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department members attended
17 incidents in **MARCH**



- ★ Friday, Mar 1 – Burning Complaint on Woodcroft Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 6 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 7 - 1st Responder off Ingot Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 8 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 9 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 9 – MVI on Kapoor Main
- ★ Monday, Mar 10 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 17 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Burning Complaint on Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Structure Fire on Northgate Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Assistance at North End of Lake
- ★ Thursday, Mar 28 – Burning Complaint on Memory Island

Advertise in the

Circulation 3200

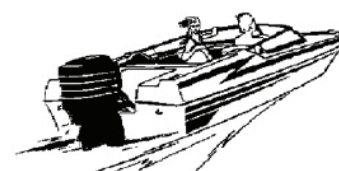
Shawnigan Focus!

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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. 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

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shawniganvet.ca
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FREE

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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

NO WINNER FOR APRIL

No one submitted an answer
for April. We may have
zoomed in a bit too much
which made it difficult.

Malahat Legion

G. J. Solley
Malahat Legion

Aboriginal peoples' military roles were influenced by their traditional hunting and military skills. Many Aboriginal men served as reconnaissance scouts or snipers, some of the most hazardous roles in the military.

In fact, almost immediately after WWI was declared in 1914, Francis Pegahmagabow signed up at a recruitment office. Pegahmagabow was the best known Ojibway and was the most highly decorated Aboriginal soldier in Canadian history, earning three Military Medals for his courage. One of only 37 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force to hold that distinction.

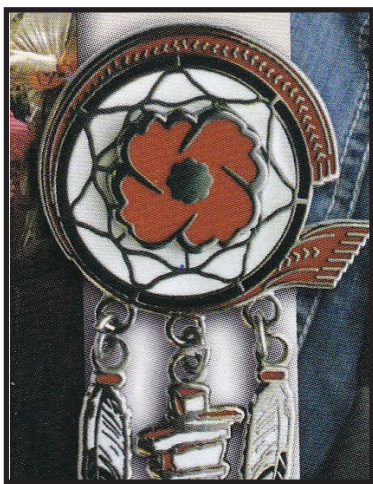
The Aboriginal soldiers accepted the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship, even though the Canadian government had not granted them the rights of citizenship, and many lost their status by doing so. Despite their discontent during interwar years, there remained an undeniable sense of patriotism across Canada when the Second World War broke out.

In 1994, November 8th was designated National Aboriginal Veterans Day.

Since 1995, June 21st is Canada's National Indigenous Peoples Day, formerly called National Aboriginal Day, and celebrates the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of the nation's Aboriginal peoples. There are three Aboriginal groups in Canada – the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples

On Tuesday, June 21st, 2016, almost 100 years after Francis Pegahmagabow earned his first medal for courage in battle on National Aboriginal Day, a life-sized bronze monument of Pegahmagabow was unveiled in Parry Sound, Ontario.

In honour of the Aboriginal Veterans, this month the ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION MALAHAT DISTRICT BRANCH #134 will be offering t-shirts and pins for sale. T-shirts sizes S – XL \$20.00 and 2X – 3X \$25.00. Pins are \$7.00. More information and to purchase Aboriginal clothing items they must be pre-ordered at the Legion. Other Legion clothing is also available to purchase. Delivery will be approximate 3 weeks from cut-off date of May 24th.



Aboriginal soldiers have always played an important role in the Canadian Armed Forces. Aboriginal war heroes have fought on the front lines of every major battle Canada has been involved in. During World War I (1914–1918), approximately 4,000 Aboriginal men and women enlisted. In World War II (1939–1945), approximately 3,000 enlisted. *(all information gathered from various Aboriginal veteran websites.)*



On June 21st, 2001 the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was unveiled in Ottawa that commemorates the contributions of all Aboriginal peoples in war and peacekeeping operations.

In 2014, a \$30 a silver coin, designed by Lloyd Pinay, a First Nations sculptor whose father was a paratrooper in WWII was released. It is a graphic interpretation of the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument honouring the military contributions that Canadian aboriginal men and women.

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