



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eleven - Issue One

January 2020

A Non-Profit Community Publication

HAPPY 2020 SHAWNIGAN!

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus Editor

More than 115 brave participants took the plunge in the 7th Annual Shawnigan Shiver on January 1, 2020. The air temp was a balmy 10 degrees and the water a warm 5 degrees.

Thank you to all who help to make this event happen!

Lori Treloar and Dave Hutchinson, Editors of The Shawnigan Focus for being the lead sponsor for this wonderful New Year's Day event.

Fire Chief, Keith Shields, and the SL Fire Volunteer Department, who help us as first responders, with set up/take down, and provide us with tables, a generator, garbage bins, and, of course, the official siren to bring 'swimmers' out of the water after 5 minutes.

Marian Davies and Bill Davies, for arranging donations of hot chocolate and dispensing drinks and cookies every year, in addition to helping with set up and take down.

Jim Carey from Mason's Store who has generously donated the hot chocolate every year,

Roy Davies and Will who provide the music and sound system every year.



Photo Credit - Janet Neilsen

Artist, Francoise Moulin, for designing the last 7 years of beautiful 'Shiver' scenes for our posters and buttons.

Betsy Burr and Jill Camden who manage the registration.

Dave Hutchinson and Janet Neilsen for standing by,

in boats on the water, in case of emergency.

Denise Holloway and Sierra Acton for leading the rousing warm up for our participants.

And, of course, thank you to all of our great volunteers who make the Shawnigan

Focus Community Newspaper a reality every month. In particular, Kim Hennecker, our ad and billing person; Taryn Treloar, who lays out the paper; Janet Neilsen who distributes the Focus in the community; all of the advertisers and all of the editorial contributors.

The Shawnigan Shiver is truly a community collaboration – the same people have come together, from different community groups, for the past 7 years to make the event happen. Thank you to the swimmers – all 115 of them! It is a great way to start the new year – with smiling faces and a lot of community spirit!!

If you missed it, there is always next year...

The Shawnigan Focus is a community newspaper with the purpose of engaging, connecting and informing the Shawnigan community. The first issue was in April 2011 and we are proud that it is in its 9th year.

Every month we need enough ads to pay to print and post to Shawnigan households for free. We do not make a profit.

We encourage you to place ads and/or submit editorial submissions.

For ads email shawniganfocusads@gmail.com.

For editorial submissions of interest to our community email shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Focus every month!



Photo Credit - Janet Neilsen

South Cowichan Library

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program meets Fridays from Jan 17 to March 6, 10:30-11:30am. Parents and children 0-4 gather to experience the magic of a favourite rhyme or song; learn a repertoire of rhymes, songs and stories; enjoy strengthened bonding. Offered in association with Island Health.

Singing Voice with Tina Ronse and the Cowichan South Arts Guild: 6 - 8pm on Thursday, Jan 23. Long-time professional musician, singer and teacher Tina Ronse will share some of her favourite ways to open up the singing voice and support our voices. All levels welcome. Stop by or call to register!

Book a Librarian: Have a research project? Looking for

family history? Interested in online books/magazines/movies/music? Schedule a 30-minute session. Appointments Tuesdays 2-3pm and throughout the week as arranged.

French Conversation Group meets on Thursday, Jan 16 & 30, 6 - 7pm. Come by and practice parler en francais with a native French speaker.

Paws 4 Stories happens 3:15 - 4:15pm on most Wednesdays. Young readers can sign up for a 15-minute reading session with Kit Kat, a trained therapy dog. Ask how!

Teen Games Night is from 5:30 to 8pm on Thursday, Jan 16. Come with friends or

on your own. Play our games or one of yours. Just grab a table and start gaming!

LEGO® Club meets every Wednesday, 2-5pm. This free, drop-in event is best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO® is welcome. DUPLO available as well.

Newcomers: Art with Your Neighbours is people new to the area meeting 2-4pm on most Wednesdays. Join Francoise from CIS to talk with other new community members while creating art.

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



Frances Kelsey Secondary School

We are proud to announce that the recipient of the 2018-19 Governor General's Academic Medal is Eileen Wallgrove. The Academic Medal recognizes outstanding academic achievement and is awarded annually to the student graduating with the highest average. Eileen is currently studying Science One at UBC which focuses on integrating the sciences together. Congratulations, Eileen.



Malahat Legion Branch 134

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion

THANK YOU

In November the Malahat Legion and YSAG became the drop-off for Toys, Toiletries & Toques for the Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay area in support of the five local food banks. Local businesses and the community donated gift cards, cash, and we filled our ELF's garage with new toys, clothing, and miscellaneous gift items. We would also thank Judy Bobke for co-ordinating food hampers so 10 local families could have a good Christmas.

We would like to thank the following Executive Members for their service and commitments over the past several years. Cde Robert Brown (Past President) and Cde Paddi Paddison (Vice President). Cde Wilf Nash will be staying on as Past President. Our new Vice President is Cde Jeff Lydiatt. Jeff has been send-

ing out our informational e-mails to everyone.

We welcome Isabelle Hammer as our new President.



She comes with a wealth of experience. She served in the R.C.M.P. for 25 years in several cities in Alberta, and B.C. Her duties included Senior Supervisor Sergeant

in Surrey, Coquitlam, and White Rock and in Red Deer Alberta she was a Watch Commander.

Isabelle has always been involved in the community. She was President of Sun Rise Red Deer Rotary Club and in sports as a minor hockey and lacrosse manager and as an Assistant in Ottawa Diplomatic Association Ball Committee. In Cranbrook, Vince and Isabelle ran a hobby farm with multiple rescued cats, laying hens, meat birds and cows.

This past year Isabelle and her husband Vince have been very active in and around the Legion serving on the executive committee and helping to up-grade and make repairs.

They gave up their summer to replace our antiquated kitchen. Some Saturdays they can be found in the "Galley" as one of Isabelle's hobbies is cooking and baking.

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Who are we?

- ★ We are a small group of folks with big hearts who enjoy providing events for the betterment of our community! We welcome new ideas and new folks to help.
- ★ All of our events focus on families in the community and benefit local organizations and businesses.

What do we do and when?

We host four events each year:

- ★ Easter Sunday event has an outdoor Egg Hunt and indoor games and crafts.
- ★ On Canada Day we host a celebration in Elsie Miles Park following a parade through the village.
- ★ In October we host a Halloween Hoedown with live entertainment, games, crafts, food and a costume parade.
- ★ In December we begin the holiday celebrations with Santa arriving, live music and fun for all. This year we lit up the Pavilion in Elsie Miles Park for the event.

Where are we?

- ★ All our events are supported by the CVRD Recreation at the Community Centre or on Elsie Miles Park. We have also hosted events in the

Village area to include the businesses.

- ★ We are very grateful for all the volunteers who come forward to help. We encourage youth to learn about event planning and to recognize the benefits of volunteering.

How can we do what we do?

- ★ Through various grants that we apply for annually we can bring these events to our community. We have been able to build a substantial inventory to make set up and take down easy and to provide shelter from the weather.

How can you help?

- ★ Local businesses can participate and 'show' our community what they offer!
- ★ Local organizations can assist with our activities while promoting their purposes.
- ★ Residents who like to create and enjoy designing activities for families can join our team and work with us on our events.

- ★ We sincerely appreciate all the families who attend and enjoy the events!! Without you we would not meet our objectives. You are our motivation!!

To find us email: shawnigan-lakecomassoc@gmail.com

Shawnigan Focus Team:

Editors – Dave Hutchinson & Lori Treloar

Advertising and Accounting – Kim Hennecker

Layout – Taryn Treloar

Local Distribution – Janet Neilsen

Printed by International WebExpress

Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

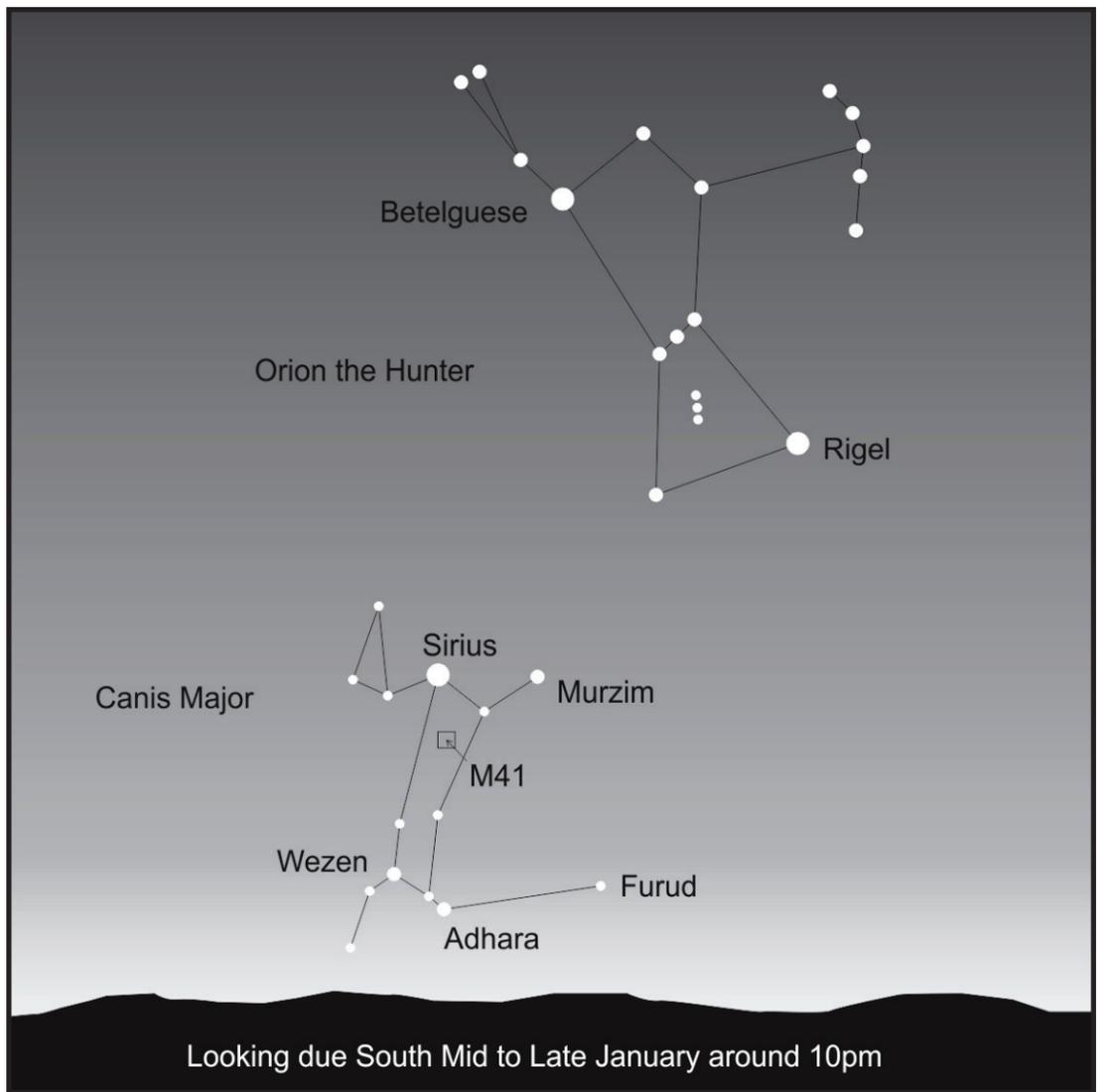
January: Canis Major “The Great Dog” Happy New Year my fellow Stargazers! Hopefully you had a couple of clear nights in December to view Jupiter and Saturn before they slipped around behind the sun. They will return this summer for prime evening viewing once again. This month we will work off the very first edition of Stargazer that looked at Orion the Hunter (February 2018), and focus on Canis Major “The Great Dog”.

In that issue we briefly discussed how to find the brightest star in Canis Major, Sirius “the Dog Star”. To recap, simply locate the famous belt of Orion the Hunter and trace a line through it to the left. Along that path you cannot miss Sirius as it is the brightest star in the entire night sky. Sirius is so bright because it is so close to our own Sun. At 8.6 light years away it is the 8th closest known star to our own. Since it is over twice the diameter of the Sun it is a beacon in the winter’s night sky. It does not take much imagination to visualize the rest of the Dog with Sirius making up the head, its two legs pointing towards Orion, and its tail pointing towards the horizon. Of cultural note this is why the mascot for

Sirius XM is a dog, and where the term “dog days of summer” originated.

If you have a small backyard telescope try to spot M41, a relatively large open star cluster near the heart of the Dog. To locate, work down from Sirius towards the brightest star (Adhara) of the hind leg of the dog; roughly 1/4 of the way down lies M41 (see star chart). Even with a good pair of binoculars you should be able to make out this object. It should look like a fuzzy patch. The cluster is roughly 2,350 light years away and is believed to have formed roughly 190-240 million years ago, at a time in Earth’s history when the dinosaurs were just beginning their reign.

Planets and Moon: Brilliant Venus dominates the western horizon at dusk. On the evening of January 27th, try to spot blue Neptune with a pair of binoculars or a telescope to the immediate right of Venus. If you are up early you can welcome Jupiter back from its journey behind the sun just before sunrise on the southeast horizon, with Mars glowing red towards the south. On the night January 4th hope for clear skies to the Northeast, as the Quadrantid meteor shower should peak at ~120 meteors per hour. Full Moon is January 10th, New Moon is January 24th.



SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2020

To receive reports and review accounts for the year
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Date : Sunday, January 19, 2020

Time : 11:30 AM

Place : **SYLVAN UNITED CHURCH - SOCIAL HALL**
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
Mill Bay, BC V0R 2P2

Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR
250-929-6100

Shawnigan Cemetery

“Once Upon A Winter’s Night”

Come join our many talented emerging and professional artists as we gather to celebrate Winter in our South Cowichan Community.

Enjoy performances from -

Ocean Robinson

Jiya Weaver

Tina Ronse & Kristin Herle

Laura Sirmul & Brian Edger

Randy Lengyel with Gord Bigham & Greg Boheman

Laurel Collins

Place : Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

Date : Saturday, February 8th, 2020

Time : 7 PM to 9 PM

FREE for CSAG Members | Others by Donation

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR \$10

cowichansouthartsguild.com

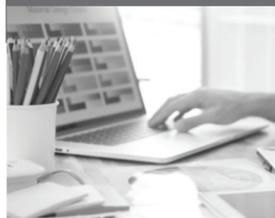
/ CowichanSouthArtsGuild



MAKER'S CIRCLES



SPEND CREATIVE TIME WITH LIKE-MINDED 'MAKERS'



Maker's Circle is a new series sponsored by CSAG that started in September, 2019 as an opportunity for artists, artisans and crafters to spend creative time with like-minded 'makers' and work on portable projects in an atmosphere of support and sharing.

Our Makers are amazing, with interests and talents in jewelry making, glass cutting, water colour and acrylic painting, rug hooking, clothing design and all manner of fabric art.

With our ever increasing numbers and by request, January will bring an evening **Maker's Circle** to Shawnigan Lake Community Centre for those creative folks who can't make the daytime group. As a pilot program, youth 14yrs and older will be invited to participate in **Maker's Circle** but must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent or responsible adult.

Maker's meet on Thursdays at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre alternating between afternoon and evening meetings. The first **Maker's Circle** of 2020 will be January 16th from 1-4 PM with the first evening **Maker's Circle** commencing January 23rd from 6-9 PM.

SAMPLER SERIES



These free, two hour evening workshops are held in the Library at Mill Bay and are designed to be open to the community. They are meant to introduce and enhance interest in a variety of arts throughout the year.

Workshops in fall 2019 included watercolour skies, easy Beatles tunes ukulele, finding your voice, song-writing, and watercolour Christmas Cards.

The coordinators have some great workshops coming up for winter and spring 2020 including a vocal workshop on January 23rd by **Tina Ronse**, an experienced vocal coach, choir director and instrumentalist. Emphasis is on "awakening your voice!"

Community members are invited to offer ideas for **Sampler Series** presenters.



cowichansouthartsguild.com

/ CowichanSouthArtsGuild

Walk Talk

By **Robin Massey**
Shawnigan Focus

A popular destination for hikers, swimmers, and nature seekers alike is Grace Road Park. It is a bit hidden near Russell Farms Market just outside of Duncan and off of Mount Sicker Road, and due to its obscure location, you'd of think it void of human interaction – when in fact, each time we visit, there are at least a few people milling around.

I am certain that there are multiple ways in but there are two ways that I have used and am comfortable with sharing. One is taking a right onto Grace Road (a Forest Service Road) from Mount Sicker Road. If, for some reason, the gate happens to be locked, there is another way via Cranko Road about 8 minutes further west.

BUT please be warned that if you are not familiar with Cranko Road you just may want to consider hoofing it in from the locked gate on Grace Road - unless you happened to arrive in 4x4

or a high clearance vehicle. Why? ... There are some ginormous holes that fill up with copious amounts of water that can swallow cars!

The trek from the main gate to a small parking area is about 4 kilometers on a definitive logging road that naturally leads you downhill. Be sure to stay straight through any junctions to avoid getting lost. The small parking area is essentially where the two entrance roads intersect. Sneak past the gate and down a short 5 minute walk to the river.

Heading left of the cement structure will take you where Bannon Creek crashes and spills into the Chemainus River creating a gorgeous waterfall at certain times of the year. Clear beautiful water, partial sandy beaches and shady spaces promise wonderful summer afternoons to be spent here. After you've exhausted this area, return to the front of the cement structure and follow along the river passing a crashed car to a dead-end and try your hand at rock skipping. On your

way here, you may have noticed a little trail in the woods. On the way back, take it for a nice forest loop back to the road above the cement structure.

Should you need more of a walk/hike - you may also want to explore the "Horse

Trail" near the yellow gate at the parking area. Around the 1 km mark, begin to watch on your right for a connector trail that will link you onto the logging road where you can return to wherever you may have parked.

Grace Road Park does not

have a hugely extensive trail system - unless your start was Mount Sicker Road of course, however it does boast beautiful riverside exploration opportunities - which is always a win win!

Like photos? Check out The Om Tree Facebook



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Girl, Woman, Other

by **Bernardine Evaristo**
Published by Black Cat
Copyright 2019 by Bernardine Evaristo

I hope you are able to buy or borrow this excellent Booker Prize novel. It is completely different from its co-winner, "The Testaments," and yet similar in its feminist sensibility. What a feast, indeed.

Experimentally written with no punctuation, it still scans easily. The use of "fusion fiction", a fluid form of prose poetry is quite simple to get used to. The sorting of 12 characters into different "chapters" makes it possible to separate out each woman's story. They are also connected to each other in groups of three, an interesting construct.

And, as unique as all these women are, they are united by being black, and by the fact that they are currently living in the UK in a white, dominant society. It is a wonderful, complex group Evaristo has conjured up for the reader. Differences in age, class, sexuality, occupation and personality, are all explored.

The book begins at the opening of a play written by a radical lesbian playwright who has created her own theatre company. As the play unfolds we begin to meet the various characters we will encounter further on in the book, including the playwright's daughter, friends and partner.

It is a fascinating and sometimes amazing trip getting to know all of these women. While most are relatable and likeable, others are not as easy to understand.

At the book's ending, Evaristo pulls many of them together at the party after the play's final performance. It gives the reader a chance to remember the characters and put them into some sort of coherent context. The epilogue continues the knitting together, giving us more information about the futures of these brave, bold women. As a reader, I feel optimism for them and trust their lives will sort out in some satisfactory way.

The author's strength lies in giving the full spectrum of women's experience. It is a "polyphonic choir of women, singing a song of dissonance and harmonies."

Did I learn anything from this book? Quite a bit, actually. Gender fluidity is explored, as is the experience of an individual trans woman, who reminds us that she does not speak for the whole group.

I enjoyed the generational differences where the radical mothers are blown off by their dismissive or more conservative daughters or where the exasperated mothers shake their heads at the foolishness and immaturity of their offspring. It was ever thus.

One of the most searing stories centres on a strong woman seduced by another woman, and slowly but surely isolated and abused, mirroring what we know of the male abuser. It is heart-wrenching but illuminating. And, yes, it ends well when she is rescued by her concerned friends as the violence escalates. Not all villains are male.

Recommended for those interested in a brilliant new writer who tells her stories with empathy and humour. Her book is based on the premise that the more voices we hear, the more our understanding grows. Here's to a great reading experience!

Rating: 5/5 stars



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www.janetabbott.com

To my
Shawnigan Lake
family, friends
and neighbours...



Sierra Acton
CVRD DIRECTOR AREA B

... wishing you all a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
and
MUCH SUCCESS FOR 2020!

Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
250 715 6763 – CELL|TEXT
iloveshawnigan.com

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Director's Report Cultivating Community in the New Year!

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

Cultivating Community. What does that mean anyway? For me I think of creating connections, volunteering my time (and feeling good about it) and getting the opportunity to meet people I may not otherwise meet. On New Year's Day many took the symbolic plunge known as the Shawnigan Shiver. Now the group organizing that event clearly understands the statement, Cultivating Community... as does, for example, a Hockey Coach at Kerry Park or Denise who creates the funny signs at the Legion. This community holds so many opportunities

for volunteering and collectively it's actually many, many people who make our community amazing. Thank you to everyone who gives Shawnigan that little bit of magic.

Cultivating Community is about getting people out of their homes, connecting with their neighbours, creating social opportunities and adding a little joy to the day. There are so many groups doing things; from Easter Events to music festivals to maintaining/creating trails. Should you wish to get more involved and don't know where to start, let me know.

Here are a few pictures of our local CVRD

Volunteer Dinner at the Legion in December. As mentioned, there are many volunteers in the community, but on that particular night we celebrated the Community Centre, Parks, Advisory Planning Commissions and the ThinkShawnigan start up team. My wish for everyone in 2020 is to have more fun in your life and to experience the joy of Cultivating Community! Happy New Year!

As always, I am available. Let's connect.

LOVE IT, SHARE IT, PROTECT IT!

Sierra.Acton@cverd.bc.ca - (250) 715-6763

FB @AreaDirectorAreaB - iloveshawnigan.com

The Cowichan Valley Docents



The Cowichan Valley Docents comprises a small group of dedicated people who, for over 20 years, have shared their love of nature with others. This five person team, four women and one man is headed by Genevieve Singleton, an enduring inspiration to all who pursue a love of nature in the Cowichan Valley. Their core mission is to instil a love and reverence for nature by leading interpretive walks for primarily grade 3 and 4 classes from schools throughout the school district. The principal location for these walks is Eve's Park, a 20 hectare Class C provincial park, often referred to as the "hidden jewel of the Cowichan Valley". In addition to the outdoor program, Docents, offer indoor classes during the winter months to the same grades, introducing them to traditional coastal First Nations use of the cedar tree; 'The Tree of Life'.

The Cowichan Valley Docents are hoping to attract more men and women who love nature and children to join the group and experience the fulfillment of nature interpretation to young enquiring minds. If you are recently retired or have a flexible work schedule (most of the group activities are scheduled for Wednesday mornings) and are looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your community, there is no better way to do this than by becoming a Cowichan Valley Docent. If this appeals to you we would love to hear from you. Enquiries are welcomed by Rod Garbutt @ 250 743-2352 or Lorna Lawson @ 250 748-0734.

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@vina.ca

FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan

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spin class, yoga,
and weight
training . . .
But each one
costs me!"

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Anymore!**

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Call (250) 743-0511
www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca
#1-1400 Cowichan Bay Road, Cobble Hill



*"You are never too old to set another goal or to
dream a new dream." ~C.S. Lewis*

Shawnigan Basin Society Supports Foreshore Restoration

The Shawnigan Basin Society has spent the previous year preparing a Five-Year Plan. The overall objective of this Plan is to restore the health of our watershed. One of the specific objectives of this plan is to assist lakeshore owners restore their shoreline to a more natural habitat. Restoration will include the use of native riparian plants with a view towards restoring the natural ecological function of the nearshore vegetation. An example of such restoration is shown in the photographs to the right. For anyone interested in foreshore restoration please contact the Basin Society at: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org.

Since the Basin Society is no longer funded by Function 488 by the CVRD, we would ask that a donation be given for any assis-

tance given. If your foreshore is being eroded by motor boat wave action we would also be pleased to help you develop floating gardens that will minimize wave-action related shore damage. Feel free to drop into our Office located at #102-1760 Shawnigan Lake/Mill Bay Road. At the moment our Office is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.

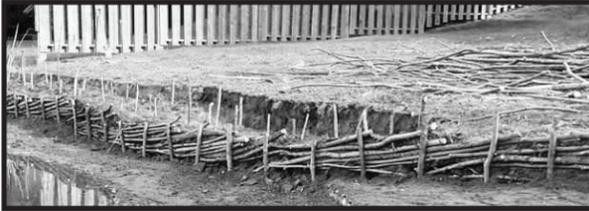
Our community outreach program continues into the New Year:

Tuesday January 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Mira Ziolo, on Co-existing with Carnivores

Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Barry Gates on Developing an Ecological Legacy in the SL Watershed



1-Before: A stone wall with no natural vegetation.



2-Start: Initial wattle wall with bulrushes.



3-After: A more natural shoreline which resists erosion.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0
Phone: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency
Phone: (250)812-8030
shawniganfire@shaw.ca



Department members attended 20 incidents in December

- ★ Sunday Dec. 1 - 1st Responder on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.
- ★ Thursday Dec. 5 - 1st Responder on West Shawnigan Lake Rd.
- ★ Friday Dec. 6 - 1st Responder on Renfrew Rd.
- ★ Saturday Dec. 7 - 1st Responder on West Shawnigan Lake Rd.
- ★ Saturday Dec. 7 - 1st Responder on Silvermine Rd.
- ★ Saturday Dec. 7 - 1st Responder on Linden Lane
- ★ Tuesday Dec. 10 - 1st Responder on Courtney Way
- ★ Thursday Dec. 12 - Chimney Fire on Kalmar Rd.
- ★ Thursday Dec. 12 - 1st Responder on Highland Ridge Rd.
- ★ Saturday Dec. 14 - Assistance on Easton Place
- ★ Sunday Dec. 15 - 1st Responder on Briarwood Drive
- ★ Monday Dec. 16 - Alarms Activated on Fitzgerald Rd.
- ★ Tuesday Dec. 17 - 1st Responder on Creife Rd.
- ★ Thursday Dec. 19 - 1st Responder on Burnham Rd.
- ★ Friday Dec. 20 - Hazmat incident on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.
- ★ Monday Dec. 23 - 1st Responder on Baldy Mtn. Rd.
- ★ Thursday Dec. 26 - Motor Vehicle Incident on Shawnigan Mill-Bay Rd.
- ★ Saturday Dec. 28 - Lift assist on Beatrice Way
- ★ Saturday Dec. 28 - 1st Responder on Northgate Rd.
- ★ Sunday Dec. 29 - 1st Responder on La Gorda Plc.

Shawnigan Weather December and the Year 2019 - Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	Dec Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	5.6	6.5	6.1	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.7	6.5	6.9
Average Low	0.5	2.8	1.6	2.9	1.0	3.2	1.9	2.4	1.1
Extreme High	16.0	10.9	10.3	11.3	10.4	11.9	12.1	11.0	10.5
Extreme Low	-15.0	-3.6	-4.3	-3.4	-4.7	-3.2	-4.3	-5.0	-5.0
Precipitation	194.6	174.1	280.1	153.6	256.4	129.7	213.4	163.0	279.4
Days w precip	20	28	23	26	23	25	23	24	24
Year Precip	1250.8	982.7	1293.2	866.2	1201.5	793.8	1073.9	931.8	1274.0
Prec since Oct 1	534.7	354.9	596.5	322.3	541.1	275.7	475.8	325.0	577.1

Rank since 1914: 13th warmest, 31st driest
 Lake Temperature: Dec 1st: 5° Dec 8th: 6° Dec 15th: 5° Dec 22nd: 5° Dec 29th: 5°
 Lake Level Change: Dec 1st: -2.5cm Dec 8th: -2.5cm Dec 15th: +18cm Dec 22nd: +46cm Dec 29th: -13cm
 Surface Elevation: 116.08m 116.05m 116.23m 116.69m 116.56m

	Shawnigan Annual Normals	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Rd	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Avg Temp	9.9	10.4	10.8	10.5	11.2	11.0	11.4	10.3	10.6
Extreme High	37.2	33.0	34.6	31.5	33.9	31.4	33.8	31.0	33.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-8.8	-5.7	-8.4	-5.8	-7.5	-5.5	-8.0	-5.0
Days w precip	174	145	168	140	164	134	160	144	160
Precipitation	1250.8	982.7	1293.2	866.2	1201.5	793.8	1073.9	931.8	1274.0

Rank since 1914: 16th warmest, 18th driest
 Lake temperature: warmest: 24° coldest: 3°
 Lake level: highest: 117.67m lowest: 115.98m

Comments

December ended up about a degree above normal, temperature wise, and significantly drier than normal for the month even though there were just a few days without rain. The last three months of 2019 were very dry compared to normal.

2019 was warmer than normal by 0.3°. February was the coldest month (coldest day of -8°) with August being the warmest (hottest day of 31°). There were 8 days (21 last year) when the temperature rose to 30° or above and 58 days with freezing temperatures. (48 last year)

Precipitation for 2019 was much below normal. July was the driest month with 26.4 mm and January the wettest with 214.6 mm.

Thanks to Ed Wiebe of the UVic Weather



Set up a school visit today!

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvrd.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 AGM - November 21st 7pm SL School
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Tues, Thurs & Sat 12-4. 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. Closed Dec 23- Jan 31. 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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Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

We cropped the photo last month to make it difficult but were happily surprised at all the correct answers! The winner is young Oscar Nicoletti who identified the railway bridge on Shawnigan Lake Road, next to Recreation Road. Notorious for the many over-height vehicles that have come to grief attempting to drive under it, the sandstone blocks, mined from the Koksilah Quarry near Cowichan Station, have withstood the test of time.

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Remembering Brent Beach

Shawnigan lost a remarkable man recently. Brent Beach died while hiking on a local trail on a sunny Friday afternoon. Brent, about 70, hiked a lot and was in good condition but his heart suddenly decided to have a hiccup and that was that.

I was fortunate to share some time with Brent over the last few years. We gradually developed a friendship based on wide ranging discussions and a mutual reliance on reason. He was an unusual spark in our community. Not many have been as involved and contributed so much.

Brent began visiting Shawnigan in 1978 and purchased property here in 2004. He joined the Shawnigan Residents Association and served on the board for several years. He was also a member of the Steering Committee for a revision of the Official Community Plan from 2008 to 2011, when the OCP was adopted, although he was not satisfied with the end result.

While visiting Metchosin with other SRA members to discuss municipal incorporation, Brent met the editor of the Metchosin Muse, a monthly community newspaper. This led to his substantial involvement with creating, co-editing, and writing for the Shawnigan Focus.

Concerned with irresponsible development, and lack of local control, Brent ran for Area Director in 2014 on a platform of improving the OCP and also to complete a proper incorporation study. Brent was unable to persuade the community at that time. The contaminated soil dump fiasco had overwhelmed all other issues.

Brent played a huge role with the Shawnigan Research Group with the fight against the contaminated soil site. With a formidable intellect and quiet confidence he would rarely accept a claim at face value. He would painstakingly study extensive documentation and gather his own data. In meetings with Ministry officials he often questioned various technical statements made by the proponents, their engineers, and also the bureaucrats and their supposed experts. One example is that the permit allowed up to 5 million tonnes of material over 50 years. Brent showed that the site was physically incapable of containing anywhere near that amount.

Brent had many diverse interests. He was widely travelled and an expert bird watcher, binoculars and camera always at the ready. One of his websites is devoted to the science of sharpening tools. He kept records of lake levels and was concerned about possible flooding due to the increasingly impeded creek outlet. Brent combined his love of the outdoors with stimulating debate. As a key member of the SLOG hiking group he was responsible for many fine conversations on a wide range of topics. He really was quite brilliant and will be greatly missed.

Kind wishes to his family and farewell to a special fellow.

Note: Brent leaves a valuable legacy to the Shawnigan Community with his website:

brentatthefocus.blogspot.com/

There are about 144 articles covering issues and events from

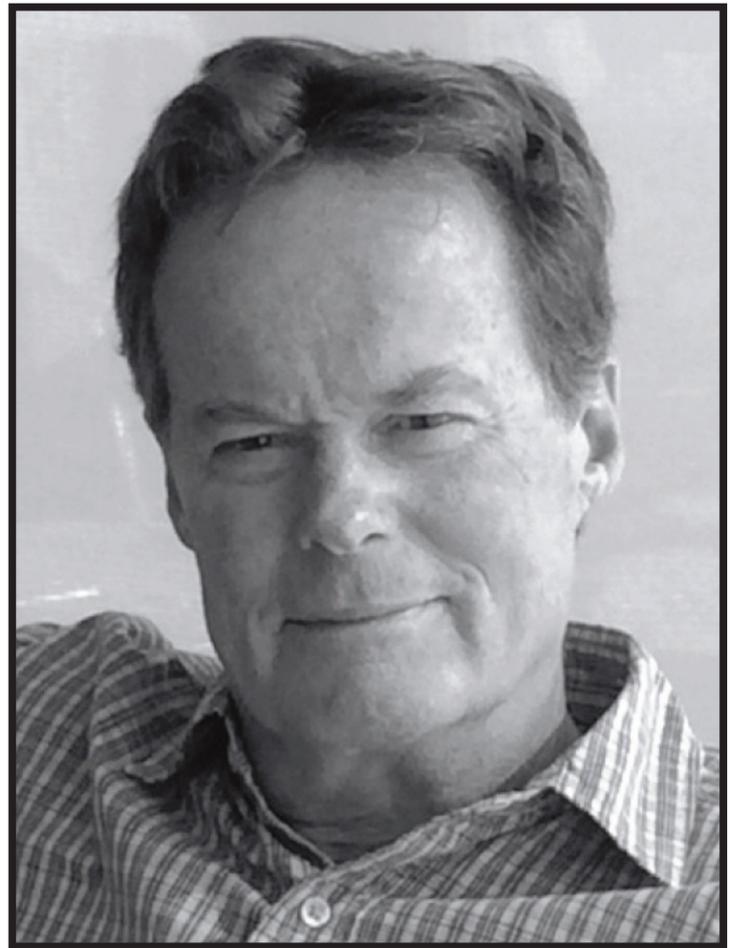
2011 to 2019. We are in the process of creating an archive of this material.

~Dave Hutchinson

I knew Brent Beach through three of his enthusiasms. The first was represented by his efforts as an inaugural member of the editorial team of the Shawnigan Focus. The second was represented by his concern for the lake and its watershed and illustrated by his many hikes into the surrounding hills. The third was his conviction that the future of the Shawnigan community would best be served by becoming an incorporated municipality. All three of these were about his vision for the health and well-being of his community. We will always need citizenship like this and while his passing is a loss his legacy is an example for others. Godspeed Brent.

~Bruce Fraser

Brent was a strong community advocate as a co-editor for the Shawnigan Focus for a time, as part of the Incorporation study and as a candidate for Area B Director in 2014. Brent also meticulously monitored the Shawnigan weir on a weekly basis to collect data on lake levels. Above all, for me, he was my friend. His death was a shock and it is a huge loss for Shawnigan, for me, and for many others who called him a friend. His passion for Shawnigan created vibrant conversations and left us with a huge amount of research and written material on everything Shawnigan. He died on Friday, November 29, 2019 do-



ing what he loved most...hiking the trails at Shawnigan Lake. He will be sorely missed.

~Lori Treloar

I am so sorry to hear this news - I will miss Brent a great deal, and I am so grateful for his relentless attention to detail vis a vis the SIA site. My favourite was when he calculated how tall the landfill would be if it actually had five million tonnes of soil (very, very tall).

~Sonia Furstenu

Ed Wiebe and I visited the Weir recently and couldn't help think about when Brent would

be there with us. He knew the Shawnigan Water Basin inside out and would tell us what needed to be done to lessen the chances of flooding the Lake.

The photos of the backed up Shawnigan Weir water level and the logs, old discarded docks and garbage tell part of the story. Brent wrote many a letter to the CVRD to get this corrected. As a tribute to Brent maybe we should just clean this out next summer and ask for forgiveness if anyone complains.

We will sure remember Brent on all our hikes and what he taught us along the way.

~Cliff Evans





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