



Volume One - Issue One

April 2011

# Shawnigan Focus

Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community

## Shawnigan: Strong Past, Strong Future

least alarm and the grouse swarmed in their hundreds, as tame as barnyard chickens. (We managed to kill one with a catapult, out of season, but the game warden, catching us with our illegal prize, overlooked the crime and I trust that it is voided by the statute of limitations after almost sixty years).

Already the social life of Shawnigan was elevated, dazzling and luxurious, as a boy saw it, timidly, from the edges. Every Saturday afternoon, before the Malahat Highway was built and the primitive automobiles appeared, a long E. & N. train brought crowds of week-enders, dressed in masculine white flannel and rustling feminine silk. They danced all night at the two hotels, recovered on Sunday and returned to Victoria, leaving behind a welcome silence. But it was always the permanent cottagers who gave the lake its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electric tricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shaw'nigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the land, polluted the water or butchered the forest, as men have done in many other places. They have jealously guarded their joint estate by a silent pact among themselves, a sort of unofficial constitution, all the stronger because it is voluntary.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century and in the early years of the twentieth the shore was logged, but you will find scant evidence of that damage now. Only a few big stumps remind us that the lumberjack, with his oven and then his crude donkey engine, was here before our time. The new forest covers the grave of the old because men have protected it for their own non-commercial purpose.

What, the stranger will ask, are they seeking in an annual migration, as sure and regular as the kennebec's march, to our lake? There is no need to explain the native phenomenon. Enough that we understand it ourselves.

We came here to find the most precious and improbable treasure left in a crowded, crazy world, the treasure of privacy, which few men can still enjoy; and the supreme satisfaction of living, for a little while, as we please.

Some half dozen generations, handing down their camps from father to son, have learned these wholesome mysteries, cooled their bodies in the lake and cleaned their spirits in the woods. An old man who has spent the happiest days of a lifetime building worthless structures, beyond price, and cutting firewood that no money could buy, may be permitted to hope that others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity.

Reprinted from *Green Branches and Fallen Leaves*, with permission from the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society.

**Voice of the Past**  
**Bruce Hutchinson 1966**

In the solemn and somewhat comical debate on Canada's culture, one important exhibit, it seems to me, is usually neglected. I mean the summer cottage. It may be no great architect-ural achievement, it is more likely to be a lopsided boteh, but it contains the best instincts of the Canadian folk — their memories of olden times, their love of the wilderness, their will to build with their own hands, their stubborn sense of freedom. And nowhere in Canada, I would guess, has the indigenous cult of summer living reached a higher point than on the shores of Shawnigan Lake.

Concerning this region I can speak with a rather long experience. In 1908, when I spent my first holiday here, most of the shore, except at the north end, was uninhabited. From the cluster of houses around the railway station and Koenig's Hotel beside it, a journey down the lake on a clumsy launch or, better still, on the lumber mill's puffing, grimy steamboat, was a wild adventure for a small boy, a voyage into an unknown continent.

Or if we walked along the tracks to the Strathcona Hotel—a regal establishment which no boy dared to enter—and climbed Mount Malahat, the deer regarded us without the continued top of next column....

Today on Old Baldy Mountain - 2011

photo - Sarah Fraser

**On the front page of Shawnigan Focus, Volume 1 Issue 1**, we have chosen to feature the work of two gifted gentlemen who represent Shawnigan's strong past.

E.J. Hughes, a prolific painter, muralist, and Canadian war artist, was passionate about the B.C. landscape. His legacy is a remarkable body of work, painted in his unique style, depicting the rugged beauty of B.C. Mr. Hughes moved to Shawnigan Lake soon after WWII and painted some of his most successful pieces in his studio overlooking Strathcona Bay. In 1966, Mr. Hughes generously donated a drawing of the iconic "Old Baldy Mountain" for the cover of the community history of Shawnigan Lake. Green Branches and Fallen Leaves. Mr. Hughes left Shawnigan Lake after residing here for more than twenty years. However, his love of the community is evident in the many paintings of Shawnigan Lake that he produced and the fact that he and his family finally came home. He is buried beside his parents and his wife in the Shawnigan Cemetery.

Bruce Hutchinson was a well known political reporter, journalist and newspaperman who wrote the preface for Green Branches and Fallen Leaves. We have included the preface on the front page as it clearly supports our very first headline. Mr. Hutchinson's passion for Shawnigan Lake resonates in many of the articles and books that he published throughout his illustrious career. Although he had vacationed at Shawnigan as a boy, his roots settled firmly when he and his wife inherited waterfront property, through her family, early in their marriage. The preface, written in 1966, is as timely now as it was then. He speaks of the "joint estate that has been jealously guarded". At the same time, he speaks of the future with his hope that "...others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity." Mr. Hutchinson's words are a gentle reminder that we must be prepared to take action to protect what makes Shawnigan special.

"We know the past, we are cognizant of the present, but everything happens in the future."

Gord Harvey

The Shawnigan Focus is an important tool for the Shawnigan community: it will keep us mindful of the past and update us on the present. Most importantly, the newspaper will provide a forum to build a strong community voice so that we are ready to make educated decisions about our future.

## Reprinted from Issue One – April 2011:

Since the Community Crier ceased publication in 2006, there has been a noticeable lack of communication about issues and events in and around Shawnigan (Area B). A concerned group of Shawnigan residents have recently worked together to launch a newspaper that will endeavour to fill this void. This is the first issue of what we hope will be a much-valued community newspaper. We aspire to give you and all who live, work and play in the Shawnigan Lake area a quality local newspaper that will focus on the Shawnigan community. A community is a group of people who share a geographic area and a common interest in its social, economic and environmental well-being. The key to a happy and robust community is interaction and communication among its members. A local newspaper provides a forum for an exchange of important information and opinions that are essential to the health and vitality of a community such as ours. The vision of the Shawnigan Focus is "A Strong Community Through Strong Communication".

Shawnigan Focus will report newsworthy information each month, but it will also announce upcoming events, profile local people and activities and look back to earlier times in order that we not lose sight of the people and the values that shaped the community that we enjoy today. A letters-to-the-editor section will enable community members to give their opinions and register their concerns. Shawnigan Lake has a long and interesting history. Gradual growth since the beginning of the 20th century has, in recent years, become more rapid.

With new residents comes a shift in values and expectations about community dynamics, appearance and function. Rapid growth also results in a general reduction in the knowledge and understanding of the community's past and the traditional characteristics that have been considered of importance and value. There comes a time in the life and development of a community when the need of its members to communicate and interact requires a new approach. The Shawnigan Focus team feels

that the time has come for this community to have its own permanent newspaper. The several Cowichan and Victoria newspapers lack sufficient focus on Shawnigan community events and initiatives. It is our expectation that Shawnigan Focus will fill this gap and, in so doing, will nurture in us a strong sense of place and a feeling of pride.

The launch team looked to the community newspaper, Metchosin Muse, as a model worth emulating. We would be remiss if we failed in this first issue to acknowledge the generosity of time and wisdom given to us by the volunteers who produce that paper. Like the Muse, Shawnigan Focus is a not-for-profit undertaking and produced by volunteers. Most residents in Area B will receive the newspaper by mail. A subscription service is under consideration for property owners who live elsewhere. Paid advertisements will cover production and mailing expenses.

*Original Focus launch team included: Lori Treloar, Bruce Fraser, Graham Ross-Smith, Roy Davies, Al Brunet*

# Fast forward to April 2021...

The Focus crew is a small but dedicated volunteer team: **Dave Hutchinson**, Editor; **Lori Treloar**, Editor; **Kim Hennecker**, Ads and Accounts; **Taryn Treloar**, Layout; **Janet Neilsen**, Community circulation (aka The Paper Girl)

The Focus, 10 years later, is

still mailed free of charge to the Shawnigan Lake community and there are now many out of area mail subscribers.

The Focus team would like to thank community members who contribute articles and updates for local organizations to the Focus every month and the many advertisers who support

the Focus so that it can continue to offer the service.

Shawnigan Lake is a unique community that seldom gets a in print...and it runs under the radar in many ways. The Focus is a means to build and strengthen the community.

People and groups in the community are encouraged to sub-

mit articles, letters to the editor, updates for local organization and photos. This publication is meant to celebrate and connect Shawnigan Lake.

If you would like to be added to the monthly reminder, or to submit and article, email [shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com)

The team also encourages local businesses to consider supporting the publication by advertising in the Focus. If you are interested, email Kim at [shawniganfocusads@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocusads@gmail.com)

For anyone interested, all of the previous issues are available on the Focus website <http://shawniganfocus.ca/>



What is fair?

Glenn White  
Opinion Piece

We all need to know our limits and play within them. With that in mind I was trying to make sense out of the large amount of debt the government is incurring to address the COVID impact and also trying to understand comments by Mr Mac-Gregor, our MP, and Mr Singh, Leader of the Federal NDP, that the “rich” need to pay more taxes. I did some digging, and it is not easy, but as near as I can tell this is the break down on who pays what in federal taxes.

- ★ The top 10% of earners pay about 60% of the taxes
- ★ The next 60-89% of earners pay about 32% of the taxes
- ★ The remaining 40 to 59% of earners pay about 8%
- ★ And the 1 to 39% of earners pay no federal taxes

I also tried to understand what “fair” share means. In the Merriam Dictionary it means “a reasonable amount”; in Oxford, “an equitable or reasonable portion or share and reasonable means solid judgement, fair and sensible”.

I think by any of those definitions the 10% paying about 60% of the taxes may not seem fair or reasonable. However, when one listens to politician like Mr Singh saying that the rich have to pay their share I am not sure what he means. It appears that the top earners already pay their “fair share” and then if you take the top 40% together they pay about 92% of the taxes. That means 40% pay almost no tax. Is this fair? Again, depending on how you define fair...it could be.

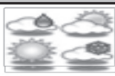
One could say maybe we should apply the old religious model “each to his ability to pay” but even applying that rule it appears the top earners pay well in excess of their share of the tax bill. The real issue comes down to two things which maybe the government can do as we start another new year.

1. The government is spending more than they take from taxpayers and we as taxpayers are on the hook for it and it appears to me the top already pays their “fair share”. Maybe the government should know its limits and live within them.
2. The Government appears to often obfuscate and confuse the issue as it is very difficult to see where the tax money is going and appears to have little accountability for the outcomes of the money spent. Maybe the government can provide clear and easily understood records of, to what, and to whom, the tax money was paid.

I think that we, as taxpayers, need to step back and hold all levels of government accountable for how and where it spends its revenue, and expect that taxpayers are provided with a clear and understandable record of how much of that revenue is actually getting to the people in need and not being used to pay the organizations and bureaucracies tasked with the dispensing those funds. Sooner or later we all have to pay our bills and that includes the government.

Shawnigan Weather  
March 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network  
Reported by Grant Treloar

	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	10.4	10.0	9.8	10.9	10.4	11.0	10.6	10.1	9.7
Average Low	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.7	1.4	0.7	0.2
Extreme High	22.2	13.2	15.9	14.0	15.4	15.0	16.3	13.0	14.0
Extreme Low	-11.7	-2.1	-3.2	-2.7	-3.6	-2.2	-2.5	-2.5	-3.5
Precipitation	119.2	66.6	49.3	53.8	47.8	36.6	33.8	52.0	48.2
Days w precip	19	15	18	16	17	12	16	14	17
Year Precip	469.2	466.4	582.9	428.5	553.8	344.7	466.3	412.4	593.5
Precip since Oct 1	1003.9	1136.5	937.8	1067.7	876.1	869.2	742.0	1040.0	918.5
Rank since 1914: 49 <sup>th</sup> warmest, 14 <sup>th</sup> driest									
		March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28				
Lake Temperature:	4°	5°	6°	6°					
Lake Level Change:	-13cm	-14cm	-10cm	+1cm					
Surface Elevation:	116.54m	116.40m	116.30m	116.31m					

March was close to normal in temperature, but, for the 2nd year in a row, was very dry. Coldest day was the 15th and the warmest on the last day of the month. There were 10 days with freezing temperatures. The “wet Season” (since October) is running close to average.

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn  
South Cowichan Library

The South Cowichan Library is happy to announce our hours are expanding on Tuesday, April 13:

- ★ Tuesday through Saturday
- ★ Tue: 10am - 8pm
- ★ Wed to Sat: 10am - 5pm

Masks are required when visiting the library. If you can't or prefer not to enter the library, we're happy to arrange a time to hand your requested items to you right at the front door.

You can now browse the entire collection! You can also use a public computer, print, or scan.

If you bring your library card or install the MyLibrary! App, you can use the touchless self-checkout machine.

All returned items are quarantined overnight before returning to circulation. Overdue fines are waived at check-in.

If you know someone unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our monthly volunteer Home Delivery service.

If you have questions, please call or email us at southcowichan@virl.bc.ca . We can help you place holds, order the next in a series, get started with eBooks, learn how to access online newspaper and magazines, and more!

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What is an Interact Club?

Peter Salmon  
President, St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake Interact Club

What is an Interact Club? Well, Interact Clubs are student-led, community-based service and leadership clubs that are sponsored by Rotary International. Each year, these clubs lead various community and school projects and fundraisers. If you would like to learn more about Interact Clubs, I encourage you to visit rotary.org/get-involved/interact-clubs

This year, the St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake Interact Club is working to address the many unpicked fruit trees in the Cowichan Valley. When school resumes after summer

break, teams of dedicated Interactors will visit properties around the Valley to collect fruit, which will then be prepared into jams & jellies for fundraisers and donations. As Interact is a service club, the fruit picking will be completely free to anyone who signs up! If you would be willing to have the Interact Club collect some or all of your fruit, or you would just like to learn more, you can visit our website and sign up at bit.ly/sjafruit We appreciate your support!

In addition, a Shawnigan Lake fishing derby, run by the Interact Club, will be taking place on the May long weekend! Sign-up isn't open yet, but stay tuned: you can follow us on Instagram or Facebook for updates.





## Alice Ravenhill



**Lori Treloar,**  
*Executive Director,  
Shawnigan Lake Museum*

On Monday March 29th a monument, honouring Alice Ravenhill, was installed in the outdoor gallery at the Shawnigan Lake Museum by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and Parks Canada

So, who is Alice Ravenhill and what does she have to do with Shawnigan Lake?

Alice Ravenhill was born in Snaresbrook, England in 1859 - the middle child of seven in a well-to-do family, Alice had nurses and governesses to make sure she was brought up in a manner befitting the daughter of a famous naval architect and marine engineer. The only inconsistency in her strict Victorian upbringing was that she was allowed to attend school, an unusual activity for girls of her social standing. She excelled in school and after she graduated, at 17, she planned to continue her studies at the

National Training School of Cookery in England. Her father insisted instead, that she find the right man and marry.

Ravenhill never did marry. She was engaged once but her father ended the relationship three days before the wedding. He believed that her fiancé would never make anything of himself and therefore was not worthy of her. Her father was wrong – her fiancé went on to become an eminent surgeon.

Alice began an extensive career of lecturing, meticulous research, and publications about health, sanitation, and childcare. Alice contributed her expertise to schools, colleges, and other institutions across Europe and America. Her career was halted several times by various health issues but her determination and compassion never faltered.

At age 51, Alice and her sister followed their brother and nephew to British Columbia to start a new life of homesteading. They arrived in November 1910. British articles about Alice Ravenhill commented that it was a pity that she left a promising life in England to live in the untamed and culturally starved wilds of Shawnigan Lake. Their property was where

Shawnigan Lake School is now situated. Alice, herself, admitted great trepidation at the thought of coming to Canada and insisted that she'd only come for five years. However WW1 intervened and after the war she couldn't afford to return to England

Although they were faced with numerous challenges, the Ravenhills soon became active members of the community. Among other things, Alice was a charter member of the Shawnigan Lake Women's Institute and her family sponsored the Anglican Church in the community.

Alice continued to pursue home economics and, a year after her arrival, she went to work for the BC Department of Agriculture, helping with the newly established Women's Institutes. The BC Women's Institutes were one of the pioneering organizations promoting women's social and educational advancement. Ravenhill was a vital force in their development. Alice travelled around B.C., lecturing and writing papers for the province's Women's Institutes.

After the death of her nephew in WWI, the family moved from Shawnigan Lake to Victoria (1919).



In addition to the field of home economics, the love of Ravenhill's life was the art of British Columbia's Native people. She first became interested in Native arts when she was asked by the Women's Institute, in 1926, to adapt Native designs to the making of hooked rugs.

As she explored the collections at the British Columbia Provincial Museum, she developed a fascination with Native arts and culture. She began lecturing on the subject, and wrote three books detailing

her findings about the lives of B.C.'s Native people.

Miss Ravenhill retired to a home for aged women in Victoria in 1948. That same year, she received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of British Columbia. She continued to advocate both home economics and awareness of Native culture until her death in 1954, at the age of 95.

Alice was a brilliant woman, courageous and scholarly, who gave much to her adopted country.

## Shawnigan newspapers, old and new

**Reprinted from Issue One – April 2011:**

**Lori Treloar**  
*Shawnigan Focus Editor*

Shawnigan Focus is the latest in a series of Shawnigan newspapers/newsletters produced and distributed by dedicated volunteers over the last 35 years. On February 16, 1976, Volume 1, Number 1 of the monthly Shawnigan Lake News was delivered to every mail box in Shawnigan Lake. This was the first newspaper for the community of Shawnigan Lake. Steve and Joan Wachtin, who ran a printing business from their home in the village, produced the newspaper in their basement. The Shawnigan Lake News was initiated as a way to give back to the community who generously rallied when the Wachtins lost their home to fire.

Anything printed by the Wachtins was done in the old fashioned way using an ancient 1899 letter press. The lead type was hand set. Every letter, word

and picture was hand placed one at a time. Each 8 1/2 x 11 page was laid out one letter at a time and then printed individually. The Wachtins continued printing the Shawnigan Lake News until Steve's retirement in 1978.

Brownie Gibson, a regular contributor to the Shawnigan Lake News, a local historian and teacher, and the Shawnigan Correspondent for a Victoria paper, was an instigator for the second community "newspaper". In response to "popular demand" a publishing committee, including Brownie, Garth and Gladys Harvey, Annette Clarke and Candy McLennan, produced the first issue of the monthly Community Crier in August 1980. The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre agreed to guarantee \$600 to cover the first issue. This money was never used because advertising revenue covered the costs of printing and distribution. The Crier was intended to be non-for-profit and if profits accrued, the proceeds were given

to the SLCC.

Although the process to produce Shawnigan Lake News seemed antiquated, the process for the original Crier was not much of an improvement. All of the copy for The Crier was typed on a type-writer, in manuscript style. The proofed manuscript was then sent to a printing company where the copy was set with linotype. This meant that the entire manuscript was retyped, line by line.

Then it was set up in trays in sequence, similar to the letter press process, before it was printed. The printing company produced a "galley proof" for The Crier team every month. The editor marked any mistakes in the proof with International Typographical Union symbols and returned it to the printing company. Any corrections, big or small, required that the entire line be re-typed. Initially, The Crier was printed on one 8 1/2 x 14" paper and hand folded to make four pages. Eventually,

six pages became the norm by including a half sheet insert. This team produced the paper for 10 years with an average circulation of approximately 900. The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Library Society was the first of many groups to produce The Crier after the initial crew retired. Many volunteers helped keep The Crier in production with only a few interruptions until 2006 when it was finally retired.

The Shawnigan Lake Business Association sponsored The Crier for its final few years and distributed it quarterly. This was the only time in The Crier history that it was produced by modern methods that we take for granted. Submissions could be sent by email and the layout and set-up was done on the computer. The Community Crier connected the people of Shawnigan for over 25 years and the impact from its loss was substantial.

For the past few years,

the third "newspaper" in the area, Shawnigan Times, has been distributed to roughly 500-600 homes, predominantly in the Shawnigan Village.

This is produced by a father/son team, Kim and Chris Hennecker, and their focus is to provide an advertising medium for the area. For many concerned residents, it has been obvious for a long time that there was a need to create a vehicle that could inform the community.

In response to "popular demand", a small group has rallied to produce Shawnigan Focus, a newspaper which is designed to be a community builder. As you savour the content in Shawnigan Focus, take a moment to appreciate the volunteers from our strong past and the volunteers of our vibrant future who will contribute to the well-being of our community by producing a newspaper that will communicate, educate, and titillate.



Book Review

Marcy Green  
Shawnigan Focus

The Salt Path  
By Raynor Winn  
Published by Penguin Books  
Copyright by Raynor Winn, 2018

“A tale of triumph: of hope over despair; of love over everything “  
-Sunday Times

This true story begins in devastation. The couple, Ray and her husband, Moth, have had their family farm repossessed by bailiffs after losing a court case against a friend with whom they made a very bad investment. Their children are both at university, and so the home of memories is lost to

all four of them.  
To add to their despair, Moth receives a diagnosis of a neuro-degenerative disease with no hope of a cure. They are so blind-sided by grief and disbelief that they make a quick, and seemingly reckless decision. They decide to walk the South West Coast Path of England, a 630-mile trek from Somerset to Dorset via Devon and Cornwall.

Always hikers and rock climbers, they dig out their old, somewhat decrepit gear, store a few belongings, and take off. Because their guide-book starts at one end of the Path, the more difficult one, they begin there.

Having read about a number of long walks like the Camino, or the Appalachian Trail, I was always interested in the thoughtful choosing of the high tech, rainproof gear. High protein food, pop-up tents, good boots and jackets are all so necessary for survival, particularly along coastal paths. There was no such planning here. They just began, and it was painful to read of their lack of foresight.

When Ray didn’t bring sunscreen for her peeling nose, nor even a hat for the sun beating down, I was exasperated beyond belief. And when Moth revealed he’d forgotten his meds at home, I was ready to throw the book across the room.

But, in spite of these issues, including the unpredictable

weather, the difficult terrain and poor equipment, they began to settle into a rhythm. The days lengthened into meditative connections with the wind, the sea and the changing land around them. All of this told in Ray’s beautiful, lyrical prose. Moth began to find his old strength and their close partnership carried them forward. They were being nourished and increasingly healed by their walk, as well as by the living creatures around them.

The most difficult experiences were had when they explained that they were homeless and had the camaraderie of the trail shattered as people reacted in disdain and disgust. They soon learned to leave that detail out, but were painfully aware of the stigma, and

eventually met others on the journey in their same situation who shared whatever they had. It was a sad and sobering eye opener to how society treats those who have lost so much.

By the time the Path ends, Ray and Moth have regained their strength and confidence. They are offered a home to rent by the sea, close to the Path, and begin to make plans for the future.

A second volume, “The Wild Silence” explains how Ray wrote the book, its terrific success, and how they eventually became dwellers on another farm. Recommended for those who like stories of strength and redemption, all fueled by love.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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**Sierra Acton**  
Area B Director

Do you ever wonder who gets to decide how the community develops? Have you ever wondered how we acquire more parkland? Or have you ever asked yourself “how do we make sure the community grows in the direction we want to go?” If you have ever asked yourself anything like this, the answer is that we follow a “pattern.” In Shawnigan Lake we have several documents that create the template/pattern for where we want to go. These documents include, among others, the Official Community Plan, The Parks Master Plan and the ThinkShawnigan Plan. All of these documents focus on a vision of the community’s future and help chart the path to get there.

These plans are important for direction, guidance and funding. Furthermore, all of these documents were developed by community for community. Where the community is on the path

and even the end goals themselves may not always be apparent because parts of the plan have to be implemented when the opportunity presents itself. Just like a quilt, it’s hard to see the big picture until the blocks are sewn together.

The Shawnigan Community has just completed another “block of the quilt.” Just recently Shawnigan Lake purchased a 2-acre piece of land that connects Mason’s Beach to the Community Centre. This completes the “patchwork” of community parks from Mason’s all the way through to Government Wharf Beach. This parcel was zoned commercial and could have been anything from a mechanic’s shop to a boutique hotel.

Now it belongs to the community. It provides views of the lake, parking for the trailhead/beach and will also help alleviate some of the congestion at Government Wharf Park and Heald Rd. As such, plans include creating a safer passage

from this new greenspace to Mason’s Beach and the Rail with Trail. This is a wonderful new addition to Shawnigan’s public waterfront access that we can tailor over time to best fit the communities requirements.

This new park helps address a number of challenges that were identified through the ThinkShawnigan process; not enough parking at Government Wharf Park and the village, limited views of the lake and limited access to the lake for enjoyment (walking, swimming, kayaking). Eventually, the accessible walking trail, as stated in the Parks Master Plan, will go all the way from Mason’s Beach to Old Mill Park (and on the far side of Old Mill Park, there is a trail that continues to the top of Old Baldy.)

I am grateful to the CVRD and the Area B Parks Commission for their support in helping our community preserve such a valuable waterfront green space for future generations to enjoy.

**EDITORIAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Send to [shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com)

In word or text format, not pdf.

If you include photos, send as a separate jpg. file

Photos should be high resolution.



Guided forest walk & talk - Join us!



Ed Wiebe - In the Ancient Forest

Brettany Flowers  
Shawnigan Basin Society

Saturday May 1st – 9:30 am to 1 pm at 102 1760 Shawnigan Lake Mill Bay Rd, Shawnigan Lake BC.

The Koksilah Ancient Forest Reserve is an absolutely incredible stand of old-growth Douglas-firs that rivals Cathedral Grove with its beauty and scale. Most of the grove’s big trees range from 4 to 6ft in diameter with the largest

ones reaching over 8ft across at the base.

The forest is located alongside the winding Koksilah River which has excellent swimming areas as well as a Provincial Campground nearby.

The Ancient Forest was saved but not permanently protected about 15 years ago by 2 loggers. An agreement with the forestry company came about not to cut

the big trees.

Ed Wiebe has been a resident of Shawnigan Lake for 25 years and is a director at the Shawnigan Basin Society.

Ed has been a member of the Shawnigan Basin Society since it was formed and presently is also a Shawnigan Research Group member. He is an avid hiker and former Mountain Bike rider. The fight to stop the dumping of contaminated soil in our wa-



tershed and other local issues made him realize the importance of getting involved to stand up and work to protect our community.

- ★ Please arrive at the Shawnigan Basin Society Volunteer Center prepared to remain outdoors for the duration of the workshop.
- ★ Ed will start with a short half hour talk before heading over to the Ancient Forest Reserve.
- ★ Everyone provides their own transportation. Part of the road is a moderately maintained logging road; parking space is available on the road side.

- ★ Due to COVID, physical distancing and masks inside buildings are mandatory.
  - ★ Limit of 10 individuals per tour.
  - ★ Hike difficulty rated 2-3 out of 5.
  - ★ Donations to the Shawnigan Basin Society are welcome.
  - ★ Register by Telephone: 250 929-4076 or email: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org)
- The Ancient Forest tour may need to be postponed as restrictions and advisories may change due to Covid 19, we will take reservations at this time and notify participants 2 days in advance if there is a cancellation.

Spark joy! One piece at a time

Kim Barnard  
Shawnigan Lake Rotary EcoClub and Friends

Can you imagine a world without litter? No bags blowing in the wind or wrappers dotting the roadsides? Nary a cup, can or bottle for as far as the eye can see? No? Neither can I. Once you learn to see it, it’s everywhere! How does it even get there? Do we each have so much stuff that we lose track of our bits and pieces? Trash, garbage, waste, refuse - it’s the last thing we want to hang on to, really.

I guess that’s why we will always have impulsive toss-

ers! A sorry mess becomes an opportunity for the rest of us to step up and pick up. Can Clean Ups \*really\* Spark Joy? You bet!

Our April Call to EcoAction is with each step to exercise our ability to spot and remove unwanted items and unnecessary clutter. Start where you are. Donate, dispose, divert to recycling, whatever you can do to lighten your load and the burden that having a mess carries.

Why not step into peace - one piece at a time! To “Clean Where You Are” is a way of slowing down and learning to

see what is there to work with and what areas need attention. Train your eyes to really see what’s on your property and on your walks in your neighbourhood. Sometimes it really is camouflaged! Waste does not belong in wild spaces, pathways or living areas. Our kiddos and critters will certainly benefit from your TLC!

Thursday, April 22nd to Saturday, April 24th, we especially invite Shawnigan residents to collect a bag (or two?!) of litter they find nearby, and let us know! Please use the hashtag #TLCShawnigan2021 and post to Instagram/Facebook your “Before and After” Transformations. We promise you, it’ll be \*a rewarding feeling\* to take out the trash! We have a youth crew standing by to help haul it all to Fisher Rd Recycling, thanks to Relax Collective of Shawnigan, and Youth 20/20 Can Cowichan! Contact us for support, and remember to follow the current health and safety guidelines. We have a gloves+tongs no-touch approach!

More details at [www.shawniganrotaryecoclub.ca](http://www.shawniganrotaryecoclub.ca)

The Cowichan monthly teaching for April is “Take Care of the Earth” and throughout the Valley there will be ongoing Clean Ups -

follow #CleanCowichan2021 and #IslandCleanEarth2021. The combined efforts of all of our caring citizens will continue to have an impact! We invite you to Spark Joy this Spring - join the litter-picking.



Photo caption: “Sometimes it really IS camouflaged!”

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Malahat Legion

Gloria Solley  
Malahat Legion

Facebook: Royal Canadian  
Legion br 134

Web: <https://malahatlegion.ca>

As identified during the March 29th, 2021 provincial update by Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Malahat Legion has had to close its' doors. We are planning to re-open on Friday, April 19th if all goes well.

In the meantime, we are continuing our BOTTLE DRIVES on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. All proceeds from the bottle drive will help pay our monthly utilities bills. Donations for BROKEN PROMISES Animal Rescue can also be dropped off at this time.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back when we get the go-ahead to re-open.

Betty is busy looking to add different items to our menu.

Last month we held a “Contact-Free” Dinner for 75 Veterans and it was a huge success. Thanks to the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers’ Institute Society for making the Chicken, Beef and Turkey Pot Pies. They were well received and the great comments are still coming in. Thanks also to the Veterans who helped.

ACT OF KINDNESS.

Big thank you to Duncan Paving for coming to fix our big pot hole near our blue recycling bin by the back gate. It was their thank you to the Legion for letting them park in our lot for a bit while they were working on another job for a few days in the area. You guys are awesome !! Small businesses helping each other.

Wounded Warrior Run  
Up-date:

After looking at many different models and modifications the 2021 Wounded Warriors Run has officially cancelled this year.

The Malahat Legion is proud to support the ill and injured Veterans, First Responders and their families and we believe the need is greater than ever in these unprecedented times. The programs put on through Wounded Warriors are still being offered with both the need and growth expanding including a brand new program for Surviving Spouses was just launched and a session will be held in Sooke the end of the month.

Although our Malahat Legion #134 is temporarily closed due to Covid-19 rules, we are organizing a virtual On-Line Auction with all the proceeds going to the Wounded Warriors at the end of April. Be sure to check it out.

Hayward Farms, (Mill Bay) has generously donated a Rancher’s Harvest Basket

of of meat and a Cantucci Basket. Thrifty Foods (Mill Bay) has donated 2 - \$50.00 gift cards.

Other items include 2 as-sorted wine buckets and goodies, \$25.00 Country Grocer Gift card, and a whole bunch of really good stuff. Be sure to check our Face Book page for more information and to make your bids. Remember – all proceeds go directly to the Wound Warriors.. Royal Canadian Legion Br 134

For the past few months the YSAG quilting group has been busy making quilts for the Veterans Quilts of Valour.

We finally got a sneak peak of the quilts they are working on. 15 quilts have now completed.

Presentation of these Quilts will be started up again once Dr. Bonnie gives the okay when it is safe...

If you are interested in nominating a Veteran for a quilt feel free to contact them at.

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca>

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[shawniganfire@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganfire@shaw.ca)



Department members at-  
tended 23 incidents in March

- ★ Monday, Mar 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 3 – Structure Fire on Northgate Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 4 – Electrical Fire on Oldham Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Mar 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Mar 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 11 - 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 20 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 20 – Structure Fire on Owl Rd
- ★ Monday, Mar 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 23 – Mutual Aid Vehicle Fire w/Malahat Fire
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 24 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 24 - 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 25 - 1st Responder off Filgate Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 25 – Assistance on Butler Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 25 – Assistance on Butler Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 25 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 28 – Hydro Lines on 2800 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 28 – Assistance on 1100 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd

**Ocean Falls**  
*After the Whistle*

Recollections and Reflections of Life in a Coastal Company Town  
by R. Brian McDaniel

7 PM Thursday, April 22  
Virtual Book Talk

Email to register: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

MICHAEL KAEHN

THE  
HOT SPRINGS  
COVE STORY

THE BEGINNINGS OF  
MAQUINNA MARINE  
PROVINCIAL PARK

7 PM Thursday, May 20  
Virtual Book Talk

Email to register: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

THE  
E. J. Hughes

BOOK OF BOATS

Robert Amos

7 PM Thursday, June 24  
Virtual Book Talk

Email to register: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)



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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Email [sacton@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:sacton@cvrld.bc.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- ★ **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](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [blog.ysag.ca](http://blog.ysag.ca) - email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Reopening will be determined after the updates from the Province.  
Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca) [www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com)
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**  
Contact: 250-929-7222 - [www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**  
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: [Gloria\\_gsolley@shaw.ca](mailto:Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca)
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at Mill Bay Community League Hall. [southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com](mailto:southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- ★ **Note:** Covid restrictions may affect regular meetings. Check before you go...

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leaders, and problem-solvers to grow  
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What Is It? Where  
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One lucky respondent with the correct  
answer will be randomly selected to win two  
Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.  
Reply to: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### CONGRATULATIONS

Lois Thompson is the winner for March!  
The photo showed the nice hand-painted  
wooden sign for the "Shawnigan Beach  
Resort & Country Club". This place has a  
rich history from the old "Forest Inn" of the  
1930s to the hotel and country club era of  
the 1970s (a free membership when you bot  
a lot in the Beach Estates!), then later years  
when it operated as a school. Now the old  
buildings and cottages have been replaced by  
privately owned condos.

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# Thank you! To all our volunteers: Our success depends on you!



Speed Watch Co-Ordinator, a position he held for many years until his recent retirement. Dorothy (Dot) Garbet has been working on Friendly Phones program for over eight years. As well, Lance Cardinal has, for the past five years, given up his Saturdays to work on Friendly Phones.

An enormous thank you also to our very experienced and talented Board of Directors. This year, we are pleased to have students from Vancouver Island University, pre-law studies, working with us.

To all our volunteers, including the 250 involved in Block Watch and our office support team, we are so grateful for you and your spirit of sharing and your willingness to give to your community without expecting something in return. You are a beacon of light that inspires and encourages us all!

As well, we would like to welcome Cowichan Community Policing and Engagement Society, with whom we shall be working side by side.

A warm welcome and thank you to all the volunteers committed to crime prevention in these neighbouring communities and the RCMP who support them.

We are looking for volunteers, if you are interested in joining our team, please call Sarah Davidge at 250-597-1710 or 250-929-7222.

### Oriana Parker,

#### SCCPAS, CCP&ES

April 18-24, 2021 is National Volunteer Week and South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society would like to thank all of our volunteers, past and present, for their contribution and commitment to crime prevention. We are the hub for community-based crime prevention programs and the volunteers who deliver them. Our success is dependent

on a strong volunteer base which is the backbone of our organization. We are fortunate to have attracted volunteers who are exceptionally talented and willing to share their skills for the betterment of our neighbourhoods.

If our Speed Watch program saves only one life, it is worth the time and effort that goes into delivering this program to the public. Many of our programs are aimed at helping to save

lives on our highways and streets and to keeping our communities safe for all to enjoy. SCCPAS would like to thank, first and foremost, the RCMP detachments for their valuable input at meetings and their assistance with helping us to recognize programs that are most effective for our communities.

An honourable mention to a few special volunteers: Shirley Walker, who having experienced a break-in in her greenhouse, was instru-

mental in starting the SCCP office in Mill Bay and the Block Watch Program. She worked tirelessly, for years, to promote crime prevention awareness in our community.

Major Robert K. Wallace (Bob) graduated from the Royal Military College of Science in England and worked on the Drone Project with National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. A resident of Mill Bay, he was happy to volunteer as the

*In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.*

*~Dave Hollis*

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