

# THE FIRESMART PROGRAM CVRD WITH NORTH COWICHAN & COWICHAN TRIBES

**Margaret Symons**

It's time to get FireSmart about wild-fires in BC. Is the Shawnigan community ready for this year's wildfire season? Thanks to funding from the province, the CVRD's new FireSmart Kick-Start program is rolling out this spring to help make sure you're prepared when and where it counts. By taking action and following a simple FireSmart strategy, you can dramatically increase the resistance of your home and property to damage caused by wildfire. It's



surprisingly easy to do.

You may be eligible to access no-cost resources from the CVRD to FireSmart your property. If you are a senior and / OR physically incapable of doing your own yard cleanup work, this FireSmart program is for you. The program will send FireSmart technicians to assess

the outside of your home and surrounding yard to help you develop goals tailored to your unique property. We follow COVID precautions. We don't go inside your house. The program can then provide a supervised, fully equipped and trained crew to conduct risk-reduction wildfire mitigation activities – at

no cost to you.

The crew will remove combustible vegetation by limbing, pruning, and clearing invasive brush. The program is not about clearcutting – well-spaced trees give us shade and capture carbon. Once the mitigation activities are complete, the FireSmart program will conduct post mitigation assessments to let you know of any steps needed to ensure your property remains resilient to wildfire.

The best thing about being FireSmart is how easy it is. Changes



made to the yard and area closest to your home have the greatest potential to reduce the risk of wildfire damage. The homes that are prepared are the homes left standing.

Contact FireSmart Coordinators Chase Cuckovich and Joel Crawford at Fire. Smart@cvr.bc.ca. Your enquires and participation in the FireSmart program are welcomed.

## SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE BUSINESS WALK TO HAPPEN ON THURSDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

**Chloe Boyle**

*Economic Development  
Cowichan*

(CVRD's development arm) will be conducting a Business Walk in the Shawnigan area on March 3, 2022. Staff members will be walking door-to-door from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., speaking with the owners and managers of local businesses, in both Shawnigan Village and the southern industrial area, about what it's like to do business in the community.

The purpose of the Business Walk is to

build relationships and to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that each individual business is facing. The Business Walk is part of a broader effort to support recovery at the community level in Cowichan and may help identify further opportunities to act on the recommendations stemming from the *Think Shawnigan* design process, concluded early 2020.

The interviews will be informal and conversational in nature, intending to take only a few minutes.

With the feedback and responses from the interviews, EDC will be looking to assess and support the individual and collective needs of the business community in Shawnigan Village. For home-based businesses, and any others wanting to participate online, the survey and additional information can be found at [ecdevcowichan.com/Shawnigan-business-walk](http://ecdevcowichan.com/Shawnigan-business-walk).

Business owners, managers, and staff are invited to join a follow-up event on Monday, March 28, held at the Compass

Mexican Bistro from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., where the results of the Business Walk will be shared. This event will allow businesses to meet, greet and meaningfully talk about shared challenges and opportunities of doing business in the Shawnigan area. Representatives from other business support organizations, such as Work BC and Community Futures will also be invited. Complimentary refreshments will be provided, served in line with Covid-19 protocols. Proof of vaccination may be required, depending

on Provincial public health orders.

Business Walks have proven to be a useful tool for business retention and expansion strategies. This is the first in a series of business walks to take place over the coming months in several communities in Cowichan. The responses gathered can be useful in a number of ways, from improving programs and services, to establishing and building individual relationships. You can reach Economic Development Cowichan by email at [edc@cvr.bc.ca](mailto:edc@cvr.bc.ca).

Did you know that The Focus is a non-profit, volunteer run, free paper?  
Want to know more or get involved? [shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com)

## Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch 134

**G.J. Solley**  
*Malahat Legion*

The Malahat Legion and Y.S.A.G would like to thank our community for all their support during the past two years. Their help has enabled us to open up and we are now busy planning events. We are opened on Friday and Saturdays from 1:00 – 7:00 pm.

The Galley is open Friday from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and on Saturdays from 1:00 – 5:00

pm. Come join us for lunch or an early dinner. Take-outs are also available.

Here is our tentative schedule to-date:

**Saturdays**  
10:00 – 1:00 pm  
Bottle Drives continue on Saturdays:  
3:00 – 5:00 pm

**Meet Draw & 50/50**  
Tuesdays - 7:00 pm  
Pool League  
Tuesday, March 15th  
Y.S.A.G. General Meeting

and Afternoon Pot Luck

**Saturday, March 26th**  
1:00 – 5:00 pm  
N.T.L. Chili Cook-off  
Kitchen closed.

**Saturday April 9th**  
3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Modified Ham & Turkey  
Meet Draw  
1:00 – 4:00 pm  
YSAG Bake Sale  
3rd Sunday  
1:00 – 2:00 pm  
Legion Members General

Mtg.

We hope you were able to join us for the meat draw and the arrival of the Wounded Warriors Run on Saturday, March 5th. A cheque was presented to the runners.

DO YOU PLAY CRIB, EUCHRE or BRIDGE ??

You don't have to be a member to play. Everyone is welcome to come to the Legion to play. Crib – Wednesday at 1:00 pm.

Bridge is on Thursday morning and Euchre is 2:00 on Friday afternoon.

Discussion with Mill Bay Lions Club and the Legion have started to plan the Walter Hall Community Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 18th and the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 1st. Mark these dates on your calendar.

Please check our website for more information.  
[www.malahatlegion.ca](http://www.malahatlegion.ca)

## Shawnigan Basin Society Notice of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Shawnigan Basin Society will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 7pm–9pm (Virtual Meeting)

An AGM is the meeting of the general membership that is presided over by the President of the Society. Directors, treasurer, and secretary are present to provide reports and take minutes. In accordance with the constitution and by-laws, members of the organization have the right to attend, speak, and vote at the AGM.

AGMs are held for three reasons:

1. It is a legal requirement under the Societies Act.
2. To conduct the organization's business.
3. To provide membership with an opportunity to address the board of directors.

What is the purpose of the Annual General Meeting?  
The following are the key topics discussed in AGMs:

1. Changes to the business's certificate of incorporation or bylaws
2. The Directors are Elected.
3. The financial statements are reviewed
4. Appointment of the auditor
5. Address Other Business

What are the benefits of attending an Annual General Meeting?

1. Hold the Board of Directors accountable.
2. To make a difference in terms of amendments.
3. To keep up with the times. Reporting to the membership, including reports from the President, Treasurer, and Executive Director, is a major emphasis of most AGMs.
4. If enough members do not attend, the AGM would have to be re-scheduled and held at a later date. Your attendance is a service to the Society as it has an effect on quorum.

Please ensure your membership is up to date to ensure your vote counts! Memberships can be renewed in person or online through *Canada-Helps* – Make sure you leave a memo or note stating membership when renewing online.

## Community thank you

**Kim Barnard**  
*Shawnigan resident*

I'm so grateful for the work of the Shawnigan Basin Society. They serve our community as a resource for understanding and monitoring the health of our ecosystems - lake, forest, rivers and wetlands - and they actively help people like Shawn Taylor and family who are currently dealing with a project that would have a negative impact on a sensitive, salmon-bearing cluster of streams slated to be a new Trestle Gateway access for cars and buses. The architects of the Gateway project are eyeing a challenging wetland pan-handle location that, simply put, cannot be treated like another infilled parking lot. Already, the water's seasonal

volume has managed to wash out a paved portion of Renfrew Road nearby, just a few weeks ago!

I appreciate that the Basin Society arranged a tour of the Taylor Park property, explaining how it drains towards the West Arm of the lake - and made it possible for us to ask questions and see for ourselves the clearly-marked Department of Fisheries and Oceans protective stream signage. As I understand, the DFO has jurisdiction in this case, and so I hope that a complete environmental assessment will take place, before any plans are considered that would put tourist infrastructure ahead of the duty we all have to uphold the health of Shawnigan Lake's vital natural environment.

## South Cowichan Library

**Monica Finn**  
*South Cowichan Library*  
250-743-5436  
[southcowichan@virl.bc.ca](mailto:southcowichan@virl.bc.ca)

Spring showers bring...spring break activities! March 14 to 25: Spring Break for Kids and the Spring Break Teen Reading Club. Drop by the library to find out more.

The library has a light therapy lamp the size of a tablet that you can use while you sit and read or use the computer. Ask your doctor if you might benefit from getting more light—some people are coming in weekly to use it!

If you know someone unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our volunteer Home Delivery service. Get books, audiobooks, and DVDs right at your door monthly.

Have you gotten a new device recently? Contact us to book a Tech One-on-One appointment for in-depth help setting up eBooks, digital audiobooks, or other library e-Resources.

Have questions? Book a Librarian! Looking into family history or searching for your next read? Interested in online books, movies, or magazines? Ready to do some research?

Schedule a 30-minute session with a librarian and bring your questions.


Call 250-743-5283 to book a session.

Did you know the library receives three deliveries each week? We literally have new items on the shelves every day with a total of over 20,000 titles.

LOCAL BOOK CLUBS: we currently have ten Book Club Sets in the branch.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open

- ★ 10am - 8pm on Monday and Tuesday
- ★ 10am - 5pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
- ★ Public computers
- ★ Printing, photocopying, and scanning
- ★ Wi-Fi
- ★ Seating
- ★ Express Reads and Express View DVDs so you can skip the hold queues
- ★ Light therapy lamp to use in the library



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# E. J. Hughes, at home in Shawnigan Lake



**Robert Amos**  
*Artist and Writer*

Hughes wasn't much given to physical exercise, but once or twice he took a hike up the slopes behind his home on Shawnigan Lake Road. The first time, he painted the view was his 1959 oil painting, *View of Shawnigan Lake*. It is a large canvas, 32" x 45" (81 x

114.3 cm) and was sketched from Mount Wood, the mountain next to Old Baldy on the east side of the lake. The small island to the left of the picture is Memory Island, a Provincial Park given by the Mayhew and Scharff families as a memorial to their sons, F. O. Alan Mayhew and Flt. Lt. W. K. Scharff. This park also commemorates the sacrifice of all the other airmen

from the Shawnigan district who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Hughes created a vast and encompassing panorama, showing hills in the blue distance miles away, and innumerable trees and clearings typical of southern Vancouver Island. The lake is set about with docks, and along the water's edge red-roofed

cottages punctuate the landscape. People enjoy holiday activities in their boats, trailing a wake on the surface of the lake. The calm water is lightly hatched with little waves. In the foreground the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway can be glimpsed through a gap in the variegated woodland.

On receipt of the painting, Hughes's dealer Max Stern was effusive. "You outdid yourself in this. It is a beautiful painting; undoubtedly one of your masterpieces." For it, he paid the artist \$260, the highest price he had paid so far for a Hughes. "Of course," the artist told his sister Zoe, "he sells them for more when he does sell them, but I think he is fair enough and, at the moment, I feel glad to be getting a little more each year for my canvases." The painting now belongs to the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Hughes again wrote to his sister on October 24, 1960: "I am still plugging along in my old realistic manner, out of style with the times. I don't like being out of style as I am more of a conservative than a rebel, but I like Nature in its many forms so much that I feel it is a shame to leave it all to the camera and commercial illustrators. I feel that the realistic painter can add something to the coloured photograph even if it is just his own temperament." As he said in the CBC film in 1961, "that's probably what makes the painting durable."



Find out more  
about the  
**Shawnigan Village  
Business Walk**



[ecdevcowichan.com/  
shawnigan-business-walk](http://ecdevcowichan.com/shawnigan-business-walk)



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**Back  
in ...**

**Shawnigan Lake**  
it all happens on  
**Easter Sunday - April 17, 2022**  
**Noon to 3**

This will be an  
**IN-PERSON ...**  
**FULL PARTICIPATION**  
**...EVENT!!**

Watch our website for more information :  
[www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca](http://www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca)  
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The Shawnigan Village Rail Trail (SVRT)

Sierra Acton  
Area B Director

The Lake is for Everyone to Enjoy

The Shawnigan Village Rail Trail (SVRT) has been part of the Parks Master Plan since its adoption in 2012. Further community input was gathered during the South Cowichan Official Community Plan (OCP) process and desire for the project was solidified during the ThinkShawnigan Village Plan consultation in 2019. In addition to these large community consultations, there were multiple smaller community engagements via both CVRD Parks and various Director's Meetings. Phase 1 and 2 were completed in 2020. The SVRT is being built on the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) right-of-way which is 100ft wide. Phase 3 of the trail will have no impact on our local property taxes as it is fully funded by gas taxes. Currently we are waiting for the final design document and the environmental assessment report for this phase of the trail.

Most common reasons why community members support the project;

- ★ More community access to the lake and the opportunity to enjoy lake views for thousands of people living in and around the village.
- ★ Provides a safe accessible pedestrian and cycle path away from busy roads
- ★ The trail will connect three of our major waterfront parks, the village core and the community centre together.
- ★ Inclusivity and accessibility is important to allow seniors to age in place and to support those with mobility or physical disabilities.

A Lakeview walking path that connects to the village will draw tourism and locals to the area to increase support for our local businesses.

One common question I hear is, 'Why can't we just rip up the tracks and put the path on the existing rail bed?' This sounds like a reasonable and simple solution. However, if the ICF did decide to start decommissioning the railway, our section would probably be one of the last to go, since light rail south of Nanaimo (or even Duncan) seems like

a good option in the absence of an alternative to the Malahat. Furthermore, if the rail was decommissioned, the ownership of the various sections of the right of way would take some time to sort out. All of this could take decades to be resolved. This approach wouldn't necessarily be less expensive either since the steel belongs to the ICF and remediating all of that creosote timber would not be cheap.

As your Area Director it is my role to support the vision of the community and address the concerns of the residents. Unfortunately, many of the current concerns cannot be properly addressed until the final two reports come forward (The Environmental Report and the Design Reports.) Once these reports are produced, the CVRD should be able to answer the detailed questions of those living near the ICF right-of-way. It is unfortunate that we don't have all the details yet. However, I am confident that the final outcome will take into account the concerns of all of our community members.

Send me your thoughts at [Sierra.Acton@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:Sierra.Acton@cvrld.bc.ca)

Love it, Share it, Protect it!

Shawnigan Focus Team:

Co-Editors:  
Lori Treloar  
Kim Hennecker

Advertising and Accounting:  
Kim Hennecker

Layout:  
Grant Treloar

Local Distribution:  
Janet Neilsen

Printed by  
International WebExpress

Contact Info:

Box 331 Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0  
250-743-8675

[shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com)  
[shawniganfocusads@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganfocusads@gmail.com)

Rail Trail support

In the September 2021 issue, the Focus published letters of concern about the proposed Rail Trail from Government Wharf Park to Old Mill Park. This month we include letters of support for the trail.

I fully support the trail extension between the government dock to Old Mill Park. The reason for my support and excitement is that I am handicapped and require an even, firm surface that the trail provides to walk (with walking aids). The construction of this trail should not be impeded or halted by a small number or adjacent homeowners who misguidedly believe their property extends across the railway tracks right down to the shoreline. I understand their concerns are loss of privacy and the fear of trash being deposited along the way. I would point out that there are trails throughout BC, some of which I have tread, that do not get littered and I have never noticed anyone straying off the paths. Nature lovers, hikers, cyclists, trail walkers and handicapped people like me are inherently respectful of the trails and do not litter or stray from the bounds of the trail (if boundaries exist). Therefore, these arguments are a moot point.

Please proceed with the construction as soon as possible.

Ron Wurtz  
Shawnigan Village

Building more trails is one of the best uses of this land and adds value to all communities. Chemainus has done a similar repurposing of the walkway along the rail corridor for a useful benefit to the community and it encourages healthy lifestyle and activities. Makes walking and biking along the corridor accessible and enjoyable without impacting the rail bed - a win-win.

I am very happy that the CVRD and Shawnigan Lake are utilizing this asset which is laying there deteriorating, and plans to turn it into a wonderful addition to our community. Based on community input, this upgrade has been approved by CVRD, Island Corridor Foundation and the local parks commission. By building trails to connect our parks it encourages families to use the parks and creates safe places for kids to ride their bikes. It also encourages people to just get out and walk around our wonderful lake. The rail trail will allow the use of wheelchairs and strollers and kids on bikes. The planned repurposing of the rail corridor is

the perfect place to make this a reality.

The community is truly behind the building of the parallel trail along the rail bed. We have all the approvals in place, and I believe there is a lot of community support for such an effort.

More and more, as COVID fades away, we will continue to utilize the trails. The existing old rail bed with its deteriorating ties makes it challenging for handicapped people or people wanting to take their wheelchairs, bikes and strollers out for a trip to the park. The building of walking trails alongside the tracks is our best current viable option.

Please let our area director Sierra Acton know your support for the trail building plan. It is important that she knows that our community supports this plan.

You can reach her at [sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca) Please send her your input of support.

Glenn White  
Shawnigan Lake

I would like to offer my full and absolute support for the Shawnigan Lake Rail Trail Extension.

I and my family (spouse and 2 children) have been

residents of Shawnigan Lake community for 25+ years. We lived in the village centre for 11 of those years. I am mobility challenged and require a power-wheelchair for access to the village and community.

Shawnigan Village is not in any way pedestrian friendly or SAFE - there is only one sidewalk(?) in the entire village - from the 4-way stop, along past the post office, to Wilmot Road. In my 25 years of living in the Shawnigan Lake community I have witnessed only '1' improvement to pedestrian access to any part of the community - the NEW 600 metres of the Rail Trail between Mason's Beach and Shawnigan Wharf Park. I am looking forward to being able to use my wheelchair to 'walk' with my family from the village to Old Mill Park without fear for my own safety and that of

my family. SAFE pedestrian access to our community is essential. I ask that you make this a priority when communicating our community needs to the CVRD - this of course includes the Rail Trail Extension to Old Mill Park

Kim Hennecker  
Shawnigan Lake

I wanted to let you know that both Patsy & I are in full support of the "Extension of the Rail Trail from Gov't Wharf to Old Mill Park. As this would be a real asset to our community not only us but future generations. Promoting outdoor activities along such corridors is exactly what we should be doing.

Patsy & Bruce Tanner  
Shawnigan Lake

(more letters of support on page 5)



**(More letters of support for the trail.)**

I would like to share my support for the completion of the walking trail from the Government Wharf in Shawnigan Lake to Old Mill Park on Recreation Road. I believe the safe access to three public swimming areas with ample parking and walking path all to enjoy will beautify our community further.

*Pamela Rigler  
Wallbank Road*

In the last Shawnigan Lake Community Commission meeting it was exciting to hear how the next phase of the rail trail could enhance the lives of the children that attend the Elsie Miles programing and the community centres after school care. If approved, the children will be able to walk from the community centre to the new «nature scape» playground at Old Mill Park rather than be driven there to play. Currently, any programming off the community centre property requires them to take a bus.

This is one of the many ways that I've heard first-hand how this next phase will benefit our entire community. I've also spoken to several individuals who have mobility issues, and they enjoy the ability to walk the lake without hindrance. With the next phase completed, not only will our children be safe to walk from park to park but also those with challenges can move between our village to not only the Government Park but also the Old Mill Park.

If you haven't already, please let the CVRD know that you want safe walking access for our community (children, mobility issues, seniors). An email can be sent to [sierra.acton@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:sierra.acton@cvrd.bc.ca) or [parks@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:parks@cvrd.bc.ca)

*Netta Bos  
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission Member*

I love my walk to the Old Mill Park but would love some improvement from the gov to the entrance to Old Mill Park trail just past water ski club entrance. The trail along the track is narrow, uneven and

filled with briars. Concentrating on the rocks and briars takes away from the pleasure of view and fresh air.

The completed trail from Mason's Beach to Government Wharf Park is heavenly and such a pleasure to walk and meet people. Couples can walk together as do families with little ones. Such improvements make Shawnigan Lake

pretty special.

This trail is an asset to the community and even though there are always a few negative comments The trail is complimentary to the development of the priceless assets of the Museum and Pavilion which enrich the whole community and surrounding area. There were similar negative complaints

back when the Kinsol Trestle project was undertaken and now look at what a great asset to the community it has turned out to be.

Walking is recommended exercise for seniors. Let's make walking safe for seniors!!!

*Shawnigan Lake resident  
Merelyn Lobe*

## Shawnigan Weather - February 2022

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network & Environment Canada ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Average High	7.8	7.4	5.5	8.6	6.7	8.7	6.6	7.9	6.2
Average Low	0.4	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.4	0.4	-0.2	-0.3
Extreme High	18.3	11.3	10.6	13.7	12.1	15.6	12.1	12.5	12.0
Extreme Low	-16.7	-5.4	-3.9	-6.2	-5.1	-6.2	-4.2	-6.5	-4.5
Precipitation	134.7	108.9	137.3	90.6	131.1	78.2	109.0	90.4	116.8
Days w precip	16	11	14	11	14	11	14	11	14
Year Precip	350.0	225.0	399.6	213.2	374.5	199.3	307.9	222.4	360.4
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	946.9	1019.3	1071.9	1013.9	974.0	832.6	1056.6	988.0

Rank since 1914: 49<sup>th</sup> warmest, 35<sup>th</sup> driest

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27
Lake Temperature	3°	4°	4°	4°
Lake level change	-14cm	-13cm	-10cm	-4cm
Surface Elevation	116.61m	116.48m	116.38m	116.34

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## Book Review

**Marcy Green**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

*The Thursday Murder Club*  
and  
*The Man Who Died Twice*  
By Richard Osman

Published by Penguin Books,  
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Richard Osman

These two books first came to my attention in a Top 10 List in a British newspaper article. Written by a well-known comedian and television presenter, reviews described them as charming and hugely enjoyable, so I went out and bought the first book. My husband and I both enjoyed it so much, our daughter gifted us with the second. I think you'll enjoy them both.

These are no gory sagas of serial killers loaded with gruesome details, which, I must say, is a relief.

“After a certain age you can pretty much do whatever takes your fancy. No one tells you off, except your doctor and your children.”

This pretty much sets the scene for the characters featured. Elderly, but far from vague or dim-witted, the four friends are enjoying life in a

peaceful retirement community in Kent, England, and, instead of playing shuffleboard, decide to start up a Murder Club to discuss unsolved mysteries. They bring their varied life experiences and sharp wits to the table: Elizabeth was a mysterious undercover agent for the government, Joyce, a kind and loving nurse, Ibrahim, an analytical psychologist, and Ron, a fiery union leader.

When a body is discovered in the rest home, they rightly suspect it is a murder, and use their combined skills to solve the mystery. Other various characters emerge and, of course, eventually they emerge victorious, bringing the murderer to justice with the help of their local police.

Although the two books stand on their own, by the time one gets to the second book, the characters are firmly established and the author begins to add to their backgrounds and their current predicaments, deepening our interest and connection to them.

The joy of reading about this intrepid foursome, is that they are fully formed human beings with their own back stories of loss, grief and resil-

ency. The understanding they show each other as friends is intelligent and wise.

Subjects such as romance, struggles with new technology and dealing with worried adult children, all make for a very warm and funny read, although never condescending or cutesy. The vein of humour running through the suspense is masterful and keeps the reader hooked

Espionage and spy craft are further explored in the second book, and it becomes very cloak and dagger. The police officers emerge as more important characters, as does a local female crime boss and a mafia type. A mysterious Polish handyman is the quiet hero, and all is again satisfactorily resolved by the final page.

I found the first book a bit convoluted at the end, but the second worked very well for me, with just enough twists to make it interesting. Recommended for those who enjoy humour served up with intelligent mysteries.

**Rating: 4.5/5 stars for The Thursday Mystery Club**

**Rating: 4.9/5 stars for The Man Who Died Twice**



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*We learn from history that we do not learn from history ~ Friedrich Hegel*

Shawnigan Rotary Eco Club

Steve Elskens  
President

On the colonizer’s Gregorian calendar March heralds the season of spring, and spring is traditionally seen as the season of hope. The days get longer, and our moods get lighter. I find there is so much to be hopeful for if you really look for it. I find that if I focus on connecting with my family, my neighbours, and my community that, contrary to the bad news you get inundated with in popular media, for the most part I encounter people that are kind, helpful and hospitable.

I am a proud community support worker, and I work with people with disabilities.

I regularly take our participants out for litter picking walks, an activity that some of them really enjoy. Recently we covered about a two kilometre stretch of a road in our community that had quite a bit of garbage strewn alongside both sides. Our garbage bags kept getting full, so I decided to ty them up and leave them on the side of the road at regular intervals, about a dozen or so, to pick them up with our van later in the day. By the time I got back they were already gone. Someone must have realized what we were doing, or saw us maybe, and decided to lend us a hand. That filled me with hope.

There is nothing better as

an antidote to depression than this feeling of hope. And there is nothing better to manifest that feeling than to transcend yourself and be of assistance to the people around you, to your community. The Shawnigan Rotary Ecoclub, of which I am a member, organizes regular litter picking walks. It is just one of the simple, direct, and tangible ways that we serve your community. If you feel compelled to do something about the way your neighborhood looks, or what our environment must endure, check out our event calendar and come and join us.

Any major change in society comes down to reaching a critical mass. Be part of the change and help spread the



message of hope, the message that there are enough people that care, the message that enough people are brave enough to stand up for what is right and do something about it. Be an engaged citizen and take up your responsibility to leave this world a better place for seven generations down the road. That’s how the people who were here before me looked at it. That’s how I look at it now.

Please save the date - Saturday, April 23rd from 10-2 will be our annual Community Clean Up! More details to follow in the coming weeks and we look forward to uniting others in this collectively positive impact!

shawniganrotaryecoclub.ca

**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 22 incidents in January

- ★ Department Members Attended 22 Incidents:
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder off Worthington Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder of Colman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 4 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 6 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 6 – Mutual Aid Rope Rescue w/ Cowichan Bay Fire
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 8 - 1st Responder off Owl Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 8 – Burning Complaint on Sommer Ln
- ★ Friday, Feb 11 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Saturday, Feb 12 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Feb 12 – Assistance on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 13 – Assistance off Inn Rd
- ★ Monday, Feb 14 – Structure Fire on Owl Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 17 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 17 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/Mill Bay Fire
- ★ Thursday, Feb 17 – Chimney Fire on Raymond Cres
- ★ Saturday, Feb 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 20 – Vehicle Fire on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 20 – Burning Complaint on Malta Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 23 - 1st Responder off Stowood Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 23 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 24 – MVI on Stowood Rd

Friendly Phones  
A Simple Way to Show you Care



Oriana Pellizzari-Parker  
Director of Communications  
SSCPAS

We have all seen how quickly and unexpectedly we can be isolated from those we love, whether by a pandemic or a natural disaster. Losing touch is heart-wrenching and extremely stressful. If there is something to be learned from this topsy-turvey ride, these past few years, it is that we have to take care, and lookout for one another. South Cowichan Community Policing and Cowichan Community Policing & Engagement have a program in place

known as Friendly Phones. This program may be ideal for the needs of someone you know. It is free, and its benefits are far-reaching. Basically, it provides a safety-net for someone you love. The program initiates daily contact with clients who live alone and/or have medical problems. The recipient can be assured that they will have a daily phone call, at a specific time agreed upon by the client.

The volunteer making the call is happy to have a little chat and is always willing to share information. The client may have issues or questions for

which the volunteer may have a solution or be willing to help the client find a solution. This program leaves family members and friends with peace of mind, knowing that their loved one will be connecting with another person daily. If an emergency develops, the office will contact the family as soon as possible. This program runs seven days a week.

Referrals for the Friendly Phones Program are welcome. These can originate from doctors, long term care workers, health professionals or the community.

This is a community service

that SCCP is proud to promote. Obtain your Friendly Phones application form from one of our offices or online. If you are unable to reach us for any reason, we can arrange to come to you.

For more information contact: South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS) (250-929-7222) Email: [sccp@shaw.ca](mailto:sccp@shaw.ca)

Website:[southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)

Join our volunteer team. Volunteers are the heart of community policing.



“As we navigate out of the pandemic,  
we thank our customers and staff  
for enduring the challenges together!  
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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Email [sierra.acton@cvr.bc.ca](mailto:sierra.acton@cvr.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**  
Open Wed - Sat 10:30 - 3:30  
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 Arts Council**  
Contact: [hello@southcowichanartsguild.com](mailto:hello@southcowichanartsguild.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- ★ **Note:** Covid restrictions may affect regular meetings. Check before you go...

## Classified

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WE ARE PEOPLE OF ECO-ACTION  
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[ShawniganRotaryEcoClub@gmail.com](mailto:ShawniganRotaryEcoClub@gmail.com)

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### LOST - FOUND

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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  
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Reply to: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

to *Mathew Lake*  
whose name was drawn from  
submitted correct answers

The image was a hula hoop stuck  
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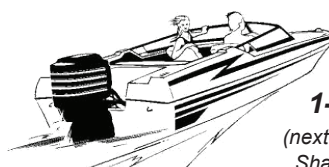


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## St. John's Academy Spotlight

Visit our website for additional information:  
[www.stjohnsacademy.ca/shawniganlake](http://www.stjohnsacademy.ca/shawniganlake)

### From the Desk of Dr. John

When we showed our nine-year-old daughter photos and videos of St. John's Academy (SJA) on Shawnigan Lake she was immediately intrigued. When my wife and I asked Jade if she would like to move from Beijing to Shawnigan Lake and go to school at SJA she began bouncing. It has been about five months since that conversation and Jade has not stopped bouncing. Truth be told, I'm still bouncing too, though I'd like to think my style of bouncing is befitting SJA's new Head of School.

Hello, I am Dr. John, as I am known by the SJA community. My wife Ida, our daughter Jade, and I joined SJA early January and are thrilled to be planting roots here, making Shawnigan Lake our home. You will not be surprised to learn that all of our expectations and hopes for SJA and Shawnigan Lake have been exceeded. Not only is the valley an incredibly beautiful place to call home, the school's caring culture and commitment to high-quality education are inspiring.



*Dr. John D'Arcy with wife Ida and daughter Jade  
St. John's Academy, February 24, 2022*

We look forward to seeing Jade graduate from SJA, though we are in no hurry for her to grow up too quickly.

This is my 35th year as an educator and I am as inspired today by the work as I was when I began, perhaps more. These are, after all, incredibly interesting times to be a teacher. From developmental psychology to cognitive science, we are being challenged to re-think the schooling of our children.

Historically, schools demanded our children wrap themselves around inflexible institutional systems and immovable cultures. High-quality, contemporary education is agile and adaptive. It recognizes learning as both exquisitely robust and incredibly fragile. It challenges our children to share responsibility for their learning, to understand themselves as learners, and to grapple with meaningful academic standards.

More than at any time in human history, we understand how people learn. Though there is still much to discover, we are developing clear understandings about how brains acquire new skills and knowledge, how our brains retain and retrieve skills and knowledge, and how brains use and transfer ideas into novel situations. Indeed, these are fabulous times to be a teacher.

Having lived and worked in amazing places and at incredible schools in Toronto, Hong Kong, Istanbul, and Beijing, I am excited to be taking the helm at St. John's Academy.

I am inspired by SJA's vision and mission, which promote excellence in learning and holistic child development. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working with SJA's students, teachers, and parent community as well as members of the larger local community to help this lovely school make its mark in the world.

*John D'Arcy*  
Head of School  
[john.darcy@stjohnsacademy.ca](mailto:john.darcy@stjohnsacademy.ca)

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